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The Relay Issue 06 extra

Channel Tunnel – a unique policing challenge



Welcome

to the latest issue of the special quarterly edition of the Kent Police magazine The Relay.

This version is produced for former officers and staff who want to keep in touch with what is happening across the force.

In this edition we highlight a big change for Kent Police as the force goes live with its new policing model – nKPM.

This has taken months of planning and consultation and will give the force a strong base to deliver an excellent service for the future.

This edition contains a special report looking forward to the work and challenges ahead - particularly for neighbourhood officers and those who are changing roles.

We also report on the new 101 emergency number, plans to co-locate the fire service control room with police and look at the challenges of policing the Channel Tunnel.

Our First Person special takes us to Afghanistan, and the work of a Kent officer who is helping to train the country's police commanders.

We have all the latest sports stories countywide.

As usual we also include the letters page which inspires some interesting correspondence from around the county and beyond.

If you have anything you'd like to say please send your letters to relay@kent.pnn.police.uk or The Relay Editor, South Block, Force Headquarters, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 9BZ.

From the editor

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Unmarked lorry operation targets heavy vehicle offences

The first enforcement operation of its kind for the force used an unmarked lorry to patrol the motorway and main roads so officers could see into cabs and film drivers breaking the law.

The initiative from 24 October to 6 November was so successful it's likely to be repeated. A total of 181 offences were detected and £11,000 worth of fines issued.

Most offences were for not wearing seatbelts. But there were incidents where drivers were not in proper control through distractions such as eating, drinking, steering with knees, using a mobile phone and reading maps. There were also vehicle defects and dangerously overweight lorries.

Officers worked with a local lorry company, which loaned the vehicle so officers were high enough to see into cabs.

Inspector Paul Sellwood, of the Roads Policing Unit, said: 'The degree of offending behaviour among lorry drivers was higher than I expected for a two week period. Most of the offences committed distract drivers. When they're in charge of a large, powerful LGV the consequences to other motorists, as well as themselves, can be a lot more devastating than in a smaller vehicle.'



'When a heavy vehicle hits a stationary car on the hard shoulder or in a tailback the consequences are often fatal. If we've saved one family from losing a loved one, we would have achieved our goal.'



Fire service 999 control room to co-locate with police

The Kent Fire and Rescue Service's 999 control room will co-locate with the force's Control Room from February next year.

The majority of the systems and equipment needed to operate are in place as the force already provides the standby arrangements for KFRS.

The plan was recently agreed by the Kent Police Authority. Assistant Chief Constable Andy Adams said: 'Experience has shown the considerable benefits this arrangement will bring to both services, especially during major incidents, and because the infrastructure is already in place, the co-location can go ahead with the minimum of disruption.'

KFRS had to review its options following cancellation of the Government's FiReControl project, which would have seen a move of control to a regional base in Hampshire. KFRS Director of Operations, Steve Demetriou, said: 'The public will notice no difference to the excellent service we already deliver. Calls will be answered by KFRS staff in line with our current operating arrangements.'

Honour for former officer awarded Victoria Cross

This year's Remembrance Day had a particular poignancy for the force with an honour for a former officer who was awarded the Victoria Cross in WW1.

Sergeant Harry Wells died at the Battle of Loos on 25 September. He is the only Kent officer serving or retired to be decorated with the VC.

Because he resigned from the constabulary before being recalled to fight – he'd previously served with the Royal Sussex Regiment – he is not listed on the headquarters memorial.

Now the new county meeting room has been named in his honour, with a framed picture featuring a copy of his citation for valour and his medal.

This year a wreath was laid on his grave for the first time by a group from Kent Police, including ACC Allyn Thomas, visiting the scene of the battle and the cemetery where Harry is buried in France.

Harry, who lived in Ashford, signed on as a reservist after leaving his regiment. He was recalled in 1914, fighting at Aisne and Ypres.

He was awarded the VC for leading his men into action on the opening day of the Battle of Loos – the first major British offensive, and first use of gas. Officer losses were heavy so Harry was forced to take over.

