

Monthly PCSO Newsletter
April 2021.



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 coordinators, 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/>

Alternatively, Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) send out regular updates in relation to crimes that have happened in Ashford and local areas. If you wish to receive these updates directly then please contact Andrew Judd who is the Volunteer and Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer. Which will look like this.



Dear all,



Please find below details of Ashford District crime reported over the last 24 hours, as usual if you have any information which may be useful to the investigation of these incidents please call 101 and quote the relevant crime report number, or call CRIMESTOPPERS on 0800 555 111.

This report includes all NHW relevant crime reported within the timescale given – Burglaries (Home/Other), Theft of and from Motor Vehicles, other reported theft and Criminal Damage. The report will not feature crimes of violence or where there is any aspect of Domestic Abuse.

Crime Type	Ward	Location	From	To	Property stole/damaged	Crime reference	Misc.
Burglary	Bockhanger	Grassmere Road area of Ashford	01/01/21 0001 hours	04/03/21 1143 hours	Garage entered and pedal cycle and power drill stolen	46/35989/21	
Criminal Damage	Willesborough	Silver Hill Gardens area of Ashford	05/03/21 1800 hours	05/03/21 2000 hours	Window smashed with a stone	46/36080/21	
Criminal Damage	Beaver	St Stephens Walk area of Ashford	04/03/21 2230 hours	05/03/21 0945 hours	Window cracked with a stone	46/36125/21	
Theft	Upper Weald	Acorns area of Pluckley	05/03/21 0900 hours	05/03/21 1400 hours	Wheelie bin stolen	46/36192/21	
Theft	Weald Central	Discovery Drive area of Kingsnorth	04/03/21 1800 hours	05/03/21 0850 hours	Boiler stolen from new build house	46/36205/21	
Criminal Damage	Victoria	Church Road area of Ashford Town Centre	05/03/21 1216 hours	06/03/21 1200 hours	Door damaged	46/36680/21	
Criminal Damage	Goat Lees	Guernsey Way area of Ashford	06/03/21 1845 hours		Door damaged with stones	46/36873/21	
Burglary	St Michaels	Heather Drive area of Tenterden	06/03/21 0100 hours	06/03/21 0130 hours	Attempt made to enter garage	46/37068/21	Attempt

His contact details are as follows:

Tel: 01233 896151
 Email: andrew.judd@kent.police.uk
 Address: Ashford Police Station,
 Tufton Street,
 Ashford.
 TN23 1BT

Update's

Three men arrested in catalytic converter theft investigation

Three men were arrested on suspicion of stealing catalytic converters after Kent Police carried out several early morning warrants.

The search warrants, which were carried out on Tuesday 23 March 2021, are part of an ongoing investigation into the organised theft of catalytic converters, which Kent Police is investigating alongside the Metropolitan Police and Essex Police.

Two men, aged 18 and 24, were arrested in Folkestone on suspicion of being involved in up to 30 thefts.

A third person, a 27-year-old man, was detained in Maidstone for his suspected role in an additional theft.

They have all been released on bail, pending further enquiries, until 13 April.

Kent Police also assisted with a search of a shipping container on the Essex coast.

It contained suspected stolen metal and car parts which were due to be transported to the Ivory Coast.

Detective Chief Inspector Matt Talboys, from Kent Police's Chief Constable's Crime Squad, said: 'Working alongside our partners, we are relentlessly pursuing people who we believe are involved in an organised conspiracy to steal catalytic converters.

'Victims are often targeted indiscriminately and we don't underestimate the impact this can have on their daily lives, on top of the often expensive repair bills.

'Motorists can be assured that we are following every available line of enquiry to proactively identify and target suspects.

'We also carry out regular patrols in areas that we believe may be targeted and work closely with scrap metal dealers to identify potential suspects.'

Advice:

There are a number of steps vehicle owners can take to reduce their chances of being targeted.

This includes contacting the manufacturer of their car as many companies sell clamps and security cages that are known to deter thieves.

It is also possible to security-mark and register the metal shell of the converter so that it can be returned to its rightful owner if it is stolen and recovered.

Further advice includes parking your vehicle in a garage or a busy, well-lit area. If feasible, homeowners can also give consideration to installing good quality CCTV cameras.

Suspect charged with spitting at police officers

A suspect has been charged with multiple offences including two incidents of spitting at police officers.

Jonathon Newman, 23, of Station Road East, Canterbury, was arrested at 2.30pm on Wednesday 17 March 2021 when Kent Police received a report of threatening and abusive behaviour at William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.

