



**REPORT FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.  
GREAT CHART & SINGLETON PARISH COUNCIL. OCTOBER 2024.**



Without rushing the year away, I must alert council to risks I see increasing as we head towards Christmas and the New Year sales periods.

**THE THEFT OF INTERNET SHOPPING PARCELS & PACKAGES FROM OFF OF HOUSEHOLD DOORSTEPS and COURIER FRAUD.**

**Courier Fraud** is where a package is delivered to your property and moments later a person calls saying the delivery was made in error. Only when a bill later arrives do people realise, they have been a victim of crime.

This risk has developed over a period of 2 to 3 years and was fuelled by the arrangements to operate safely as COVID restrictions relaxed.

1. The theft of a parcel from a doorstep mainly in town areas where there is foot traffic by a “Chancer and opportunists” Sometimes the thief had no intention of committing the crime but there was a parcel and then it was gone!
2. Criminals developed a more serious approach and vans were now followed that risk grew around the time of Black Friday sales and of course Christmas as more and more online shopping took off.  
It also now brought into play more rural and isolated premises so no property off the beaten track was safe now
3. Then we had vans taken as delivery drivers went to premises and the criminals were frustrated that many deliveries were being accepted by residents and so when the opportunity arose, they stole the complete van and all deliveries inside.
4. Sadly, and I have no in-depth details as yet, but a delivery van driver was killed recently in the North of England as criminals tried to take the van and the driver was killed as the van drive off.

My work will need to address this risk in the coming months as we start to move towards Christmas.

We must encourage safe delivery arrangements.



CRIME

## Parcel thefts rise from doorsteps as gangs follow courier vans



# Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

## Delivery Scams

How the scam works –

An unexpected parcel is delivered to the victim's door, which will normally contain a high value item such as a laptop or iPhone. Shortly after the delivery, a person wearing a uniform from the same company will attend and state that the item was delivered in error and that they are there to take it back. However, it is a scam. The item would have been ordered in the persons name without their knowledge and the criminals would have tracked the order to know when it was delivered and when to knock on the door to say it is all one big error. The totally unaware occupier will not know there has been a scam until they receive letters requesting payment for the item.

If you get an unexpected delivery that you have not ordered, then contact the company and agree with them which courier company will collect it and on what day they will attend.

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

For further information about Fraud, visit our website at [Advice about fraud | Kent Police](#)



## Preventing fraud

Together,  
let's stop  
scammers.



### Remember, ABC:



never Assume



never Believe



always Confirm

Get the latest  
scam advice:



@KentPoliceECU



**Kent  
Police**

Report a non-urgent crime online [www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)

Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 [www.kent.police.uk/contact](http://www.kent.police.uk/contact)

In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service **18000**.

Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.

[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)





# Beware of suspicious callers

Most people who call at your home are genuine.

But sometimes people may turn up unannounced and try to:

- Trick their way into your home to steal valuables or money
- Sell you services or items you do not want or need
- Carry out unnecessary repairs to your home at inflated prices.



If concerned about someone calling at your home, **don't open your door.**

You can also:

- Ask for identification and call their company yourself (not on a number they provide) to check they are genuine
- Never leave your door unattended
- Ask the visitor to return another time when someone can be with you.



**Kent  
Police**

#### Contacting Kent Police

Report a non-urgent crime online [www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)

Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 [www.kent.police.uk/contact](http://www.kent.police.uk/contact)

In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**

If deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to **60066**

[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)



## ALERT

I must now put down a marker for you to consider which I will bring a comprehensive report to at the next meeting.

I have started to warn residents of my concerns on the number of reports involving e-scooter/electric bike fires. A sample of what I will be speaking about are set out.



**Kent Fire and Rescue Service**

17 Jul • 🌐

Crews are reminding people to be careful when charging electrical items, after an electric bike caught fire in [#Maidstone](#)

Here's some top tips on electrical safety:

- ⚡ Try not to leave items charging overnight or if you leave the house
- ⚡ Use recognised and recommended chargers and charging leads
- ⚡ Don't use damaged charging cables
- ⚡ Avoid over-charging items and over-loading plug sockets
- ⚡ Purchase electrical items from reputable suppliers
- ⚡ Place charging items on a non-flammable surface

More on this incident here:

<https://www.kent.fire-uk.org/incident/flat-fire-maidstone>





**London Fire Brigade** 🔵

31 Jul • 🌐

Ten people, including a baby who had to be dropped from the first floor window and caught by a member of the public, escaped a house fire before firefighters arrived in Ilford this weekend.

Part of the ground floor, an internal staircase and most of the first floor were damaged by the fire, which is believed to have been caused by the failure of a lithium-ion battery attached to an e-bike stored in the hallway.

The escape of the residents was largely aided by a builder who was driving by, quickly stopped and put up a piece of scaffolding as an improvised ladder to help the occupants to come down safely.

Control Officers received 12 calls about the fire, and crews were on the scene at 1013, with the fire being brought under control by 1150. Six fire engines and around 40 firefighters attended.

Three adults and one child were taken to hospital by London Ambulance Service crews, with a further four adults and two children assessed at the scene.

