



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

***Royston Rural  
Watch, Dec 2017***

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

Sgt Guy Westwood 1604



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

***On the Beat -***

## ***Burglary Awareness at Christmas***



As Christmas approaches, the Constabulary tends to see an increase in burglaries across the county and this includes North Herts. To prepare for this seasonal trend, North Herts, Detective Inspector Mike Keane, who leads the district's Local Crime Unit, has written to 500 residents in Hitchin, Letchworth, Baldock and Royston to warn them about burglary risks and to give them crime prevention advice.

The 500 people who have been written to live in current 'hotspot' burglary areas and locations where addresses were targeted last Christmas.

Detective Inspector Keane said: "I do not wish to alarm people and would like to reassure local residents that myself and North Herts' Chief Inspector Julie Wheatley are doing all we can to use all available resources to tackle this seasonal increase in burglaries, identify those responsible and bring them to justice.

“Offences can happen during the daytime and evenings when occupants are not at home. Entry to properties has been gained via both front and rear doors. Last year, on occasions considerable damage was caused, so offenders were not covert in their actions. I also believe some offenders spend time in the area prior to offences being committed, often taking time to research the streets and levels of activity.

“Over the coming weeks in the lead up to Christmas we will be increasing our high visibility and covert patrols. And I’d like to urge residents to be more vigilant. You are best placed to know when something looks out of place in your neighbourhood. If you suspect a person is in your neighbourhood to commit a crime or you see a vehicle in suspicious circumstances please don’t hesitate to contact us, so officers can attend and determine whether the person/vehicle is there lawfully.”

Mike added: “Residents can also help us in the fight against burglary by securing their homes. There have been some great advances in home security technology and the costs are coming down all the time. Whilst it is still important to remember to secure windows and double-lock PVCu doors, by lifting the handle and turning the key to engage all the safety features, there are now security cameras and lighting that can help to make your home even safer.

“Criminals will always prefer to target unoccupied homes. If you give your home a lived in look, by using a timer switch to turn on a light, radio or TV, when it gets dark then criminals are more likely to avoid your home.”

If you see anyone behaving suspiciously around your street, please report it to police via the non-emergency number 101 straight away. If however, you feel could be witnessing a burglary or any other crime in action, please dial 999 immediately.

Hertfordshire Constabulary would also recommend residents consider the follow crime prevention advice to further secure their homes:

- **Ensure doors are double locked at all times. Keep windows closed and locked.**

- **Consider installing a door bell camera, internal camera and/or monitored burglar alarm.**

- **Install ‘dusk to dawn’ external lighting and use timer switches in your home to control internal lights, radios and a simulated TV.**

- **Keep keys and valuables secure and out of sight.**

- **Ensure boundary fences are secure with side gates locked. Keep tools and ladders in a locked shed.**

- **Join Hertfordshire’s Neighbourhood Watch for alerts and advice**

[www.owl.co.uk](http://www.owl.co.uk)

## Farmers dig out crime in North Herts

Farmers in North Herts are digging deep to prevent crime.



Following discussions around crime prevention at the annual barn meet in North Hertfordshire; local farmers are now taking further steps to protect their crops and fields from criminal damage.

Their latest crime prevention initiative involves digging trenches at vulnerable locations on their land to prevent vehicles being able to access fields.

“This year we have seen a large increase in the number of reports of criminal damage to crops by off road vehicles driving across private land, either as a result of being involved in illegal hare coursing or just to cause a nuisance,” explained Neighbourhood Sergeant Guy Westwood.

“We have been patrolling the land as much as we can, but it is a huge and difficult area to police. By digging ditches at vulnerable entrances to fields we can hopefully prevent vehicles gaining access and seize those that get stuck.

“This is just one of many crime prevention initiatives we are trailing in the rural areas - we are also starting to issue land owners with dash cams to help capture vital evidence.

“We have a very good relationship with our local farmers and land owners and I am delighted that they are working with us and have adopted this latest preventative approach. I hope this will result in a decrease in the number of reported crimes relating to crop damage.”

## Motorists and pedestrians advised to take care in cold weather

Advice is being issued as the temperature looks set to drop over Winter

Side roads and unsalted pavements may be dangerous and difficult to navigate

Take care and allow extra time for journeys



As the temperature looks set to drop over winter, the Constabulary is advising motorists of the potential dangers of freezing ice and snow.

