

Monthly PCSO Newsletter

June 2021.



Hello there. I am your local Police Community Support Officer for your area. For those of you that don't know me, my name is PCSO Katherine Richards, but most people call me Kate.



This report is a general overview of what I have been doing this month and gives crime prevention advice. I tend to put it out at the beginning of each month.

My report goes out to the Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators, and any other members of the community who may be interested in receiving it. This can also be shared on your parish websites and your social media sites. **Please share.**

I would just like to let you know that I will be your point of contact for your town and parishes.

The areas that I cover are **Tenterden, St. Michaels, Rolvenden, Newenden, Weald South and Isle of Oxney areas.**



It has been another busy month, with lots going on in my areas and Ashford district. From covering a scene with colleagues in Ashford where a building had collapsed, to follow up and reassurance visits to members of the community who may have been sadly scammed, burgled or are having ongoing neighbour dispute to name just a few of my jobs. Never one day is ever the same, and I work with different agencies to try and help or resolve the problems, it could be from housing officers, Rural Tasking team, Traffic officers and the schools.

I have a close working relationship with Homewood School and can always call upon their help if we are having reports of ASB issues in the local areas. This month I have carried out a police clinic at Homewood school with our ASB officer and these clinics are held as and when needed by the school. This last month we have also had local elections in our area whereby I visited various rural Polling stations and it was lovely catching up with the local communities.

A reminder for all - it's great to have people in the community get in contact with me via email or when I am out to tell me what's going on whilst in the area but please remember all incidents must be reported via the correct channels. This then shows if there are ongoing problems in the area and we can then resource the correct patrols in that area.

Kent Police Special Constables.



Kent Police Ashford @kentpoliceash - 02/05/2021
Pleased to say that two more of our @KentSpecials have now been trained to use the speed laser for the purposes of speed enforcement. Have been out in Shadoxhurst this afternoon. @KentSpeedwatch #SaferRoads #CSUAshford. KR



Over the past months at Ashford we have had several new Special Constables join us and will be based out of Ashford, these are fully trained officers who volunteer their time and help us in the community. You will have seen them out in the rural villages and carrying out checks in Tenterden and Ashford. They are valued members of the team, and it is lovely to have some extra support in my areas. Helping to carry out speed checks in Appledore, Tenterden etc...Where we continue to have on going reports of speeding vehicles.



Crime statistics can be found at: <https://www.police.uk/>

Alternatively, Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) send out regular updates in relation to crimes that have happened in the Ashford area. If you wish to receive these updates directly then please contact Andrew Judd who is the Volunteer and Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer. His contact details are as follows:

Tel: Email: Address:

01233 896151

andrew.judd@kent.police.uk

Ashford Police Station, Tufton Street,
Ashford



Some of the Crime figures for the months.

Crime Type	Ward	Location	From	To	Property Stole / damaged	Crime reference
Theft from motor vehicle	Isle of Oxney	The Street area of Wittersham	13/05/21 2030 hrs	13/05/21 2035 hrs	Catalytic converter stolen	46/81524/21
Theft from motor vehicle	Rolvenden and Tenterden West	Mill Pond Lane area of Tenterden	13/05/21 1815hrs	13/05/21 1849 hrs	Wallet, cash and bank cards stolen	46/81744/21
Burglary	Isle of Oxney	Lloyds Green area of Wittersham	12/05/21 0001 hrs	12/05/21 0100hrs	Garage entered, nothing stolen	46/82003/21
Theft from motor vehicle	Tenterden South	Appledore Road area of Tenterden	23/05/21 1910hrs	23/05/21 1930 hrs	Tools stolen	46/88301/21
Theft of motor vehicle	St Michaels	Swain Road, St. Michaels	26/04/21 0001 hrs	03/05/21 1050 hrs	Quad bike stolen from barn	46/75673/21

Crime Prevention Advice.

Some crime prevention tips from our Crime Prevention PCSO Laura Langridge. If you need any further advice, please let me know and myself and Laura can visit.

Secure your property

Rural or remote properties, or settings that offer privacy away from public view, are more at risk of being targeted by criminals.