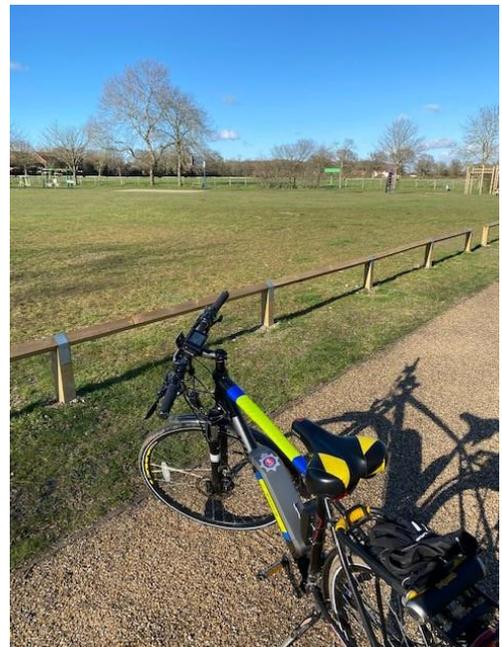
A lock knife was also seized following a search of his clothing.

After being taken into custody, Mr Newman is alleged to have thrown his face covering at an officer and spat towards two others. He is also alleged to have damaged a fire alarm.

Mr Newman has since been charged with a public order offence, possession of a knife, criminal damage and three counts relating to assaults on emergency workers.

He appeared before Folkestone Magistrates' Court on Friday 19 March and was remanded in custody to appear again on Thursday 25 March.

I have been out and about in the communities this month with a variety of different calls and reassurance patrols. It has been lovely catching up with people that have stopped for a chat, always feel free to stop and talk to me when I'm out and about. Everyone that I have seen and spoken to have all be following the Covid regulations. I am aware that people put things on Facebook and think that is enough to make Police aware of the problem. Police do not monitor Facebook, so it is really important to report problems to Police in the correct manner.



Need to report a crime?
Do it online

A quicker way for you to report crime and incidents

Receive your confirmation email and reference number immediately

Go to www.kent.police.uk/report

Live Chat is very easy to use if you have a computer.

Other ways to report.

Are as shown below.

Making it easier to get in touch

<p>In an EMERGENCY only call</p>  <p>when life is in immediate danger or when a crime is in progress</p>	<p>Report ONLINE</p>  <p>A quicker way for you to report crime and incidents</p>  <p>Receive your confirmation email and reference number immediately</p> <p>Go to www.kent.police.uk/report</p>	<p>Front counters</p>  <p>You can report issues to one of our front counters. To find your nearest one visit our website.</p> <p>www.kent.police.uk/contact</p>
<p>Crimestoppers</p>  <p>Call 0800 555111 100% anonymous. Always.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are not the police • Nobody will know you have helped us • They pay cash rewards of up to £1,000 <p>www.crimestoppers-uk.org</p>	<p>Hate crime reporting hubs</p> <p>Visit one of our reporting hub drop-in surgeries based in Medway.</p> <p>You don't need an appointment (in most cases) and will be given advice and support by a trained team member.</p>  <p>www.kent.police.uk/hatecrime</p>	<p>ActionFraud Report Fraud & Internet Crime</p> <p>Report online fraud or scams to ActionFraud</p>  <p>Report 24/7 actionfraud.police.uk</p>  <p>0300 123 2040 Mon-Fri 8am to 9pm Sat & Sun 9am-5pm</p>
<p>Ask the Police</p> <p>No need to phone. Get an instant answer online.</p>   <p>www.askthe.police.uk</p>	<p>True Vision</p>  <p>Visit the True Vision website to find out more about hate crime, what to do if you are a victim and to make a report online.</p> <p>www.report-it.org.uk/home</p>	<p>Country Eye – rural crime app</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snap a photo of the suspicious behaviour, incident or concern. • Receive updates and alerts on the incident you submit. • Tell us where you are or use your phone's built in GPS location. <p>www.countryeye.co.uk</p>
<p>Nuisance and environmental issues</p> <p>Contact your local council for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Noise complaints  Abandoned vehicles  Fly tipping <p>www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council</p>	<p>101</p> <p>Call 101 to report crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency response</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • property damaged • suspect drug use or dealing or: • give information about crime • have a general enquiry    	<p>Contact the Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write to OPCC, Kent Police HQ, Sutton Road, Maidstone, ME15 9BX • Call on 01622 677055 • Email contactyourpcc@pcc.kent.police.uk • Twitter @PCCKENT • Visit the website www.kent-pcc.gov.uk  

What happens after you report a crime?

