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Crime prevention/news

Vehicle online shopping fraud

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.

Wedding services fraud

With the upcoming “Wedding Season”, and for those individuals who are considering making plans for next year and beyond, you should be aware of the potential risks of fraud involved.

According to ‘bridesmagazine.co.uk’, in 2017 the average wedding cost spend is approximately £30,111. This will be paid out to multiple vendors, including; photographers, caterers, reception venues and travel companies, to name a few. Many of these services will require booking at least several months in advance and you may be obliged to pay a deposit or even the full balance at the time.

Being aware of the potential risks and following the below prevention advice could minimise the likelihood of fraud:

Paying by Credit Card will provide you with protection under Section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act, for purchases above £100 and below £30,000. This means that even if a Company goes into liquidation before your big day, you could claim a refund through your Credit Card Company.

Social Media - Some Companies run their businesses entirely via social media sites, offering low cost services. Whilst many are genuine, some may not be insured or may even be fraudulent. There are a few things you can do to protect yourself;

- Ensure you obtain a physical address and contact details for the vendor and verify this information. Should you experience any problems, you will then be able to make a complaint to Trading Standards or consider pursuing via the Small Claims Court.
- Ensure you obtain a contract before paying money for services. Make certain you fully read and understand what you are signing and note the terms of cancellation.

Consider purchasing Wedding Insurance - Policies vary in cover and can be purchased up to two years in advance. They can protect you from events that would not be covered under the Consumer Credit Act.

Complete research on each vendor, ensuring you are dealing with a bona fide person or company. Explore the internet for reviews and ratings and ask the vendor to provide details of past clients you can speak to. You should do this even if using companies recommended by a trustworthy friend or source.

For services such as wedding photographers, beware of websites using fake images. Look for inconsistencies in style; Meet the photographer in person and ask to view sample albums. If you like an image from a wedding, ask to view the photographs taken of the whole event so you can see the overall quality.

Remember, if something appears too good to be true, it probably is!

Don't give thieves shed loads of opportunities!

Opportunist thieves identify sheds as easy pickings because they are unprotected and lack basic security measures.

The buildings often contain property that can be sold on or implements that can be used to force entry into the owner's home.

Many people fall short on basic security of their sheds.
Please make sure you:

- Keep your shed in good condition

- Fit a closed shackle padlock to the door
- Fittings should be bolted through the door and any screws concealed
- It is easy to unscrew the ironmongery, steal contents and in some cases replace the screws to make it look as if the shed has not been tampered with
- By using tamper proof screws or coach bolts, together with a good quality pad bar or hasp and staple and close shackled padlock, the shed owner will make it harder for the would-be thief.
- Bond any window glass in with mastic to prevent easy removal. Fit grilles or mesh to windows to slow down the thief.
- Ensure all equipment and tools are locked away when not in use
- Install a shed alarm
- Post-code or mark all property such as lawnmowers, bikes, and tools using ultraviolet pens, forensic marking such as Selecta DNA, Smartwater or engravers.
- Install security lighting as a deterrent, and plants such as thorny shrubs to act as a barrier at potential access points
- If building a shed, put it where it is most visible to you and neighbours
- Ensure ladders are locked to a secure fixture in the shed or garage so they can't be used to reach top floor windows
- Chain large items such as bicycles together, making it much more difficult for a thief to carry away
- Fit a wire cage inside the shed where more expensive items can be locked away.

No thief wants to hang about longer than they have to so delay the time it will take them to get their hands on your tools

Police advice issued following theft – Aylesbury Vale

Police have been investigating reports received, of two men attending addresses in Aylesbury Vale purporting to be delivering leaflets.

Police have been investigating reports received during the month of May and early June, of two men attending addresses in the villages and towns to the north of Aylesbury Vale purporting to be delivering leaflets.

Residents have raised concerns that mail and other items have been stolen from their letter boxes following these visits. Of particular focus has been properties with letter boxes located on external walls or gateways.

Witnesses describe two men, both black and in their 20s wearing fluorescent jackets, driving a white, Vauxhall Corsa derived van. Investigating Officer Det Con Lucie Roberts from Aylesbury police station said, "We're grateful to the residents of Aylesbury Vale who have contacted us with their concerns about these leaflet posters.

"I'd encourage anyone who may have seen them during the last few weeks, or has information about their activity, to please call us on 101.

"Personal details taken through mail box theft can be used for fraudulent activity. It is always advisory to check your accounts or credit sources to ensure all is in order."