- Close and lock windows and doors when you go out, work in the garden or tend to other areas of your property.
- Keep the boundaries of your property well maintained and secure to keep out unwanted visitors.
- Restrict access to your land and property with locked gates.
- Fit adequate locks to sheds, garages and outbuildings and consider fitting shutters or grilles to windows or blocking them completely.
- Consider installing security lights, alarms and CCTV to deter intruders and maintain visibility, particularly in dark or sheltered areas of your property.
- Check security equipment regularly to ensure it works properly.

Protect machinery, plant and tools

- Keep valuable items out of view and store them safely when not in use.
- Security-mark machinery, plant and tools to make it easier for the police to identify and return them to you if they are recovered.
- Consider fitting alarms, tracking devices and immobilisers to items of machinery or plant.
- Keep track of where equipment is and who is using it.
- Make sure hired plant is returned promptly and check the identity of the person at handover.
- Ensure your staff members understand the importance of securing plant and machinery after use and remaining vigilant at work.

Secure your vehicles

Cars, tractors and quad bikes are tempting to thieves if left unattended.

- Always remove keys from the ignition and keep them somewhere secure.
- Avoid leaving vehicles in fields – secure them to a ground anchor, a wall, or inside a secure caged area if possible.
- Security-mark vehicles photograph any distinguishing marks and keep a record of serial, chassis and model numbers to help identify them.
- Consider fitting a tracking device to your vehicle to aid its recovery if stolen.

Reduce the risk of fuel theft

- Red and white diesels, petrol and heating oil are targets for thieves.
- Store fuel tanks within cages or secure buildings where possible, and keep the area locked and alarmed.
- Consider fitting anti-siphon devices, level alarms or using diesel dye to help deter fuel thieves.
- Report any suspicious activity to the police, giving descriptions of any people and vehicles involved.

Store fertiliser and chemicals securely

- Fertiliser and chemicals, including inorganic nitrogenous, ammonium nitrate and ammonium nitrate-based fertilisers, could be misused if stolen or used as an ingredient in home-made explosives.
- Store fertilisers and chemicals in secure, locked compounds, away from public view.
- Check stock levels regularly and report any unexplained discrepancies to the police immediately.

Protect your livestock

- Secure gates with good quality chains and padlocks that are more difficult to open.
- Make sure your animals are chipped or tagged to make them identifiable in case they escape.
- Use capped or inverted hinges on field gates to prevent easy removal.
- Regularly check gates and boundaries for signs of tampering.
- Security-mark metal gates so they can be traced back to your farm.
- Clearly mark footpaths with signage
- Display signage to advise dog owners of the presence of livestock.

Other top tips

- Tack and equestrian equipment may be desirable to thieves – security-mark valuable items including horseboxes and trailers and store them in a secure area that is kept locked when not in use. Photograph any distinguishing marks and keep a record of serial, chassis and model numbers to help identify them as yours. Consider fitting a tracking device to aid its recovery if stolen.
- Firearms are governed by strict regulations and must be used and stored appropriately – for advice, contact Kent Police on 101.
- Dispose of scrap metal regularly.
- Illegal hunting with dogs occurs from harvest to late spring – if you notice something suspicious, call the police with details of any persons or vehicles involved.
- Look after local wildlife – some animals and habitats are protected by legislation to help keep them from unnecessary harm, cruelty or damage. If you think someone may be committing an offence against the wildlife, without permission or authority to do so, please report them to the police.

Catapults – Unfortunately there has been an increase in catapult incidents recently. We have seen this in Tenterden / St. Michaels, Wittersham and other areas. Kent Police is actively pursuing any possible suspects. It is an offence to use a catapult to cause damage to property or cause harm to people or animals / wildlife. Kent Police is using stop and search powers and will deal robustly with any offenders via anti – social behaviour powers and prosecution. Please report any catapulting activities immediately.

Covid

It is great that lockdown restrictions are now easing, and life is getting back to a little bit of normality at long last. Please remember we must all take personal responsibility for not spreading this awful disease. It's great news that when I have chatted, to people most of you have had your first covid vaccination if not both. Please remember to carry your face masks on you for as and when needed and to carry on with social distancing rules.

Hopefully over the next month we will be going into the final stage of the road map.

STEP 3

At least five weeks after Step 2, no earlier than 17 May.



