



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

Royston Rural Watch, August 2019

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

Sgt Lee Jessup 560



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

Hare Coursing Season Update



- Hare coursers usually commit their crimes during the harvest period which can cost farmers thousands of pounds.

- Vast sums of money are wagered at the outcome of these activities.

As the harvest season is underway, officers in North Hertfordshire sent a message to hare coursers - they pledge to "use all available powers" to disrupt illegal activity in the countryside.

Hare Coursing is an illegal activity which often results in damage being caused as a result of offenders driving motor vehicles across cropped land whilst releasing and following their dogs.

The practice usually results in a violent and traumatic death to the hare, a species which has seen its numbers in decline in recent years.

These gatherings can often be competitive and substantial amounts of money are known to be wagered on the outcome of the activity.

With 60% of Hertfordshire's population living in rural areas, of which a large percentage reside in North Herts, many in the rural community have been effected by hare coursing; with damage costing farmers potentially thousands of pounds.

Sgt Jessup, who regularly comes across victims affected by this crime said:

"The practice of hare coursing is both illegal and unjustified in today's society.

"In addition, the perpetrators cause aesthetic and environmental damage to crops and the rural landscape.

"When challenged, many landowners and farmers cite threats and intimidation towards them and their families.

Jamie Burrows who is the County Chairman for the Hertfordshire National Farmers Union has had his family threatened by hare coursers said: "These hare coursers are usually part of organised crime and with that comes some unique security concerns.

"Working on a farm can be very isolating at times, you're often on a tractor alone or your family are at home alone.

Sgt Jessup wants to reassure the rural community that that the police will continue to be proactive, exploring all avenues available to prevent and disrupt people from Hare Coursing.

He said: "With this year's harvest underway and the fields beginning to clear, that police in North Hertfordshire will use all available powers afforded in law to deal robustly with all aspect of rural crime and criminality."

Give your home the 'lived-in look' if you're away this summer



- With summer now in full swing, police in North Herts are reminding holidaymakers to ensure their homes aren't easy pickings for burglars while they're out for the day or on holiday.

Rising temperatures are often matched by a spike in domestic burglary reports as people tend to leave windows, doors and garden gates open on the longer summer days, all of which provide criminals with an opportunity.

Incidents of burglary traditionally increase during the summer holiday stretch, as homes are left unoccupied. An empty property is a criminal's dream, but if you take some simple steps to give the impression that somebody's home they are much less likely to try their luck.

North Herts Chief Inspector Sally Phillips said: "I know many residents will be looking forward to taking their summer breaks over the next few months. Many will also be leaving their properties unoccupied but by taking a few precautions before you set off, you can ensure your home is more secure and less of an attractive target for criminals.

"I want to reassure the community that my teams proactively patrol any particular areas identified as burglary hotspots and will deal vigorously with anyone suspected of breaking into homes. The bottom line is, would-be burglars don't want to be seen or disturbed so will always choose a home that is obviously empty over one that could be occupied."

Here's what you can do to help make your home more secure and less attractive to criminals:

- Ask a neighbour to put your 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 don't have neighbours, considering asking a friend or family member to do it.

- If you are taking your car on your trip, ask a neighbour, friend or family member to park their car on your drive.

- Don't forget to cancel regular deliveries such as milk or newspapers.
- Consider moving valuable items, like laptops and televisions, out of sight from the windows.
- If you are away for an extended period over the summer months, ask a neighbour, friend or family member to cut your grass. An unkempt garden can suggest an empty property.
- You could also ask someone you trust to help give your home the lived-in look by opening and drawing the curtains or blinds, and moving any post away from the letterbox.
- You could move any valuables into your loft when you go away.
- Consider installing a Wi-Fi enabled doorbell camera or CCTV system.
- Be mindful what information you are posting on social media. If you post about your holiday or 'check in' online, make sure you adjust your privacy settings to ensure you are only sharing your updates with people you know and trust. Using location services to tag where you are can also tip people off that you are not at home, or can even give them your precise address.
- Join your local Neighbourhood Watch scheme or if there isn't one, perhaps you could start one.

If you believe a burglary is in progress right now, or you think someone may be committing a crime, always dial 999

Local Crime Information

G4E - Ashwell, Hinxworth, Bygrave, Newnham and Caldecote

Metal Theft, Ashwell - On 30th July at 09.15 in Bacons Yard, Ashwell a copper water cylinder was stolen from the front of a property. The Offender was seen diving off in a flatbed transit van. 41/68957/19 Refers

Criminal Damage, Ashwell - Between 0700 – 0900 on the 30th July in Partridge Hill, Ashwell, a gate was damaged to a farm yard. The yard contained metals and it's believed the offender was looking to steal scrap. This is linked to the above offence in Bacons yard 41/68955/19 Refers

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

Burglary, Kelshall - On the 1st July between 22.15 and 22.26 a house in The Street, Kelshall was burgled. The offenders approached the rear patio door, broke the beading down the window section of the patio door, smashing the glass. The home owner who was in at the time heard the noise and disturbed the offenders. The offender removed a mobile phone from the kitchen area and made off. 41/59464/19 Refers

Theft from Motor Vehicle, Barkway - On the 3rd July between 0900 – 1700 a workman had left his van outside a property in High Street, Barkway. The van was unlocked as the workman had been going in and out to use tools. During this time tools have been removed by an unknown offender. 41/60214/19

Burglary, Barkway - Between 13th to 14th July a property in Chapel Close, Barkway was targeted. The Offenders removed a set of bolt cutters stored in the IP's shed. The bolt cutters were used in an attempt to gain access to the house. Unknown if entry was gained as there were no signs of disturbance in the property. 41/63837/19

Criminal Damage, Therfield - Between 19th and 22nd July equipment in the school playground of Therfield First School was damaged. Equipment included football goals and a shed that was used to store property was damaged and property emptied onto the playground. 41/66336/19

Theft of Bike, Therfield - Between 18th and 22nd July a bike was stolen from the front garden of an address in The Causeway, Therfield. The bike was used for decoration and displayed hanging baskets that were emptied and thrown into the garden. 41/66697/19

Theft, Kelshall - Between 19th and 20th July two wheelbarrows were stolen from a farm in Kelshall. The property were stored in a field at the location and the offenders have removed the item and made off direction unknown. 41/66768/19

G3C - Sandon, Wallington, Rushden, Clothall and Weston

No 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/>

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