



Milton Ernest

Supporting The Village Through The Neighbourhood Watch Network

Dear Villager.

Welcome to this Autumn/Winter edition of our Newsletter.

Neighbourhood Watch is one of the most effective crime reduction initiatives.

It's all about people getting together and actively having a positive impact on crime in their area.

The effectiveness of the scheme is dependent on the enthusiasm and efforts of those involved.

We are pleased to say that recorded crime in Milton Ernest remains low.

Reporting a crime to the Police helps keep you and your neighbours stay safe. If you don't report a crime, we and they don't know it has happened. The police are concerned that criminal activity is under-reported and even if you think a report goes without any obvious action by them, each contact is recorded to help them understand the fuller picture. If you have any concerns regarding actual or potential crimes, please feel free to speak to me, your Area Coordinator; Hazel Snowball. 01234 822303.



To help avoid a burglary on these dark nights.

You are less likely to be burgled if your house looks as if there is someone at home.

So, when you are not at home, leave a light on somewhere, preferably in more than one room.

Time switches are good for this.



Riseley Police Station

Is the base for the North Beds Rural Team.

The Officers currently at Riseley are:

Inspector Richard Cunningham.

Sergeant Carl Perry.

PC Kerri Jones.

PCSO James Dancer and

PCSO Stephen Tarabella.

These Officers cover the North Beds villages. A Police Volunteer is there for general enquiries most Wednesday mornings from 9:00am to 12 noon.

The police are keen for the public to contact them with concerns using their on-line survey facility;

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BedsPoliceHaveYourSay>

They have Social Media accounts on Facebook and Twitter and to contact any of the team, ring 101 to make an appointment.

If you see anything suspicious or wish to report a crime, you can do it on line via Bedfordshire Police website; or ring 101. Always ring 999 in an emergency.

The police can now link into your phone when dialling 999 to live stream any incident as it happens.

Be part of the biggest voluntary movement in the UK

Anyone can become a member of Neighbourhood Watch.

By becoming a member you take the first step to making your village a stronger and safer place to be.

It's easy to join and it's free; log on to the OURWATCH website and press "find your local scheme".

You will automatically be placed on the OURWATCH messaging system, which is used by Bedfordshire Police, Beds Fire & Rescue Service and Action Fraud as well as National Neighbourhood Watch, to give members information on crime prevention, safety and security and campaigns, both local and national.

You will also receive the monthly national newsletters, and be more equipped to tackle important issues affecting your village. On joining you will receive a welcome pack and door/window stickers.

Neighbourhood Watch only use your details to administer your account. For more information, see the Privacy Policy on the OURWATCH website.

CrimeStoppers.

0800 555111

100% anonymous. Always.

We're an independent charity that gives people the power to speak up and stop crime, 100% anonymously. By phone and online, 24/7, 365 days a year. No police contact. No witness statements. No courts.

Every year we help stop thousands of crimes. So let's make communities safer together.

Report online via the website: crimestoppers-uk.org



Christmas in the Village



The annual Christmas Tree Light "Switch On" will be on Friday 1st December at 6.00pm. Followed by **FREE** Mulled Wine/Hot Chocolate, and Warm Mince Pies in the Village Hall. Seasonal Entertainment from The Bedford Modern Singers. A big thank you to our new Vicar; Jes Salt for kindly agreeing to switch on our lights.

The darker winter nights, and particularly the period leading up to and over Christmas, present their own problems when it comes to crime.

Shopping safely and sensibly

- Be aware of your belongings when you are in a crowd, there may be pickpockets about.
- Put your purse or wallet away before leaving the till, don't let staff or other customers rush you.
- Take care at the ATM, be wary of people standing too close for comfort. Try and use an ATM inside the bank
- If you shop on line, check out the site's payment methods and the security they offer. Many sites can take orders over the phone.

Using the car

- Park in a busy area and well lit area when shopping.
- Leave personal and valuable items at home.
- If you must have them with you, store them in the boot before you leave.
- Don't store your bought goods in the car and then return to the shops for more; you don't know who may be watching in the car park.
- Late night shopping may be more convenient, but do take care and take someone with you if possible.

Time for a security health check

- Check outdoor security lights and replace blown bulbs.
- Check padlocks, hasps and hinges on your outside doors for wear and tear and replace them if necessary.
- Many people have freezers in the garage; Christmas food and drinks are vulnerable. And don't forget, new bicycles are also at risk.
- If you have a house alarm, has it been serviced recently?
- If you don't have an alarm, you can always buy a battery operated single room alarm to protect your hallway, shed or garage.
- Use timer switches to operate lights and radios when you are out.
- Don't leave your Christmas tree lights on and curtains open when you go out; and don't leave presents under the tree.
- If you are going away, ask a neighbour or friend to pick up your post. They could also park their car in your drive!!
- After Christmas, dispose of boxes and packaging carefully; don't leave them on the roadside or on top of the wheelie bin.

All Saints Church

Christmas Events

10th December

Carol Service 6.00pm

17th December

Holy Communion 9.30am

20th December

Carols in the Village

Marsh Lane 5.30pm

Huntsmans Way 6.30pm

London End 7.30pm

22nd December

Carols in the Village

Arkwright Road 5.30pm

Riverside View 6.30pm

Queens Head 7.30pm

24th December

Christingle Service 4.00pm

Midnight Service 11.30pm

Merry Christmas
& **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

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