

Police Community Support Officer Newsletter August 2020

Hello,

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 is my report for this month, so you are all aware of what I have been up to in and around your areas and what crimes have been happening. 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. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to PCSO Kyle Farnfield, who some of you are aware I have been tutoring the past few weeks. Kyle is going to be taking over from me with some of the parishes, so that we can give you and your communities' greater support.

I will be continuing to look after **Tenterden, St. Michaels, Rolvenden , Newenden , Weald South and Isle of Oxney areas**. Kyle will be the point of contact and taking over **Biddenden, Weald Central, Weald North, Charing**.

I have very much enjoy working with all the communities, which have welcomed me in their areas, and know that Kyle will continue to work with you to make your areas safe.



This month has continued to be as busy as ever for us, especially with the ongoing CORONAVIRUS – Due to new guidelines being announced by the government regularly with regards to COVID-19, please refer to their website for the most update to date information at:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

Face coverings will be mandatory in shops and supermarkets in England from 24 July.

Info: <http://gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>



It has been fantastic to see local communities coming together to make face coverings for people to pick up.



As measures start to be lifted, please still maintain the safety guidelines that shops, restaurants etc... have in place to make it safe for their staff , customers and the community.

Other information.

The coronavirus lockdown has seen an increase in the number of dogs being purchased, unfortunately this has also seen the demand rise to unprecedented levels along with thefts of dogs.

Locations in rural areas are at risk and dog owners are encouraged to reassess their security measures, CCTV, ensure they do not leave their dogs out unattended, and ensure they are microchipped and registered correctly should the worst happen.

They may also want to look at registering their dogs with " Dog lost" and remain vigilant by reporting suspicious vehicles, people and activity where concerned.

This is now not just an Ashford or Kent issue but a national issue.

Please take care with your pets.

Kennels and Boarding/Breeding Kennels please be alert and vigilant.

Above all if you are looking to purchase a dog please proceed with caution and use proper channels and do not purchase dogs from the back of a van parked in a motorway services etc.

If you are an owner of a Boarding Kennel or a breeder and need some more crime prevention advice please get in touch, and I will try and help.

Contact me: Katherine.richards@kent.police.uk

DOG THEFT AWARENESS!

DOG THEFTS ARE MASSIVELY ON THE RISE!

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR DOG UNATTENDED AT ANY TIME!

THIEVES ARE:

- WATCHING PUBLIC AREAS WAITING FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO STEAL YOUR DOG
- STEALING DOGS LEFT OUTSIDE SHOPS AND LEFT IN CARS
- STEALING DOGS FROM GARDENS, FRONT DRIVES AND KENNELS
- WATCHING YOU WALK YOUR DOG, THEY MAY FOLLOW YOU HOME
- SNATCHING DOGS WHILE THEY ARE BEING WALKED!



EVERY DOG HAS A VALUE WHETHER IT BE FOR RESALE, RANSOM, BREEDING OR BAITING!



REMEMBER:

- NEVER LEAVE YOUR DOG OUTSIDE ALONE, EVEN ON YOUR OWN PROPERTY
- DO NOT LET YOUNG CHILDREN WALK YOUR DOG
- IF YOU KNOW AN ELDERLY PERSON WHO HAS A DOG PLEASE TRY TO WALK WITH THEM
- MAKE SURE YOUR DOG IS MICROCHIPPED AND THE DETAILS ARE UP TO DATE
HOWEVER A MICROCHIP WILL NOT GUARANTEE YOUR DOG'S SAFE RETURN IF STOLEN,
SO THEFT PREVENTION IS KEY!

WE NEED TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST THESE THIEVES AND MAKE DOG THEFT AS DIFFICULT AS POSSIBLE FOR THEM.

PLEASE DO NOT LET IT BE YOUR BELOVED PET THAT GETS TAKEN.

OUR DOGS PUT ALL THEIR TRUST IN US AND IT IS OUR DUTY TO PROTECT THEM.



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PLEASE BE VIGILANT!

Appeal following theft of dogs from the Ashford area

Officers are appealing for information after two dogs were stolen during a burglary in the Ashford area. Kent Police was called after the two bulldogs, named Pebbles and Queenie, were stolen from kennels behind a house in Little Chart.

