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***Royston Rural Watch, December 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** –

**Festive Message from the Team -**

This year's Festive Safety message is to stay safe whilst shopping, at home or on the roads. We provide some important information to help you stay safe this Festive Period.

**Shopping Safety**

Stay safe on the high street this Christmas with our Shop Safe tips and information.

The festive period is traditionally the busiest time of the year for shopping and unfortunately, there are those who exploit the festive period for the wrong reasons but it only takes a few simple preventative measures to discourage criminals and stay safe. 

Keep Safe Online this Christmas with our online safety tips and information. More and more people use online shopping to purchase their Christmas presents as well as taking advantage of sales and events like Black Friday and Cyber Monday. It's important to take a couple of precautionary steps when purchasing goods online to keep safe and avoid being targeted by criminals.

It is also important that people understand the dangers of social media and that what you post online, stays online. You can find more information about online safety in the PDF at the bottom of this page.

**Home Safety**

Keep your home safe this Christmas with our Home safety tips and information.

A few simple steps such as leaving a light on when you’re out, keeping presents and valuables out of sight, opening and closing curtains at the appropriate time of day and not advertising on social media when you are out helps to keep criminals away.

**Road Safety**

During the winter months ensure your car is ready for the season change in weather - are tyres, brakes, windscreens, wiper blades and windows free from defects and clean?

Be aware of changing road conditions, don't put yourself and others at risk.

**Drink driving** – don’t risk it, if you are out partying be aware of your alcohol consumption.

Beware the morning after: you could still be over the limit the day after drinking. Sleep, coffee and cold showers don't help you to sober up – time is the only way to get alcohol out of your system. There is no excuse for drink driving: alcohol affects everybody's driving for the worse. It creates a feeling of overconfidence, makes judging speed and distance more difficult, and slows your reactions so that it takes longer to stop. 'Only going down the road' is not an excuse: a large proportion of all drink drive crashes occur within three miles of the start of the journey

**Warning as delivery scam hits Christmas shoppers**

•Fraudsters are sending scam delivery messages

•The messages claim that they have a package for the victim

•Recipients are asked to visit a scam site to reschedule the delivery

Hertfordshire Constabulary is warning residents to stay vigilant following reports of scam text and email messages which appeared to be from parcel delivery companies. The messages appear to be from couriers like DPD and Royal Mail, stating that they have tried to deliver a parcel and asking you to click a link to reschedule the delivery. The link directs you to an authentic looking website, which asks for your full name, address, date of birth and mobile number. Upon completion of the form, you are then asked to enter full credit card details. So far there have been no reported loses to victims in Hertfordshire.

Detective Inspector Rob Burns, from Hertfordshire Constabulary’s Serious Fraud and Cyber Unit, said: “This scam is very convincing with Christmas a few weeks away and many people are shopping online and waiting for their orders to be delivered. “It’s important to check the details in the messages and make sure it is genuinely related to an item you have ordered. Does the message use your name, rather than to an email address? Does it mention the goods or company you have ordered items from? If in doubt do not click the link and contact the vendor directly via their website.

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

Visit [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or for advice on avoiding scams.

Alternatively, you can contact herts.police.uk/report, speak to an operator in our Force Communications Room via online web chat at herts.police.uk/contact or call our non-emergency number 101. If a crime is in progress or someone’s life is in danger, call 999 immediately.

**Don’t ruin Christmas by drink or drug driving**

•Today (Tuesday 1 December) marks the start of a month-long drink and drug driving campaign.

•Driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs could not only ruin Christmas, but destroy lives forever.

•Police officers across Hertfordshire will be conducting proactive checks across the county to reinforce this message.

Driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs could not only ruin Christmas but destroy lives forever, Hertfordshire Constabulary warns today at the start of a month-long drink and drug driving campaign.

Irrespective of COVID-19 restrictions, officers will be enforcing the campaign while on patrol and by carrying out roadside checks due to the serious consequences of drink or drug driving. It does not matter if people go out or stay at home to celebrate, they may not realise they are still over the limit if they drive the next day.

Drinking or drug taking impairs reaction times and the ability to think clearly. As a result, motorists who drive are under the influence are more likely to be involved in a serious or fatal collision. In Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire last year, motorists were twice as likely to be involved in a serious or fatal collision if they had been drinking or taking drugs.

Claire Danks, 47, knows the devastating effects of drink driving all too well. Her 22-year-old daughter, Lauren Danks, was killed on her way home from work by a drunk motorist who was driving at over 100mph.

