

# Newsletter

Summer edition 2009



## Welcome

Welcome to this edition of the Tonbridge and Malling Community Safety Partnership newsletter. In this edition we give an update on the crime statistics in the borough, explain the laws regarding mini-motos, give information about what the Borough Council and Police are doing to tackle anti-social behaviour and give details about a recent safer number plate event.

Further details about the work of the Partnership can be found on our website:

[www.tmcommunitysafety.org.uk](http://www.tmcommunitysafety.org.uk)

## Tonbridge & Malling - a safe place to live

Crime figures have fallen for the 30<sup>th</sup> month in a row in Tonbridge and Malling proving that the borough is maintaining its record as one of the safest boroughs in Kent. The total number of crimes in Tonbridge and Malling fell by 11.2 per cent for the period April 2008 to March 2009 in comparison to the same period the year before. Figures fell in almost every category of crime and only one area showed an increase - Serious Gun Crime - but the number of incidents recorded remained very low (rising from 4 to 8). The figures for April and May 2009 continue to show a reduction in overall crime.



*A PCSO with members of the public*

District Chief Inspector Dave Pate says: "Tonbridge and Malling is consistently one of the safest boroughs in Kent and it's great to see that crime figures have again fallen significantly. However, we know that living in a 'low crime' area is no consolation if you have been a victim of crime. Crime can have a devastating effect no matter what it is and that's why the Tonbridge and Malling Community Safety Partnership is working harder than ever to reduce crime still further. Our actions during this year will include us intensifying our efforts to target repeat offenders, staging more high-visibility drug operations, holding numerous crime prevention events, raising awareness of home security with the help of Neighbourhood Watch and other community groups and continuing our crackdown on anti-social behaviour. We are determined to tackle the issues that matter to local people so that they can feel even safer in their local communities."

### In this issue

- Latest crime statistics
- Safer Number Plate event
- Mini-motos – know the law
- Tackling anti-social behaviour

# Safer Number Plate event

On Thursday 16 April members of the Community Safety Partnership and Tonbridge & Malling Crime Prevention Panel ran a safer number plate event in the car park to the rear of the Angel Centre in Tonbridge.

The safer number plate scheme fits free tamper proof screws to vehicles to prevent the theft of number plates. New 'clutch head' screws, which are the same size as the current screws, were fitted to the number plates. These 'clutch head' screws, once fitted, are very difficult to remove and are designed to deter criminals from taking the number plates. While the screws were being fitted, the owners of the vehicles were also able to get advice on other crime prevention measures, such as how to keep their vehicle safe and belongings secure.

Inspector Justin Watts said "This was a hugely successful event. We fitted anti-tamper screws to nearly 100 cars showing that simple measures like this can make a difference".



*Picture shows the anti-tamper proof screws being fitted.*

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## 'Y2 Crew' summer activities

'Y2 Crew' offers a wide variety of activities, ranging from Ten Pin Bowling to High Ropes, First Aid to Thorpe Park for young people aged 11 – 18. This year the scheme will be running weekdays from Monday 27 July to Friday 21 August in Aylesford, Borough Green, Burham, Ditton, Eccles, East Malling, Hadlow, Larkfield, Leybourne, Snodland, Tonbridge (including Hildenborough), West Malling and Wrotham.

The Activity Days are free and there will be a small charge for the trips and courses. For more information, or for a brochure, contact Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council on 01732 876166.

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## Let's keep crime down campaign

A new national crime prevention campaign has been launched by the Home Office aimed at preventing burglaries. The number of burglaries in Tonbridge and Malling is low (during the period April 2008 to March 2009 there were 273 burglaries recorded, a reduction of 9 per cent on the previous year.) However, many burglaries are committed by an opportunist thief who takes advantage of an open door or window.

The Home Office is asking residents to think about how they can protect their home and there are some simple measures that you can take including:

- making sure that your doors and windows are locked - even if you're just popping out for a minute.
- Install a visible burglar alarm and turn it on
- Make sure valuables such as jewellery and car keys cannot be seen from a window.
- Close the curtains and leave lights on in the evening
- Buy a UV marker pen and mark all valuables with your postcode and house number.
- In the garden, make sure that fencing is in good condition and that the side gate is padlocked.

If you are an older person living in Tonbridge and Malling and need help to secure windows and doors you can contact the Handy Van scheme. This scheme provides the free fitting of home security products such as door chains, mortice locks, window locks and door viewers. It is primarily aimed at older people on low incomes and no charges are made for labour or the products installed. You can apply for the service, or get more information, by telephoning 01255 473999 or by e-mailing [handyvan@helptheaged.org.uk](mailto:handyvan@helptheaged.org.uk)

Further information about the 'Let's keep crime down' campaign can be found at [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime-victims/how-you-can-prevent-crime/secure-your-home/](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime-victims/how-you-can-prevent-crime/secure-your-home/) which includes a quick, three minute scorecard you can complete to find out how secure your home is.

