



# CHELMSFORD CITY



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ESSEX POLICE

[www.chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk](http://www.chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk)

Summer Edition June 2015

**PLEASE PASS THIS NEWSLETTER ON BEFORE RECYCLING**

***In this issue: Secure you home; Don't be on display; Be aware – on-line fraud and phishing; Further Information and Advice; We need your help!***

### **Summer months: Away for holidays, out shopping, barbeques:**

#### **ALL BURGLARS' DELIGHTS! So, SECURE YOUR HOME.**

It's the same message for the lighter months as for darker days in the winter: **MAKE IT LOOK YOU'RE AT HOME!** But even when you are at home but perhaps in the back garden having a barbeque, make sure you secure your home: secure windows and doors – a small gap can let someone you don't want in the front when you're having a great time round the back!

When you're out, the following precautions always help:

- set lights on a timer, so they come on at dusk;
- have a radio switched on with voice rather than music;
- don't leave clues like uncollected post/papers in the letter box

Always make sure that your doors and windows are all locked (double locked where relevant), and that valuables and keys aren't visible from outside or liftable (from through a letter box, for example!)

#### **Using your car or a hire car on holiday? DON'T BE ON DISPLAY!**

Using your care – or a hire car – on holiday? Home or away, things visible in your car when left on the street or in a car park – especially in a remote place when you're on the beach or out walking or cycling ; or walking through a strange town with purse, wallet, mobile phone visible or unattended – these all are temptations and invitations for theft, or worse – robbery. Help yourself by being vigilant over valuables and items in public view; better still, take them out of view (or keep them in front of you) or put them somewhere safe and where you are confident that the dangers of theft are minimised.

### **Chelmsford Neighbourhood Watch – We Need Your Help!**

The Annual General Meeting of the Chelmsford Group of Neighbourhood Watches in on 14<sup>th</sup> July at 10 am in the Millennium Centre, Great Baddow, Chelmsford. The Group's officers are elected at this meeting:-

Chair

Vice Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

Membership Secretary

Minutes Secretary

County Committee Representative

Current incumbents have offered to stand for re-election except our Treasurer who is standing down. Alan Bowling has served as treasurer for several years and has done a fantastic job. It is not too onerous (our accounts are simple to keep) but we do need someone to take over. If not, the Group's future may be in doubt.

If you can, please come along. If you can't make it (if you're at work or have other commitments) but would be interested in working with us – please get in touch:

**[info@chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk](mailto:info@chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk)**

**[www.chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk](http://www.chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk)**

If you're interested in joining a Neighbourhood Watch in the Chelmsford area, contact our Membership Secretary:-  
email: [membership@chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk](mailto:membership@chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk)

**WORRIED OR SUSPICIOUS? REPORT IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON 101**

**IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS DIAL 999.**

## **On-line and telephone crime and fraud is always a threat!**

In our Winter Newsletter we wrote again about **some of the dangers/risks** of criminal activity over the phone and on-line . Yet again we make no apology for repeating the need to be constantly vigilant and aware of:

- **copycat or fake 'official' websites** which try to dupe people into handing over huge fees for 'official' services in addition to standard fees for which should be free from government or agency websites. Check the web address has, for example, '.gov.uk' or '.nhs.uk', as an ending to ensure it is an official website.
- **phishing & fraudulent emails** which may appear to come from trusted sources typically with, **a link** to entice you to reveal personal information, pin numbers, or passwords, enabling them to hack into your email or your bank account; sometimes the link may automatically download malicious software onto your computer. **Always be very cautious about links in an email**, check it out by hovering (**not clicking**) the mouse pointer on the link to see if the address matches the link that was typed in the message. Check out the authenticity of an email address by *hovering* the mouse pointer over the email address in your in-box – but beware, some of the invented email addresses are very clever too – they can look very like legitimate email addresses. **IF IN DOUBT - DON'T OPEN A LINK**
- **scam telephone calls** which may claim to be from a bank, an investment company, the police, a computer company (people claiming to be from Microsoft and offering to fix your computer is doing the rounds). It's good to have caller recognition set up on your phone if you can – and some phones offer a scam-blocking facility. But if you don't know who is calling, always proceed with caution. **NEVER give you passwords, pin numbers, etc out over the phone.**

If you are concerned that your security has been compromised – your bank details have been accessed or your email hacked – contact your bank, email provider, or other service provider as appropriate, **immediately**. **Change all your passwords**. Many of us don't actually do this, but it's good practice to change your passwords regularly anyway – and have different passwords for different sites and services. Don't use your on-line book-buying service password on your on-line banking account, for example.

Further sources of advice on these issues can be found (amongst others) at:-

[www.actionfraud.police.uk/node/298](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/node/298)

[www.ageuk.org.uk/money-matters/consumer-advice/scams-advice/](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/money-matters/consumer-advice/scams-advice/)

[www.microsoft.com/security/online-privacy/phishing-symptoms.aspx](http://www.microsoft.com/security/online-privacy/phishing-symptoms.aspx)

[www.adviceguide.org.uk/england/](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk/england/)

## **Further information and advice ...**

Our newsletter is limited for space and only comes out a few times a year. So it's important to have access to up-to-date information and to receive alerts. Here are some sources of information and advice you can access on line. If you have neighbours who don't use the internet – especially an elderly or vulnerable person – why not help them by keeping them informed too? These links will also lead you to other sources of advice – so have a browse!

### **Essex Police**

[www.essex.police.uk/](http://www.essex.police.uk/)

### **Essex Community Messaging**

[www.essex.police.uk/contact\\_us/community\\_messaging.aspx](http://www.essex.police.uk/contact_us/community_messaging.aspx)

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

[www.ourwatch.org.uk/](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/)

### **Citizens' Advice Bureau:**

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/)

### **Age UK and Age UK Essex**

[www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk)

[www.ageuk.org.uk/essex/about-age-uk-essex/](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/essex/about-age-uk-essex/)

### **Police Action Fraud**

[www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

### **Financial Fraud Action**

[www.financialfraudaction.org.uk](http://www.financialfraudaction.org.uk)

### **CIFAS Fraud Prevention Service**

[www.cifas.org.uk/](http://www.cifas.org.uk/)

### **Anti-Scam**

[www.scam.com/](http://www.scam.com/)

[www.hoax-slayer.com/latest-information.html](http://www.hoax-slayer.com/latest-information.html)

# **SECURE YOUR HOME AND LET THEM THINK YOU'RE IN!**