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You can follow the Herefordshire Rural Hub on **twitter** via **@Hfds\_RuralHub** and on **Facebook** search *Herefordshire Rural Hub*

## Contacting Herefordshire Rural Hub

**Cathy Meredith** (Co-ordinator) Email: [hub@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk](mailto:hub@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk) Tel: **01432 268 428** Mobile: **07970 181 628**  
**Frances Keogh** (Administrator) Email: [admin@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk](mailto:admin@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk) Event Bookings Tel: **01432 353 465**  
Address: **Agriculture House, Beech Business Park, Tillington Road, Hereford, HR4 9QJ**  
Website: [www.ruralhubpartnership.co.uk/herefordshire](http://www.ruralhubpartnership.co.uk/herefordshire)



*We are very grateful to the Police and Crime Commissioner of West Mercia for sponsorship of this newsletter with a grant from the West Mercia & Warwickshire Rural & Business Crime Fund*

*If you know of anyone else who would like to receive the Hub newsletter by email, please ask them to get in touch with Frances at the email address above.*

If you are unsure about details of any rules or regulations or want help with understanding record keeping, please remember that **free advice and help** is always available from the Green Futures Team – **Farming Advice Service, Natural England, CLA, NFU & the Environment Agency**. Getting advice and assistance from those that know the details of the rules will help ensure your business stays compliant. You may be cautious about asking for help from a regulatory body such as the Environment Agency, but they are always willing to advise and help you. Herefordshire Rural Hub can help signpost which organisation can help you. Don't hold back from asking for help. It's free and could save your Basic Payment.

**Farming Advice Service** 0345 345 1302 [advice@farmingadvice.org.uk](mailto:advice@farmingadvice.org.uk)

**Natural England** 0300 060 1115 [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk)

**Environment Agency** Sharon Chisholm (Tues, Weds, Thurs) 02030 251692 [sharon.chisholm@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:sharon.chisholm@environment-agency.gov.uk)

**N.F.U.** (Herefordshire) Clare Greener 01432 807464 07771 626080 [Clare.Greener@nfu.org.uk](mailto:Clare.Greener@nfu.org.uk)

**C.L.A.** Richard Goodwin 01785 337010 [richard.goodwin@cla.org.uk](mailto:richard.goodwin@cla.org.uk)

**Animal Health & Trading Standards** (Herefordshire) Tim Barber Tel: 01432 383145 Fax: 01432 383169

**Do you need support or do you know someone who may benefit from support:-**

**Farming Community Network** 03000 111 999 website: <http://www.fcn.org.uk/>

**RABI** 0808 2819490 website: <http://www.rabi.org.uk/>

**Borderlands Rural Chaplaincy** helpline: 07958 591 646 website: [www.borderchaplain.org](http://www.borderchaplain.org)

## *Some useful website links*

**Cross Compliance Guidance England 2016** - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guide-to-cross-compliance-in-england-2016>

**Greening Guidance for 2016** - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-basic-payment-scheme-bps-rules-for-2016>

**Countryside Stewardship Mid & Higher Tier** - manuals, application forms and supporting guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/countryside-stewardship-get-paid-for-environmental-land-management>

**Important dates for Countryside Stewardship** application windows in 2016 are summarised in the following timeline

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/countryside-stewardship-2016-application-timetable>

**Countryside Stewardship for Woodlands:** <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/bee9-9t6ff5>

**Magic Maps:** <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

**Registering Your Waste Exemptions Online** <https://www.gov.uk/register-your-waste-exemption-online>

**NVZ Guidance** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nitrate-vulnerable-zones-in-england-guidance-on-complying-with-the-rules-for-2013-to-2016>

**EIA (Agriculture) regulations: apply to make changes to rural land** - How to request an Environmental Impact Assessment screening decision and if necessary, apply for consent to cultivate previously uncultivated land or semi-natural areas, or restructure land features. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eia-agriculture-regulations-apply-to-make-changes-to-rural-land>

**Farming Inspections** - Information about who will inspect your farm, what they're looking for and any penalties you may get. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/farming-inspections>

