



Watching Brief

The Canterbury & District Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter

Registered Charity No 1078269

2017 - Issue 1 (Jan - Mar)

Chairman's Message – David Hayward

"Happy New Year" to All – in the hope that Christmas was at the very least a healthy and crime-free time for you. As always, I'm delighted to commend this latest issue of "WB" to you, being full of varied content which I'm sure you will find interesting and want to share with your members. Hopefully, one of your "New Year Resolutions" will also be to write the date of our **2017 Conference & AGM into your new diary / calendar: Saturday 18th March morning – at the Canterbury Academy**. Full details are being sent out to you this month but the Conference programme includes presentations on the current crime situation in Canterbury, the revolutionary "Country Eye" smartphone crime reporting 'app' and also Community Speedwatch. In addition there will be displays by Community Safety Partners, a crime prevention materials "bargain shop", refreshments and, of course, time to network with fellow NHW coordinators, deputies and other members. We look forward to good attendance at the Conference and also at the immediately following shorter AGM, which is our main business meeting of the year. And finally – I should like to take this opportunity formally to welcome our new East Division Volunteer & Watch Liaison Officer, Andrew Judd. He's already introduced himself via KCMS and we look forward to working with him and seeing him at Conference. I should also like to thank Ivan Barnes for his 10+ years of splendid service as a Police Volunteer, working in our District Assn Office at Herne Bay Police Station, and having previously been one of our coordinators for very many years. Ivan has now retired but we hope to say a more particular "Thank You" to him at our Conference. His departure leaves a vacancy in the office (one morning a week), which needs filling to ensure that coordinator messages can be sent out promptly. Full training is given so please contact Andrew on 01233 896151 or andrew.judd@kent.pnn.police.uk if this is something with which you could consider helping.

C&DNHWA Growth Since Last Newsletter

The Committee offers thanks to the following for support of NHW in their communities:

New Schemes

Priest Fields, Herne Bay – Lee Freeman
Medina Avenue, Seasalter – Dr Gemma Scotney

New Coordinators

Valley Road, Wincheap – Harvey Muzzelle
Oxford Rd Area, Wincheap – Rev Craig Hunt
Shepherds Walk, Chestfield – Tony Williams

Extended Schemes

Osprey Close, Hawks Close & Kingfisher Close, Seasalter – Michele Coppard
Bournemouth Drive, Herne Bay – Roger Stewart

And They're Off !!

As we gallop towards spring the usual threat of theft from gardens, sheds and garages looms large, with DIY/gardening equipment and potted plants being most at risk if not secured properly. Every year, as the better weather approaches, there is a spike in such crime, fuelled possibly by the ease with which such items can be 'moved on' at boot fairs and the like. Safeguarding items that are out in the open garden can't always be assured but simple precautions can make it far more difficult for the thieves, most of which are opportunistic chancers out to spot favourable conditions where valuables are left unguarded in unsecured sheds, or in garages left open and unattended. So to stop them making off with your valuables fit a good quality hasp/bolt and padlock on your sheds – and remember to use anti-theft screws or bolts on them (and the hinges) to prevent easy removal. A simple audible shed alarm can be useful too, to attract attention, should 'unwanted' visitors target outbuildings. **Many items to help you improve security will be on sale – at knock down prices – at our forthcoming Annual Conference on 18th March (see Chairman's Message above).**



Contactless Security - The Debate Goes On

These days 'contactless payment' is no longer just about cards – wearables, key fobs, mobile devices and even stickers can now be used to facilitate faster, more convenient transactions for purchases that are under £30 in value. In June 2016, nearly a fifth (18%) of total purchases were contactless, according to the UK Cards Association – a threefold rise on the figure of just 12 months earlier and the trend looks likely to continue in the future. But what of the fears about safety of data and fraudulent activity that were so prevalent when the technology was first introduced? Well they haven't gone away if adverts, offering products that prevent illicit transfer of data (skimming), are anything to go by.

Just the other month this one, claiming that a card is skimmed every 2 seconds in the USA, appeared in the popular UK press. In stark contrast to the alarmist tone of the advertising industry, a spokesperson from Visa Europe played down the threat, stating that "contactless fraud losses accounted for just 0.5% of all card fraud during the period from January to June 2015". He went on to say that: "Despite the media reports of

NEW! *Best Product of the Year*

"Contactless Payment Cards can now be accessed by Electronic Pickpockets!"