Police have the following information for anyone concerned about unsolicited callers attending their property:

- make sure your back door is locked before answering the front door
- use a door chain when opening the door
- ask for identification and check it carefully before letting anyone in
- ask them to come back when someone else is at home with you
- direct people asking for help to a nearby shop or other public place, don't let them in
- keep all valuables and keys out of sight and out of reach of doors and windows
- don't leave spare keys in obvious places such as under doormats or plant pots
- consider joining or forming a Neighbourhood Watch scheme

In the case of letter box security:

- don't leave keys in mailbox locks
- allow letters to fall through the letter box and avoid collecting them in cages attached to the door.
- if you are away for a number of days, consider asking a neighbour to collect newspapers/letters from your mailbox during your absence

You can report information to police via the 101 non-emergency telephone number. If you witness a crime in action, always dial 999.

Five charged with drink driving - Aylesbury

Five people were charged with drink driving after a road safety operation in Aylesbury on Saturday night (17/6).

The operation, which took place in Walton Street, Aylesbury, between 7pm and 11.30pm and formed part of Thames Valley Police's Summer Drink Drive Campaign.

It was led by Roads Policing officers from the Hampshire and Thames Valley Joint Operations Unit and officers from the Special Constabulary. In total, 105 vehicles were stopped and their drivers breathalysed resulting in five arrests for drink driving.

These were four men aged 22, 23, 42 and 52 and one woman, aged 36. All five were later charged with drink driving and released on bail to appear in court next month.

In addition to the arrests, five vehicles were also seized for document offences, four drivers were reported to court for various traffic offences and 12 traffic offence notices were issued which resulted in a fine and potential penalty points, depending on the offence.

Roads Policing officer Sergeant Tom Smith, who coordinated Saturday's operation, said: "Drink driving poses a significant risk to public safety with around 1,300 people across the UK being killed or seriously injured each year in accidents involving motorists under the influence of alcohol.

"We will continue to conduct these operations both during and after the summer campaign and any driver caught faces an obligatory disqualification of at least a year."

Pet - Fraud alert

The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) and Action Fraud have recently noticed a rise in the reporting of pets, and in particular puppies and kittens, being advertised for sale via popular online auction websites. The fraudsters will place an advert of the pet for sale, often claiming that the pet is currently held somewhere less accessible or overseas. Upon agreement of a sale, the suspect will usually request an advance payment by money transfer or bank transfer. However, the pet does not materialise and the fraudster will subsequently ask for further advanced payments for courier charges, shipping fees and additional transportation costs. Even if further payments are made, the pet will still not materialise as it is likely to not exist.

Tips to staying safe when purchasing pets:

- Stay within auction guidelines.
- Be cautious if the seller initially requests payment via one method, but later claims that due to 'issues with their account' they will need to take the payment via an alternative method such as a bank transfer.
- Consider conducting research on other information provided by the seller, for example a mobile phone number or email address used by the seller could alert you to any negative information associated with the number/email address online.
- Request details of the courier company being used and consider researching it.

- Agree a suitable time to meet face-to-face to agree the purchase and to collect the pet. If the seller is reluctant to meet then it could be an indication that the pet does not exist.
- A genuine seller should be keen to ensure that the pet is going to a caring and loving new home. If the seller does not express any interest in you and the pet's new home, be wary.
- If you think the purchase price is too good to be true then it probably is, especially if the pet is advertised as a pure-breed.
- Do not be afraid to request copies of the pet's inoculation history, breed paperwork and certification prior to agreeing a sale. If the seller is reluctant or unable to provide this information it could be an indication that either the pet does not exist or the pet has been illegally bred e.g. it originates from a 'puppy farm'. A 'puppy farm' is a commercial dog breeding enterprise where the sole aim is to maximise profit for the least investment. Commercial dog breeders must be registered with their local authority and undergo regular inspections to ensure that the puppies are bred responsibly and are in turn fit and healthy. Illegally farmed puppies will often be kept in inadequate conditions and are more likely to suffer from ailments and illnesses associated with irresponsible breeding.
- When thinking of buying a pet, consider buying them in person from rescue centres or from reputable breeders.
- 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**.

Don't cook your Dog

Never leave a dog unattended in a vehicle, even on a mildly warm day. Dogs can die when left unattended in a vehicle, even when it is in the shade, a window is open and there is water available.

The British weather can switch very suddenly so even on cloudy days leaving a dog in a car or other vehicle can prove fatal.

