

Guston, Kingsdown and St Margaret's newsletter



Kent Police

Get the latest crime statistics by visiting: www.kent.police.uk/yourarea

October 2024

Contacting Kent Police

Please remember in an emergency **always dial 999**

For any non-emergency enquiries please visit the Kent Police website where you can:

- Submit an online report of a crime or other incident
- Use our "Live Chat" function
- Contact Crime Stoppers
- Follow links to our Social Media platforms including Twitter and Facebook
- Find information about Crime Prevention and our Partners
- Call 101



Community engagement

- Friday 8th November 1000 – 1200 hours at RNLI Walmer with DDC Community Roots Van
- Tuesday 12th November 1330 – 1500 hours at Walmer and Deal Network meeting (venue TBC)
- Friday 29th November 1000 – 1200 hours at RNLI Walmer with DDC Community Roots Van

Your local Neighbourhood Police Officer
PC 12757 Sophie Bramble

What is StreetSafe?

As part of the government's agenda to tackle violence against women and girls, we are using a new online tool called StreetSafe to enable people, particularly women and girls, to report locations where they feel or have felt unsafe and to identify the features on why that location made them feel unsafe.

The focus of this is to identify particular areas and factors that lead to people feeling unsafe and might help offenders either commit or conceal a crime – such as street lighting, abandoned buildings or poorly designed spaces, vandalism, as well as behaviours of individuals or groups of people.

StreetSafe is anonymous [StreetSafe](https://www.street-safe.com/) | [Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](https://www.police.uk/)



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Officers were out on patrol during Safer Business Action Week in the Dover District

Safer Business Action Week

Shoplifters have been arrested and stores around Kent given crime prevention advice during Safer Business Action Week.

The campaign, which ran from Monday 14 October, is a national week of action organised by the National Business Crime Centre (NBCC), during which police and partner agencies work together to tackle business crime.

Kent Police officers have visited more than 400 businesses, including shops in every town in the county. They spoke to staff and managers, heard concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour and gave advice on how to report any issues.

Plain clothes officers

As well as this, plain clothes officers have been operating in shopping districts, working with uniformed colleagues to identify and arrest shoplifting suspects.

Around the county, more than 90 arrests were made for shoplifting and town centre ASB, with vehicles linked to theft seized and Community Protection Warnings issued to repeat offenders.

Building relationships with businesses

Superintendent Pete Steenhuis said:

'Police around Kent are completely committed to protecting businesses and their staff from the attention of criminals; be that shoplifters, fraudsters or those behind antisocial behaviour.

'All year round, we take thieves off the streets, build strong cases against them, and put them before the courts. We cannot do this without the help of shop staff, so developing good relationships, as we have been doing this week, is a key part of our work.

'I am pleased to hear the good feedback from so many businesses, and I hope the week's activities contribute to our future work tackling crime and keeping people safe.'



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Crime Reduction Scheme

A scheme aimed at helping people feel safe in town centres and villages has been rolled out. The county-wide Safe Spaces project is being introduced in stores and organisations in Dover, Deal, Sandwich and Aylesham.

What is a Safe Space and where can I find them?

Kent Police and Kent & Medway Violence Reduction Unit have partnered with Dover District Council to promote the Safe Space Scheme to local venues that are publicly accessible and that have pledged to act as a point of contact for any person in the community who might require quick time, short-term assistance upon feeling vulnerable whilst out in the community [Safe Spaces Dover District](#)

The venues could be cafes, libraries, shops, or other types of locations that have a quieter area that can be used to temporarily sit a person in need of quick help. That person in need might be scared, confused, unwell, lost or have just been the victim of a crime. The person might need a friend or family to be contacted or to borrow a phone or sit for a few minutes to get their bearings. The Safe Spaces can also be identified from outside by seeing the below logo on an A4 size sticker placed on the door or window near the entrance to the Safe Space.



The scheme is being led by the Kent and Medway Violence Reduction Unit.

Councillor Charlotte Zosseder, DDC cabinet member for community, said: "People can feel safe in the knowledge they have somewhere to go if they are feeling scared, worried, or unsafe while out and about in our towns and villages.

"We also want to nurture independence within our young people and having that reassuring presence can really help."

Caley Walden, Violence Reduction Unit co-ordinator, said: "By working closely with local councils, police, and community organisations, we aim to prevent violence through early intervention and proactive safety measures."

If you are a business, work place or community asset and would like to find out more about becoming a Safe Space please email mailto:csu@dover.gov.uk to find out more.

