

Guston, Kingsdown and St Margaret's newsletter



Kent Police

Get the latest crime statistics by visiting: www.kent.police.uk/yourarea

November 2024

Contacting Kent Police

Please remember in an emergency **always dial 999**

For any non-emergency enquiries please visit the Kent Police website where you can:

- Submit an online report of a crime or other incident
- Use our "Live Chat" function
- Contact Crime Stoppers
- Follow links to our Social Media platforms including Twitter and Facebook
- Find information about Crime Prevention and our Partners
- Call 101



Community engagement

- Friday 6th December 1100 – 1300 hours at Tides Leisure Centre
- Monday 16th December 1300 – 1630 hours at Deal Library with DDC
- Tuesday 17th December 1300 – 1500 hours at Marke Wood with DDC Community Roots Van
- Friday 20th December 1100 – 1300 hours at Tides Leisure Centre

Your local Neighbourhood Police Officer
PC 12757 Sophie Bramble

What is StreetSafe?

As part of the government's agenda to tackle violence against women and girls, we are using a new online tool called StreetSafe to enable people, particularly women and girls, to report locations where they feel or have felt unsafe and to identify the features on why that location made them feel unsafe.

The focus of this is to identify particular areas and factors that lead to people feeling unsafe and might help offenders either commit or conceal a crime – such as street lighting, abandoned buildings or poorly designed spaces, vandalism, as well as behaviours of individuals or groups of people.

StreetSafe is anonymous [StreetSafe](https://www.street-safe.com/) | [Police.uk](https://www.police.uk/) (www.police.uk)



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Suspect charged with vehicle thefts

A suspect has appeared in court charged with multiple offences relating to thefts of and from cars on the Dover District.

Between Sunday 17 and Tuesday 19 November 2024, Kent Police received a number of reports of vehicle interference. Some vehicles were stolen, and personal items taken from inside other cars.

Two men were arrested by investigating officers on Tuesday 19 November.

Charges

Mitchell Gent has since been charged with theft of a motor vehicle in relation to a Volkswagen and an Audi stolen on Sunday 17 and Monday 18 November. He is also charged with theft from a motor vehicle relating to two incidents on Monday 18 November and vehicle interference on the same day.

The 26-year-old of Freeman's Way, Deal, appeared before Thanet Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 20 November and was remanded in custody to appear again on Wednesday 11 December. The second man arrested as part of the investigation has been bailed pending further enquiries.

Appeal

Anyone with information, or further victims yet to report offences, should call Kent Police on 01843 222289 quoting reference 46/ZY/19673/24. You can also contact Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555 111 or complete the online form.

Motorists are advised to ensure their cars are locked, parked in well-lit areas covered by CCTV where possible, and not to leave anything in vehicles, particularly not to leave anything on show.



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Drink and Drug Driving

Motorists are being reminded of the dangers of drink and drug driving in the run-up to Christmas

Kent Police is supporting a national campaign between 1 December 2024 and 1 January 2025 aimed at reducing the number of people killed and seriously injured in road traffic collisions.

Driving under the influence of drink or drugs is one of the 'fatal factors' that put motorists most at risk along with speeding, being distracted at the wheel (e.g. by a mobile phone) and not wearing a seatbelt.

Any driver who commits a moving traffic offence can expect to be breathalysed or tested for drugs, with support provided by officers from across the force including volunteers from the Special Constabulary.

Regular patrols

Officers from the Roads Policing Unit will also be carrying out regular traffic patrols and stopping any vehicles they believe may be being driven by someone under the influence.

Chief Inspector Craig West, Head of Roads Policing, said:

'Drinking alcohol or taking drugs before getting behind the wheel is an incredibly reckless and irresponsible thing to do and there is simply no excuse for it. Hundreds of people across the UK needlessly die every year following collisions in which either they or the driver of another vehicle has been under the influence of drink or drugs, and we are fully supportive of Kent's Vision Zero strategy to bring this number as close to zero as possible in our county. Kent's roads are very busy during the festive period as more people go Christmas shopping or out to socialise with friends, family and colleagues. Please remember to act responsibly, do not put yourself and others at risk, and leave your car at home if you are planning to have a drink.'

During last Christmas' campaign a total of 392 people were arrested in Kent for drink and/or drug driving.

Anyone convicted of such an offence risks receiving a minimum one-year driving ban, an unlimited fine and up to six months in prison. Anyone who causes a death due to being under the influence of drink and drugs could be jailed for life.

[Alcohol and drug driving | Kent Police](#)



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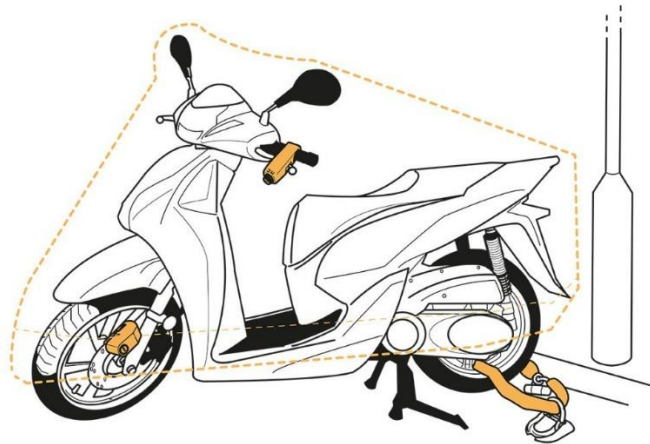
November 2024

Protect your motorcycle, moped or scooter from theft

Police have received reports of motorcycle thefts in the Walmer area. Thieves only need a matter of seconds to steal a moped, scooter or motorcycle - especially if they are left with poor security - but our tips will help reduce the chance of theft.

