

Monthly PCSO Newsletter
March 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 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.

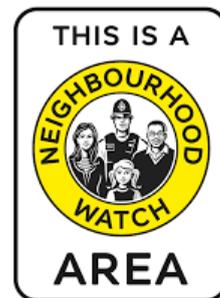


The areas that I cover are **Tenterden, St. Michaels, Rolvenden, Newenden, Weald South and Isle of Oxney areas.**

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

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. His contact details are as follows:

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



This month we have had a few snowy days, where I have seen a few families out enjoying the snow, building snow men or out on there sledges as part of their daily exercise. It has been good to see most people have been staying off the road and following the government guide lines of stay at home. This did mean a reduction of accidents which we normally have in bad weather.



Kent Police Ashford
@kentpoliceash

Local PCSO out in the [#Rural](#)
[#Tenterden](#) [#Rolvenden](#) this
morning on patrol. Good to see
not many people out
[#StayHomeSaveLives](#) [#StaySafe](#)
KR



Kent Police Ashford
@kentpoliceash

Local PCSO patrolling today in
[#Tenterden](#), [#Appledore](#) Rd and
other [#Rural](#) villages. Pleased to
report, there were no issues.
Pervious reports of [#ASB](#)
[#COVID19](#) breaches have been
reported and areas are regularly
attended. [#StayHomeSaveLives](#)
KR



Appeal for information following burglary in Tenterden

15:10 19/02/2021

Gardening tools have been reported stolen following a burglary in Tenterden. The tools, including chainsaws, strimmer's, a leaf blower and a backpack-style hedge cutter, were taken during a break-in to a workshop of commercial premises in Smallhythe Road between 5pm on Wednesday 17 February 2021 and 5.30am the following morning.

Appeal

Officers are appealing for witnesses, or anyone offered the items for sale, to contact Kent Police on 01843 222289, quoting 46/26183/21.

You can also contact the independent charity Crimestoppers in Kent anonymously on 0800 555 111, or by visiting [crimestoppers-uk.org](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

We have had an increase of shed, garage breaks over the recent months in our local areas and Ashford areas. I just wanted to put together some guides to keep your properties safe.

Keeping your Shed and garage safe and secure.

Many people don't secure their shed or garage in the same way they do their homes - often using an easy-to-break lock or padlock to protect valuable contents such as a car, bike or lawnmower.

An opportunistic burglar will try a shed or garage first because they can find the tools they need to break into the main house.



Shed and outbuilding security: first steps

First off, check that your insurance covers the contents of your shed or outbuildings from theft.

Think like a thief

Take a look at your shed and consider how you would break in. It's worth having a good padlock on the door with no exposed screws. Pay attention to hinges, as these are sometimes easily removable. If you have windows, then these could be vulnerable unless they're secured with wire mesh or grills. And keep it locked at all times.

Alarm it

Consider a battery-operated shed alarm. They look low key, but they respond to movement or door contact with an extremely loud siren.

Lock it, hide it or mark it

Don't give them the opportunity or the tools to commit a crime. Lock everything away securely. Tools can be locked inside a locker or box or secured with a chain.

Secure your bike to the ground or a lockable stand within a locked shed or garage. Visit [Sold Secure](#) to search for ground anchors and other locks designed to fix to floors and walls.

It's always worth draping an old sheet or blanket over the top of mowers or bikes to keep them covered from view.

Although it might sound like stating the obvious, never leave your garage or shed door unlocked if you're not around.

Property marking your items is advisable and some tools can be painted with your name or postcode. Forensic marking is also an option.

The top five most common items stolen from sheds

1. Bikes
2. Mowers
3. Sports equipment
4. Power tools
5. Garden tools

Tweets

Always worth following our Ashford Police Twitter page @kentpoliceash

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



Other Information:

Please keep updated with the current's rules on the government website – www.gov.uk

As of the 8th March most of the school's will be re – opening.



We are still very busy dealing with Covid breaches that are reported and speaking to groups we see out and about, making sure rules are not being broken. Various fines have been issued over the months for repeat offenders across the Ashford division. So please stick to the rules and hopefully soon we will be able to go back to normal.

Police in Ashford provide support against catalytic converter thefts

Police in Ashford are taking steps to support vehicle owners at risk of catalytic converter theft.

Ashford Community Safety Unit has supplied permanent security-marking kits to several garages in the town, in an initiative which will allow mechanics to mark the catalytic converters of cars when they are brought in for a service.

If the engine part is then stolen, it will be harder for the thieves to sell on, and easier to locate, identify and return to the owners if it is recovered by police. The markings will also help identify and prosecute offenders.

