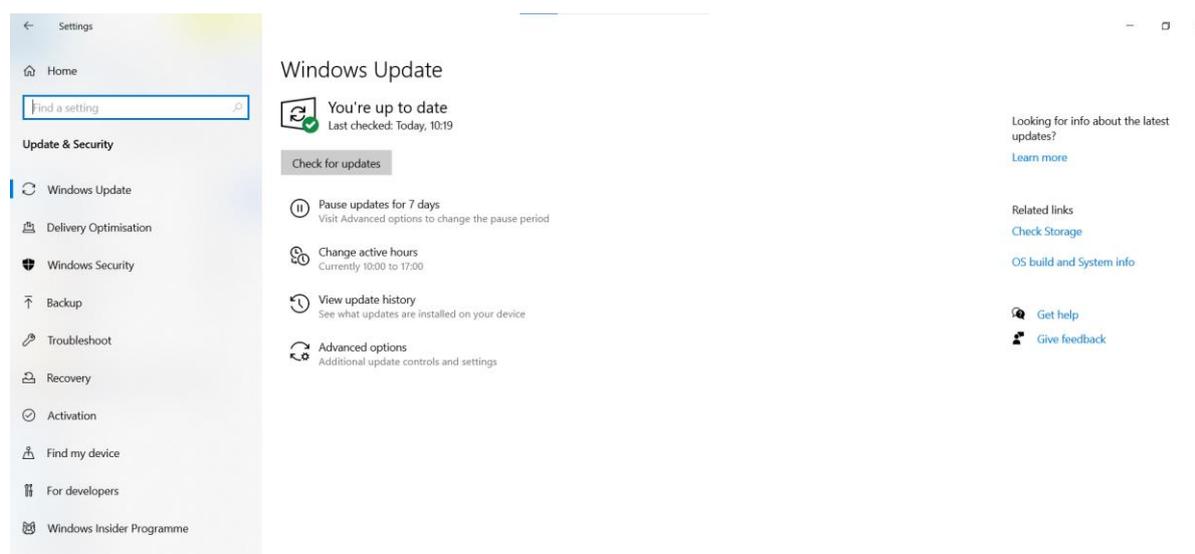Islington U3A

WINDOWS

If you 'google' antivirus software, you will get a vast list of offers and many links to reviews of software. You can pursue this gamble if you wish.

Personally, I know that in the past Windows antivirus was not regarded as being up to scratch. Now, I believe, in Windows 10 and 11, the built-in 'Windows Defender' is a good level of protection.

On your keyboard, hold down the Windows Key ⊞ while you click the letter i to open Windows Settings. Windows 11 will look different, but is basically the same.

Windows Settings

Find a setting

System Display, sound, notifications, power	**Devices** Bluetooth, printers, mouse	**Phone** Link your Android, iPhone	**Network & Internet** WiFi, flight mode, VPN	**Personalisation** Background, lock screen, colours
Apps Uninstall, defaults, optional features	**Accounts** Your accounts, email, sync, work, family	**Time & Language** Speech, region, date	**Gaming** Xbox Game Bar, captures, Game Mode	**Ease of Access** Narrator, magnifier, high contrast
Search Find my files, permissions	**Privacy** Location, camera, microphone	**Update & Security** Windows Update, recovery, backup		

Click on 'Update and Security'.

Settings

⌂ Home

Find a setting

Update & Security

↻ Windows Update
🗗 Delivery Optimisation
🛡 Windows Security
↑ Backup
🔧 Troubleshoot
🗄 Recovery
⊘ Activation
📍 Find my device
🖥 For developers
🐱 Windows Insider Programme

Windows Update

You're up to date
Last checked: Today, 10:19

Check for updates

⏸ Pause updates for 7 days
Visit Advanced options to change the pause period

Change active hours
Currently 10:00 to 17:00

View update history
See what updates are installed on your device

Advanced options
Additional update controls and settings

Looking for info about the latest updates?
Learn more

Related links
Check Storage

OS build and System info

Get help
Give feedback

You should get this screen showing your computer is up to date and no action is needed here.

If you get something like this
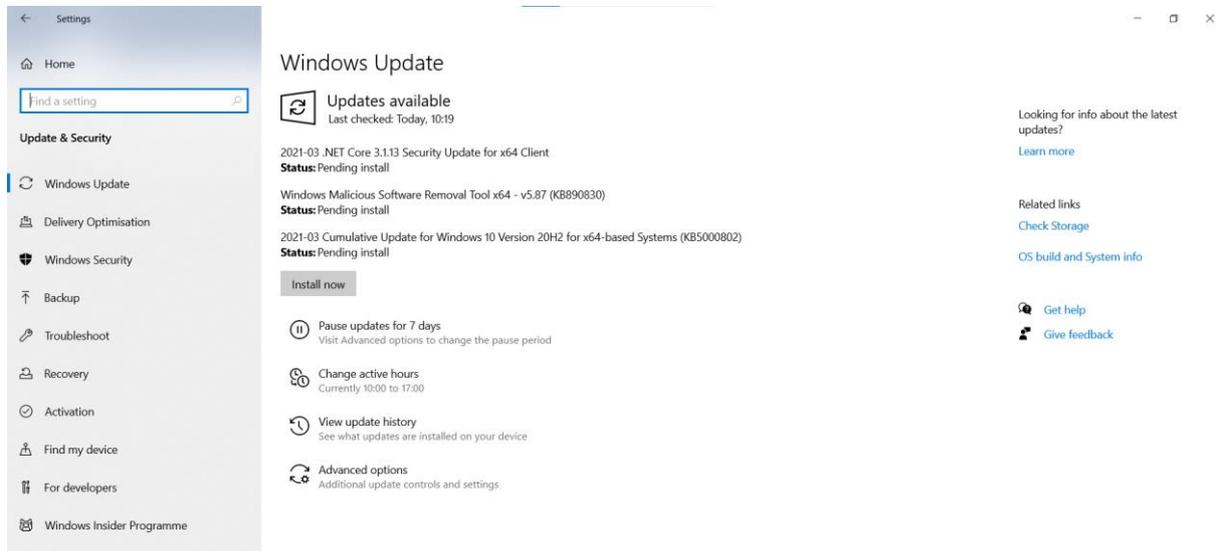
The updates available will probably be different from these. It is best to update the system, mainly for internet security but also to load any improvements to Windows. If you leave the computer on overnight, it should update itself.

If you want, you can update by clicking the relevant button. Be aware that the update could take a long time. It might seem to stall and look like it has got stuck. Be patient, it will eventually get there. You could damage the computer if you cut it off while updating.

For the security of your machine, it should be updated regularly.

The next step is to click on 'Windows Security' on left of screen (circled).

