

March 2022

Tenterden / St. Michaels / Rolvenden / Weald South / Isle of Oxney

Dear All,

Thank you for signing up to My Community Voice. I hope you find it is an efficient way to gain an insight into what we are doing in your local area.



Let me just introduce myself, for those of you who do not know me and have signed up to My Community Voice this month. My name is PCSO Katherine Richards, but most people call me Kate.

As your local officer, I will keep you updated through the week with any crime prevention, fraud awareness, advice that may help you. As well as up and coming Drop-in sessions.

The areas that I cover are **Tenterden, St. Michaels, Rolvenden, Newenden, Weald South and Isle of Oxney areas.**

This month we have seen an increase number of shed breaks across the areas.

While many people take steps to protect their homes, they often forget the value of the items stored outside.

Garden sheds, outbuildings and garages packed with tools, machinery and other valuable equipment offer easy pickings to thieves. Each year householders lose hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of equipment, which is easy to sell on and often untraceable.



By taking the right precautions you can reduce the opportunities for thieves and ensure that if your property is stolen, there's a better chance of it being traced and returned.

Here's how you can cut the risk of theft

Shut it, lock it, keep it

- **Always put tools and equipment away safely** – items left lying around outside could be stolen or used to help a thief break in
- **Disable** lawn mowers and other large machinery when not in use and chain items together to a solid anchor point
- **Record** details of your property (make, model, serial number and identifying marks) on the form overleaf and take photographs of items for easy identification
- Use close shackle **padlocks** to secure sheds and install shed **alarms** and **security lights**
- **Register** your valuables on the National Property Database –www.immobilise.com
- **Security-mark** your property using a UV pen or a forensic marking solution
- Ensure the screws are not accessible when using a hasp and staple lock or pad bolts

- **Prevent** unwanted visitors from entering your garden by maintaining hedges and fences
- **Close** your garden gate and **lock** it from the inside
- **Use** lockable hanging baskets or secure the baskets to their brackets
- **Avoid** leaving house doors and windows open or unlocked when working in the garden

We have had Storm Eunice to deal with, which caused havoc across the areas with many of roads blocked by fallen trees or cables, and other objects. Which made all our patrols very busy working with all the other agencies to try and get roads re opened or safe to use as soon as safely possible. This is also a big thank you to those individuals who came to help patrols with saw's etc.

As a result of Storm Eunice, many of you may of you may have damage to your property or garden. If you are looking to seek help from a company/ trader to fix any of this. Please make sure you take extra care when choosing who you use.



There are many people who will see this as an opportunity to take advantage of you and charge obscene amounts of money for jobs that a reputable trader will charge far less.

Take steps to make sure the company / trader you are dealing with is legitimate, check their company out online, ask if they have



ID, ask for quotes before you agree to any work.



You can look for reputable traders via the KCC website Trading Standards checked (kent.gov.uk) or on other trusted website that help check traders is genuine. If you think you have been a victim of a rogue trader then you can always contact www.nationaltradingstandards.uk or www.actionfraud.police.uk where potential Fraud has taken place.

Appeals- Following theft and assault at Tenterden Shop

Information is sought following a report that a bracelet and luxury shoes were stolen from a shop in Tenterden High Street.

A man and a woman are reported to have stolen the items from Bond Street to Your Street at around 3.25pm on Saturday 12 February 2022.

Among the items stolen are a yellow pair of Christian Louboutin heeled shoes, a pair of Dior heeled shoes, and a Chanel bracelet.

A leather handbag was recovered by a member of staff who challenged the female suspect. She is described as white, around 5ft 2ins tall and in her mid-



60s with black hair that was in a ponytail. She was dressed in dark clothing.

The male suspect, who is said to have pushed a member of staff when he was challenged, causing no serious injury, is described as white and around 6ft tall with brown hair which is shaved at the back. At the time he was wearing black coat and grey trousers.

Officers are keen to speak with anyone who witnessed the incident or the suspects as they left the area. They are also keen to hear from anyone who may have been offered the stolen goods for sale.

