

Monthly PCSO Newsletter December 2020.



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.



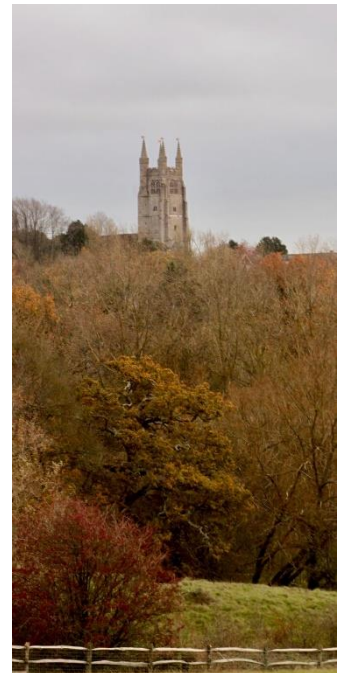
This is my report for this month, which I put out at the beginning of the month, so you are all aware of what I have been up to in and around your areas and what crimes have been happening. My report goes out to the Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators, and any other members of the community 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.

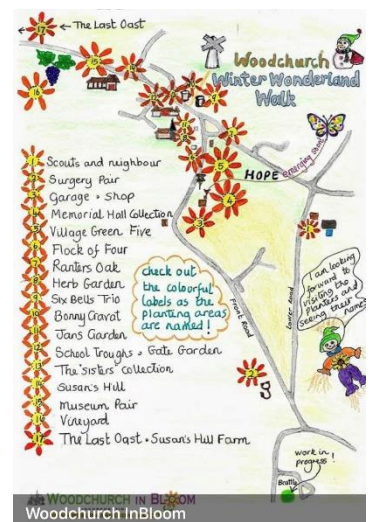
The areas that I cover are **Tenterden, St. Michaels, Rolvenden, Newenden, Weald South and Isle of**

Oxney areas.

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



With everything that has been going on this year, it has been lovely seeing the different communities in the areas I cover coming together to make their communities better this Christmas. Including groups of residents putting up Christmas lights and Woodchurch putting together a Winter wonderland walk; just to mention a few - I know there are many more. Also, the shops this year have gone all out with some amazing displays during this difficult time, with many looking forward to re-opening on the 2nd December. However, sadly some parishes have had to cancel some of their Christmas plans this year.



Please stay safe with us going into Tier 3 from the 2nd December, and if you are unsure of what you are or not allowed to do please refer to www.gov.uk/coronavirus

TIER 3

VERY HIGH ALERT

FROM 2 DEC

MEETING FRIENDS AND FAMILY  <p>No mixing of households indoors, or most outdoor places, apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six in some outdoor public spaces (e.g. parks, public gardens).</p>	BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS  <p>Hospitality is closed, with the exception of sales by takeaway, drive-through or delivery.</p>	RETAIL  <p>Open.</p>	WORK AND BUSINESS  <p>Everyone who can work from home should do so.</p>
EDUCATION  <p>Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open. Childcare, other supervised activities for children, and childcare bubbles permitted.</p>	INDOOR LEISURE  <p>Open. Group activities and classes should not take place.</p>	ACCOMMODATION  <p>Closed (with limited exceptions)</p>	PERSONAL CARE  <p>Open.</p>
OVERNIGHT STAYS  <p>We advise against overnight stays other than with household or support bubble.</p>	WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS  <p>15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships and wakes; 30 for funerals. Wedding receptions not permitted.</p>	ENTERTAINMENT  <p>Indoor venues closed.</p>	PLACES OF WORSHIP  <p>Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.</p>
TRAVELLING  <p>Avoid travelling outside your area, other than where necessary such as for work or education. Further exemptions apply. Reduce the number of journeys where possible. Plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes on public transport. Avoid car sharing with those outside of your household or support bubble.</p>	EXERCISE  <p>Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors, but people should avoid higher-risk contact activity. Group exercise activities and sports indoors should not take place, unless with your household or bubble. Organised activities for elite athletes, under-18s and disabled people can continue.</p>	RESIDENTIAL CARE  <p>COVID-secure arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, and window visits. Outdoor/airtight visits only (rollout of rapid testing will enable indoor visits including contact).</p>	LARGE EVENTS  <p>Events should not take place. Drive-in events permitted.</p>

Find out what support you can get

For example, if you're out of work, need to get food, or want to take care of your mental health.

gov.uk/coronavirus

If you have any coronavirus symptoms:

A high temperature • A new, continuous cough
A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

Get a test and stay at home

For more information and detailed guidance visit:
gov.uk/coronavirus





Updates



Kent Police Ashford
@kentpoliceash

For our today, they gave their
tomorrow [#LestWeForget](#)
[#RemembranceSunday](#)
[#Tenterden](#)



Kent Police Ashford
@kentpoliceash

Lovely Autumn day out on patrol
[#Tenterden](#). Glad to see that most
people appeared to be following
social distancing guidelines whilst
enjoying the weather. [#PCSO](#)
[#CommunityPolicing](#) KR



With the nights drawing in earlier, please can I remind those of you that cycle or children cycle to ensure that you/they have correct reflective clothing and lights. We have had reports of youngsters riding in and out of traffic dangerously doing wheelies in the local villages and towns.

E-Scooters – Know the law

Although e-scooters can be great fun, it's against the law to ride one on a public road, cycle lane or pavement.

What you need to know:

E-scooters are classed as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs), which means they are treated as motor vehicles and subject to the same legal requirements, such as driving licence, insurance, number plates, lighting, road tax, crash helmets etc. **Without these, e-scooters cannot be used legally on the road.**

The Government is currently trialling the use of approved rental e-scooters as environmentally friendly modes of transport in some specific locations in the UK.

For the rest of the country, under current law, e-scooters can only be used on private land.

What should I do now?

It's our priority to keep you and other road users safe.

We are obliged to take action against anyone who is caught repeatedly using an e-scooter illegally or in a way that causes a nuisance to others. In these circumstances we have the



power to seize the e-scooter under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act/165 of the Road Traffic Act – and we'd really prefer not to.

Thank you for cooperating with us today and agreeing not to use your e-scooter on a road, cycle lane or pavement.

From now on, please make sure you **only use your e-scooter on private land.**

For more information about powered transporters and the law, visit www.gov.uk

Security Advice

With the Christmas period nearly over please can I remind everyone about not leaving wrapping and boxes outside your home as this can advertise rich pickings inside. Please wait until the day of your next refuse collection or take it to the tip.



Leaving your home checklist

Whenever you go out, it's important to leave your home secure. Getting into an 'exit routine' can help ensure that you don't forget obvious, but important things, like not leaving your valuables near windows, or no lights on if it will be dark before you get home. Here's our quick reminder on what to do just before you go out.

Become a creature of habit

Try to get into the habit of following your own course of action when you lock up your home. This will ensure that you don't forget anything.

Here's what we recommend you do before you go out:

- close and lock all your doors and windows, even if you're only going out for a few minutes
- double-lock any door
- make sure that any valuables are out of sight
- keep handbags away from the letterbox or cat flap and hide all keys including car keys, as a thief could hook keys or valuables through even a small opening
- never leave car documents or ID in obvious places such as kitchens or hallways
- in the evening, shut the curtains and leave lights on
- if you're out all day, then it's advisable to use a timer device to automatically turn lights and a radio on at night
- set your burglar alarm
- make sure the side gate is locked
- lock your shed or garage

- lock your bike inside a secure shed or garage, to a robust fitting bolted to the ground or wall, like a ground anchor

ASHFORD RURAL BURGLARY

These items were stolen the other night from the Rolvenden area, please keep your eye out for them. Report anything you know via 101 or online.



Kent Police Ashford
@kentpoliceash

#Ashford has recently seen an increase in number plate thefts. Criminals will attach the stolen plate to their own #vehicle so that they can commit crimes. Report stolen registration plates to #KentPolice as soon as possible and please consider using anti-theft screws. LL



There has also been an increase in thefts of number plates across the Ashford district. This is spread across rural and urban areas.

This is happening all hours of the day and from driveways, roadside and car parks. Unfortunately, it is so easy for criminals to remove plates which they will then clone and use to commit further crimes: burglaries, robberies, bilking etc.

What's available / Crime Prevention:

- Anti-theft Number Plate Bolts - These are virtually non-removable without the specialist locking tool. It is not going to guarantee it is going to stop plates getting stolen but will certainly make it harder / longer for criminals to do so. These can be purchased in places such as Halfords, Euro car parts or main dealerships should also be able to provide.
- Try to secure vehicles in a garage if available. If not, park in well-lit areas ideally overlooked by properties.
- CCTV / Dashcams

Theft of cosmetics from Ashford and Tenterden

CCTV images have been released by officers of a man they believe may have important information regarding hundreds of pounds-worth of cosmetics stolen in Ashford and Tenterden.

Officers are investigating a theft of more than £500 worth of Vichy Dermablend products from a business in Tenterden High Street on 3 August 2020, at around 11.15am.

A second theft was reported on 20 October 2020 at 10am from a business in Mill Court, Ashford, where around £300 worth of Rimmel make-up was stolen.



Anyone with information should call Kent Police on 01843 222289 quoting 46/188039/20.

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)

Rings, earrings and an ankle bracelet stolen in Tenterden



Information is being sought after jewellery was stolen during a suspected burglary at a Tenterden property.

It was reported that on Friday 2 October 2020 a resident of Rothley Close left their home and when they returned a window was open. They later noticed that jewellery was missing. Items reportedly stolen include a gold wedding ring, a gold signet ring, a small gold ring, a pair of gold cross earrings, a pair of silver earrings and a gold ankle bracelet.

Anyone with information regarding the burglary or if the jewellery has been seen or offered for sale, is asked to call Kent Police on 01843 222289 quoting 46/196635/20.

Fraud

With more of using the internet to do our Christmas shopping this year, please make sure you buy safely and don't get scammed. Below is some advice to stay safe.



Black Friday / Cyber Monday

On Black Friday many of you will be attracted to buying bargains online over the next few days. Action Fraud have released some top tips to avoid on-line scams and have a happy shopping experience this Christmas.

Please see below and also go to their website for more details -

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/shoponlinesafely>



Learn more: [actionfraud.police.uk/shoponlinesafely](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/shoponlinesafely)

#FraudFreeXmas 

Watch out for online shopping scams this Black Friday

   TO STOP FRAUD

 Where to shop Making a purchase from an online store you haven't used before? Carry out some research first, or ask a friend or family member if they've used the site and about their experiences before completing the purchase.	 Your information Only create an account if necessary or to save you effort if you're going to use that site a lot in the future. Be cautious if the website asks you for details that are not required for your purchase, such as your mother's maiden name or the name of your primary school.	 Payment If you decide to go ahead with the purchase, ensure that the webpage where you enter your payment details is secure (website address starts with "https"). Using a credit card to pay online also means that should the worst happen and your payment details are compromised, your main bank account won't be directly affected.	 Phishing Some of the messages you receive about amazing offers may contain links to fake websites. Not all links are bad, but if you're unsure, don't use the link - go separately to the website. Report any suspicious emails you receive by forwarding them to: report@phishing.gov.uk
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DPD Phishing Email.

I have had a report this week of a person receiving an unsolicited email from fraudsters claiming to be the delivery company DPD. It stated that they had tried to make a delivery but that the person had not been at home. They were requested to click a link. This was a scam and I would ask you to be vigilant at this time with so many more of you shopping online.

This particular Phishing email was sent from a Hotmail address and addressed the intended victim by the email name, as opposed to Mr or Mrs etc. Both of these raised alarm bells with the intended victim.

Always check the senders email address details and if unsure, apply ABC and ring a trusted number to confirm that it is genuine. Never click links or divulge personal or Banking data.

If you receive phishing emails like this please forward them to report@phishing.gov.uk for further investigation

Scammers impersonating Age UK.

From our colleagues at Kent County Council Public Protection, they have received reports of a resident in Ashford being targeted by Scammer(s) impersonating Age UK. They are calling intended victims and asking questions including the name of their Doctors Surgery and medication they may be taking. It is a scam, as Age UK would not call and ask for personal information.

End the telephone call and make sure the line has cleared.

If you are unsure if a call is from AGE UK, the following will take you to their website to find your local Age UK -

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/services/in-your-area/>

For advice and to report contact Citizens Advice 0808 223 1133 or report to Action Fraud or the Police on 101.

Fake Penalty Charge notices.

This week Action Fraud have raised again issues of fake penalty charge notices being sent out to the public by fraudsters. If you get one of these, forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk for further investigation. Never click on links and never divulge personal or financial information.

Preventing fraud

Together,
let's stop
scammers.



Remember, ABC:



never Assume



never Believe



always Confirm

Get the latest
scam advice:



@KentPoliceECU

AF Action Fraud @actionfrauduk · Nov 23

Be on the lookout for these FAKE penalty charge emails.

The links in the emails lead to websites that are designed to steal your personal and financial details. If you receive one, report it to: Report@phishing.gov.uk

Read more: gov.uk/government/new...

SCAM WARNING

Be on the lookout for fake penalty charge emails.

The email, which purports to be from HM Courts & Tribunals Service, states that the recipient has been issued a penalty charge for "the use of a vehicle on a road in the charging area which a charging scheme applies without payment of the appropriate charge". The links provided in the emails lead to genuine-looking phishing websites that are designed to steal personal and financial information.

- Your bank, or any other official organisation, won't ask you to share personal information over email or text. If you need to check that it's a genuine message, call them directly.
- Spotted a suspicious email? Forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) - Report@phishing.gov.uk



Kate Richards PCSO 46059656

Community Safety Unit | Ashford Police Station | East Division

Please do not use this email to report incidents. For a non-emergency please report online or contact 101 and in case of an emergency call 999.