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Penny Tomsett

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

### **Sergeant's Message**

Crime has been low throughout January, I am pleased to report. My team will be working hard to keep it this way, with regular patrols, street meets and OWL messages. We will be working hard to increase Neighbourhood Watch membership and increase the, already good, public confidence and satisfaction with the service we provide.

We have had an increase of door-to-door callers, known to Police as 'Nottingham Knockers' within the Royston town and rural areas. They report to be ex-offenders trying to make a go of it by selling household items door to door. These people often do not have the right permissions to sell items door to door, and the products are often overpriced and of poor quality. In order to sell door to door a Pedlars Certificate is required. This is obtained from the Chief of Police from the area in which they live. Please do not feel pressured into buying anything from these people. Even if they do have a Pedlars Certificate, it is no guarantee as to the quality of the goods that they are selling. If you do not think they are genuine, please call police on 101, or 999 if urgent, and we will get an officer to come and check them out.

### **Slow down, Think! 30 and save a life**



Motorists are being urged to slow down, THINK! 30 and save a life.

Speed remains a contributory factor in serious and fatal collisions across the country.

Nationally in 2014, the total number of people killed where speed was a contributory factor was

1,651. The total number of those seriously injured in an accident where speed was a contributory factor was 20,120.

Last year, 72,366 people were issued with tickets for speeding on 30mph roads across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire (BCH), with speeds as high as 90mph being clocked. The BCH Road Policing Unit is urging people to slow down and help reduce the number of people killed or injured on the roads by “thinking 30”.

Inspector Phil Bloor said: “When driving on built-up roads, assume the limit is 30mph until you see a sign saying otherwise. Remember the limit could also be 20mph.

“You are four times more likely to die if you are hit by a vehicle at 40mph as opposed to 30mph.

“While I'm sure the majority of motorists have heard this saying, the fact remains that it is true – it's 30 for a reason.

“If you kill someone while speeding, you will have to live with the long-term emotional consequences. Remember that speed limits are there for a reason.”

### **Top Tips from RoSPA:**

- Check your speedometer regularly
- Know the limits - look for signs
- Assume lamp posts mean 30mph
- Speed limits are a maximum
- 20's plenty when kids are about
- Slow down when entering villages
- Give yourself time.

## **Neighbourhood Watch in Hertfordshire reaches 100,000 homes milestone**

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) in Hertfordshire reached a massive milestone recently when its membership reached 100,000 households across the county.

Neighbourhood Watch in Hertfordshire reaches 100,000 homes milestone

Neighbourhood Watch is based on the simple idea that by being a good neighbour, you can help make your community more secure by looking out for your neighbours; keeping an eye on their

homes while they are away; and receiving and sharing crime prevention advice to help keep yourselves safe and your homes and property protected.

In Hertfordshire the scheme is underpinned by the award-winning OWL (Online Watch Link) internet-based facility. Through the system, Neighbourhood Watch members receive regular updates and alerts from their local policing team via email, or by telephone if preferred. Neighbourhood Watch coordinators use the database facility to manage and develop their Watches.

With 100,000 members, more than 1 in 5 (22 per cent) of homes in the county are now signed up to the scheme.

Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators, the Chair of Herts Watch, Hertfordshire Constabulary Community Safety Staff and the Inventor of OWL all joined together at Police Headquarters on Friday, February 4 to mark the occasion.

Chair of Herts Watch, Hertfordshire's Neighbourhood Watch Committee, Sue Thompson said: "This is an incredible achievement and could not have happened without the partnership working of volunteer coordinators and the police Safer Neighbourhood Teams across the county. Thanks must also be paid to the police Watch Liaison Team.

"At the heart of the success also lies the Online Watch Link (OWL) database and messaging system, which was developed by Gary Fenton almost ten years ago. The messages sent out not only ensure residents are kept informed and aware of crime trends in their areas and provide appropriate security and safety advice, but they also encourage residents to report suspicious incidents through 101 or 999.

"We are so lucky to live in a county where the residents value and promote NHW and hope the schemes continue to grow steadily across the county in the future."

Gary Fenton, the inventor of OWL from Hatfield based Direct Path Solutions, said: "When OWL went online in Hertfordshire ten years ago, NHW was this niche group scattered thinly across the county with barely a thousand accountable members. Now we have one in five homes fully signed across the county, covering over 10,000 streets.

"Hertfordshire has massively grown their watches and membership to an incredible level where 100,000 homes are directly contactable by the police at the press of a button where an alert or appeal is far more likely to be seen and read than using social media alone and over 1,000 extra homes in the county are signing up every month."

Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire, David Lloyd said: "It's great to see such a strong Neighbourhood Watch in Hertfordshire. 100,000 member households is an achievement to be commended. The scheme creates areas where people look out for each other, engenders community spirit and ultimately makes the county safer.

"Neighbourhood Watch is a great scheme for people to get involved in. Volunteering, as a watch member or in another similar way, can make a huge difference to the security of others and to the overall safety of an area and I'd encourage more people to join."

You can sign up to Neighbourhood Watch by visiting [www.owl.co.uk](http://www.owl.co.uk) or alternatively, contact the Watch Liaison Team [wlo@herts.pnn.police.uk](mailto:wlo@herts.pnn.police.uk)

## On-Line Watch Liaison (OWL)

Owl is a messaging service that keeps you up to date with on-going crime trends and crime prevention advice. You can choose how you receive the information for example over the phone or via email. This is a useful tool as it keeps you up to date with current crime in your area and will inform you of this to look out for.

I have attached an Owl form; please take a minute to complete the form and send back to be on this email address –

[Christopher.brabrook@herts.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Christopher.brabrook@herts.pnn.police.uk)

**Police and Crime  
Commissioner**  
for Hertfordshire



Local Crime Information,

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

**No reported crime in this area**

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

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/16/2	Theft	High St, Ashwell	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
Mobile phone removed from bag			
Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/12/43	Burglary - Other	Green Lane, Ashwell	19 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Offenders cut a padlock, entry gained to a stable block –			

<b>nothing taken</b>			
<b>Crime No.</b>	<b>Offence</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>
G4/16/58	Theft	Station Rd, Ashwell	26 <sup>th</sup> Jan
<b>Offenders have removed a trailer from farmland</b>			
<b>Crime No.</b>	<b>Offence</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>
G4/16/72	Damage	New Inn Rd, Hinxworth	26 <sup>th</sup> Jan
<b>Offenders have cut a chain to gain access to a barn and have stored a stolen vehicle at location.</b>			

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

**No reported crime in this area**

**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**