

Newsletter

March 2024

**Golden Valley
Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)
Newsletter**



Your team, based at Peterchurch.

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Crime Trends

1 January 2024 – 29 February 2024

[22/5393/24](#)

On 19 January two gate hinges were stolen from a property in Madley.

[22/6372/24](#)

On 19 January a garden gate was stolen from a separate property in Madley.

[22/5849/24](#)

Between 21 and 22 January an attempt was made to force entry to a barn at Rowlestone. No entry was made and nothing was stolen.

[22/6763/24](#)

Between 21 and 23 January the front and rear number plates were stolen from a vehicle in Cusop.

[22/16235/24](#)

On 26 February a lock to the rear door of a property in Clehonger was broken but no entry was gained and nothing stolen.

If you have any information regarding the incidents reported above, or any other crime, you can contact police via our website <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/> or by dialling 101 if you don't have access to a computer.

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 mindful of the fact that reports provided within this newsletter are to inform you of incidents of note and to request assistance with solving crime. Not every crime for the Golden Valley is listed here. We do not want to worry you in any way.

Speed Enforcement



Speed Enforcement has been carried out over the past couple of months in Clehonger, Cusop, Dorstone, Ewyas Harold, Longtown, Madley and Peterchurch. We're fully aware that speeding motorists remains a particular concern for our residents and we'll be continuing our enforcement activities in these and other villages over the coming months

Witness appeal following collision on A465

Officers are appealing for witnesses following a collision near to Pontrilas on Saturday 10 February at around 3.55pm.

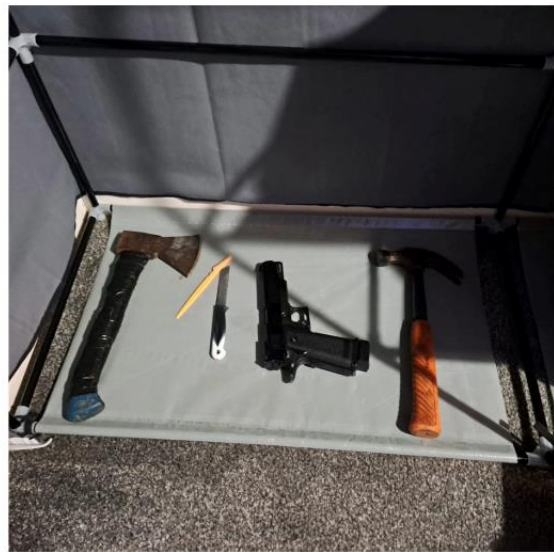
The collision happened on the A465 near to LLangua Bridge, when a Mitsubishi ASX 2, travelling on the northbound carriageway, veered onto the southbound carriageway colliding with a Peugeot 208.

The driver of the Mitsubishi, aged in his 80s, and a passenger aged in her 70s, were taken to hospital for further treatment.

The driver of the Peugeot, aged in his 40s, and a passenger also aged in her 40s, were taken to hospital via air ambulance with serious injuries. Two children, aged eight and 12, who were also in the vehicle, were taken to hospital for further treatment via ambulance.

Anyone who may have witnessed the incident, or has dash-cam footage, is asked to contact PC Fiona Loftus by emailing fiona.loftus@westmercia.police.uk quoting incident number 320i of February 10, 2024.

Multiple arrests and £14,000 of property seized in day of police action in Herefordshire



Drugs warrants, teams targeting priority suspects, high visibility and plain clothes street patrols and road safety operations formed part of a day of action on Wednesday 28 February across Herefordshire.

17 people were arrested across the county's Local Policing Area (LPA), including the warrants, and an intensive pre-planned operation focusing on people wanted for crimes including fraud, theft, assault, arson, domestic violence, and those wanted in court.

Officers from our Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) also carried out patrols engaging with the community, as well as targeting shoplifters in Hereford, Ledbury, Leominster, Bromyard, and Kington.

Road policing units supported them with speed enforcement activities at known hotspots and our Problem-Solving Hub actively engaged with valued members of our farming and rural business communities as Herefordshire LPA spent the day in the spotlight.



There were five stop searches with four positive outcomes and 15 premises visited on the successful day of action which saw an estimated total of £5,000 worth of drugs seized, £14,400 of illegal property seized, 13 traffic tickets issued, and 15 suspects interviewed of which six investigations were started, six suspects were bailed for further enquiries and one suspect was sent to court.

Items seized included 766 packets of illegal cigarettes, 34 pouches of illegal hand rolling tobacco, 46 illegal vapes, two offensive weapons, nine mobile phones and seven bottles of alcohol spirits.

