



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

*Royston Rural  
Watch, February  
2017*

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*Our Non -  
Emergency  
Number 101*

### **Hare coursing and Field Damages**

**The main thing of note for the team this month has been an increase of criminal damage to farmer's fields overnight. In last few months there has been a trend for Hare coursers / Poachers to drive across farmer's field in pursuit of 'game' animals. By doing this they have left ruts in the land and have churned up the land damaging the farmer's crops and the hedgerows. This problem is not isolated to our area of North Hertfordshire but areas of East Herts, Essex, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire have also been affected.**



**The team recently took part in a joint operation with East Herts and Essex police and flooded the areas that have been targeted by the offenders. One of the man**

**vehicles causing problems has been located, was seized by Police and has now been crushed.**

When looking through the calls, we often are not made aware that the fields are being damaged until the next morning. By this time the offenders have disappeared out of the area. I appreciate that it being night time many people will be tucked up in bed and not witnessing any

damage taking place. However, I wonder if one or two people do see vehicles in the fields but are thinking it's a farmer or a game keeper. Please keep this information in mind and if you suspect any crimes are taking place then please report on 101 and supply any useful information that you have.

### **Speeding Operations**

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February the team ran speeding operations around the villages. A number of verbal warnings were given and two fix penalty notices were issued to offending drivers.

### **Garage Burglaries**

At the end of last month reported to us were two garage burglaries where Sthil Gardening power tools were stolen. Sadly both garages were unlocked and it was very easy for the offender to remove exactly what he or she wanted.

Please see the below information with a few tip on keeping you garage secure

Often people do not only keep their car in the garage, they also store a range of power tools, expensive sports equipment and various other valuables which are highly sought after by burglars. Whether your garage is attached to your property or separated from your house, the contents could be at risk if the garage is not secured.

The majority of burglars are opportunistic and are anticipating an easy win, therefore the following steps could prevent you from becoming a victim

Please see some crime prevention advice regarding sheds and garages;

- Place all tools and garden equipment in **locked** sheds and garages.
- Secure more expensive items, e.g. mowers, bikes to an anchor point within the shed or garage.
- Mark all items with postcode and record serial numbers. e.g. UV pens or forensic marking kits. Register the details for free on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)
- Take photographs of items such as statues and garden furniture if they are unusual, for easy identification at a

later date.

- Fit a shed alarm / garage alarm
- Keep the structure in good repair.
- Consider covering windows with curtains to obscure the view of the contents.
- Consider external lighting.
- Ensure the garden fences are in good repair between neighbours to prevent unlawful access.
- Ensure side gates are locked to prevent access to the rear of the property.

**Police and Crime  
Commissioner**  
for Hertfordshire



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## Local Crime Information

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

- On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February, a car was parked in Back Street, Ashwell and has been damaged. On this date a long scratch mark has appeared along the side of the car. G4/17/109 Refers
- On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> a trailer was stolen off the A505. A cable that was securing the trailer was cut using a bolt cutter or similar, the trailer was hitched on to a vehicle and stolen. G4/17/149 Refers
- Between Monday 27<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February number plates were taken from a vehicle in Hinxworth. G4/17/171 Refers
- Between Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February and Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March two garages were burgled in Springhead, Ashwell. On both occasions the garages were unlocked and Stihl gardening tools were stolen. G4/17/173 + G4/17/174 Refers

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

- Between Monday 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February a number of trees were cut from a property the owner of the tree had not given permission for this and was reported as Criminal Damage. Offender located
- Between Friday 10<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February Fields around Reed, Barley, Barkway and Nuthampstead had been driven across in an attempt to Hare course or poach deer. A maroon Suzuki Vittara 4 x 4 was seen and it has been linked most of the offences locally and in the Buntingford area. This vehicle has now been seized and crushed and police are making enquiries to locate the offender for the damage. G4/17/118, 123, 124,125,126, 128 and G4/17/129 refer.
- Between Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> a house in Cambridge Road, Barley was burgled. The offenders have used a brick to smash a down stairs window and gain entry to the house. Once inside the offenders have stolen computer equipment, cash and jewellery. G4/17/130 Refers

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

- On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February between 3pm and 4pm an Electric solar panel box was damaged in Friars Road, Weston. G3/17/85 Refers
- Between Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> a house in Fore street was burgled. The offenders forced a patio door at the rear of the property and gained entry. Once inside an untidy search took place and jewellery was stolen. G3/17/90 Refers.
- On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February between 3pm and 4pm a tradesman was working on a property in

Munts Meadow. He left his tool bag out on the driveway whilst he went inside to complete a job. During this time his tool bag contain power tools was stolen. G3/17/100 Refers

**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**