



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

## ***Royston Rural Watch, April 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 -**

## **Garden Power Tool Seizure – North Herts**

Police in North Herts seize £35,000 worth of stolen power tools and arrest a man following a burglary

Police in North Herts have seized £35,000 worth of stolen power tools and tree felling equipment

- This follows a burglary in Preston at the beginning of March
- A man has been arrested on suspicion of burglary in connection with the investigation



Thirty-five thousand pounds worth of stolen tree felling equipment and power tools have been seized following investigations undertaken by police in North Herts.

A large part of the recovered items were stolen in a burglary which happened in Poynders End Farm on Hitchwood Lane, near Preston overnight between Saturday, March 3 and Sunday, March 4. Offenders broke into a lock-up container based within the farm complex and stole chainsaws, leaf blowers and strimmers.

Thankfully a wood chipper, which is believed to be worth around £15,000, was stolen in the burglary and had been fitted with a tracking device. Once the victim reported the offence, North Herts Intervention police officers were able to quickly locate the wood chipper using the tracker the following day (March 4). The stolen wood chipper had been secreted, along with some of the other stolen items, in a copse close to a site in Dyes Lane on the outskirts of Stevenage. These recovered items have subsequently been returned to the victim.

Following further investigations into the burglary, officers from North Herts Operation Scorpion Team executed a search warrant at a plot on the site in Dyes Lane on March 6. As a result, tree felling equipment, believed to have been stolen in the burglary in Poynders End Farm, was recovered. A 29-year-old man from Stevenage was also arrested at the location on suspicion of burglary. He has been released under investigation pending further police enquiries.

On Friday, March 16, the Operation Scorpion Team then executed a further warrant at another plot on the site in Dyes Lane and recovered 42 stolen items. This included chainsaws, leaf blowers, strimmers and stone cutting equipment and together are believed to hold a total value of £35,000. Some of the recovered tools were stolen in the burglary in Poynders Lane, however

officers believe the remaining items are likely to have been taken in other burglaries.

Sergeant Jon Vine, who leads North Herts Operation Scorpion Team, said: “We are very pleased with the results of our investigations so far and that we have been able to return some of the stolen items to their rightful owner. We are now working to identify who the other stolen items belong to.

“We are determined to put a stop to burglary in North Herts and have been undertaking high visibility and covert patrols in affected areas. If anyone has any information about this burglary, or any similar offences, please get in touch via the police non-emergency number 101.

“I would urge everyone to remain vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour or vehicles to us – taking note of the make, model and registration number. It is also vitally important for owners of sheds and outbuildings to make sure they are properly secure when they leave them.”

Anyone with information is asked to contact the police via the non-emergency number 101, quoting the crime reference G1/18/718. You can also report information online at <https://www.herts.police.uk/Report>

Alternatively, you can contact the independent crime-fighting charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or through their Anonymous Online Form at [New windowwww.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://Newwindowwww.crimestoppers-uk.org). No personal details are taken, information cannot be traced or recorded and you will never need to go to court.

## Sheds and outbuildings Burglaries

In previous years our local area has been targeted for Shed / Outbuilding burglaries. Please report any suspicious vehicles on 101 and where possible follow the below advice.



Inspector Nicky Dean from Hertfordshire Constabulary’s Crime Reduction Team, said: “We generally see an increase in thefts from gardens, sheds and garages, so we are recommending that everyone takes some basic security measures to make their property secure. Leaving tools and gardening equipment lying around in your garden can attract thieves as they are valuable, but can also be used to break into your home.

“Locking tools away in a shed or garage

when you are not using them and making outbuilding as secured as possible, with strong locks or even an alarmed padlock, will keep your property safe. Dusk till dawn security lights in your garden will make your home even safer, along with locking windows, doors and garden gates and making sure your fences are in a good condition.”

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.

## Weston Robbery – Police Appeal

The incident happened between 1.15pm and 1.45pm on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March, when a man and woman in the church car park in Weston's Church Lane were approached by two men.

One of the men had a knife, and threatened one of the victims before taking property from him. The other person took the woman's handbag from the car. The pair then got into the vehicle and drove off.

Nobody was injured during the robbery.

The offenders were described as black men aged between 20 and 25.

The first is described as slim, unshaven and about 6ft tall, wearing a grey Adidas tracksuit with dark blue stripes.

The second is described as of medium build, between 5ft 10in and 6ft tall, and wearing all-black – including a puffa jacket with a hood.

Anyone with information should contact DC Georgina Peggie by emailing [georgina.peggie@herts.pnn.police.uk](mailto:georgina.peggie@herts.pnn.police.uk), call the non-emergency number 101 and quote crime reference G3/18/155, or report information online at [herts.police.uk/report](https://herts.police.uk/report).

Alternatively, contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or through their anonymous online form at [crimestoppers-uk.org](https://crimestoppers-uk.org). No personal details are taken, information cannot be traced or recorded and you will never need to go to court.



## Local Crime Information

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

- Theft, Ashwell – Overnight on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March cables were cut down and stolen from Northfields Road, Ashwell. G4/18/214
- Theft from Motor vehicle, Ashwell – Between Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March HGV batteries were stolen from a yard in Partridge Hill, Ashwell. G4/18/241
- Burglary, Ashwell – Overnight on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March the offender has entered a premises that is being renovated. The offender stole power tool and hand tools left on site by the builders. G4/18/244
- Shed Burglary, Radwell – Overnight on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March a shed was targeted at a property in Radwell. The alarm disturbed the offender and nothing was stolen. G4/18/257

- Theft from Motor Vehicle, Ashwell – Between Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March a number plate was stolen from a car parked in Station Road, Ashwell. G4/18/260

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

- Theft from Motor Vehicle, Barley – Between Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> and Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April diesel was stolen from a car in the village. The offender removed the petrol cap and used a pipe to syphon the fuel from the vehicle. G4/18/187
- Theft, Nuthampstead – Between Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March heating oil was stolen from a tank in Nuthampstead. The offender removed the cap and used a pipe to syphon fuel from within approx. £835 was stolen. G4/18/245
- Theft, A10, Reed End – Between Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March the offenders entered a garden to a property just off the A10. The offenders approached a pallet storing items and stole power tools and metals. G4/18/262
- Damage, Kelshall – Overnight on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March a gate was damaged. The gate was situated off an un-named road off the A505 that runs up to Kelshall village. The gate was pulled down to gain access to farm land. G4/18/265

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

- Theft from Motor Vehicle, Sandon – Overnight on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March number plates were stolen from a car in Payne End, Sandon. G3/18/114
- Outbuilding Burglary, Weston – Overnight on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March the tennis pavilion at Weston Rec was broken into, nothing was stolen and the offenders made off. G3/18/124
- Theft from Motor vehicle, Rushden – Overnight on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March a vehicle was entered in Cumberlow green. The offender stole a sat nav from the car. G3/18/139
- Poaching, Clothall – At 13.40 on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March the offenders were seen on farm land chasing hare's with lurcher type dogs. The offenders were caught by police and enquires are on-going. G3/18/149

- Robbery, Weston – On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March a black BMW 6 series was stolen in Church Lane, Weston. The offenders used a knife to threaten the owner of the BMW before driving away in the car. Local detectives are investigating this offence. G3/18/153

## **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**