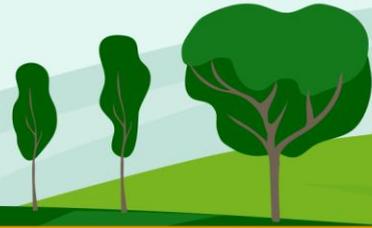




Warwickshire Rural Crime Team Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2024



Report non-emergency crime
Get advice & guidance
www.warwickshire.police.uk

Non-emergency number
101

In an emergency always call
999

Please note: all incidents must be reported through official channels and not directly to the officers.

Only call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger.

For non-emergencies, report online at warwickshire.police.uk or call 101.

Your Regional Rural Crime Team Contacts



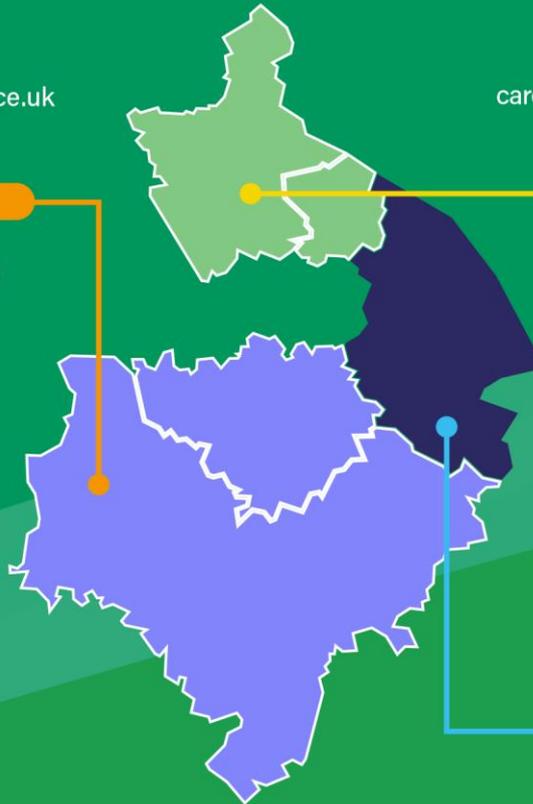
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EAST (RUGBY DISTRICT)

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Warwickshire
POLICE

We are really pleased to welcome this month two new members to our team, PC 1483 Ben Stapley and PC 2204 Joe Dicken, who will both be based in the north of the county covering the North Warwickshire and the rural Nuneaton & Bedworth areas.

As well as working with the farmers, horse owners and rural communities in the north, Joe and Ben will be involved in our team operations and initiatives covering the whole of our county. Being proactive and taking action wherever and whenever offenders are committing crime in rural areas of Warwickshire is what makes our team so effective.

PC 1483 Ben Stapley



Ben has been with Warwickshire Police for 5 years, working on both Response and in the Control Room managing demand. He brings to our team many skills including taser, stinger, emergency response driving and will be part of the Dual Purpose/Off Road bike team. Ben said "I am looking forward to meeting and engaging with our rural communities and getting stuck into tackling rural crime". Ben was with Joe and representatives from our team at Fillongley for the recent North Warwickshire information evening for farmers, horse owners and the local rural community. It was a great opportunity for them to introduce themselves, chat to those that attended and discuss their issues and concerns.

PC 2204 Joe Dicken

Before joining Warwickshire Police Joe attended Moreton Morrell Agricultural College where he studied agricultural engineering. From there he went on to work on a mixed farm for 12 years, where he gained invaluable experience for his new role in our team. He then became an electrician and joined the Special Constabulary. Enjoying working for Warwickshire Police and seeing the difference it made supporting communities Joe joined as a regular where he has worked as a Response Officer at Bedworth for the last 4 years. Joe said "I am really pleased to be joining the Rural Crime Team. I understand the affect rural crime has and look forward to working with and supporting our rural communities, including targeting the offenders who commit crime in our county". Joe has just qualified as a drone operator and joins others in our team with this skill.



Engagement & Information Evenings for Farmers and Horse Owners



We are pleased to start again our annual engagement evenings to support farmers and horse owners, plus local rural communities with advice and information from a range of partners. The first event was held on 19th February in the North of the county in Fillongley and the second is arranged for 27th February in Wootton Wawen. As well as officers from our RCT and local policing team, we also have representatives from the local authority re fly tipping, Environment Agency, WCC, Trading Standards, NFU, Rural Hub, FCN, Fire Service, Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership, Horse Watch, Angling Trust, NHW, RABI and the BHS.

