



Visit our website at: www.villagewatch.co.uk and join our Group on *Facebook*

Speeding Traffic

Community Speed Watch (CSW) is a programme directed at the issue of speeding traffic. It enables volunteers to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding in order to address the problem within their own community.

Our Neighbourhood Watch organised two CSW sessions on behalf of the Parish Council in 2015 and 2016. While we had a number of volunteers prepared to conduct the actual roadside sessions, the administration fell to just a couple of people and took up a considerable amount of time and energy. It included working with CSW to identify suitable locations (there are safety and other legal criteria that have to be met), training the volunteers, managing the rota, collating the data and sending it to County Hall and the Police on a daily basis.

The equipment, including the speed gun, was supplied by CSW and had to be returned to them when the sessions were completed.

We had hoped to repeat the exercise on a regular basis but, despite appeals, nobody else came forward to assist with the administration.

You can learn more about CSW on our website:

www.villagewatch.co.uk/speedwatch

In a related but quite separate initiative, Birstall Parish Council purchased a speed gun in 2016 for the exclusive use of our local Beat Team. Only Police Officers can conduct speed checks that can be enforced in court. The gun is held locally by the Police and is used by them around our villages on a regular basis.

This gun has to be calibrated and certified on an annual basis so that its data can be used as evidence in court. The Watch has undertaken to pay the cost of this certification as a contribution to local road safety.

Safe Parcel Deliveries

It is now common practice for delivery companies to send an email advising the progress of a parcel's journey. It often includes the option for the recipient to nominate a place for the courier to leave the parcel if there is no one at home to receive it.

This can be a very convenient option that avoids having to wait in or having the delivery delayed. However, before opting for this, take a little time to consider the drawbacks.

If the nominated place is accessible to the courier, it can also be easily accessed by anyone else.

The delivery company has a legal responsibility to deliver your parcel safely to the address on the label. If it does not arrive or is damaged, it is their responsibility, not yours. However, if you have agreed to it being left in a place outside of your home, they will have fulfilled their responsibility by doing so.

If it is not there or is damaged when you get back, it is much more difficult to prove what happened. It could have been stolen or damaged after delivery.

Having a safe place for parcels, such as a porch or greenhouse, can save a lot of inconvenience but this has to be balanced against the risk of your parcel going missing. The decision must be yours, the courier company cannot force you to nominate a safe place.

You've Won!

Learning that you have won a prize can be very good news but only if you entered a legitimate competition in the first place.

Which? reports that a member of the public, who enjoys entering competitions on Facebook, received a message from an account that looked just like *Currys PC World*, saying that she had won a television and some Bluetooth speakers.

It asked her to confirm her name, mobile phone number and delivery address, which she did. But when she was asked for her card details to cover the cost of delivery she, fortunately, realised that something was wrong. Major brands would not expect a competition winner to pay the cost of delivering the prize.

It is more than likely that the criminals would have used her payment details not just to claim these non-existent charges but for other payments as well. Even the details she did supply could be added to the lists of personal profiles that circulate for sale on the dark web.

Fraudsters create convincing copycat social media accounts to contact victims, claiming that they have won competitions. They target people based on their social media activity and make offers that seem to make sense at first sight.

If you like to enter competitions, it is a good idea to keep a note at the time you do so. Include the date you entered, the platform used (e.g. Facebook), details of the prize and any entry fee.

A competition that requires you to make a payment at any point, should be checked very carefully to confirm that it is genuine before you send anything.

Our Local Police Team

There have been more changes to our Beat Team since we reported last month. PCSO Taylor Cody, who joined the team in May last year, is moving to work in Loughborough. She has been a familiar presence in our villages and we wish her well in her new role.

We would like to welcome her replacement, PCSO 6580 Naomi Sharpe. Please stop and say hello if you meet her while she is on patrol.

The Team produces its own monthly Newsletter. It contains details of recent crime in our villages, crime prevention advice and other news about their activities.

If you want to keep up to date on policing issues in Birstall and Wanlip, you can read it in full each month on our website:

www.villagewatch.co.uk/police

where you can also sign up to have it sent directly to your mailbox as soon as it is published.

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AND POLITE DOES NOT ALWAYS MEAN
THAT THEY ARE HONEST**