Officers from our teams also made 580 visits to community premises and signed up 165 people to our [Neighbourhood Matters website](#) to keep them informed of the latest policing matters where they live. 415 Neighbourhood Matters surveys were completed as well as school engagements and six community partnership events.

#OpForefront

VALUE OF DRUGS
SEIZED

£5020

VALUE OF PROPERTY
SEIZED

£14,421



NUMBER OF
PREMISES SEARCHED

15

NUMBER OF
ARRESTS

17

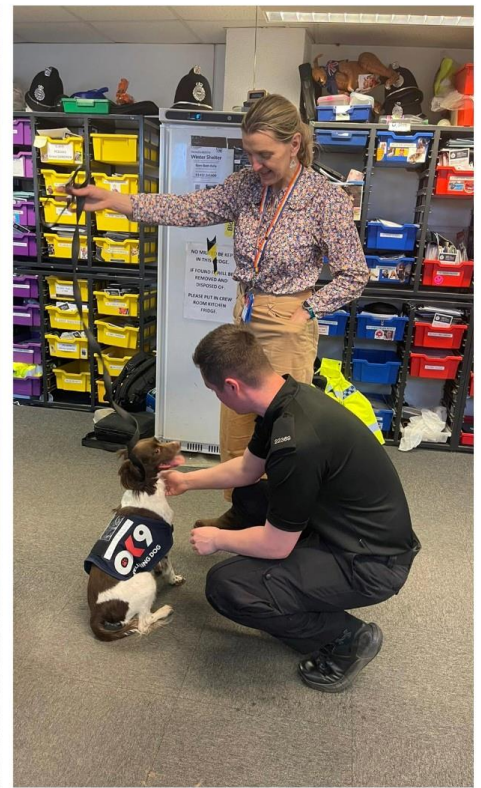
Officers across the LPA were joined by the force's chief officers, including T/Deputy Chief Constable Richard Cooper, who joined Task Force and CID on the warrants, where we caught and arrested one person and seized two offensive weapons at an address in Kingstone and seized some suspected class A drugs from an address in The Furlongs, Hereford.

Herefordshire Local Policing Commander, Superintendent Helen Wain, who joined officers on their patrols, said: "Yesterday saw Herefordshire LPA showcasing the work we carry out to protect the communities we serve not just on days of action like this, but 365 days of the year.

"Law-breaking of any kind will not be tolerated by West Mercia Police, and I hope this intensive day of action will send that message to would-be criminals.

"As always the public we are here to protect and serve have a very important part to play in helping to keep crime out of our communities across Herefordshire, as they are our extra eyes and ears in the continuing fight against criminals."

Herefordshire is the second LPA to take part in Operation Forefront, which is the name given to the day of action which aims to showcase West Mercia Police in targeting criminals and enhancing community engagement.



Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion joined the LPA to see first-hand the hard work the teams were doing during the day of action to keep the residents of West Mercia Police safe.

PCC John Campion added: "I regularly speak to residents who want to see police officers on the beat tackling crime. I welcome the positive results of Operation Forefront which has rightly put a focus on visible and accessible officers working in the heart of communities tackling your policing priorities."





Neighbourhood Matters reach another big milestone with 40,000 registered members

Neighbourhood Matters first launched across our three counties in July 2021. The benefits have been reaped over the last two and a half years as residents and local police stay directly connected. With hundreds of people registering each week there are now over a staggering 40,000 residents who are signed up to the messaging platform.

We are committed to engaging with our communities across Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire to help increase trust and confidence, and protect people from harm.

By signing up to Neighbourhood Matters you can choose exactly what type of alerts you want to receive and who you wish to hear from. You'll receive information on exactly what's happening in your area and what is being done about it. You'll also hear about positive police action, good news stories and be able to play an active part in helping us with our public appeals.

The messaging service allows you to have your say and speak directly to your local Safer Neighbourhood Team, as you can reply to the messages received.

Superintendent Edward Hancox said: "Information and intelligence we receive from our local communities is absolutely crucial to us in both preventing and reducing crime. This has been proven through Neighbourhood Matters over the last two and a half years.

"We value the effective partnership between members of the public and the police, this relationship builds a stronger community.

"I would really encourage anyone living in our three counties to sign-up to Neighbourhood Matters. You will not just receive updates around the local issues in your area, but you will be able to raise concerns directly with your local team."

If you want to become more connected with local police, you can sign up to Neighbourhood Matters by contacting your local team on any of the email addresses shown at the top of this newsletter.

Crackdown on drivers using mobile phones

In the last three years, across the West Mercia Police force area, two people lost their lives in collisions where the driver using a mobile phone was a contributing factor.

