RUCKINGE NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2025

I hope this newsletter finds you and all your families well as we head into a very busy time of year.
Because we are so busy with so many things to think about, we can sometimes not be as vigilant, careful and alert as normal.

I am amplifying my Christmas crime prevention to keep you safe and as crime free as is possible.



There are several scenarios to work through. Yes, we have weeks until Christmas, but criminals will be planning and so must we.

1.INTERNET SHOPPING PARCELS STOLEN FROM DOORSTEPS
In the run up to Christmas one of the big risks will be parcels thefts off of doorsteps. More are left on doorsteps especially at Christmas.

We are vulnerable first to theft of a parcel by a passing chancer and opportunist on foot.

However. a bigger risk is the delivery vans are followed by criminals making even remote addresses at risk. Please remember in recent years the delivery vans were stolen when a driver was out of the cab making a delivery.

CRIME

Parcel thefts rise from doorsteps as gangs follow courier vans





Please make the safest deliver arrangements you can.

2. THEFTS FROM GARAGES
We all know Father Christmas stores extra Christmas presents in garages so as not to overload his sleigh. **CRIMINALS KNOW THIS !** Please review your garage security especially where expensive presents are stored.
Also at risk, the extra supplies for Christmas especially drink **CRIMINALS KNOW THIS !**

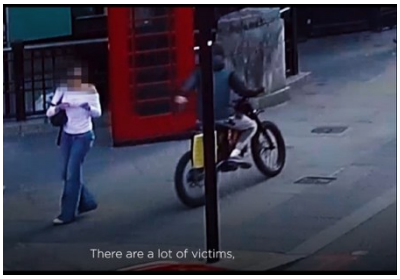
3. THEFTS FROM SHEDS
Exactly the same as garages with presents, drinks and supplies sometimes with just a flimsy catch holding the door closed **CRIMINALS KNOW THIS !**

4 THEFTS FROM VEHICLES
When we go Christmas shopping and take armfuls of presents back to our cars before grabbing a well-earned lunch and then out shopping in the afternoon. Leave nothing whatsoever on show in a car. Secure everything in the boot. Be vigilant if you are followed back to your car because if it looks attractive enough criminals will smash windows to gain access to a boot if they have watched you fill it.
This is especially important if you travel to larger shopping centres for a day out.

5 CHRISTMAS SHOPPING
Especially in supermarkets please be alert to distraction thefts. Where several criminals work as a team. Maybe one fainting, maybe a child thrown to the ground and as we reach to assist that is when a purse vanishes from a shopping trolly especially if it on show in an unzipped bag by an accomplice.
6. DAY OUT TRIPS TO LONDON
I don't suppose this will win me friends with the Mayor of London or the Met Police Commissioner , but you are entering a crime area . THINK SAFE.

Do not walk down streets in London on your mobile phone, it will be grabbed by criminals on bikes or mopeds. If you need to make a call, go into a shop or somewhere safe.
Do not wear expensive watches or jewellery again the risk of them being snatched is there. Also, criminals can use violence to grab these items.
If you have a handbag with a across the chest strap that would be good and keep it zipped tight. Don't take wallets or purses out in open view in the street.
If you travel by car lock the car doors as you travel. At road junctions, traffic lights of in traffic jams take care your car door is not open by someone on a bike and a handbag or item like a phone is grabbed.
Always be aware of distraction thefts and pick pockets. Just think safe!







7. SELLING ITEMS ON PLATFORMS LIKE EBAY, MARKET PLACE ETC.
Please be careful if you are selling items around Christmas times and persons say they will pay you cash and come to the door to collect. In recent years items have been grabbed and in some case violence used. Someone asking to look at the item in daylight with a car with its engine running and a driver at the wheel is a clue. Just think safe. Stolen cars and or false number plates have been used for these crimes in Ashford in recent years.

8. SCAMS
These will be off the scale over Christmas and please check everything you do. Some of the online scams offering items for sale are so good it is often nearly impossible to tell. Please be so careful and do nothing in a rush.

9. BOGUS CAROL SINGERS or CHARITY COLLECTORS.

If in doubt do not even open the front door. Care with carol singers who sing two words of a carol and demand money.

10 CHRISTMAS TREE

Nothing more lovely at Christmas than a well decorated tree with presents underneath.

Whilst burglaries in Kent are extremely low a fully decked out tree with presents on show being visible through front windows could be a temptation too far for criminals.

11 TRAVELLING AT CHRISTMAS
Please do not load your car for a quick getaway Christmas morning as you head to relatives for Christmas day. Criminals know we do this but please get up 30 minutes earlier and load the car as criminals walk the streets most nights looking in cars but especially, they are active days before Christmas but more so Christmas eve.

