

RURAL TIMES

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ING
COMMUNITIES

HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT



CONTENTS

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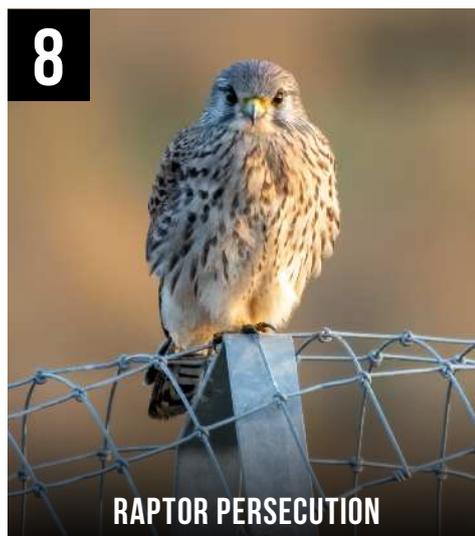
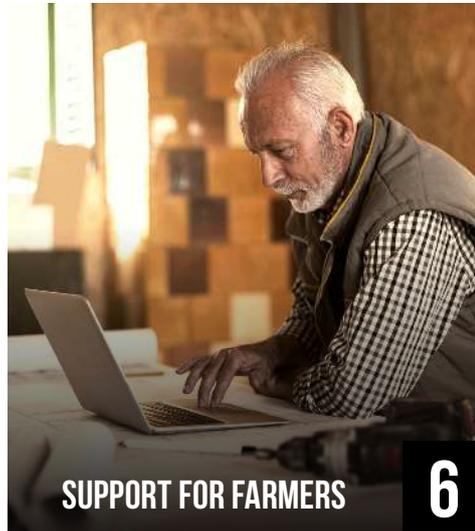
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**Assistant Chief Constable,
Scott Chilton**
Hampshire Constabulary, Rural Policing Lead

This has been an incredibly challenging time for everyone and we have been providing as much support as possible to all our communities.

In this edition of Rural Times, you will find details of different support that you can access, along with specific crime prevention advice. I hope you find this helpful.

This will be the last time I provide the introduction to this magazine, as I am moving to lead the Crime, Criminal Justice and Intelligence portfolio within the force.

WELCOME TO THE LATEST ISSUE OF RURAL TIMES

Since taking over the rural portfolio in 2017, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the members of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Rural Partnership Board. This experienced and passionate group of people are an excellent forum through which we can listen to the views of rural communities and thereby improve the service we deliver.

The support I have received through this group and the wider rural community has been excellent. It has certainly helped me fully understand the challenges of rural policing. I take very seriously the impact of crime on rural communities and will be ensuring we do all we can bring to justice those who inflict such misery to those victims affected.



ACC Maggie Blyth
Hampshire Constabulary

My place as rural portfolio lead will be taken on by a new Assistant Chief Constable

for Local Policing and Public Protection,

Maggie Blyth.

Maggie started her policing career in 2016 as district commander for Portsmouth, following roles as a senior leader in the public sector. She is returning to Hampshire after a spell with Wiltshire Police.

I am sure you will all welcome Maggie into her new role and give her the excellent level of support you have given me.



Enzo Riglia
Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner

On behalf of Michael and the team I wanted to begin by saying our thoughts are with every resident of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight that has been affected by COVID-19.

Looking back to the beginning of the pandemic, many of us have had a very different life very different from some six months ago.

Something that has shone the way communities have come together to help and support those needing it most.

WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

At this time of year we would usually be visiting rural shows and events across the policing area to hear your individual and collective voice on policing matters. Despite the reduced opportunity to see you this year, we continue to want to hear views from those living in our rural communities and will be ensuring our website - hampshire-pcc.gov.uk - is set up to enable us to remain connected with you.

So please continue to raise the issues that are impacting on your livelihood or wellbeing. The views put forward have helped Michael develop a new Police and Crime Plan for this extraordinary year, details of which can be found on page 4.

At the events I attended last year and through the conversations we have with community safety partners and the Country Watch

team, it's clear that there are continuing issues for those suffering within rural communities from a broad range of crimes including theft and burglary, scams and fraud, and domestic abuse and violence.

Within this issue we highlight what is being done to tackle those crime types, where you can get help with crime prevention and where you can get support if you have been a victim. If you have experienced any crime, support and practical help is available through the Victim Care Service, which can now also be accessed through a new website: www.hampshireiowvictimcare.co.uk

Finally, I'd like to thank ACC Scott Chilton for all the work he has done with his team to make our rural communities safer.



Hugh Oliver-Bellasis is chair of the Strategic Independent Advisory Group (SIAG) and acts as a critical friend to the force.

