

# Parish Council monthly update

## Hawkhurst and Sandhurst

May/2020

Your Local PCSO is : Simon HUMPHREYS

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We continue to maintain as much high visibility within your communities, particularly in high footfall areas such as local parks and supermarkets to ensure that the Government social distancing guidelines are being followed. We are still receiving a number of calls from the public reporting matters regarding breaches of these rules and we endeavour to deal with as many of these as possible.

Regarding Crime for your ward and any developing trends, we would like to advise you of the following;

Residential and Commercial / Business Burglaries remain high on the Kent Police agenda due to the nature of the crime and the impact it has on its victims. Commercial / Business premises can be protected by ensuring all windows and doors are locked, installing CCTV which captures good facial recognition, and a monitored alarm system, good lighting around the perimeter of the building, do not leave cash on the premises and consider utilising external shutters.

We ask that you remain vigilant in reporting any suspicious or Anti-Social activity in your area, you can report matters of a non-urgent nature via our online chat through the Kent Police website, or by calling 101 and speaking to one of our operatives at the Force Control Room.

Remember – Prevention is key.

Please see below the monthly update from our dedicated Crime Prevention PCSO. He has many years' experience and is willing to offer support and advice around Crime Prevention wherever he can; PCSO Miles BOOTH.

### Crime prevention

This month we focus on protecting vehicles.

There are many items on the market to help reduce the risk that your vehicle will be targeted by thieves and any security device you can implement will add another layer of security and delay any potential offender.

Some car parks have achieved the Safer Parking award and display the Park Mark signs proving that they have met security criteria hence making them a safer place to leave your vehicle. Look out for these car parks.

If you can garage your vehicle, you will reduce the risk of your car being targeted, however for the times you have to park on a driveway, on the road or in a public car park, here are some helpful tips:



For more information about policing in your area, visit [www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)

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- Garage your car whenever possible.
- Park in a well lit area.
- Locks or other security devices act as a deterrent.
- Steering locks and gear locks are inexpensive and easy to fit.
- Consider installing an immobiliser or an alarm – and use it!
- Fit locking wheel nuts – they are inexpensive and easy to fit.
- Always keep your keys in a safe place.
- Remove keys from the ignition when you leave your vehicle – even for a few seconds.
- Have your registration no. or part of Vehicle ID no. etched onto the glass surfaces.
- Stereos, Satellite Navigation systems and Dash Cameras are some of the most sought after items – get one that is totally or partly removable, and do not leave the support cradle in place or suction pad marks on the windscreen.
- Don't leave valuables in your vehicle – a coat on the back seat is a target for a thief.
- Consider marking all your property – especially the items you frequently take in the car.
- Lock all doors, windows and sunroof every time you leave your car, however briefly.
- Lockable fuel caps are advisable.
- Anti tamper number plate screws are available on the market.

Vans are often targeted by thieves for the tools stored inside. If you have to leave tools in a van overnight, it's a good idea to mark them clearly with your name / company name and address using paint pens and seal with a clear lacquer spray. Alternatively, you can use a variety of other property marking systems. Items that are clearly marked are less desirable and more difficult to sell on.

Consider using a lockable cabinet within your van to store tools – a number of security rated products are available. Small cameras are also designed to record inside vehicles. Visit [www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com) for more details.

You can also take photographs of items of value, make a note of the serial numbers and consider registering them online at a property register site.

## **Catalytic converter theft**

The precious metal in catalytic converters has led to an increase in their theft. To keep yours safe, ask your car dealer if they can give you any advice on locks or guards that are approved by the vehicle manufacturer.

Alternatively, try to make sure your vehicle is parked in a garage overnight, or if you have a commercial vehicle park it in a secure compound. If this isn't possible, park in an area that's well-lit and overlooked and try to park so that the converter can't be easily reached by potential thieves. Vehicles that sit high above the road are particularly vulnerable.

You should also register your converter and mark it with a forensic marker, which will make it harder for thieves to dispose of. Visit [www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com) for more details.



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