

## New email address

Harlow Division police officers now have a new generic email address for people making enquiries specific to the division, which includes Harlow, Brentwood, Epping, Loughton and Waltham Abbey. The facility is to enable people to communicate with their local police through means other than telephone and post, and is to be used to provide feedback and information or ask non-urgent questions.

It is NOT a facility for crime reporting. The mailbox is checked regularly and emails forwarded on to the relevant individual department for a response so it's always helpful where possible to include the name of the person the information is directed at.

The address is:  
harlowdivision@essex.pnn.police.uk

## Message in a bottle

The scheme seeks to address problems frequently encountered when entry is made by emergency service personnel to an elderly, vulnerable or any person taking specific medication home. If they are found collapsed it can save valuable time in finding essential medical information or next of kin details as often these details are not readily at hand. The scheme provides a plastic container which allows you to put these essential details therein, you then keep this information in the door of your refrigerator. The purpose of keeping it in the refrigerator is that most homes will have one and for this to work, all containers within the scheme need to be kept in the same location. Additionally, if there is a fire, the fridge will provide some degree of protection to the container and it may be possible to recover the details afterwards. In order to highlight to the emergency services, be it police, fire or ambulance, that the scheme is in operation, a green sticker in the form of a cross will be placed on the inside of the front door or on a nearby wall or panel in a prominent position. Similarly a sticker will be placed on the door of the fridge.

'Message in a Bottle' is sponsored by Neighbourhood Watch and information about the scheme is available from them, your Crime Reduction Officer or from Chris on the mobile rural police office.

### Epping

High Street,  
Epping,  
CM16 4QJ



Switchboard:  
01279 641212  
(Open Mon-Fri 8am-10pm  
Sundays & Bank Holidays 9am-5pm)

Inspector: Paul Thompson

Email:harlowdivision@essex.pnn.police.uk  
Web: www.essex.police.uk

### Brentwood

London Road,  
Brentwood,  
CM14 4QJ



Switchboard:  
01279 641212  
(Open 24 hours)

Inspector: Steve Worrton

Email:harlowdivision@essex.pnn.police.uk  
Web: www.essex.police.uk

### The rural police station visits the Brentwood area week commencing:

Jan 3, 2005	April 11, 2005
Jan 17, 2005	April 25, 2005
Jan 31, 2005	May 9, 2005
Feb 14, 2005	May 23, 2005
Feb 28, 2005	June 6, 2005
March 14, 2005	June 20, 2005
March 28, 2005	July 4, 2005



Brentwood Police Station

	Time	Village	Location
Mon	10.00 - 12.00	Blackmore	Village Shop
	13.00 - 14.00	Tipps Cross	Village Hall
	14.30 - 15.30	Navestock	Village Hall
Tues	10.00 - 12.00	Ingatestone	Community Centre
	13.00 - 14.00	Fryring	Village Hall
	14.30 - 15.30	Mountnessing	Village Hall
Weds	10.00 - 15.00	West Horndon	Village Hall
Thur	10.00 - 12.00	Great Warley	Thatcher's Arms
	13.00 - 14.00	Ingrave	Village Hall
Fri	10.00 - 12.00	Doddinghurst	Village Hall

### The rural police station visits the Epping area week commencing:

Jan 10, 2005	July 11, 2005
Jan 24, 2005	July 25, 2005
Feb 7, 2005	August 8, 2005
Feb 21, 2005	August 22, 2005
March 7, 2005	September 5, 2005
March 21, 2005	September 19, 2005
April 4, 2005	October 3, 2005
April 18, 2005	October 17, 2005
May 2, 2005	October 31, 2005
May 16, 2005	November 14, 2005
May 30, 2005	November 28, 2005
June 13, 2005	December 12, 2005
June 27, 2005	December 26, 2005



