

Brindle Parish Council: local information

By the time you read this, we hope that Spring is in the air! Here are the March alerts:

ROAD CLOSURES

There are two temporary road closure to enable Network Rail to carry out work on the level crossing at Gregson Lane. These are: from 10/04/21 to 11/04/21 for annual level crossing inspection works and from 08/05/21 to 09/05/21 for rail corrosion inspection works. There is also a proposed temporary road closure on Hill House Lane, Brindle on 13/04/21 to enable British Telecom to carry out customer connection service works.

ROOFERS COLD CALLING SCAM

Once again you should be aware of several scams that are circulating. Residents in the Chorley area are advised to be on their guard following an incident where roofers knocked at the door of an elderly lady's house and claimed that work needed to be carried out on the front roof *then* the back roof. A minor repair was carried out and over £1500 paid by the lady, with a further attempt to obtain another £1000. *Remember*, a trader should always give written cancellation rights where you agree to work being carried out in your own home. In this case no paperwork, or trader name and address details were given, which makes it difficult to trace the perpetrators.

In another incident in the Chorley area a householder agreed initially to pay £1,300 for roofing repair work but this was then increased to £17,000! The householder alerted the authorities and the work did not proceed. Be on your guard and use local, known, recommended traders. Get 3 quotes before agreeing to any work, especially for larger jobs. *Never* feel pressured into making a hurried decision to agree to work.

NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBER SCAM

Reports have been received from worried residents throughout the county who have received an automated message on their mobile phone which states their National Insurance number has been compromised and to 'press 1' to be put through to the Fraud team. This is a scam - the fraudsters may try to obtain your bank account details or secure a payment.

NHS COVID VACCINE TEXT SCAM

Every month there are scams that relate to Covid. This month, a fake text has been reported nationally telling people they are eligible to apply for the Covid 19 vaccine. The text reads "we have identified that you are eligible to apply for your vaccine" and takes you to a link which is an extremely convincing-looking fake NHS website asking for personal details and bank details. This scam preys on people's vulnerabilities at a very stressful and difficult time.

DVLA TEXT SCAM

Beware a scam DVLA text which claims you are due a refund. The link in the text takes you to a cloned DVLA site designed to steal your personal and banking detail. *Do not* click on the link or reply. Just delete or block if possible.

ROYAL MAIL TEXT SCAM

Beware a Royal Mail scam text asking for a shipping charge payment. The link will take you to a cloned Royal Mail site, designed to steal your personal and banking detail. *Do not* select the link or reply. Delete or block.

TV LICENCE TEXT SCAM

Fraudsters are sending out fake texts to BBC TV licence holders offering a Covid refund payment, in an attempt to steal personal and financial information. Again the text offers a link to a very convincing website where people are asked to put in their bank details to claim a refund.

Note that any scam can be reported to Action Fraud at 0300 123 2040 or at www.actionfraud.police.uk. You can also contact the Trading Standards Service via the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133.

POLICE SUPPORT SERVICES

There are a range of Police support services for victims of crime. Sexual violence can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, background or sexual orientation. Lancashire Victim Services offer specialist and independent emotional support and practical help. They offer support and guidance even if the crime has not been reported to the police. There is a phone service and online chat as well as self-help resources for anyone that doesn't quite feel ready to talk about what has happened. Anyone in need of support can get in touch by calling 0300 323 0085 or at www.lancashirevictimservices.org. You can also email at: info@lancashirevictimservices.org.

Domestic abuse services and refuges across the county are also open. Lockdown instructions as a result of Covid do not apply if you need to leave your home to escape domestic abuse. It is never acceptable and you are not to blame if it is happening to you. You can find details of support organisations across Lancashire at www.noexcuseforabuse.co.uk/help-support.

Specialist support for young victims of crime (8-18 years) is available through *Nest Lancashire*. Young people or anyone wishing to find out more can contact the service by texting NEST and their number to 60777, by emailing info@nestlancashire.org or by calling 0300 111 0323. To find out more about the services visit www.nestlancashire.org.

Anyone affected by hate crime can contact Lancashire Victim Services. If you have experienced hate crime you can find out more about the support available or chat online at www.lancashirevictimservices.org, by calling 0300 323 0085 or emailing info@lancashirevictimservices.org.

A final point is that *Lancashire Victim Services* can offer emotional support and practical help following *any* type of crime. Find out more or chat online at www.lancashirevictimservices.org, call 0300 323 0085 or email info@lancashirevictimservices.org.

ONLINE ARTHRITIS ACTION GROUPS

Arthritis Action Groups are an opportunity for people with arthritis to talk with others and share their tips on how to manage their arthritis and stay active whilst at home and discuss a variety of self-management techniques. They welcome new attendees. To find out more about the North West Group, go to www.arthritisaction.org.uk/media-centre/events.

Keep safe and well!

Brindle Parish Council