Welcome to the first edition of Northamptonshire Rural Matters – a newsletter for residents and businesses about the work going on to fight rural crime in our county. Covered in this issue:

- Meet the Rural and Wildlife Crime Team
- Chief Constable Nick Adderley
- New police 101 triage call system
- Partnership approach to tackling rural crime
- Wildlife crime in numbers
- How the police work with the RSPCA
- Marking farm equipment
- National police operation against egg thieves
- Poaching
- Fly-tipping campaign launched
- Events

**NFU and Crimestoppers launch new rural crime reporting line.**

The National Farmers’ Union (NFU) has launched a new service to enable farmers and the public to give information anonymously about rural crime, in partnership with the charity Crimestoppers.

By calling 0800 783 0137 or visiting [www.ruralcrimereportingline.uk](http://www.ruralcrimereportingline.uk), farmers, rural businesses and the public can anonymously give information relating to:

- Large-scale, industrial fly-tipping
- Hare coursing
- Machinery theft
- Livestock theft

Rural Crime - Let’s Beat it Together
Northamptonshire Police has a Rural and Wildlife Crime Team which consists of PC Chloe Gillies, PC Abbey Anstead, PC Chris Bird and Co-ordinator Katrina Heath.

We have other officers across the force that support the team in protecting our rural communities and tackling crime. The team review all incidents relating to wildlife, domesticated/farm animals and rural crime.

We also look into current organised crime groups (OCGs) that are operating in our county, crime trends and cross-border crime. We offer specialist support and advice to officers and are in regular contact with outside agencies and other police forces. Specialist skills cover wildlife crime, vehicle/machinery, Greenyard (horse seizure), exotic animals and canine first aid.

Northamptonshire Police appoints new lead for rural crime.

Inspector Tracy Moore comes over to Neighbourhoods and County Rural Crime with a wealth of experience having worked in a number of roles within the force. Tracy took up her post in February 2019, and is looking to build on the work already in place, working closely with partners across the county and the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to tackle rural and wildlife crime. A new Rural Crime Strategy was launched at the beginning of the year for 2019-2021. Northamptonshire Police and partners, through the Rural Action Group, will be working together to achieve what has been set out in the strategy. We will be addressing:

- How to actively prevent crime and incidents taking place
- Helping stop people becoming victims of crime
- Providing advice and guidance to residents and businesses to maximise the opportunities to prevent, disrupt and detect rural crimes and anti-social behaviour
- Listening to what our communities tell us around intelligence
- Improving the way we share information within our organisations, with partners and others we work with, to help understand problems and identify tactics to deter and disrupt criminal activity
- Enforcing the law robustly, targeting areas of crime and offenders who cause the most harm
- Reassuring our communities so that they are safe, engaged, cohesive and confident communities

Get live updates on rural policing in Northamptonshire

Northamptonshire Police regularly sends out updates on current work, what to keep a look out for and crime prevention advice. For the latest news and information follow the force on Twitter:
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Welcome to this our first Rural Action newsletter. I joined Northamptonshire Police in August 2018 and I was amazed by the beauty of this rural county set in the heart of England. We have many thriving and diverse market towns, set alongside major road networks and distribution centres and yet only a stone’s throw away – picturesque villages and hamlets.

I am proud to lead Northamptonshire Police and it’s dedicated and enthusiastic officers and staff, who work tirelessly to fight crime and protect people. The rural community and businesses rightly demand our protection and support to defend your homes, property, businesses and way of life. We, along with partners will work together to ensure the rural community is a peaceful and thriving one.

I hope you find this newsletter informative. Being the first it includes a lot of information about how police and partners work together and how you can play your part or join others to help keep Northamptonshire safe.

**Sponsored PCSO at Pitsford**

In September 2018 Pitsford joined forces with Boughton, Harlestone, The Bramptons and Spratton to engage the services of a shared dedicated PCSO for the five villages.

PCSO Paul Miller commenced his duties on September 1, with his main priorities within Pitsford. Parish Chairman Martin Flanagan acts as the local point of contact and they have a weekly catch up to discuss actions and priorities.

