



NW NEWS

West Kent

Watchout

The Voice of the West Kent Neighbourhood Watch Association

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"Security through awareness"

Summer 2022

Your co-ordinator is:.....
Tel No.

Children recognised after saving dad's life in Pembury

Two children from Pembury have been recognised with a special police award after their swift actions in a medical emergency helped save their father's life.

On 1 March 2022, Sadie and Jude Waters, aged ten and seven respectively, were travelling in a car with their dad

Stuart Waters, when he suddenly suffered a cardiac arrest.

The children remained calm under pressure, they checked to see if he was okay and quickly realised that they would need to act, making their way to get help. They ran home and

alerted their mother. Neighbours then assisted with CPR as emergency services were contacted.

Mr Waters was taken to hospital and eventually made a full recovery. On Sunday 22 May, Sergeant Joe Breen and PC Steven Shipley presented Sadie and Jude with a Schools Team Certificate of Resilience and a gift bag, in recognition of their swift actions and bravery.

Sgt Breen said: "Sadie and Jude ultimately saved their dad's life during what was clearly an extremely distressing event. Medical staff said that without their incredibly swift actions it would likely have been a different outcome. They should both be exceptionally proud of themselves, as no doubt their family, friends and neighbours are too."



Sadie and Jude Waters were treated to VIP tickets to the Kent Police Open day in July where they met ACC Peter Ayling of Kent police. They had a great day and well deserved.



Peter Brown

It is with great sadness that we have to announce the passing of Peter Brown.

Peter served the West Kent Neighbourhood Watch Association as Secretary for 14 years from August 2006 to June 2020.

In that time Peter brought a professionalism and pragmatism to the running of the committee and our AGMs which we greatly miss. He also represented the Association on various other Crime and Crime Reduction committees in the Tunbridge Wells District.



Thefts from motor cars

I just wanted to draw your attention to the increase in thefts from motor vehicles reported in the Tonbridge and Malling area. Kent Police are investigating the incidents and are continuing to monitor them.

When you leave your vehicle please ensure it is locked and secure with no valuables left on view, which will reduce the likelihood of someone stealing from it.

If you see something suspicious please report it via 101 (Non-Emergency) or 999 (Emergency).

Kent Police launches new Domestic Abuse Hub

Victims of domestic abuse will now be provided with an enhanced response, additional support and safeguarding through a dedicated Domestic Abuse Hub.

Tackling domestic abuse is a force priority and Kent Police is constantly seeking new ways to ensure victims receive the best possible service. The Domestic Abuse Hub, being launched today (Wednesday 18 May 2022), will provide innovative support for victims using video technology to virtually respond to specific calls. This will enable victims to immediately speak with an officer via video, enabling fast-time crime recording, statement taking and capture of evidence including the scene of the incident and any visible injuries.

By having instant contact with a victim an officer can also implement immediate safeguarding and referrals to partner agencies to provide protection to vulnerable people.

This is a completely optional service for victims and is not a replacement for a traditional call back or officer visit. Officers

will always attend an incident or victim when needed. This method has been independently tested in a controlled trial with over 500 cases, which found very positive results for victims.

The Domestic Abuse Hub will also be supported by highly motivated Proactive Domestic Abuse teams who will be working to identify, target and relentlessly pursue domestic abuse offenders. They are focused on those who pose the greatest harm and bringing them to justice, whilst also supporting those who are repeatedly targeted.

The concept of a new Domestic Abuse Liaison Officer (DALO) role is also being piloted in Medway, and will be assessed fully before further roll-out across Kent is considered. These officers will provide consistent and coordinated support to safeguard victims most at risk, responding swiftly to incidents to secure vital evidence and providing a first-class service.

Detective Chief Superintendent Sam Price said: "In 2021, the force control room

received over 40,000 calls relating to domestic abuse but we are also aware that this crime type is under-reported.

Our key priority has always been on protecting the most vulnerable members of society and tackling domestic abuse. By making these changes, officers can respond swiftly, robustly and compassionately to any reports of domestic abuse.

There is never an excuse for domestic abuse, no matter what the circumstances, and I urge victims to come forward, confident in the knowledge they will receive the best possible service from Kent Police."

Domestic abuse can affect anyone regardless of ethnicity, age, gender, sexuality, or social background.

If you are suffering from physical, sexual, psychological, or financial abuse, or are being threatened, intimidated or stalked by a current or previous partner or close family member, it is likely you are a victim of domestic abuse.