Every year the Kennel Club hears reports of dogs being cooked alive after being left in vehicles in hot weather, a situation which can be so easily avoided.

For those travelling with their dogs, the Kennel Club has advice on their website.

www.thekennelclub.org.uk

Never

- Leave a dog unattended in a vehicle, even with the window open and water available. Take them out and leave them in a secure, cool place with access to shade and water or take them with you, there are plenty of places that are part of the Kennel Club's Be Dog Friendly Campaign and will allow dogs in.
- Let your dog take part in unnecessary exertion in hot weather, or stand in exposed sunlight for extended lengths of time.
- Pass by a dog if you see one suffering in a vehicle. Whether it be in the supermarket car park or at a show, make sure you let someone in authority know and if in doubt call the police on emergency number 999.

What to do if a dog overheats:

- Contact the vet immediately.
- Move the dog out of the heat.
- Offer the dog cool, rather than cold water for small drinks if the dog is still conscious.
- If possible fan the dog with cool air.
- Wrap in cool, damp towels or spray with cool, not cold water. Pay particular attention to the head.
- Cool the dog's tongue by dabbing with a cold, damp cloth.

Vehicle check operation carried out - Bucks

Officers from Thames Valley Police and Aylesbury Vale District Council conducted a vehicle check operation in Buckinghamshire.

The aim of the operation, which took place on 24 June in Aylesbury, Buckingham, Bletchley and Milton Keynes, was to conduct checks on private hire and hackney carriage vehicles and drivers.

The vehicles were checked for defects by the Roads Safety Officer and to establish correct driving licence and insurance. The Licensing Officers from AVDC checked the condition of the vehicles met the standards set by the Council and drivers held the correct licensing documentation.

Private hire vehicles licensed by Aylesbury Vale are required to display exterior signage which includes, rear licensing plate which must be fixed to the outside rear of the vehicle, front licensing plate in windscreen and side door stickers stating "ADVANCE BOOKINGS ONLY".

Private hire drivers and Hackney carriage drivers are required to wear their driver ID badge and for it to be visible to the passengers. They are not allowed to smoke in their vehicles at any time.

In total 17 Private Hire vehicles and 1 Hackney Carriage vehicle were stopped. A shoplifter was detained after getting back into a private hire vehicle having stolen £133 worth of meat during the check.

One vehicle could not open its boot, and received an immediate suspension notice.

Several vehicles had magnetic door signs which were removed by AVDC and disposed of. The door signs must be firmly stuck onto the body of the vehicle so that it can be easily seen to be a private hire vehicle all of the time.

AVDC dealt with 12 drivers for licensing offences, which included drivers not wearing ID badges, not displaying correct vehicle signage, having damage to the vehicles and failing to have a first aid kit and/or fire extinguisher.

They were given penalty points which are attributed to their private hire or hackney carriage driver licence and given 14 days in which to rectify any defects found or face further action. Licensed drivers can only have 12 points on their licence before they run the risk of losing their private hire or hackney carriage driver licence.

Police Constable Liz Johnson, the Road Safety Officer said, "This was another successful operation and removed unsafe vehicles from the road. I would urge all drivers to check their vehicles on a weekly basis and ensure that they comply with the licensing conditions."

Lindsey Vallis, AVDC's Group Manager for Regulatory Services said: "The results clearly show that joint operations of this nature with Thames Valley Police are invaluable in ensuring public safety. Licence holders must abide by the conditions of their licences or risk further action being taken. Operations will continue to take place to ensure that standards improve."

Remember to take your valuables out of your vehicle – Aylesbury Vale

Following recent thefts in Aylesbury Vale, please remember to take your property out of your vehicle, when it is parked up and unattended.

Thefts have been reported across Aylesbury, including Fairford Leys, Buckingham Park and Watermead. Rural thefts have included Stewkley, Winslow, Buckingham, Newton Longville and Aston Clinton.

Property taken included wallets, power and gardening tools, laptop bags, cash and number plates. A number of these vehicles had been left unlocked when parked.

- Please remember to remove all your property and valuables from your vehicle when you park it. Anything left in your vehicle could tempt an opportunist criminal to steal it. It only takes a moment to smash the window and take the items, often making no noise or alerting any attention.
- Make sure your vehicle is locked and alarmed (if you have one).
- If you have to store tools in your van overnight, consider using a secure lock box or van vault, which can be securely fixed in the vehicle.
- Consider using anti-tamper screws on your number plates, which help prevent them from being easily stolen.

