

CRIME ALERTS, CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE & CONTACT DETAILS

BURGLARY:

- Close and lock all doors and window, and activate your burglary alarm, even if you are only going out for a few minutes.
- Make sure UPVC doors are properly locked with a key.
- Make sure any side and/or back gate is locked.
- Lock your shed and garage.
- Make sure any valuable* are out of sight. Don't leave valuables on show through windows which can be viewed by people passing by or cold callers etc.
- Close your curtains at dusk.
- Leave some lights on if it will be dark before you get home.
- Don't leave car and/or house keys or ID documents near doors, windows or your letterbox.
- Don't leave ladders insecure in gardens which criminals can use to access upper stories.

Share the following link from the Metropolitan Police Website

<https://www.met.police.uk/search?q=burglary+advice+>

*Mark and protect your valuable items using SmartWater (*recommended by the Met Police and provided to victims of burglary*)

<https://shop.smartwater.com/household-products/>

MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME:

- Install a steering wheel lock to prevent your vehicle being stolen.
- Theft of catalytic converters is increasing across the borough. Report any suspicious behaviour e.g. bogus workers in high-vis jackets with a van nearby.
- Never leave valuable items, particularly anything that can be seen, on display in your vehicle. If possible take such items with you when leaving your vehicle unattended.

BICYCLE THEFT:

The Metropolitan Police web link below includes tips on how to protect your cycle at <https://www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/>

THEFT/PICKPOCKETS:

Opportunistic thieves use distraction techniques to divert your attention, e.g. bumping into you and then pretending to help, dropping something when you are at an ATM withdrawing money and then stealing your purse/wallet/cash; and also target customers in cafes, bars, shops, supermarkets etc. Be aware and never leave bags, wallets and/or phones unattended. Also, be vigilant when walking alone at night along quiet streets using your mobile phone.

FRAUD ALERT!

Christmas is fast approaching. Royal Mail and Trading Standards are making people aware of the following scam:

A card is posted through your door from PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on **Tel: 0906 661 1911 (a Premium rate number)**.

If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message, you will already have been billed **£315** for the phone call!

If you do receive a card with these details, please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 020 7239 6655.

**PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER MAY CHANGE!
NEVERTHELESS, PLEASE DO NOT CALL ANY NUMBER STATED ON A CARD FROM PDS!**

* * *

SHOPPERS are being warned about fraudulent messages being sent out by scammers pretending to be from parcel delivery companies and online purchasing sites.

Residents have been sent messages with links purporting to be from Royal Mail, Amazon and DHL but police are warning it is a scam to acquire the victim's bank details.

A police spokesman said: "Made to look like it is from or associated to the Royal Mail, after clicking the link it asks for bank details. Similar types of messages are

being sent pretending to be from other delivery companies like Amazon, DHL and UPS. It is very easy to fall for these types of scams, especially if you have been a recent customer of an online store.

“If you need to query the company then use Google to find the company’s actual website to check your account/tracking number with them.”

Action Fraud, the national cyber crime reporting centre, is also warning people that the latest Amazon fraud has seen victims lose over £400,000 in two months.

Criminals are targeting members of the public with automated calls stating that the recipient has been charged for an Amazon Prime subscription. They are connected to a scammer posing as an Amazon worker when they try to cancel the subscription. The victim is then instructed to press 1 to cancel the transaction. When they do this, they are connected to the real scammer who poses as an Amazon customer service representative.

The criminal tells the victim the Amazon Prime subscription was purchased fraudulently and that they need remote access to the victim’s computer in order to fix a security flaw that will prevent it from happening again. The victim is instructed to download an application called Team Viewer and asked to log onto their online banking account. The software download grants the fraudster remote access to the victim’s computer and allows them to see the victim’s personal and financial details.

Other variants of the crime involve victims being told they are due a refund for an unauthorised transaction on their Amazon account.

What can you do to protect yourself?

Action Fraud is reminding people to never install any software as a result of a cold call.

Pauline Smith, Head of Action Fraud, said: “Unsolicited requests to remote access your computer should always raise a red flag. It’s easy to feel embarrassed when faced with unexpected or complex conversations but it’s okay to stop the discussion if you do not feel in control of it.

If you’ve received an unexpected phone call, or other communication, stop and take a minute to think about whether an organisation would get in touch with you out of the blue in this way. Instead, contact them directly using a known email or phone number.”

If you have been a victim of fraud or cyber crime, report it to Action Fraud online <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> or by calling 0300 123 2040.

FOR MORE COMPREHENSIVE ADVICE ON PROTECTING YOUR HOME, MOTOR VEHICLE, CYCLE, AND OTHER VALUABLES GO
<https://www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/>

To report a crime that is happening or if you see anything suspicious CALL 999.

To report a crime that has already occurred go to <https://www.met.police.uk/ro/report/> **or CALL 101.**

MERTON AND WIMBLEDON VILLAGE WARD POLICE

Wimbledon Village Safer Neighbourhood Team: T. 020 8721 2458

E-mail: Village@met.police.uk

<https://www.met.police.uk/a/your-area/met/merton/village/>

<https://twitter.com/MPSVillageVW> (@MPSVillageVW)

Please retweet any Village Tweets. #3StepProtect

<https://nextdoor.co.uk/agency-detail/england/merton/merton-police/>

<https://twitter.com/MPSMerton>

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/MertonPolice/posts/>