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## Horsham District Monthly Update – What we did in May 2015

### Crime and Community Safety

#### **Operation Argos - More than 50 cars damaged in Pulborough, West Chiltington and Billingshurst**

Four teenage boys have been arrested on suspicion of damaging more than 50 vehicles in Pulborough, West Chiltington and Billingshurst.

Windows on the vehicles were smashed with rocks or stones in the early hours of Monday (4 May) and Tuesday (5 May).

An 18-year-old man from Cowfold, an 18-year-old man from West Chiltington, a 17-year-old boy from West Chiltington and a 14-year-old boy from Dial Post have been arrested on suspicion of criminal damage.

All four were questioned before being released on bail until 2 July.

Officers also seized a quantity of catapults that are currently being examined.

Police are still keen to speak to anyone who saw or heard any of the damage being done.

Extra patrols have been sent into the area to speak to residents and try to find anyone who saw anyone behaving suspiciously late at night.

Inspector Clare McKnight said: "Although we have made these arrests we still need to speak to anyone who saw or heard anything suspicious at all in the early hours of Monday 4 or Tuesday 5 May.

"No matter how insignificant you might think the information is, it could be vital to our investigation so please do not hesitate to get in touch.

"Each of the victims has been left with the inconvenience and cost of having their vehicles repaired and we are determined to bring those responsible to justice."

#### **Operation Halton**

Alexandra Giddings of Brighton Road, Shermanbury, was driving a blue Citroen C1 east on the B2116 Shermanbury Road around 10.20pm on Thursday 14 May when it left the road and collided with a tree. She was the only occupant. She was taken to the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton where she died on Friday morning.

The family have issued this tribute to her; "Alexandra was a pupil at Jolesfield Primary School, Steyning Grammar School and City College Brighton where she qualified as a nursery nurse.

"She was employed at Bluebells Nursery, Partridge Green and was also a member of the facilities team at Horsham Hospital.

"Throughout Alexandra's life she showed a keen interest football and was a member of two local teams. She was a keen supporter of English Rugby.

"Alexandra had just returned from South Africa, where she volunteered with Skillshare who have said the following: "Alexandra approached her placement with enthusiasm, kindness, vibrancy and humour".

They would also like to echo the sentiments of one of Alexandra's Team Leaders Jed Haney "The world has lost one of the greatest girls I had the privilege of knowing. She was incredible, caring, kind, funny and would always take the need of others into consideration before herself." Whilst team leader Dan Hancock has said: "She touched the lives of friends, children and families over the past three months and I was proud of her." "Alexandra was known for the exuberance she brought to her social life. She was a social butterfly having a wide and varied group of friends. She was beautiful inside and out and the glue that held all the friendship groups together.

"The family is truly devastated at the loss of their Alexandra."

### **Driver without licence jailed for knocking down and killing cyclist in Horsham**



A man who knocked down and killed a cyclist in Horsham has been jailed after admitting he had never had a driving licence.

Zisi Lushi (pictured) struck cyclist Michael Dixon in Kerves Lane, Horsham, after taking his brother's silver Citroen C2 despite having no licence or insurance.

65-year-old Mr Dixon, of Trundle Mead, Horsham, died at the scene.

The victim was cycling south in Kerves Lane shortly before 11am on 8 December when Lushi, who was heading north, lost control of the Citroen and swerved across the carriageway, hitting Mr Dixon and crashing the car into a hedge.

Lushi, who is originally from Albania, was carrying fake ID that claimed his name was Luigi Dannile. The 27-year-old had bought the ID after entering the country illegally on the back of a lorry.

At Hove Crown Court on Friday (29 May) he pleaded guilty to causing death while driving without a licence and without insurance. He was found not guilty of causing death by dangerous driving but was convicted of causing death by careless driving.

When Lushi, of Broadwater Lane, Copsale, near Horsham, appeared at the same court this morning (Monday 1 June) he was jailed for 14 months and told he would be deported to Albania after he had served his sentence.

Sergeant Alan Spicer, of Sussex and Surrey roads policing unit, said: "Lushi had no good reason to be behind the wheel.

"It is not clear why he lost control of the Citroen but the combination of the vehicles' tyres being in a dangerous condition and Lushi being an unqualified driver contributed to what happened.

