RURAL TIMES

PROTECTING OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES

HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT

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HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY

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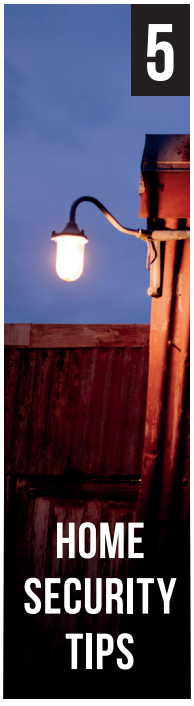
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WEBSITE

Hampshire Alert
www.hampshirecountrywatch.co.uk

FRONT COVER

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Assistant Chief Constable, Scott Chilton
Hampshire Constabulary, Rural Policing Lead

WELCOME TO THE LATEST ISSUE OF RURAL TIMES

Hampshire and the Isle of Wight host some great country shows and I was delighted to be able to attend the New Forest Show this summer.

The force's cadets warmly greeted me and I understand they were a key part in making sure the show's visitors were kept safe and well during a very hot few days. The Country Watch team and I value our time at this and the other shows; it gives us a great opportunity to interact, advise and listen to the voices of our rural communities.

In July, I attended the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) Rural Affairs Summit in Harrogate. This saw the official launch of the NPCC's Rural Affairs and Wildlife Crime strategies (see page 6). Both strategies provide a platform to develop a nationwide co-ordinated response to tackling crimes that impact our rural communities and endanger our wildlife.

The summit coincided with the release of the National Rural Crime Network survey results. A series of headline statements were published and I recognised that many of them are common themes in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The survey highlights that there is an increased feeling of frustration and vulnerability and states that many offences in rural areas go unreported. As members of rural households and businesses, I strongly urge you to report every crime to the police. Only then can we gather information to analyse crime hotspots and tackle the organised gangs that target isolated properties. I am confident that Hampshire Constabulary's work will supplement the NPCC's strategies and meet the needs of our rural communities.

We frequently look at ways the public can assist policing in tackling local challenges, whether this is through prevention activity, enforcement or intelligence. In this edition of Rural Times, Inspector Korine Bishop discusses the force's approach to active citizenship and how you can get involved (pages 12-13).

As we move into the winter months and the poaching season, I would like to remind you all to stay vigilant and report suspicious activity by calling 101, using our online reporting service or in an emergency dialling 999.



Michael Lane
Police and Crime Commissioner

SAFER RURAL COMMUNITIES

My objective remains to keep everyone SAFER. I'm looking at ways to better support the constabulary's rural teams.

This year I have invested some £2.5m in strategic services, for example the Victim Care Service, support to victims of domestic abuse, victims of sexual crime, and specialist support workers. These vital services reach out to protect victims and the vulnerable wherever they are in our area.

I continue to listen to the rural communities I serve, seeking to ensure services are available and include tuned support and responses to maximise help offered. The dedicated Country Watch team are an absolute priority for me to ensure there is always a specialist response and skills available that understand the rural policing context.

In my commissioning work, my team and I are seeking new ways to ensure that services are known and can be accessed in the event of crisis. Recently, I have updated advice and safety guidance to protect against cybercrime, scams and hate crime. Risk in all these areas can be reduced by often simple measures, quickly implemented. See: **www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/scamnesty** and visit **www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/crime-prevention** for advice and downloads.

I know fly-tipping is a concern and I met with County Councillor Rob Humby and the new fly-tipping partnership project officer to ensure effective partnerships exist to jointly tackle this issue (**www.hants.gov.uk/fly-tipping**), which I understand is already having an impact. Recently, the leader of New Forest District Council and I met to agree a relocation of Lymington's local policing team that will enhance the visible, accessible service alongside the council, as well as modernising the work space for our busy police.

Again this year, I was pleased to speak directly with members of the rural communities at key events on the Island, in the New Forest and across the county. It was good to hear concerns and seek views on pressing priorities: I will keep listening and keep working to keep us SAFER.



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

HUGH'S VIEWS

It is always good to be able to herald success and then to congratulate; in this case Hampshire's Firearms Licensing Department.

