

## Watch scheme plays its part in finding Tommy the Horse

Most NHW members now have access to Ringmaster, a computerised community messaging system that enables information to be shared with members of the community.

The introduction of Ringmaster has been invaluable in helping NHW to disseminate information to members quickly and efficiently.

### Community messaging saves the day

Tommy the horse, a heavy cob gelding with distinctive markings, was taken from a field near Market Drayton overnight in September but was found just over a month later in a field in Alveley, near Bridgnorth, thanks to the Shropshire Community Messaging (SCM) system.

Alongside an appeal by Tommy's owners - which included publishing information on the Horse and Hounds Forum, social networking sites such as Facebook and contacting equestrian-related organisations - Shropshire Rural Watch used SCM to distribute information about the theft. Details were also picked up by colleagues in Telford who passed the information to their contacts.

As a result, when Martin Wozencroft, owner of Telford Saddlery received an email from SCM to say a stray horse had been reported in a



farmer's field near Bridgnorth, he contacted Tommy's owners to let them know. The family were delighted to find it was their horse.

David Riley, the community volunteer who co-ordinates NHW and SCM in Shropshire, said it was a great example of how the rapid spread of information through such systems results in success.

"We can get the information out across the county and beyond in a matter of minutes and it is possible that Tommy's details and picture were so widespread, that whoever took him simply abandoned him as a result, knowing they were likely to be caught."

### Find out more

Most divisions are now operating a Community Messaging System which anybody can sign up to, either as part of a watch group or as an individual. Messages can be sent to all members or narrowed down to specific groups and can be sent via email, text message or voicemail.

**Contact your NHW Administrator for more information.**

## Web mastered

After a great deal of hard work and dedication to detail, the new West Mercia Police website was launched in November 2009. It has a fresh new look, is easy to navigate and includes a comprehensive search facility.

### Keep up-to-date with your local policing team

NHW co-ordinators can use the site to find out more about their local policing team. Use the postcode search facility on the homepage or the maps on the

local policing pages to navigate to your team's dedicated page and find out more about who they are, how to contact them and what they are doing to tackle local concerns.

As well as being able to find details of forthcoming PACT (Partner and Community Together) events, you'll also be able to sign up for an RSS feed so you'll be alerted to the latest news.

## Contact your Neighbourhood Watch Administrator

Herefordshire - Acting Chief Inspector Bob Barnett  
Tel: 0300 333 3000, ext 4568  
Email: robert.barnett@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

North Worcestershire - Mel Clarke  
Tel: 0300 333 3000, ext 3253  
Email: melvyn.clarke@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Shropshire - Dave Riley  
Tel: 0300 333 3000, ext 5799  
Email: david.riley@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

South Worcestershire - Adrian Symonds  
Tel: 0300 333 3000, ext 4027  
Email: adrian.symonds@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Telford & Wrekin - Anne Walker  
Tel: 0300 333 3000, ext 5996  
Email: anne.walker@westmercia.pnn.police.uk



**0300 333 3000**  
**www.westmercia.police.uk**



# policing west mercia



Spring 2010

## Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter

### Introduction from Paul West, Chief Constable of West Mercia Police

West Mercia – Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and Worcestershire – is one of the safest places to live in the country. The level of recorded crime has consistently fallen and is now at its lowest level for six years.

Credit for this must be shared with the local partners and individuals who work tirelessly to improve their community. The Neighbourhood Watch movement in West Mercia has undoubtedly made a significant contribution towards this success.

As the Chief Constable of your local police force, I am extremely grateful for all the time and effort that the members of our local Neighbourhood Watch schemes put in every year.

In moving forward I'm keen to ensure that West Mercia Police provides you with the support you need. We have recently introduced a Neighbourhood Watch Pledge, which sets out how the force in general and your local policing team in particular will work with you. A copy of the Pledge is included in this newsletter for your information.

We will also endeavour to communicate with you on a more regular basis and through material such as this newsletter we will aim to keep you informed about the force's work and the information and resources available to you.

Thank you for your continuing support.

**Paul West**  
**Chief Constable**



## Campaigns

Providing residents with crime prevention advice is a key priority for the force and we have a number of campaigns that run each year to support operational activity and seasonal spikes in crime.

Depending on the campaign, supporting materials such as leaflets and posters are generally available. Please contact your NHW Administrator if you would like to receive a stock of materials for local distribution.

### ■ Current campaigns

#### Rural Watch

Following the introduction of a number of Rural Watch schemes, a force wide Rural Watch pack has now been introduced.

West Mercia is a safe place to live, and crime levels remain low. However, isolated properties, farm buildings and agricultural machinery can be attractive to thieves, so it's important that rural communities work together to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

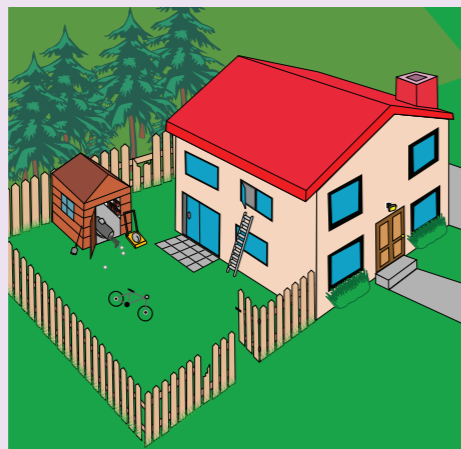


Members of the public who join a scheme will receive a Rural Watch pack, which includes a Rural Security leaflet and a sign to display on their property.

### ■ Forthcoming campaigns

As we head towards the summer months, look out for the following campaigns:

#### April - Garden security



Although many people take steps to protect their homes and the property inside them, they leave valuable equipment in gardens and unsecured sheds, providing easy pickings for opportunist thieves.

The force will once again be issuing advice about effective garden security, which covers everything from boundary fences and gates to the valuables stored inside the garden shed.

#### June - Home security

The dark nights will become a distant memory, but the warmer weather poses a new opportunity for thieves!

Windows and doors that are left open during the summer months can lead to an increase in the number of burglaries that take place, so we'll be issuing crime prevention advice as part of our Safe & Secure campaign.

**Keep an eye on our website for details.**



## Providing feedback

Following concerns raised at last year's AGM about the lack of feedback given to NHW members, West Mercia Police has put a new system in place to ensure that members receive timely updates in response to the information they provide to the force via the 0300 333 3000 or 999 number.

All members who tell the call taker that they are part of NHW will be contacted by their local policing team and provided with an update on the result of the incident.

**Please remember to tell the call taker that you are part of NHW when reporting an incident.**

## Make it personal

If you were to suffer an accident or sudden illness in the home, is there any medical information that the people caring for you would need to know?

In an emergency, the level of care delivered by the emergency services could be compromised if they are unaware of any essential medical or personal information.

Fortunately, there are now a number of schemes in place that NHW members have been involved with which can help to overcome this problem.

### ■ Saving details - saving lives

Schemes such as Data Link or Message in a Bottle are recognised by the emergency services, as well as doctors and practice nurses. They all work on the basic principle of storing personal information such as relevant illnesses, allergies, medication and contact details in a clearly labelled container, which is stored in the fridge door. Labels are then stuck to the outside of the fridge and to the inside of the front door to indicate that medical details can be found in the fridge.

### ■ Find out more

The packs are available from doctors' surgeries, sheltered housing schemes and various care organisations. Members of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) have been invaluable in helping to distribute these locally.

**Contact your NHW Administrator for more information or to obtain packs.**