HUGH'S VIEWS

Since the last edition we have been suffering this miserable virus.

I wish anyone who reads this: "Stay safe, test negative and do not use hindsight!"

I think we have suffered from an overdose of hindsight and the media trying to blame someone. Our constabulary is doing a very good job in testing circumstances.

The lockdown has enabled all sorts of folk to get around and do things they did not ought to do. As we get out and about again, please keep your eyes open for things and people out of place, and tell your local PC or report it on Hampshire Alert.

If you are not signed up, please do so at www.hampshirealert.co.uk and Country Watch at www.hampshirecountrywatch.co.uk

I hope by the time I write again we will be allowed to move around again. Stay safe, and "thank you" to the constabulary.



PLAN FOR OUR SAFER FUTURES 2020-2022

The Police and Crime Commissioner's new Plan for our Safer Futures has been developed to enable swift and immediate action to keep our communities safer now as we face the COVID-19 pandemic and into the future.

The plan includes a dedicated section on rural crime where it sets out some of the ways the Commissioner will seek to further address concerns he has heard from your communities. The rural crime section of the plan was developed in consultation with the Country Watch team and insights from our engagement with rural communities.

You have told the Commissioner that fly-tipping, speeding and anti-social behaviour continue to plague rural communities. We will continue to work with you to improve our shared response.

Theft of farm machinery, plant, vehicles and tools is a perennial issue. The Commissioner will be expanding support for the property-marking initiative that he funded last year so the Country Watch team are able to do more proactive work in this area to protect the property of rural communities.

The visibility of policing in rural areas continues to be important. More support to Country Watch and rural neighbourhood policing teams will come through the additional 156 officers joining Hampshire this year as a result of the government's uplift programme and the support our communities have provided through their council tax.

We want to increase the use of rural volunteers in our communities who enhance policing by providing an 'eyes and ears' presence. Last year the Commissioner invested in Dog Watch and the Mounted Rural Patrol and will look to support further volunteer initiatives again this year.

Ensuring policing matches the needs of rural communities continues to be priority for the Commissioner and the chief constable and we look forward to engaging our rural communities in the delivery of this plan. You can read the full plan here www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/plan-for-our-safer-futures.



- Building a bridge to a SAFER Future
- Protecting all our communities during COVID-19 and beyond
- Serving Hampshire, IoW, Portsmouth & Southampton



COVID-19 SUPPORT AND CRIME PREVENTION

Criminals will use every opportunity they can to defraud people. In the current climate they will exploit every angle of the COVID-19 crisis.

The following scams are some of the most common ones to be aware of:

- Doorstep crime
- Telephone calls and text scams
- Email (phishing) scams
- Online scams

If you think you've been a victim of a scam, contact your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via www.actionfraud.police.uk

How you can protect yourself

We are not trying to scare people at a time when they are already anxious. We simply want people to be aware of the steps they can take to protect themselves:

1. Don't click or open anything you think looks suspicious, or reply or respond to anything asking you for your personal or financial details.
2. Protect your devices by installing the latest software updates.
3. If you're shopping online, try to use sites you or someone you trust has used before and you know are reputable. If you're making a purchase and can use a credit card, use it – as most major credit card providers insure online purchases against fraud.
4. Don't buy goods on the doorstep.

5. It's okay to reject, refuse or ignore requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you. Take your time to discuss what is being asked of you with friends or family.

6. Most telephone providers will block anonymous callers. Consider registering your number with the Telephone Preference Service; the UK's official 'Do Not Call' register for landline and mobile numbers. Visit www.tpsonline.org.uk or call 0345 070 0707.

7. Registering with the Mail Preference Service will help prevent the receipt of unsolicited direct mailings. Visit www.mpsonline.org.uk or call 0207 291 3310.

Remember: the police, or your bank, will never ask you to withdraw money or transfer it to a different account. They will never ask you to reveal your full banking password or PIN.

Useful support and advice

SUPPORT SERVICES
CORONA VIRUS
WHERE TO GET HELP DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Helplines are now available to provide information and advice, as well as practical support to frail or vulnerable residents who need urgent assistance with essential food or household supplies, collection of medication, or who are at risk of loneliness:

- Hampshire Helpline **0333 370 4000**
- Portsmouth **023 9268 8004**
- Southampton **023 8083 4800**
- Isle of Wight **01983 823 600**

If you're concerned for someone who is at risk because of underlying health issues or they're elderly you can register them, or get them to register, on the government's Covid-19 support service www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable or call **0800 028 8327**, to get help delivering essential supplies and any additional care they might need.

