

Your Safer Neighbourhood Team consists of:-

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Happy New Year!

Please take a moment to read some key messages on road safety from the Safer Roads Partnership.

Driving in adverse weather conditions offers many challenges for the motorist.

However, there are steps you can take to make sure you are prepared to meet these challenges



Be Aware Of Mud On The Roads!

The Safer Roads Partnership with Warwickshire and West Mercia Police are again reminding motorists to drive carefully on rural roads across the region and to take extra care where there is mud on the roads.

Agriculture is one of the areas' key industries and the combination of harvesting a wide variety of crops at this time of year and the change in the weather can see areas of mud and debris on the road.

A particular hazard at this time of year is caused by mud and debris being brought onto the roads by tractors and other vehicles that have been working in the fields. Under the Highways Act (1980), farmers and contractors have a

legal obligation to ensure their vehicles are cleared of any mud or debris before entering the public highway.

If you see a 'mud on the road' sign please take this seriously, drive with caution and treat this the same way that you would with icy or slippery roads.

Drivers of agricultural vehicles or anyone wishing to report issues regarding debris or mud on the road can contact '**Streetscene**' – 01432 261 800



SLIP AND SLIDE: TEST ROAD CONDITIONS FREQUENTLY

Periodically, check traction (available grip) when driving in challenging conditions. Road conditions can change drastically in a short period of time/distance in winter. Apply the brakes with moderate pressure to determine the available grip and modify your driving, if needed, to respond to ever-changing road conditions.



GRIP IT GOOD!

It's best to avoid braking or acceleration when negotiating a turn.

- 1 Brake before the turn
- 2 Negotiate the turn
- 3 Accelerate after the turn



YOU CRUISE, YOU LOSE



Avoid cruise control in wet, icy or snow conditions to maintain control of acceleration and deceleration at all times.

VEHICLE CARE

- Make sure your vehicle has been serviced recently
- Check and replace the anti-freeze in the radiator
- Make sure the battery is fully charged. If the battery is not reliable then replace it. Most batteries last between two and four years
- Lights can get filthy with all the spray in winter. Keep them clean and check all the bulbs on a regular basis
- Check your tyres are correctly inflated to the manufacturers recommended pressure for your vehicle and its load
- Make sure tyres have plenty of tread. Replace tyres if the tread has reached the legal minimum
- Keep your windscreen clean. Dirty windows and mirrors can make it hard to see in low winter sun and when visibility is reduced through spray
- Add winter additive to the windscreen washer bottle and keep it topped up
- Replace worn wiper blades

PREPARE FOR YOUR JOURNEY

- Check the local and national weather forecasts
- Listen to local and national radio stations for up to date travel information
- Keep lights, windows and mirrors clean and free from snow and ice
- Tell someone at your destination what time you expect to arrive and what route you plan to take
- Make sure you pack an 'emergency kit' in the boot of your car
- Also carry sunglasses in the glove box to help you see in low winter sun

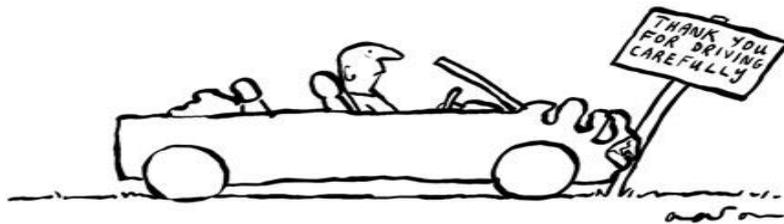
WHEN DRIVING IN WINDER CONDITIONS....

- Motorists should keep well back from the vehicle in front
- Slow down and allow extra time to carry out manoeuvres
- If steering becomes unresponsive it may mean water is preventing the tyres from gripping the road. Ease off the accelerator and slow down gradually

- Rain and spray from vehicles may make it difficult to see and be seen, so motorists should reduce their speed and clearly indicate at roundabouts and junctions

EMERGENCY KIT

It is worthwhile to pack an 'Emergency Kit' in the boot of your car during the winter months in case of breakdown or delay. The kit should include items such as an ice-scraper, torch, warm clothes and a blanket, a pair of boots, a first aid kit, battery jump leads, a shovel for snow, food and drink and sunglasses to help see in low winter sun. It is also advisable to make sure your mobile phone is fully charged before heading off on a journey



The incidents that are compiled below are not a comprehensive list by any means but I have attempted to select those which are of importance to the community as a whole. It covers the period from 1st to 31st December 2013.