Islington U3A
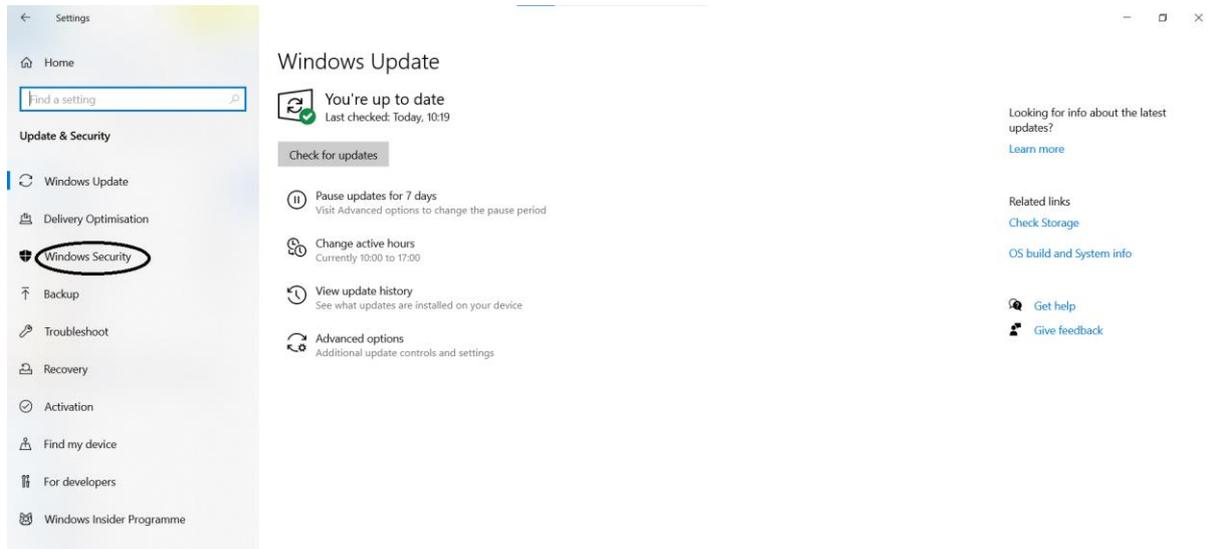
This opens the screen showing the various areas of security covered.
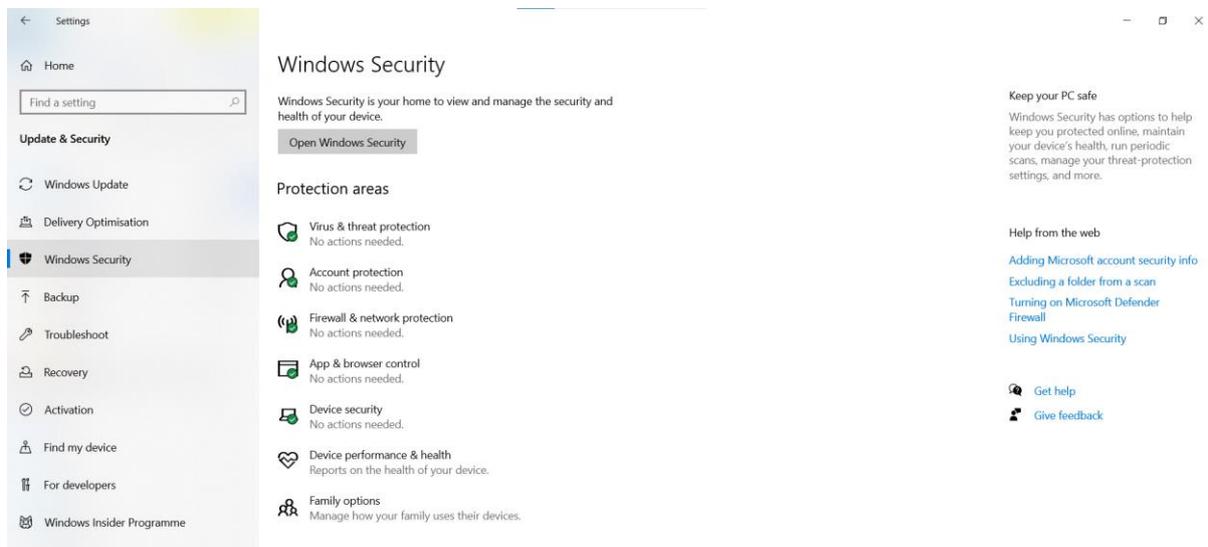
It shows the five main sections of windows security. All five items should be ticked. If not, click on 'Open Windows Security' in the grey box.
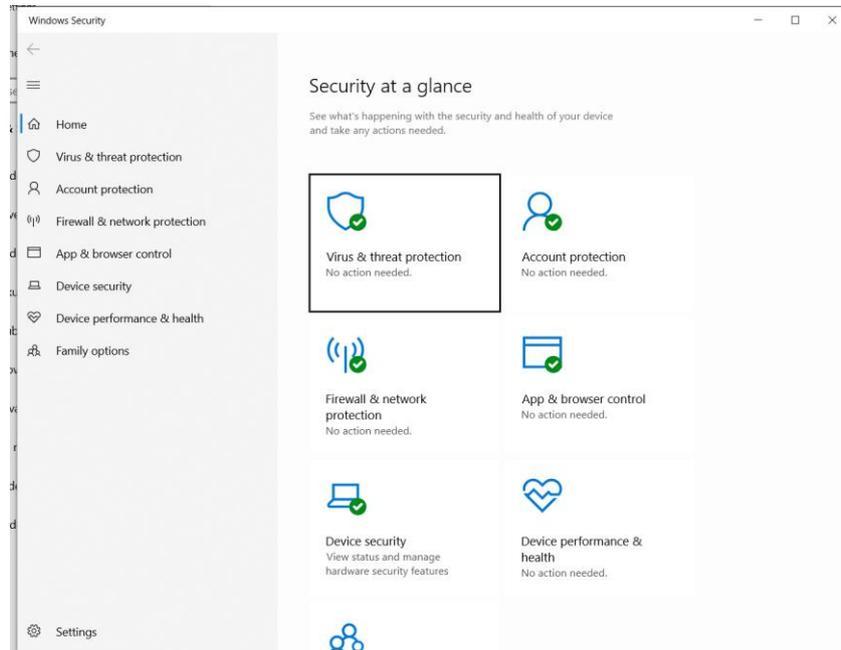
Click on the unticked box and follow any instructions or click on Troubleshoot to correct the situation.

If all is well, you could click on each of the settings to see in more detail how windows protects itself. You will probably come across a page containing "Ransome Protection". If this section is not ticked, tick it so that you are protected.

If you feel that you would like an extra layer of protection, go to

 https://www.immunet.com/index

This is a free antivirus program which is effective and less annoying than some others. There are a lot of free antivirus programs floating around out there, but I understand this is a good one. Immunet 7 is by Cisco Systems a well-known security company. Immunet 7 is a ClamAV-based product that improves itself every day by creating a network of users who in turn help each other learn and defend against new threats. A great free product.