Five years ago there was significant external criticism about the department. The then deputy chief constable decided it was in need of attention. Today the department is probably as efficient as any in the country. That change has not happened without huge effort and a willingness to admit failure – never palatable!

The new process is risk-based, focused, fast and it delivers. The team are happy to discuss issues with certificate holders. They believe that discussion clarifies matters and builds confidence. The principle on which they are working is that it is possible to have a green light system which denotes low risk. Green lights pass through the system with essentials checked. Eventually that will leave maybe 20 per cent which will demand significantly more specific checks and it has encouraged a more focused approach.

It is unfortunate that other forces across the country have not taken such an enlightened view, because it is not difficult – it requires discipline and courage to implement a risk-based system.

Well done to the team – it makes a huge difference to the end users requiring shotgun and firearms certificates, purchasing, selling or changing address.

We are moving to the time of year when crops are harvested and the fields are passable to intruders with longdogs or with nefarious intent. Please make sure you and your teams have checklists containing the following:

1. Report a crime online via **www.hampshire.police.uk** (see page 13)

2. Mobile number of your Country Watch officer

3. Mobile number of your local Neighbourhoods Inspector

4. Mobile number of your local PCSO

5. Engage with your District Commander

6. Do not relax your own security – be suspicious

7. Make sure that anything curious is reported – it may be the missing link

8. One third of all rural burglaries go unreported – please help the force and report all incidents

Finally, if you get the chance to congratulate the Firearms team, please do – they deserve it.



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HOME SECURITY TIPS

Insurance industry trends show an increase in burglaries and thefts as we head into autumn and the evenings get darker earlier. This article sets out a range of crime prevention measures we encourage you to take.

Statistics show that, on average, household burglaries rise by five per cent in the week the clocks go back, and October and Halloween see malicious damage rise by 160 per cent. As roads get darker and icier, road collisions rise by 30 per cent in the week Summer Time ends.

Claims for burglaries peak in November. Bonfire Night is the worst time of the year for burglaries and car thefts as families are enjoying the celebrations. Conversely, Christmas Day and Boxing Day are the two days you are least likely to be burgled.

Darker evenings can make it easier for burglars to see who is at home. Properties in rural areas tend to be more vulnerable because of their more isolated location. Here are some simple tips to increase your home security:

- Use timer switches (available from most DIY stores) to switch on lights, radios and television while you are away from the home to make it look and sound occupied.
- Ensure you shut and lock windows and doors when you return home and settle down for the evening.
- Ensure you use padlocks on side gates to deny access to the rear of the property.
- Check your outside lighting is in working order (consider low level ambient light on a dusk to dawn sensor – this will activate even when you are not at home).
- Secure your garden tools and equipment in a locked and alarmed shed or garage for the winter so that they cannot be used to gain entry to your home. Shed alarms are not expensive and are very easy to install.
- Mark your belongings with your house number and postcode, keep a list of any makes, models and serial numbers. Take photos of jewellery. Register your items for free at **www.immobilise.com**. Using this service will help the police in returning property to the rightful owner should it be stolen.
- This is a good time to address your security – fit extra door and window locks. If you are feeling vulnerable or are elderly, ask for a free home safety and security assessment by the Bobby Trust or call **0300 777 0157** for an appointment. A Bobby fitter will then be able to fit extra locks on your doors and windows free of charge.
- Walk around your house and look in through the windows to see what a thief would see – is there anything of value that could motivate them to break in? Can you put these items somewhere else where they won't be seen?

RURAL POLICING SUMMIT SEES LAUNCH OF TWO NATIONAL STRATEGIES

Assistant Chief Constable Scott Chilton, Strategic Rural Policing Inspector Korine Bishop and Country Watch Sergeant Andy Williams attended the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) Rural Policing Summit in Harrogate, North Yorkshire in July.

There were 41 forces in attendance and many of our rural partners, such as the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), National Farmers Union (NFU) and National Rural Crime Network (NRCN), contributed with presentations on pressing rural issues.

The event was well timed and saw the launch of the two new national rural affairs and wildlife crime strategies and it also coincided with the release of the NRCN survey results.

