



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

## ***Royston Rural Watch, October 2015***

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

Sgt Westwood 1604



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

### **Secure your home this autumn**



Hertfordshire Constabulary is reminding residents to make sure they keep their homes secure during the autumn and winter months.

Burglars always prefer to target homes that are empty and as the evenings start to get darker earlier, many homes are left in darkness when people are out in the late

afternoon and early evening.

This can indicate that a home is empty and make it more likely to be targeted.

During October Safer Neighbourhood Officers will out in the community giving crime prevention advice and signing residents up to neighbourhood watch schemes in their area.

Residents should take the following steps to keep their homes secure and valuables safe:

- Make a habit of checking that ground floor windows and doors are closed and locked when you leave the house or go to bed. Upstairs windows should be locked when the house is unoccupied.
- PVCu doors must be locked by lifting the handle and using the key to ensure all the security features are in place.
- Car and house keys should be kept out of sight in a safe place. Don't leave them on display on window sills, in porches, hallways or kitchens.
- Secure your rear garden by shutting and locking any gates. Burglars can use garden tools to break in, so make sure you securely lock away any tools after use.
- Use timer switches for lamps so that they turn on as it gets dark in the evenings.

## **Man arrested for theft of agricultural equipment Ashwell**

A man has been arrested and stolen agricultural equipment recovered after investigations by your local officers from Royston Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team.

On Monday, September 7, police received a report that a hydraulic breaker (an attachment for a JCB digger) had been stolen from a building site on Station Road in Ashwell at some point between Saturday, September 5 and the morning of the report.

PC Hardiman and PCSO Brabrook arrived quickly on the scene and, after making initial enquiries, attended a site in Newnham and discovered the stolen property in a locked warehouse.

After further investigations a 29-year-old man from Hitchin was arrested on suspicion of theft. He has been released on police bail and is due to return to Stevenage Police Station on October 10.

### **Tackling Rural Crime in Royston**

Royston Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) has dedicated officers responsible for dealing with rural crime issues happening in the area's vast expanse of countryside. The main issues the officers tackle include burglary of sheds and outbuildings, speeding through lanes and villages and anti-social behaviour such as fly-tipping.

## **Residents praised for saying 'no' to fraudsters**

Hertfordshire Constabulary is praising residents across the county who said 'no' to fraudsters after a number of scam calls were made over the weekend.

Between Friday, September 4, and Sunday, September 6, 18 calls were made by fraudsters claiming to be police officers.

Whilst, as was the case for the people called this time, most people recognise the scams for what they are, they can have a devastating effect on people's lives as not only do they lose a large sum of money, their confidence and trust in people is shattered.

The police are asking the public to make contact with their relatives, friends and neighbours to ensure that as many people as possible know about the scams.

People in the following areas were called:

- Two in Bishop's Stortford
- Two in Little Berkhamsted
- Four in Hemel Hempstead
- Four in St Albans
- Four in Hitchin
- Two in Borehamwood

Reports also received locally in Ashwell and Weston, again the residents both said 'no to the fraudsters'

The callers claimed to be police officers stating that they had either arrested a person who had been found in possession of the victims' bank cards or that they were investigating fraudulent activity on the victims' accounts.

The people called became suspicious and ended the calls with no personal information or money being handed over.

Fraudsters will use a number of tactics to try and convince people that they are genuinely investigating fraudulent activity and that they need people's bank cards and money as part of an investigation, including offering reference numbers and contact names.

The police and banks would never ask anyone to send them bank cards, money or any other property. This is simply something that would not happen in any circumstances – no matter what a person says or who they claim to be.

Hertfordshire Constabulary's advice on unexpected phone calls

The police and banks would:

- NEVER ask for your bank account details or PIN number over the phone, so do not disclose these to anyone, no matter who they claim to be.
- NEVER ask you to withdraw money and send it to them via a courier, taxi or by any other means.
- NEVER ask you to send your bank cards, or any other personal property, to them via courier, taxi or by any other means.
- NEVER ask you to transfer money from account to another over the telephone.

If you are not happy with a phone call and are suspicious of the conversation you have with the caller then please end the call and contact police via the non-emergency number, 101.

Remember, when reporting a suspicious phone call to police, wait at least five minutes before attempting to make the call or use a mobile or neighbour's phone to ensure you're not reconnected to the offender.

Did you know?

Phones are now available that automatically block withheld numbers, which are often used by offenders. People's service providers may also be able to assist with blocking unwanted calls.

For further information about phone scams and how to avoid becoming a victim, please visit [www.herts.police.uk/PhoneScams](http://www.herts.police.uk/PhoneScams)

Want to listen to a mock phone scam call?

Visit our YouTube channel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fvWjvsmG1t0>



Local Crime Information,

## Reported Crimes

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

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/15/634	Theft	Ashwell	5 <sup>th</sup> to 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept

**Male arrested for theft of plant machinery at a building site**

<b>Crime No.</b>	<b>Offence</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>
G4/15/635	Theft	Newnham	4 <sup>th</sup> to 9 <sup>th</sup> Sept

**Offender has removed a pedal cycle from the rear of a work premises**

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

**No Reported Crime**

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

<b>Crime No.</b>	<b>Offence</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>
G4/15/618	Theft	Barkway	29 <sup>th</sup> to 1 <sup>st</sup> Aug / Sept

**Offenders arrested at location – Theft of skips**

<b>Crime No.</b>	<b>Offence</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>
G4/15/636	Burglary	Reed	17 <sup>th</sup> to 7 <sup>th</sup> Aug / Sept

**Offender has entered by rear patio door, search completed and nothing taken**

<b>Crime No.</b>	<b>Offence</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>
G4/15/667	Damage	Barkway	19 <sup>th</sup> Sept

**Offender has scratched the bonnet of a vehicle parked in the street**

<b>Crime No.</b>	<b>Offence</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>
G4/15/685	Burglary	Barkway	30 <sup>th</sup> Sept

<p><b>Offender has approached the front door and has attempted to gain entry.</b></p>

## **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**