Indoor entertainment and attractions.



30 person limit outdoors.
Rule of 6 or two households indoors (subject to review).



Domestic overnight stays.



Organised indoor adult sport.



Most significant life events (30).



Remaining outdoor entertainment (including performances).

For updates please visit rules please visit www.gov.uk

STEP 4

At least five weeks after Step 3, no earlier than 21 June.

By Step 4, the Government hopes to be able to introduce the following (subject to review):



No legal limits on social contact.



Nightclubs.



Larger events.



No legal limit on all life events.

Tweets:



The team has also been out in Tenterden, trying to set up the same scheme to help the local shops. If anyone would like any further information on this scheme, please let me know.



Kent Police Ashford @kentpoliceash · 19/05/2021

Ashford's businesses are being provided with new radios to help tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in the town as part of a scheme backed by @AshfordCouncil and @kentpoliceash

Full details here... kent.police.uk/news/kent/late...



New radios to help keep Ashford residents safe

New radios are being handed out to staff at public houses, shops and other businesses in Ashford as part of the ongoing work of the town's crime reduction group.

Ashford Partnership Against Crime (APAC) sees Kent Police, Ashford Borough Council and more than 60 local businesses join forces to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

After some Covid-19 restrictions were loosened, APAC is handing out new radios to allow businesses to communicate with council enforcement and CCTV officers, as well as Kent Police's town centre team.

Individuals who cause repeated problems for businesses can then be flagged to officers in case offences have been committed or barred from the premises of all of the businesses in the scheme.

The extra capability of the new radio system, which was funded by Ashford Borough Council, means organisers are hoping to extend the scheme to Tenterden over the summer and autumn of 2021.

PC Alistair Pringle, Kent Police's licensing officer in Ashford, said: 'Kent Police will not tolerate shoplifting, anti-social behaviour and offences linked to the night-time economy in Ashford.'

'The work of APAC allows us to keep in touch with businesses in the town centre, gather intelligence around possible offenders, and respond quickly if any offences take place.'

Clr Peter Feacey, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing at Ashford Borough Council, said: 'Our funding for this new system demonstrates our appreciation to those town centre businesses who form the backbone of the partnership.'

'By replacing outdated radios with a new digital radio network, it will enable the partnership to expand, provide greater reliability, and future-proof the partnership for some time to come.'

Glyn Walker, APAC Scheme Manager, said: 'This is a major step for us; it means our member businesses can play an active role in making Ashford a safer place to live, work, shop and socialise.'



And the results are in – five charges in total, both bailed to attend court with bail conditions to help protect retail premises in [#Ashford](#) and [#Tenterden](#)

Kent Police Ashford @kentpoliceash · 13h

#AshfordVBCT have arrested a female and a male from Ashford for thefts in #Tenterden and #Ashford.
Both remain in custody for interview

21:57 · 27/05/2021 · [Twitter for Android](#)



Kent Police Ashford @kentpoliceash · 01/05/2021

#PCSO working with @KentVru & @kentpoliceash Cadets with weapon sweeps in #Ashford today. One knife was #found and will now be disposed of appropriately. #OpSceptre
LL



Kent Police Ashford @kentpoliceash · 19/05/2021

Please consider these #CrimePrevention methods to protect your #CatalyticConverter. If you are an Ashford resident and interested in having your catalytic converter marked then please email the Community Safety Unit at csu.ashford@kent.police.uk. LL

Preventing scrap metal crime

Help prevent the theft of catalytic converters



- To reduce this risk:
- mark or etch it with the vehicle identification number or a unique serial number
 - secure it to your vehicle with a cat clamp, cage or wire
 - park in a garage or busy, well-lit area where possible

If you see something suspicious, **report it.**



Contacting Kent Police
Report a non-urgent crime online www.kent.police.uk/report
Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 www.kent.police.uk/contact
In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call 999
If deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to 60066
www.kent.police.uk [f](#) [t](#) [i](#)

Fraud

Update from Kent Police's Prevent & Protect Fraud Officer



After the past year that we have all endured many of your thoughts will be turning to having a holiday. Unfortunately, fraudsters are aware of this and in the current supply and demand situation, with demand outstripping supply, this creates a unique environment for criminals.

