

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Good news again, **as far as I am aware**, there has, once again, been no physical crime carried out in the village this year, ie. thefts, assault, damage, robbery etc. This means, as far as the police are concerned, Melbury still has a 0% Crime Rate and Dorset is now the 6th safest County.

However, generally, I have received very few relevant notifications and I am aware that I have sent hardly any warning emails to residents, particularly, this year.

While there have been hardly any new scams, repeat use of existing scams, as below, have continued to arrive either by email, text or telephone. The type of repeat scams this year have included:

Energy Rebate Scam – access to bank details via need for Direct Debit

Email from ‘Friend’ – confirming email address – via Whatsapp

Remote Access Scam - something wrong with your computer, needing Microsoft Expert assistance via remote access

Parcel Delivery Scam - access to bank details via need for additional payment for delivery

TV Licence Scam – TV licence has run out – access to bank details

Amazon Prime – unexpected costs appeared on your account – access to bank details

Bank Account in Danger Scam – move money to ‘Safe’ account - access to bank details, account holder asked to move money to ‘safe’ account to protect contents.

There may have been more, but this gives you a flavour of the extent and breadth of the deceptions! All of these continue to be received by Melbury Residents to a lesser or greater degree.

As all of them have previously been shared with residents, I did not see the point in sending them out again, as I know Melbury Neighbourhood Watch members are very, ‘on the ball’!

SERCS – SUSPICIOUS EMAIL REPORTING SERVICE – report@phishing.gov.uk

Scam Texts can be forwarded to 7726.

Frauds can be reported to Action Fraud.

Anna Roxburgh – Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator – 6/6/23