



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



New Year Resolutions



Stay Safe and Crime-free in 2020



Here are some resolutions that are easy to keep

- Make sure that you have locked all doors and windows every time you leave your home empty.
- Always double-check that you have locked your vehicle and make sure that no valuable items are left in it.
- Be very wary of cold callers and be firm but polite in telling them that you are not interested in whatever they are offering.
- Take care when using credit and debit cards and make sure that nobody can see your PIN when you enter it.
- Be aware of telephone and email scams that seem to offer you things that are too good to be true or make threats to get you to pay money.
- Take care when out alone and carry a personal alarm, even though you will probably never have to use it.
- Be careful and stay aware of those around you when using mobile phones in public places.
- Report any suspicious activity that gives you cause for concern to the Police on 101 or 999.

New Rules for Drones

Drones are likely to be among the presents given this Christmas and everyone who owns or uses them, including children, has to comply with new regulations that came into force in November. Registration is now mandatory for both owners and operators of all drones weighing more than 250g.

Those who fail to provide proof of registration when asked to do so by the Police will be liable to a fine of up to £1000. Registration costs £9 and can be completed online.

When the regulations came into force, it was estimated that more than half of those required to do so had still not registered and were at risk of being fined.

Linked to the registration process is an online drone safety education and test package. This is also a legal requirement for anyone flying a drone over 250g and applies whether they are a drone owner or not. There is no charge for taking the test.

For full information go to the website:

register-drones.caa.co.uk

Stay Secure

Cyber-criminals use weaknesses in software and apps on phones, tablets and computers to steal your identity and money. Software updates are issued regularly to fix these weaknesses but they can only work if they are installed. Always install them as soon as possible to keep your devices and data secure.

They do not have to get in the way of what you are doing. You can choose when and how to install them and you can configure most devices to do so automatically. Check the manual to learn how.

For more information on how to stay secure online, visit:

www.cyberaware.gov.uk or @CyberprotectukTwitter.

Nextdoor Birstall

Several of our members have received letters, apparently from neighbours, inviting them to join something called *Nextdoor Birstall* and have asked if it is yet another scam.

The *Nextdoor* organisation originated in the United States and launched in this country in 2016. At the time, an official statement said that:

“Every neighbour, in every neighbourhood, would benefit from a platform that makes it easier to connect and communicate with the people who live right next door”.

It is safe to say that the organisation is genuine and not part of a scam. Its website explains how it operates:

www.nextdoor.co.uk

There are a lot of reviews on-line and they appear to be mixed. Many people like the idea and find the interaction with their neighbours useful. Other complain of being bombarded with unwanted information and there have been suggestions that fraudsters have attempted to “piggy-back” on some local groups.

If you decide that this is something you want to join, then there is no reason not to do so.

However, before you supply any personal details, please follow our standard advice and do your own checks. Be sure that you know how safely they will be kept, who will have access to them and how they might be used.

Neighbourhood Link

The Police Community Messaging Service for
Leicestershire

Registering is free and you can unsubscribe at any time

www.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk

Saturday Advice Shop

18th January 2020

10 a.m. to 12 noon

Robert Dickinson Building

10 Sibson Road

(Opposite the Garden Centre)

New Bike for Christmas?

Get it Engraved with your Postcode

Free Service

Just bring it in by 11.30 a.m.



Protect Your Presents

The holidays are over and many of us will be the proud owners of new phones, tablets, bicycles and any number of other expensive presents that will be attractive to thieves. Just imagine how it must feel when these treasured possessions have been stolen.

The obvious precaution to take is not to leave valuable items unattended or where they can be taken while your attention is distracted. There are, however, other things that you can do that increase the chances of stolen items being returned and the thief prosecuted.

The Police will often have very strong suspicions that something is stolen but, unless they can prove it to a court,

have to accept an unconvincing explanation of how the likely thief obtained it.

Valuable items, including jewellery, can be registered on the official website *Immobilise*. If the Police come across items that raise their suspicions, they can check the register, prove they are stolen, prosecute the thieves and return them to their legitimate owners.

Go to the website to register your property, it is completely free and quite easy to use.

www.immobilise.com

Items like bicycles can also be engraved with your postcode and door number FREE at our monthly Advice Shop.

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 November *Beat News* from PC Dave Jaeckels:

- There were forty crimes reported in November, a drop from forty-five in October.
- Nine public order offences. Several involved arguments between neighbours and a couple were road-rage incidents with drivers verbally abusing each other.
- Six offences of theft from vehicles, a drop from eleven.
- Four house burglaries and three non-dwelling burglaries.
- Seven assaults, an increase from four.
- Seven reports of criminal damage
- Three drug offences.
- Eight other thefts including one bicycle and one theft of fuel from the petrol station

Further information can be found at:

www.police.uk/leicestershire/NL60

Crime Prevention Advice

Now that the weather has turned much colder we often get reports of vehicles being stolen whilst they have been left defrosting. Thieves will be up and about early looking for vehicles to steal as they know they are often left with the keys in the ignition, making them easy to take:

- Never leave your car unattended if it is defrosting with the engine running.
- Remain vigilant and on the lookout for people who could jump in and drive it away.
- Remember to clear all your windows fully before you drive off - not just a small patch on the front windscreen!
- Remember that your insurance is unlikely to pay out if your car gets stolen because you have been negligent and left the keys in it!

Neighbourhood Update

This month we were made aware that someone had caused damage to the paving slabs on the memorial that is being built on Allington Drive to remember Janet Jasper who sadly died in the gas explosion back in 2017. We have carried out enquiries in the area to try and identify the people responsible for this, but as yet we have been unable to identify them. If you have any information about this, please contact us on 101 or via the Leicestershire Police website, quoting the crime reference 19000619582 as we are keen to find out who was responsible.

A number of good stop checks have also been completed in the village this month, with drugs being found on several occasions. We continue to target drug dealers and users in the village as we know that this has a knock on effect and often fuels other kinds of crime.

Sign up for Email News

We regularly post local crime-related news on our website. You can receive emails alerting you to all new postings.

Please go to our Home Page at:

www.villagewatch.co.uk

Most modern phones and devices will work best if you choose the 'html' format.

Police Beat Surgery

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

Saturday, 18th January at the NHW Advice Shop in the Robert Dickinson Building, 10 Sibson Road, between 10 a.m. and 12 noon

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

**IF IT SEEMS VERY
CHEAP TAKE TIME TO
WONDER IF THAT IS
ALL IT IS WORTH IN
THE FIRST PLACE**

Contacting Birstall and Wanlip Neighbourhood Watch

Email: 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*

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