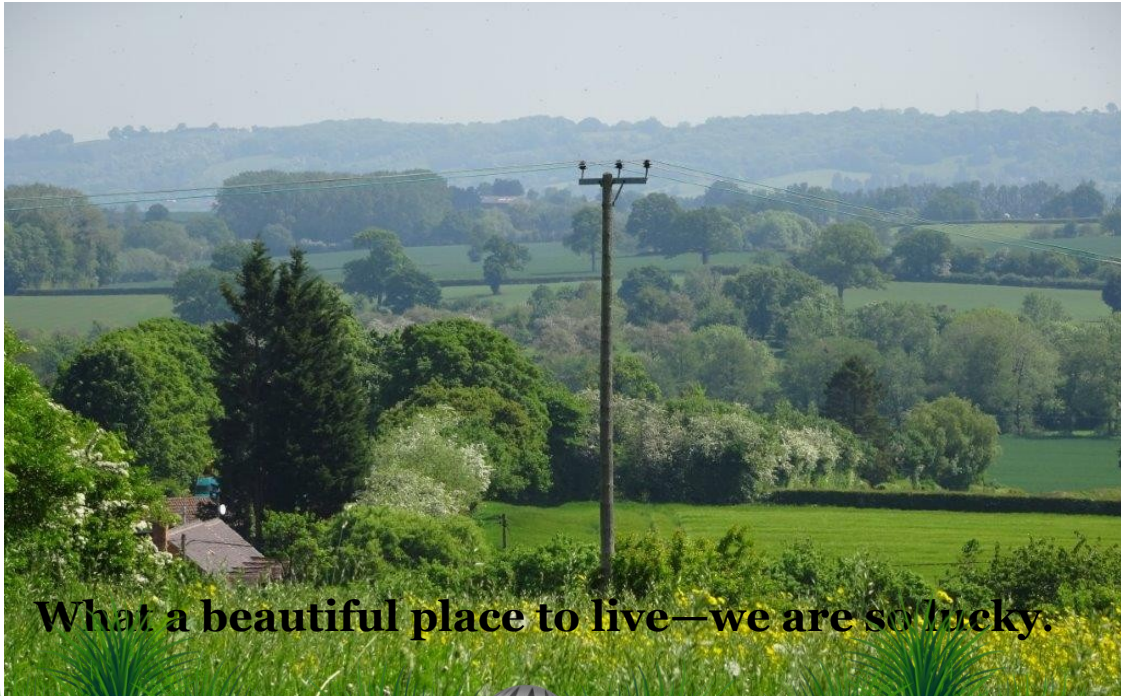


Yarkhill News



What a beautiful place to live—we are so lucky.

YARKHILL CORONAVIRUS SAFE GUARDING GROUP

The Yarkhill Hub is still operating so if anyone, or anyone you know needs help during the Coronavirus situation please make contact with one of the following co-ordinators.

For **MONKHIDE VILLAGE** Mandy Williams on 07780 586846

For **YARKHILL CHURCH AREA** .. Katie Bott on 01432 890388

For **NEWTOWN AREA** Sallyanne Lees on 07801 108789

As you know, during these difficult times the Newsletter has been emailed to all those people who have given permission for their email address to be used. This will continue to be the case until such time as it is considered safe for the newsletter to be hand delivered once again. If you know someone who specifically wants a hard copy please let me know. There will be several copies in the Village Hall and Church entrances.

CONTACTS

PARISH COUNCIL CLERK: Sallyanne Lees 07801 108789 email: yarkhill@live.co.uk

VILLAGE HALL: Wendy Nash 07985353025

CHURCH WARDEN: Ashley Fortey (Ashley4009@talktalk.net)

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR: David Thomas 01531 670437

A Message from Jeff Hughes—Chairman of Yarkhill Parish Council.

The decorations appear to be going up and the frequency of Amazon delivery vans passing my house has increased so Xmas is evidently upon us and let's hope that it is a much better one than last year when it was so difficult to get together with family and friends.

It has not been an easy past 12 months and often difficult to do so many of the things that we have always taken for granted. The Parish Council had to cancel its normal meetings between January and September, communicating by email and phone instead, and I would like to thank those of you who have kept us on our toes during this period. Hopefully, nothing has gone unanswered or unaddressed while we have also been able to progress initiatives such as the reduction of traffic speeding at Newtown Cross.

At the current time, we look forward to pursuing our agenda into 2022 with your continued support, but of course will take guidance on any health or safety measures that we are advised to implement. In the meantime, and on behalf of all of us on the Parish Council, let me wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year. No festive message is however complete without a plea so, if you are out and about walking or riding during the holiday, please remember to close footpath and bridleway gates behind you!

PC Meeting 28th September 2021 – Essential Matters

Road safety improvements at Newtown Cross. We have been lobbying hard for improvement measures to reduce speeding and the number of accidents along the A4103 west of the traffic lights. As a result, it is hoped there will be two separate projects undertaken by Herefordshire Council with the input of West Mercia Police and Parish Council. Firstly, the 40mph speed limit would be extended further west beyond the sharp bend to delay vehicles increasing their speed until it is safer to do so. Secondly, the road markings on this stretch would be reconfigured and additional signage installed to deter speeding especially when approaching from the west. The PC is further evaluating the installation of a set of town gates on the verges as you enter the 40mph limit which is considered to be effective in slowing traffic if combined with other measures. Unfortunately, these would not be funded by Herefordshire Council and no grant funding is available.

Culverts & Ditches. Herefordshire Council has asked the PC to remind residents of their responsibility to maintain culverts on their land and in front of their properties as we come into the autumn and winter. Our Lengthsman undertook clearance work in Yarkhill and Monkhide earlier this year and will be bringing in equipment to jet through the culverts in Monkhide shortly.

Verge Cutting. We will hold a meeting early next year to discuss the question of whether there are any verges in the parish where cutting could be reduced to once a year in the interest of encouraging wild flower growth. This is only permissible on C roads and where road safety would not be compromised. Comments were made that the verges have become difficult to use in a number of locations where they are vital to pedestrians in avoiding oncoming traffic. The problem appears to be that during clearance, the spoils were placed on top of the verges and left there since there was no alternative location where they could be deposited. We will investigate what options exist to remove them and the cost involved.

