



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

## ***Royston Rural Watch, December 2016***

PCSO Chris Brabrook 6522, PC Mark Ellwood 371 &  
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***Our Non -  
Emergency  
Number 101***

**Happy Christmas from Royston Rural  
Neighbourhood Team**



Royston Rural Neighbourhood Team would like to use this opportunity to wish all 'Rural News' readers and families a Happy Christmas and thanks for your help over the last year. This newsletter started many years ago by PC Paul Marina has been a useful tool to inform local residents of what crime is occurring in your area. The result of that is many of you report suspicious people and vehicles and we have had some positive results because of it.

Last month a reader of this newsletter witnessed what he thought at the time was a fly-tip, on inspecting the objects that had been discarded from a car he realised that the objects may have been from a burglary. Using information of

the vehicle he saw and the objects he found, detectives were able to arrest offenders for a burglary in Letchworth, great work by all.

This is the time of year when it's getting darker earlier and people are preparing for Christmas by making more purchases. So it seems like a good time to remind everyone of the following advice:

- Ensure homes and outlying buildings are fully locked when empty.
- Invest in timer switches and security lights to help illuminate your home when you are not in. These are readily available from local shops and supermarkets. If you work full time, please be aware that on dull days, lights are now going on in houses from as early as 3.30pm. Homes in complete darkness will stand out as being unoccupied. (Royston Rural Neighbourhood Team has a box and they are free. First come, first served)
- Ensure outside lights are working and that sensors are pointing in the appropriate directions.
- Do not leave presents or expensive equipment on show or stacked up under the Christmas tree as these can be easily seen.
- Do not tell people on social media that you are away.
- Be aware of what you put out for recycling. Large TV or computer boxes will alert people to recent purchases. Turn these inside out or take them to the recycling centre instead.

Please pass on these messages to your neighbours. A well-lit and occupied street will help to deter opportunists.



**Village schools team up with Herts Police and Barley parish council to tackle speeding**



Ten pupils from Barley First School and Barkway First School unveiled four posters at a special assembly at Barley School on Wednesday, November 28. The posters were designed by the children to raise awareness about road safety and to warn motorists

driving through the villages of Barley and Barkway to reduce their speed.

Royston Safer Neighbourhood Team, Barley parish council, Barley First School and Barkway First School teamed up to raise awareness about speeding in known hot spots in the village. As part of this, Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Chris Brabrook, from Royston's Safer Neighbourhood Team, and Parish Councillor Graham Clark visited the schools earlier this year to host a speed awareness assembly where the children were educated about speed limits and keeping themselves safe when near roads.

At the end of the assemblies the children were asked to take part in a competition by designing a poster to remind motorists to slow down when driving through their villages and keep to the 30 MPH speed limit. The winning posters will then feature on the stretches of road where motorists tend to speed.

The children worked collaboratively to design road safety posters and were encouraged to look out for road speed signs and remind adult drivers about their importance.

A total of 34 children, ranging from ages five to nine, took part in the competition, and four posters were selected as winners. The children who contributed to these posters included Courtney Beedell, Oliver Wild, Ronnie Futter, Joshua Burling, Jasmine Carder and Phoebe Rowe from Barley School, and Rebecca Holden and Ollie Preece from Barkway School.

Their posters were chosen as the designs were eye catching and gave clear messages to motorists about driving slowly. The winning designers will now accompany Head Teachers, Margaret Davies McKeon and Mrs Sharon Brown to help choose new books for the schools after Barley Parish Council donated £100 of Waterstones vouchers to the winners.

Barley First School's Head Teacher Margaret Davies McKeon, said: "We were delighted to get the children involved in creating posters for such an important subject and would like to thank Barley Parish Council and the Police for arranging this for us.

"Whilst being involved in this project we have had a chance to educate the children about road safety and to keep an eye out for speeding cars as well as reminding motorists to watch their speed as they pass through our villages."

PCSO Chris Brabrook, from Royston Safer Neighbourhood Team said: "We were really pleased to work with Barley parish council and Barley and Barkway First Schools on this great initiative which has not only enabled us to educate local children about road safety, but we will also now have new posters reminding motorists to keep to the speed limit in areas of the villages where they tend to speed.

