

# Cuckoo Oak and Ironbridge Newsletter - 26 November 2018

## Community Messages

### 30/11/18 - Relaunch of Neighbourhood Watch supported by Bromsgrove MP and PCC

#### Re-launch of Neighbourhood Watch supported by Bromsgrove MP and Police & Crime Commissioner

West Mercia Neighbourhood Watch, part of the Neighbourhood Watch Network community charity, is being modernised and relaunched, to involve communities across Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and Worcestershire.

With investment from the Police and Crime Commissioner John Champion, and support from MP for Bromsgrove, Sajid Javid MP, new Neighbourhood Watch signage has been produced and customised to give a local identity to each town and village.

An online presence is also continuing to grow, with 21 localised Facebook pages already reaching around 400,000 people each month.

West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner, and Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, Deputy Lead on Citizens in Policing John Champion said "The way in which this scheme is moving forward, allows communities to be involved and play an active role in sharing information and caring for others in order to contribute to a safer, more secure society.

I welcome the modern approach, which can have a far bigger impact, allowing people to be involved in a way that is easy and engaging, whilst still retaining the very important local community feel."

Craig Cox, Chair of West Mercia Neighbourhood Watch "This activity has already started to encourage some communities to fund their own additional street signs and is giving a boost to neighbourhood watch membership. The organisation is changing and is seeking to involve people from all communities and all age groups. Community safety is everyone's concern and West Mercia Neighbourhood Watch is there to help communities protect themselves."

West Mercia Police Local Policing Chief Superintendent Kevin Purcell said: "We really value the work of the many Neighbourhood Watch schemes we have right across the force and are incredibly appreciative of the time the volunteers involved put in to help protect their own community.

"Neighbourhood Watch plays a vital role in supporting our local policing teams in making their communities even safer and we're grateful for this investment in helping our local communities play even more of an active role in supporting the work we do."

For more information on West Mercia Neighbourhood Watch and how you can get involved visit

<http://www.westmercianw.org.uk/> or email [enquiries@westmercianw.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@westmercianw.org.uk)

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/54638/Relaunch-of-Neighbourhood-Watch-supported-by-Bromsgrove-MP-and-PCC>

### 29/11/18 - Watch out! Scam telephone callers are targeting West Mercia residents

Folks,

**Please be aware and remain vigilant, over recent days there has been increase in reports of 'scam telephone calls' being made to Hereford & Worcestershire residents.**

Calls have been received from male(s) and at least one female, described as having Asian accents. The fraudsters are purporting to be from the Inland Revenue and tell the victim large amounts of tax are owed due to some tax miscalculation, if the victim does not pay immediately, bank accounts will be frozen and they are about to be arrested. The fraudster states, to avoid this happening, the victim can pay by purchasing 'Google Play' gift cards and give the codes from the gift cards back over the phone. Victims have described the scammers as 'very convincing and persuasive'.

**Scammers love gift cards!**

It's one of their favourite ways to get your money! These cards are like giving cash. After you buy them, the scammer asks for the code on the back of the card or an image of it. If you provide the code, the scammer can use all the money on the gift card. They'll likely spend it all before you can contact Google or the police. <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/a-z-of-fraud/courier-fraud>

- If you receive such a call do not engage in conversation - clear the line immediately. Remember **NEVER** divulge or even confirm personal details, give out bank account numbers or your PIN numbers.

- Report the call immediately to Action Fraud <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>  
Tel:03001232040

- Before making any further outgoing calls, ensure the telephone line is indeed cleared from the fraudster, if you still unsure then use another phone if necessary.

Thank you

Sender:60268

Citizens in Policing

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/54614/Watch-out-Scam-telephone-callers-are-targeting-West-Mercia-residents>

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### 27/11/18 - PCC: Report Highlights Strain Mental Health Places on Police

**A report which claims mental health provisions in England & Wales are failing both patients and police forces, has been welcomed by John Campion.**

The review by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services found that too often police were being expected to "pick up the pieces of a broken mental health system".

In the last 12 months, more than 7,000 incidents reported to West Mercia Police were related to mental health.

West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion said: "This report comes as no surprise. Mental health is placing a significant and preventable demand on police forces."

"Patients need access to the right help, at the right time. That currently isn't happening, as people suffer mental health crises that could be prevented through effective early intervention. At the moment, the police are often expected to deal with these incidents and they cannot provide the professional mental health treatment these people need."

"I will continue to work with partners to improve the situation, but it is clear that health services have a leading role to take".

"The Government recently announced significant additional investment in mental health. This is very timely and welcome from a policing perspective because, as today's report highlights, the demand placed on our force linked to mental health is neither sustainable, nor is it in the best interests of patients or police officers."

*(Message circulated all WMP Community for info)*

Thank you.

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/54492/PCC-Report-Highlights-Strain-Mental-Health-Places-on-Police>

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### 26/11/18 - Shropshire town reinforces commitment to target thieves

**Newport has become the latest town to reinforce its commitment to target thieves by signing up to West Mercia Police's We Don't Buy Crime.**

We **Don't Buy Crime**, supported by West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion, is the force's response to tackling serious acquisitive crime which includes crimes such as burglary and theft.

Since 2015 more than 50 towns and villages have signed up to become We Don't Buy Crime areas with more than 30,000 homes across Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin protected with SmartWater forensic technology.

And, thanks to a commitment from Newport Town Council We Don't Buy Crime is now being rolled out across the town

with local residents encouraged to sign up and mark their property.

A key aspect of We Don't Buy Crime is to advertise the town has been protected with SmartWater and signage will be displayed throughout the area warning thieves the town has taken crime prevention measures.

**Local Policing Commander for Telford & Wrekin, including Newport, Superintendent Tom Harding, is also the force's lead on We Don't Buy Crime.**

He said: "As the local commander for Telford & Wrekin I'm incredibly proud to lead policing in Newport. The town is a great market town and it's my pleasure to help make it a town people are proud to live and work in.

"I know that, similar to many other rural towns, rural crime is a concern and am pleased to announce Newport has signed up to become a We Don't Buy Crime town.

"Over the past few years I have led West Mercia Police's response to tackle burglary and high value thefts across the force. Being broken into has a devastating impact on victims and I want to make sure we're doing all we can to help protect our local communities.

"Crime prevention plays an important role which is why I really would encourage residents to mark and register their property. Warwick University has carried out research for us in areas that have already become We Don't Buy Crime towns and villages and the research has shown there have been significant reductions in crime so we're satisfied it is effective.

"By working together we can really start to turn the tables on criminals and let them know there's no place for their criminality in our communities."

Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion said: "I promised the communities of West Mercia that I would do all I can to prevent them from becoming victims of crime. Funding Smartwater is just one of the ways I am delivering on that promise, so I am pleased that Newport has become the latest town to be protected.

"Across West Mercia we have already seen great successes with Smartwater proving to work and many people that have used it, and are now living in a 'We Don't Buy Crime' town, are feeling more reassured and have commented on how there is now a more enhanced community spirit.

"I hope to see more areas sign up to the 'We Don't Buy Crime' scheme so we can all help in reducing crime and making our communities safer."

Councillor Tim Nelson from Newport Town Council said he is delighted with the take up of the free SmartWater kits provided by Newport Town Council in partnership with West Mercia Police.

He added: "Newport Town Council is pleased to welcome local policing commander Superintendent Tom Harding and West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion to Newport for this official launch of We Don't Buy Crime and SmartWater. I'm personally particularly pleased that we now have the official launch since local volunteers, who I would like to thank, have been distributing kits for the past two months and have now handed out 1300 kits, which is a third of the town. This is fantastic so far and there are many more to go."

**Kits are available at drop in session at Newport Library, please see Newport town council for details. Volunteers are also taking kits out to local events, visiting local shops and local schools to encourage people to sign up.**

SmartWater is a water based invisible liquid, provided by local company - SmartWater Technology - and transfers onto anything it comes into contact with, including skin and clothing.

It is only visible under an ultra-violet light, meaning those who come into contact with it are often unaware - and even if they are aware it does not wash off easily and stays on the skin for weeks.

SmartWater scientists only need a speck to identify where it has come from and it can be used on anything from a door handle, window frame or even smaller personal possessions.

## Contact Details

Malinsgate Police Station

Malinsgate

Telford

TF3 4HW

101 (In an emergency always call 999)

