

# Tunbridge Wells Community Safety Unit Newsletter

August 2020

Rural Wards – Benenden & Cranbrook, Brenchley & Horsmonden, Capel, Frittenden & Sissinghurst, Goudhurst & Lamberhurst, Hawkhurst & Sandhurst, Paddock Wood and Pembury

Welcome to the monthly newsletter from the Community Safety Unit, filled with information about what we have been doing, crime prevention advice and other news!

## Twitter



The Tunbridge Wells CSU regularly Tweets updates on what we have been doing and any live incidents.

Please follow [@kentpolicetwell](https://twitter.com/kentpolicetwell) for the latest news and information.

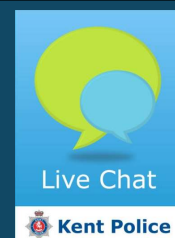
You can also report non urgent crimes online at [www.kent.police.uk/report](https://www.kent.police.uk/report) as well as via 101 or 999 in an emergency.

## What has been going on this month?

August has been another busy month across the Tunbridge Wells borough, there has been an increase in the number of burglaries in the rural areas – specifically in Hawkhurst and the surrounding areas. Dwellings, garages, farms and outbuildings have all been targeted. Quad bikes were stolen in two separate offences, one in Hawkhurst and one near to Blantyre House, Goudhurst. A bicycle was stolen from a shed in a separate offence and properties have been targeted for jewellery and other valuable electronic items. Plain clothed officers in unmarked cars, road checks and proactive patrolling have all been increased to deter and identify the suspects and provide reassurance to victims and the community and the investigations are being progressed by the local CID teams. Advice around improving security and reducing the risk of being targeted is provided later in the newsletter.

Steps have been taken in Paddock Wood to reduce anti-social behaviour around Dimmock Close, which has previously had issues with youths congregating and causing noise and general ASB problems in the area. Increased patrols by PCSOs and the Local Policing Teams as well as plain clothed operations in the area have assisted with reducing the number of complaints from residents and reducing the ASB that has been occurring. Paddock Wood was also visited as part of the All-Out Day on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August (GCSE Results day) where youths were spoken with. PCSOs also visited areas in Hawkhurst and Cranbrook to engage with youths and improve relations with them.

We have received reports across Paddock Wood, Five Oak Green, Horsmonden and in the Hawkhurst areas of speeding vehicles, and we are liaising with the local Speedwatch Groups to provide assistance to them, as well as ensuring that all the PCSOs are trained to use the speed detection systems that Kent Police use to ensure that we can prosecute careless or reckless drivers where appropriate as well as providing suitable advice and a visible deterrent to other drivers to prevent ongoing issues.



The next Digital Surgery will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

Residents from the **Rural Wards** can sign in and ask questions between **10:00am and 12:00pm** and those from the **Urban Wards** can sign in and ask questions between **1:00pm and 3:00pm**.

To access the Live Chat, visit [Kent.police.uk](https://Kent.police.uk) – enter your postcode in “Find my area” and then click on “Live Chat” when it is available.

## Burglary Crime Prevention Advice

Unfortunately, with the evenings getting darker again, there tends to be an increase in burglaries across the county. For any victim of a burglary, this is a distressing event to discover and then deal with afterwards. We have put together some advice to deter offenders and, hopefully, by improving the security in homes reduce the number of offences that take place.

- Ensure your house is not the only one in the street in darkness. Use timers on internal lighting to ensure that it appears that someone is home, and, if you are on holiday or away for a longer period, arrange for people to visit the property while you are away.
- Lock away bikes, tools and garden items which could be stolen or used to break into your home. We have found that previously spades and other garden equipment that had been left in gardens of properties has been used to force entry to patio doors.
- Install a safe to allow for valuable items to be stored out of sight and ensure that it is bolted to a solid wall or floor or hidden in a cupboard to prevent it being removed from the property.
- Dispose of packaging and boxes carefully – don't advertise what is inside your home. Criminals will use packaging of high value items seen outside addresses to identify properties to target.

## Protect Your Valuables

There have recently been burglaries in Tunbridge Wells where gold jewellery was stolen from one and a second where a laptop and iPad were stolen.

Some easy ways to keep valuables safe and homes secure:

- Keep jewellery, keys and expensive items out of view.
- Consider keeping car keys in a Faraday bag to prevent the use of electronic scanners being used to duplicate them.
- Avoiding keeping large amounts of cash at home.
- Use a bank safety deposit box for expensive items.
- Record and photograph gold and jewellery and keep details somewhere safe.
- Get gold and other jewellery valued and insured.
- Security-mark items with a suitable product.

## Vehicle Safety Checks

As we enter Autumn and Winter, now is a good time to ensure that your vehicle is as safe as possible and there are no issues around road worthiness.

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|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| - Check coolant levels            | - Replace wiper blades           | - Change the oil                 |
| - Check car battery               | - Inspect and replace worn tyres | - Check all lights are working   |
| - Ensure wiper fluid is topped up | - Check tyre pressures           | - Store emergency kit in the car |