The theft is believed to have taken place between 2.30am and 3am on Saturday 23 May 2020.

Can you help?

Officers are investigating and have released an image of the two dogs as they attempt to recover them for their owner.

Anyone who has seen the dogs or who has any information is asked to contact Kent Police on 01843 222289, quoting reference 46/89694/20.

You can also contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555 111 or using the anonymous online form at [Crimestoppers-uk.org](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

Found

Stolen dog recovered on a busy dual carriageway near Maidstone.



A stolen dog found wandering next to a busy dual carriageway near Maidstone has been returned to its rightful owner.

Peanut, a seven-month-old cavapoo, was recovered by a motorist at around 7am on Wednesday 10 June 2020, after he was spotted on the central reservation of the A249, Detling Hill.

He was passed into the hands of attending officers and checks later uncovered a microchip which led to him being reunited with his owner.

Other dogs still missing

Peanut had been reported stolen, along with eight other dogs, from kennels near Sandwich between 6 June and 7 June.

Five of the other dogs had also previously been recovered after they were located left in locations close to the crime scene and at an area in Swale.

An investigation into the theft is ongoing and three dogs remain outstanding - a female pug, a male poodle and a female cocker spaniel.

Can you help?

Anyone with information which may assist enquiries is asked to contact Kent Police on 01843 222289, quoting reference 46/95763/20.

You can also contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555111 or by using the anonymous online form at Crimestoppers-uk.org

Kent Police has an established team dedicated to education and enforcement in relation to dogs.

Part of the team's role is to help promote initiatives such as microchipping and to work with the charity DogLost to reunite missing or stolen dogs with their owners.

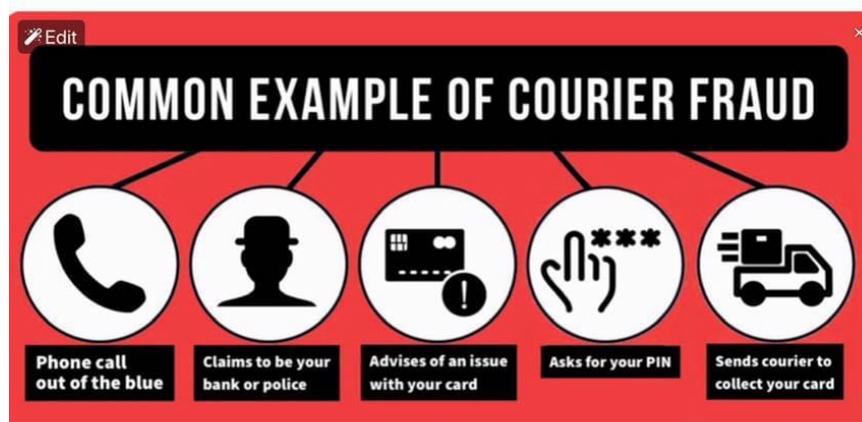
Latest fraud scams

Fraudsters Impersonating Kent Police

I know this is also happening in our rural / town areas aware.

Please be alert and don't give any Personal details.

Report anything like this to Action fraud as well.



Add a caption...



Fraud detectives are warning residents to beware of criminals who are using police phone numbers to target vulnerable people.

Those responsible are not actually calling from a Kent Police station but are changing their caller ID to make it appear like they are – a process known as ‘spoofing’.

Since the beginning of July, the force has received at least three reports of this nature from people living in Faversham, Gravesend and Gillingham.

On each occasion the victim was contacted by someone claiming to be from Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs, who told them they were wanted for tax evasion and would shortly be contacted by a police officer. They were then asked what their local police station was, giving the fraudster the opportunity to research the phone number for that station and arranging for an accomplice to pretend to call back on it. Two of those targeted were so worried about being arrested that they agreed to pay the bogus police officer around £900 each to settle the amount they were told they owed.

Detective Sergeant Alec Wood of the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate said: ‘Criminals are always looking for new ways in which to win the trust of those they target and calling from a number that appears to be a police number is the latest trick up their sleeve. ‘It is important to remember that a police officer will never ask you to pay money over the phone, nor will they threaten you with arrest for not paying. Never give out your personal information in response to an incoming call or rely upon the caller ID as the sole means of identification – particularly if the caller is asking you to do something that will affect you financially.’

