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***Royston Rural Watch, September 2020***

PC Mark Ellwood 371 & PCSO 6531 Penny Tomsett, PCSO Chris Brabrook 6522

Sgt Jon Vine 1841

***Our Non - Emergency Number 101***

**On the Beat –**

**New Neighbourhood Sergeant for Royston**

• Sgt Jon Vine returns to Royston to lead Safer Neighbourhood Team.

• Joins the Mayor on a walk about of the town.

• Looking forward to making the area even safer.

The new Sergeant for the Royston area has been getting out and about in the area, joining the Mayor Rob Inwood for a town centre walk about.

Sergeant Jon Vine is no stranger to the area having previously been the sergeant from 2010 to 2013.

“I’m delighted to be back,” he said. “I have a genuine passion for Royston and I am looking forward to making it an even safer area than it is today. I have returned full of energy and ideas, and I have been having discussions with the mayor and other councillors on how we can progress some of these plans

“I want to increase the work we do to reduce crime in the area, but at the same time increase our visibility and the way we engage with the community. I know the community like to see officers patrolling their streets on foot, so I will be hoping to increase these type of patrols. I have been out a few times already and it’s fantastic to chat to people and discuss issues.

“If you need to speak to me or my team you can email us at SNTRoyston@herts.pnn.police.uk or call 101 and ask to speak to the Royston Safer Neighbourhood Team. Also look out for our local police surgeries that we hope to be resuming soon.”

You can use our community voice platform ‘echo’ to let us know what you think we should be prioritising in your area. Your feedback will help towards shaping our local policing priorities, initiatives and campaigns. Visit bit.ly/police-royston and tell us your thoughts.

**Have your say on how we police your area**

•Have your say on what the police focus on in the Royston area

• Your local officers are about to set their new priorities for Royston Rural and Royston Town.

Residents in Royston Town and the rural areas that surround it, are being invited to submit their feedback via the community voice platform ‘echo’, to help the Royston Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) set their next round of policing priorities.

“Due to the pandemic and social distancing measures, we’ve had to postpone many of our normal community priority setting events, but we are still here and listening, and we want your input,” said Neighbourhood Sergeant Jon Vine.

“The SNT are responsible for dealing with short and long term neighbourhood issues such as anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, speeding and drug related crime. And we work hard with our local partners, including North Herts Council, to ensure that Royston and the surrounding areas are safe places to live and work.

“We would like as many local residents to be involved in this priority setting process as possible” continued Sergeant Vine. “We want to make sure that we have a very clear understanding of all of the issues which impact on and affect our local communities.

“Let us know what you think we should be prioritising in your area – as well as helping us to shape our policing priorities for the next quarter, your feedback will also be used to help us plan future campaigns and initiatives.”

You can submit your feedback by using our ‘echo’ feedback platform. Go to bit.ly/police-royston or bit.ly/police-roystonrural. This is an anonymous platform but all feedback will be reviewed and the more we receive the more we can understand what matters most to our community, where services are working well for you or where we need to improve.

If you need any further information please contact the Royston Safer Neighbourhood Team via email or by calling 101.

**Warning to residents after a series of police phone scams**

• Hertfordshire residents targeted by fraudsters

• Five victims received calls from criminals posing as police

• Police and bank staff will NEVER ask you for money or banking details

Hertfordshire Constabulary is warning residents to stay vigilant following reports of scam phone calls to homes in Hertfordshire.

Five victims have received calls this month from fraudsters posing as police officers claiming that they are investigating fraud offences involving the victim’s bank account. The bogus police officer asks the victims to withdraw cash for collection by a courier.

Fraudsters may ask the victims to call back on 999, 101 or 161 to verify that they are genuinely a police officer, however this is part of the scam. They keep the line open so that the victim continues to speak to the fraudster believing they are genuine officials.

Detective Inspector Rob Burns, from Hertfordshire Constabulary’s Serious Fraud and Cyber Unit, said: “These fraudsters use a variety of different scams, often changing their stories, sometimes they are for money other times it maybe be vouchers or even the victim’s bank card. They tend to target elderly people and can be extremely convincing and intimidating.

“It’s important to remember that police officers and bank officials will NEVER ask you to withdraw money, purchase goods or hand over private banking details.

“Please help us to raise awareness by talking about this with your friends and family, especially if they are vulnerable or elderly.”

If you believe that you are a victim of a scam please contact Hertfordshire Constabulary’s non- emergency number 101, using a different phone to that used to communicate with the fraudsters. If a fraud is in progress or someone’s life is in danger, call 999 immediately.

Hertfordshire Constabulary offers the following crime prevention advice:

•Be sceptical of callers, even those who claim to be officials.

•Don’t be afraid to put the phone down with a brief ‘No, thank you’.

•NEVER give personal information, such as your date of birth or bank details, to unexpected callers.

•Remember that the police or your bank would NEVER unexpectedly call you and ask you to withdraw cash or move your money to another account, as a result of fraud or any other reason.

•If callers suggest you call your local police or bank to check who they are, use another phone or ensure the line has been fully disconnected by phoning a friend or relative first, or by waiting at least five minutes, otherwise you may think you’ve phoned a number, but you’re simply talking to the fraudsters again. This is a common fraudsters’ tactic.

•If a caller asks you to type your bank PIN number into your telephone handset - do not do this, as fraudsters can use technology to identify the numbers.

•You can opt out of many cold calls by registering for free with the Telephone Preference Service on 0845 070 0707.

**Local Crime Information**

**Arbury Ward - Ashwell, Hinxworth, Bygrave, Newnham and Caldecote**

41/65743/20, Hinxworth – Theft of Caravan, Between 14th and 17th August a farm in New Inn Road, Hinxworth was targeted. The offenders drove across field and damaged a wooden fence to gain entry onto the land. The offenders located two caravan stored on site and have hitched them to a vehicle and drove away from the farm across the fields.

**Ermine Ward – Barley, Barkway, Reed, Therfield, Kelshall and**

**Nuthampstead**

41/62169/20, Therfield – Attempt theft of caravan, Between 5th and 6th August a wheel clamp was damaged and the cover removed from a caravan stored at the location. The alarm sounded and the offenders made off.

**Weston & Sandon Ward - Wallington, Rushden, Clothall, Weston and Sandon**

41/60833/20, Redhill Rushden – Outbuilding Burglary, Between 30th July to 1st August the offenders have entered an outbuilding which was not secure and have stolen various tools and items.

41/63567/20, Mill End Rushden – Outbuilding burglary, Overnight on 10th August a shed was targeted at the bottom of a garden. The offenders came over the field at the rear of the property and stole several items of machinery.

***Your local Neighbourhood Police Teams website***

<http://snt.herts.police.uk/Teams.aspx?TeamID=G01>

Useful Links

<http://www.herts.police.uk/>

<http://www.doglost.co.uk/>

<http://www.stolenhorseregister.com/>

**Royston Rural Neighbourhood Team Tel – 01438 757935**