



Warwickshire Rural Crime Team Newsletter

JUNE 2021



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



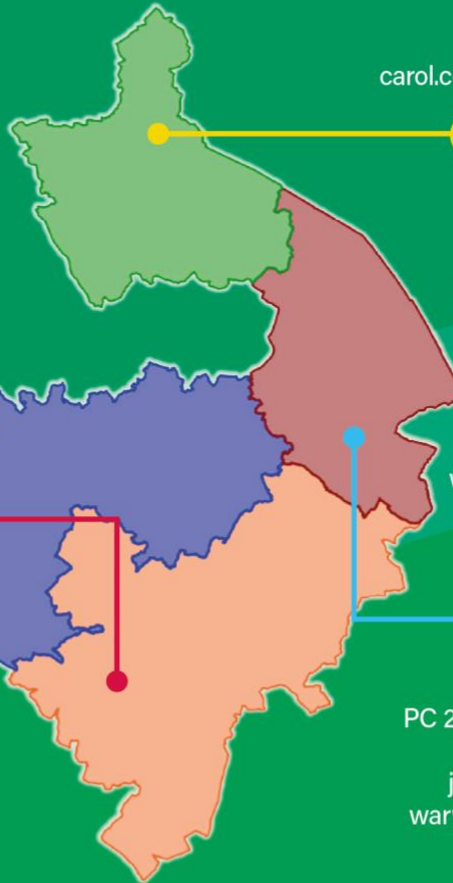
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Warwickshire
POLICE



The Office of High Sheriff is an independent non-political Royal appointment for a single year. The origins of the Office date back to Saxon times, when the 'Shire Reeve' was responsible to the king for the maintenance of law and order within the shire, or county, and for the collection and return of taxes due to the Crown. Today, there are 55 High Sheriffs serving the counties of England and Wales each year.

Whilst the duties of the role have evolved over time, supporting the Crown and the judiciary remain central elements of the role today. In addition, High Sheriffs actively lend support and encouragement to crime prevention agencies, the emergency services and to the voluntary sector. In recent years High Sheriffs in many parts of England and Wales have been particularly active in encouraging crime reduction initiatives, especially amongst young people. Many High Sheriffs also assist Community Foundations and local charities working with vulnerable and other people both in endorsing and helping to raise the profile of their valuable work.

Our team are extremely proud and honoured to be one of six teams within Warwickshire Police to be recognised by the Office of the High Sheriff of Warwickshire.

Representatives from our team attended police headquarters at Leek Wootton to meet and receive the award from High Sheriff Min Willoughby de Broke and last year's High Sheriff, Joe Greenwell for "great and valuable services to the community".

Inspector Allison Wiggin, Rural lead for the force said upon receiving the award "What the Rural Crime Team have and continue to achieve is a real team effort with everyone playing an important part in what we do. This award is a great honour and is for everyone involved in the team, including our Sergeant, Coordinator, Rural Crime Officers, Special Officers and previous members of the team who have now gone on to new jobs."

It was also made extra special to have our Chief Constable Martin Jelley present in his last few days in office before he retires.



VEHICLES



Whilst on a training course our Rural Crime Team Officers received a call that a stolen caravan with a tracker was showing at a location in the Ryton on Dunsmore area nearby.

They left straight away and upon arrival located the stolen Eddis caravan and a second Lunar caravan which was also confirmed as stolen from the same storage facility as the first. Both caravans had been stolen earlier that morning. Whilst dealing with the two identified caravans checks were done on other vehicles at the location and another caravan was found to have multiple different identity markings, this was therefore also seized for further investigation and enquires by the team. Unfortunately during the same initial break-in and theft that morning another caravan had been stolen and is still outstanding. A fourth caravan had also been attempted to be taken. If you have a caravan please follow the advice on our website – www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk.