All this information can be found on the Kent Police website.

www.kent.police.uk

The circumstances around every crime are unique, so the way we investigate each one can vary, but we treat reports of crime seriously and investigate each with impartiality. Every investigation will start with the same basic steps to make sure we gather all the relevant information and keep you informed.

Find out below what happens after you [report a crime](#), when you can expect a crime reference number and how often we'll contact you.

The investigation processes

First, we'll make sure that we're the correct police force to investigate the crime you've reported. For example, if it took place in a train station, this would be a matter for British Transport Police (BTP). In this case, we'd send them your report and they'd continue the investigation.

Once we've established, we're the correct police force, we'll issue you with a crime reference number. How quickly we can do this depends on the complexity of the incident and number of other authorities involved.

We'll then carry out an 'investigative assessment'. This is where we review all of the information we've gathered and decide whether to investigate your report further.

We base our decision on four key factors:

- vulnerability of the victim
- severity of the offence
- likelihood it can be solved
- the most effective use of resources

Next, we'll conduct an initial investigation. This could involve:

- talking to witnesses
- assessing the scene of the crime

- reviewing CCTV or video footage
- gathering other evidence such as forensic samples
- searching our intelligence database

Possible outcomes

There are two possible outcomes to an investigative assessment. Once we've made a decision, we'll contact you to explain and offer any advice, if needed.

1. Your case will be investigated further

If we decide to look into your case further, we'll assign an investigating officer to you. They'll act as your single point of contact during the investigation, answering any of your questions and keeping you updated as the case progresses.

If you need to provide a statement, they'll talk you through it.

2. The investigation will be closed

If we decide to close the investigation, it's probably because we've completed our initial steps and there are no further leads, we can proportionately follow at that time.

Sometimes we receive new information or discover new evidence, in which case we can reopen the investigation and send you an update.

Regardless of whether this happens, your report and the information we gather as part of the investigation will become a vital part of how we police. It helps decide where and when we use police resources to detect and prevent crime.

In the unlikely event you need to go to court, they'll introduce you to a member of the Witness Care Unit who'll guide you each step of the way.

Coming up this month:

As we are still unable to hold meetings in the parishes due the current restrictions, we will continue to hold Digital surgery. Where you can sign in and have your say.

I will continue to try and attend parish and town meetings via Zoom where I can, depending on operational needs, and I thank all the Parishes for their ongoing support.

Digital surgery – Join the conversation

Pose your questions to your local **PS Jazz Bloomfield** and **PCSO Kate Richards**

Tuesday 6 April, 1pm-2pm

For Tenterden, Rolvenden and Tenterden West, Isle of Oxney, Weald South and Tenterden St. Michaels residents to raise any matters they wish to discuss via Microsoft Teams.

If you are interested in this virtual, video meeting then register your interest by emailing **csu.ashford@kent.police.uk** and you will be sent the joining link the day before.



Kent Police

Tweets

Always worth following our Ashford Police Twitter page @kentpoliceash

This where I and the Ashford Team will put tweets out.



Following

Kent Police Ashford

@kentpoliceash

Not monitored 24/7. Report crimes/incidents at kent.police.uk/contact. For emergencies always call 999. If you wish to complain visit kent.police.uk/complaints

📍 Ashford, Kent, UK 🌐 kent.police.uk 📅 Joined March 2012

237 Following 5,117 Followers



Kent Police Ashford
@kentpoliceash

Been a busy week for @kentpoliceash officers - lots of great visible policing to #reassure our #community.

We are able to #help people the most when we are told about problems at the time...help us help you

Our on line chat function is easy to use and quick!
@AshfordCouncil



Kent Police Ashford
@kentpoliceash

#PCSO has been on patrol #Wittersham ,due to reports of nuisance bikes in the village. While out in the rural came across #Stone getting ready for Easter. #report #community #AshfordCSU KR



Kent Police Ashford
@kentpoliceash

PCSO's patrolling the byways in #Shadoxhurst following reports of nuisance vehicles. You can #walk on all public rights of way but some public rights of way are also open to #horseriders, #bicycles, #poweredwheelchairs and #vehicles. Please check the @AshfordCouncil website.

LL



Kent Police Ashford
@kentpoliceash

Local officers have been out patrolling areas of #Tenterden & St,Michaels where we have received reports of ASB and catapults. #communitypolicing #AshfordCSU #report. KR



 Kent Police Ashford
@kentpoliceash

#PCSO has been in #Tenterden today. Have received reports of ASB in the area. Providing high visibility patrol to reassure the community. #communitypolicing KR



 Kent Police Ashford
@kentpoliceash

Local PCSO out yesterday morning at #woodchurchCEPrimarySchool as we have received reports about parking and social distancing. Please remember not to park on junctions. #StaySafe #communitypolicing #AshfordCSU KR



 Kent Police Ashford
@kentpoliceash

#PCSO's out in a soggy #Tenterden giving reassurance to the community, and paying passing attention at home time in Recreation Ground Road. @TenterdenJunior #Friday #CommunityEngagement #AshfordCSU KR/LL



Covid

New rules and regulations that have come in this month and are coming in over the next month or so. Up to date rules please visit www.gov.uk



STEP 1: 8 March



Schools and colleges are open for all students. Practical Higher Education Courses.



Recreation or exercise outdoors with household or one other person. No household mixing indoors.



Wraparound childcare.



Stay at home.



Funerals (30), wakes and weddings (6).

29 March



Rule of 6 or two households outdoors. No household mixing indoors.



Outdoor sport and leisure facilities.



Organised outdoor sport allowed (children and adults).



Minimise travel. No holidays.



Outdoor parent & child groups (up to 15 parents).

STEP 2

At least five weeks after Step 1, no earlier than 12 April.



Indoor leisure (including gyms) open for use individually or within household groups.



Rule of 6 or two households outdoors. No household mixing indoors.



Outdoor attractions, such as zoos, theme parks and drive-in cinemas.



Libraries and community centres.



Personal care premises.



All retail.



Outdoor hospitality.



All children's activities, indoor parent & child groups (up to 15 parents).



Domestic overnight stays (household only).



Self-contained accommodation (household only).



Funerals (30), wakes, weddings, receptions (15).



Minimise travel. No international holidays.



Event pilots begin.

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).



Remaining accommodation.



Some large events (except for pilots) - capacity limits apply.
Indoor events: 1,000 or 50%.
Outdoor other events: 4,000 or 50%.
Outdoor seated events: 10,000 or 25%.



International travel - subject to review.

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.

Fraud Updates:

Sadly, there are still many different scams doing their rounds, and I just want to make you aware of them, please share this information with friends and relatives as the more people aware, the less likely it happening to them.

Census Reminder

Census Day was on Sunday (21st March) and Households in Kent would have probably received letters by now which include a unique 16-digit code to access the census online.

As always, criminals will view this as an opportunity to commit fraud and will send out phishing emails, text messages and telephone people, to try and obtain your Banking data, PIN number etc.



Action Fraud have prepared some advice for you that you

can keep. I have attached a link below which will provide you with further information.

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/news/beware-of-the-census-for-m-scams>

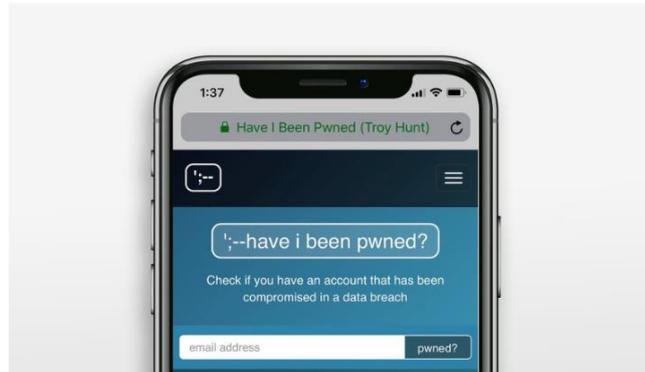
Have I been Pwned ?

Last week I sent you an alert about the above website where you can check to see if your passwords have been compromised and I have had a few messages about this since then. I have spoken to my good colleague, Aimee Payne who is our resident expert on Cyber fraud and she has provided some further advice/information.

What is Have I Been Pwned?

Is a site for checking if your email address, or any account associated with it, has been hacked?

Here, you can enter your email address (safely) and the site will check it against multiple data breach records. If your account details were included in one of those breaches, you'll be told the bad news that you've been 'pwned'. Don't worry, there's no security threat to doing so, and you'll never be asked to enter a password or other personal data.



What should I do if my account has been pwned?

If your email address has been compromised in a data breach, all you need to do is change your login password for your email address, and for the service which was affected by the breach. Even if your email account itself hasn't been victim of a data breach, there's a security risk if another account that you log into with the same password has been affected.