Using the PC's financial reserves. We have intentionally built up a prudent reserve not only to provide a secure buffer given the increasing financial burden being placed on parish councils, but also to allow us to invest in projects that will benefit the community. For instance, as Herefordshire Council may not fund all the traffic improvement measures at Newtown Cross, we may now be able to do so in order to get all the work completed.

Sight lines on the A4103 near the village hall. A concern was raised that, in pulling out of the road from the village hall and turning right, the trees are increasingly obscuring sight lines. We will refer this matter to Balfour Beatty.

Newsletter. A plea was made for more articles to be provided to our Parish Clerk for the Newsletter which we will now once again be producing every other month subsequent to a PC meeting. Distribution has also become more challenging and we will look to maximise the opportunity to deliver this electronically wherever possible. If you are happy to receive the newsletter in this form and we do not have your email address, please email Sallyanne at yarkhill@live.co.uk

Milk vending machine. The Clay's, who own Showle Court, have approached the Parish Council and Village Hall committees to discuss the possibility of installing a milk vending machine and shed at the Village Hall. This would comprise one machine providing bottles and a second one dispensing pasteurised milk and 10 milkshake flavours. Planning approval from Herefordshire Council will be required so residents will have an opportunity to read through the proposal and submit comments if they wish. We understand that there are similar ventures in Herefordshire and elsewhere in the UK which have proved popular and successful.

Planning. Two previous applications remain pending due to the River Lugg phosphates issue and there is no indication as to when this matter will be resolved.

The appeal to the Planning Inspectorate by the developer of the proposed 7 houses at Monksbury Court Barns has yet to be determined despite this being submitted at the end of March.

There have been two new applications, the first for a change to the site layout related to the approved day room at The Millstone in Lower Eggleton. The second is for a Class Q approval of the conversion of an existing barn into a dwelling at Yarkhill Court.

Our 3 enforcement cases being dealt with by Herefordshire Council remain ongoing.

Jeff Hughes

PC Meeting 28th October 2021 – Essential Matters

A public meeting was called to discuss the retrospective planning application for the unauthorised two storeys building on agricultural land at Ivy Cottage. This is situated adjacent to the A4103 entering Newtown Cross from the east.

The owner of the building, Mr Higham, attended the meeting and presented his case for planning approval. In doing so he expounded the sustainability and eco credentials of the structure which form the basis of his application.

Members of the community expressed concern about the building and its primary purpose which will actually be commercial to support the owner's heating business which he intends to relocate from nearby Baddymarsh Farm. Its secondary role will be to house ground source heating equipment which will supply Ivy Cottage, the new house in the course of construction as well as the building itself. A further concern was the message that would be sent if the application was to be approved by Herefordshire Council that anyone with a field can build on it and apply for planning permission later.

The Parish Council members stressed their support for business endeavour and for the incorporation of eco-friendly measures into a property, but explained that the main issue is that the building and associated works contravene the Government's and Herefordshire Council's planning policies as well as Yarkhill's NDP. Essentially, a large commercial building has been erected on protected agricultural land and without the required permission. Its presence has a detrimental impact on the landscape and the amenity of neighbouring properties while Councillors also expressed some reservations regarding the impact of rainwater run-off on the surrounding area including the nearby watercourse. A further concern related to a number of inconsistencies in the application itself.

The matter was put to a vote and the unanimous decision of the Parish Council was that it could not support the application. This will be conveyed to Herefordshire Council with relevant comments.

Mr Higham was thanked for attending personally, for explaining his position and for answering audience and PC questions.

Jeff Hughes - Chair

Yarkhill Church

*Come and celebrate
Christingle with us!*

fantastic fun for the whole family



Sunday 19th December 4pm

Please bring your own Christingles

Scaffold tower for hire

The organisers of the Field to Fork Festival have purchased a scaffold tower from part of the income raised at last year's event which can be hired by anyone living in the village for £15 a week. Terms & Conditions apply. The details of the tower are as follows: Platform size: 1.45Mx 0.5M, Max platform height: 2.73M, Max working height: 5M (approx.) Max. load: 150kg Material: Aluminium. It weighs approximately 37kg and is fitted with a pair of wheels to allow the tower to be moved around.

If you would like to hire this equipment please contact Martin Ennis on T: 01432 890486 M: 07831 424667 E: martinennis325@gmail.com



YARKHILL CHURCH

THURSDAY 23RD DECEMBER

6:30PM

ALL WELCOME

News from the Parish Clerk

Please, please let me have some articles to put in the next Newsletter! Photographs, stories, poems, even moans and groans. Pictures of beautiful pets, pictures from your family celebrations—this Newsletter is for the Parish to share their stories and information—please don't waste it. Very best wishes to you all and I hope you have a wonderful festive season. *Sallyanne*

YARKHILL CHURCH

100 CLUB

MONTHLY PRIZE DRAW

To all those supporting your local Church through the 100 Club
2021/22 subscriptions are now due.

We would be very grateful for your co-operation in forwarding your £12.00 annual subscription to:

The Treasurer: Mrs Julia Savagar, Glyndarth, Yarkhill HR1 3TA
(please make cheques payable to Yarkhill PCC)

If you are able to pay by bacs or standing order please pay:

Yarkhill PCC Sort: 40-52-40 Account: 00013992

NEW MEMBERS ARE VERY WELCOME

PLEASE HELP US TO MAINTAIN YOUR CHURCH

juliasavagar@gmail.com t. 01432 890401 m. 07890821446

Stoke Edith Station invites you to our Christmas Café on the Platform!
Festive wares to include mulled cider, mince pies, hot pork rolls (vg options)
and our own Stoke Edith beer. Join us for an evening of seasonal treats and
cheer in our wintry station yard.

