

# 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 110 decibel 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. Mimics 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

## TO ORDER

Items can be ordered by email

[g.jacksonsnhw@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:g.jacksonsnhw@hotmail.co.uk)

Payment can be made by cash or cheque. Items can be collected or delivered by mutual arrangement.

**Your coordinator is:**



# The Observer

Together we are Stronger

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Newsletter for the Uttlesford District Neighbourhood Watch Schemes

Find us at [www.uttlesfordnhw.org.uk](http://www.uttlesfordnhw.org.uk) and [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

## Blue Light collaboration: A message from Roger Hirst the newly appointed Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex

The government has asked Police and Crime Commissioners to consider the case for closer collaboration between the blue light services in their local area.

I believe there is the potential for real benefits for Essex. As a first phase, I will be exploring the options with Chief Officers of Essex Police and Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, and the Essex Fire Authority. Essex County Fire and Rescue Service and Essex Police have long and proud traditions of serving the public. They share the key objective of making our county a safer place.

But there are many opportunities for delivering a better, more effective, service through working closer together and sharing resources. This is already happening - though initiatives such as Parish Safety Volunteers, who work with communities in rural areas, to the Safer Essex Roads Partnership.

Both the police and the fire and rescue service are there to respond in emergencies but, just as importantly, to prevent emergencies happening in the first place.

By creating a more joined up infrastructure - support and enabling staff, transport, buildings, IT and

## Reporting Crime

Need to report something to the Police that is not an emergency?

You can report Non-Emergency Crimes, Road Traffic Collisions, Hate Crimes and more online as well as get advice on whether this is an issue that Police deal with, or a local authority.



communications - we may be able to do even more to prevent, protect, and respond.

To explore options for closer collaboration, we have created a strategic board whose members include Acting Chief Fire Officer Adam Eckley, Essex Police Chief Constable Stephen Kavanagh and Essex Fire Authority Chair Tony Hedley. Over the next few months, a small team working to the strategic board will develop a business case, including options for governance of Essex County Fire and Rescue Service and Essex Police in collaborative work, as required by the draft legislation.

The prize is a big one: we want to provide the most effective Police and Fire and Rescue Services possible to keep the people of Essex safe.

As part of this process, we will ensure that we engage both the public and everyone who works for Essex County Fire and Rescue Service and Essex Police, keeping them up to date with the development of this work.

Whether on a desktop computer, laptop, tablet or mobile phone to visit the 'Do It Online' section of our website, [www.essex.police.uk/do-it-on-line/](http://www.essex.police.uk/do-it-on-line/)

If you need to report something where there is immediate threat to life or property then as always dial 999.

## Are you getting the message

As well as circulating copies of the Observer, we also produce a weekly Neighbourhood Watch Bulletin. This is sent by email to nearly 400 members and we recently carried out a short survey to gauge what people thought about it.

The response from nearly a quarter of members were encouraging, with 98% saying that they always opened the Bulletin. That's tremendous, but of course we don't know about those who didn't respond. Less encouraging is that nearly 60% do not pass on the Bulletin to anyone, and of the 40% who share the information with others, most pass it on to less than 3 people. However, there are some notable exceptions to this, with bulk cascading to an average of 30 extra people benefitting from the content of the Bulletin. There are also a few reports of the information being circulated with Facebook, Google Mail and websites. We asked you to rate the content of the Bulletin, and all three sections; Introduction and NhW News, the Crime Reports and the Crime Prevention Advice, where rated between 4 and 5 (where 5 is high).

However, there were some useful critical comments which we will take on board. The Bulletin is split between North and South Uttlesford and almost everyone was happy with this breakdown across The District. Finally, we invited you comment on any other issues. Most of these were complimentary, and a few suggested ways of improving the value of the Bulletin. You can view the latest Bulletins on the website at [www.uttlesfordnhw.org.uk](http://www.uttlesfordnhw.org.uk)

Better still, you can sign up to receive the Bulletin on the website link 'Joining or starting new NhW Scheme' The Bulletin is split between North and South Uttlesford and almost everyone was happy with this breakdown across The District.