You should never use the same passwords across multiple websites. You should always have a strong, separate password for all your online accounts. I would also encourage you also to enable Two-factor authentication. More information on this can be found here <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware/home>

National Insurance Number scam calls

Victims have reported receiving an automated telephone call telling them their "National Insurance number has been compromised" and in order to fix this and get a new number, the victim needs to "press 1 on their handset to be connected to the caller."

Once connected to the "caller", victims are pressured into giving over their personal details in order to receive a new National Insurance number. In reality, they are being connected to a criminal who can now use their personal details to commit fraud.

Additionally, fraudsters have been spoofing the telephone number for HM Courts and Tribunals and then stating that they are from HMRC and that they need to pay a fine or be arrested. They will request that the victim transfers monies from their Bank Account or go and purchase gift cards and then ring the fraudsters with the voucher codes.

They have also telephoned victims impersonating the National Crime Agency and use a similar method with threats of arrests unless they pay a fine or settle back taxes.

These are all scams, the HMRC, NCA, Police etc. will never contact you in this way to make you pay a fine or request details of your Bank accounts, PIN numbers etc.

If you get one of these calls then disconnect immediately and always remember, Never Assume or Believe that a call from some official is genuine but Confirm by calling a trusted number.

If you believe you have been a victim of this type of scam, then contact your bank, immediately and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.

Preventing fraud

Together, let's stop scammers. 

Remember, ABC:

-  **never Assume**
-  **never Believe**
-  **always Confirm**

Get the latest scam advice:  **@KentPoliceECU**

Covid Vaccine's

This week the NHS commenced sending out text messages to invite people to book a COVID-19 vaccine appointment. This text message will be shown as being sent from 'NHS Vaccine' and will include a link to the NHS.uk website and is genuine.

It is important to remember that the NHS will never ask for payment or banking details. If you receive a text from the NHS asking you to book your vaccine, this will be genuine. Alternatively, if you get any other text messages asking you to pay for a vaccine or requesting financial details, this will be a scam.

If you get a text and you are still unsure, then contact your GP surgery.

If you believe you have been a victim of this type of scam, then contact your bank, immediately and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.



Coronavirus: NHS Text Alerts ⓘ

- The NHS are trialling a new mobile phone text service, making it easier and more convenient for people to book their life-saving covid vaccine.
- The text message will show as being sent from 'NHSvaccine' and will include a link to the NHS.uk website.
- The NHS will never ask you for payment or banking details. If you are unsure about a text message you have received, you can call 119 to book your appointment.

Learn more: actionfraud.police.uk/vaccine OFFICIAL #coronavirusfrauds

The infographic is a black rectangular box with a red dashed border. It features a red circle with a white lowercase 'i' in the top right corner. The title 'Coronavirus: NHS Text Alerts' is in red and white. The three bullet points are in white. At the bottom, there is a white dashed box containing the word 'OFFICIAL'. The footer contains the URL 'actionfraud.police.uk/vaccine', the word 'OFFICIAL', and the hashtag '#coronavirusfrauds'.

Courier Fraud

We are still seeing a number of offences each week and would like to remind people what to look out for and how to help protect family and friends from becoming victims.

Courier fraud involves criminals contacting victims and impersonating other types of professional people such as Police officers, Bank Staff or members of the National Crime Agency. They will often say that there is an issue with your bank account, payment card or National Insurance number. They will encourage you to help with an investigation and ask you to take monies out of your bank account or to hand over your card and PIN for a courier to collect.

One of the most popular at present is impersonating the NCA and stating that your National Insurance has been used in crime and you need to pay a fine to the NCA to avoid arrest etc. It is all a scam, as a police officer, member of the NCA or other law enforcement type organisation, will never ask a member of the public to hand over money and never request banking details or a person's national insurance number or send a courier to collect items. Fraudsters can go to great lengths to appear genuine and often target the elderly or people who they think are vulnerable.

There are several precautions you can take which can help reduce your chances of falling victim to this type of offence. I would encourage everyone to take heed of the following advice and share it with friends and family.

- If you receive one of these calls end it immediately.
- Never hand over any money, or other items, to a courier after receiving this type of call.
- If you are not confident a person claiming to be a police officer is genuine, ask to take their details and end the call. A police call handler will be able to verify whether your caller was genuine.
- However, use another telephone or ring a family member or friend to ensure the line has been cleared or wait at least ten minutes before using your telephone in order to clear your line from the scammer and report the matter to the police on 101, or 999 in an emergency.
- Alternatively, contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040. You can also report suspicious activity online by visiting: http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud
- The matter can also be reported to Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111.

I hope my newsletters are informative and helpful.



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.

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