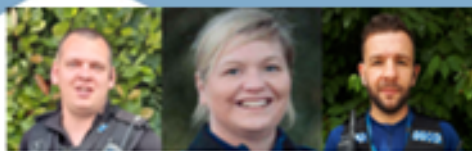
Saturday 11th December 1500—2000hrs. Station House, Tarrington HR1 4EY

07572016283/07798946329. Free entry, limited capacity. Some parking available

No cash, cards only please.



Hereford Rural North SNT



PC 2058 KITCHEN

PCSO 6480 HOWARD

PCSO 4552 WESTLAKE

A member of your Safer Neighbourhood Team will be at the following locations in
DECEMBER:

- Wellington Village Stores – Friday 3rd December 3-4pm
- Credenhill Shop Car Park – Sunday 5th December 11am-12
- Mobile Post Office (Mordiford) – Tuesday 7th December 11:45-12:45
- Sutton St Nicholas Village Hall – Wednesday 8th December 10am-11am
- West End Stores, Fownhope – Friday 10th December 3pm-5:30pm
- Burghill Village Hall – Monday 13th December 5pm-6:30pm
- Bartestree Village Hall – Tuesday 14th 11:30 – 12:30pm
- Withington Village Hall – Friday 17th December 5pm-6:30pm
- Marden Recreation Ground – Tuesday 21st December 5pm-6:30pm
- Moreton Village Stores – Wednesday 22nd December 11am-12

Please come and say “Hello” to your Safer Neighbourhood Team and/or discuss any issues or concerns that you may have.

Please note: Whilst every effort will be made to attend these dates, there may be occasions when we will not be able to due to Policing incidents at the time.

Email: herefordrn.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk Tel: 101



West Mercia
POLICE

Welcome to Neighbourhood Matters

Find out what's really happening in your area and keep in touch with West Mercia Police through our free messaging service.

The Neighbourhood Matters messaging system enables residents, businesses and community groups to keep in touch with local policing teams. You can receive updates on crimes, latest information on on-going incidents and learn more about what we're doing in your community.

You're invited to sign up and become a registered recipient of messages of information, crime alerts or witness appeals local to the area in which you live or work by email, text or telephone.

Don't worry, we won't bombard you with every incident. You can choose exactly the type of alert you wish to receive.

We'd really like to hear from you so why not ask your family, friends and colleagues to register too? Let's get talking!

Please note – This service is not for reporting crimes or incidents – to report these please contact West Mercia Police on 101, via the West Mercia Police website or 999 in an emergency.

You can register online for free at; www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk



Protect yourself from ATM theft

It's a good idea to scan the area around ATMs before you use them. Be aware of anyone standing close by and always check the machine to see if it's been tampered with before you use it.

Tell-tale signs of ATM fraud

Things to look out for are devices attached to the machine – some are more obvious than others. If you do see something suspicious contact the police and the bank.

Remember, if it doesn't look or feel right then steer clear and, if possible, go inside the bank where it will be safer. And always keep a regular check on your transactions.

Be alert

We know it's not always easy, but try to be aware of anyone near you when you're at an ATM. Being aware of your surroundings and not being distracted makes it harder for people to take advantage and less likely that they'll try to.

Thieves will watch as you key in your PIN or distract you while you're withdrawing cash. Be vigilant. Cover your PIN and keep an eye on your card at all times. If someone taps you on the shoulder or tries to speak to you, just ignore them.

When you've left the ATM, put your card away immediately.

You should also be careful with contactless cards. You can get a card holder to prevent your card details being inadvertently read.



Message Sent By

Natalie Lowe

(Police, Rural & Business Crime Officer, West Mercia Police, North Worcestershire)

Criminals are using the NHS COVID Pass as a way to target the public by convincing them to hand over money, financial details and personal information.



They are sending imitation text messages, emails and making phone calls pretending to be from the NHS, and offering fake vaccine certificates for sale online and through social media.

If you are contacted about your NHS COVID Pass:

- Be alert to links and attachments in unexpected text messages or emails
- Do not respond to requests for money, passwords or financial details
- Challenge: Could it be fake?
- Use the official NHS COVID Pass website (see below)

The NHS COVID Pass is available to demonstrate your COVID-19 status either in a digital or paper format via the NHS App, the NHS website or by calling 119.

For information on how to get your **free** NHS COVID Pass, visit www.nhs.uk/nhscovidpass.

What to do if you suspect you have been a victim of an NHS COVID Pass scam

If you receive a call and suspect it to be fraudulent, hang up. If you are suspicious about an email, forward it to: report@phishing.gov.uk.

If you are suspicious about a text message, forward it to the number **7726**, which is free-of-charge.

If you believe you are the victim of a fraud, please report this to Action Fraud as soon as possible by visiting actionfraud.police.uk or calling 0300 123 2040.

If you have any information relating to NHS COVID Pass or vaccine certificate fraud you can stay 100% anonymous by contacting Crimestoppers online at covidfraudhotline.org or phone on 0800 587 5030.

Source: Action Fraud

Fight Festive Fraud

This Christmas, Action Fraud and City of London Police are reminding shoppers to take extra care when shopping for gifts online. As consumers search online for bargains and gifts for loved ones, fraudsters are seeing this as an opportunity to trick people with the promise of great deals and big cash savings.



The latest report by Action Fraud shows that fraudsters conned 15,024 shoppers out of more than £11 million over the Christmas period last year.

People are being defrauded on popular social media websites and online auction sites. Action Fraud works together with platforms including Gumtree to combat fraud and to issue protect advice to consumers.

Mobile phones were once again the most common item that people tried to buy from fraudsters. Victims reported being hooked in with bargain deals on some of the most popular models of smart phones, only for the phone to never actually arrive and leaving them without presents to give on Christmas Day. Apple iPhones accounted for 74% of all mobile phones purchased that turned out to be fraudulent. Electrical goods (including games consoles), household items, computers, clothing, and accessories also featured in many of the reports. Examples including Fingerling toys, UGG Boots and Apple MacBook's were among the most popular items victims reported losing money to fraudsters on.

Last year, more than 30% of reports were made by women aged between 20 and 29, however anyone can fall victim to Christmas shopping fraudsters during the festive period.