Lock, chain, cover

Reduce your risk of becoming a victim by taking steps to layer your security.



Lock Use a disc lock to help secure the front brake disc, or a grip lock to secure the brake and throttle controls. You could also use a D lock on the front wheel to stop it being wheeled away.

Chain Thieves often steal a bike by breaking the steering lock and wheeling it away. Use a chain lock through the back wheel (the front wheel can be removed). Secure your bike, with the lock taut to an immovable object such as a ground anchor or street furniture. This will stop thieves from cutting a lock trailing on the ground using an angle grinder. If this isn't possible, thread the chain through your bike frame and back wheel.

Cover Thieves often 'shop' for particular bike models. Using a cover instantly makes it less attractive to them. A cover also provides another time-consuming obstacle for the thief.



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Unfortunately, security measures can't guarantee your bike won't be stolen but, by using multiple security measures, you can make it harder and less attractive for thieves.

For security products for your scooter, motorcycle or moped search the 'Accredited products' page on [Secured by Design](#) (a police-approved website).

Remove the keys

Thieves are often opportunists and so they will look for bikes that are quick and easy to steal first.

- Always use the steering lock and remove the ignition keys, even if you are close by or away for a few minutes. It only takes a few seconds for a thief so don't make it easy for them.
- Never rely on just using your steering lock to secure your bike as thieves can break the steering lock and simply wheel the bike away.

Fitting an alarm can be a deterrent to thieves

- Consider fitting a Thatcham-rated 1 or 2 alarm system with tracking, immobilisation, anti-grab and movement sensors can help protect and trace your vehicle.
- A quality Thatcham approved, professionally fitted alarm system will not only put off thieves but could also reduce your insurance premiums.

Property mark the parts

- Marking as much of your bike as possible will make it more difficult for criminals to sell parts on, and therefore less attractive to steal. It will also help police identify parts and return recovered stolen bikes. There are a range of bike marking providers that you can use.

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When at home the best place to keep your motorcycle, moped or scooter is in your garage or shed

- Fit a garage door defender or upgrade garage door locks.
- Garage and shed alarms as well as low level dusk to dawn lighting will also enhance security. Fitting a ground anchor also provides extra security.
- Motorcycle lockers are also available to store your bike at home.

[Find out more about shed and garage security.](#)

- Park it in an area near to your home where it's well overlooked with good lighting.

If your bike is stolen, never put yourself at risk. Call police immediately on [999](tel:999) if you see it being stolen or [report a crime online](#) if you discover it has gone.



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Report a phishing attempt

Cyber criminals use fake messages as bait to lure you into clicking on the links within their scam email or text message, or to give away sensitive information (such as bank details).

These messages may look like the real thing but are malicious. Once clicked, you may be sent to a dodgy website which could download viruses onto your computer or steal your passwords.

Have you spotted a suspicious email?

If you have received an email which you're not quite sure about, forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS): report@phishing.gov.uk

[Further information on how to report suspicious emails, and what to do if you think you've responded to a scam email.](#)

Have you received a suspicious text message?

Most phone providers are part of a scheme that allows customers to report suspicious text messages for free by forwarding it to **7726**.

If you forward a text to **7726**, your provider can investigate the origin of the text and arrange to block or ban the sender if it's found to be malicious.

[Further information on how to report suspicious text messages, and what to do if you think you've responded to a scam text.](#)

Have you received a suspicious phone call?

Phone scammers will call you unsolicited, pretending to be from an organisation you trust, such as your bank or the police.

These scam calls may be automated, or from a real person. They may ask you for your personal information like banking details or tell you that you need to transfer money.

If you've lost money or have been hacked as a result of responding to a call, you should report it:

In England, Wales or Northern Ireland, [report it online](#) or by calling 0300 123 2040.

[Report a phishing attempt](#) | [Action Fraud](#)

[29112024 - Updated Kent Fraud Alert System.pdf](#)

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Electric Scooters – know the law

Although e-scooters can be great fun, it's **against the law** to ride one on a public road, cycle lane or pavement. Please share this information with friends and family.

E-scooters are classed as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs), which means they are treated as motor vehicles and subject to the same legal requirements, such as driving licence, insurance, number plates, lighting, road tax, crash helmets etc. **Without these, e-scooters cannot be used legally on the road.**

The Government is currently trialling the use of approved rental e-scooters as environmentally friendly modes of transport in some specific locations in the UK.

For the rest of the country, under current law, e-scooters can only be used on private land with the landowner's permission.

It's our priority to keep you and other road users safe.

We are obliged to take action against anyone who is caught repeatedly using an e-scooter illegally or in a way that causes a nuisance to others. In these circumstances we have the power to seize the e-scooter under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act/165 of the Road Traffic Act – and we'd really prefer not to.

For more information about powered transporters and the law, visit www.gov.uk



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