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Thefts from Vehicles in Deal & Surrounding Areas

Kent Police is reminding the public to be vigilant following further reports of thefts from parked cars in recent weeks. The suspects appear to be trying car doors and stealing what they find within when they find an unlocked car.

You can keep your property safe by considering the following:

- Check your vehicle is locked before you go to bed – it is all too easy to leave a vehicle unlocked when taking shopping or children inside, so check before turning in for the night.
- Check your CCTV for suspicious activity – If you have a doorbell camera or other CCTV equipment, consider reviewing it regularly to check for any persons near your vehicle overnight. Report any sightings to Kent Police.
- Remove valuables from your vehicle – check your vehicle for valuables such as laptops, tablets, sunglasses, and wallets. Ensure these items are taken indoors when not in use.
- Where possible, park in well-lit areas and consider using cameras/motion sensor lights if your vehicle is kept on a driveway.

Kent Police is pursuing the offenders as a priority, utilising a variety of tactics to deter further offences and catch the offender. Any sightings or footage please provide these to Kent Police, either through My Community Voice or email csu.dover@kent.police.uk

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[Policing news](#)

The Dover District continues to be targeted by persons purporting to be homeless and begging.

Difficulties can arise in telling apart those members of an organised crime group and a person genuinely in need. Rather than hand over money or other items to those on the street, please be advised that **your kindness is best directed to those charities and local organisations that support such individuals.**

<https://www.porchlight.org.uk/>

<https://www.dover.gov.uk/Housing/Housing-Needs/Homelessness/Homelessness.aspx>

<https://dealaarea.foodbank.org.uk/>

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/deal>



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[Most Wanted](#)



James Goddard

James Goddard is wanted after failing to return on bail. He has links to Canterbury, Margate and Dover.

If you see him, call 999 quoting 46/115701/23.

You can also call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 or complete [the online form on their website](#).

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Doorstep Criminal – Urgent Alert

Doorstep criminals (also known as rogue traders, cowboy builders, building and gardening scammers) cold call on unsuspecting households offering convincing deals to try to get you to agree to having work carried out. We know that if you accept work from a doorstep criminal, you'll pay much more than you intended for very poor, unnecessary, and sometimes dangerous work.

✗ Never give work to cold callers.

If you need work done on your home or garden, always get 3 quotes and use a safe, local trader from the [Trading Standards Checked](#) scheme. [Doorstep Crime \(kent.gov.uk\)](http://DoorstepCrime(kent.gov.uk))


Remembrance Day Poppy Scams

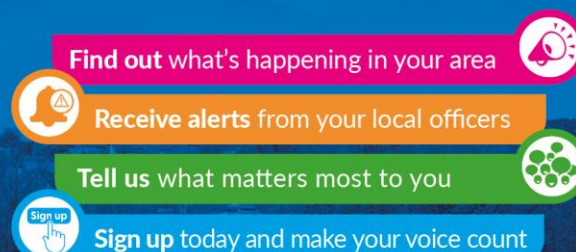
In the lead up to Remembrance Day we want to raise awareness of bogus poppy products and merchandise scams. The Royal British Legion poppy is worn as a show of support for the Armed Forces community, as a symbol of both Remembrance and hope for a peaceful future. The donations are intended to support Armed Forces community men, women, veterans, and their families. Instead, they could end up benefitting criminals if their poppy merchandise turns out to be fake.

✓ You can buy direct from the [Royal British Legion Poppy Shop](#).

✓ Only [RBL corporate partners](#) are authorised by the Royal British Legion to sell poppy merchandise.

The Royal British Legion do not collect door to door!

 Please report any poppy scams to Kent Police on 101 or contact the charity CrimeStoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



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Electric Scooters – know the law

Although e-scooters can be great fun, it's **against the law** to ride one on a public road, cycle lane or pavement. Please share this information with friends and family.

E-scooters are classed as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs), which means they are treated as motor vehicles and subject to the same legal requirements, such as driving licence, insurance, number plates, lighting, road tax, crash helmets etc. **Without these, e-scooters cannot be used legally on the road.**

The Government is currently trialling the use of approved rental e-scooters as environmentally friendly modes of transport in some specific locations in the UK.

For the rest of the country, under current law, e-scooters can only be used on private land with the landowner's permission.

It's our priority to keep you and other road users safe.

We are obliged to take action against anyone who is caught repeatedly using an e-scooter illegally or in a way that causes a nuisance to others. In these circumstances we have the power to seize the e-scooter under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act/165 of the Road Traffic Act – and we'd really prefer not to.

For more information about powered transporters and the law, visit www.gov.uk



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