



IMPORTANT INFORMATION for 27th September 2007

EMAIL NEWS

The Harvey Investment Company is still sending job offers to handle cheques through your personal account, this week the website has changed to one owned by a Fred Stone based in South Korea!

Royal Bank of Scotland targeted by a phishing email this week informing you that the Support Subdivision is performing a planned Internet Banking Service upgrade. The link for you to click on has now been closed down by the bank.

BOGUS CALLERS

In Heathfield Ward a victim returned home to find that his elderly mother, who suffers from Alzheimer's had been a victim of two white males who had asked her for change, she said no and they left. She was not aware that they had entered the property and taken cash and jewellery. Unfortunately the description is vague and all that could be obtained is that the men were both aged about 20 years.

In West THORNTON Ward an elderly victim had a white male knock on the door saying he was from the water board and there was a problem with the water next door so she let him into the kitchen. Then she noticed a second male in her front room and she screamed. Both the males ran out of the house and then a third male ran down the stairs and left. Nothing was taken and unfortunately no clear descriptions are available. All three males described as white and about thirty years old. The first male had an Irish accent.

SAFEGUARDING YOUR MOBILE PHONE

As many as 10,000 mobile phones are stolen every month. Two thirds of the victims are aged between 13 and 16. Many phones are also stolen from unattended cars. Here are some practical measures you can take to keep your mobile phone safe.

Remember to... register your mobile phone at www.immobilise.com

- keep your phone out of sight in your pocket or handbag when not in use
- use your phone's security lock code, if it has one
- record details of your electronic serial number (ESN) and consider separate insurance
- some phones have an IMEI number which is a unique identifier for the phone; you can obtain this number by typing *#06# (star hash 06 hash) into your mobile phone and it will display a 15 digit number
- property mark your phone with your postcode and door number to help police identify stolen ones
- report a lost or stolen phone to the police immediately
- inform your service provider if your phone is stolen or lost

Don't... attract attention to your phone when you are carrying or using it in the street

- park in isolated or dark areas
- leave your phone in an unattended car - if you must, lock it out of sight. It only takes seconds for a thief to smash a window and steal your phone.

By taking these simple precautions, you can protect your phone.

If you see anything suspicious, call the police - dial 999.

A NEW NIGERIAN 419 SCAM LETTER

A N/W Member has reported receiving a letter for a Lee L. Fang who claims to be the Principle Assurance Manger for the Chinatrust Commercial Bank in China. He has 10 million US dollars belonging to a deceased client which he now wishes to give away! This type of scam usually will result in you being asked to forward cash so that the money can be released to you. Once you have sent the cash you will never hear from them again.

NATIONAL IDENTITY FRAUD PREVENTION WEEK

This will be held from 8th to 15th October, 2007 and a new quick reference guide has been produced, copies can be obtained from your local Police Station.

Identity theft is the unlawful taking of another person's details without their permission. The information stolen can be used to obtain many financial services goods and other forms of identification i.e. Passports and Driving Licenses. The information stolen can range from a copy of birth certificate to copies of discarded bank or credit card statements and utility bills.

Once the criminals have copies of someone's identity they can embark on criminal activity in their name with the knowledge that any follow up investigations will not lead automatically to them. With your details they can obtain documents that are in essence real but containing false information thus making it difficult for organisations to know who they really are dealing with.

Protect yourself!

- Be careful with your personal information. If you receive a telephone call from a credit card company, bank or other retail company asking to confirm certain details about yourself decline them and ask to call them back preferably through a central switchboard.
- When destroying personal correspondence such as bank and credit card statements consider a shredder or even burning them on the garden refuse. If you cannot do either then tear the papers up into very small pieces and place in the refuse bin with other waste products.
- If you move address remember to inform all of the companies that send personal information to you in the post. Always consider re-directing your post with Royal Mail. If you fail to do this people moving in might have free access to your personal details and misappropriate them.

How do you know if are victim to this type of fraud?

- Are you missing your regular monthly statements?
- Have you noticed charges to your accounts that are not yours?
Remember to check all statements especially bank and credit card.
- Being contacted by a debt collection agency about outstanding payments for items or services that you have not ordered.

Take Action - Act Quickly

- Firstly do not ignore the problem it might not be you that has ordered some goods or opened an account but the debt falls to your name and address.
- Once blacklisted for credit it may take many years to fully recover the problem you might have difficulties in obtaining a mortgage or other bank credit.