

BRAINTREE AND DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Affiliated to Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Association which is a registered Charity No: 1168988

Email: braintreenwsg@btinternet.com Page Two/Two Six Monthly Newsletter Issue Two 2020



Welcome to the second six monthly newsletter 2020.

This Newsletter covers from November 2020 to April 2021 and this issue is by email only as in these difficult times it is not easy to arrange for hard copies to be delivered. However if there is a demand for any to be delivered then some will be printed as we are very keen to keep those who not on-line or have access to a computer can have update with the latest news contained in our newsletters. Many years ago we used to have a print job of 25,000 but thanks to emails this has greatly reduced to less than 2,000 but they have to be delivered by hand and this may prove unacceptable in these times which we totally understand.

In the past six months Neighbourhood Watch membership in Braintree District has continued to increase which is great and one reason is that I aim to keep it simple to be involved with Neighbourhood Watch and not have the complexities of some of the "old ways of doing things"

I would like to thank Braintree Police for their continued support and for sending the crime reports (which are summarised in the weekly emailed newsletter) and their partnership document too which is very welcomed by so many.

In May we received £1,000 from Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Association as they received £15,000 from The Office of Police Fire & Crime Commissioner for 2020/2021 for Neighbourhood Watch in Essex. Jane Gardner, Deputy Police Fire & Crime Commissioner, has had a report in which it shows how Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch (along with the other Essex Neighbourhood Watch Districts) used the funding in the past twelve months.

On 27th August Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch held a Zoom Annual General Meeting at which Clive Stewart was re-elected as Chairman and Treasurer, Celia Shute as Vice Chairman and Louise Smith as Secretary. It was good to note that many of the existing members of the Steering Group agreed to remain for another year.

Due to the coronavirus we have had to change our Constitution accordingly and this was approved at the AGM and is available on request.

Sadly due to the coronavirus we shall not have face to face meetings for some time and the future quarterly meetings of the Steering Group will be by Zoom.

Finally once again in these most difficult times I would like to thank each and everyone of you for all your support for Neighbourhood Watch as it does reduce the opportunity of crime.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH STREET SIGNS UPDATE !



During October we again had a contribution towards the purchase of street signs from the Braintree Community Safety Partnership (their logo is on the sign) which was appreciated. This enabled more signs to be delivered to new areas in Braintree. The signs and fittings are available on request by contacting the email in the top of this newsletter. Before receiving the signs there are forms to complete which are to be sent to Essex Highways who approve the placing of signs. You are able to put signs on the posts as you are covered under the National Neighbourhood Watch Public Liability Insurance.

A FEW CHRISTMAS TIPS FROM ESSEX POLICE

If you must store Christmas food and drink, presents and other goodies within garages and outbuildings, ensure that they are out of sight and that it's securely locked with good quality well fitted locks. Treat your shed to a shed alarm. Avoid tempting window shopping burglars; don't leave presents and valuables on full view in front of a window. Ensure that your windows and doors are closed and locked before leaving the house. Don't attract burglars to your home by leaving it in darkness; leave lights on timers, perhaps treat yourself to a TV simulator too. Lock gates to keep unwanted visitors from getting to the rear of your home. Whether an evening out or Christmas shopping keep your bags, handbags, wallets and mobile safe. Busy places make it easier for the sneak thief, so be alert at all times. Park safely and check that your car is locked before you leave it and don't leave valuables and gifts on display in your car. When you go to leave the house and find that your car is all iced up, don't leave it unattended with the engine running to de-ice it. It only takes a second to steal your car and it would invalidate any insurance claim. Watch what you put on social media ensure that you are not broadcasting when you are not at home and on holiday or visiting family. Never advertise your nice gifts to the thieves by putting the empty boxes out for collection fold them up inside out and put them in an appropriate recycling bag. Record your new property free on www.immobilise.com, install tracking and security apps on relevant electrical and computer products.

**WANT TO VOLUNTEER AS AN ACTIVE CITIZEN AND WORK WITH ESSEX POLICE TO REDUCE CRIME?
PLEASE SEND YOUR FULL DETAILS AND EMAIL ADDRESS TO active.citizen@essex.pnn.police.uk**