Wildlife Crime and Rural Affairs Strategies

These are two separate strategies, but they do share some common themes and objectives. The strategies hope to achieve common strategic aims through partnership, passion and expertise.

There have been 11 national priorities identified. The graphic below shows the five priorities for rural affairs (in blue) and the five priorities for wildlife crime (yellow), with both strategies sharing poaching.

Each priority has a national working delivery group. At the Summit, national leads presented on areas of focus, plans and next steps.

Hampshire Constabulary is involved with each national group but we have strong involvement in the national fly-tipping group and the farm machinery and plant theft group. These groups explore best practice and share key learning.

Wildlife Crime and Rural Affairs Delivery Groups



© North Yorkshire Police

The strategies can be found here:

www.npcc.police.uk/FreedomofInformation/Reportsreviewsandresponsestoconsultations.aspx

Deputy Chief Constable Craig Naylor from Lincolnshire Police, the National Police Chiefs' Council Lead for Wildlife Crime and Rural Affairs, said: *"Crime in rural communities can have devastating consequences for residents and businesses alike. We know some rural communities have lost confidence in the police and we need to correct that.*

"So this summer saw the launch of the first ever UK wide Wildlife Crime Policing Strategy and the Rural Affairs Strategy. These strategies aim to safeguard wildlife and strengthen safe and prosperous rural communities. This can be achieved by stronger partnership working, listening and engaging more effectively with the public and embedding a wildlife and rural focus into policing culture.

"But we can't do this alone. We need the public and our partners to work with us to improve the quality of life of our rural communities and safeguard our wildlife.

I see Inspector Korine Bishop and her team doing exactly this, working closely with the public and partners both locally in Hampshire but also engaging nationally on specific rural and wildlife crime matters, working tirelessly to serve the public.

"Modern day policing means we can't be everywhere all of the time, so we rely on the rural communities to be our eyes and ears. So I would encourage the public to talk to the police, tell us what's happening in your communities and report suspicious incidents to the police.

"You can also now report anonymously using the recently launched NFU and Crimestoppers 'Rural Crime Reporting Line' by calling 0800 783 0137 or visiting ***www.ruralcrimereportingline.uk.****"*



Worst affected counties by cost	Cost in 2016	Cost in 2017	% Change
Hampshire	£707,224	£1,052,581	£48.8%

NRCN: Key findings (2015-2018)

NRCN presented their key findings, with many of the results shared being common themes across Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and the south east region.

- The perception of policing was lower since the last survey in 2015.
- Common concerns are fly-tipping, speeding and burglary.
- Common emotions: anger, frustration, loss of confidence and vulnerability.
- Rural communities are more worried about crime than they were in 2015.
- There has been an increase in under reporting.
- There is an increased feeling of being targeted.
- 70 per cent of the victims surveyed were farmers – crime has a greater impact (financial and emotional) on farmers.

NFU Report

The NFU published the results of its report 'Taking the fight forward' on 6 August. The report concluded that there has been a national increase in crime across our UK rural communities. Unfortunately Hampshire appears to be one of the counties that has been affected by the increase in crime, according to cost.

Although these figures show an increase of £345,000 from the previous year, this could equate to only a small proportion of crimes with high value items being stolen.

The Country Watch team has identified the problem areas and is working hard on solutions which include regional and national work around this issue.

Operation Rebate, which targets non-dwelling burglaries in the north of the county, has a number of warrants and operations in place. This operation is being run jointly with local neighbourhood policing teams.

Operation Wolf (see page 10), which is a joint operation with councils, the Environment Agency, HM Revenue and Customs and other agencies, focuses on illegal waste carrying and aims to target fly-tippers. These operations are being carried out around the county every month and have seen some great results.

Inspector Bishop is also looking at how we can use modern technology to increase our intelligence picture through partnership working, active citizenship and cross-border working. This includes securing funding for thermal imaging and drones to target rural offenders.

Finally, the constabulary has done a lot of work to encourage our rural communities to report incidents to the police. Inspector Bishop has been working to update our rural internet pages.

Our new website was launched recently and members of the public are now able to report crimes and provide intelligence online (see page 13). We are hopeful that this will increase our intelligence picture across Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and the south east region.



