

Chelmsford & Maldon Group of Neighbourhood Watches

Safer & Stronger Communities Together



NEWSLETTER: Winter 2021-2022

Emergency? ALWAYS use 999

Keeping safe and secure

DURING challenging and uncertain times, keeping our families and ourselves safe and secure is a priority for us all: keeping our homes, property, and hard-earned money is very much part of this. **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH** can play a part in helping communities work together to help with this.

Shorter days

From the end of October until the last weekend of March we are in *Greenwich Mean Time*—which means, particularly in the Winter months, it starts to get dark from around half past four (or earlier) in the afternoons. The potential for opportunist burglaries increases when houses appear to be unoccupied in dark late afternoons: curtains open, lights out, no activity; a sneak round the back and in through a window. It can be so easy. So the key message: **Let them think someone is in**. More advice is given on page 2.

CYBER CRIME

We make no apology for reminding readers of the ever-present danger of **CYBER CRIME**—it's *nothing less than a pandemic*. Our previous edition focused on fraud and scam, and we're giving some up-dated information here, including some useful information from the **NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY CENTRE**—see page 3 for more details. And for lots more advice and information, visit our website and give us feedback:

www.chelmsfordandmaldonnhw.org.uk
newsletter@chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk

In this Newsletter ...

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|---|-----|
| • Keeping safe in darker days | p.1 | • Knife Angel came to Chelmsford | p.3 |
| • Shedding light on home security | p.2 | • Stop violence against women and girls | p.4 |
| • Fraud and scam up-dates | p.3 | • Reminders | p.4 |



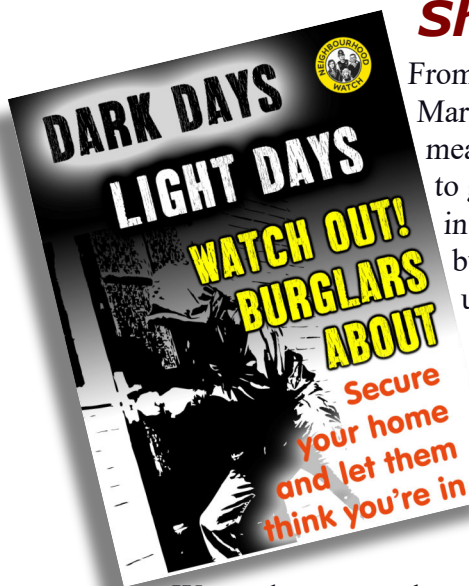
Norman Taylor

WE were deeply saddened by the passing of Norman on 16th November.

Norman was the Hon. President of our Group and a past vice chair; he was also a past chair of the Galleywood Neighbourhood Watch.

Norman was a kind and generous person and always supported new members of our Group. In 2018, he received a commendation from the Essex County Neighbourhood Watch for his services to Chelmsford and Galleywood.

Our condolences to Norman's family. He will be greatly missed by all.



When the Knife Angel came to Chelmsford

See p.3



SHEDDING LIGHT ON HOME SECURITY

Home Burglaries, Car Thefts Shed Attacks, Bike Thefts ...

WE have constantly advised on these matters ... but it's so easy to overlook locking a window, the shed door—even the car or van! It might sound tedious, but a mental checklist before going out or before going to bed can help ... There are several steps you can take to help secure your home—especially during these darker afternoons and evenings:

'Make them think you're in ...'

Burglaries are generally an opportunist crime—this means that anything that makes life difficult for a potential burglar is a deterrent and pushes them away. Here are some simple but effective steps to help deter intruders:

- **Connect one or two table lights to timers*** so that they come on around four o'clock in the evening. Just make sure you position them in such a way **not to reveal** rooms to outside view!
- **Keep a radio on** (low volume so it doesn't annoy the neighbours!)—a talk programme is best.
- **Use a 'fake tv'*** that shine against a wall so that it seems your television is on.

**These items can be purchased at a good hardware or electrical shop.*

Outside lighting

Movement-sensing outside lighting is a deterrent: placed in back yards, or at entrance doors, and perhaps used with CCTV or 'smart' doorbells ...

Cctv and 'smart' doorbells

'Smart' doorbells are where you have a video camera linked to your doorbell, so that when someone is walking to your door or rings your door bell their image is recorded. Some can be operated and viewed remotely over a smart phone. They are available on-line or in a hardware or electrical shop that specialises in home security items.

Properly LOCK windows and doors

You'd be surprised how many people inadvertently leave their windows or doors unlocked—especially the upvc type: always ensure locking levers have been operated. You may forget to secure a front window when you're round the back—but please make sure you do.

Keeping your outside secure

Back yards, outhouses, gardens, driveways—they're all potentially accessible and vulnerable.

- **Sheds and outhouses** are frequent targets: storing bicycles, tools, and other equipment—all expensive stuff and potentially sellable for illicit cash. Extra locks on doors and windows can help and anchoring systems are available.
- **Cars and caravans:** vehicles with 'keyless' ignition are potential targets and may have vulnerabilities. Use steering wheel locks and wheel locks as extra security.
- **Motorcycles and bicycles** will always be a target: anchor bicycles to a secure floor; heavy duty security chains for motorbikes and cycles will help too. Mark bicycles: the police and city/district councils offer bike-making schemes—see www.bikeregister.com/events.

