

Saxtead Neighbourhood Watch

3rd April 2018



Three items which may be of interest:-



POLICE CONNECT
Keeping you informed, keeping your community safe

Police are urging businesses to be vigilant over the use of fake bank notes following several incidents in north, east and south Suffolk.

The warning comes after a number of counterfeit £20 notes were used in shops and businesses.

On Saturday 24 March, officers received reports of two fake £20 notes being exchanged at the Sue Ryder Charity Shop in High Street, Southwold, on Friday 23 March.

Officers received further reports of a boy trying to use suspected fake £20 notes in the St Elizabeth Hospice shop in Market Hill, Framlingham, on Saturday 24 March. The boy managed to use two in exchange for goods but was refused a third when there was no change in the till. The boy is then alleged as saying he would obtain change from his mother but never returned.

Reports of fake £20s being used in shops occurring in the Beccles and Bungay area were also received on Monday 26 March. These took place in the Brake charity shop in Bungay, located in the Market Place, a card shop also in the Market Place, the British Heart Foundation charity shop on The Walk in Beccles, and the Sue Ryder shop in Beccles. In these incidents the suspect is described as a male with an Irish accent, aged in his 30 or 40s and wearing a blue jumper.

On Tuesday 27 March, two further reports were received regarding three fake £20 notes being taken at Café Clare in Well Lane on Saturday and three further £20 notes were also exchanged on the same day at Honey Hill Café in Church Street. It is believed that three different people went into Honey Hill Cafe to exchange the notes but one of the suspects is described as male, aged between 12 and 13-years-old, with dark, curly hair, and with an Irish accent.

Police are keen to raise awareness among shopkeepers in particular about these incidents and would advise businesses to be vigilant and check cash as thoroughly as possible.

Anyone who is offered any counterfeit notes, or has any information about those involved in the circulation of counterfeit money, can contact Suffolk police on 101 or use the 'report something' link <http://www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/report-something>.

False claims of Telephone Preference Service



Fraudsters are cold-calling victims, falsely stating that they are calling from one of the well-known UK telecommunication service providers. They call victims claiming to provide a 'Telephone Preference Service' - an enhanced call-barring service, which includes barring international call centres.

The fraudsters ask victims to confirm/provide their bank account details, informing them that there is a one-off charge for the service. Victims instead see monthly debits deducted from their accounts, which they have not authorised. The fraudsters often target elderly victims.

In all instances, direct debits are set up without following proper procedure. The victim is not sent written confirmation of the direct debit instruction, which is supposed to be sent within three days.

On occasions when victims attempted to call back, the telephone number provided by the fraudster was either unable to be reached or the victim's direct debit cancellation request was refused.

During 2017, there were 493 Action Fraud Reports relating to this fraud.

Protect yourself:

- There is only one Telephone Preference Service (TPS). The TPS is the only official UK 'do-not-call' register for opting out of live telesales calls. It is **FREE** to sign-up to the register. **TPS never charge for registration.** You can register for this service at <http://www.tpsonline.org.uk>.
- You will receive postal confirmation of genuine direct debits. If you notice unauthorised payments leaving your account, you should contact your bank promptly.
- Always be wary of providing personal information, or confirming that personal information the caller already claims to hold is correct. Always be **certain** that you know who you talking to. If in doubt hang up immediately.

If you have been affected by this, or any other type of fraud, report it to Action Fraud by visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.



Working together to prevent dog theft

With a staggering 1,800 dogs reported stolen in 2016, Dogs Trust is urging owners to be vigilant through the launch of their new campaign Family Pawtraits.

For many of us our pet dogs are another member of the family and if they're stolen the impact can be devastating. Neighbourhood Watch has teamed up with the national charity Dogs Trust in their new campaign to help prevent beloved pets being stolen.

Lee Paris, campaigns officer at Dogs Trust, said "By following our three simple steps, you can reduce the risk of theft and offer the best possible chance of being reunited with your dog should they go missing."

Keep your dog;

- Safe: secure your property and garden.
- Spottable: keep them in sight and trained to return.
- Searchable: know what steps to take should they go missing.

You can download the Safe, Spottable and Searchable factsheet that you can share with friends and family.

Visit www.dogstrust.org.uk for more information about the Dog Trust.

Best wishes,
Graham Ward
Saxtead Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator