

Community Safety Partner Updates



September 2023

Community Safety Update and Events

The Community Partnership Roadshows – 13 September – 6 October 2023

Scott Butler joined a series of roadshows visiting eight schools in the district along with partner agencies.

The Marsh Academy, Brockhill Park School, Turner Free School, Folkestone Academy, Folkestone School for Girls, Harvey Grammar School,

Goldwyn School and the Beacon Folkestone were greeted by agencies who provided valuable information to the students.



The idea was to educate on substance use, online safety including the The VRU (Violence Reduction Unit) Commitment Pledge and positive relationships. The Ask Angela campaign was highlighted where people who feel vulnerable, overwhelmed or unsafe can seek help by approaching one of the retailers asking for Ask Angela.

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KCC Youth Services shared a young persons safe video including a survey. Prevent highlighted their aim to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism and shared on how they are tackling all forms of extremism

The agencies who were present were We Are With You, [Home - With You \(wearewithyou.org.uk\)](http://wearewithyou.org.uk) VRU (Violence Reduction Unit) [Violence Reduction Unit \(VRU\) \(kent-pcc.gov.uk\)](http://Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) (kent-pcc.gov.uk)), Prevent, [Report radicalisation or extremism \(Prevent\) - Kent County Council](http://Report radicalisation or extremism (Prevent) - Kent County Council) HomeStart [Home-Start Shepway | Because childhood can't wait \(homestartshepway.org.uk\)](http://Home-Start Shepway | Because childhood can't wait (homestartshepway.org.uk)) VIT (Vulnerable Investigation Team) Kent Police and KCC Youth Services including NHS Schools and Kent Police Community Safety Unit.



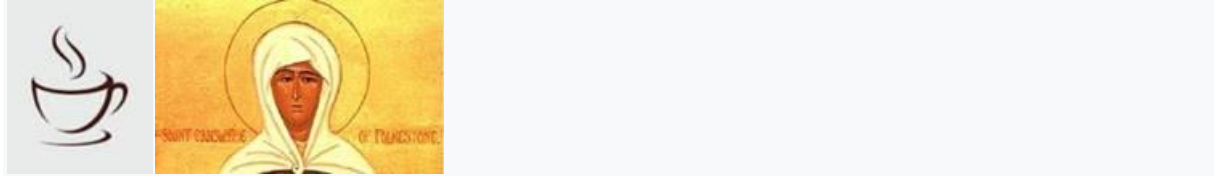
Folkestone Job Centre

Neil Staveley, KCC Warden along with Tara Liam, Community Safety Officer attended the Community Networking event held at Folkestone Job Centre on 21 September.

The officers liaised with Future Skills – Helping young people to a better future and [Turning Point Homepage \(turning-point.co.uk\)](http://Turning Point Homepage (turning-point.co.uk)) along with other groups sharing knowledge on the work being carried out in the community and speaking to members of the public about community issues.



Social Events - Соціальні заходи



St Mary and St Eanswythe Church Ukraine Coffee Mornings - Церква Св. Марії та Св. Інвіта Україна Кавові ранки

The next sessions are between 11am – 1pm, as follows:

- October 14th
- November 25th

All are welcome to attend.

Location: Parish Church of St Mary & St Eanswythe, Folkestone, CT20 1SE.



Наступні сесії:

- 14 жовтня
- 25 листопада

Запрошуються всі бажаючі.

Розташування: парафіяльна церква Св. Марії та Св. Інсвайта, Фолкстон, СТ20 1SE.



Ukraine Language Lessons for Hosts - Новинка: Уроки української мови для господарів

When: Every Saturday

- **Times:** 10am – 12pm
- **Where:** Hythe and Lyminge Community Hub, Sanford House, Stade Street, Hythe, CT21 6BD
- **Cost:** Free
- Spaces are limited.

To book your place or find out more information, please email ukraine@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk.



Коли: щосуботи

- Час: 10:00 – 12:00
- Де: Hythe and Lyminge Community Hub, Sanford House, Stade Street, Hythe, CT21 6BD



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- Вартість: безкоштовно
- Кількість місць обмежена.

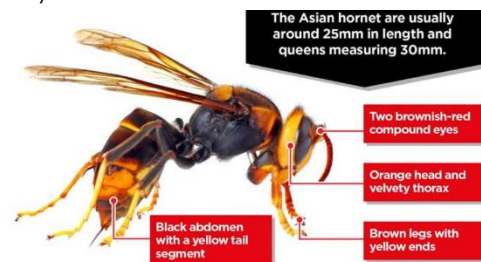
Щоб забронювати місце або дізнатися більше, надішліть електронну пошту на ukraine@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk.

Asian Hornets

We decided to include this in this newsletter even though we are in the month of October, but this is for educational and information purposes about the Asian Hornet.

During the summer the unwelcomed *Vespa velutina*, sometimes known as the 'Asian hornet' descended in our district and this can eat our wasps in seconds.

It is an invasive non-native species from Asia. It arrived in France in 2004 where it spread rapidly. As a highly effective predator of insects, including honeybees and other beneficial species, it can cause significant losses to bee colonies, other native species and potentially ecosystems.



A number of sightings have been recorded in the UK since 2016, [find out the latest information on sightings here](#).

Active months between April and November (peak August/September). Inactive over the winter.

Further information including an app to send in details of sightings and identification sheets are available on the [GB Non Native Species Secretariat website](#).

Sightings can also be reported online below:

[Non-native Alert - Asian Hornet \(brc.ac.uk\)](https://www.brc.ac.uk/non-native-alert-asian-hornet)

Or send an email with a photograph and location details to alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

Further assistance

- you can use [The British Beekeepers Association](#) to help you identify honeybee swarms and find links to local registered collectors/beekeepers
- some wild animals such as badgers require a licence to deal with - call DEFRA on 08459 33 55 77, or email helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
- you can contact local pest control companies and liaise directly if you're experiencing problems with another type of pest

One beekeeper's business has almost been wiped out by killer Asian hornets tearing through the hives. The yellow-legged insects have massacred thousands of bees at a hive in Capel-Le-Ferne.

The hornets are most predominant in coastal areas, but have been confirmed inland at Canterbury, Ashford and Maidstone, including Tunbridge Wells and Rochester.

Agencies

Environmental Agency

Kent Resilience Forum
PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES IN KENT AND MEDWAY

Environment Agency

Could you help your community?
Become a Volunteer Flood Warden

FREE
Virtual training
19 Sep & 08 Nov
7pm - 9pm

You can see the difference we make to people, knowing they can rely on you when they're in distress, knowing you're there to help.'
Carl, Tonbridge Flood Warden

The role
Help local people prepare for flooding
Provide a vital link between your community and the emergency responders

The commitment
2 hour evening session
Flood Wardens meet a few times a year to test their flood plan

What you'll get
Comprehensive handbook
Access to a whole host of resources
Support from fellow Flood Wardens

For more information on being a Flood Warden
Visit www.kentprepared.org.uk/flood-wardens

To register for this training visit www.trybooking.com
click buy tickets and search for 'Kent Flood Warden Training'

National Crime Agency / Border Force

Synthetic Opioids

These are man-made drugs that mimic the effects of natural opioids (such as opium or heroin) but can be much more deadly. Most synthetic opioids are class A drugs which means they're illegal to have for yourself, give away or sell. Some synthetic opioids are used in the medical field as pain relievers or anaesthetics, others are produced and sold illicitly.

Also called:

- Fentanyl
- Acetylfentanyl
- Carfentanyl
- Fentanyls
- Nitazenes
- Oxycodone
- tramadol

Nitazenes are a group of structurally related 2-benzylbenzimidazole compounds. These drugs are synthetic opioids that were developed in the 1950s for pharmaceutical research and have no approved medicinal use. They can be manufactured in clandestine laboratories with most reported to originate from China. In the UK, they have been used in association with other drugs, most commonly heroin. Their potency increases the risk of overdose by users seeking higher strength 'hits', with many unaware of the presence of the nitazenes within their supply. In 2021, isotonitazene was identified in the heroin supply in the south of England and forensically linked to 24 deaths.

Due to restricted Heroin production out of Afghanistan following a clampdown on poppy growing by the Taliban, it is a realistic possibility that there may be increased importations of Synthetic Opioids to the UK.



Nitrous Oxide



The UK Government announced [Nitrous oxide to be illegal by end of the year - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nitrous-oxide-to-be-illegal-by-end-of-the-year) Nitrous oxide also known laughing gas will be categorised as a class C drug and made illegal by the end of the year.

If the law is passed, nitrous oxide would be controlled as a class C drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, alongside diazepam, GHB and GBL. Those found in unlawful possession of the drug could face up to 2-years in prison or an unlimited fine, with up to 14-years for supply or production.