This year's campaign urges all shoppers to look out for the warning signs that mean an offer may be too good to be true. Action Fraud will provide useful fraud and cyber-crime prevention tips throughout December to stop people from getting conned out of the Christmas they deserve.

Don't get caught out by the Christmas rush!

- If something seems too much of a bargain, it's probably poor quality, fake or doesn't exist.
- Don't pay for goods or services by bank transfer unless you know and trust the person. Payments via bank transfer offer you no protection if you become a victim of fraud.
- Make sure you've installed the latest software & app updates. Criminals use weaknesses in software to attack your devices and steal information, such as your payment details.

Cont

- Use a strong, separate password and 2FA to protect your email account. Criminals can use your email to access other online accounts, such as those you use for online shopping.
- Don't click on a link in an unexpected email or text. The volume of online shopping related phishing emails increases during the holiday period. Remember, if a deal seems too good to be true, it probably is.
- **Every Report Matters** – if you have been a victim of fraud, [report it to Action Fraud online](#) or by calling 0300 123 2040.

Source: Action Fraud

- **STOP:** Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.
- **CHALLENGE:** Could it be fake? It's okay to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- **PROTECT:** Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud.

Festive Season Safety

Christmas is a time to relax and have fun but it can also be very busy and stressful. You may be out and about more than usual for that essential Christmas shopping and to festive parties and other social events. To reduce the risk of experiencing crime during the festive season here are some helpful tips:

Don't let burglars take the sparkle out of your Christmas!

Christmas is a time of giving, so make sure it doesn't turn in to a season of taking for burglars.

Unfortunately not everyone is filled with the feelings of good will to all people at this time of year. Burglars are as busy as ever, looking for ways to steal property from other people's homes and at this time of year they are after rich pickings as houses are full of Christmas gifts and new purchase as people prepare for the festive period.

You may need to keep those presents that Santa has dropped off early, out of sight of inquisitive little ones, but don't be tempted to store them in the garden shed, in the caravan, or the boot of the car. Keep them in a safe place inside the house, or ask a friend if they can keep them for you.

Don't put your Christmas presents under the tree too early. They may look pretty, but you are not the only person they appeal to. Burglars have been known to break in and steal ready wrapped gifts from under the tree. Keep them out of sight until Christmas morning.

If you go out to visit friends, or know that you will not be home until after it has gone dark leave the radio on and use a timer switch to make the lights come on so it looks like someone is at home.

Your Christmas tree may look lovely with its bright lights, but don't leave the curtains open overnight for everyone to admire it - burglars are attracted to twinkly lights too.

Make sure all your doors, patio doors and windows are locked and secure, even when you are at home, and make special point of checking they are all locked before you go to bed at night. In 30% of all burglaries the thieves don't even have to break in, they get in through unlocked doors and windows.



Catalytic converter thefts – motorists asked to stay vigilant

In recent months there have been a number of reported catalytic converter thefts from vehicles in the West Mercia Police force area.

More recently this type of crime has emerged in the Ledbury area.

There are steps motorists can take to try and reduce the chance of your vehicle being targeted by thieves. If you do notice any suspicious activity where individuals are pulling up next to cars and interfering with a vehicle we would ask you to get in touch with us.”

It can take a thief less than three minutes to remove a catalytic converter from its housing on the car exhaust pipe but there are a number of ways the public can protect their property.

Tips on how to protect your vehicle:

- Keep your vehicle in a garage if you can
- If you park it on a driveway, install motion activated lighting
- Otherwise, park in a well-lit, populated area
- Locks are also available that can be fitted to your converter

For crimes in progress call 999. For non-emergencies you can report to us



Crime Prevention Update

This month's key crime prevention message concerns 'denial of opportunity' – almost certainly the greatest element in the causes of crime worldwide as evidenced both in theory and practice.

As we all know, Herefordshire is a beautiful county with a low crime rate. However, the latter would be even lower if people took some very basic precautions.

Chief amongst these is NOT leaving keys in the ignition of any vehicle – including cars, quad bikes, ride on mowers, farm machinery, etc. If nothing else, such practice will almost certainly invalidate any insurance claim. All three members of your Rural Crime Team (based at Ledbury police station from where we cover the whole county) have been genuinely shocked at the number of locations we've attended where the keys have been so left in the ignition. This provides easy pickings for opportunist thieves who incidentally, account for the overwhelming majority of crimes committed.

Consequently, please follow our advice and remove such keys and store them in a safe place. And please share this message as much as you feel able.

PC John Meek, PC Jackie White, Rural & Business Crime Officer Mark Stokes



Message Sent By

Mark Stokes

(Police, Rural and Business Crime Officer, Herefordshire)



NOVEMBER 2021

OUR NEWS

FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS ACROSS ENGLAND & WALES

Dear supporters,

Welcome to our November newsletter. I mentioned the NEIGHBOUR OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2021 had been launched in the last newsletter. Nominations are now closed and with over 600 now in, we are excited to choose between the amazing nominations! Find out more on page 9.

Our annual [NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CRIME AND COMMUNITY SURVEY](#) will be closing on **16th November**. Have your say now on one of the widest surveys of people's views about crime, fear of crime and their communities. Please also forward the survey to all your contacts so that we can gather a wide range of views from both Neighbourhood Watch supporters and the general public.

We are in the middle of our new [SAY NO TO ASB](#) campaign which shares case studies and information to detail what ASB is and what it isn't, the devastating impact of ASB on people, and how to report it. Find out more on page 2.



And finally, we are thrilled to announce the opening of our permanent [NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH COMMUNITY GRANTS](#). These are grants for Neighbourhood Watch groups to support local Neighbourhood Watch projects. Find out more on page 6.

Yours Sincerely

John Hayward-Cripps,
CEO, NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NETWORK

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CRIME AND COMMUNITY SURVEY 2021



We want to know what you think.

[CLICK
HERE TO
TAKE THE
SURVEY](#)



SURVEY CLOSES
16TH NOV 2021



Whether you live in a Neighbourhood Watch area or not, your opinion matters to us.

Tell us what you think so we can better understand crime, fear of crime and the impact on communities.

Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales, CIO no: 1173349

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CL72YGJ

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SAY NO TO ASB

Staying safe as the nights draw in

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Say NO to ASB

We have launched an online campaign to SAY NO to ASB as incidents on the rise and 43% of victims say it's affected their mental health.

Antisocial behaviour (ASB) incidents have increased over the last three years. Police forces, councils and housing associations are reporting significant spikes in ASB cases – and these are not minor incidents. They are complex and serious cases causing real harm to many people.

45% of people say ASB is a problem where they live and 56% of those who had either been a victim of or a witness to ASB, did not report it to anyone.*



them to record it, and report it to the correct authorities, before the situation escalates to outcomes that, in some extreme cases, can be life threatening.

John Hayward-Cripps, CEO of Neighbourhood Watch Network said *"Recognising what antisocial behaviour is and what it isn't can be subjective, which is why we have worked closely alongside partner organisations such as Resolve and ASB Help to develop clear guidance on recognising, recording and reporting antisocial behaviour."*

Reporting antisocial behaviour early on is important to prevent it from escalating and potentially ruining lives and devastating communities."

To support victims in reporting incidents, we are encouraging people to record incidents in a downloadable 14-day diary.

Visit ourwatch.org.uk/asb to find out more about recognising, recording and reporting ASB.

Learn more about ASB

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WEBINAR

15TH NOVEMBER,
5PM - 6PM

RECOGNISING, RECORDING & REPORTING ASB

WITH AN
EXPERT SPEAKER
FROM ASB HELP

BOOK NOW

**FREE
EVENT**

**EVERYONE
WELCOME**

1,000 SPACES ONLY

Tackling ASB as a community

Antisocial behaviour (ASB) has a devastating impact on communities.

There are particularly tragic cases you may have heard of, including Fiona Pilkington and Garry Newlove, both in 2007.

In her article "Living a Nightmare" the former Victim's Commissioner, Baroness Helen Newlove told how a gang targeting her "ordinary street in an ordinary neighbourhood" with vandalism and violence, ultimately murdered her husband Garry, kicking him to death on his own doorstep in 2007.

Fiona Pilkington, a vulnerable single mother, complained to police 33 times about the catalogue of abuse that her family suffered over a 10-year period. This included fires lit outside their home, people urinating on their fence, eggs and stones thrown at it, Fiona's son Anthony being held at knife point in a garden shed, along with a torrent of bullying and verbal abuse. She eventually decided to end her life and that of her severely disabled 18 year old daughter, Francesca, by setting fire to a car they were both in.

Every case is tragic and vulnerable people continue to be tormented by what is often perceived to be "low-level" or "petty" antisocial behaviour every day. They suffer significant emotional and physical harm, and in some cases, as shown above, sadly they lose their lives.

Charlotte Hamilton Kay, Specialist Victim Project Manager at ASB Help said "It is important we understand that antisocial behaviour is often a culmination of incidents, a campaign of harassment that can chip away at our resolve, our mental health and ultimately our lives. We cannot continue to consider antisocial behaviour as "low-level". It is symptomatic of a much bigger problem."

The community's role in tackling antisocial behaviour cannot be overstated. Having an awareness of what it looks like in your neighbourhoods, what is being done about it and how you can contribute to finding a resolution are fundamental. Your local authority Community Safety Partnership website should detail all the ways you can report antisocial behaviour, who to report it to and how you can help. They are there to protect you and should value your input in raising any issues you are facing.

Local authorities and the police have specific legislative tools and powers to address antisocial behaviour, but they cannot do it without the invaluable contribution of victims and communities. Initiatives like Neighbourhood Watch and parish meetings are key in clarifying the nature of any issues in an area and allowing the sharing of information that will build a picture of the scale of the problem.

Charlotte continued "In 2019 I was working as a Victim Services Caseworker in Derbyshire and took on a client who was experiencing what was deemed "low-level" antisocial behaviour from a supported housing complex across the road.

He and his wife were elderly, and initially even they thought they were wasting authorities' time when they reported loud music, occasional public drunkenness and foul language. However, in making those reports, local agencies were then able to see a pattern of incidents developing around the address. They cross referenced complaints and what my client perceived as him and his wife perhaps being hyper-sensitive, was corroborated by 12 other neighbours, and helped identify that the housing complex had a serious drug problem, had been vandalised, and the police were in attendance every day.

Finally, a gang with machetes attacked one of the tenants. Fast forward 4 months and the police and local authority took out an emergency closure order on the premises. 236 members of that community attended a meeting after the closure, to share their experiences and support each other through what had been a huge trauma for many of them.

The community's role in this case was integral to the success of the action taken."

You are the eyes on the ground, you are the support system for your neighbours, and your input could be the last piece of the puzzle in tackling a serious issue in your area. Who better to understand what a victim is going through than someone who is experiencing it too?

But, perhaps more importantly, your efforts to protect and support your own community could save someone's life.

ASB HELP
Don't suffer in silence

ERA's guide to staying safe as the nights draw in

Whilst it was pleasing to see crime rates expectedly drop during periods of lockdown, research from LSE Centre for Economic Performance (CEP) found that they once again rose in correlation with when restrictions were eased.

As more of us are now venturing away from home more often, and the longer nights are here, now is the time to be proactive about protecting your home.

Through your own actions and through investing in smart security products, you can keep your family and home safe as winter approaches. So what can you do?

Be in control of your front door

It can be a little unnerving when you get an unexpected ring of your doorbell late at night.

It's important to remember that at night you should never open the door to anybody you are not expecting. However, if you don't have a viewer installed, it can be tricky to know who is calling.

A video doorbell, such as the one in the ERA Protect ecosystem, can be a great alternative, allowing homeowners to see exactly who is there without needing to open the door in person. Many doorbells, including ERA's, offer two-way communication and allow you to store or download video recordings for future reference.

Keep valuables out of sight

Whilst this might sound like common sense, many of us often forget to consider just how much can be seen by somebody looking in through a window.

Valuables, such as electronic goods, wallets, jewellery and other expensive purchases should all be kept in closed cupboards or drawers, rather than out in the open.

