



Operation Randall

tackling rural crime
Newsletter

Issue 46 | July 2024

 @RuralCrimeNfk

Introduction

As another month passes the weather has seriously turned in the last week or so. The longer days of full sun have certainly brought us some warmth.

As a team this has been appreciated as we have had many outside engagements over the past month most notably last week's Royal Norfolk Show.

This next month will see our county transformed with many seasonal visitors as schools start to break up for the summer break and people flock to our coastline and stunning rural areas. This brings challenges to policing as the population increases and creates extra pressures on our road networks. The teams across the county will be out and about, providing reassurance and general engagement alongside our core roles of prevention and detection of crime and keeping the county safe. If you see any officers, please do say hello, they will be happy to have a chat.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns or comments on any issues raised throughout this newsletter, please do contact us via email operationrandall@norfolk.police.uk

Engagement Events

This past month has obviously been busy for the team. We were at the Royal Norfolk Show last week, it was fantastic to see so many people throughout the two days with some of the best weather we have had in many years. We hope everyone enjoyed their day too, there was certainly plenty to see from animals, emergency services, farm machinery, new technology, food displays and just so much more it really is a full day experience.

We also attended Winterton Bio-Blitz event for a couple of hours at the beginning of the month, an event designed to record all the wildlife spotted in the village. The team had a stand at Whitlingham Country Park for Open Farm Sunday where we had our team of Specials visiting several farms who opened their gates to the public.

This coming month we will be supporting our colleagues on frontline in one of busiest months of the year. We will be assisting at Lords Mayors Procession and the Special Constabulary will be at Tractor Fest in Aslacton this coming weekend.



NEED TO TALK TO US?

PC Chris Shelley | christopher.shelley@norfolk.police.uk | 07900 407106

OP Seabird

As we have already touched on, we can expect many visitors to Norfolk in the next month or two, some for the first time and I am sure many returning.

This brings us an extra challenge in policing in so many ways but for us and our local wildlife as sometimes visitors are unaware, they may be committing offences by disturbing or destroying our wildlife. It's important we engage with these tourists and work with partners to educate especially on the need to follow local signs for keeping everyone safe and the right side of the law.

We really need your support too as good behaviour promotes further good behaviour. So, if your local area has signs up for keeping dogs on a lead because of livestock, nesting birds or seals please follow the instructions as that will encourage others to do the same. Sadly, if one person has their dog off the lead in these areas it encourages others to do the same which can cause a real problem. We really do appreciate your support in this.

New Legislation Around Glue Traps Being Banned

This month brings a new piece of legislation which comes into effect on the 31st of July 2024. This will make glue traps illegal to use in nearly all situations unless you're a professional pest controller and have applied to Natural England for an individual licence or to use the general licence.

Companies and individuals were given a grace period to use up old stock but that comes to an end on the 31st of July 2024 when it will become illegal to set such traps. The offence is very simple, it will be an

offence to set any glue trap.

These traps have caused plenty of controversy over the years and often considered inhumane. Whilst obviously pests need dealing with, but with technology moving on there are much better alternatives available now and the use of these traps has declined dramatically in recent years. If you still have any of these traps in the back of your shed or garage, please dispose of very carefully to avoid animals becoming entangled with the glue inadvertently.

Wildlife Crime Update

It's always a good month when I have very little to write in this section, we have had a couple of enquiries around various issues including wild bee orchids, a young dead kestrel and couple of bird nest enquiries. But all these enquiries have quickly been established not to be criminal matters and no need for further police involvement.

In regard to ongoing investigations, we still have a bat roost destruction job ongoing on a development site which is being put together alongside a bird nest destruction job which is also nearing completion.

I am sure many will have seen the male involved in the incident with the Peregrine Falcon on the top of Cromer church who came forward being incredibly sorry for his actions and this was dealt with out of court with a donation to the charity, and a conversation with police around safe use of laser pens (of which there are very few circumstances to be totally honest).

WhatsApp Group

The Operation Randall WhatsApp group is expanding. At present the group mainly consists of partner agencies, key landowners and administrators of other social media rural groups. I am currently looking at increasing the size of this group so if you meet one or more of the above criteria – work for a partner agency, key landowner or you administer another rural group on social media - or if you think you would benefit or be able to contribute in any way, I want to hear from you. You can contact me on email at christopher.shelley@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

Lovelock in the West (West Norfolk Rural Crime Beat Manager)

I am PC 2061 Alex Lovelock based at Downham Market Police Station as the Local Rural and Wildlife Crime Manager. I have a passion and interest for all things rural and that is reflected in my background.

We have been getting out and about to show our faces and speak to members of the rural community to understand any issues that people are facing and how we can help.

