



REPORT FROM THE BEAT MANAGER

I am pleased to say that we now have a new counter clerk at Upton Police Station. Mr Martin Tucker started in late December and the good news is that the Station will now open for public enquires on the times and days shown at the end of this report. Please note that these opening times have changed from last year and now follow a two week pattern aligned with the council recycling collection weeks.

Due to the annual possibility of flooding there are some sandbags available at the Police Station. They are at the front of the car park and are free for people to collect if they feel their property is in immediate risk of flooding, but please only take what you need.

Many people this Christmas will have received expensive gifts such as computers, digital cameras, portable hi-fi systems etc. To help protect such items from theft it is recommended that they are security marked in some form to make them less attractive to thieves. West Mercia Police use one type of security marking whereby your name and address is encrypted onto a special sticker which can be placed on your item of property. This sticker can only be read by a special scanner held by the Police so stolen property can be quickly identified. This equipment was demonstrated at the Community Safety Day held in Upton in October and it proved to be very popular. I will be holding a Crime prevention day at Upton Police Station on Saturday 28th January where I will have this equipment available together with other crime prevention material. Details will also be published in the local press.

In December I did notice an increase in calls to the Police, from mainly elderly residents, with regard to telephone calls they had received from security companies wishing to arrange visits to carry out security surveys. Obviously people were concerned whether these companies were genuine. From what I have seen so far, it does appear that the calls were from genuine companies. However, it does seem they do employ high pressure sales techniques and prey on peoples fears to sell their products. If you are worried about home security my best advice would be to speak to myself, or other family members, before making any decisions.

Finally, many of you would have heard of the plans to amalgamate certain UK Police Forces. As I write this article, no decision has been made with regard to the future of West Mercia. There are two options currently being considered, one is for an "enhanced" West Mercia whereby we would retain our current identity but with increased staff and resources in certain areas. The other, and perhaps more controversial option, is to join with West Midlands, Warwickshire and Staffordshire. Whatever decision is reached I honestly believe it will not adversely affect the way in which you are policed locally. A decision is expected early 2006.





New station opening times which operate on a two week rota. (Purple and clear refer to council recycling weeks.)

Week 1. (clear) Commencing Monday 9th January.

Monday.	Closed.
Tuesday.	10am to 1pm
Wednesday.	Closed.
Thursday.	2pm to 5pm
Friday.	Closed.
Saturday.	8am to 12 noon
Sunday.	Closed.

Week 2. (purple)

Monday.	10am to 1pm
Tuesday.	Closed.
Wednesday.	2pm to 6pm
Thursday.	Closed.
Friday.	9am to 12 noon
Saturday.	Closed.
Sunday.	Closed.

PC Mark Taylor
Beat Manager.

