

## GREAT CHART WITH SINGLETON – NOVEMBER 2019

Winter is definitely here! However the wet and windy conditions has not deterred me from being out and about and assisting those that need my help 😊



During November, Kent Police's Prevent and Protect Fraud Officer, Steve Kelly, and I attended a supported housing complex in Singleton. Steve spoke about the different types of scams and frauds and was able to give advice to those that attended. It is sad to say but statistics show that half of those targeted by scammers are over 55 years old and a third of scam victims fall for a second scam within 12 months. If you would like any advice with regards to scams and fraud or know anyone who would benefit from a chat about this then please let me know.

During this month, the work with regards to safe and considerate parking at the local primary schools continues. I have, once again, attended Great Chart Primary School and John Wesley Primary School with Civil Enforcement Officers from Ashford Borough Council. Words of advice have been given to those where it was felt appropriate to do so. Two tickets were also issued to parents who had parked on the yellow zigzag lines.

The purpose of providing the yellow '**SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR**' markings is to keep the space outside the school free from parked cars so that the children can be seen more easily when crossing the road, so they can be safe. These markings mean **no stopping** during the time and days specified on the adjacent or nearby signs. Please do bear this in mind if you drive to school as the safety of both children and adults is of utmost importance.



Also this month, Peter New, one of the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and I attended the Great Chart Pop-up cafe. Peter was able to speak to a number of local residents who then went on to join Neighbourhood Watch – including me! I would definitely recommend you join this scheme if you have not already done so as it alerts the members of incidents that have happened in the local area and therefore giving you the 'heads up'.



Below is a report that Peter New has asked me to include in my newsletter:

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

*I am very grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this important PCSO's Newsletter.*

***The matters to keep a close eye on remain the same.***

**1. VEHICLES** Leave nothing on show when you park (especially last park up for the night). Remember vans and commercial vehicles are especially vulnerable with tools and or equipment left inside overnight. If you have a van with rear doors, then try to reverse tight up against something so the doors cannot be opened even if forced.

**2. PROPERTY** Take the time to ensure you always lock up even if you are just "popping out " Also remember many of the burglaries that occur happen in broad daylight!

**3. GARAGES, SHEDS AND OUTBUILDINGS** Try to keep these as secure as you can. Maybe consider in these buildings chaining items together to deter thieves even if they break in. Remember tools from these buildings can be used to break into your main property. With garages if you do not park your car inside, then reverse the car as close to the doors as possible so even if the garage door was forced it cannot be opened to allow somebody inside.

**4. SCAM CALLERS** These come by phone, email and in person to your door, take great care. Never ever part with your bank details and if on the phone just hang up if in doubt.

**5. DISTRACTION BURGLARIES** Take care if you open the door to strangers, always have the chain on if you have one. Even children can be used to distract you by an adult asking for use of the toilet for the child or to retrieve a ball from the garden and when you take them inside the adult strikes behind your back, stealing items.

**6. DELIVERIES** Take care this time of year especially when you expect deliveries but be careful leaving notes for the drivers. "I'm out all day please leave around the back of the house" can be read by anyone. Please discourage delivery companies from just leaving parcels /packages on the doorsteps. Rogue vans just travel around picking these delivered items up, they even sometimes trail genuine delivery drivers. These rogue vans are also known to pick up bikes and children's toys left outside houses so please beware! Even on Christmas Day!!

**7. CATAPULTS** These have become a problem across the Ashford District and sooner or later there will be a very nasty incident. At present vehicles, bus shelters and windows are the target however if a vehicle is hit and swerves and crashes the outcome could be a very serious problem indeed

**Please just take a few moments with your property and vehicles to check and if in doubt check again it just takes a few seconds.**

As neighbours look after one another and if you can just keep an eye on elderly relatives, friends and neighbours that would be great. They are vulnerable people and lived their lives in far more trusting times than we sadly live today.

**8. CALLING THE POLICE** Please report all incidents of crime to the police, that way we can get a full picture of what is happening, and we can plot trends and types to allow us to warn the community.

