



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Rag and Bone

You may all recall or heard stories of the Rag and Bone man who would travel around on a horse and cart collecting old clothing and animal bones. You would also hear him calling out as he made his way around. As the years have passed by changes occurred with the collection of various items of house hold scrap. Often this would result with the Rag and Bone man paying a small amount of cash for items given to him which was well received by the families.

Times have changed since then with many people selling their own items at car boot sales or through internet auction sites, plus we are now all familiar with the modern van-driving dealers vans driving slowly around neighbourhoods, some off them ringing a bell as they go.

We know that the reputable collectors operate a valuable service for people to get rid of their items and get them recycled in the right way, but we have also received reports that other unlicensed collectors are scavenging metal items which people still want. There has been concern from members of the public that these persons are operating without the relevant certificates and in some cases there have been reports of them accessing people's back gardens and sheds and taking property without the owners consent.

While being mindful that the collectors provide an often invaluable service Essex Police are asking residents to reports any thefts or those noted to be to acting suspiciously within the area.

What should you do?

Call Essex Police on 101 or 999 if a theft is occurring at the time.

What information do Essex Police need to know?

The location of where vehicle seen

The date and time seen

Description of vehicle –Index number, colour, make and model and direction of travel

Description of person(s) seen.

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