The community response during the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation has been amazing, with hundreds of individuals, groups and organisations coming forward on the ground, and through social media, to offer support. It's great to see the community coming together to help each other but as there is no way to validate some of these groups please exercise caution in sharing personal details with unknown people.

Helplines:

- Mind Charity **0300 123 3393** Text: 86463 Email: info@mind.org.uk
- Samaritans **116 123** Email: jo@samaritans.org
- The Silver Line (advice and friendship for the elderly) **0800 470 80 90** www.thesilverline.org.uk
- Age UK (telephone friendly service for over 60s) **0800 678 1602** www.ageuk.org.uk
- Age UK (text friendly service for over 60s) **03300 165112**
- Age UK (text friendly service for over 60s) Helpline **0808 2000 247**

0300 123 2040

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For crime and community information www.hampshirealert.co.uk

Visit Neighbourhood Watch at www.hinwa-nw.org.uk

HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY
101
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY

SCAM AWARENESS
CORONA VIRUS
CRIMINALS ARE EXPLOITING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC TO DEFAUD PEOPLE

Below are some of the most common scams to be aware of:

EMAIL, TEXT & PHONE CALL SCAMS

- An unexpected email from the government offering you money.
- The 'infection list' scam mimicking the World Health Organisation (WHO) claiming to provide a list or map of local infections.
- An email from HM Government asking for donations for the NHS.
- An HMRC email stating you are 'eligible to receive a tax refund'.
- Sale of fake COVID-19 swabbing tests, supplements, and anti-virus kits.
- A text message asking you to pay a fine as it says you have been recorded as leaving your home on three occasions during the lockdown.
- A phone call stating 'government guidelines now require everyone to wear a mask outside the house, press 1 to purchase your mask'.

DOORSTEP CRIME

- Cleansing services that offer to clean drives and doorways to kill bacteria or offering to 'decontaminate' the inside of your home.
- Bogus healthcare workers offering 'home-testing' for the virus.
- Criminals offering to do your shopping. They take the money and do not return.

ADVICE & SUPPORT

Always question unsolicited calls, texts or emails requesting your personal or financial information (name, address, bank details). To verify the company contact them directly using a known email or phone number. For advice on cybercrime, or to report suspicious emails, visit www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware

Anyone who has been a victim of fraud or cybercrime can report it online at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call **0300 123 2040**.

www.hampshire.police.uk
Deaf? Non-emergency text
07781 480999

Victim Care Service (Hampshire and IOW)
0808 178 1641

For crime and community information www.hampshirealert.co.uk

Visit Neighbourhood Watch at www.hinwa-nw.org.uk

HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY
101
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY

SUPPORT FOR FARMERS DURING THE PANDEMIC

The Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) has contacted all agricultural labour sites in the south of England and Wales to provide farmers with ongoing support during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Advice on how to spot the signs of labour exploitation and where to report concerns has been issued ahead of the GLAA visiting farms directly over upcoming weeks to give further guidance to the industry.

This engagement activity ties in with the temporary licensing scheme established by the GLAA for the food production sector in March.

Temporary licences are currently being granted to businesses operating within the wider labour supply industry who wish to support GLAA licence holders feed the nation.

Phase two of this operation will see GLAA investigators conduct welfare visits to ensure that farmers are getting the help that they need and that their workers are not at risk of exploitation.

The GLAA has been supported by a number of partners including the National Farmers' Union in spreading the message to all sites in the area.

GLAA Senior Investigating Officer Jennifer Baines said: *"Despite the obvious challenges this awful virus has presented, we remain committed as an organisation to not only be heard by frontline workers during the crisis but also to be seen. They are doing an incredibly important job for the country at this difficult time which we*

them with.

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that we have made, visibility to being maintained and that some of the most vulnerable and hidden members of our society are being

treated fairly. This will clearly take place while adhering to the strict social distancing restrictions to minimise the spread of the virus.

"We understand the pressures farmers and growers are currently facing in picking and harvesting crops, not only during this pandemic but beyond. As the coronavirus crisis subsides, we know that there will be uncertainties around the availability of foreign workers and the booking of future travel.

"In these times, more than ever, it's vital that you report any concerns or suspicions that you have to us. The potential for labour shortages in the near future could create conditions in which exploitation can thrive if we are not alive to the risks."

