



## Neighbourhood Watch Report for APM May 2021

An interesting year in all aspects of life, especially due to the pandemic. The face of crime has changed significantly during the year as sadly, the bad guys didn't all go into lockdown with the rest of us.

### Hare Coursers

We had our fair share of these last year but thanks to a number of calls to the Police, and number of them were caught, fined and had their vehicles confiscated. Sadly they had already done considerable damage to crops by this time.

### Scouts

As usual throughout the year there have been numerous cold callers around the area. Generally, they call at a house that they suspect to be empty, knock on the door, if no one answers they have a good look around with a view to burglary, either on the spot or returning later to break in. If someone answers the door they will always have a half plausible story about selling furniture, touting for scrap or even selling garden furniture. If you should get such a visitor, please call the Police on 101 and give them a description of the person(s) and their vehicle. By doing this you may prevent someone else from being burgled. Remember, a cold caller is seldom genuine, so please do not part with any cash, at least until you have received what you are buying and are satisfied with it.

### Scams

The pandemic has introduced us to a whole new wave of scams where scammers are trying to exploit our vulnerability. We have had everything from people cold calling selling test kits for COVID right through to the vaccine itself. You are expected to part with money up front and they say they will return with the vaccine, but obviously you never see them again. We also had cold phone calls asking if you would like to book a COVID vaccination, usually at a centre a fair way from home. If you accept the booking, they wait for you to go out to attend the appointment which proves to be false and no vaccine is available. But worse still, when you return home, your house has been burgled.

### Break Ins

Last September we had a break in at Green Farm. A lock was removed from a container with an angle grinder and garden tools and machinery were stolen. There have been other break ins nearby in Wickhambrook, Ousden and Barrow.

During the pandemic lockdown this year, break ins have generally reduced around the area. I guess that is because most people have not been going out so it has made it more difficult for thieves to find an empty property to burgle.

### Vigilance

The best thing we can do is to all be as vigilant as possible and report all suspicious activity to the Police with as much detail as possible. Initially report to 101 unless you believe a crime is actually in progress, in which case ring 999.

Stay safe.

*Paul Rogers*

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator.