

Ashford Resident's Association

Saturday 25th April 2026

How to Avoid Becoming a Scam Victim

Bill Cunningham
Volunteer Scam Champion



#FriendsAgainstScams
www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk

Buckinghamshire & Surrey
trading standards

Some Facts

There's a scam plague

No nice ones

Fraud >40% of all crime

Sophisticated use of technology

Repeat victimisation

Scams for all ages

Chances of being scammed

TS Children's materials



#FriendsAgainstScams
www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk

Buckinghamshire & Surrey
trading standards

Scam Routes

Doorstep

Phones

Post

Online



#FriendsAgainstScams
www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk

Buckinghamshire & Surrey
trading standards

How to Avoid becoming a victim

Bad words to have in our ears...

CONFIRM

VERIFY

VALIDATE

Bad guys probing to find out more about us



#FriendsAgainstScams
www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk

Buckinghamshire & Surrey
trading standards

Scam signposts

Message to say act **now** and / or **keep secret**

Banking details requested

A **unique** opportunity / or very cheap deal

Calls from “trusties”

Asked to click a **link**, or **download**

Famous endorsements



#FriendsAgainstScams

www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk

Buckinghamshire & Surrey
trading standards

Current scams

Parcel with name on, but..

Holiday Booking (Booking.com)

WhatsApp family plea

Holiday Insurance ME

HMRC Fuel allowance overpayment

Energy Experts



#FriendsAgainstScams

www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk

Royal Mail: Your package has a £2.99 shipping fee, to pay this now visit <https://royalmail-shipping.net>. Actions will be taken if you do not pay this fee



Buckinghamshire & Surrey
trading standards

Next Scams

Something **unusual**

...from out of the **blue**

....from a **stranger**

.....with a call to take **instant** action

.....to benefit or threaten us that

Something our gut feel says ...hang on a minute!

Related likely to media confusion



#FriendsAgainstScams
www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk

Buckinghamshire & Surrey
trading standards

Protecting ourselves

Be super suspicious of all new approaches

Be VERY mean

Have clever passwords

Use gut feel

Ignore surveys

NEVER buy at door

Keep strangers off our PC

Delete rather than unsubscribe

Use 159



#FriendsAgainstScams
www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk

Buckinghamshire & Surrey
trading standards

Some Don'ts

Never reach retailer via social media/ mobile

Keep on buying site

Ignore Paypal friends and family option

Ignore DD failure / acct frozen

Beware my A-Z

Take care installing apps

Keep asking WHY to requests for Info



#FriendsAgainstScams
www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk

Buckinghamshire & Surrey
trading standards

Actions to take

Get free call blocker / door camera

Ensure computer secure

WE initiate bank calls

Visit Friends Against Scams website

Get FAS app

Sign up for TS Alert

Buy SLOWLY and resist pressure



#FriendsAgainstScams
www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk

Buckinghamshire & Surrey
trading standards

If Scammed Already

Tell our bank ASAP

Call 101

Also report

Forward texts to 7726

Forward emails to report@phishing.gov.uk

For reporting works!

#FriendsAgainstScams

www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk



Buckinghamshire & Surrey
trading standards