



Issue 6 | 1st of February 2021

@RuralCrimeNfk

Operation Randall

tackling rural crime
Newsletter

Introduction



Welcome again to another newsletter, we remain in another national lockdown.

With numbers coming down and the roll out of the vaccine under way, there are reasons to be positive. That said, the key message remains 'Stay Home' and don't give the virus a chance to spread.

We have lived with restrictions on our life for nearly a year now; something we could have never envisaged in a modern world. Stick with it. There is no denying the lockdowns have impacted on our mental health and it is important to look after ourselves. It's never too soon or too late to ask for help. Below are the contact details of charities that can offer help and advice.

As for the last few weeks for me, I have continued to support my frontline colleagues with incidents from domestics, vulnerable missing people and suspicious circumstances. As for rural/wildlife stuff, we have had a busy few weeks with hare coursing in the west. More to follow later in newsletter.

I have also been dealing with several wildlife matters and again this will be addressed in more detail. Work continues around prevention and detection of rural crimes I continue to assess all crimes to make sure no opportunities are lost despite what is currently going on.

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

TALK TO US
If things are getting to you

116 123 FREE
This number is FREE to call round the clock

jo@samaritans.org
samaritans.org

SAMARITANS

NHS

every mind matters

Now, more than ever

STAY HOME • PROTECT THE NHS • SAVE LIVES



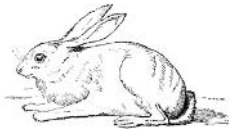
NEED TO TALK TO US?

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



'Stay Local'

Again I want to remind people that the message is very clear: stay local when considering where to take a dog for a walk, just go for a walk yourself or for your daily exercise. This should be done as close to home as possible. Ask yourself if you have to drive to the location to carry out your planned activity, is that local? As a force we continue to patrol particular 'hotspots' or 'beauty spots' which has resulted in a number of fixed penalty notices being issued as you may have seen in the press recently.



Hare Coursing

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

Despite the continued lockdown we have encountered quite a busy period. For those unaware, hare coursing typically happens on soft ground, . Perpetrators don't like the frozen hard ground as this can cause harm to the dogs' legs. That said, the recent cold snap has not deterred them and they just waited till late in the day when the land had defrosted. All of the recent activity has been in the west on the Cambs border with the team in the west being kept very busy. Results have included one man being issued with a Sec 35 Dispersal Order that required him to leave the area immediately or face being arrested.

After that on Sunday 24th January, three men were arrested and two dogs seized on suspicion of hare coursing in the Wisbech area. They are due to appear in magistrates' court.

We have not had so much of an issue in recent weeks in South Norfolk or Breckland but that has not stopped the team patrolling the usual hotspots.



Wildlife Crime

So the bat issue I touched on last month continues. This acts as a timely reminder that all bat roosts are protected whether bats are present or not. If you have any concerns around doing work on your property or trees where you suspect or know that bats are present, please get it checked out rather than fall foul of the law. There are plenty of resources online and if you have trouble finding these, please contact me and I can point you in the right direction. Bat populations are delicately balanced ,in particular the Barbastelle bat, and their conservation must be taken seriously.

In other matters, should you see any evidence of deer poaching, please contact myself and your local authority. We are looking at the larger intel picture on this matter so any information would be greatly appreciated.



Engagement Event

I finally have some news on this! We have planned a new six monthly OP Randall/rural crime briefing session. Obviously, given the current Coronavirus situation, this will take place online via Microsoft Teams (software similar to Zoom and free to use/download) for the time being.

The first one is on Monday 8 March 2021 at 6pm. Save the date!

We will be joined by our Chief Constable, the PCC and a prosecutor from the CPS. We are asking for questions to be submitted before the meeting so we can ensure we have stats ready. More details will follow very shortly but please start thinking about anything you would like to discuss.

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, are a key landowner or administer another rural group on social media - or if you think you would benefit or be able to contribute in any way— I want to hear from you. You can contact me on email at christopher.shelley@norfolk.pnn.police.uk



Dog worrying/out of control

This is an issue that has come to light significantly over the past month or so. This could partly be down to the fact that people are out walking more with their dogs.

We have seen a number of minor dog incidents around the city whereby dogs and their demeanour are scaring people. So far we have had no significant injuries from any of these incidents. Then at the beginning of January, we received a report of a dog chasing sheep around a field for over an hour. These sheep were in fact heavily pregnant ewes and some of the ewes were injured. This could also cause some loss of lambs because of the stress caused within the flock. On top of all that, sections of fencing were damaged as the ewes panicked. This incident remains under investigation and I will provide an update as and when I can.

Then more recently, we had another upsetting incident in which a dog was reported to be off its lead and chasing a wild deer.

These are distressing events for anyone to witness, let alone the impacts this has on the owners of the livestock and their livelihoods. This is all in addition to the awful suffering caused to the animals involved.

