



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

## ***Royston Rural Watch, July 2015***

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

Sgt Westwood 1604



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

### **Chief Constable visits Barley and Royston to see how speeding is being tackled**



Hertfordshire Constabulary's Chief Constable Andy Bliss visited the town centre in Royston and the village of Barley alongside Royston Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) yesterday (July 27) to see the work officers are undertaking to tackle current crime and policing issues in the district. One local concern currently is speeding motorists.

Chief Constable visits Barley and Royston to see how speeding is being tackled.

The Chief patrolled on foot around the village of Barley, visiting roads that were causing most concern in the High Street and London Road with Royston's Safer Neighbourhood Team Sergeant Guy Westwood and Royston Rural PC Mike Hardiman. They also patrolled in Royston town centre. Chief Constable Andy Bliss said: "Working with their local communities, our Safer Neighbourhood Team officers set specific long-term priorities to focus on, as well as tackling day to day issues. These will be the top three or four

problems that most concern local people. I am keen to learn about these concerns and to see how our officers are addressing them.

“Tackling speeding in Royston town centre and the villages of Barley, Barkway, Therfield, Weston, Hinxworth and Ashwell is a current priority for Royston’s Safer Neighbourhood Team following feedback received from members of the public.”

To reduce the problem, SNT officers and dedicated Special Constables have been monitoring the speed of cars passing through affected roads and holding regular speed enforcement operations. Additionally, SNT officers have been working alongside volunteers from the Police and Crime Commissioner’s Community Drive Safe scheme which has been devised to tackle speeding in affected areas.

Royston Safer Neighbourhood Team’s Sergeant Guy Westwood, said: “We were very pleased to welcome the Chief Constable to show him areas in Barley and Royston town centre that are experiencing speeding and how we are tackling it.

“In the past few months we have received increased reports regarding speeding in Royston and the near-by villages. The speeding experienced in these areas is thankfully no worse than other villages and town centres in Hertfordshire, but drivers speeding along these roads are committing an offence, are a danger to themselves and other road users and are causing concern to local people - so we are determined to do what we can to reduce it.”

The Chief Constable added: “I was delighted to join my officers on patrol yesterday to see the positive work they are doing and to meet local people – an important part of my job. I would encourage residents in Royston and its nearby villages to continue to make your local policing team aware of any problems with crime or anti-social behaviour that are concerning you so we can respond appropriately.

You can contact your team by email on [sntroystonandroystonrural@herts.pnn.police.uk](mailto:sntroystonandroystonrural@herts.pnn.police.uk) or by calling the police non-emergency number 101.”

Community Drive Safe schemes are currently operating in Barley, Weston, Therfield and Ashwell. Through the scheme, volunteers are trained and given speed display equipment. They carry out roadside monitoring the speed of passing vehicles. Speeding motorists are then sent a letter advising them of their speed and those who speed frequently could receive a visit from a police officer.

Police and Crime Commissioner David Lloyd, said: “I have been committed to tackling speeding and anti-social drivers in the county since I was first elected Commissioner and I wholeheartedly support Royston’s Safer Neighbourhood Team making the issue one of its priorities.”

He added: "If you are concerned about drivers speeding in the area where you live, then there is something you and your like-minded neighbours can do to help. My DriveSafe scheme offers groups of volunteers the opportunity to monitor speeding vehicles and so making drivers more aware of the speed they are travelling at and the danger that represents."

Community DriveSafe can also be introduced in other areas of Royston and the town's near-by villages. If you are interested in setting up a scheme in your area, visit [www.hertscommissioner.org/community-drivesafe-scheme-hertfordshire](http://www.hertscommissioner.org/community-drivesafe-scheme-hertfordshire) for further information.

## **Don't give burglars a break this summer**

With the summer holidays fast approaching, Hertfordshire Constabulary is warning people not to make their homes an easy target for burglars.



Sometimes the thrill of an impending holiday can lead people to forget about less exciting things like home security. If you are planning to leave your home empty for a couple weeks or even just a few days, you need to make sure that you aren't advertising the fact to criminals.

Burglars love empty homes to break into, safe in the knowledge that they won't be disturbed and that the crime might not even be reported for days or weeks. Making sure that your home doesn't give away the fact that it is empty can go a long way to deterring criminals.

The joy of setting off on holiday can also lead people into sharing their plans via social media posts, which can unfortunately also tip off burglars that your home is going to be empty.

Police and Crime Commissioner, David Lloyd, said: "Every year Hertfordshire residents set off on holiday full of excitement, with a small number of those have to return to the heart break of finding their home has been burgled. No one should have to suffer this, so it makes sense to take all possible precautions. The best way to beat crime is to prevent it from happening and

whilst the police can give advice, individuals have to take some responsibility for protecting their homes and valuables.”

Inspector Paul Lawrence, from Hertfordshire Constabulary’s Crime Reduction Unit, warned: “Hertfordshire burglars do tend to target homes that are empty and will look for signs like piles of newspapers or unopened letters at the front door, bins not put away or continually drawn curtains can attract their attention. So making it appear that a home is occupied can be the most effective deterrent against burglary.

“It can be equally tempting posting photos or information about your holidays on social media, but you can stop criminals finding out this kind of information on Facebook, by changing your privacy settings to make sure that only friends can see your posts and photos.”

There are ways to give your home a ‘lived-in’ look when it’s unoccupied, so that any would-be thieves aren’t tempted:

- Use timer switches for lamps so that they turn on as it gets dark in the evenings. You could also use a timer switch for a radio (always follow manufacturer's instructions)
- Ask your neighbour to put your rubbish or recycling 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 aren’t leaving your car at home, ask a neighbour/friend to park their car on your drive.
- Don’t forget to cancel deliveries of milk, newspapers etc.
- Consider moving enticing items, such as videos and television, so that they are out of sight.
- If you are away for a longer period of time in the summer months, ask your neighbour to cut your grass. This helps to show that the house may be occupied.
- You could also ask someone you trust to help give your home the lived-in look by opening and drawing the curtains, taking in any free newspapers and moving your mail away from the letterbox.
- You could store valuables in your loft when you go away.

All these tips can help to give your home the ‘lived-in’ look. For more detailed security advice, please visit the crime prevention section at [www.herts.police.uk](http://www.herts.police.uk) or contact us on 101.





Local Crime Information,

## Reported Crimes

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

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/15/436	Burglary - other	Hinxworth	7 <sup>th</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> July
Offenders have gained entry to a garage, items removed			
Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/15/459	Fraud	Ashwell	15 <sup>th</sup> July
Male impersonated a police officer over the phone – asked for bank details			
Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/15/493	Burglary - Other	Hinxworth	24 <sup>th</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup> July
Offenders have gained entry to a garage, items removed			
Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/15/505	Fly - Tipping	Ashwell	26 <sup>th</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> July
Large amount of bin liners found containing drugs paraphernalia			

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

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G3/15/329	Damage	Weston	3 <sup>rd</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> July
Offender has			

<b>approached a fence at the rear of a property as has caused damage</b>			
<b>Crime No.</b>	<b>Offence</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>
G3/15/333	Burglary – Dwelling	Wallington	20 <sup>th</sup> July
Offender has gained entry via a patio door, untidy search and jewellery taken			

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

<b>Crime No.</b>	<b>Offence</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>
G4/15/439	Theft of Motor Vehicle	Therfield	8 <sup>th</sup> to 9 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>Between material times the offender has removed the vehicle by unknown means</b>			
<b>Crime No.</b>	<b>Offence</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>
G4/15/456	Theft	Royston Heath	13 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> July
Offenders have removed a flag from the golf course			
<b>Crime No</b>	<b>Offence</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>
G4/15/464	Theft from Motor Vehicle	Royston Heath	16 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> July
Vehicle number plates removed and stolen			

**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**