



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

Royston Rural

Watch,

September 2024

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6522 Chris Brabrook



***Our Non -
Emergency
Number 101***

***Priority day of action carried out in Baldock,
Letchworth and villages***



The North Herts Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) carried out a priority day of action yesterday (Wednesday 18 September).

Officers carried out speed checks in the morning at three locations - Bedford Road and Pixmore Way in Letchworth and London Road in Baldock.

The checks resulted in several drivers being stopped and given words of advice while others were issued traffic offence reports.

The afternoon saw officers patrolling the rural villages of Ashwell, Therfield, Kelshall, Sandon, Reed and Newnham. The target was to deter hare coursing and carry out engagement with the farming community.

North Herts NPT Sergeant Ryan Champion, said: "We have more of these days planned and are completing at least one a month tackling different issues and priorities on officers' wards.

"Our priorities are decided at priority setting forums which are made up of police and local councillors.

"Prior to these meetings we send out Herts Connected surveys to local residents asking for their concerns and what they see as a priority for us to tackle. Please do continue to complete these surveys as they are a great way of voicing your views on policing in your local area.

"You can join our community messaging platform Herts Connected. You will receive free local police messages and Neighbourhood Watch, Action Fraud and the Police and Crime Commissioner if that's what you choose when you sign up."

Advice issued after residents targeted by fraudsters posing as police

Fraudsters posing as police officers have been contacting residents in Hertfordshire in recent weeks.

Since the beginning of August fraudsters managed to scam victims out of more than £135,000, by posing as police officers and asking them to hand over their bank cards or cash to a courier. One resident from Bishop Stortford suffered a substantial a loss of more than £110,000.

These kinds of scams usually involve the victim receiving a telephone call, from a mobile or a landline number, with someone posing as a police officer or bank official and informing them of fraudulent activity on their bank account. The victims are then instructed to put their bank cards and/or money into an envelope and give it to a courier or taxi, which is sent to their home by the offenders.

In some cases the victim may be asked to buy goods or vouchers. If bank cards are collected, they can be used later by the offenders to withdraw large sums of money.

The offenders may also ask the victim to disclose their bank details, including their account and PIN numbers, to aid the bogus investigation.

Detective Inspector Katy Jackson, from the Serious Fraud and Cyber Unit, said: "The number of courier fraud offences reported has dropped from last year, however, there has still been more than £190,000 lost by victims this year. It's important to remember that police officers or bank officials will never ask you for sensitive information, like a PIN or ask you to purchase high value items to assist them with an enquiry.

"Usually, the intended victim realises the call is not genuine and refuses to part with their personal and bank details. However, these fraudsters can be very persuasive and insistent, which has resulted in some people falling victim to this scam and subsequently losing thousands of pounds."

If you receive a call you're not expecting, you should be suspicious. The vital things to remember are that your bank and the police would:

NEVER ask for your bank account details or PIN number over the phone, so do not disclose these to anyone, no matter who they claim to be.

NEVER ask you to withdraw money or purchase high value items and send it to them via a courier, taxi or by any other means.

NEVER ask you to send your bank cards, or any other personal property, to them via courier, taxi or by any other means.

If you are not happy with a phone call and are suspicious of the conversation you have with the caller then please end the call and dial 101 or report online herts.police.uk/report. In an emergency or if a crime is in progress call 999 immediately.

Remember, when reporting a suspicious phone call to police, wait at least five minutes before attempting to make the call to ensure you're not reconnected to the offender.

Alternatively, use a mobile phone or a neighbour's phone or test your landline by phoning a friend or relative first, to ensure you aren't still unwittingly connected to the offender. If you have concerns about your bank account, visit your local branch.

How to protect yourself:

Remember to follow the above advice. In addition to this, some phone companies offer call screening services that can be effective in blocking

marketing cold calls and bogus callers. Contact your phone company and ask about call screening and caller display services.

How can you help?

Please share this information with your older relatives and friends: this crime has a devastating effect on people and we need to raise awareness to prevent further people becoming victims.

Report any calls you believe are suspicious as we may be able to trace where the calls are originating from. Please remember, to wait at least five minutes before calling police or use a mobile or neighbour's phone.

Report suspicious activity at cash points. If you see someone spending a long time at a cashpoint, using a number of different cards and have a hood up or their faces covered, contact police immediately. Often offenders will use cashpoints in the early hours.

If you believe you may have been a victim of a similar fraud – please report the details online to Action Fraud or call 0300 123 2040.

Local Crime

G4E - Ashwell, Hinxworth, Bygrave, Newnham and Caldecote

Burglary, Ashwell End – On 26th August a farm outbuilding was entered and a leaf blower was stolen. 41/72291/24 Refers

Burglary, Partridge Hill, Ashwell – On 22nd August a property on Partridge hill was entered. A search was completed of the property, and nothing was taken. 41/71610/24 refers

G4D – Barley, Barkway, Reed, Therfield, Kelshall and Nuthampstead

Theft from Motor Vehicle, Kelshall / Therfield – Overnight on 8th August three vehicles were targeted in Kelshall and Therfield. The offender approached vehicles and checked door handles, if the car was unlocked, entry was gained and items stolen.

Theft series Barkway + Therfield - On 22nd August four properties were targeted in Barkway and Therfield villages. The offenders approached out building and gardens to steal tools and garden furniture.

Theft, High Street, Barkway – On 30th August a cement mixer was being stored at a property in the High Street, Barkway. Overnight the offenders entered the property and stole a cement mixer. 41/72500/24 refers.

G3C - Sandon, Wallington, Rushden, Clothall and Weston

No crime of note

Your local Neighbourhood Police Teams website

<http://snt.herts.police.uk/Teams.aspx?TeamID=G01>

Useful Links

<http://www.herts.police.uk/>

<http://www.doglost.co.uk/>

<http://www.stolenhorseregister.com/>

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