

# Lewes District Prevention Team Community Newsletter

September-December 2019



**September** saw this year's second installment of Operation Sceptre; a week long national campaign from the 16th of September to the 22nd, aimed to tackle the danger that knife crime can pose by educating those most at risk, and carrying out proactive work that takes knives off of our streets.

Sussex saw a host of tactics and targeted action, including the testing of shops selling knives to under 18's, an increase in stop and searches; both conducted to tackle the issues on the ground, as well as offering parents and carers of young children guidance on the behaviours associated with knife crime and what signs to look out for.



Youth Prevention Officers visited local schools and colleges across the Lewes district, in order to inform and educate young people about how to act if they felt pressured into carrying a knife, and what to do if they ever feel in danger.

Officers promoted and raised awareness of knife crime; where support and advice was offered to students and parents via drop in talk sessions. Take home child and parent leaflets designed to give officers an opportunity to educate them on the dangers of carrying knives and the consequences we also given out.

Youth Officers and officers from Lewes Prevention also attended local youth groups, and youth clubs across the Lewes district, giving talks on offensive weapons, and offering 1-1 advice to attendees during the week to those who wanted to talk in private to officers about knife crime and their experiences.

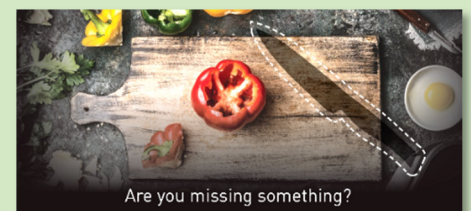


Throughout the week, local teams also took to the roads, parking up along seafronts, play parks and supermarkets, speaking to parents/carers, offering advice on possible signs to look out for should they suspect a child in their care to be carrying a knife.

Knife sweeps were also conducted across open park areas, and community grounds around the Lewes district. Volunteers from the community worked alongside the Police and local Council to sweep grounds for hidden knives or articles; during the week a handful of weapons were found in the sweeps, and were all safely destroyed.

During the week knives and weapons were also handed in across Lewes and Seahaven, in Police front office knife amnesty bins.

Our no questions asked knife amnesty bins are located all year round at Lewes, Newhaven, and Seaford, opening hours Monday to Friday 1000-1400, where you can hand in unwanted or unused knives for them to be safely destroyed.



## Community engagement throughout September and October

PCSOs are on the frontline of policing – out and about on the streets, talking to people, building relationships and understanding local issues.



Attending volunteer groups, community days, local schools and coffee mornings held in your communities; gives officers a real insight into the issues faced by residents.

It is also an opportunity to reach out to residents and vulnerable community members in the comfort of familiar environments, to discuss an array of topics; sometimes of a sensitive nature.

These include keeping safe from scams, protecting themselves from romance frauds, along with providing valuable crime prevention advice to discuss and share with family and friends.

Throughout the Autumn months, PCSOs from the Lewes district attended many community groups including; Chailey Village Hall, Cuckmere SpeedWatch groups, Firlle ploughing match, the Clinton Centre Seaford, Lewes Footpaths Group, Chailey Schools Careers fare, Wivelsfield Village Hall, and Lewes Leisure Centre.



Do you run a local group, coffee morning or drop in session in your community and feel you'd benefit from a PCSO popping in to offer crime prevention advice or support? Please get in touch: [lewes@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:lewes@sussex.pnn.police.uk)

**September** also saw officers from Lewes Prevention team organise free bicycle and scooter marking events across the district, following a spate of bicycle thefts reported earlier in the Summer months.

A total of 3 part-day events were held in skate parks and play areas in Lewes and Newhaven; offering children, young adults and parents the opportunity to have their property security marked and registered to help protect their property against theft.

If you couldn't make any of these events, we hope to do similar events again in the future and dates and venues will be published via our social media and the community messaging service In the Know, [www.intheknow.community/](http://www.intheknow.community/)

In the mean time you can visit [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) and register your property with the UK's National Property Database, or with [www.bikeregister.com](http://www.bikeregister.com), the UK's national, Police approved, bicycle marking and registration scheme.

Ultraviolet marking pens are also available to purchase online or certain shops to assist in marking your items.





**September** saw Officers and staff from Lewes Prevention teams, including staff from restorative justice and Prevention Support, attend the Laughton and District Agricultural Society's annual ploughing match this year held at Place Farm, in Firle.