COUNTRY WATCH

Meet the team

This year has seen a few new faces join the Country Watch team. We thought you would like to know a bit about them and some of their longer standing colleagues.



Sergeant Andy Williams

I grew up in a very rural environment yet spent nearly 20 years policing inner city Southampton. I loved the buzz of the city and dealing with everything it threw at you, but revelled in the fact I could disappear out to my rural retreat when I finished a shift.

A few years ago, I joined Response and Patrol out in the New Forest and then the ideal opportunity arose to apply for a Country Watch role.

What a culture shock it was – after a few months I had dealt with jobs I had never even heard of. I learnt new Acts of Parliaments, discovered you couldn't dig a pond without permission if it had great crested newts in it and you were in real trouble if you touched or did anything to a badger or its sett!

I have met some passionate people: passionate about rural communities and traditions, passionate about where they live and wanting to keep it the way it is.

I am lucky – my role enables me to offer a service to our rural communities in both counties who often feel remote and cut off.

The team has a real chance of making a difference to their lives and, by concentrating resources appropriately, we can hopefully bring some reassurance to our rural communities.



PC Tim Campany

I have been in the police for just over 16 years. I started doing normal police work and then moved into the public order side. I was moved to Yarmouth which automatically meant I became a hunt liaison officer as part of that beat.

From there I grew more and more interested in wildlife crime and have attended a course to deepen my knowledge. It's a very wide topic and there are many grey areas, so I'm always learning. I have dealt with many different aspects of wildlife crime, the most common being when developers have not adhered to the advice and instructions given in planning applications.

On my days off, I spend most of my time wandering or running through the fields and forests of the Isle of Wight. I am lucky enough to live in one of the most beautiful parts of the UK and I'm going to do my best to keep it that way.



PC Scott Graham

As a wildlife crime officer since 2009, I was instrumental in the development and creation of the Country Watch branding. Following its launch, I was strongly involved with inter-agency policies and procedures to improve engagement, enforcement and education between the police and our many partners. I've had the pleasure of undertaking national training courses, including National Wildlife Crime and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

I enjoy investigating habitat offences involving protected species and have an extensive knowledge of most wildlife and rural crime acts. For the past eight years I've been working the New Forest district, but have this year moved to Bishop's Waltham to cover East Hampshire for all wildlife and rural crime.



PC Lynn Owen

I now have 21 years' service with Hampshire Constabulary, the majority of which was working as a rural beat officer in the Winchester and Alresford areas.

I have been on Country Watch for more than eight years and I really enjoy the role.

I bring a wide range of experience to my role and I love the variety of jobs we deal with. I particularly enjoy working with partners to tackle the different types of wildlife crime we face.

I am based at Alresford and know the area extremely well through my previous role. I am proud to be one of the longest serving members of the Country Watch team.



PCSO Justin Keefe

I am currently working from Yarmouth, having been with Hampshire Constabulary since 2007. I briefly worked at Southsea police station until I was able to return to the Isle of Wight, where I live.

The majority of my neighbourhood is very rural with some tranquil areas of outstanding natural beauty. Since the launch of the Country Watch scheme, we have now over 500 members around the Island.

I have a dual role combining my duties as part of a neighbourhood team and as a Country Watch officer. I visit many local landowners, farmers and rural businesses, liaising with them to gather information and to offer crime prevention advice.



PC Matt Thelwell

I enjoy being able to manage my own area and proactively target the various crimes affecting local rural communities. I am able to spend time on developing relationships with land owners and farmers, as well as working closely with partner agencies.

I have a variety of skills gained through previous roles in the police, such as advanced driving, counter terrorist search, water search and rescue and chemical-biological-radiological-nuclear. I am able to plan and execute small and large scale police operations. More importantly I like to think I am keen, enthusiastic and able to communicate effectively and work well with others.

I am quite new to Country Watch and my most interesting job so far involved working with the RSPCA. Following the successful execution of warrants, two men have been sentenced for animal welfare offences (see page 15).



Police Staff Investigator (PSI) Anna Presswell

I joined the Country Watch team at the beginning of 2018 with five years of investigation experience, primarily working in a custody setting interviewing suspects.

