

# Ferring



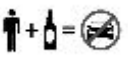
Ferring Neighbourhood Watch  
c/o Ferring Parish Council  
1 Elm Park  
Ferring, BN12 5RN

Tel: 01903 249449

Email: nhweditorial@gmail.com

## July 2021 Newsletter

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• **Drink, Drugs and Driving:** The first sip of a cool drink on a hot Summer's day can take some beating but, if it's alcoholic, even one drink can be dangerous. Chief Inspector Michael Hodder, of the Surrey and Sussex Roads Policing Unit, says "Our advice is to  **drink OR drive;** never both. Alcohol affects different people in different ways, and the only way to guarantee you are safe to drive is to have no alcohol at all. Even one pint of beer or one glass of wine can be enough to put you over the limit and significantly impair your ability to drive safely. Think about it before you get behind the wheel. Don't let your next journey be your last."

In the year ended March 2021, drink or drug-driving related collisions in Sussex caused nearly 300 casualties. Over the same period, 1185 arrests were made for drink-driving in Sussex, and a further 1135 for drug-driving. The consequences of drink or drug-driving could include: ♦ a minimum 12 month ban; ♦ an unlimited fine; ♦ a prison sentence; ♦ a criminal record, which could affect current and future employment; ♦ an increase in car insurance premiums; ♦ the jeopardising of chances of working, studying, or even travelling abroad. You can text the Police on 65999 with the details of people you *suspect* of drink or drug-driving, or visit the [Operation Crackdown](#) website. If you *know* someone is driving while over the limit or after taking drugs, call 999.

• **Watch Out for Shopping Trip Thefts:** Police across West Sussex are warning shoppers to be aware of thieves when in supermarket or similar car parks and shopping areas. Since May a significant number of incidents have been reported in which two women have approached shoppers and stolen or attempted to steal valuable watches in public places such as car parks, outside supermarkets and retail parks. Recently, a couple in Midhurst were approached by two women with a clipboard asking for a document to be signed. One asked to see the wife's handbag and the other then took the man by the wrist, trying to steal his watch. In Littlehampton in June, a 77 year old man was reportedly approached by a woman, who 'gave him a hug and took his very expensive watch'.



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**T: 01903 502121**

**E: [AngelaBrockwell@michaeljones.co.uk](mailto:AngelaBrockwell@michaeljones.co.uk)**

**86 Ferring Street, Ferring, BN12 5JP**

• **More Police Officers:** Last year an Police and Katy Bourne, newly re-elected has recently announced that the current further 117 officers by March 2022.



additional 179 police officers joined Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex, recruitment programme will bring in a

• **Travel Fraud:** Following what seems like an age of Covid-related restrictions including quarantine, uncertainty and missed holidays, and with limits on social contact now very likely to be removed on 19 July, many of us are understandably keen to plan a break soon, whether a holiday abroad or in the UK. However, criminals will be thinking about holidays and travel too - not taking them, but exploiting our eagerness for a break, with fake websites, advertisements, emails, social media




posts, texts and phone calls offering non-existent holidays, flights or accommodation. To help avoid falling victim to travel fraud, keep in mind these tips from Get Safe Online:

- Research accommodation, flights, cruises or package holidays to check they really exist.
- Never pay for holidays, breaks or travel by bank transfer.
- Book holidays and travel through members of recognised trade associations such as ABTA or ATOL. Check ABTA membership on the ABTA official website: ABTA (<https://www.abta.com/abta-member-search>) or ATOL membership via the Civil Aviation Authority (<https://siteapps.caa.co.uk/check-an-atol/>)
- If you think you've been a victim of holiday/travel or any other fraud, report it online to Action Fraud or by calling 0300 123 2040.



• **Keep Your Home Safe This Summer:** If you're taking a trip this summer and intend to post anything on social media, seen only by your friends. suggested ways of improving a number of simple measures



make sure your posts aren't public and that they're The previous (April) issue of this Newsletter the security of your home, and Sussex police have to safeguard your property. Click here or paste the following into your browser to visit their website: <https://www.sussex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/protect-home-crime/keep-burglars-out-property/>

• **Webinars** Neighbourhood Watch Central Support Team have arranged free online webinars to expose the truths behind scams. Open to anyone who would like to know more, two coming up shortly are: **23rd July at 5pm** - Scams awareness training from the Friends Against Scams initiative by The National Trading Standards Scams Team (NTSST) and **30th July, 5pm** - Don't get hooked by scammers! What you need to know about flubot and phishing scams by Christopher Budd, Senior Global Threat Communications Manager, Avast. Book your place by clicking the link(s) above or go to [www.ourwatch.org.uk/webinars](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/webinars)

• **Which? Scam Alert:** Unfortunately with email, text, phone and social media scams still on the rise, people fall victim every day with scammers stealing billions of pounds. Interestingly, Citizens Advice report that while it's often assumed that it's older, less "digitally savvy" people who get scammed, that couldn't be further from the truth. Citizens Advice research found that while scammers are most likely to target over 55s, under 34s are almost five times more likely to fall victim. Which?, the consumer advice organisation, offers a free, helpful Scam Alert service including how to spot scams, practical advice, and next steps for victims. To find out more, click here or paste this address into your browser: [https://campaigns.which.co.uk/scam-alert-service/?utm\\_source=NHW&utm\\_medium=NHWnewsletter&utm\\_campaign=scampromo](https://campaigns.which.co.uk/scam-alert-service/?utm_source=NHW&utm_medium=NHWnewsletter&utm_campaign=scampromo)



Nationally, Police have stepped up action against 'lockdown scammers' and their Dedicated Card and Payment Crime Unit are carrying out raids against people suspected of sending scam texts, including purportedly from Royal Mail. HMRC, NHS, Paypal, EE, Netflix or banks. Recently, one scammer was jailed for 4 years 3 months.



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