



Milton Ernest

Supporting The Village Through The Neighbourhood Watch Network

Dear Villager.

Welcome to this Spring/Summer edition of our Newsletter.

The Village Neighbourhood Watch scheme and the Parish Council are re-introducing **No Cold Calling Zone**.



Crime statistics have shown this to be an effective approach as a means of reducing the incidents of doorstep crime and rogue traders.

Any trader that ignores a sticker or notice on your door stating that you do not wish to receive cold callers, and ignores any request by you to leave and not return, is committing an offence.

Unfortunately, not all cold calling traders will respect your wishes and some may ignore your stickers.



“No Cold Calling” zone in Milton Ernest.

In May, we will have new signs on the four approaches into the village.

With this newsletter you have received a “No Cold Calling sticker.

COMMON TYPES OF DOORSTEP SCAMS

Rogue Traders. Traders who say they’ve noticed something wrong with your property and they can fix it. They will often say the work is urgent and normally ask for an immediate payment, even offering to go to the bank with you. Suddenly you may find the price has increased, or they have disappeared without finishing, or even starting the work.

Fake police or bank staff. Watch out for people who come to your door claiming to be police officers or bank staff and ask to see your PIN or your bank cards. A real police officer or bank worker will never come to your house and ask for this information.

Door to door sellers Be wary of pushy sellers who say they have large discounts, time limited offers or just a few items left.

Utility Officials who claim to be from gas and electric companies but don’t have any ID badges.

Unexpected deliveries. of any goods or products you didn’t order.

Fake charity collectors. They may seem pushy or be unable to supply a registered charity number.

Strangers who try to enter your home. People who ask to come into your home because they need help, for example, to use the phone, or because they feel unwell or want to use the toilet.

CrimeStoppers.

0800 555111

100% anonymous. Always.

Is 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

Protecting against doorstep scams:

Remember, you don't have to open the door to anyone you don't know.
Display your no cold calling sign at your front door or window.
Never buy from door to door sellers.
Don't be embarrassed to say "no" or ask people to leave.
Never sign anything on the spot.
Never hand over your bank cards, cash, jewellery or any other valuable items to anyone claiming to be from the police or your bank.

Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

What should I do if I've been scammed on my doorstep?

If you've been scammed, there's support available;

Action Fraud: If you suspect you've been scammed, report it to Action Fraud either over the phone or via their website.

Citizens Advice: contact them if you've been scammed on your doorstep and they will pass your report onto Trading Standards.

Call **999** to speak to the police in an emergency, or **101** if you're not in immediate danger and want to report the incident.

**You Are Invited To The
Queens Head Hotel
On Saturday 8th June 2024
at 3pm**

*In remembering the
80th Anniversary Of
The D-Day Landings*
**An Afternoon Of Swing
Band Music
Featuring the
Mainline Big Band**

**BBQ in the garden:
Raffle in aid of The Royal
British Legion**

Ale Festival (6th to 9th June)

The car park for the day is at the Village Hall on Thurleigh Road

Riseley Police Station Is the base for the North Beds Rural Team.

The Officers currently at Riseley are:

**Inspector Russell Goldsmith
Sergeant Sarah Cluff
PC Kerri Jones.
PCSO James Dancer
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.

To join Neighbourhood Watch, visit OURWATCH.org.uk