

# communicate

Compiled and edited by Julia Pack & Mick Holland on behalf of the Southend Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP)

## A little time, a little lime... You can use your garden to Design out crime!

**AHEAD** of the launch of this year's Southend in Bloom competition, Southend CDRP are keen to offer advice to residents on different ideas they can incorporate into their gardens to help prevent crime.

Spring has finally arrived and what better excuse do you need to give your garden a fresh new look than to help prevent crime in your home?!

Local Crime Reduction Officer Lorna Watson said: "Criminals are often on the lookout for properties which are easy targets, so by taking some simple steps, residents can 'design out crime' in their home. Some carefully positioned thorny planting, the use of ground materials which create a noisy approach and the marking of property can all help to deter would-be thieves from targeting your property".

**Here we provide a few hints and tips to get you started but if you have any questions or to find out more, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.**



### Boundaries

Open weave fencing provides visibility, is difficult to climb and doesn't give a flat surface for graffiti. Climbing plants can be trailed over to provide privacy and make the fencing look more attractive.

If a wall or solid fence already exists, this can be topped with flimsy trelliswork that makes it more difficult to climb over. This, too, can be decorated with climbing plants.



### Planting

Grow thorny, prickly plants along accessible boundaries. They can be decorative as well as defensive. Similarly, such plants can be placed under garage and shed windows to make them less accessible.



### Mark your property

Take the time to mark your property, including your garden tools, as marked items are more difficult for thieves to sell on so this may prevent them being stolen. Also, if you are unfortunate enough to have them stolen, you have a better chance of being reunited with them if they are later recovered.

### Tidy away tools

Items left outside your home could potentially be used by criminals to aid their entry to your home – for example accessible ladders can be used to enter an upstairs window. It's therefore important that you have a secure location to store any items away.

Make sure that when you do tidy your property away into your shed or garage, you then go on to lock the building itself.



### Ground materials

Consider using materials which make a crunchy noise when trodden on, such as gravel or stone chippings. This makes it much harder for an intruder to approach your home without making a noise to draw attention. These materials come in various colours to suit any garden design and are extremely practical.

### Lighting

Choose a good quality motion sensor light fitted high enough to detect adult movement and not go off with every passing cat or fox.



# CDRP Person of the Month

**Name:** Glen Westley

**Position:** Chief Inspector and new District Commander for Southend

Chief Inspector Glen Westley has joined South Eastern division to become District Commander for the Southend district.

Chief Insp Westley has previously worked across the south of the county, starting work in Thurrock in 1989 where he was a PC for eight years, before becoming a Sergeant. He then worked at Laindon Traffic for four years from 2000 - 2004 before joining HQ on promotion as an Inspector. After joining South Western division as a Neighbourhood Specialist Team Inspector in Basildon in June 2008, he was promoted to Chief Inspector and started his role as District Commander at Southend on 23rd February 2009.

38-year-old Mr Westley, who lives in Leigh with his wife and two young sons, said: "I still love being a policeman and returning to operational duty last year reminded me what I joined up for. Now, working in my home town, I am more keen than ever to make sure the few people in this town who are intent on causing trouble remain firmly within our control, thus creating a nicer and safer place for the rest of us to live in.

"During my first month in the job, I've been very impressed with what I've seen from the officers and staff at Southend - but am always hungry for continuous improvement. I'm looking for ways we can do things better, quicker and in the best possible interest of the public we serve. I'm keen to keep hold of all the good work already taking place whilst never shying away from fresh ideas that can improve the service we provide.

"I am fully aware that my staff are working around the clock juggling various tasks in order to meet the ever-evolving demands of the job. It's important that we all remain focussed



on our main priorities – to reduce crime, increase detections and improve the service we offer to build public confidence."

## DIVISIONAL PRIORITIES

- NIGHT-TIME ECONOMY
- HOUSE BURGLARIES
- YOUTH-RELATED NUISANCE

## Useful numbers

### Neighbourhood Policing Teams

Southend Central –	07817 968114
Southend High Street –	07791 315961
Southend Seafront –	01702 613449
Chalkwell Marine –	07866 545291
Blenheim –	07817 968093
Eastwood –	07816 661693
Shoebury –	07710 086590
Southchurch –	07976 325346

To report dumped rubbish and graffiti,  
email [doete@southend.gov.uk](mailto:doete@southend.gov.uk) or call 01702 215000

CDRP Manager  
Community Safety Manager  
Simon Ford - 0300 333 4444 ext.30860

Crime Reduction Officer  
Lorna Watson - 01702 423187

Neighbourhood Watch Administrator  
Mick Holland - 01702 464199

Media & Communications Co-ordinator  
Julia Pack - 01702 423138

# ...News in Brief...

## Scam Telephone Calls

We have been advised of a couple of possible scams from call centres using software that gives the appearance of originating in the United Kingdom when in fact the originator is overseas.

