



Welcome to your Belgrave police e-newsletter. Here you will find all of the latest news from your local policing team as well as crime prevention advice to help keep you safe.

Beat Surgeries

Local officers invite you to join them and discuss local issues they will be at the following locations:

Tuesday 1st February 2022 - 12:00 - 13:00 Belgrave Library, Cossington Street

Monday 14th February 2022 - 10:00 -11:00 Lidl, Loughborough Road

Friday 21st February 2022 - 12:00 - 13:00 Canterbury House

ATM Tampering

We have had a recent spate of ATM machines locally being tampered with. Patrols have been increased in the relevant areas and we would like people to remain vigilant when they are using ATMs. If you notice anything suspicious about an ATM machine contact police and the bank.

The device on the right was seized by officers patrolling the recently targeted areas.

This was placed over the slot where the money comes out, catching the money rather than dispensing it.



ATM AWARENESS



AWARE

It's a good idea to scan the area around ATMs before you use them. Be aware of anyone standing close by and always check the machine to see if it's been tampered with before you use it.

TAMPERING

Things to look out for are devices attached to the machine – some are more obvious than others. If you do see something suspicious contact the police and the bank.

Remember, if it doesn't look or feel right then steer clear and, if possible, go inside the bank where it will be safer. And always keep a regular check on your transactions.

MONITOR

Monitor your surroundings. Thieves will watch as you key in your PIN or distract you while you're withdrawing cash. Be vigilant. Cover your PIN and keep an eye on your card at all times. If someone taps you on the shoulder or tries to speak to you, just ignore them.

If you see any suspicious persons at ATM's or are a victim, ring and report it on 999

Community Engagements



On Wednesday 12th January PC 1327 Thomas attended the Abbey Park Campus of Leicester College to take part in a Cops Communities Consent Seminar presentation and workshop to Unifom Public Service students alongside Riaz Ravat from the St Philip's Centre. The students were split in to groups and given a case study to navigate relating to different situations that police may come across. It encouraged the students to think outside the box and to take in to account personal, religious and community impact that can be had on investigations.

This was received well by all and most certainly has had an informed and positive learning experience for them on the topics covered.

Street Drinking

On Friday 14th January PC 4811 Pema and PC 1327 Thomas went out with a Community Recovery Worker from Turning Point to target areas where street drinking is prevalent to engage and offer support to people that re struggling with drug and alcohol dependency. This was well received with the members of the public that were engaged with and we are looking to organise further joint work together with Turning Point. If you would like any advice relating to alcohol or drugs you can contact Turning Point via their website www.turning-point.co.uk



During recent Beat Surgeries conducted it has been highlighted that there has been an increase in Anti-Social behaviour in Vicarage Lane so patrols have been increased in this area. On the left PCSO Colford is patrolling Vicarage Lane.

If you see any Anti-Social behaviour please report to police by calling 101 or visiting www.leics.police.uk

New National campaign to prevent people falling victim to romance fraud launched

A national campaign was launched on Monday 10th January 2022 by the City of London Police to warn people about romance fraud.

The campaign urges family members to help protect their relatives from becoming a victim of romance fraud, as new national figures show almost £92 million has been lost through dating scams between November 2020 and October 2021.

Daters who strike up online relationships between Christmas and Valentine's Day tend to be the most susceptible to romance fraud, with a spike of 901 reports recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) in March 2021.

In Leicestershire between November 2020 and October 2021 130 reports of romance fraud were received by the force, with victims losing in excess of £900,000 through this scam.

Criminals often use a range of stories to get victims to transfer them money without it raising suspicion. The stories are often believable, to a certain extent, and something that the victim would find hard to say no to, especially because of their emotional attachment.

How to help protect people you know are online dating

- Help your friends and family to ensure they have adequate privacy settings on their social media accounts to ensure strangers don't have access to their personal information.
- Stay in regular contact with your friends and family who are online dating to help spot any changes in behaviour or things that don't seem right.
- Make friends and family aware of the signs of romance fraud so that they are conscious of the tactics criminals use to carry out these scams and reiterate that you should never transfer money to someone that you have never met in person.
- Encourage people to report to Action Fraud and the police if they have become a victim of romance fraud and not to be embarrassed about doing so.

Anyone who is speaking to people they do not know or have not known for a long period of time is urged to follow the Take Five To Stop Fraud advice:

Stop: Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.

Challenge: Could it be fake? It's okay to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

Protect: If you think you've been a victim of fraud, contact your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud online at actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.

If you feel you have been the victim of a similar offence we would urge you to contact Action Fraud or report online at www.leics.police.uk



Safer Internet Day is celebrated globally in February each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people, and to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically, and creatively. Safer Internet Day 2022 is on **8th February** and will be celebrated with the theme 'All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online'.

From gaming and chat, to streaming and video, young people are shaping the interactive entertainment spaces they are a part of. Safer Internet Day 2022 celebrates young people's role in creating a safer internet, whether that is whilst gaming and creating content, or interacting with their friends and peers

www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2022

Festivals in February 2022

1st February – NEW YEAR FESTIVAL/CHUNJIE/YUAN TAN Chinese

Celebrations last for three or more days, and involve fireworks,, dances and gifts of paper money, flowers and sweets. 2022 is the year of the Tiger.

2nd February – PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE/CANDLEMAS Christian Congregations hold lighted candles to recall the Presentation of Jesus in the temple.

4th/5th February SARASVATI PUJI/VASANT PANCHAMI – Hindu

Widely celebrated in North India, this festival marks the beginning of spring. For Hindus it is usually linked with Saraswati, the goddess of learning and the art. Yellow is her associated colour.

14th February – ST VALANTINE'S DAY Christian/National

This originated as a Christian feast day honouring one or two Christian Martyrs named Saint Valentine and, through later folk traditions, has become a significant cultural, religious and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world..

28th February/1st March – MAHASHIVRATRI Hindu

This is the night on which Shiva is said to perform the cosmic dance, leading from creation to destruction. Many Hindus fast at this time. All night prayers focus on Shiva and his shrines and statues. Milk is poured on his symbol, the lingham.