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## Norfolk Constabulary OP Randall September Newsletter

1 message

**Norfolk Constabulary** <policeconnect@mailshot.norfolk.police.uk>

5 September 2021 at 11:06

Reply-To: "OperationRandall@norfolk.police.uk" &lt;OperationRandall@norfolk.police.uk&gt;

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# Operation Randall

tackling rural crime

Issue 15 | 1st of  
September 2021

@RuralCrimeNfk 

Another month and another newsletter! I can't believe I am saying this but sadly it is safe to say the nights are pulling in and Autumn is very close. Harvest is slowly getting there this year, the weather hasn't been that kind this summer. A newspaper article I read just this week said we are unlikely to see an 'Indian Summer' which was a refreshing change given every year they claim we are going to have one and it never appears!

This month has seen some refreshing in person meetings which has been great to see people and discuss things in person. Obviously, technology has its place and online meetings have huge benefits but they don't replace that simple human interaction we all need at times. This month moving forward we are lucky to have two planned engagement events; Heritage Day at Caistor Roman Town on 4 September and Sandringham Game and Country Fair on 11 and 12 September.



**Rural mental health support**

**Helpline:** 0300 323 0400

helpline@yanahelp.org

### **Cold Calling - Scams**

Over the last couple of weeks, we've received a few calls about a group offering to tarmac and chip driveways. The group appear to be following the Norfolk County Council teams who are redoing the plainings on the road, claiming they have left over chips and tarmac from the days work. They say they will do it for £50 cash before then changing the cost to large amounts and becoming very aggressive when challenged. Please do not buy any goods or services from people at the doorstep, the council will not offer such services nor do cash in hand jobs like this – these are rogue traders. Any details should be passed to Norfolk County Council Trading Standards via their online reporting form; <https://news.mailshot.norfolk.police.uk/286616E0D7B7BA9B6E4E4F3069AF16DCBB2C6D4DAC4FBE619A4A7EF0A4C72D00/888B96310A499A0520C0F4495C52425B/LE35>.

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### **Dont Forget To Follow Us On Twitter!**

Don't forget to join us on Twitter! Our page is designed to let you know what we are up to as a team as much as possible as well as share info about crime prevention and engagement events and anything else we think might be useful. Click the logo below to visit our page.



NEED TO TALK TO US?

PC Chris Shelley | [christopher.shelley@norfolk.police.uk](mailto:christopher.shelley@norfolk.police.uk) | 07900 407106

## GPS Thefts

Sadly, we have seen an increase in thefts of GPS systems from agricultural machinery over the past week, with six farms targeting over three nights. Locally, we launched Operation Huff, which specifically targets this type of crime, making sure we take every opportunity to secure evidence, increase rural patrols, developing intelligence and link in with the national project in tackling this problem.

It's so important for farmers/users where possible to remove the devices when not in use and overnight. I would also encourage that the units are marked with postcode and surname, failing that paint them in any colour – this includes the screen and not just the dome. This makes the item so much harder to sell on. I have spoken to a farmer who has said there is currently about a six month backlog in replacing stolen units due to the chip shortage affecting much of the manufacturing industry so everybody needs to do everything they can to avoid being a victim of this crime. Remember marking the dome/screen does not affect the use of the system.

It is also worth mentioning that we have seen a switch from John Deere Starfire systems being stolen to New Holland and Trimble's. While we can't say for certain, the installation of the PIN code system on newer models of Starfire is believed to be behind this trend. That said, it is essential the PIN code is in use and they should still be marked as again information has been received the PIN codes can be hacked quite easily. PIN it, PEN it, REMOVE it!

# Pin It, Pen It or Lose It\*

\*Potentially



We continue to see high value thefts of GPS domes and screens from farm machinery.

Please look at the following steps and consider whether you are doing everything you can to protect your valuables?

- ◊ Can you remove the dome/unit and secure it in a separate building?
- ◊ If not can you lock the machine in a building?
- ◊ Have you locked the machine?
- ◊ Can it be placed under good artificial light and CCTV?

**Need any  
advice,  
please  
contact me**

Alongside the above, Pin It and Pen It.

- Simply mark the equipment dome/ back of screen with your postcode and surname.
- Make it **obvious** you've marked it, significantly reduces resale value to thief's
- This can be done with permanent marker or even better a simple engraving tool
- If the screen can be PIN enabled, activate it immediately only give the PIN to people who need it (and don't use 1234!)