It has a good installation guide, so, if you like the look of it, just go ahead and download and install it.

DOMAIN NAME SYSTEM - DNS

Another line of defence. Admittedly, not for the faint hearted.

All computers on the internet have a number like a telephone number. How else could they inter-communicate?

Waitrose.com is something like 23.62.194.153.

It would be extremely difficult for us to remember this kind of number for all the web sites that we visit. Therefore, the powers that be let us use ordinary words that make sense to us. The names are called Domain names. For example, Halifax.co.uk is a domain name.

But, computers only understand numbers. When we try to access a web site by name, our browser has first to go and find the number of the domain we are trying to get.

The computer goes to what is called a Domain Name Server. Your broadband provider has a DNS server to connect your requests. These servers can be improved to be faster and safer and guard against internet nasties like phishing sites.

In your browser, try to reach https://www.internetbadguys.com/ (a harmless test site) your broadband provider will probably connect you. But it shouldn't.

You should get something like this. The site is blocked which shows you have some good protection from malicious sites.

On the other hand, you might arrive here. Which means your broadband provider is not protecting you.
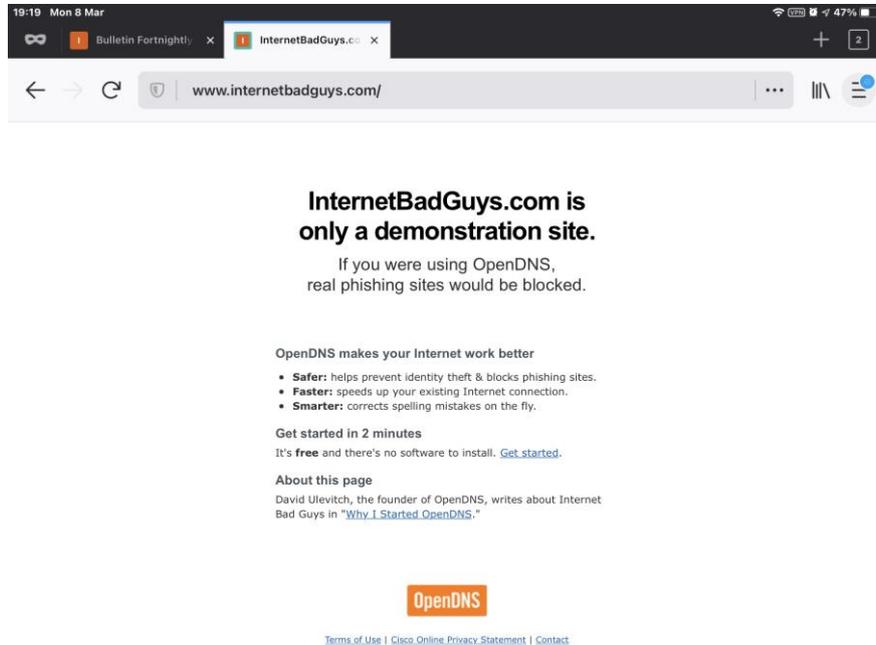
Click on "Get Started" to read about the benefits of changing your DNS server.

The OpenDNS site has detailed instructions on how to reset your computer. It does look a bit daunting, but it is worth the effort and, once done, that's it. You will be safer. Don't forget to do a RESTART after making the changes.

To check Opendns is working after you have set it up, go here in your browser: https://welcome.opendns.com/

iPhones and iPads

These devices work differently from Windows. You can only install Apps that Apple has approved. The App developers have been complaining about Apple taking a cut of their charges (not all Apps are free). I think it is good that Apple checks out the Apps for safety before allowing them.

The Apps that come from the Apple App Store run in separate spaces from the operating system. Therefore they can't attack the operating system while running. This makes Apple devices very safe and, personally, I think there is no need of extra virus protection.

Apple says "All third-party **apps are** "**sandboxed**," so they **are** restricted from accessing files stored by other **apps** or from making changes to the device. … Most **iOS and iPadOS** system files **and** resources **run** as the nonprivileged user "mobile," as **do** all third-party **apps**. The entire operating system partition **is** mounted as read-only."

It is easier to change the DNS servers in iPhone/iPads. Go to 'Settings'

Click on Wi-Fi, then the 'info' button next to your wi-fi connection

Scroll down to 'Configure DNS'

Click the right arrow > where it says 'Automatic'

Click on 'Manual', Click on 'Add Server'

Enter 208.67.222.222   * make sure the dots are in the right place

Click on 'Add Server' again and enter

208.67.220.220

Delete the original server. Click 'Save' and close 'Settings'.

Now you have another level of protection. After restarting, try again to reach

https://www.internetbadguys.com/