This caravan was stopped on the A46 near Stratford upon Avon. Initially it had been stopped by our team to discuss the faulty lights on the caravan and the lack of a registration plate. However after conducting some further checks it was discovered to have been stolen from the Brighton area in 2018. The driver and his partner were very distressed to find out that they had purchased a stolen caravan. We will be making further enquiries to ascertain exactly how they came to be in possession of the caravan during our investigation. Please ensure before purchasing any vehicle, including caravans, that you conduct the appropriate checks as you may lose your vehicle and money, plus be involved in a police investigation.



HERITAGE CRIME



Warwickshire Police has become the first police force in the country to complete a new training course delivered by Historic England that provides officers with the knowledge and understanding they require to prevent and investigate crime and anti-social behaviour in the historic environment. The Rural Crime Team were proud to be part of this specialist training that was organised by our coordinator. Heritage is one of the priority crime types covered by our team. Following a formal assessment, 16 officers within Warwickshire Police achieved the required standard of 'Heritage Crime Officer'. Mark Harrison, Head of Heritage Crime Strategy, Historic England, who led the training said: "The assessment panel were very impressed by the level of knowledge, enthusiasm and dedication shown by the officers; they have shown that they are ready to work with Historic England and the communities of Warwickshire to protect the county's heritage from the threat and impact of crime and anti-social behaviour."

Fish - Officers from the Rural Crime Team and local policing team, worked with partners from the Environment Agency and Angling Trust to run an Operation Leviathan in the Rugby and Nuneaton area.

WILDLIFE CRIME

BATS - In the Stretton on Dunsmore area a planning application was submitted to convert an outbuilding to a dwelling. At the end of 2019 it was established following an ecological survey that bats, most likely pipistrelle bats, were using the outbuildings for rest and shelter.



In early 2020, without consultation with any proper authority a large percentage of the roof was removed from the building. This would have had a drastic effect on the roost and potentially totally destroyed it, so the planning department at Rugby Borough Council reported the matter to our team. Further ecological surveys were requested and once completed it was established that since the habitat had been drastically changed no pipistrelles were seen. However, brown long eared bats were now using the building. Following the investigation the Crown Prosecution Service made a decision to charge both the homeowner and builder with damaging / destroying the bat roost.



A number of fishing lakes were visited where concerns had been raised. It was a very successful day with lots of engagement with the public, the team using the drone and 18 offences were dealt with.

RURAL SPECIALS



Although the Rural Crime Team have key types of rural crime that we specialise in and are responsible for, we are always looking at where our farmers and rural communities are being negatively affected and will do all that we can to address any problems, where possible. Most recently, concern about off road vehicles, especially bikes and quads has been an issue, especially in North Warwickshire with crops damaged and livestock disturbed, as well as the noise and anti-social behaviour affecting residents. As part of Operation Array the Rural Crime Team with local officers from the Safer Neighbourhood Team, plus the forces Off Road Bike Team have worked together to address these issues in key hot spot areas.

Our Specials whilst patrolling the rural areas regularly come across incidents that they assist us with. The present problem of off road vehicles in the North Warwickshire area is no exception. Recently a call came in from a member of the public regarding bikes in the Nether Whitacre area and our Special Officers responded seizing two bikes and reporting the riders to court for various offences.



Two of the officers in our team are part of the Off Road Bike Team and assisted with our drone pilots to make the operation effective and successful. To date a number of bikes have been seized, Section 59 notices issued to other riders and the number of incidents has dropped significantly.



If you suffer from nuisance off road vehicles it is important that you report it so the relevant agencies are aware. Warwickshire Police work with Warwickshire County Council on their 'Dob Em In' campaign. You can call 101 with a good description of the location and the riders/vehicles or if they have left the scene online at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/dobemin or www.warwickshire.police.uk

CRIME PREVENTION EVENTS



Thank you to everyone who attended our Rural Crime mornings in support of farmers and horse owners around the county. Both our stands at Stratford Livestock market and Malt Kiln Farm Shop at Stretton under Fosse were really well attended with the team and our partners kept busy throughout the event. Although we chatted about all types of crime and discussed the options available for prevention and target hardening, there was great interest in the trackers and beam alarms we had available. Our different signs and trailer stickers were also very popular.

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