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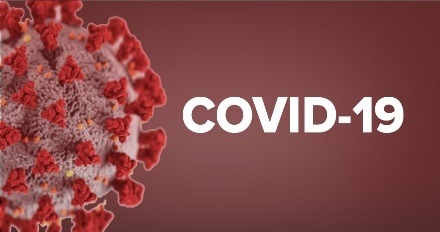
***Royston Rural Watch, May 2020***

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

Sgt Lee Jessup 560

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

**On the Beat –**



Apologies for the lack of newsletter last month, it was a strange month with the police force adjusting to the new Covid -19 rules and how to police the lockdown effectively. Royston area on the whole has adhered to the new laws very well but has large park area’s that have needed extra police work. I wanted to take a moment to reassure you that your Safer Neighbourhood Teams are still here for you -

• The team continue to provide a visible presence in local communities.

• We will be working hard to ensure people stay safe and adhere to government guidelines.

• You can report local issues using the echo digital feedback system.

The county’s neighbourhood policing officers continue to engage with local communities as the national emergency progresses.

Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) officers will continue to provide a visible presence in your local area, but the way in which we will maintain community engagement has changed. Planned face to face engagement events, such as neighbourhood surgeries, will now be postponed.

Concerns about the causes of crime or anti-social behaviour in your local area can still be shared by using our digital feedback platform, echo

When providing your feedback, please be as specific as possible about issues that matter most to you, echo is anonymous: we will use your feedback, along with our community stakeholders, to set local policing priorities.

Please don’t use echo to report a crime. To do that, contact the Force Communications Room via online web chat or call the non-emergency number 101. If a crime is in progress or someone’s life is in danger, always call 999 immediately.

You can identify your Safer Neighbourhood Team officers, along with information about crime and ASB in your local area, through the Police UK website.

As a direct result of the emergency legislation and the need for social distancing to control the spread of COVID-19 the following public engagement activities will now be prioritised:

• Online community engagement and local policing priorities – echo

• Access to contact information for your local Safer Neighbourhood Team and to see crime and ASB data - police.uk

• Sharing of important community policing messages - Online Watch Link (OWL) and Hertfordshire Constabulary – Facebook / Twitter / website

• A webchat facility is also available via the force website, accessing the Force Control Room (FCR) webchat

You can still contact your local neighbourhood teams using the following methods:

1. By emailing questions or concerns directly to your local SNT by entering your postcode on police.uk
2. By calling 101 and asking to speak to a member of your local neighbourhood team. If they are out on patrol, you can leave a message for them.
3. By using the community voice platform, echo.

4. By online web chat with a Force Communication Room operator at www.herts.police.uk/contact.

You can keep up to date with the government’s latest advice on COVID-19

Local officers tackle ASB in Therfield



•Officers respond to concerns about off road bikers.

•Two riders given section 59 warnings.

•Police will seize bikes if used in an anti-social manner again.

Two off road bikers have been issued with Section 59 warnings after officers from the Royston Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team responded to complaints about anti-social behaviour.

On Monday 30 March a report was received that a van containing two off road bikes had arrived in the village of Therfield and that the behaviour of the two riders had caused much concern among local residents.

Local officers immediately started an investigation to ascertain the owners of the bikes, and a couple of hours later reports were received that the bikers had returned to the village.

Officers immediately attended the location and upon finding the van in which the bikes had been transported, waited with the vehicle until the bikers returned.

After a long chat with the riders where advice relating to the law and their future contact was given, both men/boys were issued with a Section 59 warning. This enables officers to seize the vehicles should they be used in an anti- social way again.

Sergeant Lee Jessup said: “We hope we have reassured residents that we take this kind of anti-social behaviour very seriously, while also educating the riders about how their behaviour impacts on local communities such as this one.

“Hopefully we will now have no reason to seize the bikes, however should we receive any more reports of anti-social behaviour regarding these riders, we will not hesitate to do just that.”

You can tell us what matters most to you about policing, crime or anti-social behaviour in Hertfordshire using echo. Go to bit.ly/herts-echo and have your say.