Thirteen more people were seriously injured and 48 more suffered other injuries. We are doing all we can to prevent more lives being lost by highlighting the issue and continuing to target motorists who use their handheld mobile phone at the wheel.

Enforcing the law around mobile phone use whilst behind the wheel takes place across Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire 24/7.

Distraction behind the wheel is such a significant contributory factor in road collisions and we'll be having an extra focus over the next two weeks to support the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) mobile phone operation. This national operation highlights the work that we do to tackle the issue every day and is in line with PCC John Campion's Safer West Mercia Plan, contributing towards reducing the excessive harm felt on roads across the three counties.

Everyone knows it's illegal to use a hand held mobile behind the wheel and motorists caught face a £200 fine and six points on their licence. Drivers caught twice face a lengthy ban – which could also lead to a £1,000 fine. While new drivers - those who have passed within the last two years - face having their licence revoked if caught just once. New legislation also makes it clearer that the law includes using phones for reasons such as internet use, checking notifications and uploading content whilst driving.

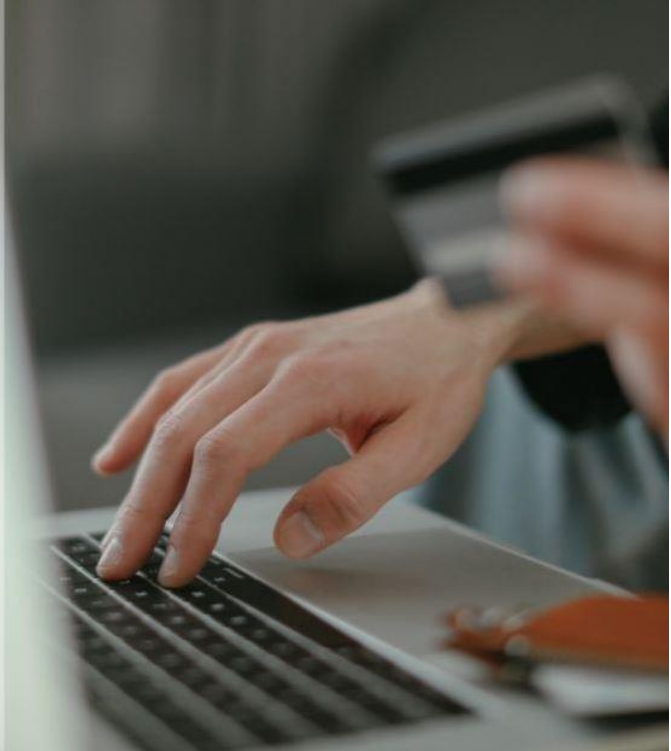
Supt Steph Brighton said: "Driving while distracted by a mobile phone is completely unacceptable and puts road users at risk of serious harm. Everyone knows the use of handheld mobile phones whilst driving is against the law and we are very clear that when you get behind the wheel it is your responsibility to stay focused and alert. This not only covers making and receiving calls but also the use of social media, messaging and streaming. The majority of drivers use the roads respectfully and adhere to the laws around mobile phone use but it is concerning that we still have some drivers across our area who are willing to risk driving whilst distracted. This is a year round commitment for us to challenge this behaviour".

Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion said: "At the heart of my Safer West Mercia Plan is a focus on making West Mercia's roads safer. Using a mobile phone behind the wheel can have life-changing consequences not only for the motorist but the lives of others. Beyond national campaigns, I will continue to back West Mercia Police with the resources and tools it needs to enforce the law, catch offenders and protect communities."

The police will never...

-  **Contact you to ask for your PIN or bank details.**
-  **Ask you to transfer money out of your account for fraud reasons.**
-  **Ask to withdraw cash to hand over to them for safe-keeping.**
-  **Send someone to your home to collect cash, PINS or cards.**
-  **If you think you have been a victim of fraud you should report it to Action Fraud via www.actionfraud.police.uk. Action Fraud is the UK's national fraud reporting centre.**

 **WEST MERCIA
POLICE**



Members of the public are being warned to be on their guard against criminals claiming to be from the police in a scam known as 'courier fraud'.

Courier fraudsters will attempt to convince people they are legitimate police officers, often claiming to be from the 'fraud squad' or 'New Scotland Yard' for example.

But they are not genuine officers. They are in fact the very criminals they claim to be targeting when they target their potential victims.

Tactics often deployed by these con artists include attempting to persuade people to part with cash or expensive items like watches which are later collected by a fake courier such as a taxi driver who is working with the bogus police officer on the phone.

The caller will tell their victim to call 999 to confirm the details to police, except they stay on the phone so when they pick up again thinking they have dialled police, they instead speak to another person pretending to be an officer.

