

STAY SAFE STAPLEHURST



November 2020

Welcome to this latest edition of our newsletter – produced by The Staplehurst Community Group Team, and again kindly sponsored by Golding Vision. It's all about FRAUD this time.

DID YOU KNOW...

Over 3.2 million adults fall victim to a SCAM, losing £3.5 bn each year!

Only 5% of SCAM victims report the crime!

Half of those targeted by Scammers are over 55!

If over 55s are scammed they lose twice as much as younger victims!

Average amount lost is in excess of £1,000!

SHOULD YOU BELIEVE IT? Had a call from HMRC? Does it say that there is an “arrest warrant” in your name and that unless it is paid immediately, the Police will attend and arrest you?. Are you asked to purchase gift cards and supply the serial numbers in order to pay the fine? Then it's a SCAM! Report it!

SHOULD YOU BELIEVE IT? Been offered (by email) the chance to win a £1,000 gift card from Asda (or similar store)? Just take part in an online survey, and bingo! you are promised a gift card by return? Then it's a SCAM! Report it!

SHOULD YOU BELIEVE IT? Have you received an email, asking you to update your TV licence details? Might start with Hi !, have poor grammar, or punctuation, or sent from an unrecognisable email account. Then it's a SCAM! Report it!

SHOULD YOU BELIEVE IT? Had an email from DVLA recently? Was it from an email other than gov.uk email? Does it show other recipients? (this does not meet the data protection regulations) Is the grammar poor? Then it's a SCAM! Report it!

SHOULD YOU BELIEVE IT? Had a call from your internet provider? Are they saying it will be cut off due to having been used for illegal activity or low activity? Asked to press '1' (allowing the scammers to 'phish' for details and/or download malicious software)? Then it's a SCAM! Report it!

To report it, see contacts overleaf.

STOP!

Take a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information

CHALLENGE!

Could it be fake? It's Ok to reject it, refuse or ignore any requests for your financial or personal details

PROTECT!

Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud



**Are Pleased to Support
This Community Project**

Top tips from the National Cyber Security Centre for staying secure on line....

1. [Protect your email by using a strong and separate password](#) -Cyber criminals can use your email to access many of your personal accounts, leaving you vulnerable to identity theft.
2. [Install the latest software and app updates](#) - Software and app updates contain vital security updates to help protect your devices from cyber criminals.
3. [Turn on two-factor authentication on your email](#)- Two-factor authentication is recommended for email accounts to make sure your data is secure.
4. [Password managers: how they help you secure passwords](#) -Using a password manager can help you create and remember passwords.
5. [Secure smartphones and tablets with a screen lock](#) -Screen locks offer your devices an important extra layer of security.
6. [Always back up your most important data](#) - Safeguard your most important data, such as your photos and key documents, by backing them up to an external hard drive or a cloud-based storage system.

For more info. go to <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/top-tips-for-staying-secure-online>



You can learn much more, and help yourself, your family and friends by visiting the National Trading Standards scam teams website at www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk

Has someone ever knocked on your door, offering unsolicited services?

Remember the following useful advice from Kent Police....

- Ask for identification and call their company yourself (not on a number they provide) to check they are genuine
- Ask the visitor to return another time when someone can be with you
- Get three written quotes
- Ask family and friends for recommendations
- Agree payment arrangements and start and finish dates in writing beforehand and never pay in full until you're completely satisfied with the work.
- If you have doubts about who the person is or who will be carrying out the work. then say 'no'. Don't be pressured into quick cash deals for low prices 'while we are in the area'.
- Pressurised selling on your doorstep is a crime and can be prosecuted by Trading Standards and the police.

Remember don't be pressured if you want to say "no" then Say "NO!"

REPORTING FRAUD

Police – call 101

Your bank.

Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) is at report@phishing.gov.uk

Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or at www.actionfraud.police.uk

Trading standards 0808 223 1133 or visit kent.gov.uk/tradingstandards

.....and finally, **STAY SAFE,**

and Happy Christmas from the Staplehurst Community Events Group