

Newsletter

The Herefordshire Hub

West Mercia Police

AUGUST 2020

Welcome to the August edition of **'The Herefordshire Hub'** newsletter published by the Police for the benefit of the people who live, work and visit Herefordshire. Frank, informative and full of advice; we welcome your feedback, questions or any other comments you may like to make.

Again, a huge thanks to those who took the time to comment and let's go straight to the question of the month:



I have a Public Right of Way across my land but some people wander off it onto my private ground. What are the rules?

A really topical question and whilst there are 4 categories of PRoW, I'm going to stick with footpaths. There is a huge amount of guidance available and too much to go into here, but one aspect worth reminding people about is that across a field the path need only be 1m wide and around the edge of a field 1.5m wide. There is no right implied or otherwise to wander off or let dogs off a lead. There is also a statutory duty for the Highway authority to record, manage, maintain, protect and change PRoW's which includes re-routing them in certain circumstances. For a more in depth understanding, please go to the Government website which you can access via this link <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/public-rights-of-way-local-authority-responsibilities> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/public-rights-of-way-landowner-responsibilities>

Coronavirus (Covid-19): Please only call 999 if it is an emergency. If it's not an emergency, use our online services if you can. Please only contact us about a social distancing violation if you think there is a serious breach of the rules.

- [Our information and advice on coronavirus and policing](#)
- [Government coronavirus guidance on Gov.uk](#)
- [Tell us about a possible breach of coronavirus \(Covid-19\) measures](#)

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

URGENT ALERT



We would really love to speak to the driver and passenger in this vehicle.

The vehicle appears to be getting around villages in the early hours (this was 3am) and then the occupants get out with torches looking at vehicles on driveways.

What is that sign on the door?

Any thought or suggestion no matter how tenuous you think it may be, would be very welcome.

Bramble's Blog



At the time of writing Bramble is cooling off from the heat in a torrential downpour #verywetdoggie

You may recall we mentioned last month about the anti-poaching operations employed to disrupt and deter those activities at known hot spots. I am pleased to say we are receiving more information now than before, so a huge thanks to those that have called and please continue to do so.

Occasionally, people comment that there is not a lot we can do about it. Have a look at the list below. Some of these offences may have entered the law books in the 1800s/1900s but they still apply today.

Quick guide to poaching offences

Night time poaching: One hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise.

Offences: Unlawfully, without permission, at night, take or destroy game or rabbits.

OR unlawfully enter or be on land with any gun, net, snare, lamp for purpose of taking game.

Daytime poaching: One hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.

Offence: Trespassing on any land in daytime or being on land in search or pursuit of game, woodcock, snipe or rabbits.

Deer poaching offences: Enter land, without lawful authority, in search or pursuit of deer with intention of taking, killing or injuring.

OR To kill or injure any deer, or attempt to do so. Search for or pursue, with such intent, or, without authority, remove any deer carcass.

Hunting Act 2004: Offence to hunt fox, hare or deer with dog unless flushing to gun but must have landowner's permission. Can hunt for rabbits or rats with dogs but must have landowner's permission.

Fish poaching: Offence to take or destroy or attempt to do so, any fish from private waters or private right of fishery both game and coarse.

Poaching Prevention Act 1862: A police officer may stop and search any person or vehicle on any highway, street or public place if there is reasonable cause to suspect poaching. Any game, article, dog or vehicle if used in offence may be seized and detained.

In relation to Deer A police officer may stop and search any person or vehicle they reasonably suspect has committed any offence relating to deer poaching and seize deer, venison, animal, weapon or vehicle related to that offence.

Other offences: Trespass on land with firearm (no age limits apply).

Have firearm in public place without reasonable excuse (no age limits apply). **Firearm:** Lethal barrelled weapon of any description from which any shot, bullet or other missile can be discharged.

It is illegal to use crossbows/bows to kill any bird or animal. If in possession of crossbow/bow in public, think offensive weapon.

Possession of a knife blade/sharp pointed article in public place without legitimate reason is an offence.

Anyone fishing aged 12 years or over requires Environment Agency rod licence and seize fishing tackle.

Offence to drive, without lawful authority, any motor vehicle on common land, moorland, other land of any description not being part of road or public footpath/bridleway.



I need to alert you to a TV Licensing scam/con/trick. BE very cautious if asked to update your bank details.

