

[Reference: ***Cold Caller Alert***]

*****Be on your guard against cold callers*****

People are being urged to be vigilant after reports that a couple have been knocking on doors in Thanet claiming to be deaf and selling drawings.

Police received a number of reports of cold callers in the Birchington and Minster areas on Saturday 4 March. Although no crimes were reported it is believed to be a scam which has been reported around the country.

Inspector Lara Connor of the Thanet Community Safety Unit said: 'The man and woman had a sign saying they were deaf and that they wanted to sell people a hand-drawn picture.'

Similar incidents have been reported in Yorkshire, Lancashire, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. 'In some cases victims are asked to pay in the region of £10 to £15 for a picture and only later do they realise it's a photocopy,' she said.

'The cold callers prey on people's compassion and mainly target older or vulnerable people.'

Inspector Connor urged people to be on their guard against cold callers and to keep an eye out for elderly or vulnerable relatives and neighbours.

'Although no crimes were reported in this instance, we would always urge people to be vigilant and to always check the identity of anyone knocking at their door,' she said.

'Ensure you keep your front and back doors locked - even while you are at home - always use a door chain and don't let any strangers into your house. If you feel threatened by a caller, call the police. And if you have any doubt about who is at your door, don't answer it.'