

Newsletter

December 2021

South Wye Newsletter

Hereford Southside and Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team
herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.police.uk

Sign up to receive alerts from
your local policing teams
neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk



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Your team, based at South Wye.

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Crime Trends

1st – 30th November 2021

Anti-Social Behaviour - There have been reports of a group of youth throwing eggs at vehicles in the Spofford St (2nd Nov), Belmont Rd (6th Nov), The Lines (8th Nov) Hunderton Rd/Great Western Way (9th, 12th Nov). Incident refs: 00171-i-02112021 00642=i-06112021, 00 617-i-091121, 00379-i-06112021, 00623-i-08112021, 00647-i-12112021,

Several other ASB calls were received during the month regarding the group of youths – thanks to all that called in, Police caught up with the group and all involved were dealt with by Officers.

Theft - A report was received regarding the theft of 2 drain covers in Court Close, Little Dewchurch, if you have any information that can help with enquiries please call 101 and quote Incident ref: 00370-i-30112021

Suspicious Circumstances - A suspicious incident was reported in Kinnersley Close, 2 men had approached a property rang the doorbell several times and banged on the window, caller stated that the males sounded angry that they could not get in. The men were gone when Police arrived Incident Ref: 00055-i-26112021

Suspicious Circumstances - An unknown person entered a garden in Skenfrith Walk, male seen by callers neighbour in caller's garden looking at caller's mobility scooters. The male was seemingly signalled by another male outside on the road and both then ran off – No damage or thefts occurred Incident Ref: 00750_I_08112021

If you have any information regarding the incidents above, or any crime, you can contact police on 101 or via our website <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/>

In an emergency please dial 999.

You can also contact Crime stoppers on 0800 555 111 to report any crime or criminal activity Anonymously.

Please be aware that any information provided within this newsletter is to inform you of incidents of note and to request possible assistance. We do not want to worry you in anyway.

Any incidents stated are infrequent and spread about a wide area, and are over a whole month.

Witness Appeal

Officers are appealing for information after a single-vehicle collision on the A49 in Harewood End, Herefordshire, where a man sadly died.

Christopher Smith, who was 66, died after the car he was driving hit a wall shortly after 7am on Wednesday 17 November. Ambulance crews and officers from West Mercia Police attended but sadly he was pronounced dead at the scene.

Anyone who has any information, or who may have seen the vehicle in the moments before the collision when Mr Smith was driving towards Hereford from Ross on Wye, is urged to call 101 or visit our website, quoting incident 063i of 17 November, 2021 or report it online via our website

www.westmerciapolice.uk/tua/tell-us-about/

Alternatively, if you have information but don't feel comfortable speaking to police, you can speak to the independent charity Crimestoppers. It is 100% anonymous, they never ask your name and they cannot trace your call or IP address. You can contact them online or by calling 0800 555 111.



Op Sceptre

The 15th November saw the launch of Operation Sceptre, a week long operation led by the Home Office, to help continue ongoing efforts to tackle knife crime.

We are pleased to say that levels of knife crime in the South Wye are extremely low in comparison to other parts of the country. However, it's vital that we don't become complacent and that we work to help keep these levels low.

The team here have been conducting sweeps of local playing fields and surrounding areas to check that no knives have been secreted by persons looking to use them at a later date (a tactic often used by gangs in more metropolitan areas). We're pleased to report that no knives have been found.

PCSO Hayley Warne and PC Tally Hunt took an active role and took the knife arch to Southwye Police Boxing Academy (Hinton Community Centre) where all members of the club that were training that night walked through to participate in the National Op.

If you have any knowledge or suspicion of a person carrying a knife or bladed article in a public place for anything other than a legitimate reason then please let the team here know, or report your concerns via Crimestoppers.

Parish Council Priorities - Speeding

The main concern throughout our Parishes is that of Speeding, we as an SNT have been out in various parts of the County Speed Enforcement and monitoring – you may have seen us out and about!

With the weather changing please think about how you drive making sure you drive to the weather conditions.

For advice on winter driving please follow the link below.

<https://www.theaa.com/driving-advice/seasonal/winter>



National Drink, Drugs Campaign

National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) National Drink / Drug Driving Campaign Wednesday 1st December 2021 to Saturday 1st January 2022.

In line with the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) National Drink / Drug Driving Campaign, West Mercia Police will be engaging the Christmas Drink and Drug driving campaign which will run from 00:01hrs on Wednesday 1st December 2021 until 23:59hrs Saturday 1st January 2022 inclusive.

Police Officers will breath test all drivers involved in collisions which they deal with, irrespective of whether or not there is a suspicion of alcohol and where there is a suspicion of drugs

Officers are also encouraged to consider using their powers in relation to drug impaired driving if considered appropriate.



Mini PC's Brenda & Clive



Mini PC's Brenda and Clive have made their 1st visit to The Cabin Childcare in Much Birch due to traffic issues and concerns raised by parents and members of the public. They will be there for a month and then move on to pastures new.

The mini PC's are available to all schools in the South Wye area for a month at a time. The reason for the mini PC's is so that the safety of children and their parents can be reminded to all that park their cars on double yellow lines, close to a junction or on a blind corner to the speed that drivers do when in the area of schools.

