

Clifton Community Neighbourhood Watch News Letter May 2016

SPRING IS HERE and we are catching up with the gardening and general DIY outside.

REMEMBER to keep doors and windows locked while you are busy outdoors, and to keep sheds secure from unwanted visitors. **CHECK YOUR LOCKS AND HINGES** as these are weak spots for criminals. Also, be a good neighbour and if you hear a neighbour's dog barking (more than usual!) just have a quick check to see if there is a reason for it.

Unfortunately we live in a world of social media, emails and the "internet" in general - and we forget that others live in the same world. There is no private area on the internet - if you put something on the internet it can be seen all over the world, and people can easily take copies, so that even if you withdraw what you published, it is still likely to be out there. The ripples caused by a naive comment or picture can have lasting effects. Firstly your immediate friends may pass it to their friends, and so on - it might even go viral. Secondly, it can come back to haunt you in later life when applying for a job, or even if you are currently in a job. Only recently a Labour MP had to resign because of naive comments she made on her blog many years ago.

Putting anything on the web - including emails, face book entries, etc - ensures that your thoughts, etc. can be maintained for perpetuity, so be careful what you say or do!

SCAMS - there have always been unscrupulous people who try to relieve you of your money. Unfortunately phones and emails, etc. allow them to enter your "safe" home environment, where you are less likely to question things. These scammers are trying to take advantage of nice people, so you need to be careful about unexpected phone calls, emails, special offers, etc. Please remember a few checks:

1. **NEVER give out personal details to anyone that contacts you by phone or email.**
2. The people that contact you asking for this information are the people you don't want to have this information!
3. If you have any doubts, **DO NOT ring immediately on the same phone to check with your bank**, the scammer is probably keeping the line open in the hope that you will not realise that the scam is still going on. Use ANOTHER phone, or wait a few minutes, before you contact your bank/ provider
4. and finally - if it looks too good to be true, it probably is!
5. **Ring the police on 101 and also report anything you think is a SCAM or FRAUD to ACTION FRAUD on 0300 123 2040 or email – actionfraud.police.uk**

International Phone Calls - automatic phone "callers" ring random numbers to check when somebody is there to take a phone call. Unless you do have friends abroad, just let the phone ring out, or go to voice mail.

Computer Fraud - computers can be quite scary things, so when someone emails / rings you up to offer help it can be very easy to succumb. NO REPUTABLE COMPUTER COMPANY will ring you up in this way - IT IS AN ATTEMPTED FRAUD. Just put the phone down, or ignore the email.

STAY SAFE

Clifton Community NHW Building Safer Communities