

Newsletter

December 2017
Herefordshire SNT Newsletter

Latest updates

Work vans being targeted.

Tradesmen are being advised to take extra precautions in protecting their property as there have been further thefts of power tools from tradesmen vans.

The offences continue to occur overnight and most offences are occurring in the north east residential areas of Hereford particularly in the terrace streets off Ledbury Road and the Tupsley / Hampton Dene areas.

These offences have been linked to further offences in Malvern, Leominster and Ledbury.

It is suspected offenders are using high end hire cars on false plates to travel extensively and commit offences.

The public are asked to dial 999 to report any suspicious activity.

Cold Callers - 'Nottingham Knockers'

Reports of cold callers in the Hereford area

West Mercia Police have received a number of reports of males in the Herefordshire area attempting to sell items door-to-door.

The sales group, known as 'Nottingham Knockers' traditionally carry large holdalls containing cleaning items, which they offer for sale. Some residents are reporting that if they decline to purchase any goods, the individuals use pressurised selling techniques causing the home owner to feel intimidated. West Mercia Police are advising that if any sales person comes to your door selling any products, do not be persuaded to part with money for products you don't need or are of poor quality. Residents are also advised to use precautionary measures such as a door chain and to ignore callers if they are unsure who it may be.

Anyone selling products on a door-to-door basis are required to be in possession of a valid pedlars certificate; a card with the person's name and photograph is NOT sufficient.

Drink Drive Campaign-



Although drinking and driving or getting behind the wheel while impaired is much more socially unacceptable than in the past, there are still a small minority of motorists who are either ignorant of the dangers or who are prepared to run the risk.

Sadly the risks are very real. Around 12% of all deaths in reported road traffic collisions in the UK in 2015 involved at least one driver over the drink drive limit. Between 2014 and 2016 in Warwickshire and West Mercia, 211 people have been killed or seriously injured as a result of collisions involving drink or drugs.

Reducing these numbers is a priority for Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police, and officers are committed to year-round enforcement of offences of driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, as well as additional targeted campaigns during the summer and Christmas periods when drink / drug drive offences typically increase. Every time the police attend a road traffic incident, they breathalyse the drivers at the scene.

Drug driving laws introduced in 2015 make it a lot easier for the police to tackle drivers who choose to drive while under the influence of drugs, with new roadside drug testing kits in place to detect cannabis and cocaine.

Alongside police enforcement activity, we aim to raise awareness of the dangers of drink and drug driving through education campaigns throughout the year using social media advertising, radio adverts and traditional media channels.

Our message is very simple: If you're driving, don't drink any alcohol at all. Alcohol affects everyone very differently and any amount can impair your ability to drive. The ONLY safe option is to avoid alcohol completely if you're driving as even 'just one drink' could put you over the limit. Why risk it?

Drink and drug driving - The facts

Driving under the influence of drink or drugs is extremely dangerous and can affect your driving in numerous ways.

Drink driving:

The legal alcohol limit in the UK for driving is 80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood OR 35 micrograms of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath.

However, there is no failsafe guide as to how much you can drink and stay under the limit, since it can depend on other factors such as your weight, age, metabolism and the amount of food you have eaten.

The only safe option is to avoid alcohol altogether when driving. Alcohol affects everyone very different and any amount can impair your ability to drive. The only safe option is to avoid

alcohol completely if you're driving as even 'just one drink' could put you over the limit. Why risk it?

For more information on drink driving, visit the Think! Drink Driving website:

<http://think.direct.gov.uk/drink-driving.html>

Drug driving:

It is an offence to drive with any of 17 controlled drugs above a specified level in your blood. This includes illegal and medical drugs. The limits set for each drug is different, and for illegal drugs the limits set are extremely low, but have been set at a level to rule out any accidental exposure (e.g. from passive smoking).

Officers can test for cannabis and cocaine at the roadside, and screen for other drugs - including ecstasy, LSD, ketamine and heroin - at the police station. Even drivers that pass the roadside check can be arrested if the police suspect that your driving is impaired by drugs.

