

## *Brindle Parish Council: local information*

Happy New Year! We hope that you had a good Christmas, even with the Covid restrictions, and that this year will be much better than the last!

### BRINDLE COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD FACEBOOK PAGE

Gemma Webster on Smithy Close has set up a Brindle Community Notice Board on Facebook to encourage 'Brindlers' to share anything you think might be of interest. You can access the page by following this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/213495093548776/>. Please feel free to share the page and contribute to the group.

### EXPLOITATION ALERT: A NEW MOBILE APP

There is a new app called the *Cunch Line Chronicles App*. It is advertised as 'a light-hearted, satirical take on the darker side of urban UK culture'. In reality, this app is an exploitation risk for young and vulnerable people as it appears to have an in-chat facility which could enable grooming and recruitment to real life County Lines gangs. The National Crime Agency, National Policing Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme and the National County Lines Co-ordination Centre are investigating the action that can be taken to protect young and vulnerable people from the risk of being exploited via this app.

If you are concerned about a young or vulnerable person, you can report this by calling Lancashire Police on 101. You can also report anonymously to Crimestoppers via 0800 555 111 or online at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org). Also, Nest Lancashire supports young people aged 8 to 18 who have been affected by crime or subjected to threats or harassment. They can talk to Nest in confidence by texting NEST and their number to 60777 or by calling 0300 111 0323. If a crime is ongoing or lives are in immediate danger, dial 999.

### COVID SCAM TEXT MESSAGE

Residents in Lancashire have reported receiving a text message claiming to be from GOV.UK stating 'We have issued a payment of £682.76 to all residents as part of our promise to battle COVID-19'. This is a scam. Clicking on any associated link may then ask you to provide bank details and personal information.

### TV LICENSING SCAMS

There are a range of TV license scams via telephone, email and letter that say there is a problem with the licence or the customer is due a refund in an attempt to get customers to give their bank details. Note that TV Licensing will phone customers occasionally if there is a problem with their TV licence and it will usually be about a missed payment, a cancelled Direct Debit or a reminder to renew. *Genuine* TV Licensing emails and letters are personalised to include details such as your name, partial postcode or licence number. Many scams simply say 'Dear Customer' or use an email address and may have a made-up postcode or licence number. TV Licensing have published advice on its website - [www.tvl.co.uk/scams](http://www.tvl.co.uk/scams) - including a new advice booklet on how to avoid scams.

### BANK SCAM

A Brindle Parish Councillor was phoned recently by a woman purporting to be from her bank (Cumberland Building Society). This scammer said that attempts had been made to make a payment to Ikea International from her bank account, of £700. The scammer said that she needed to check the Councillor's bank

details and that she could prove she was from Cumberland because the Cumberland telephone number had come up on the display on the Councillor's phone and the scammer had the first six digits of the long debit card number. She wanted the other numbers on the debit card. The Councillor refused and said she would ring Cumberland to check. The scammer said 'I wouldn't do that. There's a two hour wait for calls'. The Councillor refused and the scammer ended the call.

Note that scammers can appear to be from reputable organisations and telephone numbers on the phone display can be simulated. It is natural to feel trust when you are told that bank fraud has been stopped but be very cautious. Remember that your bank will never ask you for bank details. A bank will never deter you from ringing them to check. It is always good practice to ring the bank directly to check if a phone call like this is genuine.

**CHORLEY, PRESTON AND SOUTH RIBBLE HOSPITALS, PARKING CHARGES**  
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals has had free parking during the covid pandemic for staff, patients and visitors. Note that parking charges have now been reinstated for patients and visitors. Staff still have free parking at Royal Preston, Chorley and South Ribble Hospitals and at a number of off-site car parks but, because of the demand for space, they *must* have the appropriate permits in order to use them.

#### ROAD NEWS

There is a temporary road closure on Windmill Lane, Brindle on 29/01/21 to enable British Telecom to install a new pole. You can find details of any planned works in Lancashire on the Highways Bulletin website which links to all planned works in Lancashire.

<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/roads/roadworks-and-traffic-regulation-orders.aspx>

Also, Lancashire Police are working with Lancashire County Council and the British Horse Society to educate horse riders and drivers on how to stay safe on the roads. If you see a horse on the road:

1. Slow down to 15mph.
2. Be patient, don't sound your horn or rev your engine.
3. Pass the horse wide (at least a car's width).
4. Drive away slowly.

#### PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Do you know that you can report issues relating to public footpaths to Lancashire County Council? They have only a small Public Rights of Way Team that does not have the resources to inspect all paths so it is important to alert them to any concerns. Contact the Team o: 01772 530317 or go to [www.prowreports@lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.prowreports@lancashire.gov.uk).

#### POLICING

Twelve months, Chorley and South Ribble Policing Team was set up as a dedicated task force to tackle local issues. It has four officers and works alongside the existing neighbourhood Teams. These officers have been working to address a number of issues which have been raised over the past year from anti-social behaviour to drugs. It is important that they get your feedback on policing concerns within the area that you live. Complete their survey at:

[www.stayintheknow.co.uk/C169FCC6-F4C4-46EB-AC2C-9084AC0912FC/QuickRegister](http://www.stayintheknow.co.uk/C169FCC6-F4C4-46EB-AC2C-9084AC0912FC/QuickRegister).

There has been an increase in vehicle crime in Lancashire and the Police ask everyone to stay vigilant and take all reasonable steps to keep vehicles safe. They suggest that you store your keys away from household entry points. Also, keeping your keyless entry fob out of sight is not enough - thieves only need to get close to the key to amplify the signal. Faraday Bags can be purchased online and in stores and these should prevent your signal being intercepted and your vehicle being entered or stolen. You can also consider using steering wheel devices such as the old style u bend/wheel locks to help prevent cars being moved or steering wheels being stolen. There is more information and advice on protecting your vehicle on their website:

[www.lancashire.police.uk/help-advice/property-safety/vehicle-crime/](http://www.lancashire.police.uk/help-advice/property-safety/vehicle-crime/).

That's all for this month. Keep safe! Roll on 2021!

Brindle Parish Council