



Castle Point Neighbourhood

Watch_{NEWS}



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ESSEX POLICE

Spring 2017

First Responders To Deliver “Message in a Bottle”



CANVEY Island Community First Responders are helping to promote an easy and free method of storing vital information where the Emergency Services can immediately find it.

The Message in a Bottle scheme encourages people to record their medication and latest prescription, contact details, major medical conditions, personal doctor and anything considered necessary that would need attention in those first critical moments.

A small plastic bottle containing all this information is placed where the Emergency Services are trained to look, in the refrigerator door. A green cross sticker is placed on the inside of the main house door, and another sticker on the door of the fridge.

As a minimum it will save the Emergency Services valuable time identifying you and your emergency contacts. By telling whether you have special medication or allergies or not, it is a potential lifesaver and provides peace of mind to users and their friends and families.

The bottles are distributed by Neighbourhood Watch in Castle Point. If you

would like one of the FREE message in a bottle, they are available from the Castle Point Council offices in Kiln Road.

More on the work of the Canvey Island Community First Responders can be found on at www.canveyfirstresponders.org.uk

Think first before you donate money

ESSEX Police has issued a six point plan of action for residents to prevent them becoming unwitting victims of potential charity doorstep scammers.

They say that collectors often call door-to-door but some are not always representing the charity they claim.

Follow these steps to avoid losing money

1. Never give cash donations. You may be offered anything from a fabric flower, sticker or badge but these do not necessarily belong to the charity or may be stolen.
2. Do not let anyone into your house. If you do, ensure that someone remains with them all of the time.
3. Fraudsters pick on the vulnerable and elderly. If you are a carer who looks after someone, please explain the risks. Consider having door chains fitted and encourage them to fit it before answering the door to anyone.
4. Always ask for identification. A bona fide charity collector will always be happy to provide you with this. They will have a number you can call or a website you can visit, however be cautious of mobile numbers and web sites. Some of these have been known to be fraudulent. Satisfy yourself that these are



Be alert to bogus charity collectors on your doorstep

legitimate collectors before you continue.

5. Never give your personal details without verifying the charity. Protect your bank details by asking for a form to complete in your own time. Do not be pressurised.
6. Organised charities issue their collectors with mobile devices that allow you to enter your bank details on the doorstep - ask questions about it's level of security, be satisfied that what you are being told is true. Often the collectors work for a third party company contracted by the charity to canvass your area, bona fide agencies will be happy to

provide you with all the information you need.

Remember it is your choice whether you donate to charity or not. Do not feel bullied or intimidated into donating, ask them to come back another day when you have had a chance to think about it or when you have a family member or friend with you.

Organised charities understand this and will not undertake bullying tactics. Should you have any concerns please contact Essex Police on 101. If you feel at risk and the suspects are on scene please call 999.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Rayleigh Police Station, High Street, Rayleigh, Essex SS6 7QB

NHW Direct Dial: 01268 770519 Email: castlepointnhw@yahoo.co.uk





Protect your car

POLICE are reminding residents in Castle Point to step up vehicle security after an increase in car crimes.

Tips for protecting your vehicle

- Lock and secure it
- Remove all valuables
- Fit a good quality steering /or hand brake lock
- Park in a well lit residential area
- Utilise CCTV, if you have it
- Set alarms and immobiliser if fitted

If you see anything suspicious please call Essex Police on **101** or **999** in an emergency.

Canvey Coordinators Needed

WE would like to recruit more NHW coordinators, especially on Canvey. Could you spare just a couple of hours to help deliver the newsletter and share community safety information in your area?

Please get in contact with us at castlepointnhw@yahoo.co.uk or leave a message on **01268 770519** and someone will be in touch.

Follow our Community Policing Team on Facebook

THE Castle Point and Rochford Community Policing Team has recently launched its own Facebook page, which is full of information on police activity in the area, crime prevention advice, appeals for help, campaigns you can get involved with and much more. It already has almost 3000 followers. Search for "essex police castle point and rochford" on Facebook.

Watch out for bogus trading standards callers...

RESIDENTS across the County are being warned that bogus roofers are calling at homes claiming they are working on behalf of Essex Trading Standards. So far there have been three reports and the men all used the same story.

The callers claimed that a roofer who recently carried out work is being investigated and they say they can carry out a survey of the resident's roof and that they will be able to claim compensation as part of the investigation. They are then asking the resident for sums of around £2,000 which they allege they will be able to get back once the investigation is over.

Don't fall for this scam and remember the following

- Trading Standards Officers are highly unlikely to visit a consumer's home unless they have already been asked to by the consumer or a trusted friend or relative.
- Trading Standards Officers will NEVER ask a resident for money.

There are certain precautions that can be taken to guard against doorstep callers

- Fit and use a door security chain when you open the door.
- Check the identification of a caller by ringing their employer. Use the telephone number from your telephone book and not one they might supply.
- Do not let anyone carry out work on your house until you get a second opinion, and never agree to callers who say "we are only in the area today".
- Never keep large sums of money in the house and keep purses out of sight, not near the door.

Please report any suspicious traders to **03454 040506**.

...and beware of cowboy builders as well

ESSEX Police have received reports of rogue traders operating in our area. After being targeted by unscrupulous builders, one elderly resident in Rochford has handed over a substantial amount of cash in advance for work that was never completed. In addition the victim has been left with a repair bill to rectify the poor work carried out by the builder.

If you are a family member, friend or carer looking after someone in this vulnerable group, then please speak to them and reinforce the following

- Keep them out. Never let anyone in who you are unable to verify who they are. Never leave them unattended or allow them to roam around your house. If in doubt call 999.
- Check they are a bona fide company. Can they provide you with company details, testimonials, references. Check who they are first, do not commit to anything without verifying them.
- Never agree to a price without seeing a written all inclusive quotation. Get at least three quotes, use reputable builders or companies. Employing someone on your doorstep puts you at risk and should be avoided. Reputable companies do not operate in this way, so if in doubt close the door.
- Never pay up front. Be satisfied with the work, get a family member, friend or carer to check the work for you before payment. Never take someone's word for it.
- Do not agree to go to the bank with them. If you do tell a member of the bank staff who will notify Police.

There are a number of websites & agencies that can assist and provide more information:

Trading Standards - www.tradingstandards.uk

Action Fraud - www.actionfraud.police.uk

Citizen's Advice Bureau - www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Essex Police - www.essex.police.uk/advice/fraud

Crimestoppers - crimestoppers-uk.org

Useful Numbers

Essex CRIMESTOPPERS
0800 555 111

Essex Police (non emergencies)
101

Consumer Direct
0345 404 0506

Essex County Council Highways
0345 603 7631

A parcel you don't want to receive

FAKE parcel cards like this have been received by residents in our area. This is a POSTAL SCAM and there is no genuine parcel, it is a way to try and fool you into paying a processing fee. Luckily the lady who reported this to us didn't fall for it, but please be alert and warn your family and neighbours.

