



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

PC 431 Paul Marina, PC1277 Nic Musto, PCSO Chris Brabrook



Hello and welcome to the Rural Newsletter. Let me introduce myself to you, my name is Nic Musto and I will be firstly taking over the running of this monthly newsletter but also working alongside Paul Marina up until his retirement in October to make for an easy transition where I will then be your dedicated rural police officer alongside Chris Brabrook our PCSO.

I have been a police officer for 18 ½ years and 15 of those years I have been based at Royston Police Station. It's fair to say that I have quite an extensive knowledge of the rural area. Rural life is very important to me and I hope to work alongside many of you to keep our communities safe and free from crime.

Let me tell you a story of one of my first rural policing experiences way back in 1997!.....

When I was working as the Royston response car driver, I had cause to be extra vigilant in my patrols to a rural location that housed a very large compound. Within this compound was a large amount of movable machinery. The company

in question had been the victims of burglary whereupon persons had entered the site over the top of some very high metal railings, started some of the machinery and then used its size and weight to drive through the railings. Well you can imagine that not only was the loss of the equipment a financial nightmare for the company, so was the cost to repair the surrounding fencing! We stepped up our patrols.

Unfortunately while we were away dealing with other matters, the thieves struck again! This made the owners very twitchy and to cover all bases, employed a night watchman to remain on site and to monitor the newly purchased CCTV.

Alert !

One night as I was working the night shift, we received a 999 call from the wide eyed and alert night watchman. He had seen from the comfort of his arm chair, two persons scale the external perimeter fence and drop down into the yard. While watching this on CCTV he had then called us. I and my colleague were despatched and swiftly flew to the scene. Once there we were met by a grateful security guard who hurriedly sorted through a bunch of keys to unlock the gate and allow us access. This was a big compound! As we entered he rapidly relayed his story and led us to the office where the cameras were being monitored. Totally convinced that the intruders had not left the site we suggested that he remained locked in the office to continue his surveillance of the fence line. If he saw anyone attempting to leave he could quickly notify us and give directions and we would rush to that area and make the arrest. With him safely ensconced glued to a TV set, we entered the yard and began to search.

“Stop police !”

Firstly you need to picture the scene. It was the middle of the night and as it was the middle of nowhere, it was dark. Not just dark, but as black as pitch! The compound was big, I mean really big. Not only was it a large area, but it was full of little sheds, larger sheds, huts and storage barns all housing machinery. More importantly to us, these structures were for the burglar wishing to evade capture, the ideal areas to hide in. As I had not heard anything from the night watchman and as everything had gone very quiet, it was apparent to me that the intruders were alerted to our presence and had gone to ground. Or shed to be more precise. My colleague and I began searching every single hut. A torch to hand, every door was swiftly and dramatically opened. Due to the size of the area this was taking some time. By now we had made a methodical sweep through the compound and were now closing in on our prey leaving only one last corner of sheds remaining

to search. Slowly and with my heart throwing itself against the inside of my chest we came across the final wooden hut having ducked under a wire to get to it. Just as I placed my hand on the handle and prepared to wrench the door open there was a sudden quick movement off to my left and I was nearly knocked over as they ran off! "Stop police!" I immediately gave chase on foot and could hear their heavy footsteps as they ran across the grassed area I was now on. My torch every so often just catching a flash of white as they ran, by the sounds of it there must have been two, maybe three. They were obviously tiring as I heard their footsteps slow. Sensing the pursuit coming to an end as we must be fast approaching the perimeter fence and in order to arrest three I draw my baton ready to strike!

Struggle!

I stopped dead as I came upon my quarry- a white horse! I had stumbled into a field at the back and had been chasing a horse. I looked at him and he looked back at me. At this point I was joined by my colleague and after a second he also realised what had happened. We both struggled to stand on our feet as we burst into laughter!

Everything we deal with is not always what it seems. No burglar was ever found, but I did manage to take home something for my roses....on my shoes.!

You can contact me by phoning 101 and giving my name or warrant number which is 1277. My email is Nicholas.Musto@herts.pnn.police.uk

What should I do if I witness a crime?

- If you see a crime being committed report it or ask someone else to report it if you can't leave the scene.
- If the incident is serious or someone is badly injured and call 999.
- If it is not serious call us on 101 to speak to an operator.
- Don't intervene in a violent incident.
- Pay attention to an offender's height, build, hair colour and length and in particular their clothes. You may be asked to describe them to police.

