

The Oasis Centre - Cornwall

Registered Charity Number 1139355, founded to serve the communities in the parishes of St Columb Major, St Mawgan-in-Pydar, St Eval and St Ervan

Looking Out for Those Messages

Number 36 in a series of notes on important issues.

The laptop, the desk top, the tablet, the mobile – we use them all daily. They give us access to things we want to know. They tell us the date, the time, what is happening in the world around us and, most of all, they allow others to send us messages.

We welcome the communications we receive in this way. We open them eagerly. We respond to them and we see them as an integral part of our lives. There are however some that we must avoid like the plague.

The illustrations on the right (provided by Action Fraud) are illustrations of typical criminal attempts to persuade us to take action that can put us and our vital communications into fraudsters' hands.

The contact details for everyone recorded on our device can become available to criminals – not just the one who sent the message but all the others who buy that data on the dark web.

Falling for these scams can open us up to a wide range of criminal activity. The cost can be enormous. Imagine if your savings disappear from your bank account or you are locked out of everything on your device unless you pay a ransom (which will probably not unlock it) or every friend and relative receives compromising pictures of you (doctored by the criminals).

The first message is a simple one – Never, ever click automatically on a link in an unexpected text message or e-mail. The second message? Equally simple but sometimes difficult to remember – treat every text message and e-mail as unexpected. Think before you click!



Jeremy Simmonds – Chair, The Oasis Centre - Cornwall