His grave was moved to Dud Corner Cemetery in the 1920s. Inspector

John Gledhill, who organises trips to historic battle sites for the KPRR, said it was particularly poignant to look across to the site of the fighting. He said: 'It was good to be able to recognise and commemorate a former brave colleague.'

Anyone interested in historic battlefield visits contact John via **email**.



New non-emergency number 101 goes live

The force's non-emergency number changed to 101 on 14 November.

All chief constables have agreed to adopt 101 as the national police non-emergency number. It will be used by all forces from the end of December.

In Kent it replaces 01622 690690. Staff should change the number on stationery and update personal and team voice-mail messages.

The system identifies a caller's location and connects them to the appropriate force. If on a boundary, callers are asked which force they'd prefer to be connected to.

From 14 November when the number went live, people should use 101 to contact neighbourhood officers.



Inspiration to get 'back to basics' in uniform

For some Kent Police officers the force's new operational model has offered an opportunity to get back in touch with their uniform roots and 'own their job' from start to finish.

The nKPM has neighbourhood policing at its heart and with more officers on the streets across three new divisions it presents existing teams and those returning to the beat with greater challenges, a broader role and a chance to develop skills to tackle crime and meet the needs of communities where it matters.

Neighbourhood Inspector Richard Cherry



'A distinct advantage will be around a reduction in bureaucracy – particularly with victims of crime dealing with a single officer'

For Inspector Richard Cherry, a serving officer for 27 years, the introduction of the force's new operational model will be 'a fantastic opportunity to improve the service we provide to the public – particularly within the three key areas of crime reduction, crime detection and satisfaction.'

He said: 'We will be returning to a 'back to basics' style of policing that officers of some 15 years plus service will know and understand from their previous experiences around 'uniform involvement in crime,' where officers owned their job from start to finish.

'I've been an inspector for 16 years and a Medway Neighbourhood Team Inspector since April 2010 with supervisory responsibility for 35 police officers and 60 PCSOs.

'Our current style of neighbourhood policing predominantly revolves around community engagement and crime reduction with an emphasis on anti-social behaviour reduction and repeat victims of crime and ASB.

'Neighbourhood officers under the present system deal with only a small number of people detained for offences. The nKPM will see significant changes around how we function and deliver our service. It's an exciting new concept that will streamline processes and remove a number of outdated working practices.

'Officers will have the opportunity to own and investigate crime, and then, having developed their crime investigation skills, will enable us to identify our detectives of the future.

'A distinct advantage will be around a reduction in bureaucracy, particularly with victims of crime dealing with a single officer. Unlike current practices we will take ownership and be the single point of contact for the victim. This will have a positive impact on satisfaction.

'Officers will develop and flourish within the nKPM, leading to increased confidence achieved through giving them the tools to deal with issues.'

Neighbourhood Sergeant Dave Venus-Coppard

'The new model will see police officers becoming omni-competent – out in the community dealing with all of the public's issues.

'Having attended numerous public meetings in my time, the biggest cause of dissatisfaction appears to be the fact that incidents are passed from officer to officer and the person making the report feels no-one cares about their crime. nKPM will see district officers dealing with crimes from beginning to end.

'This really is policing in its purest form, with district officers dealing with anything from ASB to prisoner handling to pro-active operations to catch burglars along with handling calls and dealing with night time economy.

'Those with enough service will remember this is how policing in Kent used to be done and officers moving into a uniform neighbourhood team from other departments will bring a depth of experience to share. It will also mean there will be enough officers on duty when the public need us and where the public need us.'



'Officers moving into a uniform neighbourhood team from other departments will bring a depth of experience to share'



Facing the challenge of changing roles



Sergeant Dave Godfrey

Volume Crime Team to Neighbourhood

'I've been a detective sergeant for the past eight years, having spent the first eight years of my 16 years working in uniform.

'I feel well prepared for the crime aspect of neighbourhood policing but admit I'm a little nervous around the challenge of meeting the needs of policing the night time economy and finding time to address local ward based issues.

'I intend to use the benefits of my service and experience to meet the challenge but will require the experience of my team, who come from a largely uniformed background, to help me lead them through the finer points of uniformed work.

