

# Cuckoo Oak and Ironbridge Newsletter - 08 April 2019

## Community Messages

### 11/04/19 - Additional funding awarded to valuable veterans project

**In recognition of the achievements made by the West Mercia Remember Veterans project, the Armed Forces Covenant has committed further funding, with support of the PCC John Campion, to continue the valuable work.**

The Ministry of Defence's Covenant has provided £150,000 for two years, with the Commissioner committing additional funding of £50,000 to help continue strengthen the pathways and services for veterans.

With an estimated five to ten percent of the prison population consisting of ex-service personnel, the project, which was initially set up in 2016 with funding from the MOD and support from the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner and charity YSS, aims to help ex-service personnel integrate back into civilian life and prevent them from coming into contact with the criminal justice system.

The first phase has brought together existing support groups, which weren't previously joined up, and built awareness of the issues and barriers that veterans face. The second phase will focus more on providing practical and emotional support in community settings through specially recruited workers from YSS.

The Commissioner said: "Those who make sacrifices for their country deserve to be supported so they don't face the difficulties that all too many ex-service personnel face when leaving the military.

"The commitment I made when the project first launched is the same commitment I make today - I will work hard to understand the needs of veterans and make sure that they have access to the relevant support services."

Lorraine Preece, YSS CEO, said: "We are delighted to be able to continue working with the Police and Crime Commissioner to identify and support veterans in the criminal justice system across West Mercia".

\*\*\*End of Message\*\*\*

*(Message circulated to all communities - WMP areas)*

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/59318/Additional-funding-awarded-to-valuable-veterans-project>

### 10/04/19 - THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE - HALESFIELD 13

**Between Friday 5th April 2019 and Monday 8th April 2019 a Blue Ford Focus VRM \*\*\*\* VMV was stolen from a communal car park on HALESFIELD 13.**

West Mercia Police are keen to hear from anyone who may have any information regarding this.

Officers are also encouraging the community to call police on 101 if they see anyone acting suspicious around a vehicle.

Anyone with any information on the incident should call West Mercia Police on **101** quoting incident reference **0165s 100419**.

### Vehicle safety

Vehicle crime is not common in West Mercia and we are working hard to reduce it even further. A tiny minority of vehicles registered in the whole of Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire are involved in crime each year, but there are simple steps you can take to make life even harder for criminals.

Most vehicle crime is opportunistic and happens as a result of a vehicle being left vulnerable or unsecured, for example:

- doors or windows left unlocked

- keys left in the ignition
- personal belongings on display (e.g. handbag, laptop)
- sat nav and holder left in vehicle
- parked in a poorly lit areas
- vehicles being left unlocked with engines running to defrost during winter

For further crime prevention advice, please visit the West Mercia Website:

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/4877/Vehicle-safety>

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/59300/THEFT-OF-MOTOR-VEHICLE---HALESFIELD-13>

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### **08/04/19 - PCC opens new round of recruitment for custody visitors - Volunteer opportunity**

**If you're looking for a voluntary role and have an interest in the world of policing, the Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion would like to hear from you.**

There are opportunities for people living in the Herefordshire and North Worcestershire areas to volunteer as Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs).

It is the role of an ICV to make unannounced visits to police custody suites to check that the people who have been detained are being treated fairly and properly, and that the police are following all the correct rules and procedures.

These volunteers are recruited by the Commissioner from the local community and are independent of the police service. They play a vital role in not only monitoring the welfare of people in police custody, but also strengthening public confidence in police practices.

Commissioner John Campion said: "I am passionate about giving members of the public the opportunity to get more involved in policing and to volunteer their time to make a valuable contribution to their communities.

"The work of the ICVs is crucial in providing transparency and confidence in policing. I know, from speaking to our existing volunteers, that they find the role incredibly rewarding. It's a great opportunity to get a glimpse into an area of policing that not many members of the public would come into contact with."

Volunteering as an ICV doesn't require a lot of time, but flexibility is helpful as custody suites need to be visited at least once a week - sometimes during unsocial hours. Training and support will be given in order to carry out the role.

More information on the role and how to apply can be found on the Commissioner's website: <https://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk/working-together/current-vacancies/>

\*\*\*End of Message \*\*\*

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/59201/PCC-opens-new-round-of-recruitment-for-custody-visitors---Volunteer-opportunity>

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### **08/04/19 - £1000 Reward offered after lambs slaughtered**

#### **Rural Watch and Telford Communities**

**On Monday 1 April police were informed that 19 lambs had been slaughtered at Lydebrook Farm in Little Wenlock.**

It's believed the lambs were slaughtered for their meat, by thieves intending to sell it. Enquiries have been on-going to trace the suspects.

And now the farm would like to offer a £1,000 reward for information that leads to a successful conviction.

Tamara Pickstock, whose family own the farm, said: "It is heart breaking that some of our lambs have been killed in this way and very concerning that unfit meat could be entering the food chain.

"We want to offer a reward to help police so they can arrest those responsible and stop them from doing this to other animals at other farms.

"If anyone does have any information that may help police we would ask them to please get in contact and pass this on."

The animals had been recently treated with antibiotics and a treatment for parasites, therefore they were not fit to enter the food chain at the point in which the meat was taken, police are reminding people to only buy meat from reputable suppliers.

Chief Inspector James Dunn said: "We're aware the animals had been recently treated and the meat would not usually enter the food chain at this point and would urge people to make sensible choices and make sure they are buying meat from reputable suppliers."

Enquiries are on-going into the incident and any witnesses are asked to contact West Mercia Police on 101 quoting reference 219s 010419 or alternatively Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

The reward will be provided for information that leads to a successful conviction.

\*\*\*End of Message \*\*\*

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/59152/1000-Reward-offered-after-lambs-slaughtered>

## Contact Details

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

