

# West Mercia Police

## SOUTH HEREFORD RURAL Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)

herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

26<sup>th</sup> November - 10<sup>th</sup> January 2016

### About your team

Safer Neighbourhood Teams work with local people and partners to identify, tackle and solve issues that matter to the community where you live.

Making neighbourhoods safer by cutting day to day crime and anti-social behaviour is at the heart of keeping people in West Mercia safe. Thanks to an investment in mobile tablet style computers, these will enable officers to spend more time on patrol on the street and in neighbourhoods.

Officers will continue to come to people when they need them and provide a high quality service however you contact us – in person (on the street, at community bases and at partners and communities together [PACT] meetings), on the phone or online.

### Where we work

**Hereford South Wye Police Station,  
Goodrich Grove, Newton Farm, Hereford,  
HR2 7DB**

Covering: Aconbury; Allensmore; Ballingham; Bolstone; Callow; Dewesall; Dinedor; Garway; Grafton; Harewood; Haywood; Hentland; Holme Lacy; Kenderchurch; Kentchurch; Kilpeck; Kingstone; Little Birch; Much Birch; Little Dewchurch; Llandinabo; Llanwarne; Lower Bullingham; Much Dewchurch; Orcop; Pencoyd; St Devereaux; St Weonards; Tretire with Michealchurch; Thruxton; Treville; Wormbridge.

### Get in touch

 **101** to talk to your local SNT or report a crime

 herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

 [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)

 Herefordshire Cops /  @southsidecops

Only call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger.

### Your team

(Part of the Southside Team)

**SGT Emma Freer 1348**

**PC Brian Hillstead 0397**

**PCSO Lowri Anderson 40247**



The rest of the Southside Team

PC Roger Bradley 164

PCSO Adam Westlake 6552

PCSO Christina Howard 6480

PCSO Jonathan Owen 40237

PCSO Hayley Cohen 40259

The West Mercia Police area and especially South Herefordshire remains low crime. That said a number of incidents have occurred and I would ask you to have a look at these to see if you could help with any information which may assist us in bringing the offenders to justice. Let me know if you need any crime prevention advice.

*For daily updates on incidents in your area register for our Dotmailer service via [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk).*

*Should you wish to review crime and anti-social behaviour trends in your area over a longer period this can be done by visiting [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk).*

## General Policing

Between the above dates (26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2016) there were **147** incidents reported to the police for the South Hereford Rural Area which were either, attended and dealt with by us, or response officers. **16** of these were “Grade 1”, which means 999 emergency calls which is either life threatening or a crime in progress.

There were **20** crimes. These are broken down in to; **5** Theft, **4** Assault, **6** Misc, **2** Damage and **3** Burglary.

## Incidents of Note

### Garway

Sheep which are being grazed of the common are being attacked and killed by dogs. If you are walking your dogs on the common and they like to chase sheep, keep them on a lead. If you would like more information on the Law regarding keeping your dogs under control, please don't hesitate to contact me.

### Kingstone

KEZ Childcare in Kingstone has had a few incidents lately where youths have entered the grounds in the hours of darkness. The youths have been drinking and smoking, leaving their litter behind. They have also broken items and toys that the little ones who attended the nursery very much enjoy playing with. I ask you, if you have children who are of the teenage age, explain to them how their actions effect others and also how a police record will effect them in later life. What might seem fun to them now might stop them getting their dream job or travelling to certain countries for example.

### Pontrilas

0154s 100116 - A cottage in a rural location in Pontrilas has been broken in to. The property was part way through being renovated and was uninhabited. A substantial amount of damage was caused, nothing was taken.

### Bogus Callers

There was an incident in December where a resident in a very rural location in St Weonards had two males come to the door with a map asking for directions. One of the males asked for a drink of water. The resident asked them both to stay outside but pushed their way passed and went to the kitchen. The male drank his water and they both left. A few days later the resident was making a purchase in a shop and then realised her bank card had been swapped for another.

If you are unsure, don't open the door and call 101.

## Suspicious Incidents

If you see a vehicle acting in a suspicious way please get the registration number (if possible) and call it in. For example, if you see a vehicle parked up in an entrance to a field, if you see anyone you believe to be poaching, if you see a vehicle driving around residential areas slowly or if you feel the vehicle is where it just shouldn't be, call it in. Same goes for if you see a person acting in a suspicious manor or where they shouldn't be, call it in with a description. Help us, Help you.

## Pedal Cycle Thefts

Thefts of bicycles are still an issue. If you leave your bike anywhere, even for a minute, lock it up, even in your own garden. Don't run the risk. If you would like more information on how to protect your bicycle, please email or call.

