



Operation Randall

tackling rural crime
Newsletter

Issue 2 | 15th Of November 2020

@RuralCrimeNfk

Introduction



Welcome to issue two of my newsletter to yourselves. I am a further two weeks into the job and time is flying by with so much still going on despite 'Lockdown 2.0'. Whilst so much of what we can and want to do remains restricted and rightly so to protect ourselves and loved ones, crime is still occurring and we are still here working.

I hope you and your families are staying safe, times are very different currently but I have no doubt at some point life will turn to a new normality brought on by what we have learnt during these challenging times.

I am still working, getting out of the office as and when required and the last two weeks have seen several deployments to assist colleagues with vulnerable missing people in rural areas, joint patrols with Environment Agency, seal disturbance patrols, late night church patrols, hare coursing and this week assisting with weapon sweeps/knife crime patrols alongside local officers as a force priority to tackle knife crime.

While I am still able to get out and about when necessary, visiting local businesses and people is limited for obvious reasons. So please do contact me via email or phone should you require anything or wish to simply just ask anything.



Rural Engagement

As mentioned last time engagement opportunities were limited because of the pandemic and various restrictions. I had hoped we could have a few things to announce this time round but with the latest round of restrictions that remains something we are unable to do. That said I have been in contact with several people to look at opportunities in the future which I am pleased to say I have received some positive responses which is great for the future.

Until such a time I can meet many of you in person my mobile is 07900 407106, I may not be able to answer all the time so please leave a message or text and I will get back to you, and same via email christopher.shelley@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

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



Protecting Your Valuables

The importance of marking equipment has never been more relevant, not only can this deter them from being stolen as they are less valuable for thieves to pass on but also can assist us in returning property to rightful owners. Marking your property can be as simple as scratching your postcode and surname into somewhere not affecting the usage in any way. If you're looking for a more professional finish you could look at an engraving tool which can easily engrave plastic too amongst other materials. The value of the item is unlikely to decrease for yourself if you wish to genuinely sell on as there would normally be an audit trail.



Recently Attleborough SNT returned a Quad Bike to its rightful owner after it was found by officers in a barn. This was able to be returned as the owner provided serial numbers to police when reporting. Please always keep a record of serial numbers for any equipment and should the worse happen always give the officer/caller the serial number. As officers we carry out many searches and come across all sorts of property that we often believe is stolen. The biggest problem we have is proving it is because serial numbers are not provided to us or it is not identifiable in anyway.

Should you require any guidance on marking your property do get in touch.



Hare Coursing

Without wanting to tempt fate we have seen a lower number of reports over the last couple of weeks which is pleasing—but it is still ongoing and very much the season unfortunately. Please continue to report anything you believe is suspicious, because it probably is.

Recently PC Sue Matthews and her colleagues in South Norfolk have recently charged four offenders for an incident that happened in the Harleston area on 7 October 2020. We will continue to prosecute at every opportunity.

Wildlife Crime



Part of my role is to work alongside many other specially trained wildlife officers across the county dealing with a wide variety of crimes involving the great british wildlife.

This week I joined the Environment Agency on a joint visit to look at a report of disturbance to water voles, which are a protected species. We found no evidence of such an offence occurring this time around.

We then went on to North Beach at Heachem to carry out patrols of rod licences and illegal fishing. Again pleased to report no issues were found. These joint patrols are a really useful tool as they allow us to share knowledge and skills.

Most of our wildlife crime investigations come from intelligence or information we receive , so if you believe there is a possible offence occurring please do contact myself or the control room. We will look into any reports received.

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

Cold Callers



We have received a few reports recently of cold callers on doorsteps and this is a time of year we see an increase. The general advice is NEVER deal with anyone on your doorstep.

Anyone from a 'genuine' business will provide **ID**
ALWAYS ASK FOR ID.

They are unlikely to turn up unannounced to carry out any work.

Never invite anyone into your property who you don't know or have not invited to your address. Use your spy hole or chain to see who is at the door.

Should you receive a cold caller at your address please report to police and Trading Standards. Remember to get as much detail as possible and any descriptions.

Whilst on the topic of cold callers. We continue to receive reports of phone calls from 'Police Officers' requesting money to be sent etc.

- Police will NEVER ask for any money to be sent.
- Police will not ask for banking details unless part of an investigation you are already involved in and will know about. Police will never ask for any PIN Numbers or Security Codes (numbers on backs of cards)
- Police will also never ask you to purchase any form of gift cards.
- Police will never use courier services to collect money or gift cards.
- Never give your banking details to anyone that calls you.

