



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

## ***Royston Rural Watch, July 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 –**

As the harvest has started to roll in, the stubble fields around Royston and Baldock provide a perfect arena for those who make money from betting on dogs chasing wild animals.

It is early days for the season, but I anticipate we will be getting more reports in the next couple of months.

During and after the harvest is the classic time for it. They are looking for open spaces on dry, firm land, such as stubble fields, rather than muddy ploughed fields. The area is blessed with large open fields, where hares can easily be seen from access roads into villages.

This month we are starting to receive regular calls from farmers and working alongside Buntingford Police, local farmers and the NFU we are planning operations to tackle the issue.

Farmers are being urged to display signs on their land to tell the public to call 999 immediately if they see coursing taking place – and to warn criminals that they face prosecution and heavy fines if caught.

The signs, funded by the Hertfordshire Constabulary, are still available for landowners.

PC Mark Ellwood said “Coursers are criminals who are often engaged in illegal activity – and are prepared to use violence if disturbed. Calls from the public help officers to catch these criminals, and take their vehicles away from them to be destroyed so they do not commit a similar crime again.”

NFU advisor Niamh Kilgallen said: “Hare coursing is a serious and on-going problem in the countryside. Coursers become more active after harvest, when fields have been cleared of crops, and we’ve already had reports of coursing in Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.

“We want to send out a strong message to coursers that they are not welcome here and coursing will not be tolerated in North Hertfordshire.”

- Suspicious activity can be reported to police by calling 101, or 999 if hare coursing is in progress – although witnesses are urged to call from a discreet location, out of sight of the criminals.

## **Don’t leave your home vulnerable to burglars this summer**

The holidays are well underway and Hertfordshire Constabulary is reminding people not to make their homes an easy target for burglars this summer.

As the weather heats up burglaries often increase, as warmer weather tends to mean open windows, open doors and unlocked garden gates, which provide opportunities for burglars.

Whilst burglaries have reduced in the first part of August compared to the end July, there is often an increase during the summer holidays with homes left empty when people go away. Burglars love empty homes, but if they don’t know you are away, your home is unlikely to be targeted.

Social media is a great source of information for criminals. If you post about your holiday or check in on Facebook, wherever you may be, make sure your privacy settings only show people you know and trust your movements. Using location services to tag where you are, can also tip people off that you are not at home, or can even give the precise location of your home.

Police and Crime Commissioner, David Lloyd, said: “Preparing for a holiday can be hectic and it’s often easy to forget every day home security steps, like locking doors and windows. Taking these precautions before you set off, can go a long way to preventing a burglary, and if you look out for your neighbours whilst they are away, they will return the favour, which will help to make the whole neighbourhood a stronger, safer and friendlier place to live.”

Inspector Paul Lawrence, from Hertfordshire Constabulary’s Crime Reduction Unit, warned: “During the summer holidays, burglars will be on the lookout for empty homes and will

notice signs like piles of newspapers and unopened letters, bins not put away, or no lights on in the evenings. So making it appear that your home is occupied can be the most effective deterrent against burglary.

“We know that criminals scour social media for information that can help them commit crime and burglars are no different. Everyone loves sharing their holiday updates with friends and family online, but makes sure you know who is looking at your posts, ensure only people you know can see your posts.”

There are ways to give your home a ‘lived-in’ look when it’s unoccupied, so that any would-be thieves aren’t tempted:

Ask a neighbour to put your bins back if they’re being collected whilst you’re away – if they’re left out after collection day it could indicate to a passing thief that your house is unoccupied. Be a good neighbour and do the same for them.

If you aren’t leaving your car at home, ask a neighbour/friend to park their car on your drive.

Don’t forget to cancel deliveries of milk, newspapers etc.

Consider moving valuable items, like laptops and televisions so they are out of sight.

If you are away for a long time in the summer months, ask a neighbour to cut your grass. This helps to show that the house may be occupied.

You could also ask someone you trust to help give your home the lived-in look by opening and drawing the curtains, and move any post away from the letterbox.

You could store valuables in your loft when you go away.

Join your local Neighbourhood Watch scheme or if there isn’t one, perhaps you could start one. Visit [www.hertswatch.com](http://www.hertswatch.com) for details on local watch schemes.

All these tips can help to give your home the ‘lived-in’ look. For more detailed security advice,

please visit: [www.herts.police.uk/crimeprevention](http://www.herts.police.uk/crimeprevention) or contact us on 101.

**Police and Crime  
Commissioner**  
for Hertfordshire



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# Local Crime Information

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

During day time hours on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July at St Vincent's Church in Newnham, a charity box was stolen from inside the building. No persons were seen and residents have been asked to be vigilant of unknown persons using the church. G4/17/620 Refers

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July at Bluegates Farm, Ashwell a wheelie bin was set on fire G4/17/647 Refers

Between 12pm and 2.36pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July a house in New Inn Road, Hinxworth was targeted. A front door was forced using an unknown implement and a search was conducted of the property. Keys to a high value Mercedes car were taken along with the car. The car was later found left in Langford and was traced by a tracker device planted in the car. G4/17/657 Refers

A car was broken into in Francis Road, Hinxworth on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July between 12pm and 4pm and a laptop was stolen. The dates and between times would suggest it was the same offenders as the Burglary around the corner in New Inn Road. G4/17/659 Refers

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

Fly-Tipping has been an issue in the Kelshall / Therfield area. Between Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July and Monday 10<sup>th</sup> we received 2 reports of waste being left at the side of the road. On one occasion portaloos were dumped into fields causing damage to crops and costing the farmer a large sum of money to clear up. G4/17/632 + G4/17/650 refers

A shed burglary took place in Bell Lane, Nuthampstead overnight between Friday 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July. The offenders walked over fields at the rear of the house and gained access to a garden. The shed door was forced open and a cultivator was stolen from within. G4/17/669 Refers

Batteries stolen from a farm yard in Shaftenhoe End, Barley overnight between Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> and Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July. G4/17/717 Refers

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

This area has seen a spike in Hare coursing related crime. The harvest has been cut in places, leaving the fields open and the hares exposed. This has attracted the hare coursers back to the area. Padlocks have been cut and crops damaged in the Quickswood area – G4/17/468 / G4/17/476 and G4/17/486 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**