

HOME SECURITY PRODUCTS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE FROM UTTLESFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

UV PROPERTY MARKING KIT

This Property Marking Kit continues to be a very popular element of broad crime reduction programmes due to its cost effective nature. Marked property helps to make stolen goods become harder to sell. The kit contains: Permanent UV pen, set of laminate labels, set of highly durable warning stickers and instruction leaflet.

REF: OT0256 £1.50

CREMARK KIT

A simple and effective system which permanently marks property with a permanent marker pen and then seals that mark with a CREMARK specifically designed quick drying lacquer. Each kit marks up to 40 items. The kit is effective for overt property marking meaning everyone will be able to see just who the valuable item belongs to, and more importantly, will not be able to remove it. Ideal for garden equipment, mowers, tools and bikes etc.

REF: OT00558 £18.00

PADLOCK ALARM This alarm is ideal for sheds. After a short delay the alarm is active and will sound a warning beep if tampered with, if further movement is detected the padlock will sound an impressive two tone siren scaring off would be thieves. Key operated, Battery operated, Weather proof, fantastic burglary deterrent.

REF: EL00030 £12.00.

DEFENDER DOOR HANDLE ALARM Our most popular selling item. Detects potential intruders before they can open a door. This is the best and loudest (130dBs) door handle. Attractively designed with a white casing, the alarm will hang from any door handle without causing obstruction to its use. Fully portable, ideal for use in caravans hotel rooms etc.

REF: EL00002 £6.00

SENSOR ALARM The PIR Sensor Alarm is a low cost, battery operated alarm. The alarm has a PIR sensor which can detect movement up to 8 metres away and once activated will sound a 105dBs siren. It is quickly armed and disarmed using key fob. Can be used free standing or wall mounted (bracket supplied). 2 remote controls. 4XAA batteries supplied for alarm, and 4XAG-13 batteries supplied for remotes. Ideal for use in homes, offices, caravans, sheds and garages. Completely portable.

REF: EL00121 £15.00

PURSE/BAG CABLES Purse and bag dipping is a growing concern throughout many parts of the UK, particularly for elderly and vulnerable people. This type of crime is often seen in crowded areas, busy shopping halls and on public transport. By securing a purse, wallet or other valuable items to a bag or to the person, thieves will instantly be deterred. The gradual tensioning system helps to ensure that if a thief does attempt to remove the purse, the victim will not be harmed or pulled over as the cable will extend 10 times its original length.

REF: OT00246 75P

PURSE DIPPING BELLS

Our popular purse bells with a handy G-Clip attachment. To raise awareness of purse theft purse dipping bells can be attached to any purse not only alerting the owner of potential theft but educating them to be aware of where their purse is. In addition the sound will deter pickpockets. Ideal for use with a Purse/Bag Cable. (see above).

REF: OT00275 50p

DEFENDER WINDOW SHOCK ALARM

The alarm has two sensitivity settings (high & low). It can also be used on glass door panels. The high sensitivity settings for larger windows or door panels and the low setting is more suitable for smaller windows. If someone tries to force or break the window, the 110decibel alarm will sound to shock and deter the intruder. As well as the loud alarm, a bright red warning sign on the self-adhesive sticker included provides a visual deterrent.

REF: EL00019 £6.00

FAKE TV

Lights up rooms just like a real TV giving the impression someone is home. Ingenious device to deter burglars, when you are away it keeps opportunist thieves at bay by simulating television light, Fake TV uses a built-in computer to control super-bright LEDs to produce light of varying intensity and colour that light up a room just like a real television does. From outside, Fake TV is indistinguishable from a real television, test subjects were unable to tell if the light flickers they were seeing were from the Fake TV or a real one. Mimic scene changes, camera pans, fades, flicks, swells, on screen motion and more. Fake TV is constantly changing, completely unpredictable, and never repeats. Ideal for use with a plug in timer. Mains operated.

REF: OT00329 £23.99

KEYPAD SHED ALARM

Your shed can be an easy target because it is not always easy to see from the house. It might be a long way from your back or nearest door or nearest window, and therefore it can be easier for a thief to break in without you knowing about it. This easy to install alarm helps to tackle this problem. It is controlled using a 4-digit keypad to arm and disarm the 130+ decibel siren. The alarm has an entry and exit delay system, and the sensitivity is adjustable. You can also add an optional external siren for further protection against break-ins.

REF: EL00023 £15.00
REF: EXTRA EXTERNAL ALARM £7.00

TO ORDER

Some of the items are available on our Uttlesford Neighbourhood Watch web site, where you can pay with Pay Pal, alternatively they can be ordered by e-mail at: g.jacksonsnhw@hotmail.co.uk Payment is by cheque only; all items will be delivered to either Saffron Walden or Dunmow police stations for your collection.



The Observer

Together we are Stronger

Issue 28

Supported by



Newsletter for the Uttlesford District Neighbourhood Watch Schemes

Find us at www.uttlesfordnhw.org.uk and www.facebook.com

IT'S GOOD NEWS MONTH

PHONE SCAMS: Five men were jailed for a total of just over 17 and half years for a series of phone frauds in which they posed as police officers to trick their victims out of thousands of pounds. The group stole more than £40,000 after they tricked 11 people into handing over bank cards and PINs. Some 1,200 cold calls to members of the public had been made by the gang.

Two of the offences occurred in Essex last March - at Dedham, where £5,000 was taken, and at Steeple Bumpstead, when they tricked three members of the same family out of £7,000. The others were: two in Hastings, two in Bishop's Stortford, Herts, one each in Bedford, Basingstoke and Thame in Oxfordshire and one attempted theft at Felixstowe, Suffolk.

One of their victims, an elderly woman in Hertfordshire, lost more than £20,000 over the course of 30 days when members of the group kept up the pretence and phoned her every day asking for more money. In all the offences, gang members posed as police officers or bank staff and told their victims that their bank accounts had been infiltrated by thieves. They usually claimed to be from the Metropolitan Police and used the names DC Lescott, DC, DS or DI Rogers or DI Maguire. The tricksters claimed that, as part of their investigations, they needed to carry out forensic tests of the victim's bank cards and PINs or they needed large amounts of cash to be used for forensic tests. Two of the group acted as couriers and collected cards and PINs which were used immediately at cash machines near their victims' homes. Mohammed Miah, 21, of Kings Cross, Muhammad Ahmed, 22, of Gospel Oak, Motahir Rahman 23 of Kentish Town, Dedar Ali, 20, of NW5, and Mohammed Hussain 23, of NW1,

had all previously admitted conspiracy to defraud between March and July 2014. Miah and Hussain carried out the collections while the others posed as police officers. Four of the men were arrested last July after search warrants were executed in north London during an operation by officers from the Eastern Regional Special Operations Unit (ERSOU) which, last March, set up a special task force to investigate the rapidly-spreading frauds by thieves posing as police or bank officials.

The fifth man, Ali, was arrested in October. More than 80 officers from Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and the Metropolitan Police were involved in the searches of addresses in the Camden area. Numerous phones and computers were seized by the regional ERSOU team, which was set up to investigate hundreds of similar frauds and attempted frauds being carried out across East Anglia.

The five men were sentenced at St Alban's Crown Court today, Monday, February 2, after pleading guilty at an earlier hearing. The judge, Stephen Warner, told the five that the public had to have confidence that offences of credit card fraud would be properly investigated by the police and what they had done by impersonating the police and bank officials had 'undermined that confidence'. He felt that it was warranted to make a departure from the sentencing guidelines to ensure the sentences reflected the seriousness of the offences. He told the five: "These were mean and cynical offences deliberately planned to take advantage of the vulnerable and done to obtain financial gain. Those who commit these offences can expect substantial terms of imprisonment." Miah, who had supplied

the hired cars used by the gang, was jailed for three years and seven months Ahmed, who had impersonated police officers down the phone, was jailed for three years and seven months. Rahman, who was found with cards when he was arrested, was jailed for three years and four months. Hussain, who had collected cards from people, was jailed for three years and nine months and Ali, who had got involved in the conspiracy to pay off £700 in debts was jailed for three years and four months.

