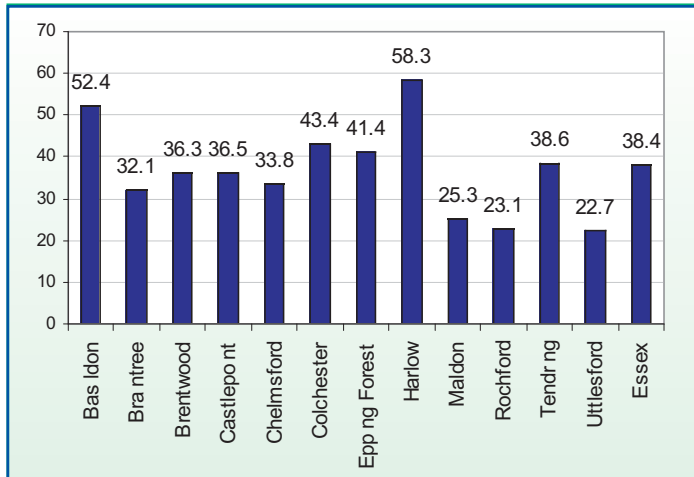


# Safe Uttlesford



The Community Safety Action Team quarterly newsletter Winter 2009

IT'S OFFICIAL: UTTLESFORD IS ONE OF THE SAFEST DISTRICTS IN ESSEX



## Take your word for it!

A snapshot survey conducted by BBC Look East aimed to identify the main crime concerns of residents of the East of England. As the map illustrates (link below), people in Uttlesford described the district as “a great community with no problems”, suggesting that levels of crime and quality of life in the district are both excellent. The CSAT endeavours to maintain this low rate of crime and high quality of life, by listening to the community’s concerns and nipping any problems in the bud. The fact that we live in such a happy community is founded on our care for each other and our active approach to helping anyone who needs our support.

To view the map please copy both lines and paste in to your web browser.

<http://www.maptube.org/map.aspx?s=DJxSoHEGXApTgzwgXAp8HApZTAokLd>

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Essex is one of the safest regions in Britain and Uttlesford is the safest district in Essex, based on the British Crime Survey (2008). Over the last year, the collective efforts of the Community Safety Action Team (CSAT) led to an even further reduction in the rate of crime in the district. The graph alongside (Source: British Crime Survey) illustrates the low level of crime in Uttlesford, compared to other districts in Essex. In Uttlesford, as the figures show, the average annual crime figure is 22.7 crimes per 1000 residents. On average, across the district we have less than 8 crimes a day.



This reassuring news prompted our resident TV star John Savident to say: “I was pleased to hear in the news recently that Essex is one of the safest areas in the country. It did not come as a surprise to me to learn that Uttlesford is one of the safest districts in Essex; I have always felt safe here. We can still walk anytime in any part of our district without fear. It is obvious that we don’t have any of the problems that bigger cities have. However, it must be said that this safety is also due to the good nature of our people.

For example, hate crime, domestic violence and other heinous crimes are relatively low in our district. I am pleased to have chosen this part of the country to live in, it doesn’t disappoint in any way.”

## What is Safe Uttlesford?

Safe Uttlesford is a newsletter used as a two-way communication between the public and the Community Safety Action Team. Through the newsletter we will be able to keep the public informed, consult with them and ask for feedback on initiatives or projects we undertake. Through the newsletter we will also receive comments from the public about our work in general or on any specific issue.



## From Chief Inspector Joe Wrigley

(Uttlesford District Commander)

**“We are making Uttlesford even safer, but we still need your help!”**



I am pleased to say that we are still, according to the stats and in my own opinion, improving in our performance for our communities. We currently have the highest detection rate since records began. In terms of stats, while the longer days and summer months tend to be busier, they are counteracted by the winter months.

What I want to concentrate on now is getting that crime number down even further, for the simple reason that I want as few victims of crime as possible. It is unlikely that we can completely eradicate crime but we will continue to strive to get it as low as we possibly can.

