

With the better weather not far away the Cold Callers, Rogue Traders and Bogus Callers will be looking for ways to obtain money. They operate in many ways using door knocking or leafleting to generate business. They will offer work at a 'bargain' price which will then escalate. The traders may try to frighten residents into having work carried out, for example, 'your chimney is dangerous', 'your roof tiles are loose' and 'that tree needs cutting back'

Bogus callers may try to gain entry to your property by saying they are from the Gas or Water Board but these organisations do not exist anymore.



The following tips should be helpful to prevent you being caught out:

- Never agree to household repairs or maintenance from traders who knock at your door.
- Don't be frightened to ask for identification and always check it carefully. If you're not sure ask them to come back another day.
- Think about installing a door chain and use it. Keep the door on the chain until you've seen identification.
- If you need your glasses to read identification, close the door before going to find them. Don't leave the door open and unattended.
- Remember to lock the back door before opening the front.
- Always obtain at least three quotations before agreeing to enter into a contract.
- If you have doubts don't agree to work, don't be pressured into letting someone into your home if you are suspicious.
- Never pay the full amount before the work is completed, you may be asked for a deposit but this should be a small percentage of the total cost.
- Don't keep large amounts of cash in your house.
- If you need household repairs or maintenance carried out use a reputable trader. Age Concern Thurrock may be able to help you find one.

By registering with the Telephone Preference register you can reduce the number of marketing phone calls you receive. To register you need to call 0845 070 0707 or register online on their website. Registration is free.

Age Concern Thurrock will be happy to register your number with TPS online if you call into the office.

If you wish to reduce the marketing letters you receive, then register with the Mail Preference Service either online or by calling 0845 703 4599. After registering it takes between 2-4 months to have the full effect. This is a free service and they will not contact you after you have registered.

If you would like Age Concern Thurrock to come to your club or group to give a talk about guarding yourself against scams etc. please call us on 01375 389872