



The Observer

Together we are Stronger



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Newsletter for the Uttlesford District Neighbourhood Watch Schemes

www.uttlesfordnhw.org.uk

Keep on the move this winter

Our roads are dangerous enough at the best of times, but when Winter comes, things can get really treacherous!

It's not just about the driving conditions. A break down in severe weather conditions can be just as much of a threat to life, as speeding on ice! All the signs point to a hard winter this year, with snow and exceptionally low temperatures bringing us the fourth severe winter in succession. Although this forecast cannot guarantee 100% accuracy, one thing we can guarantee, is that few drivers will actually prepare their cars for winter driving.

Simple Checks

You really should however, and do it before the first flake falls, because small problems can grow worse, leaving you stranded when the temperature plummets. Here are a few simple tips:

- ❄ Check out the battery, antifreeze level, thermostat, heater, brakes, and demister.
- ❄ Check that your tyres have adequate tread. If not, then replace them. Better yet, change them for a set of snow tyres which have treads that are equipped to handle extreme winter driving conditions.



Keep some essential equipment, like these items, in your car at all times.

- ❄ Inspect your vehicle's lights. Make sure they are fully operational, especially the hazard lights.
- ❄ Often in the winter, the windscreen wiper fluid may freeze, so change it for one made to spray in freezing conditions.
- ❄ Buy some new wiper blades
- ❄ Check that your washer nozzles are not blocked. If you go out on a long journey make sure your mobile phone is charged and use a car charger. Pack a snow/ice

scraper, shovel, first aid kit, torch, blanket, matches, extra clothes, bottled water, and non-perishable snacks. Peanuts are rich in protein and carbohydrates. A flask containing a nice hot drink will help too. If you're not already a member of a breakdown organisation, you should make a point of joining one soon.

TOP-SELLING SHED ALARM

More than 50 local residents now have a more secure shed or garage, thanks to our fantastic movement-activated alarm. Buy now for just £14.99! That's a saving of at least £5! For details of all our great products, visit us now, at: www.uttlesfordnhw.org.uk



Your local NhW coordinator is:

The Chairman Writes

Nowadays we are encouraged to take positive action when we see or hear about someone who is breaking the law, or cheating the system. For example, school children are directly speaking to motorists who are speeding past their schools, and citizens are encouraged to report on benefit and housing cheats. That is just the sort of attitude that Neighbourhood Watch wants to encourage - reporting anything that concerns you.

Hidden Crime

This approach works when it comes to the more common crimes such as theft, burglary, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour. But where do we stand on a far more 'hidden' crime - that of Domestic Abuse?

The Police tell us that domestic abuse, involving verbal, mental, physical or any combination of mistreatments, is on the increase and is occurring in all parts of our society.

It's only a domestic!

Gone are the days when the attitude was, 'It's only a domestic!' These days the police follow up every reported incident.

We know that abusers carry on this abuse over a long period and the level of abuse increases, so the key is to nip it in the bud as soon as possible. Help and support is available, but can only be activated when the matter is reported.

Key Question

The key question is what action, if any, should Neighbourhood Watch take? I recognise this is a sensitive

area, but it is not one that we should shy away from. There is plenty of support on offer and the police will always accept information from third parties. If you are concerned about the welfare of any friends, family or neighbours, the best thing you can do, is report it. You can do so confidentially to the police or via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Don't Keep Burglars in the Dark!



Burglars like houses that are in darkness... It shows them who is at home, and who is not. It shows them who is security aware, and who is not.

Daylight

The majority of dwelling burglaries occur during daylight hours, but as the winter nights draw in, the burglars can afford to work a little later, because there are often rich-pickings to be found. Houses in darkness generally mean that no one is in, and if they've not thought about leaving lights on, there is a good chance they've not given the rest of their security much thought either!

Leave a light on

It now gets dark by mid to late afternoon, so if you go out and there's even a slight possibility you will get back after dark,

then leave a light on! Don't be too concerned about the cost. Consider instead how you'd feel if all your property was stolen, compared to the cost of keeping a low-energy light bulb switched on.

Use a timer

Of course, you can always use timers to switch on your lights, but never use a digital timer with low energy bulbs - they can cause a fire! Always use the mechanical sort, that has a dial and programming pins.

