



Operation Randall

tackling rural crime
Newsletter

Issue 3 | 1st of December 2020

@RuralCrimeNfk



Introduction

Welcome again to another newsletter, as I sit here writing this weeks in the gloomy dark it's clear to see winter is certainly

upon us.

The recent news of 'Lockdown 2.0' ending is a welcome positive for many of our local businesses, but we haven't won the battle yet. We must remain vigilant, follow the guidelines and legislation laid out by the government as we continue the journey through winter to the ultimate end line of a potential vaccine. We now know that Norfolk will move into tier 2 for a few weeks, ultimately this will prove frustrating for some but as a community we must stick together to protect each



other.

This week's newsletter is having to be written a few days early as I am attending a training course on crime prevention, which I hope will give us, as an organisation and individual, some forward thinking ideas moving into the new year. It has remained busy and as always, I will



cover the things our team has been involved in, some emerging issues and then onto recent witness appeals affecting the rural community.

Rural Engagement

Without getting repetitive engagement announcements remain suspended. That does not mean I do not wish to speak to people, so do get in touch.

Also don't forget to follow our Twitter page @RuralCrimeNFK to see what we are up to as a team across the county.

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



@RuralCrimeNfk



NEED TO TALK TO US?

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



Norfolk's Hot Fuzz Episode

So this week one of my very unique skills was called upon along the A47 near Trowse when the Roads Policing Team were dealing with a pair of swans which kept wandering into the carriageway. As you can imagine not a very safe idea, nor was it something they felt they wanted to tackle themselves, a pair of 'hissing' swans. I, along with several colleagues from across the county were lucky enough to attend RSPCA East Winch last year for a training day in which 'Swan Handling' was a part of.

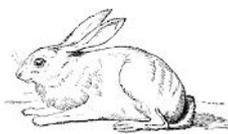
As I turned up, my colleagues had stopped the traffic and I got up and without fail one of the swans did the classic run, flap



towards these cars, which contained the onlooking public who had great embarrassment for me. Despite the minor hiccup at the beginning I was able to get hold of both birds very swiftly and safely into the truck. They were then returned safely to the water a short distance away, and vehicles were free to go.

Obviously,

it goes without saying that you should not approach swans as they can be incredibly dangerous. They are also protected very heavily by law as it's well known that they are the Queens property. Should you see a swan in distress please contact the RSPCA, or on highways consider the use of 999 where appropriate. We do get several calls a year as young birds seem to think the roads are rivers.



Hare Coursing

Whilst we remain in the season I will continue to update you with what is currently happening.

The last week or so has sadly seen an increase in reports again

especially in the west of the county. That said we have had some good results to report back on.

On Friday 27 November PC Jon Chandler and the team in the west including traffic officers, Operation Moonshot officers, local officers and NPAS (helicopter) arrested five men and charged them with hunting a wild mammal with dogs. Alongside this, five dogs, one vehicle and quantity of cash and hunting equipment was also seized.

I am also pleased to report, as a force, we continue to tackle this sort of criminality at every opportunity. In the past week local officers from Breckland have charged four for poaching offences in relation to a hare coursing incident on the 26 of September, alongside North Norfolk officers charging a further four for the same, in relation to an incident on 16 of September.

I have been asked several times what happens to the dogs we seize. This is quite a complicated matter, it largely depends on the court result. Should the courts issue a confiscation order then we rehome the dogs to appropriate homes. Otherwise if the courts don't issue confiscation orders we have to return them to their original owners. As a force we are unable to recoup any of the costs due to the way the legislation is, this is a costly but incredibly effective tool in tackling this illegal activity. I am always looking to add to my list of possible rehoming options, so do get in touch if you think you could offer a loving forever home (please do your research on long dogs whilst loving animals they need lots of exercise!)

Here is a picture of one happy dog



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



This topic was touched on last month however I have had some recent contact from colleagues at the Norfolk County Council's Trading Standards team.

