



June 2020

Warwickshire Rural Crime Team Newsletter



POLICE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER 101
Only call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger.



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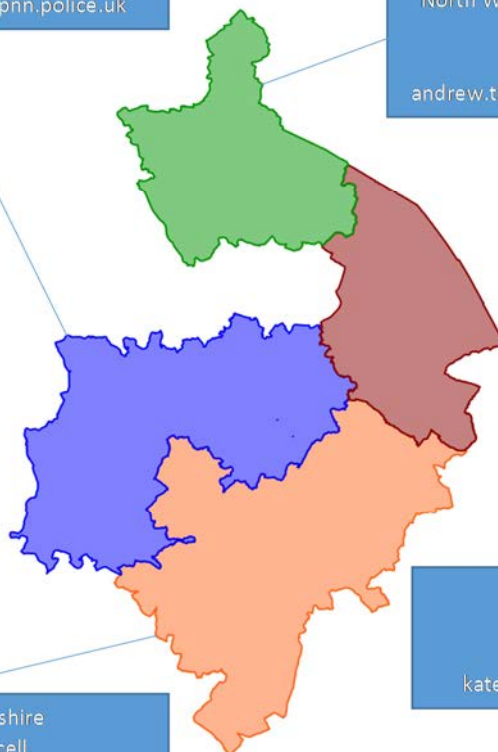
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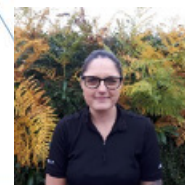
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PC 1248 Kate Taylor
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Caravan Theft Investigation

SIX STOLEN CARAVANS IDENTIFIED AND RECOVERED

Working with Tracker.co.uk we were alerted to a caravan stolen from Derbyshire that was heading into the Warwickshire Police area. Officers from our OPU and Police Dog Units were close by and located the caravan in an area of Hartshill, North Warwickshire.

As it was being recovered Sergeant Bob Shaw, PC Andy Timmins and PC Craig Purcell from the Rural Team headed over to see they could locate and identify any other stolen property in the area. As you can see from the pictures, it was worth the journey.



Working with our Rural Crime contacts in the National Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service (NaVCIS), NCC CRiS caravan register and The Equipment Register - TER we identified 5 further stolen caravans and two stolen Ifor Williams Trailers.



One of the caravans was reported stolen as we were examining it!

With items stolen from Warwickshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Cheshire, Leicestershire, Rutland and Thames Valley Police, we have commenced a multi Force investigation. Suspects have been identified and forensic work is taking place.



FOLLOWING UP ON INFORMATION FROM VICTIMS

Having contacted various Police Forces and victims to advise of the above recoveries we received a call from a very happy lady in Leicestershire who was the owner of the horse trailer we found. During our conversation she asked if there were any horse carts inside as several had been stolen at the same time. Unfortunately the trailer had been empty at the time of recovery but we asked the owner to send us some images of the stolen items so we could be on the lookout for them.



PC Craig Purcell made some phone calls to local contacts across Warwickshire and received a tip-off that the carts may be on a plot of waste land near Hartshill.

Sgt, Bob Shaw, PC Andy Timmins and PC Kate Taylor attended the location and using the photographs provided were able to identify three horse carts with a total value of over £4500 hidden on waste ground.

A phone call was made to the owner who attended immediately and collected her property.

Eyes Peeled for a Stolen Cocker Spaniel

A Cocker Spaniel was stolen from the Ragley area of South Warwickshire during May. We've been looking out for it and after a few days spotted the pictured Spaniel matching the description at Stratford upon Avon Park and Ride.

Unfortunately she wasn't the one that had been stolen. However, PC Andy King and PC Craig Purcell brought a 31 year old male from Lincolnshire in for questioning. This was in relation to suspected breach of a court imposed Animal Disqualification Order.

Following interview the male was reported for an offence of breaching the order and the Spaniel was seized. She's been taken into kennels to be looked after and we will be applying to Magistrates' for a retention order.



We also used our animal scanner at the Park and Ride to confirm that a horse and various other dogs belonging to different people were in order.

Supporting Day of Action to Raise Awareness of Raptor Persecution

We joined with other Police Forces across the country on 15th May in a virtual 'Operation Owl' day of action to highlight bird of prey persecution as numbers of reported incidents show no signs of slowing down.