The vast majority of crimes in Uttlesford are low-level opportunist crimes like criminal damage and theft from vehicles and those associated with antisocial behaviour. We have almost no serious crime in the District. We will be concentrating on burglaries, thefts from motor vehicles and criminal damages as well as staying focused on violent crime, where a new procedure is in place to gather extra evidence at the scene of reports of domestic violence.

I am asking for your help in reducing the already low level of crime even further. In my mind there are three facets to reducing crime:

1. Take those that are committing them off the street

2. Harden the targets of crime by making communities more difficult to commit crime against

3. Make criminals go elsewhere

I would ask your help in the following areas though.

- We are suffering from occasional bursts of what can only be described as moronic and mindless criminal damage. This takes the form of graffiti in some places, but mostly the indiscriminate scratching of cars. I make a plea for parents and guardians to talk to their young people about this ridiculous crime that does nothing except increase all of our taxes, insurance premiums and retail costs, which we can ill afford at present, and create work and massive inconvenience for the victims.
- Get involved in the Neighbourhood Watch schemes; be the eyes and ears of your neighbourhood and pass any information to your Neighbourhood Specialist Officer. If you have any idea who is committing crime in your area then tell your local officer, ring us on 0300 333 4444, or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111
- Please take note of the crime reduction advice we are offering – it does help. The chances of being a victim of crime in Uttlesford reduce year by year, but as crime fashions change we want to keep you up-to-date.



## Kelly got a brand new car

four Smart cars were purchased to be used by Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) around the district, and to patrol neighbourhoods. These cars are also sometimes used to visit remote and isolated neighbourhoods during the night to make sure that the public are safe.

Kelly, one of the PCSOs based in Stansted, says: “The car allows me to patrol my beat area and engage with the communities at Birchanger village and Birchanger Services in the course of my duties. Overall the use of the Smart car means that we can cover the whole of the Stansted North neighbourhood and engage with the rural communities that make up a large part of the Uttlesford district.”

You can contact Stansted Mountfitchet neighbourhood policing team direct on 07801 461666

## Domestic Violence

Whether you yourself feel that you are being abused, or you are worried that someone you know is, there are organisations that exist specifically to help victims of abuse at home.

Domestic violence can take many forms: most obviously physical abuse, where one partner uses physical violence against another, but abuse can also be emotional, psychological, sexual or financial.

One in four women, and one in six men, will be a victim of domestic violence in their lifetime; an incident is reported to the police on average once a minute. And for each reported incident, it is likely there are many more that are not brought to the attention of the authorities, often out of fear or denial.

Yasser Alromisse, Uttlesford District Council's Community Safety Officer, said: "Friends and family of victims, as well as experts, frequently ask victims of domestic violence why they stay in such apparently horrible situations.

"A non-exhaustive list of reasons includes love, hope, dependence, fear and learned helplessness. "If you are the victim of domestic abuse, whether male or female, it's important you know there is help available."

As part of a number of events taking place across Essex during the 16 Days of Action campaign, napkins are being distributed to selected cafés and restaurants across the county with a brief "Don't Suffer in Silence" message and a contact number for information and support.

If you feel that you or someone you know needs help, call Braintree Women's Aid on 01376 321720, Victim Support Essex on 0845 456 5995, or visit [www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk).

Essex Against Domestic Violence is another organisation that offers information and help to victims of domestic violence – Paula Ward, domestic violence co-ordinator, can be called on 01376 501626 or emailed at [paula-eadv@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:paula-eadv@tiscali.co.uk).

For general help with domestic violence you can contact the National Domestic Abuse Helpline on 0808 2000 247. If you are a man who is experiencing domestic abuse, you can contact the Male Advice and Enquiry Line on 0845 0646800.

Help is also available for perpetrators of domestic abuse, who want to change their behaviour. If you think this applies to you and would like help to stop please visit [www.respect.uk.net](http://www.respect.uk.net) or call 0845 122 8609.