They continue to receive many reports as do we of suspicious circumstances around people knocking on doors trying to sell services. Also we continue to receive several calls of concerned family members or caring neighbours who report a loved one has been taken advantage of, overspent on some simple work or just had some poor work completed.

Please continue to report these sort incidents to ourselves where appropriate or directly to Trading Standards.

When considering who you wish to employ to carry out work or maintenance it is worth checking whether they are listed on the appropriate trusted website. Norfolk County Council have a registered site which you can access here; <https://www.referenceline.com/tradingstandards/norfolk/>

For company's and individuals wanting to join the register, please see the next page.

REMINDER!

REMINDER POLICE OFFICERS COLD CALLING

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.

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 if it is genuine please ask for their collar number/station, put the phone down and ring 101. They will either confirm whether the person exists and look to reconnect you to that officer, or confirm that you have been scammed.



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 .



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* Offer applies to first 300 approved applicants



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.

Some great work by Broads Beat and partner agencies.



Angler found guilty of fishing without permission on Norfolk Broad

An angler who fished without permission on a Norfolk Broad has been found guilty of theft of fishing rights and a public order offence.

Peter Regan, aged 69, of Borrow Road, Lowestoft, appeared at Great Yarmouth Magistrates Court on Friday (20 November) after pleading not guilty to the offences at an earlier hearing. Despite this, Regan admitted during the trial that he had used 'foul and abusive language' towards the officers that stopped him.

It follows an incident that happened on 2 January of this year when officers received reports of illegal fishing on Horsey Mere in Norfolk. Following enquiries Regan was discovered fishing from a boat on the Mere during a joint operation organised between the Norfolk Police Broads Beat team and the Environment Agency.

Regan swore at officers as they questioned him and admitted to fishing without permission from the Horsey Estate, who control the fishing rights.

This case demonstrated that even in tidal waters fishing rights can be private, and is seen as a landmark case on the Norfolk Broads. Anglers sometimes refer to the Magna Carta in defence of their actions, but as was demonstrated in court, the Magna Carta was mostly repealed in 1969 by the Statute Law Repeals Act and is therefore no longer a defence for fishing without

permission.

Regan received a conditional discharge for a year and was ordered to pay £641.00 in costs including a victim surcharge.

On the same day in January, another angler was also found to be fishing without permission from a boat on Horsey Mere and following an interview at Aylsham Police Investigation Centre, accepted a formal caution. PC Paul Bassham from the Norfolk Police Broads Beat team said: "We will always act on the information we receive from members of the public in regards to illegal fishing.

"This has been an ongoing problem that effects not only law-abiding anglers but private fishing establishments across the UK. We work closely with our partnership agencies, by conducting joint patrols to investigate any offences being committed.

"Horsey Mere is a nationally important and protected winter wildfowl refuge area, between 1 November and 28 February. Disturbing birds during this period is therefore an offence, so the trust has allowed angling from boats within a designated area, however anglers must obtain a permit before fishing.

"We hope that this result acts as a deterrent to anyone who involves themselves in illegal fishing. It shows that we will take the relevant action and those responsible will be held to account."

Enforcement team leader, Lesley Robertson from the Environment Agency said: "Our officers undertake a variety of patrols with the Norfolk Police Broads Beat team throughout the year, which are focused on tackling illegal fishing.

"The outcome of this case shows how important it is for anyone with information or intelligence about illegal fishing activities to report them to the Environment Agency Incident Hotline 0800 80 70 60 (24-hours a day) or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

Alternatively contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111



Wildlife Crimes

Norfolk Constabulary have a number of specially trained wildlife officers across the county in various different

departments. Over the last few weeks we have seen a number of reports of crimes and intelligence relating to wildlife. This is just a little insight into the sorts of things I have looked at recently. I continue to ask you to report any concerns you have, we will always follow up where our powers allow us too.

