



Devon & Cornwall Horse Watch

Winter 2021

Welcome to the quarterly **Devon and Cornwall Horse Watch** newsletter, which gives you a glimpse into the work undertaken through the partnership between **Devon and Cornwall Community Watch Association** and **Devon and Cornwall Police** to provide crime prevention and community support for all horse owners and riders, as well as stable/livery/yard owners and users across both counties.

This issue:

- **Crime round-up.**
- **Engagement updates.**
- **Riding Apps.**
- **A new Watch Scheme.**

If you would like to feature in one of our forthcoming issues as part of the 'Member Focus' please drop us a message and we will contact you. If there is any information, guidance or topic you would like us to cover then just let us know! Happy reading....



The Horse Watch Team would like to thank everyone for their support this year. We are looking forward to 2022 and hope that it will be a more 'normal' year where we can continue with our engagement activities. We feel it is important to get out into the communities where possible and that is something we very much look forward to in due course.

In the meantime, we hope you all have a very peaceful festive season and wish you all the best for the New Year!

The HW Team x

Where are you? A brief overview of riding apps.

Nowadays, we all rely on our mobile phones not just for staying in touch but for many aspects of our daily lives. In recent years the provision of useful mobile phone apps has grown vastly.

Did you know that there are now a host of apps aimed at the horse owner? These range from horse health including diary apps for care and monitoring through to apps designed to help with training and competing. Interestingly, there are a range designed for those who hack out regularly.

We have looked at a selection of these.

For planning your rides there are mapping apps like **OSMapfinder** which allow access to maps showing bridlepaths and rights of way which allow you to plan rides across unfamiliar areas.

For hacking there are several apps designed to track your progress and some even have the ability to send out alerts to contacts in certain circumstances.

Alert5 is a generic app designed for anyone to use but would be particularly useful out riding. It allows the user to instantly alert family or friends with an exact location when assistance is needed.

Safe Rider remembers the starting point of the ride and shows the current position to the rider. The alarm allows the rider to send out the current location to the selected buddies in case of emergency. When the phone registers no movement for a certain period (possibly rider is unconscious), an alarm will automatically be sent.

Horse Rider SOS will track your progress out on a hack. In the event that you have a fall and can't move, it goes into alert mode and notifies your emergency contacts with your exact location as pinpointed by the GPS.

Others include **Map My Ride**, **Outdoors GB**, and **Memory Map**.

It's worth considering looking at these to see if there is one you would find useful. Also, bear in mind that most mobile phones have a 'find my phone' facility so it is worth setting this up in case you either lose your phone or fall off and become injured and a family member or friend needs to locate you.

Another great app which is now being used worldwide is What3Words.

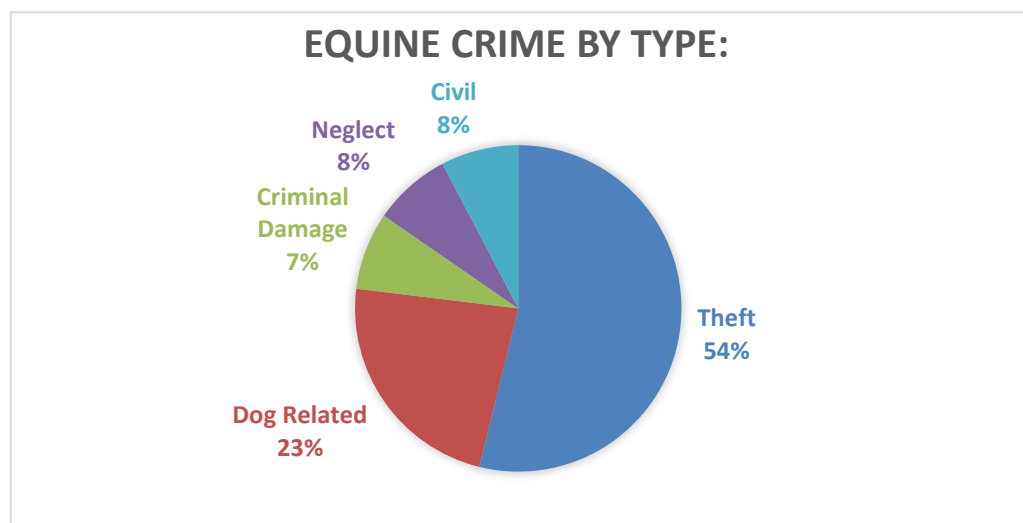
The **W3W** developers noticed that postcodes weren't accurate enough to specify precise locations and didn't even exist for parks, beaches, and many rural areas. This made it hard to find places and prevented people from describing exactly where help was needed in an emergency. W3W have now divided the world into 3 metre squares and given each square a unique combination of 3 words. It's the easiest way to find and share exact locations.



So, if you're off out for a hack, take your tec with you, let someone know where you are going and when you will be back – and have fun!

Equine Related Incidents and Crime.

