

Help Us Stay Special in your rural communities

Special Constabulary
Winter 2011



HERTFORDSHIRE
CONSTABULARY



Do you want to help reduce rural crime such as poaching, hare coursing, fly-tipping, theft of plant and high-value farm machinery in your parish?

Then make it your New Year's resolution to do something about it by helping us increase the number of Rural Special Constables across Hertfordshire.

Hertfordshire Constabulary wants to significantly increase the number of Rural Specials over the next 12 months, and is especially interested in people who own their own horses to become our Mounted Rural Specials.

The initiative will help build good communication with the more isolated and rural districts within the county and most importantly help to protect the community and reduce crime in our villages and hamlets.

Rural Special Constables patrol the rural areas of their parish and have the same power and authority as regular police constables. They work closely with regular police officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) by volunteering their time to help their local communities.



How do towns, villages, parishes and hamlets benefit?

Across Hertfordshire, the 26 appointed Rural Special Constables are already making a positive impact to help their local community in both reducing crime and bringing those offenders responsible for crime to justice.



Gamekeeper Special Constable Richard Downs (pictured) helped solve a long-term quad bike issue in Redbourn and Hemel Hempstead by issuing warning and confiscation notices to riders driving inappropriately.

A thief was arrested at the Game Fair at the Herts County Show Ground in Redbourn by one of our newly appointed Rural Specials on horseback. The thief attempted to steal a pair of walking boots from one of the stalls and was stopped and arrested by Special Constable Kate Solomon (pictured right), our first Special on horseback.

Whilst on patrol along a bridleway in East Herts, Mounted Rural Special Kate Solomon observed a number of young people smoking cannabis in a car. As a result of her intervention, the offenders were stopped and dealt with.

Three men with dogs were arrested by Rural Special Constables on suspicion of trespassing in pursuit of game between Ley Green and Kings Walden near Hitchin.

Mounted Rural Special Constables in North Herts are currently looking at getting involved in the Horse Watch scheme which includes property marking saddles and keeping in touch with the equestrian community.

These are just some of the issues that our Rural Special Constables have been dealing with to improve the quality of life for residents in the Hertfordshire countryside.

County Officer, Herts Association of Parish and Town Councils, Carina Helmn said: "We want to empower our local residents to become a visible presence within the community to help keep our towns and parishes an even safer place to live. We have seen the introduction of Rural Special Constables in the county and can see the real benefits of supporting the Constabulary with this new initiative. We hope this partnership will bring even more great results in 2011."

Who should apply?

Horse riders, gamekeepers, rural workers or anyone who has a keen interest in rural and wildlife matters. If you want to be a Mounted Rural Special, you must own your own horse or have access to a horse that you can use to perform these specialist mounted patrols in the rural parishes of the county. You have to be aged at least 18 and be in good health.

Why become a special?

People become Specials for all kinds of reasons – the most common one is giving something back to the community. Many of the Constabulary's Specials who join up for this reason, have well paid jobs and see themselves having the best of both worlds by being a Special Constable in their spare time. Other Special Constables join to see what life is like as a police officer.



"I enjoy patrolling on horseback – I can exercise my horse and make a difference in my community" – Rural Mounted Special Constable Kate Solomon.

"I get the best of both worlds" – Special Inspector Ian Rampaul

and Counter Fraud Investigator.

"Although I enjoy my full-time job, I was looking for something more exciting and satisfying where I could make a real difference" – Special Sergeant Marcus Parkins and Construction Manager.

Leading the Way

Hertfordshire Constabulary was the first force in the country to launch the new specialist role of Mounted Rural Special Constable in October 2009 to help reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in the rural parts of the county.

With 26 Rural Special Constables, including four mounted already in post and five currently in training, the Constabulary is intending to recruit up to 32 Rural Special Constables on horseback by March 2012. Each Rural Special on horseback will undertake a specialised training course to develop their riding skills and to ensure they possess the necessary skills and abilities to perform this specialist role.



Rural Special Constables have the same powers and training as regular officers – the only difference is that they

are volunteers. They play a valuable role in solving quality of life issues, reassuring members of the public, saving lives and responding to emergencies. And in return, Special Constables receive excellent training and a wealth of opportunities and experience.

How Can We Get Involved?

You could consider...

Who do I know who could be a Rural Special Constable in our parish?

How can we as a town or parish council help recruit Rural Special Constables?

What support can our council provide to assist with the retention of town or parish Rural Special Constables?

What Does it Cost?

Would you like to have your own mounted police patrols in the rural areas of your towns and parishes? If there are people in your village that want to be a special, you can help us pay for their training - which is considerably less than you would expect.

Although Special Constables are volunteers, the cost of a Rural Special Constable is £500 for training and equipment, with an annual cost of £250. A Mounted Rural Special Constable costs £1,000 for training and equipment and a further £250 annually.

If you are interested in helping, please contact your local Neighbourhood Police Officer or PCSO or contacts listed (under For Further Information) to discuss further.

Assistant Chief Constable Chris Miller said: "Our Rural Special Constables have already made a positive impact across our rural communities by being a visible presence, reducing crime and gathering vital information.

Hertfordshire Constabulary was the first Force in the country to introduce the role of Rural Special Constables – and more recently, Mounted Rural Special Constables – and continues to have one of the best performing Special Constabularies in the country.

To make the most of these opportunities, we are inviting you to help us recruit and fund Rural Special Constables to help reduce crime in your town or parish."



For Further Information

Contact your local Neighbourhood Police Constable or Police Community Support Officer (PCSO).

Alternatively, contact:

Three Rivers Inspector and Rural Crime Lead
George Holland – 01923 472154

George.holland@herts.pnn.police.uk
Specials Chief Officer Peter Mould –
01923 472576

Peter.mould@herts.pnn.police.uk
Rural Wildlife and Environmental Crimes Officer
Sergeant Jamie Bartlett – 01707 354704
James.bartlett@herts.pnn.police.uk