Mrs Danks, from Soham, is now an ambassador for the Road Victims Trust, a charity that supports victims of fatal and life-changing road collisions across the three counties. She said: “Being told our daughter was dead was like dropping a bomb and blowing our lives into pieces. The pain is unimaginable and there is nothing that will fix it.

“We think about Lauren every day and have many wonderful memories. But there are so many more we won’t get to have. We won’t see her get married, she will never have children. We don’t even know what she would look like now.

“What happened that night haunts us every day. Please don’t be the cause of another family’s tragedy. Please don’t drink and drive.”

Last year, 2,244 motorists were caught drink or drug driving across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire; the equivalent to one every four hours.

Sergeant James Thorne, from the tri-force Roads Policing unit, said: "No matter how you choose to celebrate Christmas this year, please do it safely and do not put lives and livelihoods at risk by drink or drug driving.

“It has been a hard year and we understand some people will want to make the most of the festivities. While 2020 has been different in so many ways, the law remains the same. If we catch you driving under the influence, we will prosecute you.

“Whether you stay at home or go out to celebrate, remember that alcohol takes time to leave your system. Every person is different. It is very difficult to know exactly how much alcohol has been consumed and how long it will take to leave your bloodstream. You may still be over the drink drive limit the following morning.”

Motorists caught drink or drug driving face a 12-month ban, a large fine, and a criminal record. These can lead to job loss, relationship breakdowns, foreign travel restrictions and increased insurance premiums.

Officers across Hertfordshire will be conducting proactive checks across the county to reinforce this message. They will particularly be focusing on busy roads in the mornings, checking that those using the roads are fit to do so and are not over the legal driving limit from drinking the night before.

Chief Inspector Simon Tabert said: “This has been a really difficult year for everyone, and of course the prospect of being able to celebrate Christmas and toast to the new year with friends and family members is something that most of us are looking forward to, but please think about how you want to end 2020 – having just one more drink could be the difference between where you end up that night, whether it’s a police cell, a hospital bed, or worse.”

To report an incident of drink or drug driving, call 101 or 999 in an emergency. If you suspect someone is going to drive whilst under the influence of drink or drugs, please call 999 immediately and give the operator as much information as possible. This will help us reduce the number of drink drivers on our roads.

**Local Crime Information**

**G4E - Ashwell, Hinxworth, Bygrave, Newnham and Caldecote**

Theft from Motor Vehicle – Bear Lane, Ashwell, Between 29th and 30th November an offender has removed two number plates from a vehicle parked in Bear Lane. The offenders have stolen the plates and made off direction unknown. 41/96272/20 Refers

**G4D – Barley, Barkway, Reed, Therfield, Kelshall and Nuthampstead**

**Burglary – Nuthampstead** - Between the dates of 23rd October 2020 and the 5th November 2020, there was a burglary in Nuthampstead to an outbuilding, a shed was targeted, lawnmower and various other gardening items taken. 41/89527/20 refers.

**Theft from Motor Vehicle – Kelshall and Sandon**

Overnight on the 17th November we experience a crime series of theft from motor vehicle and one outbuilding was targeted and a bike stolen. Footage from CCTV and ring doorbells, show a lone person who was committing these crimes, namely targeting unlocked vehicles on drives.

Areas affected were, Kelshall, Sandon, Coombe Road and amounted to thirteen crimes being reported to police.

Police are releasing an image of a man they would like to speak to as part of their investigation into a series of thefts from motor vehicles and sheds.

Officers believe the man pictured may have information about the thefts, which have occurred in both North and East Herts, including Brickendon, Little Berkhamsted, Epping Green, Kelshall and Sandon.

PC Mark Ellwood, from the North Herts Safer Neighbourhood Team, said: “I would urge anyone who recognises this man or has any information they think may assist our investigation to please get in touch by emailing mark.ellwood@herts.pnn.police.uk.

“Now that we have reached the winter months, I’d also encourage residents to reassess the security of their sheds and outbuildings, as well as following our simple vehicle crime prevention advice. You can find this information on our website.”

You can also report information online at herts.police.uk/report, speak to an operator in our Force Communications Room via our online web chat at herts.police.uk/contact or call the non-emergency number 101, quoting crime reference 41/84082/20.

Alternatively, you can stay 100% anonymous by contacting the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or via their untraceable online form at crimestoppers-uk.org.

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/herts-echo and tell us your thoughts.

**G3C - Sandon, Wallington, Rushden, Clothall and Weston**

This area was affected by the crime series above with cars and property targeted in Sandon.

No other reported crime

**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**