This fire is yet another example of the dangers e-bikes and e-scooters can pose if the battery fails catastrophically and catches fire. In this case, the e-bike was not on charge, but it was stored by the front door, impeding the occupants' escape.

For advice on how to safely charge and store your e-bike or e-scooter, please look at our [#ChargeSafe](#) page on our website.

Well done to all of our crews and blue light partners involved, and a huge well done to the builder who reacted quickly and helped residents to escape safely.





I am concerned about putting a news item from an agency into a report but until such times as an official report is published, I feel as background reading this is important for you.

## Faversham busker known as Punky Jim killed in Salters Lane house fire started by e-scooter

Max Chesson [mchesson@thekmgroupp.co.uk](mailto:mchesson@thekmgroupp.co.uk)

Published: 12:24, 12 August 2024

| Updated: 12:59, 12 August 2024

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A much-loved busker was killed in a house fire started by an e-scooter.

Well-known Faversham musician James Ronayne - also known as Punky Jim or Jimmy - has been named locally as the victim of the devastating blaze in Salters Lane in the early hours of Saturday morning.



James Ronayne performing in Faversham town centre. Picture: Chris Davey

The 44-year-old had been living at Mill House, a 23-bed house in multiple occupancy (HMO) opposite the entrance of Faversham Town FC.

James's sister Samantha posted on social media: "The tragic house fire on Salters Lane did result in the loss of my extremely loved brother, James Ronayne.



"As you can imagine, as a family we are grieving, this is not the kind of news you expect to wake up to.

"His loss has left Faversham speechless. He was such a well-loved person, such an amazing character.



The blaze was started by an e-scooter, according to the fire service

"As a family, we'd love to put the money together to give him the send-off he deserves."

A **fundraiser** has been started to help pay for costs.

More than £1,200 has been donated so far, with as many as 60 people contributing.

A former pupil of the Chaucer School in Canterbury, James was well-known for busking all over Kent, though he had **hoped to swap performing on the streets** for a full-time career in music.

He was inspired by bands such as Pearl Jam and Alice in Chains but had an eclectic taste when it came to what he listened to at home – everything from Bob Dylan to classical tunes.


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**Ten fire engines, a command support unit, and a height vehicle** were all sent to Salters Lane after the blaze broke out at 18 minutes after midnight Saturday.

Over the weekend, it was confirmed **a man in his 40s** had died at the scene.

It has since been revealed by the fire service that the “significant” blaze is thought to have been accidental and was “started by an e-scooter”.

## House fire in Faversham

 Incident    Saturday 10 August 2024    00:18  
Saturday 10 August 2024    20:20

**Fire engines:** 10

**Partner agencies:** Kent Police, KFRS Volunteer Response Team, South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECamb)

**Swale**

### Final update:

Firefighting operations have concluded.

Follow local highways authorities for road closure updates.

The cause of the fire is believed to be linked to an e-scooter.

I have commenced public awareness and will continue to do so.  
The news report above features the property was an HMO.

I felt it important for you to know in this report that the concerns of Christmas risks of parcel and package thefts alongside the e-scooter fire risk concerns will dominate my thinking alongside my normal NHW work.

A vital piece of work which I am asking support for is the survey by the Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott. This survey gives residents the opportunity to say what they feel are the crime issues and what should be the police priorities in coming years.

The link is below and please could I ask that each councillor makes a response.

The Commissioner used the plan that is built from these responses to hold the Chief Constable to account when he meets on Quality Assurance and Performance Reviews on the police plan.



## **The PCC launches a consultation on the new Police and Crime Plan - have your say!**

The Police and Crime Commissioner is currently writing the new Police and Crime Plan, which sets the priorities Kent Police should follow. Matthew Scott wants to cut crime, to support victims and to build trust, but he wants to know what YOU witness and experience in your area. Do you feel safe? Do you trust the police? Please, have your say via our short, anonymous survey.

The survey is anonymous and will only take you a few minutes. We'd be very grateful if you could fill it in:


<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/PoliceandCrimePlan2024/>



Council will be aware of the work I needed to carry out supporting residents following incidents in the Singleton area.

I was contacted by both residents and councillors reporting a man approaching properties and persons in a way which cause alarm and distress.

...



Address: 18 Oxen Lease  
TN234 9T

REF: 11478

Subject line: Subject Access Request

Date: 23/9/24

Dear who this may concern,

I would like a copy of the following personal data that you hold about me, and which I have a right to view under the **Data Protection Act 2018**:

From Date / Time: 23/9/24 17:30 To Date / Time: 23/9/24 18:00  
If no date is supplied then the previous calendar year from the date of this letter.

All personal data you hold about me which can identify me, ANDREW / KW230UF

- \* Personal data: This includes information like my name, address, contact details, CCTV imagery, electronic communications, and any other data that identifies me.
- \* Processing details: Information about how my data is being used, stored, and shared.
- \* Third-party disclosures: Details of any organizations that my data has been shared with.

Ready to send the data, Phone: **03333582334**.      Need to make a complaint by Phone: **03333582335**.

