NW NEWS

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West Kent
Watchout
The Voice of the West Kent Neighbourhood Watch Association

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Police dog and handler win national crimefighting award

A retired police dog who started life as a stray has won a national crimefighting award along with his handler.

PC Daniel Carter and PD Boss have been crowned the winners of the "Crimefighting Duo Award" from the Thin Blue Paw Foundation after they were nominated by PC Carter's family.

The award was collected during a ceremony held at The Royal Kennel Club in Mayfair, London, on Tuesday 29 September 2026. The 4 year old German Shepherd joined the force after he was found underweight and unkempt wandering the streets alone in Norfolk in 2023.

PC Carter said: "After he was found, nobody came forward to claim him and due to his high drive and personality, he was put forward as a potential police dog. "He was earmarked to be the spare dog for my initial course, but he immediately showed how good he was and I ended up swapping dogs at week 7. It was the best decision I ever made!"

Sadly, PD Boss was medically retired in June of this year due to degenerative arthritis, but in such a short space of time he demonstrated his ability to be a well natured, loyal family dog who could quickly switch into a reliable, hardworking police dog.

His courage and determination saw him assist in over 100 arrests and successfully track and apprehend numerous suspects. He also became accredited as a Firearms Support Dog after he passed an intensive 3 week course designed to test a dog's control and search ability.

PC Carter said: "The adrenaline you feel when you're running through the darkness at 2am, trusting your dog is taking you the right way and then suddenly finding someone hiding – there is simply no better feeling. One of the best things about being a police dog handler is having your best mate by your side day in day out and trusting each other, keeping each other safe and having a bond that nobody can break.

"He loved all aspects of the police work and he showed time and time again his ability to find and detain suspects, search for property and assist in locating vulnerable people."

In one such incident PD Boss tracked across various terrains before he successfully found a suicidal man at the top of a steep ravine.



Since PD Boss was medically retired, PC Carter has been assigned another dog and is getting to grips with training the new recruit. PD Boss has landed on his paws once again as he now has a new home in the Welsh countryside with PC Carter's parents.



PD Boss.

West Kent Neighbourhood Watch Association AGM

On 15th October 2026 in Sevenoaks Council Offices Mr Peter Rolington the Chairman along with his Committee held a very interesting meeting. Lots of subjects were discussed.

The meeting was also attended by Martyn Tulk who along with his wonderful therapy dogs is part of the Community Policing Team.

Martyn gave a very interesting talk about the work that he and his colleagues do with their therapy dogs.

These wonderful dogs provide support to officers, staff and volunteers, they also support vulnerable persons attending Court who feel they need some reassurance. The service they provide is invaluable.

Helen Showell came along with her therapy dog Marnie, such a calm dog, we could all see how her presence would help someone going through a worrying time.

We would like to thank Martyn and Helen for coming to our AGM and of course giving us the chance to meet Marnie.



Rural officers seize £120,000 worth of property in anti-theft operation

An operation targeting the thefts of agricultural plant and machinery resulted in Kent Police officers seizing £120,000 worth of stolen property.

Rural crime typically increases during autumn and winter as criminals take advantage of the darker evenings to sneak onto farmland and take valuable equipment that does not belong to them.

Across three separate days in late September 2026, officers from the Rural Task Force seized two cars, two vans, two caravans and a horse box that were all believed to have been stolen. They also located two further cars that had been completely stripped for parts including a £40,000 Lexus.

Sergeant Ross Haybourne said: "When criminals steal vehicles and agricultural machinery, they do not often drive them around in plain sight. Instead they load them onto the backs of HGVs and other tall sided vehicles in order to transport them across or outside of the UK undetected.

"As part of our most recent operation we carried out spot checks on hundreds of vehicles to see if there were any stolen goods on board. Whilst the vast majority were carrying legitimate products, we were pleased to locate a number of stolen vehicles that were seized and will now be returned to their rightful owners whilst criminal investigations into the circumstances continue."

The first part of the operation was held at the Port of Dover on 23 and 24 September with support also provided by the National Construction and Agriculture Theft Team (NCATT).

