

# Romney Marsh Newsletter



## Kent Police

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June 2024

## Hello everyone!

**Here's your June Newsletter!**

**My next surgery is at Dymchurch Parish Council Office 10:00-11:00 on 06/07/2024 and anyone is welcome to drop in and have a chat about any issues/concerns that you have about your area.**

**However, if for some reason I can't make it to any of my surgeries due to short notice operational demands or sickness etc then I will endeavour to arrange one of my colleagues to stand in for me and I can make contact with you at some point after the surgery if it is me who you would like to speak with specifically.**



**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**



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reporting tool/live chat or as a last resort, ringing 101.

### Drop-in surgery

- Next one is 6<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at Dymchurch Parish Council Office

Your local officer is  
PC Steve Putland

### 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 since the May Newsletter I hear you cry?! The answer is lots and lots!!

On 31<sup>st</sup> May I went to the St Mary's Bay AGM as a guest speaker to talk about what I do, and really just to show my face and share contact details, I even got to choose the first raffle ticket! Thank you to everyone there who made me feel very welcome.

I had another entertaining visit thanks to the 1st New Romney Scout Group and because this time the weather was more favourable; we emptied the back of the police vehicle



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**and had a look at all of the kit that I carry around and I was impressed at how much these young people knew about 'what was what!'**



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On the 13th June the Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) invited me and a colleague along to their first 'pop up' event on St Martin's Field New Romney alongside other agencies such as the Coastguard and South East Coast Ambulance Service to name but a few. Fortunately for me, my colleague Shevaun Newman who is the Community Liaison Officer for Kent Police covering the Folkestone and Hythe district had arranged our involvement and setup our table and our advertising banner for 'My Community Voice' so all I had was one job which was to turn up on time in the gleaming Ford Ranger, well I failed by arriving 15 minutes late but that's operational policing for you as I had to deal with an emergency call first and a good excuse!!

The children loved climbing all over my recently vacuumed seats, pushing as many buttons as they could with their sticky paws and wearing the blue lights out, making as much noise as they could by pushing the 'bull horn' which is the noise you hear sometimes from police vehicles, ambulances and fire engines and sounds like a truck's horn but they enjoyed themselves which was the main thing as well as learning about the emergency services and of course, Shevaun and I enjoyed meeting everyone too.

I must just mention the Salvation Army canteen truck that was on site and providing everyone with hot and cold drinks and snacks and who work alongside the emergency services at major incidents playing a crucial role.



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**A POLICE BIKE I hear you shout in disbelief! I've even completed a mandatory one-day bike course at the Kent Police college to make this possible!! Obviously, I knew how to ride one but a little brush up on my wheelies and bunny hops didn't go a miss!** 😊

Seriously though, this will be a great asset for me covering areas where the police vehicle can't, it's a bit like foot patrol where I can stop and speak with people but at the same time covering a larger area in a relatively short amount of time.



A short while ago I received an email from Emma who is a carer at a local care home in the St Mary's Bay area asking if I was able to pop along to surprise one of the residents on his birthday as he loves all things police and of course I did just that and I hope that I made his birthday an extra special one, well, not me, the police car and all that goes with it!



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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY PAUL!!**



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**And in the following photos timing was everything, this was during one of my patrols and I couldn't resist the opportunity!**



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**I was invited to the Greatstone Primary Annual Fayre which I very nearly missed as I was diverted to no less than three emergency calls one after the other however, I managed to get there for the last 30 minutes or so, all's well that ends well!!**



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### **SPEEDING!**

My fun had to stop eventually and down to serious matters! As usual I have been and will continue to be out and about with the speed check device. I receive a lot of complaints about speeding motorists in various places across the Marsh and I see it myself not only when I'm off duty but even when I'm on patrol in the Ranger which is even more frustrating as the Ranger isn't small and stands out but some motorists appear to be in a world of their own and only see me at the last minute, I can always tell when the nose of their vehicle dips forward all of a sudden! Please adhere to the speed limits, whether you agree with them or not they are there for a good reason. I don't think any of us can say that we haven't crept over them from time to time due to lack of concentration or similar but that really shouldn't be any more than a couple of miles an hour over the posted limit, if anything it's better to keep at least a couple of miles an hour under the posted limit, we don't have to be attaining the limit just because the signpost says so and we also have to drive to the road conditions at the time, weather, traffic, pedestrians etc.

In addition to the speed, no mobile phone usage unless its handsfree and even then, it can be a distraction, wear seatbelts because they will save lives, have valid insurance, current MOT and ensure tax is up to date, thank you.

### **ANOTHER REMINDER ABOUT 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



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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.

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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### STOP AND SEARCH.

About a week ago a colleague of mine from the Child Centred Policing Team (CCPT) PC Kerry Duncan popped down to the Marsh as she does from time to time and whilst patrolling the area behind the football pavilion in Station Road New Romney, she spoke with three males all of whom were in possession of Cannabis. I attended to assist her in searching the young men under Section 23 Misuse of Drugs Act. The Cannabis was seized from them and will be destroyed, and they will be dealt with accordingly in due course.

The purpose of this message is to warn those Cannabis or any other illegal drug users that you will be stopped and searched if we as police officers have the grounds to do so and if you are in possession of illegal drugs, the consequences for your future could be very damaging, it could lose you your job, restrict your travel to certain countries and if you are stopped whilst driving for whatever reason and have illegal drugs in your system, you could also lose your driving licence. Everyone knows that drink driving is against the law and so is drug driving.

A few days ago I was on mobile patrol across the Marsh and this particular day heading out towards Newchurch along a country lane with beautiful views all around me but then I came across a vehicle parked in a layby, nothing unusual with that of course, I often eat my lunch whilst out and about in my mobile office but this vehicle had a smell of Cannabis emanating from it, anyway, the grounds were met to enable me to search the occupant and the vehicle itself under Section 23 Misuse of Drugs Act whereby I seized an amount of herbal Cannabis and the occupant has been dealt with accordingly and the drugs destroyed.

The message here is, nobody should be in possession of illegal drugs and to have it in your vehicle whereby it could impair your driving is even worse because if it is in your system, you are a danger to everyone else and if caught could lose your licence.

As well as all of the above, I have attended numerous calls, acted on many enquiries and information and submitted intelligence which has either been from my own findings or information received from you, the public, and that's one of the good things about MCV, being able to have that direct contact with me if you want to share some information or are having issues that you need police advice about.



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**That's it for another month but in between times I'll post messages on MCV although they might not be as regular over the next month or so due to certain commitments.**

**Thank you.**

**Steve.**



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