SKIM/GUARD™ Gives you total 24/7 Card Protection

"A BREAKTHROUGH IN PROTECTION FOR CREDIT CARDS & PASSPORTS. NEW PATENTED TECHNOLOGY PREVENTS ID AND DATA THEFT LIKE NEVER BEFORE"

Launched in Europe on 1st September 2016, this new electronic device has already been voted 'New Product of the Year' by our Buying Team. It offers a more effective means of protecting your Contactless cards and biometric passport and out-performs any RFID wallet or card-blocking system. It's called **SkimGuard ACTIVE** and it protects you and your family from the UK's fastest-growing cybercrime.

Contactless cards can now be accessed by **electronic pickpockets** at a distance. A payment card is skimmed every 2 seconds in the US alone. Here in the UK, The BBC, Which? magazine, The Mail and The Telegraph warned us of this threat months ago.

Get your family protected NOW. This card works!

You can order online at www.solutionsworld.co.uk/26MJ (Enter 26MJ OFFER CODE at check out) or by phone on 0864 482 1001 quoting 26MJ or post coupon today to **Solutions World, (26MJ), 1 Crompton Road, Groundwell, Wiltshire SN25 5AW**

HOW NEW SKIM/GUARD™ WORKS

This amazing new electronic device intercepts the radio signal emitted by the criminal's scanner and uses the power of that incoming signal to power-up the integrated built-in circuit. Then without the need for any battery and with its red LED flashing, it automatically generates a powerful electronic force field 8 cm either side of the card which blocks and scrambles any data requests. That's up to 9 times more protection than other devices and enough to protect a purse, wallet or small bag.

5 YEAR GUARANTEE!

FREE DELIVERY!

SAVE UP TO £70!

JUST £19.95
2 for £29.90
~~£49.90~~
4 for £49.80

24/7 Active Card Protection
Battery-Free Operation
Works with all contactless cards
Discreet Credit Card Size
Protects cards within 9cm range
Red LED warning light
Unique E-Field technology
5 Year Guarantee

Please send me item: Price Qty Total

2561791	Contactless Card Protector SkimGuard™ Active RRP £69.95	£19.95		
2561714	Pack of 2 SkimGuard™ Active Cards RRP £99.95	£30		
2567590	Pack of 4 SkimGuard™ Active Cards RRP £99.95	£42.95		

Standard Delivery | FREE

1 Electronic (SkimGuard™) made payable to Solutions World for £:

My card number is: Start Date: Expiry Date: Name No: Postcode:

contactless scams such as card-skimming on crowded public transport, there hasn't actually been a confirmed case in the UK. It is possible to do it in test conditions, but in the real world anything metal would interfere with the contactless signal. That means zips, keys or other contactless cards in your bag could stop it from being read. Even if someone did manage to read your card, the only information that they could access would be your name and sixteen-digit card number. They can't access the all-important three-digit CCV code on the back of your card which they should need to make an online transaction. And if the retailer does not ask for the CCV code, and a fraudulent transaction is made as a result, they would be liable." Notwithstanding the reassurances given by the financial sector and the statistical data presently available (which is now a few months old), scepticism could be excused. So, as a result of the high impact advertisements that appeared in the run-up to the festive season, quite a few Christmas stockings this year could well have included gadgets and gismos similar to those shown above.

Can It Be That It Was All So Simple Then.....?

