



Village Watch NEWS

Your monthly Newsletter from
Birstall and Wanlip Neighbourhood Watch
MARCH 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**

We Need Your Secretarial Skills

Our Chairman, Evelyn Holden, has decided to stand down from the role after many years and our current Secretary, Ed Chambers, is replacing her. This leaves us with a vacancy for the Secretary's post.

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 and if you were to take on the role, Ed will still be there to offer advice and support.

Please contact us with no obligation to find out more, either by email at: watch@villagewatch.co.uk or leave us a message on **0756 2242 756**.

PCSO Mo Musa

We are sorry to report that our local PCSO Mo Musa has been transferred to the Sileby and Barrow Beat Team. Mo came to Birstall and Wanlip in early 2016 and has become a familiar figure patrolling our villages. He has been a great asset to our community and we are all very sorry to lose him. We wish him every success in his new role.

It is a sign of the times that Mo is not being replaced and our Beat Team will carry a vacancy for the foreseeable future. Our long-standing PCSO, Mark Butler and PC Dave Jaeckels remain based in the local Police office, although Dave's duties often require him to work in other parts of the Charnwood area.

Romance Fraud

Fraudsters are using dating sites to steal money and identification details rather than hearts. They prey on people who are seeking romance and trick them into believing that they have found their perfect partner. This is a particularly cruel scam.

One such criminal, now reformed, has described how they would set up false social media profiles so that they appeared to match the perfect partner described on a dating website by their victim. All their conversations were designed to make them appear genuine. They even expressed their own worries about whether the victim was really who they claimed to be and not a fraudster trying to trick them.

They used social media profiles and online directories to find out as much as they could about the victim. They would then use this information to persuade them to send money for fictitious reasons, such as travel costs for a first meeting or to pay for urgent medical treatment.

When they had stolen as much as they could, they sold the victim's details to other criminals through the dark web.

Fraudsters will often send a photograph to match the image sought by the victim. One way to check if it is really them is to then ask for another photograph of them doing something specific like holding an apple or standing on one leg.

Avoid sharing too many personal details in online dating profiles. Revealing your full name, date of birth or full home address may lead to your identity being stolen.

Never respond to requests to send money to or have money transferred to your account by someone you do not know and trust. Requests like this should always ring alarm bells.

Only use reputable dating websites or apps and only use their built-in messaging service. Fraudsters will quickly try to switch to social media or texting so that there is no record or evidence of their contact with you.

April Advice Shop

Because the scheduled date for the Advice Shop clashes with the Easter Holiday weekend and our regular team is unavailable, we shall not be opening the Shop in April
We shall be open in March and back to normal in May

Saturday Advice Shop

16th March 2019

10 a.m. to 12 noon
Parish Council Building
10 Sibson Road

Our Advice Shop runs together with the local Police Beat Surgery. We have security devices for sale to members at near to cost price and various free items that can help you to keep safe.

There is also the opportunity to speak in confidence to a local Police Officer about any of your concerns.

Call in for a chat, friendly advice and even a cup of tea.

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 January *Beat News* from PC Dave Jaeckels:

- There were thirty-seven crimes reported in January, a welcome decrease from fifty-three in December.
- There were twenty cases of theft from vehicles, eleven of these over one night, 24-25th January, in Harrowgate Drive, Briargate Avenue, Walnut Avenue, Fielding Road, Park Road, Elmfield Avenue and Fieldgate Crescent. If you have any information about any of these crimes, please get in touch with us ASAP as we are obviously keen to identify the people responsible.
- On a more positive note, we have had no house burglaries this month and only one non-dwelling burglary. Thefts of fuel have also remained low with only two reports being received.
- We have had three reports of vehicles being damaged and three 'other damage' reports.
- All other crime categories have been low with only one or two reports being received.

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

Crime Prevention Advice

Theft from vehicles has once again been the biggest crime category this month and so, whilst I appreciate the message has been put out numerous times before, now would seem an appropriate time to do so again:

- Make sure your car is locked, even if you are only leaving it for a short time.
- Remove ALL valuables, including loose change as, in most cases, this is all that is stolen.
- Consider putting your vehicle key in a metal tin at night as there is some suggestion that thieves are able to open cars by picking up the signals transmitted by the keys. Placing it in a metal tin is believed to prevent this from happening.
- Report any suspicious activity on **101** or **999** if you think a crime is actually in progress.

Neighbourhood update

The beat team conducted another speeding operation in January on Rectory Road in Wanlip. We recorded just under a hundred vehicles through the site and I am pleased to report that we had no vehicles exceeding the speed limit. Further operations are planned for future months and I will update you on the results of these in subsequent reports.

Get a 'Water Board' Password

Bogus callers are people who trick their way into homes to steal valuables and cash. They are normally well organised, work in teams and are very convincing. They often claim to be from the 'Water Board' and may wear uniforms and fake ID badges.

Our local water company, Severn Trent, has introduced a scheme that enables you to check whether a caller is genuine by asking them to tell you a previously-agreed password. You simply advise anybody who claims to be from Severn Trent or the 'Water Board' that you are password-protected.

If they are genuine, they will contact Severn Trent to get your password. If they cannot do this, you will know that they are bogus.

To register for the Doorstep Password Scheme, call **03457 500 500** or go to the website:

stwater.co.uk/access

Police Beat Surgeries

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

- **Saturday, 16th March** in the **NHW Advice Shop** at **10 Sibson Road** between **10 a.m. and 12 noon**

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

**IF YOU HAVE AN
UNPAID DEBT YOU CAN
BE SURE THAT
GENUINE COMPANIES
AND ORGANISATIONS
WILL REMIND YOU A
NUMBER OF TIMES
BEFORE TAKING ANY
LEGAL ACTION**

Subscription Envelopes

Many of you will already have returned your subscription envelope for the coming year to your Coordinator. Thank you very much.

We know, though, that it is easy to put it on the side with good intentions, only to forget about it. 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.

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*

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