

# Southend Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) Community Safety E-newsletter



January 2012 Issue 14

## There's still time to show us your community spirit!



### Did you take any photos over the holiday and New Year period that show 'community spirit'?

If so, you could win a brand new Olympus digital camera worth £450!

Southend Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) want to see what community spirit means to those who live in, work in, or visit the borough.

All you need to do is email or post your photo/s, together with a brief description, to Southend CDRP by 20th January 2012. It really is that simple!

Six runner-ups will also win a voucher for a large canvas print of their choice, supplied by Snappy Snaps Southend.

All entries will be displayed at an exhibition in Southend Central Library in February.

For full details, including how to enter, visit [www.southendcdrp.co.uk](http://www.southendcdrp.co.uk)

## Scam letter from Hong Kong

**A Shoebury resident received a personalised letter from a 'Mr Lui Wong' of Kookmin Bank, in Hong Kong, asking to be contacted as funds were available for them.**

The letter states that the recipient is owed an investment from one of Mr Wong's deceased clients who had a 'similar last name' to them.

The letter was sent using the resident's full name and address, and was posted at Royal Mail's Gatwick Mail Centre, on behalf of one of Mr Wong's 'friends' in the UK.

If you are the recipient of a letter similar to this, do not try to contact them. Destroy the letter as soon as possible.

## Do you need to renew your photo driving licence?

**Over 1.6million drivers could be at risk of a £1,000 fine because the photograph on their driving licence has expired.**

Sainsbury's car insurance discovered that many motorists are at risk of a hefty fine because they may not be aware that a photograph on their driving licence needs to be updated every ten years at a cost of £20, as set out by the DVLA. Those with old-style paper licences are not affected.

As well as 1.6million drivers' photographs that have expired, a further 2.9million must be renewed by the end of 2012 - and over the next five years, almost 13million drivers must renew their photograph to abide by the law.

According to Sainsbury's statistics, 41 per cent of drivers are not fully aware of the consequences of having an expired photograph on their licence.

Failure to update your photograph carries a £1,000 fine and can be enforced by the police under Section 99 of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

For more information visit the DVLA website at [http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/DriverLicensing/NeedANewOrUpdatedLicence/DG\\_078070?pro=TYR\\_PO\\_Spotlight](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/DriverLicensing/NeedANewOrUpdatedLicence/DG_078070?pro=TYR_PO_Spotlight)

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## 101: the new national police non-emergency number

'101' is the new national police non-emergency telephone number across all areas of England and Wales.

'101' has now been adopted by every police force in England and Wales as their non-emergency number. It provides the public with one easy to remember number for contacting their local police wherever they are in the country.



While 999 is a well-recognised number used to report emergencies, the 2010 British Crime Survey found that only 54% of the public know how to contact their local police if they want to talk to them about policing, crime or anti-social behaviour. The introduction of the '101' number will help communities to keep their neighbourhoods safe by giving them one easy way to contact their local police force to report non emergency crime and disorder or to speak to their local officers.

Calls to '101' will cost 15 pence per call, no matter how long you are on the phone – this applies to both landlines and mobile phones. For the first time, everyone calling the police for non-emergency matters will know exactly how much the call will cost them and will be assured of equal access whether they are on a pay-as-you-go mobile or a home landline.

The public should continue to call 999 in an emergency, such as when a crime is in progress, when someone suspected of a crime is nearby, when there is danger to life or when violence is being used or threatened.

As '101' is a new number, some corporate phone systems and switchboards may not yet be programmed to recognise '101'. If anyone is affected by this they should contact the person who administers their phone system to request that access is opened to the '101' number.

## Watch out for metal thieves

**Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network are asking residents to be on the lookout for metal thieves in their area.**

Metal thieves target buildings – particularly schools, churches and other heritage structures – and power and communication cables on railway lines and streets, which they then sell on for a profit.

It is considered to be the fastest growing crime in the UK due to a worldwide increase in the price of copper. It is estimated that metal theft is costing our economy an estimated £770million.

Residents can play their part in helping to tackle this crime by remaining vigilant for suspicious workmen who will often try to look legitimate by wearing high visibility vests and attempting to set up road-works.

