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***Royston Rural Watch, November 2018***

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

Sgt Guy Westwoood 1604

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

**On the Beat** –

A Message from Inspector Richard Lilley, North Herts SNT

Nationally, there are always seasonal increases in certain crime types as the clocks change and evenings becoming darker that little bit earlier. Whilst Hertfordshire continues to be one of the safest counties to live and work, I wanted to contact local residents in the more rural parts of North Herts, as your Safer Neighbourhood Inspector, to ask for your support in driving down local crime.

I am aware of increases in burglary offences to homes and garden sheds, as well as vehicle crime, in recent weeks within North Herts.

The Chief Inspector, Detective Inspector and I use a variety of resources available to us in order to proactively identify offenders and bring them to justice as swiftly as possible. Over the coming weeks you will see police patrolling your neighbourhood and engaging with community groups, as working with you is vital in trying to catch the offenders.

Offences have been occurring throughout the daytime and evenings. It is likely offenders familiarise themselves with a neighbourhood prior to committing offences, often taking time to research the streets and levels of activity.

I would be grateful if, over the coming weeks and leading up to Christmas, you would be more vigilant as you are best placed to know when something looks out of place locally. If you suspect a person is in your neighbourhood to commit a crime or you see a vehicle in suspicious circumstances please don’t hesitate to contact Police via 999 if a crime is in progress, or 101 to pass information, so officers can attend and determine whether the person/vehicle is there lawfully.

For more advice on protecting your property please visit our website at [www.herts.police.uk](http://www.herts.police.uk)

Thank you in advance for your continued support and be rest assured your local officers strive to ensure those who commit crime are caught and put before the courts.

Are you doing enough to protect your home from burglars?

•Technology, including video enabled door bells, is being increasingly used to capture key evidence and will act as a visible deterrent to opportunist burglars.

•Internal timer switches can give your home the ‘lived-in’ look while acting as a deterrent for when you are not home, especially with the nights’ drawing in.

•Evidence and testimonies from convicted offenders confirm that if a burglar thinks someone is home, there is much less of a chance they will target that address.

With winter drawing in, Hertfordshire Constabulary is keen to spread the word to residents about how they can protect their homes from burglars.

Detective Inspector Michael Macbeth heads up the Hertsmere Local Crime Unit, which is a team of officers who investigate a variety of crimes including burglary. Recent advances in home technology can make it easier to protect your home.

Det Insp Macbeth said: “Technology, including video enabled door bells, is being increasingly used to capture key evidence and will act as a visible deterrent to opportunist burglars.

“Internal timer switches are another example of hi-tech equipment that can give your home the ‘lived-in’ look while acting as a deterrent for when you are not home, especially with the nights’ drawing in.”

He added: “Evidence and testimonies from convicted offenders confirm that if a burglar thinks someone is home, there is much less of a chance they will target that address. Make sure it is not yours.”

Hertfordshire Constabulary issues the following advice:

1.Use a door bell camera, internal camera and/or monitored burglar alarm.

2.Ensure doors are double locked at all times. Keep windows closed and locked.

3.Install ‘dusk to dawn’ external lighting and use timer switches in your home to control internal lights, radios and a simulated TV.

4.Keep keys and valuables secure and out of sight.

5.Ensure boundary fences are secure with side gates locked. Keep tools and ladders in a locked shed.

6.Join Hertfordshire’s Neighbourhood Watch for alerts and advice: [www.owl.co.uk](http://www.owl.co.uk)

7. Visit www.owlprotect.uk for discounts on security products.

If you have any information about a burglar or are reporting a burglary retrospectively, call 101. If you suspect a burglary is in progress, call 999.

Red Kite shot in Ashwell

•Rural Team investigate shooting.

•Persecution of birds of prey is a National Wildlife Crime Priority.

•Information and witnesses sought.

Officers from Hertfordshire Constabulary’s Rural Support Team are currently investigating the shooting of a Red Kite.

The injured bird was spotted by a local gamekeeper on a bridleway called Green Lane, just off Northfields Road in Ashwell, on Saturday September 29. However he was unable to catch it until October 3. He then took the bird to a local vet where x-rays indicated that it had been shot and had also sustained broken wings. Sadly, it was therefore put to sleep.