Epping Police Station

Day	Time	Village	Location
Mon	09.45 - 10.45	Abbees Roding	Church
	11.00 - 12.00	Fyfield	Outside village shop
	13.00 - 14.00	Willingale	Village Hall
	14.30 - 15.30	High Ongar	Post Office
Tues	10.00 - 12.00	Roydon	Village Hall
	13.00 - 15.00	Nazeing	Hyde Mead
Weds	09.45 - 10.45	North Weald	Village Hall
	11.00 - 12.00	Thornwood	Village Hall
	13.00 - 14.00	Lower Sheering	Four Acres
	14.10 - 14.25	Newman's End	The Square
	14.30 - 15.30	Matching Tye	Village Hall
Thur	10.00 - 12.00	Theydon Bois	Village Hall
	12.40 - 12.45	Stapleford Abbots	Tysea Hill Shop
	13.00 - 14.00	Stapleford Abbots	Bournebridge Lane
	14.10 - 14.55	Stanford Rivers	Piggots
Fri	15.00 - 15.30	Toot Hill	Green Man
	09.45 - 10.15	Abridge	Village Hall
	11.00 - 12.00	Upshire	Village Hall
	13.00 - 14.00	Dobbs Weir	Village Hall
	14.30 - 15.30	Coopersale	Shops

Please note that the Rural Office does not operate on Bank Holidays



# NEWS

MARCH 2005



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## Just a little bit of thought

I am always going on about leaving car keys in the ignition. Yes, I know I sound like an old broken record, but this is still a problem. People still like to leave their vehicles with the engine running outside their local newsagents and then, on their return, seem very surprised to find it - gone.

Normally when it is icy the vehicle is also left warming up in the street. Not a good idea unless you can secure it. People still do this and are still amazed when their vehicle disappears.

Leaving your car keys on a table near the letter box of your front door is also not a good idea. As soon as we put one team of car thieves away a second team appear. The pole through the letterbox trick is working again. Your car keys, and house keys, should be placed away from the front and rear doors but the house keys should be in a position where you can find. If there is a house fire during the night you need to know where to find them.

Recently, a member of a local neighbourhood watch group watched in disbelief as a young female left her car outside the local grocer's shop with the engine running. He wandered up to the vehicle with the intention of warning her about this type of car theft. He couldn't believe his eyes - inside the car was a sleeping baby. He was shocked and decided to stand guard, frightened to

leave the vehicle, just in case. He stood there for twenty minutes, no exaggeration, he timed it.

In the end, thinking that something had happened to the mother, he went into the shop, she was talking. The mother was horrified when the error of her ways was pointed out to her. She thought she had locked the car with the baby inside.

Please - just a little bit of thought might save you a great deal of distress.

## New web site for rural community

A new web site targeting the specific needs of residents living in the rural community of Brentwood will be launched on March 24. Once launched, you will be able to access these pages.

[www.essex.police.uk/ruralbrentwood](http://www.essex.police.uk/ruralbrentwood)

A new email address allowing rural residents to provide information on their area has also been set up, this will go direct to the local policing officers covering the rural areas.

[brentwoodcountrywatch@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:brentwoodcountrywatch@essex.pnn.police.uk)

**Chris Caten is the driver of the Rural Office and he can be contacted on 07715 771603**



# Garden Sheds

I know that I have warned you before about security of your garden shed but a number of recent incidents have prompted me to remind you again. I know that they are not easy to secure but you can make it difficult for the thief.

You can seek advice from either of our two crime reduction officers; Tony Ellis at Epping or Jody Greenfield at Brentwood.

Just ring 01279-641212 and ask for them by name. You can of course come and talk to me. You must also consider the items that you keep in your shed, last year one person lost a stamp collection.

# Televisions

With the number of plasma and flat screen televisions now in use they seem to be a target for burglars. In recent years televisions and videos have not been taken in dwelling burglaries, but with the new style plasma and flat screens they are now easier to carry and are of a greater value.