Crime in progress or if you feel threatened by anything call **999** immediately. To give the police information or for non-urgent matters please call **101**.

Sometimes in a community, criminals are known to local people, but they are too scared to inform the police. In those circumstances call **CRIMESTOPPERS ON 0800 555 111** in absolute and total confidence where you can give information anonymously. It is very often the smallest of pieces of information that can assist an enquiry.

The more we are the stronger we are, and crime cannot flourish in communities that care

**THIS IS NOT MEANT TO FRIGHTEN YOU, IT IS TO WARN, ALERT AND PREVENT.**

**Take care everybody, I am so grateful of your support**

**My very best wishes and thanks**

**Peter** (Peter New [peternew1@aol.com](mailto:peternew1@aol.com) NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH TEAM )

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](mailto:andrew.judd@kent.police.uk)

Now that the festive period is upon us, our homes may be filled with expensive gifts and gadgets. This is a good time to review your home security. Please find below a number of festive security tips:

**1. Hide presents** - Even if you don't have children to hide presents from, make sure criminals can't see them through your windows and doors by hiding them in cupboards and under beds.

**2. Look lived in** - If you're going away for Christmas, make the house look lived in. Turning on lights when no one's at home in winter can deter burglars. You can buy timers that will turn lights on automatically, or just ask a friend or neighbour to keep an eye on your property, open and close curtains and put lights on. If you're going away, ask a neighbour to park their car in your driveway to make it look like someone's home.

**3. Look out for suspicious behaviour** - Keep an eye on any suspicious behaviour in the neighbourhood. Security cameras for inside and outside the home can enhance your home security and peace of mind, but as they're not within everyone's budget, being vigilant has to be the next best thing.

**4. Triple check your locks** - Make sure all windows and doors are firmly shut and locked when leaving home. Leaving an entry path slightly open is a temptation for a burglar.

**5. Don't leave notes** - Don't leave notes for couriers saying no one's in. Make sure you've sent instructions about where to leave parcels if you're out.

**6. Hide packaging** - Make sure all packaging is ripped up and buried in bins, so criminals can't easily see what's been added to an already festive-filled house i.e. TV boxes.

**7. Keep trees and gifts away from windows** - Don't openly display your Christmas tree and gifts in the front window so it's easily visible from the street. It can be tempting for criminals to smash the window and grab wrapped packages.

**8. Don't run electricity cords through window cracks** - Burglars prefer to enter through unlocked doors or windows, so an electricity extension cord running through an open window to exterior Christmas lights can be an open invitation. Hire an electrician to install an inexpensive exterior outlet for festive outdoor lights.



### Incidents of note

Over the last month, there have been a number of incidents in the area of lower Singleton Hill including a burglary, theft from a vehicle and a male trying car door handles. If you have any information regarding these incidents then please let Kent Police know on 101. Please also try and take the tips that we give you on board so that you make it as difficult as possible for any criminals out there.

### Future Event

#### **Bike Marking and Community Engagement Event**

- Time: Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 - 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
- Venue: Singleton Village Hall, Ashford, Kent, Ashford, United Kingdom

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.

If you are unable to attend the above event but would like your bike marked then you can purchase one of these kits yourself. Please see the poster below.

#### **PROTECT YOUR CYCLE FROM LOSS OR THEFT**

Our system visibly and permanently marks a cycle with a unique security code and the 24/7/365 contact telephone number of our fully accredited database, the International Security Register (ISR).



*If labels are removed the code and phone number will be readable under UV light*

Cycle and owner details are recorded on the ISR, and can be VERIFIED immediately by our fully trained operators under strict security protocols - for just the price of a phone call. This puts thieves at maximum risk of being caught

YOU CAN ORDER A SIMPLE TO USE SYSTEM PACK BY CALLING 01233 333000 AND QUOTING 'KCC'. THIS WILL ENTITLE YOU TO A VERY SPECIAL PRICE OF £5.75 INCLUDING VAT AND POSTAGE. (RRP: £11.50).

