*Dear Residents* **September 2016 – bulletin 9**

**Crime prevention**

**(a) At home** – Police are concentrating on: (i) Distraction Burglars - tricking entry and stealing while distracted; (ii) Rogue Traders - cold callers overcharging, selling faulty goods, not finishing/doing unnecessary work, damaging property to create work, intimidation for payment. They advise that doors/windows are secured (door chains/windows shut) before answering to unexpected callers. Check ID cards and contact details carefully (phone number may be his/her mate around the corner) and beware if asked outside to help or to come in for any reason. Perhaps ask them to call back when you can have a companion with you. Do not agree to work on the spot, do not be pressured and NEVER pay cash up front. NEVER go to the cashpoint with a trader. It’s your house, your money – “NO” is always an option. One legitimate caller may be from The Antony Nolan Charity operating throughout East Riding between 12th and 25th September. Additionally, funds are available from the Police and Crime Commissioner for home security for the vulnerable/at risk/elderly. I will provide details on request.

**(b) Rural** – local Police report they are invigorating Farmwatch by re-launching as Farmwatch, Poaching and Wildlife. They will work with landowners, farmers and other stakeholders by building up a network through visits, social media and information going out with firearms applications. They are planning action days to focus patrols in the local area and perhaps use drones for evidence gathering.

**Two more scams locally**

After the Barclays scam I reported last month, I didn’t expect another so soon but these evil and greedy people don’t let up. Last week, I got an email purporting to be from BT saying they couldn’t process my latest payment and to re-input my details via a link. “Not likely” was my immediate thought and, sure enough, BT confirmed it was a scam. Next day, another resident reported to me a different ruse with the same objective (obtaining bank details via a link) in the form of a bogus invoice from Apple. They both looked genuine at first sight.

**Warnings from the national Neighbourhood Watch network**

**(a) Rental fraud in student accommodation** - properties are advertised via genuine-looking websites and ask for up-front fees to secure quickly. These later prove to be bogus or owned by someone else.

**(b) Advance fee fraud** – online sellers are caught out by a buyer agreeing to pay the full price. They cannot collect but will send a courier. A fake confirmation email looks like it is from a payment platform. The seller is asked to pay the courier fee. The item is not collected and the courier fee is “gone”.

**(c) Non-existent drones** – online shopping sites selling drones at competitive prices can be fraudsters capitalising on current popularity by under-cutting retail prices then asking for payment by bank transfer instead of e.g. PayPal “to shorten the delivery process”. No surprise when the drone doesn’t arrive.

**(d) Don’t be a money mule** – students are being targeted by money launderers with the offer of making money quickly. Jobs are offered via: (i) social media; (ii) genuine-looking websites; (iii) mass emails; (iv) targeting individuals with CVs posted on employment websites. The job may be to accept money into their account before following instructions to forward it on for a small fee.

Anyone affected can go direct to Action Fraud (0300 123 2040; [*www.actionfraud.police.uk*](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)).

*Robert Mills*