**RUCKINGE MARCH 2024.**

Neighbourhood Watch membership continues to grow in RUCKINGE, and it is about like working with a jigsaw puzzle. Every new member is a piece of the overall picture to help keep Ruckinge safe and secure. The more we are the stronger we are.

"SCAMS" feature highly in my work and as we know they are a 365x24x7 operation. We need to be vigilant and aware for 365 days, criminals need to be just lucky on 1 day.

My advice to the community is do nothing in a hurry or rush. To check, check and then check again and if any doubt still exists then **DO ABSOLUTLEY NOTHING!**




We must remember that 'scams' can come from 3, 30, 300 or 3000 miles away. They can come on any device and phone, by letter or even face to face on your doorstep. They can route phone calls in via a 01233 number to catch people out.

There have been reports in other rural areas of **ROGUE TRADERS /BOGUS CALLERS** calling looking to tout for and carry out unsolicited work. Nearby Aldington has several visits recently.
**NEVER EVER AGREE** to unsolicited work on your doorstep no matter how attractive the price. Patio cleaning, driveway maintenance, gutter cleaning, roof repairs, fence repairs are just some of the jobs that are touted for.

A £50 job is suddenly £500 and on a roof job suddenly £5000. These persons can become pushy, aggressive and on occasions violent.
If in doubt do not even open your front door. If anyone calls and fails to withdraw when asked, close the door, and call 999 immediately, even if they then leave.
Please remember, these criminals will look for the vulnerable in our communities especially those who live alone. The need to report these matters is essential as you may be strong but further down the road, they locate a helpless vulnerable person. Those people are so embarrassed they have been a victim that they fail to tell friends, relatives, or the police so we are completely unaware and therefore unable to issue alerts and warnings.

# Kent Fraud Alert System

TAKE FIVE TO STOP FRAUD™

**Rogue Traders**

We have seen an increase in reports of this type of criminality recently.

Opposite is our leaflet on how you can protect yourself against these types of scams.

If you think that you may have been a victim of this type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.



## Protect yourself and others against rogue traders

Most people who call at your home are genuine. But sometimes people may turn up unannounced and try to sell you services or items you do not want or need or carry out unnecessary repairs to your home at inflated prices.

If you're concerned about someone calling at your home, **don't open your door**.

**You can:**

- Ask for identification and call their company yourself (not on a number they provide) to check they are genuine
- Ask the visitor to return another time when someone can be with you
- Get three written quotes
- Ask family and friends for recommendations
- Agree payment arrangements and start and finish dates in writing beforehand, and never pay in full until you're completely satisfied with the work.

**Preventing fraud**

Together, let's stop scammers.

**Remember, ABC:**

never Assume
never Believe
always Confirm

Get the latest scam advice: **@KentPoliceECU**

**Pressurised selling on your doorstep is a crime and you can report it:**

- **kent.gov.uk/tradingstandards** or call 0808 223 1133
- For advice: **www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/**
- Follow **@kent_ECU** or email **kfas@ecis.police.uk**

Kent Police

**Contacting Kent Police**
Report a non-urgent crime online **www.kent.police.uk/report**
Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 **www.kent.police.uk/contact**
In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**
If deaf or speech impaired, text '**police**' and your message to **60066**
**www.kent.police.uk**

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# Beware of **suspicious callers**



Most people who call at your home are genuine.

But sometimes people may turn up unannounced and try to:

- Trick their way into your home to steal valuables or money
- Sell you services or items you do not want or need
- Carry out unnecessary repairs to your home at inflated prices.

If concerned about someone calling at your home, **don't open your door**.

You can also:

- Ask for identification and call their company yourself (not on a number they provide) to check they are genuine
- Never leave your door unattended
- Ask the visitor to return another time when someone can be with you.

Kent Police

**Contacting Kent Police**
Report a non-urgent crime online **www.kent.police.uk/report**
Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 **www.kent.police.uk/contact**
In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**
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**www.kent.police.uk**

Recently there has been intelligence that these rogue traders have had children/youths with them, and they request the child uses the toilet. It is when the occupier is distracted that items like purses, wallets, handbags, and phones are often snatched away**. DO NOT ENGAGE WITH THESE PEOPLE. DO NOT EVEN OPEN YOUR DOOR.**



I have supported the Ashford Police Task Force which has been deployed in recent weeks on the problem of theft of motorbikes and off-road bikes of the type that cause upset and distress in communities. Thankfully I have had no reports of incidents in Ruckinge.

Whilst my focus in this report has covered several important parts of my work as always, the need to stay secure, alert, and vigilant in the following areas cannot be overstated.

Vehicles both cars and vans carrying tools.
Sheds, garages, barns, stables, and any form of outside storage
Domestic Heating Oil Tank thefts.
Internet shopping parcels, thefts from doorsteps ( vans now followed)




**IF YOU ARE READING THIS AND YOU HAVE NOT JOINED NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH, THEN PLEASE CONTACT ME.**
It's all free you just read and stay safe if the need arises to warn you of any crimes in the area.
I enjoy fantastic support from your Parish Council and from each individual Councillor.
"Crime cannot flourish in Communities that care".

**Regards, stay safe, secure, alert and vigilant.**
**Peter**

**Peter New peternew1@aol.com and 07768437422.**

**91725 Peter New Kent Police Volunteer & Community neighbourhood Watch.**