Laughing gas is one of the most commonly used recreational drugs by 16 to 24-year-olds and used in excess can lead to a range of illnesses including nerve related symptoms. Long term effects are unknown.

Individuals found in unlawful possession of the drug could face up to two years in prison or an unlimited fine, with up to 14 years for supply or production.

Exemptions will be made for legitimate uses of nitrous oxide in medical or catering industries. This substance is in metal canisters and makes some users paranoid or anxious and having too much can make an individual faint or lose consciousness.

Fraud / Scams

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

Cost of Living Payments



Some householders in Kent will be eligible to receive the latest £300 cost of living payment directly from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) between 31 October and 19 November.

You DO NOT need to apply or do anything else to claim the payment. If you are eligible, you will automatically receive the money straight into your bank account.

These types of events often provide an opportunity for criminals to contact you and state that you need to apply, and they will try to obtain your personal/financial data. If you get a phone call, email or text message like this, it is a SCAM.

You can report suspicious emails by forwarding to report@phishing.gov.uk or forward suspicious Text messages to 7726 (Spells Spam).

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

WhatsApp Scams Targeting Charity and Religious Groups

The scam begins when a criminal gets access to another WhatsApp account which has you listed as a contact.


Preventing fraud

Together, let's stop scammers.



Remember, ABC:

 never Assume

 never Believe

 always Confirm

Get the latest scam advice:



@KentPoliceECU

The criminal posing as your friend or someone that's a member of a WhatsApp group you are a member of will then send you seemingly normal messages to try and start a conversation with you. However, around the same time, you will receive a text message from WhatsApp with a six-digit code. This is because the criminal has been trying to login to WhatsApp using your mobile number. The criminal will claim that they sent you their code by accident and ask you to help them by sending it to them. Once the criminal has this code, they can login to your WhatsApp account and lock you out.

The criminal will then use the same tactic with your WhatsApp contacts in an effort to steal more accounts and use them to perpetrate fraud and will often ask your contacts to send money to a bank account as a charitable donation, but it is all a scam.

What you need to do

- [Action Fraud](#) recommend you set up two-step verification to give an extra layer of protection to your account: Tap Settings > Account > Two-step verification > Enable.
- They added: "If a family member or friend makes an unusual request on WhatsApp, always call the person to confirm their identity.
- "Never share your account's activation code (that's the 6-digit code you receive via SMS)
- You can report spam messages or block a sender within WhatsApp. Press and hold on the message bubble, select 'Report' and then follow the instructions."



OP DISCLAIM - E-Scooter enforcement

On 29 September Folkestone Community Safety Officers engaged with Op DISCLAIM which is an e-scooter enforcement operation focusing on education and information regarding E-Scooter rules and laws.

Multiple users of E-Scooters were stopped, details taken, and laws explained. They were reminded to get off the E-Scooters and walk.

Please see the below for the restrictions.

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- **Are electric scooters legal in the UK?**
Yes, electric scooters are legal to own in the UK. However, there are lots of restrictions surrounding where they can be used.
- **Where can electric scooters be used?**
Currently, electric scooters can only be used on private land with the landowner's permission. It is effectively illegal to use them on public roads, on pavements, in cycle lanes and in pedestrian-only areas.
- **Why are electric scooters currently illegal on roads and pavements?**
Electric scooters are currently classed as 'powered transporters' by the government and fall under the same laws and regulations that apply to all motor vehicles. This means that it's illegal to use them on pavements, in cycle lanes and in pedestrian-only areas, and it would only be legal to use them on public roads if they could meet the same requirements as motor vehicles (e.g., in terms of insurance, tax, license, registration and vehicle construction).

Advice on using e-scooters can be found on the Kent Police website
<https://www.kent.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rs/road-safety/advice-escooters/>

National Campaigns

National Hate Crime Awareness week 14 – 21 October 2023

<https://nationalhcaw.uk/>

New Published Reports

Online sexual abuse

Source: Internet Watch Foundation

Date: 18 September 2023

The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has published an article which reports a rise in children tricked into sharing sexual images of themselves by individuals intending to extort money or further imagery from them. The IWF found that in the first six months of 2023, reports of confirmed child sexual abuse involving 'sextortion' rose by 257% compared with the whole of 2022. The report found that older teenagers, aged 14 to 17-years-old were the most at risk.

Read the article: [Hotline reports 'shocking' rise in the sextortion of boys](#)

If you have any information that you would like us to include within any future updates, please email the details to community.safety@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

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