As well as bringing the Sussex Police engagement van to facilitate informal discussions, crime recording and crime prevention advice, the team also raised awareness of current rural district priorities, such as heritage crime and rural burglaries.

It was also an opportunity for Lewes PCSOs Fenn and Stainer to introduce themselves to, and meet local farmers and residents to hear about their concerns, as well a chance to share information from their enhanced rural patrols, and learn from locals where issues are most prominent- PCSOs Fenn and Stainer are both responsible for patrolling our more rural villages, including Ditching, Newick, Plumpton, Wivesfied, Chailey and Cooksbridge, where a more visible presence has been given in recent months.

You can read more about rural, and heritage crime, and also obtain valuable rural crime prevention advice here: [www.sussex.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rc/rural-crime/](http://www.sussex.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rc/rural-crime/)

**September** also saw the Home Office launch their campaign – Be a force for all – helping to recruit an additional 20,000 police officers across England and Wales.

Chief Constable Giles York, Deputy Chief Constable Jo Shiner and Police and Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne welcomed the Minister of State for Crime, Policing and the Fire Service, Mr Malthouse to Police Headquarters Lewes. Mr Malthouse spent time meeting new recruits - including 72 trainee police officers and 18 apprentice PCSOs - and seeing first-hand how we've accelerated police officer recruitment to its highest levels in a decade.

Sussex has major cities, ports, rural villages and an international airport. There is a lot of ground to cover - To do it well, we need people from different backgrounds with diverse skills and experience.

#### Could this be you?

You can sign up to recruitment alerts and view our current careers here: [www.sussex.police.uk/police-forces/sussex-police/areas/careers/jobs/](http://www.sussex.police.uk/police-forces/sussex-police/areas/careers/jobs/)



**September** saw the launch of both PCSO and Contact Officer recruitment opportunities open across Sussex, with a high response received to both.



All new PCSO recruits will join Sussex Police as part of our new 12-month apprenticeship programme, giving them all the best possible training.

Upon successful completion, all new recruits will achieve a Level 4 Diploma in Community Policing Practice - which is the equivalent to a Higher National Certificate (HNC), foundation degree or the first year of an undergraduate degree.

To read more about our PCSO roles, and register your interest for future recruitment drives, please visit our website [www.sussex.police.uk/police-forces/sussex-police/areas/careers/jobs/pcsos/](http://www.sussex.police.uk/police-forces/sussex-police/areas/careers/jobs/pcsos/) or send an email our recruitment team at [recruitment@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:recruitment@sussex.pnn.police.uk)

## September - October Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Owing to youth related ASB in areas of the Lewes district; in particular Newhaven, increased ASB patrols were put in place during September, along with a number of dispersal orders issued aimed at deterring and curbing youth related ASB and disorder.

A dispersal order, known as a section 35, provides police officers and PCSOs with the powers to disperse those who are causing significant and persistent ASB.

The order also requires them to leave the area and not return for up to 24 hours; in order to remove or reduce the likelihood of members of the public becoming “harassed, alarmed or distressed” or “the occurrence of crime or disorder taking place” in a particular area.

Enquiries and high visibility police patrols continued throughout September, and into October; with arrests being made in relation to crime and disorder in the town as a result, with work continuing with police and partner agencies to ensure individuals are dealt with and managed accordingly.

Our ongoing work also includes; visiting youth groups and clubs, sharing literature around knife crime, ASB, and providing information on local groups and activities for teens and young adults in the community, as part of our early intervention approach to help deter youngsters from crime and disorder.



Whilst we continue to direct patrols to known areas of ASB to prevent further occurrences; no one knows your neighbourhood quite like you do - ASB in our district will not be tolerated, if you have any concerns within your local community around ASB, please report it to us by either calling 101, emailing [101@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:101@sussex.pnn.police.uk), or visiting our website [www.sussex.police.uk](http://www.sussex.police.uk)

Alternatively you can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111, or online at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org).

Your reports help to form designated patrols and assist your Prevention team in intervening early to help prevent ASB and crime and disorder in your towns and villages.

**Remember** if an offence is occurring, or there is an immediate danger to you or those around you, **always call 999**.

