

# RURAL TIMES

**PROTECTING OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES**

**HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT**



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**Andy Williams**

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**Ged Armitage**

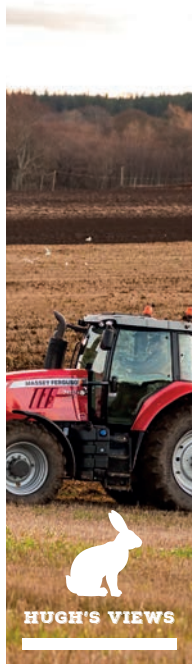
Neighbourhoods Sergeant  
Isle of Wight  
Hampshire Constabulary

## WEBSITE

**Hampshire Alert**

[www.hampshirecountrywatch.co.uk](http://www.hampshirecountrywatch.co.uk)

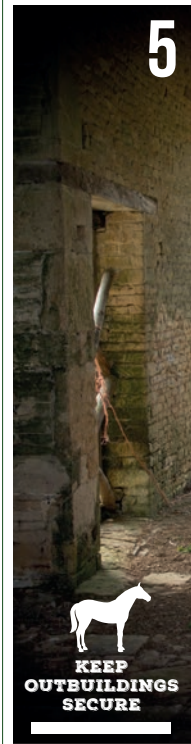
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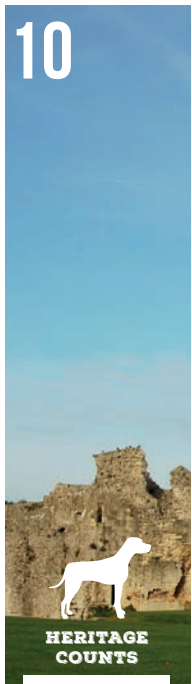
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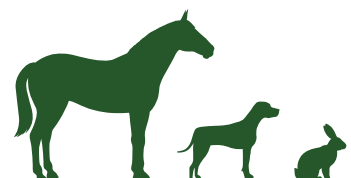
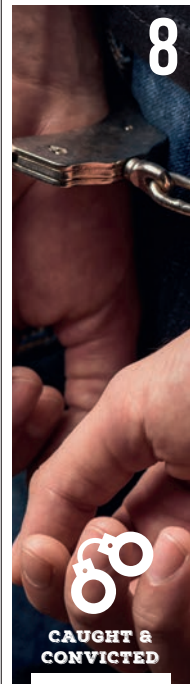


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*Deputy Chief Constable, Sara Glen  
Hampshire Constabulary  
Rural Policing Lead*

Despite the challenges in Hampshire Constabulary's funding throughout 2016, our commitment has remained to deliver on rural policing and this continues to be a focus area of activity.

I am pleased to report on some key successes over the last year. It was encouraging to see that the overall victim satisfaction rate in rural areas from November 2015 to October 2016 was just above 80 per cent. We also saw a reduction in rural dwelling burglaries by 11.3 per cent over the same period. We can show that this is attributable to improved security and reduced vulnerability in repeat locations and focusing on offenders

# COMMITMENT TO RURAL POLICING STAYS STRONG

and organised criminals who target rural areas. While we will always aim to improve further, I'm pleased to report this progress to you.

I was delighted to welcome our new Police and Crime Commissioner, Michael Lane, to the Rural Crime Partnership Meeting just before Christmas. By taking time out of his busy schedule to speak at the meeting, he too showed his commitment to our efforts to ensure a safer environment for those living in rural parts of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Michael was very interested in hearing our partners' views and is keen for this dialogue to continue. You will read in this edition about his Rural Communities Matter conferences in February. These provide the ideal opportunity to put

across your views on the issues that matter to you and I encourage you to attend.

This edition sees a very interesting article about Heritage Counts, a report by Historic England with a strong focus on heritage crime. You can read about our new Country Watch Sergeant, as well as hearing more about his team's recent successes under Operation Falcon.

We've also set out a range of tips on preventing thefts from outbuildings. I hope you will find this edition informative and helpful.



*Michael Lane  
Police and Crime Commissioner*

## *You, your family and your community safer*

My first and overarching concern as your Police and Crime Commissioner is to stand up for every resident: being visible, accessible and accountable to the people I represent, ensuring their concerns are shared and are addressed.

