



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

Royston Rural Watch, August 2025

PC 396 Tom Wollard & PCSO 6048 Hannah Moss PCSO
6522 Chris Brabrook



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

On the Beat

Historic Lamp Returned to Ashwell Butchers Thanks to Local Police Efforts

A piece of Ashwell's heritage has been restored thanks to the diligent work of the Royston Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team. As part of the ongoing investigation Operation Realgar, which focuses on the recovery of stolen property, a bespoke lamp dating back over a century has been successfully returned to its rightful place.



PC Thomas Woollard has been instrumental in tracing and recovering stolen lamps linked to the operation. This week, PCSO Hannah Moss and PCSO Chris Brabrook visited Crumps Butchers in Ashwell to return a distinctive lamp that has stood outside the family-run butchers since 1920.

The Crumps family, who have proudly operated the butchers for generations, were delighted to see the lamp returned.

Plans are already underway to restore and reinstall the lamp, ensuring it continues to shine as a symbol of the village's rich history.

"This is more than just a lamp—it's a part of Ashwell's identity," said PCSO Chris Brabrook. "We're proud to play a role in preserving our community's heritage and supporting local businesses."

The Royston Rural team continues to work closely with residents and businesses as part of Operation Realgar, reinforcing their commitment to community engagement and crime prevention.

Targeted Patrols Tackle Off-Road Bike Nuisance in Weston and Clothall

In response to a rise in reports from concerned members of the public, targeted patrols were conducted to address nuisance off-road biking — a current priority for the Letchworth and Baldock area. The operation saw the deployment of the Rural Operational Support Team, utilising drone technology, quad bikes, and 4x4 vehicles to effectively monitor and respond to incidents.



Thanks to this collaborative effort, appropriate enforcement action was taken, including the seizure of one off-road bike. These patrols demonstrate our commitment to tackling anti-social behaviour and ensuring community safety.

PC Thomas Woollard, who was part of the operation, said:

"We know how disruptive illegal off-road biking can be to residents and landowners. By using specialist equipment and working closely with our communities, we're able to respond more effectively and take meaningful action. These patrols send a clear message that this kind of behaviour won't be tolerated."

Residents are encouraged to continue reporting incidents and suspicious activity to help inform future patrols and enforcement efforts.

For more information or to report concerns, please visit www.herts.police.uk or contact your local policing team.

Equine Safety & Security Event Brings Community Together Radwell Meadows.

On Saturday, 26th July, PCSO Hannah Moss hosted a successful Equine Safety & Security Event at Parsons Cole Livery Yard, Radwell Meadows drawing together multiple agencies and members of the local equine community for a day of education, engagement, and collaboration.

The event focused on promoting best practices in equine safety and welfare, with expert-led sessions covering a wide range of topics including:

Security measures such as CCTV systems, alarms, and perimeter protection
Tagging and identification of saddlery and horse transport

Feed guidance and nutritional advice

Horse welfare and responsible ownership

Incident reporting and general safety protocols

Attendees had the opportunity to speak directly with officers and specialists, gaining valuable insights into how to better protect their horses, property, and themselves. The event also fostered stronger relationships between the equine community and local policing teams.

PCSO Moss commented, "It was fantastic to see so many passionate and dedicated individuals come together to share knowledge and strengthen our collective approach to equine safety. We're grateful to all the agencies and attendees who made the day such a success."

The event marks a continued commitment by Hertfordshire Constabulary to support rural and equine communities through proactive engagement and practical guidance.

For more information or to get involved in future events, please contact your local policing team or visit www.herts.police.uk.





Residents warned after £11,000 lost to scammers posing as police

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

During June, 26 people were targeted by fraudsters posing as police officers and claiming they were investigating suspicious activity on the victim's bank account. Fortunately, none of them lost money, however, one elderly victim in Tring was called by a fraudster this month claiming he was investigating counterfeit money at banks and post offices, managing to convince them to hand over £11,000 to a courier.

Fraudsters often call victims via a mobile or a landline number, posing as a police officer or bank official. The victims are then instructed to put their bank cards and/or money into an envelope and give them 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 Pete Hankins, from the Serious Fraud and Cyber Unit, said: "The number of courier fraud offences reported has been increasing by 20 per cent on last month, with people often losing large sums of money. 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 are 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 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.

Local Crime

Ashwell, Hinxworth, Bygrave, Newnham and Caldecote

Burglary (Outbuilding), Caldecote Road, Newnham – Between 30th June to 3rd July an outbuilding was targeted, the offenders broke a padlock off a door and has stolen equestrian equipment. **41/61684/25**

Burglary (Outbuilding), Station Road, Ashwell – On 5th July at 12.30am, the offender has damaged a fence to gain access to the garden. The offender have forced entry into the shed and have stolen a dirt bike. **41/62396/25**

Barley, Barkway, Reed, Therfield, Kelshall and Nuthampstead

Theft, Cambridge Road, Barkway – On the 11th July at approx. 10am the victim had garden furniture targeted and stolen. **41/64067/25**

Sandon, Wallington, Rushden, Clothall and Weston

Criminal Damage, Royston Road, Wallington – During a Harecoursing incident on 7th July at 10.30am a blue mercedes ML350 was seen driving across farmer crops causing criminal damage. **41/62603/25 Refers**

Criminal Damage, Royston Road, Wallington – On 8th July at 21.13 a silver VWTouareg entered a field, drove across a field damaging crops. The offenders found a lock gate from the field to the road and forced the gate causing further damage to the farm estate. **41/63211/25**

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/>

Royston Rural Neighbourhood Team Tel – 01438 757935