



FEBRUARY 2026 Elmsett and Aldham Neighbourhood Watch

I start this piece by wishing all residents of Elmsett and Aldham a Happy and Safe New Year.

Make sure all your outbuildings are secure and ideally alarmed and do a general check of your garden security. It is believed that someone was checking for unlocked ones during the night of the 8/9 January in Mill Lane, Elmsett. Although nothing was stolen part of the evidence was a rear fence being damaged as if someone had attempted to or had climbed over it.

WHICH has the following advice to help you keep your data and finances safe. Before clicking on a link in an email or text,

Double-check the sender's details and the domain name (the bit in the address bar, for example, www.which.co.uk). Is it the website you thought you were going to, or is it a misspelling or something completely different?

Is the information being asked for relevant and do you normally give this information?

Were you expecting to receive the link? Did the link come from someone you rarely speak to, or is in any way out of character? Are you being asked to give information that you have previously been warned to never to hand over?

If you spot any of these three things in the message, it's most likely a scam or a phishing link. Don't click on any links or share any personal information.

If the message is from someone you know, call them directly. Or if it's from your bank or another business, always call on a trusted number to confirm. This can be found on the main webpage which you should search for separately - don't click on any suspect links.

Some latest scams:

Amazon QR code scams: Scammers are sending cards by post which claim to be from Amazon offering free items with a fraudulent QR code to obtain them. Do not scan them and beware of any QR code that is not from a reputable source. If in doubt – leave it alone.

McAfee scam emails are currently arriving in my spam box almost daily with every one using a different email address. Watch out for this tactic for other email scams.

Please note that Action Fraud report support service has new contact details: 0300 123 2046 www.reportfraud.police.uk.

Home security advice:

- Use a safe place for deliveries rather than them being left on the front doorstep
- Do not leave vehicles unlocked or anything on display inside them
- If you have a keyless car, use a Faraday box to prevent the key signal being picked up by thieves and your vehicle stolen
- If you use heating oil, disguise the tank as best you can and use good quality security
- When out, put your radio on a softly playing talk station – it can make it sound as if someone is at home
- Close curtains at night especially if you are going out
- When out, use timers or smart plugs for lights set to go on and off at different times
- Update passwords, disable old smart-home devices and check which apps still have access to your cameras or security devices if applicable
- create a 'thief-unfriendly' garden by planting prickly shrubs near fences and rear windows and consider movement activated security lighting

- If you are going away on holiday, only tell people who need to know and don't put anything on social media until you have returned. Ideally have a neighbour keep an eye on your property while you are away.

Keep safe and secure during these longer nights and lookout for your neighbour.

John Sones Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

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P.S. By not using my name in my email address it is easier to spot scams e.g. 'Dear js338 you have won a ...'.