**National Living Wage** – minimum pay rate for workers aged 25 and over, go to: <https://www.livingwage.gov.uk/>

**National Minimum Wage Rates:** <https://www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates>

**Workplace Pensions / Auto Enrolment:**

Details about your start date can be found by visiting [www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/employers/staging-date.aspx](http://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/employers/staging-date.aspx)  
 Further information is available from the Government Website: [www.gov.uk/workplace-pensions-employers](http://www.gov.uk/workplace-pensions-employers)

**Working Tax Credits:** For information on go to: <https://www.gov.uk/working-tax-credit/overview>

**Marches Growth Hub Calendar of Events:** <http://www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk/calendar/?typeid=1>

If you require any further information please email: [Lyndsay.Francis@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Lyndsay.Francis@herefordshire.gov.uk)

**Date for your Diary ...**

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016, 12noon till 7pm**

**The 7<sup>th</sup> Herefordshire Rural Business Advice Day**

At the Three Counties Hotel, Belmont Road, Hereford, HR2 7BP

**Presentations, Drop-in Clinics,**

**Businesses & Organisations offering advice on many aspects of farming and rural business**

For further information please contact Frances

Email: [admin@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk](mailto:admin@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk)

*We are very grateful to Herefordshire Council (Gold sponsor) and Berrys (Silver sponsor)*



**The time is NOW to look at your slug pellet application decisions for this autumn**



CFE and WUF are working with Voluntary Initiative and Severn Trent to make it simpler for farmers to retain metaldehyde for future use and to improve drinking water quality. Metaldehyde does exceed the drinking water standard in the Wye from time to time and once in a watercourse it poses a real challenge as it cannot be stripped or treated.

**Practical help is available from:**

- Adama's Water Aware smartphone app now includes #SlugAware predicting movement from soil to water and is available to download from [www.adama.com/uk](http://www.adama.com/uk)
- Get Pelletwise campaign best practice guidelines can be found at [www.getpelletwise.co.uk](http://www.getpelletwise.co.uk)
- Free farm visits from Wye and Usk Foundation **Kate Adams** 07766 330959 [kate@wyeuskfoundation.org](mailto:kate@wyeuskfoundation.org)

**Top Tips:**

- Use an alternative product e.g SluXX or Derrex which can be just as effective and do not cause the same issues in water
- Calibrate spreaders to ensure the motor speed, bias & rate setting are all set to the correct level for the product you are applying
- Leave a minimum of 6m against all rivers, streams and ditches – assuming your spreader has a 12m spread either side you should be at least 18m away!
- Don't apply when drains are flowing
- Don't apply when heavy rain is forecast

Contact **Caroline Hanks CFE Herefordshire Co-ordinator** 07779 080940 [caroline.hanks@farming4wildlife.co.uk](mailto:caroline.hanks@farming4wildlife.co.uk)

**Forthcoming dates for HFYFC events**

- **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July** – HFYFC Junior Field Day at Brooklands Farm, Orcop from 10am.
- **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September** – Charity Wedding Fayre at Shenmore, near Madley, HR2 9PA to raise funds for St Michaels Hospice. Followed by an evening event to raise funds for the Alzhiemers Society.
- **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September** – HFYFC Chairman's Ball - "Rockin' All Over The Ford" also at Shenmore.
- **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October** – HFYFC Ploughing Match – Venue TBC

County Administrator - Tel: 01432 274187 Email: [countyadmin@hfyfc.org.uk](mailto:countyadmin@hfyfc.org.uk) Website: [www.hfyfc.org.uk](http://www.hfyfc.org.uk)

**AD4Energy would like to invite you to their Anaerobic Digestion Open Evening  
on Thursday 11th August at 6.30pm at The Salwey Arms, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 4AL**

- Have you ever thought about owning and operating your own AD plant on farm?
- Worried about the reduction in Feed in Tariffs/RHI and what impact that may have?
- Would you like to have a secure income for the next 20 years?
- Are you concerned about increasing energy costs?

AD4Energy have invited some of the experts across the industry who are involved with on farm AD plants on farms.

This Open Evening will give you an insight into grid connections, planning and permitting, government funding and subsidies, funding options and the benefits to agriculture

**Please register your interest by Monday 8th August**

contact **Georgina Hyde** Email: [Georgina.hyde@ad4energy.com](mailto:Georgina.hyde@ad4energy.com) or Tel: **01584 817224**

This is a free evening to attend. A light buffet tea is provided

**Farm Herefordshire videos!**

**Farm Herefordshire** is all about promoting good practice and demonstrating the experiences of local farmers.

Click on the link below to watch the videos that have been released so far:-

[www.wyecatchment.org/farm-herefordshire](http://www.wyecatchment.org/farm-herefordshire)

More videos will be released each month.