If your school is interested in having the mini PC's for a month email:

Herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.police.uk

Online Charity Fraud

With Christmas fast approaching, this time of year has traditionally been a popular time to donate online to charity. Unfortunately, as with most areas of life nowadays, the generosity of the public is seen to be an area of potential exploitation by unscrupulous scammers. The warning below appears on the Action Fraud web site at present and serves as a timely reminder to check that you are donating to a genuine charity before handing over any money.

Public urged to donate safely this Christmas as it's revealed £1.6m was lost to online charity fraud over the past year

The Fundraising Regulator, the Charity Commission for England and Wales, National Trading

Standards and Action Fraud are joining forces to call on the public to give safely when donating online. Data from Action Fraud reveals that £1.6m of the public's money was lost to online charity fraud over the past year.

The fraud captured by this data includes requests for donations for non-existent charities and the fraudulent collection of funds from genuine charities. Action Fraud's data shows that the £1.6m loss to fraud is up by 16% on the figure reported in the previous year.

The call for the public to give safely this Christmas is being co-ordinated by the Fundraising Regulator – the body which oversees charitable fundraising in the UK. It is encouraging the public to take steps to protect themselves online, particularly as the nation approaches the festive period, during which appeals for charitable donations increase.

The campaign is urging members of the public to conduct some simple checks before giving to charity, to make sure their donations reach the intended recipient. This includes:

- Check the charity name and its registration number on the [Charity Commission website](#) to find out whether the charity is legitimate.
- Use the Fundraising Regulator's online [Directory](#) to find out whether a charity has registered with it and committed to excellent fundraising.
- Look out for the [Fundraising Badge](#) on charity marketing materials – when people see it, they can have confidence in charity's fundraising.
- Ask questions about the cause – if people are still unsure about giving, they should always ask for more information. Legitimate causes will be happy to respond.

Gerald Oppenheim, Chief Executive of the Fundraising Regulator said:

"The British public is always exceedingly generous when giving to charity, and we want to make sure that they can continue to do so, safe in the knowledge that their donation is going to its intended cause.

"Just a few simple steps – including looking out for the Fundraising Badge, which means a charity has committed to best practice – will help the general public to make informed decisions when donating to good causes, and we are pleased to be working closely with other regulators to deliver this important message."

Pauline Smith, Director of Action Fraud, said:

"Charities work tirelessly all year round to help those in greatest need. Sadly, criminals will try to abuse the generosity and goodwill of others and this can have a huge financial impact on charities and the causes they support. "We would encourage people not to be put off donating to charities, but to follow a few simple steps to ensure your donations don't end up in the wrong hands this Christmas. Make sure you do your research before donating to ensure you're giving your money to a legitimate charity this Christmas.

Mike Andrews, National Co-ordinator at the National Trading Standards eCrime Team, said:

"Online fraudsters are preying on the goodwill of generous people digging deep to give to charitable causes. If you are looking to make a charitable contribution online this festive period, it's important to carry out some checks to ensure your money goes where you intend it to. Follow the advice from the Fundraising Regulator and, before you part with your money, check the website to ensure it is genuine."

Paul Latham, Director of Communications and Policy at the Charity Commission said:

"Many people give very generously at Christmas. By making simple online checks, donors can ensure their hard-earned money reaches genuine registered charities, which are accountable to the Charity Commission and the public for the way they are run, and how they spend their income."

Property Marking

The team continues to offer free security marking of property for anybody who may be interested in an extra deterrent to thieves. This is aimed primarily at things like tools, garden implements, mowers etc and involves us writing an identifiable mark on the item and then spraying it with a lacquer, thereby making it practically impossible to remove. This mark then acts as a deterrent to any potential thief and would also assist police in identifying the rightful owner of any property they may come across that is suspected to have been stolen. If you are interested in having any property marked in this way then please contact us.

Neighbourhood Matters





Have you signed up to the new police messaging service called Neighbourhood Matters? This has proved to be a popular service throughout the force and we would like all who haven't yet signed up to it to please consider doing so now. You can do so via the web site www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk or alternatively the team here can sign you up on your behalf if you would prefer. Please contact us if you would like us to do this for you. The service is used by us locally to send out messages of all sorts, from reporting on certain activities that we have been up to, to informing people of local drop-in surgeries planned by us for the coming days. It also used by our headquarters to send out public safety messages of all sorts. You won't be bombarded with emails and we think that you'll find the service a useful way of keeping up to date with local police related matters.

How to Contact Us

 to talk to your local SNT – see contact numbers at top of newsletter

 Herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.police.uk

 <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/> – please use the West Mercia Police web site for all other forms of contact, including reporting a crime (not 999), anti-social behaviour, motoring matters, queries etc.

 @SouthsideCops



Neighbourhood Matters

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

Where We Work



Area profile

Welcome to the site for Hereford City Southside and Rural Team. We are a small team and currently work from South Wye Station in Newton Farm. We feel privileged to work in an area of outstanding natural beauty like Herefordshire and strive to make it an even safer place to live, work in and visit. We are committed to serving our communities and targeting those that present most risk to our community, protecting those at risk and patrolling those areas deemed most at risk of harm. We are out on patrol as often as possible whether it is on foot, pedal cycle or car, to ensure we reach all corners of our area. Please approach us if you see us out and about and we will be more than happy to stop and chat. You can also reach us by phone or e-mail to discuss and concerns or issues.'

Keep Well and Stay Safe