To give you extra peace of mind and a visible deterrent for prying eyes, a small and discrete camera, such as the ERA Protect Indoor Camera, will allow you to check in on your entry points, rooms and even your pets when you can't be at home. Simply view a live feed from anywhere in the world at any time through the smartphone app for instant reassurance that your home is safe and secure.

Ensure doors and windows are shut and locked

It's important not to get complacent with the more obvious ways to stay safe.

It's easy to forget to check whether a door, window or garage has been properly closed and locked, so a quick once-around the whole house to check any entry points before you go out or to bed can make a huge difference in preventing break-ins and may even enable you to spot any potential weak spots where a burglar could take advantage.

Sensors that form part of alarm systems will flag to you when doors or windows are left open, for example, the ERA Protect Door/Window sensor will notify you when you try to set your alarm if any entry point is still open.

Install lighting

The darker nights provide would-be burglars with the opportunity to stay largely out of sight and undetected.

Whilst you may have security in place, if any video cameras don't use night-vision, this could make it difficult to identify any trespassers.

A camera with a floodlight, such as the [ERA Protect Floodlight Camera](#), will illuminate your outdoor area if triggered by movement, acting as an immediate deterrent as well as capturing a clear recording for you.

ERA



#LookCloser with the Children's Society

The Children's Society's Prevention Programme is a national programme working to prevent, disrupt and improve responses to child exploitation and abuse.

Its network of 11 Prevention Officers across England and Wales work in partnership with national and regional leads across the statutory, private and third sectors.

They drive forward new approaches to tackling the issue and change the narrative to ensure all exploited children are identified as victims and supported. They bring together the public and professionals across sectors and geographical areas, recognising the value and role that everyone can play in safeguarding children.

#LookCloser

The Children's Society's [#LookCloser campaign](#), supported by the National Police Chiefs' Council and British Transport Police, urges anyone who encounters children to look out for possible signs of child exploitation and report any concerns.



It challenges stereotypes of how a young exploitation victim typically behaves. For instance, not all exploited children will seem upset or frightened and we know trauma may lead some to appear angry or aggressive.

Jackie Thomas, Prevention Officer South West, said *"By raising awareness we can help ensure more young victims of exploitation are identified and supported."*

The campaign encourages people to be vigilant in public spaces where exploitation may occur and be most visible, such as parks, supermarkets, transport, banks and also on online games and social media.

They may be forced to travel on buses, trains, cars and coaches when they are being exploited. Fast food outlets and roadside services may be used for amenities and food stops. Exploitation may happen 'behind closed doors' in places like hotels, salons and car washes.

Exploiters also target the homes of young people and vulnerable adults, taking over their properties as a base to sell drugs – a practice known as 'cuckooing'.

If we learn to spot the possible signs of a young person being exploited, we can help to keep them safe and stop this abuse from happening."

Signs of child exploitation

- Travelling alone, particularly in school hours, late at night or frequently
- Looking lost or in unfamiliar surroundings
- Anxious, frightened, angry or displaying other behaviours that make you worried about them
- In possession of more than one phone
- Carrying lots of cash
- Potentially under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Being instructed or controlled by another individual
- Accompanied by individuals who are older than them
- Seen begging in a public space

Report your concerns

If something doesn't feel right, don't wait, report it.

Call the police on 101 or make a report via your local force website. Always call 999 in an emergency.

Only report your concerns when it is safe to do so, even if this is a bit later. Do not attempt to intervene yourself.

Neighbourhood Watch Community Grants Fund is open

We are pleased to announce the opening of our permanent Community Grants Fund for Neighbourhood Watch projects.

During our successful trial that ran from November 2020 to March 2021 we issued 28 grants to a total of almost £7k, ranging from creating new coordinator packs to young people planting window boxes for the vulnerable; community safety training to proactive litter picks.

We have made some tweaks and relaunched the fund, consisting of two funding rounds per year - Autumn and Spring.

The Trustees have set aside £10,000 funding for the year to help Coordinators and Associations kickstart, improve or expand their community work.

Around 60% of funds will be for one-off development projects and around 40% of funds for core costs/setting up/rejuvenating Neighbourhood Watch in communities.

The current Autumn round is now open, with a deadline of 17th December 2021. If you have a project or Neighbourhood Watch group that you think you'd like to apply for, please visit ourwatch.org.uk/communitygrants and ensure you read the full eligibility criteria, guidelines and funding priorities first.

Once you feel your idea fits the bill and is eligible, you can download the application form and budget template from that page to complete your application, and send it over to us at fundraising@ourwatch.org.uk before the deadline.



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Keep Covid-19 at bay this winter



FRESH AIR

As we head into winter, we all need to remain as vigilant as possible and do what we can to control the spread of the virus and protect ourselves and those around us.

There are a few simple actions that can help keep ourselves and others safe this winter:

1. Let **fresh air** into your home
2. Get your Covid-19 **booster vaccine**, if you are eligible
3. Take **regular tests** if you have symptoms
4. Wear a **face covering** in enclosed spaces

Fresh air

Covid-19 can be spread in a number of ways, but the primary route of transmission is through particles of the virus in the air. Airborne transmission happens when someone with COVID-19 coughs, sneezes, speaks, sings or even breathes.

In winter we spend more time together indoors and the danger of breathing in infectious coronavirus particles increases significantly. Inside, coronavirus particles hang around in the air like smoke - sometimes for several hours. In air-less or poorly ventilated spaces these infected particles become more concentrated, significantly increasing the risk of others breathing in these infected particles and catching Covid-19.

Fresh air disperses Covid-19 particles. Good ventilation can **reduce the risk of passing on COVID-19 indoors by up to 70%**. Even opening windows for just 10 mins every hour can significantly help reduce the risk of the virus.

Let fresh air into rooms when people visit - during and after their visit for a short period of time. This helps to dilute the virus particles.



FACE COVERINGS



HANDWASHING

Open the windows when sharing a car with someone you do not normally live with as fresh air will stop coronavirus particles from lingering in the air.

