

# Yarkhill News



Fabulous view over the Black Mountains from Yarkhill.

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 paper copy please let me know. There will be several copies in the Village Hall and Church entrances.



Details of forthcoming Coffee mornings and of course the Produce Show will be in the next Newsletter

I need some photographs of the local scenery and sights to put on the front page of the newsletters. Caroline Borley has kindly supplied them so far but I am running low . Please email them to me at [Yarkhill@live.co.uk](mailto:Yarkhill@live.co.uk) or drop a copy in my letter box. Thank you. Sallyanne

## CONTACTS

**PARISH COUNCIL CLERK:** Sallyanne Lees 07801 108789 email: [yarkhill@live.co.uk](mailto:yarkhill@live.co.uk)

**VILLAGE HALL:** Wendy Nash 07985353025

**CHURCH WARDEN:** Ashley Fortey ([Ashley4009@talktalk.net](mailto:Ashley4009@talktalk.net))

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR:** David Thomas 01531 670437

## **Chairman's Update**

Following the relaxation of Covid restrictions, we have been able to hold our first full meeting of the Parish Council since November last year. Not surprisingly, there was a lengthy agenda and I would like to provide a summary of the key points:

### **Ukraine**

The Parish and Village Hall Committees are exploring ways to assist with the growing refugee crisis, but in the meantime, we must commend those of you who have already offered rooms through the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme.

### **Planning & Enforcement**

Herefordshire Council has separately approved plans for two storey residential extensions at The Cottage on Crews Pitch and Dark Orchard Cottage in Newtown.

A new application has been submitted for 3 houses along the northern side of A4103 in Newtown. Plans were previously submitted in 2017 and approved in 2018, but this permission has lapsed. At the public meeting in 2017 a number of objections were raised by residents which resulted in the PC objecting to the proposed development. Given that the current plans are identical in nature, we are compelled to reiterate our objection notwithstanding that the original application was approved by planners.

Retrospective planning approval for the unauthorised commercial building at Ivy Cottage in Lower Eggleton was refused by Herefordshire Council, but the owner has now submitted an appeal to the Secretary of State. All details are on the Herefordshire Council planning website under reference 213637 in the "Appeal" section and if you wish to submit comments, this should be done before the 12<sup>th</sup> April closing date.

The Appeal against planning refusal for the 7 houses adjacent to Monksbury Court Barns has now been allowed and permission granted. This will disappoint many of you who submitted objections to the development proposal.

On enforcement matters, the owners of the occupied mobile homes situated on green belt land in Newtown were taken to court by Herefordshire Council, found guilty and fined. They were also ordered to remove the caravans immediately.

### **Stoke Bridge Road**

This cut through between the A4103 and A438 has long been a bug bear of the local community given the nature and volume of the traffic that uses it. After some improvement measures were implemented by Herefordshire Council, it is now evident that the road surface is deteriorating in a number of places especially after the first bridge heading south. While some of this is outside Yarkhill, we have been pursuing long term remedial work supported by our Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester. If any of you would like to share your views or experiences, please drop an email to our Parish Clerk on [yarkill@live.co.uk](mailto:yarkill@live.co.uk)

### **Newtown Traffic Initiatives**

Following the consultation that was undertaken last Autumn and the subsequent recommendation by Balfour Beatty and West Mercia Police that the 40mph speed limit should be extended further west, we still await a formal decision by Herefordshire Council. Further recommendations to deter speeding and encourage safer driving along this stretch are also pending and the PC has agreed to make a financial contribution in the event that grant funding is unavailable.

### **Code of Conduct**

A refreshed Code of Conduct for Parish Councils has recently been issued with the intention of improving transparency and accountability. A process allowing a local resident to report a breach of the Code by a Councillor or Councillors has been created which would then be assessed by an independent panel following which a course of action would be recommended if the complaint were to be upheld. Before you all rush to find and fill in the form, which will be on the Parish Council website and future newsletters, there are safeguards in place to validate any report of a breach to ensure that there is no risk of a personal vendetta or settling of an old score!

