

Brindle Parish Council: local information

Welcome to April's Parish Council alerts. The 2021 Census has just taken place so be aware of follow-up visits. There are also a lot of scams as usual. We have included some information about a new Police operation in Chorley and there is advice to parents of babies about safe sleeping.

CENSUS INFORMATION

In March, the Office for National Statistics carried out the Census across England and Wales and census officers will be knocking on doors following up non-respondents. All officers will carry identification cards and a critical worker's letter. The card will have a photograph and the officer's name. The officers will not call before 9am or after 8pm. They will never ask for any money or bank details. More information about the Census is available at www.census.gov.uk.

SCAM: FLYER OFFERING PROPERTY EXTERIOR CLEANING SERVICES

A resident of South Ribble reported receiving a flyer offering to paint the outside of his property. The flyer claimed that reducing the moss and dirt from the exterior of buildings can help prevent the spread of Coronavirus (untrue) as well as providing a water-repellent coating for the walls. The trader was offering a free, no obligation quote and special rates for OAPs. As always, do your own research and be cautious about using traders via advertising flyers. Trading Standards always advise using known local traders. The Safetrader scheme can help you find a trader in your area. Contact 0303 333 1111 or go to www.safetrader.org.uk.

SCAM: COVID GRANT

Beware, unsolicited text messages purporting to offer a Covid -19 grant. The text includes a link to claim the grant that starts with the words 'GOV.UK' and ends with 'govuk.com', suggesting the text message has been sent by the Government. Do not select the link. The aim is to steal your personal details. Delete or block the number if you can.

SCAM: COURIER FRAUD

A Lancashire resident was targeted by a fraudster who phoned and told him there was fraud on his account. He was advised to withdraw cash at his nearest branch, which a courier would later collect. Thankfully, the bank managed to intercept this incident and no cash was handed over. Victims of courier fraud are usually asked to withdraw around £6,000, so that the numbers on the bank notes can be checked in line with the apparent investigation. Offenders encourage victims to stay on the phone during the bank transaction, before taking the cash home. Within the next hour, a 'courier' attends the address to collect the bank notes, usually quoting an agreed password, in an attempt to appear legitimate. Please note that the police or the bank will never phone you and ask you to withdraw funds for inspection. They will never ask you to transfer funds to a safe account and they will also never send someone to your home to collect cash, pins, cards or cheque books.

SCAM: AMAZON PHONE CALL

Beware receiving an automated message alleging to be from Amazon that states 'We have noticed a suspicious transaction from your account for the purchase of an Apple iPhone 11 for the sum of £1,400. If you wish to stop this transaction press button 1 or to speak to an Accounts Manager press button 2'. Do not continue with the call.

Note that the Telephone Preference Service (TPS) will help to reduce unsolicited sales and marketing calls and is a free service. The TPS will never ask for payment. To join TPS contact them on 0345 0700707 or go to www.tpsonline.org.uk.

SCAM: BREXIT TEXT

Beware of a phishing scam which uses the UK's exit from the EU as a cover for stealing personal information. The text message reads: 'We need to verify your identity to keep up with EU standards'. The message then instructs the recipient that 'to avoid restrictions' they must visit a website to upload their personal details. If you get this, just delete it. If you are the victim of a scam, you can report this to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or at www.actionfraud.police.uk.

POLICE NEWS

An operation has been launched in Chorley and South Ribble to address the illegal and nuisance use of off-road motorbikes, mopeds, scrambler bikes and quad bikes across the area. Codenamed Operation Seizure, officers will patrol areas which residents have highlighted as an area of concern and will seize any bikes that are being used illegally and prosecute those committing offences. As part of the operation, a dedicated email address has been set up. Officers are asking the public to report any anti-social activity or nuisance riders to Opseizure@lancashire.police.uk. Reports can also be made on 101 - or, if there is an imminent danger, 999.

Sgt Harrison said: 'We have set up a dedicated email address to make it easier to report motorcycle nuisance to us. We will collate and examine any information sent to us and treat it with confidence. People can also submit photographs and dash-cam footage to help us identify those responsible but we must stress that images should only ever be taken if it is safe to do so. By reporting incidents to us, you will help us to build a picture of who the repeat offenders are and where the problem areas are. We will then be better placed to tackle this long-term problem, making Chorley and South Ribble a safer place for all.'

SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME (SIDS)

You might have heard about Safer Sleep Week in March. Advice was offered about how to avoid Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

- The safest place for baby to sleep is in their own cot, crib or Moses basket.
- Babies should sleep in the same room as the adult who is caring for them, for every sleep, for at least the first 6 months of life.
- Speak to your midwife or health visitor if you need support or more information.

Note that there are some circumstances in which bed sharing with your baby can be dangerous.

- If either you or your partner smokes, even if you do not smoke in the bedroom, NEVER share a bed with your baby.
- If you are extremely tired, NEVER share a bed with your baby.
- If your baby was born prematurely (37 weeks or less) or was born at a low weight (2.5kg or 5½ lbs or less) NEVER share a bed with your baby.
- NEVER sleep on a sofa or armchair with your baby, this can increase the risk of death by 50%.
- If either you or your partner has drunk alcohol or taken drugs, including medications that may make you drowsy, NEVER share a bed with your

baby. Drinking alcohol/taking drugs before bed can make you fall into a deep sleep and become less responsive.

Finally, for your information, there is a temporary road closure on Gregson Lane from 10/04.21 to 11/04/21 to allow Network Rail to carry out annual level crossing inspection works.

Keep safe and well!

Brindle Parish Council