

Monthly PCSO Newsletter October 2021.



Hello there. 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 report is a general overview of what I have been doing this month and gives crime prevention advice. I tend to put it out at the beginning of each month.

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 the Ashford area. 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: Email: Address:

01233 896151

andrew.judd@kent.police.uk

Ashford Police Station, Tufton Street,
Ashford



Updates:

There has been a lot going on in my areas this month, and I have attended various events throughout the month. Including the Civil service of the new mayor of Tenterden.



And, the opening of the New EC 30 New Beginnings Community centre. This is an amazing place for the local communities to come together, offering various services i.e. Charity shop, Food Bank. There is also a Dementia café – every fourth Wednesday of the month, and a Parkinson’s café – every third Monday of the month. Shortly ‘The one stop’ service will be available – which helps domestic abuse victims.

The Café is open to the community and I will be holding a drop-in session once a month, the first one being held Wednesday 13th October 2021 10:00-11:30. This is your chance to come and see me, and if there is anything concerning you in your area, I can try and help.



I have also been out and about in the parishes where I have been carrying out some joint visits with KCC warden Kathy Carter in Hamstreet and Woodchurch. This is where we will be starting to hold joint drop-in sessions for the communities.

Upcoming Drop-in Sessions

These are designed for anyone to come and see me ask advice on crime prevention or anything they have concerns about in their area.

**Tuesday 12th October 2021 10am – 11am Hamstreet Pavillion.
13:00 – 15:00 Woodchurch Hub**

**Wednesday 13th October 2021
10:00 – 11:30 EC 30 New Beginings – Tenterden**

**Tuesday 9th November 2021
10am – 11am Hamstreet Pavillion.
13:00 – 15:00 Woodchurch Hub**

**Wednesday 10th November 2021
10:00 – 11:30 EC 30 New Beginings – Tenterden**

**Tuesday 7th December 2021
10am – 11am Hamstreet Pavillion.
13:00 – 15:00 Woodchurch Hub**

**Wednesday 8th December 2021
10:00 – 11:30 EC 30 New Beginings – Tenterden**



I am looking at some of my other parishes to see if I could do similar community drop-in sessions i.e. Wittersham, Newenden, Rolvenden etc. So, there are any ideas of where I could hold one in your village, please let me know.

I have also attended Appledore, where they have had the team from The Rural Kent Coffee & Information Project. The team also attend Stone Village as well.

This is open for all the community to pop along and have a chat, drink and some cake and they are also able to signpost people to the right groups that they may need.



They will be next in Stone on Wednesday 6th October 2021 – 10:30 – 12:30 at the Cricket ground.

I have also received several reports about speeding in some of the parishes and have tried to carry out speed checks, where I can. This is also something we ask the local communities about setting up their own community speed watch teams.



I have also received calls of nuisance youths using catapults in the St. Michaels area. We are reviewing



CCTV and working with the local schools to deal with these individuals. I have upped patrols in the area, including utilising some of the Specials who help us in CSU working in these areas where we have been having these issues. This behaviour will not be tolerated, and I ask the community to please report any incidents.



This is our team of Specials at Ashford who volunteer their time and help in the local communities with our Community Safety team and Local policing Team. These are very valued members of all our teams, and we thank them for the time they give.



I have also held a Public Engagement Meeting at Tenterden Town hall with our CSU Sergeants. Sargent Bloomfield, Sargent Howard as well as PCSO Brooks.

We had several members of the community that attended, and this is something we are looking at doing every 3 months. We also tweeted the topics that were brought up in the meeting. @kentpoliceash.

These included topics such as speeding, highlighted by members of the Tenterden / St. Michaels. Community speed watch team who is asking for extra help and more volunteers from the community.

If anyone is interested in joining the team and helping please let me know.

Katherine.richards@kent.police.uk.



Tenterden Town Hall – Public Engagement

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

**Tuesday 28 September,
1pm until 2.30pm**

Not available to take part? Then join us on Twitter @kentpoliceash

Also present will be DS Howard from the Community Safety Unit



Kent Police



My Tenterden
@MyTenterden

From the Kent Police Public Engagement meeting at the Town Hall yesterday afternoon, next one in #Tenterden is ~3 months time, also PCSO Kate Richards will be using EC30 in Recreation Ground Rd for regular pop up surgeries - more news on this soon @KentPoliceAsh @EC30_Tenterden



Crime Prevention Advice.