'I've always tried to stay in touch with my uniform roots – which I believe will now serve as an asset to help me grasp the challenge.

'Working nights at the young age of 42 is a little daunting and if I'm brutally honest I feel that 3/5ths of BCU work now sits with NPU and I'm not entirely convinced, (but I'm hoping) we'll have the right resources to meet the demand.'

'I've always tried to stay in touch with my uniform roots – which I believe will now serve as an asset to help me grasp the challenge'

Detective Sergeant Alan Downs

Crime Group to Neighbourhood Sergeant

'In 1996 John Major was the Prime Minister, Prince Charles and Princess Diana divorced, I had all my hair and last wore a police uniform.

'Following a three month attachment on the KPM crime group I had been persuaded by the detective inspector at Rochester to apply for accreditation to detective constable. And crime group is where I remained – until now.

'Along with everyone else I contemplated my role options this year, and among others I selected the Neighbourhood Policing Unit. They would be dealing with crime, right. I had also considered that with under three years of police service left I had a chance for a complete change of work direction.

'I feel drawn to another spell on the streets, dealing with the public, raw as it were.

'And I look forward to the challenge of supervising a new team. Will the change be difficult? I expect so. Will there be problems? Undoubtedly.

'I also anticipate it will be very interesting and I will learn a lot. Up to now my biggest hurdle to the change has been obtaining a full uniform. Has anyone got any spare trousers!'



PC Mel Fearn

Crime Group to Neighbourhood

'I've been working in the Crime Group for just under two years and under nKPM I'm moving roles and joining NPU.

'I'm looking forward to the move and see the change as an exciting opportunity to gain a more rounded skill base. Having researched the change, in particular I am looking forward to the right department dealing with the right crime from the beginning, and having ownership of incidents from start to finish.

'I feel this new approach will offer the public continuity and a face that they can expect to see throughout the resolution of whatever issues they've raised.

'That is something that I would appreciate if reporting a crime. I'm really supportive of the changes as they will give officers discretion and a sense of responsibility.

'Although I think the coming months will be challenging for all officers and staff, and the new system will clearly have kinks that will need ironing out, I am eager to broaden my horizons and learn new skills as well as being given the opportunity to use my discretion and problem solve incidents using my own initiative.'

PC Ben French

999 Section Response to Neighbourhood

'I've been a police officer since November 2008, securing a place on Team 2 Response at Medway since August 2010.

'My current role includes responding to 999 calls, which could be anything from debris in the carriageway to a serious assault.

'I love the day to day challenges response brings and the variety of incidents I get involved in.

'Under the nKPM structure, I'll be working within the Neighbourhood Unit at Medway. At first, I was a little apprehensive about what to expect and how everything will change, but after reading the communications sent by the Change Team and speaking to senior colleagues, I'm looking forward to it.

'I will most enjoy the opportunity of following through an incident to the end, which is one thing on response you rarely get to do. I feel I am a keen officer and intend to approach the nKPM positively and with an open mind.'



The job

Control Room – Co-ordination and direction



Chief Inspector Operations Simon Black

Control Room

'We have a great opportunity to improve the already very high response service we give to the public.

'For the first time in my 27 years of service, one department will hold the responsibility of initially answering and handling a call from the public, dispatching the nearest and most suitable resource to a call and closing the incident afterwards – beginning to end ownership ensuring our best opportunity to get it right first time.

'The borderless resourcing concept will do away with some of the former parochialisms under the six BCU model and enable a cross-border, safe, rapid, informed and highly professional response to deal with the incident, and more importantly meet our customer's expectations, within the golden hour principles.

'Resourcing Immediate Calls on the county operational channels and High Calls via mobile data terminals and district channels has some echoes of the very distant past.

'I know some are a little anxious about this, but it worked successfully before and with the mobile data terminals will considerably reduce airtime costs and enhance what patrols can do themselves while out and about.

'It will also give the force an opportunity to remind staff of the key ABC principles of transmissions – accuracy, brevity and clarity which will clearly be vital in the busy period of the Olympics next year.

