

Newsletter – CT Border Engagement Team

Summer 2026

Welcome to our Spring/Summer Newsletter.

We are delighted to welcome a new member to our team, and later in this edition Isobelle will introduce herself and share a little about her background and role.

Over the past six months, a number of serious incidents and crimes have taken place across the UK, causing concern within many communities. In light of this, we encourage everyone within the maritime and aviation sectors to remain vigilant and to report any suspicious or unusual activity through the appropriate channels. Maintaining awareness and working together helps to keep our communities safe.

As always, we are keen to engage with local clubs, organisations, and businesses. If you would like a member of our team to attend a meeting or deliver a presentation, please contact me via email and we will be pleased to make the necessary arrangements.

We look forward to meeting many of you as we continue our travels around the county throughout the coming months.



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On 30th April 2026, the **UK National Terrorism Threat Level in the UK was raised to SEVERE** – an attack is highly likely. This followed the Golders Green attack on 29th April, but reflected a wider, sustained increase in threat across the UK. The elevated threat level was driven by activity from individuals and small groups linked to Islamist and Extreme Right-Wing ideologies, alongside state-linked factors contributing to acts of violence, including against Jewish communities.

Entry and Exit System (ESS)

As has been widely reported in the media, the EU Entry and Exit System (EES) has still not been fully introduced for tourist traffic at the Kent ports. Whilst the electronic process is up and running for coach passengers and freight, problems with the IT in Europe are necessitating French Border Control Staff running a manual checking process for tourists which caused some extensive delays over the recent busy Bank Holiday travel period. It is not yet known when the system will be fully functional but we are assured the port operators are in constant liaison with French partners to both manage its introduction and work together in the interim when problems occur.



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“Hello everyone, my name is Isobelle and I’m delighted to be joining the Ports Engagement Team. I will be working alongside Rachel and Ash, who you all know already, supporting our work with local communities and partners. I bring with me nearly seven years of experience with Kent Police, which has given me a strong understanding of the organisation, as well as the importance of community engagement and partnership working. I’m really looking forward to getting to know you all, building positive relationships, and working together within our communities.”



Migrants

The migrant vessels continue to be a regular occurrence now that we are increasingly having better weather. Although numbers are down when compared to the same period last year (figures as at 22/5/26:-)

2026	2025		2026	2025	
Migrants			Events		
7,970	13,573	↓41%	126	243	↓48%

Protect Kent
Don't ignore it, share it

Communities working together to keep Kent safe against crime and terrorism

With 350 miles of coastline and waterways, Kent provides a convenient gateway to and beyond the South East.

If you live, work or relax in any maritime area, you will instantly notice anything unusual or different.

Reporting unusual or suspicious activity could help to combat crime and terrorism.

If you see anything suspicious report it:

- Online: www.kent.police.uk/report
- Talk to us on LiveChat: www.kent.police.uk/contact
- In an emergency or if life is in danger: call 999

If you see something suspicious but are unsure of the location use the **what3words** app to let us know exactly where you are or where the incident occurred, download the free app.

Don't ignore it, share it

Any amount of information could lead to a big result:

- Do not take direct action yourself
- Do not confront suspects
- Do share information as soon as possible

ProtectUK UK

Access real-time information from Counter Terrorism Policing (plus the latest protective security advice available at your fingertips 24/7) - wherever you are. www.protectuk.police.uk/

Kent Police Thank you for helping to keep Kent safe. www.kent.police.uk/dontignoreitshareit



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A poster titled "Protect Kent Don't ignore it, share it". The poster features a QR code and text encouraging the public to report suspicious activity. It includes contact information for Kent Police and a link to the Kent Police website. The poster also features the ProtectUK logo and a small image of a person.

We would appreciate your assistance in ensuring compliance with current reporting requirements.

According to the UK Government's *General Aviation Guidance* (updated 3 March 2026), all flights travelling to or from the Common Travel Area (CTA), including the Channel Islands and Northern Ireland, must have an sGAR or flight plan (NI) submitted at least 12 hours before departure.

In addition, unless you are travelling from a designated airport such as Lydd, please can we ask that you email the same information contained within your GAR submission to **allports@kent.police.uk**.

Where a flight is not being operated for reward (i.e. passengers are not paying for the service other than contributing towards fuel or similar shared costs), we will simply acknowledge receipt of the information by email.

If you have any questions regarding these requirements, please do not hesitate to get in touch via email.



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And finally....

Our Search & Marine Unit is pleased to introduce two new Personal Watercraft to its fleet. Following successful testing in a range of coastal and river environments, the craft will be used throughout the summer months to support the unit's activities whenever operationally possible.



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