

Personal, Professional, Protective Policing

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS C DISTRICT



WINTER 2011

Welcome to the first edition of the Ards Neighbourhood Policing Team Newsletter.

We hope that you will find it useful to read about the efforts of your local Neighbourhood Policing Team and the partnerships that they have developed with residents, statutory and voluntary agencies and elected representatives to tackle crime; reduce anti-social behaviour and protect communities.

As you read through the information I would ask that if you do wish to talk to any of the officers in relation to any matter of concern, please don't hesitate to contact them. Telephone numbers and email addresses have been provided to make this contact and engagement easier.

The Ards Neighbourhood Policing Team is committed to delivering a professional, protective policing service

in partnership with residents and businesses. To keep you informed of their progress we will be publishing a newsletter on a quarterly basis.

Police
Non Emergency
0845 600 8000

The advertisement features a dark background. On the left, there is a logo for 'women's aid' with the text 'Blow the WHISTLE ...Report Abuse!'. In the center, a hand holds a white remote control in front of a television screen showing a soccer game. On the right, a woman with a bruise on her face looks down. At the bottom right, a red banner reads 'STOP DOMESTIC ABUSE' and '24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline 0800 917 1414'.

The advertisement features a cartoon character named Willie Nickit, a burglar wearing a red and black striped shirt, a cap, and a mask. He is holding a flashlight and a red bag labeled 'SWAG'. He is standing next to a red car with a license plate '4U2 TAKE' and several wrapped gifts in the back seat. The text reads 'WILLIE NICKIT? YES HE WILL' and 'KEEP PRESENTS OUT OF SIGHT SECURE YOUR VEHICLE'.

‘Seasons Greetings!’

Security Tips for Christmas Shopping

1. Make sure you put the goods you have purchased in the boot or your car out of sight or make several trips to the shops. Do not provide the opportunist criminal an invitation to break into your car.
2. Don't carry large sums of money that are easily visible and accessible to would be thieves. Keep your money, purse or wallet somewhere safe that only you can get to.
3. When you get your goods home keep them out of sight from anyone who wants to have a look in your windows. The criminal knows we keep goods at home to give out as presents so by putting in simple crime prevention steps you can make it more difficult. Thieves see an open window as an open invitation to gain access to your home and an open invitation to steal your valuables. Don't let them.

BOGUS CALLERS CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE

In recent months police in the Ards area have encountered several incidents of Bogus callers at private homes. These have taken 3 forms.

Callers says they are from Water Service and they need to turn on all the taps in the house as water pressure is building up. They put the home owner under pressure to open up quickly or house could be flooded.

Caller claims to be from NIE and need access to property to cut back hedges/trees that are interfering with power lines.

Caller claims to be a plain clothes Police officer making door to door enquires.

The following information will help you combat the Bogus caller.

Bogus Callers

While most callers to your home are genuine, some are not. Certain unscrupulous individuals, known as "bogus callers" or "distraction burglars", may try to trick their way inside your home in order to steal cash or valuables.

How to spot bogus officials

Water company officials don't need to access your home to test water pressure or repair a leak. If they do need to enter your house they will first write to you to arrange a suitable appointment.

Gas or electricity company officials expect you to check their identity before letting them in. They don't mind waiting while you do so.

If you have any doubt at all don't let the caller in. Telephone the company to confirm that the caller is genuine, but use a phone number from a utility bill or from The Phone Book or Yellow Pages. Never use a number give by the caller – it may be false. Use :Quick Check

QUICK CHECK

Bogus workmen

Bogus workmen can be very persistent in persuading you that urgent work needs to be carried out on your property. Never agree to have any work done by someone who turns up on your doorstep and says that your home needs urgent repairs. SAY NO.

If your home is in need of repair, use reputable workmen recommended by friends and family or firms that have previously worked for you satisfactorily.

Don't be pressurised into paying workmen before they do any work, and never accept their offer to drive you to the bank to withdraw money.