## As safe as we all make it!

Everyone in the community has a role to play in tackling crime and disorder. This is not necessarily achieved through confronting offenders, it could be achieved through being vigilant and reporting any suspicious activity. I would like to invite you to write to me about stories of actions that contributed to tackling crime and disorder. I will publish one story in every issue of Safe Uttlesford.

Here is my first story about how a housing officer contributed to tackling crime and disorder.

"As a housing officer at Uttlesford District Council I make several home visits to existing tenants and housing applicants for various reasons during my working week. Last month I made a routine visit to an elderly tenant who had asked for her hedges to be cut back on our garden welfare scheme. When I arrived I found three men with power tools cutting the hedge. They were all dressed similarly and were wearing ID badges with the name of a seemingly legitimate garden services company from Histon, Cambs. However, when I asked if they were contractors working on behalf of the Council, the elder of the three said no, they were working for themselves and that the tenant was paying them. I was then asked if I was from the Council and I said yes, I had come to look at the hedges to approve the work to be done by the Council. They then beat a hasty retreat saying that they would not charge for the work that had already been done.

They were conmen who had asked the tenant if she wanted the work done, said they were approved by the council, and that it would cost the lady £300.

She said that she was an OAP and could not afford that so they said they would do it for £200 and the tenant went to her building society to get the money. I rang the police and gave them the details that I had got from their ID and a card that they left with the tenant. They were conmen who were trying to extort money from an elderly tenant who did not need to pay to have her hedges cut at all but who was worried because it needed to be done.

All legitimate Council workers or contractors WILL NOT ask for money from the tenant and if a tenant is unsure if they are from the Council they can check by ringing 01799 510510."

You can also call Trading Standards Rapid Response on 07900 164898.



### The Chairman Writes:

At our recent AGM, I reported that Neighbourhood Watch (NhW) is expanding. We have started 14 new schemes in Uttlesford, with many being supported by parish councils. In total we now have 44 areas covered by 160 co-ordinators and helpers and we now cover 40% of the district.

### Challenge

I am particularly pleased that our activities in Stansted and Debden are being supported by their parish councils, and that a new scheme has started at Carver Barracks in Wimbish. We now have coverage in all major centres of population, but we still have the challenge of increasing coverage in Great Dunmow.

### Appreciated

We also have improved support from Essex Police and are now part of the 'extended policing family'. They also appreciate how effective we are at improving home and personal security.

### Neighbourhood Watch Week

This was evident during Neighbourhood Watch Week in June. By working together, we were able to raise the awareness of crime and disorder, and to use the resources of the neighbourhood policing teams to encourage people to get involved.

### More Needed

However, we still need more co-ordinators across the district, so please get in touch, either to join an established group or start up a new one, by calling 0300 333 4444 and asking for the Neighbourhood Specialist Officer (NSO) in your area.

**Welcome to New Schemes**  
**Windmill Close, Stansted**  
**Sanders Close, Stansted**  
**White Roding Village**  
**Carver Barracks, Wimbish**  
**Loompits Way, Saffron Walden**  
*A warm welcome to you*

# Nominated Neighbour Scheme Launched



**Alan Johnson, PCSO Jill Law and Peter Caulfield showing the Nominated Neighbour Card**

**A great new scheme has come to Uttlesford, designed to keep our elderly and vulnerable residents safe from callous bogus callers and distraction burglars.**

Many elderly people don't like to challenge callers; they either think it is impolite, or they simply do not have the confidence. The Nominated Neighbour Scheme removes the need for the resident to challenge the caller, passing the responsibility to a trusted neighbour instead.

### Identity Checks

Those wishing to participate are given a card that they show to unknown callers through a window. The card states, "I Do Not Recognise You", and directs them to the nominated neighbour, who checks their identity and accompanies them back to the resident's address.

### Empowering Victims

The scheme has been operating successfully in other parts of the county, including Braintree.

NhW Chairman Alan Johnson, says: "We want to empower potential victims and allow them to turn people away without feeling awkward or guilty."

