

# Romney Marsh Newsletter



# Kent Police

Get the latest crime statistics by visiting: [www.kent.police.uk/yourarea](http://www.kent.police.uk/yourarea)

May 2024

## Hello everyone!

Here's your May newsletter.

**My next surgery is at New Romney Town Hall on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024 10:00-11:00 and anyone is welcome to drop in and have a chat about any issues/concerns that you have about your area. If there's too many people, I can always contact you afterwards and arrange to meet up or speak over the phone/email.**

**In between times, please feel free to contact me via MCV, if you haven't signed up to it yet it's very easy and free, either via the Kent Police website or just type My Community Voice Kent into your search engine and you'll receive email updates from me including crime prevention, appeals, a snapshot of what I get up to during my patrols and other pieces of information about what's happening in your area. You can then contact me directly via this medium with any issues that you have in your community however, I need to stress that a crime in progress needs to be reported using the 999 system, crimes and suspicious incidents that don't require an immediate police response should be reported via the Kent police website online reporting tool/live chat or as a last resort, ringing 101.**



### Drop-in surgery

- Next one is 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024 10:00-11:00 New Romney Town Hall.

Your local officer is  
**PC Steve Putland**



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## MY COMMUNITY VOICE

Some of you may have already seen my posts on My Community Voice (MCV) which are very kindly copied/pasted onto The Real Marsh Watch Facebook site most of the time, please keep doing this if you don't mind as this is great because it broadcasts the information I give to a wider audience and please feel free to share my MCV posts on other social media platforms too. It also sends the information right across the Romney Marsh and if it is crime prevention advice that I'm giving then that can only be a good thing! I am not able to respond to your comments on Facebook or any other social media platform so if you have a question, please email me or contact via MCV.



So, what have I been up to recently.....

I've been patrolling across the Marsh as I try and do every shift and as you know some of this is on foot too.

I was lucky enough to meet the 'Dymchurch Belles' (WI) recently after being invited to one of their meetings at Dymchurch Village Hall whereby I gave a small input about my role, some crime prevention advice, details about MCV and answered a few questions that were put to me.

Following this I met up with a colleague from Folkestone and we carried out some targeted patrols across the Marsh.



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- Receive alerts from your local officers
- Tell us what matters most to you
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citizens  
advice

Kent Money Advice Hub



Funded by  
Kent County Council's  
Helping Hands Scheme  
Residential

## FREE MONEY ADVICE

Are you struggling with the cost of living crisis? You are not alone. We can help you



Get advice and support with:



Budgeting



Money saving tips



Claiming benefits



Utility bills



Dealing with any debts,  
and more

Freephone Helpline: **0808 175 6406**

(Monday to Friday,  
9am - 5pm)

Website: **[www.kentmoneyadvicehub.com](http://www.kentmoneyadvicehub.com)**

Make a video call by scanning the QR code:



Our service is **FREE** and **CONFIDENTIAL**

We are independent of creditors, the Council and Government

We won't pass on anything you tell us without your consent



My Community Voice

Protecting the neighbourhoods of Kent and Medway

Find out what's happening in your area



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Sign up



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## Household and Financial Support



### Money Helper



- \*Free & impartial money & pensions guidance online or by phone
- \*Online benefits calculator
- \*Online Budget Planner



### Kent Money Advice Hub

Money worries support by phone, video call, or at a kiosk



CALL  
0808 175 6406  
Mon—Fri  
9am—5pm

### DIGITAL KENT



- \*Digital Skills
- \*Online access
- \*Device Recycling
- \*Social Broad-band Tariffs

### Kent Together

Support in our communities

- \*Urgent Help & Support, inc. voucher
- \*Benefits Checker
- \*Advice on reducing energy bills



### Help for Households

- \*Cost of Living Payments (eligibility applies)
- \*Help with Child-care costs
- \*Money Saving Advice



Support to buy food, milk and vitamins, for those pregnant or have children under 4 (eligibility applies)



PLEASE NOTE: Eligibility may apply



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## MONEY & MENTAL HEALTH ADVICE SERVICE



"PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS ARE MORE AT RISK OF FALLING INTO DEBT, WHICH IN TURN CAN HAVE A SERIOUS IMPACT ON THEIR PROSPECTS OF RECOVERING FROM POOR MENTAL HEALTH."  
- MONEY & MENTAL HEALTH POLICY INSTITUTE

### WHAT DOES THE SERVICE DO?

Citizens Advice have a dedicated team ready to help people with both money and mental health problems. A specialist trained advisor will provide a unique and enhanced offer which will cover; benefits, work, debt, consumer, family, finance, housing and financial training.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

This free service is available for anyone in Kent and Medway who has both a money and mental health problem. This includes mothers and partners who are pregnant or have had a baby in the past year, and are experiencing perinatal mental health issues

### WHAT DIFFERENCE IS IT MAKING?

This service supports individuals to:

- secure write-off of debts
- identify and claim additional benefits / income
- ensure enhanced financial competency
- improve their mental health and wellbeing



