

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS



EMERGENCY SERVICES, FIRE, AMBULANCE AND POLICE 999

ESSEX POLICE SWITCHBOARD, For a Non-Emergency or connection to an appropriate police station or department.....0300 333 4444

Chelmsford Crime Reduction Officer

Advice & Guidance on crime prevention.....0300 333 4444, ext 485951

Crimestoppers.....0800 555 111

Victim Support (Essex) local rate.....0845 456.5995

Essex & Suffolk Water Company

To confirm door callers identity, ring.....08457 820 999

(Minicom) for customers with hearing and speech difficulties..... 01245 212 239

To Register a password.....08457 850 999

Anglian Water Company

To confirm any Anglian Water employees identity.....0800 145 145

{Minicom} for customers with hearing and speech difficulties.....0800 917 5901

Electricity (EDF Energy) loss of supply or emergency.....08007 838 838

Gas (Transco) Emergency Service.....0800 111 999

Chelmsford Borough Council.....01245 606 606

Streetscene (litter, graffitti).....0845 245 1234

Abandoned vehicles, Dog Warden, Fly-tipping.....01245 606 894

Litter & noise complaints01245 606 800

Essex County Council.....08457 430 430

Street Lighting.....08456 037 631

Trading Standards (Consumer Direct).....08454 04 05 06

Road Safety.....01245 437 781

Age UK (HandyVan) home safety check.....0845 026 1055

Guinness Trust (Formerly MOAT).....01245 392 121

Locksmiths (Security Centre).....01245 252 535

Mail Preference Service (stop junk mail).....0845 703 4599

Telephone Preference Service (stop unwanted calls).....0845 070 0707

Silent (stop computer generated calls).....0870 444 3969



CHELMSFORD



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

(Special Summer Edition 2011)

Welcome to our new style quarterly and seasonal newsletter. This is the first newsletter created by NHW and printed commercially, then delivered to you with the help of your Neighbourhood Policing Team PCSOs. Please feel free to give a feedback on the format and content, your views are important to us. Chelmsford NHW are seeking sponsors to enable future editions of this newsletter to be commercially printed. Please contact the NHW



Treasurer Alan Bowling for more information:-

01245 267444

email:Alanbnhoodwatch@aol.com

You can also ask to receive and then distribute this newsletter, electronically by email; this will help NHW to reduce printing costs.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH works in close partnership with Essex Police via the local Neighbourhood Policing Teams. If you are interested in getting together with some of your neighbours and joining Neighbourhood Watch please contact: - The Chelmsford membership Secretary, Mike Vine

01245 473715

mikevine43@btinternet.com

By being part of Neighbourhood Watch you will receive information about local crime incidents, receive newsletters and learn how to contact your local Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

Communities against Crime

Rogue Traders, Conmen and Burglars, who are they?

A Police Officer would not always be able to identify a non-resident or strange vehicle in your neighbourhood but you would. It is this kind of local knowledge and awareness that is the basis of **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**.

By letting the Police know of anything suspicious that you see or hear, you are helping to reduce the opportunities for crime to occur.

Holiday Misery:- One-in-ten homes have been burgled while the occupants have been on **holiday**, away for the **weekend**, or just on a **day trip**. According to research the average value of items stolen is £3,288 per incident. Thieves are opting to take portable, easy to carry, high value items, laptops, mobile-phones, play-station games and jewellery. Cash, cheque books and credit cards are the most popular items stolen, closely followed by electrical items. Almost one in five people have had family heirlooms stolen from their home causing great distress.

Dwelling Burglary or Breaking and Entering:- Most dwelling burglaries are opportunistic. This means that the thief sees an opportunity to enter a house where a window or door is left open or they spot an easy way to break into or enter a property. Burglars are extremely quick and will often be in and out of a house within 5 minutes. Many residents open patio and French doors in the summer and forget to lock them. Back doors are left unlocked, windows are left open. **“BE AWARE”** Always lock up when going out even if it’s only for a few minutes, lock up before retiring for the night. Put your car keys somewhere safe, out of sight. Family cars do get stolen.

If you make a claim on your **home Insurance** it could be invalid if you did not lock up. Make sure that your individual high value items are registered with your Insurance Company. Review your home security and consider having a burglar alarm fitted. **Have you marked and photographed your valuables?**

Policing in Action, for the month of April 2011:-

119 fixed penalty notices were issued to drivers for using a mobile phone while driving. **Police solved 45** dwelling burglaries and 33 other burglaries. **1041 people** were breathalysed at the roadside. **145** of those tested gave a positive sample. Police solved **195** cases of criminal damage. Police solved **36** cases of theft of motor vehicles.

Latest News from Essex Police:-Burglaries are still causing concern throughout Essex, **28%** of household burglaries across our division could have been avoided if residents had locked up. Over the last twelve months:- **300 burglaries** need not have happened. Since November 2010, last year, Essex Police have made **460 arrests** in connection with the crime of burglary.

“DON’T BE CARELESS, LOCK UP”

Using Supermarket ATMS & Car parks:- Essex County has suffered several incidents of distraction robbery and ATM fraud occurring at various supermarket store locations. It would appear that victims are selected when they use a super store ATM prior or after shopping. The victims Personal Identification Number for their bank/credit card is obtained by watching over the victims shoulders or by observing PIN entry when the victim is paying for goods in the store at the till. The victims of this robbery/theft/fraud are then followed to their car, whereby they are distracted by someone seeking driving or location directions. Maps or other objects are held in front of the victims face to distract, whilst an accomplice steals bank cards/purse or handbag from the victim’s car. Some victims are not even aware that they have been robbed until they get home. Bank accounts are emptied immediately. **BE AWARE AND ALERT WHEN SHOPPING.** Do not leave handbags unattended or insecure.

Home Insurance for garages and sheds:-According to research the average garden shed contains £888 worth of property, making it a prime target for thieves. Yet, despite this, garden shed owners are still failing to take simple security steps – such as fitting an approved robust lock and an alarm on the shed door. Research also found that **one in seven** garden sheds are targeted by thieves every year and that 5,000 homeowners fall victim to theft every week.

When renewing Annual Home Insurance, residents are advised to check the value of the shed and garage contents to avoid being under-insured. From lawnmowers to garden tools, barbecues to garden furniture plus the family bicycles, the value of the property stored in outbuildings can quickly reach thousands of pounds. **Will my outbuildings and contents be covered under the terms of a standard home insurance policy? Check it out.**

Precautions:- Secure the shed and garage with strong locks, consider chaining bikes, lawnmowers and ladders to an immovable object. Take photographs of machinery, note down any serial numbers. If your house is alarmed, consider adding the garage and any sheds to the system or buy a battery powered shed alarm. Re-enforce shed windows by using strong wire mesh. If your garage has a connecting door to the house, make sure that the door is robust and has locks fitted on the house side.

“Secure It or Lose It”