



Warwickshire Rural Crime Team Newsletter

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024



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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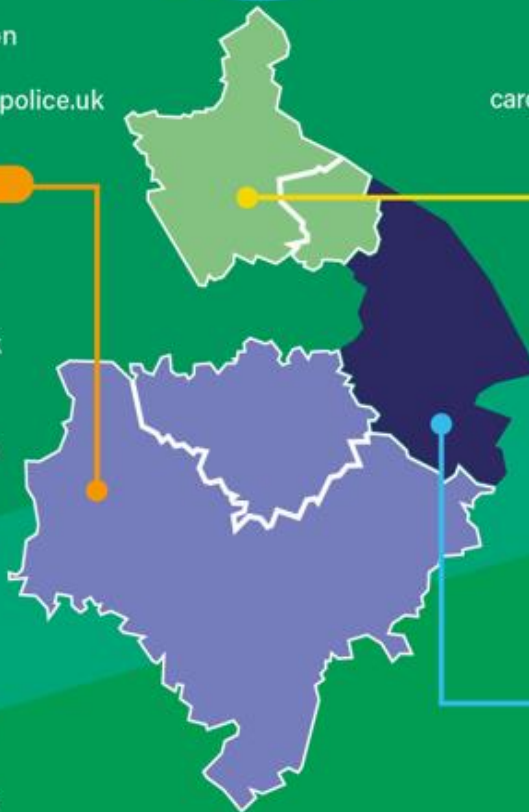


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WARWICKSHIRE
POLICE

Caravan Recovered

Following the team receiving information of a tracker activation in the Bulkington area for a caravan that was one of a number stolen from the Nottinghamshire force area, our officers attended the location. The vehicle was checked and a number of unique and identifying features were identified, confirming that this was one of the caravans stolen. It was seized and taken for a more in depth vehicle examination to support the investigation.

Stolen Gator

Following a report from a local farmer in the North Warwickshire area, a stolen gator was located and recovered by officers from our team. The vehicle was recovered within 24 hours of the theft being reported.

**Operation Cantilever – Positive Result****Stolen Canal Boat Recovered Tracked Down**

Whilst our officers were running an Operation Cantilever, a proactive operation dedicated to tackling agricultural vehicles, machinery and plant theft, we were alerted to a tracker activation. Part of the team left and made their way to Coventry where they were joined by colleagues from our Operation Policing Unit and recovered a stolen motorhome. Our other officers assisted the local policing team at Coleshill finding a stolen VW transporter. During the operation 150 vehicles were checked, a vehicle was seized for no insurance and lots of crime prevention advice was provided to help vehicle owners.

The team are called on for a variety of things but recently were informed of a stolen canal boat taken from the Wilmcote area sometime over a 5 day period. The team contacted partners and put out an alert on our social media pages and had a terrific response with over 500k people seeing in the post in less than 24 hrs and lots of responses from members of the public. The narrowboat was located in Gloucestershire, painted white by the offenders to try and disguise her. Thank you to everyone who took the time to look out for her and let us know what you had seen. Investigation is being progressed.

WASTE CRIME/FLY TIPPING

Partnership Working Provides Positive Result

Upon finding a large amount of waste dumped at the bottom of their drive, a farmer in North Warwickshire called our team. Guidance to not touch anything and protect the waste that potentially had documents in it was given and the details passed to the Local Authority. They immediately responded and visited the location taking evidence from the dumped rubbish. Following an investigation the offender was identified and given a fixed penalty notice. The farmer was pleased that someone had been brought to justice and dealt with for this offence with everyone working together to get a positive result.

HERITAGE CRIME

Heritage crime is an important area that our team deal with and all of our officers receive training from Historic England, which we are very grateful for. The latest officer in our team to pass as a Heritage Officer is PC Joe Dicken who covers the North Warwickshire area, plus rural parts of Nuneaton & Bedworth.



