



Village Watch NEWS

Your monthly Newsletter from
Birstall and Wanlip Neighbourhood Watch
APRIL 2019

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

Annual General Meeting

Our Local Police Sergeant will bring us up-to-date on recent Developments in Local Policing and how they affect us and our villages

The 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Birstall and Wanlip Neighbourhood Watch will be held on

Thursday 2nd May 2019 at 7.45 p.m. in

The Methodist Church Hall
Wanlip Road, Birstall

Guest Speaker:

Sergeant Matt Foulger
Beat Sergeant for Birstall and Wanlip

All Members are Welcome

Another Good Reason why we need your Secretarial Skills

We advertised last month for a volunteer to take on the role of Committee Secretary. We gave a telephone number to call but printed it incorrectly! We apologise to anybody who tried to ring us and did not get through.

The duties are not onerous and consist primarily of preparing the Agenda and taking the Minutes at our monthly Committee meetings. They take place on the third Tuesday of each month at 7.30 p.m. and always finish before 9 p.m., usually a bit earlier. In addition, there is an occasional email or letter to be written on behalf of the Committee. At a rough estimate, these tasks take around six or seven hours a month.

If you are able to help, we should very much like to hear from you.

Please contact us with no obligation to find out more, either by email at: watch@villagewatch.co.uk or leaving us a message on 0756 2422 756.

Buying a Second-Hand Car

You may be planning to buy a new car for the summer but, if you are not careful, this is an area that could leave you seriously out-of-pocket.

Leicestershire Trading Standards Officers are warning consumers to be very careful when buying a second-hand vehicle and advise them to check its history thoroughly before buying it. As many as one in sixteen cars are thought to have 'clocked' mileage, according to new research. If you are buying online, make sure that you view the car before parting with your money. Some cars advertised for sale do not actually exist or are not owned by the 'seller'.

You can check a vehicle's MOT history online if you have the registration number. This shows previously identified defects and gives you an idea of its true mileage. It is also a very good idea, particularly if it is private sale, to obtain a *Private History Check* to learn about the car's finance history and to check whether it is stolen.

For more information, visit *Citizens Advice* at:

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/buying-or-repairing-a-car/buying-a-used-car

You can call 03454 040506 for advice or to report a trader.

No April Advice Shop

Because the scheduled date clashes with the Easter Holiday weekend and our regular team is unavailable, there will be no advice Shop in April

We shall be back to normal on 18th May

We are sorry for any inconvenience

Washing Machine Insurance

A number of members have received telephone calls advising them that their washing machine insurance is due for renewal. Some knew that they had no such policy and another, who did, confirmed with their genuine company that the call did not come from them.

At best this is an attempt to sell insurance in an underhand manner but it could also be a means of eliciting credit card details for criminal purposes.

Never respond to calls or other messages that come out of the blue. If a genuine policy is due for renewal you will be given plenty of notice and the choice of how and when you choose to pay.

Suspicious Behaviour

This person was caught on CCTV in the Beechfield Road area on 13th March. It appears that they were photographing houses while doing their best to keep their face covered.

The Police have seen the full video recording and are investigating the incident.

If you see anybody behaving strangely or showing unusual interest in houses or cars, then please tell the Police at once by dialling 101. They may not always be able to respond immediately but even the sight of a patrol car passing through an area will deter potential thieves and make them move on.



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 February *Beat News* from PC Dave Jaeckels:

- There were thirty-eight crimes reported in February, similar to thirty-seven in January.
- There were seven cases of theft from vehicles, a welcome drop from the twenty last month but this still remains the highest category.
- There were four dwelling house burglaries although two were from garages rather than the houses. One occurred during the evening when the occupants were at home and, while they were not threatened or harmed, it was still a very frightening experience for them. Fortunately, events of this kind are rare and we have several lines of enquiry that are being pursued.
- There have been six Public Order offences, five of criminal damage, five assaults and three fuel thefts from the Petrol station reported which is a lot less than we have had in previous months.

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

Crime Prevention Advice

We have had a couple of burglaries this month where garages have been broken into and during one of these, two high value cycles were stolen. There are some simple steps you can take to protect your garage and property:

- Ensure that your garage is locked and consider fitting an alarm to the door. These can be simple 'vibration' alarms that activate when the door is moved excessively or more sophisticated 'beam alarms' that activate when a light beam is broken.
- If you keep expensive items such as cycles and power tools in your garage, make a note of their serial numbers and take photos to pass on to the Police if they are stolen. Bicycles can be locked together or to a wall bracket.
- Consider fitting CCTV cameras to act as a deterrent to potential thieves and, if your garage has clear windows, consider replacing them with frosted glass or boarding them over so that people cannot see items on display inside.

Neighbourhood update

Another speeding operation was conducted on Birstall Road. In just over an hour we checked ninety-seven vehicles and six drivers were given verbal warnings for exceeding the speed limit.

The Beat Team have also been out delivering leaflets on Queensgate Drive, Roman Road and Tempest Road in relation to the thefts from vehicles and around Little Connery Leys, Pinfold Close, Bridge Green and Keswick Close in relation to burglaries in these areas.

Subscription Envelopes

At the time of going to press, more than 1800 households had returned their subscription envelopes. Thank you very much.

We know, though, that it is easy to put them on the side with good intentions, only to forget about them. If you have lost your envelope, you can use a plain one but please do not forget to include your own address. If you are not sure of your Coordinator's address, please contact us and we can tell you.

IF YOU SEARCH FOR A WEBSITE ONLINE MAKE SURE YOU CHOSE THE GENUINE ONE AND NOT A COPYCAT OR FAKE SITE AFTER YOUR MONEY

Contacting Birstall and Wanlip Neighbourhood Watch

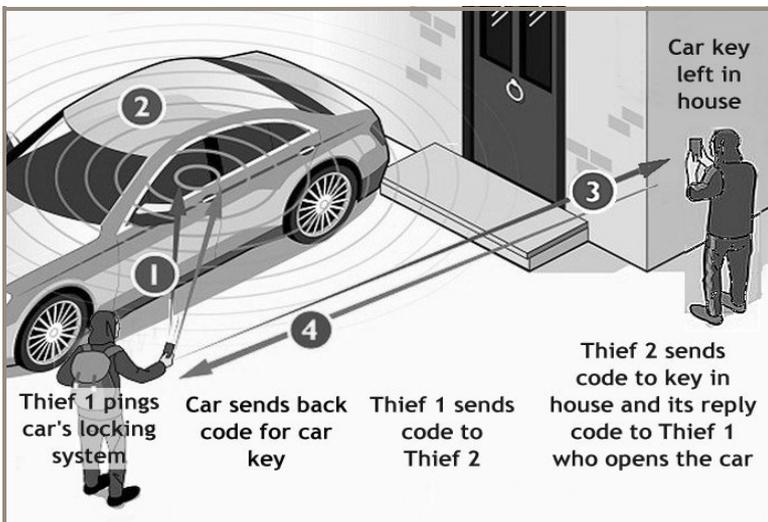
Email: watch@villagewatch.co.uk

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 post box on the counter
in the Council Office*



Modern Cars are Vulnerable

Thieves have devised methods of using modern electronic security systems against themselves. One method is shown here.

One thief stands next to the car while the other is close to the house. They use electronic gadgets to relay the coded signals required to unlock the car and ignition between the key in the house and the car.

They rely on the fact that many people leave their keys near the car, often just inside their front door.

If the key or key fob were stored as far away from the car as possible and in a metal container to shield it from radio signals, the thieves would not be able to communicate with it and the car would stay secure.

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