## Operation Blitz – Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in your local communities.



Operation Blitz is a designated ASB patrol, and an on-going drive each Friday and Saturday night (between 6pm and midnight), in which officers from the Lewes district Prevention team take to the streets in areas which have seen an increase in ASB crimes, or youth related ASB, along with areas which have come to attention from community reports over the week.

From 1800-0000, you can call officers on a designated phone number should you witness or become victim of any ASB, or youth related ASB. The contact number for the Lewes areas (which covers all rural towns north of Lewes, right down through the coast including Peacehaven, Newhaven and Seaford) is: **07989 188960**.

Outside of these times, please continue to report ASB to us on 101, email [101@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:101@sussex.pnn.police.uk) or report online on the newly designed ASB reporting form: [www.sussex.police.uk/ro/report/asb/af/antisocial-behaviour/](http://www.sussex.police.uk/ro/report/asb/af/antisocial-behaviour/)

You can find out weekly where officers have been, by signing up to a weekly ASB report sent directly from the Blitz team by visiting [www.intheknow.community/](http://www.intheknow.community/) and signing up to news and alerts from Lewes Police.



**September** saw Officers across Sussex support 'Project EDWARD' which is aimed at reducing the number of fatal and serious collisions on our roads by raising awareness of road safety.

It is run by TISPOL, the European Traffic Police network, and took place on Thursday 26 September, with the aim to have zero fatal collisions on the roads across Europe. With an ultimate goal to improve road safety for the longer term, by sharing key messages around speeding, drink and drug driving, and reminding drivers to adjust their driving in different weather and road conditions.

Members from Community SpeedWatch (CSW) groups were supported by PCSOs from Lewes Prevention, and took to areas across the district to support Tispol's messages.

**CSW groups included:**

- Plumpton Parish CSW, who stationed up at Woodgate Meadow and West Gate.
- Halland Lewes CSW who stationed up on Heathfield Road, Halland.
- Saltdean CSW who stationed along Longhill Road, Ovingdean

In 2018 in Sussex, a total of 5,060 injury collisions were reported to police; of which, 43 were fatal and a further 958 resulted in serious injuries.



**October** saw an extended invitation from Superintendent Chris Veale to members of the community to attend a Victims Advisory Group at Lewes Police and Fire Headquarters in Malling.

The newly created Victim Advisory Group chaired by Superintendent Veale; who is the Sussex Police lead on victim service, saw residents, Police and community members come together to help play a role in reviewing some of the services that we provide, and act in a consultative capacity to discuss future ideas.

Examples of the work the group has assisted with already includes: Reviewing a public communication campaign, and feeding into a development and training programme for serving Police Officers.

If you have reported a crime this year, and would like to express your interest in taking part in our Victims Advisory Group, we meet 3 times a year, please express your interest via email to: [yourvoice.counts@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:yourvoice.counts@sussex.pnn.police.uk)

**October** also saw a week of activities across Sussex and local areas to support National Hate Crime Awareness Week.

A hate crime is when someone commits a crime against you because of your disability, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, religion, or any other perceived difference - incidents may involve a physical attack, damage to property, bullying, harassment, verbal abuse, insults or online abuse.

Locally, teams shared their experiences and reached out to members of the community via social media, as well as on the ground, to explain the types of hate crime victims can face - Hate crime can fall into one of 4 main types; physical and verbal assault, criminal damage, and incitement to hatred (where someone acts in a way that is threatening and intended to stir up hate).



If it happens to you, you might be tempted to shrug it off, but if you tell us, we can investigate and stop it from getting worse – either for you or someone else - Remember it's not just victims who can report hate crime, witnesses are vital and can play their part too by reporting any incidents seen. Support is also available by contacting your local Citizens Advice, [Safe Space Sussex](#), [True Vision](#) or by getting in touch with [Victim Support](#) - **Being different is not a crime, being victimised because of it is.**

## Community engagement and patrols throughout September and October continued.

PCSOs play a key part of your local policing service - working alongside and supporting police officer colleagues in solving local problems.

Not only by working closely with young people and local schools, speaking to community, religious and business leaders, providing crime prevention advice, and reassuring the public; but in also addressing local issues by getting out into towns and villages across the district on high visibility foot patrols, gathering intelligence, meeting people and offering advice and support to members of the public.



