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***Royston Rural Watch, July 2021***

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

Sgt Jon Vine 1841

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

**On the Beat** –

**Bikeability - Sandon**

Royston Safer Neighbourhood Team gave children from Sandon JMI School Bikeability lessons during the month of June.

Bikeability is the updated cycling proficiency training for the next generation and has been designed to give children the confidence and skills to ride their bikes outdoors and on the roads safely through a series of courses.

Children from years four to five from schools from Sandon JMI School have undertaken the Bikeability Level 1 course with Police Community Support Officer Chris Brabrook. Between 8th to the 11th of June PCSO Brabrook ran a course with 23 pupils from the school.

Level 1 is a basic playground based course that teaches children cycling skills and how to stay safe whilst out using their bikes. Level 1 does not mean that children are safe to cycle on the road, but is an introductory course that trains them in basic bike maintenance, the Highway Code, the correct use of brakes and gears, one armed signals and bike controls.

PCSO Brabrook said: “We all remember what it was like when we first started getting out and about more on our bikes as children. It’s a rite of passage and an exciting time for youngsters and I’m really pleased to be able to help teach them to use their bikes safely.

 “Although the children are too young to be riding their bikes on the road by themselves, it’s still important that they are aware of skills to keep them safe on their bikes when they are playing out or visiting friends. All of the children who have taken part seemed to really enjoy the lessons.”

 Headmistress Mrs McGill, said: “I think it’s marvellous that the police can provide cycling safety lessons for the year four children as they take road safety very seriously.”

Pupil Ruby Streeter, who took part in the course, said: “It was very interesting; I liked checking the bike for safety. I also liked when we had to look behind to see if it was safe.”

**Don’t give burglars a break this summer**

With the summer holidays fast approaching, Hertfordshire Constabulary is warning people not to make their homes an easy target for burglars.

Sometimes the thrill of an impending holiday can lead people to forget about less exciting things like home security. If you are planning to leave your home empty for a couple weeks or even just a few days, you need to make sure that you aren’t advertising the fact to criminals.

Burglars love empty homes to break into, safe in the knowledge that they won’t be disturbed and that the crime might not even be reported for days or weeks. Making sure that your home doesn’t give away the fact that it is empty can go a long way to deterring criminals.

The joy of setting off on holiday can also lead people into sharing their plans via social media posts, which can unfortunately also tip off burglars that your home is going to be empty.

Police and Crime Commissioner, David Lloyd, said: “Every year Hertfordshire residents set off on holiday full of excitement, with a small number of those have to return to the heart break of finding their home has been burgled. No one should have to suffer this, so it makes sense to take all possible precautions. The best way to beat crime is to prevent it from happening and whilst the police can give advice, individuals have to take some responsibility for protecting their homes and valuables.”

Inspector Paul Lawrence, from Hertfordshire Constabulary’s Crime Reduction Unit, warned: “Hertfordshire burglars do tend to target homes that are empty and will look for signs like piles of newspapers or unopened letters at the front door, bins not put away or continually drawn curtains can attract their attention. So making it appear that a home is occupied can be the most effective deterrent against burglary.

“It can be equally tempting posting photos or information about your holidays on social media, but you can stop criminals finding out this kind of information on Facebook, by changing your privacy settings to make sure that only friends can see your posts and photos.”

There are ways to give your home a ‘lived-in’ look when it’s unoccupied, so that any would-be thieves aren’t tempted:

• Use timer switches for lamps so that they turn on as it gets dark in the evenings. You could also use a timer switch for a radio (always follow manufacturer's instructions)

• Ask your neighbour to put your rubbish or recycling bins back if they’re being collected whilst you’re away – if they’re left out after collection day it could indicate to a passing thief that your house is unoccupied. Be a good neighbour and do the same for them

• If you aren’t leaving your car at home, ask a neighbour/friend to park their car on your drive.

• Don’t forget to cancel deliveries of milk, newspapers etc.

• Consider moving enticing items, such as videos and television, so that they are out of sight.

• If you are away for a longer period of time in the summer months, ask your neighbour to cut your grass. This helps to show that the house may be occupied.

• You could also ask someone you trust to help give your home the lived-in look by opening and drawing the curtains, taking in any free newspapers and moving your mail away from the letterbox.

• You could store valuables in your loft when you go away.

All these tips can help to give your home the ‘lived-in’ look. For more detailed security advice, please visit the crime prevention section at www.herts.police.uk or contact us on 101.

**Owl App**

Thanks to an OWL (Online Watch Link) app, you can now get notifications when your local police officers issue a new alert for your area. You can also view recent alerts, appeals and crime prevention advice, plus the latest scam alerts from ActionFraud.

Hundreds of police officers use OWL to send alerts, advice and updates directly to the public. Every resident and business is invited to receive instant notifications directly to their mobile or tablet based on their current postcode location. The post code can be changed and multiple nearby zones of interest can be selected.

As well as alerts on residential burglary and vehicle crime, you can choose other interests impacted by crime such as business, shop, dog, horse, rural and canal (varies by location).

No registration is needed and no personally identifiable data is collected. Download the OWL app now to help keep you and your family safe.

<https://www.owl.co.uk/misc/owl-app-download/?f=herts>

**Local Crime Information**

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

**Theft of Motor Vehicle, Ashwell** - On 24th June between 8pm to 10.45pm a VW golf was parked, locked and secure outside a garage in Angels Meadow, Ashwell. The vehicle was stolen from this location.

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

**Nuthampstead**

No Reported crime of note

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

**Burglary, Roe Green, Sandon** - On the 8th June between 6.30am and 3.40pm persons unknown have forced entry to the rear door of the property and have made an untidy search of the bedroom and valuable jewellery was stolen.

**Burglary, Redhill** – On 11th June a neighbour noticed that a property had been broken into in Redhill. The owners of the property were away on holiday, on there return they discovered unknown offenders gained entry via a rear door and have stolen jewellery.

**Burglary, Clothall** – At 1.52am on 20th June a resident was disturbed at his home address. On further investigation the resident found an unknown person in his utility room who had gained entry vis an insecure sash window to the property. On being confronted the offender fled the property towards the A507.

**Theft from Motor Vehicles, Clothall / Halls Green** - Overnight from the 19th June to 20th June two vehicles were entered in the village various items were taken including a wallet and lose change. Both vehicles had no sign of forced entry and were possibly unlocked.

Further note - On 5th July two males were arrested after being tracked by Police following a burglary in Brent Pelham and Clothall that took place on the same day. When the vehicle was stopped jewellery was found inside the offender’s vehicle linking them to the burglaries. The two males have been operating in our area and its suspected they are linked to the burglaries that occurred locally throughout June. The investigation continues to confirm this is the case.

**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**