

# Community Safety Partner Updates



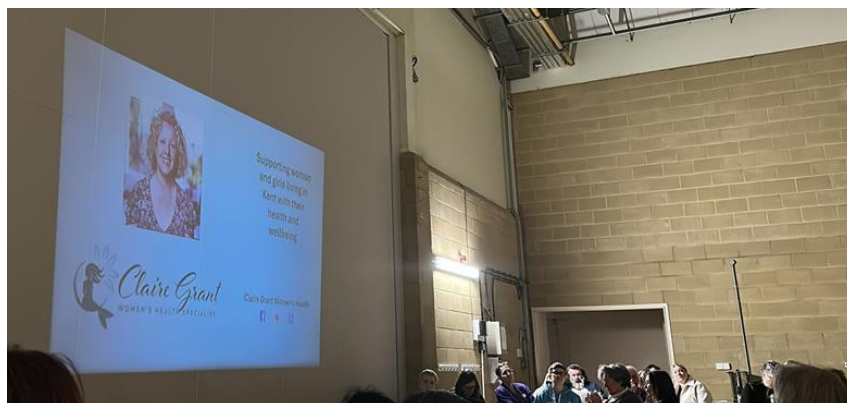
February 2025

## Community Safety Update and Events

### Networking Event

On 3<sup>rd</sup> February, Tara Liam and Cllr Mike Blakemore attended a partnership networking event at the Hawkinge Community Centre.

Various agencies came together to share information about the services offered.



February 2025

## Community Wellness Event – 16 April 2025

You are invited to

### Community wellness event



**Wednesday 16 April 2025**  
10am - 2pm

**St. Mary's Bay Village Hall**  
17 Jefferstone Lane  
Romney Marsh  
TN29 0SA

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

Come seek help and support from agencies across Kent for:

- NHS health checks
- Financial welfare and benefits support
- Advice on staying safe in the home
- Fire safety guidance
- Details on the Lifeline365 service
- Signposting for families
- Access to mental health resources



## Partner Updates

[The Danny Gallivan Trust](#) is a small military registered charity based in Dymchurch.



The charity was formed in 2013 by Kerry Gallivan, daughter of the late Danny Gallivan who passed away in 2012, to help veterans from all conflicts to get back on their feet after falling on hard times. Although the charity has strong ties with former service personnel it became clear to them that homelessness is a problem for the wider community and not just veterans.

Kerry alongside her husband Mick can be seen by the Folkestone Magistrates Courts feeding the homeless every night from 5.30pm to 7pm every day apart from Saturdays.



The couple ran their first foodbank from the Romney Marsh Community Hub recently and will be looking to doing this each month on a Wednesday but are currently waiting for dates to be finalised.

For further information, please contact Mick Gallivan on 07932 774255 or email [dgtrust@live.co.uk](mailto:dgtrust@live.co.uk)

(Kerry Gallivan pictured with KCC Warden, Carol Coveney)



## Protecting oneself from being a victim (Befriending Fraud)

Community Safety assisted a vulnerable woman who became a victim of befriending fraud for about six-months. This is where perpetrators go to great lengths to gain a victim's trust and convince them they are their friend.

The woman, aged in her 70s, lives on her own. She lost her husband a few years ago and naturally trusted people.

Around six-months ago, a young woman preyed on the elderly victim becoming acquainted, having coffees and a few lunches out, building up a friendship. The victim felt very sorry for the young woman and out of the kindness of her heart wanted to help which intensified during November and December. At Christmas, the victim purchased presents for the young woman's four children as she mentioned often that times were hard and money tight during the economic climate.

In early February, the young woman knocked on the victim's door. She asked to use the toilet and the victim duly obliged but after a while did not hear the chain on the toilet. The victim then made her way along the hallway and suddenly stopped as the young woman was in the victim's bedroom searching through the bedside cabinets. The victim was speechless, the woman turned round, startled at seeing the victim standing in the doorway who had started to cry. The young woman made a hasty retreat out of the property.

As a result of this, the victim felt violated and ashamed that someone she believed was her friend, put her trust in and who she was kind towards, had treated her in this manner by going through the drawers in her bedroom. She now feels unable to trust anyone again.

Community Safety spoke to the victim encouraging this be reported to the police.

Thankfully, during this incident, nothing was taken from the victim and above all she was safe.