## What follows is just a snapshot of some of our Lewes District Prevention team patrols these past few months:

- PCSO Turvey spent time with victims of bike thefts in Peacehaven to help pull together bike marking events in the town in early September.
- PCSO Willson continued to patrol Barcombe and assist local SpeedWatch members with their activities.
- Additional patrols by the Prevention team took place across the coast following youth related ASB towards the end of the Summer, with patrols and work still ongoing through Newhaven, Peacehaven and Seaford.
- The team joined SpeedWatch members in Seaford after concerns from residents of speeding around the A259 Eastbourne Road, to help gather information for problem solving profiles the team have been working on.
- PCSO Turvey continued his work around Lewes and Newhaven skate parks, targeting youth related ASB and offering events to groups to deter them from crime and disorder.
- PCSO Fenn met with local shop owners in Newhaven to discuss business security and safety.
- Patrols continued around the Landport Estate with PCSO Willson taking the lead on a problem solving profile involving local young adults causing issues in the area.
- Following graffiti and criminal damage in areas of Lewes, PCSO McNirlan upped her patrols around the town, late September, and conducted house to house enquiries in areas affected.
- The team increased their patrols around Lewes town centre and Southover following reports of criminal damage to vehicles.
- Late evening, and early night patrols continued to take place in Ringmer following residents' concerns around drug use and problem youths.
- Coastal PCSOs Nicholson and Marchant worked ever closely with NeighbourHood first and local partners in Newhaven to tackle concerns from residents around youth related disorder following recent events in the town centre.
- PCSO Willson joined members of the Ditchling Community SpeedWatch group early October to support national campaigns, and to address concerns about speeding through the village.
- Local scammers targeted residents of Seaford in October, as a result PCSO Turvey joined forces with NatWest community bankers to offer a scam talks, and scam advice drop in sessions at supermarkets in Seaford.
- Rural PCSOs Stainer and Fenn helped raise awareness of rural crime, and spoke to residents in our rural villages, including Newick and Chailey following shed breaks to farm properties mid-October, whilst PCSO Willson took to the streets of Plumpton and Cooksbridge sharing crime prevention advice on rural break ins and farm security.



**October** saw a week of activities across Sussex raising awareness of Rural Crime, and marking a year since the launch of Sussex Police's Rural Crime Strategy (which can be found here:

[www.sussex.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/sussex/about-us/priorities-and-direction/sussex-police-rural-crime-strategy.pdf](http://www.sussex.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/sussex/about-us/priorities-and-direction/sussex-police-rural-crime-strategy.pdf))

To mark the launch of Rural Crime Awareness Week, some of the new Rural Crime PCSOs were joined on their first training day at Black Cap Farm in Lewes by Deputy Chief Constable Jo Shiner, Police and Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne and National Farming Union rep, Romy Jackson.

The six trainees, who are all experienced PCSOs, will be based in local districts across Sussex, where they will be dedicated to tackling rural crime and issues affecting those communities such as machinery theft, livestock worrying and poaching; with specialist training these new dedicated Rural Crime PCSOs can provide isolated rural communities with the specific support they need.



During the awareness raising week, Lewes district PCSOs Willson and Stainer took to villages across the district, including Plumpton, Chailey, Wivelsfield, Newick and Barcombe, to offer support and raise awareness to farm owners and rural residents in areas that may not have access to a local Police station or Police contact point, to pass on valuable crime prevention advice and safeguarding techniques to help keep their properties, machinery, livestock and outbuildings safe from theft and criminal damage.

**There are a variety of things you can do to protect your property, land and livestock, follow our rural crime prevention advice below:**

### **Equipment and tool security**

- Lock equipment away in a secure building or part of a building when not in use, and install a burglar alarm on buildings where equipment is kept - mark your tools and equipment and register them with [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)
- Always lock farm vehicles when left outside and keep expensive items and vehicles out of sight when not in use
- Consider using hitch locks, wheel clamps or ground anchors

### **Estate and building security**

- Keep the boundaries of your land and property well-maintained and secure
- Keep all doors and windows shut and locked when not in use, and make sure windows and door frames are secure and in good repair with good quality window locks
- Fit strong locks to sheds, garages and outbuildings, or consider security bars and grilles for vulnerable windows
- Use locking posts or temporary obstructions to control wide access points to yards
- Establish a single gated entrance and exit, removing all private access points that are not in use

### **Protect your land**

- Look closely at the perimeter to ensure it is as secure as possible
- Consider using large tree trunks, rocks, ditching and earth mounds around boundaries to prevent access
- Restrict vehicle access by digging deep ditches
- Keep unused land maintained and free from litter and other waste

