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Horsham District Monthly Update – What we did in November 2014

Crime and Community Safety

A Horsham man has been charged with three exposure matters having been identified by witnesses. He remains on conditional bail until 17 December.

A Horsham woman was given a two month jail sentence, suspended for 18 months, with a three year driving ban, an £80 victim surcharge, and £200 costs. She had pleaded guilty to drink driving, driving while disqualified, and driving without insurance.

A man from West Chiltington was given a community order with a requirement to complete a six month drug rehabilitation programme, and a £60 victim surcharge. He had pleaded guilty to possessing heroin and cocaine, and to failing to answer court bail.

A series of warrants have been executed this month throughout Horsham District, some with positive results where drugs and firearms have been found and persons arrested. This will be a continuing programme of warrants being executed in the area – watch this space!

Op Hawfinch

Three men have each been jailed for 30 years having been found guilty of conspiring to kill a woman in Horsham in February.

Bruce Killick, 63, Graham Martin, 39, and Karl Cruise, 55, have been found guilty after a five week trial at Hove Crown Court for planning to kill Bruce's wife, Susan, on February 18 at their home in Brooks Green, near Horsham.

They were sentenced the same day, Killick and Martin for 30 years with a minimum of 20 and Cruise for 30 with a minimum of 15. Cruise was also sentenced for 11 years for GBH with intent to run concurrently.

Public Confidence

Burglary Campaign (27 October – 17 November)

The number of burglaries, reported across the south east has fallen following the Regional Burglary Campaign. This year the total number of burglaries in Sussex, Surrey, Kent and Thames Valley between 27 October and 17 November (duration of the campaign) fell by 16% - from 1247 in 2013 to 1048. In Sussex there were 239 burglaries compared to 256 in 2013.

Sussex Police launched Operation Magpie last year to tackle burglary across the county. Follow the link to read recent successes for the team:-

<http://www.sussex.police.uk/whats-happening/latest/news-stories/2014/11/20/burglaries-fall-by-16-during-joint-campaign-across-the-south-east>

UK Disability History Month 2014 (22 November – 22 December)

To celebrate UK Disability History Month 2014, Sussex Police is working with partners to promote equality for people with disabilities in our communities and workforce.

The month runs between 22 November and 22 December, and there will be a range of public-facing events, including opportunities to meet specialists and get advice on a range of issues, find out about how to get support and some seasonal treats for the run up to Christmas.

Highlights include:

- A Hate Crime Awareness event in Hastings on 17 December at which members of the public can meet their local Disability Engagement Officers and policing teams
- The launch of a GPS tracking project in East Sussex to support dementia patients
- Two members of Sussex Police staff who have disabilities blogging on our website writing about their experiences of working at Sussex Police
- Hate Crime Sergeant Peter Allan running presentations about disability hate crime for staff and partners
- Storytelling events from Independent Lives (www.independentlives.org), a user led organisation which provides a range of services to support disabled people to lead full, active and independent lives
- Several seasonal charity Christmas markets.

Visit www.sussex.police.uk/whats-happening/uk-disability-history-month-2014-events for a full list of events that are open to the public.

Press Release

Teenager arrested over attack on couple with learning disabilities in Horsham Press Release – (28 November)

A 17-year-old boy has been questioned by police over an incident in which a gang of teenagers attacked a couple with learning disabilities in Horsham.

The victims - a 25-year-old woman and her 21-year-old boyfriend - were at Horsham bus station in Worthing Road to catch a 6.50pm bus home on 25 November when a group of teenagers arrived there and began throwing sweets at them.

One of the teenagers then approached the man, who also has physical disabilities, and started hitting him. The attacker pushed the woman out of the way and then grabbed the man by the throat before the teenagers all left.

A 17-year-old from London has been arrested and questioned on suspicion of assault before being released on bail until 27 December.

Chief Inspector Howard Hodges, the district commander for Horsham, said: "We have had an overwhelming response from the public who have been supportive of the victims and have united in condemnation of this incident.

"We have made one arrest and we have been given possible names for the others who were involved. We remain keen to hear from any other witnesses and would urge anyone who knows anything at all about what happened to contact us."

Anyone with information should email 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk quoting serial 1327 of 25/11, call 101 or contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Community Partnership Safety (CPS)

As part of the CPS Road Safety Priority – Special Neil Worth, delivered a Road Traffic Crash (RTC) Awareness training session for the Ambulance Community First Responders from Billingshurst and West Chiltington at Horsham Fire Station. Neil explained what to do if they came across an RTC, how to keep the casualty, and themselves safe and what actions the police require from them at the scene of a crash.

Al Green, Watch Commander, West Sussex Fire and Rescue then did a demonstration where two of the responders acted as casualties and were extracted from the car, putting into practice their learnings.



Southwater Grand Opening Event (14 November)

Clifford Hodges was invited to attend the Grand Opening Event of the Southwater Leisure Centre Multi User Games Area at Southwater Leisure Centre

The project has been made possible through funding of £50,000 from Sport England, Gatwick Area Conversation Trust £1,000 with the remaining funding coming from development gain and has been an aspiration of the community for over ten years.



CI Hodges showing his five-a-side football skills with pupils from local schools

Thank you letters/recognition

Thank you email from member of public to CI Howard Hodges in relation to PCSO Tracy Bicknell:-

'On behalf of my 91 year old mother, I want to say thank you to Horsham Police and particularly to Community Service Officer Tracy Bicknell who took the time this week to visit my mother.

Because my mother lives alone in a semi-rural location, and because I live 6,000 miles from her – I am SO appreciative, as is my mother.

Please convey our gratitude to Tracy for taking the time to make that visit. It may be a small gesture on Tracy's part, but it means a great deal to my mum.

She has had some challenges in the past few years - dealing with my 92 year old father's battle with Alzheimer's disease. He is now bedridden at Ifield Park where he is receiving excellent care.

I either telephone or Face Time my Mum every day from San Diego, California where I live and work. But having a member of law enforcement pop in to chat with my mother is very comforting for us both.

I am a prosecutor in San Diego, and so I already have a great respect and appreciation for the dedication of police officers. But this proactivity is superb.

Wishing you and all your colleagues at Horsham Police Station a safe Christmas season'.

Annual Police Cadet Parade – 21 November

The devotion, hard work and community spirit of Sussex Police's young volunteers was celebrated at the annual Volunteer Cadet Corps (VCC) parade.

The cadets were joined by VIPs including HM Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex Peter Field, High Sheriff of East Sussex Chris Gebbie OBE, Justice of the Peace Carole Shaves MBE, Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Katy Bourne and Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) Robin Smith, among others.

Please follow links below:-

<http://www.sussex.police.uk/whats-happening/latest/news-stories/2014/11/25/devotion-and-community-spirit-celebrated-at-the-annual-police-cadet-parade>

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.751002701611956.1073741844.506853646026864&type=1&l=988a14caea>

Horsham cadets did a fantastic display which was based on drink drive/drug driving procedures procedures which was extremely humorous and involved the participation of the VIPS in attendance.

Value for Money

A cheque of £250 was allocated to 1st Broadbridge Heath Scout Group from the Police Property Act Fund to go towards the village hall refurbishment.



PCSO Damian Cecil presenting the cheque

Regards

Chief Inspector Howard Hodges
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West Sussex Division
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