

Community Safety Partner Updates



Folkestone
& Hythe
District Council

July 2024

Community Safety Update and Events

Summer Well Event – 16 July 2024

F&HDC Community Safety along with partner agencies came together for the second of a series of the Well events. The Summer Well event was held at the Cheriton Baptist Church.

The Rainbow Centre organised a cooking on a budget demonstration during the event using produce available from their Pantry. The NHS bus was parked at the church where free screening and health checks were carried out on people. Napier Friends provided men's haircuts as well as cooked world foods. The event was represented by many partner agencies including [KentFire&Rescue](#), NHS, Kent Police, [RainbowCentre](#), E.ON Energy and many more with many organisations having stalls where residents came along to speak to representatives from the agencies..



July 2024

Autumn Well Event 20 September 2024

Autumn Well Event

Showcasing all the great community work being done throughout the district.

Speak to us at:

Age UK Hythe, Lyminge and Ashford
Sanford House
Stade Street
Hythe
CT21 6BD



10am-1pm

This is a one stop shop morning event where you can receive advice and help from a range of agencies across Kent.

Our Communities Matter

Kent
County
Council
kent.gov.uk



URBAN
PASTORS



FOLKESTONE & HYTHE DISTRICT
COMMUNITY SAFETY
PARTNERSHIP



Rainbow Centre

Folkestone
& Hythe
District Council



Winter Well Event 27 November 2024

Winter Well Event

Showcasing all the great community work being done throughout the district.

Speak to us at:

South Kent
Community Church
Castle Hill Avenue
Folkestone
CT20 2QR



10am-1pm

This is a one stop shop morning event where you can receive advice and help from a range of agencies across Kent.

Our Communities Matter

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Shepherd House – 3 June

On 3 June, Tara Liam attended an open day organised by CGL ([ChangeGrowLive](#)) at Shepherd House in Folkestone along with partner agencies. One You, Probation, Kent Police, [RisingSun](#), [ROAR](#) and [F&HDCHousing](#), the [RainbowCentre](#), were also there.

Shepherd House provides support to those with issues of drugs and alcohol and at their residential community, and they help motivate those they support to remain abstinent from drugs or alcohol.



Community Talk to the Macular Society

On 28 June, Tara Liam along with KCC Wardens, Carol Coveney and Neil Warden gave a talk for members of the Macular Society at the Carlton Hotel.

The talk centred around keeping safe in the community and members of the Macular Society shared their personal experiences in living with macular degenerative disease.

[The Macular Society](#) is a national charity that supports people with macular disease and central vision loss. Age related macular degeneration (AMD) can affect someone's central vision, as the macula is responsible for the finer details of what they see.



Folkestone Macular Society Support Group

Last Friday of the month
10.30am – 12noon

Clifton Hotel
1-6 Clifton Gardens, CT20 2EB

The meetings are open to anyone
affected by central vision loss.
Family, friends and carers welcome.

Contact
Stella 07494 467 980

0300 3030 111
help@macularsociety.org
macularsociety.org

Macular Society
Beating Macular Disease

Macular Society PO Box 1870, Andover SP10 9AD

Macular Society is the trading name of the Macular Disease Society. A charity registered in England and Wales 1202198, and Scotland SC042115. A company limited by guarantee, registered in England No. 2177016. Registered Office: Macular Society, Crown Chambers, South Street, Andover SP10 2BN.



Folkestone Talks 6 and 14 June

On 6 June, Tara Liam from Community Safety attended Morehall Primary School (part of the Turner Schools Group), giving talks and handing out leaflets and safety advice.

Folkestone Talks is organised by the Turner Stone Hub which has organised people in the community to speak to the children in their schools. Partners who attended included the Environment Agency, KCC Wardens, Cllr

Polly Blakemore, Town Cllr Jane Darling, Victim Support, Kent Wildlife Trust, Kent Fire & Rescue Service, Migrant Support, Kent Police, RSPCA, Veolia and Folkestone & Hythe District Council officers.



On 14 June, Tara also attended the Folkestone Talks event held at Folkestone Academy Primary School at Park Farm. There was representation from Kent Wildlife Trust, Cheriton Volunteer Centre, Cllr Polly Blakemore, Folkestone & Hythe District Council Officers, Kent Fire & Rescue Service, Change Grow Live, Environment Agency, Nepalese Community Centre in Cheriton, Kent Police Community Liaison Officer and KCC Wardens. The agencies spoke to the pupils about the roles they do and the work they are involved in.



Community Talk – 2 July

Tara Liam from Community Safety along with KCC Warden, Neil Staveley and Community Liaison Officer, Shevaun Newman from Kent Police spoke to residents from Grace Court in Folkestone.

The officers spoke about scams and staying safe in and out of the home which also included showing a video which was well received.

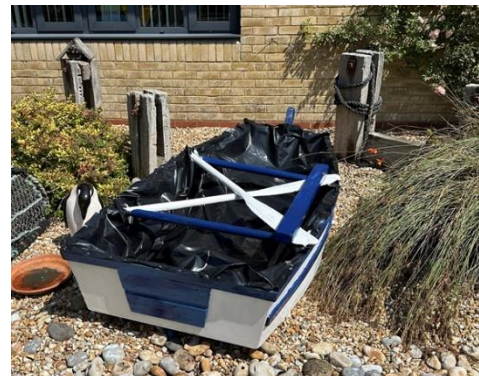


New Romney Community Hub



Last year, Community Safety along with the Area Officers helped with painting the fencing at the [Romney Marsh Community Hub \(rmch.org.uk\)](http://rmch.org.uk). On 26 July the officers revisited to place lining and painted a boat. The New Romney Community Hub is intending to fill the boat with flowers.

The New Romney Community Hub is a charity dedicated to supporting and improving the health and wellbeing of people aged 50+ in the local community.



Partner Information Awareness



Folkestone Safe Haven

Join our launch event!

Wednesday, 21 August
3pm - 5pm

3:00pm
Arrivals

3:15pm
Welcome presentation

4:00pm
Meet the team & networking

3 Rendezvous Street
Folkestone
CT20 1EY

mhm
mentalhealthmatters

NHS
Kent and Medway

You're invited!
Mental Health Matters would like to invite you to attend the launch of the new Folkestone Safe Haven.

The Safe Haven offers out-of-hours mental health support in a safe, comfortable, and supportive environment.

The event is an opportunity for you to learn more about the service, meet the team and network with other local organisations and providers.

Please confirm your attendance by responding to this email or contact folkestone.mhm@nhs.net



Club and Community Forum Roadshows 2024-25

20 Sept 24 Folkestone	13 Nov 24 Medway	27 Jan 25 Canterbury
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For more information and how to book, please scan the QR code, or visit www.activekent.org/roadshows

active
Kent & Medway



Thank you to our sponsors



REPAIRS

FREE NO PAYMENT REQUIRED
FREE LUNCH ALSO PROVIDED



<https://bit.ly/m/repairs-together>

Budgeting

Sewing

Free food collection
In partnership with Folkestone Community Fridge

Folkestone Repairs Together

Electrical repairs

Tech Support

Kintsugi

4TH SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

28th July
25th August
29th September

12:30 - 14:30

Wood Avenue Library
17 Wood Ave, Folkestone CT19 6HS

[folkestone_rt](https://www.facebook.com/folkestone_rt) for more information contact: folkestonert.info@gmail.com



Rainbow Centre Foodbank & Pantry Services

Foodbank



- Who** Our Foodbank is here for residents of our district who are in crisis and need emergency food support.
- What** Foodbank provides a basic food parcel, tailored to the size of your family, to last you three days.
- How** **Referral** - Citizens Advice, schools, and health professionals are just some of those who can refer people to our Foodbank. If you are not currently working with a referral agent, you can self-refer by contacting Help Through Hardship.
-  **Help Through Hardship** 08082 082138 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

Pantry



- Who** It is open to anyone across our district who has difficulty making ends meet and needs ongoing help.
- What** Food Pantry is just like a shop; you choose the food items you want from the shelves, which contain a wide range of fresh, frozen, chilled, and long-life items. Members pay a small fee each visit and can choose groceries worth at least three times more, making their income stretch further.
- How** **Application** - you can apply to become a member online, your application will be assessed based on your needs & circumstances, and we will contact you.
-  www.yourlocalpantry.co.uk/join-a-pantry
If you are not able to apply online, please call 07913 573403



Foodbank & Pantry Locations

- Hawkinge
- Folkestone
- Cheriton
- Hythe (Pantry only)
- New Romney (Foodbank only)
- Lydd

Rainbow Centre is a Charity Registered in England and Wales. Charity Number 1096570



Rainbow Centre Foodbank & Pantry Services More than just Food

The Pantry really helps my money stretch further



Whether you are using our mobile or static **Foodbank** or **Pantry**, all locations have a community space that runs during our opening times where you can have refreshments, chat with our volunteers, or talk to one of our professional partners.