- **What will we want to know?**

We will normally ask:

- Your name and address
 - The telephone number you are calling from
 - A main contact number (mobile or home number)
 - The exact location of the incident you are reporting
 - The nature of the incident
 - Descriptions of the people involved
 - Whether you are a witness to the incident or reporting it on behalf of someone else
 - For you to stay on the line if you are still watching the incident
- You can still report to the police anonymously through CrimeStoppers.

If you are reporting a road collision you may also be asked:

- About the vehicles involved
- Who has been injured and what injuries they have
- Whether the road is blocked
- Whether there is any debris in the roadway

Village Area of check Date and times No of cars/Top speed/ Average speed

Hinxworth	High Street	31/05/13 1050 - 1130	3 veh / 27 mph / 19 mph
Newnham	Ashwell road	31/05/13 1015 - 1040	3 veh / 21 mph / 18.3 mph
Bygrave	Upper Bygrave	24/05/13 1820 - 1850	24 veh / 37 mph / 25.2 mph
Ashwell	Station Road (40 limit)	24/05/13 1730 - 1800	33 veh / 45 mph / 33.6 mph
Ashwell	Newnham Way	24/05/13 1645 - 1715	20 veh / 36 mph / 26.1 mph
Weston	Hatch Lane	31/05/13 0900 – 0930	3 veh / 27 mph / 25.4 mph

G4E - Ashwell, Hinxworth, Bygrave, Newnham and Caldecote

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Time & Date
G4/13/258	Burglary-(Outbuilding)	Ashwell	01/05/13

Offenders levered of padlock and looked in shed.

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Time & Date
G4/13/282	Theft-From Motor Vehicle	Ashwell	07/05/13

Offenders have stolen catalytic converter.

Crime no.	Offence	Location	Time & date
G4/13/299	Theft-From Motor Vehicle	Ashwell	14/05/13

Offenders have stolen number plates from vehicle.

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Time & Date
G4/13/301	Burglary-(Outbuilding)	Bygrave	14/05/13

Offenders stole horse riding equipment.

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Time & Date
G4/13/311	Theft-From Motor Vehicle	Ashwell	16/05/11

Offenders have stolen catalytic converter.

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Time & Date
G4/13/315	Theft-From Motor Vehicle	Ashwell	18/05/13

Offenders have stolen catalytic converter.

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Time & Date
G4/13/319	Theft-From Motor Vehicle	Hinxworth	24/05/13

Offenders have stolen number plates from vehicle.

G4D - Barkway, Barley, Reed, Nuthampstead, Newsells, Kelshall and Therfield

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Time & Date
G4/13/276	Theft	Barley	06/05/13

Garden equipment stolen

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Time & Date
G4/13/281	Theft-From Motor Vehicle	Barkway	04/05/13

Laptop stolen

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Time & Date
G4/13/307	Burglary-(Dwelling)	Barley	16/05/13

Small amount of property stolen

G3C - Sandon, Wallington, Rushden, Clothall and Weston

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Time & Date
G3/13/184	Damage	Weston	06/05/13

Damage to wooden bridge and sign.

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Time & Date
G3/13/207	Theft-From Motor Vehicle	Weston	21/05/13

Offenders have stolen catalytic converter.

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Time & Date
G3/13/208	Theft-From Motor Vehicle	Weston	21/05/13

Offenders have stolen catalytic converter.

Incidents In our area

	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
02-03	10	12	30	10	8	12	9	8	100
03-04	03	13	28	3	8	13	9	3	80
04-05	4	13	4	0	4	0	1	0	26
05-06	0	3	0	0	1	1	1	0	6
06-07	0	4	4	6	1	0	2	0	17
07-08	3	10	4	6	9	2	4	3	43
08-09	7	5	2	4	4	4	2	1	29
09-10	3	3	10	3	1	1	2	1	24
10-11	0	2	2	4	1	1	0	9	10
11-12	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	7
12-13	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	6

Rushden	14/05/13	Sandon	12/09/12
Therfield	07/05/13	Reed	16/05/13
Barkway	10/03/13	Barley	04/03/13
Kelshall	08/04/13	Nuthampstead	15/06/11
Ashwell	05/09/12	Bygrave	01/05/13
Caldecote	28/05/11	Weston	11/04/13
Radwell	10/05/11	Wallington	14/05/13
Hinxworth	02/05/13	Clothall	09/01/12

Police Surgery times and dates:

<http://snt.herts.police.uk/aCMS/team.php?nptID=63&dID=5>

Useful Links

<http://www.herts.police.uk/>

<http://www.doglost.co.uk/>

<http://www.stolenhorseregister.com/>

Thank you for reading this newsletter.

If you would like to see anything added to it then please contact me via email on
Nicholas.Musto@herts.pnn.police.uk