



Kent Police

The school holidays were, dare I say, relatively quiet. Sadly, there were a number of reports of youths going into St Mary's Church, Great Chart and causing minor issues. Therefore, it has been agreed to close the church in the evenings to prevent this behaviour from continuing. I am pleased to say that we have not received any further reports.

Unfortunately, there was also a report of damage caused to the pavilion at Great Chart Cricket Club. This is currently being investigated.

At the end of August Nikki and I organised an Operation around Singleton Lake and Bucksford Meadow. PCSOs were present during the day, along with Jo (our community warden) and Barrie Neaves who works for the Environment Agency. We engaged with the public, residents and fishermen and made sure that the PSPO was being adhered to. This was until the afternoon when the heavens opened and an unscheduled downpour soaked us to the skin. At this point we had to retreat back to the police station for a complete change of uniform! We returned later on the day but the weather kept most people, apart from dog walkers, away. In the evening we did speak to a car of youngsters in the car park just to let them know that we would be regularly patrolling the area.

After talking to the fishermen and residents it became apparent that day tickets are not readily available to purchase. Fishermen wanting day passes have to wait for the bailiff to turn up but this is very much hit and miss. We did not see him at all in the time we were there. We very much believe the availability of passes need to be addressed along with a few other issues. Hopefully this will be discussed with Ashford Borough Council at the earliest opportunity.

It was good to see that the 'School Keep Clear' markings have been added to the road outside Ashford School. I will be visiting the school at drop off and pick up times to monitor the traffic in the area. Hopefully this will help to elevate the issues with vehicles outside the school.

Saturday just gone, Jo and I held a bike marking session at Singleton Village Hall. This was very well attended – in fact so much so that for the first hour and a half we did not come up for breath! All together we marked 41 bikes and 2 bike trailers! These sessions are always well received and we will look to do another one just after Christmas.

As always, any police issues please report via 101 or through the Kent Police website.

Take care everyone!