

Community Messages

03/11/18 - Crime Prevention Event - National Rural Crime - Thursday 8th November 2018

**Crime prevention event
National Rural Crime Day**

Thursday 8th november 2018

West Mercia Police in partnership with Harper Adams University is hosting an event to coincide with National Rural Crime Day.

**Date: Thursday 8 November
Time: 9am to 12.30pm
Venue: Harper Adams University**

West Mercia Police is inviting you to celebrate National Rural Crime Day at Harper Adams University.

This year National Rural Crime Day will be held on Thursday 8 November, and to reinforce our commitment to our rural communities, in partnership with Harper Adams University and others, we're hosting a crime prevention event.

The event will take place between 9am and 12.30pm in the Queen Mother Hall at the university campus.

Specialist roles from West Mercia Police who play a vital role in crime prevention, such as our Designing Out Crime Officer and Officers from our We Don't Buy Crime team, will be on hand to tell you more about crime prevention advice specific to rural communities.

Telford based company SmartWater Technology will also be at the event as part of its partnership with West Mercia Police under the We Don't Buy Crime initiative.

In addition representatives from organisations, all of who, have a role to play in crime prevention will be available to offer advice.

We look forward to seeing you there.

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/53487/Crime-Prevention-Event---National-Rural-Crime---Thursday-8th-November-2018>

02/11/18 - Emergency Services Share Headquarters

West Mercia Police have welcomed colleagues from Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service (HWFRS) to their shared headquarters at Hindlip Park in Worcestershire.

The move will build the already close relationship between the two organisations, bring efficiencies, and reduce overheads, creating a more resilient and effective public and emergency services for local communities.



Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion, has welcomed the move. He said "The two organisations already work hand in hand, with a shared ultimate aim of keeping people safe. Whilst I welcome the efficiencies this will bring, the changes are about more than just buildings, it's about growing skills, relationships, sharing experiences and working together to adopt a joint problem solving approach. We have delivered great examples of police and fire collaboration in the past and I look forward to the continued building of this positive relationship."

Roger Phillips, Chair of the Fire Authority said: "The re-location of the Fire Service to Hindlip Park is now complete, after four years of planning and departmental transfers. We look forward to an even closer working relationship between the two blue-light services to further improve the safety of our communities across Herefordshire and Worcestershire."

Amanda Blakeman, Deputy Chief Constable for West Mercia Police said: "We warmly welcome our Fire and Rescue colleagues to their new home. As blue light services we have always worked closely together and this move serves to further enhance our positive relationship and the collaboration we share."

HWRFS ICT, HR, Performance and Information, Finance and Communications, as well as the Senior Management Board, Administration and Committee Services have moved into shared buildings in Hindlip Hall and across the Hindlip Park site.

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/53429/Emergency-Services-Share-Headquarters>

02/11/18 - Bonfire Night - Stay Safe Follow the Firework Code!

Fireworks are used on a number of different occasions throughout the year. Diwali, Samhain, New Year to name but a few. Whether it be a private or public display, Bonfire night is one of the biggest nights for bonfire and firework displays across the county and we want to you be safe.

Bonfire night can be a busy time of year for the emergency services and local authorities. Emergency services can be required to deal with anti-social behaviour 'ASB' and/or due to the misuse of fireworks and bonfires. Fire crews, staff and volunteers continue to be out and about educating the public about the dangers of fires and fire setting.

Firework Top Ten Safety Code for Adults:

Plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable.

- Keep fireworks in a closed box and use them one at a time.
- Read and follow the instructions on each firework using a torch if necessary.
- Light the firework at arm's length with a taper and stand well back.
- Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks.
- Never return to a firework once it has been lit.
- Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them.
- Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators.
- Never use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire.
- Make sure that the fire is out and surroundings are made safe before leaving.

Buying fireworks

You can only buy fireworks (including sparklers) from registered sellers for private use on these dates:

- 15 October to 10 November
- 26 to 31 December
- 3 days before Diwali and Chinese New Year

At other times you can only buy fireworks from licensed shops.

Should you witness Anti social behaviour over the coming period and/or witness fireworks being used dangerously, please dial 101 for non-emergencies and 999 in an emergency. You can be fined up to £5,000 and imprisoned for up to 6 months for selling or using fireworks illegally. You could also get an on-the-spot fine of £90.

For further advice on how to stay safe using/being around fireworks & bonfires, please go to

<https://www.hwfire.org.uk/safety-and-advice/firework-safety/>

Please share this information with neighbours, friends and family.

Stay Safe.

Thank you.

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/53428/Bonfire-Night---Stay-Safe-Follow-the-Firework-Code>

01/11/18 - Protecting Communities by Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

A national strategy to protect our communities by leaving no safe space for serious and organised criminals to operate within the UK and overseas, online and offline is welcomed by the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner.

Reports today show a £37 billion social and economic impact, of a range of offences including child sexual exploitation, drugs offences, modern slavery and fraud. The Serious and Organised Crime Strategy aims to keep at pace with criminals, reform current methods and provide new capabilities to pursue, prepare, protect and prevent.

At a local level, the Commissioner has invested analysis and review work to build up a picture and take action around local issues as well as multi-agency training, focusing on county lines and vulnerability. He has commissioned a number of preventative and diversionary projects with over 2000 young people supported, is developing a strategy to tackle drugs misuse and associated criminality and has applied for early intervention funding to tackle serious and organised crime from a regional perspective.

Commissioner John Campion said "It's important not to underestimate the impact that serious organised crime can have on communities, which is why it is a priority for myself, the force and a number of partner agencies. I welcome the work to tackle this at a local and national level. From the investments I have made, and with support from the Home Office we can look to address issues at the root, and gain a better understanding to tackle emerging crime types together. "

For more information on the national strategy visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/serious-and-organised-crime-strategy-2018>

(This message has been circulated to all CMS subscribers)

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/53399/Protecting-Communities-by-Tackling-Serious-and-Organised-Crime>

30/10/18 - Online Extortion Scam - Alert from Action Fraud

Cyber criminals send victims their own passwords in extortion scam

Cyber criminals are attempting to blackmail unsuspecting victims by claiming to have used the victims' password to install spying malware on the victims' computer. The criminals claim they've recorded videos of the victim watching adult material by activating their webcam when they visit these websites. What makes this scam so convincing is that the email usually includes a genuine password the victim has used for one of their online accounts. We believe criminals obtain the passwords from data breaches.

What to do if you get one of these emails?

Don't reply to the email, or be pressured into paying. The police advise that you do not pay criminals. Try flagging the email as spam/junk if you receive it multiple times. Perform a password reset as soon as possible on any accounts where you've used the password mentioned in the email. Always use a strong, separate password for important accounts, such as your email. Where available, enable two-factor authentication (2FA). Always install the latest software and app updates. Install, or enable, anti-virus software on your laptops and computers and keep it updated.

If you receive one of these emails, report it to Action Fraud's phishing reporting tool. If you have received one of these emails and paid the ransom, report it to your local police force.

- Action Fraud Alert

For more information on current scams/frauds/cybercrime or to report a suspected incident please visit the [ACTION FRAUD WEBSITE](#) by clicking [HERE](#)

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/53168/Online-Extortion-Scam---Alert-from-Action-Fraud>

29/10/18 - CUCKOO OAK & IRONBRIDGE - SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

CUCKOO OAK & IRONBRIDGE

OIS: 0711S 251018

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES STONEDALESUTON HILL TELFORD

About 20.09hrs 25/10/2018

A male came to the door of a private residence stating he was here to check electricity and gas. Due to the time of night,

the occupant did not answer the door but went to rear door where she saw a person in a red hoody. This unknown person then left the premises, and together with the unknown caller left the area in a jeep type vehicle - * *** VAC. This may have been an attempt at a Distraction Burglary.

If you have information that you believe may be connection, please contact the Police on 101, quoting the OIS incident reference number given. Remain vigilant around your area and report suspicious persons, vehicles or activity to the Police on 101. Information can also be given anonymously to the Independent Charity, Crimestoppers, by calling 0800 555 111 or by visiting their website: www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/53130/CUCKOO-OAK--IRONBRIDGE---SUSPICIOUS-CIRCUMSTANCES>

29/10/18 - Protect your home during the darker nights

As the clocks are now turned back West Mercia Police is reminding its communities not to let burglars take advantage of the longer darker nights to use the cover of darkness to commit crime.

Chief Superintendent Kevin Purcell said: "As the nights draw in we often see an increase in people's homes being burgled, as well as valuables stolen from cars as thieves take advantage of the cover of darkness.

"Our officers do regular patrols, but I would also advise people, especially at this time of year, to think about their home and vehicle safety.

"Simple things can be done in the home such as setting lamps and radios to come on to a timer, use /or install an alarm system, as well as installing outside security lighting. As for car safety - don't leave valuables on your seats and if you can park your car somewhere that is well lit rather than a secluded street, these can all help prevent being a target of crime." Throughout West Mercia Police towns and villages have signed up to support We Don't Buy Crime and advertise their involvement, through support from West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner, about their involvement in the initiative. The initiative has proven to act as an effective deterrent and a significant impact on reducing crime. To find out more about how your local community can get involved speak to your local safer neighbourhood policing team.

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/53003/Protect-your-home-during-the-darker-nights>

Further Crime prevention advice can be obtained from the West Mercia Police website (Crime & Safety sections) please see 'remove the opportunities for burglary':

For Home - <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/1955/Home>

For Rural & Business <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/rural-and-business>

(This message has been circulated all CMS areas West Mercia)

Thank you

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/53097/Protect-your-home-during-the-darker-nights>

Contact Details

Malinsgate Police Station
Malinsgate
Telford
TF3 4HW
101 (In an emergency always call 999)

