

Recent Crime Statistics

Tunbridge Wells continues to see a fall in crime with a further reduction of 14% to the end of October. This means 839 fewer crimes were reported than in the previous 12 month period, retaining our position in Kent with the second-lowest volume of crime in the county.

There are still reductions across the CSP's priority crime types. This includes domestic burglary (down 32% - now the lowest in Kent!) and burglary other than dwelling, which has reduced by 30%. Criminal damage has reduced by 178 crimes (16%), violence against the person has affected 115 fewer victims this year (-11%) and theft and handling has seen a reduction of 9%, or 168 fewer crimes.

Domestic Abuse and the Courts

In October, District Judge Lethem addressed over 40 volunteers and those with a professional interest in Domestic Abuse at an evening seminar at Tunbridge Wells Baptist Church. District Judge Lethem, who has sat at the Tunbridge Wells County Court for twelve years and is responsible for training the judiciary in matters relating to domestic abuse, gave a hugely interesting, informative and entertaining presentation which highlighted the complexities of this type of work. Much of his focus was on the experience of the victim and the importance of the support which those working with victims can provide in order to counteract inevitable feelings of loneliness, vulnerability and disorientation.



District Judge Lethem has very generously agreed to deliver a further five training sessions to the DAVSS volunteers. He said 'I am very pleased to be involved in this event and congratulate the staff and volunteers of DAVSS who do such a good job in helping those that are affected by domestic abuse.'

More information about DAVSS can be found on their website, www.davss.org.uk

How CCTV Helps to Reduce Crime

During October 2011, the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's CCTV Control room contributed to 47 arrests and four fixed penalty notices being issued.

This month saw a big increase in metal theft, and CCTV operators assisted with three separate incidents resulting in nine arrests. At the start of October CCTV instigated the arrest of three men for the theft of lead from the North Farm area. Late at night, CCTV noticed a man retrieving bags from the bushes and loading them into his vehicle. CCTV alerted the police and monitored him until out of camera range. Police later stopped him, confirming the theft of lead. During this time the operators discovered a second male still at the scene who was also later arrested due to the evidence found on CCTV. Another vehicle involved later activated an automatic number plated recognition (ANPR) camera making its way towards Dover, where police were waiting for him.

Staff at Royal Victoria Place Shopping Centre reported to CCTV a man wanted for various shoplifting offences. Using the ShopSafe Radios scheme, CCTV located the male going into Boots, where staff stopped and detained him until police arrived and arrested him.

Kent police requested assistance from CCTV to locate a man with severe mental health problems as a welfare issue. CCTV located the man, informed the police and then monitored until he was safely taken into police custody.

Tunbridge Wells Community Safety Unit

Full of Life!



The Camden Centre was the venue for 'Full of Life', an event celebrating later life and Older People's Day on Monday 10 October which Tunbridge Wells Borough Council hosted in partnership with local voluntary and public sector organisations. The event promoted health and wellbeing and also showcased the services available to the over 50s and those they care for with a number of presentations by those taking part. Among the organisations taking part were the Tunbridge Wells Over Fifties Forum, Age UK, KCC Libraries, Good Neighbour Project, VAWK, the Volunteer Centre, Town and Country Housing Group, Kent High Weald Project, Friends of Woodbury Park Cemetery, Fusion Leisure and Trinity Theatre and the CSU also attended to give advice to residents. Tea and scones were provided by the Sherwood Events Team.

A Hospital on the Move

As residents will be aware, the old Kent and Sussex Hospital finally closed its doors in September when the final services and wards transferred over to the new hospital at Pembury. However, what was less publicised was the huge logistical move that was required! With 200 patients to move, staff came in at 6am to get everyone ready and to make sure that they were washed and dressed and prepared and supported in preparation for the move.



Photo supplied by Nick Evans

Police were instrumental in assisting with the move, closing roads and ensuring the specially adapted coach arrived at its destination as smoothly as possible.

Man Banned From Drinking In Tunbridge Wells Town Centre



A man who has been repeatedly arrested for alcohol related anti-social behaviour in Tunbridge Wells has had his ASBO extended to ban him from drinking in the town. 47-year-old Paul John William Starbuck of no fixed abode has been banned from drinking or possessing an open container of alcohol in Tunbridge Wells town centre. He was originally handed a 5 year ASBO by Truro Crown Court for similar alcohol related offences back in March 2009, as well as being prohibited from having a dog - 'Mr Fudge', dangerously out of control in a public place. The dog must now be muzzled in public. In a bid to stop his offending, officers from Tunbridge Wells sought a variation from Truro Crown Court to extend his ASBO to cover Tunbridge Wells' alcohol zone. The court heard how Starbuck had been abusive, violent, and had even spat at someone while drinking and granted the variation to his ASBO, which prohibits him drinking in Tunbridge Wells' alcohol control zone.

101 - New Police Non-emergency Number

It's now even easier to contact Kent Police with 101, the new national non-emergency telephone number for the Police throughout England and Wales.

In order to report crime and disorder that is not in progress or for any other non-urgent matter just dial 101. In an emergency you should continue to call 999, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger.

For more information, see the Kent Police Website:

http://www.kent.police.uk/contact_us/by_phone/101.html

Tunbridge Wells Community Safety Unit

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