Action Fraud have supplied some Top Tips to avoid falling victim to holiday fraud -

- Stay safe online: check the web address is legitimate and has not been altered by slight changes to a domain name – such as going from .co.uk to .org.
- Do your research: don't just rely on one review – do a thorough online search to ensure the company is credible. If a company is defrauding people, there is a good chance that consumers will

*post details of their experience, and warnings about the company.

- Look for the logo: check whether the company is an ABTA Member. Look for the ABTA logo on the company's website. If you have any doubts, you can verify membership of ABTA online on their website. If you're booking a flight and want more information about ATOL protection or would like to check whether a company is an ATOL holder, visit the CAA website.

- Pay safe: wherever possible, pay by credit card. You should avoid paying directly into a private individual's bank account.

- Check the paperwork: you should study receipts, invoices and terms and conditions, and be very wary of any companies that don't provide any at all. When booking through a Holiday Club or Timeshare, get the contract thoroughly vetted by a solicitor before signing up.

- Use your instincts: if a deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Preventing fraud

Together,
let's stop
scammers.



Remember, ABC:

 never Assume

 never Believe

 always Confirm

Get the latest
scam advice:



@KentPoliceECU

Courier Fraud

Action Fraud have prepared the following fact sheet about this terrible crime, (see below) which is also attached separately with my email, for those of you that may wish to print this for display etc. Please spread this message far and wide and remember the principles of ABC, which is, never **ASSUME** a call from someone saying they are your bank, or a Police Officer is genuine. Never **BELIEVE** they are genuine but always **CONFIRM** by ringing a trusted number or in the case of Police, 101. Always ring wherever possible with a different phone to the one you were called on. However if this is not possible, ring a family member or friend to ensure the line has been disconnected and the fraudster is not still waiting on the line.

What is Courier fraud?

Courier fraud occurs when people are duped into handing over money or valuables to criminals posing as couriers. Using a variety of different tactics, usually involving the impersonation of police officers and bank staff, criminals will call the victim and convince them into withdrawing a sum of money and handing it over to a courier who is sent to their home. The victim may be also convinced into handing over their bank cards, PINs, as well as high value items such as jewellery, watches and gold (coins or bullion).

High value jewellery and gold bullion

Recent reports to Action Fraud have highlighted a sharp increase in instances of criminals instructing victims to purchase high value items such as jewellery, gold coins and gold bullion.

Courier fraud - This advice will help individuals protect themselves against falling victim to courier fraud.

What you need to do

- **Your bank or the police will never** call you to ask you to verify your personal details or PIN. If you get a call asking you to do this, hang up, wait a few minutes and call your bank on a number you know to be genuine, such as the one on the back of your card.
- **Your bank or the police will never** send a courier to your home to collect your cash, bank cards, PINs, or any other valuable goods. Any requests to do so are part of a scam.
- **The police will not** contact you out of the blue and ask you to participate in an investigation that requires you to withdraw money from your bank, or to purchase high value goods, such as jewellery or gold.

What to do if you've been a victim of courier fraud:

- If you've revealed your bank details over the phone or handed your card to a courier, call your bank straight away to cancel the card.
- If you suspect that you have been a victim of courier fraud, report it to Action Fraud by visiting actionfraud.police.uk, or by calling 0300 123 2040.

If you have been a victim of fraud or cyber crime, report it to us at [Actionfraud.police.uk](https://actionfraud.police.uk), or by calling 0300 123 2040.



Doorstep Crimes – Rogue Traders

Fraudsters may use the fact that the current restrictions are easing as an opportunity to target vulnerable victims and commit doorstep scams. The below link takes you to a video that has been prepared by Action Fraud with Age UK with practical advice on how to people can protect themselves. If you have older family members or neighbours then please share it with them, so that we can raise awareness of these types of scams and how not to fall victim.



Other News Stories involving Kent Police

Roads Policing Unit supports safety campaign week

Officers from Kent Police's Roads Policing Unit will be supporting a national week promoting safe driving on low speed roads.

The Global Road Safety Week runs from Monday 17 May 2021 until Sunday 23 May 2021 and advocates lower speed limits in cities worldwide in places where people mix with traffic.

