Dear Residents **November 2016 – bulletin 11**

**Crime reports**

Sheds and garages continue to be overnight break-in targets, lately in Market Weighton but anywhere is vulnerable. A car, motorbike, cycles and possessions have been stolen and the Police urge us report suspicious behaviour or vehicles on 999 if a crime is occurring or on 101 if not.

Other crime has involved tools stolen from a van at Pocklington, cars damaged in the Pocklington, Market Weighton and Sancton areas and a male being disturbed during a “sneak-in” burglary at Barmby Moor.

**Fraud and cyber-security advice from national Neighbourhood Watch network**

A recent especially commissioned survey for 2015/16 showed that:

* 53% of us have received fraudulent emails or messages which tried to direct us to a website where personal information could be stolen (bank details, usernames, passwords).
* 28% reported being contacted by someone trying to trick them into revealing personal info.
* 10% had their email or social media accounts hacked.
* 3% had been victims of “ransomware” – fast growing online extortion.

Also, the survey showed that respondents had each lost an average of £523 when victims.

The website ***www.getsafeonline.org*** has comprehensive advice on a wide range of fraud and cybercrime aspects and can help us to avoid contributing to our national almost £11Bn annual losses. This equates to £210 for every person over 16 in the UK but is considered to be well below the true figure because of under-reporting. The survey found that 39% said they hadn’t reported either because it was too trivial or they did not think anything could be done.

Some very basic tips they offer are:

(a) Review your passwords – make them strong enough and do not use the same one for multiple accounts – the survey showed that individuals had 9 different passwords on average but 43% said they used the same one across accounts.

(b) Check social media privacy settings – ensure your information and updates are seen only by those that you trust.

(c) Update operating systems on your equipment when prompted to do so.

(d) Back up your files – the cloud can save them all and is better than memory sticks or discs. The survey showed that a third of respondents didn’t back up files at all.

(e) Check that internet security software and apps are up to date.

(f) If you have children, are you doing enough to keep them safe online?

The website has much more detailed advice about these and other areas of online activity and a visit is recommended strongly.

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