DI Danny Lawrence, who leads the ERSOU Cyber Crime Unit, said: "These men preyed on the elderly and vulnerable and took advantage of people's trusting nature. They left the victims and their families in a great deal of distress by committing these frauds and this has been reflected in today's sentencing "I hope this sends out a clear message to anyone thinking about becoming involved in organised crime and, particularly in this case, phone scams. We will identify you and we will bring you to court.

These arrests were made following effective partnership and collaboration through ERSOU where a number of police forces are working together.

This should reinforce the message that the eastern region is a hostile place for organised crime and we will continue to identify, disrupt and dismantle any organised crime groups.

"Although this is good news we must not be complacent and remain alert at all times for these types of scams.

Your coordinator is:

The Chairman Writes

Don't be victims of Fraud

The only crime category that is on the increase is fraud and most of that is committed using the phone or the internet. You will have read how some vulnerable people are robbed of thousands of pounds and you may think 'How naive - that will never happen to me!' But don't be so sure; these fraudsters are very clever. If you are concerned about becoming a victim, you can check out which scams are going the rounds by Essex Police website www.essex.police.uk or the Neighbourhood watch website www.essexnhw.org.uk but please remember that banks and businesses will never ask you for your personal details unless you call them to make a transaction. And if an offer sounds too good to be true, it almost certainly is a fraud. If you become a victim, please let the police know as soon as possible. If you call Essex Police on 101 they are likely to advise you to get in touch with Action Fraud, online www.actionfraud.police.uk or call on **0300 123 2040**. If you have been a victim of fraud, you will be given a crime reference number and Action Fraud will process your information. At the same time, it is important that victims receive support from Essex Police and this should be part of the service you receive.

Essex Community Messaging

Essex Community Messaging (ECM) has been launched by Essex Police which will give us an information service to the same quality across the county.

Neighbourhood Watch has been involved in the design of ECM and will shortly use the same platform to send out our own messages. Instead of waiting for information from your Co-ordinator or reading about crimes in Newport in the local papers, you can register to receive this directly to you; with a choice of email, text on your mobile or voicemail. To apply for this service go to www.essex.police.uk/ecm and complete the simple registration process. By offering these different ways of receiving messages, we hope that those without a computer or mobile phone will opt for the voice messages. But if that is problem, simply get in touch with your local Co-ordinator and we'll make arrangements to get these messages to you.

Our Contact with the Police

Since Neighbourhood Policing was introduced, we have held regular meetings at local level.

These were known as Neighbourhood Panels, but the Police have now decided to replace these with three Local Community Meetings (in Saffron Walden, Great Dunmow and Stansted).

We will support these, but predict they will be less effective, so we are encouraging the Neighbourhood Panels to continue but without a Police presence.

However, we heartily support the new idea of Street Meets and you can find details of these on the Essex Police website.

Supporting Neighbourhood Watch

A date for your diary - the **Uttlesford NhW AGM** will take place on:

**Tuesday 19th May
Thaxted Day Centre
starting at 7.30pm.**

Please come along and hear about the latest developments and advice.

We are looking for volunteers to do some key jobs

In particular, we need:

- A webmaster to look after our website
- A data manager to keep our records up to date

If you can spare a few hours a month and you the appropriate skills please call 01799 543153.

I promise you will find it rewarding and of great value to our community.



From: Stephen Armson-Smith Crime Prevention Tactical Adviser

Garages, sheds and barns by the nature of their construction and position especially when away from the house are always going to vulnerable. With a number of these offences the buildings have been either insecure or had inadequate locks and security.

