



Jane's Watch

June 2017

Dear Residents

This month we are appealing for witnesses to a burglary in Up Street, Dummer that took place on Friday May 26th 2017 between 11:15am and 12:30pm. During these times someone broken into the house but thankfully was disturbed. PC Reid asks if anyone was in the village about these times and saw anything untoward, person / people acting suspiciously or a strange car parked up? If you can help in any way at all please call PC Reid directly, all calls will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

On June 7th 2017 about 10am a white transit van with the registration WV13 UWO was seen in Green Lane, Ellisfield. The men inside were looking to carry out tree and other similar gardening type work. The men were keen to cut down trees but thankfully were stopped by the homeowner.

It tends to be the policy of such people who undertake 'cold calling' to offer to do either garden work or roofing or driveways etc. They do a quick job then charge the earth for it whilst adding charges on as they go. PC Reid knows instances with other similar 'cold callers' who have taken people to the bank to withdraw money for the work undertaken.

PC Reid strongly **urges** all residents who may want such work carried out to call Hampshire Trading Standards (HTS) on 03454 04 05 06 or www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk they will be able to tell you if the person at your door is registered with them as an approved trade / business. They also produce a free booklet and will send copies out on request. The service is excellent and provides real peace of mind in that everyone in the booklet has been checked by HTS, as has their staff. PC Reid has some of the booklets if anyone would like a copy please let him know. Some people chose to use "Check a Trade", please be aware that they charge companies to join. The view is that they may not have the same in-depth systems that HTS do to check all over the UK their intelligence reports.

The men with the van seen in Green Lane said they were with 'Check a Trade' but this was not the case. **Please** if you want honest and reliable people please call HTS who can and will be happy to assist.

Please be aware fraudsters have been advertising vehicles and machinery for sale on various selling platforms online. The victims, after communicating via email with the fraudster, will receive a bogus email, which purports to be from an established escrow provider (a third party who will keep the payment until the buying and selling parties are both happy with the deal).

These emails are designed to persuade victims to pay upfront, via bank transfer, before visiting the seller to collect the goods. The emails also claim that the buyer (victim) has a cooling off period to reclaim the payment if they change their mind. This gives victims the false sense of security that their money is being looked after by this trustworthy third party, when in fact it is not and the money has gone straight to the fraudster.

Protect yourself:

- When making a large purchase such as a new car or machinery, always meet the seller face to face first and ask to see the goods before transferring any money.
- If you receive a suspicious email asking for payment, check for spelling, grammar, or any other errors, and check who sent the email. If in doubt, check feedback online by searching the associated phone numbers or email addresses of the seller.
- Contact the third party the fraudsters are purporting to be using to make the transaction. They should be able to confirm whether the email you have received is legitimate or not.
- False adverts often offer vehicles or machinery for sale well below market value to entice potential victims; always be cautious. If it looks too good to be true then it probably is.

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**.

Additionally there was a report by a small girl from the village of a strange man seen in Church Lane on Sunday June 4th 2017. PC Reid is pleased to report that after local enquiries all is well and there is no cause for alarm about strangers near children in the village.

Many thanks as always for your support, help and vigilance.

Jane Hannah

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