



IMPORTANT INFORMATION for 22nd July 2010

CRIME NEWS

A carefully planned distraction burglary in Thornton Heath area this week with an elderly female targeted with several phone calls claiming to be from the Met Police Fraud Squad and the Natwest Bank saying that her bankcard had been used fraudently. The bogus police squad arranged for a plain-clothes sergeant to call and collect her bankcard as evidence and a black male approx 25/30 years old wearing a blue suit called as arranged and collected the card. The card was then used to withdraw cash from the victim's bank account.

If you receive any similar calls please contact your bank using a number printed on their letters or call at your local branch and ask for advice, do not release any information such as pin numbers or hand over your card. In the event of a genuine problem the bank will cancel the card and ask you to destroy it, they do not need it to be returned to them.

A N/W co-ordinator in Norbury Sector has reported two attempts at break-ins in his road, both of which occurred in the early hours where the suspect's used garden tools to attempt to break into properties. Please be aware and keep tools, ladders etc locked up and not easily accessible.

EMAIL NEWS

Subscribers to Claranet broadband are being targeted again with a message claiming that you need to register with their new security system. The link provided leads to a Website in Australia, which asks for your login details so that they can use your account to send spam.

There is also a very cleverly worded email from 'Online Webmail administrator', which does not mention any Webmail provider by name so could apply to anyone with a Webmail account. The message asks you to click on a link and validate your email and increase your email quota. This link leads to a log in page, which again does not display any ISP name and asks for your login details, the site is in Holland.

Several supposed emails from BT Business, which ask you to update your profile or the new security server. Some messages come from a Website in Iran and other from Shanghai in China. Both lead to an exact copy page of the real BT login site, which includes a warning in red about bogus emails!

SCAMS: INFORMATION FROM THE OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING

Scams are schemes to con you out of your money. They usually come by post, phone or email. There are hundreds of scams – fake lotteries and prize draws, get-rich-quick schemes, bogus health cures, investment scams, pyramid selling. The list goes on.

Every year, three million people fall victim in the UK, often losing hundreds or even thousands of pounds. The scammers are clever, and all kinds of people from all walks of life get duped. There's a scam for everyone – no matter how alert or clued up you think you are.

Spotted a scam?

If in doubt, don't reply. Instead, bin it, delete it or hang up.

You can also report the scam to Consumer Direct at <http://www.consumerdirect.gov.uk/scams>

If you think you've been caught by a scam, call Consumer Direct for advice on **08454 04 05 06**.

Don't let the scammers con you. Follow these tips to avoid getting tricked out of your money:

Be sceptical

Beware of extravagant promises. Remember: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Don't be afraid to bin it, delete it or hang up.

Take your time

Scammers don't like to give you time to think. They will try to pressure you into making a decision by telling you that if you don't act now, you'll miss out. Resist any pressure to make a decision right away. Consider asking a friend or family member for advice, or even an accountant or solicitor if big sums of money are involved.

Know who you're dealing with

Be suspicious if you're contacted out of the blue by someone you've never heard of. This is often a clear warning sign that it's a scam. And don't be fooled by official looking websites and marketing materials. Scammers are very good at making their scams look authentic.

Protect your financial information

Never give your bank account details and passwords to someone you don't know. Trustworthy firms will never contact you to ask for this information.

Report suspected scams

If you suspect a scam, report it online at www.consumerdirect.gov.uk/scams it'll provide vital information to the Office of Fair Trading and local authority trading standards services so they can take action to stop scams that are causing widespread harm.

Ask for help

If you think you've been caught by a scam, don't let embarrassment or fear stop you asking for help. Millions of people are taken in every year. Call Consumer Direct for advice on **08454 04 05 06**.

USEFUL CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Age concern 0208 680 5450
Citizen's Advice Bureau New Addington
01689 846 890,
Citizen's Advice Bureau Thornton Heath
0208 684 2236
Money Advice 0208 683 5210
Trading Standards 020 8407 1311
Consumer Direct 08454 04 05 06

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH OFFICE Telephone: 020 8649 0168

The Office will be manned every Tuesday and Friday from 8 am to 12 noon. The answer phone will be available for messages outside these times. **Please do not report any crimes on this number, as the office is not continuously manned. In an emergency always call 999.** For non-urgent crime reports please call 0300 123 1212.

Sarah has had her operation successfully and will be out of the office at least until the 11 August.