You are not to blame for what is happening. You are not alone. You can report it to us or, if you are not ready to speak to the police, you can contact support organisations who will help you.

Trip to help Ukrainian refugees

I would like to tell you about a trip made to Poland by Kent Police Officer, Christopher Bryant and his two friends, Carl Thomas and Joe Belton who served in the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment together.

An appeal was made for items such as blankets and warm clothing, including hats, gloves and socks, as well as tooth brushes, toothpaste, deodorants, and various other personal items that were urgently needed.

Food, toys and medical supplies were included to take to the Poland/Ukraine border for the Ukrainian refugees fleeing their home country.



Refugees boarding a bus going to the train station in Przemysl.

Chris, Carl and Joe were so grateful for the amazing amount of support they received.

They arrived at the border crossing at Medyka, which is the closest border to Lviv in Western Ukraine where they made several trips into Ukraine to hand out items to people in the queues at the border crossing. They made several trips to help take refugees luggage to waiting friends and family or to the buses for their onward journey.

Chris, Carl and Joe stayed up throughout the night to ensure the constant flow of refugees had a good supply of hot drinks to keep them warm whilst they waited in the queues.

There were different tents, set up by various individual charities, so they topped them up with items that they desperately needed. The Ukrainian refugees would



Goods supplied by well wishers . . .

walk through and help themselves to whatever they needed.

There were medical tents at both the entrance and the exit so they also donated a huge amount of medical supplies to help them.

Well done Christopher, Carl and Joe – you did an amazing thing travelling all the way to Poland in your van loaded with items to help people in desperate need of help. You showed a lot of kindness towards these people. We all thank you.

by J. Walker editor



Carl Thomas on the left, Joe Belton behind and Christopher Bryant on the right.

Suspected motorbike thieves among Rural Task Force arrests in May

An operation supported by officers from Kent Police's Rural Task Force resulted in the arrests of three suspected motorcycle thieves.

Whilst carrying out spot checks for waste carrier licences on vehicles queuing at a scrap metal dealers in Sittingbourne, the team smelled cannabis coming from a van and carried out a search under the Misuse of Drugs Act. Inside they found a number plate belonging to a motorcycle that had been reported stolen.

Both occupants, a 26-year-old man from Herne Bay and an 18-year-old man from Faversham, were arrested on suspicion of theft and handling stolen goods. Following further enquiries a third man, aged 55 from Faversham, was also arrested on suspicion of theft.

All have since been released from custody pending further enquiries.

The three men were among a total of eight people arrested in May by Rural Task Force officers, who also investigated 23 reports of poaching, nine reports of livestock worrying and 38 wildlife incidents. Eight vehicles and one horse were also seized by the team.

Last month also saw the first person to be fined for breaching a Community Protection Notice (CPN) served as part of Operation Galileo, a joint initiative to

tackle hare coursing across the East of England that also involves six other police forces.

Sydney Samuels, 33, from Maidstone, was issued with a CPN in November 2021 after officers searched his car under the Poaching Prevention Act and found dogs and dead rabbits inside. He breached the order when he was caught poaching again in January, and on 19 May was fined £400 and given a three-year Criminal Behaviour Order that could result in a custodial sentence if he continues to break the law.

Sergeant Darren Walshaw of the Rural Task Force said: "Last month was again a busy one for investigating wildlife offences, which have a big impact on landowners and other residents in rural areas as well as the animals themselves. I hope the positive action we continue to take sends a message to poachers and other offenders that their crimes will not be tolerated by Kent Police.

In May we continued to support our colleagues from other teams across the force, for example by working alongside the Road Safety Unit to help keep our roads safe.

We look forward to working closely with our rural communities again in June to tackle the issues that affect them the most."

Police Dog Fallon helps save an injured man

Life-saving first aid helped rescue a vulnerable man, with vital assistance provided a Kent Police dog.

During the early hours of 17 April, Kent Police received a report that a man experiencing a mental health crisis was in serious danger in Medway.

The informant passed on fears that the man had sustained an injury before leaving the property and running into the dark – towards an area of woodland.

Police dog Fallon quickly picked up the man's scent and led her handler, PC Scott James, through grassland to a metal fence which they crawled under, cut through dense woodland and about 80 metres of thick brambles to find the distressed man who had sustained a number of life threatening injuries.

After walking around 80 metres through heavy bramble bushes, she found the distressed man and it was immediately obvious that he had sustained a number of injuries which were life threatening.

