

Recent crime statistics

Over the twelve month period from February 2011 – January 2012, there were 5034 recorded crimes in the borough of Tunbridge Wells. That's an average of under 100 a week or just 14 per day in an area which has 108,000 residents. Per 1000 residents, it's the second-lowest volume of crime in Kent.

Of particular note, the number of burglaries in Tunbridge Wells continues to fall with 68 fewer domestic burglaries this year than last, and at 166 for the whole twelve month period this is the lowest level of domestic burglary in Kent.

Non-domestic burglaries are also down significantly with 144 fewer than the previous year. This means there have been just 274 non-domestic burglaries, which also is the lowest level in Kent.



However, there are still many steps you can take to make your home and your property safe; sign up to www.e-watch.co for twice weekly news and tips!

Email Scam

An email entitled 'Population Census: a message to everyone - act now' is being circulated, allegedly in the name of National Statistician Jil Matheson. The email demands individuals provide further personal information, supposedly for the Census and threatens fines for non-compliance.

This email is a scam and has no connection whatsoever with the National Statistician, the 2011 Census or the Office for National Statistics. It is believed the links in the email could download malware to any computer which could put your personal data, including financial information, at risk.

Anyone receiving this, or similar emails, should delete them, not open any links and certainly not provide any information. For more information on how to protect yourself from this type of threat, please see www.getsafeonline.org

Restorative Justice Road Check



On Friday 17th February a Restorative Justice road check was conducted on the A26 in Southborough from 11:30am until 2pm. Officers from the CSU in hi-vis, accompanied by local councillors, found three people using a mobile whilst driving, nine people driving without a seatbelt, five people driving with defective lights, and one was caught in possession of cannabis. A huge positive to come out of this exercise is that over 5000 vehicles didn't need to be stopped.

Eyes on the road – switch off your phone!

Kent County Council launched a campaign recently asking drivers to turn their phone off when driving to avoid any chance of being distracted by it.

A survey they conducted showed that 10% of those quizzed admitted to using a hand-held mobile whilst driving, whilst 44% admitted they used a hands-free device whilst driving. However 53% of drivers felt that one of the things that places them at great risk of a serious crash is other drivers using mobile phones.

It is illegal to use a hand-held mobile phone when driving and if caught, it will result in three points and a £60 fine. Drivers involved in a fatal crash when using a mobile phone could be prosecuted for causing Death by Dangerous Driving which can lead to up to 14 years imprisonment together with an unlimited fine, disqualification from driving for at least two years and a mandatory extended driving test. Over the past four years, Kent Police has issued more than 20,000 fixed penalty notices for drivers caught using a mobile.

Update from CCTV

The CCTV Control Room had a very quiet start to the year, with 23 arrests in Tunbridge Wells in January consisting of 4 instigated by CCTV, 16 assisting the police and 3 monitored.

In the early hours of the morning on 5th January, police requested CCTV look for a male possibly dealing drugs in the Church Road area. They located a male fitting the description and alerted police. As the man was searched he tried to escape and put up a fight and was arrested for public order offences as well as being in possession of an illegal substance.

On 12th January TK Maxx on North Farm reported to CCTV via their Shopsafe radio that they had detained three men for stealing from the shop. CCTV alerted police and monitored as a 17 year old male was arrested and another issued with a Penalty Notice.

On 23rd January the BBC Shop in Mount Pleasant, Tunbridge Wells reported a shoplifter who had left the premises. After a search of the area CCTV located the offender, informed police and monitored until offender was arrested.

CCTV also instigated the arrest of a drink driver in Cranbrook, after police shared information of possible offenders in the area.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service's Top Tips for Spring

As spring approaches and many residents start getting busy spring cleaning, tidying gardens and doing DIY, Kent Fire Rescue Service (KFRS) is issuing advice to help you stay safe.

Head of Community Safety, Stuart Skilton said: "Our main advice would be to ensure you have a smoke alarm fitted and that it is in working order. Now is a good time to vacuum any dust that may have accumulated."

Spring is a good time to dispose of any flammable materials such as newspapers and cardboard, as these can pose a substantial risk to your home.

KFRS is also urging people to help other family members, especially older people, to keep their home rubbish free and to keep escape routes and doorways unblocked at all times.

DIY safety

Some DIY activities can increase the risk of fire and injury in the home. Always check that the task is within your capabilities and take expert advice which, along with safety leaflets, can be obtained from many DIY superstores.

Bonfire safety

While it is tempting to have bonfires to clear up fallen leaves, clippings and old plants, they frequently burn out of control and pollute the environment. If you must have a bonfire the advice is to take extra care and **never** use petrol or other accelerants on them.

Also, never leave any fire unattended and if your bonfire gets out of control, never try to tackle it yourself. Always call the fire and rescue service.

For free home fire safety advice call KFRS on 0800 923 7000 or go to www.3breaths.info.

Class A Closure Notice Issued



This month, Police obtained a *Class A Closure Notice* from court on a property in Temple Way that was used for drug crime. A closure notice allows the Police to board up and secure the building to stop anyone from entering it for three months to prevent the area suffering from more drug crime and anti-social behaviour.

District Chief Inspector Jon Bumpus said: "This closure not only stops drugs being sold at this address, but also puts an end to the frequent visitors to the property and the associated anti-social behaviour, which was causing misery for residents. This action is a direct result of the police's close working relationship with the local community and proves our commitment to react to their needs. Should anyone breach this order they are liable for up to six months in prison and a fine of £5000."