We want everyone to be aware, this can happen in person or online where those who are vulnerable, lonely or anyone can be a victim.

Fraudsters use various tactics to befriend including emotion and social interaction which was the case in this incident. Often fraudsters will use tactics such as urgency, isolation guilt or make you feel like you have an obligation to respond.

If a family member starts to mention about a friendship with an individual, look up this person online and check if they have account on social media platforms.

If you are the victim, please report to Kent Police, details below:

- To report non-urgent crime, **call 101** or visit [www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)

- Talk to Kent Police on LiveChat – available 24/7: [www.kent.police.uk/contact](http://www.kent.police.uk/contact)
- In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life in danger call **999**
- Persons with a hearing or speech impediment, can use the textphone service 18000. Or text 999 if they've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.
- For news and advice visit [www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)

It is not acceptable for anyone to take advantage of another human being and in this scenario to be in their home where the victim feels violated.

## National Campaigns

### International Women's Day - 8 March 2025

#### Mayor of Folkestone Women Together event 22 March

A global day celebrating the achievements of women worldwide coming together across all communities to raise awareness for social, cultural, economic, social and political accomplishments of women

On 22 March the Mayor of Folkestone, Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly, has created a space for women to come together to relax, laugh and learn.

The event will start with a game of networking bingo followed by interesting activities to join, yoga, mediation, business and personal finance talks along with many more.

This event is to raise money for three charities - Folkestone Community Fridge, Home-Start Shepway and the Nepalese Community Centre so there will also be a raffle with some great prizes. Please make sure you bring some cash to play. Dress comfortably but smartly and be ready for a fun time.

If women are interested, please make sure you share an obscure and fun fact about yourself on the booking form - **please book and pay here** [Mayor of Folkestone Women Together Event](#)



#### International Women's Day 8 March at Cornerstone Centre

At the Cornerstone Centre at the South Kent Community Church near Folkestone Central Station, there will be a collaborative festival from women around the world. This event will be from 5.00pm until 8.30pm and entry is FREE.

There will be food, crafts and performances from around the world celebrating culture and the talent of women from



## Information Awareness



Wave Community Bank is a not-for-profit savings and loans cooperative, also known as a credit union, serving individuals living or working in Kent, Medway, East Sussex, Brighton & Hove, and the London Borough of Bexley, as well as members of Unite the Union in the Southeast Region.

Established in 2000, it aims to provide ethical financial services to its members.

### Services Offered:

**Savings Accounts:** Members can open various savings accounts, including:

- **Share Accounts:** Basic savings accounts offering dividends based on profits.
- **Children's Accounts:** These do have interest of them - of 2%.
- **Wave Save:** An online account allowing members to set up to 10 savings goals and manage funds in designated 'pots'.
- **PrizeSaver:** A savings account that enters members into monthly prize draws, with a chance to win a top prize of £5,000 or one of several smaller prizes.

**Affordable Loans:** The bank offers loans ranging from £500 to £35,000.

Repayments can be made via direct debits, child benefit payments, or through payroll deductions for those employed by partner organisations (some of those include KCC, Maidstone Borough Council and Ashford Borough Council). **All loan repayments include a savings component, helping members build savings as they repay their loans.** Wave Community Bank aim to turn borrowers into savers.

**Chorus Workplace Savings Scheme:** This program allows employees of partner organisations to save or repay loans directly through payroll deductions, promoting regular saving habits and financial well-being.

**Make 2025 the year you start saving**

Wave Community Bank have teamed up with the Illegal Money Lending Team England to help you kick start your savings with a £25 savings bonus!

**JOIN**  
Become a member of Wave Community Bank. Visit [www.wavecb.org.uk](http://www.wavecb.org.uk) or download our app to join.

**SAVE**  
Save a minimum of £10 a month of 3 consecutive months

**£25 BONUS**  
Get a £25 savings bonus paid into your WCB account

To qualify for the savings bonus you need to:

- Live or work in Kent or Medway
- Earn a maximum of £35,000 p.a.
- Join WCB and save a min of £10 per month for 3 consecutive months
- Offer available to savers joining WCB between 1.1.25 and 31.3.25

The £25 bonus is sponsored by the Illegal Money Lending Team England as part of the Stop Loan Sharks campaign. £25 bonus offer open to first 50 account holders only.