Statistics show that pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and other powered two-wheeler users are consistently overrepresented in all killed and seriously injured categories where collisions are most likely to occur on low speed, local roads.

In support of the campaign, officers from Kent Police will concentrate on hotspots and peak times for collisions on roads with a 30mph speed limit.

Inspector Thomas Pooley said: 'Speeding is one of the 'fatal four' causes of collisions targeted by roads policing patrols on a daily basis in Kent. The others being mobile phone use, drink or drugs and seatbelt use.

'Speed limits are in place for a reason and though you may wish to reach your destination quickly just a small reduction in your speed can reduce the likelihood of a collision.

'This week offers us an opportunity to keep local communities safe by tackling neighbourhood speeding and will include high visibility patrolling and static speed checks on key hotspot areas within neighbourhoods on 30mph roads.'

'Motorists caught speeding will be issued with a Traffic Offence Report (TOR) and face a fine, points on their licence or even court action. Some drivers can opt to take part in a speed awareness course.'

Driver who rammed police car in Ashford is jailed

A driver who rammed a police car as he tried to get away from officers in Ashford has been jailed.

Cameron McGlaughlin admitted dangerous driving when he appeared before Canterbury Crown Court on Monday 19 April 2021.

The 22-year-old, of Hither Field, Charing, was jailed for 18 months at the same court on Friday 7 May and disqualified from driving for three years and seven months.

Officers from Ashford's Local Policing Team saw McGlaughlin's uninsured Audi A4 driving along Kingsnorth Road, Ashford shortly before 6pm on Sunday 14 March 2021.

They illuminated their patrol car's blue lights to stop him but he drove off at up to 70mph in a 30mph zone.

He continued to drive at above the speed limit in Beaver Lane, Brookfield Road and Chart Road before going around the wrong side of a roundabout.

Officers followed him into Magazine Road, but he reversed his car into their vehicle, before making off again and driving through a set of red traffic lights.

He went through another roundabout on the wrong side before getting out of the car in Heathfield Road. Officers chased him and arrested him.

PC Tania Richardson, Kent Police's investigating officer, said: 'McGlaughlin's reckless driving could very easily have caused a serious collision and harmed other road users.

'He showed no consideration for the welfare of the two officers in the patrol car which he rammed as he tried to evade arrest. Their persistence in tracking and arresting him shows our commitment to bringing to justice dangerous drivers and those who threaten our officers' safety.'

One stop

The One Stop Shop service has been set up again at Repton Community Hall with effect from 24th November operating from 9.30 to 11.30. Further information is that social distancing and PPE will be in place and all candidates will have to wear a face mask.

Further Support and Information can be obtained by contacting the following agencies -:

- Rising Sun Domestic Violence and Abuse Service – Confidential Helpline – 01227 452852. This line is available 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday.
- Freephone 24-hour National Domestic Violence Helpline run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge - 0808 2000 247 or the Men's Advice Line on 0808 801 0327.
- Domestic Abuse Support Services in Kent and Medway - www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk

If you are in danger, please call 999 immediately.

Contacting Kent Police



Find your answer online. Browse our A to Z question finder www.kent.police.uk/askthepolice



Email your local policing team.
Visit www.kent.police.uk/yourarea



For non-urgent issues, call **101**



In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger, call **999**



If deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to **60066**



Find us on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter **@kent_police** or find your local account at www.kent.police.uk/yourarea



Follow us on Instagram **@kent_police**

REPORTING CRIMES

Please can I remind the community to report crimes or information by the correct channels i.e. via 101, www.kent.police.uk - report a crime or tap the live chat button on this website. Or 999 if an emergency is happening here and now. Crimes are not to be reported to me via e-mail please as not always on duty.

Police do not monitor community Facebook, Twitter, neighbour next door apps etc...and these are not the correct way to report things going on, otherwise we are unaware and unable to help you in your community.



Kate Richards PCSO 46059656

Community Safety Unit | Ashford Police Station | East Division

Please do not use this email to report incidents.

Please follow us on Twitter @kentpoliceash or visit our website <https://www.kent.police.uk/>

For a non-emergency please report online or contact 101 and in case of an emergency call 999.

<https://www.kent.police.uk/ro/report/>