

Lighting

The dark evenings are once again upon us and I have been bleating on about lighting for as long as I can remember, but good lighting can play a big part in deterring thieves and thus protect our property.

Outside Lighting

I must say that I'm not a big fan of the powerful floodlight type of lighting that uses halogen bulbs and tends to temporarily blind you and results in more complaints than any other type of illumination. This type of light generally uses a passive infra red detector to activate the light and will often activate with the movement of cats, hedgehogs and all manner of animals and thus loses its effectiveness as well as driving the neighbours mad. I much prefer the dusk to dawn luminaire, which is activated by a photo electric cell and by using energy saving bulbs they are very cost effective in permanently lighting a vulnerable area. This type of lighting is ideal for illuminating driveways and paths and provides a welcome light when you return home during these dark evenings.

Lighting for CCTV

I am receiving more and more enquiries from members of the public who wish to install their own CCTV systems, but have not considered the light levels that are essential for most of these systems. If you are considering installing CCTV take a friend or relative together with an ordinary camera outside to the area that you are considering viewing, now look at your friend through the viewfinder or screen and see if you can discern their features, if you can't see them very well, then you need extra lighting. This is not an exact method of discovering light levels, but it will give you an idea.



Inside Lighting

Timer switches are an inexpensive and invaluable aid to home security. By fitting a timer to activate a table or standard lamp when daylight fades and maybe even to switch on a talk station on the radio at home, during these dark evenings, the house will not look or sound unoccupied.

**Should you wish any further advice please contact me – Calvin Heal 01255 254020 (this only the Crime Reduction number NOT the Police Station)
POLICE NUMBER — 0300 333 4444 for non urgent calls.
999 — for emergency calls**

Your Local NW Co-ordinator is:-



Tendring Neighbourhood Watch

On 6th November we launched a Tendring Neighbourhood Watch meeting held at Burrs Hall, Gorse Lane. The meeting was a success and was attended by the Chair of Tendring District Council and members of Essex Police Authority. Magistrates were also in attendance to answer questions regarding sentencing of offenders.

In September Tendring Neighbourhood Watch Website was launched with the address - www.Tendringneighbourhoodwatch.org the website has lots of information regarding crime prevention, useful tips and a live chat forum so that all in Tendring Neighbourhood Watch can exchange ideas on how their Neighbourhood Watch schemes are working, it's also great if you just want to chat about anything. Please visit the site.

Neighbourhood Watch signs are now in the process of being erected. The works will happen between now and March next year. We apologise for the time that this has taken, but this was due to a back log of signs. Essex County Council originally didn't have the funding to be able to erect so many signs at the same time but have now found some funding and have agreed to put all the signs up.

Christmas is now on the way and we are planning a Christmas get together for Tendring Neighbourhood Watch we will let you all know the details once it has been arranged. Information regarding all events will be published on the website.

Neighbourhood Watch is progressing well in Tendring, during the last few months many schemes have been launched as well as other watch schemes. I have launched Farm Watch in Great Oakley and also Allotment Watch in Clacton. If you or anyone you know would be interested in setting up a Farm Watch or Allotment Watch in their area please contact me.

Neighbourhood Action Panels (NAPs) are still under-represented by the public. NAPs are in place to deal with issues that affect your community if you have a problem in your community i.e. anti-social behaviour, speeding vehicles. NAPs have proved to be very successful in dealing with these issues. The NAP panel members consist of representatives from community, voluntary and statutory groups or organisations that are best placed to contribute to problem solving in Tendring. Please attend these meetings if you have an issue that you wish to raise regarding your community. Please contact me and I can let you have the dates and times of when these meetings take place alternatively the information will be on the Essex Police website www.essex.police.uk

Paul Teague

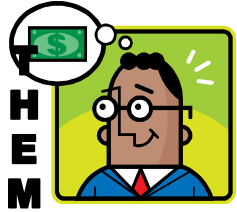
Essex Watch Administrator (Tendring)

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In this Newsletter I shall devote my 'bit' almost entirely to scams and tricks that have come to our notice recently.



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Telephone Scam

We have received a large number of reports from people who have had a call from a 'Representative of BT' who states that the recipient owes BT money and if immediate payment is not made by credit card the telephone will be cut off. The recipient may well reply that he/she pays by direct debit or that the telephone is with another provider such as Sky or Virgin. The caller brushes off these objections and states that if the money is not paid immediately the phone will be cut off without delay and if the recipient doesn't believe that this is possible the caller will demonstrate that he can cut them off and will temporarily cut them off now to prove it to the recipient. If the recipient terminates the call and then tries to make a call, they will find that the phone is indeed dead. After a few minutes the caller will call the recipient and ask if he had showed enough proof that he was from BT and could cut off their phone and that he now needed payment or the phone would be cut off permanently until a reconnection charge was paid, on top of the sum requested.

THIS IS A COMPLETE CON – he was able to 'demonstrate that he could cut off the phone' by simply not disconnecting when the recipient put his phone down to try and make outgoing call; as he was still connected to the caller he couldn't make that call – simple but very effective.

Please do not fall for this one.

The Friendly Email

Copied below is the exact text from an email – the punctuation is as the email:

Hello
How are you today I hope that everything is ok with you as it is my great pleasure to contact you and in having communication with you starting from today, please I wish you will have the desire with me so that we can get to know each other better and see what happens in the future. I will be very happy if you can write me through my email for easy communication and to know all about each other. If it is okay by you, I can give you my pictures and details about me in my next email to you.

I will be waiting to hear from you as I wish you all the best.

Remain Blessed.

Although bearing the name of a female, this may well have been written by a male whose only interest is to gain money from you – not friendship.

The Business Con

The following scam has been running for as long as I've been the Crime Reduction Officer at Clacton and that's twenty years. The scam is aimed at business people and organisations and lately they have been targeting schools.

The business will receive an unsolicited telephone call stating that the printing that they ordered has now been completed and they owe £150 (this sum could be anything from £119 to £299 these are the lower and upper levels of sums that I have dealt with). When the recipient questions what the printing is for, the caller will usually reply that it is for a drugs information booklet, a crime prevention booklet or information for a calendar, usually for distribution at schools or other worthy establishments. These 'printing companies', which all appear to come from the Liverpool/Wirral area, seem to just pick names at random out of Yellow pages and cold call unwitting businesses. Often the first call that a business receives is that demanding payment, but in some cases the business man/woman will recall a sales pitch earlier, but will always deny that he/she has agreed to any deal.

It is most important that if you receive any call offering printing deals, you DO NOT AGREE to anything over the phone. Ask for written details and this will give you the opportunity to study what is on offer.

Sometimes the caller will state that they are operating on behalf of the Police; should you receive a call similar to this, contact your local Police Station and ask for the Crime Reduction Officer (see back page for Tending)

Winter Fuel Payment

An interesting case that finished with the appropriate result.

A person using the pretext of DHSS Winter Fuel payment contacted an elderly lady living in Darlington. The person obtained Bank Account and Card details from the pensioner and these details were then used to book an Airline Ticket to the value of £550.

Fortunately the 86 year old pensioner had no history of travelling business class to Istanbul and realising that she had been conned contacted the Bank who in turn contacted the police at Stansted Airport.

A Turkish national with an address in London was arrested as he left the aircraft, he is to appear in Court for theft.

Never divulge Bank details over the phone, especially if the call is unsolicited.



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