

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH- NOVEMBER 09

Lottery Scam

1. Recently we have become aware of two cases in South Ribble where residents have handed over very large sums of money to fraudulent foreign lottery scams.

The residents had falsely believed that they have won a lottery cash prize but were told that they needed to pay money up front or provide their bank account details in order for the winnings to be released.

Needless to say no money has been paid out; ask yourself, how could I win a lottery prize if I haven't bought a ticket.

2. A similar scam has also been operating whereby e-mails are sent informing you that you have won 1 million Euros on the Irish Sweepstake.

3. Doorstep callers have been distributing cards that relate to free entry into a draw to win a new car. The draw does seem to be genuine (and takes place once a year) but consumers are asked to give their telephone number and then receive a call to say they have won a weekly draw and their prize is a free carpet cleaning demonstration, the "demonstration" is in fact used as an opportunity to "hard sell" expensive vacuum cleaner systems.

Thefts

1. Recently a £55,000 Audi was stolen from a driveway in Higher Penwortham, the offenders obtained the keys by entering the property via an unlocked gate and insecure UPVC door

2. There have been reported incidences of purses being stolen from handbags/shopping bags in local Supermarkets; on two

occasions the aggrieved was distracted by an offender on the car park stating that they had dropped a £10 note. One lady recently had £975 withdrawn from her bank account.

3. Ladies please beware if you are returning to your car at night, it has been reported that once the driver has started up the engine, they then notice when reversing that there is a ticket on the rear screen, having got out to remove the ticket, offenders laying in wait then drive off in the car and also with your handbag.

Please be vigilant at this time of year:-

Make sure your property is secure before leaving, and at night time before going to bed

Use outside security lights and light on timers indoors

Keep your wallets/purses and credit cards on your person at all times.

Rabbit Mystery

Does anyone have any information re the death of several baby rabbits that have been found in a neighbour's front garden and on the pavement on Rawstorne Road, there doesn't seem to be any evidence that they have been killed by other animals?

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