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NEWPORT NHW VILLAGE CO-ORDINATORS

More changes in Essex Police

Six months after the biggest shake up in the way we are policed, Essex Police have recently reviewed the impact these changes have made and have made further adjustments to the service they provide. Most of these are operational changes, but those that affect us most are related to the combining of Uttlesford and Braintree in a single district. This means that we will have to share two keys posts; the Crime Reduction Advisor and the Essex Watch Liaison Officer. The job of the CRA is self-explanatory, but EWLO needs to be explained.

This is the post that was first held by Lindsay Baillie (who was a Newport resident until she moved away to Scotland). Since then the post has been covered by a number of temporary staff, and the present job holder is supplied by an agency. From December this will change and we will be supported by an EWLO based in Chelmsford and our challenge is to ensure that the service we have enjoyed since 2008 will continue at the current level.

Crime Trends

There are three types of crime that Essex Police are targeting at the moment. These are Burglary, Car Theft and Scams.

Throughout the year there has been an increasing level of burglary, both from peoples' homes and from sheds and garages. It seems that many of these are pre-planned and the thieves are targeting high value items such as tools and garden equipment. Although sometimes this is carried out by a forced entry, in many cases there is little or no security in place and remote locations are particularly vulnerable. **If you need security advice, contact the Crime Reduction Advisor by calling 101.**

The situation regarding car theft is

even more alarming. The police tell us that they regularly check car doors and find that 1 in 5 is not secure. The excuse is that drivers want to avoid their car being damaged as result of a forced entry. But that is not the way these thieves work; they work in gangs for a 'Mr Big' who sets them a daily target and they achieve this by simply trying door handles and pillaging the contents of the unlocked ones. This way, they do not cause any noise or commotion that would result in drawing attention to their activities, and can carry on until they reach their target. So the two most important things you can do to help reduce your chances of becoming a victim of this type of crime are:

- Please remember to take out any items of value with you when you park your vehicle for any length of time or at least store it away in the boot where it can't be seen.
- Always lock your vehicle and be mindful of where you park it.

Scams are a consequence of the technology age on which we increasingly depend. But many of us feel uncertain and vulnerable as we try to keep abreast of so much change. Even if we rely solely on a telephone, as many of us do, we can fall victim to calls that are designed to take money out of our bank accounts, or buy something that we don't want at too high a price. There are a number of things you can do to reduce your risk:

1. Use the telephone preference service (call **0845 070 0707** or see www.tpsonline.org.uk)
2. Never give your bank account or card details to anyone who calls you
3. Report anything you are not sure about to the police and the company that the caller mentioned

We can help

One of the services provided by our EWLO is a weekly Neighbourhood Watch Bulletin. This is circulated by email and is sent to all Co-ordinators who have access to the internet. We encourage Co-ordinators to pass this on to the residents who have agreed to receive the Bulletin, but not all are able to offer this service. So, if you would like to receive the Newport edition of the Bulletin. Please email nhw@acjohnson4.plus.com and we will



add you to the circulation list and you can then pass on this useful information to your friends and relations wherever they live.

And finally, a reminder that we hold regular Neighbourhood Panel meetings with the Police where local issues are identified and actions are agreed. If you would like to be involved with Panel please contact Derrick, who chairs these meetings, on 543622 or d.giffin@btinternet.com

Thankfully we live in a low crime area and we can all help in keeping it that way. Please remember **TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER. NN**

IN

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