

Newsletter

February 2021

**Golden Valley
Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)
Newsletter**



Your team, based at Peterchurch.

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Crime Trends

1st – 31st January 2021

Nothing to report this month, which is good news. We have been kept busy however with investigating reports of Covid breaches – not as busy as our colleagues in town but we are following up all calls of this nature.

Lockdown Restrictions – Door to Door callers

We have had several reports of door to door salesmen in the area; for example a man offering garden furniture in Dorstone and a male offering loft insulation in Pontrilas to name two.

The advice from Trading Standards is

Strictly within current legislation [[The Health Protection \(Coronavirus, Restrictions\) \(All Tiers\) \(England\) Regulations 2020](#)] door-to-door selling is not specifically restricted, despite current guidance on [GOV.UK](#) advising that “***Door-to-door sales should not take place, and sales activities should be conducted remotely (such as by phone, online, or mail).***”.

Coronavirus Scam News

The below information was published by Which?

A dangerous fake NHS text has been circulating, telling people they're eligible to apply for the COVID-19 vaccine. Here's what it looks like.

Wednesday, 30 December 2020

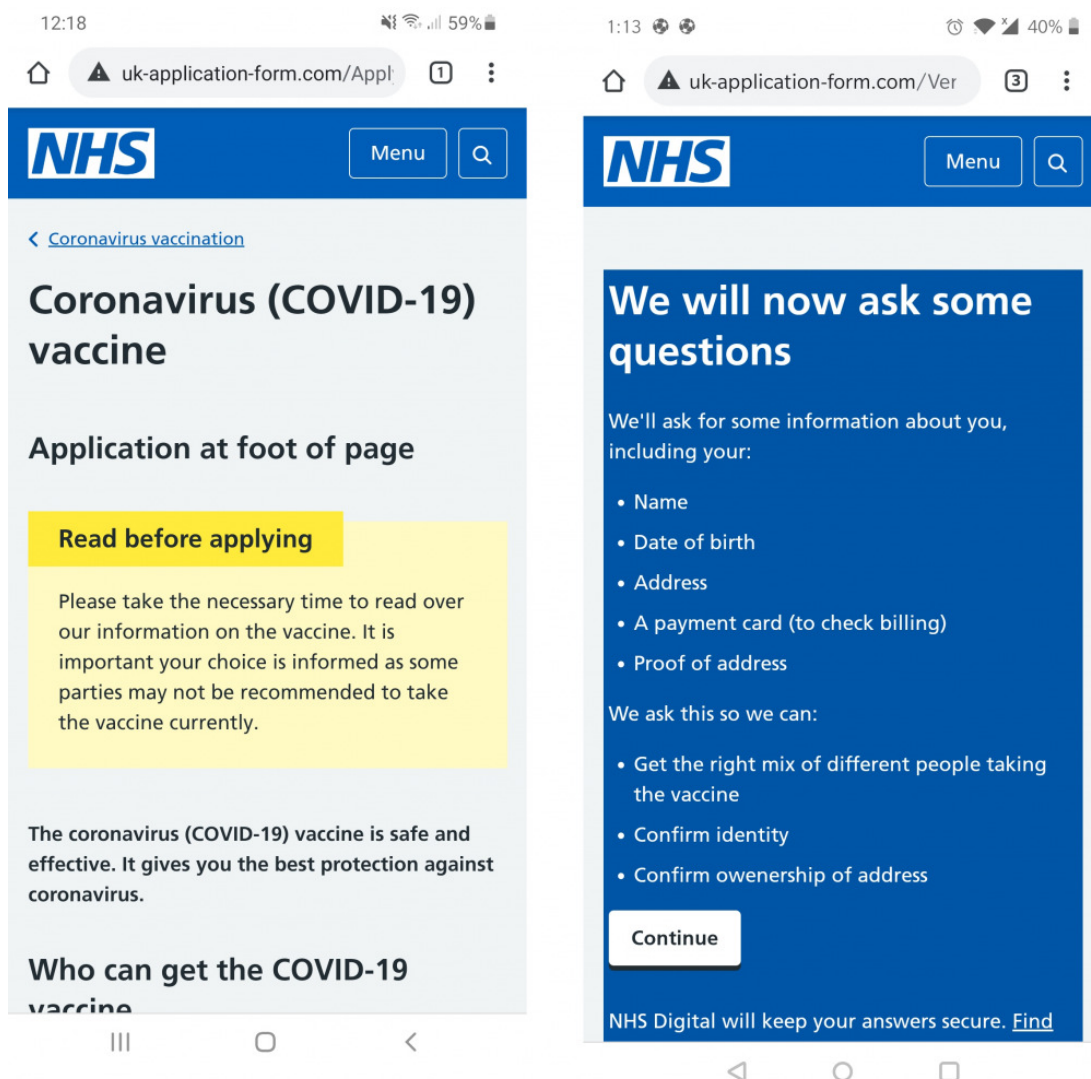
A

NHS: We have identified that you are eligible to apply for your vaccine. For more information and to apply, follow here : uk-application-form.com

11:18

It confusingly stated that “we have identified that you are eligible to apply for your vaccine” and advises you to follow a link to get more information and ‘apply’:

This URL takes you through to an extremely convincing fake NHS website that asks for your personal details, but the member became suspicious when it asked for his bank/card details in order to ‘check his identity’



It was then that he began spotting spelling mistakes on the site and in the SMS itself, which are **classic signs of a phishing scam**.

We found that the fake site was also registered just two days ago – another reason to be suspicious, and one that demonstrates the importance of reporting these scams as soon as you receive them to www.actionfraud.police.uk

A similar message is being sent by email, and also by phone.

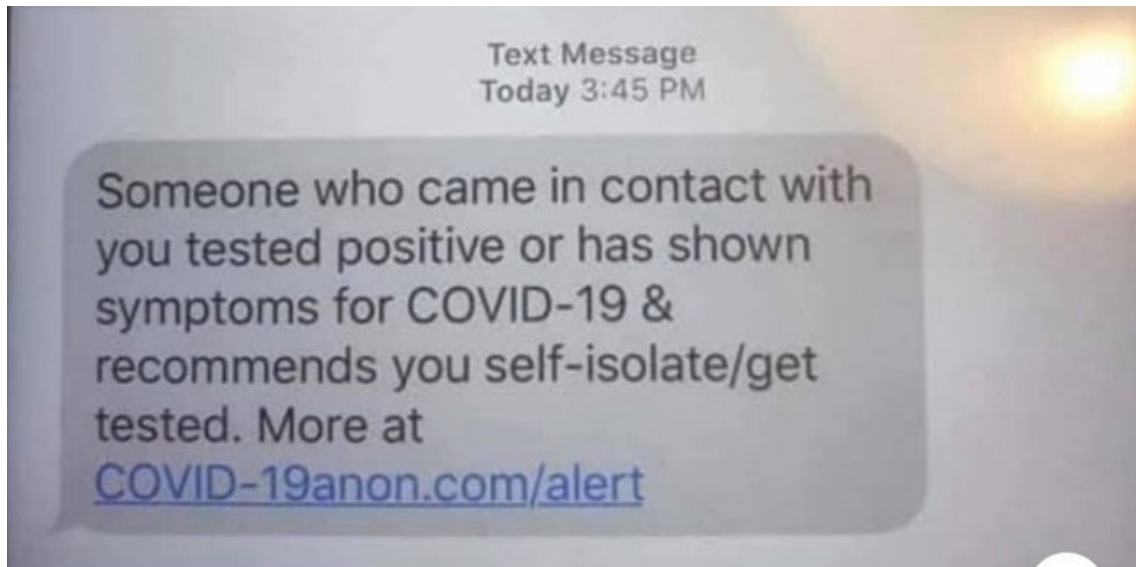
The NHS will contact you when it is your turn to receive the vaccine, likely by letter from your GP or from the NHS itself.

Some people are receiving fake text messages claiming they've been in contact with someone who's tested positive for COVID-19.

