

# Newsletter

## The Herefordshire Hub West Mercia Police SEPTEMBER 2020

Welcome to the September 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 received an email I think is dodgy purporting to be from DVLA telling me I have unpaid vehicle tax/road fund licence and I have 5 days left to pay before it's registered as a debt. What should I do?*

A really topical question and if you think or suspect or are just not sure that you may have received a dodgy email the first thing to do is **STOP!** Do not click on any link. Do not reply or contact the sender in any way. Do not supply any information. Do not open any attachments.

**Now if you think you may have divulged your bank details and/or have lost money due to fraudulent misuse of your cards, you should immediately contact your bank.**

So what might a fake email look like? Pretty convincing sometimes is the answer to that, but could also have one or more of the following attributes:-

- The sender's email address doesn't tally with the trusted organisation's email address.
- The email does not use your proper name, but uses a non-specific greeting like "dear customer".
- A sense of urgency; for example the threat that unless you act immediately your account may be closed.
- A prominent website link. These can be forged or seem very similar to the proper address, but even a single character difference means a different website.
- A request for personal information such as username, password or bank details.
- The email contains spelling and grammatical errors.
- You weren't expecting to get an email from the company that appears to have sent it.
- The entire text of the email is contained within an image rather than the usual text format.

**If you think you may have been the victim of fraud or cybercrime and incurred a financial loss or have been hacked as a result of responding to a phishing message, you should report this to:-**  
<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> (who also advise how to stop it happening in the future).

# Coronavirus COVID-19 “Rule of 6”

At the time of writing the Government advice has been updated and can be found by clicking on this link

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>  
(Press Ctrl + Click)



Government regulations on Covid19 have changed from Monday 14 September and there are new limits on social gatherings in place. Officers will engage, explain, encourage and, if necessary enforce with a fine.

## Bramble's Blog



Lots to talk about, but I only have a tiny slot in this article so here goes. Even though I'm an 18 month old Jack Russell Terrier I had to wait that long for my first trip to a 'dog friendly' beach and an impromptu swimming lesson last month. Don't know whether I liked that or not as I got my paws wet!!

Talking of PAWs, that's Partnership for Action against Wildlife crime, they are a government supported collaboration of organisations who work together to reduce wildlife crime. They do this through prevention and awareness-raising, better regulation, and effective and targeted enforcement. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/partnership-for-action-against-wildlife-crime>).

Anyway, this group really want to promote their work, hence the link above, and I want to draw your attention to the Top Tip below.



Download a really useful App called Project Poacher which is made up of two key elements; advice and a free, easy-to-use app for reporting poaching incidents. The app is available to download at [www.projectpoacher.com](http://www.projectpoacher.com)



**ATTENTION DOG OWNERS** There has been an increase across the West Mercia Police area of the suspected theft of dogs and what appears to be a connection with marks left on walls and cable ties around lamp posts. Please, please, please keep your eyes peeled and if you have any concerns, contact your Rural & Business Crime Team.

## So who are the Rural & Business Crime Team?

Every month I repeat this section and I am pleased to say more and more people are contacting us for advice and or to relay their suspicions about someone or something. Please keep doing so.

Sarah Smith, John Meek & Paul Crumpton work across Herefordshire as part of a larger dedicated problem solving hub. Our plea 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.

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

<b>Pc John Meek</b>	<b>07773 044234</b>	<a href="mailto:john.meek@westmercia.pnn.police.uk">john.meek@westmercia.pnn.police.uk</a>
<b>Pc Sarah Smith</b>	<b>07773 047243</b>	<a href="mailto:sarah.smith@westmercia.pnn.police.uk">sarah.smith@westmercia.pnn.police.uk</a>
<b>Paul Crumpton</b>	<b>07773 044781</b>	<a href="mailto:paul.crumpton@westmercia.pnn.police.uk">paul.crumpton@westmercia.pnn.police.uk</a>

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



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 Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111** to report any crime or criminal activity anonymously.



To report any incidents involving Birds of Prey call the RSPBs **Raptor Crime** Hotline for free on: **0300 999 0101**.





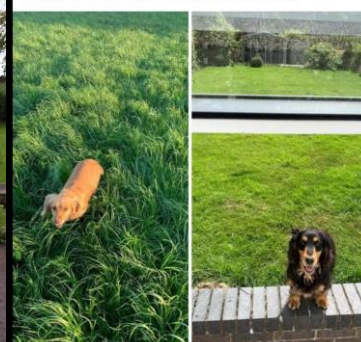
# So, what sort of things were the team up to in August?



Herefordshire rural crime team - has anyone lost a trailer? Leominster bromyard area??