**STOP LOAN SHARKS**  
Intervention . Support . Education

wave community bank  
Local. Ethical. Together.

**Community Accounts:** Many groups such as CICs, CIOs and Community groups are struggling getting a bank account to put their grants or fundraising into, Wave Community Bank can help with that too.

**Community Impact:**

Wave Community Bank is committed to alleviating poverty and promoting economic regeneration within its community. It collaborates with local organisations to enhance financial literacy, providing budgeting advice and debt support to those in need.

They get to know their members, and have a team that answer the phones, and aim to turn around loan requests the same day if they have all the information needed.

They have FREE to anyone webinars that talk about budgeting, credit scores, and debt management and are working on a series of bitesize podcasts about all things Credit Union and finance as well (generally around 12 mins an episode).

Wave Community Bank also work the Illegal Money Lending Team England as part of the Stop Loan Sharks campaign (they have some free money going still for Kent and Medway members please see the flyer above)

They have discounts with local providers such as Arriva who are offering up to 25% off for Wave Community Bank members and we are always working on more. By focusing on ethical financial practices and community development, Wave Community Bank strives to foster financial resilience and inclusion among its members.



## Excellent in Volunteering Awards – 2025

**EXCELLENCE IN VOLUNTEERING AWARDS 2025**  
CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS  
ACROSS FOLKESTONE, HYTHE & ROMNEY MARSH

**Kent Coast Volunteering**  
Connecting Communities in  
Dover, Thanet, Folkestone & Hythe

**Folkestone & Hythe**  
District Council

Do you know a volunteer or group that goes above and beyond to help others? Show your appreciation and help us celebrate volunteers and the power of volunteering.

**Categories**

- Individual Volunteer
- Group of Volunteers
- School/Youth Group
- Governance i.e trustee
- Corporate

AWARDS CELEBRATION  
5 JUNE 2025

**NOMINATE NOW  
DEADLINE 11 MAY**

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO NOMINATE  
SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT  
[WWW.KCV.ORG.UK](http://WWW.KCV.ORG.UK)  
AWARDS@KCV.ORG.UK

## Folkestone Walking Group

**ROAR**  
RECOVERY AND MOVEMENT

# Folkestone Walking Group

Join us for an early afternoon walk every other Saturday with people whose lives have been affected by addiction or have an interest in recovery

ROAR Events & Activities are aimed at anyone who has been affected by addiction whether that be the individual or friends and family

Meet up  
**Outside Starbucks Bouverie Square**

**12pm**  
2nd & 4th  
Saturday of  
every month

February 2025

# Romney Marsh Community Hub – What’s on March 2025



What’s on In  
March 2025



## Marathon Runners

**Paul Kingdom** has very kindly offered to run a marathon for us on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March**. He will start his run in Dungeness and will finish in Folkestone.

**Paul Carter** is our second marathon runner who will be taking part in the Brighton Marathon Run on **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April**.

Please, please, please, pop on down to these events and cheer our guys on.  
Your continued support will mean the world to them both.

To find out more about these two amazing men, please look out for them on our FaceBook & JustGiving pages.

## Romney Marsh Community Hub.

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup>** – Cancer Peer Support Group Meeting - 2-3:30pm.

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>** – Diabetes Peer Support Group Coffee & Catch Up - 1:30pm-3:30pm.

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup>** – Ex Armed Forces Drop In - 10am-12noon.

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>** – Hallett & Co Solicitors – 10am-1pm. Will be holding legal advice surgery.

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>** – Creative Writing with Emma Batten – 1:30pm-3:30pm - **£6.50**.

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>** - Free Digital Support – 9:30am-12noon. 30-minute sessions Face to Face digital skills training for adults to build confidence using their devices & internet.

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>** - Cancer Peer Support Group Coffee & Catch Up – 9am-10:30am.

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup>** – Best Of British Meal & Live Entertainment - **£15pp**.

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>** - Diabetes Peer Support Group Meeting - 1:30pm-3:30pm.

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup>** – Ex Armed Forces Breakfast Club - 9am-11am.

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>** – Spring Fayre – 10am-2pm. **ALL WELCOME**. Plenty of fun and games to be had by all!  
Romney Marsh Morris Dancers will be performing at 11:30am & 1pm.