We've been made aware of a fake SMS text that links to a made-up coronavirus contact tracing service. If you follow the link, the site asks for your personal details.

But there's only one official contact tracing service you can trust, and that's the one being run by the NHS in England. Its web address is <https://contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk>.

This is what the fake text looks like:



How to tell if a contact tracing text is real

NHS Test and Trace might text or call you to warn you if you've recently been in contact with someone who tests positive for the virus.

You can tell if it's genuine if it includes a unique ID number. This ID number should allow you to log into the official Test and Trace website.

Instead of following any links included in the text, go to the website from your web browser and enter the ID number you've been given.

You could also check whether the text came from the only number dedicated to the NHS tracing service, which is 0300 013 5000. However, there are concerns it could be affected by number spoofing.

No other messaging services are being used to contact people. If you get a message like this on WhatsApp, Telegram or Facebook, for example, you can be sure it's fake.

Be cautious and report suspicious messages

If you do receive a suspect Test and Trace message, report it to Action Fraud. The National Cyber Security Centre is also encouraging reporting phishing attempts to report@phishing.gov.uk.

Scammers are taking advantage of the pandemic in any way they can to try and steal information and money.

Be generally suspicious of any unusual or unexpected messages that ask for personal information about you or your friends and family.

View from the Office

We are very lucky to travel around The Golden Valley every day and see some of the fantastic views it has to offer. Jeff took this view from Lower Maescoed a couple of weeks ago.



Latest figures show overall recorded crime has fallen across West Mercia

Latest crime figures released yesterday (Wednesday 3 February) show overall recorded crime continues to fall across the counties covered by West Mercia Police.

The figures, released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), show a rise in computer misuse, drug offences and assaults against emergency workers.

Responding to the figures West Mercia Police, Chief Superintendent, Paul Moxley, said: "It is reassuring to see that despite the added challenges of Covid-19, our effort to reduce the rate of overall recorded crime continues.

"Local policing teams have been working especially hard to target offences such as drugs offences, theft, burglary, fraud and malicious communications.

"We have seen a rise in the number of drug offences we are recording, which is down to the proactive approach we take to target drug related crimes. Despite the challenges of Covid-19, throughout the past year we have continued to stop/search the right people and execute a large number of successful warrants as part of our efforts to tackle serious and organised crime. Our seizures of drugs have gone up as a consequence of this proactivity.

"Throughout the past year, people have spent more time at home which we know will be a contributing factor to the rise in online fraud.

“Disappointingly, we have also seen a continued rise in the number of assaults against our officers and other emergency service workers. Our officers and all emergency service workers are doing their best to work through these tough times and I would like to reiterate that no violence against members of our communities, including those emergency workers trying to help and protect people from harm, will be tolerated.

“It is crucial that the public have confidence in us and our service and it remains vitally important that all victims feel they can come forward.

“We are never complacent about any rises in specific crimes; at the heart of our vision and values is protecting people from harm, putting the public first and addressing the needs and demands of our communities with courage and compassion. It is these values that motivate each of us each day to serve our communities and improve or service where possible.

“We will continue to do everything we can to reduce and tackle crime and bring those responsible to justice.”

Where is PC Badger?

Last month PC Badger was sitting on the play equipment at Dorstone playing fields, and was spotted by several of our readers including Angela from Vowchurch, Chris from Peterchurch, Josh from Much Dewchurch and Ruth from Abbeydore.

Where is he this month?



