

Chelmsford Group of Neighbourhood Watches

www.chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk

Safer & Stronger Communities Together



NEWSLETTER: Spring/Summer 2018

Emergency? ALWAYS use 999

Home security is also about home safety

Do you have **smoke alarms** in your home? A **carbon monoxide (CO)** alarm? Are they tested regularly? Do you have a fire extinguisher? A fire blanket? Most home fires are not 'accidents'—they are preventable and avoidable. So we say, **home security is also about home safety.**

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service offers *Home Safety Visits*, completely free of charge to anybody who lives in Essex. During these visits, their Home Safety Team will give you advice, information, and guidance to help you live safer in your home, as well as



fitting smoke detectors where required.

"Every year, our Home Safety Team conduct over 9,500 visits all over the County, to people of all ages and from all communities, working towards our target of 100% of households having working smoke detectors," says Kieron Moir, who leads the Team.

"We know that the 13,000+ smoke detectors we fit in 2017 could save lives."

If you, or somebody you know would like a Home Safety Visit,

email HFSV@essex-fire.gov.uk,
call 0300 303 0088,

or visit

www.essex-fire.gov.uk/Home_Fire_Safety
to book a visit.

Bike owners! Don't be a victim: make sure yours is secure.

Every bike owner can have their bike stolen. A bike might be taken by someone who just wants an easy ride to somewhere—perhaps to get back home. Many bikes are very expensive pieces of equipment and can be sold on for ready cash; sometimes bikes are taken to commit crime. But in all cases, if your bike is stolen, at best it's an inconvenience, at worst you stand to lose a significant investment.

Essex Police encourage bike owners to **register** their property at:

www.immobilise.com

and to take simple steps to ensure it is **secure**:

- invest in your bike's security—don't take it for granted
- at home—lock it up
- out and about—secure it with a strong bicycle lock, and immobilise it if possible
- buy a bike from a legitimate source—don't encourage a thief's market
- if your bike is stolen, report it on line.



For more information check out
www.essex.police.uk

and go to *Advice - your property*. By taking some simple steps you can reduce the risk of loss of your property and help to reduce crime.

So when buying a bike, remember to budget for security as well.

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

Working with
local partners



Chelmsford
City Council

CRIMESTOPPERS

An independent charity, with your information helping to catch criminals.

Crimestoppers is an independent charity: it not part of the police. If you contact **Crimestoppers** you won't be identified. The only person who knows you contacted them with information is you. Coming forward with information that might help solve a crime can sometimes be worrying: you might be anxious about someone involved in the crime getting back at you. You might have seen or heard something about a crime but don't know what to do, or are scared to come forward. It's easy to think there is nothing you can do, but **Crimestoppers** can offer you a safe way to do this. Here is some more information from their website:-

- **Our statistics for 2014-15 show that around 14 people were arrested and charged every day thanks to the information we received from the public—your information can make a difference.**
- Our service is unique and designed to protect your identity, whether you call us on 0800 555 111 or submit our *Anonymous Online Form*.
- **We will listen to you about any crime that you have information about.**
- We don't record any personal details about you.
- **We pass information to the relevant authority without revealing your identity.**
- All of our call agents are trained to support you through the process.
- **In the 26 years that we have been running, no one has ever been identified after giving information. It is vital that we guarantee your anonymity because if your identity became known, our reputation would be seriously damaged.**

Crimestoppers is not an emergency service and if you see a crime taking place you should ring 999 to report it immediately.

Crimestoppers initiatives

A new campaign against rural crime has been launched across Essex, where nearly one third of all reported crime is classed as rural—with violence the most common category.

“Crimestoppers believes everyone has the right to feel safe from crime, wherever they live. The charity gives people the power to speak up, stay safe and stop crime 100% anonymously, either by calling the professionally-staffed 24-hour UK Contact Centre on 0800 555 111 or by using the non-traceable *Anonymous Online Form*. There's no ID, no police contact, no witness statements, no courts,” say

Call anonymously to report crime



www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Crimestoppers. “Crimes against property, crimes of violence, domestic violence, child abuse, trafficking and hate crimes all take place in rural communities; while rural crime itself includes theft of high-value agricultural equipment, vehicles, heating oil, metal, diesel and pesticides.