Pitsford, like all small villages, has issues with the volume of traffic and vehicle speeds travelling through it. However, it has the additional issue of the village being used as a cut through from the A508 to Moulton Park and vice versa. There are two schools in Pitsford, one being a primary school – this was the first priority, with PCSO Miller being visible when the school opens and in the afternoon when it closes. This has had a positive impact, especially on the speed of traffic.

Over the years, feedback from some villages has indicated fears that their issues aren’t seen as important as issues in larger towns. Seeing the PCSO in the villages gives the residents a secure feeling, as they have someone they can go to about crime and police matters. In addition all five villages have had the opportunity of having the mobile police station visit recently for a few hours, providing a sense of security and enabling them to meet up and discuss things with PCSO Miller.

Mr Flanagan said “We have had a PCSO for eight months and the impact of Paul’s presence has been first class. We look forward to working with him for the years to come”.

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More than 700,000 calls are made to the 999 and 101 numbers each year. The force control room (FCR) triages these calls and ensure the appropriate action is taken for each call. Our #WhoYouGonnaCall campaign aims to explain how these calls are dealt with.

The FCR is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and is often the first point of contact for many members of the public.

It is also the main point of contact for police officers. The FCR team dispatches the nearest appropriate resource to incidents. They check intelligence to keep officers safe and ensure each incident is concluded to a satisfactory level.

Every call goes through a threat, risk and harm assessment which leads to that call being prioritised accordingly. With large numbers of calls, queues can build up because everyone is trying to call one central call centre. This can lead to long wait times.

Not all calls are emergencies and not all of these require an immediate police response. The FCR often takes calls relating to individuals with mental health issues, social needs, vulnerable cases or people reported missing.

Sometimes the police is not the most appropriate service to help. There are other agencies out there that are better placed to meet those needs, not a police emergency response.

Keep up-to-date with what is going on in your area

Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Alert is a free messaging service that allows Northamptonshire Police, Neighbourhood Watch and other partner organisations keep you informed about issues in your local area.

Register today at: www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk

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Did you know that there are a number of things you can report online? Quickly, confidentially and conveniently.

You can do this at a time and place that suits you, and it can help free up the operator for emergencies.

New triage system for 101 calls

Calls made via the 101 number are prioritised into Priority A or B.

Priority A calls are considered to have a higher level of threat, risk or harm, but are not emergencies. The force now aims to answer these calls within 10 minutes. After five minutes, the caller will be offered a call back within three hours. This is currently being developed and should be in place in the coming months. Last year, the average answer time was 2.34 minutes.

Priority B calls have a low level of threat, risk and harm and are not emergencies. The force aims to answers these within 15 minutes. After five minutes, the caller is offered a call back within six hours. Last year, the average answer time was 4.23 minutes.
A partnership approach to tackling rural crime

In Northamptonshire, we are working in partnership to tackle rural crime. A Rural Action Group (RAG) has been established, which meets regularly and consists of the following agencies and organisations:

- Northamptonshire Police
- Office for the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Northamptonshire
- Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Country Land and Business Association (CLA)
- National Farmers’ Union (NFU)
- Canal and River Trust
- Community Safety Partnerships from each district
- Northamptonshire ACRE
- Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Watch
- Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils

The RAG is working to deliver the Rural Crime Strategy through a detailed action plan which is continually progressed and regularly reviewed through the group – to find out more about the Strategy please visit www.northantspcc.org.uk

Our vision is “to effectively fight crime in rural areas through the best use of policing resources, partnerships and working with rural communities”.

Partnership working - rural crime barn events

The Rural Action Group has run four rural crime barn events in Horton, Clopton, Cold Ashby and Wellingborough during January and March this year, engaging with local farmers and communities, and providing crime prevention and useful contact information. We have received excellent feedback from attendees around the quality of the presentations and information provided. We will look to run similar events later in the year.
PC Hutch Hutchings, Neighbourhood Rural Policing and Wildlife Crime Officer for Daventry and South Northamptonshire, shares his advice on how rural residents can help the police tackle rural crime.

