



Warwickshire Rural Crime Team Newsletter

MARCH/APRIL 2024



Report non-emergency crime
Get advice & guidance
www.warwickshire.police.uk

Non-emergency number 101
In an emergency always call 999

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.

Your Regional Rural Crime Team Contacts



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COUNTYWIDE

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EAST (RUGBY DISTRICT)

PC 2225 Jimmy Trotter
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PC 2439 Ewan Meades
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Following a number of moves internally in our force, some temporary, T/A Sergeant Adam Corless is presently working with the Safer Neighbourhoods Team in Nuneaton & Bedworth and PC Ben Stapley has been promoted to Acting Sergeant of one of our response teams.

PC Matt Simms, who has been with our team for a number of years has been promoted to Temporary Sergeant of our Team, with Inspector Jack Pritchard still our lead.

We are really pleased to welcome PC Jimmy Trotter and PC Ewan Meades to the team (further details below).

Also PC Andy Timmins who started with our team when we were launched back in October, 2019, and recently transferred to another department in his last 6 months of service has now retired from the force and we were pleased to give him a good send off in this new chapter of his life.



PC 2225 Jimmy Trotter



Jimmy has been with Warwickshire Police for five years, working in Response. He brings various skills to the team including taser, search, behavioural detection and emergency response driving. Jimmy said, "Coming from a rural background, I understand the importance of Police developing strong relationships with communities and proactively tackling those who would attempt to commit crime in these areas."

PC 2439 Ewan Meades

Ewan has been with Warwickshire Police for 2 years, having been on Response, Safer Neighbourhood Team and the Patrol Investigations Department based at Rugby. Ewan said "I am thrilled to join the Rural Crime Team and really looking forward to meeting and engaging with our rural communities and proactively tackling crime in these areas. I have worked in rural environments during my career and understand the affect that rural crime has." Ewan joins the team with Method of Entry, Police Support Unit Level 2 and looks forward to developing more skills in his new role.



TRAINING

Training in our team and improving on our skills is really important. What is equally important is all officers in Warwickshire Police have an understanding of rural and wildlife crime and its effect on rural communities. We are pleased to be part of our officers induction process. Our Coordinator has been busy in the last few weeks providing this to both new Response and Safer Neighbourhood officers.



VEHICLES/PLANT/TOOLS/EQUIPMENT

Stolen Caravan Recovered in Rugby Area



This caravan was stolen in 2021 and has recently been recovered by our team from the Ryton area. The caravan had all of its VIN numbers edited, including those etched into the metal of its frame. A male has been arrested on suspicion of handling stolen goods and is currently released on bail whilst the investigation continues.

Tipper Recovered in North Warwickshire

The team recently recovered a stolen chipper from the Alvecote area in North Warwickshire that had been stolen during a theft in the West Midlands. The offenders had painted the chipper to try and hide its identity.



Stolen Range Rover Recovered due to Tracker Equipment



Following our team receiving information that a stolen Range Rover Sport's tracker had started to ping in the Shipston on Stour area we needed to respond as soon as we could. Unfortunately, none of our team were on duty at the time the information came through. However, ever committed to recovering stolen property, one of our team volunteered to come in early to his shift and picked up one of our vehicles that is fitted with a tracker receiver supplied by Tracker UK. Going in the direction we were advised the vehicle was pinging in, using the equipment the Range Rover was found and the officer arranged for the stolen vehicle to be recovered. Another great result by our team thanks to the commitment of our officers.

Vehicles Seized During Patrols

Our teams proactive patrols have resulted in multiple vehicles being seized for no insurance. There has also been an illegally operating scrap merchant with no license dealt with and another driver being dealt with for driving offences.



WILDLIFE

Bat Investigation



The team investigate a number of wildlife reports and recently have a number of bat jobs that they have been dealing with. It is really important that if you are doing any building or development work to a property that you liaise with your local planning department and a check is done for any species that may be affected. Our wildlife is protected, including bats and if work is done that will affect a roost and you do not have a licence from Natural England there are very serious consequences including unlimited fine and a possible prison sentence.

LIVESTOCK

Operation Recall

Warwickshire Police have joined with other forces around the country in promoting Operation Recall, raising awareness of responsible dog ownership and the offence of livestock worrying. Sadly our team, every year, deal with devastating reports of livestock worrying incidents where animals are either killed, severely injured or are affected by stress and complications after being chased by dogs. Livestock worrying includes all types of animal with recent reported incidents to the team involving alpacas, llamas, horses and cattle. The largest number of incidents reported into the police relate to sheep and this is a particularly concerning time for farmers and flock owners as we are presently in lambing season with either heavily pregnant ewes in the fields or newly born lambs at foot to their mums. The campaign includes signs in hot spot and areas where people walk their dogs and there is livestock nearby, leaflets in places like vets and pet food shops plus a social media awareness campaign, including one clip we did with the NFU and Graham Hall, a well known dog trainer, seen on Channel Four's 'Dogs Behaving Badly'. PLEASE if you are taking your dog(s) for a walk in the countryside and there is livestock or wildlife nearby keep your dog on a lead. If you let your dogs loose in your garden ensure that they cannot get out.

FLY TIPPING/WASTE CRIME

County Meeting

The lead agencies that deal with fly tipping and waste crime is the Local Authority and if over 20 tonne, the Environment Agency. Our team however support our partners wherever we can to assist to bring offenders to justice and help address stop this blight in our countryside and communities. As you may have seen on previous newsletters and our social media pages the Rural Crime Team and other units in our force have responded and dealt with crime tipping when reported in progress, with offenders being taken to court. To address this type of crime and see how we can be proactive in dealing with this type of crime a meeting was held at the NFU HQ in Stoneleigh Park and was attended by the Local Authorities, Environment Agency, NFU, CLA, newly appointed National Fly Tipping lead by the NRCU (National Rural Crime Unit), funded by DEFRA. The purpose of the meeting was to share best practice, see how each agency could support each other on dealing with this type of crime and areas that can be improved upon going forward. It was a great success with lots of actions agreed by the meeting.



WORKING TOGETHER TO STOP LIVESTOCK WORRYING

OPERATION RECALL is a national initiative with the Police, National Rural Crime Unit, NFU, National Sheep Association, CLA, Nature Watch Foundation and RSPCA, who have come together to raise awareness with regards to livestock worrying.

The aim is to drastically reduce the number of incidents where animals suffer, whether that's injured livestock, wildlife or dogs killed as a consequence.

WHAT IS LIVESTOCK WORRYING?
It is where a dog, or dogs, chase, harass or frighten livestock, causing them to become stressed or injured. It can also occur in an area where livestock is present. A dog does not have to make physical contact with an animal, it is enough to scare, chase or frighten them. Animals have been known to have broken their limbs, suffocated, had a cardiac arrest, sustained brain damage or suffered other serious injuries.

Some of these incidents have resulted in dogs being injured or killed. It is important to report any incidents to the police.

PLEASE IF YOU ARE TAKING YOUR DOG(S) FOR A WALK IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AND THERE IS LIVESTOCK OR WILDLIFE NEARBY KEEP YOUR DOG ON A LEAD. IF YOU LET YOUR DOGS LOOSE IN YOUR GARDEN ENSURE THAT THEY CANNOT GET OUT.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Keep your dog on a lead and under close control at all times.
- Do not leave your dog unattended in your garden, unless it is in a secure and fenced garden.
- Do not go onto private land unless there is a public right of way or you have permission from the landowner.
- Stay on designated footpaths.

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-horsewatch.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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