NEWSLETTER for RUCKINGE FEBRUARY 2026

I



Dear Readers
Wow, 2026 is already feeling like it is getting speed up. The diary pages seem to be turning very quick indeed.

I will have presented to your Parish Council at the January meeting my personal action plan for 2026, and the crime trends I will be working on throughout the year.
In that plan laid out how I will work and how I will engage with all partners to help keep Ruckinge as safe and secure as possible.
I will meet with MPs, KCC Councillors, Ashford Councillors, your Parish Council.
Importantly how I will communicate to residents.
Front and centre of that plan sets out how a strong Neighbourhood Watch membership among you is so vital.

PLEASE JOIN THE RUCKINGE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
It's completely free but gives fast direct contact if needed.
Just email me peternew1@aol.com or ring me on 07768437422

I do need you! I do need that support!
Sadly, across the Ashford District many of the crime warnings I spoke of came to pass. Thankfully to the best of my knowledge not in Ruckinge!

Essential going forwards however is for residents to report every single crime, anti-social behaviour and criminal damage incident no matter how small and get a crime number we can follow up on. We maybe be able to assist police colleagues by collection of evidence especially CCTV.

"Crime cannot flourish in a community that cares and is alert and vigilant ". The only way we can understand the extent and trends of crimes is if they are reported.

I am challenged all the time with my work across the district
“The police won’t come” “The police won’t do anything “: well, they won’t if they don’t know and they are most certainly not clairvoyant!

If they don’t know the chance, is I won’t know either so I cannot get alerts and crime prevention advice into the community. I can’t pick up a trend or issue better quality crime prevention.
Above all don’t be frightened of reluctant to use 999 especially when crimes are in progress. Nobody hesitated to call the fire service when I served, we need to win that battle for the police.

Changing the subject if you read back my Christmas crime alerts work, and indeed my January action plan I posted I am saddened to say so many of my warnings come to pass. So again, this year I will be concentrating your minds to **THE AVOIDABLE and PREVENTABLE CRIMES**
We know that in rural areas these will be the trends.
Thefts from
Cars, vans, sheds, garages, barns, stables, out buildings, external storage, internet shopping parcels from doorsteps as vans are followed, rogue traders, bogus callers and SCAMS.

If we work hard and concentrate, if we take our time to ensure we are secure, if we leave nothing on show in vehicles, if we reject rogue traders and bogus callers we can prevent crimes.

With SCAMS it will be 365 days a year 24 hours a day. DO NOTHING IN A RUSH.
My work on items like Catapults and specialist work on Drugs and Violence Against Women and Girls will be relentless, however this year I will also focus on many of the rural crimes. Animal crimes, Fly Tipping and other crimes that concern rural communities.

I hear some of you saying, “Pete you’re like a broken record” and in truth I am!!
But the record keeps playing so I will be nagging and advising and trying to prevent.

About this time of year with storm/high winds damage etc ROGUE TRADERS often appear.

Never ever agree to unsolicited work on your doorstep no matter how attractive and cheap the price offered is.
It always changes; the work could be shoddy and not even needed.
These criminals also can start by being “pushy “but can turn threatening and violent

If these persons call at your property refuse politely and close your door. Do not engage in conversation at all.
Call the police on 999 and report as much of a description of the persons as you can remember and any details of any vehicles they are using. A registration number would be excellent but no risks please! Any CCTV please make known and keep me in the loop to please so I can alert the community and indeed nearby communities.

These people have no moral compass whatsoever and are pure evil.
They will look for our elderly, our vulnerable and our disabled especially those who live alone.
Roofs, gutter clearing, cleaning drives and gardening and tree work are classic examples. “We are working in the area and can give you a one-off good price today” is the patter used.

I will close by saying your support has been fantastic. The council and councillors so supportive and staunch with their backing.

I know working together we can keep this village of Ruckinge and the surrounding beautiful countryside safe, secure and a great place to live, work and bring up families.
Stay safe, secure, alert and vigilant.
Thank you all for your support, I really appreciate it
Peter
Peter New (peternew1@aol.com and 07768437422.)
Community Neighbourhood Watch





ROGUE TRADERS

Kent Fraud Alert System

TAKE FIVE TO STOP FRAUD™

Rogue Trader Alert

We have received reports of doorstep criminals active in Maidstone, Ashford, Gravesend and Canterbury. Never respond to cold callers! You will pay an excessive cost for unnecessary and poor-quality work.

