

GREAT CHART WITH SINGLETON – DECEMBER 2019

Happy New Year to you all!

Since my last newsletter, a male who was suspected of breaching the Singleton Lake Public Space Protection Order by entering the water back in April this year and fishing without the necessary rod licence in June, has been found guilty on both accounts. The male has been ordered to pay £600 for the breaches, a victim surcharge of £30 plus a contribution towards Ashford Borough Council's costs of £500. This shows that anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated and that Kent Police and the council will not hesitate to take enforcement action. Hopefully this will send out a strong message. As always we urge any incidents that occur around the lake to be reported to us or Ashford Borough Council.



Since the start of the school Christmas holiday, Police Community Support Officers have been involved in an operation with regards to nuisance youths and antisocial behaviour. Traditionally the school holidays have been a busy period for Kent Police when it comes to youths causing antisocial behaviour. The aim of this operation is to conduct pro-active patrolling. With the assistance of police officers, KCC wardens and youth workers, we have been positively engaging with the youths of Ashford.

Also, as there was a dispersal order in place over one of the weekends in December, twenty notices were given to individuals who were causing or, it was believed, would cause antisocial behaviour, crime or disorder in Ashford town centre. These people were told to leave the town immediately and not to return for 48 hours. It appears that this had an impact as there was a reduction in calls for nuisance behaviour Ashford town centre

During December, I have also been out and about in the community and have attended a number of events such as the Singleton Environment Centre Christmas Fair and the Young at Heart club at Askes Court. During December, Kent Police's Prevent and Protect Fraud Officer, Steve Kelly, and I attended Meridian Court in Singleton. Steve spoke about the different types of scams and frauds and gave words of advice. Again this was well received by all those who attended. I am pleased to say that all the sheltered housing complexes in the parish have now received this talk and it is hoped that this will help to educate those who could be vulnerable to fraud. If anyone else would like information on fraud and scams then please let me know.

Neighbourhood Watch

Peter New, one of Ashford's Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, has asked for the following to be included in this month's newsletter:

I work as part of the Neighbourhood Watch team at Ashford Police Station and I am pleased to work closely with the PCSOs for the area to help with crime prevention.

I have put together several items which I hope helps you to stay crime free and free from the fear of being a victim of crime in 2020.

Before I set out those messages below I could not miss the opportunity to place on record my very sincere and deepest thanks for the support of the community throughout the year. I really appreciate it as do my colleagues from the Kent Force.



*My vision is clear in the fact that **"The more we are the stronger we are" and "Crime cannot flourish in communities that care"***

*You all know that we are trying to prevent **"Chancers and Opportunist"**. If we can think and take our time to stay secure and safe we have a good chance of being crime free. With more of you with **CCTV and RING TYPE CAMARA DOORBELLS plus DASH CAMs** we can organise and carry the fight towards the criminal persons who blight all communities.*

May I wish each and everyone of you and all your families A HEALTHY HAPPY 2020 and lets all work together to stay CRIME FREE and FREE FROM THE FEAR OF CRIME.

*Best wishes
Peter*

Peter New (Neighbourhood Watch Team)

Shopping online

If you shop online, make sure you check that the companies are genuine. If you are not sure, make contact with them to confirm before purchasing, or purchase from an alternative online retailer. When making online purchases make sure the connection is secure by looking for the padlock icon at the top or bottom of the Internet browser. Secure web addresses should also begin with 'https'. Purchase online using a secure payment method such as PayPal, or credit and debit cards.

If you have been conned by people misrepresenting goods or services online; either through auction or shopping sites you should:

- Keep all correspondence and all goods involved*
- Use the online disputes section on the website concerned*
- Report it to Action Fraud - either via telephone (0300123 2040) or their website www.actionfraud.police.uk*

Vehicle Security

Cars - *Keep your car keys somewhere out of sight in your home where they aren't visible from windows or doors. When you go to bed, take keys into your bedroom to make them less accessible to intruders. Frustrated car thieves are turning their attention to stealing car keys rather than tackling sophisticated security devices on vehicles. They will use methods such as 'Hooking theft' where wire, cane or fishing rods are fed through windows or letterboxes to retrieve keys hanging close by. Use anti-theft device on your car. Get one that is Sold Secure approved. You can search for suppliers on www.securebydesign.com and your insurance company may also be able to advise you on approved security devices. Secure anything that's on the outside of your vehicle. Anything left on roof-racks, tailgate racks, holiday top boxes or in tool chests are easily stolen when the vehicle is parked. The use of cable locks, padlocks and self-locking tools chests, which are secured to the vehicle, makes them more secure, but still, don't leave things in them if you can avoid it. For further information and advice, visit [Sold Secure](http://SoldSecure)*

Daily Fact - Crime statistics indicate that the average car thief would wish to spend no longer than 2½ minutes gaining entry to a vehicle and driving off.