If somebody rings you asking for this information, do not give it to them. Instead, hang up the phone and call a trusted number from a different phone or wait at least five minutes to ensure the line has cleared and you are not still talking to the same fraudster or an accomplice. Contact your bank immediately if you think you may have been scammed and also report the incident to Action Fraud.

Four arrested for suspected courier fraud offences

Detectives investigating fraud offences reported to have been committed against vulnerable people across Kent have made four arrests.

A 35-year-old man from Canterbury, a 33-year-old man from Loughton in Essex, a 26-year-old man from Maidstone and a 24-year-old man from Ashford were detained at around 3.30pm on Wednesday 15 July 2020 and remain in custody.

They were arrested together at the M20 Maidstone services in a van believed linked to offences currently being investigated by officers from the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate.

Victims have reported being targeted by rogue tradesmen carrying out substandard work on their properties, before then receiving follow-up calls from fraudsters pretending to be police officers.

The bogus officers claim to have arrested those responsible for the work before then asking to collect the victims’ bank cards so they can be used as evidence.

Detective Sergeant Marc Cananur of the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate said: ‘A police officer will never ask you to withdraw money or hand over your bank cards. Anyone who does receive a

suspicious telephone call of this nature should hang up, wait five minutes to ensure the line is clear, and then call 101 to check the credentials of the person who called.

'It is not unusual for fraudsters to target the same property twice, for example by carrying out substandard or unnecessary repairs for a high fee and then posing as a police officer who is investigating the very crime they themselves have committed.

'Contact your bank immediately if you think you may have been scammed and also report the incident to Action Fraud.

'Remember the ABC rule to help protect yourself and others against fraud – never Assume someone is telling the truth, never Believe what they say unless you are confident they are who they say they are, and always Confirm the details they have provided.'

Appeal:

Teenage girl dies after collision in Egerton, near Ashford

Kent Police is appealing for witnesses after a teenage girl died and three other people were seriously injured in a collision near Ashford.

The incident happened on Mundy Bois Road, Egerton, at around 8.20pm on Saturday 4 July 2020.

A silver Suzuki Swift with six people inside was travelling in the direction of Egerton when it left the road near Kingsland Lane and collided with a tree in a residential garden.

A 17-year-old girl from the Ashford area, who was a passenger in the vehicle, died on the way to hospital and three others, a 19-year-old man, an 18-year-old man and another 17-year-old girl, were all taken to a London hospital where they remain in a serious but stable condition.

Officers arrested a 19-year-old man from Ashford and a 17-year-old girl from Maidstone, both of whom had previously been discharged from hospital, on suspicion of driving offences. Both remain in custody while enquiries into the incident continue.

Kent Police has made a mandatory referral to the Independent Office for Police Conduct due to a police vehicle being in close proximity at the time of the collision.

Officers from the Serious Collision Investigation Unit are carrying out enquiries into the incident and would particularly like to hear from anyone who saw the Suzuki Swift prior to the collision and may be able to help trace its movements and describe the manner it was being driven in.

Please call the appeal line on 01622 798538 quoting reference DB/LB/60/20 or email sciu.td@kent.pnn.police.uk

Police dogs help detain burglary suspect in Ashford

Kent Police dogs helped with the search of a man after patrols were called to a rural burglary in Ashford.

On Wednesday 15 July 2020 officers attended a property in Hamstreet Road after the homeowner confronted two suspected burglars who were on his land reportedly looking through his windows and trying door handles.

The victim called police at around 9.30pm after confronting the men, which caused them to run from his property.

Patrols carried out a search of the area with the assistance of police dogs and located a 52-year-old man from Ashford in woodland near to the property. He matched the description of one of the suspects and was arrested on suspicion of burglary.

Enquiries remain ongoing to locate the second man and officers urge anyone who witnessed anything suspicious in the area to call Kent Police on 01843 222289 quoting reference 46/121539/20.

You can also contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555 111 or using the anonymous online form at [Crimestoppers-uk.org](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

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.

Sadly, we 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