

South Hereford Rural Police Briefing

24th July – 30th July

I would like to introduce myself to you all. My name is Lowri Anderson I am the new Police Community Support Officer that covers your area based out of Southwey Police Station in Hereford.

Callow

On the 24th July there was a small Caravan fire at The Mushroom Farm which was attended by the Fire service.
Incident ref [0644S 240715](#)

Holme Lacy

Over night between 23rd and 24th July in the college grounds, a Landrover has been damaged in order to move it to again access to a container which was behind it. Access was not gained but some items were taken from the Landrover.
Incident ref [0179S 250715](#)

Some time over the last 2 weeks a caravan in Widows Wood has been broken into and some tools were taken.
Incident ref 0451S 290715

St Owens Cross

Over night between 21:00 27th and 08:00 28th July an industrial pressure washer was stolen from the chicken farm.
Incident ref 0204S 280715

Scams!

Please see below for the latest scams that seem to be doing the rounds. West Mercia Police, Trading standards, Consumer Direct and Action Fraud are always good websites for up to date information about scams, how to report them and crime prevention advice. Don't forget, you can register with the Telephone Preference service and also the Mailing Preference service which will help cut down on the amount of cold callers/junk mail that you receive.

The Microsoft 'there is a problem with your computer' scam is still doing the rounds and hopefully by now you will all be wise to it. They offer to

fix a non-existent problem with your computer for a nominal fee, all you have to do is allow them full access to your computer. Remember all your personal details are stored on there! You wouldn't hand a complete stranger in the street your purse/wallet.....the same principles apply online. Keep it private.

A lady in Edwyn Ralph was contacted by telephone from somebody reporting to be from the Ministry of Justice and told that £3600 was coming to her for repayment of bank charges. All she needed to do was pop and get two £100.00 UKCash Vouchers and somebody would attend her address in the evening with the cheque for the full amount.

One of our local shop assistants (a huge big thank you) thought it was slightly odd and when the lady explained what she was after, was thankfully able to prevent the woman getting the vouchers and explained to her about the scam. The full details have been reported to Action Fraud.

It is very easy to fall in the trap of expecting monetary returns on claims that may have been submitted for PPI, been in an accident etc, but be very wary of ANY business or company that are asking for money up front. The chances are that as soon as you pay any money, it will be the last you see or hear of them!

Rio 2016 Olympics Lottery Scam Alert_

The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) has received intelligence regarding two new Lottery Fraud letters/email attachments (Scam 1 & Scam 2) using the 2016 Rio Olympics as a theme.

The scams try to trick people into believing they have won the following:

Scam 1: An online lottery prize of £650,000 and a trip to Brazil to watch the Olympics as the recipient's email address was chosen out of a possible ten million at random.

Scam 2: An online lottery prize of £820,000 and a trip to Brazil to watch the Rio Carnival and the Olympics as the recipient's winning numbers 8 17 34 38 42 and 51 were selected.

Protect yourself from lottery fraud

Never respond to any such communication. If you have not entered a lottery then you cannot have won it.

Official lotteries in other countries operate in much the same way as the UK's National Lotto.

No official lotteries that we know of contact people to tell them of their win.

We do not know of any official lottery operators who ask for fees to collect winnings. Any request for a fee payment is a good indication that someone is trying to defraud you.

Never disclose your bank details or pay fees in advance.

If they have provided an email address to respond to, be very suspicious of addresses such as @hotmail.com or @yahoo.com or numbers beginning with 07 because these are free to get hold of.

Genuine lotteries thrive on publicity. If they ask you to keep your win a secret, it is likely to be a fraud.

Many fraudulent lotteries have bad spelling and grammar – see this as a warning that fraudsters are at work.

If you believe that you have been a victim of fraud you can report it online http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud or by telephone 0300 123 2040.

Think Jessica.

Do you know an elderly or vulnerable person ?

Criminals worldwide are hunting down the most fragile members of our society by "working" from mailing lists which categorise people as being elderly or vulnerable in some way. Everyone is at risk but those listed as living alone, not having the internet or any way of being educated about scams or how to report them are their preferred targets. They contact them by letter and phone call and try to trick them into parting with cash. Those who respond end up have their details put on what criminals call "suckers lists". They sell these lists to other scammers all over the world. This can result in victims being delivered 100+ scam letters a day and plagued by international phone calls. The National Trading Standards Scams team estimate postal scams could be netting criminals worldwide up to £10 billion a year.

Victims of scams or their relatives can make a report to Action Fraud or contact Think Jessica to have the victim referred to local Trading Standards for a home visit. Please find out more by reading Jessica's story on the attached link (www.thinkjessica.com) and help ensure vulnerable members of your community are protected.

Bogus Callers

If in doubt, Keep them out... Not all burglars have to break and enter

Burglars won't go to the trouble of breaking in if they can just knock and be invited in. Always be on your guard when anyone you're not expecting turns up at your door.

Bogus "officials" may be smartly dressed and claim to be from the council, water company or other organisation. Their real purpose is to talk their way into your home to see what they can steal.

Genuine callers will normally make an appointment first and will carry identification with their photograph on it.

Bogus "workmen" may say that they need to come in to check something or make urgent repairs. You also need to be careful of callers who offer to make building repairs or surface your drive. Often they will ask for money in advance, even offering to drive you to the bank to withdraw the money you need to pay them. They could then simply disappear, or do a poor job very expensively. If you need any building work done, get several written quotes from reputable firms, then decide which one is best. If in doubt, talk it through with a neighbour or someone in your family. For consumer advice telephone Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06

REMEMBER

- Genuine callers will normally make an appointment first and will carry identification with their photograph on
- Always put the chain on before you open the door
- If you don't know the caller, ask to see their identity card. Check it carefully and keep the chain on while you check.

IF IN DOUBT, KEEP THEM OUT!

Kind regards

Lowri Anderson
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Hereford City Southside and Rural

View our new Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police websites at: www.warwickshire.police.uk and www.westmercia.police.uk