Living areas

Make sure that the lights you leave on are in living areas and not just in the hall, stairs and landing - and consider leaving a radio switched on too. Don't worry about burglars looking through your windows; they will be more concerned with looking for a house in darkness.

No guarantees

Of course there can be no guarantees, but all the evidence points to the fact that the risk of getting burgled is greatly reduced if you leave a light on.

Tool thieves steal livelihoods too

Thieves who have been breaking into vans recently, and stealing the tools they contain, are potentially robbing people of their livelihoods.

Whilst the thieves will pocket a few quid for the property they steal, the victim faces days, if not weeks, without work whilst the tools are being replaced. In these financially challenging times, this can cripple their business. If you see any suspicious vans or people, day or night, paying attention to other trade vehicles, please let the police know.

Make your Christmas Presence Felt!

A wise old police sergeant once said to a Constable, who was complaining about going out on foot patrol one Christmas Day, "Burglars don't have Christmas off!" He was right too. Burglars are well aware that many people go away for the festive season, and that their homes will probably be empty for a few days. If you are one of those, who go away, please make sure you create the impression that someone is at home.

New Chairman needed for Saffron Walden NhW

Local coordinator Alan Cumbers, has stepped down as the Chairman of the Saffron Walden NhW Schemes, and we are looking for someone to fill his shoes.

Alan headed a small committee that helped to promote NhW and which also tried to develop new areas of coverage.

Determination

It doesn't matter if you're not already involved in NhW, we simply want someone with the necessary drive and determination to carry on the good work.

Input will be missed

Alan Johnson, District Chairman said that although Alan will continue as a coordinator, his input as Chairman will be missed. He added, "I want to thank him for everything he did during his tenure."

If you are interested in helping, please phone our secretary, Peter on "101", ext 395387

Do you know what yellow-backed street signs mean?



Have you ever noticed that some standard street signs have a yellow background? No? Well some do, and when you know the reason why, not only will you see them everywhere, but hopefully you will modify your driving behaviour.

Quite simply, a yellow background means that at least three people have been killed or seriously injured at that location. Now that you know, and you start to notice them, it will be quite shocking to realise just how many serious incidents there have been on our roads.

Common locations are on the approach to junctions and on bends, where the chevrons will have a yellow border.

Please take note of these signs, slow down and try to be more aware of your surroundings. Don't become another statistic.

Many Happy Returns

Do you own an iPhone 4? If so, then please download Apple's free app. "Find My Phone." This essential app keeps tabs on your phone so that if it gets lost or stolen, you (and the police) can quickly locate it. You can also remotely

wipe the contents from its memory to keep your important data safe. Once your phone is safely back in your hands, you can download all your data again from the Apple servers.

Earlier models

If you own an earlier model, such as the 3GS, you can download an app called "Fone Home," for about £1.99, that does much the same.

Arrests made

There have been many instances when the police have been able to return iPhones to their rightful owners, thanks to apps like these, and in many cases have made arrests.

If you own a different brand of smart phone, why not check to see if there are similar apps available to you.

Win a Personal Attack Alarm

Up for grabs this month are three sturdy DEFENDER MiniMax keyring alarms. At 140dbs these are some of the loudest alarms available.



For your chance to win one, answer the following question: *What percentage of dwelling burglaries are through unlocked doors or windows:*

20%, 30% or 50% ??

Please send your answer by Email to

uttlesfordnhw@essex.pnn.police.uk
or to "Observer Competition"
c/o Peter Caulfield,
Essex Police, East St.,
Saffron Walden, CB10 1LX
Closing date January 31st 2012.

UTTLESFORD POLICE CONTACT INFORMATION

In emergency dial 999 - To report a crime / incident, use the Essex Police non-emergency number, 0300 333 4444
To contact your local Officer on other matters, use the relevant duty mobile phone number.

UTTLESFORD NORTH

Telephone: 0300 333 4444 (Ask for Saffron Walden)

Inspector: Kevin Wakefield: 01376 556249 (Direct line)

kevin.wakefield@essex.pnn.police.uk

Sgt 104 Mike Ashton - Neighbourhood Sergeant

mick.ashton@essex.pnn.police.uk

Front office open:

8am - 4pm on Mon, Tues, Sat, Sun.

7am - 8pm on Wed, Thurs, Friday.

