



Norfolk Rural Communities Newsletter

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Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of the Norfolk Rural Communities Newsletter.

Apologies for the delay in creating this newsletter. We've been waiting on data on rural crimes and then unfortunately there was a period of sickness. I am pleased to say that the newsletter will continue on a monthly basis.

Rural engagement events are very important. They provide an opportunity for us to listen to our communities, understand your needs and concerns, forge vital links and update you on our activities. Plans are in place to hold events in both South Norfolk and Kings Lynn districts.

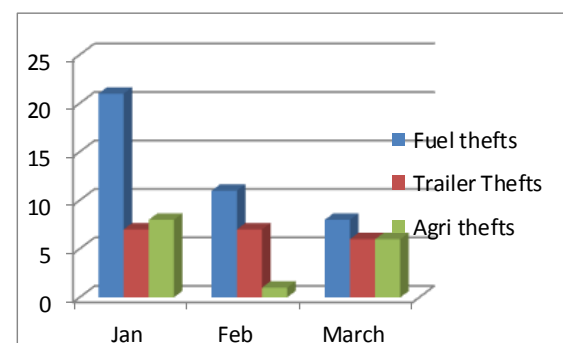
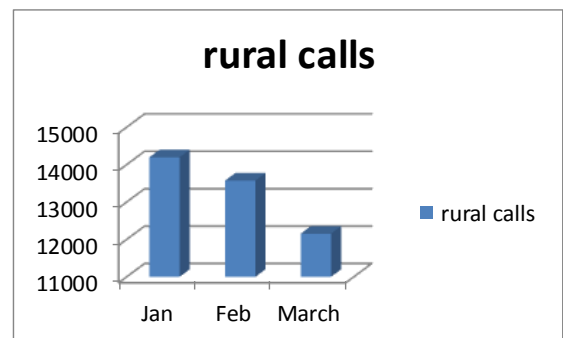
Do you know ?

There are more than 50,000 acres of land in Norfolk managed by the Forestry Commission. As well as being home to many animals and plants, the unusual and not so unusual, the land is also visited by hundreds of people every year, most of whom treat the land with respect. Unfortunately, this is not always the case and we see many crimes committed on Forestry Commission land. We've met with the Forestry Commission and its rangers recently to see how best we can work together to protect the forest.



Crime Statistics

The graphs show the total number of calls relating to our rural communities, and the number of fuel, trailer and agricultural thefts in the last three months. These figures apply to thefts up to 25 March.



Operation Easter



In November 2018 a 66 year male of Newton St Faith Norwich was prosecuted for stealing wild bird eggs. Norfolk officers found a total of 5266 eggs from an estimated 298 species, and from 134 different locations. The male later received an 18 weeks custodial sentence. The RSPB reported that the impact this male had, had on certain bird populations effected not only local but regional and national populations, and was such that entire breeding colonies were wiped out and may never recover. Egg collectors are often in employment with no financial pressure, this allows them to travel the UK and further afield targeting specific species and nesting sites. They are often equipped with detailed maps with locations of nesting sites and climbing equipment.

Once collected, the egg is 'blown', by drilling a hole in the egg and using air to force out the contents, or a hook might be used to remove the embryo. The empty egg shells are kept as trophies and often stored in secret, under beds, with neighbours or in self storage units to prevent the authorities finding out. North Norfolk, Breckland and the forested areas of the county are the most vulnerable to this type of crime, due to the birds that nest in these areas.

Livestock thefts

Over the last couple of months there has been an increase in livestock thefts in the county with sheep and fattening lambs being stolen. The thefts have occurred in plain sight . On two occasions the suspects have been being observed by members of the public who believed that the thieves actions were genuine as they at the time of the thefts they were using animal transporters and even sheep dogs. As yet no animals have been recovered but we continue to try to identify the offenders and work with Trading Standards, Defra, sheep farmers and the National Sheep Association in relation to these offences.

Theft of poultry remains an issue. We believe the offenders are local to the locations of the crime, and we continue to investigate.

Emerging Crime pattern

John Deere tractors have been targeted by thieves for their GPS systems. We believe these are not opportunistic crimes but rather pre-planned with a known buyer or end destination already agreed.

As well as the GPS systems, two tractors have also been stolen. Previously such agricultural equipment has been shipped to either Eastern Europe or to Africa. One of the stolen GPS systems has already been identified as being in linked to a company in Eastern Europe.