Please warn your vulnerable friends and family to be alert.

You can:

- Ask the visitor to return another time when someone can be with you
- Get three written quotes
- Ask family and friends for recommendations
- Agree payment arrangements and start and finish dates in writing beforehand and never pay in full until you are completely satisfied with the work.

If you need work done on your home or garden use a safe, local trader from KCC Trading Standards Checked: Trading Standards Checked





Kent Police

TRADING STANDARDS CHECKED

If you have been a victim of any type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and reporting to Report Fraud at Reporting cyber crime and fraud or phishing attempts - Report Fraud or call 0300 123 2040.

Find out more by visiting our website at Advice about fraud | Kent Police and also from the Home Office at Stop! Think Fraud - How to stay safe from scams

Kent Police

Report a non-urgent crime online **www.kent.police.uk/report**
Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 **www.kent.police.uk/contact**
In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**
If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service **18000**.
Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.
www.kent.police.uk

Protect yourself and others against rogue traders

Most people who call at your home are genuine. But sometimes people may turn up unannounced and try to sell you services or items you do not want or need or carry out unnecessary repairs to your home at inflated prices.

If you're concerned about someone calling at your home, **don't open your door**.

You can:

- Ask for identification and call their company yourself (not on a number they provide) to check they are genuine
- Ask the visitor to return another time when someone can be with you
- Get three written quotes
- Ask family and friends for recommendations
- Agree payment arrangements and start and finish dates in writing beforehand, and never pay in full until you're completely satisfied with the work.

Preventing fraud

Together, let's stop scammers.

Remember, ABC:

never **A**ssume

never **B**elieve

always **C**onfirm

Get the latest scam advice: **@KentPoliceECU**

Pressurised selling on your doorstep is a crime and you can report it:

- **kent.gov.uk/tradingstandards** or call 0808 223 1133
- For advice: **www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/**
- Follow **@kent_ECU** or email **kfas@ecis.police.uk**

Kent Police

Contacting Kent Police

Report a non-urgent crime online **www.kent.police.uk/report**
Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 **www.kent.police.uk/contact**
In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**
If deaf or speech impaired, text '**police**' and your message to **60066**
www.kent.police.uk

Fraud Prevention Advice

- Do not answer unexpected calls, even if it looks like a trusted number. Genuine callers can leave a message or contact you by other means.
- Do not click on links in unexpected emails or messages.
- To protect yourself from identity fraud, regularly check your credit report and report any unrecognised applications to the organisation concerned.
- Have a strong different password on every account.

If you are suspicious of a text, email or website – Ask Silver – To use Ask Silver, start by signing up at **www.ask-silver.com**

Check if your email address or phone number has been part of a data breech; **haveibeenpwned.com**

Reporting Fraud

- Report 'Phishing' (Email scams): **report@phishing.gov.uk**
- Report 'Smishing' (Text scams): Forward the message to **7726**
- Check if your email address or phone number has been part of a data breach: **haveibeenpwned.com**

Together, let's stop scammers

Remember, ABC:

never ASSUME

Never assume a call, text or email is genuine. Criminals can easily obtain basic information about you.

never BELIEVE

Never believe a call, text or email is genuine – Criminals can 'spoof' official telephone numbers and can impersonate anyone.

always CONFIRM

Always confirm if the call, text or email is genuine – hang up calls and do not respond to messages. Contact organisations directly to confirm, do not use numbers supplied by the call, text or email.

Reporting a scam

If you think you or someone you know has been a victim of a scam report it immediately to Action Fraud online **actionfraud.police.uk** or over the phone **0300 123 2040**

For more information and advice visit **kent.police.uk/fraud** or email **KFAS@ecis.police.uk**

Call **159**



If you have paid money or shared bank details, contact your bank's fraud team straight away.

Call 159 for the bank hotline. This number connects you directly to your bank.

Kent Police

Get the latest fraud advice and updates

- Sign up to My Community Voice **mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk**
- Giving you the knowledge and tools you need to stay ahead of scams – **stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk**
- Find Kent Police on Facebook.