



Colin's Blog 16th March 2018

Sitting, pondering and cogitating, whilst awaiting the joys of Spring to unfold before my eyes!

Most of us are of course, are only too pleased to see the back of Winter, the snow, ice and cold air, as well as the long dark nights, and look forward to brighter times ahead!

I look forward to watching the world of nature, as new life unfolds, bringing with it new growth, and abundant opportunities to move on to new challenges, new horizons, and indeed, renewed hope, for the future of our country, our children and, our grandchildren!

SHEDS, GARAGES, WORKSHOPS, LOCK-UPS AND OTHER OUTBUILDINGS



Hopefully, as the weather improves, those of us lucky enough to have gardens or allotments, can all start thinking about spending time outdoors, getting everything ship shape during the Spring and throughout Summer! As in previous years, the Police are urging everyone to ensure their premises are secure and are offering some practical steps that can be taken reduce the risk of burglary. (This advice

applies throughout all seasons!)



Ensure that all sheds, garages, workshops, lock-ups and other outbuildings, are in a good state of repair and that any damaged or rotten sections of their structure, which could make it easier for a thief to gain access, are repaired or replaced.

- Use quality close shackle padlocks which cannot be easily levered or cut.
- If you have a window in the premises, consider whether you need it and if not consider boarding it over securely. Otherwise, make the window opaque or cover windows to ensure the property inside is not on display.
- Consider fitting key operated locks to any opening windows or screwing them shut.
- Where the building is a wooden structure, consider lining the property with plywood sheeting to make it more difficult for a thief to get through without proper tools and lots of time.
- Consider fitting an alarm, these are readily available from DIY stores or local locksmiths.

- Chain any tools through their handles to large heavy items such as lawn mowers or cultivators. If you have neither of these fill a bucket with concrete and, using a masonry fixing, chain your tools to this.
- Mark all valuables within your premises with your postcode and house number; record serial numbers of all equipment and keep the records safe.
- Good security lighting, using existing lights, (consider installing a time switch or adding sensor lights).
- Ensure that all sheds, garages, lock-ups or other relevant outbuildings, are securely locked and never left unlocked whilst unoccupied.



You may have heard recently, about the killing and mutilating of three sheep, just over the border in Chelmondiston, Suffolk, last month. Sadly this has also happened in Essex in the past. Very vulnerable to such criminal acts, and, as we are now in the lambing season, the lambs too, are easy targets for criminals, so, as you walk, drive or cycle passed Farms and smallholdings, please report anything suspicious to the Police. If you see anything that looks like a crime in progress, dial 999, other reports can be made using 101, or reporting information online at: - <https://www.essex.police.uk/do-it-online/> alternatively you can pass on information to: -



Spring also brings other opportunities for criminals, to steal bird eggs, and to disrupt nature.

Fishing Close Season The majority of **Stillwater's**, except some Stillwater fisheries that have nature conservation status, can remain open all the year round for fishing should the fishery owner so choose.

On the vast majority of the **canal network**, the traditional coarse fishing close season was abolished in 2000 (earlier in the North-west). This means that the majority of the nation's canals can be fished all year round. However, there are some exceptions based around river interactions (These include • River Lee above Aqueduct Lock, Old River Lee and the River Stort. On **rivers**, the traditional close season for coarse fishing which runs from 15th March through to the 15th June inclusive, remains in situ. This applies to all rivers.

Independent charity Crimestoppers is appealing to residents to help play their part in passing on information about crime in the community.



CrimeStoppers.

Help make your community safer and protect those you love

In the county, information given to Crimestoppers UK Contact Centre led to more than 300 people being arrested and charged between April and September last year (2017) and numbers continue to increase.

Drug crimes, drink driving and uninsured or disqualified drivers, and possession of weapons are among the highest number of crimes reported.

Crimestoppers is an independent charity that gives people the power to speak up, stay safe and stop crime – 100% anonymously - either by calling the professionally-staffed 24-hour hotline 0800 555 111 or using a non-traceable online form via the Crimestoppers website at www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

Chair of Crimestoppers in Essex, Stuart Rawlins, says the charity gives people the ability to speak up to stop crime without fear for their own safety.