As such it is really important to me that I understand the needs of all the communities I represent.

I have a strong background in marine and urban, and I have, since taking up post and during my campaign, increased my knowledge of our rural communities, agriculture, livestock, the rural economy and the particular policing and crime issues that impact rural communities. I want to continue that learning, and within this edition of Rural Times are details of my Rural Communities Matter conferences that are being held in February (see page 6).

A key part of my role as your Police and Crime Commissioner is to set the strategy for policing and crime and disorder reduction. My Police and

Crime Plan for 2017-2021 is based upon your views, priorities and concerns, recognition of the specific needs of all the communities in the Constabulary policing area, an understanding of the current and future demands on operational policing, and the budget available. From all I have heard one thing is clear - safety matters to everyone. My vision is that Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton are amongst the safest places to live, work and visit and that people are empowered to realise their life opportunities.

You can find out more about my Police and Crime Plan: A Plan to Keep Us Safer on my website [www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/plan](http://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/plan)



*Hugh Oliver-Bellasis is chair of the Strategic Independent Advisory Group (SIAG) and acts as a critical friend to the force.*

# HUGH'S VIEWS

Since I last wrote I have had unwelcome visitors to my garden store - all the attractive items taken, luckily the tractor could not be moved. I thought I had everything secure - hand items chained and fixed to the wall with six inch bolts, good padlocks and a good door. Silly boy, how wrong I was. The police visited and found some useful evidence. In a separate operation, some of my kit was recovered. However no connection could be made between the evidence and people.

## So what?

Answer - take security seriously, use the best chains and locks [eg Sold Secure], security marking products, data tags, PIR cameras or at worst post codes on all items. Check your doors cannot be prised open - if you do not, your risk is having the inconvenience and hassle of theft. See opposite for further advice from Sarah Cohen, Hampshire Constabulary's rural crime prevention expert, or contact her on **sarah.cohen@hampshire.pnn.police.uk**

The Firearms Licensing Department has undergone massive change to deliver a really effective service to us all. The Police and Crime Commissioner Michael

Lane has supported this initiative by funding extra personnel. Renewals are now real time and applications are improving fast. The Achilles heel is variations and transfers. The issue is getting paper transferred to digital.

## Question: What can we do to help?

Answer - communicate by email, attaching forms where possible (eg transfer of guns, change of address, deer and vermin), unless it is an application to grant or renew where a wet signature and photos are required. Email: **firearms.licensing@hampshire.pnn.police.uk**

Please be patient. If you encounter a problem email the Department - they want to hear and Mr Tony Hill and his staff are eager to succeed. Make sure you apply on time and you can now pay online - when paying the fee, give them your email address and ask to use World Pay. Tell your friends things 'are a changing' and support the Department's efforts.



**Take security seriously**



# KEEPING YOUR OUTBUILDINGS SECURE



Thieves and burglars look for opportunities where there is little risk to them whilst committing a crime; this is why outbuildings are so desirable. They are often isolated, hidden from view and can be easy to break in to.

In rural areas, criminals will often try to 'recce' an area before returning later to commit the crime. They will test the area by seeing who is around, what the challenges are, and if they set off any alarms. They may ask if you have anything to sell or engage in conversation about the area.

If you encounter people you are not sure of, make a note of their appearance and any vehicle they are using, and report it to police on 101. Ensure your security is tight and tell all your staff who you have seen and why you are suspicious. Encourage your staff to do the same.

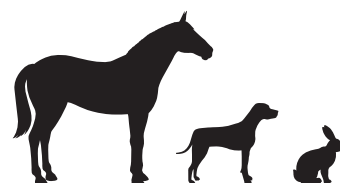
Liaise with local neighbours (even if they are miles away) to warn them.

If you have CCTV, will it alert you to someone on the premises or is it recording only? Are the gates able to be securely shut and padlocked? If you have items stored in outbuildings are they secured to an anchor point with a heavy chain? Consider steering locks on all-terrain vehicles or wheel clamps. Park heavy machinery by exit points so that thieves cannot drive off with any items. Advertise that you have CCTV, alarms, warning systems, trackers and forensic marking solutions. Cut back overgrown hedges and trees so that it increases your line of sight, and keep boundaries and fences in good repair. Pea shingle around outbuildings will crunch heavily under foot or by vehicle. Don't leave padlocks on gates during the day once they have been opened, take

them with you until it is time to lock up again.