### 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.police.uk](mailto:christopher.shelley@norfolk.police.uk)

## Hare Coursing

As September arrives, we enter into the Hare Coursing 'season' and extra rural patrols are planned over the coming months supported by the Special Constabulary. As always, we look for information to be reported timely to us so we can deal. All reports of hare coursing should be reported via 999 whilst in action and any slow time intelligence should be either passed to local officers (preferably myself [Christopher.Shelley@norfolk.police.uk](mailto:Christopher.Shelley@norfolk.police.uk) , PC Alex Lovelock

[Alex.Lovelock@norfolk.police.uk](mailto:Alex.Lovelock@norfolk.police.uk) – West Norfolk Rural Crime Manager and PC  
Sue Matthews [Sue.Matthews@norfolk.police.uk](mailto:Sue.Matthews@norfolk.police.uk) - South Norfolk Rural Beat  
Manager) or sent in via the online form submission

<https://news.mailshot.norfolk.police.uk/>

[1DA91BE27206003BC26D47DF1EFDE5](#)

[70288B4FFFFFFF183BEF9BB91580B66330D/](#)

[888B96310A499A0520C0F4495C52425B/LE35](#) whilst 101 is also an option  
but email contact is preferred in regards to intelligence.

This year we approach the season with yet more skills, resources and joined  
up working which can only be a positive thing. As in previous years, our drones  
will be routinely deployed to incidents, which gives us the best chance to  
securing evidence and bringing people to justice.



Myself, Sue and Alex only last week attended an important meeting with the Crown Prosecution Service and rural crime representatives from the 7 Eastern Region Forces (Norfolk, Suffolk, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Kent and Essex) to discuss this years plans for the season. Cambridgeshire's Rural Crime Team (RCAT) have been leading on a revolutionary piece of work around the use of Community Protection Warnings and Notices (CPW & CPN). This ultimately means if a person commits an offence in Suffolk they will be issued a warning (CPW) if they then offend in the same way in Cambridgeshire they would be issued with a Notice (CPN) should they then come to Norfolk and offend again and breach the CPN they will be charged to court for failure to comply where we can then also apply for Criminal Behaviour Orders. Those orders have potential severe restrictions on how a person goes about their life to stop them causing disorder and nuisance to others. Last year we used CPWs to good effect in Norfolk and this year sees the whole Eastern Region working together protecting the region, sharing intelligence and best practices. These warnings and notices will also carry a three-year time limit giving us more opportunities to disrupt in the coming years too.



## Events

PC Sue Matthews took part in the in the 17th annual Pink Ladies Tractor Road Run on the 4 of July around Harleston and the surrounding villages, she raised over £600 for Cancer Research UK (Breast Cancer Appeal) and was joined by the rest of her Beat Team on the day. The day was a huge success both in terms of money raised and the friendly atmosphere this event attracts as it travels around ending in a picnic for all!

August saw a limited amount of events simply due to demand placed on the service with the unique pressures Covid has brought to all of our lives.

Following the easing of restrictions, we have a couple of events planned this month.

PC Sue Matthews will be joined by her team at the Norfolk Archaeological Trust Heritage Day at Caister Roman Town on the 4 of September. It's a free to attend event with lots of activities for all.

The following weekend myself, PC Alex Lovelock and PC Sue Matthews will

be joined by members of the Special Constabulary and our inshore fishery officers from the Environment Agency at the annual Sandringham Game and Country Fair on 11 and 12 September.



# OPERATION GALILEO

## ILLEGAL HARE COURSING

### **Dog Ear Clipping - Illegal Activity Increasing RSPCA Report**

Our colleagues from the RSPCA have warned of an increase in ear cropping in dogs around Norfolk and bordering counties.

The animal welfare charity has seen reports of the illegal practice surge by more than 600% in six years - jumping 115% in 2020 alone.

The new figures, released by the RSPCA, also show a 621% increase in the number of reports of ear cropping and cropped ears made to the animal welfare charity in the last six years. From 2015 to 2020, the charity had a total of 279 reports of the practice made to its emergency hotline.

Ear cropping is illegal in England and Wales, under Section 5 of the Animal

Welfare Act 2006. However, the practice is still legal in other parts of the world, such as the USA and some European countries, and there's a fear that more and more dogs are being sent abroad for cropping or being purchased and imported from overseas.

Ear cropping has no benefits for the dog and tends to be carried out purely for cosmetic reasons. The process can, in fact, have serious, long-term welfare implications for a dog's health and behaviour.

Anyone who suspects someone is cropping their dogs' ears should report this to the RSPCA's emergency hotline on 0300 1234 999.



