



NW NEWS

West Kent

Watchout

The Voice of the West Kent Neighbourhood Watch Association

Issue 44

"Security through awareness"

Summer 2017

Your co-ordinator is:
Tel No.

Award Ceremony

Chief Superintendent Julia Chapman hosted West Division Award Ceremony on Wednesday 10th May 2017 at Sevenoaks School

Tonbridge Police Cadets



Insp Michel, PC Julie Michel, SC Matt Goss, PS Joe Breen, T/PS Ed Kavanagh, PS Groves, PC Ed Pinnock, PC Arron Bance and PC James Mellett received a Certificate of Merit of behalf of the Team Leaders, for their contribution to the Tonbridge Police Cadets, volunteering in their own time to make the unit a great success. The following colleagues were nominated but unable to attend – T/PS Graham Norman, PC Rob Allen, PSE Ian Rudd, PC Philip Burns, Mr John Brooker.

DI Neil Kimber



DI Kimber received the new Superintendents Award as the individual that it is considered to have made the most significant contribution to the performance of West Division. DI Kimber has demonstrated exceptional leadership and works tirelessly to deliver an excellent service to the public in his roles as an accredited Detective Inspector, Intelligence Co-ordinator and Public Order Commander.

In the next edition of Watchout, we will print more photos of Award Winners.

PS Zenia Culmer



A/PS Stephen Donovan



PS Culmer and A/PS Donovan were awarded a Certificate of Merit for their work in tracing a missing male who had made a credible threat to take his own life. The missing person was located in the West Country and for his own safety was detained under section 136 of the Mental Health Act.

Special Constable Belinda Croft



SC Belinda Croft was awarded a Certificate of Merit for her bravery whilst apprehending a suspected burglar who attempted to evade capture. She was pushed to the ground by the suspect and due to the severity of the fall fractured her arm, but she continued to help her colleagues apprehend and arrest the suspect despite the discomfort she was in.

Glenn Pumfrey



Glenn was awarded a Certificate of Merit for his volunteering work as a property assistant since 2011, handling special property including items such as firearms and property for destruction.

ICE

Please carry some ID with you when you are out as you never know when this may be needed. If you have a mobile phone you can insert a telephone number under the heading of ICE (In Case of an Emergency) in your contacts list. If needed, the emergency services can find this and call your friends or relations who may be worrying about your whereabouts.

Example . . . ICE Husband 01732 xxxxxx.

If you are on medication please have details of this with you as it can be very helpful to the emergency services if they know what medication you are taking .



British Transport Police

Text 61016 to report non-emergency incidents on trains or the tube. Dial 0800 405040 to give more information. A 999 call is guaranteed a quick response. For Crimestoppers dial 0800 555 111.

Make a note

When contacting the Police in West Kent

Emergency only 999

Kent Police 101

Is for reporting non-urgent crime, suspicious incidents or to contact your Neighbourhood Policing Team. Calls cost just 16p from landlines or mobiles.

Mobile Phones

In my last issue I wrote an item regarding the use of mobile phones being used by drivers while they were driving. It is still going on even though the fine is now £200 and six points on your licence.

I saw many drivers while travelling back from Lincolnshire recently using their phones while driving. One foreign lorry driver with a HGV2 lorry was not even looking at the road while he texted. I could clearly see him and was totally frightened as what could have happened if he had not looked up when he did. There would have been a terrible accident with no doubt many lives lost.

I asked for the readers of Watchout to send me their views on the use of mobile phones. I had a massive response with the main idea to stop this being to confiscate the phone and not give it back to the driver once they had been charged and the case against them proved. Many suggested the phone should be crushed as a car is if it has no tax or insurance. That may be a good deterrent as all their info, photos and call lists would just be wiped out. That they may make them realise they could wipe out someone's life or may have already done so.

Please talk to family members, friends and neighbourhood watch members about the dangers of using mobile phones while driving and if you can, warn youngsters in the community about this too. *ed!*

Keep Them Cool!

I know our Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators are very good at keeping an eye on the elderly living in our community in the cold weather, that's one thing we pride ourselves on, that we take care of them.

