OCTOBER RUCKINGE MONTHLY NEWS

As the Autumn approaches I will need to risk assess the trend of crimes that we will be facing in the district as we head into the darker evenings and criminals adjust their approach to targeting areas.

As the first signs of Christmas appear in our shops the time is right to start considering the crime advice to issue.
I feel there is no need to stress the areas of crime that we are continually vulnerable to, but this month focus on an area where I feel the residents need to be alert and vigilant follows. That advice will be increased as we head into Xmas. Criminals will ramp up their efforts we must match that.
Although in Ruckinge the risk of theft when parked on your drive at home is low. When you venture into the wider Kent you must be careful and alert. Especially in large car parks, railway station car parks and remote country area car parks

THEFT FROM VEHICLES

These are mostly avoidable and preventable crimes. With a few seconds of checking when a vehicle is parked a resident can avoid being a victim of crime. Please park as safe as you can. Lock the vehicle and then just stand and look into the vehicle for just a few seconds! Can you see anything? If you can, so can a criminal and you could become a victim of crime.
Leave absolutely nothing whatsoever on show in a vehicle when parking especially last park up for the night.

Typical items stolen. Wallets, purses, handbags, sunglasses, small change carried in the cupholders, laptops and briefcases.

Remember the loss of a work laptop and or a briefcase/document case may see the victim of the crime also lose their job!!

We must prevent these types of crime.

Criminals will return to an area where they have success and the message here to communities must be blunt and frank and needs to be.

If criminals think that residents are careless, forgetful, or even lazy about items left in vehicles they are going to come back.
If we do not win the hearts and minds of our residents this will aways be a risk.

Vans with tools, equipment and goods left inside overnight are a risk. Of course, it is not practical to unload vehicles each night, so we must ensure those vehicles are parked and as secure as possible. Parking a van with rear opening doors tight up against something means the doors cannot be opened even if forced.

During the hours of darkness criminals walk the streets just trying car door handles. Every so often bingo! a door is left unlocked, and the criminal just sits in the vehicle and check glovebox and for any items in the car. They leave the vehicle with whatever they can find.

If a vehicle is locked and they can see a more attractive item to steal they will break the window and grab what they can.
If you sadly have to visit to a crematorium look at the sign in the car park.
CAR THIEVES OPERATE IN THIS CAR PARK

Why? Well, it is very simple. We attend funerals, we are not at our best and we all dread our mobile phone going off in the service. We have checked it is on silent or switched off 10 times, but we are still worried, so we leave it in the car. Criminals know this. People leave coats and bags that they do not want to take into the service, criminals know this.

CARS IN LONG TERM CAR PARKS/SHOPPING CENTRES/RAILWAY STATIONS

Criminals know these vehicles are unattended for a time, they will be looking!!

DRIVING TO REMOTE WOODLANDS AREAS

We drive to woodland car parks and go for nice walks. We don't want to carry handbags etc around the woods. We leave them in the car, criminals know this! Please don't tell me don't worry I tuck in under the seat or lock it in the boot that is where the criminals will look first and because they know the vehicle is unattended for a time, they will use a hammer to enter the car!!

THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR, LEAVE NOTHING ON SHOW IN A CAR AND IF THE CAR IS GOING TO BE UNATTENDED FOR A LONGER PERIOD THINK WHAT YOU NEED TO HAVE IN THE VEHICLE.
THINK LIKE A CRIMINAL PLEASE!

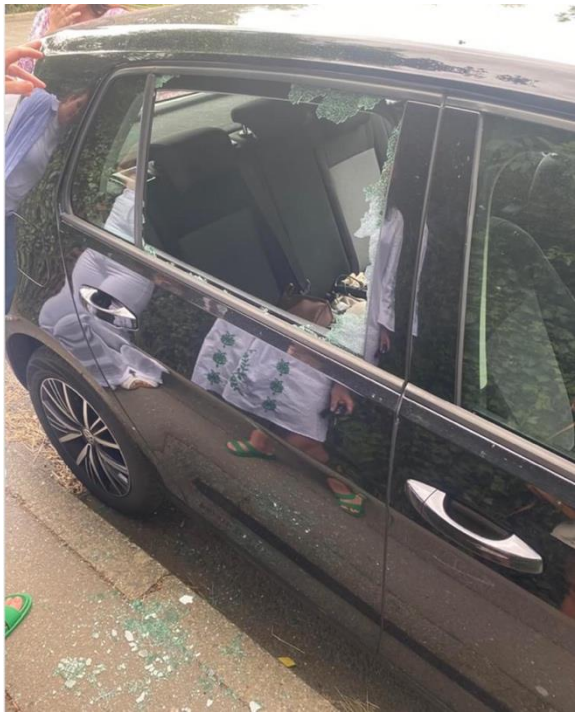
If you see persons trying car doors call 999 immediately this is a “CRIME IN PROGRESS.













The above can be avoided. THINK SAFE & SECURE PLEASE!

I was please to attend London recently to pick up a National Neighbourhood Watch award. At least it shows we are on the right track with our work albeit we are only as good as yesterday and we relax and ease off at our peril.



You will notice that my award reflected my reach into communities, well front and centre of that work is this first class web site run by your Parish Council.

Created and managed by your Chairman Steve Hewison it provides an essential communications tool.
Importantly residents can look back on the monthly news and check on items that may reappear especially with “scams”
London was a good signal of where we are but we must push on!





Thank you all for your support as always.
Peter

Peter New
Kent Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch.