

NHW – Village Newsletter Update September 2020

Reported crime remains low although continues to run at an annualised level higher than 2019 although July as a month was down compared to July 2019. Antisocial behaviour increased in the month although was confined primarily to one area of the village. Noticeably burglary and theft levels remain low likely due to the increased number of people being at home due to the lock-down restrictions.

For those that visit the village Facebook or Nextdoor website pages you will have seen a number of posts with details of scams which are circulating – both within Kent but also around the country. For those that don't use the internet you may have had phone calls purporting to be from various people (e.g. HMRC, BT, the Police etc.) claiming that you owe money and they need payment card details. **DO NOT** provide any card details as no genuine caller would ask for such details. There have been instances where the caller has asked individuals to withdraw cash from their bank accounts to help identify bank staff fraud and for the cash to then be collected by a Courier company for analysis – do not get tricked by such an attempt.

Doorstep callers are another area where people may try to get you to pay for unnecessary property repairs or distract you while an accomplice steals items from your property. Ensure any caller is genuine by seeing identification and check with their company to make sure they are due at your property – **do not let them in if you are not sure**. Don't be embarrassed to say 'No' or ask them to leave. Call 999 if you feel threatened or in danger. Call the police non-emergency number 101 if you're not in immediate danger but want to report an incident. Please speak with friends or neighbours to discuss any incidents which made you feel uncomfortable – they may have experienced the same.

For those with property with open boundaries to fields then help to protect yourself from Rural Crime by:-

- 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



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   

Remember concerns / observations of suspicious behaviour, or information relevant to criminal activity, can be either phoned through to the Police using 101, logged online via their website or anonymously via CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111.

Peter Webb

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