



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

***Royston Rural  
Watch, November  
2019***

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

**Warning to residents as scam phone calls rise**

- **Residents warned as calls from bogus police officer rise**
- **Scam involves callers claiming to be officers investigating fraud**
- **Victims scammed out of thousands of pounds**

Hertfordshire Constabulary is warning residents to stay vigilant following an increase in reports of scam phone calls across the country.

Victims are being called by bogus police officers and bank officials asking them to withdraw cash, purchase goods or provide bank cards and PIN numbers for collection by a courier. The fraudsters will often ask the victims to call back on 999, 101 or 161 to verify that they are genuine, however this is part of the scam. They keep the line open so that the victim continues to speak to the fraudster believing they are genuine officials.

During October 2019, victims living in Letchworth, Ware and Baldock received calls from a man claiming to be a DC Robson from the Metropolitan Police and handed over a total of £18,000. During the same period, four victims living in Hatfield were contacted by someone claiming to be a DC Taylor and handed over £20,000. In the last two month, 12 victims living in Welwyn

Garden City, Hatfield and Watford, received calls from a man pretending to be DC Martin Rose from Watford Police Station and have lost approximately £10,000.

Detective Inspector Rob Burns, from Hertfordshire Constabulary's Serious Fraud and Cyber Unit, said: "The fraudsters are extremely convincing and persistent and often target the elderly or vulnerable resulting in the loss of thousands of pounds.

"It's important to remember that police officers and bank officials will NEVER ask you to withdraw money, purchase goods or hand over private banking details.

"Please help us to raise awareness by sharing this with your friends and family, especially if they are vulnerable or elderly."

If you believe that you are a victim of this scam please contact Hertfordshire Constabulary's non-emergency number 101, using a different phone to that used to communicate with the fraudsters. If a fraud is in progress or someone's life is in danger, call 999 immediately.

Hertfordshire Constabulary offers the following crime prevention advice:

- Be sceptical of callers, even those who claim to be officials.
- Don't be afraid to put the phone down with a brief 'No, thank you'.
- NEVER give personal information, such as your date of birth or bank details, to unexpected callers.
- Remember that the police or your bank would NEVER unexpectedly call you and ask you to withdraw cash or move your money to another account, as a result of fraud or any other reason.
- If callers suggest you call your local police or bank to check who they are, use another phone or ensure the line has been fully disconnected by phoning a friend or relative first, or by waiting at least five minutes, otherwise you may think you've phoned a number, but you're simply talking to the fraudsters again. This is a common fraudsters' tactic.
- If a caller asks you to type your bank PIN number into your telephone handset - do not do this, as fraudsters can use technology to identify the numbers.
- You can opt out of many cold calls by registering for free with the Telephone Preference Service on 0845 070 0707.

[www.actionfraud.com](http://www.actionfraud.com) or [www.herts.police.uk/protectyourmoney](http://www.herts.police.uk/protectyourmoney) for advice on avoiding scams.

To see a video demonstrating how fraudsters operate visit - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=zYco9\\_iSK7k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zYco9_iSK7k).

## **Suspicious incident in Reed**

- **Indecent exposure reported in Reed.**
- **Local resident confront man acting strangely behind his garden fence.**
- **Police appeal for any similar sightings to be reported.**

Police in Royston are appealing for information and witnesses after a suspicious incident was reported in Reed.

On Wednesday 16 October, a local resident noticed a man behaving strangely behind his garden hedge in Nicholls Yard. When he went to investigate, he saw the man was holding his genitals. The resident then confronted the man who ran away.

Investigating officer DC Simon Goodship said: "We are making a number of enquiries in order to trace the man in this incident, so we can establish the exact circumstances. We take reports of exposure very seriously, but we continue to keep an open mind in investigations of this nature.

"However we would like to hear from anyone who may have witnessed any similar behaviour or seen a man behaving suspiciously in this area."

Anyone with information should contact DC Goodship via email or via the non-emergency number 101, quoting crime number 41/93693/19. You can also report information online.

Alternatively, you can stay 100% anonymous by contacting the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or via their New windowuntraceable online form.

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

41/89301/19 – Burglary non dwelling

On 2<sup>nd</sup> of October between the hours of 1230-1530. Offenders have pulled open a garage door to gain entry and have stolen two electric powered bicycles. Offenders possibly made off in a white VW Golf.

#### 41/90946/19 – Attempt Burglary Residential

On 7<sup>th</sup> October between the hours of 2010-2020 a garage was damaged in High Street Ashwell in an attempt to gain entry to the property. This was unsuccessful.

#### 41/90964/19 – Burglary Bussiness and Community

On 7<sup>th</sup> October at 2035 hours a business in Mill Street Ashwell, was targeted, offenders used a crow bar to gain access to a locked building. Once inside offenders removed various items. CCTV shows a male wearing a dark grey hooded jacket, hood was up covering his face.

#### 41/91311/19 – Burglary Business and Community

On 7<sup>th</sup> October between 1800-0000 a property Mill Street was targeted. Offenders have broken locks on a barn door, once inside have stolen low value items.

#### 41/93851/19 – Action Fraud

Between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of October a resident reported being contacted by a Detective from Charing Cross Police Station, informing her that someone had been arrested using a duplicate bank card, belonging to the resident. The offenders have then convinced the resident to attend the bank and withdraw a large sum of money, which was then collected by courier.

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

#### 41/90441/19 – Attempt Burglary Residential

Overnight from 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> October a property in Royston Road, Barkway was targeted. Offenders have tried to access the property via rear windows to the downstairs via unknown means, offenders have been unsuccessful in their attempts no property taken.

#### 41/90581/19 – Burglary Dwelling

Between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of October a property in Church Lane, Reed was burgled. Offenders have gained entry via an upstairs window, they have carried out an untidy search to the property and have stolen a large quantity of sentimental and expensive jewellery.

#### 41/92033/19 – Burglary non dwelling

Overnight 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> October, in The Causeway, Therfield, a shed was broken into a strimmer was taken, and other gardening power tools.

41/94890/19 – Burglary non dwelling

Between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October a shed was broken into in Mill Lane, Therfield and a lawn mower was stolen.

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

41/88813/19 – Attempt Burglary Business and Community

On 1<sup>st</sup> October a storage barn in Warren Lane, Sandon was targeted. Offenders have attempted to gain entry by unknown means, but were unsuccessful.

41/91750/19 – Burglary Non Dwelling

Overnight on 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> October, a shed in Rushden Road, Sandon was targeted. Offenders have gained entry by jemmying the hinges off the door, once entry was gained, nothing was taken.

41/96893/19 – Theft from Motor Vehicle

Between the 21<sup>st</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> October, a vehicle which was parked in Rushden, had a tank of fuel siphoned from it.

41/97944/19 – Theft from Motor Vehicle

Overnight on the 28<sup>th</sup> October a vehicle which was parked on Post Office Row in Weston, had a gym bag and equipment stolen from it. There was no sign of forced entry to the vehicle.

### ***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**