



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION for 14<sup>th</sup> August 2008

### EMAIL NEWS

Even more lottery wins this week! An email from 'Malaysia National Lottery' claiming that you have won \$2.5 million dollars in the Malaysia Sweepstake with a contact email address on Hotmail!! Another 'British National Lottery' message from Mr. Mike Brown informing you that you have won one million US pounds (?), the contact address is at live.com. If there was such an organization they would no doubt have their own website and not use other sites.

Bank phishing emails have faded out and have been replaced with offers from Bank officials who have large sums of cash to send to you. Mr. Ming Yang from Hang Seng Bank in Hong Kong is still trying to employ you as a partner, in secret, probably to handle laundered cash. Mr. Haruya Uehara who claims to be Deputy Chairman of Tokyo Mitsubishi Bank who again wants you to handle cash in secret through his hotmail.com account. 'Barrister Mohammed Bin' in Malaysia has a deceased client who left \$55 million to be donated to someone outside Malaysia. A random draw has picked your email address and you need to give him your personal details so that the money can be forwarded. The email address is a yahoo.com account and is no doubt an attempt to obtain your details and if possible a transfer fee from you.

### GOOGLE STREET MAPS

The people behind Google Maps have been busy photographing neighbourhoods up and down Britain.

The images, taken from cameras mounted on cars, are to be used to give a more detailed 360 degree view of streets and town centres for anyone using Google Maps.

It's called Street View and is already proving popular in the United States. But even before it has gone live in Britain some sections of the media are questioning whether it is giving would-be villains a little too much information at the click of a computer mouse.

National Neighbourhood Watch asked a panel of Neighbourhood Watch experts to check out Street View and give their opinions.

There were some strong views expressed – both in favour and against.

Jeremy Shaw from Upton Grange Neighbourhood Watch in Northampton: "I recently visited New York and utilised the map on Google to familiarise myself with the area. I think it's brilliant, the good that this will do, surely outweighs the negatives."

And Peter Saxby from Bridwatch in Bridlington: "I object strongly. I have long been concerned about this invasion into our privacy and feel that this 'system' is a terrorist and burglar's gift.

"Everywhere from Buckingham Palace to our Reach Out Centre will be easy pickings. This is a ready-made tool for the council and government to spy on our personal property and belongings - I suppose they will be able to count the carp in my garden pond - or whose car is parked in my drive."

Dave Rydings from Meadoway Neighbourhood Watch in Lancashire: "My initial reaction is that the shots are stills and I see this as a useful tool for visitors to a city in finding their way around. It could be said that it's CCTV in reverse!"

Pam from Park View Neighbourhood Watch in Denbighshire: "Whoever thought of it should be shot! This is going to make it so easy for thieves to check houses out for those with old windows (which are easier to break into), houses without burglar alarms etc. For those houses with cars in the drives it will make it easier for car thieves who only target certain types of cars.

"There also the issues of the expensive statues and garden seats people have in their front gardens. A lot easier for thieves to look on Google maps instead of driving around in vans and be spotted. We've had items such as large stone statues and garden benches stolen from gardens on our estate so we know it happens.

"This is a bad idea and I think the government should stop it before it goes any further - why make it easier for thieves?"

"If this goes ahead it's going to make our job as Neighbourhood Watch much harder. After all, we're supposed to help reduce the fear of crime. How can we, if people are doing something this silly? Are Google going to pay for extra police for the areas photographed to put off potential thieves who will be using the maps so kindly supplied by Google?"

Chris Harper from Park Farm Neighbourhood Watch in Peterborough: "Such an innovation in technology, while aimed at the general law abiding citizen, will at some point be used by those involved in crime.

## **MET POLICE REMINDER REGARDING WINDOWS**

Although the weather has not been very summer like recently the Police want to remind householders to beware of leaving windows open when a house is empty, especially on the ground floor or first floor where there is easy access to a burglar. The number of break-ins where open windows have been used as the point of entry is increasing with crimes in the SELHURST/WEST THORNTON/NORBURY and UPPER NORWOOD areas becoming the borough hotspots during the last four weeks.

Hot nights generally mean people leave windows open for better ventilation. Windows left open, means more opportunist thieves out and about looking for easy targets. Please advise all your neighbours not to leave rear/side doors ajar or unlocked in unattended rooms during the evening, even if you are moving about. It is the same for rear side windows. By all means have windows open in rooms you are occupying, but remain aware and alert.

When you go to bed, think very carefully about which windows you are considering leaving open. All ground floor windows must be closed and locked. Are they visible from the road? Are they easily accessible from the road? Could someone climb in quietly or un-noticed? If you leave the top of a window open, could they reach in and open a larger window? Are you drawing the attention of potential thieves to your property? If it is a first floor window, is it adjacent to a flat roof/garage/porch that someone could climb onto? Can you make it a less attractive target by hanging noisy items across any opening? The same applies across any side pathway to the back of your property. If you live in a ground floor flat or bungalow - please think carefully about leaving windows open. If you have to you can fit window limiters which are freely available from DIY stores and extremely easy to fit.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH OFFICE Telephone: 020 8649 0318**

The Office will be manned every Tuesday and Friday morning from 8 am to 2.30 pm. The answer phone will be available for messages outside these times.

## **POLICE CONTACT NUMBERS**

**To report non urgent crime telephone 020 8667 1212 (Criminal damage or burglaries discovered after the offence etc)**

**Crimes in progress and suspect still at the scene or in the local area dial 999**

Local nuisance crimes, ongoing problems in the area, please contact your local Safer Neighbourhood Team. Their phone numbers are shown at the bottom of the weekly crime list sent out on Fridays. SN teams are not able to respond to urgent calls which must be made via the 999 number. Crimes should not be reported on the Neighbourhood Watch answer phone as the office is not manned every day.