## **Lengthsman Scheme & Drainage Grant**

We have once again successfully subscribed to Herefordshire Council's Lengthsman scheme to ensure that we are able to action work such as drainage clearance when needed. Not every parish is successful in obtaining a grant so this is a good outcome that gives us flexibility through to March 2023.

## **Verge Cutting**

The overall view of the PC and a majority of parishioners is that we should continue to have our verges cut by Balfour Beatty twice a year on the grounds of road safety. However, we will investigate whether some of the straight sections along Watery Lane can be cut just once a year in August following a request from some of the local residents.

## **Milk Machine**

Following planning approval, the Clay's hope that concrete footings for the shed at the village hall will be laid shortly after which the building can be erected prior to installation of the dispensing and bottle machines. An internet connection to support card payments has already been put in.

## **Queen's Jubilee Celebrations**

The PC will be supporting the Village Hall's Jubilee celebrations which have been organised for Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June. Please look out for posters advertising the morning church and afternoon tea events in due course.

## **Litter Pick**

We are conscious that there is a considerable amount of litter around roads and verges in the Parish which has mainly been caused by rubbish being thrown from vehicles. We have therefore arranged a litter pick to be held on the morning of Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April starting at the village hall. We really do need volunteers to help us tidy up, but we also know that many of you prefer to do this by yourselves or in smaller groups around your own homes which we are equally keen to encourage.

## **West Mercia Police Warning**

Following the recent increase in the price of oil, there have been a growing number of thefts from domestic oil tanks in Herefordshire and Worcestershire. As well as thieves who drive around looking for potential targets, we are told that more sophisticated ones are using Google Earth to identify tanks in people's gardens and even, in some cases, employing drones with cameras. West Mercia Police's website suggests how the risk of theft can be lessened including shielding your tank from prying eyes.

## **Dog Mess**

My apologies for having to finish on this topic, but we are unfortunately receiving an increasing number of complaints about dogs fouling verges and footpaths in the parish and owners failing to clear up after them. A number of our roads are single track and people need to use the verges to stand out of the way of traffic while walkers want to be able to use footpaths without the menace this presents. We have had reports of some instances where black bags have been used and either simply left on the side or hung on a nearby tree. We recognise that most local dog owners are conscious of the need to clean up after their pet and carry disposable black bags which they then take home, but not all. Similarly, we have to contend with visitors from outside the area who are not always as respectful of our rural setting as they should be which is more of a difficulty. In an effort to reduce the problem as much as possible, can we please ask that you do clean up after your dog which is not simply a courtesy, but also removes a recognised health hazard.

On a lighter note, Spring is here and I am sure many of us are looking forward to the lighter evenings, warmer weather, getting out in the garden and lighting the barbecue once again.

Jeff Hughes

Chair

## A few comments from the Parish Clerk on behalf of members of the community who have expressed concern.

**SPEEDING**—Drivers are still speeding along our lanes, namely Watery Lane and Monkhide Lane. Just recently a stationary vehicle was hit by a speeding car and in another instance a family have been left heart broken after their kitten was killed by a speeding car.

The law now states that car drivers must prioritise pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. At least 2 metres must be allowed between the person/bike/ horse, and it is also a **legal requirement to pass horses at under 10 mph.**

Can I also add that walkers, cyclists and horse riders should always thank passing traffic as a matter of common courtesy. When out riding my pony I always thank cars, even if they are being inconsiderate; they may think twice next time.

**DOG MESS**— Jeff has covered this in his update but can I add that dog mess should be picked up wherever it is deposited and not just on roads. Shucknall Hill is littered with dog mess and so are many of the footpaths and grass verges.

**HORSE RIDERS**— some horse riders still find it necessary ride on private land or footpaths where riding is not permitted. Some riders are riding more than two abreast on bridleways over farm land, damaging valuable crops. It doesn't take much to act in a considerate and responsible manner —we have lots of lovely rides in the area and the minority are at risk of spoiling it for the rest of us. Please make the effort.

Jen Snell, 23 September 1928 to 21 December 2021

I am sorry to announce the recent death of Jen Snell, a member of the parish for nearly 60 years.

