



The Commissioner with new Chief Constable Nick Dean on his first day in office



IN THIS ISSUE

News from the Police and Crime Commissioner

Jason Ablewhite



Welcome to my Autumn newsletter.

Making sure victims of crime have access to appropriate support is one of my statutory duties. I was therefore delighted to be able to launch a new website for all victims and witnesses of crime across Cambridgeshire towards the end of the summer. The website is clear and easy to follow and includes a directory of all services available. It's vital that people finding themselves victims of crime get the support they need to cope and recover. You can find out more on page 3.

A highlight of this month was coming together with communities to 'Celebrate Us' as National Hate Crime Awareness week came to a close. It was truly wonderful to see so many people come together to celebrate life and love in all its forms.

We have a diverse community in Cambridgeshire that I am proud to represent, and it is vital that we recognise everyone's right to live free from harassment and the fear of becoming a victim of hate crime. As long as there are those who seek to spread hatred, we shall come together to fight it.

I was privileged to join a small group of young victims of crime as they experienced an innovative therapy session to help them recover from crime. The equine assisted therapy programme is being delivered by children's charity Embrace - Child Victims of Crime (CVOC) as part of a range of services I

commission. It's important that we wrap a blanket of care around these young victims - watching the children start to heal was a remarkable moment and I am proud to have been able to support such important work. You can read more on page 2.

This time of year sees the end of the harvest season. For many farmers and landowners this coincides with the arrival of illegal hare coursers which cause havoc both in terms of illegal trespass and damage to crops, fencing and equipment. The illegal activity also often leads to violent and intimidating behaviour. I am committed to working with partners to bring about a change in sentencing for this deeply disturbing crime. For this reason, this issue's Spotlight focuses on what myself and the Constabulary are doing to tackle rural crime.

I am very pleased to be able to welcome our new Chief Constable, Nick Dean, who joined the Constabulary on 1st October and will be spending his first few weeks meeting as many people as possible to understand local needs. Nick and I will be taking calls on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire during our regular appearance on the Chris Mann show on December 12th. Please remember to tune in!

As the dark nights draw in, I urge you all to take care on the roads, whether walking, cycling or driving. Keep yourself visible and stay safe.

Jason Ablewhite



The Commissioner heads to Parliament to discuss hare coursing and rural crime



A brand new Victim Service website is launched for Cambridgeshire



The Commissioner marks the end of Hate Crime Awareness week with an event celebrating diversity

OUT & ABOUT IN AUTUMN



Participating in a two day, multi-agency exercise testing emergency response



Answering plenty of questions at Crosshall Junior School



Pledging support for the pavement parking petition at the Cambs Guide Dog Forum



Meeting with Adam Ratcliffe from CAMBAC to discuss business crime in Cambridge



Drawing the raffle at Dogsthorpe Fire Station's Macmillan Coffee Morning

Latest news from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

New Chief starts in Cambridgeshire

Cambridgeshire's new Chief Constable, Nick Dean joined the force on Monday 1st October, taking over from retired Chief Constable Alec Wood.

With 26 years' police service at Norfolk Constabulary under his belt, Nick is spending his first few weeks getting out and about to meet and speak to as many people as possible to understand all aspects of policing the county.

Nick said: "I'm thrilled to take up the post of Chief Constable and am looking forward to learning about the force and the people and communities we serve. Partnership working has always been important to me and is something I am keen to continue here in Cambridgeshire."

Nick will work closely with the Commissioner to help deliver the Police and Crime Plan.

The Commissioner said: "Nick brings with him a wealth of experience both in terms of understanding the challenges faced by modern day policing and an inclusive approach to partnership working."

Working with partners to address parish needs

The Commissioner joined MP Stephen Barclay at his first annual Parish and Town Council Conference in March on 21st September.

The event was attended by 30 local councillors from across North East Cambridgeshire, who came together to discuss key issues affecting their parishioners.

Issues raised included speeding, the impact of the recent local policing review and affordable housing.



The Commissioner with Stephen Barclay MP, Mayor James Palmer and Cllrs Steve Count & Chris Seaton

Looking after our collaborated police dog unit

The Commissioner joined colleagues from Bedfordshire Police and Hertfordshire Constabulary on a visit to the collaborated dog unit shared by the three forces and based in Kempston.