Report concerns to the GLAA's intelligence team by calling 0800 4320804 or contact them by email at intelligence@gla.gov.uk

Tips to deter thieves and secure equipment:

- Vehicles and machinery should not be left in a visible place when not in use. Where possible store them in a locked building or somewhere it can't be seen from the road. Remember to lock them and keep the keys secured in your possession, off-site or in a locked key safe.
- Consider the use of hitch locks, wheel clamps or ground anchors. You may require a combination of the above to meet insurance requirements. To control access installing barriers such as bollards may be appropriate at certain sites.
- Use the Construction & Agricultural Equipment Security and Registration (CESAR) Scheme for marking and registering your property. Markings make items less attractive to criminals and can help the police to recover your belongings if they are stolen. www.cesarscheme.org
- Take photos of your property,

particularly serial numbers and any distinctive markings.

- Consider fitting a tracking device or a data tagging chip. Your insurance company can provide advice on suitable products.
- Ensure that gates are secured at both ends, using reverse or cap hinges and a good-quality padlock and heavy duty chain. Tested and certified security products can be found at www.soldsecure.com
- You may also want to review the level of security you have installed at your premises. Fit security lights and a monitored intruder alarm that can send alerts to your phone. We recommend obtaining three quotes from inspectorate-approved installers in your area who are members of NSI (National Security Inspectorate) www.nsi.org.uk or SSAIB (Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board) www.ssaib.org.uk
- Report incidents of suspicious activity to the police via 101 or report online at <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/> (if possible record vehicle details and descriptions of the people involved).



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SUPPORT FOR FARMERS DURING THE PANDEMIC

Fraud

Be aware of fraud in these challenging times, fraudsters will try to take advantage. We are aware of coronavirus (COVID-19) related scams from people claiming to be from other government departments, and we want to remind you to remain vigilant. We will not call you or send you emails or texts asking you to confirm your personal details or payment information.

- Never discuss your bank account details with someone you do not know
- We will not ask you to make a payment over the phone
- Delete any emails or texts you do not believe are genuine

Do not open any links unless from our main email addresses, which are:

- ruralpayments@defra.gov.uk
- rpa@notifications.service.gov.uk
ruralpayments@rpa.emails.com
- rdpenetwork@defra.gov.uk

Be cautious about what information you share externally, particularly on social media.

If you suspect an attempted fraud or feel you have been the subject of fraud,



Farming Help

Get in touch on 03000 111 999 if you:

- Feel concerned or anxious and would like to talk to someone who understands farming, will listen to you and help you think through your options
- Would like help to draft a contingency plan to ensure you and your farm are prepared, should you be unable to work for a time
- If you or people you rely on become ill or are self-isolating and you need to find help locally

The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution

The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI) provides financial support to farming people of all ages, particularly those on low incomes and little in the way of savings when they are in financial difficulty. Call: 0808 281 9490 or click <https://rabi.org.uk/>

Perennial

Perennial provides a free debt and support service for those in the horticultural industry and their families. Call: 0800 093 8543 or click <https://perennial.org.uk/>

The Addington Fund

The Addington Fund is a service in England and Wales providing homes for farmers and their families who have had to leave their farm, through no fault of their own. Call: 01926 620135 or click <https://www.addingtonfund.org.uk/>

The Gamekeepers' Welfare Trust

The Gamekeepers Welfare Trust help support gamekeepers, stalkers and ghillies through financial grants, support, housing and employment. Call: 0300 1233088 or click <https://www.thegamekeeperswelfaretrust.com>

Coronavirus: Looking after wellbeing on the farm <https://www.nfuonline.com/news/coronavirus-updates-and-advice/coronavirus-news/coronavirus-looking-after-wellbeing-on-farm/>

Government support available to farm workers: <https://farmwell.org.uk/covid-19-business-resilience/>



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Referral Team on
rpa@notifications.service.gov.uk
rpa@notifications.service.gov.uk

- Action Fraud (the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cyber-crime) on 0300 123 2040



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MEASURES TO TACKLE RAPTOR PERSECUTION

For far too long our nation's birds of prey have been senselessly killed up and down the country.

Any keen birder can give you horrific accounts of raptors such as hen harriers being shot on grouse moors in the north of the country, but sadly the persecution of our native species is even taking place on our own doorsteps in the south.

In December last year, a Portsmouth man was caught red-handed on his neighbour's CCTV camera shooting and killing a sparrowhawk with a catapult.

The 48-year-old, who keeps racing pigeons, was resting on his garden fence when he took aim at the hawk, which had caught a pigeon in the neighbouring garden below.

The man fired two ball-bearings at the bird, killing it, then attempted to recover the body with a rake. One of the ball-bearings was found in the

Sparrowhawks are protected by law. The penalty for intentionally killing or harming one is an unlimited fine and/or up to six months' imprisonment.

The man appeared at Portsmouth Magistrates' Court on 25 February 2020 charged with one count of intention to kill a wild bird contrary to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

He pleaded guilty and was ordered to pay a £653 fine, plus £85 costs and a £63 victim surcharge.