Jen moved, with her family, to Monksbury Court in 1960. She had three children, all of primary school age who were soon enrolled at the Yarkhill C of E Primary School. The children were taken and returned from school in an open backed Land Rover with other village children picked up on the way.

Jen became a very active member of the Yarkhill Womens' Institute holding office for many years. She managed to fit this in with her never ending work in the farmhouse, and on the farm while having two more children during the early 1960s.

Later Jen moved from the farmhouse to the neighbouring cottage and started a new business with husband Roger as Philatelists, at this time she also served on the Parish Council and as a member of the Yarkhill Charities Committee.

Unfortunately Jen lost her husband some 11 years ago but, not to be beaten she took up studying French at the University of the Third Age right up 'til COVID 19 last year.

The family have received many expressions of condolence from the parishioners and would like to thank you all.

# Yarkhill Litter Pick



Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

Meeting at Yarkhill Village Hall at 10AM

Be aware that a small white van, possibly a Vauxhall Combo is linked to an outbuilding theft in the area of Storridge earlier today whereby a western horse saddle was stolen. A short time later police received a separate report of a barn break in the Cradley area, but nothing stolen.

#### Equipment and tool security

Equipment and tool security can be a particular issue for rural businesses and farms.

To keep your belongings safe:

- lock equipment away in a secure building or part of a building when not in use
- invest in a secure storage toolbox
- install a burglar alarm on buildings where equipment is kept
- always lock vehicles when left outside and keep the keys in your possession
- keep expensive items and vehicles out of sight when not in use
- consider using hitch locks, wheel clamps or ground anchors
- mark your tools and equipment and register them
- keep a record of all valuable items
- consider fitting outside security lights

#### 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 weights 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 JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



## SUNDAY 5TH JUNE

All Yarkhillians, friends and families are invited to  
either or both of the following

**11AM, SONGS OF PRAISE AT  
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH  
4PM, (FREE) CELEBRATION TEA  
AT YARKHILL VILLAGE HALL**

Wear **red**, white and **blue**

Suggestions of hymns for Songs of Praise and Tea RSVP's can be  
emailed to [yarkhilljubileecelebrations@gmail.com](mailto:yarkhilljubileecelebrations@gmail.com)



## A Plea 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 are enjoying the spring weather.  
*Sallyanne*

Herefordshire

mind  
for better mental health

Board Gamers Herefordshire

**CHARITY BOARD-GAME WEEKEND**  
**FRI 13<sup>TH</sup> - SUN 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022**

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100% OF MONEY RAISED GOES TO MIND

Herefordshire

f i t herefordshireboardgamers.co.uk

# Safer Neighbourhood Team Newsletter: Hereford Rural North

Issue no 4

Spring 2022

Covering the parishes of Bartestree & Lugwardine, Breinton, Burghill, Canon Pyon, Credenhill, Dormington & Mordiford, Fownhope, Foxley, Hampton Bishop, Holmer & Shelwick, Marden, Moreton-on-Lugg, Pipe and Lyde, Stoke Edith, Stretton Sugwas, Sutton St Nicholas, Tarrington, Wellington, Weston Beggard and Withington!

## In this edition ...

Rogue Traders, ASB, parking around schools & more

### Safer Homes

#### Protecting you from Rogue Traders

The changes in the seasons brings about more than just lighter days. Opportunistic rogue traders will be looking to prey on elderly and vulnerable residents.

Rogue traders are individuals who will often cold call at addresses, claiming that they have seen that work needs doing on the property and offering to do the work. These traders often offer to do roofing or gardening work.

These traders will frequently ask for a large deposit and charge an extortionate amount for sub-standard work or for work that never needs doing!

We would advise that you decline any work from cold callers. Always use a well-known and trusted tradesperson – ask a friend or relative for a recommendation.

Rogue traders should be reported to Herefordshire Council who will investigate and prosecute offenders. The Police should be notified if the offenders are being aggressive.

Please ensure you speak with elderly relatives and neighbours to make them aware.