Among the vehicles stopped was a Mercedes Sprinter van that was found to contain the stripped Lexus as well as a stripped Hyundai Ioniq worth around £10,000. The van and the parts were all seized in addition to a Nissan Navara valued at £20,000 and two caravans worth a total of £10,000.

The second part of the operation saw officers patrol rural areas of Ashford, Canterbury and Maidstone on 29 September, where they located and seized a £15,000 Mercedes car and a £16,000 horsebox. The truck that had been transporting the horsebox was also seized as it had not been taxed.

No arrests were made but the details of all drivers were taken and will form part of ongoing criminal investigations.

Sergeant Haybourne said: "Offenders who steal vehicles and machinery from farms or any other location should not feel like they have got away with it if they are not immediately detected, because their crimes will catch up with them in the end.

"Operations like this demonstrate the proactive approach we take to identifying stolen property and preventing it from being exported outside of the UK. It also sends a message to criminals who plan to transport stolen goods throughout Kent and beyond that we look forward to seeing them in the future."

Sergeant Mark Yarrow from the Port of Dover Police said: "Working together with partner agencies such as Kent Police and NCATT is vital in tackling rural crime, particularly cross-border offences involving high-value vehicles and agricultural machinery.

"By sharing intelligence, expertise and resources, we can strengthen our response, better protect rural communities in the county and make the Port of Dover unattractive to criminal networks."



Nissan Navara.



Help to protect your home as the nights draw in

TIPS for AUTUMN

As the clocks change and the evenings get darker earlier, is it time to give your home security a boost? Simple habits like locking doors and windows are a great start.

Did you know?

- Unlocked doors and easily accessible keys can provide opportunities for burglars.
- Timed lights can make your home look occupied when you're away.
- Many burglars look for signs a property is empty, such as uncollected post or rooms that are always dark.

- Lock all doors and windows; check for weakened frames.
- Use security lighting and timers to create the impression someone is at home.
- Always use door chains or cameras to prevent distraction burglaries.
- Consider whether a home alarm could provide extra security for your home.

Mobile Phone Thefts



Police have advised that more mobile phones are being stolen, especially Samsung phones, which apparently are the ones thieves prefer nowadays.

Police are asking people to be extra vigilant, don't leave your phone lying around on tables especially in cafes . . . please don't have your bank cards tucked in your mobile phone case. This will cause you more distress if they are also stolen. The thieves may even use your cards before you have had time to contact your bank to cancel them. Dialling 159 can connect you to your bank.

Also make a note of your phones IMEI number . . . to find that, dial on your phone *#06#. Your screen will then display your code, keep a copy of this in a safe place, in case the worst happens and your phone is stolen. Report the theft to the police and your mobile provider immediately.

I believe there are ways that you can track your phones movements, if you can activate that, you may be able to track where your phone is.

Visit to Tonbridge House Care Home

Tonbridge Community Safety Unit now renamed Neighbourhood Policing Team, visited Tonbridge House Care Home in September.

The residents and the staff were delighted to speak to the Police Officers and also enjoyed trying on some of their equipment, with one resident not wanting to give back the helmet he tried on but we have to add he did look very smart in it. Some of the residents were able to sit in the police car, while others tried on the handcuffs.

The visit by the police team was great fun for the residents. Many thanks go once again to Pc Jack Bridger, Pc Phil Burns and Pc Bobby Hills and the rest of the team who attended that day.











Kent anglers in winning England team at Five Nations competition

Kent Police anglers were part of the winning England team in the Five Nations fishing competition.

Mark Edgson Wright, Rob Price and Neil Attwood had won through to represent England as part of a 14 man team against the other home countries at Rutland on 10th September.

The England team won the two-day competition, beating Wales and Scotland who came second and third respectively, followed by the two Irish teams.

Mark was also top England rod – with 13 fish – and third as an individual out of 70 fishermen.

The event was organised by Rob who is National Secretary of the EPFFA (England Police Fly Fishing Association).

Mark said: "Rob has spent weeks organising the event for over 70 anglers from across the UK and EIRE, both for the accommodation, food and fishing access, which all went exceptionally smoothly and thankfully trouble and accident free."

The team managed two days practice at Rutland Water followed by the competition.

