

Police Community Support Officer Newsletter GREAT CHART WITH SINGLETON - JULY 2020



This report goes out to the Parish Council, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators, and other members of the community who may be interested to receive it.

The report is a general overview of what I have been doing this month and gives crime prevention advice.

Crime statistics can be found at: <https://www.police.uk/>



Alternatively, Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) send out regular updates in relation to crimes that have happened in the Ashford area. If you wish to receive these updates directly then please contact Andrew Judd who is the Volunteer and Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer. His contact details are as follows:

Tel: 01233 896151

Email: andrew.judd@kent.police.uk

Address: Ashford Police Station,
Tufton Street,
Ashford
TN23 1BT

Digital Surgery - During July, I held another 'digital surgery' with Sergeant Bloomfield. These 'surgeries' allow residents to contact us via live chat on the Kent Police website. They are a useful tool and I would encourage you to join in when they are taking place should you have anything that you would like to discuss with me.

County News

Knife Crime

Knife crime in the county fell by almost a quarter according to official Government statistics, thanks to robust policing and targeted operations.

Data published by the Office of National Statistics showed our officers' no-nonsense stance against knife crime has seen 226 less offences recorded in Kent.

These figures are comparing the year ending March 2020 to March 2019 and are unaffected by the COVID-19 pandemic as it relates to the period prior to the lockdown.

High level enforcement action has been key with the force regularly taking part in the national Operation Sceptre – a campaign to reduce knife crime - which has been successful in identifying and arresting those who carry weapons.

On 11 July officers from Medway's Community Policing Team worked with the British Transport Police at Gillingham Train Station as part of a planned operation. This resulted in two knives along with class A drugs being seized and two teenagers arrested for being in possession of weapons.

A Canterbury burglar was jailed on 15 July for four years after breaking into two properties and threatening the occupants of one home with a knife.

Furthermore, this week a suspected drug dealer was charged after he was stopped in his car in Folkestone. Officers found class A drugs and a lock knife in his possession.

Uniformed and plain-clothed officers frequently carry out extra patrols to detect and deter habitual knife carriers.

Across the county the focus has also been on education and intervention with Police Community Support Officers and volunteer police cadets regularly visiting schools, colleges and youth clubs to encourage young people to make better life choices.

Over the past year officers have been providing talks and sharing stories with the aim to promote safety in Kent, reduce knife crime and associated offences and tackle anti-social behaviour.

Kent Police Deputy Chief Constable Tony Blaker said: 'This reduction in reports of knife crime is testament to the hard work of our officers in taking a zero-tolerance approach to knives and weapons in our communities.

'Our officers are committed to tackling knife crime and removing dangerous weapons such as knives from our communities. This is done through targeted enforcement action and effective educational interventions in the community.

'We feel that the message is getting through to people that if you choose to carry a knife in Kent, even if you feel it's for your own protection, you are likely to get arrested, prosecuted and will receive a tough punishment.

'Kent is a safe county and we plan to keep it that way so our message is simple; knife crime in Kent will not be tolerated.'

Scammers using police phone numbers to target the vulnerable

Fraud detectives are warning residents to beware of criminals who are using police phone numbers to target vulnerable people.

Those responsible are not actually calling from a Kent Police station but are changing their caller ID to make it appear like they are – a process known as 'spoofing'.

Since the beginning of July the force has received at least three reports of this nature from people living in Faversham, Gravesend and Gillingham.

On each occasion the victim was contacted by someone claiming to be from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, who told them they were wanted for tax evasion and would shortly be contacted by a police officer. They were then asked what their local police station was, giving the fraudster the opportunity to research the phone number for that station and arranging for an accomplice to pretend to call back on it.

Two of those targeted were so worried about being arrested that they agreed to pay the bogus police officer around £900 each to settle the amount they were told they owed.

Detective Sergeant Alec Wood of the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate said: 'Criminals are always looking for new ways in which to win the trust of those they target, and calling from a number that appears to be a police number is the latest trick up their sleeve.

