

# Saxtead Neighbourhood Watch

9th November 2020



There are no reports of any local crime this month but here are a few items which may be of interest:

## **Neighbourhood Watch launches PROTECT YOUR Pa\$\$W0rD campaign with 3 quick and easy steps**

As we spend more time at home and on our online devices, over one third (34%) of people say that they're more concerned about cybercrime than physical crime and a startling 1 in 5 people are a victim of cybercrime!\* You could be more at risk than you might think.

If strengthening your passwords is something you keep putting off, or you feel overwhelmed by the sea of online security information, you're not alone.

As part of our Cyberhood Watch initiative, launched in 2019 in partnership with Avast, we have launched a **PROTECT YOUR Pa\$\$WORD** campaign that targets both the overwhelmed and complacent, providing everyone with 3 easy steps to be more secure online.

### **PROTECT YOUR Pa\$\$WORD in 3 easy steps**

1. Create a separate password for your email account
2. Use 3 random words
3. Turn on two-factor authentication (2FA)

To find out more about how to do each step visit our [Password Protection](#) page on our website .

But we won't stop there! Whilst taking those **3 easy steps** will go a long way to protecting yourself online, we want to protect not just you but **your whole community!** To do this, we are asking you to spread the word and help protect your family, friends, colleagues and neighbours by **sharing these 3 easy steps with 3 others.**

It can be the most upsetting feeling to have someone enter your property to steal or damage personal items. It can also be just as upsetting to have your outbuildings, garages, workshops, sheds and even storage containers (such as shipping containers) entered to steal your property which may be readily available in the building.

Sports clubs and pavilions have also been targeted in the past and more often than not the damage is caused to the venues to gain access but sometimes nothing is stolen, yet this, as you know, still costs the owner of the venue money to repair.

Businesses in secluded areas and industrial sites often get targeted by offenders because of their location and sometimes due to poor security. Burglary prevention can be quite simple - so what steps can you take to prevent your property being damaged or stolen?

You can make sure such locations are secure and approved locks are used where fitted. CCTV should also be checked to make sure it's in working order and alarms and sensor lights should be considered, while securing property inside the location should be considered. For example a floor safe, secure boxes and, if you have bigger items in buildings, consider ground and wall anchors to secure them.

If you see what you feel is suspicious behaviour, call us at the time so we can respond to the concern to find out what is happening and who is there.

See the First Principle page on our website for security information, including a self-assessment for your home and business for preventative measures.

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/advice/crime-prevention-z>

Help us keep our communities safe.

Police advice on a variety of subjects can be accessed via <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/advice>

To report something, or to otherwise contact Police, use the link <http://www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us>

To report something anonymously call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

Alternatively call 101 for non-urgent matters.

Always call 999 in emergencies, or if an immediate police response is required.

# How to shop online safely this Christmas and Black Friday



As if 2020 hasn't been an unusual enough year, many of us are now thinking about Christmas. With the pandemic still very much with us, it's anybody's guess what the festive season will bring ... not least when it comes to getting together, going away and how we celebrate.

## Two things are certain before and over Christmas

Most of us will be buying presents and other seasonal goods online, more than ever before. And it will still be a favourite time of year for scammers, who always regard Christmas and Black Friday shoppers as perfect targets for fraud.

We always have a lot on our minds at this time of year, but right now we have the added consideration of our own and loved ones' health and wellbeing, as well as possible work and money uncertainties. And a host of other distractions brought about by the current situation.

That's why it's especially important to safeguard yourself, your family and finances when you're online.

## We've come up with these expert, easy-to-follow safety tips to help protect you from falling victim to seasonal scams.

- When you're shopping online, **make sure websites are authentic** by carefully checking the address is spelled correctly. Ideally, type it in rather than clicking on a link in an email, text or post. It's easy for scammers to set up fake websites that are very similar to the real thing.
- When you're paying, **make sure the page is secure** by checking that addresses begin with 'https' ('s' is for secure) and there's a closed padlock in the address bar. An additional word of warning: this means that the page is secure, but the site could still be operated by fraudsters.
- Many advertisements for items such as gifts, holidays and events on **social media and online forums** are genuine, but be aware that others are fraudulent. Be extra vigilant about checking that such ads are authentic.
- However desperate you are to buy that late gift or an item that's in short supply, **don't pay for anything by transferring money** directly to people or companies you don't know. If it's a fraud, it's doubtful the bank will be able to recover or refund your money. If you can, pay by credit card. The same goes for holidays, travel and tickets.
- **Log out of the web page or app** when payment is completed. Simply closing it may not log you out automatically.
- **Fake or counterfeit goods** are of inferior quality, contravene copyright law and affect the livelihoods of workers who make the real thing. They can also be dangerous to users. Don't buy them intentionally – however cheap or 'authentic' they – and do all you can to make sure what you're buying is authentic.
- **Avoid 'free' or 'low-cost' trials** – whether for the latest handset or slimming pills – without thoroughly reading the small print and trusted reviews. You could be signing up for large monthly direct debits which are very hard to cancel.
- If a winter holiday or short break is on the cards, **check that what you're booking online is genuine** by doing thorough research. Look for independent reviews, and make sure travel agents / tour operators are genuine by checking for an ABTA/ATOL number. Pay by credit card for extra protection.
- Christmas is a favourite time for scammers to send **fraudulent emails, texts or DMs, or post fraudulent offers on social media**. At this time of year, with the increase in internet shopping, fake parcel firm delivery notifications are commonplace attachments or links, as are emails and other messages featuring 'special offers' and 'prizes'. **Don't click on links** in emails, texts or posts that you're not expecting, and don't open unexpected email attachments.

**#safechristmas**