I would prefer if you sent me a copy of my data in an electronic format.

I would like to remind you that data protection law requires you to respond to my request within one calendar month.

If you do not normally deal with these requests, please pass this letter to your Data Protection Officer, or relevant staff member. If you need advice on dealing with this request, the Information Commissioner's Office can assist you. The website is [ico.org.uk](http://ico.org.uk) or they can be contacted on **0303 123 1113**.

Any further information from me, please contact me personally as soon as possible by Phone: **03333582336**.

Sincerely SLAC

Good quality CCTV pictures were made available to me, so I was able to offer firstly reassurance to the community and clear instructions to proceed, then inform the police.

I cannot stress how upset some of the elderly and young women were with this approach and as always a stronger personality taking matters into their own hands with an individual walking around taking photos of their property always in the back of my thinking





CLEAR MAKE & MODEL PLUS REG NUMBER GIVEN TO THE POLICE

REG NUMBER KW 23 DWF





## AN ALERET INTO THE COMMUNITY IMMEDIATELY

### Neighbourhood Watch Great Chart & Singleton



**Peter New**

Admin 25 Sep ·

Dear Readers

There have been reports reference the letters and an approach from a man about CCTV in the Singleton area. I had written to Ashford Police and sent in all intel/info that was circulating.

I have just been asked by the Officer in Charge of Ashford Police Task Force Team to check that everyone who has had a letter or been approached by the male concern to report the matter to the police.

Any cctv, camera doorbell footage please make available.

**DO NOT ENGAGE WITH THIS PERSON. PLEASE REPORT TO THE POLICE ANY APPROACH.**

Thank you for your help on this matter

Peter

Peter New (peternew1@aol.com)  
Community Neighbourhood Watch

Subject line: Subject Access Request  
Date: 23/9/24

Dear who this may concern,

I would like a copy of the following personal data that you hold about me, and which I have a right to view under the Data Protection Act 2018:

From Date / Time: 23/9/24 17:30 To Date / Time: 24/9/24 18:00  
If no date is supplied then the previous calendar year from the date of this letter.

All personal data you hold about me which can identify me: Audrey / KW230UP

- \* Personal data: This includes information like my name, address, contact details, CCTV imagery, electronic communications, and any other data that identifies me.
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Communities are  
important to us  
**THANKYOU**  
for still looking out for ours.

**Kent  
Police**



## My reports to Kent Police



**Peter New**

To: richard.batten@kent.police.uk, Jason.Bushell@kent.police.uk Cc: CSU >

25/09/2024



### Caller to properties in Singleton area.

Dear All

Over the last 24 hours there has been an individual approaching properties in the Singleton area asking about CCTV and approaching households taking photographs.

This has caused a mixture of anger, upset and great concern.

To NHW members who have approached me for advice I have asked them to report matters to Kent Police so it fed into you from Force Control.

I have told them not to engage. You may be aware of these incidents.

1. Below is the copy of the letter he is putting through doors
2. Pictures of him
3. Pictures of his car (I believe the car reg to be A Mercedes KW23DWF)

I have absolutely no idea whatsoever what this is about but it has caused concern in the community.

Have you had any reports?

Please advise on any other actions you wish to be taken

Thank you

Pete

Peter New



Dear Insp Batten and PS Bushell.

I wrote last week about a gentleman approaching properties, engaging with residents and issuing them with a letter about CCTV.

That was in the Singleton area.

I provided intel on the person by picture and his car registration.

His conduct which I accept may have some legal points to it caused upset, distress and great concern in the community.

Strong residents sent him packing many of which I have no knowledge of however with some he has caused near upset fear and terror.

Can you please say if any police under your command have engaged with him.? and any advice guidance given?

Can you say whether any response officers have dealt with this?

There appears a difference of approach from Force Control.

My advice has been constant.

Do not engage.

If in doubt do not open your door.

Do not confront if he(as he does) starts taking photos of your property.

Report to the police and get a crime number.

Do not contact any phone numbers on the letters.

One resident who attended the police station even was told my advice was correct.



**Lesley Moody**

Update: I called into Ashford police station today and showed them the letter. They advised holding onto it for now but take no action. They said they would contact the community team - he was full of praise for our Peter. I'd recommend if you have one of these letters to let the police know.

DP Daniel Brown PC 46014158  
To: Peter New >

30/09/2024



Good morning,

I spoke to the individual this morning who has been delivering the letters to the properties.

He has been extremely open and explained that he is trying to educate people. At present he has been advised to reconsider his approach.

The male was extremely cooperative and has been reminded that no matter how good intentioned his actions maybe some may be concerned.

Kind regards,

PC 14158 BROWN

I hope you can see I followed this through but have had nothing further from the police or thankfully the community.

I look forward to a strong last quarter of the year working with you to help keep our residents safe and crime free and as important free from the fear of being a victim of crime also.

Thank you all as always for your solid backing and support. I really appreciate that.

Stay safe, secure, alert and vigilant

**Peter New ([peternew1@aol.com](mailto:peternew1@aol.com)) KENT POLICE VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY  
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

