

On the beat in Hereford Southside & Rural

Safer Neighbourhood Team Newsletter

November 2025

Where we work



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We are happy to receive calls from Members of The Public, however, please do not use these to report crimes and/or incidents. For more information on reporting a crime/incident please go to

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Garage break ins

There has been an increase in garage break ins in the area. No reported thefts from these buildings, however the anti-Social/nuisance issues have increased where nearby residents are being disturbed.

Across South Hereford there has been an increase in youths accessing garages. We would like to remind people that these are private properties and forcing access to these properties is illegal and regarded as Criminal Damage.

We have already spoken to a range of people who have been found inside.



Christmas security reminder

As Christmas draws near this means that households will be purchasing games console, computers, tablets, games and other expensive items that appear on Santa's letter. This means there are even more items to keep safe. Here are a few reminders and tips for keeping your home secure this festive period.

- Avoid posting photos of your gifts and purchases on social media and be careful not to identify your address in your posts.
- If you are going out for the whole of Christmas day, ask a trusted neighbour, family member or friend to keep an eye on your home, and do the same for them – don't forget to leave your lights on a timer switch to make it look like someone is at home in the evening.
- Try and place your Christmas tree out of sight of street fronted windows
- When Christmas is all over don't leave the boxes to your valuable gifts out by the rubbish bin, this lets burglars know what you have in your home. Take them directly to your local household recycling centre or think about keeping the broken-down boxes in a garage or loft
- Don't keep presents in garden sheds etc and allow someone else to do their shopping at your expense.
- Do not leave house or car keys near to your letterbox.

"Burglars often target homes specifically and although we will be patrolling and are here to help you, we urge you to take these steps to protect your home.

"This year has been difficult for all of us without coming home or waking up to find someone has stolen some of your valuables. Crime prevention is crucial and anything residents can do to help

protect their home can help make a difference.

"If you leave you home for the day, make sure hide any valuable items from view from the outside and don't leave anything in the garden that could potentially be used to gain entry into your home. Be mindful of where you store your wheelie bin too and consider if it could be used for someone to climb on and access an upstairs window or used to climb over into the garden. If you're leaving the car at home and have a garage, park it in the garage while you're away rather than on the drive and if you've got gates close and lock them with a good quality lock.

Church break ins

There have been several thefts from Churches across the West Mercia policing area recently. Churches are vulnerable to crime for several reasons.

- ☒ Their isolated locations
- ☒ They have valuable heritage items
- ☒ They are often left open or unattended



Please keep an eye out ☺ if you live near a church or are visiting.

- 🚗 Are there any strange vehicles parked nearby?
- Are there people loitering with tools or equipment?

- ⛪ Are there any repeated visitors without attending services?

If so, Report it!

999 in emergencies ☎

if not an emergency, Online reporting can be done here <https://orlo.uk/0vNvU>

We have stepped up our patrols of rural Churches across Southwye

Fires + Skate Park

 There has been a recent increase in anti-social behaviour incidents in the skate park area of Hereford. We are carrying out regular patrols of this area, in a bid to deter any persons engaged in anti-social behaviour. 

We have seen an increase in fires being lit and left, allowing them to get out of control, this can be a risk to life should the wind carry embers to nearby properties.

Road Conditions

"Herefordshire is also a very rural area and locally there has been a lot of mud, gravel and dirt on the lanes, all of which are making the roads very slippery."

"With this in mind we thought it would be a good time to send out a reminder and some tips around driving safely in the adverse conditions."

The police's tips for driving in bad weather are:



- First and foremost, take it slow, stopping distances are much further in these conditions so take your time (it's a speed limit not a target) and when conducting any manoeuvres take it easy and go gentle.
- Try not to slam the brakes on or use fast, jerking movements on the steering wheel.
- Before you set off on any journeys make sure you allow extra time firstly to prepare to go out as you may need to de-ice the car or let it de-mist, and secondly to get to your destination.

- Try to plan your route using major roads rather than side roads as these are more likely to have been gritted and made clear.
- Check your fuel, the last thing you want is to get stuck or unexpectedly delayed and then find you run out before you can get to your destination or a place to fill up.
- When you are out driving on the roads ease your foot off the clutch gently when pulling away and use your brakes gently, leave a larger gap so that you have more time to react.
- If you are driving in hilly areas, when going uphill leave a good gap between you and the car in front so that you have more chance of keeping a more consistent speed.
- That way you will not have to change gear as much and won't have to try to keep traction when starting to move on the hill.
- When coming downhill, again, leave a good gap and keep it in a lower gear rather than constantly having to tap the brakes and risk skidding into the car in front.

Report dangerous road conditions

If there is a risk of immediate danger, then this is an emergency and we need you to call [999](tel:999) now.

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service [18000](tel:18000) or text us on [999](tel:999) if you've pre-registered with the [emergencySMS service](#).

Ride along scheme

Have an interest in policing? Thinking of a career in policing or simply wish to find out more about what we do? Our Ride Along Scheme gives you an opportunity to follow a police officer on shift.