Other ways they attempt to deceive are to claim to be a police officer calling to say your bank card had been used for a fraudulent transaction.

The fraudster would then lie about an investigation being conducted, that they would cancel the victim's cards but to do this they had to hand them over to be collected by a fake colleague.

They can sound convincing as they might mention an address and basic details about bank accounts before asking them to place cards in an 'safe place' outside their home or another specified location.

Remember, courier fraud can seem convincing but no police officer from any force will ever ask you to make a payment or purchase, withdraw or transfer money or ask for your bank details.

If anyone does it will be a scam. Put the phone down and call the police or your bank from another landline or mobile to check, not the line you were called on.

Incidents like these are being tackled as part of Operation Prospero, which directly targets offenders posing as police officers, working in conjunction with [Action Fraud](#), the UK's national fraud and cyber-crime reporting centre.

Anyone who thinks they may have been contacted by a bogus police officer should call 101 or report it via our website [Report a crime | West Mercia Police](#)

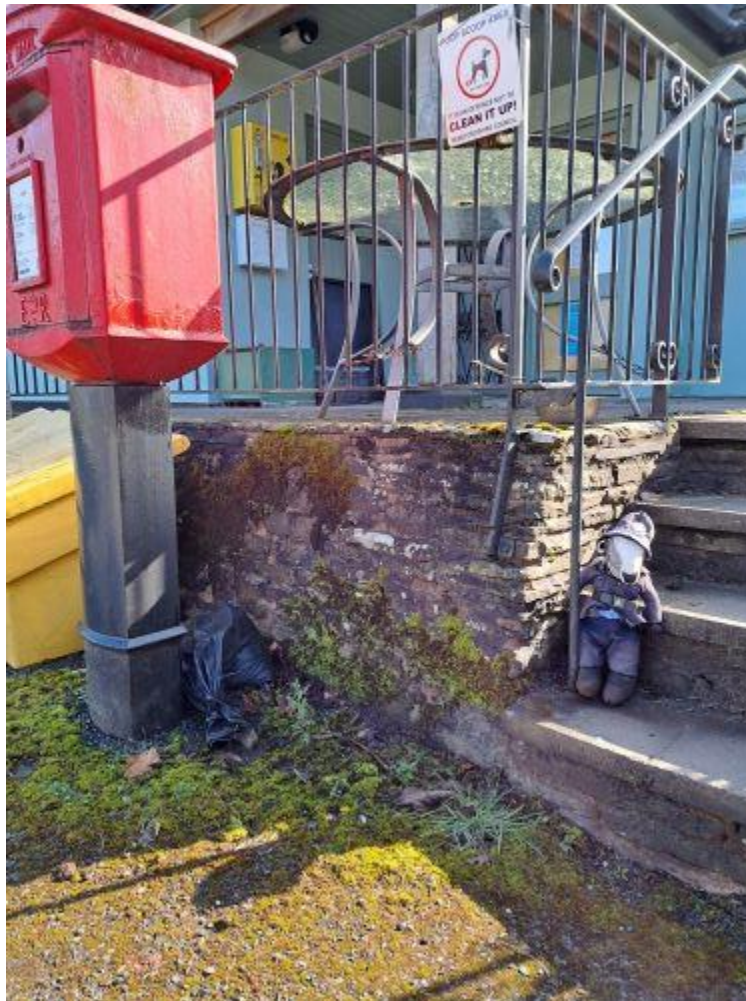
[View from the Office](#)

We are very lucky to travel around The Golden Valley every day and see some of the fantastic views it has to offer. The image below was taken this week and shows Black Hill and Hatterrall Ridge from Lower Maescoed.



Where is PC Badger ?

In January's newsletter PC Badger was pictured at the war memorial on the B4352 at Moccas. Well done to Linda Harding for correctly identifying the location. Where has he been visiting this month ?



How to Contact Us



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



goldenvally.snt@westmercia.police.uk to liaise with the team here via email.



<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.



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

Where We Work



Abbeydore, Bacton, Belmont (part of), Blakemere, Bredwardine, Clehonger, Clifford, Clodock, Cockyard, Craswall, Cusop, Dorstone, Dulas, Eaton Bishop, Ewyas Harold, Kerry's Gate, Kingstone (part of), Llanveynoe/Olchon, Longtown, Lower Maescoed, Madley, Michaelchurch Escley, Moccas, Newton, Peterchurch, Preston on Wye, Rowlestone, Shenmore, St Margarets, Turnastone, Tyberton, Vowchurch, Walterstone & Wormbridge (part of).