Mark said: "come match day, much of our best laid plans went out the window, as the wind had changed direction and increased speed, which as we are in drifting boats, meant a readjustment of tactics. However, we adapted well, and at the end of the weigh-in on match day, the results were most positive.

"Our England team won the competition with 99 fish, much to the disappointment of Wales and Scotland who both had very strong teams"

The combined positions of the top two rods in nationals and internationals are recognised, with Mark awarded the Gwilyn Hughes Trophy in second place, which has also promoted him in the Police GB team for next year.



Safety reminder issued following reports of fraudsters posing as police

Residents are reminded to be alert to fraud, following reports that criminals posing as police officers have been cold-calling people to ask for money.

On Thursday 1 October 2026, several members of the public reported receiving phone calls from people claiming to be from the police.

Victims reported that in some instances, the number shown falsely appeared to be a Kent Police number, while others were told that a named officer was calling from a station in Kent, they were given a reference number and even provided with a false email address for the victim to contact.

The fraudsters provided false claims that the person's passport or personal details were being used in crime and – as part of an investigation – requests for money were made.

Two victims reported losing money after being conned into giving details of their crypto accounts including seed phrases, which are similar to passwords and can be used to access crypto wallets.

Enquiries into the reports are ongoing, as officers work to identify offenders.

Crime Prevention Advice

- Kent Police officers will never ask people to transfer money as part of an investigation.
- Never give personal information in response to an incoming call, particularly if the caller is asking you to do something that will affect you financially, including any personal bank information.
- If you have a crypto currency wallet or account, never confirm details and always keep your seed phrase secret.
- If you receive such a call, end it immediately. Wait five minutes for the phone line to clear, or use a different number, to contact the police to report the incident.

Remember the ABC rule to help protect yourself and others against fraud – never Assume someone is telling the truth, never Believe what they say unless you are confident that they are who they say they are, and always Confirm the details they have provided.

Anyone with information that may assist enquiries should call 01622 604100, quoting reference 02-1045. Anybody who believes they have received one of these fake calls can report it on 101 or via our website at https://www.kent.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us-beta/contact-us/report-crime-incident-suspicion/.

You can also contact Report Fraud on 0300 1232040 or report suspicious activity online by visiting their website at https://www.reportfraud.police.uk/.

Chairmans Message

As we approach Christmas, it is worth remembering that the underlying principle of Neighbourhood Watch is simply looking out for one another.

Whether that means checking on a neighbour, sharing information about issues they should be aware of, or helping to protect one another against traditional crime and the ever-increasing threat of cybercrime, we all have a part to play in keeping our communities safe.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank you for your continued support and wish you and your families a safe, peaceful and enjoyable Christmas, and a very happy New Year.

Best wishes.
Peter Rolington, Chairman, West Kent Neighbourhood Watch.

Amnesty Day, November 11th 2026

When you go home tell them of us and say, for their tomorrow we gave our today.



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Other Useful Numbers

Tonbridge & Malling Crime Reduction Unit
– Tel: 01732 844522

Tunbridge Wells Crime Reduction Unit
– Tel: 01892 526121

Kent Trading Standards **– Tel: 03454 040506**

Sevenoaks Community Safety Partnership
– Tel: 01732 227000
community.safety@sevenoaks.gov.uk.

Tonbridge & Malling Community Safety Partnership
– Tel: 01732 844522 *csp@tmbc.gov.uk.*

Tunbridge Wells Community Safety Partnership
– Tel: 01892 526121
communitysafety@tunbridgewells.gov.uk.

BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE

Text 61016 to report non-emergency incidents on trains or on the tube. Dial 0800 405040 to give more information. A 999 call is guaranteed a quick response. For Crimestoppers dial 0800 555 111.

e-watch.co

There have been problems recently with members not receiving e-watch's twice weekly reports. If you are experiencing problems receiving e-watch updates, please remember that past issues can be found on the e-watch.co website at: https://www.e-watch.co.

Make a note

When contacting the Police in West Kent

Emergency only 999

Kent Police 101

Is for reporting non-urgent crime, suspicious incidents or to contact your Neighbourhood Policing Team. Calls to both these numbers are free.

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