



# COUNTRY WATCH

## Western Weekly:

21<sup>st</sup> March 2014

Colleagues,

This week the team were involved in a joint operation with the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) targeting rural crime and road safety in the New Forest. In all more than 100 light goods and 4 x 4 vehicles were stopped. VOSA selected 20 of those vehicles for closer examination and 17 of those received prohibition notices for serious defects. A number of fixed penalty tickets were issued for various offences including defective tyres, no MOT, defective lights and no road tax offences. A very successful operation which highlights that these light goods vehicles are regularly being used but not being regularly maintained.

We have seen an increase in poaching type activities this week, some of which appear to have involved the use of firearms. If you are conducting pest control using firearms after dark would you please report this in advance to us via 101. Similarly, please report any suspicious activity, including shots heard after dark in the same way. Poaching is theft, pure and simple, in some cases it also causes unnecessary suffering to the animal when the wrong calibre of firearm is used and they die a slow and painful death. People who poach are frequently also involved in other sorts of crime including rural burglaries. The romantic notion of poachers being someone who goes out to shoot their own dinner is usually very far from the truth and in reality they are often organised criminals using this method as part of their extensive unlawful activity.

We have also seen an increase in animal road traffic collisions where the driver's have failed to stop at the scene or report the incident to police. If you are involved in a collision with an animal, any pig, cattle, sheep, horse, ass, goat, mule or dog you must report it to the police and remain at the scene long enough to give your details to any interested party. If there is nobody around you must report the incident at the very first opportunity, ie when you get home or there and then from your mobile phone. If you see a collision take place and driver does not stop, please try to get the registration number and report it to the Police on 101. We have had several very sad cases recently of animals being left to die in pain by drivers who have hit them.

To put some minds at rest. Last week I reported on the theft of four horses from the Botley area. Later in the week some publicity hit the news regarding the remains of a butchered horse being dumped on the railway line at Bursledon. I am now in a position to confirm that the two incidents are not linked in any way.

Next week Fordingbridge Neighbourhood team are running a crime prevention week and you will quite likely see members of that team assisted by Country Watch officers out and about in your community, promoting security and offering crime prevention advice.

Kind Regards

Debby Holman  
Western Country Watch Sergeant

### Rural Theft

- 13/03 Brangore Garden ornaments stolen from garden
- 15/03 Upton Damage caused to horse fencing around field.
- 16/03 Fair Oak A twin axle Indespension trailer stolen from a driveway.
- 18/03 East Tytherley 1000ltrs of domestic heating oil stolen from a secluded garden.
- 16/03 Sopley 6 lorry batteries stolen from barn
- 13/03 Exbury Damage done to CCTV system and attempt to steal fuel tank from boat in isolated location
- 18/03 New Milton Lawnmower stolen from insecure garage
- 19/03 Fordingbridge 6 fence panels stolen by lifting them out from between supporting concrete posts

### Poaching

- 19/03 Ringwood 4 males with a lurcher dog chasing deer- no vehicle details obtained
- 19/03 Somerley 2 youths with a lurcher and lamp chasing rabbits – vehicle details obtained – further enquiries
- 19/03 Ripley Report of deer carcasses and remains being found in the bushes with evidence of them being shot by a shot gun

### Fly Tipping

- 14/03 Damerham Informant reporting regular fly tipping – for further investigation
- The following fly tipping incidents reported via Forestry Commission

|            |             |   |                   |
|------------|-------------|---|-------------------|
| 11/03/2014 | Fly Tipping | 12 - 13 sandbags  | Busketts Lawn     |
| 11/03/2014 | Fly Tipping | 1 car tyre  | Minstead Road     |
| 11/03/2014 | Fly Tipping | 1 car tyre  | Millyford Bridge  |
| 14/03/2014 | Fly Tipping | 3 grab bags full of grab bags and buckets                 | Bramble Hill Walk |
| 17/03/2014 | Fly Tipping | 6 TVs, vacuum cleaner, toaster.                           | Hincheslea Moor   |
| 17/03/2014 | Fly Tipping | Dyson Hoover, office chairs and computer monitors.        | Kings Hat         |
| 17/03/2014 | Fly Tipping | Transit load of waste including grab bag and green waste. | Ferny Crofts      |

### Theft From Motor Vehicle

- 14/03 Calmore Vehicle parked in gateway in rural location. Window smashed and handbag stolen from foot well
- 14/03 Frogham Vehicle parked at Abbotswell Car park, window smashed and 'hidden' handbag stolen
- 15/03 Bursledon Various personal items stolen from a secure camper van in country park
- 17/03 Lyndhurst Handbag stolen from its hiding place in the rear footwell of vehicle parked at Millyford Bridge Car park
- 17/03 Cadnam Iveco horse lorry parked, secure and unattended broken into and jacket containing cash, glasses keys and debit card stolen.

### Off-Road Vehicles

- 15/03 Eastleigh Two males have been caught and reported for summons for driving their 4x4 vehicles across Monks Brook playing fields

### Miscellaneous Offences

- 15/03 Sway Complaint of dogs causing horses to spook as they ride past by running at the gate and barking – passed to dog warden to deal.

### Animal Accidents

Week commencing MONDAY 10 MARCH 2014

| Day      | Date       | Time     | Details                                    | Location                 |
|----------|------------|----------|--|--------------------------|
| Thursday | 13/03/2014 | 10:20 pm | Bay Filly – Injured & Destroyed            | B3054 Hilltop            |
| Saturday | 15/03/2014 | 11:15 pm | Dun Mare - Injured & Destroyed - HIT & RUN | Burley Road, South Weirs |