Alarms can be installed in sheds and buildings that don't cost a lot of money and can alert you by phone or text if someone has entered the property. Visit the National Security Inspectorate website to find a list of approved alarm and CCTV suppliers, and visit Sold Secure for the most rigorously tested security products.

*Sarah Cohen*  
*Crime Prevention Advisor*  
*Hampshire Constabulary*





# YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR VIEWS HEARD

*From Michael Lane, Police and Crime Commissioner:*

A very significant area of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight is rural, and there has historically been an inequality in the number of rural crimes that are prevented and solved compared to those in urban areas. I know that victims of crime in rural areas often feel let down by the police.

During February 2017, I am holding five Rural Communities Matter conferences, across the Constabulary area.

The aim is to give those who live and work in rural communities the opportunity to give their views on rural crime and to help set future rural priorities. These will eventually form part of a new Rural Crime Strategy for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

We are reaching out to the communities that live and work in rural areas, to make sure they have the chance to be heard. To attend one of my five Rural Communities Matter conferences, book a free ticket on EventBrite. (See opposite for details)

I am holding conferences in:

- **Sparsholt, near Winchester, on 10 February**
- **Minstead, New Forest, on 11 February**
- **Newport, Isle of Wight, on 15 February**
- **Netley, near Southampton, on 17 February**
- **Whitchurch, near Andover, on 23 February**

Tickets are limited, so please book soon if you would like to attend.

# RURAL COMMUNITIES MATTER

## February 2017 conferences

Free to attend - Book online now  
[www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/events](http://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/events)

### Venues and dates

Friday 10 Feb - Sparsholt College

Saturday 11 Feb - New Forest  
Outdoor Centre

Wednesday 15 Feb - Riverside  
Centre, Newport

Friday 17 Feb - Netley Police HQ

Thursday 23 Feb - Gill Nethercott  
Centre, Whitchurch

9.30am - 4pm at all venues

For further information please email  
[opcc.comms@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:opcc.comms@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)





# CAUGHT AND CONVICTED

Two Salisbury boys were given Community Resolutions in September for causing damage to partridge pens and for killing pheasants near Stockbridge.

During rural operations in September, three vehicles were seized for having no insurance.

The owner of a business in Alton was fined in September for the damage and destruction of the breeding site of great crested newts, including the draining of a lake (see below) containing the protected species. He was fined a total of £1,165, with £85 costs and £117 victim surcharge. Work on any site containing a protected species would need to be carried out in accordance with a licence from Natural England.

Country Watch officer PC Lynn Owen said: *"This case sends out a strong message that we will take action against anyone contravening wildlife regulations. These safeguards are in place to protect specific species and it is crucial that land owners and businesses check the regulations before carrying out any work."*



A horse that had been fly grazed – left on private land without permission – near Hook was rehoused by a charity in Norfolk in October.

A Portsmouth man was convicted in October over his involvement in the buying and selling of elephant ivory (see below) on Ebay without the necessary licence. He received a six month prison sentence suspended for two years, 150 hours unpaid work and had to pay £165 costs.



While on a patrol during a rural crime operation in December, Country Watch officers stopped a female driver in Tadley and found her to be over the legal alcohol limit. She received a 24 month disqualification, a community order and £170 in fines.

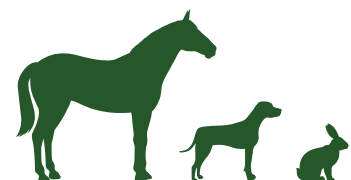
# RURAL ROUND-UP

Operation Claxon took place in the Test Valley and Basingstoke areas during November and December. This aimed to use innovative technology to keep one step ahead of the criminals responsible for stealing vehicles, plant and trailers in rural areas. Two separate arrests were made following the theft of trailers.

Two men were arrested after a container was broken into at an adventure park near Headley in November. Our colleagues in Thames Valley Police made the arrests across the county border.

We issued an appeal in November after two lambs were killed by a dog at Weston Corbett near Basingstoke. We also used this as a reminder to all owners to keep their animal on a lead when near any fields containing livestock.