# Be Aware of Spoof Emails Claiming ‘Buyer Protection’

Online shopping websites are being utilised by fraudsters to advertise vehicles for sale which do not exist. After agreeing to purchase the vehicle via email with the fraudsters, buyers then receive emails purporting to be from Amazon Payments and/or Amazon Flexible Payment Service stating that their money will be held in an ‘escrow account’ (a bank account held by a third party, used as a temporary holding account during a transaction between two parties - for a 7 day ‘cooling off’ period). Once happy with the purchase the email indicates the money will be released to the seller, therefore offering ‘buyer protection’.

In reality these emails are fraudulent and do not come from Amazon. The bank accounts are controlled by fraudsters.

## Protect yourself

- Remember that Amazon does not provide an escrow account to purchase items.
- Meet the seller ‘face to face’ and

view the vehicle before parting with any money.

- Be vigilant of emails that purport to be from genuine companies and check the ‘domain’ name of the email address for any inconsistencies.
- Check feedback online by searching the associated phone numbers or email addresses of the seller.
- If the vehicle is below market value consider whether this is an opportunity too good to be true!

If you, or anyone you know, have been affected by this fraud or any other scam, report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

## Rogue Traders

- Doorstep or Rogue traders are operating now in the communities where we live and work. Are they knocking on your relative,

neighbour or friends’ door today offering unnecessary work or have they started work already and are now asking for a lot more money than the bargain price they initially quoted.

- The victims of these doorstep/rogue traders normally are too embarrassed or concerned to report incidents so we are asking that if you have concerns you phone the Trading Standards helpline, run by Citizens Advice via 03454 040506.
- Essex County Council Trading Standards have produced an animation which we know will raise awareness of this issue and would ask you to share the link below with family, friends, neighbours and any organisation(s) that are willing to share the animation with their members or followers.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3sZom540ipY>  
**Essex Trading Standards**

# Mail Scams “I hadn’t bought a ticket... So how could I win a lottery?”

The aim of any Scammer is to part you and your money. Everyone should be on their guard as scammers are now using more sophisticated methods in their attempts to convince people that what they are offering is legitimate or official.

- Don’t be rushed - resist pressure to make a decision straight away.
- If it sounds too good to be true it probably is.
- The letter has arrived unexpectedly.
- You’ve never heard of the lottery or competition they are talking about and didn’t buy a ticket.
- They are asking you to send money in advance.
- You shouldn’t have to pay anything to get a prize.
- You’re being urged to respond quickly so you don’t get time to think about it or talk to family and friends.
- They are telling you to keep it a secret.

## Stop scam mail

The Mailing Preference Service (MPS) allows you to have your name and address removed from mailing lists.

To register for the free service, call 0845 703 4599 or visit [mpsonline.org.uk](http://mpsonline.org.uk)

## Report to Royal Mail

If you do receive correspondence you believe to be from fraudsters, you can forward it to Royal Mail with a covering letter to Freepost, Scam Mail, PO Box 797, Exeter, EX1 9UN. You can also email [scam.mail@royalmail.com](mailto:scam.mail@royalmail.com) or call 03456 113 413

## Anti-Social Behaviour and Motor Vehicles

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) involving motor vehicle is dangerous to pedestrians and other road users and also causes harassment, alarm and distress to local residents.

Everyone has a right to a peaceful life, if you if you experience ASB driving or riding, or have knowledge of meets that

might involve ASB, illegal cruises or offenders or you can report it in many ways:

- Do it online via the Essex Police Home Page
- Crimestoppers
- Call 101 (999 in an emergency)

You can also report any concerns or incidents of poor/ASB driving or riding directly to the Casualty Reduction Unit (CRU): Driving [complaints@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:complaints@essex.pnn.police.uk).

You can also send photos and video footage to this email address. CRU and your local Community Team will deal robustly with offenders. (Crime prevention advice supplied by Essex police)

# Fake TV competition

The winner of the Fake TV completion in the last Observer was Colin Blackburn from Saffron Walden.

# Phone Scams

Fraudsters are cunning in their phone scam tactics and it's not always easy or obvious to tell straight away if it's a scam. Stay one step ahead with our tips.

## What is a vishing phone scam?

These cold call scams typically involve fraudsters deceiving people into believing they are speaking to a police officer, a member of bank staff or a representative of another trusted company or agency such as a government department.

Usually the fraudster will convince an individual that they have been a victim of fraud and will ask for personal and financial information in order to gain access to their account.

Beware giving bank details  
Never disclose the following details:

- four digit card PIN to anyone, including the bank or police
- full password or online banking codes
- personal details unless you are sure who you are talking to

## Top tactics to watch for

Another variation of a phone scam involves the fraudster persuading people to transfer money to other accounts or to hand over cash directly to a courier.

The fraudsters are known to encourage people to hang up and call their bank to verify the legitimacy of the call.

However, a phone line can stay open for up to two minutes so the fraudsters remain on the line and play a dialling tone to trick the individual into thinking they're calling their bank. In fact, the fraudsters are still connected and the individual is not speaking to their bank but is still connected to the scammers.

To ensure you don't fall prey to this type of phone scam, remember that in no circumstances would your bank or the police ask you to take such actions. These types of requests will only come from a fraudster.

## What to do if you're scammed

Fraudsters are very cunning in their tactics so it's not always obvious to tell straight away if you've been scammed, or who to report it to.

But there are ways to identify different types of scams, and organisations that can help you if you are scammed.

For more information go to [www.which.co.uk/consumerrights/advice/how-to-spot-a-scam](http://www.which.co.uk/consumerrights/advice/how-to-spot-a-scam)

# Stop Press

At the County AGM, James Briggs of Radwinter, a member of the Uttlesford Steering Group received a Certificate of Appreciation as the Uttlesford Member of the Year. His citation read: James is one of those people that exemplify what NhW is all about.

He is always willing to take an active role, raise crucial issues that need to be addressed and show great resolve to help his neighbours throughout the Parish. The Steering Group are keen to recognise his efforts and fully support this nomination.

# Help disrupt fraudsters by reporting scam emails that you receive. People receiving scam emails are urged to report them.

The reports received by Action Fraud will be forwarded to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau run by the City of London Police for collation and analysis. This will enable crucial intelligence to be gathered and preventative action to be taken. The activity will seek to disrupt the fraudsters and close down the links between them and the victim.

Last year (January 2015 - December 2015) they received on **average 8,000 reports per month**, with 96,699 people reporting that they had received a phishing scam.

What should you do if **you've** received a scam email?

- Do not click on any links in the scam email.
- Do not reply to the email or contact the senders in any way.
- If you have clicked on a link in the email, do not supply any information on the website that may open.
- Do not open any attachments that arrive with the email.
- Genuine computer firms do not make unsolicited phone calls to help you fix your computer.

If you think you may have compromised the safety of your bank details and/or have lost money due to fraudulent misuse of your cards, you should immediately contact your bank. **If you've been a victim of fraud, report it to Action Fraud.**

# Help Needed

Our webmaster that looks after the website and the administration that goes with it will shortly be moving out of the area and we are keen to recruit someone who can take this on.

A good knowledge of computers and websites is needed, so is you know someone who has these skills and is willing to spend a few hours a week; I would be very pleased to hear from them. Please contact Alan Johnson at [nhw@acjohnson4.plus.com](mailto:nhw@acjohnson4.plus.com) or phone 01799 543153 30 30 165.

Fake emails often (but not always) display some of the following characteristics:

- The sender’s email address doesn’t tally with the trusted organisation’s website address.
- The email is sent from a completely different address or a free web mail address.
- The email does not use your proper name, but uses a non-specific greeting like “dear customer”.
- A sense of urgency; for example the threat that unless you act immediately your account may be closed.
- A prominent website link. These can be forged or seem very similar to the proper address, but even a single character’s difference means a different website.
- A request for personal information such as user name, password or bank details.
- The email contains spelling and grammatical errors.
- You weren't expecting to get an email from the company that appears to have sent it.
- The entire text of the email is contained within an image rather than the usual text format.
- The image contains an embedded hyperlink to a bogus site.