### Operation Offa day of action

Members of the team took part in Op Offa, a day of action on 4<sup>th</sup> March which was focussed on targeting rural crime. The majority of the operation took place in and around Kington & Weobley however we took the opportunity to drop into a couple of livery yards on the Wellington and Canon Pyon parish areas where horse tack was marked with SmartWater and crime prevention advice was provided to help keep homes and businesses safe.

If you are concerned about horse tack, power tools, bikes or anything else being easy to steal get in touch with the team and we can provide some advice as to steps you can take or come and visit us at one of our community surgeries.



### Safer People

#### Hate crime

Hate crime comes in many different forms and strikes at the heart of communities. With your help, we can tackle those responsible for hate crime and keep our communities safe. We're here and ready to help anyone who has been affected by someone else's prejudice, ignorance or violence.

A hate incident is any incident which the victim, or anyone else, thinks is based on someone's prejudice towards them because of their race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or because they are transgender.

We urge anyone who has been a victim of a hate crime to get in touch. There is support available and your report will be taken seriously. Visit [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk) and follow the links to hate crime by visiting the advice and information section for more information.

#### Community Protection Notice (CPN)

A CPN is a tool we use to tackle anti-social behaviour within communities. The notice prohibits an individual from behaving in a certain way or carrying out certain activities. Each one is tailored to the specific circumstances of the behaviour. Failing to comply with the conditions within the notice is a criminal offence.

Prior to an individual being issued with a CPN we have to issue them with a warning which has recently been done following some ASB at The Furlongs, Holmer. If the ASB continues then a full CPN will be issued.

We have used CPN's to great affect previously and will continue to tackle ASB across the area.



### Safer Roads

#### Highway Code updates

As of 29<sup>th</sup> January 2022, the Highway Code was updated to improve safety for people walking, cycling and horse riding. Every road user still has a responsibility to keep themselves and each other safe, and the changes mean being ready to give priority, leave space and be considerate of others. Please ensure you are aware of the changes to help make our roads a safer place.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-highway-code-8-changes-you-need-to-know-from-29-january-2022>

#### Parking around schools

We have had a number of reports of parking issues when parents have been dropping children off at school. Most recently issues have been raised by residents living close to St Mary's, Fownhope.

All drivers have a responsibility to ensure that they do not ignore yellow zig-zag lines.

Please also ensure that you do not park your car on the pavement whilst you take your children into schools. There will be other parents with pushchairs and residents who may struggle to get past.

We will be patrolling the schools during drop off and pick up times so please ensure you park responsibly.



## Good News Story

A farmer from Sutton St Nicholas has been ordered to repay £11,000 following a Proceeds of Crime Act hearing at Worcester Crown Court.

Daniel SMITH previously admitted the theft of 652 sheep from farms around the Marden, Sutton St Nicholas and Cross Keys areas and was sentenced to 8 months imprisonment back in August 2021.

A Proceeds of Crime Act hearing on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022 has resulted in a confiscation order of £11,000 to be repaid within 3 months or SMITH will face a further period of imprisonment.

This is a fantastic result and a great example of the Police and public working together.



## Neighbourhood Matters

July 2021 marked the launch of Neighbourhood Matters, a messaging service that allows Police to send alerts relevant to you and where you live, offering crime prevention

advice, appealing for witnesses and letting you know what the Police are doing in your area. Sign up at [www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk)

The new contact upgrade for Neighbourhood Matters launched on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March. The community messaging service enables residents, businesses and community groups across our local policing areas to find out more about what is happening in their local community, as well as having the opportunity to contact police officers and local policing teams directly with concerns.



## What we've been doing recently:

Conducting patrols and visiting businesses, offering advice, reassurance and support.

Burglary and theft victims are being visited with SmartWater provided to protect their belongings.

Visiting local playgroups and schools to engage with the children, parents and staff. It's an activity we love doing so if your school wants us to visit the please get in touch.

Our surgeries are continuing with mixed levels of attendance. We hope that with the warmer weather approaching that you will come along and meet us.