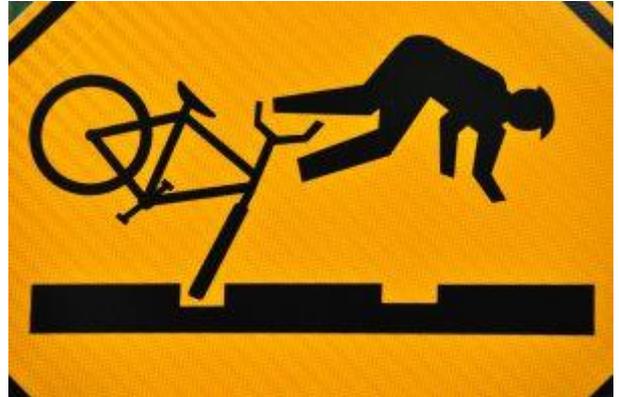
"The Way We Were/Try To Remember" (the 1970s hit record for Barbara Streisand and Gladys Knight & The Pips) possibly sums-up the feeling of many of us 'oldies' – life really did seem 'all so simple then'. And compared to our experiences of growing up, indeed, 'time has rewritten every line'. So much has changed for the youth of today. Which is why, in association with our partners at Canterbury City Council Community Safety Unit, NHW is keen to raise awareness of personal safety issues affecting modern minors and teenagers. The vulnerability of young people looking for, or involved in, relationships online is one issue that has hit the headlines repeatedly over recent months – and one which is now addressed via **SAFEDATE** – a webpage giving guidance to both young people and the professionals responsible for their care and education. Advice about healthy and respectful teenage relationships, sexting, sexual consent, online safety, cyber bullying, controlling/coercive teenage relationships, so-called honour-based violence and also forced marriage are just some of the topics covered at www.safedate.org.uk



It's all too easy for young people to, inadvertently, succumb to peer pressure and make decisions that they might live to regret. This website provides advice to help guide them through those difficult years, in the hope that they will one day, if given some magical chance, be happy to 'do it all again' rather than wishing to forget '...what's too painful to remember'. [Many thanks to Marvin Hamlisch and Alan & Marilyn Bergman for that fabulous melody and those truly timeless lyrics,!! – Editor].

Wow - That Was Close!!

“Close calls” are sadly an everyday occurrence for many a cyclist on our crowded, busy highways these days. A close encounter with another road user, or a bad patch of tarmac, seems to be a constant possibility when on two wheels. If an impact or injury actually takes place the authorities might get involved to take details, but what happens in other cases – well probably not too much. But that shouldn't be so. After all, the golden tenet of health & safety is ‘*learn from the near misses*’ so they do need to be reported. That's where **Collideoscope** has a part to play. Collideoscope is a website for reporting cycling incidents, collisions and near misses. It is provided as part of the ‘fixmystreet platform’ (www.fixmystreet.com) which already provides a fast and easy route for reporting graffiti, fly tipping, broken paving slabs, or defective street lighting. Collideoscope offers all the same functionality for road users to report incidents. While FixMyStreet normally sends reports off to local councils, Collideoscope reports directly to local authority highway departments, with the aim of highlighting potential accident blackspots. Additionally the data, after going through an anonymisation process, is shared with campaign groups and is also available to researchers, town planners and the police to improve the quality of the evidential material about cycling incidents. It can be viewed publically via Socrata. The eventual hope is that the information might be used to provide route-planning applications to help cyclists avoid going through areas that have a high density of incidents. The Collideoscope web page (www.collideoscope.org.uk) contains data for each local authority and county council area. In Kent, over the past two years, there have been 423 reported incidents, nine of which were in the Canterbury area. Whilst demonstrating an encouraging use of this reporting facility, the numbers seem to represent a pretty low percentage, given the number of cyclists on the road these days – so maybe more people need to know about the scheme. NHW is, therefore, pleased to be of assistance in making the information more widely available to members, especially at this time of the year when the days are short and accidents statistics always rise.



Do You Really Need A&E?

Accident and Emergency departments (A&E) in Kent and Medway see an incredible 500,000 ‘patients’ every year, a staggering 40% of which do not, it seems, actually need emergency treatment from the specialists that are on hand to tend to those in chronic need. Alternative systems are constantly being considered to reduce the burden on A&E, and thus improve the service provided to all patients. Several new schemes have been introduced in Kent – **Health Help Now**, for example, is an internet based service, available via computers and smart phones at www.healthhelpnow.nhs.net which has already assisted more than 120,000 patients, say health chiefs. The site guides users to the right NHS service when they are ill or injured. It shows which are open and where they can be accessed, whether it is a doctor, pharmacist or minor injuries service that is needed. In addition residents in East Kent will now benefit from a new **Integrated NHS 111 and GP-led Out-of-hours Service**. This combines the 111, NHS non-emergency number, with existing out-of-hours services, which provide care for patients who need to see