If anyone has any information regarding any of the incidents I urge you to make contact on the telephone numbers listed at the end of this publication.

Sutton Walls (11)

Moreton on Lugg, Marden and Sutton St Nicholas

Moreton on Lugg - Between 17:00 Sat 30th Nov and 09:00 Sun 1st Dec. The victim's vehicle has been parked on the roadside overnight. Person's unknown have thrown a stone at the vehicle causing it to smash. No items taken and no attempt to take vehicle.

Moreton on Lugg –At 02:15 on Wed 18th Dec - A staff member of the Post Office was alerted that the alarm to the premises had been activated. On arrival to the location, damage to the front counter was noticed and a rear window had been forced open. Damage caused to plaster work of surrounding window. No entry was gained and no property stolen.

Hagley (10)

Lugwardine, Bartestree, Withington, Preston Wynne and Westhide

Bartestree – Between 17:30 Monday 16th Dec and 08:30 Tues 17th Dec - Offender(s) have gained entry to victims shed by prising open the metal clasp leaving padlock intact. Mountain bike and gas cylinder have been stolen from inside. Several attempts were also made using tools unknown to force entry

into the victims' vehicle used for storage. Once inside the vehicle large quantity of electrical items, clothing and equipment was also stolen.

Bartestree –Between 17:00 Monday 16th Dec and 08:55 Tues 17th Dec - Person's unknown have accessed an insecure shed and stolen a chainsaw. Offenders have also gained entry into the victims vehicle making an untidy search before taking a petrol trimmer/cutter and a petrol hedge strimmer.

Lugwardine – At 17:10 on Sun 1st Dec. Report of males selling Christmas wreaths in a predominantly elderly area which concerned residents. Area search carried out by Police but the males were not located. No further reports received.

Withington –Between 01:00 on Sat 30th Nov and 01:30 Sat 30th Nov. Victim has noticed their fire wood supply rapidly decreasing. CCTV was fitted in an attempt to catch the culprits. In the early hours the victim has heard a noise and looked out to discover 2 males loading a vehicle with firewood. The victim has disturbed the males causing them to leave hastily without the wood. The victim has made their own enquiries which have assisted Police in locating both males. Both offenders have admitted their involvement. Police actions are still to be finalised at this stage.

Withington – Between 16:00 Fri 13th Dec and 09:55 Sun 15th Dec a theft has taken place on a building site. During the material times offender(s) have forced access onto the site through perimeter fencing. Offenders have possibly driven into part of the fencing. Once inside the plot offender(s) have started a JCB forklift and moved it approximately 10ft in order to gain access to a metal shipping container.

Whitestone –Between 17:00 Fri 13th Dec and 09:55 Sat 14th Dec. Offenders have forced open a fire door and gained entry into business premises. An untidy search has been made and various items have been taken including sets of vehicle keys, some of which were later found by a member of the public.

Whitestone – Between 23:30 Mon 30th Dec and 06:30 Tues 31st Dec unknown offenders have unscrewed and stolen 3 x 4 meter rails and 2 cut rails from recently constructed wooden fencing.

Backbury (5)

Tarrington, Fownhope, Hampton Bishop, Mordiford, Checkley, Dormington, Stoke Edith, Shucknall and Weston Beggard

Mordiford – At approximately 16:00 Mon 2nd Dec, Whilst victim was sat in heavy traffic at a junction a male travelling in the opposite direction has gestured with his hands for victim to proceed. As victim has slowly passed by his vehicle the male has raised himself from his seat and exposed himself. Ongoing Police patrols were carried out in the area.

Fownhope –At 08:30 Mon 2nd Dec driver has been parked on roadside outside St Mary's Primary School. During this time a vehicle has passed on the same side and hit its side mirror causing substantial damage. Driver of offending vehicle did not stop.

Fownhope – Between 22:30 Tues 31st Dec and 23:00 Tues 31st Dec. The offender has been drinking with a friend at a public house before being evicted due to drunken state. They have entered the car park area belonging to the public house where the offender has been seen to approach the victims' vehicle and break off the offside wing mirror. They have then left the

car park and attempted to enter the neighbouring public house but have been refused due to drunken state. A short time after leaving the area the offender was located by Police after being identified by a witness and was arrested on suspicion of criminal damage.

Hampton Bishop – Between 00:01 Wed 27th Nov and 23:59 Sat 30th Nov. Persons unknown have stolen a log splitter, usually mounted to a tractor but was unattached at the time.