An EMAIL received from: xpvbiwmkqo@telenet.be

(The official site for TV Licensing is: tvl.co.uk/age, by the way)

You are licensed until 8/29/20

Hi, Due to outdated account details, your licence has been flagged and it will be suspended if no response has been received against this notification. It's important we keep our records up to date. It help us keeping track of our licensee and to perform periodic subscription transaction without interrupting the licence service, saving downtime of our services to users. How to update your details: You can change or update details using this platform. You'll be required basic identification documents in hand which will help you in updating the profile with authentic official information. Update now whether you're paying for your TV Licence, setting up a Direct Debit, or updating your details, you can relax in the knowledge that this is a secure website and your personal information is safe with us. TV ID: soinkysnxfqojcuxleqiqeomtkzvxpnmvqbkmlcsxfgrmxfo Thank youTV Licensing



Hmmm...make sure to check if generic, or as in this case, no salutation. Poor grammar (lots!) and check who it's from. If you are not 100% certain STOP. Find a phone number yourself for TV licensing (NOT ONE OFF THAT DODGY EMAIL) and ring. Here is the genuine number **0300 303 9695**.

The Rural & Business Crime Team

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

“Please, please, please report suspicious activity, people or vehicles.”

No matter how insignificant you might think it is, if it is suspicious to you, it probably is so let us know at the time.

For a confidential conversation with Sarah, John or Paul contact them directly on:

Pc John Meek 07773 044234 john.meek@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
Pc Sarah Smith 07773 047243 sarah.smith@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
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 which includes frustration.



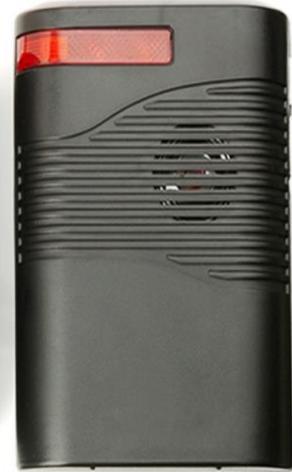
You can now report non-emergency crimes on the **West Mercia Police [website](#)** as well as 999 or 101

(Click on the word ‘website’ and it will take you straight to it – you may need to hover and press CTRL + CLICK together)

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

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

So, what sort of things were the team up to in July?



(left to right)

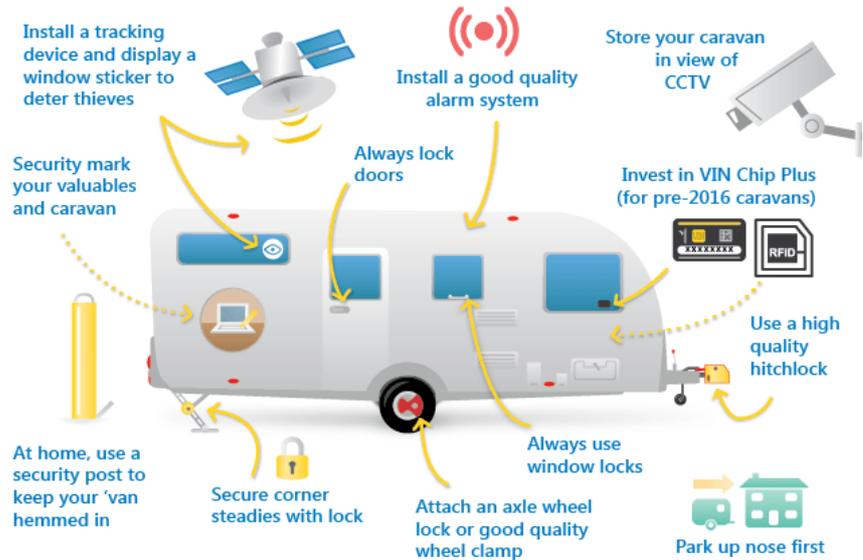
- Providing Crime Prevention advice, **WE DON'T BUY CRIME** signage & Smartwater to Farms.
- Spotting some DIY security measures!
- Very busy month conducting security surveys around the County. 😊
- Patrolling in the heat wave and finding unrestricted windows left open. 😞
- Supporting farmers by reminding drivers to take care during harvest.
- Working with Neighbourhood Watch to identify night time thieves.
- Security marking bikes with Smartwater.

These are just snippets of activity interspersed with numerous crime reduction surveys at people's homes, businesses, farms, stables etc. As importantly, a constant focus on the individuals who are causing the most acquisitive harm to our communities. So arrests, interviews, charges and file submissions that are ready for court all go on in the background of policing.

Quick guide to caravan security



Check out next month's article on Caravan & Trailer Security. Not to be missed!!



The Cyber Crook

Be very wary of an offer of cash via social media. The bad news is that during June 2020, there have been 100s of reports from individuals falling victim to fraudulent investment schemes, commonly referred to as a 'money flipping' service offered by users on the Instagram social media platform.