As a police officer, there are certain key pieces of information you know can make a big difference to an investigation. When we first attend the scene, it’s all about the details, and those details need to be recorded correctly to give us the best possible chance of detecting that offence.

If machinery has been stolen, the things we need to know from the person reporting it include identification numbers, serial numbers, livery markings or fleet numbers. If a witness has information, we need that information to be as detailed as possible too – for example not just that they saw a white van, but the make, model, registration number, and where it was seen going.

To help people record what they see, Northamptonshire Police has created incident cards with sections for all the key information officers will require. We encourage people to keep these handy, such as in work vehicles, so information can be written down quickly and easily, ready for reporting.

The force has also introduced ‘Stop me’ stickers for people to use on their equipment so if it is seen being moved at night, officers will pull it over and make sure it has not been stolen.

Both of these can be requested by emailing CountyRural&Wildlife@northants.pnn.police.uk and we’re also sharing advice to help rural residents protect their belongings.

If you’d like advice around plant and agricultural machinery security, including Datatag, please email me via P0472@northants.pnn.police.uk

How you can help in the fight against crime:

- Ensure that you have photos and records of your tools and equipment. This will not only help the police, but will also help you with insurance claims should you be a victim of crime
- Overtly mark equipment with company livery, welded on numbers, postcodes and/or company names
- Consider installing further security devices like trackers, Cesar Datatag marking, isolators
- Ensure machinery is stored in a safe place. Consider alarming areas where kit is stored and make sure you can give the police clear directions to the location should we need to respond
- Secure the perimeter to any yard, compound, and farm to prevent unwanted visitors. Electric gates have been shown to reduce opportunist crime and also prevent access to any unwanted visitors

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With more livestock out in the fields, dog owners are being reminded to keep their pets on a lead near livestock to help stop animals being hurt or killed.

Livestock worrying is the term used when a dog is loose around farm animals on agricultural land and acts in a way which could cause injury or suffering, such as alarming, chasing or attacking them.

It is a criminal offence, and under the law, a dog worrying livestock can be shot and killed. Owners are responsible for keeping their dog under control, or can face a fine of up to £1,000. In 2018, Northamptonshire Police received at least 30 reports of livestock worrying, including instances of sheep found dead or injured.

PC Abbey Anstead, wildlife and rural crime officer with Northamptonshire Police, said: “Every year the force receives reports of livestock, especially sheep and lambs, being killed or injured by dogs, and a farmer whose animals are at risk of harm is within their rights to shoot the dog responsible.

“Whether farmer or pet owner, the death of an animal is devastating, but all of this is completely avoidable if people walking dogs keep them on a lead and under control around farm animals.

“This simple measure is part of responsible dog ownership, helps to protect pets and livestock alike, and means everyone can enjoy the countryside safely.”

She added that incidents of livestock worrying should be reported to police on the non-emergency 101 number. If a dog is in the process of worrying livestock and cannot be stopped, dial 999.

Anyone who shoots a dog to prevent livestock worrying must notify police within 48 hours.
Responsible dog walking around livestock

**Tips for safe and responsible dog walking around livestock:**

- Keep dogs on a lead and under control when walking through fields of livestock
- Always stick to public rights of way and leave all gates as you found them
- If you live beside land where livestock is grazed ensure you know where your dog is at all times, and keep your property secure so your dog cannot escape
- Cows can be curious and may follow walkers. If this happens, keep facing the animal and move calmly and slowly, don’t turn your back to it or run
- Steer well clear of young animals and do not try to pet them. Cows with calves will be protective and may become aggressive
- If you feel threatened by cattle when with a dog, let go of the lead so you and the dog can get to safety separately

**Sheep slaughtering** - four incidents were reported between March 2019 and May 2019 (we received no reports between the same months in 2018). It is normally January onwards that we see these reports increase with the start of lambing season.

