



IMPORTANT INFORMATION for 17th July 2008

EMAIL NEWS

VIRUS WARNING – This week a N/W member has received two emails claiming to be from UPS parcel service and that a parcel could not be delivered. There is an attachment called UPS_INVOICE_107.zip which contains an executable file which contains a virus. The following information is on the UPS website:

“We have become aware there is a fraudulent e-mail being sent that says it is coming from UPS and leads the reader to believe that a UPS shipment could not be delivered. The reader is advised to open an attachment reportedly containing a waybill for the shipment to be collected.

This e-mail attachment contains a virus. We recommend that you do not open the attachment, but delete the e-mail immediately.

UPS may send official notification messages on occasion, but they rarely include attachments. If you receive a notification message that includes an attachment and are in doubt about its authenticity, please contact https://www.ups.com/forms/e-mail/general_intl?loc=en_gb.

Please note that UPS takes its customer relationships very seriously, but cannot take responsibility for the unauthorized actions of third parties.

Thank you for your attention.”

A sudden surge in the Nigerian 419 scam emails this week with one from the Policy Harmonisation Committee (West African monitoring unit) who are anxious to settle your overdue transfer of cash. They ask you to forward your personal details to an MSN email address where you will then be asked to forward a release payment so that your cash can be sent to you.

There is also an email from Karim Nima who is writing from his hospital bed in England and wishes to give you his remaining large sum of cash, as he cannot trust his family in Dubai. He asks you to keep 20% of the fund and give the rest to charity. Again you will be asked to forward a fee to allow the transfer of the cash, after which you will never hear from him again.

Mrs S Anna who claims to be a Credit Accounting Officer at Lloyds TSB bank has 22.5 million pounds, which she wishes to transfer to you in strict confidence, as the bank does not know of this cash! Also a Dr Peter Anderson sends a short email from the Swift credit card department at Yahoo in Japan who needs your full personal details so that he can send you your inheritance funds.

There is a money transfer scam being offered by a Walter John who is having problems receiving payments from outside the USA and would like you to send him your personal details so that payments can be sent to your personal bank account for you to deduct 10% and then forward the balance to other named accounts. Most probably the credit payments will turn out to be bogus after you have sent the cash from your account!

BOGUS CALLERS

There are two reports from N/W members in the SHIRLEY area who have both received callers saying that there is an undelivered parcel for them, probably in an attempt to obtain their signature and some personal details. In both cases the victims have since found out that debit cards posted to them have gone missing and that their bank accounts have been used by an unknown suspect. The bank is investigating but it would appear that some form of ID has been presented by the suspect to obtain cash from bank branches. In one case the driver who called about the parcel is described as an Eastern European looking male about 5'10" tall and of thin build, with stubble on his face, when the parcel delivery was queried he left hurriedly and drove off in a white Transit van without any markings on the sides. If you are due for a credit or debit card replacement contact your bank immediately if it is late arriving and as always keep a check on your bank or card statements to

check on any unknown debits.

The team of two white males are still operating in the north of Croydon and claiming to have detained a burglar; they called on a confused victim and claimed that a male had just broken into the property through a window. When the victim's wife confronted them they claimed that the police were outside and left the property, the victim then discovered that items had been stolen.

This team of distraction burglars have been operating in Croydon for some time and it is important to impress on any elderly person, living alone, to be aware of this scam and on how important it is for the police to be informed immediately. Use your door chain and if the caller wants to come in and is not wearing police uniform or showing a Warrant Card with the Met Police metal badge visible on it just say 'NO' and lock the door then phone 999 immediately.

In KENLEY two males called on the victim claiming to be about to cut down trees in the garden. One male took the victim into the garden to look at the trees just then the victim saw a second male in the house and immediately the first male said "you'll be hearing from us soon" and they both walked off. A witness saw both men getting into a white car and then driving off towards Purley. The first male was described as about 35 years old with a strong Irish accent and wearing a black baseball cap and a black waterproof jacket. The second male was about 20 years old with cropped black hair and an English accent; he was wearing a blue/white shirt.

