



Leicestershire
Police
Protecting our communities



Rural Policing Team Newsletter

December 2024

Welcome to the fourth edition of 2024 for the rural communities of Leicestershire and Rutland. We aim to keep you updated as frequently as we can about rural crime in our area, what we've been up to and what the current crime trends look like.

The Team

The team is currently running at 4 PC's and 1 Sergeant following the temporary loss of PC Mike Statt and PC Emma Holmes who we hope to be returning in the future. In order to plug the gaps, PC Lauren de Wet will now be covering



North West Leicestershire and Hinckley and Bosworth, and PC Chris Vickers has side stepped into Charnwood. PC Matt Houghton remains in Melton and Rutland, and PC Kelly Tones in Harborough District. Sergeant Rob Cross continues to lead the team with INSP 2194 Shaun Wilson. We are working tirelessly to provide the Rural Community with the best possible service.

Rural Crime:

This quarter has seen a 3% decrease in reported rural and wildlife crime compared to last quarter.



3%

We have more recently noticed an increase in hare coursing across the county. We encourage the reporting of this issue. The team are working hard to educate officers across the board around this issue, its impact, and the legislation they can utilise to deal with it effectively. A reminder that all crime should be reported to help the team gather information and intelligence to tackle such issues, knowing where and when the problem is occurring. Don't forget, **hare coursing in progress needs to be reported through to police on 999.**



Crime happening 'now'? Call 999.



Crime happened? Call 101 / www.leicspolice/reportcrime.



Use 'What3Words' to accurately pinpoint locations.





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Policing Operations

Our team has been committed to working on the issues that most affect the rural community. These issues vary and sometimes are dependant on the time of the year. Over the past few months we have been working hard to re-enforce messages around **livestock worrying, fly tipping, road safety, amongst other daily work.**

Operation Snaffle

The team came together with members of LFRS, mounted volunteers and the Road Safety Team, to undertake Operation Snaffle in . The operation identifies drivers, driving too close or passing too fast to horses on the road. The identified drivers are then given the chance to watch an impactful VR video with LFRS, education is key!



Operation Recall



Livestock worrying is an increasing concern as lambing season is round the corner. Last year there was a marked increase Nationally in attacks on livestock. Leicestershire joined **Operation Recall** earlier this year in a bid to more effectively tackle this issue. The aim of this is to increase awareness, educate, and effectively deal with those who's dogs are not under suitable control.

The team have recently issued a conditional caution to a dog owner who's dog chased a horse causing unnecessary distress to both the horse, and owner of the horse. Numerous dog owners have received an educational input from officers, as well as voluntary dog control orders.

As always the advice to dog owners is to **keep their dogs on a lead around livestock, stick to the public footpaths, to ensure that their dog is secure within their garden/ home environment, and to report incidents of livestock worrying.**



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Rural Recoveries

£1.83 MILLION

Our team has had some great success in reuniting property with it's rightful owners. This is made possible by building strong relationships within the community, positive use of social media, working along side other Police Forces (nationally and internationally), and of course the owner keeping records of serial numbers, registering property with Data Tag and the utilisation of trackers, CCTV and drones.



Heritage Crime week of action

You may not be aware but as the Rural Policing Team, we are also responsible for the investigation of Wildlife crime, and heritage crime. Some of the team have recently completed their Heritage Training to further their knowledge.

Supporting the team, we have a number of volunteers each with a passion for history. They are invested in visiting sites, and providing crime prevention.

We encourage the public to be vigilant, and report suspicious activity utilising 101 or report online.

Remember, historical artifacts are irreplicable. Once they're gone, they're gone.



Mounted volunteers

It has been just over a year since the launch of our mounted volunteer's. Our volunteers act as the eyes and ears out in the community, patrolling some of the harder to reach areas. They are a key part of Operation Snaffle, have been involved in the Driver of the Year event with Saint Gobain and XPO Logistics UK educating drivers. They have assisted the team at local events, engaged with land owners, offered tack marking at yards and equine shows. They have collectively completed over 670 hours volunteering since January 2024.



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Other News . . . Community engagement is still a high priority for the team. Attending high footfall areas and events, allows us to capture a lot of people in small areas to deliver our various messages and catch up with some lovely people.

If you have any upcoming event which you think would benefit from the team being there, then please get in touch.

Agricultural First Aid Input

- In October we ran our first ever first aid input to people in the farming and agricultural settings. This was held at our force headquarters and the turn out was fantastic.
- Sgt Rob Cross with PC Mark Collins delivered an overview and input into life saving first aid, with issues that you maybe faced with in rural settings.
- This included a look at Defibrillators and the positive impact they have when readily available



We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year . . .

Thank you to all followers, partners, volunteers and everyone in between for your continued support of the team. We look forward to continuing the hard work and partnership working in 2025. Until then, have a safe and happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

It is a special time of the year, however for some it is a very lonely, difficult time of the year. For those that need it, the help is out there and we implore you to reach out if you are in need. Keep an eye on your neighbours and look after each other.

FCN— 03000 111 999

RABI—0800 188 4444

Samaritans— 116 123



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CRIMESTOPPERS
0800 555 111

Call anonymously with information about crime



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Follow us

Our Facebook page, below, has more up to date information, news and positive outcomes from the team. It shows the work that we conduct week in, week out. Please give us a follow and see the world through our eyes.



Leicestershire & Rutland Rural
Policing Team

If you cant wait for our posts, but you wish to hear about things closer to the time they are happening, then maybe joining one of the rural community run WhatsApp groups is for you. The groups across Leicestershire and Rutland are for sharing information about crime, loose animals and suspicious activity. Please email us using the address below if you are interested.



WhatsApp

We are now more accessible to the rural community than we have ever been. There is a rural officer based at each main rural station—Melton/ Rutland, Loughborough, Hinckley and Blaby, Coalville and Market Harborough. We're always keen to help wherever we can, but we need you to report, report, report. If you see something, say something, either by using 999/101, or our online reporting via the QR codes below.



Report a rural crime.



Report a wildlife crime.

You can email the Rural Policing Team on the address below with any enquiries/questions
(please do not report a crime to us on email) — Leicsruralcrime@leics.police.uk.



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