



Warwickshire Rural Crime Team Newsletter

March/April 2021



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.pnn.police.uk or call 101.

Your Regional Rural Crime Team Contacts



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Warwickshire
POLICE



Two Caravans Recovered in Rugby Area



The Rural Crime Team this month identified two stolen caravans in the Rugby area. They were seized and recovered with the assistance from colleagues on the response team.

Both caravans were stolen from different areas of Yorkshire and the rightful owners have been informed. They were so happy to hear that their caravans had been found, they had expected to never see them again. Investigations are now ongoing following this recovery.

HERITAGE

Team support Kenilworth Castle

Our team has been made aware of several recent incidents of trespass and anti-social behaviour at Kenilworth Castle.

During the most recent incident, unknown persons decided to light a small fire next to the 900 year old building.

Fortunately no damage was caused to the fabric of the building or to the nearby wooden walkways/stairs on this occasion. The reckless nature of this incident could easily have had a very different outcome.

The Rural Crime Team will be supporting the Local Safer Neighbourhood Team at Kenilworth and Warwick Rural Police, plus English Heritage, in patrolling the area and taking robust action against anyone found to be within the premises outside of opening days/times. Should anyone see persons climbing over the surrounding castle walls please call the Police straight away.

EQUINE

Horse Tack Recovered



Officers from the Rural Crime Team recently followed up on a lead provided by a determined victim of crime in the North of the county. A very similar saddle to one of two that had been stolen in a farm burglary back in October 2020 had been seen advertised.

Following investigations into this lead, officers located the saddle in the Shropshire area and further enquiries then led to the second saddle being found in the Cornwall area. Once we had located the saddles, our officers were able to confirm they were the stolen items within seconds owing to the victim having taken the time to mark their property prior to it being stolen.

We can't stress enough how important it is to mark your property, whatever it is. It would be very unlikely we would have been able to confirm these were the stolen saddles in this case if they had not had a means of unique identity.

We also want to raise awareness around online auctions. These unregulated auctions are easily used by criminals to move stolen goods. If you are buying something that is being offered at a lot less money than it is obviously worth, do proper checks and ask questions.
DO NOT risk buying stolen goods.

**WARWICKSHIRE
RURAL CRIME
TEAM**



Dogs and Vehicle Seized

Rural Crime Team Officers, with Officers from Patrol, recently responded to a call of two males suspected to be hare coursing on land near Alcester.

Upon arrival a vehicle was spotted in a layby, which was thought to be involved. Shortly afterwards males with dogs could be seen on nearby land.

The males quickly spotted our officers and began walking over claiming they were merely walking their dogs on the public footpath.

The two males were known to the Rural Crime Team and had history and recent intelligence linking them to hare coursing in Warwickshire.

The three lurcher dogs and vehicle were seized under the Poaching Prevention Act 1862 as the officers had reasonable cause to suspect that poaching was about to or had taken place.

The dogs were all very friendly and taken to secure kennels.



We take calls regarding poaching and coursing very seriously, with our force now part of Operation Gallileo.

Please do report anyone you believe is poaching or coursing to the police straight away.

Raptor Deaths Investigated



The team are presently looking into two reported incidents of dead birds of prey being found.

A dead buzzard was found near to Old Budbrooke, Warwick with what appears to be no apparent injuries and didn't appear to have been dead very long.

Whilst we understand that birds do sadly pass away from natural causes, it is not very common to find birds like this in the location it was found.

The bird was recovered and submitted to DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) for analysis as we are aware of outbreaks of avian flu in local regions, plus also to ascertain if the bird may have been killed intentionally.

The second incident relates to a Red Kite that was found by members of the public in Church Lawford and handed into Nuneaton Wildlife Sanctuary. Sadly the bird died from significant trauma caused by unknown means. A post mortem has confirmed that no poisons or missile was involved so at present is unexplained.

Persecution of raptors is luckily not common in Warwickshire, but is one of our wildlife crime priorities, so if you are out walking and find a bird that you think may have died in suspicious circumstances, please report it to the Police so that it can be checked out.



Following a number of reports of illegal fishing and anti social behaviour in the Long Lawford area, our team responded. Five males are now under investigation for theft of fishing rights, fishing without a licence and had their fishing equipment seized.

Our team work closely with the Environment Agency and Angling Trust in addressing fish related offences and are part of Operation Leviathan, a partnership approach to tackling this type of crime.

TOP TIPS



What3words is a free app that you can download onto your mobile phone that gives a three word code to every 3 metre square area in the world. This app is recognised by the emergency services and is a good way of giving a location in rural areas, especially where there is no road or lane name, such as in a field, wood or remote rural area. It is worth downloading the app onto your phone and knowing what the key location names are on your farm or rural property to relay to the emergency services if needed.

TEAM NEWS



Our Rural Crime Coordinator Carol Cotterill has received a Runner Up Award from the British Association for Women in Policing for the National Police Staff Member of the Year 2020. Carol received her award from Chief Constable Martin Jelley.

Whilst out patrolling in the villages and rural areas in North Warwickshire, the Special Constables from the Rural Crime Team arrested a male for possession with intent to supply a class B drug (cannabis) after he ran off from officers in Wishaw.

Two quad bikes, a motorcycle and a car also left the scene, the latter of which drove over the foot of one of our officers. A mobile phone was left at the scene, along with a motorcycle which were seized. Investigation ongoing.

The Rural Specials, throughout the county, have been patrolling at all hours, including weekends, doing vehicle checks and providing a visual presence in the rural areas.

Our Rural Specials, along with the rest of the Rural Team have been out visiting farms, providing support and signs to assist and address a number of issues.



OFF ROAD ASB



We are aware of areas around the county that are experiencing anti-social behaviour from off road bike and 4 x 4 drivers on land without permission, damaging crops and causing other issues. Please report any incidents to the Police, we have a number of departments in force that will work to assist on this.

ARREST IN NORTH WARWICKSHIRE

Following work by the Rural Crime Team, Safer Neighbourhood Team, Response and other departments within the force, a male has been arrested following a pursuit. The male has been linked to a number of burglaries and thefts on farms in the North Warwickshire area. A great result.

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-horsetwath.co.uk
or www.facebook.com/WarksHorseWatch



Warwickshire Rural Watch
Closing the gate on rural crime

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



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