This month I will tailor the advice to **fraud / scams**. Emma Swietochowski-Hay is the Fraud Prevention Co-ordinator for the East Division, her role includes creating awareness of current fraud trends and scams and offering prevention advice as well as visiting vulnerable and repeat victims of fraud so please contact her if you need any assistance.

There are numerous types of frauds and scams – romance fraud, phishing, investment scams, courier fraud, charity donation fraud, lottery scams and many more.

- Do not give personal details to anyone over the phone before verifying their credentials
- Have up-to-date anti-virus software on your computer
- Remember that banks and financial institutions will not send you an email asking you to click on a link and confirm your bank details. Do not trust such emails, even if they look genuine. You can always call your bank using the phone number on a genuine piece of correspondence
- Destroy and preferably shred receipts with your card details on and post with your name and address on
- Be extremely wary of post, phone calls or emails offering you deals. If an offer seems too good to be true, it probably is!
- If you have been a victim of fraud, be aware of fraud recovery fraud. This is when fraudsters pretend to be a lawyer or a law enforcement officer and tell you they can help you recover the money you've already lost.

Action Fraud is the national fraud reporting service. It assesses incidents and gives advice to the caller. It also forwards information to NFIB (National Fraud Intelligence Bureau) who develop investigative and intelligence packages for the police service (and other agencies) to action and arrest offenders. If you think you or someone you know has been a victim of a scam, report it immediately to www.actionfraud.police.uk. If you have paid money or shared your bank details, contact your bank's fraud team straight away.

Always remember the advice of "Take Five which is Stop, Challenge and Protect" and the ABC message:

- A- never assume a caller, email or text is genuine.
- B- never believe a caller, email or text is genuine.
- C- always confirm by contacting a trusted number, family member, friend, your bank's fraud department or the police to check if it's genuine.

Get the latest scam updates and advice:

- Sign up to the Kent Fraud Alert System – stephen.kelly@kent.police.uk
- Visit www.actionfraud.police.uk



The next few months we have Halloween and bonfire night.

These posters can be stuck in your windows to stop, people knocking. As not everyone enjoys this time of year.

A black and white poster with a black background. At the top, the word "NO" is written in large, white, bold letters. Below it, the words "Trick or treating please" are written in black, bold letters on a white background. At the bottom left is the Kent Police crest, and to its right, the words "Kent Police" are written in white, bold letters. Below the crest and text, the website address "www.kent.police.uk" is written in small white text.



Sunday 31st October – Clocks change and fall back an hour, to give us darker nights.



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

Local PCSO out in Tenterden, patrolling areas where we have had reports of ASB. Also attended the Civic service for the New Tenterden Mayor #Tenterden KR



Kent Police Ashford ✓
@KentPoliceAsh

Rural PCSO out patrolling today, visited a ploughing match. #Hamstreet . Lovely seeing the communities getting back to some normality. #Rural #CommunityEngagement. KR





EC30 is a great facility for [@TenterdenTC](#) and [@AshfordCouncil](#)

And great to see Our fabulous PCSO team supporting and helping - well done Kate

My Tenterden @MyTenterden · 1d
 Matthew Scott @matthewinkent with PCSO Kate Richards @KentPoliceAsh at the opening of EC30 community cafe and social prescribing centre in Tenterden



Attend the official opening of new EC30 New Beginnings building in Tenterden today. Open for all the local communities to use. Looking forward to working with the team. [@EC30_Tenterden](#) [@TenterdenHub](#) [@matthewinkent](#) [@TenterdenTC](#) . #PCSO #CommunityEngagement KR



Officers in Ashford promote responsible motorcycling

Officers and PCSOs from Ashford's Community Safety Unit have been working with Kent Special Constabulary to promote responsible motorcycling in the district.

As part of ongoing work to discourage anti-social vehicle use, officers carried out a spot-check in the Rolvenden area, and along the A28, during the evening of Wednesday 1 September 2021.

A speed check was conducted in the village with one ticket issued to a motorcyclist for speeding.

Words of advice were given to several other riders.

Chief Inspector for Ashford, Nick Sparkes said: 'We will regularly patrol areas when concerns are reported about anti-social behaviour linked to vehicles.'



