



### **... and the good news!**

These Newsletters can be full of gloom and dire warnings ... but the good news is that actually Chelmsford is a very safe city – both in town and in the surrounding countryside. We just need to keep vigilant – look out for our neighbours and for one-another – and especially for the elderly and more vulnerable of our citizens.

Chelmsford is a great place to live – let's work on the issues raised in this Newsletter to keep it that way – and to improve on the safety and security of our environment. Get in touch and keep in touch. Send us your views (see below).

### **Our website**

We are always trying to improve messages, information, and communications. We are endeavouring to improve our website and to keep it up to date. We are encouraging local Watches to be active. We encourage local watches to be involved with the Chelmsford Neighbourhood Watch Group. On any or all of these issues please contact us.

**Remember – in an emergency ALWAYS CALL 999**

### **Check out more information on our website**

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

This newsletter has limited space and can only raise issues in summary. We will put more detailed information on our website as soon as possible. If you have any queries or comments please contact us via:

**[chelmsfordnhw@btinternet.com](mailto:chelmsfordnhw@btinternet.com)** **<mailto:info@chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk>**

If you're interested in joining a Neighbourhood Watch in the Chelmsford area, contact our Membership Secretary:- email [mikevine43@btinternet.com](mailto:mikevine43@btinternet.com) or phone 01245 473715



# CHELMSFORD CITY



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ESSEX POLICE

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

Summer Edition July 2014

**PLEASE PASS THIS NEWSLETTER ON BEFORE RECYCLING**

**In this issue: Beware Summer Chancers: Home Security – Personal Security – Internet Security; Cold Calling Update, ... and the good news! – Our Website**

### **Beware Summer Chancers:**

#### **Homes security - Personal Security - Internet Security**

Sadly, we continue to push the message about home security, personal security, and internet security: these matters are persistent and imperative.

- **Home Security:** Carelessness, oversight, forgetfulness, 'It's OK for 10 minutes' – and more, are attitudes we all have that give the Summer Chancers the opportunity to get into your home.

#### **LOCK DOORS – LOCK WINDOWS**

Once in, they might trash your place looking for anything small and disposable (obviously cash and small hi tech items are popular). Leaving cash or wallets visible, or iPhones, etc., all are clear targets. But if there are tempters outside, such as a nice car, they will look further. So ALWAYS PROPERLY LOCK ALL DOORS AND WINDOWS – especially if they are easily accessible (ground floor, by a roof, by a drain pipe, etc.). Remember, some uPVC doors might appear secure when the handle is shifted into the 'lock' position, but they are not until you actually turn the key!

If you have a pin tumbler (Yale-type) lock, it's also advisable to install a five-lever tumbler lock – a big deterrent, since there's no quick escape through doors with those fitted (when they're locked!!).

And finally, if you have a burglar alarm fitted, turn it on at night even when you're at home.

#### **HIDE KEYS AND WALLETS**

Leaving car keys visible or accessible will mean your car is likely to be taken – especially if it's an up-market type. Generally, once it's taken, it'll be shipped within hours ... so NEVER LEAVE KEYS VISIBLE – and the same applied to wallets



and other small valuable/easily disposable items. You may like to think about purchasing a key safe to store your keys, or take your keys, handbags, wallets to your bedroom with you when you retire for the night.

Whilst we're talking about theft of cars, think about using a steering wheel lock on your car – the kind that has a steel bar fitted across the steering wheel, LIKE THE ONE IN THE SKETCH; and gain – make sure the keys to it are separate and secure! KEYLESS CARS may present a particular problem, and police in Kensington and Chelsea have recommended using steering wheel locks (see [www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4153143.ece](http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4153143.ece)).



### BE AN ILLUSIONIST – MAKE THEM THINK YOU'RE AT HOME

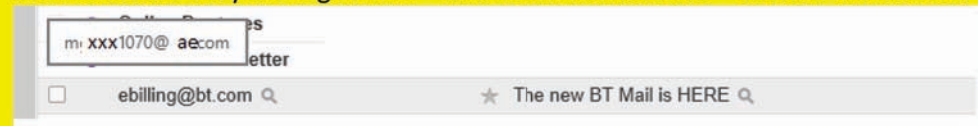
Basically if you create the illusion that your house is occupied, it's less likely to be broken into. Radios and lights set with timers to go on and off at certain points from the afternoon into the evening are good investments. There is a little device that flickers giving the impression the television is on called FakeTV™, which is available from Response Electronics Ltd ([www.faketv.co.uk](http://www.faketv.co.uk)) or Maplin Electronics ([www.maplin.co.uk](http://www.maplin.co.uk)) – key in 'fakeTV' in the search box.

- **Personal Security:** simples – keep it close, zipped, and in front: and don't

flaunt it! Wallets, purses, handbags, iPhones, Androids, cameras, laptops, shoulder bags, man bags – anything that's easily liftable, pickable, dipable, snatchable ... In holiday mood we become relaxed – and maybe a little careless (as well as care-free!) Even in the 'safest' of places, little things can be nicked – so ALWAYS be careful! Don't leave mobiles on tables, don't drape bags on the back of chairs, no wallets in back pockets, handbags zipped up ... it's all common sense really!

- **Internet Security:** in past newsletters we've pushed issues relating to internet fraud, spams, phishing, and the like. These scams and frauds aren't going away – so keep vigilant.

For example, BT email users will know that BT is migrating from BT-Yahoo! – and spammers are getting in on the act. A VERY CONVINCING spam email is appearing purporting to be from BT saying click here to activate your new BT email account – and it looks legitimate – until you hover your mouse pointer over the email address and it comes up with a poor person's hacked email address. Basically, BE VERY CAUTIOUS WITH EMBEDDED HYPER-LINKS in emails unless you are 100% sure they are legitimate – and even then beware – see the illustration.



'Nasties' encroach on smart phones now: there's one called Android-Trojan.Koler.A which affects Androids, and invades the smartphone if someone clicks onto certain video sites. The malware basically locks the smart phone, and frightens the user into paying some 'fine' (£500 maybe) to release the phone. There are ways round this, so check out our website.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Cold Calling Update

We flagged up cold calling issues in the last newsletter. Whilst you are entitled to ask anyone cold calling selling to leave your property, you may also want to check that they have a legitimate Pedlar's Licence. This is a clear document headed Pedlar's Licence, and has the photo ID of the licenced person: it is signed by the Chief Constable. If they're legitimate traders they won't mind proving they have a proper licence ...

WORRIED OR SUSPICIOUS? REPORT IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON 101  
IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS DIAL 999.

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