District Judge Gary Lucie said: "It was clearly an intentional offence. You did not act with any mercy especially as your pigeon escaped unhurt.

"You could have scared off the sparrowhawk so it would have flown off. Instead you carefully approached it and hit it with a single shot.

"It isn't a rare endangered species but is fully protected in law. It has a population of 35,000 which has been in decline for the last 10 years due to a number of problems.

"The RSPB say the persecution of raptors is a significant national problem."

Following the sentencing, Jenny Shelton from the RSPB's Investigations Unit said: "All birds of prey are protected by law.

Sparrowhawks were heavily persecuted in the past and sadly, despite legal protection, continue to be illegally killed.

Between 2007 and 2018, 49 sparrowhawks were victims of illegal persecution, and these are only the ones we know about. Statistics also show that, of all raptor persecution convictions since 1990, 'pigeon fanciers' make up over five per cent.

"We would like to thank Hampshire Constabulary for their thorough investigation and hope that this serves as an example to others that killing a bird of prey is unacceptable and has consequences.

"We are also grateful to the individual who did the right thing and reported this crime."

These cases, although upsetting, highlight the great partnership work that is ongoing to put a stop to raptor persecution and punish those who commit crimes against wildlife.

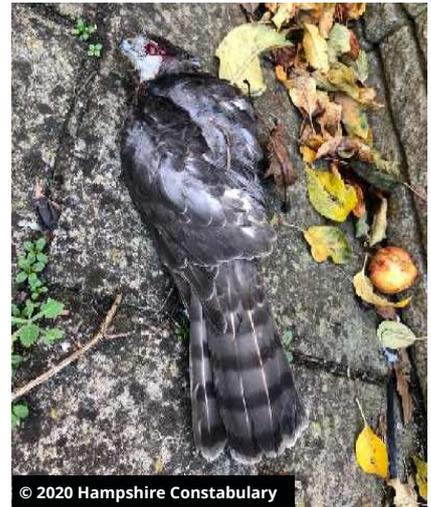
"Between 2007 and 2018, 49 sparrowhawks were victims of illegal persecution..."

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reported this
constabulary and
investigation was

launched.



New declaration

Now, a group of leading rural organisations has issued a joint declaration as a clear signal of their intent to put a stop to the killings.

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC), Countryside Alliance (CA), Moorland Association (MA), National Gamekeepers' Organisation (NGO) and the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) have outlined a number of key actions they believe can help tackle the illegal killing of birds of prey.

The declaration recommends that all shooting leases, contracts and other documents include clauses affirming the laws against the persecution of raptors.

It also outlines the launch of training initiatives and a sector-wide awareness campaign.

The organisations – which represent shooting, gamekeepers and landowners – have unreservedly condemned raptor persecution and called for their community to have a 'zero tolerance' approach to such crimes.

A spokesperson for the organisations said: "This joint statement and the actions it outlines should be seen as a clear signal of intent by those involved in shooting to end the scourge of raptor persecution."



"There has been significant progress in recent years, but more needs to be done if the illegal killing of raptors is to be eradicated. The joint signatories have agreed this statement to lay out in the clearest terms possible the position we need to get to and the actions that will help us get there."

"Shooting is responsible for amazing conservation work and keeps people in jobs in fragile rural communities, but the continued illegal killing of birds of prey threatens its very future and that would be a disaster for our countryside, its biodiversity and our economy."

"It falls on all of us, individuals and organisations, to ensure we encourage attitudes and actions that make the illegal killing of birds of prey a thing of the past. There must be no hiding place for behaviour that categorically risks destroying the very things we claim so vociferously to protect."

But the work doesn't stop there...

Our Country Watch team regularly supports the ongoing national work under Operation Owl.

The purpose of the operation is to increase public awareness of bird of prey persecution and to seek support in tackling it head on.

As previously reported in Rural Times, our officers met with partners from the RSPB, the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation and the Hampshire Ornithological Society in

September last year in the days leading up to a national weekend of action.

Our team was praised nationally for their fantastic social media engagement via the @HantsPolRural Twitter feed during this period. The great work they are carrying out, alongside our partners, will continue with further Operation Owl weekends of action planned for later in the year.

Further details on Operational Owl and how to recognise, record and report the signs of raptor persecution can be found online: www.operationowl.com

If you find a dead or injured bird of prey in suspicious circumstances, or witness a crime against a bird of prey, you can contact the police on 101, and report it to the RSPB on crime@rspb.org.uk. Your call could make all the difference.

