

# Chelmsford Group of Neighbourhood Watches

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

*Safer & Stronger Communities Together*



## NEWSLETTER: Autumn/Winter 2019

**Emergency? ALWAYS use 999**

### Jane Gardner, Deputy Police, Fire, and Crime Commissioner for Essex, writes...

*In our Spring 2016 edition of this Newsletter we welcomed Roger Hirst to his new role as the Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex, and relayed his priorities for policing in the county. Now we are pleased to have the following piece from Jane Gardner, his Deputy, who writes for our Newsletter about current policing priorities for Essex.—Ed.*

**S**INCE BEING APPOINTED by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Roger Hirst, as his Deputy in 2016, I have had the huge privilege of meeting and working with different Neighbourhood Watch Groups across the county. What you do as an organisation is amazing.

The role of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner is to set the priorities for policing and fire and rescue. We set the budgets for Essex Police and Essex



County Fire and Rescue Service and the council tax

precepts for each service. We are responsible for appointing (and if we need to, dismissing) the Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer, and holding them to account by actively monitoring and scrutinising both services.

When Roger was elected in 2016 we worked hard with communities to develop a Police and Crime Plan which set the strategic direction for Essex Police.

In developing this plan we set out a Vision for Essex, that 'Safe and secure communities are the bedrock on which we build success and well being for all' and we have developed seven policing priorities to help us reach this Vision. These are:

- 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

To help us understand how well we are delivering services and how you are feeling about issues in your community we regularly go out and talk to local people. At many of our public meetings, residents of Essex were telling us that they wanted to see more local policing and increased visibility, they wanted more local policing and more officers in their communities.

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*(See also page 3, overleaf)*

**Contact us:**

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

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local partners**



**Chelmsford  
City Council**

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We found that over recent years demands on the police had increased, as we have seen changing patterns of crime—child abuse and fraud over the Internet, controlling and coercive behaviour in domestic abuse situations, rising threats of terrorism—as well as existing crimes such as organised crime and drug dealing becoming increasingly more complex. While Essex Police worked hard to provide an efficient service and was assessed as offering good value for money by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary Fire and Rescue Service, the impact of tight funding and new types of crime had had an impact on local policing resources.

Roger Hirst took the evidence of this stretch on force resources to the Home Office, and got their commitment to match the increase in our local council tax with more central Government funding. As a result, Essex Police was able to recruit another 150 officers in 2018-2019 and is currently recruiting a further 218 during 2019-2020. This additional 368 officers will taking the total number of officers policing Essex to over 3,200.

With the government's recent announcement to recruit a further 20,000 officers nationally we will also be receiving hundreds of additional officers, so in the next few years we can look forward to having a force in Essex that is stronger than it has ever been.

The current increase in officers has been predominantly deployed in local policing, and you should have started to see a difference in the number of officers in town centres and out on patrol.

This increased capacity in local community policing is designed to help prevent crime happening in the first place, but we know that the police can't do this alone. Roger and I have both seen first-hand how areas with active communities who protect themselves and who work effectively with the police prevent crime happening in their areas. Neighbourhood Watch is an important part of this. Keeping an eye out for each other, knowing your neighbours and providing the police with vital information is essential if we want to live in the safe and secure communities that allow us all to thrive.

We provide funding to Neighbourhood Watch each year, members of our team attend all of the county level meetings and I have had the pleasure of talking at your AGM on a number of occasions. I also relish the opportunities that I get to come along to meetings and talk with you individually or in groups. We value the work you do, we know it makes a difference and we are working hard to do whatever we can to support you.

Please follow us on Facebook on @PFCCessex and on Twitter @EssexPFCC or me personally on @DepPFCC4Essex for our latest news, or you can go to our website

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

On our website you can also sign up to our e-newsletter and bulletins so the latest news from our office can be delivered straight into your inbox.

On behalf of Roger Hirst and myself I would like to thank you for the work you do.

*Jane Gardner*

*Deputy Police, Fire, and Crime Commissioner for Essex*

**Call anonymously to report crime**



[www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

# Chelmsford is a safe place to live and work

**T**HE GOOD NEWS is that the data shows that Chelmsford city and district remains one of the safest places to live and work in Essex—and Essex is one of the safest counties in the country—despite all our advice and seemingly dire warnings!

Of course the experience of being a victim of any crime is very disturbing, but 'traditional' crimes (such as car theft, bicycle theft, burglary, shed attack, purse or wallet snatch, etc.), are on the decrease and, thankfully, are not a common experience. With some care and taking heed of advice from the police and Neighbourhood Watch, you can reduce the chances of this happening to you.

But fraud and cyber crime are increasing compared with these traditional offences. On the back page of this Newsletter we give further advice on fraud and cyber crime.

## Help reduce crime and the fear of crime: get involved with Neighbourhood Watch

By working together in neighbourhoods and communities we can raise cooperation and confidence levels; sharing information through properly managed social media—like *WhatsApp* or *Facebook*—can pay significant dividends in peace of mind and crime reduction.

The police welcome properly managed social media forums to help in the solution of crimes and apprehension of offenders. There are several examples around Chelmsford where local Watches making use of *WhatsApp*, for example, have contributed significantly to effective policing.