The only thing I can report is that we are continuing to see farmyard sheds and outbuildings being targeted and small bits of machinery such as strimmers and chainsaws being a hot favourite. With this I would ask that you are vigilant when out and about and report all suspicious behaviour using the 101 phonenumber, the online form or to your local rural crime officer to investigate, it may seem like a small bit of information, but it could be a bigger part of the puzzle.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support, especially in the West of the county in tackling rural and wildlife crime in the county of Norfolk.

PC 2061 Alex Lovelock
Alexander.LOVELOCK@norfolk.police.uk
07989193846 (please do not report crime on this number)
Downham Market Police Station

Kingy in the South (South Norfolk Rural Crime Beat Manager)

Hello!

I am PC 475 James King (Jimmy) and since October 2023 I have been the Rural Crime Beat Manager for the South Norfolk area.

I continue to meet and talk with as many farmers, landowners, and gamekeepers as I can, and I'm still looking to speak to anyone else I have not gotten to yet. I talk about crime prevention advice, reporting methods for crime and intelligence, suspicious vehicles/people, and wildlife crime to name just a few topics.

I think that it's very important to keep the lines of communication going between the public and the police and this is certainly the case in the rural community.

We have seen and do see yearly, thefts such as diesel, heating oil, tools, equipment and more recently firewood, to name just a few. Most recently there has been a continued trend of tools, garden equipment and ride on lawn mowers being stolen and I would like to appeal to all owners to check your security measures and report any suspicious vehicles or persons near or on your properties.

The message I want to get across is, please report these thefts, you're not wasting anyone's time and even if on any one occasion we cannot link a suspect, it's vital we have all the information we need as it could help us link it to another crime or crimes and build the bigger picture for us.

Thieves make mistakes all the time that can help us identify them. We have such a success recently whereby a man has been charged for the theft of a large amount of tools and equipment in the South Norfolk area.

Also, on many occasions we come across items that we cannot link to an owner or prove are stolen, meaning the opportunity to return them is lost, so please report the theft, take serial numbers from your property or security mark them so we can trace the ownership back to you.

If you would like me to pay you a visit and give some crime prevention advice, please get in touch.

If we have not met yet, please do get in touch with me, or if you see me out and about, I'm happy to stop and speak to you then.

Have a great Summer.
PC 475 James KING
Poringland Police Station
07989197403



What is happening in the countryside in July?

As we move into July our countryside comes alive in so many ways but if you blink you could miss it. Many of our birds have already had their first clutch of young, with several of our native species possibly already onto the second. Of our visitors, the swallows and house martins will be well into preparing to fledge building up their strength and reserves to fly back to Africa in the not too distant future, you won't miss their very distinctive noisy chirping if you have them in your barns or house roofs. Many of our birds of prey are well on their way to fledging if they haven't already.

Much of native wildlife will to be bringing their young out into the wider world, July is often seen as one of the best months to see badgers, the cubs whilst often some of the first young born in the UK in mid-winter will often be seen outside of the sett playing with each other. If you are interested in watching badgers speak to your local badger trust as they may be able to assist with doing this. Please remember it is an offence to cause any harm to badgers and many are on private land, so permission is required – if you do get the chance please keep dogs away at all times, sit quietly and sometimes patience is required but it is usually rewarded.

On the farms it doesn't stop the next 6-8 weeks are often as busy as it gets. Many livestock farms will still be checking and sometime supplementary feeding stock on a daily basis, grass will be being cut and made into either silage or hay. With the sun out far more recently its mainly being made in to the drier of the products – hay. Another amazing piece of nature showing how it can adapt is the treat of seeing a red kit hover very lower whilst a hay field is being cut or turned, you will not get a better opportunity to get up close and see a red kite hunt in such a fashion in any other way. They have learnt that as its cut and turned the rodents are slightly easier to

target. Red Kites are large, majestic bird of prey with incredible hunting instincts easy to spot not only by their colour but their distinct 'kite' like tails with triangular shape with pointed outer edges.

Arable farms are gearing up for harvest much of the whole crop has already been harvested this is often cereal crops which are cut before they fully ripen still in green state and put into silage clamps to feed stock generally over the winter months. Whole crop is something that isn't new but is slowly growing in popularity it isn't as potentially vulnerable and reliant on the weather to get a successful crop of the land and provides fantastic feed value to livestock.

The rest of the cereal crops are ripening well, couple farmers I spoke to at Norfolk Shows did suggest they wouldn't want too much heat on it as it will start to put it under stress but otherwise what is present is looking well. Unusually for farmers there was some positive remarks around the timing of recent rains and then the upturn in weather really giving the grains a fuller look.

Of course, the true quality of this season crop won't be known until the combines enter the fields, yields are being watched closely with the very wet often waterlogged winter we had potentially having a significant impact with almost certainly more spring cereal crops being grown this season than ever before.

Final Word

Thank you again for taking the time to read through.

I hope you have a great safe month and please feel free to contact us with any concerns.

PC Chris Shelley

The police will never
ask you for cash or
your bank details.

STOP...
this is a scam!

THE
TRAP