You can also report crimes against birds of prey to the RSPB online at: www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/our-positions-and-campaigns/positions/wildbirdslaw/reportform

In addition, you can use one of the following confidential reporting hotlines:

Crimestoppers – 0800 555 111

RSPB Raptor Persecution Hotline – 0300 999 0101





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OPERATION TO TACKLE RURAL CRIME IN NORTH AND EAST HAMPSHIRE

Officers continue to carry out patrols across North and East Hampshire as part of an ongoing operation to tackle a rural crime series.

Premises across rural Basingstoke, Hart, Test Valley and East Hampshire have been experiencing a higher than average theft of all terrain vehicles (ATVs) or quad bikes.

Officers are carrying out patrols at peak times and in peak locations to intercept suspicious vehicles or suspects. A recent stop search resulted in a man being arrested on suspicion of going equipped for theft and possession of an offensive weapon.

Country Watch officers carrying out patrols in Hart's rural districts arrested the man just before midnight on May 13 in Hook Road, Hook, after a suspicious vehicle was stopped. The vehicle and items within, including a machete, were seized.

Officers from Thames Valley Police and Hampshire Constabulary's specialist Country Watch team and Hart Neighbourhood Teams raided the land in Hulford Lane on the morning of 7 May. They found a stable block, which is alleged to have been stolen from Wokingham, and a ride-on lawn mower that is alleged to have been stolen during a burglary in Crondall. Other items recovered include power tools. Work is ongoing to reunite these items with their rightful owners. We are hoping to trace the owner of a Honda EM2300 generator (pictured).



If you have previously reported this item as having been stolen and can identify it, please get in touch by calling 101 and quoting reference 44190414291.

A 39-year-old man from Yateley has been arrested on suspicion of handling stolen goods. He has been released on bail while police enquiries continue. Hart Neighbourhood Inspector Jennifer Lovegrove said: "We want to reassure residents in the rural districts that offenders who try and carry out criminal activities in the countryside are being robustly targeted by police."

"Rural crime is a priority for us and we will continue to relentlessly pursue suspects and prevent them from using the road networks. If you see any suspicious vehicles or people, please let us know by ringing 101.

"As far as possible, keep high value items such as quad bikes, plant machinery or power tools secured and locked at all times or out of sight. Consider installing CCTV, tracker devices, automatic security lights and intruder alarm systems.

"The community are our eyes and ears and we encourage you to report all incidents as soon as you are able to. And if it's happening there and then, always call 999."

You can now report crime or suspicious activity online by visiting our website – www.hampshire.police.uk – or by clicking on this link: <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report>

Additionally there is a new facility to report anti-social behaviour (ASB), using the following link: <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-b/report-antisocial-behaviour/>



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Wintney recently uncovered a number of items they believe to have been stolen during burglaries across rural areas.

**Please keep dogs
on leads and stay
to the footpath**

Thank You

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ADVICE ISSUED TO DOG OWNERS IN A BID TO REDUCE ATTACKS ON WILDLIFE IN HAMPSHIRE

Following a spate of reported incidents of dogs harassing and attacking deer in the New Forest, Forestry England and Hampshire Constabulary are asking owners to ensure all dogs are kept under close supervision when out walking.

Over recent weeks, Forestry England has received a series of reports of dogs chasing, harassing and, in some cases, injuring deer. This is of particular concern at this time of year when many female deer will be pregnant.

Dogs worrying livestock is a criminal offence contrary to the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953. In such incidents, animals can be seriously injured or killed, and it is common for other animals witnessing this to die from shock.

Anyone who has witnessed an incident is encouraged to report this to the police (101) or on social media, with appropriately.

Forestry England and the police are advising owners to ensure all dogs are supervised when walking in the New Forest, and to follow a few simple measures to limit the likelihood of attacks on wildlife and animals grazing.

Owners are asked to ensure dogs are kept close by and in sight at all times. A lead should be used if they are not confident that the dog will return to them promptly on command. As with any rural area, owners should also ensure dogs do not stray into areas where you do not have right of access.

Sandy Shore, New Forest keeper, Forestry England, said: "Dogs play a large part in Forest life. To keep them, wildlife and livestock on the forest safe, we ask that dog owners act responsibly and ensure their dogs are supervised at all times. As an owner myself, I know that even the best trained dogs can get carried away when out on the open forest. That's why it is essential that people keep their pets under control or better still keep them on a lead if you cannot entirely trust them."

Matt Thelwell, from Country Watch said: "I would like to remind owners of the importance of being in full control of their dog when in the countryside and around grazing and wild animals. Owners often voice surprise when their dog chases animals, but this is an innate part of a

dog's behaviour and they will instinctively chase and injure animals given the opportunity.