Bikes - *When parking away from home make sure your bike or motorbike is locked to a heavy duty piece of street furniture and where possible with the lock or chain off the floor. At home, lock bicycles and motorbikes in a secure garage or shed if you have one, using good quality u-lock or chain and padlock to a ground anchor. Fit an alarm to your motorcycle Mark your bicycle frame with your postcode in 2 separate locations if possible, one of which should be*

hidden. Register your bike for free with www.immobilise.com. This will help police to find it if it gets stolen. The immobilise website also has some useful tips about bike security. Take a photo of your bike and keep it with the insurance details. Make a note of the make, model and serial number.

Preventing Theft from Vehicles

Try to park somewhere open and well-lit, in a garage, or in view from your home. Lock your vehicle, including the boot. Close the windows and sunroof. Take all valuables with you when you leave your vehicle. Don't leave **anything** on show in your car when you park – not even a coat or empty carrier bag. If you have a removable sat-nav, remove it and take it with you if possible when you park up, even if only for a short time. Remove the mounting, polish any marks off the windscreen and hide the cable and mounting from view. Store car ownership information at home, not in your car glove box. Do not programme your sat-nav 'Home' as your correct home address, use a neighbour's or a road nearby as it could be a risk if your house keys are stolen or if a crime happens to your vehicle while you are out then the offender knows where you live and that you are not home. Number plates are often stolen for criminal use. Use plates secured with anti-theft screws, available from car accessory stores.

Garden security

Your front garden should not provide cover for a burglar. Hedges or fences at the front of your home should be limited to 1 metre high. At the rear of your property, hedges, fences or walls should be at least 1.8 metres high. Gates leading to the rear of your property should be the same height and padlocked. Move ladders, tables, chairs and wheelie bins so that they cannot be used to climb on. If possible, chain and padlock them to a strong anchor point. Fit lighting in your garden. Walking on gravel is noisy and can help deter intruders. Close your Garden gate and lock it from the inside. Store tools and equipment somewhere secure after use so they don't get used to break into your home.

Securing your shed

Sheds are often targeted by thieves because they are not designed to store valuable equipment and property - they were originally designed to house potting plants. Their fairly flimsy construction makes them easy to break into via the door, windows, walls or even the roof.

However, many homes have little outside storage space, so the shed inevitably becomes a place for storing items that are not wanted indoors.

Ways to better secure your shed:

Fit a strong hasp and padlock to your shed door. Make sure the door is strong enough to resist being kicked or pushed in. Replace standard hinges with strap hinges secured by coach bolts or use security screws on existing hinges. Consider fitting a battery operated shed alarm. Visibly mark the property you keep in your shed and garage and use anchor points to secure larger tools and equipment. Register your valuables on the national online property database Immobilise so that Police can reunite you with them if they are ever stolen and later recovered. Visit the Immobilise website.

Safety tips for driving in winter

Vision - Keep the windscreen and other windows clear – if your vision is obscured through dirt, snow or even sticker-infested car windows you could face a potentially heavy fine. Clear snow from the roof as well as from windows as this can fall onto the windscreen obscuring your view. It can be a hazard to other road users as well. Dazzle from a low winter sun can also be a problem when trying to see the road.

Visibility - Make sure that all bulbs are working and that lenses are clean for safety and to be legal on the road. When roads are really mucky you might need to clean lights after every journey. Keep the number plates clean too, as you can be fined if they are dirty and illegible. If you have to clear snow from the car it's important to clear it from the lights - front and back - as well as from the glass and roof. You must use headlights when visibility is seriously reduced. You may also use front or rear fog lights but these must be switched off when visibility improves as they can dazzle other road users and obscure your brake lights.

Tyres - It is recommended at least 3mm of tread for winter motoring, and defiantly no less than 2mm. Don't reduce tyre pressures to get more grip – it doesn't work, and reduces stability. It's rare to need snow chains unless you live in an isolated area hit with heavy snow, and where the roads are not cleared. They must be removed to drive on a metalled road without a reasonable covering of snow. Consider changing to winter or all season tyres – these have a higher silica content in the tread which prevents it hardening at lower temperatures, and therefore gives better grip in cold wet conditions.