"Speed limits through villages are in place to keep people safe. In villages such as Barkway and Barley, the traffic flow is less than in a busy town so children may play near the roads and accidentally run into them. It's therefore very important that everyone keeps to the speed limit."

Graham Clark, from Barley parish council, said: "We have seen an increase in families with young children moving into both Barley and Barkway. We therefore need to educate the drivers to adhere to the speed limits currently in place through the villages, to avoid unnecessary accidents. With the children's assistance we hope we will go some way to achieving this goal."

## **Appeal for information following attempted theft of a dog**

Officers investigating the attempted theft of a dog near Royston are appealing for information and witnesses.

The incident happened in Pudding Lane, Barley, between 2pm and 2.10pm on Tuesday, November 15.

The owner was walking her poodle-terrier cross off the lead when the animal was approached by two men.

The men bent down to talk to the animal before they picked him up and began to run.

However, the dog slipped out of its harness and managed to run back to its owner while the two men continued to run down Pudding Lane.

The first suspect is described as white, between 5ft 7in and 5ft 10in tall and of slim build. He was wearing jeans with a grey hoodie. The second suspect is

also described as white, between 5ft 7in and 5ft 10in tall and of slim build. He was wearing jeans with a blue hoodie.

PCSO Chris Brabrook, from Royston's Rural Neighbourhood Team, said:

"This type of incident is very unusual but we would urge dog owners to be mindful when walking their pets in a public area. If anyone sees anything suspicious then we ask that they report it by calling Hertfordshire Constabulary's non-emergency number 101."

Following the incident, the neighbourhood team have issued the below advice to dog owners:

- Ensure that your dog wears a collar and identification (ID tag) when in a public place. On the tag, include your surname, address, telephone number and full postcode. If your dog is microchipped, and you have room to write that on the tag, then try to do so.
- Do not leave your dog unattended in the car or tied up outside a shop.
- Microchip your dog so that if the ID tag is removed, it is still permanently identifiable.
- Ensure that your dog does not go out of sight on walks. You should also vary your walk times and routes.
- Make sure that your dog is neutered as this will reduce the chances of theft for breeding.

Anyone who has any information that could assist the investigation should call Hertfordshire Constabulary's non-emergency number 101, quoting crime reference number G4/16/965.

# Local Crime Information

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

- On Thursday 24th November in Kingsland Terrace, Ashwell and house was broken into. The offenders have forced a sash window of the property and have gained entry. Once inside the property the offenders have searched the down stairs area and also the upstairs. Jewellery was removed and the offenders have made their escape.

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

- On Tuesday 1st November between 8pm and 9pm a vehicle has driven across farmland and caused damage to the farmer's crops. It is believed the vehicle was involved in poaching or hare coursing.
- Between Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th December a trailer that was parked in a field outside Barkway village. During the above dates the offenders have driven on to farmland and have stolen the trailer and drove off direction unknown.
- On Tuesday 15th November in Pudding Lane, Barley a lady was walking her dog towards the footpath that runs horizontal along the top of the road. At roughly 2pm two young men aged 18 to 22 grabbed the dog a poodle, terrier cross and ran away. The dog was either dropped or wriggled free and returned back to the owner.
- Overnight on Tuesday 22nd November a shed was broken into in Shaftenhoe End, Barley. The offenders have approached the shed and have forced open the door, once inside the offenders have stolen a strimmer and a hedge trimmer.

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

- On Tuesday 1st November, overnight, farmers' fields were driven across in Halls Green, nr Weston. The vehicle used caused damage to crops and was possibly poaching / Hare coursing
- On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 11.20pm a barn off the A507 was targeted by criminals. The barn was broken into by forcing the front

sliding doors. Once inside the offenders started a Kabota and placed it in front of the barns. The offenders were disturbed and made off over fields in a white Y reg pickup truck.

- On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November, overnight, a vehicle was used to drive across farmers' fields around Sandon Village. The vehicle used caused damage to crops and was possibly poaching / Hare coursing
- On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November, overnight, fields were driven across to approach a barn. The front doors of the barn were forced and entry was gained, the offenders stole red diesel, an Ivor Williams trailer and vehicle batteries.
- On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November, overnight, sheds were targeted at a family home in Rushden Village. The shed door was unscrewed at the hinges. Once inside the offenders removed power tools from the property and made off using the fields behind the Moon & Stars pub.

## **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**