If you'd like to get involved in future videos do get in contact as we'd love to hear from you.

For more information please contact:

**Herefordshire Rural Hub**

Tel: **01432 268 428**

Email: [hub@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk](mailto:hub@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk)



**Catchment Sensitive Farming Update**

**Water Capital Grants and Mid-Tier Stewardship**

**The application window for both Water Capital Grants and the Mid-Tier scheme is now open until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016.**

Water Priority Holdings within the Wye, Lugg and Teme catchments are eligible for advice from a Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer (CSFO) as part of making an application, and this advice is essential if you are applying for any item that requires CSFO approval.

We have had a large uptake within Herefordshire and although the deadline for applications is a few months off, if you are interested in making an application please get in touch with us as soon as possible so we can book you down for a visit if appropriate. We will try and get to as many applicants as we can, but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to visit everyone, especially those contacting us towards the end of the application window, so if you're interested please contact us **as soon as possible**.

The scheme is open to all farmers, but only the Water Priority Holdings are able to get a visit from a CSFO and apply for items that require CSFO approval. To find out if you are a priority holding please contact your local CSFO with your farm address and holding number.

**WYE AND LUGG CATCHMENTS**

East of A49: **James Griffiths** Tel: **01746 718 032** Email: [james.griffiths@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:james.griffiths@naturalengland.org.uk)

West of A49: **Wayne Davies** Tel: **01588 640 980** Email: [wayne.davies@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:wayne.davies@naturalengland.org.uk)

**TEME CATCHMENT**

**Sally Powell** Tel: **07770 645 037** Email: [sally.powell@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:sally.powell@naturalengland.org.uk)

**Free Natural England Advice Sessions for Countryside Stewardship**

**If you are considering applying for the new Mid-Tier Countryside Stewardship this year FREE advice and support is available through events and one to one advice sessions (funded by Natural England).**

Mid-Tier Countryside Stewardship is different from ELS, it is competitive, targeted, has a single application window and start date. The Mid-Tier application window is now open and closes on 30th September 2016.

Advice sessions will cover how the scheme works, who is eligible and what the environmental priorities are in your local area to help you develop an application with a good chance of success. The adviser will not be able to complete the application for you but you will get 1.5 hour session with an experienced adviser to discuss the details of your farm. Advice sessions are available at pre booked clinics ? and a limited number can be provided on farm. A clinic can be arranged at suitable location in your area ? please contact us on the number below if this would be of interest.

To book your FREE place please contact: **Events Team:** Direct Telephone **08453 713399** or email [bookings@adas.co.uk](mailto:bookings@adas.co.uk)

## The Wye & Usk Foundation

The Wye & Usk Foundation are available to help with Countryside Stewardship Mid-Tier and Water Capital Grant applications which are both now open for applications until the 30<sup>th</sup> September. To see how the scheme may fit for your farm and discuss our charge out rates please give one of us a call.

We continue to offer free farm visits across Herefordshire to advise on soil health, metaldehyde use, yard infrastructure, pesticide disposal options or any other issues you would like to discuss confidentially.

We offer three free soil tests, including organic matter levels and free erosion risk maps of your farm.

For more information or to request a visit please contact one of the WUF advisers:

Kate Adams (07766 330 959) Mike Williams (07920 441 215) Tom Jolley (07545 253 155) Liz Price (07776 197 740)

## Spray Equipment testing

All pesticide application equipment in use (except knapsack and handheld sprayers) **must pass inspection once by 26<sup>th</sup> November 2016**, and at regular intervals thereafter, unless it is less than 5 years old on that date. The equipment must pass inspection once before the 5th anniversary of its original purchase.

The National Sprayer Testing Scheme (NSTS) is the only body designated to conduct tests. So, having equipment inspected under the NSTS will ensure compliance. A list of approved examiners can be found on the NSTS website. The following types of equipment must be inspected at least once by 26 November 2016. Subsequent testing will be required every 5 years from 26<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and every 3 years from 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020:

- boom sprayers greater than 3metres;
- sprayers attached to trains or aircraft; and
- air-assisted broadcast sprayers.

