

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

Issue 41 –Winter 2011

THANK YOU – We wish to record our thanks to the Rosca Trust who have generously agreed to sponsor our newsletters for 2011



KEEP WATCHING

Covering the area of Rochford District Council

Best Wishes from the Neighbourhood Watch team:

Mike Hooper, Michael Bubel, Bill Coulson,
John Metcalfe, Debbie Agambar, Ruth Tress

Please contact us by using the above number. Our office is staffed from 10.00 am – 12.00 am each weekday. Please leave a clear message on the answer phone at other times and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

S.E. Essex Police and your NHW team thank you for your support

The Top 5 Items Most Wanted by Thieves

Thieves look to steal goods they believe can be removed and sold-on easily, so your gadgets and valuables are rich pickings for them!

1. Portable Computing Devices

Laptop and tablet PC (iPad) theft nowadays is a significant risk. They can be sold-on easily at a good price. There are several methods to protect your hardware that have been developed, including alarms, laptop locks and visual deterrents such as stickers or labels. Importantly be sure to register the serial number of your device on Immobilise along with your postcode which can be simply written on the back with a UV pen and added to your account as an additional identifier. It is recommended that you configure a strong password and also perform a full disk encryption

(FDE) to help protect sensitive data stored inside your laptop or tablet PC.

2. Smart Phones

Smart phones are high on the list of things to steal amongst thieves. When registering your phone on Immobilise include the IMEI number which can be found easily by pressing the following keys on your handset: * # 0 6 #. This is your phones unique number and the first thing police will check for when recovering property.

3. Cash and Jewellery

Do not leave cash or jewellery lying around the house making sure you keep valuables out of sight, and where possible place them in a secure place such as a safe. The risk for burglars is increased when your possessions link them to the scene of a crime, consider taking photos and engraving your jewellery when registering them on Immobilise, as this will also aid the police in identifying crime and returning property.

4. Bicycles

Invest in a quality D-Lock and be sure to register your bicycles frame along with any pictures you have on Immobilise. We also recommend Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tagging which can prove your ownership even if the frame number has been removed by the thief.

5. Home Entertainment Systems

Many new home cinema-type HD and 3D television sets are being stolen because they are valuable, light-weight and common-place in most UK homes. Register the serial number of your TV/DVD and audio equipment on Immobilise along with your postcode which can be easily written on the back with a UV pen. Visual deterrents such as stickers or labels will help to discourage theft by letting thieves know your possessions are traceable.

Telephone Scam

A recent report of a telephone scam by someone saying they were from Argos and asked for credit card details to pay the balance on an Xbox they supposedly had ordered. Other people making similar calls could be heard in the background. Please be on guard.

Mobile Phone Masts

Mobile phone masts provide radio pirates a perfect transmitting location and a free power source. The pirates cause damage to mobile phone installations, steal power for their own aerials and cause widespread radio interference, sometimes even to emergency service frequencies.

Ofcom has requested information from the public concerning details of interference experienced (please state frequencies, timings and your own location, including post code). Also for members of the public living near to mobile phone masts to phone the police immediately (999) if any suspicious behaviour is witnessed, stating timings, descriptions and any vehicle registrations. These pirates should not be approached directly by members of the public.

Useful numbers

Trading Standards - Buy with confidence:

Consumer contact: **08454 04 05 06**

Trade contact: **0845 603 76 26**

Springboard Group - For small household repairs, trustworthy gardeners etc: **01702 545140**

Alcoholics Anonymous - All enquiries are treated in the strictest confidence: **0845 769 7555**

Crimestoppers - For general information to police given anonymously: **0800 555111**

Non emergency police number: **101**

Your Local Co-ordinator is