



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

*Royston Rural  
Watch, March 2017*

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

Sgt Guy Westwood 1604



*Our Non -  
Emergency  
Number 101*

### **Police warning to off-road bikers**

With spring now upon us, police are issuing a warning to bikers about the dangers of riding off-road.

**Residents across Royston and Baldock Rural area have previously expressed concerns to local officers about nuisance off-road bikes, because of the damage they cause to the land, as well as the noise and potential danger they are causing to other countryside users.**



**Patrols have been increased and, if you are caught illegally riding off-road, you could be reported for traffic offences and have your bike seized under the Police Reform Act 2002.**

PC Mark Ellwood, from Royston Neighbourhood Team, said: "Riding in public parks and through fields is potentially dangerous. Many riders think they are doing the right thing by going to an off-road site, not realising that in a lot of cases they are actually trespassing as they do not have permission to be there. They are also causing a noise nuisance.

"We have increased patrols and anyone caught will be dealt with robustly. If you see anyone riding bikes off-

road, please contact police straight away.”If you have any information about bikes being ridden off road, contact police via the non-emergency number 101. If you believe there is an immediate risk to members of the public, always dial 999.

## Operation Gnome

Operation Gnome has been launched to help residents to keep their gardens, sheds and allotments secure.

The weather has been steadily improving over the last few weeks and gardens have been springing to life, meaning lots of pruning, mowing and clearing is going on around the county. People might be buying new gardening tools or splashing out on new leisure equipment, either way your garden or outbuilding could be targeted by thieves. During the spring burglars tend to target sheds, garages and outbuildings, looking for power tools, bikes and other expensive items.

**Inspector Paul Lawrence, from Hertfordshire Constabulary’s Crime Reduction Unit, warns:**

**“Every spring we see an increase in things being stolen from insecure gardens, sheds and garages, so we are reminding people to make sure that they are not making life easy for criminals by leaving tools and gardening equipment lying around. Tools are not only valuable and tempting to thieves but could also**



**be used to break into homes. “Remember to lock away tools in a shed or garage, when not in use and make sure these are secured with strong locks or even an alarmed padlock. Consider installing a security light with a motion sensor in your garden and make sure that windows, doors and garden gates are locked and make sure your fences are in a good condition.”**

Police and Crime Commissioner, David Lloyd, said: “This campaign has been running for the last three years and has helped to keep this type of crime low in Hertfordshire, by raising awareness of how to make sheds and gardens secure. Burglars target gardens and outbuildings at this time of year as they are not as secure as homes and people often leave valuable items in them. Improving security in your garden can be done very easily and act as a deterrent to criminals.”

These are some of the ways you can make your garden

and outbuildings more secure:

Always lock your shed, preferably with two 'hasp and staple' locks (one near the top and one near the bottom of the door) or use or an alarmed padlock

Secure your rear garden by locking entry gates with a padlock

Burglars can use garden tools to break in, so make sure you securely lock away any tools after use

Ensure boundary fences are secure and in good condition. Spiky plants along garden boundaries are good additional deterrents

Tools and gardening equipment should be visibly marked with your postcode and house number - this can deter thieves and help police identify the rightful owner

Remember to lock your garage door securely. Metal 'up and over' doors can be secured with extra locks fitted either side and/or a floor-mounted locking 'T' bar with a closed shackle padlock. Wooden garage doors can be secured with two substantial 'hasps and staple' locks and closed shackle padlocks (your local DIY store can advise on the most secure options)

Join Neighbourhood Watch or Allotment Watch to help reduce crime in your local area.

For more detailed security advice, please visit our crime prevention pages or contact us on 101.



## Local Crime Information

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

- Shed and Garage burglaries – Over night 28<sup>th</sup> Feb to 1<sup>st</sup> March, Ashwell suffered a spate outbuilding burglaries and thefts. The offender's targeted property's in close proximity with each other and went from garden to garden targeting sheds, garages. The offenders were

targeting expensive garden power tools, in total 4 properties were affected.

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

- Crop damages – last month we received reports in the Reed and Barley area of damages to crops. This is caused by Harecoursers / poachers driving onto farmland mainly at night time in search for ‘game animals’. The offenders are driving over the farmers crops and damaging them in the process. Crime numbers In total in our area 4 crimes were reported, please report any suspicious activity in fields at night time on 101.
- Shed, Garage and garden thefts – Between 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> March, Barley, Barkway and Nuthampstead suffered a spate outbuilding burglaries and thefts. The offenders targeted property in close proximity with each other and went from garden to garden targeting sheds, garages and anything valuable left in the gardens. 5 crimes in Barley, 5 crimes in Barkway and 1 in Nuthampstead were reported.
- On 13<sup>th</sup> March number plates were stolen from a vehicle in Burrs Lane, Barkway
- Between 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> March a stable premises in London Road, Barkway was targeted. The offenders have cut padlock to two entrance gates and approached the stables. The offenders have forced the door and have removed a quad bike and a trailer. Power tools have also been taken from the property.

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

- On 7<sup>th</sup> March in Maiden Street, Weston we received a report that dogs had killed a lamb in Maiden Street. Owner of the dog was identified and a community resolution was put in place and the owner of the dog has agreed to secure the garden perimeter to prevent this occurring again.

- On 20<sup>th</sup> March just outside Sandon Village a farmers crops were damaged by potential harecourser who drove on to farmer fields
- Between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March, Cooper from the church roof in Clothall was stolen. The offenders climbed onto the roof using ladders and removed what remained of the cooper from a previous theft.

**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**