

The Kesgrave & District SNT web site at

<http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/SaferSuffolk/Kesgrave/>

Is the place to go to see what we are doing and for the wider community to keep themselves up to date with issues affecting them.

Crime across the entire Suffolk Coastal area is reducing by fractionally over 8% to date since April 2008 - but the Kesgrave SNT is sitting on the single biggest drop in crime of all the SNT's within the Eastern Area at 19.4% - that's a huge drop especially as we live in a low crime area to start with.

To put it another way, there are 134 fewer victims of crime in our area now than there was this time last year.

That said, hidden amongst all the information is sad confirmation that STILL cycles are going missing - an increase of some 16% (a total of 29 bicycles in real terms) - and for some reason, once a cycle goes missing it almost always stays missing.

It's cheaper to buy a cycle lock than a new cycle - and now might be a good time to mention that the SNT sell cycle locks and other crime reduction materials on behalf of the 12PT!! We sell cycle coding kits too.

The only other area of crime that is increasing is fraud & forgery (an increase of 3 offences across all 12 parishes) - and I fully accept that there's not a huge amount to be done about that as it's probably on line auction type stuff that only comes to light some time after the event.

The generic crime statistics that are published each month do not drill down to parish level, but from what I can research on our crime recording computers, I can add the below information that may offer some clues as to what's going on around the 12 Parishes Together.

The only Parishes that recorded any crime at all are Kesgrave (21 offences), Martlesham (15 offences), Rushmere St Andrew (7 offences) and Grundisburgh (3 offences).

These figures represent a drop in recorded crime of 36% compared to December 2007 - so it's really pleasing to see that our communities have perhaps taken the hint and locked their sheds / cars garages etc. I would ask all Councils to reiterate the need for their parishioners to remain vigilant and keep their property secure.

Witnesham, Swilland, Little Bealings, Great Bealings and Westerfield all saw a drop in crime of 100% (8 crimes down to NIL between them) - all the other parishes enjoyed another crime free December.

In Grundisburgh, we have started work with a number of people to 'get to grips' with the issue of ASB by a small number of young people who are being blamed for most of the damage and nuisance behaviours. This will be a longer term project, but we hope to be able to put a PCSO's on some busses, perhaps working with the bus drivers, have the youngsters dropped off at specific points and working with Extended Schools and the Youth Workers, parents and Housing Associations, do something to educate the youngsters about the ramification and consequences of their actions - and have them stop. This is all in the planning stage and yet to occur. Grundisburgh is currently one of the SNT priorities.

On a non crime front, I'm pleased to be able to say that the SNT has been able to engage Highways in an issue over some conflict between a local gamekeeper and people who allow their dogs to worry his livestock - and we have also been able to identify and speak to one of the dog walkers about this issue. We are now quite hopeful that as a result, we will be able to see a resolution to the longer term elements such as defining the public footpath more clearly for the benefit of all and educating dog walkers about the rights and wrongs of letting dogs off leads - and the rights of landowners and game keepers to shoot those dogs if livestock are 'worried'. The object of the exercise of course is to be able to avoid the conflict at all.

We also had some success when in concert with partners, local farmers were contacted about mud on roads - with the offending mud being cleared away to the satisfaction of all.

Officers are starting to engage with your local primary schools with a view to getting to know staff and youngsters and we'd appreciate any support from the Parish Councils in easing our introductions. We have found from experience that the little people who know us through an early introduction, tend to react better to us in later years when they get to High School - which of course is the time in their life when they start to 'stretch their wings'.

We have been busy making contact with Post Offices, Publicans, local shops in the more rural areas and the like with a view to introducing ourselves and mapping locations of interest in our TomTom device so we know where we are going if in a hurry.

Our staffing levels will be fully up to strength by the end of March - two more PCSO's are 'in training' as we speak and I am hopeful the loss of Pc Lisa Root will be rectified before too long, so before some of you hold your next PC Meeting, I should be able to introduce some new faces for you to get to know.

Mick Richardson / Sgt 535