### Benefits

Crime Reduction Officer Peter Caulfield asks all our readers to try and identify local residents who might benefit from this scheme and let him know.

If you would like a Nominated Neighbour card, or know someone who might benefit from one, then contact Peter on 01376 556233.

## Structure and dynamics of The Community Safety Action Team

The Community Safety Action Team (CSAT) involves various agencies working together to reduce crime and disorder within the district. The CSAT are sometimes referred to as the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP). The partnership evolved following the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 which stipulates that local authorities and the police services should be jointly responsible for the formulation and implementation of a strategy to reduce crime and disorder in the local authority area, in co-operation with other local statutory bodies.

The Partnership within the district consists of:

- Uttlesford District Council
- Essex Police
- Essex Police Authority
- Victim Support & Witness Services
- Essex Ambulance Service
- Essex Health Trust (NHS)
- Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership
- National Probation Service
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Magistrates Court
- Crown Prosecution Services
- Council for Voluntary Service Uttlesford CVSU
- Job centre Plus
- Essex County Fire and Rescue Service
- Essex County Council
- West Essex Primary Care Trust
- Age Concern Essex
- In Touch
- Victim Support
- Local education authority and schools
- Other organisations

### Our Mission

To make Uttlesford a safer and more pleasant environment in which to live, grow and prosper, by reducing crime and disorder, and addressing the related health, economic and social costs of crime.

### Our Vision

Our local community will know that rates of crime, disorder and drugs misuse have been reduced substantially. They will know why and how this has been accomplished and will live more secure and healthy lives as a result. Our ultimate objective is to make Uttlesford the safest place in Britain.

### Partnership principles

The partners have adopted the following principles in their approach to community safety and the reduction of crime and disorder:

- Fair and equal access to services and support irrespective of race, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation or disability.
- Maintenance of the rule of law in the interests of those who live, travel through, work, visit and invest in the district.
- Crime and fear of crime can be most effectively reduced by the statutory, voluntary and private sectors working in partnership with the wider community.
- Responsible and accountable use of technology to gather evidence and intelligence and to respect the privacy of individuals.
- The partnership has an absolute responsibility to make use of information legally, responsibly and with integrity at all times.
- Crime prevented is always better than crime detected.

## Blooming Noisy Summer



During the summer there were two major events in Saffron Walden that required the Environmental Health Team to undertake out-of-hours noise monitoring: the Saffron Walden Carnival events, which are held every three years on the Common, and at Audley End House, the annual Music on a Summer's Evening events over four weekends.

Both events were monitored to ensure the noise levels specified in the licence conditions were being adhered to. Noise controls are important to reduce any disturbance to residents and to protect the hearing of the audience and staff.



## What's going on with ASB?

Most people say that they like the neighbourhood where they live. However, occasionally one or two people, or perhaps a family, can make life difficult for their neighbours, and that neighbour may be you! We're not talking about minor irritations or isolated incidents, but the sort of behaviour that causes genuine distress or fear; behaviour that disrupts people's lives, worries their families and breaks up a community



## Antisocial behaviour (ASB)

is behaviour 'that causes, or is likely to cause, alarm, harassment or distress'. You told us that combating ASB was a priority for the district, and the following are just some of the tools we are using to help us to do this:



## Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC)

These are voluntary contracts between a person involved in antisocial behaviour and the local authorities. ABCs are designed to support those individuals in changing their behaviour by including actions that they agree to do, and targets which they set themselves to achieve them! The contract will last for six months with regular reviews. The review will allow us to have an opportunity to talk about any concerns the individual may have or any changes we may want to make. These contracts are not just for young people, they can be used for anyone over the age of 10yrs if we think they can help.



## Partnership Forums

These allow all agencies in the district to come together and identify any problems that need to be resolved with a multi-partnership approach. The partnership meetings rely on the input of your

community and link very closely with the neighbourhood action panels led by the police.



## Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO)

These orders are granted by a magistrates' court and run for a minimum of two years. We use these when we can prove persistent antisocial behaviour and can prove to the court that we have tried other interventions to improve the bad behaviour. These orders exist to protect the community from the antisocial behaviour; they are not a punishment for the offender. However, if the conditions of the ASBO are breached then an arrest will take place and this could lead to a conviction. We have nine ASBOs in the district, and not all on young people!

## Parenting Programmes

A number of people feel that parents who do not bring their children up properly are a cause of antisocial behaviour. By working with partners we have introduced parenting programmes for young parents, parents with difficult teenagers, or young people at risk of offending. Also, in September, we had a 'positive parenting' group for those parents of children with difficulties, e.g. Asperger's syndrome.

Remember these are only some of the tools that we are using. We work closely with the housing department at the district council, housing associations, the police and environmental health to ensure that the legislation the Government has provided us with to deal with antisocial behaviour is used effectively! If you would like to speak to me with any concerns you may have please call Fiona Gardiner, Antisocial Behaviour Co-ordinator, on 01799 510546 or email [communitysafety@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@uttlesford.gov.uk).

## Youth Good News



## You are an absolute Starr

John Starr  
co-ordinated  
Crucial Crew 2008,  
on behalf of the  
Community Safety  
Action Team.

Crucial Crew is an annual event, which has been running since 1996, for all Year 6 (10 & 11yr old) pupils in Uttlesford. The Crucial Crew week is an intensive, interactive safety event for young people, creating an opportunity for pupils to learn and develop.

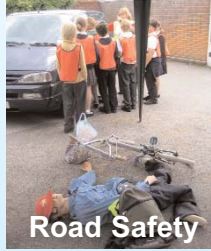
The Agencies that contributed to Crucial Crew comprised of statutory, voluntary and commercial bodies. Each gives important and essential information to the pupils. However, Year 9 students from Helena Romanes School have contributed marvellously to the success of the week. They volunteered to be fully trained so that they could act out scenarios in the bullying, criminal damage and smoking sets. This gave a more authentic feel to those sets. They also helped with many more activities to aid the smooth running of the event. At the end of the week they received certificates of attendance that would go towards their Record of Achievement. The Year 9 students have generally supported the staff in making the week successful and influential because the Year 6 pupils could identify with them.

## The awesome “Crucial Crew”

Between 18th and 24th June 2008, 975 pupils from 36 different schools in Uttlesford attended the 12th Crucial Crew at Clarence House in Thaxted, and learnt about issues such as:



Smoking



Road Safety



Fire Safety



Internet Safety



Shop Lifting



Peer Pressure



Bullying



Criminal Damage



Electricity



Alcohol

### Background

It has been proven that learning by doing, not learning by listening only, is the best method to teach young people to remember messages, especially actions that should be instinctive and reactive. It is only at the target age that young people show an ability to assess risk, and to take responsibility for their own safety. Therefore, regardless of the pupils' mental or academic abilities, they can show how adept they are at retaining information of this nature, and hopefully be able to call on this information in the future if needs be, without having to stop and think about what to do.

### Aim

The aim is to give young people the ability to understand risk, and to show them the actions they can take to reduce the risk, and help themselves and others in dangerous situations.

The objectives of Crucial Crew are to help young people:

- Cope with dangerous situations
- Accept responsibility for their own safety and that of their family and friends
- Make sensible decisions based on acquired knowledge
- Learn social responsibility and citizenship

### How does the project run?

The event this year will run for five days in June for every Year 6 student in Uttlesford. This gives the teachers and pupils basic information that they can refer to in everyday situations, or that they can build on in class.

The site chosen, Clarence House Thaxted, is one which can provide ample room to fit everybody in. It is compact, secure and friendly. Also, for ease of travelling for the schools, it is centrally located in the District.

