

## Local PCSO Monthly Update February 2020

Hello,

This is my report for this month, so you are all aware of what I have been up to in and around your areas and what crimes have been happening. My report goes out to the Parish Council, Neighbourhood Watch coordinators, and any other members of the community who may be interested to receive it. If you do not wish to continue receiving this email please let me know.

This month myself and PCSO Laura Langridge our Crime Prevention PCSO along with some of our Police Cadets from Ashford as well as KCC Warden Peter Bisley carried out a Bike marking event outside RM Cycles in Tenterden. A well-attended event where 47 bikes were security marked.



I have also been lucky enough to have a two day attachment with our Rural Tasking Team. PC Dan Perry and PC Tim Moody and learn more of what they deal with in our rural areas.



If anyone would like to join the rural farm what's app group, please let me know and I will pass all details over to the rural team in order for you to join.

Farm Watch WhatsApp is a tool to share information directly with the team and not to be used to report crime.

Any crimes should be reported in the usual way; 999 if a crime is in progress or 101 and online if non-urgent and don't forget the Country Eye App.



The Rural team also produce a Rural Matters Magazine quarterly.



This month I have also carried out Operation Eye's with some of my colleagues and council enforcement officers as part of our ongoing operation where we go out to our local schools to speak to drivers where we advise them about inconsiderate parking. We visited Bethersden and Woodchurch and we will be revisiting again and other schools in the area. In some area's we have had complains from local residents of the dangers of the parking on junctions and the Keep Clear areas. These are there for a reason and the safety of everyone is our main priority. In some area's emergency vehicles would not be able to get through.



## Update.

The public is being urged to remain vigilant after a rise in phone scams from fraudsters claiming to be from 'BT Openreach.' Victims have reported receiving phone calls informing them that the company has detected slow broadband speeds in their area. In order to fix the problem, they are asked to log in to their computer and download specialist software to help improve the speed. The 'specialist software' is nothing more than a scam to get the user to download malware or keylogging software that will record and monitor every single keystroke they make. The hackers can then gain access to login details, passwords and sensitive financial information.

**Openreach would never contact you directly, unless you have Contract work that you are aware of, confirmed in writing. Also they would never ask for personal details or remote access to your router." It also advised anyone who has received a call to hang up immediately and report the incident to Action Fraud, at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.**

One of the main ways they will make their call appear genuine is by using a tactic known as 'number spoofing.' Using sophisticated technology, the fraudsters can alter the phone number from which they're calling from so that it matches the official telephone number of the victim's telecoms provider or bank. Another tactic is to play background noise, so it sounds like the call is being made from a call centre or busy office environment. The ultimate aim is to create a sense of urgency to pressurise the victim into taking immediate action.

Additionally, there will be other variations of this scam, so any calls from BT and Openreach should be treated with suspicion. As always, remember not to **ASSUME** a caller is genuine, do not **BELIEVE** they are genuine, always confirm that they are genuine.

## Amazon Prime

Please see below for the latest scam news, this time regarding fake Amazon Prime calls:

*"People are currently receiving Automated scam calls impersonating Amazon Prime, telling victims their subscription will be 'renewed' for £39.99. The call will then say that you should 'press 1' to speak with an 'account manager'.*

*Do not press 1, simply hang up immediately. Amazon will never contact you in this way, and the call being completely unsolicited should also set off alarm bells.*

## Coming Up:

Our annual Knife awareness campaign will be running again this year from the 3<sup>rd</sup> February – 21<sup>st</sup> February.

This is where we go into our secondary schools across the district and speak to the pupils about the danger of knives and what actions we take if they are found carrying knives.

I will also have some of our young police cadets from Ashford coming out with me during the campaign making our communities also aware. We will be out in the area on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February Afternoon and Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February Afternoon. Near the time will confirm where we will be, if anyone would like to come and talk to us.

# Training to protect your child

Kent Police and Ashford Borough Council would like to invite you to a **FREE** session, aimed at parents and guardians, to help safeguard young people and recognise the early warning signs that may identify involvement in knife crime, drug use or gangs.