### **What is happening in the countryside in September?**

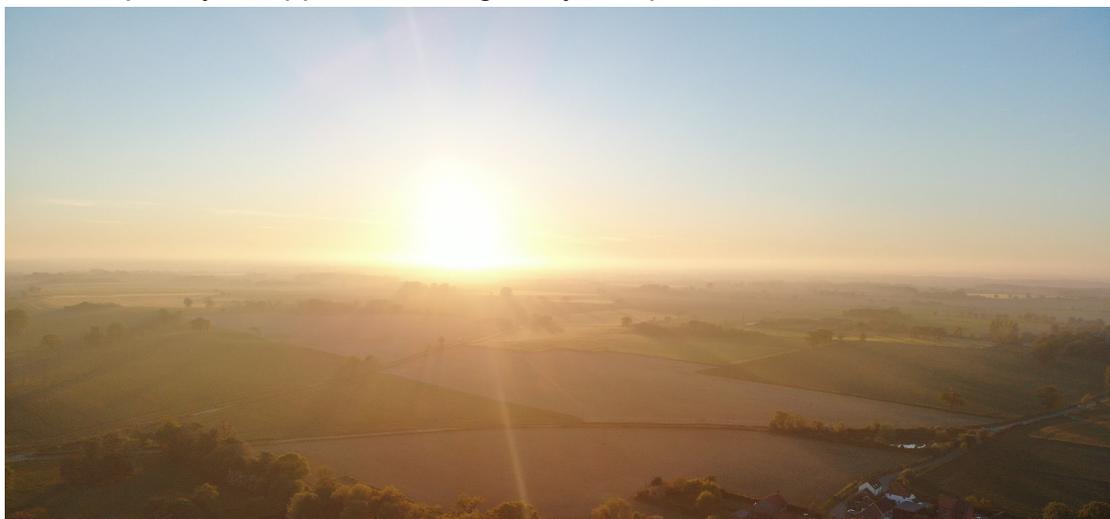
September brings the beginning of the rutting season where stags 'fight and argue' over does, which can lead to more casualties on our roads when it comes to deer. Please take care on rural roads, especially around wooded areas.

We also move into that period of 'mud on roads' and while most farmers try very hard to keep the roads clear it is not easy and extra care should be taken around entrances/exits to fields.

The sugar beet factories will open towards the end of the month which is an important crop for the Eastern Region as it provides the fields a break from growing cereal type crops.

Extra care should now be taken around ponds and similar environments as many of the reptiles and amphibians within are starting to spend more time out basking catching the last rays of the warming sun or starting to find leaf litter and similar to hibernate over winter.

One of the last 'summer crops' to be harvested will be maize towards the end of September. Whilst it may look like sweetcorn it is a slightly different variety to what you generally get in the supermarket. It is specially grown to be chopped up and put into silage clamps where it ferments and stores well providing a valuable source of food for cattle over winter. Many farmers will also be hoping to get one last cut of grass silage or hay before the summer sun completely disappears, storing away that precious resource for winter.



### Along Our Coastline

I will keep this piece very brief, but it has been incredibly distressing to see some of the images captured by volunteers of the Friends of Horsey Seals charity group who work tirelessly throughout the year to protect the Seals along our North Norfolk coast.

These images are incredibly concerning; seals must be given plenty of space from humans and dogs. They often come ashore this time of year to rest as they are heavily pregnant. Disturbance can have significant impact on the health of the mother and pup, not only that if distressed the Seals have a very nasty bite which could cause severe illness.

Please keep atleast 10metres away, if you have concern for the health of a Seal please report to FoHS on 07706 315514 or the RSPCA on 0300 1234999 . Please do not attempt to rescue or touch any Seal, these teams are specially trained and will sometimes mark seals to monitor them rather than removing them thus removing unnecessary stress unless it is the only option.



**The police will never...**



## Final Word

Thank you again for taking the time to read this month's newsletter, as always keep up to date with what the team are doing on our Twitter page @RuralCrimeNFK  
Chris

## Recent Press Releases

### Appeal Following Burglary in Stiffkey

Police are appealing for witnesses following a burglary in Stiffkey.

A lock-up outside a property on Church Street was broken into sometimes between 5pm on Friday 27 August and 7am on Tuesday 31 August.

A number of items were stolen including two concrete breakers, a chainsaw, an electric strimmer, a brush cutter and some batteries. Items stolen were worth a collective total of approximately £2,400.

Officers are appealing for anyone who may have witnessed the incident, or anyone with information concerning it, to come forward.

Anyone with information should contact PC Dave Greenwood in Op Solve on 101 quoting crime reference 36/63688/21. Alternatively contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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## CAT Loading Shovel Stolen from Litcham

Police are appealing for information after plant machinery was stolen Litcham over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Suspect(s) forced a large padlock to break into a farm before stealing a 14-tonne CAT loading shovel.

It happened sometime between 1pm on Saturday and 6.30am on Tuesday (28-31 August 2021) and police are keen to hear from anyone who may have information about the theft to come forward.

Anyone with information should contact PC Daniel Wales at Dereham Police Station on 101 quoting crime reference 36/63671/21.

Alternatively contact Crimestoppers 100% anonymously on 0800 555 111.



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## Appeal Following Theft of Signs in Potter Heigham

Police are appealing for information after three signs were stolen from Potter Heigham.

The incidents happened sometime between Thursday 5 August and Thursday 12 August when three signs were stolen from the Potter Heigham staithe in Great Yarmouth.

Police are appealing for anyone who may have witnessed the incidents or anyone who has information or witnessed any suspicious activity in the area to come forward.

Anyone with information should contact PC Amy Barrell at Hoveton Police

Station on 101 quoting crime reference 36/58484/21.  
Alternatively contact Crimestoppers 100% anonymously.

Jubilee House, Falconers Chase, Wymondham, Norfolk, NR18 0WW

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