

## "Neighbourhood Alert" steals a march on latest scams

Scams! A very up-to-date type of crime which has followed us into the modern age along with all of the improvements in our communication systems - the telephone, the Internet, email and texting. Because of their efficiency and ruthlessness, scams pose a major threat to our security and peace of mind. But anybody who is alarmed about scams can now turn to a new resource which offers a realistic chance of staying ahead of the criminals.

This resource is the "Neighbourhood Alert" scheme, whose website provides email alerts tailored to your local area. The alerts are very up-to-date, timely and issued frequently. The information originates from Action Fraud, the police and neighbourhood alert scheme administrators, and also contains tip-offs on other types of crime like burglary and anti-social behaviour.

To sign up for free email alerts, go to <https://neighbourhoodalert.co.uk> and follow the simple registration process. On the home page, click on JOIN at the upper left. Answering the few simple questions on the online form takes about two minutes.

Citizens Advice can also help you if you have had recent experience of a scam or think you might have been conned recently. Do seek advice early, dropping in to your nearest Citizens Advice (for Oxfordshire South and the Vale, visit [www.caox.org.uk](http://www.caox.org.uk) for addresses and opening hours) or call Adviceline on 03444 111444.

Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale is an independent charity that provides the national Citizens Advice service locally. We have 150 skilled volunteers supported by 10 staff, operating from five offices. We rely on local funding.