Leave lights on timers or radios in the rooms you use the most, to make it look like you are in. For more information about TV simulators and other security suggestions visit our website.

Fit external lighting using energy saving bulbs which are activated by a dawn to dusk sensor. If burglars see your house has security lighting they are less likely to approach for fear of being seen.

Check your dash camera, CCTV or any other security device in case the time and date stamp has not automatically changed.

Make sure you are alert and pay extra attention when using a mobile phone outside in the dark, as the light from your phone in the darker nights may attract a thief.

Consider where you park your car. Wherever possible, park your car in your garage or on a lit driveway. When out and about, use a Park Mark accredited car park. Find out more at: parkmark.co.uk/car-park-finder

For more information about how to keep yourself and your home secure as the nights get darker, visit: essex.police.uk/letstalk