

Lewes District Police Community Newsletter



March-May 2019

MARCH saw this year's launch of Operation Sceptre; a week long national campaign from the 11th of March to the 17th, aimed to tackle the danger that knife crime poses by educating those most at risk and carrying out proactive work that takes knives off 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 were 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 to look out for.



Lewes Prevention officers also visited local schools, colleges, and youth events in order to inform and educate young people about how to act if they feel pressured to carry a knife, and what to do if they felt in danger.

Officers attended East Sussex College, promoting and raising awareness around knife crime; where support and advice was offered to students and parents via drop in talk sessions, and child and parent leaflets designed to give officers an opportunity to educate them on the dangers of carrying knives and the consequences.

Youth Officers and officers from the Youth Offenders Team also attended local schools and colleges across the Lewes districts, giving group lessons on offensive weapons, and 1-1 work with students over lunch breaks where a stall was set up with seized weapons shown to further highlight the dangers.

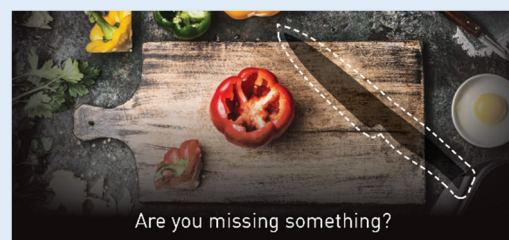


In the first few days of the campaign, more than 12 educational venues were visited across the district, and officers spoke with more than 1,200 young people about the dangers of carrying a knife.

Schools and youth groups attended included; Newhaven Scout Group, where youth officers gave a talk about knives whilst scouts gained their knife badge, and Lewes Youth Group where officers spoke to groups and answered questions on how to safely carry knives for fishing and forest trips. Officers also attended, Seaford Head, the Peacehaven JOFF, Denton Youth Club, and Bowden House.

Throughout the week, local teams also took to the roads and parked up in high streets and supermarkets in and around Lewes, speaking to parents/carers, and answering questions around knife crime, along with offering advice on possible signs to look out for should they suspect a child in their care to be carrying a knife.

During the week a total of 20 knives were handed in across Lewes and Seahaven in Police front office amnesty bins.





Community engagement throughout MARCH and APRIL

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, and coffee mornings held in your local communities; give officers a real insight into the issues faced, and also an opportunity to speak to residents and vulnerable community members on a range of topics; including 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 March and April, PCSOs from the Lewes district attended many groups including; the Landport Residents Association local foodbank; drop in coffee mornings at Ringmer community centre and the Newick Health centre; also Denton Church Hall coffee mornings and Lewes Open Door drop in sessions.

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



APRIL saw officers join forces with TISPOL, the European Traffic Police Network, for Operation Speed and Speed-marathon; a week-long speed enforcement operation which ran from the 1st – 7th of April in 30 European countries.

The 'Speed Marathon' concept was devised six years ago in Germany. The concept, which involves inviting members of the public to identify locations where they believe speeding is a problem, has been adapted and this year was used in 26 participating countries.

Prevention officers from the Lewes district played their part, working alongside partners from Sussex Safer Roads Partnership and Community Speed Watch in assisting Speed Watch enforcement activities and promoting road safety across residential and main roads in Newhaven, Seaford and Peacehaven.

You can find out more about becoming a Community Speed Watch member by contacting CSW@sussex.pnn.police.uk





APRIL and MAY HALF TERM patrols were a perfect chance for officers to get out and about, and engage with younger generations following the construction and opening of the new skatepark in Newhaven.

The new skatepark, and Pumptrack, just off Fort Road in Newhaven has been a welcomed facility for Newhaven residents, and sporting enthusiasts owing to the unique design.

Regrettably there have been a few reports of bicycle thefts from users of the Pumptrack.

Working in partnership with Lewes District Council, officers increased their patrols around

hot spot times to tackle this type of behaviour, not only to act as a deterrent but to assist park users in preventing further thefts by offering crime prevention advice and tools to keep their bikes safe.

APRIL and MAY HALF TERM Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) - Operation Blitz.

Owing to youth related ASB during half term, officers stepped up patrols and extended Op Blitz weekend patrols to more rural areas in April and May, aimed at deterring and preventing youth related ASB.

Officers have also recently been working with local businesses and groups, offering reassurance, support and crime prevention advice and looking at ways that we can work together to tackle ongoing issues in your local areas.

You can find out weekly where officers have been, by signing up to a weekly ASB report directly from the Blitz team at www.intheknow.community



Operation Blitz is a designated ASB patrol, and an on-going drive each Friday and Saturday night (between 1800-0000), 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 hours, 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 or report online on the newly designed ASB reporting form:

www.sussex.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/contact-us-to-discuss-something-else/

Community engagement and patrols throughout APRIL and MAY

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 the patrols across the district in the last few months....

- PCSO Ash conducted high visibility patrols, working closely with Neighbourhood First in Newhaven following reports of youth related ASB and graffiti back in April.
- Following ASB and criminal damage at Landport Park early April, PCSO Collins met with shop owners of Landport Stores offering crime prevention advice and looked at ways Police and shop owners can work closer together to address ongoing issues.
- PCSO Fenn met with members of the Crouch Bowls Club in Seaford, and spoke to them about local policing in Seaford.
- PCSO Hart and Kent met with residents in Seaford and enjoyed sun filled patrols along the seafront.
- Following reports of ASB and criminal damage the Landport area of Lewes including the park has been given passing attention by officers throughout April and May.
- Blitz officers teamed up with BTP officers during Op Blitz in May half term to address issues of youth related ASB in and around Lewes and Plumpton.
- PCSO Nicolson joined Natwest community banker in The Meridian Centre, Peacehaven late May for a scam drop in session at the library following recent reports of local scams.
- Officers from the Lewes Prevention team offered Ringmer residents reassurance with high visibility patrols in May following youth related ASB in the local area.
- PCSOs Ash and Willson continued to work closely with Neighbourhood First in and around Newhaven Fort Road area owing to theft of cycles at the new Pumptrack throughout May and into June.
- PCSO Collins took to the streets of our rural villages, including, Barcombe, Newick and Ditchling offering crime prevention advice to residents, to help prevent shed and outdoor building break ins.





