

Tunbridge Wells Community Safety Unit Newsletter

January 2021

Rural Wards – Benenden & Cranbrook, Brenchley & Horsmonden, Capel, Frittenden & Sissinghurst, Goudhurst & Lamberhurst, Hawkhurst & Sandhurst, Paddock Wood and Pembury

Welcome to the monthly newsletter from the Community Safety Unit, filled with information about what we have been doing, crime prevention advice and other news!

What has been going on this month?

Happy New Year!

It has been a strange Christmas and New Year period with the vast majority of people complying with the guidelines and regulations in Tier 4, but hopefully you were able to have a relaxing and restful time. The CSU PCSOs and PCs have continued to provide support to the local communities and where there have been concerns around Coronavirus, we have continued to utilise the Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce message when dealing with breaches and any concerns that have been raised to us.

The Road Safety Unit assisted the CSU at various locations across the district where they were targeting speeding and other traffic related issues; On Langton Road in Speldhurst they issued 11 traffic offence reports (TORs) for excess speed in the 20-mph limit near to the school. A motorbike was stopped on Pembury Road, Tunbridge Wells and the rider was issued a traffic process report for not displaying any L Plates. In Sissinghurst, 8 TORs were issued for excess speed in the 30-mph limit. One TOR was issued on Maidstone Road in Matfield for speeding. Checks were carried out in Brenchley outside the school where all vehicles were travelling within the speed limit and finally, 2 TORs were issued to drivers on Five Oak Green Road, Five Oak Green for excess speed. We plan to utilise the skills and knowledge of the Road Safety Unit again in the New Year and will link in with them to provide further enforcement and road safety advice.

The PCSOs and a couple of the CSU PCs will be completing training on the use of the speed detection equipment in the coming week that will allow them to complete further checks and enforcement in their wards. If there are any places that you believe speeding is a problem, then please make your local PCSO aware and they will be able to follow up on the concerns.

The CSU approached the Rotary Club of Tunbridge Wells who have funded several property marking kits from Selectamark (www.selectadna.co.uk) for allotment associations to use to deter thefts from sheds on allotments within the district. They work by marking up items with a unique liquid so that on the off chance that the items are stolen, they can then be identified and linked back to the specific allotment they were stolen from. The Rotary Club are contacting the allotments and will be liaising directly with them. This is a great example of the links that the CSU forge with the community and the assistance that charities can provide to support the wider community.

New Staff

In the last month we have welcomed three new PCSOs to the team at Tunbridge Wells. PCSO Chambers will be working with the town centre team. PCSO Mckim has taken over the Broadwater and Pantiles & St Marks wards and PCSO Costin will be looking after the Pembury and Brenchley & Matfield wards for the next three months whilst PCSO Brown is on attachment to another team. A couple of the team have also changed wards; PCSO Coates is now covering Culverden and St James wards, PCSO Ostridge is covering Sherwood and Park wards and PCSO Clubb is working in St Johns and Southborough & High Brooms wards.

Twitter



The Tunbridge Wells CSU regularly Tweets updates on what we have been doing and any live incidents

Please follow [@kentpolicetwell](https://twitter.com/kentpolicetwell) for the latest news and information.

You can also report non urgent crimes online at www.kent.police.uk/report as well as via 101 or 999 in an emergency.

Crime Prevention Advice

As we move into the new National Lockdown, the number of people that are working from home will increase, however, there will still be opportunities for crimes to take place, so here is some advice to reduce the chance of being a victim of shed breaks and thefts from doorsteps.

- 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
 - Bikes
 - Mowers
 - Sports equipment
 - Power tools
 - Garden tools

Here are some things you could do to reduce the risk of doorstep theft:

- Track your parcel to ensure you or someone else is at home for the delivery
- Install a video doorbell; this can be connected to your mobile so you are notified immediately of any delivery, and is easier to install than a full CCTV system
- Install a security light
- Arrange for your parcel to be delivered to a trusted neighbour, or other family members who will be at home; if you live in a flat, is there a concierge who could accept the parcel for you?
- Use an off-site locker service for frequent deliveries, or for expensive items; these parcel boxes are more likely to be in busy, safer locations - such as supermarkets - rather than secluded areas which could be targeted by thieves

Kent Fraud Alert System



Vaccine scams

Please be aware of fraudsters sending out emails and texts offering vaccines.

The following is an example of such a message that was received by a Kent resident in last couple of days –

"NHS: We have identified that you are eligible to apply for your vaccine. For more information and to apply, follow here:"

(there is a link provided)

The link takes you to a page with an official looking NHS heading on a blue background & headed ' We need to prove ownership of address '

Please get a debit / credit card ready, you will need

Sort Code –

Account Number –

Long card number -

We use this to verify billing address with the bank

No payments are made during verification

[There is a ' continue ' box.]"

If you receive this or anything similar, it is a scam. The NHS will never ask you for account details. PIN numbers etc. If you receive any messages like this, then please report to Action Fraud either online at –

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/reporting-fraud-and-cyber-crime>

Or by calling - 0300 123 2040

Additionally, if you think you may have fallen victim to this scam, then please contact your bank immediately.

Preventing fraud

Together, let's stop scammers.



Remember, ABC:

never Assume

never Believe

always Confirm

Get the latest scam advice:



@KentPoliceECU



**Kent
Police**

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