

Newsletter

The Hub

Herefordshire Police

May 2020

'The Hub' is a new publication from the Police in Herefordshire for the benefit of the people who live, work and visit Herefordshire. Frank, informative and full of advice, we will welcome your feedback.

Possibly more than ever before there is a need for all of us to help each other and it would be remiss not to mention COVID-19 and overwhelming public compliance with the restrictions in place although sadly not by everyone!!



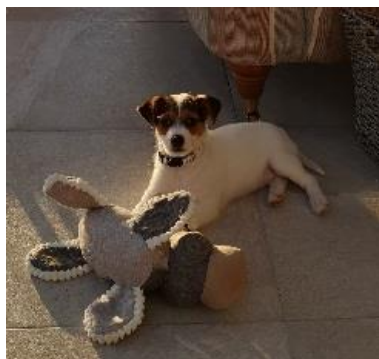
To those few we repeat action where necessary.

or we WILL take (and have taken) enforcement

Coronavirus (Covid-19): We're asking you please to only call 999 if it is an emergency and 101 if it is urgent. If you can, use our online services. Please only contact us about breaches of the 'stay at home' measures if you feel there is a significant issue or serious breach of the restrictions.

- [Our information and advice on coronavirus and policing](#)
- [NHS advice about coronavirus External Link](#)
- [Stay at home measures and other guidance on Gov.uk](#)

For those reading this electronically hover over the bullet points above and PRESS CTRL +CLICK otherwise log onto <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/> for further information



Meet 'Bramble', he's small (and cute!) and needs his walks too! **but he needs to be on a lead** no matter how tempting it is to let him off.

At the time of writing this there is another incident of sheep being attacked by dogs off the lead. Ultimately, the landowner has the right to shoot the dog to protect livestock.

Please, please, please walk responsibly 😊



Poachers

We are determined to make Herefordshire a hostile environment for Poachers so if you are out and about taking your daily exercise in the countryside, please report any suspicious activity by people or vehicles.



Download the What 3 Words App



West Mercia police officers are using a new app to help pinpoint the location of people in need and you can use it too.

Particularly useful if you are at a location without an obvious address, the App has divided the world into 3mx3m squares. Each square has been allocated a unique three word address which anyone can refer to their exact location by using three randomly chosen words.

The app, which also works when there is no data connection as it will operate offline via GPS is available to download via the What3Words website, the App Store or Google Play.

Poaching has been illegal for hundreds of years. Crossbow barbs and gunshots often only wound animals, causing them to die slow, painful deaths. When dogs are used, the terrified quarry is hunted to exhaustion before being savaged. In the case of psycho-poaching, the episodes are usually captured on camera phones by thugs driving alongside in a van or 4x4, who then boast about their exploits on social media. Sometimes poachers don't even retrieve the animal's carcass. In the case of hare-coursing, the perpetrators cash in by gambling on the dogs they use, while those who engage in a sadistic new type of poaching dubbed 'psycho-poaching' are simply motivated by the sick thrill of watching animals suffer.

But they don't stop there, they are often involved in the theft of farm machinery and agricultural vehicles too, and it was as a result of this sort of crime amongst other things, that the roles of Rural & Business Officers were introduced whose focus is to

- Reduce the OPPORTUNITIES for Rural & Business Crime by providing crime prevention/reduction advice including award winning schemes like West Mercia Police's own WE DON'T BUY CRIME initiative, promoting Watch schemes and many other aspects.
- Target those who CAUSE MOST HARM to disrupt, deter and deflect their criminal activities with interventions including arrests, charges, search warrants and the whole range of tools available within the criminal justice system
- Increase the risk and reduce the reward or PROFIT making it harder for crooks to benefit financially from their crimes by promoting security marking of property for example.



Trackers are available for anything from kids to Machinery & Vehicles. They vary in design, specification and cost, and some have advantages over others, however, a good place to start is with a Police approved company such as TRACKER at <https://www.tracker.co.uk/how-tracker-works> but there are many other companies to choose from too ☺

**** Speak to your Rural & Business Crime Team who can give you some practical advice in relation to Trackers ****

Meet the Rural & Business Crime Team

Sarah Smith, John Meek & Paul Crumpton work across Herefordshire as part of a larger dedicated problem solving team and are supported, not just Special Constables and volunteers, but also by members of the public.

If you would like to help with reducing crime in your area, contact Sarah, John or Paul for a chat.

So, what are they up to?