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**If you have any information regarding any of the above you can contact Hereford Police on 101, in an emergency please dial 999. Please be aware that any information provided within this letter is to inform you of incidents of note and to request possible assistance. We do not want to worry you in anyway. Any incidents stated are infrequent and spread about a wide area. Herefordshire is a safe place to live!**

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## Where we will be ...

10<sup>th</sup> January – Orcop Village Hall. PCSO Anderson and PCSO Witcher will be discussing Scams, Bogus Callers and other security issues with Age concern.

Coffee with a Cop - 30<sup>th</sup> January PCSO Cohen will be ASDA from Midday onwards.

If there are any events you wish for us to attend, please get in touch. These can be anything from fetes to coffee mornings, mother and toddler groups to Flu clinics.

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## Last months round up ...

A big **Thank you** to the lovely residents who saved me on a dark, wet night back in December when I got a flat tyre, due to something lurking in a puddle on a very rural road. I very much appreciate it and it was a pleasure to meet you all.

I attended Allensmore parish council meeting to introduce myself. I am slowly getting round all the parish council meetings.

I attended Much Birch Parish Council meeting with Sgt Freer to discuss the recent fatal RTCs in Much Birch. Issues regarding road safety were raised and we will work together with the parish council to try and resolve these issues as efficiently as possible.

On December 20<sup>th</sup> PCSO Anderson, PCSO Cohen and Santa (also known as PCSO Owen) were at ASDA Belmont giving out safety packs to Children. The police van was decked out in decorations and the children were so excited to see Santa. Approx 150 Safety packs were given out which had some fantastic items inside to keep the children visible in these darker months.



Follow us @southsidecops on Twitter  or Herefordshire Cops on Facebook 

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## Where is Bobby?

After my incident with my flat tyre, a comment from my rescuers “It’s nice you know you patrol around here” got me thinking. How many of you think I don’t patrol your areas? That’s when I came up with the idea of running a competition every month, just for fun Called **Where is Bobby?**

I am pleased to introduce Bobby. He keeps me company when I am patrolling around South Hereford Rural. Every Month Bobby will appear on this briefing in a different rural location. If you can figure out where he is, please email in to the below address with your guess. Out of all the correct answers, at random I will pick a winner. (This is a work in progress so please bare with me).

In the subject line please put **Where is Bobby?** and email to [herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)



**So the question is ..... Where is Bobby?**



## Team Mobile

We now have a team mobile. If you would like to speak to us you can call **07816172445**

Do not use this number to report a crime or incident. Call 101 unless it's an emergency then call 999.

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## Purse bells

I have had a delivery of purse bells. Purse bells can be attached to the zips on your bag, purses or wallets so if someone tries to steal your purse or wallet, or unzip your bag, the bells jingle and alert you to the attempted theft. They are also a fantastic deterrent. If you would like a purse bell, email me or give me a call.

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## Distraction Scams

There have been a spate of distraction scams recently where one fraudster will watch you in a shop and make note of your pin number, then distract you when you are loading your car. It is at this point another fraudster helps themselves to your bank card. Then usually straight away, the maximum amount of money is withdrawn from a cash point. Please be vigilant and always cover your pin.



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## Protect your Heating oil!

Although heating oil thefts are rare, it is always best to protect yourselves. Please find some information on how best to prevent heating and diesel oil theft.

If you would like the below information emailed to you on a easier to read PDF, send me an email.

As always, for more crime prevention advice, visit the west mercia advice centre on <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/crime-and-safety>

## Heating & Diesel Oil Theft

Theft of heating and diesel oil has been a problem for many years and this crime often increases whenever the price of crude oil rises. A rise in the price of fuel at the petrol pump inevitably leads to a rise in the cost of heating oil. This makes oil a more attractive proposition for thieves and they are now actively targeting fuel tanks at farms, transport depots and domestic properties. The thief may be using the oil for their own central heating or selling it on at a handsome profit.

These tanks can contain thousands of pounds worth of oil and it therefore makes good sense to take a few precautions to protect them. The purpose of this leaflet is to give you a few ideas about what can be done to make life more difficult for thieves.

### Siting your oil tank

The position of the tank can have a significant effect on how hard a target it is in the eyes of the thief. If the tank is close to the house, with one or more windows capable of giving a view of it, then the thief may consider the chances of being seen too high. If the tank is close to a road, path, drive or alleyway then it will be a far easier target. Hiding the tank behind the garage, shed or some other type of outbuilding is fairly commonplace, but it does give the thief the advantage.