## Your local team:

PC 21058 Josh Kitchen

PCSO 6552 Adam Westlake

PCSO 6480 Christina Howard

[herefordrn.snt@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:herefordrn.snt@westmercia.police.uk)



## Hands on the wheel? Hands off your phone

From today, 25 March, the Government has strengthened the law to make it illegal to use a handheld mobile phone behind the wheel for virtually any use. The changes include any use such as taking photos or videos, scrolling through playlists, online chat functions or playing games.

Research has shown that drivers who use a mobile phone while driving are slower at recognising and reacting to hazards, fail to see road signs, fail to maintain proper lane position and steady speed and are much less aware of what's happening on the road around them.

Read and see more at

["Hands on the wheel? Hands off your phone." | West Mercia Police](#)  
<https://vimeo.com/691797485>



## Bogus Callers

Always be aware of people who turn up unannounced. Most genuine callers will have a pre-arranged appointment.

Protect yourself from doorstep crime.

Follow our advice to reduce the risk of being scammed.

Doorstep crime can include rogue traders offering home improvement or gardening services, or bogus callers who claim to be the Council, Police, health carers or energy companies.

Peddlers with no peddler certificate. A peddler is someone who calls at your door to sell items that they have on offer. This often includes cleaning or household goods.

Bogus Callers may claim to be working for the Council, water, gas or electric company. They could also say they are a Nurse, Doctor or from the Police.

They may say they need to come into your home, or try to get you to go outside.

Check their Identity

Call the Company to check by using the number from the telephone directory.



# Action Fraud

National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre

0300 123 2040



## SCAM WARNING: COVID text messages

Watch out for fake text messages pretending to be from the NHS. Since Jan 1st, 412 victims have reported losses totalling more than £531,000. Please use the following links if you would like to see an example of the fake NHS messages reported to Action Fraud:

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/actionfrauduk/status/1498945958427594752?s=20&t=RL99N7i-yXmXcqU2xUbiw>

**Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/actionfraud/photos/a.411244602226592/7380075412010108/>

### What you need to look out for:

- Be aware of requests for personal information in messages claiming to be from the NHS.
- Be alert to links or attachments in unexpected messages claiming to be from the NHS.
- Do not respond to requests for money, bank details or passwords. The NHS will NEVER ask for payment or any financial details.

### How to report scam messages:

- If you are suspicious about an email, forward it to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk).
- If you are suspicious about a text message, forward it to the number **7726** (it's free of charge).

For information on NHS coronavirus testing, visit: [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)



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## Fraudulent activity in Herefordshire

Officers are asking everyone to remain aware of a “**courier fraud**” scam currently being seen in Herefordshire. Phone calls are being made from fraudsters claiming to be from West Mercia Police, and quoting the force telephone number.

They are attempting to persuade people to make bank transfers and making threats of arrests if they don't comply.

Incidents reported so far:

A woman from **Ludlow** in her 80s who received a call from a withheld number claiming to be West Mercia Police.

They said they had someone under arrest for trying to hack her bank account and had the woman's name and address.

Thankfully when the woman went to get a pen and paper the caller hung up. Her bank confirmed no money had been taken.

A 94-year-old man from **Hereford** was also targeted.

He received a call claiming to be from Hereford Police before it cut off.

Another call soon after claimed to be from Halifax bank saying they'd been in touch with police and were coming to collect his credit card.

The man fortunately realised it was a likely scam.

Detective Inspector Emma Wright stated that: “No police officer from any force or department will ever ask you to make a payment, withdraw or transfer money or ask for your bank account details.

“This scam can be very elaborate and convincing but it's extremely cruel, often, but not always, targeting older, vulnerable people.

“We are currently investigating these scams and urge anyone who has received suspect calls to please get in touch.

“If you receive a call that you're not sure about, please simply terminate the call and also pass on the information to friends, relatives and neighbours and advise them what to do.

“Please remember the police will never contact you asking for your bank card or cash. If someone does, it's a scam – provide no details, hang up and report it immediately to [Action Fraud](#) or 0300 123 2040.

“If you have recently provided bank details or handed over cards or cash, or the caller has arranged for someone to visit your address to collect items, you should call the police to report this on 101. Always dial 999 in an emergency.”