VEHICLES/TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

Stolen Van Recovered After Located by Drone



The team recently used one of our drones to locate and direct officers to a stolen van that we had received intelligence on. Officers with colleagues from OPU (Operational Patrol Unit) attended the location near Ryton on Dunsmore and found the vehicle, but unfortunately no one was with it. The vehicle was seized and inquiries are being made.

Stolen Bike Recovered in North Warwickshire



Whilst out patrolling in the Maxstoke area of North Warwickshire, our officers came across a motorbike being ridden on the road with no registration plates. Further checks showed the vehicle had no insurance, was not roadworthy and had been used in a robbery. The person with the bike proceeded to kick and headbutt our police truck resulting in them being arrested and charged for a number of offences.

EQUINE

Road Safety Awareness



This month saw the British Horse Society release their national statistics for 2023 and it was saddening to see that there were 3,383 road related incidents reported involving horses, with 66 horses killed and 86 injured. 3 people died and 94 were injured, with 85% of the incidents reported being a result of a vehicle passing too close or too quickly to the horse. Operation Close Pass is being run by our team to raise awareness of passing a horse safely on the road reference the Highway Code. Vehicles should slow to 10 miles per hour and give at least 2 metres clearance wherever possible. Our latest operation was in Long Compton and was very well received. Our mounted volunteer Mary with her horse Bear worked with officers in the village with 78 vehicles passing them during the morning and 4 being given words of advice.

Crime Prevention at Livery Yard

We recently did a crime prevention evening at a livery yard in North Warwickshire. Advice was given regarding protecting their horses, trailers and horse boxes, plus tack and equipment. We spoke about the importance of keeping a record of all of your property and using the 'Property Form' on our website that you can either download or print off – www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk.

We are fortunate to have a Horse Watch Scheme in our county that works with the police and our partners. It was great to meet the owners and their horses and lend them a tack marking kit. If this is something that you may be interested in doing at your stables please email us at ruralcrimeteam@warwickshire.police.uk.





A local farmer came across some fly tippers illegally dumping a large amount of commercial waste on his land. He called for assistance from the farm and they came and helped him block in the offending vehicles whilst they called the Police. Local officers attended with OPU (Operation Patrol Unit) and ensured the offenders collected all the rubbish up and put it back in their vehicles. Hearing the incident over the radio officers from our team arrived to support and seized both vehicles under the Environment Protection Act. The Rural Team are now dealing with the investigation and working with our partners regarding the offences committed.

Fly tipping is a big problem in our rural areas and although the police are not the lead agency, we work closely with our partners in the Local Authorities and Environment Agency to assist them and bring offenders to justice.

CROSS BORDER OPERATIONS



Working with our colleagues in neighbouring forces is really important. As well as sharing intelligence and support, where needed, we also run operations where we come together sharing resources. Recently we worked with Leicestershire Police and Derbyshire Police checking vehicles and plant. It was a busy day with lots of people engaged with and crime prevention advice given.

ENGAGEMENTS

As well as the farmers meetings we are holding at present, the team have been busy out and about linking in with our rural communities and partners.

We recently attended Stratford Livestock Market, gave a presentation to Shipston Young Farmers and had a county meeting with all of our key partners, chaired by the Warwickshire Police & Crime Commissioner at the NFU Headquarters at Stoneleigh.



Our Rural Crime Team Newsletter only provides a snapshot of some of the work we are involved with. If you want to keep up to date with our arrests, property recovery / seizures, crime prevention efforts and be alerted to crime trends across Warwickshire then make use of the following options.



Currently with over 11,000 followers our Facebook Page is the main output for our working week.

You do not need to be a Facebook user to view the page. Just visit www.facebook.com/WarwickshireRuralCrimeTeam



A group set up to help combat & prevent the theft of equines, tack, trailers & boxes.

Please try to pass this onto as many horsey friends, businesses & establishments as you can - you do not have to be in Warwickshire to join.

Visit:

www.warwickshire-horsewatch.co.uk
or www.facebook.com/WarksHorseWatch



Warwickshire Rural Watch
Closing the gate on rural crime

FREE scheme to help combat rural crime in Warwickshire.

Receive incident alerts and news for your area. Crime prevention advice and information.

Search for Warwickshire Rural Watch on Facebook and Twitter



For advice, information and alerts visit our websites at
www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk
www.warwickshire.police.uk/ruralcrime