Catalytic converters are found in the exhaust system of vehicles and reduce the output of toxic gases and pollutants. Criminals sometimes steal them because they aren't easily identifiable and can be sold on for the precious metals found inside them.

As well as the introduction of the kits, officers have been carrying out patrols in the district where thefts have been reported, as well as working with scrap metal dealers.

Ashford CSU Inspector Simon Johnson said: 'We appreciate how upsetting and inconvenient the theft of a catalytic converter can be when your vehicle is targeted by thieves, so within the Community Safety Unit we have been looking at actions we can take which will make things much harder for any opportunist thief.'

PCSO Laura Langridge, Ashford's crime prevention officer, said: 'We are grateful to the garages for working with us on this initiative.'

'We will be speaking to past victims of catalytic converter thefts to see if this is something they would be interested in, to hopefully prevent them from being targeted again.'

Vehicle owners interested in the kits must email the Community Safety Unit:

csu.ashford@kent.police.uk.

Motorline Toyota, Motorline Peugeot and Kwikfit garages in the town have a supply of the kits.

Other measures can be taken to reduce the risk of theft:

- Contact your car's manufacturer, as some sell clamps and security cages that make catalytic converters more difficult to steal.
- Park your vehicle in a garage whenever possible.
- If you do not have a garage then park in a busy, well-lit area.
- Consider installing good quality CCTV cameras.



Officers from #Ashford Community Safety Unit have been supporting motorists to prevent catalytic converter thefts.

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



Please be aware of the below information from the Kent Dog Lost team:

Be aware that there is a new ploy being undertaken by dog thieves.

Having a white van with RSPCA stickers on and removing dogs from dog walking owners under the pretext that the dog matches the description of a stolen dog.

NEVER. Let your dog be taken by anyone. Insist they follow you to the vets to have the dog scanned to prove ownership by the Chip. If they're not for real, they won't go with you! I have never known the RSPCA to operate in the way stated above.

Phone the Police at the first opportunity with as much detail as possible and if at all possible take photos of the offenders and car registration. There are also reports of these thieves door knocking in residential areas.

Kent Police launches new task force to tackle problems affecting communities

Communities across the county are benefiting from a new dedicated team of Kent Police Community Support Officers in the aptly named Problem Solving Task Force.

The countywide team is made of highly motivated experts who are specially trained to resolve long-term problems and will work with partners to prevent crime, disrupt offenders and put a stop to the most harmful anti-social behaviour.

Its concentrated response has already helped bring an end to a county line drugs network that was operating in Ashford and significantly reduced antisocial behaviour which was being caused by a small group of people in Ramsgate.

It was officially launched by the Chief Constable of Kent, Alan Pughsley, on Wednesday 3 February 2021. Funding for the new resource was made available following a successful bid by the Kent Police and Crime commissioner to increase the council tax precept last year.

Chief Constable Pughsley said: 'My officers already do a fantastic job protecting the county, with every district benefitting from several outstanding policing teams. Each day the work of these teams

helps remove offenders and safeguard vulnerable people. These efforts will not change but will be significantly complemented by this new task force.

‘We know all areas have localised concerns which they would like to have resolved and our new, specialist team is going to bring about meaningful change. Its expertise has already achieved considerable success, not least removing a county line in Ashford.

‘This is an exceptional start which demonstrates the effectiveness and long term benefits the team will have on the communities it serves. My officers working within it are going to continue to work with partner agencies, residents and businesses to identify issues of concern and bring them to an abrupt end.’

The task force will provide cover across Kent but is led by a central policing department which has close ties with a wide range of partner agencies, including community groups, other emergency services and all levels of local government.

On top of providing increased visibility on the streets, targeting people who cause issues and building relationships with communities, the team will also have the capacity to support other operational priorities. These priorities include identifying children at risk of harm and offenders involved in organised, and violent, crime.

Although the task force is now fully operational, it first went live in the east of the county in October 2020. A month later, it launched in west Kent.

As a result of the team’s work, and the joined-up work with partners, numerous positive results have already been achieved. This includes:

- Assisting in warrant activity which led to the removal of a county line in Ashford.
- Issuing community protection warnings to numerous young people involved in antisocial behaviour in Ramsgate. Since these warnings were issued, these individuals have not been involved in further incidents.
- Arranging the removal of large amounts of graffiti from locations in Winterstoke Gardens and Victoria Parade, Ramsgate.
- Arranging the removal of fly tipped rubbish in Tankerton.
- Seizing alcohol from a gathering of young people in Sevenoaks.