Anyone witnessing an incident is encouraged to report this to us by calling 101. This will help us take action and build up a better picture of the scale of this issue in the Forest."



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Forestry England

SPECIAL OF THE YEAR

In March, we celebrated our volunteers with the Citizens in Policing awards.

Special Sergeant Shane Phillips was awarded Special Constable of the Year 2019 as recognition for his proactive work on a number of occasions.

This included the time he singlehandedly stopped a car full of identified thieves and maintained

control of the situation before back-up arrived. Four were charged with theft and thousands of pounds worth of high grade perfume were recovered.

On the same day in October last year, Shane gave medical assistance to two separate victims of stabbings. Shane is one of our trained South Central Ambulance Service co-responders and was able to provide emergency first aid in both cases.



COUNTRY WATCH SPECIAL CONSTABLE HONOURED



Special Constable Kevin Saunders has been recognised for policing services provided to rural communities of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

His dedication and hard work led to him being awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year Honours list.

Kevin said: *"I am absolutely honoured. It's not something you expect to receive. It's recognition for me doing something that I am massively passionate about."*

Congratulating Kevin on his honour, Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney said: *"I would like to give my personal congratulations to Kevin."*

"His award reflects so highly on all of our Special Constabulary and the important role they play."



SPECIAL TEAM OF THE YEAR

Our Country Watch Specials were recognised by Police and Crime Commissioner Michael Lane at the 2019 SAFER awards.

They were awarded Special Constabulary Team of the Year for *'making a genuine and impactful contribution to policing and supporting rural communities across the force'*.

Not only do they routinely support the regular Country Watch team with activities such as proactive work around speeding on high animal mortality routes, they also work well on their own.

Some members of the team have undertaken additional training to become ambulance co-responders; these officers respond to medical emergencies while they are out on patrol.

RURAL ROUND-UP

TARGETED PATROLS

Throughout the winter months, PC Ian Bassett carried out targeted patrols in the east of the county to reduce the numbers of reports from gamekeepers and landowners regarding unknown individuals catapulting pheasants from the roadside and hare coursing.

These patrols have included a number of police-led operations into the early hours where gamekeepers and landowners have been actively involved.

As a result, around 30kg of ball bearings have been seized, numerous catapults, along with other weapons including lock knives.

Conditional cautions were issued meaning that all weapons were surrendered.

Six vehicles were also seized in relation to poaching offences, and many other vehicles for traffic-related offences.



FOUR ARRESTED FOR HARE COURSING OFFENCES IN THE RURAL CANDOVERS

Our Country Watch officers deployed to farmland in the Candovers on 30 January this year, after we received reports of illegal hare coursing in the area.

On arrival, they came across an empty vehicle which was stuck in mud.

Following a search of the surrounding woodland, four men were detained and four dogs were seized.

Two 22-year-old men and a 23-year-old man, all from Surrey, and a 31-year-old man from Greater London, were arrested on suspicion of criminal damage and entering land as a trespasser at night

with poaching equipment.

All four were released from custody, but remain under investigation as our enquiries continue.

If you have any information about hare coursing or poaching, please call 101 and ask to speak to the Country Watch team, or call 999 if a crime is in progress.

You can also call the charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111, or use the Project Poacher app. Visit www.projectpoacher.com for more information.

DENMEAD OPERATION

On 19 February, officers from Country Watch, assisted by local neighbourhood teams, attended a site near Denmead.

They were supporting planning enforcement officers from Winchester City Council.

While at the site, a number of items believed to have been stolen were recovered. These included a Ford Transit van, two caravans, three Lfor Williams trailers and a Polaris ATV.

GUILTY PLEA

A 51-year-old man pleaded guilty on 17 March in relation to poaching offences which occurred in November 2019 in West Tytherley.

He was located in possession of dead partridges and a shotgun. He had to pay costs totalling £430 and had his shotgun certificate revoked.



ANIMALS RESCUED

In December 2019, PC Ian Bassett attended a location close to Soberton in the company of the RSPCA, following reports of animals being kept in far from ideal conditions. As a result all of the animals were moved to a better environment and the owner was issued with animal improvement notices. The animals included a pig, several goats and miniature ponies.

RURAL ROUND-UP

MISSING GOATS LULU AND DOLLY HAVE BEEN FOUND!

We are delighted to say that missing goats Lulu and Dolly have been found safe and well.



The friendly nanny goats, who are mother and daughter, were stolen along with another seven goats overnight between 5.35pm on 18 May and 8am on 19 May from the barn premises in Lee, near Romsey, in the Test Valley area.

Seven of the goats were later recovered after being found wandering in the road in Nursling but the two females remained missing.