**Warning as fraudsters take advantage of coronavirus confusion**

• Residents warned of coronavirus related scam emails and texts

• Fraudsters are posing as health organisations, UK government and Hertfordshire County Council

• If you have been a victim of fraud or cybercrime report to actionfraud.police.uk 

Hertfordshire Constabulary is warning residents to be cautious as a number of corona virus related scams have been reported.

Unfortunately fraudsters are using the current situation to take advantage of those who are most vulnerable. Action Fraud recorded a 400% increase in virus related fraud this month.

One scam claims that people can donate to the efforts of the World Health Organization or the Center for Disease Control to combat the virus, by asking people to pay via a bitcoin link. Another scam appears to be from the government website Gov.uk, claiming that people are entitled to tax and national insurance refunds. Both of these arrive in email form or as posts on social media, with links to click for more information.

Reports have also been received in other parts of the UK of text messages being received from Gov.uk stating that the recipient has breached regulations and will be sent a fine in the post. Another fraudulent email claiming to be from Hertfordshire County Council asks parents of children who receive free school meals for their bank details. Coronavirus-themed phishing emails with infected attachments containing fictitious 'safety measures' have also been targeting people in the UK.

If you have been a victim of fraud or cybercrime, report it to Action Fraud at actionfraud.police.uk. 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.

Chief Inspector Sam Khanna from Hertfordshire Constabulary’s Serious Fraud and Cyber-crime Unit, said: “People need to remain vigilant during this period of change and confusion. Many people are sharing posts, advice and forwarding on attachments. We all need to be vigilant and remember not to click on suspicious attachments or links. Phishing scams aim to trick you into revealing your personal data or lure you to a fake website that looks like your bank or other online accounts. Sometimes these emails or posts can be very convincing. Never click on links in emails or download attachments unless you are 100 per cent sure they are legitimate.

“It’s also really important to make sure you keep security software up to date, always install the latest updates on your computers and mobile devices to protect yourself from the latest threats.”

Here’s what to look out for:

• Getting an email or text out of the blue asking you for your personal or financial info? Don't take the bait!

• Messages asking you to "confirm" or "verify" your personal or financial details are a common lure used by criminals. Don't get hooked.

• Phishing reports to @Actionfrauduk show that telecoms companies, tech brands and Government departments are the most commonly spoofed sectors.

• Don't respond to messages or calls that ask for your personal or financial info.

• Create strong passwords using three random words. For example such as a fruit, a colour, and make of car i.e. Yellowappleford1! Use passwords with over 15 characters, using upper and lower case, numbers and symbols.

• Use a different password for every login and use either a password manager or if you don’t want to/can’t do that write them down if you can’t remember them. If you do write them down don’t leave your password list in plain sight.

• Use two factor authentication wherever this is an option, which requires two different methods to prove your identity before you can access a service. This is usually a password and another method, such as a code sent to your mobile phone.

For more simple tips on how to protect yourself online, visit cyberaware.gov.uk.

**Local Crime Information**

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

Criminal Damage, Ashwell – Between 5th April to 22nd April a car was parked in the street and it appears a key or similar has been used to damage the back passenger door. 41/32260/20 refers

Theft, Ashwell – On the 25th April at 13.18 a 4x4 pick up vehicle pulls up at a property in Back Street, Ashwell. The offenders get out and remove tools from a driveway. The offenders returned to the vehicle and made off. 41/33073/20 Refers

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

**Nuthampstead**

Criminal Damage, Reed – On the 14th April a BT engineer called 101 to report that cables had been cut at a location in the village. Unknown if this was an attempt to steal cables. 41/30257/20

Burglary, Shed, Barley – Between 17th and the 20th April a shed located at the rear of a large garden. The offender forced the lock and stolen a petrol lawn mower. 41/31608/20 Refers

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

Burglary, Weston – On 24th of April at 13.10 an offender has entered a property in Damask Close via an unlocked back door. The offender has taken a wallet left on the kitchen side board and made off. 41/32768/20

***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**