



Issue | 15th September 2020

 @RuralCrimeNfk

Operation Randall

tackling rural crime
Newsletter



Introduction

Hello again readers and welcome to another edition of the rural crime newsletter.

Alternatively contact Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555111**.

Jewellery stolen during Watton burglary

Police are appealing for information following a burglary in Watton.

A property in Woodpecker Drive was broken into between 9.20am and 12.20pm on Monday 14 September 2020 and a quantity of gold and silver jewellery was stolen.

Anyone who may have seen any suspicious activity in the area between the times stated, or anyone with information, should contact DC Daniel Mather at Thetford CID on **101** quoting crime reference 36/64583/20.

Residents urged to remain vigilant following fraud attempts in Breckland

Police are urging residents to be vigilant following a number of fraud attempts in the Breckland area yesterday (Wednesday 16 September).

Officers received seven separate reports from elderly residents living predominantly in the Dereham area, claiming to have been contacted by fraudsters purporting to be police officers. During the calls they were encouraged to withdraw large amounts of money from their bank.



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.

The incidents happened in:

- Beeston Lane, Great Fransham, Dereham at approximately 10am. No money or personal details were given.
- Andrews Close, Holme Hale, Thetford at approximately 10.05am. No money or personal details were given.
- Mill Street, Elsing, Dereham between approximately 10.15am and 10.30am. No money or personal details were given.
- Norwich Road, Dereham at approximately 11.15am. No money or personal details were given.
- Shipdham Road, Dereham at approximately 1.45pm. No money or personal details given.
- Wallace Close, Dereham sometime between 10am and 2.30pm. No money or personal details were given.
- Neville Close, Dereham at approximately 5.30pm. No money or personal details were given.

Courier fraud happens when a fraudster contacts a victim by telephone claiming to be a police officer, bank or from a government department, among other agencies. A number of techniques will then be adopted in order to convince the victim to hand over their bank details or cash, which may then be passed on to a courier.

Residents are reminded that neither your bank nor the police will ever ask you to withdraw money or purchase items.

Further advice includes:

- Your bank or the police will NEVER ask for your PIN, bank card or bank account details over the phone – never give these details to anybody.
- Neither the police nor the banks will send a courier to collect money from you.
- Always request Photo ID and if unsure call the police.
- If you're asked to telephone a bank, then always do it on a different phone to the one you were contacted on.
- Fraudsters will keep the line open and have been known to play ringtones, hold music and a recorded message down the phone so the victim believes they are making a call to a legitimate number. Ensure you can hear a dialling tone before calling police or use a friend or neighbour's telephone instead.
- Do not rush into complying to the scammers demands / requests.
- If you have already given your bank details over the phone or handed your card details to a courier, call you bank straight away to cancel the card

Officers are particularly keen for members of the community to ensure they contact



family and friends, particularly elderly relatives to ensure they are aware of these scams and the warning signs.

As a response to these incidents, officers will be conducting extra patrols within the areas in order to reassure members of the public.

If anyone has received a similar type of telephone call or has any information about these incidents please contact Norfolk Police on **101** quoting Operation Radium.

Alternatively, contact the independent charity Crimestoppers 100% anonymously on **0800 555 111**.

If you believe a crime is in progress, always call **999**.

For further advice, head to the Action Fraud website: www.actionfraud.police.uk or call **0300 123 2040**.

Appeal following burglary near Downham Market

Police are appealing for information following a burglary in Barroway Drove near Downham Market.

A property in The Drove was broken into between 8am and 10am on Saturday 12 September. A safe and jewellery were among the items stolen.

Anyone who may have seen any suspicious activity in the area – or anyone who may have taken dashcam footage in the area between the times stated – should contact DC Claire Ranger at King's Lynn CID on **101** quoting reference number 36/64057/20.

Alternatively contact Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111**.

Hare Coursing

Hare coursing is a banned blood sport and is an illegal activity, yet it unfortunately remains common in Norfolk. It involves the pursuit of hares using sight hounds such as Lurchers and usually starts to take place toward the end of August or start of September.

The Hunting Act 2004 made hare coursing illegal and anyone convicted of the offence can be fined up to £5,000 by a Magistrates' Court.

The most obvious sign is a group of vehicles parked in a rural area perhaps by a gateway to farmland, on a grass verge, on a farm track or bridle path, or in the middle of a field. There will usually be estate cars, four-wheel drives or vans.

Violent confrontations can occur when participants are approached by landowners or their employees and this means that rural communities can feel



YANA
RURAL MENTAL
HEALTH SUPPORT

YANA Helpline: 0300 323 0400

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

very intimidated by hare coursers in their area.

What to do if you witness hare coursing. If the offenders are still on scene with the dogs, then the first thing to do is dial 999 as there is a crime in progress. If you are able to and without putting yourself in danger, provide descriptions of persons and vehicles but avoid any confrontation. Your location and that of the offenders vitally important. The use of apps such as What3words can give police an accurate location simply and quickly.



<https://what3words.com>

Man arrested in connection with straw bale fires

Police investigating a number of arson incidents on the Norfolk and Suffolk border have arrested a man.

Officers were called to five incidents where straw bales were set alight between 1am and 6am on Thursday 3 September. Two incidents happened on land in Langley, whilst there were further fires in Ferry Road in Carleton St Peter; Loddon Road in Broome, near Bungay; and in Beccles Road in Bungay.

A man, aged in his 50s and from the Bungay area, has been arrested in connection with the incidents. He has since been released on police bail until Wednesday 30 September 2020.



NEED TO TALK TO US?

James Wonnacott | james.wonnacott@norfolk.pnn.police.uk