

Neighbourhood Watch

Distraction Theft

West Mercia Police continue to urge people to be vigilant following further distraction thefts in our region. People are advised to be particularly careful with handbags, purses and wallets, to keep valuable items secure and to be especially vigilant at checkouts and cash machines. The offenders have been known to distract victims at the supermarkets, in banks or in busy town centres or shopping centres in order to steal their bank cards.

In a recent incident a man using an ATM was distracted when he was told he had dropped a £20 note. While he was distracted the thieves switched his card in the machine. Fortunately, the victim quickly realised what had happened and 'stopped' his card before any fraudulent use was made of it. The thief who distracted him was described as tall and unshaven with an eastern European accent.

A similar incident occurred when a woman in her eighties, was bumped into by a man in a charity shop in a busy shopping centre. She later discovered that two cards had been taken from her purse and withdrawals had been made on each account. She was unable to give a detailed description of the suspect.

Police advice is for the public to remain vigilant. Whenever you use your card, whether it's at a cash point or at a checkout, keep an eye out for 'shoulder surfers' who may be watching you enter your PIN. Please warn any elderly friends or relatives to be on the lookout as elderly shoppers are often targeted by these criminals.

Telephone Scams

We continue to be plagued with scammers who make unsolicited calls claiming to be your bank, the police, local authorities etc. They often appear to already know a great deal about you but much of that information is easily available from election registers, telephone books and the internet so do not be taken in. Remember, your bank or the police will not ask for your bank card pin nor will they send a courier to collect your cards. It is unlikely that you have won the lottery, or inherited some fortune from an unknown relative and if you have you should not have to pay to receive this windfall. Do not give out personal information to unknown callers.

Local Crime

Thankfully our region has a relatively low crime rate but we do still suffer from opportunistic crime. The following are regular targets for theft: vehicles obviously containing valuables or tools, outbuildings and garden sheds containing tools, vehicles, machinery, and buildings where there is no obvious sign of occupancy. So much of this can be avoided. Do not leave valuables on display in a vehicle and remove valuables from vehicles which cannot be parked in a secure lockup. Avoid leaving valuable machinery in remote outbuildings and secure sheds and garages with good locks and alarms. Use security lighting and leave lights on timers if going away from your home overnight.

Neighbourhood Watch

Crime Prevention Event - 9th April 2016
- Orleton Village Hall 10:00 – 12:00 hrs



Orleton Village Allotments
- Property Marking Event 9th April 2016. 13:30 – 15:30 hrs

PCSO Pete Knight from Leominster Safer Neighbourhood Team will be present to offer security advice and free property marking.

Useful Contacts:

The nearest public service counter is at Hereford Police Station, Bath Street, Hereford:

Opening hours of: Monday to Saturday: 8am to 8pm

Sundays and Bank Holidays: 10am to 4pm

Victim Support	01432 347208
Childline	0800 1111
Domestic Violence Helpline	0800 7831359
National Drugs Helpline	0800 776 600
National Neighbourhood Watch Association	02079 630160
Herefordshire Road Safety Hotline	01432 364582
Website:	www.westmercia.police.uk
HFD NHW:	www.communigate.co.uk/here/hfdsneiwatch/

Ian Robertson

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