



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

Royston Rural Watch, September 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 -

A serial fly-tipper who broke the law by dumping masses of household waste including chairs, furniture, children's toys and golf clubs in the Hertfordshire countryside after charging people to get rid of it has been jailed for 10 months.

Gilham, who now lives in Bryanstone Road in Waltham Cross, committed the five offences between January and April 2016 while operating an illegal waste disposal business without the necessary environmental permit.



He dumped household waste on farm land in Benington; chairs, furniture, children's toys and various other items in Ashwell Road, Bygrave; planks of wood and other items of waste between Halls Green and Warrens Green in Weston; golf clubs, plasterboard, wood and other items in Bygrave Road, Ashwell and a barbecue, a wooden door, black sacks and other items at Tye End Garage Compound.

The case was originally brought before Stevenage Magistrates Court in March by Mr James Ellis, prosecuting for North Hertfordshire District Council who

also acted on behalf of Stevenage Borough Council and East Herts Council. But Gilham originally denied the offences meaning the matter was sent to the Cambridge Crown Court for trial.

Following months of trial preparation, Gilham decided to change his plea to guilty and was sentenced last Thursday.

The judge, His Honour Judge Farrell QC, said that the sentence would have been 12 months but reduced it to 10 in light of Gilham's guilty plea.

As part of the Herts Fly-tipping Group all local councils in Hertfordshire work together to prosecute fly-tippers.

Councillor Bernard Lovewell, NHDC's executive member for housing and environmental health, said after the sentencing: "Local residents have made it clear to us how disgusted they are with this sort of behaviour, so it's good news that this man will go to prison for his actions.



"It sends out a strong message to other would-be fly-tippers that we will not tolerate this behaviour. "If you're a householder considering paying people like Mr Gilham to do house clearances on the cheap – think again and stop. You have a responsibility to dispose of your waste properly - if you don't you could find yourself in court too."

Councillor Jackie Hollywell, Stevenage Borough Council's executive member for communities, community safety and equality, added: "This successful prosecution is down to hard work by council teams across the county, working together to collect evidence. It shows our determination to cut fly-tipping and ensure anyone who dumps waste in our area is brought to justice."



Give your home the lived-in look and avoid being burgled this Autumn in Hertsmere

You're in a rush to get to work, drop the children off at school or late for an appointment and you drive off, leaving your house all day without thinking about how it looks in the dark before you get home.

"This can make your home vulnerable to an opportunist thief," said Royston Sergeant Guy Westwood . "As darkness begins to fall earlier in the day, especially after the clocks change, your home can look unoccupied, and more inviting for burglars, if there are no lights on.

"This is what happened last October when we saw burglaries rising across North Hertfordshire. To avoid this happening again this year, we have a burglary strategy in place which includes extra high-visibility police patrols as well as covert patrols in residential areas. But crucially, we also need residents to do their bit to deter crime by giving their homes a 'lived-in' look and to let us know about anyone acting suspiciously."

Det Insp Walsingham has spoken to dozens of offenders, some of whom have been on the Choices and Consequences project (C2), in which they admit all their offending and engage in a programme which addresses any addiction they may have (for example to drugs or alcohol), in exchange for a deferred sentence which means they do not go to prison as long as they commit no further offences.

A burglar, who received a custodial sentence for burglary, said: "I look for houses where it looks like no-one is in. I don't want to be seen – there's more chance of being caught and I don't really want to scare people. I just want to get in and out as quickly as possible. If the lights are off when it's dark in the daytime, no cars on the drive, maybe even letters hanging out of the letter box and curtains still drawn in the daytime, I'd give this one a go. They can stand out a mile."

DI Walsingham added: "Consider installing a timer switch, ask a neighbour to park on your drive if you are away for a few days or on holiday and ask a neighbour to make sure your post is pushed properly through the letter box so it looks like someone is inside, collecting their post. Try to ensure parcels are not left on your doorstep by arranging for delivery when you are home, or they can be left with a neighbour. Offenders don't like dogs so anything that gives them the impression that there is a dog at the address is a deterrent.

"Obviously doors should always be locked when you leave your house and close all the windows, preferable locked as well. Make sure your shed or garage is secure as well."

He added: "It's better for everyone if we can prevent the burglary in the first place. Although I take great pleasure in my teams arresting burglars, I would prefer residents to not have been a victim of crime in the first place. The

thought of someone in your home can be very upsetting and some personal possessions with sentimental value are irreplaceable. Let's work together to make burglars unwelcome in the district and please call 999 if you suspect a burglary is in progress."

Royston Neighbourhood team have some free timer switches. If you would like one please get in touch with the office – 01438 757935

For further crime prevention advice, including a short video 'Be Like Colin', visit the 'Protect Your Home – Beating Burglary' page on www.herts.police.uk/crimeprevention



Local Crime Information

G4E - Ashwell, Hinxworth, Bygrave, Newnham and Caldecote

Damage – Ashwell - Overnight on Thursday 7th September a vehicle was parked at the school end of Back Street. Whilst parked at the location the car was scratched along both sides of the car. G4/17/853 Refers

Burglary – Ashwell - Between Thursday 12th and Friday 13th September a property on High Street, Ashwell was accessed. Tools and items were piled up underneath a bush at the front of the house. Some tools were stolen and somewhere left at the location. G4/17/863 Refers

Burglary – Ashwell - Overnight on Friday 15th an outbuilding was broken into at Hinxworth place, Hinxworth. The door to the outbuilding was opened up using a crow bar or similar. Once inside the offender stole gardening power tools. G4/17/865 Refers

Damage – Ashwell - On Thursday 28th September between 12pm and 3pm a car was parked in a residential street. During this time the tyre punctured, nothing was found in the tyre and the resident suspected deliberate damage. G4/17/917 Refers

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

Fly Tipping – Kelshall – Overnight in Coombe Road, Kelshall a vehicle stopped and dumped waste in the street and blocking the road. The waste was various garden and domestic waste. G4/17/846 Refers

G3C - Sandon, Wallington, Rushden, Clothall and Weston

Damage – Weston – Friday 1st to Monday 4th a sign in Hitchin Road, Weston was damaged. The sign had graffiti written on it and the offender is unknown currently. G3/17/564 Refers

Damage – Sandon – During the early hours of Saturday 9th September a fence was damaged to gain access to a field. A vehicle was driven across fields and caused further damage to property, the intention of the offender was to pursue poach on the land. G3/17/577 Refers

Theft from Motor Vehicle – Sandon – A satellite navigation unit was stolen from a John Deer tractor situated in a farm just outside of Sandon Village. This occurred between Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th September – G3/17/583 Refers

Damage – Wallington – Overnight on Friday 15th a fence was damaged to gain access to a field. A vehicle was driven across fields and caused further damage to property, the intention of the offender was to pursue poach on the land. G3/17/596 Refers

Burglary – Rushden – During the day on Tuesday 26th September a house in Treacle lane was entered by an insecure window. Once inside the offender searched the home and stole gold and jewellery from within. A motor cycle was seen nearby around the time of the offence. Unknown if this is linked at this point. G3/17/605 Refers

Damage – Weston – Overnight on Saturday 30th a vehicle was parked on a driveway in Fore Street, Weston. The offender approached a car and used an unknown tool or implement and have smashed the window to the car. The offender made off direction unknown. G3/17/617 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