



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

## ***Royston Rural Watch, April 2017***

PCSO Chris Brabrook 6522, PC Mark Ellwood 371 &  
PCSO 6531 Penny Tomsett

Sgt Guy Westwood 1604



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

### **On the Beat –**

This month has been a busy one for the team. Unfortunately Ashwell and Barkway have been targeted again for Thefts and Outbuilding burglaries. The offenders are hitting a location in one night and committing multiple offences, Ashwell was targeted on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April to Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April and Barkway was targeted on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April. Unfortunately, no vehicle was seen by any residents from the villages and we are struggling for a line of enquiry. One property in Barkway did have CCTV but as you can see from the image, the offenders are covering faces making it difficult to identify any one at this point.



We have been running extra patrols around the villages overnight and are asking local residents to report anything suspicious.

The items being stolen are branded gardening power tools such as strimmers, chainsaws and leaf blowers. The brands of choice being Stihl and Husqvarna, if you have expensive items such as this, then please make sure they are kept in a **locked** and secure place, ideally alarmed. If you would like personal security advice please contact the office -01438 757935 and I will happily visit your home / business and offer crime

prevention advice.

# **Introducing North Herts' new Safer Neighbourhood Team Inspector**

North Herts has a new Safer Neighbourhood Team Inspector who is responsible for managing the Letchworth, Baldock, Hitchin and Royston Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs).

Collectively North Herts' SNTs consist of police officers and Police Community Support Officers (PSCOs) who work within communities to make neighbourhoods safer, keep crime low and address the concerns of local people. Alongside local partners such as councils, housing associations and the Fire and Rescue Service, officers ensure North Herts is an even safer place to live, work and visit.

Inspector Richard Lilley started his career with Hertfordshire Constabulary in 1994 at the age of 24 and was based initially with Dacorum's Intervention team for two years, responding to emergency calls. Over the next year he then moved to Watford and Three Rivers as part of their Intervention teams, before spending the following six years with the Road Policing unit until 2003.

After five years in the Force Control Room based at Police Headquarters (HQ) in Welwyn Garden City, Richard was promoted to Sergeant in 2008 and transferred back to Dacorum to lead an Intervention team. He then performed the role of Custody Sergeant for a couple of years before being promoted to Inspector in 2012.

In 2013 Richard returned to Police HQ where he undertook roles in change management and the Mobile Data Team. This involved continuing the rollout of new mobile technology such as laptops and smart phones across the Constabulary to enhance the force's policing response.

In addition to his years of policing experience, Richard is a trained police negotiator, which can see him called upon to support people in crisis or manage criminal sieges or kidnaps.

Richard said: "The vast majority of my career has been spent directly serving the public in uniformed roles and I thrive working in this environment. When the opportunity to take on the role of Safer Neighbourhood Team Inspector became available, which involves managing a team of officers working at the heart of the local community, I jumped at the chance.

"I live in the county with my wife and two children and recognise the important issues that concern the public and the levels of service they require from their local policing teams. I am looking forward to working closely with my team of police officers and Police Community Support Officers, alongside our key partnership agencies, to keep crime low and understand and address the issues that matter most to the people of North Herts."

# Keep your vehicle secure this spring

Hertfordshire Constabulary is advising drivers on how to keep their vehicles secure after a small increase in vehicle thefts over the last few weeks.

Vehicle thefts increased by 59 offences in April, in comparison with the same period last year. Many of the vehicles stolen have been motorcycles and mopeds, but cars with keyless systems have also been targeted.

Whilst the theft of items from vehicles has remained at similar levels to last year, some parts of the county are still seeing an increase in the number of offences, with vans especially being targeted for tools.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire David Lloyd said: "The Constabulary has been focussing on reducing theft from vehicles over the last year and it is encouraging to see that this type of crime has reduced. Preventing crime before it happens is the best way to protect individuals and businesses and there are many steps drivers can take to secure their vehicles from theft. Police have been running vehicle security events around the county to help drivers implement some of these and I urge all drivers to follow this advice and take steps to make their vehicles secure."

