

Holbrook Neighbourhood Watch Autumn 2021

I have been asked once again to write a piece for Neighbourhood Watch, as I do so I am reflecting back on the fact that it is now a year since I was asked to write my first instalment. Looking back on the last year I will now no longer be a stranger to many of you in Holbrook either through meeting you at Parish Council meetings or just exchanging everyday pleasantries in the street such as earlier this week when I was chatting to a lady about how we used to have tin baths instead of the modern indoor bathrooms we now enjoy.

In the spirit of looking back as I look through the crime figures for Holbrook for the last six months it is clear that compared to many places Holbrook is a safe village suffering from low crime rates. That



is not to say that it does not have its issues. There have been 14 crimes recorded in the last six months however eight of these are related to domestic circumstances and whilst it is distressing for those involved it does not have an impact on the general overall safety of the village. Of those which are left one relates to a speeding vehicle on Shaw Lane, another is a vehicle broken into on Ruffstone Close. A third is graffiti to a wall off Moorside Lane, the young offenders have been identified and dealt with.

Shaw Lane on my Patrol 2nd November.

On my last newsletter although restrictions had been eased, we were still under severe restrictions due to the pandemic. We are thankfully in a better place now and life is starting to look much more like normal, and of course whilst this is welcome it does mean that some of the less desirable aspects are back with us. There have been some instances of door to door sale people going round the area. Now that the Covid restrictions have been lifted it is not an offence to canvas at the door however I know that many people often feel pressured to buy by the sales tactics that are used. The current sales pitch is that on answering the door they will inform you that they are an ex-offender (usually they will show you an I.D. tag) and are selling household cleaning products usually cloths, dusters, tea-towels etc from a bag they are carrying as a legitimate way to earn money instead of crime. In my experience these products are very expensive, and customers often end up paying £50 or more for a few tea-towels and a duster. As the police we are often called and have to advise the victim that no offence has been committed and there is no further action to recover the money that can be taken. This is unsatisfactory to both ourselves and the victim, it really is a case of prevention is better than cure. If you think you have one of these sales people at your door (a key clue is that they will have with them a large holdall bag) my advice is not to answer, if it is a legitimate delivery they usually leave a note.

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