

Police in Smart bid to beat burglars

POLICE have been knocking on doors in Cambridge to dish out a crime-busting tool called SmartWater.

Cambridge City Community Safety Partnership has funded the project in which the liquid will be taken into homes by officers and PCSOs who mark valuable items, and those with sentimental value, with the DNA-like substance. So far, 107 homes have been offered it and 87 have taken it up.

SmartWater is a prevention and detection tool and links offenders to the crime scene.

On Saturday, police, Cambridge City Council housing officers, the city council Safer Communities Section, city rangers and the fire service went out delivering SmartWater along with security advice.

Officers, PCSOs and Safer Communities staff took SmartWater direct to residents' homes and helped them to apply it to their valuables and items of

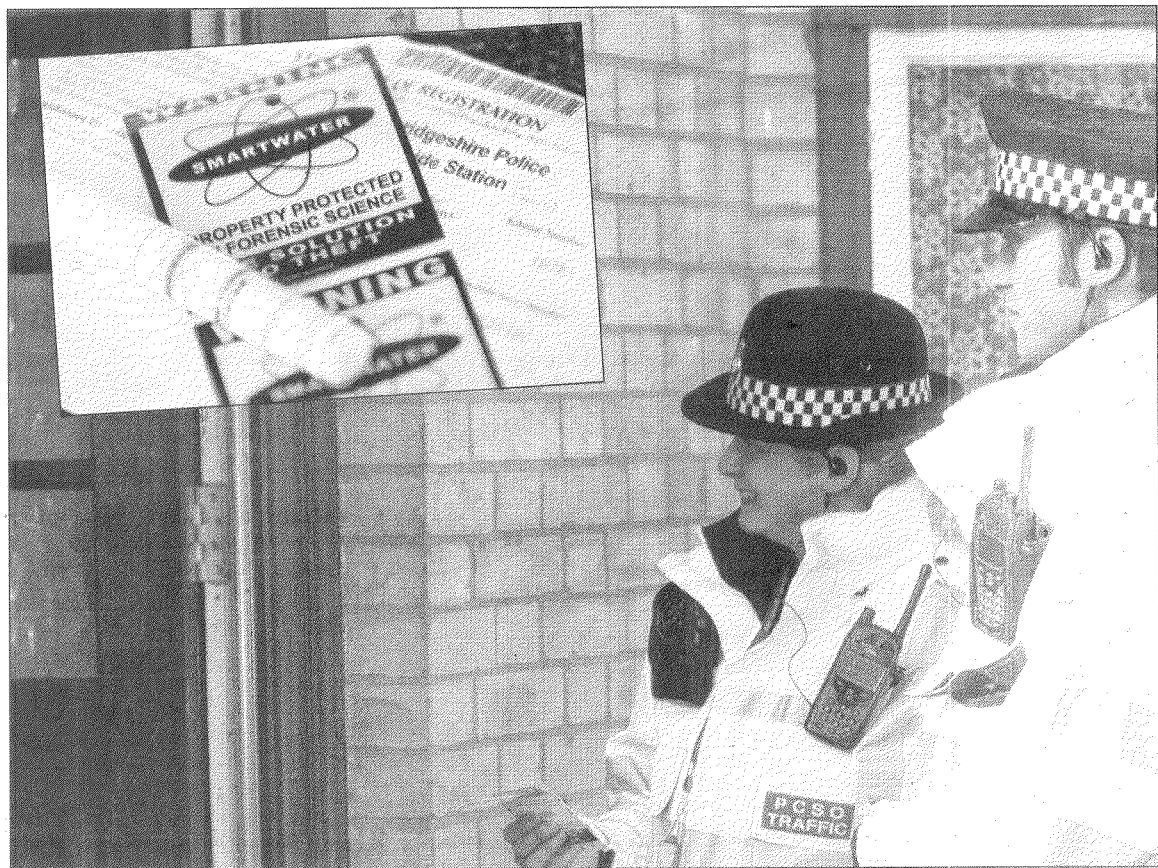
sentimental value. They also helped residents register their

details on the SmartWater database. This means any property that is stolen and then recovered can be traced back to its rightful owner.

At the same time, signs are going up in the street to promote the use of SmartWater in the area.

Liz Bisset, chair of the Community Safety Partnership and director of community services at Cambridge City Council, said: "This is an extremely exciting project and one that both the community safety partnership and the city council are pleased to support.

"I would urge all those offered SmartWater on Saturday to take advantage of this kit and to register all their valuables and display the stickers. I am convinced that in doing so it will have a further impact on crime in the city."



TRAILBLAZING: PCSOs Mark Taylor and Jan Upex hand out the SmartWater.

Picture: David Johnson 537036.