

Sussex Police

Rother District Neighbourhood Policing Team Weekly Update

2 October 2015

News, Appeals and Advice

Police are reminding residents to be vigilant to rogue traders, doorstep sellers and unwanted visitors.

A resident from the Winchelsea area recently contacted their local police community support officer to report a visit to their property by a rogue trader.

The homeowner was duped into handing over a significant amount of money for a small amount of gardening work.

People can report cases of rogue traders or uninvited doorstep callers to Citizens Advice consumer service on 03454 04 05 06, but anyone with information that would lead to the arrest of any distraction burglar, or rogue trader should ring their local police on 101, or call Crimestoppers, the national charity, anonymously on 0800 555 111. Always dial 999 in an emergency.

Remember - Not Sure? Don't Open the Door!

- Check the identity of the caller by telephoning the company they are purporting to be from. Use the telephone numbers listed in your local directory, or provided independently by your service provider.
- Check whether traders are members of the Local Authority Assured Trader Schemes or the Government Trust Mark scheme.
- Discuss any work you feel needs carrying out on your property with a relative or friend who can help you find a reputable trader.
- Never pay cash up front and don't ever go to the bank or cash point with a trader.
- If you suspect a rogue trader caller is at your door dial 999

- Don't agree to any work or sign anything on the spot. Do not be pressured into having any work carried out

Evidence strongly suggests that there are links between those who commit distraction burglary and those who are involved in rogue trading. Those who commit these offences often cross county borders.

Heritage Officers urges residents to keep reporting suspicious activity

Last week we reported a couple of instances of criminal damage at church in Rye and Burwash.

Memorial benches are a common sight these days, especially in parks, or churches and as the name suggests are put in areas that are meant to mark a permanent reminder of loved ones, or someone special.

Cemeteries especially are meant to be a place of peace where people can remember family and friends and escape the hustle and bustle of the world and gather thoughts.

Sadly this memorial bench, which is situated in the cemetery opposite St Laurence's Church Catsfield has been damaged sometime in July.



PCSO Daryl Holter said:” To think someone would come to such a quiet and peaceful location and cause this damage is very sad.

“The bench was a memorial to a local man placed there by his family, it is a great shock to the family and local community that it has been damaged.”

Anyone with information is asked to call 101 quoting serial 0166 of 28/07 Alternatively, call the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Did you see a three car collision on the A21 in Sedlescombe?

Police are appealing for witnesses following a collision involving three cars on the A21 in Sedlescombe at around 3pm on Sunday (27 September).

It happened just by the junction with Paygate Road and the vehicles involved were a black Volkswagen Touran, a silver Renault Scenic and a grey Vauxhall Zafira.

The driver of the Volkswagen, a 40-year-old man from Hailsham, suffered serious but not life threatening injuries and was taken to the Royal Sussex County Hospital.

The driver of the Renault, an 81-year old man from Hastings, was taken to Conquest Hospital with a fractured knee cap and cut to his chest. His passenger, a 78-year-old woman from Hastings, suffered minor injuries and was also taken to Conquest Hospital.

The driver of the Vauxhall, a 35-year-old man from Cranbrook in Kent was not injured.

PC Andrew Smith said: "The collision happened on a busy stretch of road and we would like anyone who saw what happened to get in touch.

"Witnesses can email collision.appeal@sussex.pnn.police.uk or call 101 quoting reference 0857 of 27/09."

Second-hand sewing machines stolen in Bexhill

Police are looking to trace two men captured on CCTV in connection with a burglary at a commercial premises in St Leonards Road, Bexhill, at approximately 5 am on Wednesday, (30 September).

The first male is white, about 5' 7", between 25-30 years old slim build, cropped shaven hair, clean shaven and wearing a hooded top.

The second male is white, about 5' 10", between 25-30 years, medium build and wearing a coloured hooded top.

PC Amy Savage said: " At least 10 second-hand sewing machines were stolen and they vary in age from being quite new to at least 50 years old, please can members of the public be vigilant and call us if anyone doing door to door sales tries to sell them second hand sewing machines at cheap prices, particularly without boxes, as they may be stolen property."

Any witnesses or anyone with information is asked to call 101 quoting serial 0310 of 30/09. Alternatively, call the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



Police urge residents to secure garages and outbuildings

Rother District Neighbourhood Policing Team is urging residents to ensure garages and out building are secure and checked regularly, after receiving a report of an attempted break-in to a garage in a garage block in Military Road, Rye, sometime between Wednesday 23 and Wednesday 20 (September).

Access was not gained and nothing was taken, although the garage door was criminally damaged.

Making simple adjustments like making sure padlocks are in good working order, hinges and handles are also maintained. Most criminals are opportunist, so by advertising that you have high value goods or that your building is poorly maintained will make it more appealing to them.

Keep high value items such as garden machinery, power tools and bikes

secure, for example padlocking to the floor, or wall and keep them out of sight. If you have a window in your shed, or garage consider frosting the glass, putting up a curtain or blind, sensor lighting is also a cheap, but effective way of keeping unwanted visitors at bay.

We are urging anyone that sees someone acting suspiciously to report it to us via 101.

You can also visit our website to find out more about appeals and news stories, by visiting <http://www.sussex.police.uk/whats-happening/latest/news-stories>

For your local officer's contact details, information about local events and meetings and actions being taken regarding your priorities cut and paste this link into a browser <http://www.sussex.police.uk/help-centre/your-local-district/rother>

Keep even more up to date with your local Police and what's happening:

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Not sure how to find us online, want to comment on our updates or unsubscribe from this service? Email: **Bexhill.NPT@sussex.pnn.police.uk**

This message was sent by Katie Oliver, public engagement officer, Rother District Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Please do not reply to this email to report crimes or incidents... [Contact us online](#) or call **101** when it's less urgent than **999**