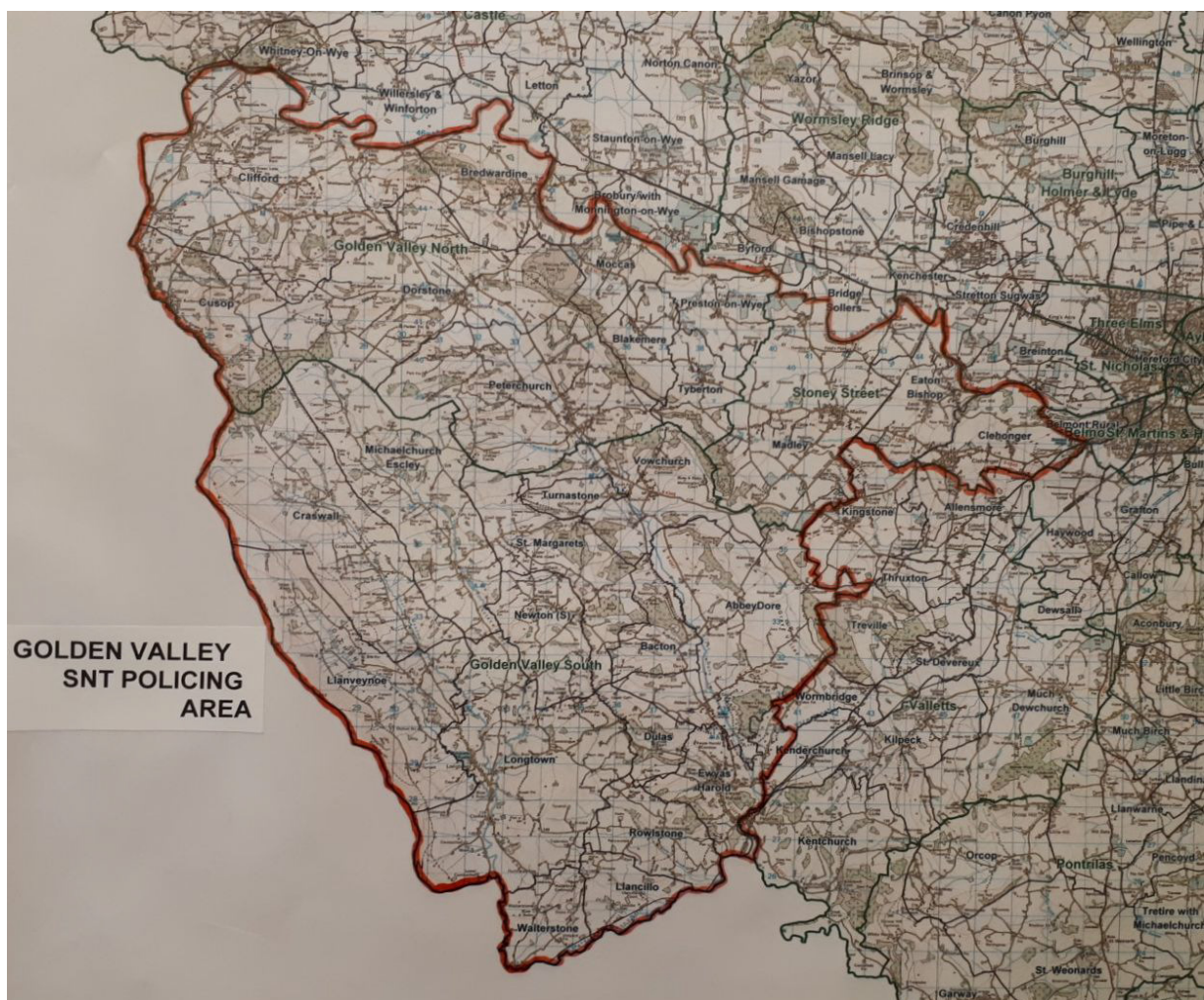
How to Contact Us



@GValleyCops

Only call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger.

Where We Work



Abbeydore, Bacton, Belmont (part of), Blakemere, Bredwardine, Clehonger, Clifford, Clodock, Cockyard, Craswall, Cusop, Dorstone, Dulas, Eaton Bishop, Ewyas Harold, Kerry's Gate, Kingstone (part of), Llancillo, Llanveynoe/Olchon, Longtown, Lower Maescoed, Madley, Michaelchurch Escley, Moccas, Newton, Peterchurch, Preston on Wye, Rowlestone, Shenmore, St Margarets, Turnastone, Tyberton, Vowchurch, Walterstone & Wormbridge (part of).