Kent Police Ashford · 1d
 Work to promote responsible riding by motorcyclists has been carried out by officers, PCSOs and [@KentSpecials](#) in the [#Rolvenden](#) area this week.
 To read more, visit our website:



'The response to officers in the Rolvenden area was very positive and the vast majority of motorcyclists who had gathered were riding safely, respectful to residents and understood why we were there.'

'We often look at ways to encourage responsible riding, such as using the Bike Safe scheme where riders can take part in workshops to learn valuable skills on the road.'

'Anyone who witnesses ongoing issues with vehicles in their own community is encouraged to report it to Kent Police by calling 101 (Or 999 if a crime is in progress) or by visiting our website.'

Man seriously injured following collision in Rolvenden

Witnesses with information or video footage following a collision in Rolvenden, Cranbrook, are being urged to come forward.

On Monday 30 August 2021 at around 6.30pm a silver Vauxhall Omega collided with a wooden fence in Hastings Road. The vehicle was travelling in the direction of Newenden at the time.

Kent Police officers attended along with the South East Coast Ambulance Service where the driver, a man in his late 30s, had suffered a serious injury. He was taken to a London hospital for treatment and remains there in a stable condition.

Enquiries are now being carried out by the Serious Collision Investigation Unit, who are particularly keen to speak to the driver of a grey or silver 4x4 who it is believed may have witnessed the collision or passed the scene moments later.

Anyone who saw what happened or who has information or dashcam footage is asked to call 01622 798538 or email sciu.td@kent.police.uk quoting reference SM/RF/87/21.

Advice to Ashford residents following jewellery burglaries

Kent Police is reminding residents of steps they can take to keep their belongings secure after jewellery was stolen during two burglaries in Ashford.

The first incident took place in the Godinton area of the town at around 7.45pm on 21 September 2021, when a home was broken into and jewellery was stolen after the property was searched.

The second incident took place between 1.20pm and 3.20pm on 30 September in the same area, when thieves gained entry to another property and again took jewellery.

Detective Constable Sophie West said: 'These offences are under investigation and I urge anyone with information about either incident to call Kent Police on 01843 222289, quoting reference 46/183720/21.'

'You can also call the independent charity Crimestoppers in Kent anonymously on 0800 555111.

'Becoming the victim of a burglary is extremely rare, but offences such as these, where jewellery is stolen, can have a long-term impact on victims.

'At this time of the year, as the evenings become darker, we are urging everyone to be vigilant against burglars and to report any suspicious behaviour.'

Officers are also reminding the public of crime prevention advice which can reduce the chance of becoming the victim of this type of crime:

- Install a burglar alarm and keep valuable items in a good quality safe, which can be secured to a wall or the floor.
- Consider keeping jewellery and family heirlooms in a safety deposit box in a local bank.
- Vary your routine or use timer switches on lights and radios to make your home look occupied, and keep valuable belongings away from windows.
- Photograph and insure expensive or unique items, or register them for free on the national Immobilise database.
- Keep gates and sheds locked and lock away tools or garden items which could be used to break into your home.

More advice at this link: www.kent.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/protect-home-crime/

Fraud

Update from Kent Police's Prevent & Protect Fraud Officer



Courier Fraud

Figures were released this week from the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau that revealed that over £10 million pounds had been lost to scammers because of courier fraud since the start of the year. Therefore, thought it would be a good opportunity to refresh your memories on these types of scams.

What is courier fraud?

Courier fraud is when victims receive a phone call from a criminal who is pretending to be a police officer or bank official. Typically, victims are told to withdraw a sum of money and someone is sent to their home address to collect it.

Criminals may also convince the victim to transfer money to a 'secure' bank account, hand over their bank cards or give the criminals high value items, such as jewellery, watches and gold (coins or bullion).

How to protect yourself and your loved ones:

- Your bank or the police will never call you to ask you to verify your



personal details or PIN by phone or offer to pick up your bank card by courier. Hang up immediately if you receive a call like this.

- If you need to contact your bank to check the call was legitimate, wait five minutes as fraudsters may stay on the line after you hang up. Alternatively, use a different line altogether to contact your bank and ensure you call them back on a number listed on the bank's website, or on the back of your debit or credit card.
- Your debit or credit card is yours: don't let a stranger take it from you. You should only ever have to hand it over at your bank. If it's cancelled or expired, you should destroy it yourself.

