Austwick Parish Council

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Doorstep Crime Prevention Advice

A few tips to keep you safe in your home and to share with your neighbours:

- If you are not sure who is at your door, do not open it. Check the identity of the caller by calling the company they are purporting to be from. Use the telephone number listed in the local directory. **Do not use the number provided by the caller as this may be bogus.**
- If you need extra help and support, telephone a friend or neighbour nearby to come along and check out the caller before you open the door to them.
- Many utilities like gas, electricity and water provide password schemes or hotline numbers for customers to call, to check the identity of callers before opening the door. Speak to you utility provider.
- Do not keep large quantities of cash at home.
- Keep doors and windows secure at all times. If you have a door chain or bar, only put it on before you answer the door to check the identity of the caller.
- If someone asks for your help, needs to make a telephone call, has lost a ball in your garden, needs a drink, is collecting for a charity etc, refer them to a younger neighbour or call a friend or neighbour to come to help you.
- If you expect a bogus caller has visited you, even if you did not let them in, call the police immediately.

If traders call at your door and offer to work on your home or garden then remember:

- Do discuss any work that you feel needs doing on your property with a relative or friend who can help you to find a reputable trader.
- If you need any work doing consider using a trader who is registered as a reputable trader. Your local trading standards service will be able to advise you.
- Do not agree to any work or sign anything on the spot.
- Do not allow anyone to pressure you into agreeing to have work carried out. If you ask them to leave and they don't, call the police by dialling 999.
- Never go to the bank or cash point with a trader: legitimate traders would not do this.

This information has been compiled for your information from the National Community Safety Bulletin (February 2011).

David Dewhirst
Parish Clerk