

Neighbourhood Watch News

SCAM ALERT

A resident has reported (Thursday 29th November) receiving a telephone call claiming that HMRC are taking a law-suit against them.

It is a SCAM. Please speak to your neighbours, especially those who are elderly & vulnerable.

Do not share any information or make any payments.

Follow the following advice from HMRC

HMRC is aware of an automated phone call scam which will tell you HMRC is filing a lawsuit against you, and to press one to speak to a caseworker to make a payment.

We can confirm this is a scam and you should end the call immediately.

This scam has been widely reported and often targets elderly and vulnerable people.

Other scam calls may offer a tax refund and request you to provide your bank or credit card information. If you cannot verify the identity of the caller, we recommend that you do not speak to them.

If you've been a victim of the scam and suffered financial loss, report it to [Action Fraud](#).

The calls use a variety of phone numbers. To help our investigations you should report full details of the scam by email to: phishing@hmrc.qsi.gov.uk, including the:

- date of the call
- phone number used
- content of the call

Number plates stolen from car parked in Wood Lane

Thieves have targeted a car in Wood Lane, stealing the vehicle number plates. The plates were noticed having been stolen Thursday 29th November.

West Mercia Police have recently experienced a number of thefts of vehicle number plates. This type of theft is a common crime.

Criminals will often use stolen vehicle number plates (also known as VRM's - Vehicle Registration Mark plates) and then attach them to their own or even previously stolen vehicles in order to help them commit additional crimes and evade identification and capture by the police.

Please consider replacing your number plate screws with "clutch head" screws which will prevent criminals from unscrewing your number plates and stealing them. If your vehicle does not utilise screws in order to fasten the VRM plate to your vehicle you may be more likely to become the victim of this type of crime as these types of VRM's are often only

secured by double sided sticky tabs and can be removed relatively easily. In these instances please consider seeking suitable technical assistance from a professional in order to find an alternative method of securing your registration plates to your vehicle.

Mobile Phone Masts Targeted Again

Phone masts in Fairfield and near Dodford have been targeted again, cabinets below the mast are being broken in to and batteries stolen.

Break-ins are believed to take place sometime during the night time.

Remain vigilant, report any suspicious activity to the police, tel. 101. If a crime is in progress tel. 999.

Please speak to your neighbours about these incidents.

Do you have the correct locks fitted to your doors?

Euro-cylinder locks are present on the majority of UPVC doors and we are aware that some offenders have developed a method of overcoming them to then gain access into a home. Look to upgrade your euro-cylinder locks if they have not achieved a 3 star rating under the TS 007 testing process or the Sold Secure Diamond Standard (SS312).

Euro-cylinder locks can be changed by yourself, but you will need to measure them properly to ensure they are the right size for your door. They should not be fitted so they protrude from the door unit or handle.

If you are going to ask someone to upgrade your locks for you, consider using the Master Locksmiths Association or a reputable security company. Obtain three quotes for the fitting of new locks to the standards referenced above and pick the one that best suits your circumstances.

When replacing your locks you should consider fitting Anti-Snap locks. These types of locks are designed to have two parts. These parts are built to enable the door to lock even if a burglar manages to break the front part of the barrel off. With the way these types of locks are designed they prevent access to the inner part of the locking barrel and thereby preventing burglars from accessing the locking mechanism and unlocking your door.

Due to the way these locks are designed you can also continue using your lock because the locking mechanism section will continue to work until you change the whole lock.