



Issue 1 | 1st Of November 2020

@RuralCrimeNfk

Operation Randall

tackling rural crime
Newsletter



Introduction

I hope this first newsletter I write to you as the OP Randall Officer finds you well.

As James alluded to last time, I have taken over from him as he moves sideways into a slightly different role. James remains very much involved and also remains very much part of the larger Community Safety Team and sits on the desk next to me. I am slowly finding my feet with the help from James and the team. My first couple of weeks have been busy with a variety of taskings and deployments around several of this month's hot topics including hare coursing, oil thefts and machinery thefts. I am really looking forward to getting stuck into the role and meeting as many people as is physically possible (I wish I could say everyone but sadly that is never going to happen!). I like to think I bring an element of understanding of what the rural community desire and expect from police and specifically a Rural Crime Officer. I have many family links in farming and in fact spent around 10 years working in agriculture before joining Norfolk Constabulary in early 2013. Whilst as a force and as an individual we may not always get it right, we are always open to feedback and ideas. That is a key point moving forward - if you have any feedback, concerns, questions, ideas or literally anything else

please contact me. I can't guarantee that I will know the answer immediately, however I will look to provide a response as best as possible for you or point you in the right direction. No question is a stupid question!



Rural Engagement

Engagement events are somewhat limited at the moment due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation. I am looking at a couple of options for next month where social distancing measures are implemented and will get these advertised as soon as I have anything confirmed.

A key part of my role is to be accessible to you, so please do email me if you have any concerns. If you wish to speak to me please provide a contact number and a time that is best to contact you.

YANA
RURAL MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT
Helpline
0300 323 0400
helpline@yanahelp.org



NEED TO TALK TO US?

PC Chris Shelley | christopher.shelley@norfolk.pnn.police.uk | 07900 407106



Oil Thefts

I sit here writing this first newsletter on the weekend in which the clocks go back and we look ahead to the colder, longer nights for the next few months.

This is traditionally a time when we see an increase in heating oil thefts. Here is some top tips to keep your tank/oil safe and secure this winter.

- If your tank is in a open obvious area make sure it is well lit, if it is in a secluded location do not light the tank as this may make it easier for the thief.
- Fencing, trellis and plants can be placed around the tank to help hide from view. Make sure to leave a gap around the tank to avoid fire risk.
- Consider a padlock on the cap. Whilst this can add to the risk of the tank being drilled and damaged.
- Tank alarms, these can be easily fitted and will alert the home owner when the tank sees a sharp drop in oil in a short space of time.
- Keeping perimeter fences in good condition and secured by gates.
- CCTV systems can act as a great visual deterrent and systems are much more affordable than they have been previously with further development alongside smartphone apps.
- If looking to install a new tank consider enclosing it in a building as long as suitable ventilation can be installed.

Similar ideas can be considered for securing red diesel tanks as well although these are often not targeted in the same way.



Cooking Oil

We have in the past couple of weeks seen an increase in waste cooking oil thefts. There have been instances where people are entering sites and removing the waste barrels. On other occasions they are walking into back yards and acting as 'legitimate' collectors.

Please make sure your staff know who your approved collector is and make sure ID is checked. Whilst the monetary value of waste cooking oil is low it is how it is processed and dealt with down the line in relation to having an impact on the environment.



Police Warning to Bird Watchers

Whilst we continue to live in unprecedented times with Covid-19 birdwatchers were warned on the 17th of October about attending Stiffkey near Wells-next-the-Sea after a rare bird made a visit to the UK (Rufous Bush Chat). With people not adhering to current Covid-19 health and safety regulations around social distancing, officers were deployed to provide engagement around the current legislation in place. There were also issues raised around blocking of roads and public highways.

Whilst it is always fantastic to get out and see the fantastic wildlife our country has to offer, it is important that at the current time we adhere to the legislation put in place to protect us and our loved ones. People must be aware of the impact of inconsiderate and dangerous parking on not only the local residents but local businesses and the emergency services.

WhatsApp Group

The Operation Randall WhatsApp group is expanding. At present the group mainly consists of partner agencies, key landowners and administrators of other social media rural groups. I am currently looking at increasing the size of this group so if you meet one or more of the above criteria – work for a partner agency, key landowner or you administer another rural group on social media - or if you think you would benefit and be able to contribute in any way, I would be interested to hear from you. You can contact me via email at christopher.shelley@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

OPERATION GALILEO

ILLEGAL HARE COURISING

Hare Coursing

Hare coursing is a banned blood sport and is an illegal activity, yet it remains a common occurrence

here in Norfolk. It involves the pursuit of hares using sight hounds such as Lurchers. It usually takes place once harvest has been completed around August and then well into the new year whilst the crop heights remain low. However it can be an issue all year round.