Alongside fellow Police and Crime Commissioners Kathryn Holloway and David Lloyd, the Commissioner participated in a drug search demonstration and later witnessed the handywork of Police Dog Mia (pictured), a general purpose dog.

Horse-based therapy to help heal young victims of crime

Five children from Cambridgeshire are the first to graduate from a pilot programme designed to support young victims of crime.

The Equine Assisted Therapy programme has been delivered by children's charity Embrace Child Victims of Crime (CVoC) as part of a range of services commissioned by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The charity's first equine therapy

"I am extremely pleased that we have been able to fund this innovative programme which offers support to these young victims of crime"

programme took place during the course of the summer and gave the group of five children, aged between 10 and 16, the chance to use horse-based therapy to help them heal.

The Commissioner attended the riding school, based near Ely, to hand out certificates and rosettes to the young graduates.

Embrace CVoC is the only children's charity in the country solely focused on providing care and support for children who have been victims of crime.

New website to help victims of crime

A new, independent and confidential Victim Services website was launched for victims and witnesses of crime by the Commissioner in August.

The website, funded by the Commissioner, provides victims and witnesses with clear and simple information about available support and how to access it, whatever the crime and also provides a service directory. The new website is easily accessible from mobile phones and tablets.

Police and Crime Commissioners are responsible for commissioning local support services for victims of crime

and receive a grant each year from the Ministry of Justice to enable the provision of services which best meet the needs of local victims of crime.

"Importantly, accessing the website helps put you in charge of what you want to happen next"



The new website has been optimised for mobile phones and tablets to be as accessible as possible

In Cambridgeshire, end to end support is provided through the Cambridgeshire Victim and Witness Hub. Victim & witness care coordinators provide emotional and practical support to anyone affected by crime from the point of reporting through any criminal justice process including giving evidence at court. The Hub also links into hundreds of specialist services.

The Commissioner sees the website as a vital tool to ensure victims of crime know what information and support is available to them and who to request help from if they are not already receiving it.

He explains: "If you become a victim of crime or witness a crime, the last thing you need is to be in the dark about who to turn to for support. Taking the first step and asking for help, whether you report the crime to the police or not is a very important stage in your recovery.

Community Celebration marks #NHCAW

Actor Warwick Davis and High Sheriff Dr Andrew Harter joined the Commissioner at 'Celebrating Us', an event marking the end of National Hate Crime Awareness Week 2018.

The evening reception offered an opportunity for communities from across the county to come together, whatever their background, to celebrate their religions and cultures and learn something about each other.

After presentations from new Chief Constable Nick Dean, Detective Constable Tiff Lane, Speak Out Councillors Bill Jones and Sean Nightingale and a special video message from disability rights campaigner Sir Tom Shakespeare, guests were invited to make a pledge in support of hate crime awareness.

The celebration was supported by a number of national groups, including the Guide Dogs Trust, the Alzheimer's Society and Little People UK (LPUK). A 'marketplace' allowed guests to interact with national and local community groups to share ideas and raise awareness for their causes.

Supporting volunteers to keep our roads safe

The Commissioner joined volunteers carrying out a Speedwatch session in Brampton in late August to witness first-hand how some drivers fail to slow down when approaching villages.

The Police affiliated Speedwatch scheme sees residents volunteer their time to help support the police to monitor the speed of vehicles using speed detecting devices.

With 171 schemes and more than 1660 volunteers, the scheme continues to grow.



The number of drivers caught speeding in the county has reduced since the launch of the community speedwatch scheme

THIS MONTH'S TOP TIPS

As the clocks go back...

Personal safety at night

Whenever you are out and about at night, it's always advisable to be alert and aware of your surroundings. The Constabulary offers the following advice to help keep yourself safe when out at night:

- try to stay on busy streets, in well-lit areas and avoid parks and alleyways, even if you are not alone
- make sure someone knows where you are going, who you are meeting and what time you expect to return
- when socialising with a group of people, watch out for each other and make sure everyone stays safe
- if a bus is empty or it is after dark, it may be safer to stay on the lower deck and sit near the driver. If travelling on trains, try to avoid empty carriages

Halloween

Halloween is traditionally a night of fun. Whether you plan to go out trick-or-treating, have friends over for a party or choose not to celebrate it, we want you to enjoy yourself and stay safe.

Whilst it's an exciting night for some, please bear in mind that there are members of the public who do not wish to take part. We ask that you respect people's wishes and try not to disturb those who chose not to celebrate.

Over Halloween our officers patrol neighbourhoods to keep you safe, but please remember officers do not want to spoil your fun. They just want to make sure you stay safe and enjoy your evening.

Children and young people should be accompanied by an adult when out trick-or-treating, avoid knocking on the doors of strangers, wear bright clothes and know our road safety advice.

News from the CONSTABULARY

Neighbourhood teams tackle drugs networks in week of action

A week of action targeting drugs networks in Peterborough has caused disruption to 'county lines' criminality and the exploitation of vulnerable people.

'County lines' is a term used to describe gangs, groups or drugs networks which supply drugs from bigger cities to more rural areas using dedicated mobile phone lines, or 'deal lines'. A dealer will own a phone – the line – to take drugs orders.

They then contact a third party, or an 'agent', in a smaller city to arrange delivery of the drugs to the buyer. County lines dealers prey on vulnerable people in our communities, such as young people and drug users, to take over their homes and use them to run their business, known as cuckooing, or use young people to run their drugs.

Over the course of seven days, officers from the Peterborough Neighbourhood Policing Team carried out a number of intelligence-led warrants, operations and community engagement in a bid to tackle drug dealing in the city.

The week saw neighbourhood policing teams across Peterborough carry out six warrants, make 19 arrests, seize a quantity of various drugs including 170 wraps of class A substances and £1,500 cash. They also informed members of the public about what signs to look out for around county lines.

Superintendent Andy Gipp, Area Commander for north Cambridgeshire, said: "Whilst we recognise drugs underpin nearly all cities, towns and villages across the world, that doesn't mean we accept the impacts it has on our communities. Our week of action was to remind the drug dealers and our communities of the principal role of the police – enforcement. We have worked in partnership which is key to dealing with the consequences of drugs and we will always commit to do that."



Buy a BCH Dog Unit calendar and raise money for charity!

The Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire (BCH) Dog Unit recently took part in a professional photoshoot in order to produce a calendar and help raise money for two charities.

The calendar features some of the team's incredible crime-fighting canines and is sure to prove popular with any dog lovers out there.

None of the featured photos will have been seen before, so this is a unique opportunity to not only support the unit but also two charities that look after

rescue animals.

The funds raised will be split between German Shepherd Rescue Elite and Luna Animal Rescue.

As there is a limited number of calendars, BCH Dog Unit are asking for a minimum donation of £8 per calendar, and any larger donations will obviously be received with sincere thanks. Payment can only be taken via PayPal at <https://www.paypal.me/bchdogunit>



Please ensure your PayPal address is correct for postage.



Creating a safer Cambridgeshire Officers remember the fallen with fleet of poppies

The Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Hertfordshire Road Policing Unit are featuring a poppy on all of their marked patrol vehicles in the build up to Remembrance Sunday.

The idea was put forward by PC Mark Fairclough and ACC Paul Fullwood, both of whom served with HM forces before joining the force.

The poppy features on the vehicles to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the end of World War 1 on the 11th of November, 1918.

ACC Fullwood said: "I am proud to support the centennial Remembrance Day with this gesture."

"This is certainly not a glorification of war. We will be supporting the British Legion in their poppy appeal as we show our respects on this momentous anniversary."



Spotlight on... RURAL CRIME

One of my biggest priorities is spending time out and about listening to the views of the public in order to get an accurate picture of issues faced by communities across Cambridgeshire. The Commissioner writes...

With its high mix of villages and rural areas, members of the public are often faced with issues such as thefts from farms of tools, metals, and diesel as well as the ever present scourge of hare coursing.

For people living and working in rural areas, the onset of the hare coursing season can be a worrying time.

The illegal activity usually begins once fields have been harvested, causing misery to farmers and rural businesses alike, with damage to crop fields, irrigation systems

and perimeter fences. And it is not just the physical damage, those who witness or become victims of hare coursing are often left distressed and intimidated.

Hare coursing has now been illegal for more than a decade, but this does not seem to stop some individuals from persisting. Those involved in organising the activity often work in groups with significant sums of money changing hands in the form of illegal betting and gambling on the outcome.

The activity usually takes place at dawn or dusk with coursers often walking along the edge of fields to frighten a hare

into the open, as well as using dogs like greyhounds or lurchers.

The Constabulary has put a strong response in place to tackle this kind of criminality.

The Rural Crime Action Team (RCAT) was created in 2016 to combat hare coursing and poaching, as well as using specialist knowledge to deal with other aspects of rural crime including plant and tractor theft, arson, and illegal raves.

The team also spend time raising awareness of crime prevention strategies for people living in rural communities with officers regularly meeting people to flag issues and share experiences.

However, while the RCAT continue their excellent work tackling these criminals on the ground, I am challenging those in government and calling for a national conversation on changing the law to provide far tougher deterrents against coursing in our county.

Just last week, I attended a meeting with MPs in Westminster to discuss hare coursing and what can be done to make sentencing more appropriate. I regularly

"When it comes to hare coursing, the law of the land falls short..."



Revisiting my rural roots with the NFU last year

meet with local MPs and representatives of those making a living on the land, including the NFU and Countryside Alliance to try to bring about a change in the law.

It is not simply the illegal trespass and blood sport to which many people object. Hare coursers often exhibit threatening and intimidating behaviour, even driving dangerously at high speed through towns and villages.

But, while the constabulary is making use of all the legal powers at their disposal, the law of the land continues to fall short.

Most offenders are prosecuted under the 1831 Gaming Act, which has only limited powers and typically attracts fines below £300 that are often vastly outweighed by the money set aside by perpetrators to gamble with.

Enacted at a time before automobiles had been invented, not only is the act an insufficient deterrent, but makes a mockery of the hours the police have spent bringing these cases to court, offering no justice to victims.

I want the rural community to know that Cambridgeshire police are behind them. The RCAT continues to make inroads into reducing rural crime but rural crime cannot be tackled in isolation.

Working across borders with other forces and working with agencies such as Countryside Watch will be key to tackling this growing threat to what is a traditional way of life in our county. When it comes to hare coursing, the law of the land falls short.



With Countryside Watch Chairman George Hurrell and Heidi Allen MP at a recent CLA event in Parliament

Getting in touch:

It's important that the Commissioner and his team represent your views, so if you want to get in touch please do. The Commissioner is here to represent you and to make sure your voice is heard.

You can write to us here:

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

PO Box 688
Huntingdon
PE29 9LA

Email: cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk

Or phone: **0300 333 3456**



Commissioner tours the county

On top of his regular visits and surgeries, the Police Commissioner spent two weeks out and about across the county towards the end of August speaking to people and partners to understand local issues.



He met with volunteers from Speed-Watch and Countryside Watch to see their activities in action and visited Peterborough Rape Crisis Care Group, one half of the countywide support service for survivors of sexual violence including child sexual abuse and rape.

The Commissioner said: "There are many ways for the public to contact me, whether by attending a surgery a public contact point or one-to-one meeting however it's important for me to meet people where they live and work. This was a great opportunity for me to both chat to local residents and also thank our many volunteers in person."

Getting in touch:

The Commissioner offers regular one-to-one meetings across the county. Surgeries are held in the second week of every month, and are rotated around the county in order to provide a location suitable for everyone. If you have an issue you would like to discuss, you can book a 15 minute appointment.

Please email: cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk or phone 0300 333 3456 to make an appointment:

Upcoming 2018/19 surgery dates

November 7th	Constabulary Headquarters	09:00 - 11:00
December 5th	Parkside Police Station	09:00 - 11:00

Are you online?

Are you on social media? Keep up to date with the Commissioner's activities here:



FIND OUT MORE BY CLICKING:

[CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE](#)

[CAMBRIDGESHIRE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH](#)

[SPEEDWATCH](#)

[POLICE UK](#)

[COUNTRYSIDE WATCH](#)

[E-COPS](#)

[CRIMESTOPPERS UK](#)

[GOVERNMENT SERVICES](#)

[NATIONAL FRAUD CENTRE](#)

[CAMBRIDGESHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION](#)

[VICTIM SERVICES](#)