Launched in February 2018, Operation Owl is a joint initiative by North Yorkshire Police, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Animals (RSPCA), together with the North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales National Parks and the Nidderdale AONB. The initiative set out to raise awareness of raptor persecution, encouraging the public to be vigilant for signs of this criminal activity, and to report suspicious activity to the police.

In June last year, Operation Owl was rolled out nationally and the first awareness weekend was held in September 2019 with 26 police forces taking part across the whole of the UK. A second national weekend of action was planned for April 2020 with 36 police forces asking to be involved. But that sadly had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Superintendent Nick Lyall, Chair of the England and Wales Raptor Persecution Priority Delivery Group (RPPDG) said: "We've heard from various police forces across the country that they have seen no let-up in incidents of raptor persecution being reported and some areas have seen a significant rise in the past few weeks which is very worrying. "Whilst it is not possible to hold a weekend of action at this time, we wanted to use social media and online channels to raise awareness of bird of prey persecution and to take a stand against this unacceptable crime.



PC Andy Timmins shown out recently with a local Bird Ringing group holding a Peregrine

"The three vital pieces of information we want to make everyone aware of are 'Recognise, Record and Report' – how to recognise bird of prey persecution, how to record it and how to report it. If you notice anything suspicious, like a dead or injured bird of prey, or a suspicious trap, call the police on 101. Take pictures on your phone, and remember please do not interfere with what could be a crime scene or a lawfully placed trap.

"Please share our messages with your networks online and please be vigilant for signs of raptor persecution when you are out and about taking your daily exercise. Everyone has a part to play in helping put an end to this relentless persecution."

For more information visit: www.operationowl.com

Crossing Force Borders to Search for our Rural Crime Suspects

It's not all country lanes and farms for us. We'll go wherever our investigations take us. One such effort during May saw the whole Team head to Small Heath, Birmingham to hunt for rural crime suspects.



We like to cover all angles when we search....



And even when we can't locate our Suspects we don't like to leave empty handed. After examining a few nearby vehicles at one house we identified the one pictured as stolen from Smethwick.

Further enquiries linked the car to the house we had just searched. It was seized for forensic examination and West Midlands Police are now also investigating.

Fly-Tipping Offences

During the lockdown and restrictions in place during the COVID 19 pandemic there has been a significant rise in fly tipping across the county. Not only is this a criminal offence, it is also an eyesore in the countryside that is dangerous to wildlife, dangerous to livestock, costs us all in taxes to have removed, or hits landowners in the pocket if on private land. Although the lead agencies for dealing with fly tipping and waste offences is your Local Authority or Environment Agency we will do all that we can to support them and make offenders answerable for their actions.



You can help by only giving your waste to authorised carriers, these can be checked on the EA website at <https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register>

It is important to know that if you give your waste to an unregistered person and they illegally dispose of it you may be liable and prosecuted.

Please be vigilant and report anyone you see fly tipping, providing as much information as possible to assist the authorities in their investigations.

Ongoing Rural Crime Information

Our group team phone number has changed to : 01789 444703

We can still be contacted on our individual phone numbers shown at the top of the newsletter or email us at ruralcrimeteam@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk.

Always report crimes to 101 or 999

Our Rural Crime Team Newsletter only provides a snapshot of some of the work we are involved with. If you want to keep up to date with our arrests, property recovery / seizures, crime prevention efforts and be alerted to crime trends across Warwickshire then make use of the following options.



Currently with over 10,000 followers our Facebook Page is the main output for our working week.

You do not need to be a Facebook user to view the page. Just visit www.facebook.com/WarwickshireRuralCrimeTeam



Warwickshire Rural Watch
Closing the gate on rural crime

A group set up to help combat & prevent the theft of equines, tack, trailers & boxes.

Please try to pass this onto as many horsey friends, businesses & establishments as you can - you do not have to be in Warwickshire to join.

Visit:

www.warwickshire-horsetwath.co.uk

or

www.facebook.com/WarksHorseWatch

FREE scheme to help combat rural crime in Warwickshire.

Receive incident alerts and news for your area.

Lots of crime prevention advice and information.

Visit:

[Search for Warwickshire Rural Watch on Facebook and Twitter](#)

For advice, information and alerts visit our website at
www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk
www.warwickshire.police.uk/ruralcrime