Other bogus callers

Be wary of people who knock on your door asking for a drink, looking for lost pets or asking to use your telephone. Be cautious of unfamiliar youngsters saying that their ball is in your garden. They may be attempting to gain access to your home or trying to distract you from your front door.



Most callers to your home will be genuine, however there are some who may not be. These callers are 'Bogus Callers' or 'Distraction Burglars' who may want to trick their way into your home to steal from you. If you are in any doubt simply check your caller out with **QUICK CHECK** on Freephone 0800 013 22 90.

Easy Steps with QUICK CHECK

- Before you answer the door, make sure your back door is locked.
- If you have a door chain remember to use it before you open the door.
- Ask the caller for their identification and check it carefully.
- Ask them to wait outside and close the door - genuine callers will not mind.
- Ring Freephone 0800 013 22 90, your call will be answered personally and promptly by a trained operator. They will check with the company on your behalf, that the person at your door is genuine. If they are not or they think there is something suspicious, they will contact the police immediately.
- Do not let anyone into your home until you are satisfied as to who they are.

QUICK CHECK is a FREE telephone service, which is available 24 hours a day all year round to residents throughout Northern Ireland.

Remember if in doubt check your caller out with **QUICK CHECK** on 0800 013 22 90.

In an emergency dial 999.

Please peel sticker and attach to your telephone



ntl:Telewest
business

FOLD
TeleCare



Making Northern Ireland Safer

GENERAL CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE



TOP TIPS FOR IT SECURITY

We are seeing increased efforts by cybercriminals to target businesses and individuals in order to gain financially. Emails which are sent across the Internet are not necessarily secure or private.

Only ever enter details into a site which starts URL or website addresses of HTTPS. The S at the end of the HTTP means **SECURE**.

Get Anti-Virus and Anti-Spyware Essentials and Malwarebytes or Spybot Search & Destroy.

Install a firewall. If you intend to have confidential data stored on your computer, it is strongly suggested that you make an investment in a commercial Firewall.

Back up your data. Solutions exist where you can plug your laptop into an external hard disk and it will identify all your personal files and copy them to hard disk.

Beware of email attachments. Do not open attachments that you are not expecting even if they appear to be from a known source.

Learn how to identify Hoax Emails and Urban Legends and not to forward chain letters which consume bandwidth on the internet or email inboxes.

Always use passwords and always lock your computer. Strong passwords consist of; Uppercase, lowercase, letters, symbols and numbers.

Effectively delete files. In most cases deleting a file sends it to a recycle bin and it also has to be removed from there. These files in most cases are easily recovered. Free "File Shredding" programmes exist which allow you to permanently delete files without any possibility of recovery.

Understand and Software Patch your computer with updates – some of these updates can be vital to ensure you are safe from would be hackers and crackers. Be cautious about the sites you obtain these patches from.



IDENTITY FRAUD

Protect your Identity

Some key warning signs in recognising identity fraud include:

You receive letters from solicitors or debt collectors for debts that aren't yours.

You receive bills for invoices for goods or services you haven't ordered.

You are refused a financial service (such as a credit card or a loan) despite having a good credit history.

You are billed for a mobile phone contract (or similar) set up in your name without your knowledge.



Lock all valuables and documents in a secure place.

Shred unwanted documents (e.g. old utility bills, credit card receipts etc.)

Inform all service providers promptly when moving address.

Set up a mail forwarding arrangement with the Post Office.

Never give your PIN number to anyone.

Check your credit report with a credit reference service.



Bank and Credit Card Statements

It is early detection or notification of fraud that will assist or prevent further fraud.

Regularly check your bank and credit card statements and bank transactions for evidence of fraudulent activity.

Report any suspicious or fraudulent activity to your bank immediately.

Don't throw out old statements and/or receipts with your household rubbish.

Dispose of them carefully, i.e. shred or burn.

CONTACT YOUR CRIME PREVENTION OFFICER

The Crime Prevention Officer for Ards is:

Ailish Teague



**02891 801502
07887803743**



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