



# Romsey rural Safer neighbourhoods report September - October 2011

## Welcome to the latest newsletter from your Safer Neighbourhoods team for the Romsey Rural beats

Your local officers are:



Sgt Christine Plascott



PC Vernon Gook



PCSO Jo Cole

### Action we have undertaken in relation to your priorities

**You said:** You were concerned about speeding motorists and inconsiderate parking in the rural villages.

**We did:** We have been working with a number of local schools providing information and advice to parents about legal and considerate parking. We will also continue to patrol hot spot locations.

We continue to receive complaints of speeding in and around the rural villages. In August we carried out speed enforcement. On Braishfield Road, eight drivers were caught speeding; one received a £60 fixed penalty notice and three points on their licence, two were referred to driver awareness training and five received a warning.

On Romsey Road in West Wellow three drivers received fixed penalty notices and points on their licences, two were referred for driver awareness training and two received a warning. If you travel past these locations you will see the yellow notices we have put up showing the results for all to see.

We will be carrying out regular speed enforcement operations at various locations. Please watch your speed and observe the speed limits, you have been warned! This will remain a priority as it has done for some time.

### YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

There have been 15 burglaries reported in July and August in the rural area; six in residential properties and nine in other locations.

We have dealt with one incident of arson, after 150 bails of hay were set alight in Lee, and there have been reports of windows being smashed at properties in some of the rural villages.

Fencing has been cut at several rural locations, and reports of theft include a John Deere ride on mower, cable, lead flashing, a large number of partridges, bronze statues, a generator, logs and timber all being stolen.

Travellers were in the area for a period of time at Critchells Green, Glebe Field, Premier Way and Foxes Lane, but have now moved on. Fly-tipping is still an issue, so please report if you see this happening, take the registration of the vehicle if possible and let us know.

### JUSTICE SEEN, JUSTICE DONE

Arrests for assaults were made in Braishfield, West Dean and Lockerley, and assault reports in Sherfield English and Lee resulted in charges.

Two men were arrested and charged in connection with the theft of trout, and three men were arrested after a burglary in East Wellow. One was charged.

There were concerns from local residents about The Rockingham Arms in Canada Road, West Wellow in respect of very loud music during and after hours, also vehicles racing up and down the road. We discussed these issues with the landlord, but he has since left the Rockingham Arms. We will be speaking to the new landlord to ensure this doesn't happen again.



To report anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood issues, call 101.



In an emergency, dial 999.





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## CRIME PREVENTION

**Burglary:** Remember to close and lock all windows and doors before you leave the house, at night and when you are in the garden. Never leave a key under the mat or on a string through the letter box. Also ensure tools and ladders are kept in a secure place – burglars will happily use your own garden equipment to get in.

**Car crime:** We have noticed an increase in vehicle crime and will continue to conduct regular patrols of car parks at local beauty spots in the rural areas. Always lock your doors and close your windows, and do not leave any valuables in your vehicle; desirable items provide temptation for opportunist thieves. Don't try and hide your belongings, offenders will simply look for them. If you want to keep it, take it with you.

**Metal theft:** Some offending is opportunistic, i.e. scrap metal taken from gardens and domestic roofs, while other thefts are planned and commercial premises are targeted. If you have lead on the roof, check it regularly to make sure it hasn't been stolen. Mark your metal and other items by stamping into the metal at regular intervals with your postcode.

**Fuel theft:** We have seen a large increase in diesel thefts from both holding tanks and lorry fuel tanks in the rural area. Flow control switches should be turned off and the electricity supply isolated when the tank is not in use. Using a metal cage or grille is advisable, and close shackle padlocks offer most resistance to most burglar tools i.e. the bolt cropper! Consider security lights and CCTV, these can have a very positive effect and make any property a much harder target for thieves.

Don't forget – report anything suspicious you see to the police!

In September we carried out an operation aimed at disrupting metal thefts. Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) check points were set up on the A36 at Ower and the A27 at Sherfield English, and teams of officers visited 12 scrap metal dealers in Romsey, Southampton and the New Forest, where they discussed the issue of scrap metal thefts and advice was given on how to avoid becoming an outlet for stolen metals. During the operation three people were arrested for offences associated with metal theft, and seven road traffic offences were dealt with including two which resulted in vehicles being seized.

## FARM WATCH

The membership of our Farm Watch scheme is still growing and we are seeking new members. If you own a farm or other agricultural establishment then please contact our team to discuss the scheme.

## COME AND MEET US

The mobile police office will visit the following locations on the following days:

Tuesdays: Oct 18, Nov 15, Dec 13:

- 9am-9.30am, Wellow School
- 9.30am-10am, Wellow Stores
- 10.15am-10.45am, Sherfield English post office

Thursdays: Nov 3 and Dec 1:

- 9am-9.30am, Awbridge
- 9.45am-10.45am, Lockerley Village Hall

Fridays: Nov 4 and Dec 2:

- 9am-9.30am, Ampfield Hall
- 9.45am-10.15am, Braishfield Hall
- 10.30am-11am, Michelmersh and Timsbury Hall
- 11am-12noon, Kimbridge Farm shop

**Coming up** – On October 25 we will be working with partners for a Crime Reduction and Environment (CREW) day in Gurnays Mead, West Wellow.

Contact your Safer Neighbourhoods team by calling **101** or emailing:

[romsey.snt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:romsey.snt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)



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