You can find this and much more information and advice, including many links to other organisations on our website:

www.chelmsfordandmaldonnhw.org.uk

CYBER CRIME AND FRAUD UPDATE

Cyber crime is another pandemic

IN our previous edition we gave examples of frauds and scams, and gave information about how to access advice and alerts relating to these threats. We also mentioned that you can access information on our website: www.chelmsfordandmaldonnhw.org.uk. You find the previous edition on our website (and you will find all previous editions too): go to our website and click on the link to **NEWSLETTERS**. Below are some updates and links that have developed since the Summer.

On-going advice from Essex Police

Essex Police used to produce leaflets and alerts regarding fraud through their Essex Police Fraud Alert System; **this has been moved** to a new platform: the **ESSEX POLICE WEEKLY UPDATE E-NEWSLETTER**. This makes it easier for the Police to maintain their obligations under the Data Protection regulations.

The e-Newsletter will highlight the latest news updates from the Police website and their social media along with crime prevention advice, job vacancies and partnership updates. They only need your email address and you can unsubscribe at any time; the service is completely free. If you would like to continue to receive fraud prevention advice as part of the Essex Police Weekly Update, sign up using the link—

www.getrevue.co/profile/essexpoliceuk

All their past copies of fraud prevention advice are filed on our website:

chelmsfordandmaldonnhw.org.uk

National Cyber Security Centre

In our summer Newsletter we referred to the **NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY CENTRE (NCSC)**, which can be found on-line at

www.ncsc.gov.uk.

Here you will find all kinds of advice including **help and advice for individuals and families** (just navigate there from the main menu).

There are unfortunately all kinds of scam and fraud—and it's becoming very sophisticated. The **NCSC** have a section on **CYBER AWARE**, (at www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware) which advises how you can improve your cyber security by taking six actions. Highly recommended.

See also **POLICE ACTION FRAUD** on:

actionfraud.police.uk/what-is-fraud

and check out essex.police.uk and chelmsfordandmaldonnhw.org.uk/fraudscamhelp.html



When the Knife Angel came to Chelmsford

VISITORS to Central Park in Chelmsford couldn't have missed the appearance in September of a large structure (eight metres, 27 feet high)—made from thousands of blades: this was the **KNIFE ANGEL** and it has been calling on various locations around the **UK** since December 2018; it is part of a **NATIONAL YOUTH ANTI-VIOLENCE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME**.

This sculpture, made from knives that have been surrendered or confiscated throughout the land, is the creation of the British Ironwork Centre and artist Alfie Bradley to raise awareness of the evil of knife crime. More than a thousand of these knives were collected from Essex with some inscribed with devastating messages from victims' families. The City Council, Essex Police, and the Essex Police Crime and Fire Commissioner, have all praised the work and events associated with it, which have all involved young people in various ways.

A knife amnesty box remains at the site of the angel, just near to the pond and the play area in the park—and there's one by the police station (New Street/Victoria Road), and elsewhere across the city.



Ending violence against women and girls—we all have a responsibility

WE have seen in the news recent horrific reports of attacks on women and girls and the alarming rate of misogynistic attitudes in our society. Everyone should be free to live their lives without harassment and violence—irrespective of gender, race, religion, sexuality, or ability: this principle is embedded in our Neighbourhood Watch constitution.

Violence against women and girls is violence which is specifically directed at women and girls because of their gender. It includes sexual violence, domestic violence and other forms of abuse; stalking and harassment; female genital mutilation; forced marriage and so-called 'honour-based violence'; trafficking, prostitution, and other forms of modern-day slavery; and abuse of women and girls on social media and in other online spaces.

Social attitude is part of the solution—and we all have a part to play: violence in any form must not be tolerated and if we see any of it we must speak out, give support to victims, and report incidents.

www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk



BLACK LIVES MATTER

blacklivesmatter.uk

**IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF A CRIME,
OR WITNESS A CRIME:**

ALWAYS REPORT IT

www.essex.police.uk
or call 101

**Always use 999
in an emergency**

DOMESTIC ABUSE

There is help and advice from

Don't suffer it

Compass,

a partnership of domestic abuse services providing a response in Essex:

www.essexcompass.org.uk

or from Refuge, which provides the National Domestic Abuse Helpline on

0808 2000 247

www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk

People are there to help.

women's aid

until women & children are safe

www.womensaid.org.uk

Refuge

For women and children.
Against domestic violence.

www.refuge.org.uk
nationaldahelpline.org.uk

**VS VICTIM
SUPPORT**

Get support

08 08 16 89 111

www.victimsupport.org.uk

Reporting Incidents and Crime to Essex Police

IF you're a victim of a crime or witness a crime, **ALWAYS REPORT IT. ALWAYS USE 999 IN AN EMERGENCY**, or use these:

- **CALL 101**
- **REPORT ON-LINE** at essex.police.uk, selecting **REPORT** or **TELL US ABOUT**
- **USE THE POLICE LIVE CHAT LINE** at essex.police.uk, selecting **LIVE CHAT** (daily, 7 am to 11 pm)

Call anonymously to report crime



www.crimestoppers-uk.org