

Alcester Police SNTs. Latest Weekly Report. Sunday 2nd June 2024

Based at Alcester Police Station, The Safer Neighbourhood team's primary roles are around crime prevention, problem solving both long standing or emerging issues of community concern and community engagement. We are supported at Alcester by colleagues from Patrol teams whose role is to respond to incidents and investigate crimes that occur in the area 24/7. The SNT is supervised by Inspector Hembry who leads on Neighbourhood Policing for Stratford District and Sgt Ebbs who also oversees neighbourhood Policing in the Shipston on Stour area. Alcester SNT currently consists of 2 Police officers and 5 Police Community Support Officers, and our contact details are shown above.

Hello all.

This is our latest combined weekly report and prompt to see if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns for the Alcester Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Thank you to those that have contacted the Teams this week. If you would like to be removed from this local email circulation list, please let me know asap. This report will also be sent out on the Warwickshire Connected alert system.

For operational and privacy reasons not all the incidents that occur on the Alcester area are listed in this report, although they are recorded on police systems. Please remember to report any antisocial behaviour, suspicious activity, or crimes to us as soon as possible - this can be done via the 101 and 999 telephone numbers or if not an emergency via our online reporting forms that can be found on our website. If you have any information or cctv footage that may relate to the incidents listed, please contact us.

Incidents of note from the last week: -

BIDFORD

- ASB. The Big Meadow. 1 quad bike and 1 motorcycle seen riding across the football pitches / field. Concern for the safety of the park users. 12.30pm Sunday 2nd June. 0129 02/06/2024
- Suspicious Circumstances. Waterloo Road. White high-top van seen acting suspiciously in the area. No number plate seen. Drove away from business that had scrap metal in their compound. 8.35pm Sunday 26th May. 0301 26/05/2024

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ASTON CANTLOW

 Suspicious Circumstances. Bearley Road. Two males wearing face coverings / balaclavas seen running across the tennis court area. They then got into a vehicle (possibly a Seat) and left the area. Area search made by police. No further offences disclosed. 9pm Sunday 26th May. 0311 26/05/2024

STUDLEY

Burglary. Redditch Road. Damage caused to fence and then rear doors by offender(s) trying to gain access to premises. Occurred over the last two weeks. 0132 31/05/2024

HENLEY

Suspicious Circumstances. Tanworth Lane. Occupants of Blue Citroen vehicle seen acting suspiciously near to fields containing sheep. They left the area towards the Stratford Road.
 3.35pm Thursday 30th May. 0174 30/05/2024

CLAVERDON

 Suspicious Circumstances. Langley Road. Black Ford Ranger vehicle seen acting suspiciously in the area. Evening of Thursday 30th May. 0291 30/05/2024

Some simple vehicle crime prevention advice

- Always lock your vehicle, even when leaving it for a moment.
- Use a garage for parking if available and ensure it's locked.
- Store vehicle keys and ignition fobs in secure, non-visible places.
- Protect against keyless car theft by storing keys in a security pouch and keeping software updated.
- Don't leave valuable items visible inside your vehicle.
- Park responsibly, preferably in approved car parks with CCTV / Security.
- Secure your number plates with one-way security screws.
- Utilise steering wheel or gear lever locks for added security.
- Double-check the vehicle's locked status through auditory and visual cues.
- Install a vehicle tracker to monitor your vehicle's activity and location.



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People are being urged to be vigilant after data revealed that more than £40,000 was lost to courier fraud in Warwickshire last year.

Across the country, people in their 80s are most likely to be targeted by criminals carrying out courier fraud, with this age range accounting for 43 per cent of all victims, data from Action Fraud shows. Nationally, more than £28.7million was lost to courier fraud.

Courier fraud occurs when people are contacted by persons purporting to be police officers, or bank officials and duped into handing over money, valuables or bank cards, which are collected from their home address, often by couriers. The criminals use a variety of different tactics, often claiming that there is a problem with your account, and they need your help to catch the real criminals.

The victim may also be encouraged into handing over their bank cards and PINs, as well as high value items such as jewellery, watches and gold (coins or bullion). Victims can also be coerced into going out and buying items such as gold and jewellery from legitimate retailers on behalf of criminals. There were 16 reports made in Warwickshire with an average loss of £2,617 loss per victim. Across the country the average loss per victim was £20,032.

Detective Sergeant Paul Hainsworth from the Warwickshire Police Economic Crime Team said: "These kinds of criminal's prey on some of the most vulnerable members of our community. If you have elderly friends, relatives or neighbours please talk to them about the dangers of courier fraud and urge them to be vigilant.

"The important thing to remember is the police or your bank will never call asking you to transfer or withdraw money. They will never send someone round to collect cash or cards form you. If in doubt hang up and use a different phone to call us on 101. Remember criminals can keep the line open so it is important to use a different phone."

Detective Sergeant Victoria O'Keefe, from the Lead Force Operations Room at the City of London Police, said: "This is a particularly nasty crime type often resulting in significant psychological harm and financial loss to victims, many of whom are living alone and suffering age-related illness.

"Many elderly people rely on their landline phone to stay connected to the outside world and for peace of mind, we would recommend protecting loved ones from fraudulent calls by getting a call blocking device fitted. "If you hear that your friend or loved one is being contacted out of the blue by the police or the bank and asked to withdraw money, handover bank cards or make purchases, report it to the police immediately. "The National Economic Crime Centre, in the National Crime Agency, provided funding to support the intensification period, and helped to coordinate alongside City of London Police.

A total of 100 trueCall blocker devices were also purchased and offered to victims across the country during the two-week period.

Call blockers filter unwanted scam and nuisance calls and stop them from getting through to the person's landline. The devices allow calls through from a trusted caller list set by the user for friends, family members, doctors and any other trusted contacts. To find out more about call blockers, visit www.truecall.co.uk.

City of London Police previously worked with trueCall as part of an initiative in 2021 to install call blockers in the homes of residents living in the city.

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