“Serious and organised crime groups are often linked to rural, heritage and wildlife crime, such as hare-coursing and cannabis cultivation.” And don't forget the scourge of *fly-tipping*.

Speak up and stop crime in the Essex countryside.

Whatever your crime concerns tell us what you know.

100% anonymous. Always.



CrimeStoppers.
0800 555111
100% anonymous. Always.

Call in Confidence

Remember, your identity is safe—no-one can know you called or passed information on. Call:-

0800 555 111

or go to:-

www.crimestoppers-uk.org

and select

Give Information then *Give Information Online*.

**To contact Chelmsford Neighbourhood Watch, email:
info@chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk**

Gangs, drugs, and antisocial behaviour

They may not always be visible—but they may be there, and all-too-often it is evident. Some of our neighbourhoods in and around Chelmsford have real concerns over violence (knife-crime, shootings), drug dealing in alleyways, in quiet corners, by a bridge ... and the scourge of hooliganism and antisocial behaviour.

Alarmingly, in too many places in and around Chelmsford we have to face these issues—to suffer them. What can you do?

- Work together and co-operate in your street, neighbourhood
- Liaise with your local city and county councillor
- Report specifics with as much information as you can to Essex Police—they DO want your information (see the next column)
- Report specifics to Crimestoppers (see previous page)



REPORT IT!

ActionFraud

National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre

0300 123 2040

www.actionfraud.police.uk

Anti-terrorist hotline

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

www.gov.uk/report-terrorism

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



And remember, if you want to remain anonymous, use Crimestoppers:

Call anonymously to report crime



www.crimestoppers-uk.org

BE AWARE-BE SAFE

In past *Newsletters* we have sought to draw your attention to personal and home security: you can find back copies of all our newsletters on our website www.chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk together with more details of the information contained in this current edition.

Lighter evenings—still be vigilant

There's still a need to be vigilant at home even though the evenings are lighter. Friends around for an evening barbecue? Out in the back, gardening? Make

sure your doors and windows are secure—it's all too easy for an opportunist to slip in the front through an insecure door or window, even when you're at home.

Beware cybercrime

Cyber crime is always with us: you may find a recent edition of the BBC's *You and Yours* of interest: a discussion of security risks involving the growing number of on-line devices in our homes. This was broadcast on 12 April, 2018, and you can hear this again by visiting www.bbc.co.uk/youandyours



Criminal gangs are exploiting vulnerable people in your area.

CrimeStoppers.
0800 555111
100% anonymous. Always.

crimestoppers-uk.org
Crimestoppers Trust is a registered charity, number 1108687 and SC037960 in Scotland

Speak up. Stay safe.

Criminal gangs do not care how much suffering or damage they inflict on people's lives.

By using threats of violence or abuse they take over the homes of vulnerable people to deal drugs and commit other serious crimes.

Those whose homes are most vulnerable include older people, those with mental health problems, drug users or those living in poverty.

But you have the power to speak up, stop the gangs and protect those who need help.

Speak up 100% anonymously if you suspect a property is being used by gangs. Signs to look out for are:

- Lots of different people visiting, often at odd times of the day or night
- Increase in cars or bikes pulling up to the property, often for short periods

- Increase in anti-social behaviour near the property
- Curtains or blinds closed all of the time
- Disengagement with support services

Crimestoppers is an independent charity and we're here to listen. Contact us by phone or online, 24/7, 365 days a year. You will be 100% anonymous. Always.

We won't ask your name. Won't judge. We listen to what you know, and pass it on for you.

No police contact. No witness statements. No courts. Speak up. Stop crime. Stay safe.

Everyone has the right to feel safe. Wherever they live.

Find out more about us at crimestoppers-uk.org

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Crimestoppers Trust is a registered charity, number 1108687 and SC037960 in Scotland

STOP HATE CRIME...

www.report-it.org.uk

REPORT IT!

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