

GREAT CHART WITH SINGLETON – OCTOBER 2019

The last month has seen a reshuffle of PCSOs at Ashford Police Station. This means that I am now responsible for Great Chart and all of Singleton (along with Godinton.) Over the next few weeks, I will be introducing myself to you if I have not already done so.

During October, I have been out and about in the area. For four days on the trot, I attended John Wesley School with Ashford Borough Council Civil Enforcement Officers at drop off and pick up times. Words of advice were given to a number of parents with regards to leaving their car engines running unnecessarily as well as using a mobile phone whilst the engine is turned on. A ticket was also issued to a parent who had parked on the yellow zigzags. This week, I have also attended Great Chart Primary School with an Enforcement Officer. I am endeavouring to get the message out that parking in the correct places outside schools is paramount for the safety of all the children.

During the month, Kent Police's Prevent and Protect Fraud Officer, Steve Kelly, and I attended the excellent Great Chart Pop-up café at the village hall. Steve spoke about the different types of scams and frauds and gave words of advice. This was well received by all those who attended.



I have also been out on a walkabout around the parish with the Ani, the parish clerk, and Jan Henry, the KCC warden. This gives us a very good opportunity to engage with the community and take a look at any issues that may come to our attention whilst we are out and about.

LOCAL INCIDENTS

Damage to vehicles - On 28th October at around 3pm, Kent Police received a number of reports of vehicles being damaged in the Singleton area. Police attended the area and the police drone was deployed. Investigations are ongoing and therefore, I would urge anyone whose vehicle might have been damaged at this time to report it to Kent Police if you have not already done so. Also, if you were driving in the area to the rear of Singleton Environment Centre and saw anything suspicious or have dascam footage that shows this incident then please call Kent Police on 101.

Nuisance vehicles – In the Singleton Hill / Environment Centre area, there have been reports of quadbikes driving around recklessly without a registration number plate. If you do witness any reckless driving, please take down the number plate, if it has one and if it is safe to do so. Then report it to us. Nuisance vehicles still remains one of our top priorities.

Motor Vehicle Crime – In two separate incidents, two motocross bikes and a car has been stolen from The Street in Great Chart. Also, in the whole Ashford area there has been a rise in catalytic converter theft. Please find below an advice guide as to what this type of crime is and also how to protect yourself from becoming a victim.

Catalytic Converter Theft - Your car has something that's in demand for thieves. It isn't your stereo system or anything you've hidden in the glove box.

Some thieves target the car's tyres or machinery underneath the car. Thieves want your car's catalytic converter, which takes seconds to remove and is required for your car to run properly. Catalytic converters have been fitted to the exhaust systems of most petrol cars built since the early 90s. Thieves have been targeting catalytic converters because of the precious metals they contain- with high clearance vehicles like vans and 4x4's being particularly vulnerable.

This link is for a recent BBC article on this type of theft: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-46882497>

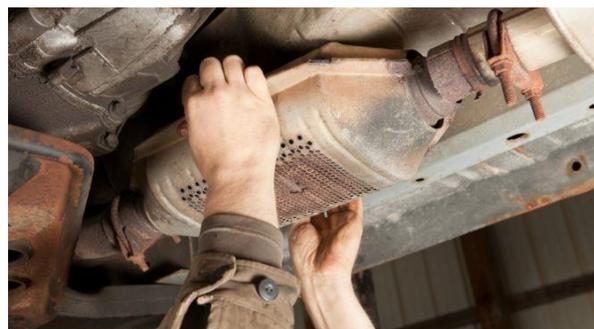
The Appeal of Catalytic Converters

The reason is platinum. Catalytic converters contain platinum, rhodium, and palladium. The metals are expensive, and thieves sell the converters to scrap yards. It is illegal to drive your car without one. The resulting gap in your exhaust system also makes the car run poorly until it is fixed.

The rate of catalytic converter theft varies depending on the current prices of the metals inside it. Price increases typically result in an increase in thefts. Thieves look for easy targets when it comes to catalytic converter theft. A thief just needs a saw to remove the converter. Some thieves also use a sliding board to get under the vehicle more efficiently. A jack is sometimes used to lift the car for easier access, but this is rare because of the added time the jack adds to the process. Taller vehicles such as 4x4's, Vans or pickup trucks are often more attractive to thieves because of the easier access to the undercarriage. Once under the vehicle, the thief uses a saw to slice through the piping on both sides of the converter. The converter is then pulled off.

