

Chelmsford Group of Neighbourhood Watches

www.chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk

Safer & Stronger Communities Together



NEWSLETTER: Autumn/Winter 2017

Emergency? ALWAYS use 999

Hallowe'en, Bonfire Night, Christmas & New Year Have fun ... but don't be a victim!

Christmas is a couple of months away, followed by New Year celebrations—family and friends gathering, going out for celebrations, season of sharing and coming together. We travel, we go out, we leave our homes: just make sure your home is secure and **let them think you're in!** It's the same message with other seasonal events coming next month: **Hallowe'en** and **Bonfire Night**—even if you're just in your back garden for a family party make sure your home is secure: windows and doors all closed and locked!

Terrorist threat: keep calm and be alert.

Terrorist attacks are a dreadful reality of our world today, and any crowded locality or event can be a potential target. But why give the terrorists a big win? We must maintain a balance between being aware and alert without becoming fearful or paranoid: our working and social lives must continue and thrive. But being alert is not just about watching out for suspicious packages on trains and buses: it's about watching out in our own communities for what is suspicious, **and reporting it**. If you feel it's an emergency, **dial 999**.

Anti-terrorist hotline

**IF YOU SUSPECT IT REPORT IT
CALL 0800 789 321
CONFIDENTIAL ANTI-TERRORIST
HOTLINE**

www.gov.uk/report-terrorism

Neighbourliness.

Let's remember, though, we are talking about only a very small number of individuals. Neighbourliness, whatever our social, racial, or religious backgrounds are, is essential for community safety—and we all have a part to play in being neighbourly.

Previous *newsletters* have given details of home security, and you can find advice on our website: chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk
Take care and have fun!

DARK DAYS

Be alert!

**WATCH OUT!
BURGLARS
ABOUT**

**Secure
your home
and let them
think you're in**

www.chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk

Contact us: ☎ **07926 462610**
info@chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk

Working with
local partners



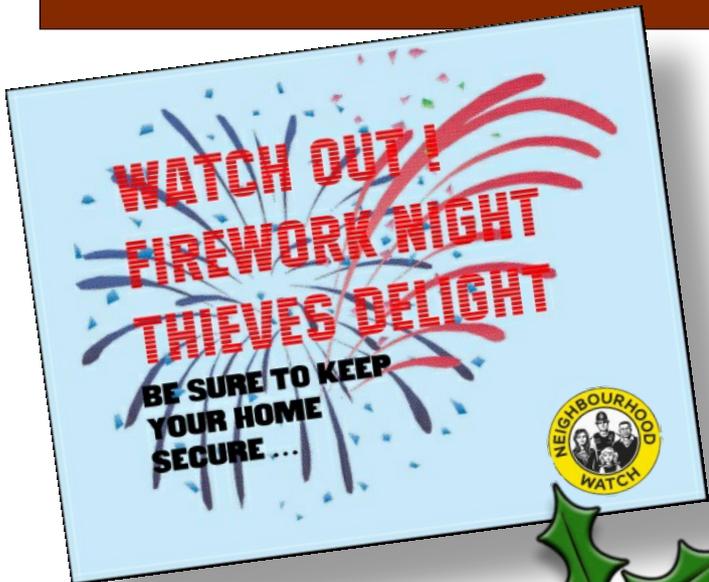
Chelmsford
City Council

HALLOWEEN ...



**HAVE FUN
BUT DON'T BE A VICTIM
OF OPPORTUNIST
CRIME!**

**Secure your home
before you go out.**



**Christmas is
coming ...**

*... leave your Christmas shopping
secure and out of sight—whether
in your car or whilst at home .*

**Always secure your
home before going out.**

ALWAYS REPORT IT!

If you are a victim of crime—any crime— **always report it**. From what you might think is minor criminal damage, seeing a suspicious vehicle or individuals, through to more serious crime, the police want you to report the matter. They may not be able to get back to you, but all reports feed into their intelligence systems. You can contact the local community policing team too by email on

ChelmsfordCPT@essex.pnn.police.uk

In an emergency | always dial 999

DO IT ONLINE

For non-emergencies, call 101, or do it on-line:
www.essex.police.uk/do-it-online

Essex Police encourage members of the public to report non-emergency matters to them—and other services—by doing it online. Their web link is

www.essex.police.uk/do-it-online



Information can be left on the **Crimestoppers** link as they log everything and everything then goes to the relevant police service. **If you haven't access to the Internet**, call

Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

Call anonymously to report crime



www.crimestoppers-uk.org

STOP HATE CRIME...

www.report-it.org.uk

REPORT IT!