Having lived in a rural area for the majority of my life, I was aware of some of the issues faced by those in the countryside. I have enjoyed the learning curve of understanding the intricacies of investigating rural and wildlife crime. My particular interests lie in poaching and wildlife offences, and in victim engagement.

I recently attended an area in relation to badger baiting and was able to explore the sett and spend time with the landowners, who were deeply passionate about wildlife.

I very much enjoy having the opportunity to spend more time with the victims of crime than in previous roles and feel the Country Watch role is deeply victim-focused, something I feel passionate about.



PSI Melody Manning

I joined Country Watch in July and am the team's newest PSI. I was previously the crime prevention officer covering Test Valley. I want to continue empowering people, so that they can take crime prevention action themselves and make the possibility of becoming a victim less likely. I commissioned the 'Paint it Pink' leaflet. This gives advice on deterring thieves by etching your postcode on your batteries and painting them pink. Batteries are stolen for their lead content and sold to scrap metal merchants. Painting them pink deters theft as scrap metal merchants are now working with the police to reject and report when a pink battery is offered to them.



PSI Hannah Levy

I have worked for Hampshire Constabulary since 2011. The first two years I spent in the Force Enquiry Centre, speaking directly with members of the public. I was often the first and only contact people had with the police and I really started to understand the impact that crime was having on the victims.

In 2013, I moved roles and became a PSI. I have had the opportunity to work in a number of departments, which has enabled me to gain skills in investigating a variety of crime types. I am looking forward to using this experience in the Country Watch team.



VEHICLE STOPS TO COMBAT RURAL CRIMES

Our Country Watch team has carried out a series of multi-agency vehicle stops aimed at detecting a range of offences in rural parts of Hampshire.

Operation Wolf road stops took place on the A337 near Brockenhurst on 17 April, the A30 at Blackbushe on 10 May and the A32 south of Alton on 7 June. During these operations, we worked alongside:

- Hampshire County Council
- Local authority enforcement officers from New Forest, East Hampshire and Hart district councils
- HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC)
- Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency
- National Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service
- Environment Agency
- BT Openreach

Over the three days, more than 400 commercial vehicles were stopped and initially inspected for general roadworthiness. Waste carrier licences were checked with a view to targeting suspected fly-tipping and vehicles were tested for the use of red diesel.

One detection of red diesel from a flatbed lorry was made by HMRC on 17 April and overall four fixed penalty notices were issued by police for expired MOTs. A number of other vehicle defects were picked up, with advisory notices issued.

In addition, one man was arrested on 17 April for possession of cannabis. Sergeant Andrew Williams from Country Watch said: *"These multi-agency operations play a key part in our efforts to tackle a range of rural crimes.*

"I am grateful to our many partners for their involvement in these and future activities.

"We will continue to work together across rural parts of Hampshire to tackle all types of criminality."

Fly-tipping

Hampshire County Council now has a web page giving a range of information about fly-tipping: **www.hants.gov.uk/fly-tipping**.

This includes information about waste carrier licences, advice to businesses and details about the 26 household waste recycling centres in Hampshire.








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WORKING WITH VICTIMS OF RURAL CRIME

Keeping victims at the heart of everything we do remains vital to the effective policing of our rural areas across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. We've worked with diligence to maintain a dedicated focus on preventing and solving the types of crimes that can have the biggest impact on all of us who live in the countryside.

This approach can only be maintained with the continued confidence of anyone who comes into contact with us because policing is required in rural locations. We're committed to measuring the satisfaction of victims in all of the cities, towns, villages and communities we serve.

Our values in the Code of Ethics for policing aspire to ensure we're inspiring trust and confidence from members of the public. We're acutely aware of preserving the connections between Hampshire Constabulary and our more remote areas, which can be targeted by ever more sophisticated groups of organised criminals.

Our analysis of the information you provide us pays particular attention to the experiences of victims in rural areas. Hampshire Constabulary conducts telephone surveys each month with victims of crime; this included 988 interviews with victims in rural areas over the past year (April 2017 – March 2018).

In a time of unprecedented pressure upon policing, stretching our skills to solve and confront complex changes in crime, there must be a crucial focus on the views of the victim.

Recent analysis of this data suggests 78.5 per cent of victims surveyed in rural areas are satisfied overall with their whole experience when reporting crime to us.