Can I remind you all to keep an eye on the elderly in hot weather too. Make sure they are keeping cool and have enough water to drink, which should be kept close by. A fan may also help. I write this item as rain pounds on my window pane, but I gather hot weather is due back again soon – we can only hope that Summer has not yet disappeared!

Simon Wilshaw has now left Kent Police and is currently working for Border Force. He said to look out for him when you land at Heathrow Airport. We wish him all the best in his new job and his forthcoming marriage.

Police Cadets Help at Drop-In Centre

PCSO Linda Baker and PC Edward Kavanagh joined young Police Cadets at the Waveney Road Tonbridge Drop-In Centre to help tidy a community allotment which is being used by the Listening Ear project. This project reaches out to those suffering with stress or worry and is run by the Trench Partnership.

PCSO Linda Baker said: "The Listening Ear is an important local resource aimed at helping people with their general well

being. The cadets were determined to do their bit to help this worthy cause. They have worked tirelessly to dig these allotments, which will now be used to help teach members how to grow their own fruit and vegetables."

The Volunteer Police Cadets scheme is a uniformed voluntary organisation set up by the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott and is for young people aged between 13 and 17 years old.



PCSO Linda Baker and PC Edward Kavanagh with Kent Police Cadets and members of the Listening Ear Project.

Border Force Makes Record Seizure of Guns

The largest single haul of handguns ever intercepted en route to Britain has been discovered stashed away in an old car engine as it entered the Channel Tunnel.

Border Force officials seized seventy nine pistols allegedly being ferried to gangland clients at the Tunnel entrance in France recently. Seven Polish citizens and a Czech man were arrested after the guns were found inside a hollowed-out Volvo engine block on the trailer of a yellow Mercedes van. The search of the vehicle followed intelligence from the National Crime Agency (NCA).

The haul, believed to have been destined for London, was said to be the biggest single confiscation in which all the firearms were handguns. This is apparently the choice for street gangs and other crime syndicates. Among them were Turkish built Flobert revolvers. The 4mm and 6mm weapons are smaller than the 9mm handguns more popular in criminal circles.

All handguns are banned in Britain. The smuggling attempt will cause particular

alarm after official figures showed a seven percent rise in firearms offences in the UK last year.

Graham Gardner the NCA's deputy director of investigations, said: "The weapons were small but lethal. We have never seen handguns in this number before."

Recently the NCA warned that more weapons were being smuggled into the country from mainland Europe. It also recorded the highest number of shootings since 2012-2013. There have also been more seizures of fully automatic weapons. This is extremely worrying but it is good to know that the government is spending £200,000 on a contract for independent experts to try to smuggle weapons into the Palace of Westminster to test security. Up to twenty-two covert tests will take place every month for five years.

Please be aware and report to the police anyone you see with a gun, or if you know of any youngsters carrying them. Do not approach them, just call the police.

What is Property Fraud?

Lynne Feddon from HM Land Registry's (HMLR) counter fraud team explains: "Property can be sold and mortgaged to raise money and can therefore be an attractive target for fraudsters. Often, fraudsters steal the real owners identity and then sell or mortgage the property by pretending to be them. If it isn't discovered promptly, the true property owner might find their property has been transferred or sold without their knowledge. Fixing the mess and getting any mortgage taken off the register can be distressing, time-consuming and costly. That's why we encourage all property owners to do what they can to minimise their risk of fraud."

While no system can eradicate fraud completely, since September 2009 HMLR has prevented property fraud totalling more than £92 million.

Who is most at risk from property fraud?

You are more at risk if your property is:

1. Rented out.
2. Empty, for example you are abroad or in a care home.
3. Mortgage free. Is not registered with HMLR.

If you think you may be the victim of property fraud, you should:

1. Contact HMLR's property fraud line on 0300 006 7030 Monday to Friday

- 8.30am to 5pm or e-mail reportafraud@landregistry.gov.uk.
2. Contact a legal professional such as a solicitor or go to Citizens Advice.
3. Contact Action Fraud on <http://www.actionfraud.police.uk> or call 0300 123 2040.

For more information visit: www.gov.uk/property/fraud.