Opening your windows a little or for just a few minutes at a time throughout the day can make a big difference.

Booster vaccination

Vaccines are the best way to protect people from serious COVID-19 and have saved around 130,000 lives in England alone.

The booster vaccines are being offered in the same order of priority as the original vaccine programme - older adult care home residents, health and social care workers, people aged over 50, those aged 16 to 49 years with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19, adult carers, and adult household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals will be prioritised.

Vaccinated people are far less likely to get COVID-19 with symptoms and even more unlikely to get serious COVID-19, to be admitted to hospital, or to die from it.

COVID-19 booster vaccinations are available at vaccination centres, GPs or community pharmacists. Those eligible will receive their booster from 6 months after their second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and they will be contacted by the NHS when it is their turn.

Testing

Vaccines remain our best defence against Covid-19 by significantly reducing the risk of serious illness from the virus. But you can still catch Covid-19 if you've been vaccinated and pass it onto others.

Keeping Covid-19 at bay this winter continued

So, remember, if you have symptoms, even mild ones, you should take a PCR test immediately to confirm if you have the virus. Also, don't forget to keep using rapid lateral flow tests regularly. **Around 1 in 3 people with Covid-19 have no symptoms and can spread it without knowing.**

Taking a rapid lateral flow test regularly will help give you peace of mind that you're not spreading the virus. You may wish to consider testing if you feel there will be a period of higher risk that day, either to yourself or others.

Some examples include:

- Testing before mixing in crowded indoor spaces, for example a nightclub.
- Testing before visiting vulnerable people.

Rapid lateral flow tests are free, easy to do, and results come back within 30 minutes.

Face Coverings

Those with COVID-19 release contagious droplets when they exhale. Don't breathe the disease onto others. **Wear a face covering over your mouth and nose in enclosed spaces.**

Current and emerging fraud trends

During August the following frauds were reported to Action Fraud

- Websites purporting to offer **driving licence renewals**, car auction purchases, garden furniture, gaming consoles, white goods and designer clothes from various websites which were never received.
- **Cryptocurrency investment schemes** in various platforms where victims haven't seen any returns on their investments.
- Victims booking **golf holidays** through a website and then finding out the booking hadn't been made, even though money had been taken.
- **Fake emails purporting to be from Asda**
The emails state that the recipient can win a £100 promo reward gift card' by completing a marketing survey. The links provided in the emails lead to phishing websites that are designed to steal personal information.
- **Banking branded phishing messages** The recipients of these messages are informed that they have successfully amended their number or are advised that a large direct debit payment has been created and to click on a link within the e-mail if they did not make this change.
- A company offering **PCR tests** to travellers returning from holidays. The tests were ordered and paid for but were never received.

Emerging Issues & Threats

- **Covid-related scams**
Any potential increases in Covid and possible introductions of new restrictions could lead to the reintroduction of many of the methods used by fraudsters and cyber criminals during the previous lockdowns and restrictions.

Any further vaccine rollouts may be exploited by scammers contacting those eligible to gain personal and financial information from them. Over recent months, a significant increase has been seen in scams relating to the NHS COVID Pass to steal money, financial details, and personal information.

You can download the MPS Little Leaflet of Covid scams [here](#)

- **Health and social care reforms**
The Government will be setting the limit to what elderly people will have to pay for their care, regardless of assets or income. As a result, pensioners could have more assets and available funds because of this change, and it is possible that this could make them at increased risk of being targeted with various frauds and scams in the future.
- **Online shopping and auction fraud**
It is predicted that this fraud type will start to increase in the run up to Christmas and afterwards.

Over 15 million people connected this summer

This year, we joined up with a team of charities and good causes to celebrate a whole Month of Community. Together we encouraged people right across the UK to enjoy a summer of friendship and fun, and celebrate everything that makes our communities great. **A whopping 15.2 million people joined in!**

The events became a moment to support our communities, thank our neighbours and reconnect after lockdown, with 78% of attendees saying the Month of Community was exactly what was needed after more than a year of coronavirus. And we have some more great news from our independent research.

THE MONTH OF COMMUNITY CREATED NEW FRIENDSHIPS

The Month of Community created a sense of togetherness with **75% of attendees saying that it's made them feel less lonely**. And those feelings last, with 77% saying they would like to stay in touch with some of the new people they've met.

THE MONTH OF COMMUNITY BROUGHT NEIGHBOURHOODS TOGETHER

Not only that, the Month of Community increased neighbourly feelings, with **76% of attendees saying that the event had created a stronger sense of community spirit** and had a positive impact on the community.

THE MONTH OF COMMUNITY ENCOURAGED PEOPLE TO GET INVOLVED

The Month of Community encourages people to take action, with **76% of attendees saying that the events have encouraged them to get more involved in voluntary work**, and more involved with their community too (78%).

So.... we're going to do it all again! The Month of Community 2022 promises to be even bigger and better so watch this space. Find out more [here](#).



Neighbour of the Year Awards 2021 nominations are in

Thank you to everyone who submitted a nomination for the Neighbour of the Year Awards 2021.

We have received an incredible total of 646 nominations across the three categories of NEIGHBOUR OF THE YEAR, COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR and YOUNG NEIGHBOUR OF THE YEAR.

Neighbourhood Watch Network and Co-op will shortly be judging the entries, along with our guest judges Hannah Ingram-Moore,

daughter of Sir Tom Moore and Co-founder of The Captain Tom Foundation, and our young person representative, Mair Williams.

Winners will be contacted and announced in December.



Neighbour of the Year Awards 2021

AirBnB Hosts meet Neighbourhood Watch



We were delighted to take part in the inaugural Meet The Experts virtual event as part of our role on AirBnB's Trust and Safety Council on 5th October.

The event provided the opportunity for us to introduce Neighbourhood Watch to the AirBnB Host community, alongside our fellow founding members.

We also shared some quick home safety tips for being a neighbourly Host, thinking about considerate parking, noise levels and proactively addressing neighbour concerns relating to guests.

It was also a great opportunity to hear from the other Council members. The event was attended by over 300 Airbnb Hosts and we received lots of positive feedback.

