



Charlton Central Neighbourhood Watch (CCNW)

Supported by Charlton Central Residents'
Association (CCRA)

UPDATE 44 August 2020

Please share this 'Update' with a neighbour
and encourage them to join the Watch.

If you have something you'd like included in UPDATE contact
Brenda on 0208 853 3354 or at brendataggart49@gmail.com

SAY 'NO' TO DOORSTEP CRIME

From bogus callers to rogue traders, doorstep criminals are cunning, creative and often very convincing. Anyone can be fooled, as these people are professional con artists. However, the over 60s are often specifically targeted.

What types of doorstep criminals are there?

There are two main types:

Bogus Callers try to get into your home or obtain personal details by pretending to be someone they're not, including council staff, charity collectors, meter readers and police officers. In reality, they are criminals trying to steal money and valuables.

Rogue Traders usually cold-call, claiming to be workers offering to sell services, make repairs or carry out work on your house, garden or driveway. In reality they charge inflated prices for shoddy or unnecessary work.

Charlton Central is a 'no cold-calling zone' - people should not be knocking at your door unannounced in the first place. But if they do, we DO NOT recommend dealing with cold-callers for property maintenance, window cleaning, gutter cleaning or home repairs.

How can I protect myself from doorstep crime?

- Be on guard if someone turns up unexpectedly.
- Keep front and back doors locked.
- Use the door viewer or nearby window when answering the door.
- Fit a door chain or bar – use it and keep it on when talking to callers at the door.
- Don't feel embarrassed - genuine callers expect you to be careful.
- Only let callers in if they have an appointment and you have confirmed they are genuine.
- Always ask for identification badges of anyone you answer the door to, but don't rely on them. Identity cards can be faked – phone the company to verify their identity.
- Some companies offer a password system. Ask your utility providers if this can be used and if you have a password with a company make sure the caller uses it.
- Never let people try to persuade you to let them into your home even if they are asking for help – they may not be genuine. If someone is persistent, ask them to call at another time and arrange for a friend or family member to be with you.
- Never agree to pay for goods or give money to strangers who arrive at your door.
- Don't keep large amounts of money in your home.
- Remember, it's your home. There's no reason why anyone should ever enter your home against your wishes.
- If you're not sure, don't answer the door.

Please give this UPDATE, after you have read it, to your neighbour especially if they are elderly or vulnerable. If you've been a victim of doorstep crime, we strongly encourage you to report what's happened to the police or if you'd prefer to your local CCNW Co-ordinator. Together, let's defeat doorstep crime in Charlton.

CCNW CO-ORDINATORS – see <http://ccnwatch.org>

- **Calydon** – Dhesi on 07816 548581
- **Delafield** – Annie on 0208 305 1484 / Brenda on 07939 090676
- **Inverine** – Cathy on 0208 488 2188 / Jonathan on 07875 054597
- **Nadine/Gollogly** – Lydia on 07956 207155
- **Swallowfield** – Heather on 07836 559420
- **Elliscombe** - Michelle on 07957 275739