



# Village Watch NEWS

Your monthly Newsletter from  
Birstall and Wanlip Neighbourhood Watch

MAY 2019

For the latest news on crime in the area visit our website: [www.villagewatch.co.uk](http://www.villagewatch.co.uk) – or join our group on Facebook



Please remember our new Telephone Number – 0756 2422 756

## Birstall Gala Help

The Watch plans to have its usual stall at the Birstall Gala on Saturday, 22nd June. However, we need some help in setting it up between 9-10 a.m. and clearing away between 4-5 p.m.

In addition, we prefer to have two people covering the stall at any one time and would like to have a rota of volunteers prepared to keep the experienced Committee Members company for an hour or two throughout the fairly long day.

Could you spare some time to help, please?

Please email us at: [watch@villagewatch.co.uk](mailto:watch@villagewatch.co.uk)  
or leave us a message on: 0752 2422 756

## Police Appeal for Information

Our local Police Officer, Dave Jaeckels, is asking for help from the public.

Between 4-5 p.m. on 6th March, a man was reported acting suspiciously in Watermead Park, close to the canal bridge. He followed two women for a short distance and then ran towards one of them causing her to fear for her safety. Neither woman was hurt but they were both left distressed and concerned.

The man was described as white, aged around 18-19 years, about 5'10" tall, slim build, with ginger hair and wearing a grey hooded top.

If you have any information about this incident, please contact the Birstall Beat Team through the Police website:

[leics.police.uk/local-policing/birstall](http://leics.police.uk/local-policing/birstall)

## Canvassing Traders

This is the time of year when you are likely to employ someone to do work on your house or garden, so it is also a good time for traders to canvas for work. Most of these are honest, offering genuine services but, as many people have learned to their cost, some are not.

It does not cost very much to produce professional-looking leaflets for distribution, so there are a few things to look out for if you receive one.

Check that they give a fixed landline number beginning with 01, 02 or 03 rather than just a mobile phone number.

Check that they have a local address that you can visit and verify. Beware of business centre 'accommodation' addresses.

Ask for the contact details of other people who have employed them, so that you can get their opinion directly on the quality of the work.

Any genuine trader will not mind giving this kind of information, while the dishonest ones will back away when you start asking searching questions.

Always get several quotes for work that you plan and take your time before deciding to place the order. Rogue traders will want to get their hands on your money as quickly as possible and will make sure that you cannot trace them if you have a complaint.

## Telephone Preference Scam

Leicestershire Trading Standards has received reports that local residents are being telephoned by an organisation claiming that their registration on the Telephone Preference Service (TPS) needs to be renewed and asking for payment details.

The TPS is a FREE facility and is the official central register on

which residents can record that they do not want to receive unsolicited sales or marketing calls. Once a telephone number is registered, it does not have to be renewed.

Trading Standards advises you never to give out any personal or financial information over the phone, unless you are absolutely certain about who is getting it.

If they contacted you, rather than the other way round, there is no way of telling if they are who they say they are.

To register with the Telephone Preference Service:

Call the registration line on: 0345 070 0707 or

Visit the website: [www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk) or

Write to: Telephone Preference Service, DMA House,  
70 Margaret Street, London, W1W 8SS

## Rental Deposit Fraud

Action Fraud has received several reports recently about fraudsters who claim to be landlords offering their properties for rent online.

Before arranging a viewing, the criminal asks that the applicant to pay a deposit and sometimes a month's rent in advance. They claim that this money will be held safely by the Tenancy Deposit Scheme that is protected under government legislation.

Once the money is sent, the applicant receives a bogus email appearing to be from the Tenancy Deposit Scheme confirming that it has been received and held securely.

Of course, this is not the case and the money will have disappeared into an account controlled by the criminal fraudster. The victim is left out of pocket and without the accommodation they were hoping to rent.

There is a variation of this that works in more or less the same way. It is used to cheat potential home-buyers out of the hard-earned deposit that they have saved to buy their own home.

## Saturday Advice Shop

18th May 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](http://www.villagewatch.co.uk)

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

Here is a summary of the March *Beat News* from PC Dave Jaeckels:

- There were forty-three crimes reported in March, slightly up on thirty-eight in January.
- There were eleven cases of theft from vehicles, up from seven last month, including two number-plate thefts and two where nothing was taken.
- There were six house burglaries and four non-dwelling break-ins. Two were at business premises on Sibson Road and several arrests were made in relation to these and the suspects were released pending further enquiries.
- There have been six criminal damage offences and five 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](http://www.police.uk/leicestershire/NL60)

## Crime Prevention Advice

This month we were told about an incident outside one of the local primary schools where a parent and his young children were almost hit by a car that reversed without the driver looking properly. Unfortunately this is not an isolated incident and we regularly receive similar reports, many of which are caused by inconsiderate and dangerous parking. Please remember the following rules when parking, not just outside schools but everywhere:

- You should not park your vehicle where it would endanger, inconvenience or obstruct other road users or pedestrians. You can receive a Fixed Penalty Ticket for obstruction if you do, even if you are not parked on double or single yellow lines or zigzags etc.
- You should not park opposite OR within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction. If you do you are forcing other vehicles into the path of oncoming traffic. You could then be held liable for causing an accident, even if you were not present at the time!
- You must not park over a pedestrian crossing, including the area marked by zigzag lines, or on the zigzag lines outside school entrances.

## Neighbourhood update

On the 9th March we had a report of three males trying car doors in the area of the Hallam Fields Estate. A member of the public contacted the Police and followed the men, keeping them in sight until the Police arrived and searched them. Nothing was found and after giving their details the men went on their way.

It is likely that, had the Police not been contacted, we may have had some further reports of vehicles being broken into that night. This was a good piece of work and our thanks go to the member of the public who reported the incident.

If you witness any similar behaviour, please call us on 101 or 999 if a crime is actually in progress.

## Subscription Envelopes

Have you remembered to return your subscription envelope? If you have lost yours, 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.

## Police Beat Surgery

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

- **Saturday, 18th May 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.)*

**DO NOT RISK YOUR  
ONLINE ACCOUNTS  
BEING HACKED  
ALWAYS USE STRONG  
PASSWORDS THAT  
CANNOT BE EASILY  
GUESSED**

## Contacting Birstall and Wanlip Neighbourhood Watch

Email: [watch@villagewatch.co.uk](mailto:watch@villagewatch.co.uk)

Phone: 0756 2422 756

*Calls go to our answering service but we always do our best 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*

## We are still in need of a Secretary

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

Thank you to Birstall Parish Council for continuing to support the Watch – [www.birstallparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.birstallparishcouncil.org.uk)