Clockwise from the top, identifying poachers, circulating stolen property, recovering stolen property and returning it to owner, recovering stolen property and returning it to owner, patrolling farms & rural communities, providing crime reduction initiatives to businesses, holding property security marking events, implementing Watch schemes and delivering presentations to name a few activities this year.

So far this year the team have

- arrested for Burglary, Theft, handling stolen goods, Animal Welfare offences, Criminal damage, drugs and Perverting the Course of Justice
- searched with and without warrants premises, vehicles and people
- recovered and circulated, tracked and located stolen property including quads, dogs, birds and vehicles
- given crime reduction advice to many
- delivered presentations to community groups and businesses on offline and online crime/scams
- Implemented watch schemes to Rural & Business Communities

and a lot more.



Security mark your property (in certain situations the police can do it for free) and when you do, take a picture of it. As a rule of thumb, anything with an engine/motor or wheels outside, in the garage, outbuilding or shed, should be security marked. Lots of recovered property is unable to be returned to owners as it has no identifiable marks.

**WE DON'T
BUY CRIME**



**WE DON'T
BUY CRIME**



**WE DON'T
BUY CRIME**



‘A little bit of information goes a long way’

Report suspicious activity, people or vehicles. No matter how insignificant you might think it is, if it is suspicious to you, it probably is.

For a confidential conversation with either Sarah, John or Paul direct contact them on

WDBC RBO Pc John Meek 07773 044234

john.meek@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

WDBC RBO Pc Sarah Smith 07773 047243

sarah.smith@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

RBO Paul Crumpton 07773 044781

paul.crumpton@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

. Also, REPORT CRIME! We know not all crime is reported to us, and we know the many reasons for that including frustration.

If you have any information regarding any crime you can contact police on 101, in an emergency please dial 999.

You can also contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 to report any crime or criminal activity anonymously.

Online Criminality

At last! There is now one email address you can report suspicious emails too

Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) report@phishing.gov.uk

Please be aware and remain vigilant of phishing emails. One of the many scam emails currently in circulation purports to be from the TV Licensing advising to cancel direct debits. These messages may look like the real thing but are malicious. Once clicked, you are sent to a dodgy website which could download viruses onto your computer, or steal your passwords. The criminal's goal is to convince you to click on the links within their scam email or text message, or to give away sensitive information (such as bank details).

If you receive an email which you're not quite sure about, forward it to the Suspicious Email report@phishing.gov.uk

For further information and advice please go to:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/suspicious-email-actions>

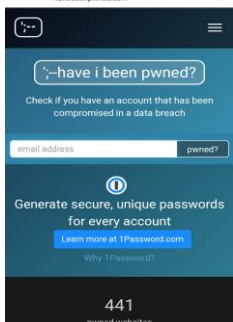
<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/about-ncsc/what-is-cyber-security>

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

<https://staysafeonline.org/stay-safe-online/>

Stay Safe. Stay Connected. Stay Cyber Aware!





haveibeenpwned.com is a trusted website where you can check to see if your email address has been breached anywhere in the world, by who and will indicate what has been what has been compromised, for example, password, mother's maiden name etc... It will also advise on how you can protect yourself. As a matter of course, change your password for your email account. Go to <https://haveibeenpwned.com>

Be aware of telephone fraudsters claiming to be from the banks

As with most criminals and especially fraudsters, the people are cowards who target the vulnerable and elderly.

The scams are very elaborate and cruel, and the crooks very clever and convincing who pretend with confidence that they are from the police, your internet service provider, government or your bank. They are able to obtain your personal details and enough information, before calling you and without you realising, to convince you they are legitimate. **They are not.**

Typical telephone bank fraud to be aware of -

- Email or text received containing a link purporting to be a service provider, such as internet, mobile phone etc.
- Victim clicks the link and goes through to a website, which appears legitimate
- Victim enters details onto web page as per the instructions. Fraudsters are able to see what is written on the page by using screen mirroring techniques
- Fraudsters conduct research on the victim from details already obtained, including email address, bank details etc... this can be done on social media
- Calls are then made to the victim, questioning a suspicious transaction which has not happened and suggesting the account may be compromised.
- Fraudster uses information given to build trust with the victim, this will be the information obtained during their research
- Fraudster then gives instructions for how to cancel the alleged fraudulent activity, when in fact, they are transferring the money to a different account, under the fraudsters control

Talk to elderly relatives or neighbours and to tell them what to be aware of. Remind them that no legitimate bank, building society, police officer, or business will ever phone you to ask you to give them your card, your PIN, or transfer your cash.