**Livestock worrying** - four incidents were reported between March 2019 and May 2019 (we received five reports between the same months in 2018).

Warwickshire and Leicestershire have experienced a large number of these types of incidents.

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**Protecting otters from illegal activity**

Northamptonshire Police was made aware of otters being targeted in a fishing lake in the county. Nets were being placed into the water and once an otter or other animal swims into the net they are then unable to get back out again and subsequently drown. Working with the Environmental Agency, officers attended the location and with the use of a boat from the Environmental Agency were able to conduct a thorough search of the lake and locate the nets, similar to the photo. Fortunately on this occasion there were no otters trapped in the net.

The nets were removed and the person in charge of the lake identified and interviewed for offences under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.

Otters are fully protected by law; if you are found guilty of an offence against otters then you could be faced with up to six months in prison and/or up to a £5,000 fine.

It is also an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to set into position any trap or snare that could cause bodily injury to an otter should it come into contact with it, and so by setting this net even though it was empty it is an offence. The penalty is also up to six months in prison and/or up to a £5,000 fine.
The RSPCA is an investigative body which can investigate and prosecute animal welfare offences, but it does not have any powers to seize animals. As a result, the police assist with its work where required, for example by obtaining and executing warrants, seizing animals, arresting offenders.

An example of police and RSPCA co-working came in December, when a local village social media page posted a picture of a lurcher in poor condition that was found in Salcey Forest. It was suspected that the dog had been used for hare coursing.

From seeing the picture, Northamptonshire Police judged there was enough evidence to open an animal welfare investigation. Officers contacted the RSPCA and advised them that they would seize the dog using police powers and they agreed to place it in private boarding kennels.

The dog was microchipped but not registered to anybody. The force sent out a media appeal about the dog but no owners came forward. This dog is now in much better condition and is up for rehoming.

Dog seized after report of hare coursing in the north of the county

Northamptonshire Police received a report of hare coursing near to the Market Harborough border. A dog unit deployed and could not find the coursers, but did find a lurcher bitch in poor condition and with an abscess type wound to her back. The officer seized the dog and took her to an out-of-hours vet. The dog was not microchipped. Contact was made with the RSPCA and they agreed to take the dog to private kennels. She was taken to private kennels until she was well. An owner did not come forward to claim her and so she is also now up for rehoming.

By seizing them and putting them into the care of the RSPCA these dogs will receive a second chance and will hopefully be rehomed fairly soon to more loving homes.

The CLA, together with the NFU and other interested bodies, also continue to lobby government for legislative change around the sentencing guidelines for poaching and hare coursing offences. This comes after research by CLA staff showed the fines being levied against those found guilty of poaching offences were so low that they barely acted as any sort of deterrent. Hare coursing prevention signs are available free of charge from the CLA Regional Office calling 01638 590429 or e-mailing Claire.wright@cla.org.uk
Greenyard scheme helping improve life for horses and ponies

Two Shetland ponies were recovered from Ecton Road, Northampton, after being found loose, with numerous reports made to police about them. They were not microchipped and no owner came forward and so after two weeks both ponies were signed over to the Greenyard Scheme for rehoming. This problem occurs all year round. If horses are loose on the highway and the owner is unknown then the police can seize them under the Greenyard Scheme.

Farm thefts prompt reminder on importance of property marking

Rural crime officers investigating the theft of livestock handling equipment and farm vehicles are urging farmers and landowners to mark their possessions and report any suspicious activity.

Northamptonshire Police has received 12 reports of the theft of sheep and cattle handling equipment since the start of January, and 11 quad bikes or ATVs have been stolen in the same period, with only one recovered so far. Most of the thefts have occurred in the Daventry and South Northamptonshire areas, with one in East Northamptonshire.

With investigations into these offences ongoing, the force’s Rural Crime Team has issued advice to farmers to help them protect their items. Rural crime officer PC Chloe Gillies said: “Agricultural equipment and vehicles are vital to the running of a farm and we’re doing all we can to help our rural businesses protect themselves.

“A key prevention measure is clearly and permanently marking your possessions, ideally with your surname and postcode. This makes them less attractive to criminals as well as making it more likely that they can be returned to you if they are stolen.

“Keeping a detailed, up-to-date list of all your equipment is also really important, so for a handling system this would include noting the brand and component parts, such as number of hurdles, sizes, whether it includes guillotine gates, turnover crates, and so on.”

With stolen equipment usually moved out of the county quickly, and often sold on at auction, buyers are urged to report anything suspicious, or lots which could be stolen, to police and the auctioneer.

Advice for protecting vehicles such as quads and ATVs includes keeping all related paperwork together and secure, including lists of VRNs and chassis numbers.

PC Gillies added: “Take detailed photos of your vehicles and consider using crime prevention products such as CESAR Datatag www.datatag.co.uk or trackers to protect them. It’s also really important to give proper thought to where items are stored, and wherever possible avoid leaving them in isolated locations. “The best approach is to build up layers of protection for your premises and items – don’t rely on one element alone but use several to make it an unappealing target for a would-be thief.”
Tips for protecting agricultural equipment and vehicles

- Clearly mark equipment and vehicles with your postcode and surname
- Don’t store items in isolated or insecure locations
- Make a list of all your equipment, including product name, any serial numbers, type and size of component parts, any security features or distinctive marks. Take photos too if you can
- At auctions, report any suspicious activity to police – include descriptions and registrations
- If you suspect any lots could be stolen, immediately inform the auctioneer and the police
- Keep all vehicle paperwork together and secure – not with the vehicle
- Log VRNs and chassis numbers, make written descriptions and take photos
- Consider using crime prevention products to protect your premises and items

For more advice, email crimeprevention@northants.pnn.police.uk

Police officers trained to handle animals

Together with the NFU, police officers from Corby, Kettering and East Northants attended an animal handling course on a Leicestershire farm during June. This will enable them to move sheep, cows and horses so that when they are found on the roads they can be moved on safely. It also covered data tags and passports for animals. This was arranged by PCSO Kirsty Ellerby of the Kettering and Corby Rural Neighbourhood Police Team.

We consider ourselves fortunate that we don’t have the problems that other countries have.
National operation against egg thieves and collectors

Northamptonshire Police supports national operation against egg thieves and collectors.

Egg thieves will go to any lengths to raid the nests of rare species but Operation Easter is dedicated to stopping them in their tracks.

Originally developed in Scotland 22 years ago, Operation Easter is now run by the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) in conjunction with UK police forces and partner agencies. The operation targets egg thieves by sharing intelligence across the UK to support enforcement action.

In recent years Operation Easter has also been expanded to look at those who might take raptor eggs or chicks to launder into falconry, those who are suspected of disturbing nests for photography and those who trade eggs online.

The taking of wild bird eggs is a serious crime yet it remains the pastime of some determined individuals. Whole clutches of eggs can be taken from some of the UK’s rarest birds, with potentially devastating impacts, just so they can be stored in secret collections.

Chief Inspector Lou Hubble, head of the NWCU, said: “As populations of many birds decline, the NWCU is committed to Operation Easter. We will be working alongside partners and police forces to help to protect nesting sites and would encourage anyone who witnesses suspicious activity to report it to their local police force.”

PC Abbey Anstead, rural and wildlife crime officer at Northamptonshire Police added: “Our rural and wildlife crime officers are dedicated to protecting all wildlife, including wild birds. Nesting season is now underway so we’re asking people to contact us if they see anyone acting suspiciously around nesting birds.”

If you have any information on egg thieves, or those who disturb rare nesting birds without a licence, call Northamptonshire Police on 101 and ask to speak to a wildlife crime officer if possible.

Information can also be passed in confidence to Crimestoppers via 0800 555 111.
Project Poacher uses innovative methods to help protect wildlife

The Project Poacher app for reporting poaching incidents (including hare coursing) is available for iPhone, Android & Windows Phone and can be downloaded at www.projectpoacher.com

The aims of Project Poacher are to coordinate action across England and Wales through:

- **Prevention** – offering best advice to farmers, landowners, gamekeepers, shooting and land management organisations regarding measures to put in place to prevent poaching and disruption mechanisms

- **Intelligence** – to allow the police to target offenders

- **Enforcement** – with good intelligence the police can target poachers through the various rural and poaching based operations run throughout England and Wales

- **Reassurance** – by working together and by publicising resulting actions such as activity, arrests, seizures and convictions

The NFU works with the British Association for Shooting & Conservation (BASC) on poaching issues and BASC offers useful advice on what to do if you have poachers on your land:

- If you see or are aware of poachers on your land and want them off, call the police

- Call 999 or 101 (101 is the non-emergency number to report incidents)

- If you are being threatened or damage is being caused, then that is urgent and 999 should be used

- Give the call taker as much information as you have, such as vehicles used, how many offenders, do they have firearms, etc

- Give as good a location as you can, especially at night

- The most important thing is to get an incident or log number for what you are reporting

- You might be told that there is nobody to send immediately, but insist on the incident/log number

- Ask for the incident to be forwarded to the Wildlife Crime Officer and the local beat officer

To provide anonymous information about poaching or other rural crimes, use the NFU/Crimestoppers Rural Crime Reporting Service or 0800 783 0137.
Northamptonshire

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Dispose of your rubbish properly to avoid an unlimited fine.

A new county-wide campaign was launched at the start of May which aims to reduce the number of fly-tipping incidents across Northamptonshire and help the public to dispose of their waste legally.

The new campaign has been led by the Northamptonshire Waste Partnership and involves all district and borough councils of the county, Northamptonshire County Council and support from Northamptonshire Police, Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service, the Environment Agency and the National Farmers Union (NFU).

Leaving waste items on the street for others to take, outside of a closed Household Waste Recycling Centre or next to a street litter bins are all examples of fly-tipping. These types of fly-tips have contributed to the 22,000 fly-tipping incidents that were removed in Northamptonshire in 2017/18.

The cost to dispose of fly-tipping across the county to Northamptonshire tax-payers for the same period is around £313,000. The costs for collection, investigation and enforcements in relation to fly-tipping are an additional financial burden to the council tax payer each year.

Everyone has a duty of care to ensure that their waste is disposed of responsibly. It’s important that residents and businesses alike carry out the necessary checks to ensure their contractors are properly licensed so they don’t end up in court being prosecuted for fly-tipping which could result in an unlimited fine and/or imprisonment.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to follow the campaign’s S.C.R.A.P. code, which provides a checklist to follow when arranging one-off collections of waste.

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Suspect all waste carriers; do not let them take your waste until they have proven themselves to be legitimate.

Check their waste carrier’s registration details, then verify them by searching the Environment Agency or by calling 03708 506 506.

Refuse unsolicited offers to have any rubbish taken away.

Ask what exactly is going to happen to your rubbish and seek evidence that it is going to be disposed of appropriately.

Paperwork should be obtained. Make sure you get a proper invoice, waste transfer note or a receipt for your waste removal – this should give a description of the waste and provide the waste carrier’s contact details.

Councillor Tim Allebone, Chairman of the Northamptonshire Waste Partnership, said: “I welcome this new campaign and hope that the information provided in the leaflets, on our website and through social media will help residents to understand what effect even one piece of fly-tipping has, not just on our community, but on Northamptonshire as a whole. The S.C.R.A.P code is easy to follow and will help people to carry out the necessary checks to ensure their contractors are properly licensed and will dispose of their waste legally.

“Fly-tipping blights our countryside and town centre areas and we are therefore continuing to work with our partners to crack down on fly-tippers. Everyone has a responsibility to ensure their waste is disposed of legally and failure to do so could result in prosecution.”

Visit Northamptonshire Waste Partnership:
recyclefornorthamptonshire.co.uk

For Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC):
northamptonshire.gov.uk/hwrc
Hot weather can be a source of joy for holiday-makers, but it may also dramatically increase the chance of grass fires throughout Northamptonshire’s farm and park lands.

Prolonged periods without rain can leave grassland dry and brittle, meaning potential fires from sources such as barbecues or discarded cigarettes can spread rapidly.

Farmers are being urged to take precautions such as ensuring ease of emergency access to farm locations and buildings and to consider ploughing ‘fire breaks’ around the edge of areas of standing crops, to help prevent the potential spread of fire.

The public are also being reminded to treat the countryside with respect and to remember how dangerous fire can become within expanses of dry grass, hedges and trees.

Tina Collett, District Liaison Officer for Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service, said: “Something as common as throwing a cigarette out of a vehicle window can cause a big problem, as fires on dry grass can start and spread so quickly.

“Last year NFRS were kept very busy with both deliberate and accidental grass fires, but we hope, if this summer sees similar prolonged dry spells, that people across Northamptonshire will take on the responsibility of helping look after grassland in our local communities, by behaving sensibly and safely around fire such as barbecues and bonfires.”

Summer fire safety:

- Avoid using open fires in the countryside. Always have them in safe, designated areas. Never leave them unattended.

- Check bonfires are away from dry grass, trees, fences, garden waste and anything that could catch light and spread the fire.

- Do not use sky lanterns as you have no control over them once they’ve been set off. They can kill animals, litter the countryside and even start fires.

- Ensure fires are fully extinguished after an event. A fire may look like it will safely die out but could still cause a new fire when abandoned or left unattended.

- Make sure cigarettes and other smoking materials are extinguished properly. Don’t throw them on the ground and never throw cigarette ends out of car windows; they can ruin whole fields of crops.

- Never use petrol or paraffin to start or revive your barbecue; use only recognised lighters or starter fuels on coal.

If you see a fire in the countryside, please alert the services by ringing 999.
Other news in brief

Op Marrow supports farmers
Throughout the county farmers are being visited by the police and volunteers to provide them with crime prevention advice. This ongoing project also means that the police can have farmers’ details to hand if they are needed in an emergency, i.e. escaped livestock or if officers need access to their land.

Wildlife crime in numbers
Between 1 January 2019 and 30 April 2019 Northamptonshire Police received the following wildlife crime reports:

- Wildlife related
  78
- Other animal related
  71
- Hare coursing and poaching
  28

Sad end for shot buzzard
In March, Northamptonshire Police received a report about a buzzard being found alive but injured at Sywell Country Park. It was taken to the local vets where an x-ray confirmed that it had been shot. It was transferred to the Raptor Foundation in Cambridgeshire for further treatment but unfortunately had to be put to sleep. This was due to the shot being so close to the spine which meant that the bird would never be able to fly again. Northamptonshire Police and the RSPB put out a press release appealing for information from the public, but sadly no-one came forward.

Secured by Design member company status is awarded to companies producing security products that pass standards and tests nominated by the police service. The products prove effectiveness in preventing or reducing crime, usually by resistance to physical attack. Look for Secured by Design status when buying any of the following:

- Doors
- Windows
- Secondary glazing
- Garages
- Bicycles
- Vehicles
- Mobile phones
- Computers
- Forensic marking
- Safes & key safes
- Fencing
- Security shutters
- Locks
- Roofing
- Secure mail delivery

A full range of recommended products can be found at www.securedbydesign.com

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The Northamptonshire Police Firearms Licensing Team and Daventry Rural Neighbourhood Police Team attended Kelmarsh Game and Country Fair over the warm Easter weekend which had a good turnout. More recently, officers attended the Lamport Festival for Country Life where there was good engagement with those attending.

Meet the teams at the following events this summer:

- **6-7 July**
  - Hollowell Heavy Horse and Steam Rally

- **4-13 July**
  - Oundle International Festival

- **3 August**
  - Blakesley Show

We welcome your feedback

If you have any feedback regarding this newsletter or you have an article, crime or subject you would like to feature in the next edition, please email:

**CountyRural&Wildlife@northants.pnn.police.uk**