PD Fallon and PC James were soon joined by colleagues from other policing teams and urgent first aid was required to help control heavy blood loss.

They were joined a short time later by paramedics from South East Coast Ambulance Service and the man was taken to a local hospital for treatment.

Detectives who specialise in supporting vulnerable individuals have since taken steps to ensure the man is supported.

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in Barming Kent

Neighbourhood watch co-ordinator Brenda Homewood joined in with the celebrations of her local community by organising a raffle from two wheelbarrows, what a novel idea!

Great fun was had by all and at the end of the day the community in Barming had raised enough funds to buy a Defibrillator.

This is an amazing achievement, let's hope it won't have to be used too often. If needed the community will certainly benefit from a Defibrillator in the village.

The West Kent Neighbourhood Watch Executive Committee congratulate you all on this amazing achievement.

Well done.



Knitted teddies given to Ukrainian children at Tonbridge welcome event

Knitted teddy bears were handed out to Ukrainian children at a special welcome event for refugees in Tonbridge.

Officers from the district's Community Safety Unit attended Tonbridge School on Tuesday 17 May 2022 where they spoke to families who have fled the ongoing conflict in their home country.

Representatives from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Jobcentre Plus, the Ukraine Relief Group, Tonbridge Welcomes Refugees and a number of other organisations were on hand to welcome the new arrivals and signpost them to the wide range of support available.

Acting Chief Inspector Lizzie Jones, District Commander for Tonbridge, said: "The war in Ukraine has torn families

apart and been traumatic for millions of people who have witnessed horrendous acts of aggression and suffered unimaginable loss.

We wanted the refugees who attended the event to know they are more than welcome here in Kent and that we are available to help them if they ever need us.

The teddy bears we handed out were knitted for us by volunteers and are usually given to children who visit police stations having been traumatised as victims of crime or as a result of witnessing an upsetting incident.

We hope they were of some small comfort to the Ukrainian children we met, and that they can now start to rebuild their lives away from the horrors of war."

Speed watch report for Foxbush, in Hildenborough

A Speed Watch session carried out on the B245 at Foxbush, Hildenborough on a weekday morning at peak time resulted in three Hildenborough volunteers recording 20 speeders exceeding 35 mph in a 30 mph limit. Most of them were driving at nearer 38 mph. Some ignored the presence of the Speed Watch team and continued to exceed the speed limit.

Among the offenders were a school bus, a taxi and a large lorry. A lone female driver was spotted using a hand held phone whilst driving along the road towards the school and a pedestrian crossing. She was reported to the Police.

A motorcyclist travelling at approximately 45 mph narrowly missed a pedestrian crossing the road.



Whilst most drivers slowed down on seeing the Speed Watch team in their high visibility jackets once the Speed Watch Session was finished and their jackets were removed the traffic speeded up again.

We are eager to recruit more Speed Watch volunteers to enable us to increase sessions at Foxbush, and other areas around Hildenborough village. Please contact Communityspeedwatch.org if you wish to join our team.

Overall the majority of speeders were first time offenders. *By Eva Charrington*

Celebrating 40 years of Neighbourhood Watch

Since Neighbourhood Watch schemes have been introduced in several areas, strong relationships between Neighbourhood Watch members and the Police have helped to keep communities safe, especially in areas where there is increased knife crime and vandalism.

Levels of crime are significantly reduced once a Neighbourhood Watch scheme has been introduced . . . well done to all our hard working coordinators helping to keep their friends and neighbours safe in their communities.

Who's Who On The Executive Committee?

Peter Rolington, Chairman.
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Stephen Rimmington, Secretary.
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Julie Walker, Editor – Tel: 01732 771075
e-mail: julie.walker@kent.police.uk

Marguerite Bernard, Treasurer

Sue Mason, Tonbridge.
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Richard Myers, Sevenoaks.
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Peter Rolington, Tunbridge Wells

Jennifer Woodgate

Committee members

Michael Laidlow, Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer, for Kent Police – Tel: 07816 291343
e-mail: michael.laidlow@kent.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,
Neighbourhood Watch Office,
Floor 2, 1 Pembury Road,
Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2HS.**

e-watch.co

There have been problems recently with members not receiving e-watch's twice weekly reports. If you are experiencing problems receiving e-watch updates, please remember that past issues can be found on the e-watch.co website at: e-watch.co/updates.php.

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.**