**Mondays** – Crafty Club and Games Club – 1:30pm-3:30pm - **£3 each**.

**Tuesdays** – Walking Group – 10am-12noon - **FREE**

**Tuesdays** – Yoga – 11am-12noon and Pilates – 3pm-4pm - **£6.50 each**.

**Thursdays** – Fitness – 2pm-3pm, Line Dancing – 4pm-5:30pm, Yoga – 4pm-5pm - **£6.50 each**.

**Fridays** – Legs, Bums & Tums – 9:30am-10:30am and Seated Exercise – 11am-12noon - **£6.50 each**.

## Hub on the Beach, 103 Coast Drive Littlestone.

**1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month** – Free - Stroke Peer Support Group Meeting - 1pm-2pm.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month** – Free - Arthritis Peer Support Group Meeting - 1pm-2pm.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month** – Free - Bereavement Peer Support Group - 1pm-2pm.

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>** – Quiz Night – 6:45pm arrival, starts at 7:30pm sharp - **£5pp, max teams of 6**.

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>** – Art Exhibition – **Sat - 10am-4pm and Sun – 10am-3pm**.

**Mondays** – Yoga - 11am-12noon, Pilates - 6pm-7pm and Fitness - 7:15pm-8:15pm - **£6.50 each**.

**Tuesdays and Thursdays** - Seated Exercise - 3pm-4pm - **£6.50**.

**Wednesdays** - Legs, Bums & Tums - 9:30am-10:30am, Fitness Pilates - 11am-12noon and Seated Tai Chi - 3pm-4pm - **£6.50 each**.

**Thursdays** – Yoga – 9:30-10:30am - **£6.50**.

**Fridays** - Sunflower Singing Group – 1:30pm-2:30pm - **£6.50**.

**Saturdays** – Washinkai Karate - 10:30am-12noon – Adults - **£6.50**, Under 16 - **£4.50**.

**Last Sunday of the month** - Table Top Sale - **£10 a table**.

For further information and bookings please check our website/Facebook page or contact us on 01797 36388 for the Community Hub or 01797 458876 for Hub On The Beach or book online at [bookwhen.com/HOTB](http://bookwhen.com/HOTB)

## Fraud / Scams



### Rogue Traders in and around Folkestone

Rogue Traders have been active across the county in particular, Folkestone.

Bogus tradespersons normally involve fraudsters trying to scam you after knocking at your door and often use clever tactics to pressurise the victim into buying something you do not want or offer their services to your house or garden. This may involve work they have seen on repairing roof tiles on the house or offering gardening services that you do not need.

Always obtain three quotes and use a safe, local trader that has been vetted by Kent Trading Standards - Trading Standards Checked. For further advice and information go to [Bogus tradesmen fraud | Action Fraud](#)

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](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

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

You will also find valuable information from the [Stop! Think Fraud - How to stay safe from scams](#)

- Report a non-urgent crime online: [Report | Kent Police](#)
- Talk to us via our Live Chat by clicking on the blue button on our website: [Home | Kent Police](#)
- If you are hearing or speech impaired, use the textphone service 18000 for emergencies or download the [BT Relay app](#)
- [Call 999](#) in an emergency, if a crime is in progress or life is in danger.

# Kent Fraud Alert System



## Doorstep Criminals

Look out for this scam.

The victim had a male attend with a bag of cleaning goods, pressuring them to buy something. The victim agreed to buy items for £20 and was asked to pay by card. The criminal used his mobile phone which had an app to accept card payments. However, it was scam and instead of inputting £20, the offender changed it to £2,000 and unfortunately, the victim was debited this amount from their Bank account.


Our basic protect advice is to never deal with cold callers on the doorstep. If they will not go away or become aggressive, then ring the Police.

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](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.




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

You will also find valuable information from the Home Office at [Stop! Think Fraud - How to stay safe from scams](#)

**Preventing fraud**

Together, let's stop scammers. 

**Remember, ABC:**

-  never Assume
-  never Believe
-  always Confirm



## Boots Scam Email

February 2025

Look out for fake emails impersonating Boots. Action Fraud have received over 700 reports of these scams.

The emails claim that the recipient has won a free prize, such as a Medicare kit and that they need to click on a link to claim it. However, it is a **scam**, and the link will take them to a realistic looking website, under the control of the criminals, where they will steal their personal and financial data.