There are morning and afternoon sessions both lasting for two hours, (09.45-11.45 and 12.45-14.45). These include a briefing, followed by ten 10-minute sets which present the pupil with a problem or danger which has to be dealt with, for example what to do if they discover a fire or to consider how road accidents happen and how they can be avoided. There are a range of situations, which pupils may encounter in their lives. We try, at the end of the session, to ensure the whole group is debriefed so that important points can be clarified and emphasised, and, we hope that the pupils have learnt a vital lesson for life. Finally 'goody bags' for the children are given at the end of the day. These 'goody bags' contain safety literature which is provided by the agencies involved, and also sponsors of the event.

### Budget

The funding for the event is part provided by the Community Safety Action Team, UDC, various company sponsorships, and agencies running the sets, providing publicity material, information/safety leaflets and various stationary for the goody bags.

### Evaluation

The content of Crucial Crew is evaluated by both teachers and pupils, by means of written evaluation questionnaires. Each school will receive a post-event questionnaire.

## Useful Contacts Police: 0300 333 4444

Station	Collar Number	Pc	Mobile
Dunmow Central	2261	Neville Hayden	07762 349341
Stansted North	70536	Jo Jeggo	07801 461666
Felsted and Stebbing	71043	Rachel Saunders	07912 356169
Hatfield Heath	1712	Bradley Healey	07779 316979
Saffron Walden Central	1758	Jack Russell	07779 037084
Clavering	1324	Sonia Grayland	07837 384455
Thaxted	71836	Dawn Bamford	07779 085615

Dear editor:



I thought I'd better introduce myself in this first issue of our newsletter. My name is Yasser Alromisse; I am the new Community Safety Officer in Uttlesford District Council. I was born in Egypt and graduated from Coventry University with upper second (BSc, Hons) in criminology and psychology. I then studied a postgraduate qualification in human resources and another postgraduate qualification in general management. I worked in the NHS, Swansea College and Wigan council, before I came here to work for Uttlesford council. I now live in Saffron Walden.

If you have any comments on our newsletter and/or on our performance in general please email us. Our contact details are provided below. Any information you will give us, though optional, will **only** be used to reply to your comments and **nothing** else.

### Community Safety Team Contact Details

Community Safety Team, London Road,  
Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 4ER  
Telephone: 01799510555 Fax: 01799 510550  
Email: [communitysafety@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@uttlesford.gov.uk)

## Brain Teaser

If you would like to answer the questions and complete the sudoku and send it back to us, we will announce the winner in the following issue.

### Questions

- Who was the figurehead General of the group of officers who started the coup against the Spanish republic in 1936?
- What is the word that describes a state of punishment and torment, the equivalent of hell in both Hinduism and Buddhism?
- In which country is the Aswan Dam?

### Sudoku

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8	9		2				7	
7								1
		1			3		8	2
4				6	7	3		
		7						
1		5		2				6

## On the Spot:

### The ECC Road Safety Officer for Uttlesford Rose Johnson

I have been working in road safety for over 10 years and have been involved in a number of projects to address road safety issues. Projects like Crucial Crew and Motor-Wise.



Through these projects I believe we can get the safety messages across to young people in an exciting, interactive and engaging way. Also, I am involved in other projects such as Pit-Stop/Bike Safe campaign, where we increase safety awareness among motorcyclists. Working with our partners Essex Police and Essex Fire & Rescue Service, I have been able to co-ordinate the summer drink-drive campaign which was held at the Welcome Break service station, Birchanger, by kind permission of the management.



The purpose of this campaign was to increase awareness of the seriousness of drink-driving and the devastation it could bring to people affected by it. I have been joined recently by Lorna Yeadon, the new Assistant Road Safety Officer, who I know will be a great asset to the district.

### Safety Message for Drivers:

With the winter months upon us, please do not drink and drive. Remember, one alcoholic drink could put you over the limit. A unit is half a pint of ordinary-strength bitter, lager, cider and 125ml glass of wine. It will take the alcohol an hour to be absorbed into the blood stream and start to disperse. Many drivers are therefore found to be over the legal limit the next morning. Telephone contact 01799 510564.

**Do not increase your premium. Lock your car and park it securely at all times.**