



Warwickshire Rural Crime Team Newsletter

JANUARY 2022



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



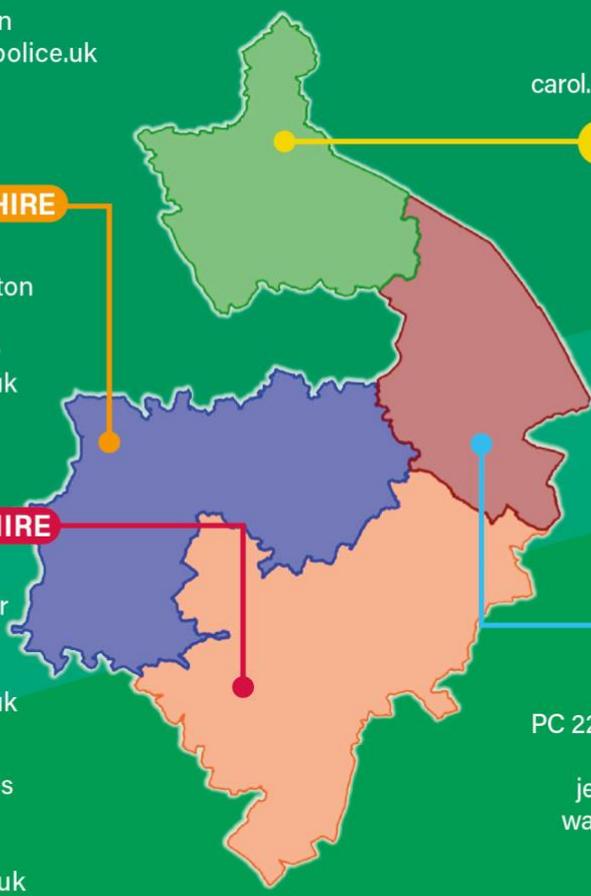
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RUGBY, NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH

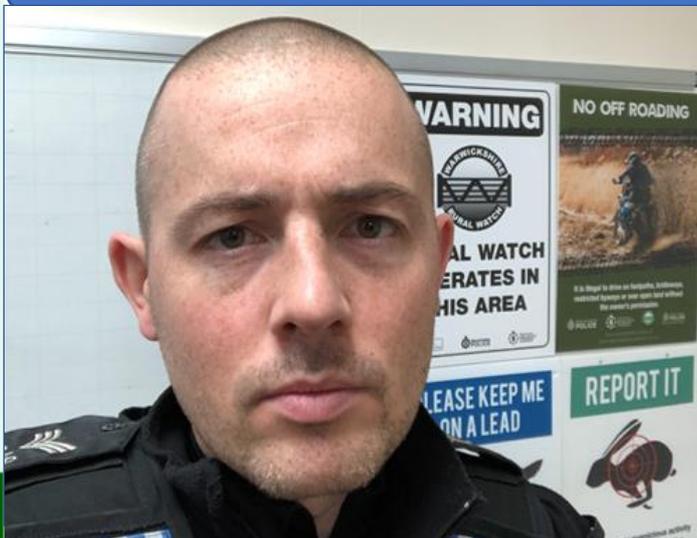
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Warwickshire
POLICE

WELCOME TO OUR NEW RCT SERGEANT – Greg Wheldon

STOLEN DOG RECOVERED



Greg Wheeldon joined Warwickshire Police in September 2004, where he spent 8 years working on response, in the front line, as a Police Constable. In this fast paced role within the police, responding to all kinds of incidents in both urban and rural areas, he took every opportunity to add to his knowledge and understanding on policing. In 2012 he was promoted to Sergeant, running a shift of officers covering all incidents called in by members of the public.

In 2013 Greg became a Custody Sergeant and spent just over 8 years running the custody block on his shift at Nuneaton.

Greg has family that live in rural locations that have suffered from being victims of crime and has seen first-hand how this can affect people in rural communities. This has made him very passionate about addressing rural crime and the offenders that target our rural areas.

Greg spent time with our previous Sergeant, Bob Shaw who retired in December after serving nearly 30 years in the force.

Greg said "I am really pleased to be joining the Rural Crime Team, who have produced some great results since its launch in 2019. I have always taken a proactive approach to policing in every role I have done. Having been between 4 walls in custody for so long it is great getting out with the team meeting people, working with other forces and being proactive in addressing and taking action against the offenders who commit crimes in the rural areas of our county.

Fern, the border collie, was stolen from her home in Thornbury, Devon overnight between Monday 6th Dec and Tuesday 7th Dec 2021.

Devon & Cornwall Police contacted our team after information came to light that she might possibly be in the South Warwickshire area. Rural Crime Teams across the country share information on offenders that are known to travel the length of the United Kingdom and beyond to commit crime. A Warwickshire Police Specialist Dog Legislation Officer and several members of the RCT attended an address in Southam. The Safer Neighborhood Team for Southam were invaluable to the investigation and provided excellent intelligence. A property was visited where a male opened the door and spoke with officers. A border collie was retrieved from the house and checked with the Rural Teams scanners which confirmed that the dog was Fern and she was subsequently seized. Four males at the address are now assisting with our enquiries.

Fern is an exceptional working collie who was responsible for looking after 800 sheep on the farm she was taken from.

The theft not only impacted the farmers' ability to look after the flock, but the concern of what had happened to the treasured four legged member of the family.



Trailer Recovered



A four wheeled Ifor Williams trailer was recovered by Rural Crime Team Officers in the Camphill area of Nuneaton, with support from the Local Safer Neighbourhood Team from Nuneaton and Bedworth.

The trailer, which had been stolen overnight from a site near Lea Marston was fortunately fitted with a GPS tracker that officers used to locate it within 24 hours of it being stolen.