Our professional partners provide wrap-around services and can help with a wide variety of advice and support for Health & Wellbeing, Financial inclusion (tackling debt), Welfare, Housing Support and we occasionally run cooking classes.

We have regular visits from agencies including: KCC Community Wardens, NHS blood pressure, Southern Water, Citizens Advice, NHS One You, RSPCA and Social Enterprise Kent

Blood Pressure check - Brilliant project. A simple thing to do that could potentially save lives.

My first time, I was apprehensive to enter but from the moment I walked through the door I felt a sense of community and acceptance. Volunteers are informative & friendly. It truly is wonderful and of a great help.

NHS One You service has really helped improve me and my family's life quality in many ways. The service has been very professional and friendly. Without this help, we would not be as sufficient. Such a top-quality service.

The pantry also has other services that have helped massively with household items, clothing and health checks. Citizens Advice have been made available and I feel that we have become quite a good connected community within the pantry which has had a positive effect on our mental health in these difficult times. Without the pantry, we would be struggling.

The Pantry has been very supportive for my family. As the cost of living has increased it has meant that we have had to make our backs to what we have. With the support of the Pantry (financial inclusion) we can now balance our money a lot better, providing us with healthy meals and products for our family life.

Rainbow Centre is a Charity Registered in England and Wales. Charity Number 1096570

Fraud / Scams

Fake QR stickers placed on parking meters.

Community Safety is urging drivers to be extra vigilant if they see QR stickers being plastered on pay and display parking meters when paying for their street parking.

If a person scans into a dodgy QR code, it takes the user to fraudulent websites.

Recently, an article in a national newspaper highlighted a woman who was scammed out of £1,500 after scammers placed fake QR codes on parking machines in Lancashire. This has also been happening in Scotland.

Folkestone & Hythe District Council's Parking Enforcement team are out in the district checking parking meters. The only QR code used is pictured (right) and these stickers are placed in the Sandgate Road car park and Leas Cliff Hall car park.

If any person notices a QR code that looks suspicious, please report this to the local authority of that area.

If anyone scans a malicious QR code, the victim should change password, secure online accounts and notify their bank immediately.



**NO MORE
WAITING**

IN THE WINGS

Skip the queue and pay for parking
without having to use a ticket
machine by signing up to Autobill

Visit ticketless.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk
or scan the QR code

Folkestone
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District Council

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

QR Codes as enablers of fraud – “An Alert from Action Fraud”

QR codes or quick response codes work when the user scans them via a digital device, usually a smartphone. They are widely used for quickly directing users to websites, logging into devices or ordering or paying for good and services.

Cyber criminals are increasingly using QR technology to scam victims, by creating their own malicious QR codes designed to trick people into handing over banking and/or personal information.

Analysis by Action Fraud from reports across the UK reveals that most of these scams tend to happen in open spaces, such as car parks or parking meters. A common scam involves malicious QR code stickers being placed on top of legitimate QR codes in car parks. These will then link to genuine looking payment sites that steal personal and financial data. Action Fraud are also seeing an increase in the number of fake emails using QR codes. Between October 2023 and June 2024, they received 199 reports from across the UK relating to this type of criminality.

Advice on how to use QR codes safely

QR codes used in pubs and restaurants are probably safe for you to scan.

Scanning a QR Code in open spaces (stations or car parks) might be riskier. Check for tampered QR Code stickers and if in doubt do not scan them and use a search engine to find the official website or app for the organisation you need to make payment to.

If you receive an email with a QR code in it and you are asked to scan it, then exercise extreme caution, as Action Fraud are seeing an increase in these types of “quishing attacks.”

When scanning a QR code, use the scanner that comes with your phone, rather than using an app downloaded from an app store.

For further information and advice on using QR codes safely see – [How to use QR codes safely - Get Cyber Safe](#)

For further information about fraud, visit our website at [Advice about fraud | Kent Police](#)

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Preventing fraud

Together,
let's stop
scammers.



Remember, ABC:



never Assume



never Believe



always Confirm

Get the latest
scam advice:



@KentPoliceECU

Disposing Waste responsibly

Now summer is upon us, Community Safety have been made aware of an increase in individuals knocking on people's doors seeking work on the property or gardening services for payment, which is normally cash.

