



For the latest news on crime in the area visit our website: www.villagewatch.co.uk – or join our group on Facebook



Please remember our new Telephone Number – **0756 2422 756**

Young People and Fraud

We often hear of elderly people becoming the victims of fraud but, more and more, youngsters under the age of twenty-one are falling victim to money scams, according to the anti-fraud organisation *Cifas*.

In the first nine months of the year 3,527 young people experienced identity fraud, an increase of 24% on 2017.

Most of the cases involved debit, credit and store cards. They include instances where criminals have applied to banks to get the cards issued in false names using personal information freely available on social media.

The banks usually accept liability where individuals have not been negligent but this is not always straightforward and the whole experience can be very traumatic.

There has also been a rise in the number of youngsters becoming so-called money mules. In the same nine months, some 9,636 people under the age of twenty-one agreed to criminals using their bank accounts to launder cash. That is an increase of 26% on the same period in 2017.

Sometimes they are told to move the money electronically and at other times they are asked to withdraw cash before passing it on in person.

These offences can carry a prison sentence of up to fourteen years. In addition, individuals can be denied the use of a bank account for up to six years.

"For all of us, as parents, teachers, and responsible citizens, we have a duty to ensure we are taking every opportunity to educate young people on the dangers of becoming a fraud victim - and equally, a perpetrator of fraud" said Mike Haley, the chief executive officer of *Cifas*.

They are also calling on the banks to do more to warn young people about the dangers of such fraud.

Neighbourhood Link

Neighbourhood Link is the Police Community Messaging Service for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Its aim is to keep residents informed with up-to-date news and crime prevention advice as well as information about policing matters that might affect them.

By signing up you can:

- Find out about policing issues in our community
- Receive messages at times to suit you
- Get crime reduction and community safety advice
- Respond directly to you Neighbourhood Policing Team

It is free to register and you can easily unsubscribe at any time.

Go to the website for further information:
www.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk

New Beat Sergeant

The Watch is glad to welcome Police Sergeant 2132 Matt Foulger to Birstall and Wanlip. He has taken over as the Sergeant of our local Beat Team. He is based in Loughborough.

If you see him or any of the Team about on patrol, please feel free to say hello and speak to them about any concerns that you may have.

The previous Sergeant, Leon Kirkpatrick, has moved on to other duties and we wish him well for the future.

More and More Scams

Every month we are warned of the latest scams detected by *Action Fraud*. They do their best to broadcast these warnings but, by the time they reach many people, it is often too late.

The criminals behind this type of fraud are good at what they do and put a lot of effort into thinking up new versions. While the details vary, there are essentially only a few basic themes.

They all have one thing in common, getting us to do something that in other circumstances we would consider to be very foolish.

The list is almost endless but some of the recent scams have involved:

- *Winning lotteries you have never entered*
- *Demands for unpaid bills you know nothing about*
- *Income Tax demands or refunds*
- *Television licence refunds*
- *Computers needing urgent protection or repair*
- *Bank accounts at risk of being emptied*
- *Unexpected parcels awaiting delivery*

They all have common features. They come out of the blue by email, text message or telephone and are designed to take you by surprise and put you off balance. You are urged or threatened to take immediate action to avoid dire consequences. Ultimately, they require you to pay money or supply your bank or card details.

However, you do not have to know the details of a scam to avoid it. Just follow some simple rules:

- ✓ *You will certainly already know about any genuine issue.*
- ✓ *Never react immediately whatever they tell you.*
- ✓ *Take a little time to consider the situation and ask the advice of family or friends you can trust.*
- ✓ *Check independently with your bank or card provider on a number you have looked up yourself.*
- ✓ *Above all – keep calm and do not be panicked into what the criminals are trying to trick you into doing.*

Learn much more at:
actionfraud.police.uk

Saturday Advice Shop
17th November 2018
10 a.m. to 12 noon
Parish Council Building
10 Sibson Road

The Crew from Birstall Fire Station will be at the Advice Shop from 11 a.m. to give advice and information on keeping your family and home safe

Beat News

The most recent *Beat News* is published in full on the *Police News* pages of our website – www.villagewatch.co.uk

The reports are also printed each month in the *Birstall Post*.

