



HAMPSHIRE
CONSTABULARY



COUNTRY WATCH



WELCOME TO THE CHRISTMAS EDITION



ROUND UP...

Throughout the year, the Country Watch team have been responding to various incidents across the island in result to your calls and emails.

We have been investigating reports of interference to badger setts, mainly near to construction sites. These have been visited and investigated and advice given to landowners.

We have received several calls about tress being cut during "Nesting Season". Again, officers have attended, and in some cases halted the work and educated the people who were carrying out the work.

Officers have been dealing on the ongoing investigation in regards to the various reports of poisoning at Parkhurst Forest.

Another issue we have been dealing with is the antisocial behaviour of motor bikes that have been using bridleways and closed byways. Several riders have been caught and served the appropriate notices.

We are fortunate enough to work closely with partner agencies such as the IOW Councils various departments, RSPCA, Hampshire and IOW Wildlife to name a few.

Due to the Covid pandemic, we have been restricted to the various events that we have attended this year. We hope that next year it will be better.

The I.O.W Country Watch team would like thank you for your continual support and we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New year.





Bird Flu.

This is to remind all poultry keepers that the country is currently under an Avian Influenza Protection Zone.

The AIPZ in England means that bird keepers must:

- house or net all poultry and captive birds to keep them separate from wild birds
- cleanse and disinfect clothing, footwear, equipment and vehicles before and after contact with poultry and captive birds – if practical, use disposable protective clothing
- reduce the movement of people, vehicles or equipment to and from areas where poultry and captive birds are kept, to minimise contamination from manure, slurry and other products, and use effective vermin control
- thoroughly cleanse and disinfect housing on a continuous basis
- keep fresh disinfectant at the right concentration at all farm and poultry housing entry and exit points
- minimise direct and indirect contact between poultry and captive birds and wild birds, including making sure all feed and water is not accessible to wild birds

Further information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>



A few new scams to warn you about this week –

- The cold weather hasn't stopped rogue traders from coming to the Island to try to con us into having work done on our properties. Be wary of any leaflets through the door or anyone knocking the door offering to do work on the property – legitimate traders wouldn't behave like this!
- There have also been reports of the "Nottingham Knockers" generally males that turn up at the door and try to sell cleaning products – do not engage with them – the products will be over-priced and poor quality.
- Some residents have reported receiving emails from E-on claiming that there was an error on their bill and that if you click on the link you can follow the process to correct this. Do not click on links in emails – this will be a phishing exercise designed to harvest your details. If you are a customer and are unsure, give them a ring to check the validity of the message.
- Be alert to calls from internet providers claiming that there is a problem with your internet connection – this will be a ruse to get you to access your device and potentially give the scammer access – Internet companies will NEVER contact you in this way.
- Quite a few reports about scam lottery letters. These letters are designed to resemble the National and Post Code lotteries. The letter states that you will need to pay an advance fee to claim your winnings – the winnings are non-existent and this is an attempt to defraud you out of money
- It hasn't taken the scammers long to hop onto the Omicron covid scare! Latest emails purporting to be from the NHS state you HAVE to take a new omicron PCR test and if you don't you will have to isolate! There is obviously a link for you to click to order your test – DON'T this is a scam and although it looks like a genuine NHS email if you check the sender address it isn't a valid NHS one.

Remember – STOP – THINK – CHALLENGE



E-SCOOTERS

Did you know it's illegal to ride a privately owned electric scooter (e-scooter) in public?



That's because e-scooters are classed as motor vehicles in law. So, in theory, this means that you need an MOT, road tax and insurance to use one, however it isn't currently possible to register e-scooters in this way.

Privately owned e-scooters can only be used on private land, with the permission of the landowner.

You cannot use a privately owned e-scooter on the road, pavement or in a public space. If you do then you risk receiving a large fine, points on your driving licence and your e-scooter could be seized.