"Lushi's decision to drive that day cost Mr Dixon his life. His disregard for the law means that he is now in prison.

"Driving without a licence is a serious offence that puts not just unqualified drivers but other road users in danger. If you see someone driving who you know does not have a licence please contact us so we can take action before someone else is seriously hurt or even killed."

After the sentencing Mr Dixon's family released a statement.

They said: "There are no winners in this case and Mr Lushi will have to live with the knowledge that his actions on the morning of 8 December 2014 ultimately took away the innocent life of a much loved husband, father, grandfather and friend to so many.

"Dad lived life to the full and he had achieved so much but we all know he had so much more to give.

"As a family we would like to thank the police for all their ongoing support and assistance since the incident happened. We will now have to come to terms with our loss and the sentence given, before moving forward in the knowledge that Dad's life, achievements and exceptional spirit will live strong in our memories forever."

## Operation Ride



On Sunday 10 May the Roads Policing Unit (RPU) carried out Operation Ride, an enforcement initiative focusing on motorcycle safety. Much of the day's enforcement activities were carried out within Horsham district, mainly around the A272 and A24. In total the team issued: nine Traffic Offence Reports (TOR), one Section 59 warning, four G16 tickets (summons to court) one V79 ticket (change of details required) and four verbal warnings. One intelligence report was also submitted.

## Public Confidence

### Think Family Fun Day at Bennetts Field

Horsham Neighbourhood Policing Team have continued their work this month supporting local initiatives and speaking to local residents about key crimes affecting our district such as scams and frauds, summer burglaries and breaks to outbuildings and thefts of outdoor properties.

PCSO Sue Poynter attended the Bennetts Field family fun day on Saturday 16 May supporting work being carried out under the Think Family Neighbourhood banner.

About the event, PCSO Poynter said "It has taken months of organizing and a lot of work by members of Brighton Road Baptist Church, the Scout groups from Bennetts Field and me. I also secured £15 worth of snacks and drinks from Tesco Express St Leonards Road as part of their community budget, many other groups and individuals also donated cakes, drinks and biscuits. '4theyouth provided the bouncy castles.

On the day the weather was really kind to us and I would estimate 500-600 people attended; there were bouncy castles and football games, face painting and several other stalls for people to enjoy. We had information stands and were joined by representatives from Saxon Weald, Neighbourhood Watch and West Sussex Fire and Rescue Services.

It would seem that the event was well received by the local community and we will be working together to maintain the good work that was done.”



**Pictured: PCSO Sue Poynter and Paula Morgan from Horsham District Neighbourhood Watch setting up their information stand at Bennetts Field.**

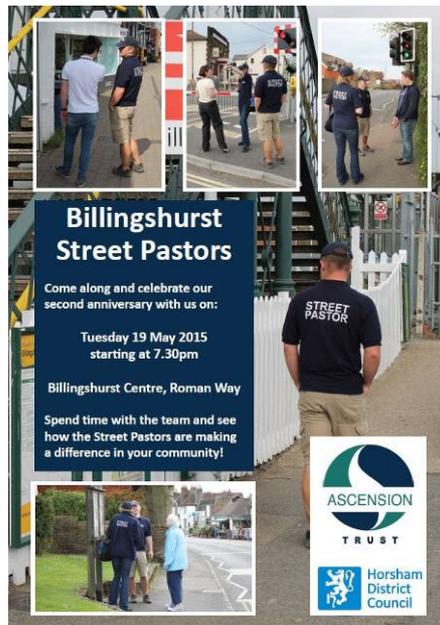
### **Horsham Police join Billingshurst Street Pastors to celebrate two year anniversary of scheme**

On Tuesday 19 May Inspector Clare McKnight and PCSO Julie Green from Horsham Neighbourhood Policing Team attended a celebratory event held at the Billingshurst Centre in Roman Way organised by the Billingshurst Street Pastors and Prayer Pastors.

For the last two years Billingshurst Street Pastors have been carrying out uniformed foot patrols in Billingshurst village during which they spend time consolidating links within the local community, nurturing relationships with groups and individuals and providing support to local residents. The team consists of five fully trained street pastors and nine prayer pastors. During 2014 the street pastors' team carried out 56 patrols in the village, 32 of which were day time patrols and 24 were evening patrols. In total both the street and prayer pastors volunteered 682 hours and 45 minutes of their time to the parish of Billingshurst, an amazing achievement.