Anyone with information is asked to call Kent Police on [01843 222289](tel:01843222289) quoting 46/29029/22.

You can also call the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on [0800 555111](tel:0800555111) or complete the online form available via [this link](#).

We have also sadly had another report in Tenterden of a lady asking for money and pretending to work at Ivy Court Surgery. She approached people asking for money to fix her car and said she works at the Surgery (this is not the case).

If this has happened to you, please make sure if this has happened to you or a member of your family it is reported.

During the half term holidays across all areas I cover, we have seen an increasing number of ASB calls some of which are in relation catapulting and youngsters kicking, banging doors very loudly and scaring residents. While this maybe a laugh and funny to them. It causes alarm and distress to other, there is absolutely no excuse for this



type of behaviour, we are reviewing CCTV and we ask parents to be aware of what their kids are up to in the local community. We have had more patrols in the areas where this has been happening and we will continue to work with the community and local schools to stop this behaviour.

I ask that you continue to report this via 101 or www.Kent.Police.uk via the live chat which can be quicker than 101.



Newenden

One of our colleagues from the Road policing team has been carrying out speed checks in Newenden and St. Michaels. Where a number of drivers were spoken to about their driving and speed, we will continue to carry out speed checks when we can. I would also like to thank the parishes who have their own speed watch groups, who work very hard in also making their communities safe. Rolvenden, Tenterden to name just a few.



For anyone who is looking at setting up a Speedwatch group, I have added a little bit more information about the scheme.

Community Speedwatch (CSW) is a national initiative where, in partnership with the police, members of communities use detection devices to monitor local vehicle speeds.

The volunteers report drivers exceeding the speed limit to the police with the aim of educating drivers to slow down.

If the data proves a driver is ignoring repeated warnings police can prosecute them. The aim is to:

- reduce death and injury on the roads
- improve the quality of life for local communities
- reduce the speed of vehicles to the speed limit
- increase public awareness of inappropriate speed

Join Community Speedwatch

To become part of CSW, please go to [CSW Online](#) to register and for more information.

CSW Online works on behalf of the police and communities to organise and coordinate CSW activity.

Drivers using mobiles to be targeted in road safety campaign

Motorists are being reminded of their responsibility to drive without distractions as Kent Police supports a week-long National Police Chiefs' Council road safety campaign.

Between Monday 21 and Sunday 27 February 2022, roads policing officers will be targeting drivers using a handset at the wheel when they should be paying attention to the road.

In addition to distracted motorists, road checks will be conducted where anyone committing a motoring offence will be dealt with accordingly.

Using a phone whilst driving is one of the 'fatal four' contributing factors to fatal and serious injury collisions - the others being speeding, failing to wear a seat belt and driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Chief Inspector Craig West of Kent Police's Roads Policing Unit said: 'The consequences of using a phone at the wheel can be absolutely devastating and any life lost on the road is an unnecessary and avoidable tragedy. This action is not about quick tickets, revenue generation or picking on drivers – it is about stopping people being killed on our road network.'

'Glancing at a phone when driving, even for a second, could have serious consequences. I urge all motorists to take responsibility for their actions and play their part by concentrating and setting their phone to 'do not disturb' mode.'

Arrested man's van seized after pursuit near Ashford

An uninsured driver had his van seized and was arrested for numerous traffic offences after drawing the attention of Rural Task Force officers near Ashford.

The man's white Ford Transit was spotted being driven erratically through Hothfield but did not immediately stop for police, at around 1pm on Wednesday 2 February 2022.

Following a short pursuit the vehicle was pulled over on the A20 Maidstone Road in Charing.

The driver, aged 29 and from the Faversham area, was arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving, driving whilst under the influence of drink and drugs, failing to stop and driving without insurance.

He was also unable to provide a waste carrier licence to account for a large quantity of scrap metal found in the back of the van, which the local authority will be made aware of.

The man has since been released from custody pending further enquiries.

I will continue to keep you updated weekly with any further fraud updates and anything else I feel you need to know in your area.

Please share with family and friends or your parishes.

Kind Regards,

PCSO Kate Richards