'It is important to remember that a police officer will never ask you to pay money over the phone, nor will they threaten you with arrest for not paying.

'Never give out your personal information in response to an incoming call, or rely upon the caller ID as the sole means of identification – particularly if the caller is asking you to do something that will affect you financially.

'If somebody rings you asking for this information, do not give it to them. Instead, hang up the phone and call a trusted number from a different phone or wait at least five minutes to ensure the line has cleared and you are not still talking to the same fraudster or an accomplice.

'Contact your bank immediately if you think you may have been scammed and also report the incident to Action Fraud.

'Remember the ABC rule to help protect yourself and others against fraud:



never **A**ssume someone is telling the truth,
never **B**elieve what they say unless you are confident, they are who they say they are, and
always **C**onfirm the details they have provided.'

NHS Track and Trace

With the development of Track and Trace, several people have asked about advice around how this works.



Therefore, please find below the official advice from the [GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk) on how the system works and advice on how to avoid being the victim of any possible scams as a result of the implementation of this system.

When we contact you

If the NHS test and trace service contacts you, the service will use text messages, email or phone.

All texts or emails will ask you to sign into the [NHS test and trace contact-tracing website](#).

If NHS test and trace calls you by phone, the service will be using a single phone number: 0300 013 5000.

All information you provide to the NHS test and trace service is held in strict confidence and will only be kept and used in line with the Data Protection Act 2018.

Contact tracers will:

- call you from 0300 013 5000
- send you text messages from 'NHS'
- ask for your full name and date of birth to confirm your identity, and postcode to offer support while self-isolating
- ask if you are experiencing any coronavirus symptoms
- provide advice on what you must do as you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus

Contact tracers will never:

- ask you to dial a premium rate number to speak to us (for example, those starting 09 or 087)
- ask you to make any form of payment or purchase a product of any kind
- ask for any details about your bank account
- ask for your social media identities or login details, or those of your contacts
- ask you for any passwords or PINs, or ask you to set up any passwords or PINs over the phone
- disclose any of your personal or medical information to your contacts
- provide medical advice on the treatment of any potential coronavirus symptoms
- ask you to download any software to your PC or ask you to hand over control of your PC, smartphone or tablet to anyone else
- ask you to access any website that does not belong to the government or NHS

For the full guidance/information please check the GOV.UK website
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>



Local Incidents

Anti-Social Behaviour – There has been a report made to us with regards to nuisance youths in the Singleton and Great Chart area. If you experience any anti-social behaviour, then please report it to us on 101 or on 'live chat' as it is happening. Anti-social behaviour normally increases during the summer months – we are keen to combat and disrupt any activity of this type.



Ashford Mediation Service - helping people talk about and solve their problems and disputes

AMS is a charity that helps people across the Ashford Borough Council area with neighbourhood, family and intergenerational disputes; offering mediation services in the local community with the help of trained volunteer mediators. These services provide a way of enabling people to talk about problems and reach solutions, with the mediators listening, supporting and guiding them.

There are quite a variety of problems that the service can help deal with, such as:

- Noisy neighbours
- Parking disputes
- Children's behaviour
- Boundary disputes/shared driveways
- Pets' behaviour
- Harassment/Abusive behaviour

Early engagement of AMS when an issue arises is key to securing early solutions and preventing problems deteriorating to more damaging levels. As they deteriorate, they can often spread beyond the individuals originally involved to their extended families and friends, and affecting other neighbours and the wider community. More extreme cases can turn from civil/community issues into criminal ones, an outcome that everyone wants to avoid.

Should you wish to contact AMS then please find below their details:

**Ashford Mediation Service,
Ashford Police Station,
Tufton Street, Ashford TN23 1BT**

Tel: 01233 896237

Mob: 07845 914838

Email: info@ashfordmediation.co.uk

Website: www.ashfordmediation.co.uk

Future Events

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

Pop Up Café,

Wednesday, 12th August, 2020 – 11:00am to 1:00pm

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

TAKE CARE AND STAY SAFE