In BROAD GREEN the victims had a white male call saying he was from 'AC' and needed to enter their garden to cut back a neighbour's hedge. These are repeat victims who have been targeted before. While one victim was in the garden a second male entered the property and searched the rooms before taking cash. First male described as about 35 years old 6'00" tall with short dark brown hair. He had an Irish accent and was wearing a blue shirt. Second male was slightly older, also with an Irish accent.

In WEST THORNTON a white male rang the bell claiming that he was repairing next doors fence and needed access. The victim let him in and went into the garden. At this time a second male entered and went upstairs to search the bedrooms. When the victim came back into the house she saw the second suspect come down the stairs and the first suspect said thanks for letting us in and they left. Suspect one was in his early 40's and with short blond hair; he was of stocky build and wearing a blue T shirt. The second black male was in his late 30's and off slim build.

MET POLICE CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE FOR HOLIDAYS

Burglary victims often wonder why the burglar picked on their house. To find out you need to consider:

"How does a burglar's mind work?"

Burglary, on the whole, is an opportunist crime. A burglar will select his target because it offers him the best opportunity to carry out his crime undetected and with the fewest number of obstacles in his way. A building that presents itself as unoccupied and insecure is far more likely to be targeted than one, which is properly secured:

- side gates open
- accessible windows open
- ladders left out, allowing access to otherwise inaccessible windows
- garden tools available to force entry
- untrimmed hedges or high fences preventing natural surveillance

Each of these makes access to the building far simpler and is an indication to the prospective burglar that it's worth a second look.

Residents of multi occupancy dwellings or flats should be mindful not to grant entry to people via an entry phone system, if they do not know them, and to be cautious of people seeking to 'tailgate' them into buildings.

The question is, are the occupants in?

- milk bottles or parcels on the doorstep
- newspapers and mail in the letter box

- unlit houses after dark
- all windows shut in very hot weather

These are signs telling the burglar that he is unlikely to be disturbed in the course of his work. Naturally, circumstances may arise when such situations may be unavoidable. If we can take measures that tell the burglar that this building is too difficult or too risky a target, he will hopefully move on.

Are you leaving a thief the key to your house?

- never leave a spare key concealed anywhere near the front door - burglars know all the hiding places
- prevent letterbox burglaries by storing keys away from the front door
- do not label your house keys in case you lose them and they fall into the wrong hands.

Make it look as though your house is occupied

- install timers, which switch lights or radios on and off automatically.
- have a neighbour or friend pop round to clear your letterbox or doorstep.
- encourage a neighbour to park on your drive.
- if going out after dark, draw the curtains, leave some lights on and a radio playing.

When you are away for extended periods.

- cancel the delivery of milk and newspapers
- disconnect the telephone answering machine, or re-word your greeting message to give the impression that you are only temporarily unable to answer.
- enlist the help of a neighbour, friend or relative to keep a regular eye on your property and keep the front door clear of deliveries.
- if you are prepared to leave a key with a willing neighbour/relative, ask for curtains to be drawn and lights to be put on at night. If snow is on the ground a few footprints will make the house appear inhabited.
- check your insurance policy. Some insurance policies for contents don't cover you if you are away for more than 30 days.
- set your burglar alarm.
- Where possible put wheelie bins and re-cycle bins out of sight or locked away in sheds as these can be used to climb through windows etc.
- if you do not have an alarm, consider investing a few pounds in a dummy alarm box. It may well deter the opportunist thief.

Remember: Remove the Opportunity - Prevent the Burglary.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH OFFICE Telephone: 020 8649 0318

The Office will be manned every Tuesday and Friday morning from 8 am to 2.30 pm. Sarah is away on holiday from 10th July until 21st July inclusive. The answer phone will be available for messages outside these times.