Thinking of home improvements?
Make sure you #CHECK

- Compare**
Use Norfolk Trusted Trader and get three quotes. ✓
- History**
Ask for the traders' references, recommendations and reviews and make sure you check them out. ✓
- Establish the details**
What is being done, by **Who**, by **When** and for **How much**? Remember that a quote is more binding than an estimate. ✓
- Contract**
Ensure everything is recorded including work and payment schedules and the paperwork contains the traders correct name and address. ✓
- Keep all of the paperwork**
This may be needed should anything go wrong. ✓

Need more advice?
www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer

Norfolk County Council
Trading Standards

Should you be contacted by someone claiming to be a police officer who asks for any of the above please report to us. If police contact you and you are not sure it is genuine please ask for their collar number/station, put the phone down and ring 101 and they will either confirm that is correct or not and look to reconnect you to that officer.

Stay one step ahead of the scammers

BeScam Aware

Norfolk County Council
www.norfolk.gov.uk/scams

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 .

Seal Disturbance

As we all get out and about enjoying the late autumn sunshine, many of us will head to the coast. That is likely to continue over the next few months with seals drawing crowds to areas of Blakeney, Horsey Gap and in recent times Winterton beach. Winter months brings extra visitors to the area as they start to pup.

Whilst current Covid 19 restrictions remain in place please do not visit if you are not local. The law requires you to stay local for exercise. Extra patrols are in place in this area .



Whilst it is great to see these animals at home on our beaches, we **MUST** keep our distance.

Seals can be incredibly aggressive even a small seal pup can inflict an extremely nasty bite with chances of infection very high.

If a mother is disturbed whilst feeding her pup by humans, there is a chance that she could abandon the pup starving it to death. Never come between a pup and it's mother. Never chase any seals.

Please also note it is quite common for a pup to be on its own and make a lot of noise, as the mother is likely to be out at sea grazing. Should you get close and interfere she is unlikely to return to her pup.

If you have any concerns around a pup DO NOT APPROACH please call the number on the posters around the area.

(failing that RSPCA can be contacted on 0300 1234 999)

Also please keep dogs on leads and as far away as possible as they have the same effect as humans.

Please keep a minimum of ten metres away from any seals ideally 20 metres plus, please respect any closed beach signs.

Photographs should be taken at an appropriate distance and selfies should never be taken. Remember these are wild animals, they are dangerous and vulnerable at the same time.

For any further information visit:

www.friendsofhorseyseals.co.uk This page contains lots of advice, locations to visit and photographs.

Finals Thoughts

Again thankyou for reading, please do contact me if you wish to raise anything my way.

Whilst we remain in 'Lockdown 2.0' please adhere to the guidance/law, please only travel locally for exercise and for essential journeys.

I have now got access to the Norfolk Rural Crime Twitter account and will start to tweet the daily goings on so please do follow us if you are interested.

As always keep safe!

Chris



@RuralCrimeNfk

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.

Pin It, Pen It or Lose It*



*Potentially

We continue to see high value thefts of GPS domes and screens from farm machinery.

Please look at the following steps and consider whether you are doing everything you can to protect your valuables?

- ◇ Can you remove the dome/unit and secure it in a separate building?
- ◇ If not can you lock the machine in a building?
- ◇ Have you locked the machine?
- ◇ Can it be placed under good artificial light and CCTV?

**Need any
advice,
please
contact me**

Alongside the above, Pin It and Pen It.

- Simply mark the equipment dome/ back of screen with your postcode and surname.
- Make it **obvious** you've marked it, significantly reduces resale value to thief's
- This can be done with permanent marker or even better a simple engraving tool
- If the screen can be PIN enabled, activate it immediately only give the PIN to people who need it (and don't use 1234!)



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Witness Appeals

Fail To Stop Collision South Creake

Police are appealing for witnesses to a collision which resulted in a dog's death in South Creake.

Officers were called to Fakenham Road at approximately 12:50pm yesterday (Tuesday 10 November) following reports that a dog had been hit by a car. The car failed to stop at the scene.

Sadly, the Chihuahua died following the incident.

Officers are appealing for anyone who may have witnessed the incident or anyone who may have been driving in the area and has any dashcam footage to come forward.

Anyone with information should contact PC Alexander Tacon at Hunstanton Police Station on 101 quoting incident 190 of 10 November 2020.

Appeal following collision in South Wootton

Police are appealing for witnesses to a collision in South Wootton, King's Lynn, on Friday 6 November 2020.

A Fiat car and a cyclist collided on Nursery Road, at approximately 8:10am.

The cyclist, a man in his 20s, sustained minor injuries and was taken to hospital for observation.

Officers would like to hear from anyone who may have witnessed the collision, or from anyone who may have dashcam footage of the incident

Those with information or footage should contact PC Daisy Riches at King's Lynn Police Station on 101, quoting call number 52 of 6th November.