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LIVESTOCK

Worrying Warning



Sadly despite our awareness campaign around Operation Recall asking dog owners to keep their dogs on a lead around livestock and secure when let out in a garden or yard, we still receive shocking reports. The livestock in our fields are very vulnerable with many sheep now in lamb. PLEASE take every precaution to keep your dog under control at all times and unable to break free – we want all animals safe and well.

If you are a farm, livestock owner or stables and are not already registered on our mapping system, please take a few moments to click on this QR code and register your details. It is held in our control room and used to contact you in urgent circumstances such as livestock loose on the road.



Bell Identification



Recently the team conducted a warrant in search of stolen goods at a location in the Rugby area. Amongst the goods seized was this bell. A social media post was put out and our partners contacted. Enquiries ongoing.

EQUINE

Officers Use their Equine Skills



Whilst out on specialised training, officers heard horses hooves coming towards them. As it got nearer they saw a loose horse heading towards a major road. They immediately jumped into their vehicles, closed the road and caught the horse ensuring it was safe. The owner was identified and arranged to collect from the officers. The swift action of the team, including 2 officers who were previously with our Rural Crime Team, prevented a potential traffic collision on a main road and ensured the safety of the horse. Well done to all involved.

If you own livestock and would like one of our 'Please Keep Me on a Lead' sign, email us at ruralcrimeteam@warwickshire.police.uk

New Assistant Chief Constable Meets Team in South

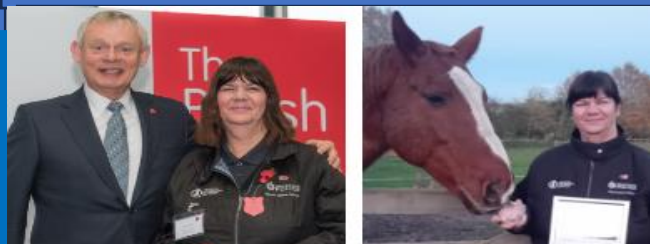


Our southern officers based at Stratford recently met with the new Warwickshire Police Assistant Chief Constable Claire Armes, previously with Avon and Somerset Police. ACC Armes was keen to hear about the work of our team and was fully supportive of the importance of supporting our rural communities in Warwickshire. We would also like to congratulate our new Chief Constable Alex Franklin-Smith who has been out with our officers and keeps updated on the work of our team. CC Franklin-Smith was previously Assistant Chief Constable and has been with Warwickshire Police since 2007.

Congratulations

We are really pleased to advise that Ben Hembry, our boss and previously Inspector of the Rural Crime Team and Stratford Local Policing Team has been promoted to T/Chief Inspector. Ben will continue to head our team as well as a number of key initiatives in our force.

Teams Coordinator Receives BHS Award



At the recent national British Horse Society Awards in Newbury our Coordinator received an Unsung Hero Award for her work on equine crime and road safety. The award was presented by the BHS President Martin Clunes, in the presence of HRH The Princess Royal, who is the BHS Vice Patron.

National Wildlife Conference



We recently attended the National Wildlife Crime Units Annual Conference for forces in the UK and partners. It was an excellent 2 days with lots of information, topics covered and good work shared.

Included was a presentation on the dogs that assist on wildlife investigations. We were pleased to meet their latest recruit - 'Pudding', a labrador pup who took it all in her stride.

ENGAGEMENTS



Our team continue to be busy attending events and visiting locations to support with advice and crime prevention. Recently during Business Crime Week we visited a number of farm shops, rural businesses and farms. We continue to be present at the livestock market, look out for our officers and come over and have a chat. Our PCC also attended the NFU and CLA AGMs with members of our team.

TRAINING



We continue to be involved in the training of all new officers to our force providing important input on their induction regarding wildlife, rural and heritage crime.

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.

Warwickshire Connected

Get connected with what is happening in **your local area**.

Warwickshire Connected is a **free community messaging system** brought to you by Warwickshire Police.

You can sign up to receive real time email updates about the things that matter to you most, including:

- ③ News from your local policing teams
- ③ Updates and appeals on local incidents
- ③ Useful crime prevention advice
- ③ Information about policing events happening in your area

To sign-up visit:
warwickshireconnected.com
or scan the QR code.



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