RUCKINGE WEB PAGE NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2024

A constant concern and certainly one which raises its head regularly throughout the year is **ROGUE TRADERS and BOGUS CALLERS.**

NEVER EVER AGREE TO ANY UNSOLICITED WORK ON YOURDOORSTEP NO MATTER HOW CHEAP AND ATTRACTIVE THE PRICE

Typical jobs are ground works, tree pruning, driveways, gutter cleaning, roof cleaning and repairs plus any building works.

A £50 job suddenly becomes £500 and then £5000. On occasions there can be a level of aggression and violence. Cases of old age pensioners and the elderly being driven to cash points and even banks have occurred.

These evil criminals who act with no thought of the long term effect on victims have no conscience whatsoever.

If ever these persons come to your door, engage the chain and ask them to leave. If they become aggressive close the door and ring 999 immediately giving as much of a description as possible of the criminals and any details of the vehicles they are using.

Remember you may have stood strong, further down the road a vulnerable person becomes a victim **IT MUST BE REPORTED.**

The criminals will seek to locate the vulnerable and a resident with any form of disability. They will look for the aged and elderly especially those who live alone.

Sometimes residents are so embarrassed they have been a victim they do not tell family of friends and especially they do not tell the police, so communities are completely unaware.

If the criminals strike it lucky the only certain thing is they will be back, maybe even the following year which I have recently dealt with in a nearby village.

We have our crime prevention network and trust me they have their network too!!

I am posting some helpful guidance and please contact me to join Neighbourhood Watch in Ruckinge to help stay safe (it's completely free)

Email me on peternew1@aol.com)

Thank you for your support
Peter

Peter New
Kent Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch


NEIGHBOURHOOD
WATCH
KENT
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WATCH
KENT
POLICE
NO CANVASSERS OR CALLERS
We do not buy or sell to callers at the door.
We do not require services of any kind.
CALLERS ARE ONLY SEEN BY APPOINTMENT
WE WILL ALWAYS ASK FOR IDENTIFICATION!

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**
If deaf or speech impaired, text '**police**' and your message to **60066**
www.kent.police.uk

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**

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Rogue Traders

We have seen reports this week of Rogue Traders cold calling at people homes around the county, stating that they have noticed a problem with their roof or driveway etc and that they can fix the problem.

Remember the following advice, you must NEVER -

- agree for work on your house or garden by someone who knocks at your door uninvited.
- give money to or sign any forms for people who turn up on your doorstep.
- open the door to strangers or allow uninvited callers into your home.
- let somebody take you to the bank to get money for them.



Always,

- 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 are completely satisfied with the work.

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other 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.

For further information about Fraud, visit our website at Advice about fraud | Kent Police



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In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**
If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service **18000**.
Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.
www.kent.police.uk