



COUNTRY WATCH

Western Weekly:

9th January 2015

Colleagues,

I wanted to use this week's newsletter just to 'touch base' with you all and explain some of the news happening within the team at the moment.

Due to the Christmas and New Year period, there is no summary of crime for you this week. The team have been rather depleted due to the holiday period, officers being deployed on other duties covering Christmas and New Year duties and sickness. I know the sickness issues are affecting everyone at the moment and unfortunately we have not escaped, with the team being severely depleted due to different viruses and other issues over Christmas and New Year.

You may be aware that our PCSO, Alan McCaffery, has just left the team after 6 years of loyal service to the Country Watch role. Alan decided that it was time to move on and has transferred to New Milton neighbourhood team. I know you will join me in wishing him all the best and good luck in his new role. We are very grateful to him for all his hard work over the past 6 years and are extremely sorry to lose his expertise from the team but wanted to support him in his aspirations. Many of you will have already met PCSO Olie Hulse, who joined us a few months ago on temporary attachment. The good news is that Olie is now going to remain with us as a permanent member of the team and we have already sent him on the National Wildlife Crime Officers Course. He has spent the last few months being mentored by Alan to give him the best possible start in the role. Olie comes originally from a New Forest neighbourhood team, is extremely keen and has a personal interest in rural matters, so he will be a real asset to the team. The bad news is, that just before Christmas, Olie had an unfortunate accident and broke his ankle, so he won't be able to be quite as active for the next few weeks as he hoped to be. We wish him a speedy recovery and back to full capacity as soon as possible.

Scott will be joined later this month by PC Corinne Irving who is joining the team from her current role as a Neighbourhood Officer for the Fordingbridge area. Corinne will be an asset to the team with her knowledge of rural policing and her contacts within the rural community of the north western part of the New Forest.

Over the past few weeks there have been a few incidents of note to highlight. On 12th December a donkey was hit by a car which subsequently failed to stop in the Beaulieu area, we have not yet been able to trace the vehicle involved other than to suspect it is a silver BMW possibly 1997/98 registered. If you have seen such a vehicle with accident damage please report it on 101 or to a member of the Country Watch team.

On New Year's Day, two working cocker spaniels were stolen from the Beaulieu area. Happily one was later located having been abandoned at the roadside in the Fareham area but the other remains outstanding. She is a black 3 year old, working cocker spaniel bitch and is microchipped. If you have any information or have seen anything suspicious please contact 101. Please take this opportunity to check the security of your kennelling arrangements if you keep your dogs outside. This sort of theft is obviously particularly distressing as it is not simply an inanimate object.

We have also seen a high value burglary in the Fordingbridge area, with a large volume of petrol and diesel fuel stolen together with power tools, a trailer and a vehicle which was later recovered burned out. Please take some time to review your security arrangements, ensure your property is security marked and is identifiable. Security marking property makes it both less attractive to thieves due to it being traceable and it enables the property to be returned to its rightful owner if recovered by Police or abandoned and can be proven as stolen – which may help us to prove someone's involvement in an offence if they are caught in possession of that property. There are some really good CCTV cameras available on the market, which are relatively inexpensive, work on battery power and digital memory card, have infra red capability and may help to identify offenders. Worth considering when deciding what security measures to put in place. If you would like help or advice on security options for your premises we would be happy to help with a site visit.

Hopefully next week will see a return to normal service as far as possible.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year. I look forward to continuing working together over the coming year.

Kind Regards

Debby Holman
Country Watch