

NHW Hotline Answerphone 01245 290261



**CHELMSFORD**



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ESSEX POLICE

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

### Crime Prevention Products available from NHW

ITEM	DESCRIPTION AND USE	PRICE
<b>Bicycles.</b>	Wraparound Identity label and information card.	<b>£1.00</b>
<b>Message in a Bottle.</b>	Medical data stored in refrigerator.	<b>50p</b>
<b>UV Marker Pens.</b>	Invisibly mark your valuables.	<b>£1.00</b>
<b>Handbag Cables/Chains.</b>	Secures purse to handbag.	<b>£1.00</b>
<b>Purse Bells.</b>	Attaches to a purse as a security reminder.	<b>£1.00</b>
<b>Smart Water.</b>	Domestic marking kit, for high value items.	<b>£18.80</b>
<b>Mini Personal Alarm.</b>	Many uses, handbags, computers etc	<b>£2.00</b>
<b>Shed Alarm.</b>	Loud multi-purpose (incl movement) alarm.	<b>£8.00</b>
<b>Door Alarm.</b>	Hangs on metal door handles.	<b>£5.50</b>

**Please order from your local NHW Coordinator who will be able to explain how the products work.**

Items can also be viewed on our website:-

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

PLEASE PASS THIS NEWSLETTER ON BEFORE RECYCLING

### Exhaust Catalytic Convertor Thefts.

Spring 2012

Following a high occurrence of exhaust catalytic convertor thefts, police are advising the public to be vigilant. Vehicles with a high road clearance, like the Boxer van, Ford Ranger and some motor homes are all vulnerable to this kind of theft and damage.

**Since the beginning of February, there have been 114 catalytic converter thefts in Essex, 67 of which were in central Essex and 41 in the Braintree district.**

Housing estates across the region are the main target of thieves. Owners of vehicles thought to be at risk are being advised to consider fitting: security clamps, guards, cages or alarms, all available for sale on the internet. If your convertor is bolted on, getting the bolts welded may be a deterrent. Review vehicle parking area/space, park under PIR sensor lights (passive infra-red).

**Smart Water or Selecta DNA** marking may also be effective in marking convertors, which can be used in evidence when prosecuting those that steal. Vehicle marking kits can be ordered from **smartwater.com** the price is £35.88 per year inclusive of post and packaging and VAT.

Another company called:- **Retainagroup** - offer a kit consisting of a virtually indestructible sticker, metal marking fluid and a window sticker (to warn thieves that the catalytic converter carries an identification mark). It costs £11. 87 including VAT and postage. This company is recommended by the AA.

Please go to the Essex Police website for more information and good advice.

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

## Mobile fingerprint device:

Since July 2011 Police Officers have been issued with mobile fingerprint recognition devices. The device uses mobile phone encrypted technology. The gadgets allow officers to scan a person's fingerprints and check them against the national fingerprint database. An individual's identity can be checked and verified within minutes. All Officers including those at Stansted Airport and the county's ports have been trained to use the devices.

## Broomfield Hospital Watch:

Thanks to PCSO Jon McDonald and Essex Police, a Hospital Watch scheme is now up and running at Broomfield Hospital. The scheme was launched in November 2011, to strengthen links between hospital staff and the local policing team. The scheme encourages everyone who visits the hospital to be an extra pair of eyes and ears and to inform the police or security teams of anything suspicious occurring. Police are asking everyone who spends time there, especially staff, to make sure they lock their car doors and shut vehicle windows. All electronic goods should be removed from view.

## Olympic ticket sales:

Essex Police are warning sports fans to be wary of bogus ticket websites. More than 8 million tickets will be available for the Olympic Games on March 15 but fans are urged to think carefully about where they buy them. The only way to apply for a ticket in the UK is at [www.tickets.london2012.com](http://www.tickets.london2012.com). You can also get a postal application from any Lloyds TSB branch. Don't buy tickets from any unauthorised websites or touts.

## What Crime is occurring in Chelmsford:- 12<sup>th</sup> Dec - 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb.

- 68 dwelling burglaries.
- 50 bicycles have been reported stolen/missing.
- 54 Metal thefts.
- 108 thefts from vehicles (incl convertors).
- 30 car thefts.

## Essex Policing in Action December 2011:-

290 fixed penalty notices were issued to drivers for using a mobile phone whilst driving. Police solved 80 dwelling burglaries and 39 other burglaries. 4304 people were breathalysed at the roadside. 190 of those tested gave a positive sample. Police solved 23 cases of theft of motor vehicles. Police solved 155 cases of criminal damage.

## Metal and Cable theft news:

Fourteen people were arrested during a joint day of action by Kent and Essex Police combating metal theft. An operation on Wednesday **February 8, 2012**, was aimed at disrupting the illegal trade in stolen metal. Arrests were made at addresses in Kent, Essex and East London. Thousands of pounds worth of lead and cable were seized during the day supported by the **Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate**.

Assistant Chief Constable Gary Beautridge, who is head of the Kent and Essex Directorate, witnessed the action in West Kent. He said: "The action in both counties was the culmination of a six-month investigation to target those venues which are helping metal thieves to function. This type of organised criminality causes misery to many who are left without light and power or unable to travel because of the disruption this type of theft can cause. This action demonstrates that we do take the theft of metal seriously and we are putting significant resources into targeting those responsible and bringing them to justice for their crimes."

## Man charged with stealing lead:

Following reports that a man was seen on a church roof at 2.55am on Friday, February 17th, police attended All Saints Church at The Green in **Writtle**. A 19 yr old man from Brentwood man was charged with stealing lead from the church. He was bailed to appear at Chelmsford Magistrates' Court in March.

## Moves to combat scrap metal theft: 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 2012 msn news

The Government has announced that scrap metal dealers found to be linked to the theft of railway signalling cable or other stolen metal are to be barred from the industry. Ministers said licences will be torn up under planned changes to legislation in the latest move aimed at tackling the growing problem of metal theft. Lord Taylor said: "Stolen metal will be too hot to handle. Mindless criminals who steal from our railways and historic buildings, and the scrap dealers who fuel the market, are causing misery and anger for countless people." The Environment Agency's Chief Executive Paul Leinster said: "Metal theft continues to be a major problem so we welcome the wider range of convictions that will be available to us when deciding whether to issue or remove environmental permits."