Neighbourhood Watch

POLICE INCIDENT REPORT

Wednesday 10th March 2010.

Bogus phone call alert

One of our Watchers has reported a bogus phone call which appears to be a scam.

A caller with a strong foreign accent, claiming to be from BT Continental attempted to sell the householder a monthly package for £9.99. I have checked with BT and they have NO association with any such company. There is a website for this company, but it is very amateurish and gives two contact addresses: one in Essex and one in Nigeria.

I have asked Trading Standards to check these people out urgently and would recommend in the meantime that you are **extremely** wary of these people. Essex Police recommends that you **NEVER** buy goods or services over the telephone, unless you yourself have made the call using a telephone number you have sourced yourself.

Hard Selling Alarm Company

We have **AGAIN** received reports of an alarm company who are attempting to make appointments to visit people with a view to selling alarm systems. It appears that this company give misleading information about the charges involved and we have received several complaints. They also state that Essex Police endorse the use of their alarms. Essex Police **CANNOT** endorse the use of any commercial business, so this is untrue.

If you are interested in buying an alarm system for your property, please contact our Crime Prevention Officer, Peter Caulfield on 01376 556 233 for **FREE** advice on what you might actually need.

Theft of tools/piping from vans

There has been an increase in the number of theft's from vehicles mainly tools and copper piping from the tubes normally on the top. Essex Police would advise:

1. Removing valuable tools from vehicles overnight and taking the tools into a secure building.
2. Label van "Tools not kept in vehicle overnight".
3. Remove Sat-Nav's and valuables, leave nothing in view to tempt a break in.
4. Fit an alarm to vehicles and use it.
5. Visible property marking of tools with house number and post code.
6. Where possible parking vehicle where it can be seen, and/or doors are obstructed.
7. With copper piping on plumbers vans etc consider putting an alarm on the tube, a personal alarm can be adapted for use.
8. Be vigilant, before you go to bed and if you get up in the night just have a peak outside, see anything suspicious dial 999, or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

BARNSTON: car key burglary, Barnston Green, 8-9/3/2010

Detectives are appealing for information and witnesses after a car key burglary in Barnston, overnight on March 8-9, 2010.

Between around 9pm on March 8 and 5am on March 9, unknown suspects gained entry to a secure property in Barnston Green, Barnston, by forcing the front door, causing an estimated £1000 of damage, and stole various items including a handbag, a small amount of cash and several sets of car keys. The unknown suspects then used the car keys to steal and drive away in a silver Vauxhall Astra, index EO57GHZ. The total estimated value of the stolen items is around £11,000.

Detectives are appealing for anyone with information about this crime to contact CID at Braintree on 0300 3334444, or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

DCI Mark Wheeler said: "There are a few simple steps that people can take to make themselves even safer. It’s good to ensure that you keep your keys somewhere safe and out of sight. In addition, do not leave cash, bags and wallets lying around. Please keep all accessible doors and window closed and locked. If you have uPVC doors, please ensure that you lock the door with the key - just pulling up the handle does not deadlock the door. If you have a garage, please try to lock your vehicle away safely inside it."

If you see any suspicious or unusual activity around your neighbourhood or have any information which you think might be of help, please call Essex Police on 0300 333 4444.

Many thanks,

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