

Police Community Support Officer report

July 2020

Charing

This report goes out to the Parish Council, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators, and any other members of the community who may be interested to receive it.

The report is a general overview of what I have been doing this month, and some advice on not becoming a victim of crime.

Crime statistics can be found at: <https://www.police.uk/>

Alternatively, Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) send out regular updates in relation to crimes that have happened in the area. Anyone wishing to join NHW can contact: Andrew Judd (Neighbourhood Watch Liaison), Tel: 01233 896151, Email: andrew.judd@kent.police.uk, you will then receive a regular update for your specific area.

If you do not wish to continue receiving this email, please let me know.

This will be my last newsletter for Charing as a new PCSO, Kyle Farnfield, will be taking over the area. I will still be continuing with my other rural wards and will be on hand to support Kyle if needed.

I have continued to be out in the area and dealt with various reports and incidents.



Kent Police have recently seen an increase in reports of break ins to stables, with theft of horse tack being popular. Dog kennels have also been targeted. I have contacted stables on my rural wards and will arrange for visits to be conducted to offer crime prevention advice. The same will also happen for dog kennels and dog breeders.

Incidents of fraud are also starting to occur again. Please see the below advice for ways on not becoming a victim of fraud.

Fake COVID-19 home testing appointment texts targets public

Preventing fraud

Together, let's stop scammers.

Remember, ABC:

-  never Assume
-  never Believe
-  always Confirm

Get the latest scam advice:
@KentPoliceECU

National Trading Standards have reported fake text messages being sent out saying that a Covid home testing team will be attending people's addresses. If you receive one of these messages, it is a scam. Please forward the message to 7726 who will then deal with this. An example of this message can be seen below.

Be Aware Of This Number – 02038616393

There have been a number of complaints about this number from up and down the country about the caller(s) requesting personal information and bank card details by claiming that people are in the wrong council tax band. This is one of many types of scam linked to this number. If you receive a call from this number, please put the phone down as it is a scam and report it to Action Fraud.

NHS – Tack and Trace

If you are contacted by the NHS Test and Trace service, you will never be asked to provide any passwords, bank account details or PINs. For more information and guidance please visit Action Fraud at -

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/testandtrace>



The image shows a graphic with the NHS Test and Trace logo on the left. On the right, under the heading 'Contact tracers will NEVER:', there is a list of six items, each preceded by a red 'X' icon:

- ✗ Ask you for any form of payment
- ✗ Ask you for any passwords or PINs
- ✗ Ask any details about your bank account
- ✗ Ask you to download anything
- ✗ Ask you to hand over control of your PC
- ✗ Send someone to your home

At the bottom left, it says 'For more information, visit: [actionfraud.police.uk/testandtrace](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/testandtrace)'. At the bottom center is an 'OFFICIAL' badge, and at the bottom right is the hashtag '#coronavirusfrauds'. Logos for UK Police, Action Fraud, and Cyber Aware are also visible at the top.

COUNTRY EYE APP

Country Eye - Helping Keep the Rural Community in Kent Safe

Country Eye Ltd have built a free App for people living and working in the rural community. The app allows users to record and share information on crime, suspicious behaviour and damage in their home community or whilst out and about.

The Crime, Rural Advisory Group (CRAG) has commissioned the design and build of the Country Eye app. Mike Bax, Chairman, explained, "data suggests that the cost of rural crime in Kent stands at 1.8 million, if you include the additional hidden costs to repair property, replace locks and the time taken out of a working day to address these issues, the cost is considerably higher. CRAG was formed to help combat rural crime and to work with farmers, businesses and residents to find solutions."

The app has been built to help residents and farmers in Kent report information quickly and efficiently. This information is securely stored in a central database and accessed by the voluntary Country Eye team who are fully trained by Kent Police. The team analyse and disseminate the information and then broadcast it out to other local app users.

Peter Rolington, Chairman of Kent Crimestoppers and member of CRAG will head the team of volunteers, Peter said "Country Eye will be an invaluable tool to inform people living and working in the countryside about incidents that are occurring in their area. Technology has advanced greatly in recent years and has enabled us to develop a digital version of the highly successful Neighbourhood Watch scheme for the rural area. We will be able to broadcast information directly to users about potential incidents as they happen. The Country Eye app will allow a greater audience to receive information, particularly those living in the most remote parts of the county."

Country Eye has the full backing of Kent Police with information being sent securely to the relevant authorities. Kent Police is committed to responding to concerns in rural communities and to carrying out high visibility patrols. The information collated through the app will give officers a greater understanding of potential problem areas. The app has been supported by Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, Safer Kent, National Farmers Union and BTF Partnership.

The Country Eye app identifies four different Rural Categories which make up the majority of incidents that occur in the countryside.

Theft: Vehicle, Metal & Cable, Machinery & Plant, Livestock, Outbuilding, Fuel & Oil and Equine.

Farm Crime: Arson, Fly-Tipping, Trespass with and without Firearms, Criminal Damage and Suspicious behaviour with and without vehicles.

Animal, Wildlife Crime: Poaching, Animal Welfare, Endangered Species & Conservation, Hare Coursing and Horse Crime.

Heritage Crime: Off-roading and Metal Detecting/Night Hawking

The app has a knowledge section which highlights the key factors for each type of incident above to assist users.

Sign up is simple; the system requires a contact number, email address and postcode. The app records and disseminates information using the phone's camera and GPS location settings. Recording information is intuitive; users will click the camera icon, take an image, choose from a drop-down the type of crime, whether a crime reference number has been issued, and any other useful information. The location, time and date will be automatically recorded. The app can also use an existing image from the camera's photo library.

The application is not intended for emergency purposes; users should report to; 999 – (crime in progress) 101 – (crime committed) or report to Crimestoppers if they wish to remain anonymous – 0800 555 111

The app can be downloaded from the Apple App Store and Google Play by searching Country Eye

I will continue to patrol the area as much as possible and deal with any incidents. As always, I would like to remind readers to report any incidents of crime, anti-social behaviour or nuisance vehicles either on 999/101 or on the Kent Police website. The more reports Kent Police receive the better we can deal with the incidents.



Aaron Newell PCSO 46056646

Community Safety Unit | Ashford Police Station | East Division

Please do not use this email to report incidents.

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