The day to day running of the team will be overseen by Inspector Sarah Allen, who said: ‘Many of the jobs our team deal with are underreported, although the quality of life impact can be significant – with residents and businesses often feeling that an issue affecting them is not important enough to warrant our attention.

‘I would encourage them to change their mindset. We are here to help ensure your community remains a safe place you can enjoy all year around and you can help us achieve that by reporting any concerns you may have.

‘It is easier than ever to get hold of us – make a report online, either through our online reporting tool or live chat feature on our website, call us on 101 or approach one of our officers directly when you see them on the streets.’

Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott said: 'Residents and businesses have told me that crime prevention and dealing with antisocial behaviour are among their top priorities.

'I'm delighted to have been able to support the creation of the Problem-Solving Task Force through the council tax precept.

'The team is doing excellent work to support local communities and help improve quality of life.'

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.



Amazon Phone Scams

A reminder about Amazon scam calls. I am still receiving reports from people stating that they received repeated automated telephone calls stating that they owe Amazon £79.99 for a service charge and that this will be taken from their account and in order to cancel the payment they need to press button 1 to speak to an advisor.

Please do not press any buttons as this is a scam!!!
Remember Amazon will never contact anyone in this way.

Additionally, never click on links contained within unsolicited emails and text messages.

If you believe that you may have fallen victim to this type of scam, then please contact your Bank immediately and then report to Action Fraud as soon as possible by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk



Covid Vaccine Scams

There are still many Covid scams out there, please stay alert and be aware.



Vaccine scams – IMPORTANT ALERT

Beware of Spoofing Scams – what are they?

POLICE - ALERT

1,166 vaccine related scam emails reported in 24 hours

ActionFraud
Action Fraud is the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime.
www.actionfraud.police.uk/

Learn more: actionfraud.police.uk/vaccine

OFFICIAL

Many phone handsets now let you see the number of the person calling before you answer. This feature is known as 'Caller ID' and is a handy way of screening the calls you want to answer from the ones you do not. However, there have been growing instances of criminals deliberately changing the Caller ID, a practice known as 'spoofing'.

Sometimes there's a good reason for a caller to modify the Caller ID, however, identity thieves who want to steal sensitive information such as your bank account or login details, sometimes use spoofing to pretend their calling you from your bank or credit card company.

Additionally, we are seeing a trend of fraudsters using the technology to impersonate Police stating that your bank account has been compromised and to transfer monies online to a safe account which they will provide you details of.

Never give out your personal information in response to an incoming telephone call or rely upon the Caller ID as the sole means of identification, particularly if the caller asks you to carry out an action which might have financial consequences.

If someone telephones you asking for this information, don't provide it. Instead, hang up and call the telephone number on your account statement, in the phone book or on the company's or government department's website to check whether the call was genuine. Return the call on another phone if possible or wait at least 10 minutes before making the call. Better still, telephone a family member or friend to ensure the line has been cleared and you are not still speaking to the fraudster or is accomplice.

Remember the Police or your Bank will never ask you for your PIN or account details and will never ask you to withdraw or move monies into an account for safe keeping.

If you believe that you may have fallen victim to this type of scam, then please contact your Bank immediately and then report to Action Fraud as soon as possible by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk

Council Tax Banding Scam

I have been contacted by a Kent resident informing me that they have been telephoned and informed by a fraudster that they were being called by them on behalf of their local council, as it been discovered that their property had been put into the wrong tax band of an E when it should have been in band D.

The fraudster stated their tax band will be reduced by approximately £200 per annum and that they were entitled to a refund of approximately £4,000 based on the time they had been resident in the property. However, they went onto state that they could sort this out for them but that there would be a charge of £160 plus VAT. When challenged they gave the name of a company and their company number, which when checked on companies' house relates to a company involved in the repair of communication equipment. This was identified by the intended victim as a scam and they disconnected the call.

Never assume or believe any caller is genuine. Your council would never employ a company like this to act on their behalf, so if unsure, it is important to contact your local Council and discuss this with them.

If you believe that you may have fallen victim to this type of scam, then please contact your Bank immediately and then report to Action Fraud as soon as possible by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk

Microsoft Phishing Email.

Another resident this reported receiving the below phishing email, which asked them to verify their account and ultimately would have led to them being asked to either supply personal data or worse still, could have download malware into their system.

An easy way to spot that this was a scam was the originating email address which belonged to someone with an Hotmail account and nothing to do with Microsoft. As always never click on links contained in unsolicited emails, as it will without a doubt be a scam.

If you receive any suspicious email's then please forward to report@phishing.gov.uk

Preventing fraud

Together,
let's stop
scammers.