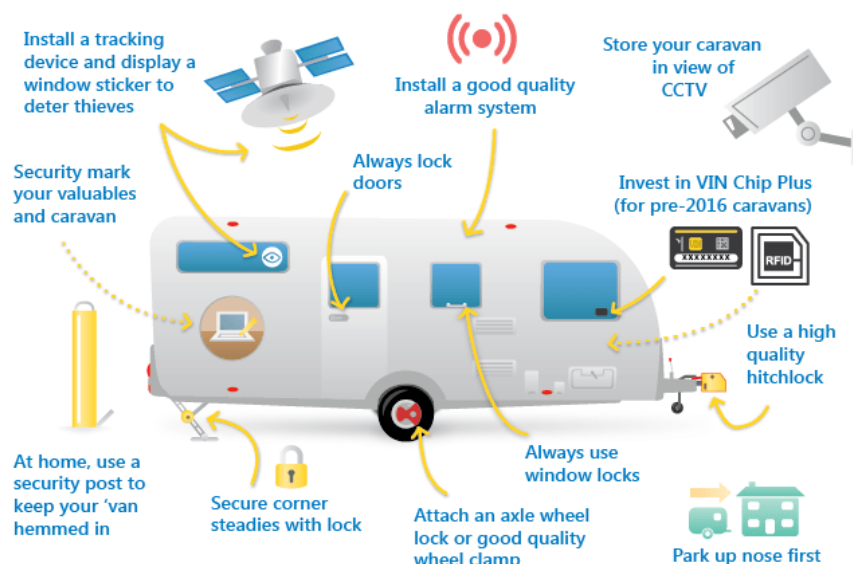
**STOLEN !!!**  
Two Cocker bitches taken from kennels today just outside Tittley !! Herefordshire  
  
Please Share make these too hot to handle !!  
  
Any information please get in contact !!



A regular feature is a little pictorial taster of the sort of things we have been up to in the last month. Clockwise from left to right:-

- Engaging with businesses and providing security advice. Here you can see Arrow Hire joining the We Don't Buy Crime Business Scheme.
- Recovering £6,000 worth of stolen mini-digger amongst other items returned to owners.
- Recovering a single axle trailer that we would love to identify an owner for.
- Security marking cycles with SmartWater (still some to give for FREE)
- It's a tough job sometimes....another business joining the We Don't Buy Crime scheme.
- Investigating the awful theft of a couple of dogs. ☹️
- Providing reams of security advice at people's homes, businesses, farms and this series of articles on caravan & trailer theft.
- Investigating the theft of this mini-digger stolen from Hereford and still missing.
- Engaging with local auctions.

## A guide to caravan/trailer/motorhome security



There are a number of security devices on the market which can help deter a thief and protect your caravan, trailer or motorhome. Look for the [Sold Secure](#) badge when purchasing a security device – this is the industry standard which tests and approves security products. The Sold Secure logo provides gold, silver and bronze ratings. Wheel locks can obtain a [diamond rating](#).



Products can also be approved by Thatcham, or by European bodies such as TUV and SCM.

There are hundreds of caravan security devices on the market, with some being better than others. As with most things you generally get what you pay for so do some research before buying to check if a product has been independently tested or reviewed.



**Wheel clamps** work in a similar way to hitch locks and are quite often required as the minimum form of security by caravan insurers. These fit over the wheels to prevent them from rotating and will prevent the caravan from being towed away. Some clamps leave the unit's wheel nuts exposed meaning the clamp can be removed by removing the wheel, so it might be worth using locking wheel nuts alongside the clamp.

**Hitch locks** As well as being a visual deterrent to thieves, hitch locks fit over the towing hitch and assembly fixing bolts to prevent your caravan being towed away by a thief's vehicle. You should look for a hitch lock that is made from heavy steel and make sure that it covers the hitch fixing bolts. It should also be noted that whilst a hitch lock does give a reasonable level of protection, it is wise to use one in conjunction with other security devices.

Hitch locks should not be fitted during transit as it may cause problems for the Emergency Services.

Some insurance companies will require that a hitch lock and wheel clamp to be fitted to a caravan as a condition of your policy.

**Wheel stands/winter wheels** can be taken off your caravan whilst in storage and replaced with wheel stands. This should make it more difficult for a thief to drive off with your unit. However, make sure you check your insurance policy – if it stipulates the use of a wheel clamp or wheel lock, using wheel stands would invalidate your insurance.

**Security posts** are concreted into the ground and used to anchor the caravan to the spot with a heavy duty chain and padlock.

**Miscellaneous locks** Corner steady locks allow the corner steady legs to be locked in the down position. They are easy to fit, relatively cheap, and are a good addition to an existing basic security system. For motorhomes, steering wheel locks are a good visual deterrent.

Caravan and motorhome door locks are not generally very robust security and can be supplemented with additional locks or fitted with a more secure locking mechanism. There are also devices that bolt onto the body of the caravan and swing across the door to protect the door lock. Remember to make sure that you are still able to easily exit the vehicle in an emergency.

**Caravan alarms** from small alarms which can be fitted to doors and windows, to devices which have sensors to detect corner steady vibration or internal movement, there are a range of caravan alarms available to provide you with warning should someone attempt to steal or gain access to your caravan. Some caravan alarms can be connected to home alarm systems, and similarly, some can be linked up to a tracker device if you have one fitted.

**Immobilisers** Caravan immobilisers bolt the wheels to the axle preventing the caravan from being towed away without first being unlocked.



The Caravan Registration and Identification Scheme is a national register for caravans in the UK and provides registration documents similar to the DVLA for motor vehicles as well as information relating to the history of the caravan. Remember not to keep your registration documents in the caravan – store them in a safe place at home.

**Caravan Marking** The roof of your caravan can be marked with the last 6 digits of its CRiS number. It is also recommended that fixtures and fittings are security with a covert forensic marker such as Smartwater or the CRiS marking system.

Tracking systems GPS Tracking devices are installed inside the caravan and linked to a central database. Should your caravan be stolen, your vehicle can then be tracked by the control centre, located and recovered. Having a tracking system installed can reduce your caravan insurance premium. Check out some of the leading manufacturers including Phantom and Tracker.

And finally... Whilst no product can guarantee that your caravan won't be stolen, security devices will help to deter a thief to move on to easier pickings. Wherever possible, apply more than one security product as the greater the number of security measures the thief has to overcome, the greater the chance is that they will move on elsewhere.

If the worst happens and your unit is stolen notify the police, your insurance company and CRiS. The police will need as full a description, your CRiS or chassis number, any other serial numbers and identifying marks or features. Make sure you have recorded these and stored them in a safe place. It's also worth taking some photos that can be used in the event of theft.





# FREE ONLINE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR 14 - 25'S

This programme has been designed for **14-25 year olds** struggling to cope in life after lockdown.

Whether it's a loss of routine, increased anxiety, or stress at home, we're supporting young people through **FREE** video therapy sessions.

## We're helping young people:

- Understand their emotions
- Manage their anxiety
- Challenge feelings of low mood
- Work through past trauma
- Build resilience

### We want young people to take control of their recovery

- 1** Recipients will select their therapist (Our therapists come from a diverse range of backgrounds)
- 2** Choose the type of therapy they want (including creative therapies such as music, dance & drama)
- 3** We'll make it happen! (Our referral partners work with young people who are: care experienced, from BAME backgrounds, or at risk of offending)

### No Tech? No Problem!

Our resources library ensures that video calling is accessible to all. Borrow an up-to-date handset and headphones with software already installed.

### Online & Out of Hours

With therapists available during evening hours (**6pm - 12am**), we support young people when anxiety is high, overthinking kicks in, and usual services are infrequent.

To find out more about this project, please get in touch.

**E-mail:** [mhteam@lyfeproof.co.uk](mailto:mhteam@lyfeproof.co.uk) **Tel:** 0121 622 3603 | **Text:** 07395 629 297

   @LyfeproofUK



# 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 & target hardening in previous articles and this month we are going to look at **REDUCING THE PAY OFF:**

**Reducing the Pay-Off** in the world of crime prevention is about reducing the profit the thief can make from the crime, increasing the RISK and reducing the REWARD and includes:-

- Marking your property in such a way that others will not want to purchase the item from the thief
- Not buying property you believe or suspect to be stolen
- Registering your mobile phone on Immobalise
- Displaying empty boxes in shop windows
- Using dye alarms in cash carrying cases and dye alarm tags on clothing

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

Regular readers will know we constantly promote the **WE DON'T BUY CRIME** scheme a large part of which includes security marking property overtly, covertly or both.



Protect your property by security marking it with a covert forensic chemical marker such as SMARTWATER

<https://www.smartwater.com/>

Or an overt security marker such as CREMARK

<https://www.creproducts.co.uk/>

Or both!



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



In this example we have a lawn mower left outside on the lawn with no obvious signs of any security measures.

Marked with SMARTWATER would demonstrate little in the way of deterrent to the thief in itself. Now here's the thing, you must, must & **must** also use the stickers/labels/signs provided with your SMARTWATER kit to advertise the product to the thief.

My advice in this example is to use a covert forensic marker like SMARTWATER and apply the stickers/labels/signs on the item too. Also consider applying a secondary measure like CREMARK and write your postcode in 2-3 places on the item thereby increasing the RISK to the thief and reducing their REWARD.....oh, and one more thing, put it away.

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.

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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.westmercias.police.uk](http://www.westmercias.police.uk).

On our website you can:

- Report a non-emergency incident [www.westmercias.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/](http://www.westmercias.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.westmercias.police.uk/a/your-area/](http://www.westmercias.police.uk/a/your-area/)
- Find advice and information [www.westmercias.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/](http://www.westmercias.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/)
- Submit compliments or complaints [www.westmercias.police.uk/fo/feedback/tc/thanks-and-complaints/](http://www.westmercias.police.uk/fo/feedback/tc/thanks-and-complaints/)

