

Appeals And Updates - 06.01.20

Happy new year to you all.

Please find the latest appeals and updates.

110 arrests made over Christmas crackdown on drink and drug drivers

A Christmas crackdown on drink and drug-drivers led to 110 arrests in Sussex in just 15 days. The annual campaign aims to educate motorists about the dangers of driving under the influence, and target those who put the lives of themselves and others at risk on our roads.

A total of 110 arrests were made by Sussex Police during the operation which ran from Wednesday 18th December to Wednesday 1st January inclusive - 73 on suspicion of drink-driving and 37 on suspicion of drug-driving.

This dedicated campaign is run in conjunction with Surrey Police, and is in addition to our officers responding to reports of drink and drug-driving 365 days a year.

Chief Inspector Michael Hodder, of the Surrey and Sussex Roads Policing Unit, said: "I'm surprised and hugely disappointed that drink and drug-driving is still considered by some people to be socially acceptable.

"While the vast majority of motorists abide by the law, it seems there will always be a number of ignorant and selfish road users who refuse to take our advice on board. Not only do you risk ruining Christmas, you also risk ruining your life, or someone else's.

"It shouldn't take a trip to police custody to give you the wake-up call; motorists need to wake up now and be alert to the extreme dangers associated with driving under the influence of drink or drugs.

"Every year we arrest drivers who say they "only had a couple" or they were "only around the corner". We've heard every excuse in the book, but the bottom line is there is no excuse. "Change your behaviour now, or it could change your life forever."

Details of people convicted as part of the campaign will be published on our website. If you're prepared to drive under the influence of drink or drugs, prepare to face the consequences.

These could include the following:

- Killing or seriously injuring yourself or someone else;
- A minimum 12 month ban;
- An unlimited fine;
- A possible prison sentence;
- A criminal record, which could affect your current and future employment;

- An increase in your car insurance costs;
- Trouble travelling to countries such as the USA.

People in Sussex can text officers on 65999 with the details of people they suspect of drink or drug-driving, or visit the Operation Crackdown website on <http://www.operationcrackdown.org/>

You can also contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or report it online. <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

If you know someone is driving while over the limit or after taking drugs, call 999.

Appeal

We are appealing for witnesses after a woman suffered multiple injuries following an assault in Hastings.

On Friday the 27th December a woman in her 30s climbed the steps accessed from Exmouth Place in the Old Town which leads to the West Hill. She has then gone and sat on the second to last bench at the top of the hill.

Around 9.30pm a man approached the woman from behind and assaulted her. She suffered multiple facial and abdominal injuries after being punched and kicked by the suspect, who was described as a man with long hair.

The victim was taken to Conquest Hospital, Hastings, for treatment.

Police attended the location and conducted an area search but the suspect was not found. Anyone with information or who saw a man acting suspiciously in this area at this time please call 101 quoting 1369 of 27/12.

Appeal

We are appealing for witnesses to a large fight in Bexhill on Saturday the 21st December. Officers were called to London Road at 2:10am to reports of an altercation involving a group of around 20 people outside The Town House pub.

Five people suffered head injuries in the incident - one of which is serious - and one person suffered a broken arm. Three men have been arrested in connection with the fight. An 18-year-old man from Bexhill was arrested on suspicion of grievous bodily harm with intent, possession of a Class B drug, assault of an emergency worker, and criminal damage. He has been released on police bail until January 17th, 2020.

A 24-year-old man from Bexhill was arrested on suspicion of grievous bodily harm with intent. He has been released on police bail until January 17th, 2020.

A 19-year-old man from Bexhill was arrested on suspicion of grievous bodily harm with intent. He has been released on police bail until January 17th, 2020.

Anyone who witnessed the incident, or who may have any further information, is asked to call 101 quoting serial 139 of 21/12.

Help Us Keep Sussex Safe

Seen something suspicious or have information about a crime or incident? Please contact us at <http://www.sussex.police.uk/contact-us/>, email us at 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk or call 101.

Alternatively you can contact the independent charity **Crimestoppers**, anonymously, on **0800 555 111**, or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org