



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

Royston Rural Watch, September 2018

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

Sgt Guy Westwood 1604



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

On the Beat -

[Elderly residents warned after spate of scam phone calls](#)

- Elderly residents targeted in phone scams.
- Offenders claim to be from the HMRC.
- Eight offences reported recently in the North Herts area.

Residents are being urged to remain vigilant following a number of reports of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) scam calls in the North Herts area.

Members of the public reported receiving both phone calls and answerphone messages from an individual claiming to work for the HMRC. They state that there has been a complaint about that person's tax and that a warrant has been issued for their arrest.

They then provide a phone number for the person to call so that the money can be paid immediately to avoid any further action.

PCSO Chris Brabrook from the Royston Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team said: "I would like to re-assure everyone that this is an example of a scam phone call and we will not be attending your address to arrest you. They seem to be targeting elderly residents, but we want everyone to be on their guard.

“If you have received a phone call of this nature or similar, please report this via the police non-emergency number 101. Alternatively you can contact Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040.

“I would also like to remind everyone to not disclose any bank or personal details over the phone. Genuine police or bank staff would never ask you to withdraw or transfer cash from your account, nor would they ever ask for your four digit bank PIN number. Never tell anyone this number, it is for you to use in cash machines and shops only.”

Hertfordshire Constabulary’s advice on unexpected phone calls:

The police and banks would:

- NEVER ask for your bank account details or PIN number over the phone, so do not disclose these to anyone, no matter who they claim to be.
- NEVER ask you to withdraw money and send it to them via a courier, taxi or by any other means.
- NEVER ask you to send your bank cards, or any other personal property, to them via courier, taxi or by any other means.
- NEVER ask you to transfer money from one account to another over the telephone.

If you are not happy with a phone call and are suspicious of the conversation you have with the caller then please end the call and contact police via the non-emergency number, 101.

Remember, when reporting a suspicious phone call to police, wait at least five minutes before attempting to make the call or use a mobile or neighbour’s phone to ensure you’re not reconnected to the offender.

Did you know?

Phones are now available that automatically block withheld numbers, which are often used by offenders. People’s service providers may also be able to assist with blocking unwanted calls.

For further information about phone scams and how to avoid becoming a victim, please visit.

[Want to listen to a mock phone scam call?](#)

Visit our YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zYco9_iSK7k

Joining Forces to Tackle Hare Coursing

- Six police forces unite to tackle hare coursing.
- Partner agencies join the operation.
- Days of action planned.

Police officers from across the East of England are joining forces once again to tackle the seasonal issue of illegal hare coursing.

With the harvest now complete, Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex police forces are working in partnership with the National Farmer's Union (NFU), Natural England and the Country Land and Business Association to tackle this criminal activity which can cause thousands of pounds worth of damage to crop fields, irrigation systems, fences and gates.

Hare coursing has been illegal for more than a decade, since the implementation of the Hunting Act 2004. This banned activity sees greyhounds and other 'sight' hounds, such as lurchers, chasing a hare by sight, not scent.

Usually, but not always, it's carried out in groups. The dogs flush out the hares in the fields and are then released from their leads to chase, and often kill, the hare. Frequently the practice is highly organised. Significant sums of money can change hands in the form of illegal betting and gambling on the outcome. The victor is determined by the first dog to catch and 'turn' the hare or kill it.

"Those engaged in this illegal act trespass on private land, damaging crops and property, as well as intimidating and showing violence towards those who challenge their presence," explained Rural Sergeant for Hertfordshire Jamie Bartlett. "It can also be very distressing for members of the public to witness hare coursing.

"We also believe that many of those engaged in hare coursing also commit other offences against the rural community, such as theft of farm machinery, diesel, tools and off road vehicles."

Operation Galileo is targeting Hare Coursing throughout the East of England. As part of this operation there are special days of action where Wildlife Crime Officers will be carrying out proactive patrols along with other officers who will receive special local briefings and pay attention to hotspot areas within their districts, dealing robustly with offenders.