Witness appeal following theft in North Lopham

Police are appealing for witnesses following a theft in North Lopham.

The incident happened between approximately 12.30pm and 4pm on Saturday 17 October 2020, when suspect(s) stole two ornate cast iron garden tables and some scrap metal from the front garden of a property on Church

Road.

Officers are appealing for anyone who may have witnessed the incident or has any information concerning it, to come forward. They are keen to hear from anyone who may have witnessed anyone acting suspiciously in the area during the times stated.

If anyone has any information please contact PC James Robinson on 101 quoting crime reference 36/75339/20.

Stolen Dogs from Wisbech

Police are appealing for help to trace five dogs, taken from a property in Walpole St. Andrew.

The dogs are believed to have been stolen sometime between 2am and 8am yesterday (Thursday 5 November 2020).

Two 6-month-old, female Cocker Spaniels, two adult, female Coten de Tulears and one adult, male Toy Poodle were found to be missing after an unknown suspect(s) forced entry through a fence and doors into outdoor kennels.

Officers are keen to trace the dogs, and are appealing for anyone who may have seen them – or witnessed any suspicious activity in the area around the time of the theft - to come forward.

Anyone with information should contact PC Iain Fisher at Downham Market police station on 101, quoting crime reference number 36/78149/20.



Alternatively contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111

Witness Appeals (continued)

Dinghy Thefts in Wells

Boat owners are being urged to remain vigilant after a number of dinghies have been stolen from the harbour at Wells-next-the-Sea.

The first incident happened when a Seago 230 inflatable dinghy was stolen from the harbour on Beach Road sometime between 3pm on Saturday 31 October and 10pm on Monday 2 November (36/77822/20).

Another Dinghy was stolen from the harbour between approximately 6pm on Sunday 1 November and 10am on Monday 2 November. Suspect(s) have cut two bike locks securing a Waveline rubber dinghy to the harbour (36/77656/20).

Historically, opportunist thieves have targeted boats that have been left unattended for long periods of time, insecure and where items have been left on display.

Broads Beat officers are therefore encouraging boat owners to remove these opportunities to help reduce the chances of falling victim to maritime crime.

PC Paul Bassham said: "Within the past 12 weeks a number of dinghies moored to the harbour in Wells-next-the-Sea have been stolen. These cost approximately £350 to replace which is why we are encouraging owners to keep an eye on their equipment.

"Please ensure that you keep a detailed list of your boating equipment including serial numbers, which is first line of defence against thieves, which proves invaluable if your property is stolen.

"We also strongly recommend that you mark valuable items of property with your postcode, as this makes them less attractive to a thief and again easier to identify if stolen. This will also improve the chances we have of prosecuting offenders.

"As part of the Norfolk Police Boat Watch Scheme, we continue to conduct our high visibility patrols along the coast, however we strongly encourage boat owners to keep an eye on not only their own boats, but all boats - especially for owners who may live away or are shielding."

Police are appealing for anyone who may have witnessed

these incidents or anyone with any information concerning them to come forward. Please contact PC Paul Bassham on 101 quoting the relevant crime number.

Broads Beat officers are based at Hoveton and promote the use of Boatshield which is a crime prevention initiative providing a useful booklet with advice and a place to record serial, model, Hin& Vin numbers of Boats, outboards, chart plotters and trailers.

They also send out periodic alerts on Marine Crime and Intelligence by email. People who wish to receive these – need to contact the Broads Beat team via Broadsbeat@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

Tractor GPS Thefts

A number of electrical items including high value satellite viewing screens have been stolen from farm vehicles in the Breckland area.

The first incident happened between approximately 10.55pm and 11.05pm on Wednesday 28 October when viewing screens were stolen from inside two tractors parked in the grounds of a farm on Sandy Lane in the Rocklands, Thetford. (36/76391/20)

Suspect(s) also targeted a farm on Stalland Common in Great Ellingham later that evening between approximately 11.15pm and 11.25pm when a satellite receiver screen was stolen from inside a parked tractor. (36/76375/20)

Another farm on West Carr Road in Attleborough was targeted when viewing screens were removed from four farm vehicles. The incident happened between approximately 12.50am and 1am in the early hours of yesterday morning (Thursday 29 October) (36/76343/20) Police are appealing for anyone who may have witnessed the incidents or has any information concerning them to come forward. They are keen to hear from anyone who may have seen any suspicious activity in the areas during the times stated.

Anyone with information should contact PC Chris Newbery at Thetford Police Station on 101 or via email: Christian.Newbery@norfolk.pnn.police.uk quoting the relevant crime reference number

Alternatively contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111