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Further to my October's newsletter, I am pleased to report the following:

On Tuesday 5 November, a 22-year-old man from East London was arrested on suspicion of stealing catalytic converters from multiple victims across Kent and released on bail pending further enquiries until Friday 29 November.

Then, three arrests were made by Kent Police officers investigating the theft of catalytic converters from vehicles in Canterbury. The suspects were detained at an M25 service station on the morning of Tuesday 26 November 2019 following a report three parked cars were targeted in Canterbury on 21 November. Two of the arrested men are from Clapton and are aged 37 and 28. The third is 27 and from Hackney Wick. All have been bailed, pending further enquiries, until 20 December 2019.

During the festive period, when you are out and about, please stay vigilant.

**Put security at the top of your festive list**

**If you see something that doesn't look right - ACT**

**Report concerns to management/security or, in confidence, to police at gov.uk/ACT.**

**In an emergency always call 999**

**COMMUNITIES DEFEAT TERRORISM**

**COUNTER TERRORISM POLICING ACT ACTION COUNTERS TERRORISM**

**CONTACT US**

**Making it easier to get in touch**

<p>In an <b>EMERGENCY</b> only call</p> <p><b>999</b></p> <p>when life is in immediate danger or when a crime is in progress</p>	<p><b>Report ONLINE</b></p> <p>The easy way to report crime</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report a crime, incident or non-injury collision in minutes</li> <li>Receive your confirmation email and reference number immediately</li> </ul>	<p><b>Front counters</b></p> <p>You can report issues to one of our front counters. To find your nearest one visit our website.</p> <p><a href="http://www.kent.police.uk/contact">www.kent.police.uk/contact</a></p>
<p><b>Crimestoppers</b></p> <p>Call <b>0800 555 111</b></p> <p>100% anonymous. Always.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They are not the police</li> <li>Nobody will know you have helped us</li> <li>They pay cash rewards of up to £1,000</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org">www.crimestoppers-uk.org</a></p>	<p><b>Hate crime reporting hubs</b></p> <p>Visit one of our reporting hub drop-in surgeries based in Maidway.</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><a href="http://www.kent.police.uk/hatecrime">www.kent.police.uk/hatecrime</a></p>	<p><b>ActionFraud</b></p> <p>Report Fraud &amp; Internet Crime</p> <p>Report online: fraud or scams to ActionFraud</p> <p><b>Report 24/7</b></p> <p><a href="http://actionfraud.police.uk">actionfraud.police.uk</a></p> <p>0300 123 2940</p> <p>Mon-Fri 8am to 9pm Sat &amp; Sun 9am-6pm</p>
<p><b>Ask the Police</b></p> <p>No need to phone. Get an instant answer online.</p> <p>Browse the <b>A to Z Question Bank</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.askthe.police.uk">www.askthe.police.uk</a></p>	<p><b>True Vision</b></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><a href="http://www.report-it.org.uk/home">www.report-it.org.uk/home</a></p>	<p><b>Country Eye – rural crime app</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Snap a photo of the suspicious behaviour, incident or concern.</li> <li>Receive updates and alerts on the incident you submit.</li> <li>Tell us where you are or use your phone's built in GPS location.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.countryeye.co.uk">www.countryeye.co.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Nuisance and environmental issues</b></p> <p>Contact your local council for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noise complaints</li> <li>Abandoned vehicles</li> <li>Fly tipping</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council">www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council</a></p>	<p><b>101</b></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"> <li>property damaged</li> <li>suspect drug use or dealing or:</li> <li>give information about crime</li> <li>have a general enquiry</li> </ul>	<p><b>Contact the Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Write to: OPCO, Kent Police HQ, Sutton Road, Maidstone, ME15 5SA</li> <li>Call on 01822 877665</li> <li>Email: <a href="mailto:ooefadlyourpoo@poo.kent.police.uk">ooefadlyourpoo@poo.kent.police.uk</a></li> <li>Twitter: @PCCKENT</li> <li>Visit the website <a href="http://www.kent-pcc.gov.uk">www.kent-pcc.gov.uk</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Kent Police</b></p>