Equipment that represents a low scale of use, such as granular applicators and boom sprayers less than 3 metres wide, will be subject to an inspection interval of no more than 6 years. A complete list of 'low scale use' equipment can be found in the Pesticides National Action Plan and will be regularly updated.

## Sheep Dip Groundwater Protection Code

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sheep-dip-groundwater-protection-code>

Groundwater lies below the surface of the ground. If you carelessly use or release toxic sheep dip on your land it could pollute groundwater. Polluted groundwater can drain into and contaminate drinking water sources such as boreholes, wells and streams. By following this code of practice you can reduce the risk of causing groundwater pollution.

If groundwater is polluted and you're prosecuted, it will help your defence if you can show you followed the guidance. You could be imprisoned and fined up to £5,000 if you dip sheep without a Certificate of Competency.

You could be imprisoned and subject to an unlimited fine if you:

- spread waste dip to land without an Environmental Permit
- allow hazardous substances to enter groundwater
- spread non-hazardous pollutants (e.g. from purl or bloom dips)

**You must get a Certificate of Competency** (Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Sheep Dip) to buy sheep dip or carry out dipping. You'll take a computer-based test, and there's an optional practical test.

Without the certificate you can help someone else, who must have the certificate, with dipping, but you can't do it on your own or buy the dip. Link to the Certificate of Competency:- <https://www.nptc.org.uk/qualificationschemedetail.aspx?id=267>

**You must apply for an Environmental Permit** if you plan to discharge waste sheep dip on to the ground, e.g. by landspreading. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/discharges-to-surface-water-and-groundwater-environmental-permits>

It can take up to 4 months to get your permit.

If you intend to treat organophosphate dip yourself with a degrading enzyme you'll need to get a **Waste Exemption T27**, in addition to your Environmental Permit.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/waste-exemption-t27-treatment-of-sheep-dip-using-organophosphate-degrading-enzyme>

## Telecoms Watchdog Seeks Rural Volunteers

TELECOMS watchdog Ofcom wants rural people to tell it about the broadband challenges they face.

Ofcom wants to find out more about the "rural broadband experience" by encouraging rural people to join its research panel. Ofcom said it existed to make communications markets work for everyone. One of the ways it did so was by conducting research to find out about the customer experience across the UK. Each year, Ofcom reports its findings in its flagship Connected Nations report – which provides a snapshot of the state of the UK communication network.

To inform this and wider work, Ofcom is calling for volunteers to sign up to join its expanded research panel of broadband customers. They are particularly looking to sign up more people who live in rural areas in order find out more about the challenges they face.

For further details and how you can sign-up, visit: <https://signups.samknows.com/ofcom/>

### **New Network for Village Halls**

The National Village and Community Halls Network will take over the role from the now closed National Village Halls Forum. It will enable village and community hall trustees, volunteers and councillors to feed into meetings with MPs, government departments and Consultation responses.

The new network is being hosted by Action with Communities in Rural England. Hall management committees and other organisations and individuals with an interest in village halls are invited to sign up to the network. They will be able to share good practice and experiences with other like-minded members as well as contributing to the development of appropriate legislation and regulation.

**For further information, please visit: [www.acre.org.uk/our-work/village-halls-network](http://www.acre.org.uk/our-work/village-halls-network)**

### **Is there a future for the small family farm in the UK?**

A major new independent study commissioned by The Prince's Countryside Fund into the future of small family farms across the UK has been launched. Over the last two or three decades, small family farms have experienced profound change. The report set out to explore the future for these farms by identifying the pace of change, investigating ways in which they might improve performance and viability as well as putting forward proposals for improvements to farm management, adjusting policies and bringing in new blood.

Overseen by Professor Michael Winter, a rural policy specialist and rural social scientist at the University of Exeter, the report revealed a complex pattern of change with the number of farms declining by half and showed many smaller farms had been consolidated into expanding larger farms.

One of the largest risks was identified as farm succession. Without the correct retirement planning and restructuring in place, it is claimed it will make it more difficult for the "older generation to step back", yet it confirms that the "most profitable farms are those most likely to have a successor, regardless of size".

The full report produced by The University of Exeter and its recommendations is available to download from The Prince's Countryside Fund website: [www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/](http://www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/)

The Prince's Countryside Fund will be announcing a new programme of support in response to the findings of the report.