We look forward to the next event in a few months and producing resources and tools that Hosts can use to ensure they are maximising the harmony and safety of their homes, guests and the local neighbourhood.



Connect on the Knowledge Hub

Our new Knowledge Hub is an online platform available to active Neighbourhood Watch volunteers. It offers induction and training materials, toolkits and other resources to help our volunteers in their role.

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators in 33 different areas have now been invited to apply for access to the Knowledge Hub, with more being invited in November. We now have over 300 people using the Hub.

If you are an approved Coordinator and you'd like to check whether the Hub is available in your area yet, head over to ourwatch.org.uk/knowledge-hub where you'll see a list of the areas which have been invited so far. If your area is on the list you should have received a message via the Alert system inviting you to apply for access. Please check your junk mail if you haven't seen it yet!

You can also sign up directly using the link on the same page, but please note that if your area is not yet on the list you'll get an email asking you to be patient for a little longer until we get to you.

We've had some delays in sending out user logins over the last few weeks, so please accept our apologies if this has affected you.

We're changing our admin processes which should speed things up. If you've applied for Hub access and haven't received your login details, please be patient, we will get them to you as soon as we can.

Please contact volunteer@ourwatch.org.uk if you have any questions about the Hub rollout.



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DECEMBER 2021

DAILY EVENTS

Everyone is welcome to join any of the acts of worship that take place at the cathedral. Services are normally held at the following times:

Monday – Saturday

8 am – Morning Prayer

11.15 am – Eucharist (*8.30 am on a Saturday*)

5.30 pm – Evening Prayer or Evensong

Sunday

8 am – Holy Communion

10 am – Cathedral Eucharist (*this service is also live streamed*)

11.30 am – Morning Prayer

3.30 pm – Evening Prayer or Evensong

EXHIBITIONS**Lost & Found Exhibition**

Monday 26 July to Friday 31 December, Mon – Sat, 10am – 5pm

Why have things gone missing from the Cathedral over the years? The latest exhibition in the Mappa Mundi and Chained Library follows the story of things lost but later found and of some special things lost but not found... yet!

Admission charges apply

EVENTS**Christmas Tours**

Join us for a journey of festive discovery as we explore Christmas through the ages. These tours are a wonderful way to discover more about Hereford Cathedral during this very special season as our experienced guides share snippets of Christmas knowledge.

Tours will run on selected dates between Monday 6 – Friday 31 December

Tickets £7.50 available via the cathedral website. Ticket price includes a mince pie and hot drink from the Cathedral Café to be enjoyed after the tour.

Christmas Sparkle Organ Concert

Saturday 4 December, 1.15 pm

Lunchtime organ recital of Advent and Christmas favourites given by Peter Dyke, with large screen projection.

Admission is free but booking is required via herefordcathedral.org. There will be a retiring collection in support of Hereford Cathedral Perpetual Trust.

The First Celebration of Nine Lessons with Carols Lecture

Wednesday 8 December, 7 pm

In this lecture, Howard Tomlinson will explore the service's origins and setting; its content and structure; and how it was adapted by Dean Milner-White at King's. The talk is based on new material from the Cornish archives at [Kresen Kernow](http://KresenKernow).

Tickets cost £8, available to buy online: www.herefordcathedral.org/events

Ex Cathedra: Christmas Music By Candlelight

Thursday 9 December, 7.30 pm

Ex Cathedra return to Hereford Cathedral with a concert of much-loved favourites, little-known gems and stunning new works. These are accompanied by a selection of readings, which together capture the meaning – and humour – of the season.

Tickets from Birmingham Symphony Hall Box Office 0121 780 3333, Courtyard Hereford 01432 340 555 or Cathedral Shop 01432 374 210.

Hereford Choral Society: Handel's Messiah

Saturday 11 December, 7.30 pm

A special candlelit performance by Hereford Choral Society with Marches Baroque. Tickets available from: herefordchoralsociety.org/tickets

ABF The Soldiers' Charity Christmas Concert

Tuesday 14 December, 7 pm

ABF's annual Christmas concert returns in all its glory, with school choirs, bands and even a guest appearance by members of a former rock band.

Tickets will be available from the Cathedral Shop, Tel 01432 374 210 and The Courtyard Box Office

www.courtyard.org.uk/abf.

Hereford Cathedral Christmas Fair

Saturday 18 December, 9.30 am – 4 pm

Join us for our annual Christmas Fair with over forty stalls selling a range of festive produce.

Admission free, with a collection to support the work of Hereford Cathedral. We will not be holding the Carols for Shoppers service this year but join us in the Cathedral Close at 12 noon for carol singing.

St Michael's Hospice 'Light Up A Life' Service

Sunday 19 December, 5.30 pm

Everyone welcome. Please visit st-michaels-hospice.org.uk for more information.

Christingle Nativity Service

Christmas Eve, 2.30 pm

A celebration of Christmas light for children and families, with the telling of the Christmas story and the distribution of Christingles. Admission is free with a retiring collection for The Children's Society.

Due to its popularity, this year's service is ticketed to help manage numbers, please book via the cathedral website: www.herefordcathedral.org/events

Choral Evensong

Christmas Eve, 5.30 pm

With Blessing of the Crib.

Tickets are required for this service: application forms can be collected from the cathedral or downloaded from herefordcathedral.org

Christmas Day

Holy Communion with hymns, 8 am

Cathedral Eucharist*, 10 am

**Tickets are required for this service: application forms can be collected from the cathedral or downloaded from herefordcathedral.org*

Choral Matins, 11.30 am

Choral Evensong, 3.30 pm

Holy Innocents' Day

Saturday 28 December, 3.30 pm

A quiet service of remembrance for parents and families who have suffered the loss of a child, whether recently or long ago. All welcome.

Epiphany Carol Service

Sunday 9 January 2022, 3.30 pm

Sung by Hereford Cathedral Voluntary Choir, celebrating the veneration of the Christ-Child by the Magi. Tickets are required for this service: application forms can be collected from the cathedral or downloaded from herefordcathedral.org