Each and every one of us has the right to go about our daily lives according to our legitimate beliefs, legal life-styles, and appearance, irrespective of our colour, faith, race, gender, sexual orientation, or abilities, without interference or abuse. **Such abuse is a crime:** if you witness it, it is your duty to report it; if you experience it, report it. Report it to the police: **do it on line.** Also you can use

www.report-it.org.uk

You can get in touch with us at Neighbourhood Watch if you have any concerns, too.

chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk

Chelmsford Neighbourhood Watch

We are amateur volunteers and our website is far from perfect, but we attempt to provide links and information to the communities of Chelmsford about Neighbourhood Watch, personal safety, home security, working together for safer communities, and so on. We always welcome constructive comments and criticisms to help us continually improve what we have on the site. We've put up a forum on our website where you can share ideas and information. And we always welcome new members, and it would be great to have young people with us too.

Schools—get involved with us.

Schools are at the hearts of their communities, and where better than to focus a Neighbourhood Watch activity? Communities would benefit from school involvement—and schools should benefit too ... contact us at

www.chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk



REPORT IT!

ActionFraud

National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre

0300 123 2040

www.actionfraud.police.uk

- NEVER give pin numbers or passwords out over the phone or on-line;
- BE VERY CAUTIOUS about clicking a link in an email—NEVER is safest;
- BEWARE of look-alike websites—even websites that are 'legitimate' businesses can charge a hefty fee for an otherwise free service from, for example, HM Government: a legitimate government website will have **gov.uk** in its web address.

The FCA provides good advice:

www.scamsmart.fca.org.uk

Is Chelmsford safe?

Self-help and neighbourliness is key.

Despite recent news in Chelmsford over the past few months, giving the impression of a city of violent crime, Chelmsford remains one of the safest places to live and work in the UK. If we go about our lives and business as decent and respectable citizens, it is very unlikely that we shall experience violent crime personally. What is more concerning is the rise in low-level antisocial incidents and more aggressive antisocial behaviour in some localities. Self-help through Neighbourhood Watch is a key way of ensuring we reduce the risk to ourselves, our neighbourhoods and our communities.

Police resources are prioritised according to levels of **Threat**, **Harm**, and **Risk** presented, but it is very important that *all* incidents are reported to the police in order for a full and complete picture is built up: only with such a picture can we have any chance of raising these matters of concern to any effect with the police—and ultimately with Roger Hirst, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Essex. After all, his declared priorities relate to all of these issues:

- More local, visible and accessible policing
- Crack down on anti-social behaviour
- Breaking the cycle of domestic abuse
- Reverse the trend in serious violence
- Tackle gangs and organised crime
- Protecting children and vulnerable people
- Improve safety on our roads

(essex.pcc.police.uk/priorities-for-essex/police-and-crime-plan)

It would be good to hear from Mr Hirst as to how successfully his priorities are being achieved.

Homelessness, begging, and rough sleeping in Chelmsford

It is distressing for all concerned to see apparently homeless people on the streets of Chelmsford, and there seems to be an increase in it. It is quite natural—part of our humanity—to want to help. There are many genuine cases, and the City Council, voluntary organisations, and the police, have arrangements to intervene and help such people. We are advised that it doesn't help to give money to people on the streets, for several reasons: a number of people may not be genuinely homeless but work as 'professionals' or deliberate rough sleepers; some may be drug (including alcohol) users; a few can be aggressive.

If you wish to help or donate, there are charities such as CHES which provide services and advice. Contact cheshomeless.org for more information or visit our website.

Don't be a victim: look out for your personal property



**PURSE
DIPPING**

Don't be a victim!

**WALLET
SNATCHING**

**Look out for your
personal property**

www.chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk

Don't be a victim! Carelessness with purses, handbags, wallets, smart phones, keys ... they're all stealable. So often you will see people walking about with their wallets or phones in their back pockets, a handbag left on the back of a chair in a café or slung quite visibly (and stealable) in a shopping trolley; a smart phone left on a café table or a bar counter—look away for a second and it can be gone!

BE AWARE-BE SAFE