'The nKPM changes also positively affect the FCR operational floor and our internal restructuring and reorganising will enable us to better streamline and tailor our services to cope with patrol support enquiries, the increases expected in handling the 101 Non Emergency Number calls and the introduction of the diary system.'

'For the first time in my 27 years of service one department will hold the responsibility of initially answering and handling a call from the public, dispatching the nearest and most suitable resource to a call and closing the incident afterwards'

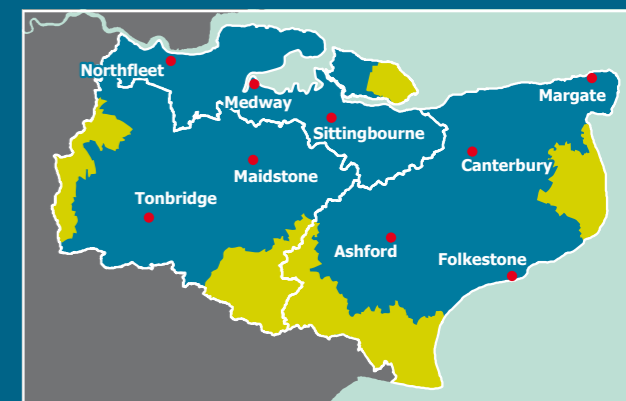


There will be nine response bases. Central Response, in partnership with the Control Room, will provide command and control, directing resources to attend High and Immediate calls.

While much of the county can be covered in 15 minutes to Immediate calls (Urgent Duty Driving) from one of the bases, there will be some longer journeys.

Kent has always patrolled broad geographical areas proactively. In Central Response this will continue, but to ensure appropriate response times to 'Immediate' and 'High' calls, borderless policing will be standard practice, enabling the most suitable resource to be sent to incidents. In reality officers are likely to deal with those in their reporting area and will always finish at the location where they report for duty.

The aim is for response officers to spend the minimum amount of time in the station before going on patrol. The need for close working relationships with local police teams, local briefings and tasking is essential.



● : Response base
■ : 15 minute response time (from response base)
■ : Over 15 minute response time (from response base)

Central Response – Do it Once, Do it Right

Inspector Mark Holt



Central Response

'From an inspector's point of view what excites me is that I will be out and about doing the inspector's role I aspired to – what inspectors did in the past – inspecting and maintaining standards but importantly providing support to officers and particularly the sergeants who have sometimes felt isolated.

'The new Central Response function is about delivering what the public really need – and that is effective responsive policing.

'However even though efficient response to the public's needs is our principal objective, we will also work closely with our divisions to support our colleagues' priorities. We are all part of the same team.

'We all recognise we won't have all of the answers before we go live, but our traditional resilience will ensure we all work together to fine tune what will become the final product.

'Policing doesn't necessarily change that much when it comes to an incident or scene management but the standard and quality of our response can. Do it Once. Do it Right is the drive behind the 'Golden Hour' concept.

'It's very much about responding to the best of your ability. It's about realising you will have something to do and it's your job to do it because you are there.

'Uniform and equipment standards will be clear. Robust processes will ensure police vehicles are checked and searched at the beginning and end of shifts. Personal responsibility is key. If someone does not check their vehicle they will be held accountable.

'This emphasis on taking personal responsibility links in with the 'Do it Once, Do it Right' principle. It's not about doing a bit and then thinking the rest is someone else's job. For response officers the 'Golden Hour' can last as long as necessary to do an effective job at a crime or incident, and then provide a quality handover to colleagues. It's about recognising that as an individual you will be the one making a difference.'

'It's very much about responding to the best of your ability. It's about realising you will have something to do and it is your job to do it because you are there'

Channel Tunnel – a unique challenge

It's been called one of the seven wonders of the modern world. When the Channel Tunnel opened in 1994 it finally gave travellers a fast undersea rail link between England and France and with it a unique policing challenge for the force.

This involves providing the patrols and public reassurance needed with thousands of passengers, cars and freight lorries travelling under the English Channel between Kent and Europe each year.

It also includes being responsible for a unique underground emergency response to any incident involving the tunnel; counter terrorist activity to avert potential threats to the tunnel or travellers, and public safety – ensuring sites are safe, secure and any incident handled correctly.