With that in mind, you should make a note of the model and serial number and property mark such items in some way. I have a number of FREE ultra violet marking pens on board for your use.

# Mobile Phones

Many of you are updating your mobile phones with the new camera/video type. There was even an article in The Daily Telegraph the other day about attaching these types of phones to your dog so that you can find your lost dog!! I just hope nobody took that article seriously.

If you dial \*#06# (Star, Hash, Zero, Six, Hash) this will show you your serial number. Make a note of this at home. You can also mark your postcode inside the cover. I will do this for you if you so wish.

# Untaxed Motor Vehicles

I have recently made you all aware of how to report motor vehicles being used without road tax. All that was required was vehicles registration number (Index Number), Make, model, colour and any details of the owner that you might have. I made a mistake, though. I forgot to tell you that these vehicles must be in use on the road and not just parked up in someone's garden.

The vehicle tax is for vehicles that use the road. If the vehicle is parked up untaxed on the highway then we can deal with it but if it is used but kept on private property then the DVLC or we have to catch it on the road. A lot of people keep vehicles parked up unused on their property for various reasons, spare parts or with the intention of working on them in the future. They are therefore not in use on the road and do not require road tax.

# Childrens car seats

A recent caller to The Mobile Police Station was explaining to me the problems she had just suffered when a recently purchased second hand child's car seat let her down. Can I just remind you again about buying these because you have no way of knowing their history and once they have been involved in an accident it may well have damage that can't be detected and therefore could lead to your child being hurt. This has become an issue and it is well worth thinking about it if you intend buying one. Any knocks or cracks will be detrimental to its use.

Therefore, its true history has to be known to you - and trusted. Also, the webbing on the five point fixing harness should be closely examined for wear.

The very experienced Lynda Hague, Road Safety Officer at Epping Forest District Council, is your first point of call. She is well worth talking to.

# Distraction thefts

Don't get caught out whilst shopping, whether your in a Supermarket or High Street shop.

Thieves have come up with new ways to part you from your hard earned cash! One person distracts you by asking you to reach something from a top shelf, or asks your opinion on an item, whilst the other is dipping into your bag behind your back!

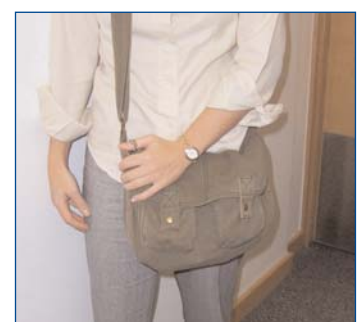


Crime reduction officers Tony Ellis from Epping and Ron Gomm from Loughton spent the morning at Sainsbury's in Loughton to try and make shoppers aware of these new ploys.

Tony approached shoppers and explained who he was and why he was there, he then went on to explain; "Whilst I have been talking to you, your bag has been taken." Of course the bag had not been taken but just guarded by Ron.

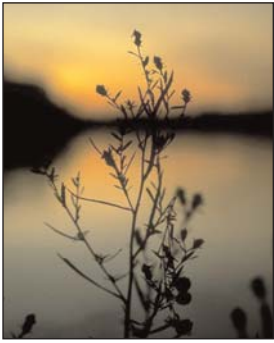
Shoppers were happily reunited with their bag, but were amazed at how easily it had been done

Make sure your bag is zipped up and with you at all times. Even better still, put your handbag across your shoulders with the bag in front of you for added security.



**Untaxed Motor Vehicle Hotline:  
08000 325 202**

# And soon Spring arrives



It's time to remind ourselves again why the burglar sees Spring as his friend. It's a time when everybody is enjoying their gardens. It is also time to air the house and car. The doors are left wide open and every window, which is capable of being opened, is flung to its full extent. At these times, even the car is not immune to lapses in security. Windows are wound down and the sunroof never closes.

The burglar welcomes this time of year. He is an opportunist by nature. To him, hot days and warm evenings signal rich pickings.