### **Livestock theft**

- Make regular checks of the fields where animals are kept to check that fences haven't been breached
- Use ear tags, horn brands, freeze marking or tattooing to make your animals more easily identifiable
- Keep your hedges, fences and gates in good repair: field gate hinges should have capping hinges so they can't be removed easily; cattle grids should be removable and locked out of position when they're not in use; use locking posts to obstruct large openings to yards



**November** sees the PCSO Model changing, with additional numbers and a named PCSO for geographical areas.

Announced earlier last month; along with an extra 100 PCSOs in Sussex by March 2020, the way PCSOs will be deployed across Sussex will start to change from **Monday 4 November**.

The new way of working will give every PCSO responsibility for a defined geographic area and every community in Sussex will have a named PCSO over the coming months. PCSOs will be assigned a primary geographic area of responsibility, based on established Wards or Electoral Division boundaries - This decision complements on-going plans to strengthen local policing and also improve how the public can contact the police.

Having our PCSOs working to dedicated areas will mean greater visible policing across every part of Sussex while continuing to form part of wider local prevention teams, ensuring finite police resources are focused on the most critical issues; in addition to working even closer with our partners and voluntary organisations to solve specific local issues in your towns and villages.



The new posts are being recruited throughout the financial year with intakes of 18 in July 2019, 36 in September 2019, and 72 training over two intakes in January and March 2020 under the PCSO apprenticeship scheme, means that communities will soon start to see and feel a difference as these roles are deployed to strengthen local policing.

(With natural attrition the force should achieve the target of 296 PCSOs by March 2020, though the last cohort will be in training and not deployable until the end of next summer).

**A list of geographical areas and named PCSOs will be updated on the Sussex Police website [www.sussex.police.uk](http://www.sussex.police.uk), and at [www.police.uk/sussex](http://www.police.uk/sussex), from Monday 4 November.**

### **December Drink Drug Drive Campaign – Operation Dragonfly.**

December the 1st will see our yearly operation to educate, combat and raise awareness of the dangers of drink and or drug-driving this festive season – Last year a total of 240 drivers were arrested in Sussex during the December month long campaign.

Each year local teams take to the roads in and around your towns to help keep you safe and target those who still each year, continue to ignore the dangers of drink or drug driving.

In addition to checks 365 days a year, we have an increased focus around Summer and Christmas, with details of people convicted as part of the campaign being published on our website.

Those prepared to drive under the influence of drink or drugs, should also be prepared to face the consequences; these could include:

A minimum 12 month ban, an unlimited fine, a possible prison sentence, a criminal record; which could affect your current and future employment, an increase in your car insurance, and may encounter troubles travelling to countries such as the USA.

If you suspect someone of drink or drug-driving, you can text officers on 65999 with the details including vehicle registration, locations, descriptions and times, not just over the Christmas period but all year around, or visit the Operation Crackdown website [www.operationcrackdown.org/](http://www.operationcrackdown.org/)

**If you know someone is driving while over the limit or after taking drugs, always call 999.**





**Christmas** – Christmas is a time for giving...but sadly for taking, too!

We're working hard over Christmas to keep you and your family safe, but here are a few simple steps you can take to protect your home, presents and loved ones this festive season.

**When you are out shopping please remember:**

- Keep valuables in inside coat pockets or internal zips in bags to prevent pickpockets
- Only carry the cash you need, do not carry large amounts with you
- Avoid going back to your car to drop off presents part way through your trip, if you do keep presents in the car ensure they are well out of sight and the car/boot is locked

**When you're out in the evening:**

- Never leave your valuables unattended in public areas
- Avoid walking home alone in the dark, and never with someone that you do not know
- Drink responsibly, never drink and drive, arrange for a taxi or a designated driver for the evening

**When you are at home:**

- Don't leave presents under your Christmas tree if they are visible from windows or doors
- Never keep large amounts of cash at home
- Check you have adequate home insurance to cover high value items
- Make sure your home looks occupied, leave a light on or a timer light or radio playing

