



## Preying on the Sick

Leicestershire Trading Standards has issued a cautionary tale.

An elderly man had a phone call from somebody who claimed to be from an NHS approved company that was carrying out a survey on elderly care. He was receiving ongoing medical treatment and assumed that the call was related to it. They discussed his condition and treatment and she advised that it would be better for him to have a proper face-to-face assessment.

The 'assessor' arrived at the agreed time and proceeded to take notes about his condition and medication. He was asked whether his illness affected his sleep and he shared the problems he had in that respect. He was told that, as a consequence, he was entitled to purchase a special NHS mattress at a 'reduced' cost of several thousand pounds! When he said that he did not have that sort of money, the 'assessor' left.

His daughter checked with his GP who told her that nobody from the NHS had been in contact and that it was almost certainly a cold caller trying to sell a grossly overpriced product.

## Power Cuts

A recent power cut in part of Birstall lasted only a short time and for most people was just an annoying inconvenience. For some more vulnerable people, however, the experience of being cast into darkness without warning can be a distressing or even dangerous experience.

*Western Power*, the company that supplies electricity in our area, operates a **Priority Services Register** that offers extra advice and support to registered members.

See their website for details:

[www.westernpower.co.uk/customers-and-community](http://www.westernpower.co.uk/customers-and-community)

## Dangerous Goods

The *Consumers Association Which?* has found dozens of dangerous USB chargers, travel adapters and power banks listed for sale on *AliExpress*, *Amazon*, *eBay* and *Wish* that could cause fires or electrocute people.

Buying cheap products from brands you do not recognise could pose a serious risk to your safety. Nearly three-quarters of the thirty-three unknown brand or unbranded products they purchased from online marketplaces failed electrical safety tests, which could in the worst case could lead to a fire in the home.

The majority of traders on online marketplaces are genuine but they are also used by dodgy sellers to sell inferior or dangerous products.

Before you buy any item in this way, take a minute or two to consider whether the price simply reflects its poor quality.



## Fireworks



Please remember to be  
considerate to your neighbours  
when celebrating with fireworks

The law says that you cannot let off fireworks in the street or other public places. If you are going to do so in your garden, please warn your neighbours, especially those who are elderly, vulnerable or who have pets.

**The law is clear and offenders can be prosecuted.**

**No fireworks can be set off after 11 p.m. except on  
5th November when the curfew is midnight and  
Diwali, New Year's Eve and Chinese New Year when the  
curfew is 1 a.m.**

To report firework nuisance go the Borough Council website:  
[www.charnwood.gov.uk](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk)

Incidents involving the use of fireworks in the street should be reported to the Police.

[gov.uk/pages/fireworknuisance](http://gov.uk/pages/fireworknuisance)

## Dogs in Public

The latest *Beat News* reports that there have been a number of injuries caused by dogs.

Of course, the vast majority of dogs are not dangerous. Responsible owners know their dogs very well and are sometimes upset when other people do not understand that they are harmless and very friendly.

**But a strange dog that is just being friendly can still be very frightening to children and adults who do not know it, especially if they have had bad experiences with other, less well-behaved dogs in the past.**

Evidence shows that, unfortunately, any dog is capable of inflicting unintentional injury, especially to small children. In the countryside grazing and other farm animals can be panicked by dogs running free in a field. Any dog that causes injury to a person or another animal can be seized and, in extreme cases, could be destroyed. **The maximum fine that can be imposed by a Court is £1000.**

**It is the legal responsibility of owners to keep their dogs under proper control at all times and especially when they are in public areas including open spaces. In parks and open spaces owned and run by the Parish Council the regulations are very clear – dogs must always be kept on a lead and never allowed to run free. Any dog mess must be cleared away by the owner.**

The Parish Council employs an Enforcement Officer to enforce its bye-laws by issuing penalty tickets.

## Saturday Advice Shop

19th October 2019  
10 a.m. to 12 noon  
Robert Dickinson Building  
10 Sibson Road  
(Opposite the Garden Centre)

Security Screws make it very  
difficult for thieves to steal your  
number plates

FREE to members



# Press One at Your Peril

We have had an increasing number of reports from Members about automated scam telephone calls and it is very likely that others have had the same experience.

Your phone rings and the caller ID shows a number that you do not recognise. If you answer, you hear a recorded message designed to catch you off-guard and cause anxiety. The messages vary but examples range from warnings that your phone and internet are about to be disconnected to the Police being on their way to arrest you. You are told to press '1' to prevent it happening.

If you do so, you will be connected to someone who will try to trick you into paying money or giving away your bank details. To add insult to injury, you will be charged for the call at very expensive premium rates.

**Always ignore these calls and never respond in the way they ask.**

The problem is that the calls are dialled randomly by a computer that never gets tired, so they are repeated regularly. The record we know of is seventeen calls in one afternoon!

## 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 August *Beat News* from PC Dave Jaeckels:

- There were forty-seven crimes reported in August, a rise from forty-one in July.
- There were seven offences of theft of fuel from the petrol station.
- There were ten offences of theft from cars; a rise from four in the previous month.
- The number of house burglaries reported was one plus one non-dwelling.
- There were five reports of other theft.
- The number of reported assaults dropped from seven to five.
- Two vehicles were reported stolen.
- There were eight reports of criminal damage; a rise from four.

Further information can be found at:

[www.police.uk/leicestershire/NL60](http://www.police.uk/leicestershire/NL60)

## Crime Prevention Advice

This month we have had a number of incidents reported where people have been attacked by dogs, resulting in some nasty injuries being sustained. Remember that when walking your dog in public, you are responsible for ensuring that it is kept under control and you must ensure that you are capable of controlling it at all times. Dogs should be kept on leads when being walked in the village and they should also be kept on leads on School Lane Park and Harrowgate Drive Playing Fields - failure to do so can result in a fine. If your dog does attack anyone/another animal you can be prosecuted for allowing a dog to be dangerously out of control (this can be in both public and private places) which can result in your dog having to be destroyed, so please be a responsible owner and ensure your dog is under control at all times.

## Neighbourhood Update

This month the beat team have conducted two speeding operations in the village. On the 12th August we conducted speed checks on Birstall Road and in just under an hour we recorded 113 vehicles through the site. On that occasion we only had cause to stop two vehicles with one being issued a verbal warning and another being reported for prosecution. We conducted another operation on the 30th August and on this occasion we had a total of 139 vehicles through the site, with twelve issued with verbal warnings and one reported for travelling at 45mph. Further checks are planned for the coming months and I will update you with the results in due course.

## Neighbourhood Link

*Neighbourhood Link* is the Police Community Messaging Service.

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.

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

[www.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk)

## 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](http://www.villagewatch.co.uk)

Enter your email address in the lower left-hand corner and click **[Subscribe]**.

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, 19th October in the NHW Advice Shop at 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.)*

**DO NOT LEAVE VALUABLE ITEMS IN YOUR VEHICLE AND DOUBLE-CHECK THAT IT IS LOCKED BEFORE YOU WALK AWAY**

## 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*

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