

# Police Community Support Officer Newsletter

## GREAT CHART WITH SINGLETON - MAY 2020

As these unprecedented times continue, please be assured that Kent Police continues to work hard to keep the public safe amid the ongoing threat from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please help us by adhering to the government guidelines as below:



### Stay alert

**We can all help control the virus if we all stay alert. This means you must:**

- stay at home as much as possible
- work from home if you can
- limit contact with other people
- keep your distance if you go out (2 metres apart where possible)
- wash your hands regularly

**Do not leave home if you or anyone in your household has symptoms.**

As this situation is very fluid, please regularly refer to the government website at:

[https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus?gclid=EAlalQobChMllvqJitXd6QIVg7HtCh1dCA3NEAAYASAAEgIWdfD\\_BwE](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus?gclid=EAlalQobChMllvqJitXd6QIVg7HtCh1dCA3NEAAYASAAEgIWdfD_BwE)

## Singleton Lake



Please be advised that Singleton Lake remains closed to fishing. Reasons for this include the practical issues involved in ensuring adequate social distancing both between anglers and between anglers and the public. Apart from the 2 metre distancing recommended in government guidelines, the Angling Trust recommend a minimum of 15 metres between pegs. However, the situation is being continually monitored and the lake will be opened again once it is believed it is safe to do so.

## Local Incidents

**Catapults** – These remain an issue in the area. Please can I urge you to report any catapult incidents to us. While it is not illegal to own or carry a catapult, and most people do use them safely, there is a small number of individuals that are using catapults to cause criminal damage and are putting public safety at risk.

Police officers have the powers to stop and search anyone who is believed to be carrying a catapult with the intention of using it to cause damage or harm. Anyone caught will risk prosecution.

**Stable Burglaries** – There has been a report of a burglary and an attempted burglary of stables in the area. Please find below security advice for those of you that own stables:

- Ideally a tack room should be build using bricks or concrete blocks as this will be more secure than a wooden one.
- Use solid, not tubular, iron bars on tack room windows
- Doors should be solid and preferably made of steel or strengthened with steel panels. Secure door hinges with good quality bolts, not screws;
- Lock gates with heavy duty padlocks and chains;
- Reverse top hinges on gates so they can't be lifted;
- If possible, install CCTV and an intruder alarm to deter criminals.
- Saddlery can be micro-chipped, indelibly marked or embossed and metal can be engraved. Several saddle-locking devices are available which lock saddles onto their supporting rack. Galvanised steel safes for tack are also available which can be bolted to a wall.

## **Neighbourhood Watch**

Please find below an input form Peter New, one of Ashford's Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators:

### ***NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT FOR PCSO MONTHLY REPORT MAY 2020***



*I am pleased to write this article in support of my PCSO colleagues who work tirelessly for the community. I am in constant touch with the PCSO and we are looking forward to being able to operate out in the community at joint meetings as soon as it is declared safe for us to do so.*

*As I said in the previous month's update these are very different, difficult and challenging times. It is important to risk assess the changing matters to be alert and aware of.*

*The pressure to ease the lockdown continues and in the coming days news will be given by central government on next steps and the timescales involved.*

#### **CRIME**

*The types of crime we have battled against during the first period of the lockdown will be different now. We must meet that challenge.*

*We will be returning to the typical crimes of thefts from vehicles as the public is allowed more freedom of movement. Our prevention and advice must match these new challenges.*

*As I said earlier, previously this has been a very different time for us all BUT could some good come from this period?*

*Two years ago, when I first took this job on, some people did not know who lived next door; they now do shopping for them.*

*Cars were broken into everyday where people had left items in cars that should never be left in vehicles especially overnight. That has now virtually stopped. When lockdown is eased and finally lifted be as security aware with your vehicle as you are now.*

*Please leave nothing on show in parked vehicles especially for the last park up at night.*

*Commercial vans and vehicles will again be targeted for equipment and tools.*

*There is the most uplifting community spirit out there at the moment! How do we maintain that?*

*Let us enjoy the time when the restrictions are gradually or finally lifted but let's not just default back to where we were, let us retain the good and great things that have happened in our community during this difficult period where we have all pulled together.*

*Be safe, secure, alert and vigilant at all times. Criminals will be preparing for life after lockdown; so must we!!*

### **AREAS OF CRIME TO NOW BE AWARE OF NOW**

*1. The warmer weather is with us and set fair. Ensure windows and patio type doors are secured last thing at night or if you are just "popping out for a short time".*