If you're not sure of there's a Watch in your locality, make contact with us:

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

We can advise and support your locality if you want to set up a Watch too—and join our growing community of Watches across the Chelmsford Group of Neighbourhood Watches. Find out more by visiting our website:

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

## Police News and Advice

**Y**OU CAN keep up to date with policing in Essex by checking out their news site at:

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

Essex Police also provide a wealth of advice on all aspects of crime and self-help. Check out their website on:

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



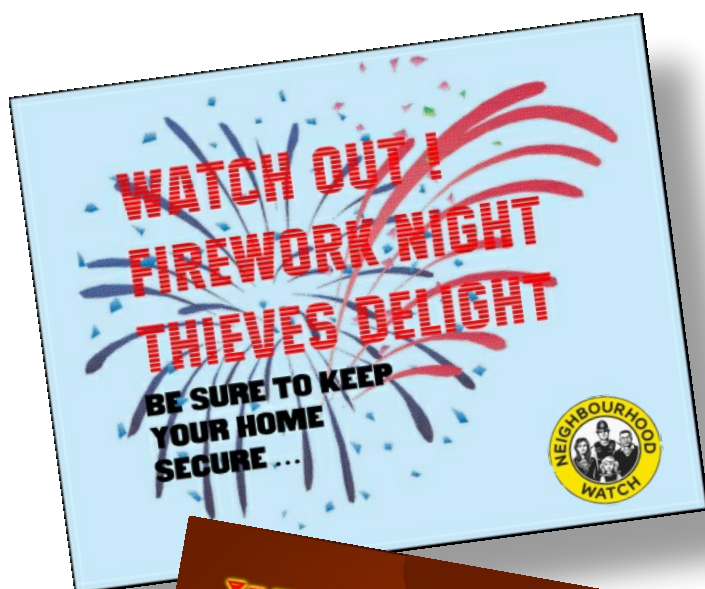
## Darker Days and Festive Seasons—we may be more vulnerable

**T**HE CLOCKS changing, dark evenings are with us; there are many Autumn and Winter festivals, some religious and some secular: firework nights, Hallowe'en, Diwali, Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, Christmas, New Year—sharing and exchanging gifts, having parties, attending festivals, and generally having a good time.

But take care:

- **Don't leave presents visible**—in cars or in your home through windows, or in shopping bags;
- **Secure your home**—close and lock windows; when you are out leave light and sound on to give the impression someone is at home.

**CLOSE IT—LOCK IT—BE SAFER**



## Read Back Copies of our Newsletters

**B**ACK COPIES of all of our Newsletters can be found on our website, and we have provided also an index by subject. They have advice on home and personal safety and security, and articles on fly-tipping and cyber security. The content of our Newsletters is usually brief, and further information and detail can be found on our website and/or through the links that are provided.

In our previous Newsletter we detailed how we can work together to help protect ourselves against car theft, shed attacks, bike thefts, home burglaries, drug-dealing in our neighbourhoods, and personal safety and security.

Check out our website at:

[chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk/newsletters.html](http://chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk/newsletters.html)



# Beware of FRAUD and SCAMS

**F**RAUD AND SCAMS are significant crimes in today's world. Whether it's a knock on your door, an unsolicited phone call, spam email—or something in the regular post, or even from a courier—be aware of the danger signs of fraud.

There are some persuasive and unscrupulous people around. Here are just some examples:-

- **Cold calling at your front door:**

Offers to clear your guttering, resurfacing your driveway, or other odd jobs—if you didn't call them don't deal with them (in any case, always obtain three quotes from reputable traders for any jobs you want done; refer to the **Buy With Confidence** scheme, approved by HM Government and local authorities—see next column).

Casual selling—sometimes from people claiming to be part of a charitable organisation rehabilitating offenders: it's best to politely refuse.

A courier tries to deliver an item you haven't ordered—if someone tries to deliver something you haven't ordered and asks for payment then don't take it, don't sign anything.

- **Cold calling to your telephone (land-line or mobile):**

Unwanted phone calls are a huge nuisance. If you have a number ID system on your phone and you don't recognise who's calling, then beware: even don't answer, especially if you have an answerphone; if it's cold calling they rarely leave a message. If you do answer,

- **NEVER give to unsolicited callers your personal details** (full name, date of birth—your address), or your bank account and credit card details. Banks and other reputable companies will never ask for your full password or PIN. And don't give unsolicited callers access to your computer.

- **BEWARE of pension or investment scams.**

- **Unsolicited emails:**

Emails can come through that look very authentic. But beware,

- **NEVER click on a link in an email**—unless you're 100% certain it's from a trusted source.

- **You might receive a 'begging email'**—supposedly from a long-lost friend or a friend of someone you may know: explaining they are stuck in an airport or somewhere abroad and urgently need £1,000 to get home—**IGNORE IT, DELETE IT.**

- **Email may sometimes appear to come from someone or a source you know ...** before opening, hover your mouse pointer/cursor over the address line in your email in-box and the true nature of the email address is revealed. Sometimes they are not as they seem!



**Buy With Confidence**  
Trading Standards Approved



**What does being Buy With Confidence Trading Standards Approved mean?**

- Vetted and approved by Trading Standards
- Committed to operating in a legal, honest and fair way
- Criminal record checked (if going into homes)
- Qualified, experienced and fully insured
- Monitored to ensure a high level of customer service
- Advised on Trading Standards legislation

You can check whether a business is a Buy With Confidence member at:

[buywithconfidence.gov.uk](http://buywithconfidence.gov.uk)

There is a whole host of other cons, and fortunately there are many detailed sources of advice about this. Here are some, and check out our website for more details:-

**Get Safe Online**—a source of unbiased, user-friendly advice

[www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)

**National Cyber Security Centre**—from HM Government

[www.ncsc.gov.uk](http://www.ncsc.gov.uk)

and check our Information for> Individuals and Families

**Independent Age**—advice and support for older age

[www.independentage.org](http://www.independentage.org)

**Age UK**—Information and Advice>Money and Legal>Scams

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

**Think Jessica**—a lot of help and advice on postal and other kinds of fraud

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

These are just some of the many excellent sources of advice. Check out our website for more information and to view some information leaflets:

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

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