



## Recent crime statistics

From December 2010 to November 2011, there were 837 fewer crimes reported in Tunbridge Wells than in the previous year, a reduction of 14%, which means we are still one of the top two safest places in Kent.

Domestic burglary has shown a reduction of 32%, and is now the lowest in the county! Non-domestic burglary (including shed, garages and businesses) has gone down by 35% - that's 175 fewer victims of crime.

Make sure you're not a victim over Christmas – refer to our website for some top crime prevention tips!

## Road Safety Week

The end of November saw the launch of the Tunbridge Wells Road Safety Campaign with a show at the Assembly Hall for over 450 local school children. The show was performed by The Smart Brothers who managed to engage and entertain the children, while teaching them how to cross the road safely, safety when travelling in a car, hazards around schools and not playing sports in the road. Cllr Caroline Derrick introduced the show which was also attended and closed by the Mayor of Tunbridge Wells. All children returned to school with a goody bag including a road safety booklet, a fluorescent CSU slapper band, a colour-in lollipop lady, a road safety crossword to do with their parents and a very popular lollipop.

In the afternoon the show went to Paddock Wood Primary School, the biggest school in the rural area, where it was performed to another 300 children. The shows were well received by all the kids and the adults who attended, and we were impressed with the enthusiasm shown by all involved, who have decided to continue the Road Safety Campaign in to the next year.



The Tunbridge Wells CSU were also out and about promoting the week by visiting a different Primary School each morning and evening at school drop off and pick up times. The Mobile Police Station was set out outside the various schools, with KCC Community Wardens, Police, PCSO's and Community Safety staff in attendance.

The team gave out free reflectors to the children and talked to parents and pupils about all aspects of road safety, including parking safely, seat belt use, and using mobile phones in the car.

## Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Service Launched



The Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Service started in Tunbridge Wells in 2009 as the DA Volunteer Advocate Project, which had highly trained volunteers providing much needed support to men and women suffering domestic abuse.

By 2010/11 it was clear that whilst the project was delivering a much-needed service to numbers of clients, it needed to become more professional – and in order to address increasing issues around funding, to consider seeking charitable status and the Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Service, DAVSS, was born!

The launch, which was supported by the actress Louise Jameson, took place at the end of November in Domestic Abuse Awareness Week. The service is now available across Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks and is also available to men in the Tonbridge and Malling borough. We wish them all every success for the future. Further information about the service can be found by going to [www.davss.org.uk](http://www.davss.org.uk)

### Safe Town Partnership– North Farm Radio Link-Up

Thanks to funding from the Community Safety Partnership, in early December the Tunbridge Wells Safe Town Partnership (who operate from the CSU) successfully linked up the existing radio system at North Farm to the Town Centre system, enabling all of their members to engage in one network. The main benefit of this is that information can be passed easily between members in both areas, sharing intelligence and assisting in prevention and detection of crime and anti-social behaviour.

It is anticipated that this improvement will lead to more North Farm businesses joining the partnership and improved services being available to everyone. Members meetings are held on a quarterly basis, in each of the Partnership's three main areas (Town Centre, Lower Town and North Farm). For more information on the STP and benefits of membership for your business, go to [www.twstp.co.uk](http://www.twstp.co.uk).

### Update from CCTV

During November 2011, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's CCTV Control Room contributed to 36 arrests and one Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) being issued in the borough. Since 1st April 2011 the CCTV Control Room has assisted with a total of 341 arrests and 23 PNDs!

November has seen an increase in shoplifting offences, which is often the case during the build up towards Christmas.

The Safe Town Partnership's expansion into North Farm Retail Park has resulted in some excellent arrests for shoplifting offences, including one instigated by a ShopSafe call from TK Maxx reporting three females making off from the store after an attempted bulk theft. CCTV warned other retailers in the area, located the women and alerted the police who then made an arrest.

Fenwick's in the town centre reported two men with a foil-lined bag, which prevents the store alarms being activated. CCTV alerted police and one male was arrested for going equipped...foiled!

CCTV monitored a drunk-looking male who left a licensed premise in the town centre, got into a vehicle and drove off. CCTV gave police his direction of travel and monitored the car until it was stopped. The male failed a breath test and was arrested.

### Keeping the roads clear in Tunbridge Wells



Motorists parking in roads such as Woodbury Park Road are being reminded by TWBC's Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) that they should not be double-parking. In the weeks running up to Christmas, the CEOs will be advising motorists about this by talking to them or leaving an information leaflet on their vehicle. The information leaflet explains the

legislation about both double-parking (parking 50cm or more from a kerb) and parking across a dropped kerb which is also a contravention.

From January 2012 the CEOs will be enforcing the legislation and issuing penalty notices in the area which will please many residents. If a fine is issued it will cost the motorist £70 but if paid within 14 days the fine reduces to £35. The CEOs will not enforce dropped kerbs outside residential properties.

### CCTV Smart Car

A CCTV Smart Car has been helping Tunbridge Wells Borough Council monitor traffic contraventions in Royal Tunbridge Wells town centre and near schools in the borough. Smart Cars are often used by local authorities to monitor road safety problem areas. They complement existing CCTV systems and the work being done by the CEOs by capturing evidence of traffic contraventions.

The borough council has borrowed the car for a short time (and for free!) and will be assessing the effectiveness of the vehicle at the end of the trial period.

The Tunbridge Wells car has, so far, spent much of its time monitoring vehicles at Fiveways in the town centre where restrictions are in place that limit the times most vehicles can use that section of road. On one morning the Smart Car monitored as many as 50 vehicles in one hour going through the restricted zone!