Last year we suffered a string of burglaries committed in the late evenings or early mornings. On each occasion, the thief only had to reach through an open ground floor window to steal. In some instances, he went into houses through open windows and open patio doors. Forget what he stole for a moment; imagine one of your family coming face to face with him in your home.

We all love to get out into our gardens. Our seasons can be unpredictable so we have to take every chance. For some reason, most of us feel that if we are on our property nobody is going to attack it. This false sense of security often leads us to leave doors and windows open all around the house despite the fact that we can only be in one place at one time. People pottering about in the front garden are quite happy to leave the back door wide open. Even though the barbecue is in the back garden, surely it is safe to leave the front windows and even the front door open. Well, it's not!

The thief is well aware of the Englishman's behavioural habits. He can see where you are and more to the point, he can see where you are not. It's a simple matter and a calculated risk for him to slip in, steal something valuable and slip out again in a matter of seconds.

Their ingenuity knows no bounds. A youngster knocks on your front door. He or she says, "My ball has gone over into your garden", or even, "My rabbit has got out and I think it's got into your garden". Being of a kind nature, you go to search for the missing item leaving the front door open. When you return, the rabbit or ball is still missing, the youngster is missing and the antique clock that was standing in your hallway is also missing. Even if you take the youngster with you to assist in the search, a friend will be waiting in the wings to complete the dirty deed.

The thief relies on the element of surprise. He feeds off the good and trusting nature of the average householder. But, if you don't provide him with simple opportunities, you are less likely to become one of his victims.

# Pin numbers

The new idea of 'Chip and Pin' Numbers have caused our Senior Citizens many problems. I watched one poor soul the other day trying to focus on the handheld gadget in a supermarket. She was holding it at arms length and with her other hand pushing her required buttons.

The assistant tried to help and asked her if she knew her Pin number. 'Yes' She replied and told her. Everyone in the supermarket knew what her pin number was. Her eyesight was such that she could not see the numbers close up. She was getting in a real mess over this system.

I know it is not easy but please Do Not Give Out Your Pin Number to anybody - and anybody really does mean anybody, that includes your Bank and even the Police. It is not easy when your eyesight will not focus on these numbers, it is also strange and unnerving so please be patient with them. Thanks.

# Buying motor vehicles

We can't resist a bargain can we? It must be inbred, if we think we can save a few bob then we will take the chance. Some people will buy anything 'Marked Down' I know someone who returned home the other day with an escalator!! Only joking, seriously though.

So many of you are getting caught out with buying second hand motor vehicles that I felt I must warn you again. I know of two people this year that have handed over cash for vehicles and have lost both vehicle and cash because the vehicle was in fact stolen. I also know of another man who was going to pay £8,000 to an unknown male in a car park on The Isle of Dogs. He was also going to travel there and deal with this person alone.

If you do not know anything about vehicles then seek help from a someone who does, even groups like the AA or RAC.

Don't agree to meet strangers in way out places and you really must take care, you should always have somebody with you. PLUS - Do not hand car keys over so they can have a test drive - do not take cash either. Don't laugh because people do. They are told it is cheaper if they bring cash, so people do!!

You should check with the previous owner, check the mileage on old MOTs and check the registration number on the tax disc against the front and back Plates.

Get somebody who knows what they are doing to check it. So many vehicles are brought in from abroad and then have stolen plates put on them.



## Bogus callers are despicable people who prey on our elderly and vulnerable

We need to stop these people knocking on our doors in the first place in order to start preventing this type of crime. When detectives get a report of a bogus caller in your area, a poster will be placed warning residents to report anyone acting suspiciously.

Also a sticker will be placed through the neighbour's doors stating **WE DO NOT BUY OR SELL AT THIS DOOR.**

Please get involved and place these stickers in your front windows, you not only prevent them finding out who is elderly and vulnerable in your street but also which homes are empty for the day.