TIP!

If you get a phone call like the ones described, hang up immediately - do not provide any personal details or hand anything over. Ensure the line has cleared before dialling out, use another phone if necessary and report to 101 or Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or 0300 123 2040. If you need some support from your bank or building society, go to your local branch or phone them on the correct number in your statement (not one a mystery caller gives you, as this is likely to be part of the scam).

Important note

If the crime is still in progress, because for example, you have recently provided bank details or handed over cards or cash, or the caller has arranged for someone to visit your address to collect items, then you should call the police to report this on 101. In an emergency dial 999.

TIP!



Get Safe Online
Free expert advice

Close down any unused Social media, Email and Bank Card accounts. Don't just leave them unused....close them down. Go to <https://www.getsafeonline.org/> for further information

Crime prevention can found on the West Mercia Police website, for further details please visit the Crime & Safety section <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/personal-fraud/door-to-door-courier-fraud/>

Action Fraud <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> Stay home. Stay connected. Stay Cyber Aware. <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware/home>

3 Things to look out for

This section is designed to ask you to help us with ongoing investigations or issues of interest to us that may form part of a bigger picture. Its value to us is massive as you know your area and you will know what is suspicious

1. There has been an increasing number of incidents of livestock theft (sheep etc.) Particularly those in lesser populated areas could you keep your eyes peeled for vehicles with trailers or livestock transporters that you don't recognise? The crooks doing this need an outlet so if you have suspicions of livestock being slaughtered at a particular place we would also like to know.
2. With the current restrictions in place, keep 'em' peeled around rural businesses particularly construction sites because as I write this newsletter a housing development has reported the theft of £40K plus worth of equipment.
3. We are interested in having a conversation with the driver of a Vauxhall insignia Estate DN**FKP who may be able to help us with THEFT from a Herefordshire business.

Crime Prevention Tactics

This final section will feature a series of articles to help you help yourself in preventing or reducing the opportunity for crime.

It begins with a basic Routine Activity theory which simply states

For any crime to happen you need just 3 things

- A suitable target (something to steal, something to damage or someone to hurt)
- A motivated offender (A crook!)
- The absence of a capable guardian (someone to stop it happening, something to stop it happening)

So if you remove just one of those 3 things, you have no crime.

To understand how we can all help each other in preventing or reducing crime, we are going to use something called the 10 Principles of Crime Reduction. In this first article the focus is going to be on SURVEILLANCE.

SURVEILLANCE in the world of Crime Prevention comes in three forms

Natural – Where sight lines are maintained to achieve a balance between security and privacy so that it is difficult for an offender to operate without being seen.

Formal – Using technology and staff such as surveillance camera systems (CCTV) or security patrols for example

Informal – Where others are encouraged to be vigilant maybe through the use of a watch scheme or effective signage for example.

Take a look at the picture below. To protect its location I have shown you this image which is of a front garden.

What can you see?

A little bit more information will help. To the left of the image and out of shot currently is a detached bungalow, to the right and very much in shot is a 14' high 6' deep Beech hedge running the entire front boundary of this property except for a driveway entrance. Out of shot and to the right of the hedge is the public road and footpath.

What can you see?

You can also see a neighbouring property and a much lower boundary hedge?

Thinking SURVEILLANCE what might you consider?



My advice in this scenario is that the owner ought to consider bringing down the height of that front boundary hedge to allow for natural & informal surveillance thereby making it difficult for an offender to operate

Well that's it! Thank you for taking the time to read this and if you have any feedback good and bad or suggestions for articles or information you would like covered please contact me on the details below.

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Twitter: @WMPRuralMatters @WMPBusinessMatt

Facebook: look for us at Your Rural Matters and Your Business Matt

I will respond to your email as soon as possible.

If you are contacting me in relation to an emergency please call 999 or the alternative emergency number 112; for the deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired call 18000 to use [Next Generation Text Service](#); or use [emergencySMS](#); or please visit our website to report crime and other matters online www.westmercia.police.uk.

On our website you can

- Report a non emergency incident www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/
- Find about your Safer Neighbourhood Team and what's happening in your area www.westmercia.police.uk/a/your-area/
- Find advice and information www.westmercia.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/
- Submit compliments or complaints www.westmercia.police.uk/fo/feedback/tc/thanks-and-complaints/