On garage doors security can be improved by adding locking bolts to both sides of the "up and over door" or a garage door defender in the ground in front of the door. With sheds and some barns depending on the construction coach bolt and plate the padlock hasp to the frame and door, and use a good quality "Close Shackle" padlocks, don't forget the hinges ensure they cannot be unscrewed. Some items within buildings can be secured using good quality chains attached to a ground anchor or such product.

Security products that are fit for purpose can be found by looking for the "Secured by Design" or "Sold Secure" logos, or on their web sites www.securedbydesign.com/ or www.soldsecure.com It is also worth fitting a shed alarm to the shed or garage, good signage regarding security systems in operation and adding security lighting. Shed alarms are relatively inexpensive and available from most DIY/hardware stores. For further advice contact your local Police Crime Reduction Advisor using the police non emergency number of 101.

LOOKING FOR A JOB?

Get Safe Online, Safer Jobs and

Action Fraud is warning people to take precautions whilst looking for jobs online, to avoid falling victim to scammers. There are a number of different ways in which job-seekers could be defrauded. These range from direct financial scams to misleading job descriptions. Safer-Jobs, the recruitment industry's counter fraud forum, provide free advice to ensure that people have a safer job search. They suggest several steps which any other job-seeker should take when dealing with a potential employer:

1. Never part with money - employers should pay you, not the other way round. If asked to pay for security checks, visas, training, or anything else, you should research the job, the company, and never use any associated company suggested to you without conducting independent thorough research.

2. Never take it on face value - have you received an 'out of the blue', 'too good to be true' job offer? Be sceptical and ask questions. Why and how have you been contacted, what is the job, did you apply? Be wary of any non-business, generic email address (such as hotmail and yahoo), poorly written job adverts or job descriptions, and emails or contact at unusual times of the day (unless pre-arranged).

3. Never do everything online - whilst technology is a great enabler to help people find work, at some point your job



discussion should lead to an interview or a meeting. Hiring agents who keep the relationship solely on email must be treated extremely cautiously.

4. Never fail to do research - find out about the company that the job is with and do your research! Check landline telephone numbers and call the end employer to check the job exists. Use social media and sources such as Companies House and LinkedIn to dig deeper into the organisations and people you are interacting with.

5. Never phone them for an interview - premium rate phone scams are common. This is where an individual calls a pay-for number thinking it's an interview, when actually they are paying for every minute they stay on hold. If an

employer wants you to work for them, they will call you.

6. Never accept money for nothing - with money mule scams on the increase, beware of any employer promising 'get rich quick' or 'earn thousands working from home'. When cheques begin arriving it is easy to be fooled into being used as a money mule.

7. Never provide personal details - be suspicious of any requests for personal data ahead of an interview or registration meeting (if an agency). Until you have the job, keep bank details safe and only provide identity details once you have met face to face. For more information visit:- www.actionfraud.police.uk/node/288 www.getsafeonline.org www.safer-jobs.com

PASSWORDS

Fraudsters regularly hack into personal online accounts to obtain details which will allow them to defraud you. To prevent fraudsters, it's very important to use strong passwords when setting up and accessing online accounts and online banking.

Passwords should be memorable enough not to have to write them down and long enough to be unique and hard to guess, which will ensure they are less vulnerable to being stolen. If it is not possible to remember passwords a password manager could be used to store them securely.

Protect yourself:

- Make sure passwords are memorable so that you don't have to write them down. Make sure they are unique.
- Think about how you could change the letters in your normal passwords to make them more difficult to guess!
- Use long, non-dictionary words and use different ones for each of your personal accounts and online banking. Make sure you change them regularly.
- Make sure passwords are not stored on devices that have shared access by other people, for example in internet cafes and when using other public Wi-Fi.

If you believe you have become a victim of account hacking, change your passwords immediately and report to Action Fraud: www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud