

## **Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter – August 2015**

**Use of Smart Phones and Cameras.** These days many of us have mobile phones with inbuilt cameras. The police advise that it is perfectly legal to use a camera to take pictures in public places with the aim of stopping or reporting crime. Therefore, if you see suspicious activity perhaps involving vehicles try taking a picture with your mobile phone. In the case of vehicles a picture can provide make, colour and even registration information which might be forgotten with the passage of time. This information could be of great value to the police who are developing wider use of these modern technologies. One programme called FACEWATCH links retail properties in towns and cities and alerts retailers to shop-lifters or bar and restaurant owners to trouble makers out on the town. If you have it use the technology!

**Anti-Social use of Cars and Motorbikes.** Throughout the year, but particularly in the summer, the police get reports of people riding motorbikes or using other vehicles on and off road in an anti-social manner. Vehicles can only be used off-road where the appropriate land owner has given permission. If you see vehicles being used in an illegal or anti-social manner off-road contact your local police giving them as much information as possible. They will need to know the location and time, the number of people and vehicles involved and as much detailed description as you can provide to help the police identify those involved. If you have a mobile phone or camera with you try to take photographs!

**Recruitment Scam.** The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau has been alerted to activity involving advanced fee fraud. Individuals are being recruited by a company called Business Loan Scanner claiming to work from 34 Lime Street, London. As part of the recruitment the individuals are asked to pay in advance a fee for CRB checks relating to their application for a job. Be aware that this company does not exist at the claimed address and that this activity is a fraud. If you have been contacted by this or similar organisations do not send money and contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or email [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk).

**Home and Property Security Advice.** There is no place like home and it is important to make your home as protected as possible to ensure it is safe for you, your property and loved ones. The police offer the following advice to keep your home and property secure.

1. Ensure all points of entry to your home or property have locks and use them when you leave your property even for short periods. Also lock up before going to bed at night.
2. Do not leave keys in an easily accessible location such as hanging by the main entrance or even in the lock.
3. Think about adding further security measures such as fencing, security lights and alarms. Such items can deter burglars and may also reduce insurance costs.
4. When away make your property look occupied by putting lights or even radios on timers. Ask neighbours to help keep an eye on your property to the extent of drawing curtains, collecting mail or parking their car on your driveway.
5. Finally to feel secure when answering the door, fit a 'spy hole' and use a security chain on the door. Do not let strangers in to your home if you are unsure of their identity and always check identification when available.

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**Poaching and Wild Life Crime.** Now that harvesting is in progress there is a seasonal increase in Wild Life Crime such as hare coursing and other forms of poaching. Police forces are mounting Operation GALILEO to increase patrols in lowly populated arable farming areas.

Hare coursing in particular involves the use of dogs and those involved regard it as sport often involving significant amounts of money in bets. If you spot suspicious activity involving vehicles on heath or arable land, packs of dogs etc try to contact the police and provide as much information as possible. Be aware that those involved are aware that their activity is illegal and may be violent to evade detention.

**Useful Contacts:** The nearest manned public service counter is at Hereford Police Station, Bath Street.  
Open: Monday to Saturday: 8am to 8 pm, Sundays and Bank Holidays: 10am to 4pm  
Leominster Police Station has a phone system at its entrance where members of the public can speak to the police and get help.

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
Police Website: <a href="http://www.westmercia.police.uk">www.westmercia.police.uk</a>	
HFD NHW: <a href="http://www.communicate.co.uk/here/hfdsneiwatch/">www.communicate.co.uk/here/hfdsneiwatch/</a>	

Contact the police on a non-urgent basis on 101 or via 0300 333 3000 and give your details to the operator. In emergency dial 999. If you would like to report anything anonymously please call CRIMESTOPPERS on 0800 555 111.

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