## Join us:

- Wednesday 26 February, 6-8pm, Council Chamber, Ashford Civic Centre
- Wednesday 4 March, 6-8pm, Sinden Theatre, Tenterden
- Monday 9 March, 6-8pm, Council Chamber, Ashford Civic Centre
- Tuesday 17 March, 6-8pm, Sinden Theatre, Tenterden
- Thursday 19 March, 6-8pm, Council Chamber, Ashford Civic Centre
- Friday 27 March, 6-8pm, Council Chamber, Ashford Civic Centre

Please reserve your space at: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/united-kingdom--kent/knife-crime-prevention-ashford/](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/united-kingdom--kent/knife-crime-prevention-ashford/)

**The possibility of a young person getting involved in a gang or criminal behaviour may seem unlikely, but it's essential that every parent and carer knows what to look out for and where to access help and support if needed.**

These parent-focused sessions aim to give you the training to help protect young people from harm. They promote the key role that parents, carers, teachers and other professionals can play to ensure a young person feels safe, supported and empowered to ask for help from someone they trust if they need to.

## Each session will provide:

- everything you should know about gangs, knives and associated criminal activity
- warning signs of gang membership including changes in a young person's behaviour
- true life stories from unique guest speakers including:
  - an ex-gang member who now works with youth charity, Uprising
  - the grandfather of a victim of drug use.

## Choices

Remind your child they have choices and discuss their options.

Young people generally just want to fit in and belong, which can sometimes be the reason why they end up making the wrong choice.

Encourage them to find things to do that they are interested in. Sports clubs, fitness centres, youth clubs, theatre, music and dance studios are just some of the opportunities out there for young people.

Please can I remind everyone to make sure you report incidents in the correct way, we do not read local Facebook pages, so if not reported it has not happened.

- Crimestoppers – call anonymously on **0800 555 111**
- Kent Police – you can report a non-urgent incident or crime online at [www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report). In an emergency call **999**

For further information please visit [www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)



Are you good with people and passionate about helping others?

Could you be #MoreThanTheBadge?

The role of a Police Constable can be demanding but it's that variety which makes it one of the most rewarding jobs around. Every day presents a new challenge, you'll deal with different situations ensuring public order is maintained, at all times.

You'll be responsible for protection of life and property as well as prevention and detection of crime. Working as part of a close team, you'll help to serve and protect the diverse communities and businesses of Kent.

<https://www.kent.police.uk/police-forces/kent-police/areas/kent-police/c/careers/>

All incidents that have been reported to the Police can be found in full depth from crime statistics which are available by visiting [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk).

I would like to remind all residents to stay vigilant and report anything suspicious online or via the Kent Police non-emergency number 101 or if you do witness a crime in progress then please do call 999.

\*\*\*Also please do not forget the online chat and crime reporting system on the Kent Police website which gives members of the public the ability to report crime online rather than by phone which some may find easier, faster and more convenient.\*\*\*

The screenshot shows the Kent Police website's 'SERVICES' page. At the top, it says 'In an emergency | dial 999' and 'QUICK EXIT'. The main heading is 'SERVICES'. Below this, there are several service icons: 'REPORT A COLLISION', 'REPORT ONLINE', 'MOST POPULAR QUESTIONS', 'JOBS', 'FIREARMS LICENCES', and 'POLICE/AGENCY REQUESTS'. There are also icons for 'LOST PROPERTY' and 'CHILD ABUSE / SARAH'S LAW'. A 'SEE MORE' button is located at the bottom of the services grid. On the left side, there is a navigation menu with options: 'SERVICES', 'ADVICE', 'NEWS', 'JOBS - RECRUITING NOW', 'YOUR AREA', 'ABOUT US', and 'CONTACT US'. Below the menu is a search bar and a language selection dropdown. At the bottom left, there are social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. At the bottom right, there is a 'Report online' section with a 'Report ONLINE' button and a 'READ MORE' button. The text in the 'Report online' section reads: 'Report a crime, incident or non-injury RTC in minutes and receive a confirmation email and reference number immediately.'

<https://www.police.uk/crime-prevention-advice/>



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Community Safety Unit | Ashford Police Station | East Division

Please **do not** use this email to report incidents. For a non-emergency please report online or contact 101 and in case of an emergency call 999.