



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION for 24th July 2008

### EMAIL NEWS

More bank scam emails with Abbey claiming that your online banking has expired and you must switch to their new security system by clicking on the link provided, this leads to a website in Texas USA and the page has now been closed down by Abbey. There is also another email from Abbey informing you that a Jane Phillips has transferred funds into your account and you can view the transaction by clicking on the link which also leads to a website in the USA.

Halifax Bank also claims that there is an important security update for ActiveX account security; the link also leads to a website in the USA.

Another email supposedly from Lloyds TSB headed 'Your internet banking has been blocked' which claims that unauthorized logins have occurred. A link is provided to confirm your IP address, this leads to another USA website owned by imsal.com which has also been blocked.

There is another scam email from UPS parcels regarding your tracking number; this contains a Virus called Trojan-Spy Win32.Zbot.dip. A N/W member has also reported a similar email supposedly from the Customs Service about a parcel from France which also has an attachment possibly with another trojan.

### BOGUS CALLERS

The team of two white males are still operating in the north of Croydon and claiming to have detained a burglar; they called on two victims and claimed that a male had just broken into the property through a window. They asked to see the victim's cash and the elderly victim showed them cash in his wallet, they then claimed they would take it to the police outside, when the victim objected they struggled with him and then ran off with the money.

**This team of distraction burglars have been operating in Croydon for some time and it is important to impress on any elderly person to be aware of this scam and on how important it is for the police to be informed immediately. The Police do not check your personal cash or need to see it, if they have made an arrest outside your property. DO NOT LET THEM IN, 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.**

### LOTTERY SCAMS

The Croydon area is being targeted with three letters sent to N/W members this week, one from International Lotto Commission, one from the International Lottery Board and the other from Intl Lotto Commission, both based in Madrid, Spain. The letters have the same message but with slightly different text, you have won but must keep your win secret due to a mix up in the numbers! If you reply you will be asked for a processing fee to allow your winnings to be sent to you, but you will never receive any money only further requests for additional clearance fees. All the letters have an identical attachment asking for your personal details and your banking information so that the fraudsters can take further cash from you and/or open bank accounts in your name.

### CROYDON COUNCIL CCTV PILOT SCHEME

The Council are beginning a one week trial of a Smart Car fitted with a CCTV camera will be used to monitor parking on pavements and other parking contraventions. The car is clearly marked with the Council's logo and operated by trained staff who will issue penalty charge notices when required. If the trial is successful the Council will make this permanent and feedback from other London Boroughs is that the smart cars actually improve people's view that parking enforcement is fair.

## **UK: FUEL THEFT BREAKDOWNS DOUBLE SINCE JANUARY, SAYS RAC**

Rising fuel prices create a worrying trend

RAC has released new figures which show that breakdowns caused by fuel being stolen from vehicles has doubled since the beginning of this year.

The RAC data reveals the extent to which the problem has swept over the UK in the past six months. Most regions have experienced significant fuel theft increases, with Londoners faring worst, reporting a startling 500% rise.

How the problem has escalated across the country since January:

1. Greater London - 500%
2. South West - 218%
3. West Midlands - 100%
4. North West - 100%
5. East Midlands - 85%
6. South East - 57%
7. Scotland - 27%
8. Wales - 25%

### **To help reduce fuel thefts, RAC has released the following top tips:**

1. Park in well lit and preferably off-road areas whenever possible - fuel thieves don't want to be seen
2. Ensure your fuel cap is locked and secure
3. Don't encourage fuel theft - if you are offered fuel you think could have been siphoned from another vehicle, call the police. Apart from it being illegal, the fuel could be contaminated, causing damage to your vehicle's fuel system - some companies place dyes and covert marking into fuels, so you could be tracked
4. Check fuel levels when you switch off your engine and check again before you use your car again - if the level is suspiciously lower than expected, look around the vehicle for signs of theft prior to turning the key
5. If you smell fuel when returning to your vehicle, or see a puddle of liquid, keep away from the car, and don't turn on the ignition. Call your breakdown organisation, and whatever you do, don't light a cigarette whilst you're waiting!

Locally every week there are reported thefts of diesel and petrol in both the Croydon Police area and the local Surrey Police area in Caterham etc.

### **BURGLARY AND KIFE CRIME HOTSPOTS**

The main burglary hotspot is in the Broad Green area, there is good news this week with the arrest of a white male who is a prolific burglar in the area. The violence against the person and street robberies hotspot is the town centre with 12 offences in the past two weeks with most suspects being between 17 and 25 years old with peak crimes occurring on Wednesdays and Fridays. Most victims are teenagers who may already know the suspects.

## **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.