

Saxtead Neighbourhood Watch Update 20th April 2021



A few items of current interest:-

SCAM

Some Saxtead residents have received text messages claiming to be from Royal Mail.

"RoyalMail: Your parcel has a £1.09 shipping fee. Visit: website link which includes the word royal-mail to make payment and avoid it being returned to sender".

This is a SCAM, Royal Mail will never ask for money via text. If there is money owed on a parcel being delivered to you, you will receive a grey card hand delivered by your postman to advise you.

Hacking

Over 15,000 hacked email and social media accounts reported in one year.

If a hacker got into your email or social media account, what would they find? Health and banking information? Names and contact details for your friends and family? Private photos and messages? For most people, it's at least one of those.

Your email and social media accounts contain a wealth of personal information about you, which makes them a lucrative target for cyber criminals. **Between February 2020 and February 2021, Action Fraud received 15,214 reports about email and social media account hacking.** The majority of reports (88%) were made by individuals, with 12% of reports being made by businesses. Analysis of the crime reports revealed that Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat were the most affected social media accounts, with phishing messages being the most common tactic used by cyber criminals to lure unsuspecting victims.

The motivation behind the hacks are varied and can range from financial gain, to revenge or personal amusement. Some victims are extorted for money, whilst others have their accounts used to send malicious links to their contacts. One victim who had multiple email and social media accounts hacked paid over £2,000 to regain access to them. Another victim reported that her hacked Facebook account was used to trick her friends into sending money into a PayPal account they thought belonged to her.

Secure your email and social media accounts in just a few minutes. Here's what you need to do:

- 1: Use a strong and separate password for your email**, as well as other important accounts, such as your banking or social media accounts.
- 2: Enable two-factor authentication (2FA).** It will help to stop hackers from getting into your online accounts, even if they have your password.
- 3: If you can't access your account**, search the company's online support or help pages. You'll find information about how to recover your account.

For detailed instructions on how to reset your password or enable 2FA on your accounts, visit: <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/secureyouraccounts>

Car Crime

Car crime is a real problem in the UK. Alarming,ly, **one car is stolen every ten minutes**. With Covid-19 and the recent lockdowns, many people aren't driving or checking on their cars as much as they used to.

John Hayward-Cripps, CEO of Neighbourhood Watch Network, says

*"Most car crimes happen because cars are left unlocked. There is a misconception that some cars are auto-locking and lock themselves if left unattended after a period of time. This isn't always correct. Another misconception is that your car is too old and no one will bother stealing it. This is also incorrect – both new and old cars are at risk. Having a car stolen or broken into is more than simply a hassle, it can impact on people's livelihoods. The good news is that there are simple steps everyone can take to help reduce the risk to their car. With only a 46% recovery rate we're reminding everyone to leave your car **locked, lit and empty.**"*

Remember - Leave your car:

1. **Locked** A simple mistake that can prove calamitous: **44%** of cars are broken into via an unlocked door. [Leave your car locked video.](#)
2. **Lit 80%** of car crime occurs during the evening or at night. Parking near street lamps or in a busy area can deter thieves. [Leave your car lit video.](#)
3. **Empty (or with no items on show)** Owners often forget that personal belongings within the car are at as much risk of being stolen as the car itself. [Leave your car empty video.](#)

John Hayward-Cripps continues

*"Car thieves are opportunists. Leaving items on a car seat or forgetting to lock your car can act as an invitation for crime. We want to instil the habit of double-checking where and how you've parked with our three simple steps: **leave it locked, lit and empty.** As a local charity with a trusted voice in the community, we're asking everyone to proactively support their neighbours and friends by sharing our three steps with three others. By spreading the word, we're confident we can crack down on car crime which can be deeply distressing and debilitating for its victims."*

LEARN: Visit www.ourwatch.org.uk/protectyourcar for top tips and advice on keeping your vehicle safe.

Stay safe,
Graham Ward
Saxtead Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator