

## Neighbourhood Watch Update April 2018

1. **Action Fraud (0300 123 2040)** – are reminding the public to protect emails against criminals. Email accounts are important as they contain a wealth of sensitive information such as personal and financial information, bank/card details, full address and DOB and this leaves one vulnerable to identity theft and fraud. There are two simple ways to secure your email account: 1. Use three random words to create a strong, separate password for your email account, 2. In the security settings of your email account, enable two-factors authentication.
2. **Farm Watch weekly Bulletin for March**
  - a. **Boundary fences and Hedges** should be checked at least once a day to ensure loose animals are not found on the highway. Week 1 - 7 loose animals were found; 4 pigs, 2 horses and 1 sheep, week 2 – 35 sheep loose with one being hit by a car and killed, week 3 – 2 horses loose, week 4 - 15 animals loose; 10 horses and 5 sheep.
  - b. **Perimeter and Outbuilding security.** Check perimeter fences and hedges regularly, keep gates locked and ensure they cannot be lifted off their hinges, use storage that reflects the value of your property, use outside lighting on a dusk/dawn circuit, install CCTV and crime prevention signage and ensure employees know that security measures are in place.
  - c. **Drivers of slow moving vehicles.** Appropriate lights must be displayed if used on highways before sunrise and after sunset. This is a serious offence and can lead to two years imprisonment and /or a fine, disqualification and compulsory re-test. Reflective lights should be kept clean. Flashing amber beacon use is emphasised especially on roads carrying fast traffic. Both the owner and the driver have responsibility for the condition of the vehicle and any towed trailer on the highway.
  - d. **Tackling metal theft** – Remain vigilant and report anything suspicious. Metal theft can occur at anytime, day and night. Secure items, restrict vehicle access, paint lead or copper on show at your property black so it does not stand out, watch out for people on roof without scaffolding, be a good neighbour.
  - e. **Operation Traverse calls** on anglers to be 'eyes and ears' to tackle rural wildlife crime. Contact your local Wildlife officers or report crimes to the police (see below).
  - f. **Crimes in Rother Area** –
    - i. Field in Catsfield entered several times and various items for horses and dogs were stolen (23/2/18)
    - ii. Ford transit horse box was stolen from Udimore (8/3/18)
    - iii. Cherry picker fire on a farm in Battle (14/3/18) and a barn on a farm in Whatlington, Battle was forcefully entered and a quadbike stolen (14/3/18).
    - iv. 2 men were caught stealing old batteries (20/3/18) and overnight an outbuilding on farmland was entered and a 3.5ton Ifor Williams plant trailer was stolen (21/3/18).
    - v. Uninvited callers driving into premises and stealing scrap metal and old batteries in both East and West Sussex.
    - vi. Land Rover Defenders – increase in theft of both vehicles and their spare parts. These vehicles can be dismantled in a matter of a few hours, boxed up and then exported, so try to park them where they are boxed in or in a secure building that is well alarmed.
    - vii. Dog theft – with an increase in dog thefts, NW is working with the Dog's Trust to keep dogs safe. [www.dogstrust.org.uk/dogtheft](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk/dogtheft)

Sussex Police contact numbers: [101@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:101@sussex.pnn.police.uk) or Call 101. Or Crimestoppers - 0800 555 111 or [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

Residents are reminded to fit good window and door locks and ALWAYS leave a light on when you're out for the evening.

ERA Total security [www.eraeverywhere.com](http://www.eraeverywhere.com) sponsors and works together with Neighbourhood Watch towards a common goal of reducing crime and keeping communities safe.