My name is Nick Hall and I am the Sergeant for the West Mercia Police “We Don’t Buy Crime” crime prevention initiative funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion. The aim of the project is to protect residential properties in the West Mercia force area with Smartwater, a unique forensic property marking system that deters criminals and makes it difficult to sell marked items on. There are documents below explaining the initiative and if you require any further information contact me, PS Nick Hall 3448 on the National non-emergency line, 101, ext 7704214

## **WE DON'T BUY CRIME**



## **WHY SMARTWATER?**

**20/10/2021 latest data shows residential burglary in West Mercia down by 23%**

### **Your SmartWater kit is unique to you, your home & your property**

SmartWater is made up of 85% Water, 10% polymers plus a unique mix of rare earth metal traces which make every bottle unique.

SmartWater is invisible in daylight but fluoresces under UV light

SmartWater cannot be removed

### **Why protect your items with SmartWater?**

If your items were stolen, the police could trace them back to you

Most importantly the We Don't Buy Crime initiative is about prevention and by SmartWater protecting your items you deter burglary – but how?

Thieves hate SmartWater and here's why...

All stolen goods are checked for smartWater and all police officers carry UV torches and regularly spot check items that arouse suspicion

The We Don't Buy Crime team work vigorously to encourage all organisations who buy items off the public; retailers, scrap metal merchants, auction houses, antique and jewellery dealers to check for SmartWater therefore sabotaging the re-sale avenue of stolen goods

When-ever a suspect is arrested and brought in to custody at a West Mercia police station, they are checked for SmartWater – if a suspect is arrested for burglary – their premises are checked for other stolen goods/SmartWater

In a court of law, SmartWater is sufficient evidence to convict a criminal with 100% conviction rate in court to date – since 1995 over 1000 SmartWater convictions have taken place and this criminal and a far greater number of burglaries has been prevented in our neighbourhoods

SmartWater protected areas see an average reduction in burglaries of 65% due to all of the above facts – that is why it is essential that the window stickers go up on your property in full view – this is your burglary deterrent

## **What's in your pack?**

### **1 SmartWater vial that is uniquely coded to your address**

Each vial will give you between 50-75 applications – only one small dot is need – it dries invisibly in 10 mins and adheres to any solid clean surface fully in 24 hours

SmartWater will keep in the bottle for a good couple of years – if stored sensibly and kept cool, even longer, although we do recommend you use it not store it

As long as you can shake the bottle and it remains fluid it's good to go

The longest example of SmartWater lasting is on a church roof in Shropshire – it has been fluorescing on the lead roof for over 14 years

**4 large square window stickers** – It is essential to display these in a front and rear window of your house – visible from the roadside/approach

also great to put on caravan windows, shed/garage windows

These stickers act as a massive deterrent to burglary – thieves hate SmartWater!

**60 small weatherproof stickers** – these can be used inside or outside the property – visual reminders to a thief that the item is protected by SmartWater

Great places to put these stickers: Garage door handles, padlocks on sheds/outside units, bikes, garden equipment, mobile phones, cars, transportable IT equipment, windows, letterboxes and gates.

## **How to protect your items**

If you have the choice of a rough or smooth surface, always choose the rough as it adheres better

Keep a list of all items you have marked and where they were marked then save the information securely – ideally a digital copy to the cloud - If overpainted, provided a scrap can be taken from the area it was applied, it will still be detected

Good places to put SmartWater; Tools & IT Equipment, Bikes, Jewellery, Artwork, Furniture, electrical equipment, cars, mobile phones, clothing accessories, garden furniture/ornaments/equipment. trailers. caravans. motorbikes.

## **Common Questions answered**

What if I move address? Ring SmartWater and advise of your change of address – it moves with you

What if I sell something valuable I have SmartWater protected? Ring SmartWater and let them know – tell the buyer where it is marked too so they can tell SmartWater or just keep a record of who you sold it to

Do Insurance companies recognise SmartWater when giving quotes?