Officers were called to the A33 near Popham on Christmas Day after reports of a horse loose on the road. They spent time ensuring the safety of road users and the animal, which eventually found its way to safety.



# HERITAGE COUNTS



**Historic England remains committed to working with partners and the community to prevent and tackle crime and anti-social behaviour within the rural environment.**

As part of this commitment, Historic England recently published Heritage Counts. This is the annual audit of England's heritage and is produced by Historic England on behalf of the Historic Environment Forum.

The Historic Environment Forum is the high level cross-sectoral committee for England, bringing together chief executives and policy officers from public and non-government heritage bodies to co-ordinate initiatives and strengthen advocacy work and communications.

**The key findings correlated to crime and community safety are:**

- Heritage plays an important part in our well-being and quality of life – 93 per cent of residents say that local heritage has an impact on their personal quality of life.
- Heritage improves places – 80 per cent of people think local heritage makes their area a better place to live.

Heritage crime is specifically highlighted within the report. Efforts to reduce heritage crime continued this year

and saw the successful prosecution of seven men for criminal damage of the Grade II listed Clophill Church, Bedfordshire, a church which has been a frequent target of heritage crime. Historic England worked closely with Bedfordshire Police, the Crown Prosecution Service and the local charitable trust, which restored the church, to bring the offenders to justice.

Building on this success, other initiatives have been launched in order to continue the fight against heritage crime. Notable 2016 initiatives included the identification of a Heritage Crime Liaison Officer within each police service in England. This network of specialist officers, police staff and support volunteers will help to provide an effective and efficient response to criminal activity within the historic environment and is supported by the publication of the *'Heritage and Cultural Property Crime Guide'*.

In February, the Sentencing Council published new sentencing guidelines for theft offences which now include the theft, handling and disposal of stolen heritage assets. Courts will now be able to take account of the special nature of heritage and cultural property when sentencing offenders. In the same month, the Sentencing Council also announced new theft guidelines that include, for the first time, theft of historic objects and the loss of the nation's heritage. In addition, several partnership campaigns were launched to target specific heritage crime threats. In



particular, Operation Chronos to tackle unlawful metal detecting and Operation Crucible to tackle the theft of metal from protected historic sites and buildings. Other work has focused on engagement and awareness opportunities within English towns and parishes, including the development of *'Heritage Watch'* schemes, and an awareness programme with the Society of Local Council Clerks.

There is ongoing work with the National Police Chiefs' Council Lead for Heritage and Cultural Property Crime and Police and Crime Commissioners through the National Rural Crime Network.

#### **Further findings from Heritage Counts:**

- Heritage engages young people – almost two million children visited a historic property as part of a school trip. Heritage is viewed positively by the general public – nearly all adults (95 per cent) agree or strongly agree that it is important to them that heritage buildings and places are well looked after.
- Heritage participation is becoming more inclusive. Participation in heritage is rising fastest among adults from lower socio-economic groups and Black and Minority Ethnic groups.
- Historic sites are attracting more visitors and membership of heritage organisations is increasing sharply.
- Heritage is being used to help shape both national and local identity in 'place branding' – heritage is a source of identity; a source of character and distinctiveness; and an important driver of competitiveness and place.

#### **You can view the full set of products on the Heritage Counts website:**

- Heritage Counts 2016 Research - Heritage and Place branding
- Annual update on the heritage sector
- Heritage Indicators
- Local Authority Profiles
- Heritage and Society 2016
- Heritage and the Economy 2016

Highly recommended reading, here is the link:

**<https://historicengland.org.uk/research/heritage-counts/>**



Historic England

# MEET THE COUNTRY WATCH TEAM

The Country Watch team specialises in dealing with rural issues and wildlife crime. They work closely with key partner agencies and build up contacts in rural communities. We're here to help tackle the issues that are important to you.



The Country Watch team is led by **Inspector Lou Hubble** (07554 775620) who is the strategic lead for rural policing covering Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.



**Sergeant Ged Armitage** (07387 096611) has responsibility for managing Country Watch on the Isle of Wight.



**Sergeant Andy Williams** (07392 314299) oversees the day to day running of the team on the mainland and is based in Lyndhurst.

Sergeant Andy Williams is new to Country Watch but is very familiar with rural issues. He has lived in the New Forest all his life and has worked in Lymington and Lyndhurst for the past four years. With many years' experience in our Response and Patrol teams, Andy is enjoying developing his knowledge of wildlife crime, invasive plant species, endangered animal products and many other specialist areas.

Andy has been out on patrol with officers across the county, even gaining his first initiation into rural policing by slipping down a bank and muddying his trousers! Taking the resulting banter in good heart, Andy said: *"It's been great getting to know my new team. There's a blend of recent Country Watch recruits and officers with many years' experience of rural crime. We're already working together to build relationships and work proactively to support our rural communities."*

## The Country Watch teams will take investigative responsibility for the following types of investigations:

- Hunting
- Shooting
- Fishing
- Crime/incidents involving farm animals
- Dogs worrying livestock
- Heritage crime
- Protected land and habitats
- Plants and trees
- Plant machinery theft

## UK wildlife crime priorities:

- Bat persecution
- Badger persecution
- Bird of prey persecution
- Illegal trade in endangered species
- Poaching

The team regularly conducts proactive operations tackling organised rural criminality, gathering intelligence and disrupting the activities of those causing most harm in our rural areas.

# COUNTRY WATCH

## meet the team

Contact numbers and locations for our Country Watch officers are shown below, should you need to contact them about your concerns and issues. Please note that these phone numbers should not be used to report crimes. You should call 101 if you think an offence has been or is about to be committed, or call 999 in an emergency. Although our officers are based in the locations stated, they have a countywide responsibility and can help you with any issue.



**PC Steve Rogerson**  
07554 775468

Andover



**PC Vince Lane**  
07967 054872

Tadley



**PC Will Butcher**  
07775 542982

Alresford



**PC Lynn Owen**  
07901 102344

Lyndhurst



**PC Corinne Irving**  
07554 775389

Yarmouth



**PC Scott Graham**  
07554 775488



**PC Tim Campamy**  
07901 102393



**PC Lee Skinner**  
07901 102401



cut out and keep





# OP FALCON

Operation Falcon was launched in 2015 as part of our commitment to tackling rural crime and criminality. Each month a different force-wide operation focuses on a theme based on research analysis identifying crime trends. The overriding aims are to create hostile environments for criminals, reduce crime and increase public confidence in rural policing.

In October and November, we seized 21 vehicles for various motoring offences using the Operation Falcon Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) vehicle.

In November we ran Operation Bothersome on the borders of Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire. This operation involved Country Watch, Neighbourhoods and Specials officers working with land owners and gamekeepers. One man was stopped with dogs on Whitsbury Gallops, as were several vehicles, but no offences were identified. Feedback was excellent and there are plans for Hampshire to lead further cross border operations.

Also in November, we targeted poaching in Corhampton and Odiham and carried out an operation across north Hampshire to combat rural burglaries.

Country Watch and Neighbourhoods officers targeted poaching in Meon Valley in December. We visited a number of estates and gamekeepers and our community engagement was well received.

A drink driver was arrested in December after being seen driving erratically in a remote location near Andover.

Another operation in December saw us assisting New Milton, Ringwood and Dorset officers along Avon Valley to target dwelling and non-dwelling burglaries.

Country Watch officers have been involved in Operation Tornado, a nationwide response targeting metal thefts linked to unlicensed waste metal carriers and scrap yards. This includes an investigation in Southampton City Centre where vehicles are suspected of being dismantled without a licence.

Operation Koeman, which aims to reduce thefts from vehicles at New Forest beauty spots, has continued. From October 1 to December 10, there were 20 incidents in the New Forest -10 fewer than the same period last year. Officers regularly patrol car parks to check insecure vehicles, prevent crime and hand out leaflets to visitors.

In January at Bisterne Estate, Ringwood, we carried out a search of two vehicles and four people under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. They were found on private land with a lurcher and were suspected of poaching.

These operations are intelligence led and we rely on information from our rural communities. If you have any information about any suspicious activity in your area, please call us on 101.

You can also complete an online form - <http://www.hampshire.police.uk/internet/do-it-online/online-forms/request-call-back.html> - to request a call back or you can email [postmaster@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:postmaster@hampshire.pnn.police.uk) with details of the incident.



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