If you break a journey at Christmas in a hotel or travel lodge always lock items in the boot and consider taking larger items or high value items inside to your room.
Those car parks will attract criminal attention. **CRIMINALS KNOW THIS**

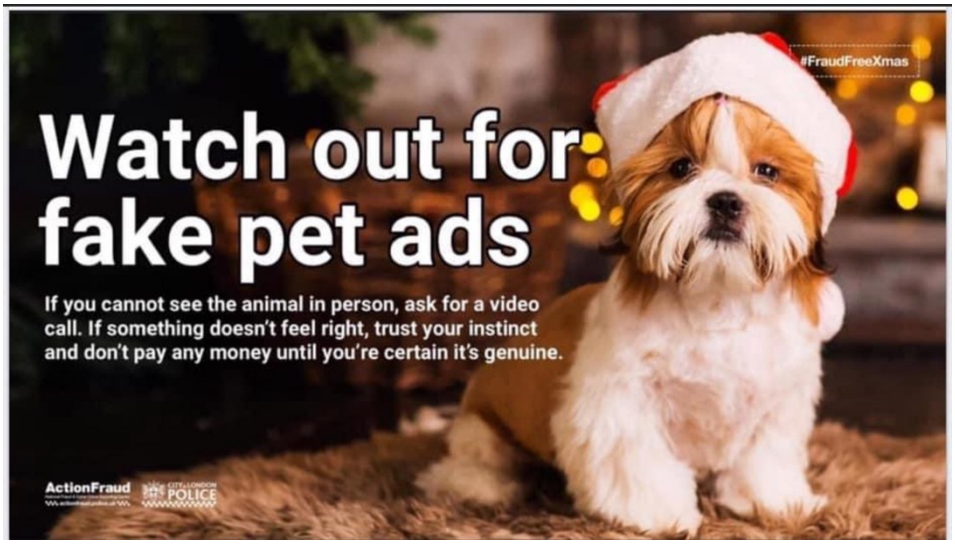
12 DRINK AND DRUGS.

Do not drink and drive at anytime but especially over the Christmas period. Everyone knows the breathalyser and its limits, but more persons use drugs now.

So, remember you could pass the breath test if stopped but maybe you might fail the drug wipe.

Everyone understands you could cause an accident, injury and death by being drunk but the number of people who fail the drug wipe where the consequences are the same is a concern.
Do not ruin lives especially your own.

13 PURCHASES OF ANIMALS FOR CHRISTMAS

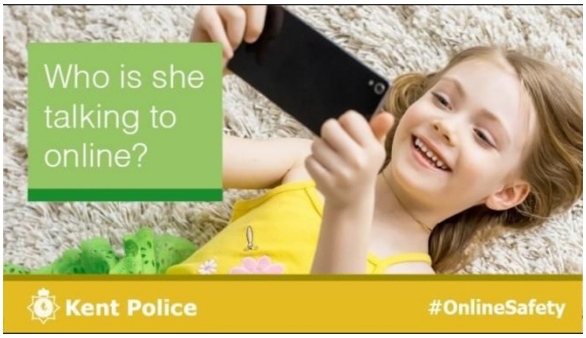


Please be careful about purchasing animals for Christmas. Use proper animal breeders and collect the animal in person and do not pert with money beforehand.

Of course I must add an animal is for life not just Christmas!

14 MOBILE PHONES & MOBILE DEVICES/GAMES

It is possible mobile phones will be purchased for some children especially for those preparing to go to secondary school. Parents, please start the safe training for them straight away because the world can now get to them.





Please be nosey parents!! "Ask who is that"? "what is that"?

They will be meeting children who may well have had them for several years and be very competent on use but still naïve to the risks.

15 CHRISTMAS DAY

A good crime prevention day would be monsoon rain from 0600 till 2300 but we all like a clear crisp day with lovely blue sky especially when travelling.

However about 0800 on a lovely clear Christmas day front doors burst open and young children flow out with every gift Father Christmas has delivered. Bikes, skates, scooters (not e-scooters I hope!!) footballs, skipping ropes, and all sorts.
About 1430 the dreaded call comes from parents "Christmas dinner come in" Children try every excuse not to but great auntie has come from up north to be there so the children reluctantly leave their toys on doorsteps and front gardens so they can rush out the moment Christmas dinner is over.

It is possible the toys will be gone! **CRIMINALS KNOW HOW CHILDREN THINK** and that is why they will tour around, especially estates, in vans and sadly the toys will be picked up and loaded in as all eyes will be fixed on Christmas dinner and children will emerge to be absolutely devastated.

CRIMINALS HAVE NO CONCIENCE OR THOUGHTS OF THE UPSET THEY WILL CAUSE. MANY WILL BE STEALING TO FUND THE PURCHASE OF DRUGS



Importantly start thinking safe, secure and be alert and vigilant.

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Stay safe everyone Peter

Peter New (Community Neighbourhood Watch. peternew1@aol.com)