These sort of incidents come under two main offences; Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 that makes it an offence for a dog to worry any livestock on agricultural land.

Worrying livestock means attacking livestock, chasing or being at large in a field or enclosure.

The other offence is Section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 that makes it an offence for a dog to be dangerously out of control whether in public or private.

We will always look at opportunities around these offences and whether the evidence is there to secure a successful prosecution. Sometimes other options are

used and wherever a dog is identified as being involved in such an incident, we record those details so if the dog is involved in an incident for a second time we can take more appropriate action.

It's also important to remember, especially around wildlife, that it is an offence to hunt wild mammals with dogs under the Hunting Act 2004. So, anyone with a dog who fails to take appropriate preventive action when they know their dog is likely to hunt a wild mammal could also be guilty of this offence.

Many of our domesticated dogs still retain that natural instinct to some degree to hunt and it is important as a responsible owner that you keep your dog under control.

Failure to acknowledge your dog may cause an issue that could lead you to having a criminal conviction.

Wherever possible keep your dog on a lead and this is a must when around livestock!

Final Thoughts



Thanks for your time! If there is anything you want to be covered in the newsletter, please do get in touch. I will send out further details of the engagement event, mentioned earlier in

the newsletter, in the next week or so.

If you have any issues or concerns please contact me. In the meantime, please keep safe and enjoy your local area, make the most of these unusual times!

Chris



@RuralCrimeNfk



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 .



Would you like to join our Rural Crime Online Event?

This will take place on Monday 8th of March at 6pm.

We will be joined by Chief Constable, PCC, District Crown Prosecutor from CPS and the OP Randall team.

To join the meeting and submit question please email

OperationRandall@norfolk.police.uk

This will be held online through Microsoft Teams, a free to use web application or downloadable software on laptops and smartphones.



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Witness Appeals

Appeal for Information After Robbery and Attempted Robbery in Costessey and Mattishall

Police are continuing to investigate and are appealing for witnesses following an armed robbery and attempted armed robbery in Costessey and Mattishall on Tuesday 26 January 2021.

The first incident happened at Costessey Post Office on West End at about 2.45pm. A man entered the store with what is described as a firearm and demanded staff hand over money from the till. The staff member refused and the suspect left empty-handed and ran off towards Town House Road. Firearms officers were deployed to scene.

The second incident took place at Victoria Stores in Church Plain, Mattishall around 3.10pm. In this incident two men entered the store, one armed with what is described as a firearm. Both demanded money and the store worker refused, the pair left and grabbed property on their way out.

A woman in her 40s and a man in his 20s have been arrested in connection with both incidents. Both are being questioned at Aylsham Police Investigation Centre and remain in custody. Enquiries are ongoing to find a second man involved in the incident at Mattishall.

DI Alix Wright said: "We are still investigating the circumstances and any links between the two incidents. We would ask for anyone with information to get in contact. While staff were threatened in the incidents, fortunately no one was injured."

Police are asking for anyone who may have witnessed the incidents, may have doorbell footage or saw a silver Citroen C3 in suspicious circumstances, being driven erratically or has dashcam footage of the vehicle to contact PC Charlotte Holmes at Norwich CID on 101, quoting crime reference 36/5304/21 (Costessey incident) and 36/5329/21 (Mattishall incident).

Theft of Day Boat Burgh Castle

Police are appealing for information following the theft of a boat from Burgh Castle, Great Yarmouth, last week. Sometime between Sunday 17 January 2021, and Sunday 24 January, a 5 metre, timber day boat was taken from Burgh Castle Marina.

An unknown suspect(s) is believed to have cut the ropes of the boat, and taken it from its mooring, before it was later recovered at Goodchild's Marina on 24 January. Officers are keen to hear from anyone who may have information regarding the theft.

The boat is described as white and blue in colour, with the name 'WOODPECKER', and Broads Authority registration number of 1857Y.

Anyone who may have seen the boat during the timeframe mentioned, or those with information are asked to contact PC Amy Barrell in the Broadsbeat Team on 101, quoting crime number 36/4775/21.

RTC Witness Appeal Tunstead

Police are appealing for witnesses following a serious collision in Tunstead, near Coltishall, yesterday afternoon (21 January 2021).

It happened on the B1150, near to the junction with The Street at about 4.45pm, when a grey Mini Cooper travelling from North Walsham towards Coltishall left the roadside and crashed into a tree.

The driver, a man in his 30s, suffered serious injuries and was taken to the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital for treatment.

Officers are keen to hear from anyone who may have witnessed the collision, has relevant dashcam footage or information concerning the driving manner of the Mini prior to the incident.

Witnesses should contact PC Karl Warren from the Roads and Armed Policing Team at Acle on 101 or email Karl.Warren@norfolk.pnn.police.uk quoting incident number 323 of 21 January.

Alternatively contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111