"THIS HAS LIFTED A MASSIVE WEIGHT OFF MY SHOULDERS. I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER THAT I'M NOW DEBT FREE"

"WITHOUT YOUR HELPFULNESS AND UNDERSTANDING I WOULD NOT BE WHERE I AM TODAY"

"AT ONE POINT, MY ADVISOR WAS THE ONLY PERSON I FELT GENUINELY CARED FOR ME"

### OUTCOMES ACHIEVED APRIL 2022 - MARCH 2023

CLIENTS SUPPORTED:  
**496**

DEBTS WRITTEN OFF FOR CLIENTS:  
**£145,867**

INCOME GAINED FOR CLIENTS:  
**£574,245**

OTHER MONETARY OUTCOMES:  
**£70,064**

**100% OF SERVICE USERS REPORTED IMPROVEMENTS TO MENTAL HEALTH**

To receive a [referral form](#) or find out more [information](#), please get in touch via the below:

[referral@nwkentcab.org.uk](mailto:referral@nwkentcab.org.uk)

[HTTPS://CITIZENSADVICENWK.ORG.UK/PROJECTS/MONEY-AND-MENTAL-HEALTH/](https://citizensadvicenwk.org.uk/projects/money-and-mental-health/)



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## ILLEGAL FISHING

Some of you might remember a previous post of mine regarding illegal fishing at the CEMEX Quarry Lydd on Sea. Well, I managed to stop a vehicle and give words of advice to its owner regarding fishing at the quarry, pointing out the dangers due to the depth and coldness of the water and that fishing on a private lake without the owner's permission is actually 'theft of fishing rights'.

There are others who fish at the quarry and hopefully by me speaking to the chap and with these MCV posts that quite often get shared on social media by yourselves, the message should spread to the others that they should cease from fishing there.

## SPEEDING

I've been popping up with the speed gun device too although I do appreciate that there are many places across the Marsh where speeding is an issue but I do endeavour to get round to as many as possible and whilst in Ivychurch recently, I stopped a young chap who was driving a car on his own and with no learner plates, ordinarily this would be fine but just having a provisional driving licence it isn't. The law is that if you haven't passed your driving test and are using a provisional licence, you need a person to supervise your driving and they need to be at least 21 years of age, have held a full driving licence for at least 3 years and be qualified to drive the type of vehicle that the provisional licence holder is driving so for example, if the car is a manual then they will need to have a manual licence.

## SURGERY MEETING

On Saturday 25th May I held a surgery at Lydd Police Station and was pleased that some of you came along to express what problems are concerning you, speeding came up again and as stated above, I will try and address this at the locations discussed. Another subject that we spoke about was the recreational use of drugs, in particular Cannabis, allegedly being used by people driving to rural locations, parking up and smoking it. 'Drug driving' is a serious matter alongside drink driving and even if you are not smoking Cannabis but one of your passengers is in close proximity to you as the driver, you will very likely inhale enough of it to put you over the drug drive limit and if stopped by the police whatever the reason or you are involved in a Road Traffic Collision whether it's your fault or not, you could be finding yourself being tested at the roadside for the presence of drink (alcohol) or illegal drugs which could lead to a spell in custody and losing your driving licence, I will be paying attention to the areas highlighted to me.



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The next surgery is at New Romney Town Hall on 12th June 10:00-11:00 and as always, it is first come, first served but if there are queues to see me stretching along the high street then I can always arrange to see you another time at your home or at the police station and/or we can talk over the phone or via email/MCV. Also, if you would like to discuss something that you'd rather not talk about in front of others, again we can arrange a one-to-one appointment.

## COLD CALLERS!

Polite reminder about 'cold callers', if you need any work done to your property whether that be roofing, driveways, gardening, decorating or anything that you would like a tradesperson to do, please don't be tempted to employ someone who just turns up unannounced at your front door even if their quote sounds like the bargain of the century! Please try and use a reputable company who YOU contact and not them contacting you out of the blue. I am still seeing residents who use the services of cold callers and enter into a verbal contract ( a definite no no) and agreeing on prices without any written contract and if it is a written contract, please read through it checking what your rights are and only signing it when you are 100% happy with everything in it including the total amount of money that you have agreed to pay. If you use a reputable company and have any questions, they will be happy to answer them, there are plenty of excellent local tradespeople across the Marsh who are well established so why would you use a cold caller who more often than not do not have a local business address, lesson of the day over! 😊

## EMERGENCY/NON-EMERGENCY ADVICE

Please always remember, if it is a crime in progress then it's 999, if it's a crime or suspicious event and is not an emergency then please report it via the Kent Police website online reporting tool or live chat and 101 as a last resort because this can be very busy but by all means, once you've reported it, you can still let me know via MCV or email.

  
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On the subject of MCV, please promote this with your family and friends, it's a quick and easy sign up via the Kent Police website or put MyCommunityVoice/Kent into your search engine or scan the QR code below.

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Thank you.

Steve.



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