Here is a summary of the September *Beat News*:

- There were fifty-three crimes reported in September, five more than in August.
- There were twelve reports of fuel theft from the petrol station.
- Theft from vehicles is on the rise again with eleven reports.
- Three houses were burgled.
- Ten occurrences of assault were reported but the majority were related to domestic incidents rather than occurring in public places.

Further information can be found at:
www.police.uk/leicestershire/NL60

Crime Prevention Advice

Christmas will soon be upon us when we will be buying presents. Burglars are aware of this and will be looking into houses to see if there are expensive gifts lying around to steal. These simple steps can prevent you becoming one of their victims.

- Do not leave expensive gifts on show at home or in vehicles. Put them away out of sight.
- Make a note of any serial numbers or IMEI numbers on electrical items so that they can be given to the Police in the event of them being stolen.
- Remember to lock your doors and close windows when your house is unoccupied and fit light timers so that it looks as if someone is home.
- Be wary of unfamiliar people in your neighbourhood. If you are concerned that someone is paying attention to houses or cars in the area, call the Police on 101 or 999 if it is an emergency.

Neighbourhood update

We had a very positive result following a burglary on Cliffwood Avenue. Neighbours reported a property being broken into with details of a vehicle. This vehicle was seen a short time later and two men were arrested. A car that had been stolen was also recovered. Our thanks go to all the neighbours who reported the incident and to the officers for their quick response.

The Beat Team has been out this month delivering crime prevention leaflets, especially regarding to vehicle crime as we appear to be seeing a rise in the number of these offences.

PC 1759 Dave Jaeckels

Birstall Food Hub

The Birstall Food Hub helps people through difficult periods when they may not have enough money to buy food. They provide food parcels on request and guide people to agencies that can help in the longer term. The parcels are designed to last an individual or family for four days. They contain non-perishable items and are free to those in need.

IF YOU NEED THEIR HELP

Referrals can be made by a local agency, such as a doctor, teacher, health or social worker or directly by phoning or texting
07305 093791.

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP

Donations of non-perishable food for the parcels can be left at the Coop Store, Methodist Church Coffee Shop or St James Church.

If you can help financially or in any other way, please phone
07305 093791 for more information.

Police Beat Surgeries

You can meet one of our local Police Officers to discuss, in confidence, any issues that concern you on:

- Saturday, 3rd November at the One Stop Shop on Hallam Fields between 2.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m.
- Saturday, 17th November in the NHW Advice Shop at 10 Sibson Road between 10 a.m. and 12 noon
- Tuesday, 20th November on Kingsgate Shopping Parade between 12 noon and 1 p.m.
- Friday, 23rd November at the Tesco Store on Sibson Road between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.

(These times are always subject to Officers not being required elsewhere in an emergency.)



There has been a rise in number-plate theft locally. Thieves use them to hide the identity of their own vehicles and you can get the blame when they commit other offences!

Protect your number-plates with special tamper-proof screws available FREE to members from our Advice Shop.

NEVER GIVE YOUR MONEY OR DETAILS TO STRANGERS WHO CONTACT YOU OUT OF THE BLUE NO MATTER WHAT THEY TELL YOU

Contacting Birstall and Wanlip Neighbourhood Watch

Email: watch@villagewatch.co.uk

Phone: **0756 2422 756**

Calls go to our answering service but we always try to reply within 24 hours
Please remember to leave your number

Write: c/o Birstall Parish Council
Council Office, Birstall Road,
Birstall, Leicester, LE4 4DH

We also have a locked post box on the counter in the Council Office

Thank you to Birstall Parish Council for continuing to support the Watch – www.birstallparishcouncil.org.uk