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Victims of hate crime in rural areas have 84.3 per cent satisfaction, burglary victims 88.2 per cent, and violent crime victims 73.6 per cent.

We want these figures to improve, but can only achieve this with your ongoing support; receiving your opinions, and understanding the reasons for those views.

Both the positive and the negative hold equal value in enhancing what we're getting right, and identifying where we could do better.

Additional information about the quality of our service in rural areas can be read on our website.

Please go to **www.hampshire.police.uk** and search for 'Force Performance Profile' or 'Rural Crime'.

Keep following us on Twitter: @HantsPolRural.



CITIZENS IN POLICING

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Hampshire Constabulary's aim and purpose in supporting citizens in policing is:

"To work with our communities to maximise activity which will contribute to protecting the public and keeping our communities safe; whilst harnessing the skills, dedication and commitment of our volunteers and active citizens."

Citizens in policing is the relationship between police forces and people who willingly give their time to volunteer in a number of capacities to support our work. It brings volunteering under one umbrella and recognises that, in the current economic and political climate, there is a need to be innovative about the contributions volunteers can make to the aims of policing and wider society.

This is particularly relevant in rural communities where people can feel isolated and vulnerable.

The national Citizens in Policing Strategy captures volunteering as providing support in four main groups:

1. Directed, trained and managed by police forces (Special Constables, Police Support Volunteers, Volunteer Police Cadets).

2. Engaged with and partially supported by police forces (examples include Neighbourhood Watch, Crimestoppers and victim and witness services).

3. Hold the police to account or assist in the design of services (examples include Independent Advisory Groups, Independent Custody Visiting Association, appropriate adults).

4. External but linked by wider social aims (examples include the third sector, private businesses, academia).

In addition to supporting and subscribing to the Citizens in Policing Strategy, Hampshire Constabulary feels it is important to consider a fifth area of volunteering. This is best described as 'Active Citizenship', which covers two types of activity not included in Groups 1-4.

Firstly it encompasses an activity that is often initiated at the request of the police to communities, empowering them to take social responsibility both for their environment and the people within it. Examples of this type of activity are: cocooning by neighbours in the case of domestic violence or burglary and Operation Makesafe. The latter enlists the help of taxi drivers and hotels to identify potentially vulnerable young people in the company of adults, where indicators suggest such young people may be the subject of child sexual exploitation.

The second type in this category is where the police do not specifically make a request of communities, but where members of the public take it upon themselves to actively address crimes giving cause for concern. In circumstances such as these Hampshire Constabulary would deal with these incidents on a case by case basis, but must always ensure any activity undertaken is within the law.

We recognise that, in these times of financial constraint, active citizenship is to be encouraged and where possible opportunities should be explored in support of the bid to improve public safety and protect our communities. The added benefits of being open and honest with our communities around these interdependencies will also assist in both maintaining and improving trust and confidence in the police.

Current overview of volunteering in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

The paid workforce in Hampshire Constabulary currently consists of 2,886 police officers and 2,292 police staff (including PCSOs), a total of 5,178.

The current workforce of Group 1 volunteers (directed, controlled and managed) within Hampshire Constabulary consists of: 337 Special Constables (including 51 in training), 177 Police Support Volunteers and 359 Volunteer Police Cadets – a total of 873 volunteers.

Volunteers therefore make up 16 per cent of our workforce.

The number of hours completed by the Special Constabulary in 2017 was 87,543, equivalent to 10,942 days or 42 full-time equivalent posts.

CITIZENS IN POLICING

HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY



Police Cadets have contributed over 20,000 volunteering hours in the community since 2014. Police Support Volunteer hours are not currently recorded.

Clearly there are many more active volunteers across Groups 2-5, but it is not possible to quantify numbers across each and every scheme or organisation.

If you are interested in volunteering please look on the Hampshire Constabulary website for current vacancies.

Country Watch volunteers

Within the Country Watch team we are supported by a number of volunteers. We have 35 humane animal dispatchers who are available 24/7 to assist with deer who have been injured on roads. There is a current waiting list for this scheme.

