



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

## *Royston Rural Watch, August 2015*

PC Mike Hardiman 2787, PCSO Chris Brabrook 6522, PCSO Penny Tomsett 6531

Sgt Westwood 1604



*Our Non - Emergency  
Number 101*

**Hertfordshire Constabulary**

### **warning to would-be hare coursers**

With the harvesting period now upon us, the threat of hare coursing is looming across rural areas of Hertfordshire.



However, police officers from the Rural Operational Support Team (ROST) are keen to let any would-be hare coursers know that they do not tolerate this form of activity in Hertfordshire and will deal robustly with anyone caught or suspected to be taking part.

Hertfordshire Constabulary warning to would-be hare coursers

Hare coursing – which has been illegal in the UK since 2005 – involves the pursuit of a hare with a greyhound or other form of sight hound. If the hare

is caught by a dog it is usually killed.

Those involved in hare coursing often travel over many counties to meet in rural areas within Hertfordshire to carry out this activity.

Illegal gambling is usually at the heart of any hare coursing event and in some parts of the country thousands of pounds have been recovered from offenders taking part. During this pursuit, damage can be caused to fences, gates and hedges by offenders trying to gain entry onto fields and then additional damage is often caused by vehicles driving on the land over any remaining crops.

Sergeant Jamie Bartlett, who leads the ROST, said: “Not only do illegal coursers and poachers trespass on private land, damage crops and property, but they also often steal property and can be abusive and intimidating to those who challenge them.

Hertfordshire Constabulary warning to would-be hare coursers

“There is also the matter of animal cruelty, frequent illegal gambling, driving stolen vehicles and using red diesel.

“With the advent of the new season upon us, I would like to reassure farmers and those who live and work in rural areas that we will be putting on extra patrols in areas where hare coursing is likely to take place.”

He added: “I would also like to encourage anyone who suspects hare coursing to call us as soon as possible on the non-emergency number 101. If you witness hare coursing in progress dial 999.”

Anyone caught hare coursing could face a fine of up to £5000, disqualification from driving and even imprisonment. The ROST team are police officers specialised in rural, wildlife, environmental, heritage crime and equine and traveller liaison issues. They investigate crimes such as badger baiting, hare coursing, night hawking and the theft of metal from historical buildings.

## **Royston rural police arrest man for criminal damage**

A man from Bedfordshire has been arrested by officers from Royston Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team in connection with an incident of criminal damage at Quickswood Farm in Clothall, Baldock.

The incident took place on Saturday, May 23rd where 19 traps and snares were destroyed.

A 45-year-old man from Biggleswade was arrested on Sunday, August 3. He has been released on police bail and is due to return to Stevenage Police Station on September 18.

## **Spate of Vehicle Crime – Ashwell**

July and August has seen an increase in overnight breaks to vehicles within Ashwell. The crimes would ordinarily appear unconnected, if it wasn't for the fact that this is very out of character for Ashwell. Residents are reminded to stay vigilant and make sure all vehicles are left locked and secure overnight. I would like to stress that, should anyone within the village have information that could help the Police, to please get in contact Royston Rural Neighbourhood Team. Even reports of suspicious incidents, people or vehicles, may be of help.

## **Distinctive bikes stolen during burglary Radwell / Baldock**



Detectives investigating the theft of several high-spec racing bikes from a home in Baldock have released images of the bikes in a bid to trace them and those responsible for the crime.

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The bikes were stolen during a burglary which occurred between 3pm on Thursday, July 30 and 3.45am on Monday, August 10.

Offenders forced entry to the property via a side door and stole five men's racing bikes, made by Pinarello, Cipollini, Ridley and Specialized S-Works.

Detective Constable Stuart Bence, who is investigating, said: "The stolen bikes are rare and highly distinctive and would therefore be instantly recognisable to anyone who comes across them.

"I would ask anyone who knows the whereabouts of the bikes to contact me. I am particularly appealing to members of the cycling community to keep an eye out for these bikes."

Detectives investigating the theft of several high-spec racing bikes from a home in Baldock have released images of the bikes in a bid to trace them and those responsible for the crime.

Anyone with information about the burglary is asked to contact DC Bence via the Hertfordshire Constabulary non-emergency number 101, quoting crime reference G3/15/383.



Local Crime Information,

## Reported Crimes

### G4E – Ashwell, Hinxworth, Newnham, Bygrave

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/15/537	Theft – Pedal Cycle	Radwell	5 <sup>th</sup> August
<b>Bike was unlocked and stolen from the front of a property</b>			
Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/15/568	Theft From Motor Vehicle	Ashwell	11 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> August
<b>Window smashed and property taken from the vehicle</b>			
Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/15/572	Theft From Motor Vehicle	Ashwell	12 <sup>th</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> August
<b>Tool used to open car door and items removed from the glove box</b>			
Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/15/586	Burglary – Shed (attempt)	Slip End	3 <sup>rd</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> August
<b>Damage caused to a wooden shed in an attempt to gain entry</b>			

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

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G3/15/409	Burglary	Weston	18 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> August
<b>Entry gained by the rear patio door, tidy search, jewellery and electrical goods removed</b>			

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

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/15/561	Burglary - Outbuilding	Therfield	10 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup> August
<b>Open a stable door by a latch and have removed a chainsaw</b>			
Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date

G4/15/575	Theft of Motor Vehicle	Reed	14 <sup>th</sup> August
<b>Offender removed a tractor and trailer, was arrested in a Bedfordshire village</b>			

## **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**