You will accompany a [local neighbourhood](#) officer on patrol and experience first-hand their work to resolve issues or concerns in the local area. You'll get an insight into what it's like to be a police officer on shift and an opportunity to experience an unrivalled view of front-line policing.

The aim of the scheme is for us to strengthen relationships with the public and help people understand more about what we do and how we police.

Who is the scheme open to?

- anyone aged 18 or over



- live in Herefordshire, Shropshire or Worcestershire
- As part of the application process, you will be subject to security checks
- You are to comply strictly with all instructions given by the member of staff you are observing and will remain in the vehicle unless otherwise directed.

An agreement regarding confidentiality will be signed. Any discussion or disclosure of such information or retention of any documentation received during the ride along scheme is a breach of the [Data Protection Act](#) and the West Mercia Police Information Security Policy. Such improper use may also be an offence under the Data Protection Act, the [Official Secrets Act](#) and the [Computer Misuse Act](#).

[Apply | Ride Along Scheme | West Mercia Police](#)

As part of the application process, we will perform security and criminal background checks. Each application is considered individually, so if you have earlier convictions, these won't automatically prevent you attending a Ride Along.

We will only accept one application per person in a 12-month period. Repeat applications within this period will be automatically closed.

Op Dark Night - Are your eye's up to it?

Keeping those who use our roads safe is a 24/7, year-round priority for us across Herefordshire.

We will be supporting 'Operation Dark Night', a national police lead operation focusing on keeping cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders safe during the darker months.

Operation Dark Night was run across the UK from 27 October – 9 November and is co-ordinated by NPCC, the National Police Chiefs' Council. It will focus on various road users on the basis that everyone has the right to use the roads safely whether choosing to do this via cycle, horse or foot. When looking at casualty rate per billion miles travelled cyclists and pedestrians are involved in more collisions than any other group.

Cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders are also being encouraged to think about how visible they are to other road users, especially as the nights start to get darker and to consider wearing high visibility clothing and reflective material, to ensure they can be seen easily. Pedestrians are reminded to always use pedestrian crossings where possible, especially those taking new journeys to and from school. Cyclists should ensure their bike is in good working order and carries front and rear lights. SNTs will be hosting events where some high visibility items will be available for members of the public to aide safety to those who are out and about during the hours of darkness.

Motorists are being urged to look carefully for other road users, especially during the winter months, unfortunately collisions have occurred where vehicles have failed to see the presence of another road user when undertaking manoeuvres, overtaking or at junctions. As part of operation Dark Night, Officers will be highlighting motorists' legal obligation to ensure their vision is roadworthy every time they get behind the wheel. Apart from the risk of causing a collision, being caught driving with uncorrected defective eyesight is punishable with a fine of up to £1,000, three penalty points and possible disqualification.

Poaching/Hare Coursing/Trespassing

Herefordshire has seen a marked increase in reports of people with vehicles, lamps and dogs trespassing on private farmland. It is thought they are either hare coursing or lamping for rabbits. Either way, these people are committing offences and in a lot of cases causing criminal damage to farmers crops causing hundreds/thousands of pounds worth of damage. Herefordshire has seen reports all over the county with a lot going unreported.

Poaching has been historically linked with acquisitive crime with most poachers having previous convictions for theft related offences.

Day Poaching – under Section 30 Game Act 1831 (England & Wales) it is an offence for any person to trespass in the daytime by entering or being upon any land in search or pursuit of game, woodcock, snipe or rabbits.

Night Poaching – this is covered by Section 1 of the Night Poaching Act 1828 and the Night poaching Act 1844 (England & Wales).

Section 1(a) – It is an offence to unlawfully without permission from the landowner to take or destroy any game or rabbits on any land, open or enclosed (includes public roads, paths & verges) at night. An offence is only committed if game or rabbits are taken or destroyed.

Section 1 (b) – it is an offence to unlawfully enter or be on any land, with any gun, net, engine (e.g. snare) or other instrument (e.g. lamp, slip lead) for the purpose of taking game (not including rabbits – sect 1a). To prove the offence there must be evidence of the intention to take game. This may be by admission or, for instance, by witnessing a dog being released on a hare or seeing a gamebird being shot.

Fit & Fed Goes On Tour

During the Christmas period Southwye Police Boxing Academy and Parkour, supported by Southwye SNT will be touring parts of Herefordshire engaging in various FREE activities with a wide range of youths aging from 5 to 16. Plus, a FREE packed lunch to go home with!

There will be a link produced to enable booking/securing your child's/wards place on this fantastic project.

More to follow – keep yours open on Hereford Police Facebook page

Neighbourhood Matters

Sign up to Neighbourhood Matters your brand-new community messaging service.

Neighbourhood Matters enables residents, businesses and community groups to keep in touch with local policing teams. You can choose exactly what type of alert you wish to receive and how you receive them, whether that be by email, text or telephone.

Sign up now at: www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk

