

Cuckoo Oak and Ironbridge Newsletter - 19 November 2018

Community Messages

23/11/18 - West Mercia Police Community Messaging Service

West Mercia Police is encouraging the local community to sign up for their free messaging service to keep up-to-date with what is going on in your local area.

The West Mercia Police Community Messaging Service (CMS) is a two-way local watch scheme that enables communities to engage with their local watch groups and the police.

Local watch schemes such as these are aimed at encouraging communities to work together to protect both themselves and their property.

It is a free tool that anyone can sign up for and in doing so, you will receive crime alerts for your local area along with useful crime prevention advice and community safety information. It also offers you the opportunity to join a local watch scheme or even start one.

By offering this service, we hope to further protect people from harm by not only preventing crime but also reducing the local community's fear of crime.

When you sign up to this service you can tailor it to your requirements, for example, you can select which watch schemes you are interested in hearing from and in which areas.

Kevin Powell, Citizens in Policing Programme Supervisor from West Mercia Police said: "Since its launch, we are really pleased with how many people have signed up to our Community Messaging Service.

"The Community Messaging Service has greatly enabled us to improve communications with our local residents on the issues that really matter.

"It has also proved to be an invaluable and useful tool that has allowed us to keep our local communities updated on a daily basis in relation to what is going on in their local area.

"We hope to encourage even more people to sign up if they would like to hear useful advice and tips on how to keep themselves and their local communities safe while raising awareness of the types of crime that are affecting our communities."

To find out more about the West Mercia Police Community Messaging Service, please visit The West Mercia Police website : <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/cms>

If you would like to register for this service, please visit: <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/register>

Thank you

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/54349/West-Mercia-Police-Community-Messaging-Service>

23/11/18 - Be on your gaurd - Bogus officials claim to be police

Police are reminding people to be on their guard to bogus officials claiming to be police officers.

It follows three reports this week in the Telford area where a man has contacted members of the public claiming to be a police officer investigating fraud on their bank account.

The conman informs the victims their bank account is at risk and in order to protect the account from fraudsters they need to withdraw their money, the man then offers to send a courier to collect the money and bank cards.

In one case the bogus official encouraged the victim to invest a large sum of money, he was told if he didn't he would be

served with a High Court summons.

Detective Sergeant Andy Dawson said: "Unfortunately, these fraudsters can be very convincing and give the victim no reason to believe they are not genuine. **However, there is absolutely no circumstances where police would ask someone to withdraw their money from their bank account**, and anyone receiving a call like this, or a call where it is the bank itself asking for the money withdrawn, should be aware this is scam.

"We're carrying out enquiries to trace the fraudsters and would urge anyone who does receive a call to put the phone down straight away. There are occasions where the fraudster will not end the call completely so when you go to make another call it connects back to them so our advice would also be to ring someone whose voice you recognise to double check the call hasn't been compromised."

To report bogus officials to police ring 101 or visit <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> to report a scam to the national fraud and cyber-crime reporting centre.

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/54348/Be-on-your-guard---Bogus-officials-claim-to-be-police>

23/11/18 - Commissioner Backs White Ribbon Campaign to End Violence and Abuse

The West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner is backing a national campaign to end violence, harassment and abuse.

White Ribbon Day takes place on Sunday 25th November, and is followed by 16 days of action and campaigning. PCC John Campion and his Community Ambassadors are attending events in support of this, and helping to promote Clare's Law, a scheme which gives people a formal way to apply for a police check into the past of a person where there is a concern that a relationship may be, or may become abusive.

Tackling domestic abuse is a key priority for the Commissioner and West Mercia Police, who dealt with nearly 13,000 domestic abuse incidents in the last year, making up 15% of total crime*. The Commissioner is committed to ensuring West Mercia Police have the resources to tackle these effectively, whilst ensuring victim survivors get the specialist support they need. He has invested in a number of initiatives and organisations who deliver this in communities across West Mercia, including the drive programme which aims to disrupt and change perpetrator behaviour.

Commissioner John Campion said "Inflicting any kind of harm, be it emotional, physical or psychological, is simply not acceptable, and it is a priority for me as commissioner, the police service and the services I have invested in, to do all we can to tackle this. This is a complex issue, which needs a multi-faceted approach, ensuring victim survivors are put first, the police have the understanding and resources to address it effectively, we are targeting the issue at the root by disrupting and changing behaviour, and raising awareness through important campaigns like White Ribbon".

If you are or have been a victim survivor of domestic abuse, please find contact details for support services, commissioned by the PCC, across West Mercia. Please make sure that you also report it to the police.

West Mercia Women's Aid: Call 0800 980 3331 (Worcestershire), 0800 783 1359 (Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford) or visit westmerciawomensaid.org

Victim Support: Call 0808 168 9111 or visit victimsupport.org.uk

West Mercia Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre: Call 01905 724514 (Worcestershire) or 01432 344777 (Herefordshire) or visit wmrsasc.org.uk

AXIS counselling and psychotherapy: Call 01743 357777 (Shropshire) or 01952 278000 (Telford) or visit axiscounselling.org.uk

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/54339/Commissioner-Backs-White-Ribbon-Campaign-to-End-Violence-and-Abuse>

19/11/18 - Drug gang jailed as police strike against County Lines

Good news story

A County Lines drug chain that supplied heroin and crack cocaine into market and spa towns from the West Midlands has been crushed following a covert police operation.

The sting run by officers from the West Midlands Regional Organised Crime Unit - alongside West Mercia Police -

identified a gang of six people running drugs from Birmingham into Ledbury and Malvern.

It's estimated the 'Uzi Line' - as it was known - supplied around 2kg of Class A drugs and made more than £150,000 over a 12-month period supplying 133 customers on its books.

Birmingham men Zoheeb Habib, Usman Rafiq, Atieb Osman and Mohinoor Rashid, plus Denise Lynch from Aston and Kane Payne from Oldbury, were jailed for a total of more than 40 years on Friday (16 Nov) for conspiracy to supply Class A drugs.

They are the first convictions in a wider regional police offensive - codenamed Operation Ballet - targeting suspected County Lines drugs dealers.

Detective Inspector Julie Woods from the West Midlands Regional Organised Crime Unit is leading Operation Ballet.

She said: "Op Ballet is the largest operation of its kind ever carried out in the region and in June saw West Midlands Police team up with West Mercia colleagues to carry out a series of raids across the region and London.

"In total, the operation has netted 75 suspected drug dealers believed to be involved in a total of 10 County Lines operating out of the West Midlands and the capital. Some are awaiting sentence after admitting drug dealing while others are facing trial."

Police stopped Habib (27) and 26-year-old Rafiq as they were travelling in a car on Worcester Road, Malvern, on 20 June last year shortly after capturing evidence of them striking a drug deal in Knapp Lane, Ledbury.

Habib's DNA was later found on a wrap of heroin recovered from the drug exchange and a search of Rafiq's home in Cole Hall Lane, Shard End, uncovered a phone that was shown to have been used to run the Uzi Line.

Further covert tactics identified that associates Atieb Osman (27) and 22-year-old Mohinoor Rashid were also making regular trips from Birmingham to Ledbury and Malvern to fulfil Uzi Line orders placed by 'customers'.

They were stopped in a hire car on 24 January this year by officers who found them with several mobile phones - analysis of which later showed them to be drugs hotlines - plus £400 in cash.

And enquires with the car rental firm revealed brazen Rafiq had used an email address containing the word 'UZI' when completing paperwork for the car.

Two more people - Kane Payne, a 19-year-old from Ivy House Road, Oldbury, and 50-year-old Denise Lynch from Fentham Road, Aston - were arrested on 22 February in Wells Road, Malvern, and found to also be completing drugs orders placed via the line.

In June, all six were charged with conspiring to supply heroin and crack cocaine.

Habib, from Wilson Road in Lozells; Osman, from Stafford Road, Handsworth; Rashid from Albert Road in Handsworth; Payne and Lynch all admitted their involvement but Rafiq denied being part of the conspiracy.

However, a jury at Worcester Crown Court needed just an hour to deliberate before returning a guilty verdict against the 26-year-old and today (16 Nov) he was jailed for 12 years.

Osman was jailed for nine-and-a-half years, Habib for eight years and Rashid for six years, while Lynch and Payne were both handed jail terms of two-and-a-half years.

Superintendent Sue Thomas, Policing Commander for Herefordshire, said: "Operation Ballet is part of West Mercia Police's broader 'Protect' campaign to tackle serious and organised crime.

"We are determined to protect our communities from the supply of illegal drugs which are often targeted at the most vulnerable. We want to make it clear to offenders that there will be consequences should they engage in dealing illegal drugs.

"This operation is not over. Further arrests and warrants are planned to tackle those who are suspected of being involved in transporting drugs across county lines. We continue to work with other police forces and law enforcement partners to target those who traffic drugs from larger cities to more rural counties like Herefordshire."

Thank you

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/54164/Drug-gang-jailed-as-police-strike-against-County-Lines>

Contact Details

Malinsgate Police Station

Malinsgate

Telford

TF3 4HW

101 (In an emergency always call 999)

