



UTTLESFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

WEEKLY BULLETIN (NORTH)

26th June 2017

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!

CRIME REPORTS (SUPPLIED BY ESSEX POLICE)

Littlebury	42/86398/17	Criminal damage	16/06/2017 15:05	07/06/2017 00:00	Station Road	VANDALS HAVE CAUSED DAMAGED TO A GATE LOCK AND DRIVEN ONTO THE FIELD CAUSING DAMAGE TO CROPS IN THE PROCESS. TOTAL VALUE OF DAMAGE £200.00.
Saffron Walden Shire	42/85860/17	Theft from a motor vehicle	18/06/2017 18:12	15/06/2017 15:00	Jurisdiction of the Central Criminal Court	THIEVES HAVE ENTERED THE VICTIMS WHITE FORD TRANSIT VAN VRV AND REMOVED 4 CASES CONTAINING POWER TOOLS OF VARIOUS MAKES

Saffron Walden Audley	42/86831/17	Theft	20/06/2017 12:00	20/06/2017 11:45	Central Arcade	A THIEF HAS ENTERED THE SHOP AND APPROACHED THE TILL AREA ASKING TO CHANGE MONEY. THIS THAS CONFUSED STAFF AND HE HAVE OBTAINED £25 OF THE SHOP'S MONEY
Saffron Walden Audley	42/86675/17	Theft	20/06/2017 13:59	20/06/2017 12:15	Market Street	THIEVES HAVE ENTERED THE SHOP AND APPROACHED THE TILL AREA ASKING TO CHANGE A LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY. WHILE DOING THIS, THEY HAVE STARTED AN ARGUMENT WITH STAFF TO DISTRACT THEM WHILST THEY WERE ORGANISING THE CASH. THIS HAS RESULTED IN STAFF BECOMING CONFUSED AND SUSPECTS HAVE MANAGED TO LEAVE LOCATION WITH £175 OF THE STORE'S MONEY
Saffron Walden Audley	42/86829/17	Theft	20/06/2017 15:50	20/06/2017 11:30	King Street	A THIEF HAS ENTERED THE SHOP AND APPROACHED THE TILL AREA ASKING TO CHANGE MONEY. HE HAS CONFUSED STAFF AND HAVE OBTAINED £60 OF THE SHOP'S MONEY
Saffron Walden Castle	42/86603/17	Theft from a motor vehicle	20/06/2017 07:18	19/06/2017 22:30	Ashdon Road	THIEVES HAS BROKEN INTO THE VICTIMS WORK VAN A FORD TRANSIT. THEY HAVE WEDGED OPEN THE TOP OF THE DOOR FORCING THE DOOR LOCKS TO OPEN AND BENDING THE DEADLOCK APART. THEY HAVE THEN REMOVED ALL THE TOOLS AND THE COPPER PLUMBING FITTINGS

Saffron Walden Castle	42/86874/17	Theft of a Pedal Cycle	20/06/2017 20:02	20/06/2017 13:00	Dawson Close	A THIEF, WHO WAS DRIVING A WHITE LUTON VAN, HAS BEEN SEEN BY A NEIGHBOUR OF THE VICTIMS FATHER PULL UP OUTSIDE THE VICTIMS ADDRESS. THE NEIGHBOUR THOUGHT THAT THE PERSON WAS COLLECTING A BIKE AS THERE WERE LOTS OF BIKES INSIDE THE VEHICLE. TWO MEN WERE SEEN TAKING THE VICTIMS BIKE AND PUT IT IN THE REAR OF THE VAN
Saffron Walden Shire	42/86588/17	Criminal damage	19/06/2017 10:30	18/06/2017 01:00	Allard Way	A VANDAL HAS CAUSED £1500 WORTH OF DAMAGE TO THE VICTIMS BLACK MINI COOPER REG BY KEYING THE REAR DRIVER SIDE OF THE VEHICLE
Saffron Walden Shire	42/86919/17	Theft	20/06/2017 20:00	20/06/2017 00:00	Radwinter Road	THIEVES ENTERED THE FORECOURT DRIVING A BLACK VW GOLD BEFORE PARKING AT PUMP 5 WHERE THE FEMALE DRIVER DREW 42.3 LITRES DIESEL VALUED AT £49.03 BEFORE MAKING OFF WITHOUT PAYMENT
Thaxted	42/86606/17	Theft from a motor vehicle	20/06/2017 11:34	19/06/2017 19:00	Bull Ring	A THIEF HAS GAINED ENTRY TO THE VICTIMS FORD TRANSIT BY DRILLING A HOLE INTO THE LOCK. SUSPECT HAS THEN REMOVED ITEMS FROM THE VAN.
Wimbish and Debden	42/85379/17	Criminal damage	17/06/2017 16:01	14/06/2017 00:00	B184, THAXTED ROAD, UNNAMED ROAD	A VANDAL HAS CAUSED DAMAGE TO THE VICTIMS WOODEN GATE AND POST LEADING ON TO A PLOT OF LAND THE VICTIMS OWNS.