### **WISH (Wellbeing Information and Signposting for Herefordshire)**

WISH can help you find the information you need to help your physical, mental and emotional wellbeing.

**For example, WISH can help you find:-**

Care and support for adults and children; Directory of Services; Community activities across the county

**Contact WISH online, by telephone, or face-to-face**

Email – [info@WISHerefordshire.org](mailto:info@WISHerefordshire.org) Tel: **01432 383880**

Visit the regular and ad-hoc WISH pop-ups, or the Hereford WISH office at **9, St Peter's Street, Hereford, HR1 2LE**

For details of the pop-ups and office opening times, please phone or email WISH or visit the website: [www.WISHerefordshire.org](http://www.WISHerefordshire.org)

### **Good Neighbour Scheme Toolkit, launched in Herefordshire**

Herefordshire is one of England's most sparsely populated counties; it is largely rural with scattered market towns, a small city and agriculture a predominant industry. A conference, 'Combatting Loneliness' was held in January 2015 and run by a partnership between the Diocese of Hereford and Herefordshire Council. This focussed on the huge impact of loneliness on local people, affecting physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing. But there was also recognition of the strength and resources in our communities that could be mobilised to try and address some of this need.

As a result, the Good Neighbour Scheme Toolkit has been produced, and was launched in Tarrington on 29<sup>th</sup> June, to help communities to decide what is needed, find out about available funding, and to set up their own local schemes.

**You can download the toolkit from:- <https://bit.do/hgns>**



### **Land-based Apprenticeships**

**Holme Lacy Campus, Herefordshire & Ludlow College, offers Apprenticeships in Agriculture, Forestry, Arboriculture and Production Horticulture.** An Apprenticeship is a work-based training programme designed around the needs of employers, which leads to a nationally recognised qualification. Employers can use Apprenticeships to train both new and existing employees. The Apprentices study a Framework of qualifications including a Work-based Diploma in the relevant subject, Functional Skills (English and Maths), Certificates of Competence, and in some cases a Technical Certificate (theory based units). Apprentices are in full time employment and attend college or 'off the job training' as day or block release. Most of the training is 'on the job' – at your premises and work sites. For the Work-based Diploma, the Apprentices put together a portfolio of evidence of their practical skills and knowledge gained. Apprentices, either existing employees or new recruits need to be at least 16 years old, have a practical aptitude demonstrating a keen interest in agriculture/forestry etc. All apprentices must be employed in their place of work.

The National Apprenticeship Service may provide **Grant funding of £1500** to small and medium-sized employers who have not employed apprentices in the last 3 years, and who recruit apprentices aged 16-24 years.

For further information on **Agricultural Apprenticeships** contact:

**Robin Knott** Email: [KnottR@hlcollege.ac.uk](mailto:KnottR@hlcollege.ac.uk) Tel: **01432 870032** Mobile: **07973 472520**

For further information on **Forestry, Arboriculture and Production Horticulture Apprenticeships** contact:

**Charles Cartwright** Tel: **0800 032 1986**

Or visit the college website: <http://www.hlcollege.ac.uk/Courses/apprenticeships.html>

## Funding to support training in Herefordshire

### The Prince's Countryside Fund

The Herefordshire Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs (HFYFC) working in partnership with Herefordshire Rural Hub have been successful in securing a second round of funding from the Prince's Countryside Fund. This will provide support for training in a **rurally based career** over the next 3 years, to the end of December 2019. The funding is easy to access. All you need to do is select which course you would like to go on and complete the application form. You will be notified within 1 month if you have been successful or not. If your application is approved you will be able to reclaim **70%** of your training and test costs, up to a maximum of **£250**.

**Applicants are required to be a member of HFYFC (aged 10yrs – 26yrs) or a past HFYFC member (27 – 40 yrs)**

The fund will support training that will; *improve your employability, increase or improve your skill set, improve your safety or allow you to undertake extra responsibility in your current job.*

**What are you waiting for? Apply today!**

For further details and an application form please contact:

**Herefordshire Rural Hub CIC**, Agriculture House, Beech Business Park, Tillington Road, Hereford, HR4 9QJ

Email: [admin@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk](mailto:admin@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk) Tel: **01432 268 428**

### The Jack Hughes Fund

#### administered by Herefordshire Community Foundation

In 2015 the Herefordshire Community Foundation took on the management of funds that were originally raised by the Herefordshire Proficiency Test Committee (HPTC). This is being used to support a County-wide training fund that is named after the late Jack Hughes, who was the founder of Herefordshire PTC, and did so much work in ensuring that training skills were accessible and available to the farming community in Herefordshire and in particular for young farmers.