100s of thousands of pounds have been lost.

The con is simple, a small investment of just a few hundred quid to trade foreign currency (FOREX) multiple times will yield a return for the investor subject to a small commission for the service. The cold reality is that after the initial investment, despite excuses until contact is severed, the money is lost.

Whilst individual financial losses from this fraud are comparably smaller than other types of fraudulent investment schemes, this fraud targets a younger demographic, typically aged between 20 to 30, with less savings or those who are financially vulnerable and are searching for a quick and easy way to make money.



What you can do to stop it

Never respond to any requests to send money, or have money transferred through your account, by someone you don't know and trust.

Investment opportunities: Don't be rushed into making an investment. Remember, legitimate organisations will never pressure you into making a transaction on the spot.

Seek advice first: Speak with a trusted friend or family members, and seek independent professional advice before making significant financial decisions.

FCA register: Use the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) register to check if the company is regulated by the FCA. If you deal with a firm (or individual) that isn't regulated, you may not be covered by the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) if things go wrong and you lose your money.

For more information about how to invest safely, please visit:
<https://www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart>

Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS)

report@phishing.gov.uk

Please be aware and remain vigilant of phishing emails. 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 SERS 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!



Financial vulnerability through cyber exploitation, as outlined above, is one of a number of avenues the contemporary crook will identify with an unsuspecting victim. We can stop this...but in order to do so we need to know what vulnerability & exploitation really looks like.

The Police & Crime Commissioner John Campion, has made funds available to provide free 2hr training sessions for front line workers.....see the flyer below.

2 HOUR BRIEFING FOR FRONT LINE WORKERS

Outline

Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults is everybody's responsibility. This course aims to raise awareness of:

- Vulnerability
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
- Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) / Gangs
- Modern Day Slavery
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)/consent
- Criminal Exploitation(CE)
- Victim Blaming language
- National Referral Mechanism (NRM)
- Pathways / Diversionary Tactics / Sharing of Intelligence

Course Objectives

At the end of the course, it is intended that attendees will have a clear understanding of:

- Types of Criminal Exploitation & Modern Day Slavery
- Factors to support YP in vulnerable situations
- Adverse Childhood Experiences
- National Referral Mechanism and how to raise concerns
- Personal, professional accountability and responsibility
- Information sharing
- The importance of documentation and record keeping
- The use of non-victim blaming language
- How to Respond, Record and Report concerns
- The agencies / services that people can be signposted

These training sessions are available to any person who requires an insight into Vulnerability & Exploitation.

The course is funded by the PCC, John Campion, and is delivered, without cost, to the requesting organisation.

The only requirement is that a suitable room, with chairs and tables, is provided by the requesting organisation.

If training is requested in Hereford or Worcester, please give consideration to running two separate sessions per organisation, to best utilise available training time.

For further information, or to request a booking form, please contact either Vicki Ridgewell or Karen Perry at:

TrainersWDBC@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

**Free 2 hour
Training
Sessions
Provided by
West Mercia
Police Trainers
Vicki Ridgewell
& Karen Perry**



Crime Prevention Tactics

This final section features one of 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 three 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 or something to stop it happening)

So if you remove just one of those three 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. We have looked at surveillance, access control & removing the means to commit crime in previous articles and this month we are going to look at **TARGET HARDENING**:

Target Hardening in the World of Crime Prevention is making it physically more difficult to commit the crime, such as:

- Fitting better, stronger locks to your doors and windows.
- Replacing an ordinary entrance door with one certificated to the enhanced security standard.
- Installing a collapsible bollard in front of your store room door/caravan/trailer.
- Fitting a hasp and staple, and use a strong padlock to secure the shed door.
- Fitting blinds to shed/garage windows.

...and lots more beside, in short, don't make it easy for the crook.

Take a look at the picture below and what can you see?



In this example the crook can see opportunity, and it's this opportunity that we can remove...and at little or no cost!

The key thing for me here is how the gates are hung and how the hangers are fixed. With due respect to the owner of these stunning brand new wooden 5 bar double gates (the picture is deliberately narrow), and whilst the gates form part of a physical barrier, a restrictive measure to the crook to access what's beyond, unfortunately they themselves become a target.

My advice in this scenario was to use anti-tamper bolts to retain the hanger, and when refitting the top hanger, turn it around the other way so that the gates cannot simply be lifted off.

Now think about your own situation and **TARGET HARDENING** what might you consider?

If you are unsure or just want some advice, give me a call.

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/

