



Milton Ernest

Supporting The Village Through The Neighbourhood Watch Network

Dear Villager.

Welcome to this Summer edition of our Newsletter, the theme of which is **Cyber Awareness With Actions To Improve Your Cyber Security.**

Bedfordshire Police Cyber Hub, in association with Bedford and District Neighbourhood Watch, have provided a cyber awareness leaflet for distribution to every home in the village. We hope this will benefit your personal on-line safety.



Cybercrime is criminal activity carried out using the internet or digital devices.

As this type of crime is becoming more frequent and sophisticated, this free leaflet will help protect you from cyber criminals.

Be part of the largest voluntary movement in the UK

By becoming a NHW 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".

We are the '703 Milton Ernest' Scheme.

You will automatically be placed on the OURWATCH messaging system, which is used by Bedfordshire Police (Beds Connected), 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 receive the monthly newsletters, and be more equipped to tackle important issues affecting your home.

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

Hazel Snowball. Village Coordinator. Tel: 01234 822303

Next NHW "Surgery" 7th July 2026 at the Queens Head. 7.30pm. All welcome.

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.

Types Of Cyber Crime:

Phishing:

Attackers send deceptive emails, texts or messages pretending to be legitimate organisations (e.g. banks, Government Agencies). The goal is to manipulate individuals to revealing sensitive information like login credentials or financial details, which can lead to fraud.

Malware:

Malware is malicious software (eg viruses, spyware, or trojans) designed to infiltrate or damage computer systems. Cyber criminals use it to secretly steal sensitive data, log keystrokes, or create hidden back doors into a device.

Ransomware:

A particularly destructive form of malware, ransomware encrypts a victim's files or locks them out of their own system. The cyber criminals then demand a ransom payment often in cryptocurrency in exchange for restoring access.

Identity Theft:

This occurs when a cyber criminal steals personal data (eg credit card details) to impersonate someone else. The stolen information is then used to illegally open bank accounts, apply for loans, or make unauthorised purchases in the person's name.

How to keep safe on line

Please use the accompanying leaflet to help protect you and your family

1. Create a unique password for your email account.
2. Create strong passwords using three random words.
3. Save passwords in your browser.
4. Turn on 2-step verification (2SV).
5. Update your devices.
6. Make sure your important data is backed up.
7. Report suspicious messages.

'Remember'
Report all suspicious messages !!

Riseley Police Station

Is the base for the North Beds Rural Team.

Sergeant Stuart Hopkins
PC Kerry Jones
PC Abi Holt
PC Clarke Parkinson
PC Vito Napoli
PC Holley Livingstone
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**