We received some information that a person was keeping a bird of prey within an address. Upon arrival I was met with a beautiful kestrel which had been hand reared for a few months. Whilst it's believed the person was acting in what they believed were the best interests of the bird it would have been much better for the bird to have been reared at specialists so it could easily have been released back

to the wild. That said the birds current needs were obviously not being met under the Animal Welfare Act and therefore it was seized and has since been taken to the RSPCA's Wildlife Centre at East Winch to begin 'Kestrel School'



where it is hoped they can rewild her as she was healthy enough.

I have also received two reports of badger sets being interfered with, this is not an uncommon report for us to deal with. Again we will always look to investigate. The

laws around badgers are very strict and anyone found disturbing a badger in anyway is likely to be committing an offence under Protection of Badgers Act. Badgers get a lot of bad press and no matter what side you are on, they are protected by law. The sets which have been reported to us will continue to be monitored with the help of local volunteers to make sure no offences are being committed.

Obviously many of you will have already seen the incredibly sad story of the otter in the River Wensum in Norwich. PC Paul Bassham attended with Environment Agency and collected the illegal crayfish trap. Whilst trapping crayfish is not necessarily illegal, it is heavily legislated, as removing/killing our native species is illegal. The traps involved also have to meet certain requirements which are very specific. This trap which sadly caught and killed the otter was an illegal one, not licenced and not meeting standards required. Obviously if you see something you don't feel is right please contact us and we can follow it up.



Finals Thoughts

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

'Lockdown 2.0' will nearly be finished by the time you read this but it goes

without saying, please follow the guidelines. These clearly are going to be testing months for the NHS and other services. We must all do a little bit to ease the burden and save lives.

The following page contains a few press releases from the last couple of weeks.

As always keep safe!

Chris

Next Month

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Witness Appeals

Cable Worth 6K Stolen - Cantley

Police are appealing for witnesses or information after an electrical cable worth £6,500 was taken from a property in Cantley.

A 300-metre reel of cable, described as three phase, weighs around 1.3 tonnes and would require lifting equipment to move.

The cable was stolen from a farm property in Hall Road, Cantley in Norwich between 11am on Wednesday 11 November and 3pm on Friday 13 November 2020.

Anyone with information should contact PC Adrian Craske on 101 quoting crime reference 36/80410/20



Marine Equipment Stolen - Brundall

Police are appealing for any witnesses or information after marine equipment was stolen from a boat moored at Brundall Bay Marina.

The equipment is believed to have been stolen from the boat between 5.30pm on Wednesday November 4 to 12.30 on Saturday 14 November 2020.

The equipment taken and serial numbers, where known, are listed below (photos attached) :

1x Raymarine Axiom 12 multi-function display. Serial number: 770283

1x Raymarine i70s instrument display. Serial number:372040

1x Raymarine p70s autopilot display. Serial number:670615

1x Eltrim Trim tab display. Serial number: Unknown.

Anyone with information about the incident or stolen items should contact PC Paul Bassham on 101 quoting crime number: 36/80491/20

Horse Saddles Stolen in Bergh Apton

Police are appealing for information after a number of horse saddles were stolen in Bergh Apton.

A total of 11 saddles were taken when a property in Church Road was broken into between 10.30pm on Sunday 15 November and 6.30am on Monday 16 November.

Anyone who may have seen any suspicious activity in the area between the times stated, or anyone with information, should contact PC Tabitha Hornsey at Wymondham Police Station on 101 quoting reference number 36/80802/20

We will cover this crime type in more detail in the next newsletter.

Burglary in East Carleton

Police are appealing for witnesses following a burglary in East Carleton last night (Tuesday 24 November).

A property in Intwood Lane was broken into sometime between 6.30pm and 6.45pm. Garden equipment including a hedge trimmer, a lawnmower, statues and a leaf blower were stolen.

Officers are appealing for anyone who may have witnessed the incident or saw anyone acting suspiciously in the area, to come forward.

Anyone with information should contact PC Rob McMahon at Wymondham Police Station on 101 quoting reference number 36/83024/20



Alternatively contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111