



# **SMILE 4 ESSEX**

**Colin's Blog 18<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

Welcome to this week's edition of 'Colin's Blog,' bringing you news and views of interest, together with the latest scam and other crime, or crime prevention news which is useful to our Neighbourhood Watch members across Epping Forest, Brentwood, Harlow and surrounding districts, as well as our subscribers which now stretch across London.

Firstly, a big thank you to the many subscribers who sent their words of appreciation, and kind comments, following my articles that appeared in last week's edition, it was somewhat bigger than most weeks, due to me wanting to put out information within a relevant timescale.



As you see from the heading, I am still keen to promote '**SMILE 4 ESSEX.**' Used properly, a smile can be infectious, and can help to promote good will and understanding, two things, in an unsettled world, that we need to see spread across Essex and beyond. So why not start now, and practise for the forthcoming Bank Holiday weekend!

I am still enjoying my retirement, and the extra time that I now spend with my family, and to enjoy the splendours of nature, through being able to walk a lot more, in and around our countryside. It appears to be a good year for berries, especially sloes, which of course, are not worth picking until after the first frost, and we don't want that to come along too soon!

Please remember to let me know if you are changing your email contact details, and of course, if you receive the Burglary Hotspots information from Paul, please also let him know at: [paul.harris@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:paul.harris@essex.pnn.police.uk)

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[colin@neighbourhoodmatters.org.uk](mailto:colin@neighbourhoodmatters.org.uk) Thank you.



Growing wild, and full of splendour, is this example of a wild antirrhinum, bringing back magical childhood memories, of walks in the country.

Summer is moving on far too quickly, many crops are now safely gathered in, as we head towards the many Harvest Festivals in churches and communities across the land. I marvel at the wonderful produce, which we are able to farm and produce, especially in East Anglia, but, feel sad, that a good Harvest in

several countries, is a thing of the past. We should all be thankful to our farmers and food producers for all their hard work.

I was back enjoying the splendours of Lee Valley Park last weekend, where, together with two of our grandchildren, my wife and I, had a brilliant time with the animals at Hayes Hill Farm, and walking across the park. It was good to see so many people enjoying the same experience, then, on another day, we were back, this time at the White Water rafting centre, watching our youngest granddaughter canoeing, and, I felt a great deal of relief, when they were back on dry land!



There has been much in the news this week, about the way that people are being ripped off, over the cost of some car insurance policies, especially when they opt for spreading the cost through monthly payments. (Shop around to prevent this).

We all know that part of the premium that we pay goes towards, those ignorant, selfish, in fact stupid individuals, who, think that they don't have to take out, and pay for car insurance. The morons who break the law, driving whilst disqualified, also putting other people at risk, and, of course, where applicable, those who don't pay their vehicle tax, or do not have a current valid MOT when needed (which could invalidate their insurance). I often see the DVLA out and about, ready to clamp the vehicles of offenders.

With many people away on holiday, August is traditionally a quiet month for news, and although I have checked the Action Fraud website, and there is nothing new to report from them.

Should you need to report crime, or other relevant information, please use 101 or report it online via the Essex Police website, and, as always, in respect of crime in progress, or in an Emergency always dial 999. For general enquiries relating to Essex Watch, here is a reminder of whom to contact: -



Paul Harris, Essex Watch Liaison Officer, Epping Forest, Brentwood, Harlow and Uttlesford: [paul.harris@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:paul.harris@essex.pnn.police.uk)



### **FARM WATCH**

[brenda.cross@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:brenda.cross@essex.pnn.police.uk)



### **HERITAGE WATCH**

Paul Harris (details above)



### **DOG WATCH**

[kevin.blake@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:kevin.blake@essex.pnn.police.uk)

That's it for this week, Keep Alert, Keep Secure and Keep Safe! Colin