What can you do to protect yourself?

Ensure your property is registered with HMLR so you can be compensated if you suffer financial loss from fraud.

The vast majority of properties in England and Wales are registered. Those likely to be unregistered are properties that have not changed hands or been re-mortgaged since 1990. If your property is not registered, then no compensation is payable.

Once you have registered your property, do make sure your details are updated and HMLR can reach you easily. You can have up to three addresses in the register including an e-mail address or an address abroad.

Sign up to HMLR's free property alert at <http://www.gov.uk/property-alert>.

If you then receive an alert you can judge whether the activity is suspicious and seek further advice.

Always notify HMLR if a registered owner has died especially if they are the sole owner.

Tougher Speeding Fines

Drivers caught speeding in England and Wales could face tougher penalties and fines up to £2,500 under new rules that came into force on 16th May 2017.

The changes mean that fines for the worst speeders will start at 150% of their weekly income, up from 100%.

This would apply to drivers who, for example drive at 41 mph or more in 20mph speed limit zone, 51 mph or more where there is a 30mph limit or over 101mph on a motorway. Sentence levels for less serious offences are not changing.

The maximum fine for speeding is £1,000 unless it takes place on a motorway, in which case it is £2,500. The number of points that you would receive is also increasing, as is the likelihood of you being disqualified from seven days up to fifty six days.

Remember to watch your speed and remember speed can kill !

Lock all windows and doors securely when you go out.

A timer switch is also a good idea if you are going on holiday.

Council calls on knitters to create Remembrance Day poppy display

A knitted poppy appeal has been launched in Tonbridge and Malling to commemorate Remembrance Day. Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council is working with the Royal British Legion to create a carpet of knitted or crocheted poppies and is inviting people to get out their knitting needles to support the project.

Thousands of knitted poppies will be needed to create a spectacular display, which will be unveiled at Tonbridge Castle on 27 October to mark the start of this year's official RBL poppy appeal. It is hoped that the poppy carpet can also be displayed at other points around the borough to mark Armistice Day (11 November) and Remembrance Sunday (12 November).

The Council is calling on the people of Tonbridge and Malling to get their wool and needles out and get knitting for this worthy community project. It is hoped that community groups, schools and

individuals will join in to make as many poppies as possible for the display.

Several other councils in Kent are also supporting the campaign by launching similar projects in their own districts.

Cllr Maria Heslop, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Community Services, said: "It would be wonderful to see people taking up the challenge and knitting poppies. Whether you make just one or many, it will help to create a masterpiece for all to admire, as well as raising awareness of the Royal British Legion's annual poppy appeal and the tremendous work achieved through their fundraising."

The poppies can be any size and follow any pattern. Some patterns for knitted and crocheted poppies are available on the Royal British Legion website: http://support.britishlegion.org.uk/app/answers/detail/a_id/1346/~knit-or-crochet-a-poppy.

Knitters are asked to hand in their poppies by Monday 23 October at any of the following locations:

Tonbridge Gateway – Castle Street, Tonbridge, TN9 1BG.

Tonbridge Library – 1 Avebury Avenue, Tonbridge TN9 1TG.

Borough Green Library – High Street, Borough Green, TN15 8BJ.

Larkfield Library – Martin Square, Larkfield, ME20 6QW.

Snodland Library – 15-17 High Street, Snodland, ME6 5DA.

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council – Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, ME19 4LZ.

For more information, please email: poppies@tmbc.gov.uk or call **01732 876008**.

by Tamsin Ritchie of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council.

Float to Live. Fight Your Instincts Not The Water

If you fall into the water unexpectedly, what do you do?

- A Swim.
- B Panic.
- C Float.

Many people would fight the effects of cold water by swimming hard or panicking—two potentially life threatening instincts that can quickly lead to drowning. Floating until the cold water shock passes could save your life.

As part of RNLI's Respect the Water drowning prevention campaign, we are urging people to fight their instincts, not the water and remember one simple skill – floating.

Learn to float. If you unexpectedly fall into cold water:

- 1 Fight your instinct to panic or swim hard.