Animal Rights Activists

There have been a number of reports of rural businesses being targeted or highlighted by Animal Rights Activists. Although there have been no actual instances of Activists turning up or carrying out any illegal activity, this has understandably caused distress, annoyance and nervousness to the owners and staff of these business. Can I ask that any suspicious activity around livestock farms or farms that use animals in any way to please be reported to the Constabulary or reported via Crime stoppers . Details on these numbers are on the last page of the Newsletter., remember these numbers can be used to report any suspicious activity.

Most Wanted People– do not approach, report any sightings

For the latest details on various persons wanted by Norfolk Constabulary please visit www.norfolk.police.uk/wanted-persons . Again please do not approach any of these person but report any sightings .

Support for mental health

Living in a rural community can feel lonely and isolating. These feelings can be enhanced by fear of crime, whether it's a real or imagined. Of course, this has a knock-on effect on our everyday worries and issues and can lead to a decline in our mental health. It's important to remember there are charities out there that offer help and guidance. One such charity is You Are Not Alone (YANA).

YANA has successfully raised the profile of mental health in rural communities, highlighting that it is 'ok not to feel ok'.

Yana is a confidential service and encourages those suffering from depression, stress or anxiety to visit their GP or contact the YANA helpline. YANA can fund up to six sessions of counselling and these can be arranged within days, compared to NHS waiting times of months.



Good News Stories

We have been trialing handheld thermal imaging devices and found these to be a really useful addition to our rural toolbox.

The devices have been successfully used in the arrest of hare coursers and vehicle thieves as well as allowing officers to safely deal with alleged night poaching, where firearms had been heard to be discharged and night hawking, where vulnerable sites have been scanned for any unauthorized activity. It is hoped that these will become a permanent feature in rural policing.

In February Breckland officers supported by an Op Randall drone unit arrested a man for breaching his Criminal Behaviour Order after he made off from The Splashes site his presence on the site was in breach of his Order. He was later charged with this offence and fined £400.

Online scams and advice

Online scams continue with the latest being a telephone call claiming outstanding money is owed to BT and has to be paid immediately, and TV Licensing scam stating that the TV License has expired. Both calls request bank details.

There have also been reports of cold callers offering driveway cleaning and mis-selling cavity wall insulation. Please remember these are only some of the most recent known scams. These websites provide a list of the latest known scams:

www.gov.uk

www.nidirect.gov.uk

Crime Prevention Advice

Do not give out passwords.
Do not give out bank details.

Do not give out any personal details.

Do not let anyone into the house.
Do not leave anyone unattended in the house.



And remember, if it seems too good to be true, it is too good to be true.

CRIME STOPPERS

0800 555 1111
0800 783 0137 (RURAL
DEDICATED)

Norfolk Constabulary
Falconers Chase
Wymondham
Norfolk
NR18 0WW

Crime in progress
dial 999
Non emergency
dial 101

www.norfolk.police.uk



Want to help ?

Did you know that Norfolk Constabulary has more than 200 Special Constabulary officers who have full police powers and deliver policing services in their local communities? Last month 3655 hours of patrol time were given by these officers, 23 arrests made and they assisted with 61 arrests. They were dispatched to 526 jobs of which 37 were road traffic collisions. If you would like more information about becoming a Special Constable, please contact Susan Goode 01953 425699 ext 2372.

However if being a Special Constable isn't for you but you would like to support policing by volunteering some of your time there are many other ways you can help:

- We have more than 120 police volunteer staff who carry out a range of activities to support communities.
- There are more than 800 Community Speed Watch volunteers in Norfolk. If you would you like to set up a scheme in your area, please contact Marion Pointer 01603 276936.
- Neighbourhood Watch is well embedded in Norfolk but we are always keen to see new schemes. If you would like to set up a Neighbourhood Watch in your area, contact Sergeant Amanda Lewis on 01953 425699 ext 4277.

Crime prevention

Please remember to take all possible precautions to ensure your property does not become an easy target for criminals. Lock windows and doors, remove keys from vehicles and ensure your property is marked so in the event it is stolen and recovered, it can be returned.

Consider placing tracking devices into valuable movable property and taking photographs of items of value. For more advice please contact me and I will arrange for one of our crime prevention officers to provide further advice.



It's your Newsletter

All feedback on the newsletter, both positive and negative, is welcome. I need your thoughts, views and questions on rural matters and the type of articles, news and information you would like to read in later editions. **Please get in touch!**

How to contact us

Information is vital and can be shared with us on 101 or by telephoning Crimestoppers on 0800 555 1111 or 0800 783 0137. Information can also be passed directly to any officer or emailed to me at armstrongd@norfolk.pnn.police.uk or operationrandall@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

All information received will be treated in the strictest confidence.

We can also be followed on Twitter [@Norfolk Rural Crime](https://twitter.com/NorfolkRuralCrime)