a GP urgently when their practice is closed i.e. during the night-time or at weekends. It also offers innovative support for patients with complex needs. Staff will be able to make referrals to a number of different services, depending on a patient's individual requirements – arranging perhaps for a district nurse to dress a wound or an occupational therapist to carry out an equipment assessment. The new call centre, housing the

service, will be located in East Kent. Dr Sarah Phillips, Chair of NHS Canterbury and Coastal CCG, is confident that the scheme will be extended to include even more local services as time goes on. **More information can be found on their website at <http://www.canterburycoastalccg.nhs.uk/news/news-child-blog/?blogpost=8635>**

What's Your New Year Resolution?

Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) is urging us all to make a New Year Resolution – simply to ensure that we make our homes, and those of loved-ones / neighbours or friends, safer from fire this coming year. Community Safety Manager Charlie Smith said: “Just three breaths of smoke from a fire can be life-threatening and sadly, it is often older residents, and those with mobility problems, physical /mental health issues, or impaired hearing /sight, who are most likely to be injured by a fire in their home. We are urging residents to take advantage of the free safety advice, and range of free services that KFRS offers, to help keep our communities safe and well protected from the risk of fire.” Where needed, KFRS Community Safety Team can provide free home safety visits. These take around 30 minutes, include identification of fire hazards in the home and provide advice on escape routes, night time safety routines and, if needed, the fitting of free smoke alarms. In addition, KFRS's Vulnerable Persons Team is able to give specialist advice to help people remain living independent in their own homes for longer. As part of this KFRS can supply smoke alarms designed for visually / hearing impaired people, and equipment to improve safety of those with mobility issues or dementia. Free advice is available to all residents. Eligibility for a home safety visit is assessed on an individual basis and takes into consideration age, health, mobility, lifestyle and other risks. **For more information just call 0800 923 7000 (free of charge from UK landlines) between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday or email The KFRS team at home@kent.fire-uk.org**

Still Getting Nuisance Calls?

Citizens Advice in Essex, Suffolk, Surrey and Kent, has warned that there has been an increase in the number of companies “cold-calling” residents with a view to selling them devices that, they claim, will put a stop to nuisance calls. Even residents that have registered at the free **Telephone Preference Service** (TPS) – which means they should not receive unsolicited sales or marketing calls from the UK, are being targeted!! Citizens Advice says that in many cases the gadgets offered are sub-standard, but their main concern is how they are being sold by companies that are



using aggressive selling techniques and giving customers incomplete / misinformation about the long term cost of their products and services. Action can be taken against rogue traders who ignore the law. Last year ‘Stop The Calls’, a company which offered a nuisance call

blocking service, was fined £50,000 by the Information Commissioner's Office. They found that the company had called people registered with the TPS, made repeated calls – sometimes several on the same day, and ignored requests by people to stop calling them. Quality call-blocking products, which can effectively and dramatically cut the number of cold calls that get through to your home, are available. However, Citizen's Advice has emphasised that legitimate companies who offer call blockers do not make cold calls. If you are being harassed by someone trying to sell these products, you should start by registering your number with the **Telephone Preference Service** at www.tpsonline.org.uk or by calling 0845 070 0707. Unsolicited marketing calls should be reported to the Information Commissioner's Office by calling 0303 123 1113 or by visiting www.ico.org.uk/concerns/marketing. **If you still have need for any further support you can visit your local Citizens Advice or contact the consumer helpline on 03454 04 05 06.**

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- * **Local Family Run Firm**

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Useful Contacts:

www.ucanpreventcrime.co.uk/NHW/ – C&DNHWA
www.canterburycsp.org.uk/ – Community Safety Partnership
www.hoax-slayer.com/ – Online Protection Advice
www.scambusters.org/ – Online Protection Advice
environmentalhelpdesk@canterbury.serco.com/ – Fly-Tipping

www.ourwatch.org.uk/ – National NHW
www.firekills.gov.uk/ – Fire Safety
www.kent.police.uk/ – Kent Police
www.ageuk.org.uk/ – Formerly Age Concern
www.actionfraud.police.uk/ – Report Fraud