Inspector Paul Lawrence of the Crime Reduction Team said: "Bikers are advised to take extra security precautions, by securing motorcycles or scooters using an approved\* high security chain secured to a ground anchor. Consider fitting an alarm and registering the machine with the 'Master' security scheme run by Datatag. If possible keep the vehicle out of sight in a garage or shed, or consider using a motorcycle cover. If kept in a garage or shed do install an alarm that is on a separate circuit from the household alarm.

"Never leave valuables on view or in your vehicle overnight, as this will entice criminals to break in if they see a bag or a coat in a vehicle. Vans are particularly attractive to criminals as they can easily sell on any tools or equipment left inside. Criminals are now using different techniques to bypass modern vehicle security systems, so please follow our vehicle security advice and make your vehicle secure."

To help prevent theft from your vehicle:

Never leave valuables on display

Never leave tools in your van unless they are secured in an approved\* tool safe

Fit good quality approved\* additional external locks to van doors

Engrave or mark tools and their boxes with your postcode and house number

Use an approved steering lock or gear clamp, and remember to set your immobiliser and alarm if you have one.

If away from home consider parking your vehicle in a 'Park Mark' approved car park.

[www.parkmark.co.uk](http://www.parkmark.co.uk)

To help prevent your vehicle being stolen:

Never hand vehicle keys over to a third party or leave the vehicle unattended at a valet parking, car wash or other parking places, where criminals can gain access to the vehicle and code a key electronically.

Consider fitting an 'OBD safe', a secure lockable device that fits over the vehicle's on board diagnostic (OBD) port, in the vehicle cabin. This prevents criminals using software to code a key from the vehicle.

Consider fitting a dual band tracking device that works on VHF/UHF and GPS, to make it more difficult for the tracking signal being blocked.

Criminals can also employ remote/keyless entry jamming equipment so make sure your car is locked by trying the door before leaving it.

Ensure that 'home' on your vehicle 'Sat Nav' is shown as the post code of your local police station and not your actual home address.

Use an approved\* steering wheel lock and never leave your vehicle unlocked – even for a moment

If your vehicle has a keyless start system, make sure that you store your key as far away from your vehicle as possible, and place in a metal box if possible.

To help drivers secure their vehicles we have teamed up with [www.ProtectAVan.co.uk](http://www.ProtectAVan.co.uk) who are offering a 10 per cent discount to drivers that live or work in Hertfordshire, on Thatcham approved security devices, such as tool safes, steering locks and security marking of tools and vehicles.

More advice on how to make your vehicle safe is available at:  
[www.herts.police.uk/crimeprevention](http://www.herts.police.uk/crimeprevention)

**Police and Crime  
Commissioner**  
for Hertfordshire



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# **Local Crime Information**

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

Overnight from Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April, Ashwell was targeted for thefts from cars and outbuilding burglaries. The street hit were Ashwell Street, Woodforde Close, Angels Meadow, West End and Bacons Yard. Unfortunately in many cases property and cars were left unlocked and the thieves helped themselves. Eight crimes were reported linked to this series.

Overnight on 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> April a Garage was broken into in Hinxworth. The offenders damaged a metal garage door to gain entry and have stolen gardening power tools.

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

Between Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April, Barkway suffered a spate of outbuilding burglaries mainly in the High Street area but two were also reported in Cambridge Road area. Nothing was taken at any of the locations and its possible the offenders were disturbed. Six crimes reported linked to this series of crimes.

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> at 1.45am three offenders broken into a Ford Transit van parked on a drive in Royston Road, Barkway. The van was attached to a trailer containing a ride on Lawn Mower and the van contained gardening power tools. A vehicle belonging to the victim was parked in front of the van was pushed out of the way by the offenders, the van was 'hotwired' or similar and was driven away.

Between Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> a property in Burrs Lane, Barkway reported tyres being slashed and a fence being damaged at the property.

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

No reported crime for the above villages

**[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**