

Horsham Police Weekly Update Friday 28th April 2017

News and appeals

Appeal for Steyning jogger who could have important information

Police are appealing for a jogger who might be able to help in a sexual assault enquiry.

The woman was running along a path alongside Steyning Cricket Ground at around 4pm on Friday, April 7. She stopped and spoke to a teenage girl who was stuck on a bush as she'd attempted to get back to the path.

The woman was running towards the Downs and had a small dog with her. She was wearing running clothes.

Detective Constable Andy Roe said: "The girl was leaving the area where she was assaulted at the time she spoke to the jogger. She could hold important information to be able to help us."

A 17-year-old boy from Billingshurst has been arrested on suspicion of rape and has been released under investigation.

If this jogger was you please contact police online or call 101, quoting serial 1229 of 07/04.

<https://sussex.police.uk/news/appeal-for-steyning-jogger-who-could-have-important-information/>

Horsham man given 24-year sentence for sex offences against girl

A Horsham man has been given a 24-year sentence for the systematic abuse of a vulnerable young girl, following a Sussex Police investigation. Richard Koch, 41, a handyman, of Canberra Place, Horsham, was sentenced when he appeared at Lewes Crown Court on Friday 21 April, having previously been found guilty of 23 offences, including rape, sexual assault, assault, and incitement to engage in sexual activity. He pleaded guilty to three offences of possession of indecent images of children, none of which were of the victim, and was found not guilty of one sexual assault on her.

He was given a total of 24 years, the first 19 of which will be served in custody, and he will not be able even to apply for parole until he has served 16 years. Even when he is eventually released, the further five years will be spent on licence.

Koch will also be a registered sex offender for life and was given a Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO) to last indefinitely, severely restricting any access to young girls.

The victim was subjected to an eight-year series of horrific sexual offences and physical abuse, from the age of 13. This included hitting her with paddles, tying her up and half-strangling her, at addresses in Horsham.

In sentencing Koch, Judge Paul Tain said: "This is the worst case of single sex abuse I have ever had to sit through."

Detective Constable Dan Richardson of West Sussex Investigations said: "Koch met this girl when she was just 13, seduced her and dominated her life for eight years. He regularly subjected her to sexual assault including rape, sustained physical violence and other personal humiliations.

"So dominated did she become that only in 2012 when she was 21 did she feel able to break off contact and start to lead her own life. Two years later we became aware of her experiences through a third-party in whom she had confided, and with the agreement of both parties we were able to carefully develop a full picture of what had happened to her.

"This has now culminated in Koch being given a very long term of imprisonment and other measures to help prevent him re-offending. The victim is still receiving support and counselling.

"This shows that we will always investigate every case wherever possible, no matter how long ago they may have occurred, to seek justice and support for the victims. Nobody should have to suffer abuse - if you find yourself in such a situation, call us on 101 and arrange to talk in confidence to experienced investigators."

<https://sussex.police.uk/news/horsham-man-given-24-year-sentence-for-sex-offences-against-girl/>

Police seek owners of recovered items

Officers have recovered items they believed to have been stolen during a number of burglaries across Sussex. The haul, which includes various items of jewellery and antiques, was discovered by police when they stopped three men back in March.

Investigating Officer Ellie Mannan said: "Properties broken into extend from Lancing in West Sussex, through Steyning, Shoreham, Hove and Rottingdean, to Crowborough in East Sussex. We are also looking into a number of burglaries in Surrey to see if they are also linked. The thefts all took place between the beginning of January and middle of March. As well as personal items, a number of victims also reported that money was taken during the break-ins and has left them feeling unsettled."

Anyone who recognises any of the items, in particular the past time jewellery boxes and money bag with Australian coins in and 'Australia'

written on it, should contact Sussex Police [online](#) or call 101 quoting serial 1141 of 16/02.

A 35-year-old man from Brighton, a 31-year-old man from Southwick and a 31-year-old man from Shoreham have all been arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit burglary and have been released under investigation.

<https://sussex.police.uk/news/police-see-owners-of-recovered-items/>

Crime summary

Burglary

Reference: 971 of 24-04-2017

Location: Gay Street Lane, Pulborough

Date and time: Between 1445 and 1600 hours.

Details: Rear door window smashed, cash and jewellery thought to have been stolen.

Reference: 1219 of 24-04-2017

Location: Dorking Road, Kingsfold

Date and time: Between 1130 and 1805 hours

Details: Conservatory door smashed bedroom searched unknown at this time what has been taken.

Reference: 506 of 26-04-2017

Location: Roundabout Copse, West Chiltington

Date and time: At approximately 1100 hours

Details: Rear patio door forced. A watch and jewellery stolen.

Reference: 577 of 26-04-2017

Location: Worthing Road, Dial Post

Date and time: Between 0830 and 1200 hours

Details: Failed attempt to force rear patio doors. Window forced entry gained. Jewellery and laptops stolen.

Help us keep Sussex safe

If you saw or heard anything, or have any information about any incident in this message please [contact us online](#), email us at 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk or call **101**, quoting the reference number provided.

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

Your local teams

[Visit our Website](#) to contact your local team, view local news and follow our social media accounts. Simply type your post code in the '**Find a Local Area**' box located in the top right of the web page.