



COUNTRY WATCH

Western Weekly:

4th April 2014

Colleagues,

This week has been busy with a number of meetings including the South East Regional Wildlife and Crime Partnership meeting in West Sussex. This was a good opportunity to meet with partner agencies and neighbouring police forces and share information regarding topical issues affecting rural communities all over the south east area of the Country. It was nice to speak to colleagues from other forces and realise that often they are dealing with the same offenders and certainly with the same types of offences. Different strategies for dealing with those issues can be discussed and this often provides new ideas in how to deal with certain issues.

Further to last week's newsletter when I mentioned nesting birds, I have been asked to bring to your attention the plight of the hedgehog. They too are just coming out of hibernation. As their numbers are dwindling we should try to avoid disturbing them if possible. Check overgrown areas before going in with tools and take extra care with strimmers and when clearing piles of leaves. Slug pellets are lethal to hedgehogs and birds. Crushed egg shells beer traps or salt are more environmentally friendly. BHPS web has lots of info www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk If you do find a hedgehog which appears to be in trouble, Country Watch has a number for Hedgehog Rescue which we can pass on to you if needed. The local hedgehog rescue are short of rabbit type hutches to care for rescued hedgehogs so if you have one hanging around that you no longer need or use please let us know and we will put you in touch with them.

Salmon and sea trout will again soon be appearing on our shores to make their annual migration to spawn. With that goes a degree of illegal activity in and around our estuaries. I have attached a PDF leaflet to this newsletter for your information. The aim is to raise awareness surrounding the legalities of accepting illegally obtained salmon and sea trout and how to recognise a fish that has been taken in this way.

A warning for you regarding a phone scam which is currently doing the rounds. A homeowner received a call from someone claiming to be PC Ian Baker from Paddington Police Station. This male stated that the homeowner's bank cards had been cloned and used and that he had two people in custody. He then suggested that the homeowner should hang up the phone and call the bank to confirm this. Fortunately on this occasion the homeowner called their bank from a different phone and was able to confirm with their bank that there had been no fraudulent activities on their card. When the male called back and was challenged by the homeowner, he hung up. Please be aware of this scam. If you or anyone you know receives a call similar to this please let us know immediately. These fraudsters leave the phone line open in order to make the homeowner believe they are speaking to their bank etc when in fact they are speaking to the same people. Please pass the warning on.

Kind Regards

Debby Holman
Western Country Watch Sergeant

Rural Theft

- 26/03 Brangore Male arrested having been disturbed attempting to steal a hedge trimmer from a garden shed
- 27/03 Netley Abbey 20mtrs of copper cable stolen from an electricity substation.
- 28/03 North Baddesley A petrol disc cutter, cordless Bosch drill and a Milwaukee breaker stolen from a secure storage container.
- 28/03 Botley A Betsey 6" water pump on a Ivor Williams trailer worth over £30,000 stolen from a secure water pumping station.
- 30/03 Breamore Garage broken into by cutting padlock and red Honda CR125 competition motorcycle (not road registered) stolen
- 31/03 Ringwood Maroon Yamaha Jet ski stolen from trailer
- 31/03 East Tytherley 40ltrs of Red diesel stolen from a secure premises.
- 03/04 Marchwood Garage broken into and white Honda 250cc motorcross bike stolen

Poaching

- 29/03 East Dean Three males were seen with running dogs chasing rabbits.
- 01/04 Bisterne 2 reports of males with dogs suspected hare coursing – further enquiries by police
- 01/04 Fordingbridge Report of male using catapult to shoot at pheasants and then trespass on land to retrieve the shot birds

Fly Tipping

- Beaulieu Tyres, exhaust parts and car doors dumped at Pig Bush car park
- Ringwood Plaster board dumped at Barrow Moor Car Park
- Dibden Purlieu Caravan abandoned on Roman Road
- Romsey Red and black cabling dumped at Ridge House Lane

Suspicious Vehicles/Vehicles of interest

(Please be mindful that the driver's of these vehicles may be going about their lawful business)

- 02/04/14 Beaulieu Green Kia Rio Vehicle spotted 2 persons acting suspiciously nearby seen to get into vehicle and drive off at speed. Vehicle was stopped by police and a quantity of scrap metal, believed to be stolen, was recovered from within. The vehicle was seized by police.
- 02/04 Bisterne R457DNS Red Peugeot 106, acting suspiciously and suspected of hare coursing, several reports at same location regarding same vehicle.

Theft From Motor Vehicle

- 31/03 Brockenhurst Wallet stolen from insecure vehicle parked on roadside
- 31/03 Sopley Vehicle parked roadside in rural location. Handbag stolen from under front passenger seat by smashing window.
- 31/03 Totton Catalytic converter stolen from Mercedes Sprinter van.
- 30/03 Blackfield Handbag containing purse stolen from boot and bag stolen from front passenger foot well of insecure vehicle parked in New Forest Car Park.
- 30/03 Lyndhurst Purse and Iphone stolen from boot of insecure vehicle parked in rural layby on Blackhill Road
- 28/03 Cadnam Two works vans parked in car park at Copythorne overnight, broken into and 3 Stihl chainsaws and a leaf blower stolen

Off-Road Vehicles

Rural Arson

- 28/03 Ringwood Forest Car stolen from Dorset area, dumped and set alight

Miscellaneous Offences

Animal Accidents

Week commencing **MONDAY 24 MARCH 2014**

Day	Date	Time	Details	Location	Agister
Friday	28/03/2014	7:20 pm	Chestnut Mare - Injured & Destroyed	Wootton B3058	J Gerrelli