# Community Crime Fighters

The Community Crime Fighters programme was announced by the former Home Secretary, Jacqui Smith in September 2008. It aims to develop stronger links between crime fighting agencies and the communities they serve. Community Crime Fighters are members of the public who are already actively involved in their communities and want to do or know more.

If you are interested in becoming a Community Crime Fighter there are training events being held in the autumn. The nearest location to us is Brighton and the training day will be held on Tuesday 13 October. The event is free to attend and refreshments and lunch are provided. Help is available with travel costs if required. All those attending the Community Crime Fighters training are offered a range of additional support which includes access to a Community Crime Fighters telephone line, a quarterly newsletter and additional training opportunities.

To book a place potential delegates should call the Community Crime Fighters registration desk on 0800 197 2965. You can also book on-line at [www.communitycrimefighters.org.uk](http://www.communitycrimefighters.org.uk) quoting booking reference CCF02.

Please note that these events are aimed at volunteers and community activists, not paid workers from crime fighting agencies.

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## Tackling anti-social behaviour

The Police and Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council are working together to tackle those causing anti-social behaviour in the borough.

### Tackling the root causes

Any individual who is identified as persistently causing anti-social behaviour is discussed at a monthly Anti-social Behaviour Task Group, chaired by the Borough Council's Anti-social Behaviour Officer. A variety of different agencies attend this meeting including Social Services, Probation, the Police and Housing Associations. Each individual is discussed (under the terms of the information sharing protocol) and actions are agreed about how to tackle the root causes of the behaviour. These actions could include undertaking a visit to the offender, issuing a warning letter or an Acceptable Behaviour Agreement. The final stage could be issuing an Anti-Social Behaviour Order, although at present there are no ASBOs in place in the borough.

During 2008/9 the ASB Task Group dealt with 47 individuals. Of these 80% improved their behaviour and were removed from the agenda of the sub-group as they were no longer causing anti-social behaviour. The 20% who had not improved were either still being discussed by the Group or had moved on to commit criminal activities and had therefore been dealt with by the police.

### Tackling underage drinking

PCSO Linda Baker has been confiscating alcohol from young people in Woodland Walk, north Tonbridge. She responded to information received from concerned members of the public and confiscated cider and wine from young people. Since then she has made follow up visits to their parents to ensure that they were aware of what had happened.

Linda said: "Taking action against underage drinking has been identified as a priority for residents in Higham ward, so I was pleased I was able to stop these young people on this occasion. Underage drinking can lead to anti-social behaviour which is a concern for residents. It is also worrying that youngsters are drinking, often large amounts, in out of the way places. There is a real risk that if they were to become ill they may not be able to get help."

People who buy alcohol to pass on to young people need to be aware that the police will be looking out for them and they risk an £80 fixed penalty ticket.

## The YISP Power Project

The YISP (Youth Inclusion and Support Panel) Power Project aims to prevent young people from entering the criminal justice system through offering one-to-one support. Once a young person has been identified, the YISP worker will meet that young person and their parent/carer to discuss what they want and their needs. A plan is then made with everyone involved, setting out personal goals based on individual needs, talents and interests. As YISP gets other professionals involved, they are able to offer a wide range of support and activities for young people and their families. The worker will maintain close contact and support for 3 – 6 months.

If you would like further information about the YISP Power Project contact the Senior Project Co-ordinator on 01732 364688.

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## Mini-motos – know the law



There has been an increase in the number of complaints related to nuisance motorbike use, especially mini-motos. The Community Safety Partnership would like to remind all residents that vehicles such as off road bikes, mini motos, quad bikes and electric scooters can only be used legally on private land with the explicit permission of the landowner. Riding these vehicles in a manner or place that causes harassment, alarm or distress could lead to a formal warning and ultimately the vehicle could be seized.

If you want to ride one of these machines, do so on private land and with the permission of the landowner; and please be thoughtful of others with regard to noise.

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## Useful contact details

Community Safety Unit	<a href="mailto:Csp@tmbc.gov.uk">Csp@tmbc.gov.uk</a>	01732 876132
Sarah Taylor	Anti-Social Behaviour Officer, <a href="mailto:csp@tmbc.gov.uk">csp@tmbc.gov.uk</a>	01732 876149
Kent Police	To report a non 999 call	01732 771055
Kent Crimestoppers	Calls are free and anonymous	0800 555 111
Women's Support Service	Advice on domestic violence	01622 674921
Neighbourhood Watch	West Kent area	01732 529910
Streetline	To report a street related problem	01732 876060

## Contacts for the Police and Community Wardens

Contact details for all local neighbourhood policing teams, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and Community Wardens can be found on [www.tmcommunitysafety.org.uk](http://www.tmcommunitysafety.org.uk)

### Newsletter produced by Tonbridge and Malling CSP

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