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## St Michael's Church

*Please note that the  
Christmas Morning  
Service is at 10.30am*

*(NOT 9.30am as it appears in the  
newsletter)*

## RuralWatch

Well, it would seem the current emerging trend for rural crime is for oil. As of today's date, we have seen two large thefts of oil on our patch in two separate areas.

The message for securing your tank is Hide it from View, whether that be by fencing or by growing some thorn bushes/trees around it. If that is not feasible, cover it with a metal cage or lockable fencing. If the criminal is unable to see the tank, they are less likely to wander onto your property to steal it. Fit security lighting around the tank, if the area is well lit thieves will think twice before standing in the spot light. Always monitor your oil levels, if you see a sudden drop, (check first to make sure your tank has not sprung a leak!) call us on the non-emergency number 101 and let us know, remember thieves don't always steal a full tank it will depend on what containers they have bought with them.

I know I say this every year, but a reminder to farmers now the wet murky weather is upon us. It is your responsibility to clear up any mud that you have left on roads whilst you are working field to field. Not only is it a hazard for motorists, but it may well land you with a hefty fine from the Council if they have to come and clear it up. Signage to warn motorists should also be used.

## Incidents

A theft of 2000litres of heating oil was reported in an isolated area in Bodenham. No damage to the tank was caused and nothing was seen or heard. The value of the oil that was stolen is over £1000.00

A theft of diesel was recorded from a farm in the Whitbourne area. Over 1000litres was stolen from the yard. Nothing was seen or heard.

A theft of a Pecking Machine (a large drill) was reported from a property in the Hampton Court area of Hope under Dinmore. Thieves broke into the secured site and stole the item which is valued at £3000.00. Nothing was seen or heard.

Strangely two grit bins were stolen from the A49 at Dinmore Hill. It is believed that the bins were stolen for private residence as they have

no value for any other purpose. If you were travelling on the A49 and saw anything suspicious around the area, please call us on 101.

## Suspicious incidents

Two vehicles were seen touting for scrap in the fairmile area of Steensbridge/Stoke Prior. A white ford Transit Flat Lorry VRM V4-- FUY and a silver ford transit tipper VRM NX-- CUY were both challenged by property owners and thankfully made a hasty retreat. Please be on the look out for these vehicles and call us on 101 if seen.

A strange incident occurred in Risbury, whereby a ladder was found on a grass verge near to a property. Nothing was stolen and no damage was caused. Please be extra vigilant in this area.

Horse owners in Bodenham have reported some strange goings on with persons hanging around near to their horses. The person was spoken to and left quite amicably. However a further report suggest that a rug was attempted to be removed from a rather temperamental horse in the same area, whilst it was in the field. To reassure horse owners, there have been no reports of stolen horses in the whole of North Herefordshire. Please be extra vigilant when you are in the Bodenham area and lock up any tack out of sight.

## Good news

Community members in Whitbourne reported that several vehicles had been using an isolated area late at night/early hours of the morning to congregate and get wasted (there were lots of empty beer cans found at the site). Pc Strangwood 'happened' upon these individuals and needless to say, they won't be back in a hurry.

Right that's it for now folks, remember don't make it easy for thieves, keep it locked.

Kind regards

Steph

Cso Steph Annette 6440 Bromyard Police Station  
New Road Bromyard HR7 4AJ

0300 333 3000 ext 61220

07970602354

stephanie.annette@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

# Rural Watch Scam Alert

PRESS RELEASE FROM HEREFORD TRADING STANDARDS

TRADING STANDARDS WARNING OVER TOP TEN SCAMS

February is national scam awareness month with an incredible £4 billion now given over to fraudsters every year in the UK. Herefordshire Council Trading Standards Service is warning consumers not to fall victim to this and to beware of the following top ten scams from 2010 /11:

1. Doorstep Crime- always top of the list. Anyone who cold calls you for property repairs will almost certainly be a rogue trader and charge excessive amounts for poor quality and unnecessary work, whether it is for driveways, roofing, garden/tree surgery or any other work. If you are trying to find a reputable trader then search the Herefordshire Council's Trader Register at [www.traderregister.org.uk/herefordshire](http://www.traderregister.org.uk/herefordshire) or phone 01432 260746
2. Cold telephone calls falsely purporting to be from Microsoft, claiming you have a virus on your pc. They will take over your computer and charge you £80 when there is nothing wrong in the first place.
3. Small business scams:- cold calls pushing advertising in fictitious publications for the emergency services or schools etc and then sending you an invoice for £400. Also Companies who cold call you claiming to be able to reduce your business rates and others who claim to get you top of internet searches.
4. Calls falsely offering to get your credit card debts written off due to legal technicalities and then taking £400 off your credit card as payment.
5. Calls and emails offering low interest loans if you pay a large up front fee-usually by wiring the money abroad.
6. Cold calls offering free gifts-eg free alarm systems which come with an extortionate monitoring contract, free carpet cleans which are merely the hard sell on a vacuum cleaner costing up to £2400.
7. Timeshare resale/Holiday clubs:- those with existing timeshares coerced to a presentation by false promise of buying their timeshare- only to be conned into signing up for a holiday club costing £5000 or more.
8. Bogus charity collections - still as rife as ever and cost genuine charities millions every year.
9. Unsolicited calls that result in high pressure selling from unscrupulous traders for extortionately priced mobility aids such as - bath lifts, reclining chairs and scooters.
10. Last but not least Prize Draw Mailings, Scratchcards, usually asking you to ring a premium rate number and implying you will receive a much better prize than you actually do.

Principal Trading Standards Officer, Tim Thorne, says:- “Typically, it’s the elderly or vulnerable who fall victim to such scams. We can all therefore play our part and be vigilant to ensure that our relatives or neighbours don’t get conned !”

“There is a very simple rule to follow to avoid being a scam victim and that is NEVER deal with ANYONE who cold calls you at home, or on the telephone and put ALL unsolicited mail / flyers in your green recycling bin”

For more information contact Tim Thorne At Trading Standards 01432 261697  
Herefordshire Council: putting people first; providing for our communities.

Together our voice  
is louder

## HEREFORDSHIRE Carers support

### Count yourself in with the 'I Count' Card *the must have card for Carers in Herefordshire*

Herefordshire Carers Support believes that Carers should be proud of the valuable work they do and that they deserve a little extra in recognition of that role. Many other organisations agree and offer concessions for Carers. However businesses often ask to see proof in order to access their discount. Not everyone can do this easily and some Carers miss out on this entitlement. This is especially true when you are caring for someone who does not have an obvious disability.

The 'I Count' Card, issued by Herefordshire Carers Support, provides Carers with an easy way to identify themselves as Carers. It is the same size as a credit card and fits easily into a wallet or pocket. It entitles Carers to discounts from some local suppliers such as Halo Leisure, the Yeleni Support Centre, and Kidwells Solicitors to name but a few.

The 'I Count' Card has also been used by Carers accompanying the person they care for, to get in free to various local and national attractions such as The Courtyard, Hereford, National Trust properties and the London Eye.

The 'I Count' Card is free but you need to register first as a Carer with Herefordshire Carers Support. Registration is very simple, visit the Herefordshire Carers Support website and do it on line [www.herefordshirecarerssupport.org](http://www.herefordshirecarerssupport.org) or call Rachel on 01432 356068



### Herefordshire Carers Support

Canal Road, Hereford HR1 2EA

Tel: 01432 356068 Fax: 01432 356149

[www.herefordshirecarerssupport.org](http://www.herefordshirecarerssupport.org)

Email: [info@herefordshirecarerssupport.co.uk](mailto:info@herefordshirecarerssupport.co.uk)

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\*Help with new Money Laundering Regulations and Risk Assessment for Book-keepers and Practitioners

### Absolute Care Services (Herefordshire) Limited

6B High Street, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 8LZ

Telephone number 01568 620129

We are a small privately owned Home Care Agency registered with the Commission for Social Care Inspection to provide care for Adult & Elderly people in their own homes. Should you or someone you know

need care support services to enhance their quality of life, we can offer the following services:-

Personal Hygiene support for Bathing / Showering undertaken with dignity and respect. Sleeping and waking nights.

Respite Care for a Main Carer who may need additional support. Meal preparation and Food monitoring.

Hospital Discharge Assistance.

We can provide a Carer to help you settle back in a home if you have been in hospital.

Prescription, Pension Collection and Shopping Service.

A Carer cannot replace a loving family member, but the support a Carer can give is comforting and reassuring.

If you are interested in joining our team of dedicated Carers, and have the necessary qualifications, then Absolute Care Services would be delighted to hear from you.

Caring in the Community

### FROM THE EDITOR.

I hope you enjoyed your Newsletter Part 2.

Made up of corrections, omissions and material left out of the newsletter due to space.

There will not be a printed version of this so please tell your friends what they miss by not being on the email list!

Even better tell them to go now and sign up at:  
[www.bodenhamnewsletter.co.uk](http://www.bodenhamnewsletter.co.uk)

All the best for the coming Festive Season

Susan