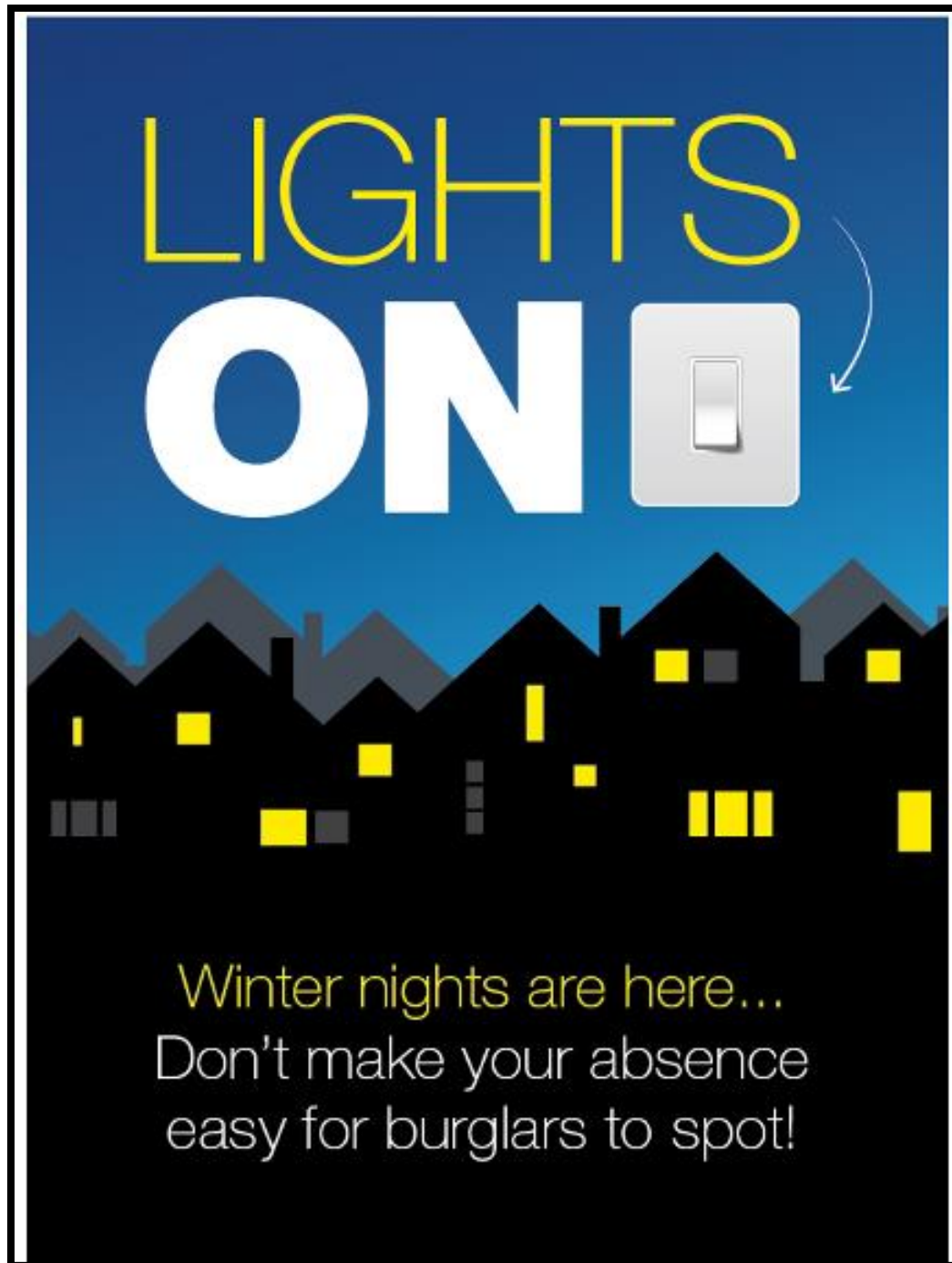
Some parts of the UK are running government trials of rental e-scooters. If you're over 16 and have a full or provisional driving licence, then you can use these on public roads and cycle paths.

Just check that your driving licence covers categories AM, A or B.





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Burglars don't like to be in the limelight! Check that any external lighting you may have is in order. Consider low level lighting on a dusk to dawn sensor as this will activate when you're not at home.

BURGLARY

CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE:

There are certain measures you can take to reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim yourself, such as:

- Don't leave curtains/blinds open, and don't leave valuables on show
- If you are going away, ask a neighbour or friend to check your house regularly
- Buy timer switches for lamps and radios to give the impression that someone is home
- Install a CCTV camera that covers your property
- Don't leave keys in doors - remove them and keep them close at hand but out of sight where you can easily find them in an emergency
- Don't leave your house unattended with windows open and unlocked - even for just a minute
- If you are in the garden or upstairs, make sure your downstairs doors and windows are closed and locked
- Never leave a key under a doormat or on a string through the letterbox
- Log your property free at www.hampshire.police.uk/immobilise

Report suspicious activity to the police on 101 or anonymously via the Crimestoppers charity on 0800 555 111

RURAL TIMES



Below is the link for the latest edition of the
Rural Times

<https://www.hampshire.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/hampshire/advice/rural-times/rural-times-november-2021.pdf>





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