



Village Birstall & Wanlip Watch NEWS

Your monthly Newsletter from
Birstall and Wanlip Neighbourhood Watch
MARCH 2020

For the latest news visit our website – www.villagewatch.co.uk – or join our Facebook group

The 2020 Annual General Meeting
of Birstall and Wanlip Neighbourhood Watch
will be held at 7.45 p.m. on
Thursday, 30th April
in the Methodist Church Hall, Wanlip Lane
The Speaker will be Inspector Mark Botte
Please make a note in your diaries

Who can You Trust?

Newspapers, TV channels and other mainstream media carry adverts and are legally responsible for their accuracy. If they contain misleading or false information that costs you money you can claim from the publisher as well as the advertiser.

This is not the case with internet search engines, such as Google, who maintain that they simply offer a service and disclaim any responsibility for the content of the websites they list in your search results.

It is common practice for website owners to pay search engines to list their sites among those at the top of the list. People looking for safe investments have been directed to websites that claim to be registered with the *Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)* and list positive reviews and recommendations from respectable financial publications.

However, these are simply blatant lies invented by fraudsters. These sites can be closed down by the authorities but it takes time and the criminals just open new ones under different names.

Despite these claims, money put into these schemes is not protected in any way and many victims have lost their life savings; the total now running into billions of pounds.

Returns on investments are low at the moment and you should be very cautious if offered high returns. Get good, independent advice before transferring any of your hard-earned savings out of your control and check that the institution or company is genuine and actually registered with and regulated by the *FCA*.

You can find more advice and check the registered status of a firm or company on the *FCA* website at:

register.fca.org.uk



Always Report Crime

A new report from the Police Inspectorate says that victims are no longer reporting some crimes to the police because so many offenders are never brought to justice.

It says that the public are losing faith in the criminal justice system and have realised that police do not always have the capacity to investigate. In the year to March 2019, suspects were charged in just 7.8% of crimes in England and Wales.

This has much to do with the resources allocated to the Police who can only do so much with the time and staff members available. However, one way of making the figures look better is to reduce the number of reported crimes. This, of course, does nothing to reduce the number of actual crimes and victims.

Unless a crime is reported, it does not officially exist and the resources needed by the Police will not be correctly identified.

If you are a victim of crime, however minor, do make a point of reporting it. Even if nothing much appears to result from it at your end, it will be in the system, giving those who control the purse strings a fuller picture of the crime problem we face and the investment needed to deal with it.

Unwanted Phone Calls

We are having to learn to live with the nuisance of unsolicited telephone calls. Registering with the Telephone Preference Service (TPS) will prevent legitimate UK companies from calling but has little effect on criminals intent on stealing our money.

They use electronic telephone directories that have been compiled from a variety of sources that include ex-directory and TPS numbers. Computers automatically dial each number in turn and, when it is answered, either play a recorded message or connect to a real person.

Caller Identification and *Call Blocking* are services provided by most telephone companies but the fraudsters are wise to this. The number that appears on the phone is not real but one that is faked by the computer. Blocking it has little effect because the next call from the same source will have a different number.

People have learned to spot unknown or unusually formatted numbers and ignore them but the criminals have found a way around this; they fake numbers that are similar to the one being called. If the phone rings and the number shown begins with 0116 2..., we are much more likely to answer it.

Answering these calls is a nuisance but unlikely to cause serious problems provided you ring off as soon as you realise it is a dodgy one. No matter what story you are told, take no other action at that point. These fraudsters are very good at what they do as, unfortunately, many people have found to their cost.

Saturday Advice Shop
21st March 2020
10 a.m. to 12 noon
Robert Dickinson Building
10 Sibson Road
(Opposite the Garden Centre)

**We have a range of products designed to protect
you and your property**

Some are free and others are sold at cost price

Courier Fraud Increases

Most of us would consider ourselves to be good citizens and willing to help the Police catch criminals. Fraudsters are aware of this and use it to commit their crimes.

There has been an increase in the number of courier fraud incidents reported, with over £100,000 stolen over the last six months. The criminals phone victims claiming to be Police Officers. They are very plausible, saying that they are investigating a bank card fraud that involves the victim's card and ask for help with the investigation.

When the victim agrees, they are asked to draw cash from their bank account or to buy expensive items, such as watches and jewellery. A courier then arrives at their home to collect the

cash and valuables 'for forensic examination by the Police'. They are, of course, never seen again!

In the majority of cases, it has been elderly and vulnerable people who have been targeted.

The Police and the banks are all very clear that they will NEVER ask people to act in this way or to hand over valuable items and cash to strangers.

Please take care and, if you have relatives, friends or neighbours that you think might be vulnerable, warn them to be on their guard.

In some cases, it might be necessary to do so on a regular basis.

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 Jaekels:

- There were forty-one crimes reported in January, a drop from forty-six in December.
- Nine assaults, the majority occurring in domestic settings.
- Five thefts from vehicles, a drop from eleven in December.
- Two motorcycles were stolen.
- Five house burglaries and two non-dwelling burglaries.
- One public order offence.
- Six reports of criminal damage of which five were to vehicles.
- One drug offence.
- Nine other thefts, including three from shops and two 'drive offs'.
- One reported robbery - the victim was pushed off a motorbike.

Further information can be found at:

www.police.uk/leicestershire/NL60

Crime Prevention Advice

We have had three motorcycles stolen this month - two of which were left parked on the street and one stolen by means of a robbery. If you own a motorbike or moped, some simple steps can help prevent it from being stolen:

- 1) When leaving it unattended, always secure it with a good quality lock and never leave the keys in the ignition!
- 2) Overnight, secure it by locking it to something sturdy such as a ground or wall anchor or put it in a locked garage or shed.
- 3) Consider fitting an aftermarket immobiliser so that it is more difficult for thieves to start the engine.
- 4) Tracking devices can be fitted that allow you to identify where the bike is if it should be taken.

Neighbourhood update

The beat team has been out patrolling areas where we have had complaints about drug dealing and use, including School Lane Park and Meadow Lane. A number of people have been spoken to and we will continue to patrol these areas to ensure that drugs are not being used in them.

We also had a vehicle seized after it was stopped in the village. The driver had no insurance and only a provisional licence. We will continue to stop and check vehicles and, if the documents are not in order, we have powers to seize them under the Road Traffic Act.

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 Surgeries

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

Tuesday, 17th March, Old Nick's Coffee Shop, Community Hall, Wanlip, 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Wednesday, 18th March, Birstall Library, Wanlip Lane, 11 a.m. to 12 noon

Saturday, 21st March, NHW Advice Shop, Robert Dickinson Building, 10 Sibson Road, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Thursday, 26th March, Methodist Church Coffee Shop, Wanlip Lane, 11 a.m. to 12 noon

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

Contacting Birstall and Wanlip Neighbourhood Watch

Email: watch@villagewatch.co.uk

Phone: 0756 2422 756

*Calls go to our answering service but we do our best to reply as soon as possible
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