Side roads in particular could still be difficult to negotiate as thawing snow turns to ice. Unsalted pavements may also be dangerous.

Superintendent Richard Liversidge, who is based within the Force's control room, said: "Hertfordshire is in for some very cold weather this month and next and I would ask that everyone travelling around the county take some common sense precautions. This includes ensuring you have adequate clothing and footwear for the harsh weather conditions.

"The temperature could drop below freezing temperature which could lead to black ice on roads and pavements. Please take care and allow extra time for your journey. Indeed, if your journey isn't important then consider making it later in the week when forecasters say the weather will improve."







## Local Crime Information

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

- **Outbuilding Burglary, Ashwell** - Between Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> a metal container was broken into at Small Gains, Ashwell belonging to the local cycle club. Bikes and lawn mowers stolen. G4/17/1062 refers
- **House Burglary, Ashwell** - On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November between 10.45 am and 12.15pm a house was broken into in Loves Lane, Ashwell. The offender entered the property by smashing the patio door. Once inside an untidy search took place and the offenders made off empty handed. G4/17/1075
- **Outbuilding Burglary, Ashwell** – Between Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October and Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November, the offender broken into a metal container used by the local youth Football team. The offenders stole various items and made off direction unknown. Possibly linked to the other burglary at the location. G4/17/1079 Refers
- **Theft, Ashwell** – Overnight on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November an trailer was stolen from a drive way in Ashwell Street. The offender removed a wheel clamp which was left discarded on the driveway. The offenders made off direction unknown. G4/17/1081 Refers
- **Outbuilding Burglary, Ashwell** – Between Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November the shed on the Recreation ground was broken into. The offender took the cricket clubs 'ground roller' which was taken across the field at the rear and loaded onto a van opposite Ashwell Garage, no number plate could be seen on CCTV from the garage. G4/17/1082 Refers
- **Burglary, Ashwell** – Between Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November a battery for a mobility scooter was stolen from within sheltered accommodation in Gardiners Lane. G4/17/1091 Refers
- **Theft, Hinxworth** - On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 13.30 two men in a white Ford Transit van drove in to a farm in Hinxworth. The offender got out and walked around and stole copper wire. The man returned to the vehicle and drove away. G4/17/1104 Refers

- **Burglary, Newnham** – Overnight Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November a number of metal containers that were stored at a farm in Newnham village were broken into. An untidy search took place and a property stolen. G4/17/1109 Refers

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

- **Burglary, Nuthampstead** – On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November between 09.30am and 13.15pm a house was broken into in Bury end, Nuthampstead. The offenders completed an untidy search of the property, took a pillow case and stole jewellery and money from the home. G4/17/1077 Refers
- **Damage, Barkway** – Overnight on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> a vehicle was driven across farmland in Buckland Road, Barkway causing damage to the farmers crops. The vehicle was possibly in pursuit of hares and committing poaching offences. G4/17/1114 Refers
- **Outbuilding Burglary, Barley** – Between Friday 10<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November a shed was broken into. The offenders came over the back of the property via fields and forced the shed door. Lawnmower stolen and the offenders made off over the fields. G4/17/1134
- **Theft of Motor Vehicle, Barley** – Overnight on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> a Mitsubishi Shogun was stolen from the Fox and Hounds car park in Barley. The offender would have needed a low loader type vehicle to load the vehicle as the 4x4 was un-movable due to engine issues. G4/17/1172

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

- **Burglary, Sandon** – On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> a house was broken into on the outskirts of Sandon village. The front door was kicked open to gain entry. The offenders searched the property and stole jewellery from within. This burglary was part of a series and the above burglaries are linked Ashwell and Nuthampstead. G3/17/701
- **Damage, Sandon** – On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November a vehicle entered farm land in pursuit of hares. The vehicle drove across a farmers crops and caused damage to the growing crops and fields. G3/17/727 and G3/17/726 Refers

- **Theft, Weston** – Overnight on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November the offenders entered a field near Lannock Hill, Weston. The offenders have approached a tractor and have removed a tree grab / shearer from the side. The offenders have made off direction unknown. G3/17/757
- **Burglary, Rushden** – Between Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November the offender entered the church in Rushden approached the alter and stole a brass cross. The offender made off direction unknown. G3/17/765 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**