Norfolk Constabulary's approach remains a robust one with priority response to reports of live coursing events. Once suspects are arrested the approach has been to seize vehicles involved in this criminality and also the dogs involved.

Earlier this month saw one of the biggest seizures in South Norfolk with 4 arrests, 6 dogs seized along with a 4x4 vehicle.

OP Galileo as the operation is named nationally remains a real focus for the rural crime team across the county, trying to stop this illegal activity and make such criminals unwelcome in Norfolk.

Recently teams from across the county supported by the Special Constabulary joined up for 2 days of high visibility patrols in known hotspots. I'm pleased to say over those 2 days we had no reports of any incidents of hare coursing across the county. These action days will continue over the next few months.



What can I do to help?

Unfortunately we cannot be everywhere and we rely on the public to provide us with information in relation to this criminal activity so that we can target not only the areas which are proving popular but also the individuals involved.

If you see hare coursing happening please phone 999 immediately.

If you see signs of hare coursing having previously occurred or just have information in anything in relation to hare coursing please email me directly or call 101.

When you phone 999 this is the information that should be asked for and provided where possible;

- Location be as precise as possible road names and parish names. We continue to use What3Words a free to use Smartphone App with precise location details.
- Amount of people involved? Descriptions of persons, clothing etc.
- Vehicle involved? colour, make, model, number plate, any distinguishing features (E.g. broken bumpers, windows, bull bars etc.)
- Dogs seen? colour
- What have you seen them actually doing? Have you seen them chasing/coursing a hare? Are they just trespassing at this stage? Have they caused any damage?
- If you can safely record any of the incident then please do so.

****NEVER PUT YOURSELF IN DANGER OR APPROACH THESE PERSONS IF YOU CANNOT OBTAIN EVERYTHING DO NOT WORRY****

NFU Reporting line:



The NFU crime reporting line and website is now live. This is a really useful tool to report a range of rural crimes anonymously by calling 0800 783 0137 or through the website at: www.ruralcrimereportingline.uk .



Tractor GPS Thefts

Over the last few days we have seen a number of tractor GPS units stolen from insecure tractors. In relation to these here are few prevention measures to consider;

- Remove GPS guidance receivers, aerials and antenna globes from tractors when not in use and keep them in a secure locked place whenever possible
- Consider fitting security tethers or brackets to stop units being removed
- Mark your postcode on GPS units – either with a UV pen, engraving tool or forensic marking system such as SelectaDNA. Using engraving tools reduces their value greatly to thieves.
- Store machinery in locked buildings where possible
- Where locking machines away isn't an option, consider fitting mains or battery-operated alarms to cover around the perimeter of areas where machines are stored
- Always lock tractors and keep them in a separate secure place
- CCTV and intruder alarms will deter most thieves, but make sure they are checked regularly to ensure they work when you need them and they are placed where they won't be triggered by animals or foliage moving in the wind
- Record machinery serial numbers and photograph kit to help police identify stolen items and increase the chances of them being recovered
- Please report any suspicious activity via 101 or 999 if you believe a crime is occurring, encourage staff to do the same, any unusual visitors to the farm take details and forward to Police.

If you require any advice or guidance please contact myself, or your insurance company and manufacturer. They should be able to offer some advice around securing these devices and best options available.

Reporting Crimes and Suspicious Activity to Police Key Reminders

Whenever it safe to do so please provide as much detail as possible when reporting incidents including; any names, descriptions of vehicles and persons involved, number plates on vehicles, location (consider W3W) and exactly what you have seen.





What is what3words?

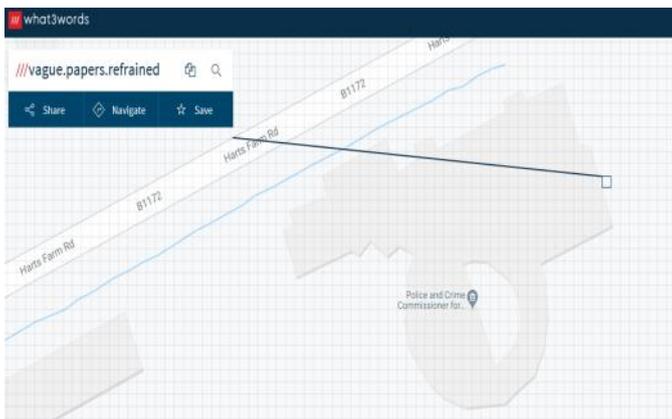
We divided the world into 3 metre squares and gave each square a unique combination of three words.