Not many oil tanks are works of art so who wants a tank in full view? While it may not be desirable, or legal, to have the tank close to the house, some sort of compromise location would be sensible. Of course this will not only be a major consideration when a new tank is to be installed but may be necessary if the tank has been targeted before. They do need to be within a reasonable distance of the road otherwise the oil supply company may not be able to refill it for you.



OFTEC (the Oil Firing Technical Association for the petroleum industry) offers advice and guidance for those who use and store oil at their premises. There are certain rules and regulations that may apply to you and OFTEC will help clarify these for you.

They can be reached at [www.oftec.org](http://www.oftec.org) or by calling 0845 6585 080.

They also produce an 'easy guide to domestic oil storage' which is a very straightforward and useful document.



## Control switches

Control switches that control the flow of oil should be turned off and the electricity supply isolated when the tank is not in use.

## Padlocks

A thief will usually come equipped with a limited range of tools to attack your tank so it's worth spending a little more on good quality locks. Close shackle padlocks are the best as they offer most resistance to the most popular of burglar tools: the bolt cropper! It is advisable to use a padlock on a surrounding cage or fence, rather than on the tank itself. There have been occasions where tanks have been drilled by thieves, so a cage or fence provides an extra level of defence (see the 'Securing your oil tank' section for more details).

## Security lights

Security lights can have a very positive effect and make any property a much harder target for thieves. It's not always necessary to floodlight the area with high power beams, as a more subtle level of lighting may be all that is needed. Low energy 'dusk 'til dawn' lights positioned close to the tank should, in most cases, provide sufficient light to illuminate any suspicious activity. This type of light can be both effective and inexpensive. High powered lights can be used but care should be taken not to cause any nuisance to neighbours or road users.



## Securing your oil tank

Fences, sheds, walls and trellis can also be used to screen an oil tank. For safety reasons there are minimum distances that these should be located from the tank. Details of fire separation distances are published on Oftec's website or seek advice from an Oftec Registered Technician.

Oil tank security products such as metal enclosures can also be used to increase security. They will often cost less than one tank full of oil and will last for many years.



## Closed circuit television

The use of CCTV as a crime prevention and a crime detection tool has grown massively in recent years. It could play a part in the protection of oil tanks but before you spend lots of money on equipment make an assessment of your needs.

Ask yourself:

1. What do I hope to achieve by using CCTV?
2. How much am I prepared to spend?
3. Is there a reasonable level of light where the cameras will be operating or do I need to think about using cameras with low light capability? (Most thefts take place at night).
4. What am I going to record the captured images on? Digital recording is best.
5. How am I going to provide the police with any evidence I may capture?

## Oil level gauges

Remote electronic oil level gauges are now available which will set off an audible alarm if the oil level in the tank suddenly drops or falls below a quarter full. These gauges can be located in the kitchen, or perhaps a utility room to warn of any potential problem.



## Defensive planting

Defensive planting is nature's way of helping to reduce crime. Thieves will not want to force their way through or over a prickly hedge.

The smallest shred of ripped clothing could help the police identify the offender. Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police have produced a Garden Crime leaflet titled 'Tips to nip garden crime in the bud', which gives more information about defensive planting and a list of shrubs suitable for this purpose. These shrubs can, if planted around your tank, provide an effective and decorative thief proof barrier. Remember too though that the delivery driver will need to gain access to the tank so do plant considerably. To obtain a copy of the leaflet, contact your local Safer Neighbourhood Team or download it from the Advice Centre on our websites.

# Know a child or teen with a mobile or tablet?

Speak to them about the importance of being cyber smart. Once it's out there, it's out there forever.



**COULD IT COME BACK TO HAUNT YOU?**

**How you behave online could affect your future**

Are you happy for the whole world to see that post?

**PAUSE BEFORE YOU POST**

Check out  
[www.warwickshire.police.uk/becybersmart](http://www.warwickshire.police.uk/becybersmart)  
or  
[www.westmercia.police.uk/becybersmart](http://www.westmercia.police.uk/becybersmart)

For more info on internet safety and advice go to  
[www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)

 #becybersmart

**#Be Cyber Smart**  
The Virtual World Has Real Life Consequences



Warwickshire  
**POLICE**



West Mercia  
**POLICE**

Your nearest public service counter is at Hereford Police Station, Bath Street, Hereford, HR1 2HT:

Opening hours of: Monday to Saturday: 8am to 8pm  
Sundays and Bank Holidays: 10am to 4pm

If you would like to receive this Briefing via email, please email  
[herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

Regards,

**Lowri ANDERSON**

**PCSO 40247**

South Hereford Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team