We have had seven equine volunteers for a number of years across Hampshire. Following our appeal in the summer edition of Rural Times, we now have seven new recruits in the New Forest. Welcome to the team!

Under the new name of Mounted Rural Patrol, all our equine volunteers will give up their time to provide a highly visible presence and reassurance to rural residents. They will also identify vulnerable locations in rural communities and feed information back to the local neighbourhood policing teams. There will be more opportunities to grow this unit over the coming months.

If you are interested is any of the above opportunities please contact Insp Korine Bishop on **korine.bishop@hampshire.pnn.police.uk.**

TRY OUR NEW ONLINE REPORTING SERVICES

Hampshire Constabulary has launched a new range of online services, enabling members of the public to report crimes and road traffic incidents via a new-look website.

www.hampshire.police.uk

The services don't replace current options, but do offer a better choice for members of the public needing to contact the police. It is intuitive and easy to do, providing a good alternative to calling 101.

The new service has been running for three months and already thousands of reports have been made.

Feedback has been extremely positive, and the technology is proven.

Detective Chief Inspector Tim Rowlandson has led the Hampshire roll out, working with the national Digital Public Contact Programme to ensure the voice of local communities is helping to shape the services.

The project has been strongly supported by Police and Crime Commissioner Michael Lane and, at a time when Hampshire Constabulary alone received 5,000 more 999 calls in July 2018 than the previous year, online services are a crucial part of helping the force to cope with this unprecedented demand.

Further developments will see an online firearms licence application process launch in mid-2019. Being able to register, pay and verify identity online is expected to improve customer service in this important area.



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RURAL ROUND-UP

REPORTS OF POACHING

We had a number of reports of fish being poached from Tufton to Whitchurch at various sections of the river in June and July.

Each time they have been either hand line fishing or using rods. In addition to carrying out patrols of sections of the river, we issued appeals to urge people to provide details of registration numbers, detailed descriptions of those involved and images/video if they could do so safely.





MAN FOUND GUILTY OF ATTEMPTING TO KILL WILD BIRDS

A Fordingbridge man was sentenced at Southampton Magistrates' Court on 16 May after being found guilty of:

- three offences of attempting to intentionally kill, injure or take a wild bird
- one offence of causing unnecessary suffering to a dog

The offences took place in Riverside Park, Fordingbridge in July 2017.

He was ordered to carry out 260 hours of unpaid work, pay £620 in court costs and pay a £85 victim surcharge.

He received a 12-month community order banning him from Riverside Park and the Avon River in Fordingbridge.

APPEAL AFTER SUSPECTED ATTACK ON LIVESTOCK ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Officers on the Isle of Wight are investigating a third suspected animal attack after a farmer found three of his sheep had died.

The discovery was made on the morning of Monday 24 September in a field off Blackgang Road in Ventnor and is thought to have happened the previous day. Twelve other sheep were also found with injuries in the same location.

Officers are carrying out enquiries to see if the incident is linked to a report where two sheep were injured in the same fields on the morning of Wednesday 12 September.

More than 20 dead sheep were found at around 7am on Wednesday 5 September in fields between the fishing lakes and the cycle track in Hale Common near Arreton.

Again this is being treated as a suspected animal attack.

Police Community Support Officer Justin Keefe said: *"Some of the sheep involved in these incidents appear to have been bitten, but it's not clear as to what animal may have caused these injuries at this stage.*

"We are trying to establish whether the two reports in the field on Blackgang Road are linked. We are not currently linking the third incident near to Arreton to those in Ventnor.

"The Country Watch team is continuing to carry out enquiries about these incidents to establish what happened. Have you seen an animal, such as a dog, running loose in either area or has your animal returned home with indications that it may have been involved?"

We would like to take this opportunity to remind dog owners that although it is not illegal to have a dog off of a lead near livestock, it is illegal not to have it under close control.

If your dog does not come back immediately when you call it, it is not under close control. You also would need to be in line of sight of your dog at all times and paying attention to its actions.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call PCSO Justin Keefe on 101, quoting 44180365674, or call the charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

For more information about the Country Watch team please visit: **www.hampshirecountrywatch.co.uk**

TWO MEN GIVEN SUSPENDED SENTENCES FOR ANIMAL CRUELTY

Two men have appeared in court for committing 'horrific' offences of animal cruelty. The men, one from Alresford and the other from Upham, appeared at Southampton Magistrates' Court on 2 August for sentencing.

