

Local News

26/11/17 - Online Shopping - #BeCyberSmart

The internet is a fantastic resource for people searching for that special something whether it be for friends, family or a loved one in the run up to Christmas but it also presents opportunities for fraudsters to set up scams.

Every year there is a spike in financial loss as a result of cyber crime around the festive period due to an increase in people shopping online.

Between November 2014 and February 2015, there were 121 reports of online shopping and auction fraud in Warwickshire, resulting in a loss of £78,850, according to figures from National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB).

We do not want to put people off using the internet to buy their gifts - if used safely it's an excellent resource - but we do want people to take some simple but effective steps to help protect themselves against falling victim to online crime.

Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police launched the **#BeCyberSmart** campaign to raise awareness of internet-related crime and to give people the knowledge they need to protect themselves.

When shopping online we're urging people to carry out a few simple safety checks before parting with their hard-earned cash.

Please read and use the following advice to help keep yourself safe when shopping online.

1. Don't Transfer Money

Always pay for items you buy online by card on a secure payment page, by cheque or by cash, in person. However desperate you are to secure an item, never transfer money into the seller's account, as you may never see the goods or your money ever again.

2. Check that Payment Pages are Secure

Before you enter your card details on a payment page, make sure it is secure by checking that the address starts with 'https' (the 's' stands for 'secure') and there's a padlock or unbroken key symbol in the browser window.

3. Use a Credit Card

Still talking about payments, remember that you have more chance of getting your money back in the event of problems if you pay by credit card rather than debit card. Some sellers may charge a premium, but it could well be worth the extra for your peace of mind.

4. Use Auction Sites Safely

At Christmas time, many of us buy from online auction sites. Always use trusted and well-known payment methods instead of paying sellers directly. Read the site and seller's conditions. And for your personal safety if you're collecting in person, take someone with you or let people know where you're going.

5. Check Out Bargains With Care

If you find or are emailed about an item that seems just too much of a bargain, it could be a scam, fake goods or it doesn't match the description. Remember, if it seems too good to be true, it probably is.

6. Use Social Networks Safely

Social networks are a popular medium for scams - and are becoming increasingly so. If you see a post promising something free of charge, free entry to a Christmas competition with a fantastic prize or perhaps an offer that seems just

too good to be true, consider very carefully before following it up.

7. Use Email Safely

An email urging you to click on a link to reveal a special offer, to open an attachment containing some great news, or to "confirm details" or "reset your account", could well be a scam, even if it appears to come from a reputable source. If in doubt, delete the email and don't respond to or forward it.

8. Look After That New Smartphone or Tablet

If you're buying or get bought a new smartphone or tablet, protect it by downloading a reputable internet security app, and make sure it's safeguarded with a PIN. Install parental control software on kids' mobile devices, and chat to them about how to use the internet safely.

9. Remember To Log Out

When you've finished your online shopping or banking session, always log out of the website or app... it only takes a second. Sometimes, just closing the window doesn't mean you've logged out, and someone else could gain access to your account and personal details. Don't forget to check and save purchase confirmation emails.

10. Make Sure Wi-fi Is Secure

At home or other premises you know, make sure the Wi-Fi is secured. When you're out and about - in the café, the pub or a hotel for example - you can't guarantee it's secured even if you have to enter a code. When you're shopping, banking or making other online payments, it's better to connect with 3G or 4G, even if it's slower.

11. Beware of Scam Phone Calls

If someone posing as a retailer calls you to confirm an online purchase, it could well be a scam. The idea is that you won't remember the purchase, and call your bank. However, the fraudster stays on the line, and tricks you into revealing your financial details. If this happens, hang up, don't call back, but report it to Action Fraud.

12. Check Bank Statements

Check your bank and credit card accounts regularly for irregular or unauthorised transactions. If you spot any entries you don't recognise, contact your bank without delay. Make sure your bank has your up-to-date contact details so they can alert you if they spot anything unusual.

For more information about staying safe online and the scams to look out for go to [Getsafeonline](#) and [Cyber Streetwise](#)

If you think you've been a victim of fraud: Report it to Action Fraud, the UK's national fraud reporting centre by calling 0300 123 20 40 or by visiting [Action Fraud](#)

<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/40973/Online-Shopping---BeCyberSmart>

Community Messages

23/11/17 - Theft of kitchen sink and taps, Thornley Close, Radford Semele

On 22nd November 2017 between 11am and 3:30pm, two male offenders were seen on CCTV stealing a kitchen sink and taps from a driveway in Thornley Close, Radford Semele. The offenders were in a small blue/white flat bed truck with container sides.

Please report any similar activity on 101.

<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/40896/Theft-of-kitchen-sink-and-taps-Thornley-Close-Radford-Semele>

23/11/17 - Van broken into and another attempted, Thornley Close, Radford Semele

On 20th November 2017 at approximately 11 pm a van that was parked securely in Thornley Close, Radford Semele had been broken into and fortunately nothing was stolen. Another van that was parked opposite was also attempted.

A resident spotted two young males wearing grey tracksuits attempting to break in to a van in the Close. The young males were in a vehicle which had no headlights on.

