



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

Our Advice Shop is Re-Opening

The Neighbourhood Watch Advice Shop will be open between 10 am and 12 noon on Saturday, 16th July 2022 in the Robert Dickinson Building, 10 Sibson Road, Birstall (opposite the Garden Centre)

We are looking forward to seeing Old and New Friends again

Pension Credit Unclaimed

As the rise in the cost of living puts increasing pressure on our personal budgets, many people who depend primarily on their state pensions are missing out.

Pension Credit is paid as an additional benefit to single pensioners receiving less than £182.70 and couples receiving less than £278.70 per week. If your income is higher, you might still be eligible for Pension Credit if you have a disability, you care for someone, you have savings or you have housing costs.

It is estimated that billions of pounds of Pension Credit continue to go unclaimed.

If you think you might be eligible or know someone who might be, you can get more information from these websites:

www.gov.uk/pension-credit
www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice

Survey Results

In April we launched an online survey seeking views on the future direction of our Neighbourhood Watch. By the end of May fifty responses had been received.

You can view a detailed breakdown of the survey results on our website:

www.villagewatch.co.uk/surveyresults

Here are a few of the key results.

Forty-five (90%) respondents rated the Watch as *Useful* or *Very Useful* and five (10%) as *Not Very Useful*.

Respondents were asked to identify **four areas** on which the Watch should concentrate its efforts. The *Newsletter* achieved the highest score but was closely followed the *Beat Surgery at the Advice Shop* and the *Advice Shop*. Thirty-eight (76%) respondents selected the *Advice Shop* in one form or another.

Twenty-nine (58%) respondents selected our Newsletter *Village Watch News*. We had no choice at the beginning of the lockdown but to suspend the physical two-sided paper version distribution and subsequently published a single page in the *Birstall Post* each month as well as continuing to make it available online.

Forty-two (84%) respondents preferred to continue with the current arrangement while only eight (16%) preferred a return to the paper distribution.

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

Call 159

Last year criminal gangs stole over £470m by pretending to be a bank or other service provider.

If you think someone is trying to trick you into handing over money or personal details then:

!! - Stop

!! - Hang up

!! - Dial 159 to speak directly to your bank

159 is the memorable and secure number that connects you directly to your bank. It works in the same way as 101 for the police or 111 for the NHS. It is the number you can trust to get you through to your bank, every time.

159 will never call you. Only a fraudster will object to you calling 159.

www.stopscamsuk.org.uk/159

Phoney BT Direct Debit Emails

BT is being impersonated by scammers in an email that asks you to change your direct debit details.

As fraudulent emails go, this is a convincing one. It includes BT's branding, logo and even the genuine customer service phone number. But the link behind the button directs you to a fake website.

If you receive a message out of the blue about payment details from BT or any other organisation, always check first with your provider directly before you click on a link or button.

Dog Ownership

Incidents of children and adults being injured or killed by rogue dogs are, fortunately, very rare and responsible dog owners are as concerned and upset as anybody else when they occur. They know that their own pets are friendly and pose no danger to any member of the public.

It can be difficult to know whether a strange dog running free is just being friendly or posing some kind of threat. This is especially true for young children to whom even a small animal can appear big and frightening. This fear will be exacerbated if the individual has had a previous bad experience with a poorly behaved animal.

Please enjoy the companionship of your family pets and give them all the exercise they need. However, please remember that the rules about keeping them on a lead and under proper control are there to protect others.

Reports of serious incidents also include attacks on other pets as well as farm livestock. If somebody complains about your dog being off the lead, please remember that they might have a good reason for doing so.