Once again, equine crime reported to the police over the last three months remains low in comparison to other areas of the UK. Of the offences reported, over half were theft related. Unfortunately, two of these were ponies stolen/missing from the Holsworthy/Bude area at the end of August into September. There has been huge publicity via social media regarding these offences and enquires are still ongoing. The other thefts reported relate to tack and equipment such as electric fencing being stolen. This highlights the importance of marking all equipment and keeping fields, yards, and stables as secure as possible.



There has been a notable increase in reports of dogs worrying and/or chasing horses either when grazing or under saddle. This is likely to be due to the increase in dog ownership and high volume of dog-owning visitors to our area, post lockdown.

Our Engagement.

Following on from the summer shows we have continued our engagement activities where we have been able to continue promoting the watch schemes. In September we attended Bicton 5* Horse Trails which were held at Budleigh Salterton, Exeter.



Twitter messages from Bicton



Police horses on best behaviour!

We signed up over 60 new Horse Watch members throughout the event and worked alongside the Avon & Somerset mounted section who had brought along some of their younger horses for some training and experience. You may have seen our updates in Twitter!

In October the team provided a crime prevention input to a children's riding group in the East Devon area.

Moving forward, we will continue to increase the reach of the Horse Watch scheme and are looking to roll out some tack marking days over the winter months. We will also be trying to distribute the new Horse Watch signs which have finally arrived, so if you are a Horse Watch member keep your eyes peeled for those!

All updates, news, events and also the quarterly HW newsletters can be found on the dedicated HW FB page:

 **Devon & Cornwall Horse Watch**

If you are not a member of the scheme (which is totally free) and would like to find out more or join this fantastic equine community, please visit:

<https://alerts.dc.police.uk>



Heritage Watch to launch to help protect our heritage assets

A new community watch scheme aimed at bringing people together to help look out for and protect our heritage assets is being piloted on Bodmin Moor soon and could be of interest to our members who may witness anti-social behaviour whilst out and about. Heritage Watch will be joining the stable of other community watches orchestrated by Devon and Cornwall Community Watch Association (DaCCWA) and will be run in partnership with Devon and Cornwall Police's Rural Affairs Team. It will enable landowners, land managers and people who care about our region's myriad of historical buildings, monuments and structures to come together and share information to help protect these assets for future generations.



Julie Dowton, Chair of DaCCWA, says: "Sadly we are seeing a significant increase in heritage crimes being committed against some of our oldest assets across both Devon and Cornwall. Together with Historic England and Devon and Cornwall Police's Rural Affairs Team we are hoping that by giving people an opportunity to get involved, share information and learn more about how they can help protect these buildings and places, we'll also see more reporting of such crimes which will help the Police to prevent similar crimes from being committed and protect other heritage assets from further damage or loss."

Heritage crime covers a wide variety of criminal activity which can cause loss, damage or harm to heritage assets forever. Although some heritage assets are protected by specific legislation, crimes range from antisocial behaviour, graffiti and vandalism through to illegal metal detecting, theft and arson.

PC Julian Fry, with Devon & Cornwall Police's Rural Affairs Team, adds: "Heritage crime is any offence which targets the historic environment, whether it is on land or under the sea, and therefore it also covers unlawful salvage of shipwrecks and even the trade in illicit cultural property. Protecting our wonderful historic sites is an important part of our heritage and we are hoping that people who live near to, work at, or even own, such places will see the benefit of Heritage Watch in helping us to stem this rising kind of crime."

Information on how to join Heritage Watch will be available soon and all supporters will receive a free window/car sticker to indicate their involvement as well as targeted information surrounding Heritage Crime in their area via DC Alert.



Your Horse Watch Team

Devon & Cornwall Police Rural Affairs Team	PC 5036 Kerry WHITTING covering Devon PCSO 30381 Jennifer HOSKING covering Cornwall
Devon and Cornwall Community Watch Association	Julie Dowton , Chair of DaCCWA Jules Fairman , Strategic Co-ordinator for all of DaCCWA's Community Watches

As a team, we aim to increase the membership of Horse Watch, and continue to drive down crime by promoting sound prevention advice.

You can contact us via **101** or by emailing horsewatch@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk. We are also on Facebook and Twitter offering regular updates and letting you know the events we will be attending:

Facebook Devon and Cornwall Horse Watch
Twitter @DCPoliceRural_D or C (for Cornwall) for all rural matters

If you have an incident to report, do not hesitate to ring the Police on 101 for a non-emergency or 999 if you see a crime taking place.

You can also report using by email on 101@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Devon and Cornwall Community Watch Association is the umbrella organisation for all community watches across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. In addition to **Horse Watch**, **DaCCWA** runs a number of other community watches including **Neighbourhood Watch**, **Farm Watch** and **Boat Watch**.

You can contact us at: DaCCWA@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Signing up to DC Alert

You are receiving this message due to selecting an interest in 'Horse Watch' or 'Farm Watch'.

You can sign into [Devon and Cornwall Alert](#) to change your preferences.

Please share this message with anyone you feel would benefit from it; they can sign up to receive it directly from also visiting [Devon and Cornwall Alert](#)