

End of Year Crime Statistics

We can announce that, at the end of the financial year, there was a 9% reduction in crime compared to the previous year. This means we've had fewer than 5000 crimes all year – the only district in Kent to do so! This secures our position as the borough with the second-lowest number of crimes per thousand residents, narrowly beaten by Sevenoaks.

We remain the borough with the lowest number of domestic and other burglaries in Kent and numbers have dropped by a whopping 24% and 29% respectively since last year.

We're now second in Kent for criminal damage, seeing a 7% reduction this year. We're also neck and neck with Tonbridge & Malling in numbers of violent crimes, placing us as the borough with the third lowest in the county enjoying a solid 4% reduction on last year's statistics. Reports of shoplifting have also dropped in numbers dramatically, showing a 16% drop from last year.

New Community Engagement Officer



Léonie Harrington (*middle with CSU colleagues*) is Kent County Council's newly appointed Community Engagement Officer for Tunbridge Wells. She joined KCC in 2002 and has worked in various roles.

Léonie attends the Community Safety Partnership, other partnership meetings and public events. She works on behalf of KCC at these to take note of the issues raised, to provide advice and to link people and organisations together.

She will be working with the CSU and other local partners to identify opportunities to engage with communities and share information to raise awareness of local issues. She also deals with enquiries from community and voluntary groups

about the different Member grant schemes that are available.

At the moment she is building up her local knowledge to make sure she understands your priorities and issues of concern. You can contact Léonie on 01622 694691, or you can email her at leonie.harrington@kent.gov.uk.

Stop It Now Conference



In March, the first conference staged by the Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Services (DAVSS) was held in Sevenoaks. 120 people attended the event which aimed to raise awareness for domestic abuse, stalking, honour-based violence & risk, and also to show just how DAVSS has helped victims.

Guest speakers included Patricia Bernal, a local resident whose daughter Clare was murdered by a stalker in London in 2005, Laura Richards, adviser to the Westminster Government and Metropolitan Police on Stalking Law Reform, Anup Manota, project manager for Karma Nirvana; a charity supporting victims of forced marriage and honour-based violence, and actress Louise Jameson, the DAVSS Patron.

In the first 12 months since its creation in April 2011, DAVSS has had more than 500 calls to the Domestic Abuse Helpline and has supported 169 local individuals, plus their children, through the referral and support process.



The help-line number is 01892 570538 and is available Monday to Friday from 10am to 1pm. You can also visit DAVSS online at www.davss.org.uk

Photos courtesy of: www.kevinphillips.co.uk

CCTV Safety Car

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council have approved the purchase of a CCTV Safety Car which will be used in conjunction with 'Tunbridge Wells Is Traffic Aware', (TWITA), to help assist in making a safer environment for children, pedestrians and other road users. It will be used as a deterrent but will also be used to enforce bus lanes, school keep-clear areas and moving traffic offences.



David Candlin, the Council's Head of Economic Development, said: "The CCTV car raises the profile of our safety campaign and it is a real deterrent to those motorists who risk the safety of others by choosing to flout traffic regulations. The contraventions will be recorded and a fine issued by post. The expectation is that the safety camera car will lead to a change in motorists' behaviour. Anything which reduces the number of people injured on roads in the borough must be welcomed."

For regular updates regarding the 'Tunbridge Wells is Traffic Aware' campaign, follow '@TWITA_' on Twitter!

Kenward Trust Take Part in 'Safety in Action'

Recently, Kenward Trust took part in delivering 'Safety in Action' (SIA), a multi-agency project aimed at year 6 pupils which raises awareness of subjects including road safety, anti-social behaviour, rail and fire safety. In one scenario, the young people are placed into a staged party/club environment and approached by peers and strangers trying to ply them with alcohol and drugs. SIA gives the pupils a chance to explore these scenarios in a safe environment and learn from mistakes made.



Over 2000 pupils from West Kent attended what was proven to be very memorable and very well received event. Other agencies involved included Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, RNLI, Highways agency, UK Power and Kent County Council.

Kenward have also been involved with the prevention of anti-social behaviour involving youths in the town centre. For more information on Kenward Trust and Kenward Youth Services, please visit www.kenwardtrust.org.uk

Horizon Project vs Kent Police Football Match

On Thursday 5th April, youths from the Horizon Project took on Kent Police in a football battle royale! The aim of the game was to improve relations between the youths and Police. Turnout was excellent, resulting in a few 13-a-side matches, and then a few short games with mixed-up teams. Cllr John Smith refereed the games without fault, which resulted in no disputes, no need for goal-line technology, and no poor sportsmanship.



Everyone was extremely well behaved, including the Police, and a good time was had by all! The matches were a great way to educate the youngsters on their own rights, and the vital roles the Police perform as well as improving many of the youths' negative views towards the Police.

Connect With the Tunbridge Wells CSU!

If you want to get in touch with the Community Safety Unit, perhaps to submit news for the next edition or even just to discuss current issues, you can find us using the following:

- Twitter: @TWBC_Safe
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/twbcsp
- Website: www.tunbridgewellscsu.org.uk