If you have witnessed these incidents and wish to report it then please call 101 and quote the incident number 0280 21/11/17

<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/40894/Van-broken-into-and-another-attempted-Thornley-Close-Radford-Semele>

22/11/17 - Friends Against Scams - Trading Standards Initiative

A National Trading Standards Scams Team initiative, Friends Against Scams was launched in October 2016 to raise awareness of scams and encourage people to take a stand against scams.

Scams often target people in vulnerable situations - Friends Against Scams aims to protect and prevent these people from becoming victims of scams by empowering communities to 'Take a Stand Against Scams'. The initiative is designed to inspire action, highlight the scale of the problem, change the perceptions of why people fall for scams, and make scams a community, regional and national topic. In response to this challenge Nuneaton & Bedworth Neighbourhood Watch Association has recently signed up as a Friends Against Scams Organisation.

Each year scams cause between £5bn and £10bn worth of detriment to UK consumers. In addition to the financial impact, scams can have a severe emotional and psychological impact upon victims.

Friends Against Scams is open to anyone who wants to protect themselves, their neighbours or their loved ones against scams. Free awareness sessions - available online and in person- are being rolled out, which will provide people with the confidence and skills they need to identify and prevent scams. Those who participate in the sessions will become a Friend Against Scams and will be encouraged to put their knowledge to use in their local communities.

The Friends Against Scams initiative aims to:

Highlight the scale of the problem by encouraging communities and the nation to talk about scams;

Change the perceptions of why people respond to scams;

Prevent people from becoming or continuing to be a scam victim by providing better support; and

Recruit individuals and communities to join the fight against scams to make the UK a scam-free nation.

In addition to empowering members of the public the Friends Against Scams initiative also partners with a range of organisations who will help promote awareness of scams and take steps to help tackle scams. Founding partners of the campaign include NatWest, Bournemouth University and the Chartered Trading Standards Institute.

Please visit the Friends Against Scams website to find out more information and do the 20 minute online awareness session which will give you the tools to help protect yourselves, and others you care from, from being targeted by criminal scammers.

To learn more about Friends Against Scams [Click Here](#)

<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/40856/Friends-Against-Scams---Trading-Standards-Initiative>

22/11/17 - Farmers warned to beware of rogue tarmac gangs

21/11/2017 Farmers warned to beware of rogue tarmac gangs

Farmers are warned to beware of rogue tarmac gangs targeting their premises. The gangs either door knock or more recently (and in a new twist to an old scam) phone the farm and claim they have some left over tarmac they want to get rid of.

They imply that they would rather tip the tarmac on the farm driveway to cover a few potholes as a favour, rather than have

to dispose of it. If the farmer agrees, the rogue gang arrive quickly, spread the tarmac and then demand thousands of pounds with menaces!

Make a scam/rogue trader complaint to Trading Standards via [Citizens Advice Consumer Service](#) on 03454 040506. Warwickshire Trading Standards [Website](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)

Sign up to scam alerts at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/scams

Avoid rogue traders. Use Warwickshire Trading Standards [No Rogue Traders Here](#) approved trader scheme

Please feel free to pass on or re-publish this email alert

<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/40765/Farmers-warned-to-bewareof-rogue-tarmac-gangs>

21/11/17 - Warwickshire Police need your help with information about suspicious activity

Warwickshire Police currently have two countywide operations in progress. These operations are focussing on reducing the number of incidents of vehicle crime and house burglaries across Warwickshire.

In order to get the very best out of these operations, we need the help and support of local communities with information and intelligence.

If you think something in your area is suspicious, it probably is. You will know your area and its usual activity, comings/goings and if you think something is odd, out of place and suspicious, we need to hear from you.

Before every incident, there is usually some suspicious activity and we need calls to make us aware of this. Please could we encourage you to call 101 if you notice suspicious persons, vehicles or activity around their own or neighbouring homes.

If you believe that a crime is in progress, please dial 999.

Finally, to ensure that this message reaches as many people as possible, please could we ask you to share this message as widely as you can. Thank you.

<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/40745/Warwickshire-Police-need-your-help-with-information-about-suspicious-activity>

20/11/17 - Stoneleigh - Attempt Burglary - Incident 191 of 19-NOV-2017

At approximately 0315hrs Sunday 19-NOV-2017 the occupant of a residential property in Stoneleigh Close, Stoneleigh was awoken by their alarm sounding. Nothing appeared untoward from within the property. At approximately 1300hrs on 19-NOV-2017 the occupant noticed that unknown offender(s) had attempted to force entry into the property via the garage door.

If you have information relating to the above offence, please call Warwickshire Police on 101 and quote 23/7522/17. Alternatively call CRIMESTOPPERS on 0800 555 111.

Kind regards

Warwick Rural East Safer Neighbourhood Team

<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/40700/Stoneleigh---Attempt-Burglary---Incident-191-of-19-NOV-2017>

20/11/17 - Darker Nights 2017 - Crime Prevention Advice

Visit <https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/40691> to view 'Darker Nights 2017' crime prevention advice.

Kind regards

Kenilworth & Warwick Rural East Safer Neighbourhood Teams

<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/40699/Darker-Nights-2017---Crime-Prevention-Advice>

Contact Details

Safer Neighbourhoods Office: Kenilworth
Jubilee House
Smalley Place
Kenilworth
CV8 1QG
101 (In an emergency always call 999)

