

# Napton on the Hill :: Neighbourhood Watch

## Newsletter - Summer 2017

Our Summer Newsletter includes information about protecting yourself from scammers, as well as other useful crime related news.

### News update

**Property Marking** - Napton NHW owns a Property Marking Set which is available to anyone wishing to improve the security of their valuables and other items. The NHW pages of the Napton Parish Council website tell you how to obtain this kit, or you can contact your local NHW street coordinator.

**Extension of NHW scheme** - our Napton NHW scheme has been extended to include residents in the new houses built at Collins Close and Cyrils Corner.

**Communication from the Police** - the first phase of the new police communication system (CMS) has been installed. Napton NHW and Rural Watch have benefited from much improved communication of crimes in the area. Southam Police produce a monthly report containing details of local crimes and other useful crime advice.

**Local crimes** - apart from a spike of criminal activity in late 2016, Napton has remained relatively crime free in the last 12 months.

**Police Staffing** - Southam is staffed by PC Steve Monckton (replacing Jamie Cramp) and PCSO's Katrina Campion and Charlotte Pereira. All Police are getting new smartphones, tablets and from August body worn cameras. Smarter working!

### Tricks of the scammers

Most of their tricks make you believe something has gone wrong, but they can solve that problem and put you back in control. Here are some hallmarks of these 'confidence tricksters' :-

**Personal details** - info about you is everywhere, and the fraudster can easily get hold of your name, address and phone number. If they have illegally obtained more personal data about you, through spy ware on your phone, tablet, or computer, or other means, they could have even more info about you.

**Making you panic** - scammers tell you that your bank account or credit card is at risk. When people panic, they often take rash action.

**Trick phone numbers** - a realistic-sounding phone number makes you more likely to take the call, and believe it to be genuine.

**Holding the line** - this is a classic con, and possibly the most popular scam used by tricksters. If you hang up and call back the bank, they stay on the line so you end up talking to the scam team again.

**Fraud and cyber offences account for half of all crime** - official figures have revealed that online crime is now the most common crime in the country. It is estimated that over five and a half million fraud and cyber offences take place each year, accounting for around 50% of all UK crime. In the last Annual Crime Survey of England & Wales, the total number of offences reached 11.6 million, analysed as follows:-

• Fraud	3.6 million
• Computer/cyber offences	2.0 million
• Theft	3.5 million
• Violence against the person	1.3 million
• Criminal damage	1.2 million

Much of the online fraud is aimed at the elderly and vulnerable people, but such is the scale and extent of online fraud that anyone using a computer for banking, shopping and communication could be a target. Although traditional crimes such as burglary and car theft continue to fall, almost 10% of the adult population reported having been a victim of some form of cybercrime. Despite the scale of the problem, more

than 80% of all fraud offences are not reported to the Police; whilst the Survey suggested 3.6 million cases of fraud, the Police recorded 622,000 such cases.

### Enjoying the sunny weather

Think smart and protect your home - the Police are appealing to all residents to ensure that they keep their homes safe and secure. During warm weather it is more likely that doors and windows are left open, making homes an easier target for opportunist thieves. Unfortunately there are criminals out there who are just waiting for the opportunity to make off with your goods. Don't make it easy for them. Here are a few key tips to keep home and possessions safe:-

- Keep front, patio and back doors closed and locked when you are elsewhere in the house or in the garden.
- Ensure that all windows and external doors are not only closed but locked at night or when you are out of the house. Even a small window could provide a burglar with an opportunity to reach through and open a larger window to gain access.
- Remember to close downstairs windows when leaving a room.
- Find out about property marking schemes, such as Smartwater. If an item is marked it will be much harder for a thief to sell on. If stolen items are recovered, then they can be returned to their rightful owner.
- Keep an eye on your neighbour's property if they are away for a few days.
- Pass on details of any suspicious activity to the Police - telephone 101.



### Improving security

The Police have published some useful security measures:-

#### Vehicles

- Remember to lock your vehicle and remove ALL valuables
- Do not give criminals an easy ride

#### Home

- Close and lock doors and windows
- Close and lock gates and garages
- Do not have expensive items easily visible from windows
- Do not leave signs that you are not at home (milk/post on the doorstep)
- Leave some lights on

#### More ideas

- Fit British Standard locks (BS 3621)
- Fit a burglar alarm
- Put a light on a timer or a sensor
- Take photos of valuable or much loved items
- Security mark important items with a UV marker pen
- Ask unknown people at the door to show an identity card - if in doubt, don't let them in

**Enjoy the summer and remain vigilant**

**Don't forget to call the Police on 101 if you witness any suspicious activity**

*Compiled, produced and published by Napton Neighbourhood Watch*