They will often use large vans, flatbed trucks or 4X4s, so keep an eye out for any unknown vehicles.

If you suspect metal theft is happening, report it to police via the new non-emergency phone number, 101.

For more information visit [www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk)

## Sharp-eyed CCTV operator finds robbery suspect

**An offender who had absconded from prison was caught in Southend thanks to the sharp eyes of a CCTV camera operator.**

At around 6am on New Year's Eve 2011, a woman was the victim of a robbery in London Road near Sainsbury's supermarket.

The CCTV operator reviewed the camera footage in the immediate area and managed to trace, and then follow, a man fitting the description of the robbery suspect.

This led to a suspect being stopped by police at Southend Central railway station where he was then arrested.

Insp. Leigh Norris, who oversees policing in central Southend, said: "Without the camera operator's efforts and enthusiasm to locate the suspect, I am convinced we would not have made an arrest so quickly. Following the arrest, he was charged with

robbery and returned to custody as he had absconded from prison.

"This was an excellent result, and I would like to thank the CCTV team for their continued efforts to ensure Southend remains a safe place."

## Community Safety Roadshow 2012

**The Southend CDRP Community Safety Roadshow is continuing to build on last year's success with more than twenty events already scheduled for 2012.**

This year the Roadshow will be visiting new locations including the Cliffs Pavilion, Fossetts Farm retail park and the launch of the refurbished Prittlewell Priory Museum.

The popular Cycle Watch initiative which has seen over 5,500 bicycles tagged since it began in 2005, will continue to be available free of charge.

Personal attack alarms, purse chains, UV property marking kits and other security devices will also be available on a first-come first-served basis.

The first event takes place on Saturday 3 March at Thorpedene Library, in Shoebury, between 10am and 2pm.

For the latest information on forthcoming events, visit [www.southendcdrp.co.uk/whats\\_on.php](http://www.southendcdrp.co.uk/whats_on.php)

## Stamps wanted to help hospital's children's ward

**Rita Lowe, chair of Eastwood Neighbourhood Watch Association, is collecting used postage stamps to help a children's ward at a hospital which saved her granddaughter's life.**

Rita's granddaughter recently suffered a life-threatening illness and received treatment at both London's Great Ormond Street Hospital, and Basildon Hospital.

Now that she is better, Rita's granddaughter would like to give something back to those who helped to save her life, and to help other children who receive treatment at the hospital.

The stamps will be donated to Basildon Hospital who are raising funds for their children's ward.

If you are able to help, please send your used stamps to: Rita Lowe, 33 Dandies Chase, Eastwood, SS9 5RF.

**If you have any comments or would like to contribute to future editions, please contact:**

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# Community Safety Roadshow 2012



Our partners include:



**Thorpedene Library, Delaware Road**  
Saturday 3 March, 10am to 2pm  
**Cluny Square**

Wednesday 21 March, 10am to 12noon  
**Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh**

Saturday 7 April, 10am to 2pm  
**Cliffs Pavilion**

Wednesday 11 April, 10am to 2pm  
**ASDA, North Shoebury Road**

Monday 16 April, 2pm to 5pm  
**Westcliff Library**

Saturday 21 April, 10am to 2pm  
**B&Q, Fossetts Way**

Wednesday 25 April, 12noon to 2pm  
**Friars Library, Shoebury**

Saturday 5 May, 10am to 2pm  
**Centre Place, Woodgrange Estate**

Wednesday 6 June, 9am to 4pm  
**St Margarets, Lime Avenue**

Saturday 9 June, 10am to 2pm  
**Waitrose, Fossetts Way**

Wednesday 13 June, 12noon to 2pm  
*(See website for full list of events)*

**Come along to one of our free events to benefit from the following services:**

- Electronic security tagging for bicycles, mobility scooters, laptops, and other large valuables;
- UV property marking kits for mobile phones, cameras, iPods and other similar items;
- Personal attack alarms, purse chains and intruder alarms to improve your security;
- Advice on crime prevention, health, waste and recycling and much more!



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