We are happy to report that Lulu and Dolly were found by a member of the public trotting, ironically, along Trotts Lane in Marchwood on 29 May.

Police Staff Investigator Melody Manning said:

"The owner was so delighted to be reunited with Lulu and Dolly. They are affectionate and friendly animals and were very much valued and missed by all."

"We don't know yet where they were being held and by whom so we are still appealing for anyone who has any information about this crime to please get in touch. These much loved animals were stolen after the barn was broken into and Lulu and Dolly were held for 10 days – so we are still very keen to find those responsible."

If you have any information, please call 101 and quote reference 44200177169.

Alternatively, ring Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

APPEAL FOR INFORMATION AFTER 67 PIGLETS STOLEN FROM FARM

We are appealing for information after 67 pink piglets were stolen from a farm in Damerham, Fordingbridge.

The six-week-old piglets were stolen from the farm between 20 May and 28 May, and have the reference HB0789 tattooed on them. Officers from our Country Watch team are investigating the theft and are keen to hear from anyone with information.

The piglets were being kept in their family groups, which is important for pigs as they are social animals. Moving them to a different location could expose them to

dangerous bugs and cause unnecessary stress which may lead to premature death.

Have you noticed any new piglets at a smallholding or similar location recently?

The farmer who owns the piglets is understandably extremely concerned for their welfare and we want to hear from anyone who can assist with our enquiries.

Anyone with information can call 101, quoting 44200190321. Alternatively, you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111, or email countrywatch@hampshire.pnn.police.uk.

OPERATION IN TEST VALLEY

Four men caught illegally fishing on the River Test were issued with £100 fines and had their fishing equipment seized during a partnership operation in May.

Officers from Hampshire Constabulary joined forces with 20 river keepers and enforcement officers from the Environment Agency as part of an operation in the Test Valley area on 22 May to target poaching, hare coursing, non-residential burglary, theft of quad bikes and rural crime in general.

The four men, who were all from the Slough area, made off when they were approached by a river keeper while fishing on the river near the A3057 north of Leckford. Police officers stopped their vehicle three minutes later and all four men were given community resolutions of £100 each and had all their fishing equipment taken off them.

Around 20 other suspicious vehicles were stopped during the 10 hour operation – on the A3057 and in areas around Romsey – and details of four vehicles and their occupants were taken.

PC Ian Bassett, from Country Watch, said:

"This demonstrates the huge value of

working in partnership with other agencies and our local landowners and river keepers.

"As well as our colleagues from Roads Policing Unit and the Romsey and Stockbridge Neighbourhood Teams, this operation was fantastically assisted by enforcement officers from the Environment Agency and the river keepers.

"We successfully disrupted illegal activity on the river and this type of operation will continue. We want to send a message that we are out there on patrol and we will robustly target suspicious vehicles and people.

"The community are our eyes and ears and we encourage you to report all incidents as soon as you are able to. If it's happening there and then, always call 999."

You can now report crime or suspicious activity online by visiting our website – www.hampshire.police.uk – or by clicking on this link: <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report>

Additionally there is a new facility to report anti-social behaviour (ASB), using the following link: <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-b/report-antisocial-behaviour/>



COUNTRY WATCH

Meet the team

Contact numbers and locations for our Country Watch officers are shown here, should you need to contact them about your concerns and issues. Please note that these phone numbers should not be used to report crimes. You should call **101** if you think an offence has been or is about to be committed, or call **999** in an emergency. Although our officers are based in the locations stated, they have a countywide responsibility and can help you with any issue.



Insp Korine Bishop
07880 056657



Sgt Stuart Ross
07970 145099



PC Steve Rogerson
07554 775468



PC Will Butcher
07775 542982



Police Staff Investigator Hannah Levy
07469 562472



PC Lynn Owen
07901 102344



PC Matt Thelwell
07392 314410

PC Lee Stanbrook
07392 289466

Tadley

Aldershot

Special Constable Phil Keeling
07392 289634

Andover

Alresford



PC Scott Graham
07554 775488



Police Staff Investigator Melody Manning
07469 562444

Bishop's Waltham

Special Constable Kev Saunders

Lyndhurst

Special Constable Joe Earley

Yarmouth

Special Sergeant Shane Phillips



PCSO Cat Quinn



PC Ian Bassett
07775 537382

Ventnor

PC Martin Egerton
07968 098006

PCSO Karen Allen



Sgt Adam Brown
07795 051050



PC Nick Massey
07901 102373



Police Staff Investigator Anna Presswell
07469 562221

PCSO Justin Keefe

PCSO Kevin Cooke

pdfelement
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