MAY saw Lewes Prevention Officers; joined by Sussex Safer Roads Partnerships at the 'Safety in Action' days held at Newhaven Fort which ran from the 20-23 May.

The event Safety In Action was co-ordinated by the East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, aimed and set up to teach younger generations how to deal with, or avoid life-threatening situations, through informative and fun interactive activities, and children that took part also received a participation certificate and information relating to safety issues.

Officers; joined by Steve O'Connell (Community Speed Watch Officer) had the responsibility of sharing with children how to keep safe on the roads, as well as touching on personal safety.

Children were given work books to complete throughout the day with each exercise they came across; and were taught key skills such as keeping bright and being seen when around roads and how to call the Police if they came across something when out with friends or without a parent/carer.

Other activities included fire safety training held by East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service with promoting how to report a fire, and what to do in an emergency; along with South East Coast Ambulance Service on dealing with an injured casualty.

More information for parents and carers of young children can find information on our message 'Be safe, be seen' by visiting: www.sussexsaferroads.gov.uk/campaigns-and-initiatives/view/be-bright-be-seen



MAY also saw Prevention Sergeant Reynolds land a new spot on Seahaven FM. Sergeant Reynolds spoke with Nick Mallinson around local issues and problems faced by residents of Seaford, Newhaven and Peacehaven, and how Lewes Prevention team are tackling these.

This included advice around reporting youth related anti-social behaviours, and which numbers to use.

Please remember if you witness ASB that is happening there and then to call in on 999; if it has already happened and there is no longer any danger, please use 101 or report online at www.sussex.police.uk/ro/report/asb/af/antisocial-behaviour/

Seahaven FM (96.3 FM) is the local radio station for Seaford, Newhaven and Peacehaven.

Lewes Prevention team hope to have a regular monthly spot where residents can hear first-hand from their local Police Prevention Team, so watch this space...



SUMMER Operation Magpie, burglary awareness advice.

Did you know, out of 43 UK police forces, Sussex is one of the safest places to live with low rates of burglary compared to other counties across England and Wales? There were 7170 reports of burglary from January - December 2018, 1134 fewer offences (13.6%) over the same period in 2017 (8304).

To help protect yourself this summer, please read our crime prevention advice online: www.sussex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/residential-burglary/

Register your belongings on the Immobilise national property register. 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 thief.

www.immobilise.com/

SUMMER loving; protect yourself from romance fraud scammers with our DATES tips.

Don't rush into an online relationship – get to know the person, not the profile: ask plenty of questions.

Analyse their profile – confirm the person's identity. Check the person is genuine by putting their name, profile pictures or any repeatedly-used phrases and the term 'dating scam' into your search engine.

Talk to your friends and family - be wary of anyone who tells you not to tell others about them.

Evade scams - never send money or share your bank details with someone you've only met online, no matter what reason they give or how long you've been speaking to them.

Stay on the dating site messenger service - don't use email, phone, social media or other messaging apps until you're confident the person is who they say they are.

Please visit: www.sussex.police.uk/romance-fraud for more information and the signs to look out for.



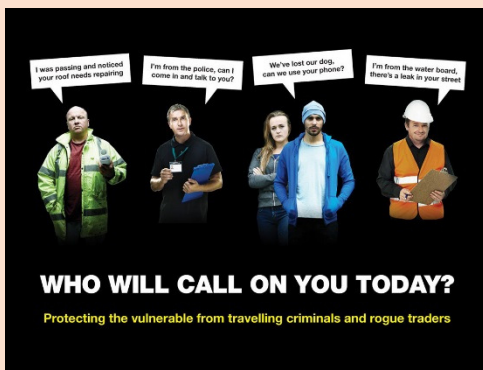
SUMMER – Log it, lock it, stop it.

Moped and motorbike thefts saw a rise in the Lewes districts last summer and the end of 2018, with various operations being put into action to tackle this. This advice campaign aims to maintain the recent fall in thefts and to support the work that police have already carried out.

Posters will be placed in areas where moped and motorbike thieves are known to operate, as well as bike parks and other areas parking areas.

Advice for bike owners includes; locking your bike in order to make it harder to steal, a solid chain is another deterrent, making it near impossible to wheel away from the parking area.

Covering your bike hides what make and model it is, as well as adding another obstacle to would-be thieves, also think about parking your vehicle in well-lit areas and choosing a location which has CCTV if possible - all these precautions add up to a better-protected vehicle and fewer incidents of stealing.



SUMMER – This summer follow our top tips for keeping yourself and those around 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 at Action Fraud. Call us on 101 if you know the suspect or they’re still in the area.

-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 make it more difficult for them to deceive others.

A digital copy of our latest 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 - alternately you can obtain one from your local from office/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/ to sign up today.

Lewes Prevention staff and officers contribute to a weekly Police news and alerts email which is sent weekly, 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.

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 local Prevention team on social media for up to date community news, snapshots and events in your local area.



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