



Introduction

I hope my newsletter finds you all well, and enjoying the summer weather as best you can. In this edition I thought I'd offer some crime prevention advice in relation to property. This includes everything from a pedal cycle, power tool, or even large agricultural machinery. The other area that was raised in one of our recent partner agency meetings was the increase in footfall across farmland and the impact this has.

Crime Update

Recently there have been a number of attacks on **Irrigators** around the Methwold area with damage being caused and taps released. Diesel has also been taken from pumps both in Norfolk and

Cambridgeshire. With so many of these units across our countryside it is vital to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity.

There have been a number of telehandlers, small excavators and garden tractors stolen on the Norfolk/Cambs/Lincs border. Please protect your property and store securely where ever possible.

On a positive note there has been a great deal of success in the recovery of stolen plant recently and arrests made and more to follow.



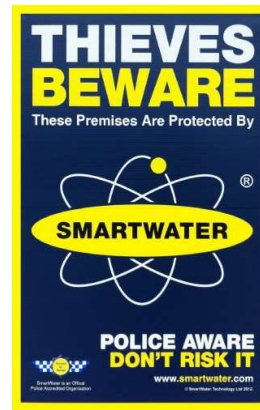
Op Randall Rural Crime WhatsApp Group

I'm still currently looking to increase numbers on the police rural crime **WhatsApp** group, so if you are interested feel free to drop me an email james.wonnacott@norfolk.pnn.police.uk providing your name, dob, address and a brief outline of what you could bring to the group by way of your job, expertise, position or anything else you think may be relevant.

Marking your property

When stolen property is located, it's great for us to be able to return it to the lawful owner, however this can't always be possible as there is often no means of identification. Whilst some property has a serial number to assist with this, often the easiest methods are still the best. When you mark your property with your post code using permanent markers, paint, welding, stamping and etching, not only does this make it easier to identify your property, it also makes it less attractive to thieves and potential purchasers. Help us reunite property by making it simple.

Below are some useful links to companies that can provide further advice:



<https://www.smartwater.com/>



<https://www.immobilise.com/>



<https://www.securedbydesign.com>



<https://www.selectadna.co.uk/>



YANA Helpline: 0300 323 0400



YANA: Help for those in farming who may be affected by stress and depression.

Countryside code

With the lovely weather we have been having, and relaxation in some of the lockdown measures, there has been an increase in numbers of members of the public visiting our fantastic Norfolk countryside. Norfolk has some fantastic and diverse habitats which are enjoyed by many. With the increase in numbers of people, there has also been an increase in reports of individuals walking where they shouldn't, trespassing on farmland, causing fire from the irresponsible use of BBQs, damaging crops and restricting access to farmland due to poor parking. Most people who visit our countryside, do so with the best intentions and don't wish to cause any problems. Most issues are caused through lack of understanding rather than any malice.

When you visit the countryside please follow to below guidelines:

- **Plan your visit.** Be aware that some facilities may still be closed
- **Park responsibly** so as not to obstruct gateways or entrances to fields. Although you may be in the middle of the country, our farmers

are working hard and may require access to the land

- Leave **gates** as you find them
- **Follow paths** and do not stray onto private land
- Take your **litter** home with you
- Keep **dogs** under control and clear up after them
- Don't have **BBQ's or fires** except in designated areas
- Follow **social distancing** measures

You may also want to consider downloading the What3Words app. This can be very useful if you need to report the location of an incident to the services, if you get lost, or simply if you find an area of interest you may wish to revisit.



<https://what3words.com>

12 – 19 June 2020



Drowning Prevention Week 12-19th June

Norfolk's Drowning Prevention Forum, led by the county's fire and rescue service, is backing a national campaign launched on 12th June to help families stay safe in the water, both during and after lockdown.

The UK's Drowning Prevention Charity, the Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK), is behind Drowning Prevention Week 2020 which runs from 12- 19 June. Norfolk's Drowning Prevention Forum regularly meets to ensure a co-ordinated approach on safety for the county's nearly 200 miles of inland waterways and 90 miles of coastline.

Due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19, the usual level of service provided by rescue and lifeguard services are not going

to be possible in 2020. So personal water safety is more important than ever before.

RLSS UK fears that families will flock to beaches and inland water locations this summer, without considering the potential dangers, putting themselves and others at risk. Around 700 people drown in the UK and Ireland every year and the charity aims to prevent drowning and promote water safety education through campaigns and its lifesaving programmes.

Due to the current pandemic, Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service has had to adapt its education work, but will be out at locations in the county, observing social distancing and raising awareness of the dangers in the water. This includes at high risk locations, such as Bawsey Pits in West Norfolk where crews have attended several water rescues. The service will also



be running a social media campaign to raise awareness of the dangers and help people stay safer while enjoying Norfolk's outdoor spaces.

Norfolk County Council is promoting the campaign through social media and by pushing safety messaging out via schools.

Broads Authority rangers will be out patrolling locations in the Broads where there is a high risk of accidents to raise awareness with members of the public. The Broads Authority will also highlight the campaign on social media channels, including the risks posed by swimming in the Broads, such as dredging barges, boats, sailing vessels, underwater vegetation and strong tides, as well as other safety tips to consider if you are on or near the water.

Norfolk's Chief Fire Officer Stuart Ruff said: "It is so important to remind people to stay safe and take personal responsibility near water, especially at the present time as we ask the public to help us reduce risk to ensure we remain available for emergencies."

Councillor Margaret Dewsbury, Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships at Norfolk Council Council, said: "Our fire and rescue service has specialist water rescue equipment and works closely with partner agencies to attend water-based emergencies across Norfolk. Most people are surprised to learn that you are more likely to die from

drowning in the UK, than you are from being hit by a car or in a domestic fire."

Agencies within the Norfolk Drowning Prevention Forum include: Norfolk Police, Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service, Environment Agency, RNLI, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Norfolk County Council's children's services and the Mineral Products Association.

PC Paul Bassham of Norfolk Police said: "We want people to enjoy this beautiful county and all it has to offer, particularly when we've all been inside such a lot but please, if you are going out to the Broads, the coast and into the countryside, be aware of the risks of open water and stay safe.

"There are many unseen dangers such as a change in depth, strong current or riptides, sudden decreases in temperature, unseen objects and currents, which can cause even the strongest of swimmers to get into difficulty very quickly."

People can also stay aware of their location when they're out and about and utilise mobile phones apps such as what3words, which provides a simple and precise way to share your location quickly and easily if you get into difficulty. The Aweigh app, which is also free to download, provides information on tide times, sunrise and sunset and location information.



You can follow our Twitter page: @RuralCrimeNfk

RLSS UK CEO, Robert Gofton said: “This year’s campaigns will focus on encouraging everybody to take personal responsibility near water, especially in light of the current challenges facing our emergency and rescue services. Venues and rescue services are doing everything they can to provide a service this summer, but the harsh reality is that in the current climate, despite a big effort, the usual level of service just isn’t feasible.

Accidental drowning incidents are largely avoidable if the correct choices are made, coupled with the skills and knowledge for personal survival and bystander rescue. These skills are easy to learn and free to access. We are urging individuals and families to take care, take responsibility and learn what to do in an emergency.

“We thank Norfolk’s Drowning Prevention Forum members for getting involved with the campaign, and for helping people learn the skills they need to enjoy water safely”.

<https://www.rlss.org.uk/drowning-prevention-week>



NEED TO TALK TO US?

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