



SIX MONTHLY NEWSLETTER JULY TO DECEMBER 2026

Email braintreenwsg@btinternet.com Tel: 0750 8057636

WELCOME AGAIN

TO THE SIX MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Since the earlier version this year, there is available the Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch Members Guide and it has been very popular.

If you would like a copy by email or in the post send your full name and address to this newsletter.

It advises everyone what Neighbourhood Watch is all about and also the responsibilities of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators who are very important in managing their own schemes and distributing local Neighbourhood Watch information which is received from reliable sources ie Essex Police, The Police Fire & Crime Commissioner's Office, Crimestoppers, Essex Fire & Rescue Service and also your local District Councils... May I thank everyone who is part of Neighbourhood Watch as without you we could not help to reduce the opportunity of crime together .

The last six months have really shot by and the weekly newsletters have changed in both format and information since they started over sixteen years ago. We publish information received from Essex Police HQ. and also what we see on Braintree Essex Police Dispatch newsletters and Braintree Police Facebook as some of you do not subscribe to them...

As you know Neighbourhood Watch members have available free items not just window stickers, wheelie bin stickers, No Cold caller stickers, promotional pens , Members badges , Members Guides but also 24 hour Timers, Contactless Card Protector wallets, purse bells and straps, plus crime prevention advice from Essex Police and much more. Yes it is true that these days most of our communications is by email/Whats App (via local schemes) and text.

BUT we never forget those who are not on a computer , do not have smartphones or have no need to have access to the internet.

Some may have difficulties in communication such as hard of hearing or visually impaired .

So we do our very best to provide Neighbourhood Watch information in a format which anyone requests so they will feel part of Neighbourhood Watch where they live.

Membership continues to grow every week in Braintree, Halstead and Witham thanks to the support of Essex Police , Braintree District Council , Braintree Community Safety Partnership, Halstead and Witham Town Councils and Essex Fire & Rescue Service...

WHY NOT BE PART OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

WHERE YOU LIVE?

For those who may see this newsletter for the first time or have not yet decided to join your local Neighbourhood Watch scheme then please consider the following:- YES It is FREE!

There are no subscriptions at all at any time!

You have a choice to receive weekly email newsletters and free Neighbourhood Watch items as a comprehensive list is available to choose what you need .

So I look forward to hearing from you or you can contact your local Neighbourhood Watch

Co-ordinator stated at the bottom of this page ...



**Clive Stewart,
Chairman ,
Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch**

THIS NEWSLETTER IS BEING DELIVERED BY YOUR LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR :-

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Chief inspector Martin Richards



Essex Police continues to work hard to keep the Braintree and Uttlesford District safe, and over the past year we've made some really positive progress. Our Neighbourhood Policing Team now has 55 officers covering the district, including the three dedicated Town Centre Teams based in Witham, Braintree, and Halstead.

Their daily work tackling anti-social behaviour, supporting local businesses, and responding to concerns is making a noticeable difference, and we're seeing the results reflected in community confidence and crime levels.

Working With You

Neighbourhood Watch remains one of our most important partners. The information you share, the concerns you raise, and the conversations we have at your meetings all help shape how we police the district. Your involvement really does make a difference. We've also continued to work together on wider community safety projects, including the Safer Streets work in Witham, Halstead, and now Braintree. These schemes have brought improvements such as upgraded lighting, better CCTV, and environmental changes designed to reduce crime and help people feel safer when out and about.

Crime Trends This Year

It's been a strong year for crime reduction across the district.

Compared to last year, we've seen:

Overall crime down nearly 10%

Shed and garage burglaries down 34%

Theft of a vehicle down 21%

Theft from a vehicle down 29%

These results reflect the combined efforts of officers, partners, and the community — including Neighbourhood Watch members who continue to report suspicious activity and share crime-prevention messages.

Partnerships That Make a Difference

Community safety doesn't sit with police alone. We work closely every day with the Community Safety Partnership, Braintree District Council, housing teams, mental health services, and local charities. Taking this joined-up approach means we're not just reacting to incidents, but working to address the causes behind them.

We also continue to support community-led initiatives such as Community Speed Watch, the Volunteer Police Cadets, Active Citizens, and our Community Special Constables in Witham and Halstead. Volunteers play a huge role in helping us maintain a strong and visible presence in our towns and villages, and we're grateful for the time and commitment they give.

Stay Involved, Stay Informed

There are lots of ways residents can help keep their neighbourhood safe — from joining or supporting Neighbourhood Watch, to volunteering, to simply staying aware of what's happening locally.

To find out more about local policing or community safety, visit:

www.essex.police.uk

Chief Inspector Martin Richards
District Commander

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