

Chelmsford Group of Neighbourhood Watches

www.chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk

Safer & Stronger Communities Together



NEWSLETTER: Autumn/Winter 2018

Emergency? ALWAYS use 999

Vicky Ford MP on cyber security

Our Member of Parliament for Chelmsford, Vicky Ford, MP, came to our AGM in July and, with Inspector Andy Sawyer (who leads the Community Policing Teams for Chelmsford and Maldon) and Spencer Clark (Community Safety Manager for Chelmsford) joined us in discussions—see the note on the back page. Vicky is also chair of the **All Party Parliamentary Group on Cyber Security** (which brings together MPs and peers who have a particular interest in this subject), and she has written a short article for us. Here is an extract, and you can read the full article on our website:

www.chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk

Vicky writes—The digital revolution has brought huge benefits to our society, but it also brings a darker side. Increasingly, the **cyber sphere** is where modern day crime is being committed and international conflicts are played out. One in ten of us have been the victims of **cyber crime**. Today individuals are twenty times more likely to be a victim of crime online than offline. Cyber crime can hit anyone—governments, institutions, businesses, and individuals. It can be organised crime gangs who conduct hacking and phishing on an industrial scale.

The **National Cyber Crime Unit** leads on the law enforcement investigation of cyber crime. A new **Computer Emergency Response Team** has been established to improve the way the UK responds to major cyber attacks. It's not just attacks at our nation's defences that we need to protect ourselves against. It is also making sure individuals, especially children, are protected when they go online. The **UK Council for Child Internet Safety** represents more than two hundred organisations committed to protecting children from harm online, and works with Government to provide advice for schools, particularly around issues such as sexting. It supports social media developers in ensuring their products are safe by design.

Being hacked or the victim of a cyber scam or fraud can be frightening and humiliating. Where money is involved it can also be very expensive. Just as in the off-line world, it is important to be alert to the risks of crime and take precautions. Do protect your passwords and make sure you install security updates. If you want more information do check out the **Take Five** campaign. This provides advice on how individuals can recognise scams especially where fraudsters pretend to represent a trusted organisation. Also, please refer to the advice on the Chelmsford Neighbourhood Watch website and in this *Newsletter*.

I hope all readers stay safe and secure online.



Visit takefive-stopfraud.org.uk



Vicky Ford, MP



Chief Inspector Gerry Parker

Policing in Chelmsford

Chief Inspector Gerry Parker has been the police commander for Chelmsford and Maldon since early this year. He has lead a number of initiatives across the area, including heightened activities in the fight against criminal gangs and drug dealing. We at Chelmsford Neighbourhood Watch have built on our already-close relationship with the police in working on a number of developments, including, with the City Council, a new Neighbourhood Watch street sign (see the centre pages of this *Newsletter*).

Gerry wrote a piece for us which we have published on our website. His key priorities are:

- protecting and supporting vulnerable people and victims of crime;
- reducing harm caused by alcohol and substance misuse;
- reducing re-offending;
- tackling crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour;
- tackling violent crime;
- promoting road safety and challenging irresponsible driving.

You can read Gerry's full article on our website at: chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk/essexpolice.html

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

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Chelmsford
City Council



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.

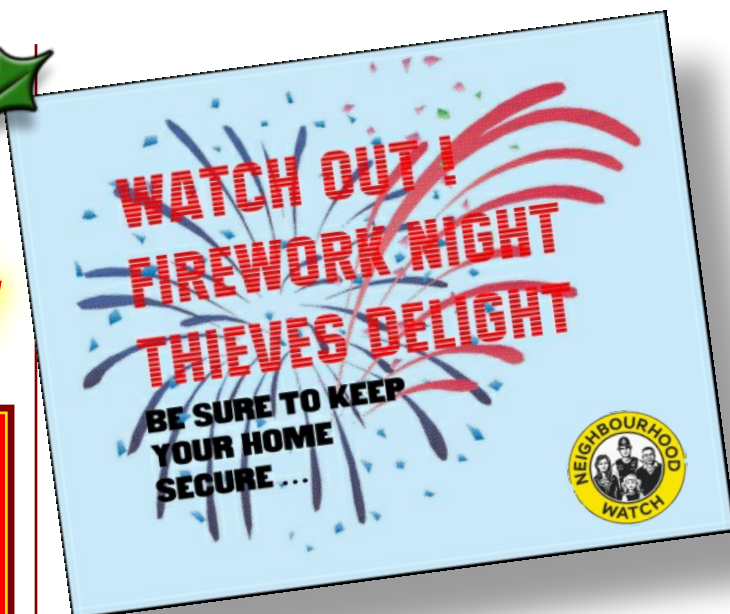
Sadly, the season of peace and good will to all is not shared by all—a few individuals will be on the keen lookout for opportunities to get your hard-earned cash, or to grab your presents. Secure your home and let them think you're in. Don't leave anything as an invitation: not in full view (on your car seat; in the boot, with the boot exposed; in your home near windows). Don't be distracted when out shopping—ensure your wallet, purse, and mobile phone are not visible or accessible.