Safety checks before your journey - Get up at least 10 minutes early to give you time to prepare the car. Don't drive off like a tank-commander, with a tiny hole cleared in the windscreen. Clear all windows using a scraper and de-icer. Use a cigarette lighter to warm a key for a frozen lock. Don't breathe on the lock, as the moisture will condense and freeze. Plan routes to favour major roads which are more likely to have been cleared and gritted. Put safety before punctuality when the bad weather closes in. Allow extra time for winter journeys but be prepared for the inevitability of being late for work due to unexpected delay. Gentle manoeuvres are the key to safe driving - stopping distances are 10 times longer in ice and snow.

Secure your home whilst you're on holiday

Follow this advice below to help keep your home safe while you're away.

Fit good quality kite marked British Standard locks or bolts to all outside doors. Lock all windows and doors and remove the keys to a safe place when you leave the house. If you have an intruder alarm, make sure it's set. If you don't have one consider having an approved alarm system installed. Make use of timer plugs with lamps and radios to make your house seem occupied. Try and let a trusted friend or neighbour know that you're going to be away from home. You could ask a trusted neighbour or friend to collect post, open and close curtains. Don't leave valuable items such as laptops and jewellery in view of windows. Lock valuable items away in a ground anchored safe or you could consider leaving important documents and valuable items with other family members whilst away. Make sure all access points are secured such as gates and activate any external security lighting that you may have. Ensure gardening equipment, tools and ladders are put away and securely stored. Don't leave them lying around in your garden as they could aid offenders. Ensure that sheds and out buildings are locked and secured. Use good quality locks on garages and sheds (ensure screws on latches and hinges cannot be undone easily from the outside) and where possible ensure that they are alarmed. Register your valuables online on the national property database at www.immobilise.com You can register almost any kind of item on the database free of charge. Immobilise helps Police reunite stolen items with their rightful owners. Cancel milk and newspaper deliveries if you have them.

Don't announce your departure to a shop full of people. Only tell people who need to know you're going away. Think before posting a status or commenting on social media about going on holiday. You wouldn't display a sign in your window advertising that you're going on holiday, so don't advertise it online. Make sure that you have up-to-date contents and buildings insurance. Don't have your home address showing on your luggage for the outward journey. Put this only on the inside of your cases. Ask a neighbour to park a car on your driveway so

that passers-by assume someone is at home. Finally, just before you actually set off it's worth allowing a quiet couple of minutes on the doorstep to check you've done all you had to do and taken everything you need with you.

Hope this guide will help you all have a safe and pleasant New Year.

Who to contact to report suspicious activity or a crime?

- **If there is a threat to life or public safety, or a crime may be in progress dial 999**
- **To report a crime other than a crime in progress call 101.**
- **To report a crime other than a crime in progress you can also go to www.kent.police.uk/report to report your crime on line.**

I also realise that, in the community, criminals and persons who carry out crimes and behave in bad ways maybe known to you. It may be you are too frightened or scared to name them. However CRIME STOPPERS on 0800 555 111 is a number that you can give information and intelligence in absolute total confidence and anonymously.

**ALL THE BEST
PETER (peternew1@aol.com)**

If you would like to join Neighbourhood Watch, please contact Andrew Judd, who is the Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer, on 01233 896151 or email him at andrew.judd@kent.police.uk

Incidents of note

During December, there have been a couple of reports in the Singleton Village Hall area of a male trying car door handles during the early hours of the morning. Please ensure that your vehicles are locked especially when left overnight even if they are parked on your drive.

Future Events

Bike Marking and Community Engagement Event

Saturday, 11th January, 2020 - 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, at

Singleton Village Hall, Hoxton Close, Ashford, Kent TN23 5LB

I will be at this event along with the Community Warden, Jan Henry and the Parish Clerk, Ani Szocs. On the day we can mark your bikes to protect them from loss or theft or you can just come and have a chat with us. It would be great to see you there.

Community Surgery

Wednesday, 29th January, 2020 – 11:00 to 1pm, at

Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council Office, Hoxton Close, Ashford, Kent TN23 5LB

Please come along to this surgery should you wish to discuss any community issues. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.

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>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>   <p>Snap a photo of the suspicious behaviour, incident or concern.</p>  <p>Receive updates and alerts on the incident you submit.</p>  <p>Tell us where you are or use your phone's built in GPS location.</p> <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 OPOC, Kent Police HQ, Sutton Road, Maidstone, ME15 9BX• Call on 01822 877066• Email contactyourpoo@poo.kent.police.uk• Twitter @PCCKENT• Visit the website www.kent-poo.gov.uk  