Yes – always mention it - NFU mutual and Lloyds give a discount on home insurance

### Rise in Heating Oil Thefts in the Area

**Heating Oil Tanks** have the potential to store thousands of pounds worth of heating oil, and are often located in remote areas — this can make them an attractive target for thieves. The chance of being targeted by thieves is relatively low, but becoming a victim of heating oil theft is a costly, inconvenient and upsetting experience. In order to steal **heating oil**, thieves will usually decant, siphon or pump oil from your tank into other containers. Thieves might use this oil themselves, or sell it on. There have even been reports of criminals selling stolen oil back to the victim. Opportunistic thieves might target tanks that they spot while out and about, whereas more organised criminals use tools such as Google Maps to identify homes with oil tanks in their gardens. Another tactic used by would-be thieves is following oil delivery vehicles in order to identify homes with full tanks. Data from police forces across England suggests heating oil theft is most prevalent in the first three months of the year when tanks are likely to be full and the days are short. Also, the price of heating oil fluctuates, and when the cost of oil is high, heating oil becomes a more attractive asset for thieves to try and steal. However, thefts occur year-round, so it pays to be vigilant at all times.

#### Ways to Avoid Heating Oil Theft

Firstly, place your tank as far away from the road as possible. You don't want opportunistic thieves to spot your tank while driving by, nor do you want to facilitate a quick getaway. Secondly, if your tank is exposed, it's a good idea to conceal it with a fence, wall, plants or trellis. Just make sure to leave enough room for servicing, maintenance, and oil deliveries. Thirdly, if possible, install a roof over your tank. This will prevent thieves from spotting it on satellite images and targeting your home. Fourthly, consider placing a gravel path up to and around your tank. This is a relatively easy and cost-effective tip. The gravel will create a noisy route that could spook trespassers — or even alert you to their presence. And lastly, locate your tank in a position that is visible from inside your home. The potential of being spotted and caught is a huge deterrent for thieves. If your tank is visible from inside your home, you could also consider additional security measures so thieves think you're at home even when you're not. For example, you could use light bulbs on a timer or leave the radio on when you go out. If your tank is already installed, think about tank cages, good lighting and CCTV cameras. Installing a simple good quality lock would deter most thieves as it would make a lot of noise and time to remove it. A really good and inexpensive option is using camouflage, foliage and netting could be used for this, and would hide the tank from the road and from Google Earth.



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## **Be the Difference. Be a Foster Carer.**

There is a significant shortage of foster carers nationwide, and Herefordshire is no exception. In the Fostering Team at Herefordshire Council, we are working hard to grow our community of carers so that more children in our care can benefit from the warm and loving home that fostering provides. We want children to be able to remain living in Herefordshire, within the communities where they feel secure.

### **The Facts about Fostering**

We speak to many people who would like to foster but haven't come forward because they felt they were ineligible. Here are some facts:

- You need to be over 21 to foster but there is no upper limit. If you are fit and healthy then you are not too old to foster.
- We welcome applicants regardless of whether they are single, married or living with a partner.
- Sexual orientation has no bearing on your eligibility to foster. We have a number of same sex couples in our fostering community.
- You must have a spare bedroom for the child, but you don't need a large house or garden to foster, and it doesn't matter if you own your home or rent.
- In many cases, you can continue to work whilst fostering.
- You don't have to have children of your own to foster, but some experience of caring for children or young people is needed.
- We want a diverse community of foster carers, so we welcome carers of any religion or ethnicity.
- A disability is not necessarily a barrier to fostering.

The message is – don't rule yourself out.

### **Fostering to Suit You**

Would one of these types of fostering suit your experience and lifestyle?

- **Short Term or Long Term Care:** Some children require emergency placements for just a day or two, whilst others need care until they reach the age of 18. You can choose the type of placement which is best for you.
- **Parent and Child:** We need carers who can give support, in their home, to new parents and their babies, particularly teenage mums.
- **Overnight Short Breaks for Children with Disabilities:** Short break care is an extremely rewarding role, where a child will come and stay with you and your family at regular intervals throughout the year. The number of short breaks you offer will fit around your lifestyle, and can be as little as a few times a year.
- **Supported Lodgings:** Could you provide a safe place and support a young person with becoming independent?