- 2 Lean back in the water to keep your airway clear.
- 3 Push your stomach up, extending your arms and legs.
- 4 Gently move your hands and feet to help you float.
- 5 In 60-90 seconds you will be able to control your breathing.

What to do next.

Swim to safety. Call for help or continue to float until help arrives.

An estimated 372,000 people drown around the world every year, that is one life every 85 seconds, yet so many of these deaths are preventable.

FLOAT TO LIVE. Please tell as many people as possible of this technique especially children. It could help to save their lives.

Many thanks to the RNLI for this life saving information.

Neighbourhood Watch

If you are reading this and are not yet a member of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme but would like to be, please contact Dave Spitter, Kent Police's Volunteer and Watch Liaison Officer. You can call him on **01622 604395** or e-mail him at dave.spitter@kent.pnn.police.uk.

If there is not currently a scheme in your area, Dave will gladly help you set one up if you wish.

It is a good way to get to know your neighbours. It helps to keep everyone involved and that way everyone feels much safer.

If you know each other well, you are more likely to notice if something is out of place.

Street signs, window stickers and booklets can also be supplied. We hope to hear from you soon.

Kent Police Now Using Drones

Kent Police is to add the use of drones to the many ways in which it keeps the county safe.

Officers have been trialling the unmanned aerial vehicles since 2015 and have consulted with other forces using drones to identify the benefits offered to day-to-day policing.

As a result, drones will now be used in Kent from Tuesday 6 June 2017.

The aerial units will be used to help officers locate vulnerable missing people before they come to harm.

They will also be used at some crime scenes and at serious road traffic collisions to provide officers with a better understanding of the terrain and evidential opportunities.

Drones will be operated by uniformed police officers who have received

appropriate training and use of the force's drones will be published on the public facing Kent Police website.

Superintendent Mat Newton said: "It is clear the use of drones in approved circumstances can improve the ability of officers to find missing people or get a better view of the scene of an incident.

"They will not replace police helicopters but can be used by officers during the early stages of an incident when a helicopter is not immediately available or their use is impractical.

"We have also given great consideration to the safety aspects of using drones as well as their operational capabilities and we firmly believe they will help us in delivering a first class service to the people of Kent."

Who's Who On The Executive Committee?

Peter Rolington, Chairman

Peter Brown, Secretary

John Watson, The Mallings

Sue Mason, Tonbridge

Marguerite Bernard, Treasurer

Julie Walker, Editor – Tel: 01732 771075

e-mail: julie.walker@kent.pnn.police.uk

Richard Myers, Sevenoaks

Janet Ditchett, Tunbridge Wells

Committee members

Dave Spitter, Neighbourhood Watch Liaison

Officer, for Kent Police – Tel: 01622 604395

e-mail: dave.spitter@kent.pnn.police.uk

Other Useful Numbers

Tonbridge & Malling Crime Reduction Unit

– Tel: 01732 844522

Tunbridge Wells Crime Reduction Unit

– Tel: 01892 526121

West Kent Special Branch – Tel: 07528 989208

UK Border Agency – Tel: 08435 047198

Kent Trading Standards – Tel: 03454 040506

Sevenoaks Community Safety Partnership

– Tel: 01732 227000

community.safety@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Tonbridge & Malling Community Safety Partnership

– Tel: 01732 844522 *csp@tmbc.gov.uk*

Tunbridge Wells Community Safety Partnership

– Tel: 01892 526121

communitysafety@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

If you wish to contact a member of the West Kent Neighbourhood Watch Executive Committee, please write to them at:

c/o: **Tonbridge Police Station,
1 Pembury Road, Tonbridge,
Kent TN9 2HS.**

Royal Mail Scam

Scammers are posting fake Royal Mail delivery cards through doors asking the recipients to call a number to arrange re-delivery of a parcel.

However, instead of speaking to the local postal depot, victims get through to fraudsters who try to get them to hand over personal data or bank details.

If you receive one of these cards, it is best to go straight to your local Post Office depot to check this is real and not a scam card you have received. Please warn any elderly members in your neighbourhood watch schemes about this scam.

*WKWNA Executive
Committee expresses its thanks
to the Borough Council for
their assistance with production
of this Newsletter*