*2. Be alert and vigilant for bogus callers who will once again return to our streets.*

*3. Thefts from doorsteps of deliveries just left outside properties has become a recent problem. Delivery drivers are often followed by criminals who just swoop if a delivery is left. The chancer and opportunist will also strike given the opportunity.*

*4 Coronavirus has been seen as a "business opportunity" by criminals ready to prey on the most vulnerable members of our community. Those criminals will now be planning their next moves; so must we!*

*5. Thefts of Catalytic Converters has now returned to East Kent and thefts have occurred in the Ashford District.*

*6. Bogus companies offering all sorts of facemasks and PPE*

*7. Care with security of garages, sheds, outbuildings and even thefts of items from gardens especially bikes, mowers and power appliances.*

*8. General scams have been off the scale recently as we have been a captive audience at home for the past months. Every form of scam arrives by phone, email, computer and even the post. Once again will be facing it on the doorstep also with bogus callers*

*We must ramp up our prevention, advice, warnings and alerts to match the criminals who have seen the virus as yet another "business opportunity".*

**REMEMBER THE HARDEST MATTER TO QUANTIFY IS... WHAT WE HAVE PREVENTED!!**

### **NUISANCE MOTORBIKES**

*This is a problem that blights many communities and also gets responsible and careful motorcyclist a bad name many who have performed sterling work through the coronavirus crisis.*

*If you need to report a matter like this remember to call the police giving as much information as possible.*

**DESCRIPTION** - Helmet, Clothing, Registration number, Colour/Make/Model (if you can) Distinctive features

**LOCATION** - Road seen on, Direction of Travel or even the forming up of groups.

### **RECRUITMENT FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

**What is Neighbourhood Watch?**

*An active Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, which is free to join, can*

- 1. Reduce crime and the opportunities for crime*
- 2. Help and reassure those who live in fear of crime*
- 3. Encourage neighbourliness and closer communities*
- 4. Help improve the local environment.*

*Many of you across the district are already members of Neighbourhood Watch schemes and please continue to support your local coordinators as much as you can*

*NHW Recruitment has been affected as my preferred option is 'face to face' on the doorstep when signing people on.*

*However, with good use of social media there has been steady stream of new members across the whole district, and deliveries of booklets, badges and stickers are now underway.*

*I have used this period of lockdown to enhance and review my NHW communications and networks. Alongside existing schemes is the "new builds" work to ensure the new areas of Ashford that are springing up everywhere are enrolled into NHW from the outset of occupation of their new homes.*

*NHW is free to join and allows members to receive crime reports, alerts and warnings to help people stay free from crime and free from the fear of being a victim of crime.*

*To become a NHW Member contact me on [peternew1@aol.com](mailto:peternew1@aol.com) or Andrew Judd on [andrew.judd@kent.police.uk](mailto:andrew.judd@kent.police.uk)*

**REMEMBER THE MORE WE ARE THE STRONGER WE ARE AND CRIME CANNOT FLOURISH IN A COMMUNITY THAT CARES**

*If you're not in Neighbourhood Watch and you are reading this report, please consider joining.*

*Thank you for your support as always*

*Peter*

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

*Neighbourhood Watch Team*



# YOU CAN SAVE ME

## KNOW

During lockdown, some children and young people may be being abused and exploited at home. They can be made to believe that they should never tell anyone and that the abuse is their fault. Shut in with their abusers, they have little chance to escape or to tell anyone.

These children need your help! As a neighbour or key worker visiting homes for any reason, you may be the only person able to spot abuse and report it.

## LOOK

- Guarded behaviour of a child around particular individuals
- Sudden changes in behaviour
- Children with bruises, burns, bite marks or fractures
- Children appearing withdrawn, anxious or frightened
- Hearing or seeing shouting and violence towards a child
- Children seen carrying or using drugs
- Children being late or arriving home late in different cars
- Unaccompanied children visiting a house where only adults live

## ACT

- Stay curious and look beyond the obvious
- If something doesn't feel right, it might not be
- Even if you're unsure, it's better to report your concerns
- Do not attempt to intervene yourself
- If you have a safeguarding manager / lead within your organisation, notify them immediately
- Call the police on 101 or 999 in an emergency
- Call the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000




### Future Events

Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus pandemic the following events have been cancelled.

### Pop Up Café,

Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 – 11:00am to 1:00pm

Great Chart Village Hall, The Street, Great Chart TN23 3AX

**TAKE CARE AND STAY SAFE**



Catherine Stevens PCSO 46059869

Community Safety Unit | Ashford Police Station | East Division