“Crimestoppers is all about getting through to people who want to make a difference in their local communities. Just one small piece of information that could appear insignificant may be the key that leads to an arrest and charge being made,” he said.

Calls and information passed on to Crimestoppers are not recorded and cannot be traced. We do not take any personal details and everyone who contacts us remains 100% Anonymous. Always.

Crimestoppers in Essex is also looking for volunteers to join its team and help keep communities safer. For more information, visit crimestoppers-uk.org. Or contact Stuart Rawlins at stuart.rawlins@crimestoppers-uk.org

Crimestoppers is not an emergency service and in the event of an emergency, you should always ring 999.

For more information on Crimestoppers in Essex, visit www.crimestoppers-uk.org/in-your-area-eastern/essex/

Background notes: -

- Crimestoppers is an independent charity which helps the police to solve crimes, making communities safer. It does this by operating the 24/7 telephone number 0800 555 111 which people can ring to pass on information about crimes anonymously. They can also use our Anonymous Online Form.
- Around 14 people are arrested and charged every day as a result of information given to Crimestoppers.
- Since Crimestoppers began in 1988, it has received over 1.8 million actionable calls, resulting in more than 140,000 arrests and charges. More than £135 million worth of stolen goods has been recovered and over £340 million worth of illegal drugs has been seized.
- In 2005, Crimestoppers launched the UK's Most Wanted on its website which allows the public to view images of criminals and pass on vital information about their whereabouts. It has been highly successful, with over 4,000 arrests to date.
- Crimestoppers UK was founded by Lord Ashcroft, KCMG PC, Chairman of Trustees. In 1988, he launched Crimestoppers in the Metropolitan Police area. Crimestoppers' 'call to action' is built on a three-way partnership between the business community, the police and the media.

A day at 'The Oscars?'

Yesterday (Thursday), I was fortunate to be amongst many friends and colleagues at the Police and Fire Commissioners Annual Conference, held at Boreham Hall.

During the conference, the winners of the 'Essex PFCC Community Safety Hero Awards,' were announced.

We were delighted to watch Peter Salmon, District Co-ordinator for Brentwood Area Neighbourhood Watch, receive a well-earned and justly deserved award as a finalist and runner up of the Community Safety Hero Award.

Peter, who is also a Trustee and deputy chair of Essex County NhW Association is a wonderful friend and colleague, and it was great to see his untiring work and dedication being rewarded!

I take my hat off to Peter, whose enthusiasm seemingly knows no bounds, and indeed to his wife Norma, whose support and encouragement, adds to his success.

OUT AND ABOUT

My wife and I have recently enjoyed two excellent theatre visits, one to the Harlow Playhouse, where we watched an excellent performance by the Barron Knights, and, earlier this week, to the Cliffs Pavilion, where we were entertained by Jasper Carrot, Bev Bevan (ELO), with his own band, and other artists. Both events were somewhat nostalgic, and great entertainment.



It always amazes me to see, some members of theatre audiences, who can sit through such great performances, almost motionless, seemingly, almost as if 'rigor mortis,' has set in!

I am a great believe in participation, which, in my view adds to the experience, and results in greater enjoyment!

Possibly, my problem is that although I am now the wrong side of 70, I am still young at heart! Perhaps we should all be reaching for the WD40, motivate the aging joints, and, where possible, live life the full, and have fun!

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Keep Alert, Keep Secure, Keep Safe and 'Have a great weekend!'

Don't forget that you can also read my blog at :-
<http://www.eppingforestnhw.org.uk/>



DATA PROTECTION

My blog is sent to members and supporters of Epping Forest, Brentwood and Harlow NhW groups. and partnership organisations. When you join neighbourhood Watch, you agree that your contact details are shared between Neighbourhood

Watched and Essex Police under existing partnership agreements, and that they are not shared with other organisations or individuals.

To unsubscribe from my blog, or from Neighbourhood Watch, please send an email to: colin@neighbourhoodmatters.org.uk quoting the area in which you reside, so that, I know from which to list remove your contact details. Thank you.

Colin I. Freeman MITOL Trustee and Executive committee member of Essex County NhW Association, member of Epping Forest, Brentwood and Harlow NhW committees.