Best advice is not to click on links in emails and to go to the official website to check or confirm by calling the organisation. Do not use telephone numbers contained within the email.

For more information on Phishing go to – [Phishing: Spot and report scam emails, texts, websites and... - NCSC.GOV.UK](#)



Today You've been chosen  
to receive

**Medicare Kit**



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](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

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

You will also find valuable information from the Home Office at [Stop! Think Fraud - How to stay safe from scams](#)

## New Published Reports

### Child sexual abuse material

**Source:** NSPCC

**Date published:** 18 February 2025

The NSPCC has collaborated with the Marie Collins Foundation, Lucy Faithfull Foundation, Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse and Barnardo's to send a joint letter to the Home Secretary and Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, calling for the Government to ensure children are better protected from child sexual abuse in private messaging environments. Data gathered by the NSPCC from police forces across the UK on child sexual abuse image offences, indicates private messaging sites were involved in more crimes of this nature than any other type of platform. The letter expresses collective concern regarding Ofcom's Illegal Harms Code of Practice, published in December 2024. It argues that only requiring illegal content to be removed where it is 'technically feasible' creates a loophole for service providers. The charities are calling for all private messaging services, including those using end-to-end encryption, to ensure robust safeguards are in place to protect children and for Ofcom to review and strengthen its codes of practice.

**Read the press release:** [More than 100 child sexual abuse image crimes being recorded by police every day](#)

### See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Protecting children from sexual abuse](#)

### Sexual extortion

**Source:** NSPCC

**Date published:** 14 February 2025

The NSPCC has published a news story about boys' vulnerability to sexual extortion, or 'sextortion'. Sexual extortion is a form of online blackmail that involves the threat of sharing nude or semi-nude images or videos to extort money or force someone to do something against their will. Data from Childline counselling sessions between April and December 2024 reveals that boys were more than twice as likely as girls to seek help and advice from the service for worries about sexual extortion. In response, Childline has launched a campaign aimed at encouraging boys to contact the service for support if they are affected. The news story includes tips from Childline to help young people stay safe online.

**Read the press release:** [Childline data reveals boys are most vulnerable to 'sextortion'](#)

**Watch the campaign video:** [Can The Charvas work out who is REAL and who is FAKE?](#)

## See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Young people's experiences of online sexual extortion or 'sextortion'](#)

### Online safety

**Source:** UK Safer Internet Centre

**Date published:** 11 February 2025

The UK Safer Internet Centre has published a report on children and young people's exposure to online scams. The report draws data from a survey carried out with 2,013 children aged 8- to 17-years-old and their parents. Findings show: 79% of children are coming across scams online at least once a month; 27% of parents and carers say their child has been the victim of an online scam; and 26% of children who had been scammed said they blamed themselves. The report highlights the emotional impact on children and a culture of victim-blaming surrounding online scams.

**Read the news story:** [Almost half of 8 to 17-year-olds have been scammed online](#)

**Read the report:** [Safer Internet Day research report 2025](#)

### Parental substance misuse

**Source:** NSPCC

**Date published:** 10 February 2025

The NSPCC has published a news story on contacts to its helplines concerning parental substance misuse. Figures show: the NSPCC Helpline received an average of 31 contacts a day in 2023/24 by UK adults worried about the impact of a parent or carer's substance misuse on a child; and Childline delivered 440 counselling sessions in 2023/24 with children and young people who were worried about their parent's substance misuse. The news story also includes advice for children living with alcohol or substance misuse.

**Read the news story:** [Our Helpline is contacted more than 30 times a day about parental substance misuse](#)

## See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Parents with substance use problems](#)

### Child mental health: anxiety

**Source:** NSPCC

**Date published:** 03 February 2025

The NSPCC has published a news story for Children's Mental Health Week encouraging young people who are experiencing anxiety to reach out. The story reveals that in the first six months of 2024/25, Childline delivered over 6,600 online and phone counselling sessions related to anxiety, representing 24% of all counselling sessions about mental health and wellbeing. The article provides advice for children who may be struggling with anxiety and includes tips to share with parents to help them support their child.

**Read the news story:** [Anxiety the top mental health concern for children contacting our Childline service](#)

**Download Childline posters:** [Childline posters](#)

**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](mailto:community.safety@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)**