It means close operational working with emergency partners like Kent Fire and Rescue Service - during a fire the force is responsible for safe evacuation – the South East Coast Ambulance Service, authorities on both shores and both British Transport and French Police.

Policing across such a wide remit is ever evolving. In June, national newspapers reported how a suspected international assassin – his alleged target two Rwandan political activists in the UK – was intercepted by Kent counter terrorism and armed officers at Folkestone.

The man, a bus driver with a Belgian passport, was a veteran of Rwanda's

intelligence service. He was sent back through the tunnel within hours.

During severe weather a few years ago, four Eurostar trains failed in the cold, leaving passengers stranded underground.

Deputy Head of Frontier Operations, Detective Chief Inspector Matt Pringle said although the force wasn't directly criticised, officers worked closely with Eurostar and Eurotunnel and it provided an opportunity to learn lessons and review procedures.

Eurostar has completely changed its response, and Kent Police has devised new training, spread responsibility to increase resilience and introduced a new Tactical Advisor constable role. The 15 TAs have specialist knowledge and a unique perspective of the tunnel so they can advise commanders 24/7 on the specific details of the tunnel and underground partnership emergency response.

DCI Pringle said: 'Policing the Channel Tunnel is unique. There's nowhere else in the country which has an underground response to this level. At any one time there can be up to 4,000 people underground

in either a Eurostar train, freight shuttle or passenger shuttle and if something happens on the UK side of the tunnel Kent Police will be responsible for dealing with it, working closely with our emergency and commercial partners.

He added: 'I would like to think if my gran was on a train which broke down or was involved in an underground situation that she would be helped to safety in the most efficient and professional way possible. That is our responsibility. We are providing reassurance, both relating to the safety of the site but also if anything went wrong, and preventative measures in terms of intelligence and counter terrorism, stopping criminals in their tracks.

'We now have a bespoke combined emergency service training programme at the Training School which is designed to simulate an underground incident. Not only are we responding together we're now training together. We carry a responsibility to manage a huge risk, we manage that risk through preparedness and a consistent training regime in addition to our bi-national exercises with French colleagues.

'This all helps develop a sense of collective responsibility that breeds strong morale and a real team ethos that comes from the Channel Tunnel's unique nature. We seem to have no difficulty in attracting high quality recruits but if anyone else is interested in seeing a bit more of what we do then please get in touch.'

'At any one time there are up to 4,000 people underground'



'A suspected international assassin was intercepted at Folkestone'



First person

Special:
Chief Inspector Martin Cunningham
Leading the way to policing in Afghanistan

When Chief Inspector Martin Cunningham flew into Kabul he was immediately struck by the vast untamed environment in front of him. His heartfelt respect for the Afghan people – facing challenges he said he couldn't begin to comprehend – has grown each day he's been in the country. The critical incident specialist is halfway through a year's secondment with the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan. He's already trained more than 1,000 students at the new Afghan National Police Staff College in managing major incidents and is running investigation courses for up to 20,000 Afghan officers.

Travelling into Kabul, what struck me most was the vast mountain ranges. No matter where I looked from the plane, there was nothing but mountain ranges, covered with differing depths of snow, dependant on the height. What a vast, untamed environment. This was it, no going back now.

My colleagues and I have been charged with setting up a staff college to develop the Afghan police commanders of the future. The importance of this programme is not lost on any of us. The team are all driven and talented people. There's a lot riding on the success of our work, along with the work of other colleagues.

As a Senior Training Advisor it's been a challenging and hugely rewarding journey so I do feel a sense of pride when we talk about over 1,000 students receiving training.

And, let's not forget the type of learning we're developing here. Others take care of general police training for new recruits, but our mission is responsibility for development of senior leaders within the Afghan National Police.

That means we've developed leadership training for officers performing some of the most challenging roles in the country including the pivotal district commander position as well as zone and provincial commanders.

Having been in Kabul for more than six months now, I've a better understanding of my role and the Afghan people. There have been times when I've wondered why I'm here and on one such day, early on, I had this answered.