- If you have any information about thefts from vehicles, or you suspect someone is selling stolen goods, please call the police on the 24 hour Police Enquiry Centre number 101.
- If you don't want to speak to the police or give your details you can contact the independent charity [Crimestoppers](#) anonymously on 0800 555 111, or report it online. No personal details will be taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

Opportunist burglars love hot weather too! - Aylesbury Vale

It's lovely and warm and we've all got our windows open to try and cool down our homes or workplaces.

Please just take a few extra moments, when you leave work for the weekend, or at home - when you go out or go to bed, to double check you've shut any accessible doors or windows.

It's really easy to miss one - maybe the kids have opened it and you weren't aware, or a colleague hasn't closed one of the windows near their desk?

Please remember - an open window equals an open invite to a burglar!

Do not feel the heat from opportunist burglars this summer

You can greatly reduce your risk of burglary by taking a few simple security measures to help make your property less attractive to thieves.

Most burglars are opportunists and target homes and businesses that offer the least risk of being caught.

Keep your home safe and secure:

- Keep front and back doors locked, even when you're at home
- Install a burglar alarm with a visible alarm box
- Keep all valuables and keys out of sight and out of reach of doors and windows
- Store high value items in a hidden safe
- Mark your belongings and register them for free with Immobilise
- Don't leave spare keys in obvious places such as under doormats or plant pots
- Keep items that could be used to break into your property such as ladders, tools and wheelie bins stored safely away
- Lock side gates to prevent easy access to the rear of the property
- Use pea shingle on driveways or under windows, as it crunches loudly when stepped on

- Trim overgrown hedges and plants to remove hiding places and improve surveillance
- Use a timer switch to make your house look occupied, even when it isn't
- Consider joining or forming a Neighbourhood Watch scheme

Burglars often gain access to their victim's homes through unsecured doors and windows. Making sure your doors are strong and secure, and that all windows are fitted with a lock is a simple way to prevent thieves gaining easy access to your home. You should ensure any lock fitted is certified by the British Standard Institute.

Going on holiday?

Whether you're going away for a day or a few weeks, you should take steps to make your home look occupied. A dark home in the evenings and uncollected mail is a sign to burglars that no one is home.

Before you go on holiday:

- Cancel milk and newspaper deliveries
- Set up automatic timer switches to turn your lights on when it gets dark
- Register for the Royal Mail's 'keepsake' service
- Move valuable items out of view of windows
- Cut front and back lawns and trim back plants
- Don't discuss holiday plans on social media
- Ask a trusted neighbour to watch over your home whilst you're away

For more information on how to protect your home and belongings visit [Thames Valley Police website](#)

Anti-social behaviour update

Please contact us with any issues or information on the non-emergency Police number 101. The only way that we are able to identify and deal with the people involved is if it is reported to us at the time so we can attend and speak to them at the time. If you see it, report it!

Please visit the Home Office website for crime statistics in your area at:

<http://www.police.uk> (opens new window)

The crime statistics on this site show only those crimes that have been reported to Thames Valley Police. The number of recorded crimes may change over time due to requirements under Home Office Counting Rules to make sure that each crime is recorded accurately.

Thames Valley Alerts

Thames Valley Alerts is the system for receiving crime and policing updates for your area. The state-of-the-art system allows anyone who signs up to choose what updates they receive and how they would like to receive it. A new option includes receiving information via text and more traditional landline and email messages will still be available. You can also filter the updates you receive by specifying the priority level of the messages you receive. To sign up to receive alerts visit

www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk

Contact us

You can visit the team at Waddesdon Police Station on the High Street.
The front counter is opened by Volunteers who are now under the supervision of the Neighbourhood Team, so we cannot guarantee that the opening times will always be consistent with the hours listed below.

Opening hours are;

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| Monday | 10.00 - 13.00 |
| Tuesday | ***CLOSED*** |
| Wednesday | 10.00 - 13.00 |
| Thursday | 09:00 – 12:00 |
| Friday | 10:00 – 13:00 |
| Saturday | ***CLOSED*** |
| Sunday | ***CLOSED*** |

If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non-emergency number **101** but if your call is an emergency then dial 999.

You can also contact us via email: WaddesdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk –
Or haddenhamandlongcrendonnhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters.

If you have information about crime or anti-social behaviour in your area but you do not want to speak to the police, please call the Crimestoppers charity on 0800 555111.

To view information on your neighbourhood team you can visit the force website at: www.thamesvalley.police.uk

You can also follow us on Twitter @TVP_Aylesbury, #P5823