It's the easiest way to find and share exact locations.

Simply searching What3Words or W3W on your smartphone or within your App Store/Google Playstore you can download a the free App.

Once downloaded you don't need mobile signal to provide your precise location to emergency services. The app places your location within a unique 3 word 3 metre square which emergency services can use to find your precise location.

Norfolk Constabulary continue to implement W3W, when reporting crimes or incidents you may be asked do you have a W3W location this allows us to pinpoint where you are or where the incident your reporting is. Saving emergency services valuable minutes trying to locate people and saving any confusion. This is something that is vital in rural areas and reporting any sort of incidents in a remote location.



Churches

As already mentioned moving into the darker nights we often see a rise in acquisitive crime affecting our rural communities. Church lead thefts have thankfully been very low this year but they will always remain vulnerable simply down to the fact they often containing huge quantities of lead and are generally in remote locations. Many churches now have alarms and various other security systems in place. These do not replace good old fashioned eyes and ears. We are again encouraging anyone who sees anything unusual or seemingly out of place to please contact us so we can look into it. Again remembering where possible to provide as much detail as possible including number plates of any vehicles involved.



Final Thoughts

Thankyou for taking the time to read, the following page contains some press releases from our various teams across the county appealing for witness's/information into some crimes which have happened within the rural community.

I would just like to say again I am looking forward to gaining momentum in the role. Do not hesitate to contact me at anytime.

Keep safe and don't forget to follow our social media channels for any updates.



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Next Month

If anyone has any feedback on the newsletter, please get in touch. I appreciate any feedback. You can contact me at: christopher.shelley@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

I'd also like to hear from anyone who has any useful ideas about rural crime prevention or anything that you've implemented that has been particularly successful in deterring criminal activity in our rural communities.

Witness Appeals

Theft Of Golf Buggies at Heacham

Police are appealing for information following the theft of two golf buggies from a golf club in Heacham.

The buggies were taken from Heacham Manor on Hunstanton Road, on Monday 19 October 2020.

Sometime between 1:05am – 01:20am, the offender(s) are believed to have entered a compound on the site, and removed the two buggies, damaging a third in the process.

One of the buggies was recovered on Manor Road, off the A149, while the other remains missing.

Anyone with information or dash cam footage from the area at the time is asked to contact PC David Lake at Hunstanton police station on 101, quoting crime number 36/73840/20.



Shed Break-ins in Thetford

Police are appealing for information following multiple break-ins to sheds on an allotment in Thetford.

Burglars broke into the site on Mundford Road between 5pm on Monday October 19 and 8.32am on Tuesday October 20 2020.

Padlocks were cut off and locks forced on around 18 sheds on the site with tools among the items stolen.

Anyone with information should call PC James Robinson This is in relation to: 36/73996/20.

Kings Lynn School Burglary

Police are appealing for information following a burglary at a school in Sporle.

An unknown offender(s) entered Sporle Church of England Primary Academy during the night between Tuesday 20 October, and Wednesday 21 October 2020.

Sometime between 6:30pm and 8am, the suspect(s) entered the school on The Street, and forced entry into the pre-school section of the building.

Nothing is believed to have been taken during the incident, but several hundreds of pounds worth of damage was made to an electronic door locking system.

Anyone who may have seen suspicious activity at the time, or has information should contact PC Sophie Webster at Dereham Police Station on 101, quoting crime reference number 36/74288/20.

Tractor Theft From Topcroft found in Pulham Market

Police are appealing for information after a tractor was stolen from Topcroft, near Bungay, earlier this week.

The orange Kubota tractor, with a yard scraper attached, was stolen from the Spring Lane area between 5pm on Tuesday 20 October and 8am on Wednesday 21 October.

The tractor was recovered in the Barnes Road area of Pulham Market on Thursday 22 October. The vehicle had been damaged and the yard scraper removed.

Officers are keen to hear from anyone who may have seen any suspicious activity in either location between 5pm on Tuesday 20 October and Thursday 22 October.

Anyone with information should contact PC Geoff Roles at Diss Police Station on 101 quoting crime reference number 36/74303/20.

Alternatively contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111