If you think that you could make a difference to a child's life through fostering, we would love to speak to you. You can contact Sally on 01432 383240 or email [fostering@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@herefordshire.gov.uk). You can also find out more about fostering and why to foster for your local council at [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/fostering)

## HEREFORD CATHEDRAL LISTINGS—APRIL 2022

### 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

10.30 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

**Information about services in Holy Week can be found on the website. The exhibition, café and shop are closed on Good Friday and Easter Day.**

### EXHIBITIONS

#### **All Things Bright: A thousand years of metalwork from cathedral and diocese**

**Monday 24 January to Saturday 23 April**

**Monday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm**

The current exhibition in the Mappa Mundi & Chained Library highlights a wide variety of metal objects, some fundamental to the act of Christian worship, others tucked away and perhaps overlooked. As well as its own metalwork treasures, the cathedral also cares for the historical silver no longer in regular use in churches in the Hereford Diocese. This exhibition shows some of the finest pieces from these collections.

**Normal admission charges apply**

#### **Strangers: World views and marginalising the ‘Other’**

**Saturday 30 April to Saturday 3 September**

**Monday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm**

The new display in the Mappa Mundi & Chained Library is an exhibition exploring how, throughout history, human beings have covered their tribalism and fear of the unknown with stereotypical and distorted misinterpretation of those who appear different to themselves, the ‘Other’. Through the understanding of our commonality and the acceptance of difference we can counteract this and be united.

**Normal admission charges apply**

### EVENTS

#### **Lent Art Discussion: ‘This Speaks To Me’**

**Tuesday 5 April, 7pm**

During Lent we will be releasing short video reflections each Monday evening onto the cathedral website before a final online discussion via Zoom. We are using these videos as a way to explore wider meanings and thoughts about Lent, Easter and the relationship between art and theology.

**Booking for the zoom discussion is essential. For more information please visit the cathedral website: <https://www.herefordcathedral.org/news/lent-art-project-this-speaks-to-me>**

## **St John Passion**

**Tuesday 12 April, 7.30pm**

Bach's sublime masterpiece sung by the cathedral choir with Marches Baroque and a renowned line-up of soloists.

**Tickets cost £25 or £18 via the cathedral shop or website: <https://www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/st-john-passion>**

**'The Hereford Gospels and Origins of Hereford' by Professor Michelle P. Brown, FSA**

**Wednesday 13 April, 2.30pm**

The Hereford Gospels is one of the great treasures of Hereford Cathedral and a landmark of early book production in Britain. In this lecture a new scenario for its production is suggested – made at or for Hereford Cathedral as a focal point at the shrine of a martyred royal saint, King Ethelbert of East Anglia.

**Tickets cost £10 and can be purchased via the cathedral website: <https://www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/the-hereford-gospels-and-the-origins-of-hereford> or by calling 01432 374 225/6**

## **Easter Monday Organ Recital**

**Monday 18 April, 1.15pm**

Join us for the annual recital performed by our Assistant Director of Music, Peter Dyke. Come along to hear a selection of music on our famous Father Willis organ. The concert includes large-screen video presentation from the organ loft.

**Book a free ticket via the website: <https://www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/easter-monday-organ-recital2022>**

## **Easter Family Craft Day**

**Tuesday 19 April, 11am – 3pm**

Why not join the Hereford Cathedral team for a day of crafting activities suitable for the whole family? Make a selection of crafts to take home and discover more about the Easter Story!

**Tickets cost £2.50 per participating child, and children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Tickets are available via the website, or bring cash on the day: <https://www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/easter-family-craft-day2022>**

## **Escape Room**

**Thursday 21 & Saturday 23 April, bookable sessions between 10am & 4pm.**

It is 1890... You have been accused of embezzling money from the Vicars Choral funds and have been shut in the Old Chapel until the police arrive. You have one hour, can you prove that you are innocent?

Come along and crack the code of our new Escape Room!

**Sessions cost £45 and are suitable for groups of up to six people. More details can be found here: <https://www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/escape-room-april2022>**

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