THREATENED: TWO RAIDERS TERRIFY STAFF BEFORE MAKING OFF WITH MONEY

ROBBERS STRIKE IN QUIET VILLAGE



CRIME SCENE: The post office in Newbold Verdon, which was raided by two men who escaped with cash

by **SHIRLEY ELSBY**

Staff were threatened with a cosh by two robbers who burst into a village post office.

The men escaped with an unknown quantity of money after the raid at Newbold Verdon post office, which is also a branch of Alliance & Leicester bank.

Two workers and a customer were inside the post office at the time of the robbery.

After the raid the men escaped in a Mini Cooper, which was later found abandoned.

Post Office bosses refused to confirm how much money was taken in the incident.

A spokesman said: "The staff who were working behind the counter managed to get out to the back of the post office, so thankfully there were no injuries.

"Obviously we would appeal for anybody who saw anything, or saw anybody acting suspiciously, to contact the police."

He said the company would not allow the staff involved to speak to the media, but added that the people inside the post office at the time "managed to escape to the outside of the building" and call police.

The incident took place at 10.15am on Friday.

Mike Preston, chairman of Newbold Verdon Parish Council, said: "It is a shock, obviously, that it has happened here. I am only pleased that, as far as I know, nobody was hurt. There are all sorts of rumours about how much was taken. I have heard figures from £7,000 to £60,000, although I can't imagine it being £60,000."



SHOCK: Councillor Mike Preston

Newbold Verdon churchwarden David Warner said: "It's a bit of a shock – you don't expect these sorts of things to happen in a place like Newbold Verdon. I know you read about it in other places, but somehow you don't think it is going to happen here.

"I had been pondering why the post office was 'closed until further notice'."

It is believed the Mini Cooper was abandoned at Newbold Heath, where it is thought the raiders got into another vehicle.

■ Police said inquiries were continuing. Anyone with information about the incident should contact Hinckley officers on 0116 222 2222.