Emma Hogg from the Street Pastors scheme said "It was great to see Horsham Police at the street pastor's event. Thanks to you and your colleagues for coming along and for all your support behind the scenes too."

During 2015 the Billingshurst Pastors will be building on the success of the last two years and are hoping to recruit new pastors from the churches within the parish. The Street Pastors also hope to carry out more patrols at the end of the school day between 3pm and 6pm so that they can be available for young people and also hope to visit the local schools to speak with students. Horsham Police will continue to fully support the initiative.



## E-mails/Letters of thanks

### 1/ Well done to PCSO Charlene Parsons, PCSO Adrian Bell and PC James Munden

*Sir/Ma'am*

*A quite astounding piece of work by PCSO Parsons, PCSO Bell and PC Munden having now had over 120 shops signed up to the new Horsham Shopwatch scheme.*

*Regards*

**Sergeant Chris O'Leary**  
*Horsham District Neighbourhood Policing Team*  
**West Sussex Division**

### 2/ Your voice counts e-mail of thanks for PC David Simpson CS254 who attended a collision.

*I want to congratulate you on the efficient, intelligent and civilised way you dealt with the first incident I have ever reported.*

*In the end I decided I would not pursue the matter any further as the damaged fence post is still useable and I felt it would be wasting police resources to pursue it any further.*

*I was so impressed with the way you conducted the inquiry and how you kept me informed all along.*

*Thank you. Sussex is lucky to have you working for us*

*Cheers*  
*Alice*

### 3/ A thank you to PCSO Sue Poynter, organisers and attendees of the Bennetts Field Family Fun Day:

*Hi Everyone,*

*Just wanted to say thanks ever so much to everyone who came along and was involved in the fun day. We've had lots of positive comments so far; everyone seemed to really enjoy it!*

*If you have any feedback about the event, feel free to email myself or Eamonn to let us know what you think. I hope this is something we can build on for next year!*  
*Thanks again,*

*Jac  
Rev Jac Parsons*

**4/ Thank you to Horsham NPT for supporting a work experience pupil that spent time with the team recently:**

*Dear Vicki,*

*Thank you for sending me the form for Brendan's week. Thank you again for all the support you and your fellow officers gave Brendan during last week. It has certainly left an impression on him, all for the good and has given him the drive to achieve better whilst at school. It has been lovely to stand back and watch and listen to him relaying his week to his friends here with such enthusiasm. I feel sure he will remember his time with you all for a long time.*

*Kind regards*

*Liz*

## **Value for Money**

### **Horsham Green Gym receive police donation**

Sussex Police have donated £200 to Horsham Green Gym to buy new and replacement tools.

David Jessop, the Horsham Green Gym coordinator said: "Members of Horsham Green Gym are grateful to Sussex Police for this donation to our funds. It will help buy extra tools for our expanding group and enable more people to appreciate working outdoors and getting exercise while improving the environment."

The donation comes from the Police Property Act Fund (PPAF), made up of monies received by the police from property confiscated by order of the court and then sold.



**Pictured: PS Vicki Tomlinson and members of Horsham Green Gym**

## Very nice donation to Country Mice Nursery School

Horsham Police has donated £200 to Country Mice Nursery School, a charitable village nursery in Cowfold.

The money will be used to carry out works on the outdoor play area and garden to prevent it from flooding when it rains.

The donation comes from the Police Property Act Fund (PPAF), made up of monies received by the police from property confiscated by order of the court and then sold.

PC Darren Algar said: "I am really pleased that the PPAF donation could be made to the local nursery school in Cowfold. The funding will mean that the children can enjoy playing outside and make use of such a valuable space."



**Pictured: PC Darren Algar and nursery head Kerry Bentley with a happy young recipient**

Regards

**Chief Inspector Howard Hodges**  
Horsham District Commander  
**West Sussex Division**  
Tel: 101 Ext. 530224

**Horsham District**

# Project Phoenix

**"Catching Criminals and Keeping People Safe"**