For more information on drug driving, visit the Think! Drug Driving website:

<http://think.direct.gov.uk/drug-driving.html>

Some drink and drug driving facts:

- Alcohol affects your ability to drive safely as your reaction times are impaired and you are unable to judge speed and distances.
- It is impossible to try and get alcohol out of your system quickly, it always takes time. A shower, a cup of coffee or other ways of 'sobering up' will not work.
- If you have been out drinking, you may still be affected by alcohol the next day and could lose your licence if you drive and are still over the legal limit.
- Illegal substances and even some over-the-counter drugs can impair your driving in numerous ways, including:
 - Slower reaction times
 - Poor concentration
 - Erratic behaviour
 - Nausea
 - Hallucinations
 - Aggression
 - Panic attacks and paranoia
 - Tremors
 - Dizziness
- You should always check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are unsure about whether your prescription / over-the-counter medication will affect your driving ability.

Incidents-

Police appeal for witnesses after 'road rage' incident in Hereford

Investigation officers are appealing for witnesses following a road rage incident that resulted in an assault on the A49 in Hereford.

The incident happened at around 1.45pm yesterday afternoon (Thursday, 30 November), near to roundabout where the A49 meets the Roman Road (A4103).

The victim, a 47 year-old man, was driving a black Porsche along A49 in the direction of the A449, when a Nissan Micra overtook his vehicle before coming to an immediate stop in front of the victim's car. It is reported that the driver of the Nissan then exited his vehicle and assaulted the victim.

The victim sustained injuries to his face which required hospital treatment.

A 24-year-old man from Hereford was arrested on suspicion of assault. He has been released under investigation.

Detective Constable Theresa Wood for West Mercia Police, said: "We are especially appealing for the driver of a white van with a logo on the side of it, to come forward, as it is believed they may have witnessed the incident.

"Anyone who witnessed the incident or who has information that can identify the suspect is asked to please contact West Mercia Police on 101 quoting incident 289s of Thursday 30 November 2017.

"Alternatively, you can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or online via their website. No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court."

Anti-Social Behaviour-

Anti-social behaviour covers a wide range of unacceptable activity that causes harm to an individual, to their community or to their environment. This could be an action by someone else that leaves you feeling alarmed, harassed or distressed. It also includes fear of crime or concern for public safety, public disorder or public nuisance.

Examples of anti-social behaviour include:

- Nuisance, rowdy or inconsiderate neighbours
- Vandalism, graffiti and fly-posting
- Street drinking
- Environmental damage including littering, dumping of rubbish and abandonment of cars
- Prostitution related activity
- Begging and vagrancy
- Fireworks misuse
- Inconsiderate or inappropriate use of vehicles

Winter Driving Staying Safe Advice

Here are some ideas to Stay safe this winter –

Batteries -Turn off extra lighting loads (e.g. lights, rear window heater and wipers before starting the engine.

If the engine does not start first wait 30 seconds before trying again.

Anti-Freeze – Only costs a few pounds much cheaper than a new engine. Remember to use the correct type, some protect engines against -34C.

Vision- Clean windscreen inside and out, make sure no dirt, stickers, snow are present.

Replace worn or damaged wipers

Make sure lights are working and registration plate clear

Consider special winter tyres or all season tyres, made from special rubber with better grip.

Driving- Ease away in second gear, take foot off clutch gently to avoid wheel spin.

Apply brakes gently

If you do get stuck, straighten the steering and clear snow from the wheels put towel or sack or rug in front of driving wheels to aid with grip.

Time – Always give extra time from winter journeys, plan routes for major roads and always keep fuel topped up.

About your teams

Safer Neighbourhood Teams work with local people and partners to identify, tackle and solve issues that matter to the community where you live.

Making neighbourhoods safer by cutting day to day crime and anti-social behaviour is at the heart of keeping people in West Mercia safe. Thanks to an investment in mobile tablet style computers, these will enable officers to spend more time on patrol on the street and in neighbourhoods.

Officers will continue to come to people when they need them and provide a high quality service however you contact us - in person (on the street, at community bases and at partners and communities together [PACT] meetings), on the phone or online.

How to get in touch



101 to talk to your local SNT or report a crime



contactus@westmercia.police.uk



www.westmercia.police.uk

Only call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger.