

Old School Friend Email Warning

Staffordshire Community Services are warning Internet users to be wary of an email currently in circulation purporting to originate from a 'long-lost female school friend'.

The email claims to be from a young blonde woman named 'Ann Berns' and reads, "Hi! I'm not sure if you remember me. I'm Ann Berns, I guess we went to high school together. Do you want to see what I look like now? Visit my home page then."

The email contains a link that leads to a webpage containing malicious code designed to break into online accounts and commit identity theft.

Using pictures of attractive females to trick unwitting users into opening emails and downloading malicious code is a common ploy by hackers.

Trading Standards Officers advise residents to always delete such emails immediately. If you receive an email from an unknown source, you should never click on any links or open any attachments.

If you are an Internet user you should ensure that your PCs is running up-to-date antivirus, antispyware and firewall software, all of which are available free of charge for personal use. Always turn off any 'auto-preview' modes in your email software.

If you would like further information about how to prevent spam emails, please e-mail: gemma.durie@staffordshire.gov.uk

All our alerts are available in a range of formats and languages, including large print. Please contact Cath Wohlers if this would be helpful to you, or to someone you know.

Telephone: 01785 277835

Email: cath.wohlers@staffordshire.gov.uk

Address: 14 Martin Street, Stafford, ST16 2LG