A call was received from telephone number 021 3537 1000 by a person with a United States accent enquiring whether the recipient of the call supported the work of the RSPB and the RSPCA. On receiving a reply in the affirmative, the caller invited the recipient to sign up to a standing order for both and to provide the relevant bank details. 021 is an unallocated code

A call was received from telephone number 01789 9999 9999. In this case a recorded voice advised the recipient that they had won a holiday in Florida and invited them to press '1' to record their bank details.

On both occasions the recipient terminated the call having declined to furnish the required bank details.

Both police and Trading Standards strongly advise people **NEVER** to divulge bank details to cold callers, cold calling telephone reps or, for that matter, sales people who accost people in the street.

## Handy Van

The Handy Van scheme, which is run by Help the Aged in association with Southend Police, Council and CDRP, would like to increase the number of people using their service. Handy Van will supply and fit high quality door and window locks; door viewers, door chains; bolts; smoke and carbon monoxide detectors free of charge to any resident living in the Borough of Southend-on-Sea who is over sixty years of age and who has cash savings of less than £20,000.

In addition, the Handy Van fitter will also fit aids such as grab handles etc and carry out small DIY jobs, again completely free of charge. He won't completely redecorate your house or re-tile the roof, but can carry out small tasks.

To be referred to HandyVan call Mick on Southend 464199

**HELP THE AGED WE WILL**

# Clear out or be cleaned out

Police are warning motorists not to leave satellite navigation systems and other items in their vehicles overnight following a spate of thefts in Shoebury.

Lorna Watson, Crime Reduction Officer for the South Eastern Division, said: "Too many motorists still put their vehicle at risk by leaving items on display or their vehicle insecure and prey to the opportunistic thief.

"If you cannot keep your vehicle locked in a garage overnight, then remove all belongings as a matter of routine and keep them somewhere safe and secure indoors.

"Satellite navigation systems, audio equipment, laptops and handbags are among the items most frequently stolen. Having your vehicle broken into is a distressing business, but it can be so easily avoided by the simple precaution of clearing all items, regardless of value, from the vehicle. Take away your belongings and you take away the temptation for a thief to target your car or van."

Items totalling over £600 were stolen in seven thefts from vehicles across Shoebury overnight Tuesday, 24 March and Wednesday, 25 March. They included satellite navigation systems, cash, a CD player, CDs and an i-Pod. Damage to vehicles involved in the incidents amounted to a further £350.

Among the areas affected were Noredale, Admirals Walk, Church Road, St Andrew's Road, and Fremantle. Anyone with any information about these incidents is asked to contact police at Shoebury on 0300 333 4444.



# Bewley Block Watch

A new 'Block Watch' scheme has been successfully launched in Southend.

Earlier this year, a 'Block Watch' scheme was started within Bewley Court, a tower block in Whittingham Ave, Southend. The Block Watch scheme was set up by local PCSO Stuart Edney with assistance from South Essex Homes and local Community Engagement Officer Mick Holland, who represents Neighbourhood Watch. Its aim was to reduce crime and the fear of crime in the local area, by providing an accessible and visible police presence to residents.

PCSO Edney said: "Since we started the scheme, instances of crime and anti-social behaviour in the area have significantly reduced. We have received very positive feedback from the residents who have welcomed the increased police presence."

Mick Holland added: "We are always looking at different ways of communicating with those living in our communities and this scheme means that police officers and PCSOs are forging good relationships with staff and residents at Bewley Court. They've been able to do this simply by basing themselves in

the building itself where it's much easier for people to approach them, whilst also creating a deterrent to would-be troublemakers."

Anita McGinley works for South Essex Homes and manages the Southend Multi Agency Anti-social Behaviour Response Team (SMAART). She said: "Early indications show that Block Watch in Bewley Court has been really productive and we will be looking into the possibility of extending the scheme to other tower blocks in the area."



# Phil's run for sick kids

**Kind-hearted residents of Belfairs ward have been giving generously to PC Phil Collie, who is running the London marathon this year in aid of little Olivia and the SPARKS charity.**

Phil Collie, who works as Neighbourhood Specialist Officer for the Belfairs area of Leigh, has been busy preparing for the London Marathon this year. He's doing the run in aid of little Olivia, who's the young

daughter of a family friend who suffered a rare form of cancer affecting the kidneys, and the SPARKS children's medical research charity.

Phil said: "I've been overwhelmed by the terrific support I've received from family, friends, colleagues and the community as a whole. I've already raised over £2000 which is amazing, but I'd love to see that total rise even more so I can hand over a really big cheque to these worthwhile causes.

"I'd like to say a particular thank you to the lovely staff at Belfairs Post Office and the residents of Adams Elm House for their generous donations. It's really heart-warming to receive such support from the neighbourhood and is indicative of the fantastic community spirit we have here in Leigh."

To find out more about the causes or to make a donation, please visit <http://www.justgiving.com/philcollie>



*Pictured left: PC Phil Collie (front row) and colleague PC Keith Lucas collect generous donations from staff at Belfairs Post Office*