We were driving back to our base and on the way there were a couple of hundred schoolgirls walking home from school – it could have been a scene from any developed country, they had school bags and were talking and laughing with each other (the only stark difference was there was none of the anti-social behaviour I've often witnessed at home).

Under the Taliban this would not have been the case and whenever I get frustrated with things here I remember I am, in a very small way, contributing to this continued success.

When I arrived I'd heard a number of things about the students I'd be teaching. Some people said, 'they are illiterate, they have no systems and structures', fortunately I took the view I'd form my own opinions and assess things for myself.

Can you talk for 30 minutes on the life of Winston Churchill? If you answered 'no', you're not too different to many in the UK. But ask anyone here about a historical figure,

Ahmed Shah Masoud, legendary mujahedin fighter and Afghan national hero. They will tell you everything about his life.

The Afghan people are well versed at learning through verbal communication, their retention of knowledge is excellent. Because some can't read and write some westerners think they're stupid. This theory is flawed, the Afghans are a very hardy and resilient people, it's for us to facilitate learning in the right way and to help them make the best of themselves. We should not underestimate these people.

One staff officer to a general I had on my course was at work at 5am, got the general's requirements completed, came to class and then went back to his day job till later in the evening. Two young captains, who were always tired concerned me. Other class members explained they had some of their men working on convoy escorts through the night – pre-planned operations where they felt it was their responsibility to 'count them out and count them in'. After a couple of hours sleep they came to class. I adapted class activity to better meet their needs.



The Afghan people have been through 30 years of conflict and are just starting to get back on their feet as a nation. It took the UK over 120 years to have policing the public we're proud of and we're still developing.

It's a tall order to ask the Afghans to deliver the same in such a short period of time. But we can support them in delivering the firmest of foundations to transform the Afghan National Police to a civilian organisation that protects and serves the Afghan people.

Clearly the challenges we face are not nearly as difficult as those faced by the military. The other week I arrived back from a period of leave on the day the Taliban chose to carry out complicated attacks on the city. I helped in the control of one of the bunkers, making critical decisions about people's safety with explosions and shots fired close by.

Continued on next page.

'Policing is a family and working with the police of other nations evidences this, there is a bond, no matter how different the national culture or the policing models'



First person

Some of the experiences of command, control and communication, and making critical decisions in challenging environments, are things I will also bring back to Kent with me.

Policing is a family and working with the police of other nations evidences this – there is a bond, no matter how different the national culture or the policing models. Police officers are a similar breed the world over.

There have been times when I have offered condolences or words of support to Afghan police commanders where their staff have faced difficulties. It has been heartening to have them return this support and show concern to their policing colleagues serving in the UK.

The 1,000 student headline is a key milestone, but it's just the end of the beginning. We've just seen the signing off of the contract to build our new purpose built facility in Kabul for 300 students at any given time. Alongside is a new facility we're building in Bamiyan Province for 200 students.

Hopefully by helping improve the longer term ability of the Afghan National Police, we can support the process to bring our troops home and improve the opportunities for the Afghan people.



Your letters

Featuring a selection of letters sent to Kent Police with gratitude

Thanks for tackling takeaway trouble

Dear Sir,

I would like to express my thanks for the actions of your officers who attended a 999 call at my address on 12 August, I believe from Sheerness Police Station.

The officer who saw us had a very inventive way of dealing with the situation by making the culprit clear up the mess he made by throwing an Indian Takeaway at our door. I am sure you are very proud of the way your police officers deal with anti-social behaviour and in this case the police officers took control and diffused a potentially volatile situation.

Please convey my thanks to the officers involved. I am sure with police officers of this quality Kent will not suffer from the problems in other counties. I do feel safer knowing officers of this calibre are patrolling our streets.

Name and address supplied

Thank you for protecting London during disorder

Dear Sir,

I am writing on behalf of the London Assembly to thank you and your police officers for the contribution you made to protecting London and Londoners by supporting the Metropolitan Police Service during the public disorder incidents in London in August.