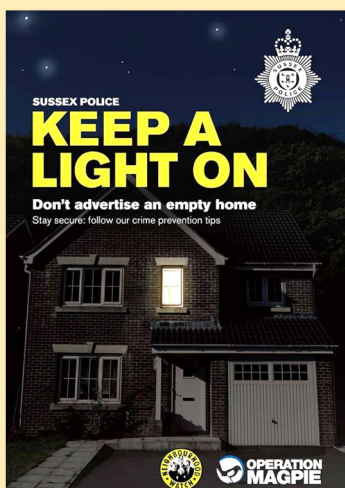
**After Christmas:**

- Avoid becoming an easy target for post-holiday burglars/robbers by not leaving boxes for new electronics and other items outside your wheelie bin; break down boxes, and remove labels before putting inside a wheelie bin
- Register your newly gifted items with your home insurance provider and with property registering websites such as [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) - if your valuables are stolen it will allow you to tell the police, your insurer and second-hand traders to assist in recovering your property and catch the thieves.



**Winter months** - Operation Magpie - Winter burglary awareness advice.

With the nights now drawn in and people gearing up Christmas, it the perfect opportunity for burglars to spot empty homes and target valuable items.



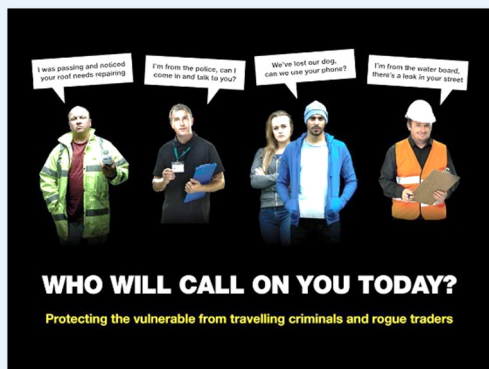
**Follow our top tips to keep you and your property safe:**

- Leave a light on, or leave a radio or music device on to give the impression someone is home
- Always check you have closed all windows and doors before going out
- Consider security lighting or motion sensor lighting, or a use a light timer when out
- Use home security apps on your phone to set light timers, or consider installing an indoor camera which can be monitored or controlled from your mobile phone.
- Don't advertise an empty home via social media

To help protect yourself this Winter, please read our crime prevention advice online: [www.sussex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/residential-burglary/](http://www.sussex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/residential-burglary/)

**Winter months** – Rogue traders come in all shapes and sizes, and at all times of the year.

This winter follow our top tips for keeping you and those around you safe from fraud and scams.



- Be suspicious of all 'too good to be true' offers and deals
- Don't agree to offers or deals immediately. Insist on time to get independent or legal advice before making a decision
- Don't hand over money or sign anything until you've checked someone's credentials and their company's
- Never send money to anyone you don't know or trust, whether in the UK or abroad, or use methods of payment you're not comfortable with
- Never give banking or personal details to anyone you don't know or trust. This information is valuable so make sure you protect it

-If you spot a scam or have been scammed, report it and get help; contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or on the Action Fraud official website [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk), or call 101 if you know the suspect or there are local

**-Don't be embarrassed about reporting a scam. Because the scammers are cunning and clever there's no shame in being deceived. By reporting it, you'll help to make it more difficult for them to deceive others.**

A digital copy of the Little Book of Big Scams can be viewed and downloaded:

[www.sussex.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/sussex/advice/operations-initiatives-and-watch-schemes/operation-signature/the-little-book-of-scams](http://www.sussex.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/sussex/advice/operations-initiatives-and-watch-schemes/operation-signature/the-little-book-of-scams) - alternately you can obtain one from your local Police front office or Police contact point.

**Are you in the know?** Did you know that you can sign up to witness appeals, crime updates, crime prevention advice, local Police news and more via the community messaging service In The Know? Visit: [www.intheknow.community/](http://www.intheknow.community/) to sign up today.



Lewes Prevention staff and officers contribute to a Police news and alerts email which is sent each week, outlining upcoming events, such as local scam talks and Police drop in sessions; as well as a crime summary of recent crimes in your local areas, patrol locations and updates, weekly snapshots and more.

A weekly update from the Op Blitz ASB team is also sent via the community messaging service In The Know each Thursday, detailing the team's patrols and their findings from the previous week.

To further keep up to date on your local Police team you can also follow your Prevention team on social media for up to date community news, snapshots and events in your local area.



[facebook.com/LewesPolice](https://facebook.com/LewesPolice)



[twitter.com/Lewes\\_Police](https://twitter.com/Lewes_Police)

