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Warwickshire Rural Crime Team Newsletter

COUNTYWIDE
Sergeant 0542 Bob Shaw
07890 511873
robert.shaw@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

COUNTYWIDE
5911 Carol Cotterill
07787 151848
carol.cotterill@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

SOUTH WEST WARWICKSHIRE
PC 1418 Andy King
07971 050997
andrew.king@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

PC 1442 Andy Steventon
07557033186
andrew.steventon@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

SOUTH EAST WARWICKSHIRE
PC 1248 Kate Taylor
07814 046730
kate.taylor@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE,
NUANEON & BEDWORTH
PC 2111 Andy Timmins
07790 951230
andrew.timmins@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

PC 609 Andy Hoey
07870514842
andrew.hoey@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

RUGBY RURAL AREAS
PC 1681 Craig Purcell
07790 597820
craig.purcell@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

PC 2239 Jennifer May-Royle
07890390715
jennifer.may-royle@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

Please note: all incidents must be reported through official channels and not directly to the officers.

Only call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger. For non-emergencies, report online at warwickshire.police.uk or call 101.
Responding to issues and concerns raised in the Gaydon area, PC Purcell and PC Stevenson came in early to their scheduled shift and patrolled the area making their presence known.

Following a spike in reported incidents, a location was visited and a number of items of property checked.

The officers continued to patrol in the area, providing reassurance to the local community with other officers from Response and the local Safer Neighbourhood Team.

During the patrols PC Purcell and PC Stevenson stopped a transit van on the B4100 in the village. From work they had done in the morning they were aware that the insurance policy had been obtained fraudulently and that the driver held an expired provisional licence.

The driver was arrested on suspicion of fraud and driving offences.

Whilst on early morning patrol in the Stratford area, PC Purcell and PC Steventon saw five males enter an empty building and from an initial search by the officers it became apparent that damage was being caused inside the building.

When challenged, the offenders escaped onto the roof putting themselves and others in significant danger.

Officers from Warwickshire Police and our partners in Fire & Rescue attended to support the team in trying to locate the men who were hiding on the roof and around the large building.

This was initially unsuccessful and officers withdrew to deal with other calls, however our team stayed at the scene and later found three who were arrested and taken into custody.

As a team, we work very closely with other departments within the force, including our OPU (Operation Patrol Unit) officers.

Recently in a location in the Rugby area, our OPU colleagues were first on the scene and recovered a quad bike in the back of a stolen Ford Transit.

A forensic examination and investigation is presently ongoing and we will be linking in with them regarding it.
An investigation has been carried out following a report that work was being conducted near to a mature wooded pond in Hartshill, that is a breeding place for endangered Great Crested Newts.

Great Crested Newts are a European Protected Species and as such the animal, eggs, breeding and resting sites are protected by law.

PC Timmins from our team, worked with the Warwickshire County Council Ecologist using the latest DNA technology to prove that Great Crested Newts were using the pond as a breeding site.

The landowner immediately ceased work when requested and was willing to work alongside the Police and Ecologists from the outset. This has resulted in the landowner undertaking significant costs to enhance the area, under the advice of an independent ecologist, making it an ideal habitat now for the existing wildlife, including the Great Crested Newts.

A positive conclusion for all involved.

Great Crested Newt Investigation Has Positive Outcome

Since harvest the Rural Crime Team have seen a sharp rise in hare coursing incidents being reported across the county.

Warwickshire Police are now part of Operation Galileo, a multi force police initiative led by Lincolnshire Police to tackle this barbaric illegal sport.

Being part of this operation provides more cross border information and intelligence sharing, targeting known prolific offenders and using powers at our disposal to deter and prevent these crimes including seizing vehicles and dogs.

As well as concern to rural communities with regard to unknown offenders in their area, reports of damage to fencing, crops and fields are also an issue.

Now we have more officers in the team our patrols cover larger areas and with two shifts, a greater presence.

However we need your help in preventing this too. If you see anyone acting suspiciously on land that they should not be on, or you are concerned that an illegal activity is taking place please call us. If you have any information that can help identify offenders or areas that they may be travelling to please let us know either by reporting online at www.warwickshire.police.uk, calling 101 or report anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.
An important part of what we do is to work with all of our police departments internally to promote the importance of dealing with rural crime issues and providing the best service to the public.

Our Rural Crime Coordinator, Carol Cotterill, has just finished working with all of our shifts in the Control Room, who are the first point of contact when you need to call the police for advice or help.

The volume of calls and range of subjects they deal with is huge and it was a great opportunity to cover all the rural crime areas with them and go through the different calls that come in.

As a Rural Crime Team we do all we can to promote internally in force, as well as externally, support for our rural communities.

Livestock Worrying

In the last few weeks we have had a concerning number of reports of livestock worrying, from across the county, including severe injuries resulting in the animals having to be euthanised.

This is not acceptable and we will work with the farmers, NFU and other authorities to identify the owners of the dogs involved and take action where relevant.

As well as the welfare issues, it affects the farmers livelihood and many of the sheep in the fields will be in the early stages of pregnancy, where if chased could lead to them aborting their lambs.

Please be responsible if you own a dog and keep it on a lead when in fields with livestock in and in a secure area if left outside at home.

Team News

PC Andy Hoey, from our team, along with PC James Fitzmaurice, have been nominated for the National Police Chief Bravery Award, in recognition of their bravery when tackling a man with a samurai sword in Bedworth last year when on patrol.

Our Rural Crime Coordinator, Carol Cotterill, has been awarded with a Chief Superintendent Commendation at a recent force awards ceremony and was nominated for a National British Association of Women in Policing Award.

PC Craig Purcell, who previously covered the South East area of the County, has moved to work in the Rugby area, joining PC Jennifer May-Royle.

PC Kate Taylor is now covering the South East area with another officer to join her soon.
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 11,000 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

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-hor setwatch.co.uk or www.facebook.com/WarksHorseWatch

FREE scheme to help combat rural crime in Warwickshire.

Receive incident alerts and news for your area. Crime prevention advice and information.

Search for Warwickshire Rural Watch on Facebook and Twitter

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