In Hertfordshire and other participating counties all specially trained rural officers are on hand to help and support operational police officers during the days of action should they be called to deal with a hare coursing offence.

The Operation was officially launched at the last meeting of the East of England Wildlife Crime Regional Enforcement Group that was held recently. This group brings together all of the region's Police Forces, the Crown Prosecution Service, Natural England and the Environment Agency.

Paul Cantwell, Species Enforcement Specialist from Natural England who chairs the group said:

“This is the first year that all six Forces in the East of England are all co-operating together in relation to Hare Coursing Operations over the course of a “season”. This will help ensure that the East of England will not tolerate people coursing anywhere in the Region. But not only that, we are hoping all other areas of England and Wales will carry out their own operations on these dates to make the countryside a “no go” area for these criminals.”

Rosalind David, County Advisor for the NFU in Hertfordshire said: “Hare coursing is a serious and on-going problem in the countryside, affecting too many of our members. They feel isolated, desperate and powerless to stop the coursers – sometimes numbering 50 people - trespassing on their land.

“As well as the illegal killing of wildlife coursers cause damage to crops, hedges and gates and they are prepared to use violence and intimidation against farmers if challenged. Incidents of hare coursing can only be reduced where there is concerted action by farmers, the police, prosecutors and the courts. This includes sentences that reflect the seriousness of the crime, with steps such as seizing the dogs used by coursers and crushing vehicles.

If you think you are witnessing hare coursing in progress call 999 immediately. Anyone other information should be reported via the non-emergency number 101, or online (or via other Forces online reporting tools).

Alternatively, you can contact the independent crime-fighting charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or through their Anonymous New windowOnline Form. No personal details are taken, information cannot be traced or recorded and you will never need to go to court.



Rural Drop In Session

Friday 5th October 1 pm - 3pm

**Parish Rooms
Swan Street, Ashwell, Herts SG7 5NY**

A joint 'Drop in' session held in partnership with North Herts District Council. Representatives from the council and the police will be available to meet local residents and discuss any issues they may have regarding crime and rural issues such as fly-tipping.



**Police and Crime
Commissioner**
for Hertfordshire



Local Crime Information

G4E - Ashwell, Hinxworth, Bygrave, Newnham and Caldecote

Damage, Slip End, A505 - Overnight from the 15th August to 16th August a barrier that prevents access to a farmer's field was damaged. The offenders fly-tipped onto the farmers land and made off.

Theft, High Street, Ashwell – Between 12.00 and 16.00 on 16th August a rear number plate was stolen from a trailer parked in the High Street, Ashwell.

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

Burglary Non Dwelling, London Road, Barkway – Overnight from 6pm 11th to 11am on 12th September. Between these times the offenders gained access by lifting fence panels and broke into the builder's site hut. The offenders stole tools and made off.

Burglary Non Dwelling, Cambridge Road, Barkway – Between 18th and 20th August. Between the stated dates the offenders have cut through fencing to gain access to a building site. Once on site the offenders targeted a jet washer, laser cutter and a compressor. Two separate building companies were targeted during this offence.

G3C - Sandon, Wallington, Rushden, Clothall and Weston

Burglary Non Dwelling, Luffenhall – Between 28th July to the 5th August. Between the stated dates the offenders entered an unlocked greenhouse and have stolen a hedge trimmer attachment and a petrol strimmer.

Damage, Halls Green – Overnight on 11th August an electric gate that protects a business premises was damaged. The offenders used a car to force the gate open.

Theft, Sandon – On 17th August at 13.45 three males have gained access to a unit. One male has distracted worker by making conversation, the two remaining males removed a ladder and a petrol can. The males made off.

Theft, Quickswood – Overnight on the 24th August the offender has forced a door to a game pen Once inside the offender has removed partridges from within.

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