Hampton Bishop – Between 1800 Mon 2nd Dec and 0900 Tues 3rd Dec, Offenders have ventured onto large open grounds approximately 50yards from property. An attempt has been made to cut a strong padlock which is partially covered by a metal casing. Door has remained secured and unopened and attempt has been abandoned.

Weston Beggard – Between 22:00 Wed 4th Dec and 00:00 Thurs 5th Dec A resident has noticed an unknown male pushing a green chopper bike from a car-port belonging to their neighbour. The offender has then loaded the bike into the boot of a car and driven off. The car used by the offender was described as being a white estate with an index similar to DG04 YJY. It was believed that there was another person within the vehicle but no further details at this time.

Weston Beggard –Between 20:00 Thurs 5th Dec and 08:30 Fri 6th Dec The victims vehicle was left securely parked on driveway. Sometime during the stated times, persons unknown have smashed rear window of vehicle by means unknown. No attempt to take vehicle or items within.

Credenhill (5)

Credenhill, Breinton and Stretton Sugwas

Breinton – Between 17:00 Sun 22nd Dec and 09:00 Mon 23rd Dec. A theft took place in a rural location where victim keeps a secure refrigeration unit used as a cold store. During the stated times, person's unknown have removed the padlock gaining entry into the unit. From inside, 2 lambs and 1 goose hanging have been stolen. Also, from a fenced off run in the same location, 4 live ducks were stolen.

Credenhill –Between 23:59 Thurs 19th Dec and 07:33 Fri 20th Dec - The victims vehicle was parked on roadside outside home address. Offenders have used tools unknown to lever in between the rubber seal and the window, causing the sliding window to smash where they have then reached in taking 2 x hedge trimmers and 1 x chainsaw.

Wormsley Ridge (10)

Bishopstone, Bridge Sollars, Byford, Kenchester, Mansel Gamage, Mansel Lacy, Wormsley, Brinsop, Yazor, Yarsop, Wellington, Dinmore, Canon Pyon, Westhope, Kings Pyon, Ledgmoor and Bush Bank.

Brinsop –Between 16:00 Sat 14th Dec and 09:00 Sun 15th Dec - Theft of approximately 1200litres heating oil from 2 insecure oil tanks. The tanks are described as being in good working order and the oil is not thought to have leaked out.

Byford – Between 18:00 Mon 16th Dec and 09:00 Tues 17th Dec Offender(s) have attempted to gain entry to a rear garden shed unsuccessfully. They have then proceeded to take a number of pairs of shoes and wellies from the open front porch

Kings Pyon –Theft occurred between 16:15 Mon 16th Dec and 07:30 Tues 17th Dec where a padlock was broken and access gained into an outside workshop. Once inside, offender(s) have stolen 2 chainsaws, also taking the broken padlock with them.

Burghill (5)

Burghill, Tillington, Holmer, Shelwick, Munstone, Pipe cum Lyde
Lyde –Between 17:30 Sat 30th Nov and 09:00 Sun 1st Dec. Persons unknown have approached vehicle whilst parked on driveway. Offender(s) have then thrown a stone at offside front window causing it to break. No entry appeared to have been gained.

Lyde –At 0330 on Mon 9th Dec. Offenders have used tools to force open a lower window of property. Entry was gained and items from within the property were moved before an audible alarm was activated. This resulted in offenders leaving the scene.

Tillington –Between 18:00 Tues 26th Nov and 15:00 Mon 2nd Dec. Persons unknown have stolen a metal wheelbarrow and a cast iron anvil. Both of these items were kept in an outside open area. Offenders have also opened wooden double doors to an unlocked building, entered and stolen a boxed Makita battery drill from inside.

Meet your Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) at local events and surgeries. Visit www.westmercia.police.co.uk/saferneighbourhoods/ for the latest listings of dates and locations.

Hereford Rural North Safer Neighbourhood Team

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Mobile

PC James	07974 818920
PCSO Wall	07970 602443
PCSO Ekanite	07816 172518

West Mercia Police 101 to talk to your SNT or report a crime

TWITTER @HerefordCops

Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Victim Support	01432 347208
Childline	0800 1111
Domestic Violence Helpline	0800 7831359
National Drugs Helpline	0800 776600
National NHW Association	02079 630160
Herefordshire Road Safety Hotline	01432 364582
Herefordshire NHW	www.communicate.co.uk/here/hfdsneiwatch/