Station Office Assistants: Paul Webb, Vanessa Gardner and Tracey Brandon

SAFFRON WALDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD

Duty Mobile 'Phone Number: 07779 037084

Neighbourhood Specialist Officer

Pc 1758 Neil (Jack) Russell

jack.russell@essex.pnn.police.uk

Pc 70664 Hannah Griffiths

hannah.griffiths@essex.pnn.police.uk

Community Support Officers

PCSO 8439 Chris Barrett

chris.barrett@essex.pnn.police.uk

PCSO 7859 Jill Law

jill.law@essex.pnn.police.uk

THAXTED NEIGHBOURHOOD

Duty Mobile Phone Number: 07779 085615

Covering Duton Hill - Great Sampford - Little Sampford - Hempstead - Little Bardfield - Radwinter - Thaxted - Debden - Debden Green - Newport - Rickling - Quendon Wimbish - Wimbish Green - Widdington

Neighbourhood Specialist Officer

Pc 1917 Nicola Lark

nicola.lark@essex.pnn.police.uk

Community Support Officers

PCSO 71944 Rose Clarey

rose.clarey@essex.pnn.police.uk

PCSO 7816 Mike O'Donnell-Smith

mike.o'donnell-smith@essex.pnn.police.uk

Clavering Neighbourhood

Duty Mobile Phone Number: 07837 384455

Covering Ashdon - Clavering - Chrishall - Hadstock Duddenhoe End - Langley Upper Green - L/Lower Green - Swards End - Wenden Lofts - W/ Bonhunt - Elmdon - Arkesden - Catmere End - Great Chesterford - Little Chesterford - Littlebury - Littlebury Green - Strethall Wendens Ambo

Neighbourhood Specialist Officer

Pc 1324 Sonia Grayland

sonia.grayland@essex.pnn.police.uk

Community Support Officers

PCSO 7830 Andy Davis

andy.davis@essex.pnn.police.uk

In addition to these teams there are 36 other officers and about 20 special constables that provide the immediate response policing for Uttlesford,

UTTLESFORD SOUTH

Telephone: 0300 333 4444 (Ask for Great Dunmow)

Inspector: Kevin Wakefield

kevin.wakefield@essex.pnn.police.uk

Sergeant: Chris Sharp

chris.sharp@essex.pnn.police.uk

Front office open:

9am - 5pm : Mon, Tue, Sat, Sun

8am - 8pm : Wed, Thurs, Friday

Station Office Assistant: Dan Groves

Dunmow Central Neighbourhood

Duty Mobile Phone Number: 07779 085616

Neighbourhood Specialist Officer

Pc 2261 Neville Hayden

neville.hayden@essex.pnn.police.uk

Community Support Officer

PCSO 71104 Glenn Braden

glenn.braden@essex.pnn.police.uk

Felsted Neighbourhood

Duty Mobile Phone No: 07779 085616

Felsted-Lt Dunmow-Stebbing-Lindsell-Barnston-H.Easter

Pc 2317 Tom Monro

tom.monro@essex.pnn.police.uk

Community Support Officer

PCSO 71099 Angela Greneski

angela.greneski@essex.pnn.police.uk

Hatfield Heath Neighbourhood

Duty Mobile Phone Number: 07779 316979

Hatfield Broad Oak - Hatfield Hth - The Hallingburys, The Rodings - Takeley - The Canfields - Barnston

Neighbourhood Specialist Officer

Pc 1712 Brad Healey

bradley.healey@essex.pnn.police.uk

Community Support Officers

PCSO Joanna Trevail-Phillips

joanna.trevail-phillips@essex.pnn.police.uk

Front Office Open: 5 - 6.30PM Tuesdays and Thurs

Stansted Neighbourhood

Duty Mobile Phone Number: 07801 461666

Stansted Village-Birchanger-Manuden-Berden-Tilty Farnham-Henham-Ugley-Elsenham-Broxted-Chickney The Eastons

Front Office open: 2 - 8pm Wednesdays

1 - 6pm Saturdays

Neighbourhood Specialist Officer

Pc Tom Bastendorff

tom.bastendorff@essex.pnn.police.uk

Community Support Officers

PCSO Kelly Roberts

kelly.roberts@essex.pnn.police.uk

PCSO Alexander Horne

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© 2011 - The Observer newsletter is published by the Uttlesford District Neighbourhood Watch Steering Group and is edited by Peter Caulfield c/o Essex Police, East Street, Saffron Walden, CB10 1LX, to whom all correspondence should be addressed.