Quad Recovered

A great team effort on this recovery. The Rural Crime Team linked in with Response Officers who attended a location in North Warwickshire. Assisted by our colleagues from NAVCIS they located this stolen quad bike in the Curdworth area which was hidden inside a garage. One male was arrested at the scene on suspicion of handling stolen goods and enquiries are ongoing. GPS trackers are invaluable for such thefts and we would highly recommend anyone with a quad bike, trailer or caravan to consider fitting a third party tracker.



Vehicle Seized

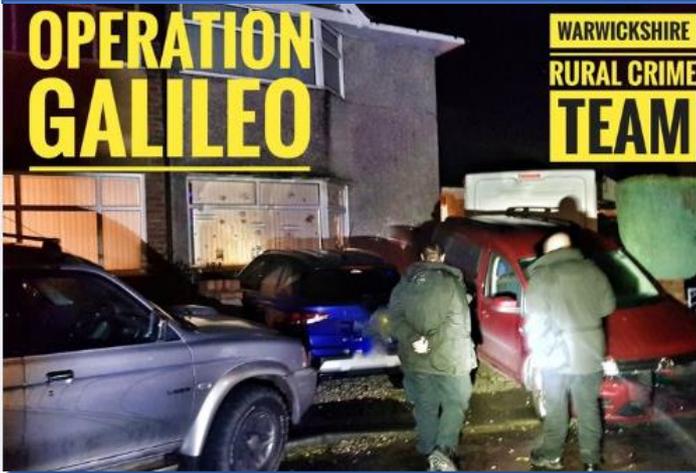


Whilst the Rural Crime Team officers were on patrol in the Stockton area they noticed a 4x4 parked up just off the A426. The Land Rover wasn't displaying any vehicle registration plates on its front or rear. On making enquiries it transpired that 24 hours before the vehicle was seen displaying Irish registration plates, however the vin number of the vehicle came back to an address in Staffordshire on a none Irish registration. The cloned vehicle was seized on suspicion of being used in crime as well as other document offences.

Failed to Stop Seized

This Ford Transit was seen by Rural Crime Officers whilst on patrol, acting suspiciously and with an insecure load. The driver however decided they didn't want to speak to officers and failed to stop when instructed. The vehicle eventually stopped nearby and the occupants ran off. An attempt was made to swap the plates by other people at the location in the hope the bright blue Transit tipper wouldn't be identified. Officers found it had no insurance, tax or MOT and was displaying plates for a different vehicle. The vehicle was seized along with its contents and associated registration plates and the officers are under taking work to identify the driver..



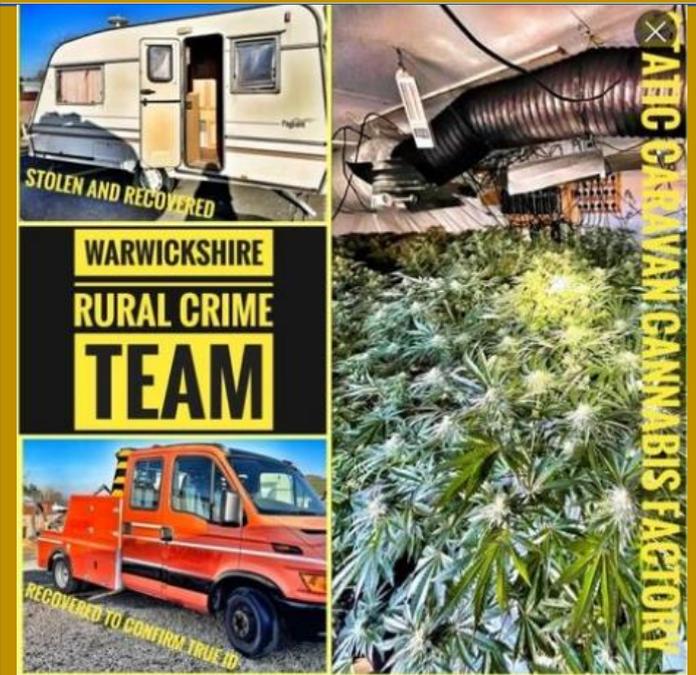


The Rural Crime Team continue our work against offenders that come into Warwickshire and are involved in the chasing and killing of hares with dogs (hare coursing). We continue, as a team, to follow up on reports received of hare coursing across Warwickshire, including visiting offenders not caught in the act, but seen in suspicious circumstances. Where appropriate the team are issuing those suspected of hare coursing in Warwickshire with a Community Protection Warning (CPW) or a Community Protection Notice (CPN), as well as taking action against those caught.

PLANTS, EQUIPMENT & VEHICLES

LIVESTOCK

The Rural Crime Team attended a location in the south of the county and found 3 x static caravans with cannabis growing inside. At the same location they seized a truck and a caravan.



Rural Crime Team officers have been working alongside West Midland officers to try and identify 2 x dogs who are believed to have been responsible for some very distressing sheep worrying incidents in the Hampton in Arden area. A number of pregnant ewes have been killed with witnesses providing the same description of the canines concerned. Following a call from a member of the public, officers attended a location where the dogs matching the description had been caught by caring members of the community. Rural Crime Officers and a Police Dog Handler attended and took the dogs to a safe location so that they were of no further risk in the community.

Off Road Bikes

Rural Crime Team officers are working alongside the force Dual Bike Team and local beat officers in addressing a number of concerns around the county relating to off road bikes and quads. As well as the antisocial behaviour involved, there is also damage to crops and fencing, plus on some occasions livestock being affected. Two of our team are off road bike trained and regularly patrol on the bikes in rural areas.



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-horsetwath.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



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