Tell-tale signs of attempted courier fraud:

- Someone claiming to be from your bank or local police force calls you to tell you about fraudulent activity, but is asking you for personal information, or even your PIN, to verify who you are.
- They are suggesting that you call them back, so you can be sure they are genuine but when you try to return the call, there's no dial tone.
- They say they are trying to offer you peace of mind by having somebody pick up the card for you, to save you the trouble of having to go to your bank or local police station.

HMRC – Refund Scams

Action Fraud have received numerous reports in the past week about people receiving new emails impersonating HMRC and offering a **£240** tax refund (see below) Please remember, HMRC will never send you an email like this offering refunds and asking you click on a link. HMRC will always write to you. If you get any suspicious emails like this, then please forward to phishing@hmrc.gov.uk and they will then take any necessary action.

If you think that you have been a victim of this or any other scam, then contact your Bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or calling 0300 123 2040.

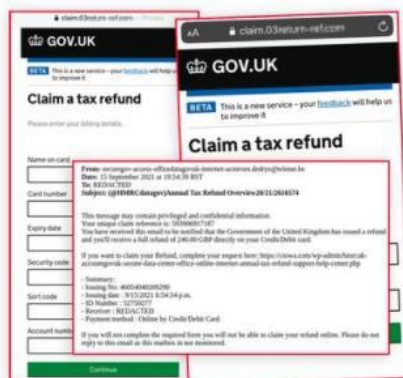
SCAM WARNING



Watch out for this tax refund scam

Action Fraud has received 326 reports this week about fake emails purporting to be from HMRC. The emails state that the recipient is owed a tax refund of £240. The links provided in the emails lead to 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.
 Forward suspicious emails claiming to be from HMRC to: phishing@hmrc.gov.uk



Preventing fraud

Together, let's stop scammers.

Remember, ABC:

- never Assume
- never Believe
- always Confirm

Get the latest scam advice:

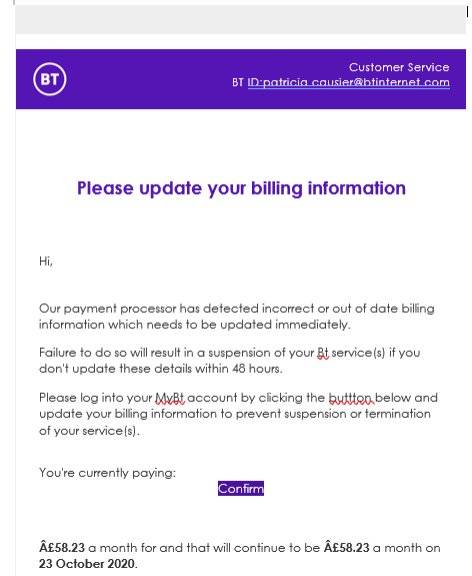
@KentPoliceECU

Latest BT Phishing Email

Please be on the lookout for the below phishing email impersonating BT that is currently circulating, and which was forwarded to me by a Kent resident, who correctly identified this as a scam. As you can see, the email address that this has been sent from is not a BT official email address and the poor grammar and the way the way pounds has been expressed are all good clues. Finally, it is asking you to click on a link that BT would never ask you to do.

If you receive any emails like this or any other suspicious emails, then forward to report@phishing.gov.uk. If you think that you have been a victim of this or any other scam, then contact your Bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud.

From: British Communications [mailto:7368381@pagebill.com]
Sent: 16 September 2021 05:09
To: 'XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX'
Subject: Prevent the temporary limitation of your access 123456789



I have sadly been to several calls this month, where people have received calls over the phone from someone saying they are a police officer and asking them to go and withdraw money to help solve a crime. A police officer will never ask you to do this. Please make sure you report, if this happens to you, make sure you talk to the family and friends about it, as it could be happening to them to.

The police will never...

-  **Contact you to ask for your PIN or bank details**
-  **Ask to withdraw cash to hand over to them for safe-keeping**
-  **Ask you transfer money out of your account for fraud reasons**
-  **Send someone to your home to collect cash, PINs, or cards**

 **Action Fraud**
National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre
www.actionfraud.police.uk

Ways to report.

Please can I remind you that are many ways you can report.

Making it easier to get in touch

<p>In an EMERGENCY only call</p>  <p>999</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 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. 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 



Kate Richards PCSO 46059656

Community Safety Unit | Ashford Police Station | East Division

Please do not use this email to report incidents.

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

**For a non-emergency please report online or contact 101 and in case of an emergency call 999.
<https://www.kent.police.uk/ro/report/>**