



# Warwickshire Rural Crime Team Newsletter

October 2020



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](http://warwickshire.police.uk) or call 101.

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



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## Your Regional Rural Crime Team Contacts

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## Rural Crime Team Act on Concerns in the Gaydon Area



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.

## Three Arrested on Suspicion of Burglary and Criminal Damage

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.



## Vehicles Recovered



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.

# Wildlife Crime

## Great Crested Newt Investigation Has Positive Outcome



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.



## OPERATION GALILEO

### ILLEGAL HARE COURISING

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](http://www.warwickshire.police.uk), calling 101 or report anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



## Control Room Training

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.

## Keep Safe and Remember ALL Animals if Having Fireworks This Year

**FIREWORKS FRIGHTEN THINK OF US!** The British Horse Society RSPCA

Organised public displays may be cancelled this year, and as a result there could be an increase in private firework displays at home.

**F** Fireworks should not be set off near horses or livestock, as it causes them to react, leading from minor to fatal injuries

**I** It's not just horses or livestock that are affected by sudden and loud noises - Think of your neighbourhood and domestic pets

**R** Reduce the noise and light levels - Consider quiet fireworks

**E** Environmental impact - Fireworks cause extensive air pollution in a short amount of time, plus debris can be spread in the local area

**W** Warn others in advance that you are considering setting off fireworks - whether it is for Bonfire Night, Birthdays or other celebrations

**O** Organised public displays are often safer to attend, so everyone can enjoy the one evening together

**R** Risks are high, staying safe is key. Thousands of people suffer from firework related injuries each year

**K** Keep your distance, if horses or livestock are located close by please consider alternative locations

**S** Stray fireworks, sparklers or sky lanterns could cause serious damage to stables, barns or even your property

Think about horses, livestock and domestic pets when making plans to set off fireworks and inform your local community so they can be prepared.  
To find out more visit: [www.bhs.org.uk/fireworks](http://www.bhs.org.uk/fireworks)



## 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](http://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](http://www.warwickshire-horsetwath.co.uk)  
or [www.facebook.com/WarksHorseWatch](http://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](http://www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk)  
[www.warwickshire.police.uk/ruralcrime](http://www.warwickshire.police.uk/ruralcrime)