Officers are appealing for anyone who has any information about the bird and its injuries to contact them as soon as possible.

Detective Constable Amanda Matthews said: “The reintroduction of Red Kites has been a fantastic success story and the expansion of the population into Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire has allowed more people to see these amazing birds.

“The persecution of birds of prey is a National Wildlife Crime Priority and we treat all incidents of this nature very seriously. We are therefore urging people to come forward with any information that could assist us to progress this matter.”

Anyone who has any information about the incident is asked to contact DC Amanda Matthews via the non-emergency number 101, quoting reference 41/47461/18.

**Local Crime Information**

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

Outbuilding Burglary, Newnham Way, Ashwell – At 2345 on 29th September there was an outbuilding burglary. A vehicle was seen to pull up, three males exited the vehicle and entered the rear garden and jemmied open the shed, whereupon they stole gardening equipment (Reported on 1/10/2018) Crime ref 41/42076/18

Attempted theft, Station Road, Ashwell – On 6th October at 1930 two males approached a trailer that was on the drive of the property. Male has dragged the trailer onto the road to connect to another vehicle. Offenders were disturbed and made off leaving the trailer on the road. Cime ref 41/43687/18

Criminal Damage, Slip End A505 – 10th-16th October. Between material times

damage occurred to a fence of a residential property, whilst offenders were stealing BT cabling from the side of the A505. Crime ref 41/47092/18

Criminal Damage, Springhead, Ashwell – On the 25th October between 1830-0830 a van had an attempt break in, damage was caused to the side door. Crime ref 41/49887/18

Theft from Motor Vehicle, Ashwell Street, Ashwell – Overnight on the 25th - 26th October, a van was parked in a residential road, offenders have damaged the side panel door with an unknown implement. They have stolen tools. Crime ref 41/49976/18

Theft from Motor Vehicle, Back Street, Ashwell – Overnight on the 25th-26th October a van was broken into. Offenders have gained access through the side panel door and stolen tools. Crime ref 41/50091/18

Outbuilding Burglary, Ashwell Road, Newnham – On the 26th October between 930-1530 offender has gained access to business premises and stolen a high value pressure washer. Crime ref 41/50153/18

Theft – New Inn Road, Hinxworth – Overnight on 26th -27th October number plates were stolen from a vehicle. Crime ref 41/50688/18

Attempt Burglary, High Street, Ashwell – On the 29th October between 0200 and 0205 the resident has been awoken by a door handle being tried, and could hear voices outside. Police were called, on arrival no one present but jemmy marks were found on door frame. Crime ref 41/50863/18

Outbuilding Burglary, Bacons Yard, Ashwell – Overnight from 30th-31st October, offenders have approached an unlocked garage and propped open the door. A quantity of scrap metal was stolen. Crime ref 41/51567/18

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

Criminal Damage, Crow Lane, Reed – Between the 5th-7th October offenders have damaged a winch on an HGV and have tried to take the light bar from the roof of the cab. Crime ref 41/44011/18

Criminal Damage, Mill Lane, Therfield – On 20th October between 0900-1700, in order to gain access to fields for hare coursing, the offenders have damaged a padlock. Crime ref 41/48754/18

Theft from Motor Vehicle, Smiths End Lane, Barley – Overnight from 23rd-24th October, offenders have gained access to an unlocked vehicle and stolen a SatNav. Crime ref 41/49370/18

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

Theft from Motor Vehicle, Redhill, Rushden – Overnight on 11th -12th October offenders have gained entry to a vehicle and have stolen power tools. Crime ref 41/45570/18

Dwelling Burglary, Damask Green Road, Weston – Between 11th-13th October offenders have forced a patio door and gained entry to the house, jewellery has been taken. Crime ref 41/46014/18

Outbuilding Burglaries, Mill Ground Cottages, Weston – Overnight on 19th-20th there were four burglaries to sheds in the Weston area, copper, gardening tools and two antique clocks were stolen. Crime ref 41/48434/18,

41/48488/18, 41/48497/18 and 41/48505/18

**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**