

Ashford C.S.U Newsletter



**Kent
Police**

Urban Northeast Ward

Get the latest crime statistics by visiting: <https://www.police.uk/>

January 2026

Acting on Community Concerns The top 3 concerns for the area are:

E-Scooters , Catapults , Antisocial Behaviour - Nuisance

We had a somebody using a quadbike in the area of Kennington which was causing a nuisance to local residents.

It was located and seized as suspected stolen property. We located a potential owner who lost it during a burglary at their residence a month previously in a neighbouring area. Thankfully they had the serial number recorded and were able to prove ownership and therefore we able to return it to them. However, its prudent to point out that without proof of ownership they may not have been able to claim it back and this applies to all property and items of value.

Register your property for free on [Immobilise](https://www.immobilise.com/) (<https://www.immobilise.com/>) – it helps the police identify the owners of recovered property. Don't forget to add a serial number if it has one. Take photographs of valuable items (next to a ruler for items of jewellery), note down the serial numbers for tools or electrical items and keep documents like receipts related to your property so you can prove ownership.

We continue to stop persons riding e-scooters in our area and neighbouring wards of Ashford which potentially are being used to ride to or through your local area. These 2 were seized this month and will be destroyed, preventing the owners from continuing to use them illegally.



Community Events:

- Opportunity to attend and raise any issues, discuss top 3 priorities highlighted in your area - 9:15AM - 9:45AM, Fri 06 Feb 2026, Dobbies Garden Centre, Eureka Leisure Park, Rutherford Rd, TN25 4BN
- Opportunity to attend and raise any issues, discuss top 3 priorities highlighted in your area - 10:00AM - 10:30AM, Weds 11th Mar 2026, Julie Rose Stadium, Willesborough Road, Kennington, TN24 9QX

Your local
officer:
**PC 13268
Staughton**

Valentine's Day is coming up and this time of year leaves some people vulnerable to fraud, namely Romance Fraud. Therefore, it seems prevalent to raise awareness of this topic even if it doesn't affect you directly, it may help you recognise if someone in your life is vulnerable to it.

So what is Romance fraud - Criminals lie to gain your trust and build a relationship with you. They make everything about the romance feel normal but their aim is to get money or personal information. Romance fraudsters are experts at manipulating their victims.



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They will usually create a story that sounds believable and start the relationship in a normal way, gain your trust over time, invent a problem or situation where you may feel like you want to send money or gifts to help them, and isolate you from friends or family.

Spot the signs. There are some signs to watch out for. When they contact you - They may make conversation more personal to get information from you. But they may not tell you much about themselves that you can check or verify.

They may send a photo to earn your trust. This may be a real photo of them, or it could be stolen from someone else or created using technology. You can use an online tool to check if it's a stolen photo. Use Google or TinEye to do a reverse image search.

They may give you an excuse why they cannot meet you in person. The excuse may seem reasonable.

If you met them on a dating website, game or application, they may steer you away from there. Instead, they may prefer to talk by email, text and phone. Fraudsters often choose encrypted messaging applications, such as WhatsApp.

They want your help - Sometimes, the fraudster will say they need money for an urgent medical operation or an ill family member. They may say they need to pay off a debt or that there's a time critical situation to encourage you to act quickly. It might feel like only you can help them and you may feel a sense of responsibility to do so.

They may ask you to invest money. Or they may ask you to buy gift cards from websites like Amazon or iTunes to send to them. In some cases, they may not ask you for money directly but instead hope you will send it out of kindness. By creating a situation where there's a limited time to act, they want you to feel responsible for solving the problem. They want you to act out of a sense of urgency in the hope that you will do something you would not normally do. They may also promise that things will be better soon and that there will be no more money trouble.

The fraudster may send you expensive items, or ask to send money to your bank account. The circumstances may seem genuine, but you could unwittingly be laundering money, which is a criminal offence.

Keeping secrets - They may ask you to keep the relationship a secret. This is a tactic to isolate you from your family and friends, who may be able to identify the fraud. The fraudster may act upset or insecure when you talk about them to others. They may make you feel sorry for them or distract you with promises of a future together. They may act hurt if you doubt them, even though your doubts are reasonable. They may introduce other people to help the fraud seem more real. This could be family, solicitors or medical professionals, but this is also part of the fraud.

Victim stories - The Met, in collaboration with West Midlands Regional Organised Crime Unit and the City of London Police, has created a series of videos showing victim accounts and crime prevention advice on identifying the signs of romance fraud. They highlight both the financial and emotional consequences. These can be viewed at <https://www.kent.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/personal-fraud/romance-fraud/>

Have your say on local issues:

Kent Police are currently running a new priority survey through MCV to understand the three biggest priorities affecting our community. Your feedback plays a vital role in helping us focus on the issues that matter most to you. Please take a moment to complete the short survey so we can better support you and work together to address the local priorities over the next three months.



MCV is a two-way engagement tool brought to you by Kent Police

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