Both men previously pleaded guilty to one animal welfare offence each of causing unnecessary suffering in relation to two separate incidents.

RSPCA Chief Inspector Will Mitchell from the Special Operations Unit said: *"A mobile phone was seized as part of a separate police operation which led to evidence of animal welfare concerns being uncovered and prompted warrants at two addresses in Hampshire.*

"On the phone – which belonged to another man who isn't part of our investigations – we found videos and WhatsApp messages.

"One of these videos showed the man from Alresford in his garden setting his dogs on a wild rabbit and encouraging them to kill it. It's really horrific footage to watch."

The RSPCA joined Hampshire Constabulary's Country Watch team to execute warrants at two addresses in April. At the Upham property, officers found a female lurcher collapsed in a pile of hay in a barn.

Chief Inspector Will Mitchell added: *"The vet checked her immediately and she cried out in pain when he touched her. Her breathing was laboured and she was shaking. She was emaciated and weak.*

"When officers helped her onto her feet they made a shocking discovery – a huge, ulcerated tumour under her abdomen.The vet said it had been there for months, possibly years."

The dog was sadly put to sleep to end her suffering. At court, the Alresford man was handed a 12-week prison term, suspended for two years, and was ordered to complete 80 hours of unpaid work. He was also ordered to pay £300 in costs and a £115 victim surcharge.

He was disqualified from keeping all animals for two years. The man from Upham was handed a 12-week prison term, suspended for two years, and was ordered to pay £300 costs and a £140 victim surcharge. He was disqualified from keeping all animals for five years.



SHOWTIME FOR COUNTRY WATCH

You may have spoken to Country Watch officers at an event in recent months. The team was out and about at:

- Highclere Country Show and Wickham Horse Fair, both in May.
- New Forest and Hampshire County Show in July.
- Hampshire Country Sports Day in Alresford in September.

COMPENSATION AFTER DOG ATTACKED DONKEY

A dog owner faced a bill of £1,000 after a donkey was attacked in the New Forest in July.

As a result of the attack, both animals later died and the dog owner received a Community Resolution to reimburse the owner of the donkey.

This covered the cost of the donkey, vet bills and the cost of removing and destroying the donkey – a total of £1,000.

APPEAL AFTER HERON KILLED IN HARTLEY WINTNEY

We are continuing to appeal for information after the death of a wild bird in Hartley Wintney.

A heron was killed at around 8.15pm on 14 July at Causeway Pond on Cricket Green. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is illegal to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird.

We believe an airgun or BB gun was used to kill the bird. We are particularly keen to trace a dark grey, C-reg Ford Focus that was seen in the area at the time.

If you saw anything suspicious around this time, or have any dash cam footage that may assist, please call us on 101 quoting 44180265687.

Alternatively you can contact the charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



COUNTRY WATCH

Meet the team

Contact numbers and locations for our Country Watch officers are shown here, 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.



Insp Korine Bishop
07880 056657



Sgt Andy Williams
07392 314299



PC Vince Lane
07970 145389

Special Inspector Iain Tunstell

Special Constable Phil McCabe

Special Sergeant Phil Keeling



PC Will Butcher
07775 542982



Police Staff Investigator Hannah Levy
07469 562472

Tadley

Andover

Aldershot



PC Steve Rogerson
07554 775468



Police Staff Investigator Melody Manning
07469 562444

Alresford



PC Lynn Owen
07901 102344

Bishop's Waltham

Special Constable Kev Saunders

Lyndhurst

Special Constable Joe Earley



PC Matt Thelwell
07392 314410

Yarmouth

Special Constable Shane Phillips



Police Staff Investigator Anna Presswell
07469 562221

PCSO Cat Quinn



Sgt Ged Armitage
07387 096611

PCSO Justin Keefe



PC Tim Campany
07901 102393



PC Scott Graham
07554 775488



PC Ian Bassett
07775 537382

HAMPSHIRE ALERT

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HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY

Cut out and keep