



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

It's That Time Again

This is the edition in which we suggest some New Year Resolutions for you to make. Last January, the major risk we faced was the surge in online fraud and scams that had followed the changes to our shopping methods caused by the Covid-19 outbreak.

Sadly, a year later little has changed. The Covid virus still remains a major factor in our lives and the cyber criminals continue to trick people out of millions of pounds each month in the UK alone.

The older forms of crime have not gone away; theft, burglary and vehicle crime still occur on a regular basis. Violence among family members and neighbours' disputes have seen an increase as social restrictions have been imposed.

Please make it your resolution to stay alert to the risk of

crime. Always keep your property secure and do not make it easy for thieves. Keep your home and vehicles locked whenever they are unattended.

Seek help and advice if you feel vulnerable or threatened by others in your household or anywhere else. See our website for sources of help that you can use safely and in confidence.

www.villagewatch.co.uk/phone-numbers

Treat ALL unexpected messages, however you receive them, as potential scams and do nothing until you are absolutely sure that they are genuine.

Never act in haste, always take time to consider and do not be panicked into doing something silly. That is exactly what the cyber criminals want you to do.

Take all the necessary precautions to protect yourself, your family and friends from latest variants of the virus and have a safe and positive 2022.

Fake Celebrity Endorsements

An old scamming trick has become rife in the last couple of months. Adverts have appeared for a whole range of products that claim that well-known personalities are recommending them.

Latest versions claim that Andy Murray is endorsing CDB gummies and Dragons' Den's Deborah Meaden CDB oil supplements. Customers who were misled by these claims and placed orders on the strength of them, subsequently found that their credit cards were charged amounts much greater than they anticipated. To make things worse, the actual items never arrived.

Martin Lewis, the respected money advice expert, has had his name and photograph misused to promote financial products and 'investments' he has actually warned us to avoid.

If you come across advertisements that include well-known names, check carefully before believing them. Celebrities do genuinely endorse some products but it is worth checking their own websites to see if they are included there.

Wrong Address?

Which? reports that a woman received a parcel, correctly addressed to her, from a reputable online seller. She was not expecting anything from them but before she could query it, a man wearing a courier company logo came to her door. He explained that the parcel had been delivered in error and asked for it back.

She subsequently discovered that the expensive item had been ordered using her stolen account details and delivered to her correctly. The 'courier' had been watching for the delivery so that he could then steal it.

If you receive an unexpected parcel correctly addressed to you, check with the supplier before you do anything with it. Be very wary of any callers trying to take possession of it, no matter how plausible they may appear.

Get regular news of the latest scams FREE from:

www.which.co.uk/scam-alert-service

Safeguard your Presents

It is a very good idea to do all that we can to protect our valuable Christmas presents from thieves and make them easier for the Police to recover and return to us.

Almost all items, including photographs of jewellery, can be registered with *Immobilise*, the Police-supported national database. If the Police recover property that they suspect is stolen, they are able to check whether it is registered on the database and contact the owner.

They can then prove to a court that it is stolen. If they cannot do this conclusively, a plausible story can allow the thief to keep it and avoid prosecution.

At the end of 2021, over 35,000,000 items were registered on the database. Just go the website:

www.immobilise.com

Report Suspicious Emails

If you receive an email that you are not sure about, you can report it by forwarding it to: report@phishing.gov.uk

Report Suspicious Text Messages

You can report a suspicious text message free of charge by forwarding it to 7726. Your network provider can then investigate its origin and take any necessary action.

Police News

Our Beat Team produces a monthly Newsletter with news of crime and other local policing matters.

You can read it in full each month on our website:

www.villagewatch.co.uk/police

IF YOU MAKE A PHONE CALL YOU ARE IN CONTROL BUT IF SOMEONE PHONES YOU THEN THEY ARE IN CONTROL