

Newsletter

February 2018
Herefordshire SNT Newsletter

Latest updates

Work vans being targeted.

The city has seen a rise in the number of tool thefts from vans, reported to police. Thefts have occurred from vans parked overnight on the highway or owners driveways. Some thefts have even taken place during the day whilst the vehicle owner has left van unattended during visits to and from a property they are working at. Thefts at present have mainly been reported from the Tupsley/Ledbury Road area and Ledbury town. Hereford Rural North SNT has seen similar crimes occurring in Tarrington, Tillington and Moreton-on-Lugg.

SNT advise residents to report any vehicle(s) that they deem suspicious with vehicle registration numbers and as much description as possible of vehicle and occupants. We also advise assessing the security of your van and look at how it could be improved; for example

- Upgrade the locks from non standard
- Install a secure safe within the vehicle
- Empty the cab/ rear loading area and keep in a safe secure place within your property
- Park the vehicle in such a way that the doors are against a solid, non moveable object

- Place signage in windows to warn that any contents in vehicle will be security marked with Smartwater or registered with Immobilise or similar, see websites <https://www.immobilise.com/shop> or <https://shop.smartwater.com/>
- Ask your local SNT for further info
- Don't leave items on display such as tools, sat nav, phones, money etc.

Call 101 or email you local SNT if you would like to arrange a visit where we'll be happy to discuss further security measures

New Year Beware of Scams-

Always be wary of scams and unusual emails or links on web pages.

We have received some emails from readers advising us of recent scams they have received and are wishing us to pass them on to you

"After hearing about all the scams that are going on, I thought I ought to report calls I have received recently from "Open reach" The first was around two weeks ago; a call from a man calling himself 'Steve Smith'(with an Indian accent), who informed me there were engineers working at Pontrilas and he wanted me to check my internet speed. We has just changed phone providers and my new router had not been connected, I told him this but he asked me to a enter a www address he gave me, I did try (very stupidly) but no connection, he rang again the next day to see if things were fixed, and then two days later. On that occasion I told him I had a BT engineer on the premises and he rang off immediately . Two days ago I had a call from a female with an Indian accent again, saying she was from "Open reach" and again gave the same information re engineers at Pontrilas and needing me to check internet speed. I hung up"

Your NatWest Online Has Been Closed – this was the heading for an e-mail sent to one of you, the body of the email read

Just to let you know that we noticed unusual activities on your online account during our regular update today. It is either your details have been changed or incomplete. As a result of the technical issues detected your online account has been temporarily suspended. You are therefore required to verify your details to regain access to online service. Please click the link below in order to regain instant access.

Also be wary of –

Internet Dating? #Be Cyber Smart

Be careful and don't let your heart rule your head. Stop and think before you fall head over heels. How well do you really know the person you are forming a relationship with? Are they who they say they are? Are they really looking for love or do they have pound signs in their eyes? Are the pictures they send you believable? Are they asking you lots of questions but keeping tight-lipped about themselves? Have they quickly started using pet names or endearing terms? Do they want to swiftly move their communication with you away from the website or chat room and instead to instant messaging and text messages? Are they asking for money? Don't fall for 'hard luck' stories. What are your instincts telling you? Does this person seem too good to be true? Don't reveal too much information about yourself. Never give money, credit card or online account details to anyone you do not know or trust. Think about your safety if you meet in person. Stay in a public place, don't get a lift with them, tell someone where you are going, keep your phone with you, don't leave your possessions or drink unattended and do not drink too much. Always be wary.



Safer Internet Day 2018 will be celebrated globally on **Tuesday 6th February 2018** with the slogan "Create, Connect and Share Respect: A better internet starts with you".

Safer Internet Day is celebrated globally in February each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people and inspire a national conversation.

Double Check Contact

Detective Constable Stevyn advises you to double check contact from a service provider is genuine – there are some pretty convincing fraudsters out there <https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/advice/>. Always question unannounced meetings and contact from an organisation.

PHONE SCAMS

Keep Calm and Hang up!

It is a scam if

- Someone offers you something
- It seems too good to be true
- You are pressurised into agreeing something quickly
- You are asked to make a payment
- You are asked to hand over your credit card details on a cold call

Talk to your phone company

If you're still receiving harassing or unsolicited phone calls, you can talk to your phone company to report the phone number. Most providers offer products, services and advice - much of which is free - to block unwanted calls or reduce nuisance calls.

Consider call blocking technology

Phone companies offer a number of services that can help block unwanted nuisance calls.

Some of these services are free but for some, monthly charges can apply and may vary depending on what package you're signed up to.

Services include caller display, which shows you the number of the person calling; incoming call blocking, which prevents selected numbers from getting through; and caller identification - or 1471.

In an ideal world it wouldn't be necessary to use call blocking equipment, but this can protect you and older or vulnerable relatives from nuisance callers.

Systems cost between £40 and £120 and can be very effective. In a recent trial by Trading Standards the **trueCall** system blocked 98% of unwanted phone calls.

Plus, if there's a category of numbers you don't want to hear from – like international, withheld or unrecognised numbers – you can send them straight to junk voicemail.

Marden – Between 22:00 on 17th and 08:24 on 18th Jan a burglary has taken place in Marden. The elderly resident has been awoken by a noise outside the front door and attended to investigate. The resident opened the door to find 3 males described as aged in their 30s-40s along with 1 female in her mid 20s. The group have stated that the resident had a power cut and that they were police officers. The female has then asked for the keys to the garage which were provided. The group have pushed passed the resident into the property where they carried out a search of cupboards and drawers. Prior to the confrontation with the resident it is suspected the group have used an implement to force open the adjoining garage doors and gain entry. Within the garage is the fuse box where it is believed the electricity to the property has been isolated. **Anyone concerned by this or any other crime should contact their SNT who will arrange a visit to discuss crime prevention and security advice.**

Holmer – Theft of tools from van took place between 3rd Jan at 17:00 and 4th Jan at 03:30. Entry gained by unknown means and a large quantity of Dewalt power tools taken from within. Tools taken include impact driver, circular saw, angle grinder, multi tools, tool boxes amongst a number of other items.

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.