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Welcome to your Market Harborough police e-newsletter. Here you will find all of the latest news from a Market Harborough policing perspective and crime prevention advice to help keep yourself safe

News

Following a spate of quad bike thefts, three were recovered from the area around Tilton on the Hill thanks to some good intelligence work from members of the public for which we express our thanks.

Around 30 officers received training on rural crime from the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC), at an estate this month. This covered topics such as shotgun and firearms licensing, deer hunting, pheasant / game shoots, trapping, hare coursing, and protection of wild birds.

Wildlife crime is a technical area of law and certain species such as pheasants have a “season” over the winter when shoots are permitted. Whether an offence has occurred depends upon the date of the shoot. Some offences such as poaching go back hundreds of years in various forms of law, but although infrequently charged to Court in the modern era, still exist.

A variety of powers of search exist in relation to Wildlife offences, giving constables the power to search both persons and vehicles. These were used recently in Harborough North, when a vehicle was determined to have been involved in shooting, and was then left abandoned by the driver at the roadside. Officers broke into the car through the rear window, and subsequently recovered both a shotgun and ammunition.

Vandalism



Unfortunately, some of the recently-planted trees in Burford Green, Market Harborough have been vandalised.

Anyone with information about this is asked to contact police via our website or by phoning 101.

Cllr Jonathan Bateman, HDC's cabinet lead for parks and open spaces, said: “We know local residents are very protective of the trees and really appreciate them, so to hear some have been vandalised is very disappointing; please do con-

Mobile Speed Camera Van Enforcement Summary – February 2022

Officers conducted mobile speed camera enforcement on the A4303 in Market Mahrborough throughout March. A total of 49 offences were recorded in that time period. We would ask all road users to adhere to speed limits and ensure the roads remain safe for all to use.

Tribute to Simon Cole



With great sadness the force is paying tribute to former Chief Constable Simon Cole QPM, who died this week.

Simon, 55, had recently retired and had served in policing for 30 years. He was found dead at his home address in Kibworth Harcourt on 30 March.

The matter has been referred to the Coroner.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of Simon's family and friends at this difficult time. Temporary Chief Constable Rob Nixon said: "It is hard to put into words how devastating this news is for the entire force who loved and respected Simon. Our hearts go out to his family at this difficult time and we will support them as much as we can.

"I know Simon had a great impact on many of the communities of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and his death will be a great loss to many of the people he worked with. All we can do is pull together and mourn the loss of a greatly respected man."

A public book of condolence is being established via the force website.

Welland Park Academy

The neighbourhood police team with representatives from Turning Point, Leicestershire Fire Service, the I IMPACT Team and Harborough District Council's Leisure and Wellbeing Team visited the academy to work with all youngsters in the school.

Students have been learning how to keep themselves and their friends safe through their teenage years. A range of events ran through the whole day to ensure the young people aged 11-16, were aware of the dangers related to excess alcohol and substance misuse as well as other risks they may face. Virtual Reality headsets were a hit with the teenagers, demonstrating the risks associated with driving whilst distracted by friends or phones.

Students also wore Drunk Buster goggles that mimic the effects of alcohol on reactions. As the nights get warmer and longer, students were also provided with information sessions and safety demonstrations, in order to increase understanding of how young people can be good citizens as well as keeping themselves and their friends safe when socialising in Harborough's open spaces in their free time.

The students enthused about the activities, from experiencing the inside of a police van to playing beat the buzzer whilst wearing the Drunk Buster goggles.

Events like this give officers a great opportunity to engage with young people and show a human face to policing, while letting them know about the consequences some actions may have.

A big thank you to all the schools that made us welcome. Also a huge thanks to all that took the inputs seriously and asked some really interesting questions.

The next edition will be out soon!