Lots more advice on
www.chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk

Anti-terrorist hotline

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

www.gov.uk/report-terrorism



STOP HATE CRIME...

www.report-it.org.uk

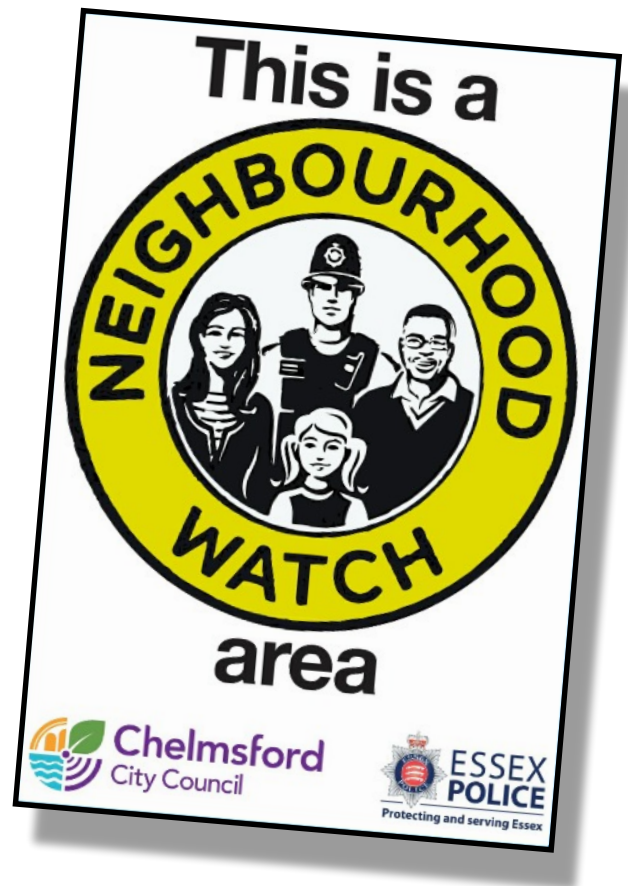
REPORT IT!

New joint Neighbourhood Watch street sign

Look out for the new Neighbourhood Watch street signs, which show the familiar Neighbourhood Watch logo, with—as a first for Essex—the logos for Essex Police and Chelmsford City Council, all co-sponsors of the project. Each has put in funds to have these signs produced, and the Essex County Neighbourhood Watch is interested in encouraging this cooperation across Essex.

This initiative came about after a meeting between the chair of the Chelmsford Group of Neighbourhood Watches and Gerry Parker, the police district commander; Chelmsford City Council were happy to come on board.

These signs will not replace existing ones (there's not enough money for this!), but will be used for new Watch areas, and localities which do not already have street signs. They may gradually replace old ones. So, our thanks to Gerry and Spencer responding so positively and quickly to this suggestion.



ALWAYS REPORT IT!

With no apologies, we repeat our message:

**IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF CRIME:
ALWAYS REPORT IT**

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

SEEING SOMEONE ACTING SUSPICIOUSLY?

If you see someone acting suspiciously, or a suspicious vehicle, 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.

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

You can contact the local community policing team too by email on ChelmsfordCPT@essex.pnn.police.uk



Chelmsford Group of Neighbourhood Watches AGM



Vicky Ford, MP, with some local Neighbourhood Watch and City Council representatives at the Chelmsford Group's AGM in July.

The Chelmsford Group of Neighbourhood Watches held its annual general meeting in July, and we were delighted that the Member of Parliament for Chelmsford, Vicky Ford, MP, was able to join us, together with Inspector Andy Sawyer, who leads the Community Policing Team for Chelmsford and Maldon, and Spencer Clarke, Public Protection Manager at Chelmsford City Council. We had a very good representation from the parishes and non-parished areas across the Chelmsford district.

Key matters of discussion were personal, domestic, home security, and safety on the street and in the community; cyber crime, fraud, and coercive cold-calling (at the door or by telephone); drug dealing, gangs, and organised crime; and homelessness and begging. We talked with the police about their capacity to manage the number of calls for assistance, and the meeting was assured by both Vicky and Andy of the imminent increase in police resources.

The key benefit of Neighbourhood Watch was emphasised: improved understanding of personal and home security, local neighbourliness, and working to support the police.

See more on our website:

www.chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk

REPORT IT!

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Community Speedwatch

Speed Kills—No Excuse for Bad Driving: well-known sayings but nonetheless so true. Some local Neighbourhood Watches around Chelmsford district, and beyond, are actively involved with the **Community Speedwatch (CSW)** programme, which is organised under the auspices of the **Essex Police Casualty Reduction team**—see

www.essex.police.uk/advice/speeding

and supported by the **Safer Essex Roads Partnership** (see saferessexroads.org).

‘The last two years has seen huge developments in CSW in Essex,’ reports their August 2018 newsletter. ‘We currently boast 87 groups active this year with over 700 volunteers monitoring our roads. We have another five groups waiting to join us in September, after training.’ The group has a major presence right across the county, highlighting local concerns about road safety and actively getting communities involved to reduce speeding in their localities. ‘By working together, we can make a difference by getting the message across – *Speeding is not acceptable.*’

Galleywood Neighbourhood Watch, amongst others across Chelmsford, are very active and report a significant beneficial impact on the behaviour of driving across their area.

If you wish to get involved contact:

community.speedwatch@essex-fire.gov.uk

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