To avoid becoming a victim of this kind of theft, follow this advice:

- Fitting perimeter security fencing can help deter opportunist thieves and slow down more organised thieves.
- Good security lighting makes vehicles more visible and can act as a deterrent.
- If you can, park your vehicle in a locked garage when it is unattended.
- Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) can be an effective deterrent.
- Where possible park a vehicle against a kerb, with the catalytic converter being closest to the kerb.
- If there is a fleet of vehicles, park the low clearance vehicles to block the high-clearance vehicles. This will obstruct access underneath.
- If a catalytic converter is a bolt on type it is possible to have the bolts welded shut.
- Fit protective coverings on catalytic converters, these can make it much more difficult for thieves.
- Have your catalytic converter etched or forensically marked and put stickers in the windscreen to say this has been done.



- Consider installing a Thatcham approved alarm to your vehicle. Ones that activate if your vehicle is lifted or tilted are particularly effective.

These websites provide details of product that could help protect your vehicle

Approved by the Association of Chief Police Officers'

Secured by Design scheme www.securedbydesign.com

Approved Thatcham alarm installers www.thatcham.org

Catalytic converter marking system www.retainagroup.com

Products to enhance vehicle security www.soldsecure.com

Catalytic converter guards www.garrisonlocks.co.uk

Catalytic - theft prevention kit www.catalyticconvertertheft.com

CatSecure theft prevention device for Mercedes Sprinter vans www.maplefleetservices.co.uk

CatClamp catalytic converter lock www.catsafe.org.uk



Singleton Lake - I am extremely saddened to report that a swan was found dead in Singleton Lake on Sunday 20th October. Police and a RSPCA officer attended the lake and the swan's body was recovered. The cause of death is yet to be confirmed. Inquiries were conducted at the scene at the time and the RSPCA is now handling this investigation. Should you have any information with regards to this incident then please call the RSPCA (in confidence) on 0300 123 8018 or let Kent Police know.

Other News

On Wednesday 13th November, between 11am and 1pm, I have arranged for Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators to attend the Great Chart Pop-up cafe. I thought that this would be a good opportunity to speak to residents and maybe get some of you to sign up for the scheme if you are not already a part of it. Please put this date in your diary.

With **Halloween and Bonfire Night** fast approaching our CSU teams will be on patrol in our wards to deter any anti-social behaviour. We have been delivering posters to local shops about not selling eggs or flour to youths or fireworks to any youths under age. Please find here information regarding trick or treating and fireworks. I have also included at the end of this email a 'No Trick or Treat' poster that can be placed at in a window or at your front door.

If you have young children:

- Never let young children go trick or treating on their own.
- Make sure they only visit people known to your family.

If you have teenagers:

- Make sure they are not going to be using alcohol, flour or eggs.
- Make it clear that if a 'no trick or treat' sign is displayed, they should leave straightaway.
- Advise them to stay in a group and never go into the home of someone they don't know.
- Make sure they understand they must not frighten people.

Display the front of this leaflet in a door or window if you would rather not be visited by Halloween callers.

Enjoy fireworks responsibly – Stay Safe this Autumn

Follow these top tips:

- Always supervise children around fireworks and never give sparklers to a child under 5.
- If you organise your own fireworks, only buy them from a reputable retailer and prepare in advance during daylight.
- Follow instructions carefully on the use of each type of firework and use eye protection and gloves.
- Have a bucket of water nearby.

Remember the Fireworks Code:

- Fireworks should not be sold to anyone under the age of 18.
- Buy fireworks marked as BS 7114:1988.
- Keep fireworks in a closed box.
- Light them at arm's length using a taper.
- Stand well back.
- Never go back to a lit firework.
- Never put fireworks in your pocket.
- Never throw fireworks.
- Keep pets indoors.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix and may lead to injury.

Know the law:

- It's illegal to let fireworks off between 11pm and 7am except on Bonfire Night (midnight), Diwali, New Year, and Chinese New Year (1am).
- It's illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to possess fireworks in a public place.



Kent Police

www.kent.police.uk

Please keep yourselves and your pets safe during these events.

CONTACT US

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 The easy way to report crime</p>  <p>Report a crime, incident or non-injury collision in minutes</p> <p>Receive your confirmation email and reference number immediately</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 555 111 100% 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>Browse the A to Z question finder</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 CPCC, Kent Police HQ, Sutton Road, Maidstone, ME15 9BX • Call on 01622 877065 • Email contactyourpoo@poo.kent.police.uk • Twitter @PCKENT • Visit the website www.kent-poo.gov.uk 



Catherine Stevens PCSO 46059869
Community Safety Unit | Ashford Police Station | East Division