Having supported 50 Herefordshire farmers in 2015 with funding for the Award in the Safe Use of Pesticides Grandfather Rights training we are now launching a new programme which is designed to sit alongside the Prince's Countryside Funding (as explained above). **This will be available for farmers aged over 40 yrs** and will specifically provide funds to support those who require:

- retraining or upskilling as they are leaving the industry
- training to support a new farm diversification enterprise
- training or business support for succession planning

If your application is approved you will be able to reclaim **70%** of your training and test costs, up to a maximum of **£250**.

For further details and an application form please contact:

**Herefordshire Community Foundation**, The Fred Bulmer Centre, Wall Street, Hereford HR4 9HP.

Tel: **01432 272550** or email: [info@herefordshirefoundation.org](mailto:info@herefordshirefoundation.org)

## Wyvern Training Services

Please contact us to find out what courses are planned for the autumn,  
or if you/your employees have specific training needs.

Email: [enquiries@wyverntrainingservices.com](mailto:enquiries@wyverntrainingservices.com) Telephone: **01432 880 690** or **07468 465 303**

## Sastak 7Y

Contact Paula Strangwood on 07717 895009 email [paula.strangwood@7y.co.uk](mailto:paula.strangwood@7y.co.uk) or [paula@sastak7y.com](mailto:paula@sastak7y.com)

**Please contact Paula to find out what courses are planned for the autumn.**

e.g. Chainsaw, Pesticide Application, First Aid, Health & Safety and many more

## Herefordshire & Ludlow College

Tel: **0800 032 1986** Email: [enquiries@hlcollege.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@hlcollege.ac.uk) Website: [www.hlcollege.ac.uk](http://www.hlcollege.ac.uk)

Course	Dates for 2016	Venue
<b>Chainsaw Maintenance &amp; Cross Cutting (CS30)</b> <i>2 days plus assessment</i>	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> October      21 <sup>st</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Holme Lacy Campus
<b>Felling &amp; Processing Trees up to 380mm (CS31)</b> <i>3 days plus assessment</i>	17 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> October      28 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Holme Lacy Campus
<b>Combined CS30 &amp; CS31</b> <i>5 days with plus assessment</i>	19 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> September      31 <sup>st</sup> Oct – 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Holme Lacy Campus
<b>Felling &amp; Processing Trees over 380mm (CS32)</b> <i>3 days with integrated assessment</i>	24 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> October	Holme Lacy Campus
<b>Accessing a tree using rope &amp; harness (CS38)</b> <i>5 days plus assessment</i>	15 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> August	Holme Lacy Campus
<b>Aerial cutting of trees using free fall techniques (CS39)</b> <i>3 days plus assessment</i>	26 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> September      14 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Holme Lacy Campus
<b>Safe use of Brushcutters and Strimmers</b> <i>2 days</i>	24 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Holme Lacy Campus
<b>Maintain &amp; Operate your Chainsaw (hobby user)</b> <i>2 days</i>	15 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Holme Lacy Campus
<b>ATV handling – inexperienced operators</b> <i>1 day plus assessment</i>	20 <sup>th</sup> October      1 <sup>st</sup> December	Holme Lacy Campus
<b>Tractor Driving &amp; handling (over 16 yrs old)</b> <i>2 days</i>	15 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Holme Lacy Campus

### Message from Police Inspector Bob Barnett - West Mercia Police

This is my last newsletter as the local Policing Safer Neighbourhood Inspector. I retire as a Police Officer, after 30 years public service on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016. It has been a privilege and an honour to be associated with Herefordshire over the past 16 years. I have immensely enjoyed all of my roles as a police officer, but it has always been community policing that has given me the most satisfaction. Thank you for your support in everything that we do. My successor is Inspector Callie-Ann Bradley. I am sure that over the coming months she will be visible in our community and meet with many of you.