Remember, ABC:



never Assume



never Believe



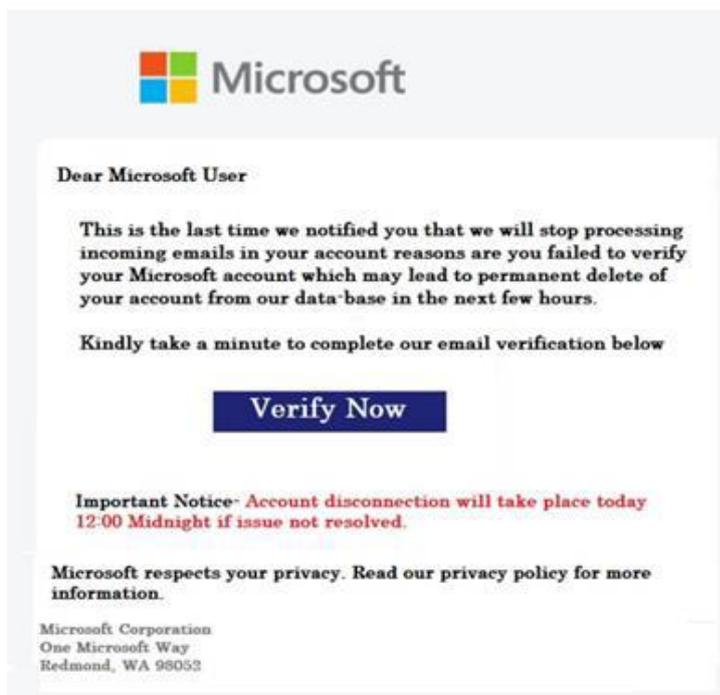
always Confirm

Get the latest
scam advice:



@KentPoliceECU





Preventing fraud

Together, let's stop scammers. 

Remember, ABC:

-  never Assume
-  never Believe
-  always Confirm

Get the latest scam advice: 
@KentPoliceECU

Fraudsters impersonating Police!!!!!!

The below item is a press release that has been issued by Kent Police. Although this refers to an incident in Dover, we are seeing similar incidents across Kent. So please read and follow the advice from DS Cananur of Kent Police Serious Economic Crime Unit.

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“Residents are being urged to be vigilant of callers claiming to be from the police after a pensioner was defrauded in Dover. The victim, who is in his eighties, received a phone call on Wednesday 10 February 2021 from a man claiming to be from 'Hammersmith Police'. The man claimed police needed help catching criminals and gave the victim a number to ring if he wanted to check the call was legitimate.

Cold call

The victim called the number, but spoke to another fraudster, who convinced him to transfer two payments totalling more than £15,000 into an account as part of a purported police operation. The fraud was one of five similar calls reported to Kent Police, all to victims in the Dover and Folkestone area, on Wednesday 10 February. In the other incidents, no money was transferred to the caller. All of the incidents are being investigated by Kent Police, who are warning anyone contacted by similar callers not to transfer money and to report it at the first opportunity.

Advice

Detective Sergeant Marc Cananur, of the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate, said: 'A police officer will never ask you to pay or transfer money over the phone and would never ask you to lie as part of a supposed investigation. 'Never give out your personal information in response to an incoming call, 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, if possible, 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.'

Anyone with information about any of the Dover and Folkestone incidents is asked to contact Kent Police on 01843 222289, quoting reference 46/22157/21, or Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040."

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)

Romance Scams

We have had Valentine's day this month, I thought I would take the opportunity to remind you about Romance scams. For the last few days, our colleagues in the City of London Police have been leading a media campaign with advice etc. on these types of scams.

Below is advice on how to avoid becoming a victim and remember the golden rule, "Never send monies to someone you have only ever met on line and who after a short space of time gives you a tale of woe and asks for monetary help.....Just think scam!!!"

Also find attached to the email sending out this week's alerts is a leaflet that you can share with family and friends and can share online.



SWIPE LEFT ON ROMANCE FRAUD

Over £66m was lost to romance fraud between Aug 2019 and Aug 2020.

#LoveNotLies

Action Fraud 10 STOP FRAUD

DON'T LET YOUR HEART RULE YOUR HEAD.

#LoveNotLies

Action Fraud 10 STOP FRAUD

Online dating? If you haven't met them in person do not:

- Send them any money.
- Purchase and send the codes on gift cards.
- Transfer money on their behalf.
- Take a loan out for them.
- Provide copies of your personal documents such as passports or driving licenses.
- Allow them access to your bank account.
- Invest your own money on their behalf or on their advice.



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/>