

## Recent Crime Statistics

A year-on-year comparison of crime figures show that in May, the borough of Tunbridge Wells has continued to maintain a steady 9% decrease in crime from the previous year. Domestic burglary has gone down by 5% and Tunbridge Wells has yet again achieved the lowest number of non-domestic burglaries in the county with 290; a reduction of 28%.

Violent crime and criminal damage have both reduced, by 9% and 8% respectively, and we are currently second in Kent for both crime types.

## Road Safety Awareness Events

On the 30<sup>th</sup> May, eleven-year-old Josh White, of Southview Road, led a road safety campaign group at the roadside to encourage drivers to slow down.

The St John's Primary School pupil, who wrote to the Council expressing his concerns about drivers on his road, was joined by family, friends and neighbours at the speed awareness event at which motorists' speeds were checked.

Councillors, police officers and road safety campaign group TWITA (Tunbridge Wells Is Traffic Aware) were in attendance to help co-ordinate the safety event, which was held during the busy school run time.



TWITA were also on hand earlier this month to join Kent Police for a speed-check at Bishop's Down, Tunbridge Wells. The activity, which involved checking cars and providing drivers with road advice, resulted in the issuing of; two speeding fines, one driver awareness course and one seatbelt ticket.

TWITA will be attending more events during July and August; watch the TWITA Twitter (@TWITA\_) for more details.

## A Message from Victim Support

Senior Service Delivery Manager, Maggie Pordage, and her niece, Terriane Caplin, took advantage of a sunny day in March in order to abseil down a building in Maidstone. Between them they raised around £330, and as a bonus, Victim Support is likely to receive a proportion of the total money raised on the day. The dynamic duo are planning a further abseil in Herne Bay in November (thermals may be required!), as well as in Folkestone on 15<sup>th</sup> July.



It's really great to see one of our senior managers prepared to go to these lengths to raise funds for VS, and it would be even better if we could get a team together, staff or volunteers, to take part in something similar in the summer. Do you have any other ideas for fundraising for VS? If you do, why not get a team or two together, and of course, share your ideas with the rest of us by emailing [fundraising@victimsupport.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@victimsupport.org.uk)

## Update from CCTV

During the month of June the CCTV Control room started work on the joint CCTV equipment improvement programme for Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells. The control room is trialling various digital video equipment with an evaluation taking place in July to ascertain the best equipment for the control room.

Throughout June, CCTV monitored 120 live incidents and events and aided in 24 arrests and four Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs). Six of these arrests were instigated by the control room, including several where fights were breaking out and the police were alerted. They also helped locate an individual who was arrested for making hoax bomb calls, and several offenders who were reported via ShopSafe radios after shoplifting in Safe Town members' premises.

## Charlton Athletic Football Sessions

Charlton Athletic Community Trust (CACT) have been successfully running football sessions for 8 to 17 year olds in four areas of Tunbridge Wells over the last month, partially funded by the CSU.

Two 45-minute sessions are run at Rusthall to accommodate the widely different ages – and sizes – of attendees. With the Streetcruizer Youth Bus staffed by KCC Youth Workers, Kenward Trust Substance Misuse Youth Outreach workers, a KCC Warden and the chair of the Parish Council also in attendance, the Thursday evening session is very successful in terms of multi-agency engagement with youngsters.

The Sherwood session is well attended, in particular by children aged 11-13. There are often non-playing children in attendance too, and the KCC Youth Worker and KCC Warden are there to engage with them. The Ramslye session took some time to take off. Primarily attended by younger children, the lower numbers (8-10 youngsters) give the coaches an opportunity to provide some one-to-one coaching during the session.

The two CACT coaches have also reported good attendance and engagement at the Paddock Wood session. The PCSO has turned up to sessions and has even joined in!



## Cleansweep

Firefighters, police officers and council staff are joining up for a day of community safety action in Tunbridge Wells on Friday 13th July.

The multi-agency event is taking place in various venues in the town, aimed at giving residents and trader's key tips on how to keep safe and protect their families, homes and businesses.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service's fire crews will be on hand giving advice on how to be safe from fire in the

home while technical fire safety officers will be giving out information on reducing the risk from fire in commercial premises. Fire Safety Station Manager Martin Bowers said: "We're working very closely with our partners to give the Tunbridge Wells community some key advice and we hope they'll take this opportunity to ask us about all the services available to them."

Meanwhile, the CSU will be at Five Ways from 11am where visitors will find Kent Police giving crime prevention advice alongside the Gateway and representatives from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. Please come along and meet us tell us your concerns and pick up some useful tips on keeping you and your property safe.

## Kent County Council Blows Full-time on Drinking & Driving

Kent County Council road safety team, in partnership with Kent Football Association, are blowing time on drinking and driving this summer with their latest road safety campaign "Don't blow it". The objective is to increase awareness of the issues of drink-driving during the summer months, which is when most drink-driving crashes happen, and that you don't have to be drunk to be dangerous.

According to KCC figures, on average, over the last five years, there have been 21 injury crashes caused by drink-drivers in Kent, every June. Driving or attempting to drive while above the legal limit, or unfit through drink, could lead to a six month prison sentence, together with a fine of up to £5,000 and disqualification from driving for at least 12 months (three years if convicted twice in ten years). Causing death by dangerous driving when under the influence of drink or drugs 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. For more information visit:

[www.kentroadsafety.info/summerdrinkdrive](http://www.kentroadsafety.info/summerdrinkdrive)