On the Kent Police website, residents of Hythe are being urged to remain vigilant following reports rogue traders have been targeting properties in the area. It is alleged, between 12 February and 14 July 2024, a trader who had offered to carry out repairs at a house in Palmbeach Avenue took money from the owner and failed to complete the work. The victim claimed that parts of the house had been left unsafe and, after raising the issue, was told that the trader was not able to make it good.

On 20 July, residents in Sellindge reported suspicious behaviour involving two men attempting to sell cleaning services door-to-door, who were alleged to be reluctant to leave when their services were declined.

Police were also made aware of an incident in Hillside Street, Hythe on 24 July. It was reported that a resident had paid money to a man to have equipment installed at their house but, upon contacting the relevant company, no money had been received. The man allegedly refused to return the money and is no longer engaging with the victim.

Rogue traders may call round saying they have noticed something needs fixing on the property and can do this for a fee. Usually, they may start the job but is left unfinished and the work not carried out correctly.



During the summer months, many of us are in our gardens and some jobs may be too large to accommodate the garden waste receptacle. You may hire a gardening business to trim trees and ask for them to dispose of the gardens waste.

Follow these guidelines to protect yourself from rogue waste collectors:

- Ask the tradesperson to see their waste carrier registration number.
- Check online to see if the tradesperson is legitimate [Waste Carriers, Brokers and Dealers \(data.gov.uk\)](https://data.gov.uk)
- Ask the tradesperson where they will be disposing of your garden waste.
- Ask for a receipt of an invoice for the work carried out.
- Keep a note of all the information received from the tradesperson.

If the waste carrier business collects your garden waste of grass cuttings, hedge trimmings etc), this must be disposed off correctly and not dumped on land elsewhere, i.e. woodlands etc as this is classed fly-tipping and is illegal. It's your garden waste and your responsibility.

Please remind family and friends about cold callers and not to be tempted to let anyone who turns up unannounced at the front door seeking to work at the property or any gardening work.

Report a scam or a problem with a tradesperson or product to [TradingStandards/](#)

[Action Fraud](#): If you suspect that you've been scammed, report it to Action Fraud either over the phone or via their website.

[Citizens Advice](#): contact them if you've been scammed on your doorstep and they'll pass your report onto Trading Standards.

You can also speak to your local KCC Warden who will try and help you whatever the issue and they can be found [KCCLocalCommunityWardens](#)

New Published Reports

Leaving children home alone

Source: NSPCC

Date published: 15 July 2024

The NSPCC has published a news story about children being left home alone. It highlights an increase in calls to the NSPCC Helpline with 7,802 contacts on the subject of a child being left home alone received between April 2023 and March 2024, compared to 4,717 contacts over the previous 12 months. It discusses possible reasons for this increase including greater public awareness around the risks. The news story provides guidance and a link to a quiz to help parents decide whether their child is ready to be left home or go out alone.

Read the news story: [Our Helpline has seen a 65% increase in adult concerns about children being left home alone](#)

See also on NSPCC Learning

> [A guide to help parents and carers decide whether their child is ready to either stay at home or go out alone](#)

Child sexual abuse online

Source: Police Scotland

Date: 01 July 2024

Police Scotland has launched a new campaign #GetHelpOrGetCaught to help prevent online child sexual abuse and exploitation (OCSAE). Data from Police Scotland shows a 21% increase in the number of cyber-enabled sexual crimes

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against children between April 2023 and March 2024 when compared to the previous year.

Read the news story: [Get help or get caught: tackling online child sexual abuse and exploitation](#)

See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Protecting children from sexual abuse](#)

Online safety

Source: NSPCC

Date: 28 June 2024

The NSPCC has launched The Voice of Online Youth, a new group consisting of fifteen 13 to 16-year-olds who will advise the NSPCC, politicians, regulators, parents and professionals about the best ways of protecting children and young people online. The group will work together to ensure decisions about online safety are informed by young people's experiences through meeting with decision-makers across the UK, attending events, and engaging in workshops.

Read the news story: [Voice of Online Youth group: making sure children's voices are heard](#)

Bullying

Source: National Children's Bureau

Date: 25 June 2024

The National Children's Bureau has published a blog post for schools and youth organisations on distinguishing between banter and bullying. The blog discusses: recognising when banter is appropriate; empowering young people to set personal boundaries; and implementing a school-wide approach.

Read the blog: ["But Miss, it was only banter..." How do we equip children with the skills to understand when banter has gone too far?](#)

See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Protecting children from bullying and cyberbullying](#)

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