



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

Many thanks to all of you who have already completed our online Survey.

We would still like to have as wide a range of opinions as possible so, if you have not already done so, please take five minutes to complete it now.

Go to our website: www.villagewatch.co.uk



Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

Children are abused not only when someone actually inflicts harm on them but also when others fail to take action to prevent it from happening.

Victims may be abused by people they know in a family, residential or community setting or elsewhere by strangers.

Abuse and neglect pose risks to the health and well-being of children and in some cases they have died when concerns were not acted upon quickly enough. Abusers can be other children as well as adults.

If you think a child is being abused or harmed, you should take action straight away. The longer it goes on, the longer it takes for the child to recover.

Help is available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week:

Leicestershire County Council
0116 305 0005
childrensduty@leics.gov.uk

ChildLine
0800 1111
www.childline.org.uk

Police
Non emergencies dial 101
In emergencies dial 999

NSPCC
0808 800 5000
help@nspcc.org.uk

Handheld Loophole Closed

A legal loophole that allowed drivers to escape punishment for using a handheld phone to take photos or play games has been closed.

You can now be fined £1000 and receive six penalty points on your licence for scrolling through playlists, playing games or taking pictures on a handheld device while driving.

This change in the law extends the existing offence that already includes making phone calls or sending text messages.

- Using a hand-held mobile phone or sat-nav while driving is illegal.
- All hands-free devices must be fully set up before you start driving.
- The law applies even when you are queuing in traffic or stopped at traffic lights.
- The Police have the power to stop you if they think you have been distracted.

You can get penalty points on your licence, a fine and even a driving ban if you break these driving laws.

Cash Machine Danger

Residents are advised to be extra vigilant when using cash machines to avoid being robbed.

There have been a small number of thefts reported where the victim was distracted or pushed out of the way after putting in their card. In some cases, the maximum amount was then stolen from their account.

- Always be aware of people standing too close or trying to distract you while you are using a cash machine.
- If someone is too close, take out your card before drawing any money and simply walk away.
- Wherever possible, use a cash machine that is located inside a bank.

Report any suspicious activity to the police on 101 as soon as possible or dial 999 in an emergency.

Protect yourself from Holiday Fraud

As holiday travel has begun to return to normal, criminals have become active in this field. They offer attractive holidays at low prices but deliver something very different. You may find yourself with a flight but, on arrival, discover that no accommodation exists or that it is of very poor quality. Return flights may have been cancelled and refunded to the fraudster after your arrival.

- ✓ Make sure you have the booking company's name and full postal address and check that it actually exists.
- ✓ Keep an eye out for bad spelling and grammar; this is often a sign of fraud.
- ✓ See if the company has only recently been set up or changed hands; this can be another sign of fraud.
- ✓ Ensure that the company is a registered member of a trade body such as ABTA, the travel agents' association or ATOL, the Air Travel Organiser's Licence authority.
- ✓ Make sure that their website uses the padlock symbol to indicate that it is secure before you send any money.
- ✓ Never pay by cash or through money transfer agents such as Western Union. If possible, only pay by credit card to protect your payment.
- ✓ Check carefully that the details on the paperwork match what you think you have booked and read the terms and conditions to confirm exactly what you are buying.
- ✓ Double check your booking just before you travel and earlier if there is a long time before the travel date.

IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBTS DO NOT BOOK IT

The old paper versions of £20 and £50 notes will cease to be legal tender after 30th September 2022

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