Anyway, onto business! I know it seems we have moved on from summer with all the wet weather but home and garden security is critical. Also consider your home whilst in the garden. Lock doors and windows to prevent sneak thieves helping themselves whilst you are busy in the garden. Remember to protect your items of value – you can get a free crime prevention survey by visiting our web site at [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)

You can also register what you value by adding its serial number to the free national property database. It can be found at <https://www.immobilise.com/>

**The online Crime and Cyber Security initiative continues.** Let me remind you about emails that ask you to do the 'urgent and unexpected' i.e. update your payment card details! Opening the attachment or the link will download a virus to your computer. Some simple steps you can take to reduce the risk are FAAP!

**F** - Firewalls – Have one! Set you Firewall to automatically block access to 'bad sites'.

**A** - Anti-malware / virus protection – set to automatically update.

**A** - Access control – Change default passwords to your own. Passwords should be complicated – mix of lower and upper case letters, numbers and symbols.

**P** - Patching – update software when prompted – this fixes gaps in the program on your computer that are exploited by hackers.

**Please can you pass this message onto any older family members and friends and make them aware. If you are concerned about a relative, ring us and we can give you advice.**

#### THINK....

- P** – phone 999 only if ....
- O** – offenders are nearby
- L** – life is at risk
- I** – injury caused or threatened
- C** – crime is in progress
- E** – everything else call **101**
- OR** call Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**

**If you are interested in setting up your own Watch** or joining a watch in your area or indeed just want more information, then Paul can be contacted by email: [paul.crumpton@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:paul.crumpton@westmercia.pnn.police.uk) or tel: **01905 727 402**

**Could you Volunteer?** West Mercia Police are currently recruiting a number of volunteers to a wide variety of roles. For more information contact me at: - [robert.barnett@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:robert.barnett@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

In closing, I would like to thank you all for the support you give your local police. We don't always get it right, but I can tell you we do always try our hardest to make sure that Herefordshire remains a safe place to live, work and visit.

### **How to stop Nuisance Phone Calls**

There is advice about handling nuisance calls and registering for the Telephone Preference Service, on the Which Consumer Rights website at:- <http://www.which.co.uk/consumer-rights/advice/how-to-stop-nuisance-phone-calls>

If you are repeatedly bothered by a nuisance caller, phone 101 and speak to your local police. Give them as much information as you can (date, time, content, number if possible) and ask for an incident number.

### **Scam emails and telephone calls**

A number of people are receiving scam emails AND telephone calls pretending to be from HMRC and telling them that they are due a tax repayment and of course wanting them to open emails, or for telephone calls wanting banking information to enable the repayment to be sent through. **Please DO NOT OPEN these emails or SPEAK to anyone on the phone.**

These calls and emails are scams. If you ever receive any calls or emails stating that they are from HMRC please call your accountant who will know what the position is and will be able to inform you of any tax repayment if there is one.

The same goes for any calls from your bank telling you that there is a security problem with your account and that you need to transfer all your money to another account whilst the problem is being sorted out - this again is a scam **and you should not give any information over the phone.** If you have concerns, you can visit your bank in person, or contact your accountant for advice.

## ***Herefordshire Rural Hub – Classified Page***

Please mention Herefordshire Rural Hub when replying to an advertisement on our Classified Page.

### **NORMAN BROS (THE LEEN) LTD – North West Herefordshire Assistant Herd Manager (2IC) required for a 600 cow autumn calving dairy herd on a mainly grass-based system.**

We are looking for a person to join our team who has experience in dairy farming and is committed to a future in the industry. A good knowledge of dairy / stockmanship is an advantage, but not essential. We are looking for a self-motivated person, with a willingness to learn, and who has high standards in everything they do.

We need someone to join us as a dependable person, who can fit in our team and take on responsibilities. In time, upon proving themselves, the successful person can become the second-in-charge (assistant manager) of the unit – this will vary according to the candidate and their experience.

**Please email for more details, and/or send application and CV to: [rich@theleen.co.uk](mailto:rich@theleen.co.uk)**

If you would like to place an Advert, for e.g. **Services / Job Vacancy Items for sale** or you are **looking for work/available for work** please contact **Frances**

email: [admin@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk](mailto:admin@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk)

tel: **01432 268428**

**for full details of the advertising packages on our Herefordshire Rural Hub **Classified Page****