The Assembly asked that its thanks be placed on record to underline its gratitude for the support and assistance provided by you and other police forces across the country during an extremely difficult period of time for the city and in recognition of the commitment and bravery displayed by the officers involved.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM,
Chair of the London Assembly**

Decent Londoners applaud your stance

Dear Sir,

As a Member of the European Parliament for London I would like to send my thanks to you and all the members of the police forces that sent officers to London to quell the riots this summer.

I am sure I speak on behalf of all decent Londoners when I say that we were all shocked by the unrestrained savagery of the riots and we are greatly appreciative of the members of the police and emergency services who risked their lives to suppress them.

I would like to pass on my thanks and congratulations to your officers.

**Gerard Batten,
Member of the European Parliament for London**

Busy year for Chaos club members

The force's Chaos – Climbing Hills and Outdoor Sports Club – aims to provide 'something for everyone' who likes to be physically active at home or abroad.

A busy year in 2011 saw members taking part in:

- A glacier trek to Gran Paradiso in the Italian Alps
- Walking weekends in the Lake District and North Wales
- The annual police fell race in the Cheviots
- The classic 'Snowdonia 7' police event in North Wales
- The annual 'Boots and Beer' festival weekend in the Yorkshire Dales
- A day walk on the Greensand Way near Sevenoaks,
- The Annapurna circuit in Nepal

Similar activities are planned for 2012 and new members are always welcome. The trips are at reduced prices, through a combination of shared costs and club subsidy.



British Heart Foundation charity bike ride

A team from East Kent tactical CID and AMET took the tougher option when they joined the British Heart Foundation cycle ride.

The event involved either a 29 mile or a 55 mile ride. The riders chose the latter.

Mark said: 'We decided to do the longer of the two, but the route was very good and well signed, with scenery varying from coastline, through woods to rolling hills.'

'We raised £300 and are planning several other rides where we'll look to help local charities.'

Left to right, PC Heidi Collins, DC Brian Doughty, DC Paul Francklin, DC Diane Francklin, DC Mark Thorne, DC Clare Taylor, DC Adam Hinton and PC Gary Stamp

Good results for Tri-club

The end of the triathlon season brought some good results for the Kent Police Tri-club.

One of the last events was the Windfarmer Triathlon. In the standard distance – 1,500m swim, 40k bike, 10k run – Detective Constable Nick Baxter was the first home in 2hrs 16mins, claiming 9th place overall and 3rd in age group. Nicky Hill took the 3rd woman's prize.

Good results came from Inspector Gareth Silcock, 2hrs 23mins, DC Stuart Champion, 2hrs 35mins, DC Dave Taft, 2hrs 37mins, and Dave Withers, 2hrs 55mins.

On the same day PC Vicky Strila and press officer Sally Smith took part in the late summer triathlon in Crawley (400m swim, 25km bike, 6km off-road run) where Sally won her age group and 2nd lady overall and Vicky claimed 3rd lady overall.



DC Nick Baxter with his award.



DC Baxter's sprint finish

Taste of Olympics for cross country runners

Cross country runners had a taste of Olympic facilities when they took part in a regional heat at the challenging Gloucester Park course in Basildon, Essex.

The weather was perfect and the ladies team came second, narrowly beaten by Hertfordshire. They much appreciated the opportunity to use the 'excellent' facilities built for the 2012 Olympics.

Both women's and men's teams are in the South East Regional Cross Country League competing against Herts, Hampshire, Bedfordshire, Norfolk and the City of London. Kent hosts its regional event on 14 March. The national championships are on 22 February.



Left to right Sharon Graham, Toni Matthew, Wendy Gilham and Sally Smith

Anglers land awards in national championships

Kent anglers won both individual and team awards at the Police Sport UK National Shore Angling Championships – which netted a total of 5,294 fish.

The Kent Police Recreational Association Sea Angling Section hosted the event on 16-17 November, where 42 teams – 168 anglers – from all over the UK competed in zoned matches on the Folkestone and Hythe coast.

Over the two days 13 species were recorded out of a total of 5,294 fish.

Results were: Individual – 1st John Crawford, (Kent A). Team – 1st (Kent A) Barry Uden, Chris Hogben, Greg Fright, John Crawford

Organisers thank everyone who gave up their own time to make the event a success.