

## Conference 2015

Our 2015 Conference with the theme of 'Technology in Action' kicked off with a presentation by Chief Superintendent Adrian Futers Divisional Commander of North Division, Kent Police.



Ch Supt Adrian Futers

Adrian briefly described his career of 28 years service in policing, with the exception of a 2 year secondment to the Cayman Islands all of this has been with Kent Police. Adrian has been in his current position for only one month previous to which he led the Strategic Partnership Command at Kent Police HQ and through this multi-disciplinary organization was instrumental in introducing video technology across the Criminal Justice Sector in Kent.

Adrian has his own Twitter account, and he also highly recommended the Medway Police Twitter account which currently has 4000 followers. Adrian was questioned on what level of communications there are across force boundaries to which he replied that he currently liaises with Kent's West Division, and the Metropolitan Police's Bexley Commander.

Our second speaker was Fred Reardon, Supervising Engineer of Medway council's Telecare Service who spoke on recent updates in the field of Assistive Technology. Equipment in this sector has moved on

since the introduction - over 30 years ago - of pendant alarms linked by a landline telephone to a call centre and Fred not only highlighted some of the new sensors introduced for remote monitoring to manage the risks associated with independent living, but also gave a hint as to what the next generation of sensors will be capable of.



Fred Reardon of Medway Council's Telecare Service

The current Telecare system can accept up to 35 sensors including pressure sensors for beds and chairs and environment sensors for smoke, water, or carbon monoxide all linked by 'phone via a control box to the permanently-manned Medway Control Centre in Strood. The operators at the Control Centre are able to call-up on screen all health and family contact details of the client when an alarm is raised and thus are able to decide what course of action to take and will maintain contact with the client until the appropriate help arrives at the client's address.

Fred mentioned the introduction of a pager link for on-site carers who are able to receive alerts where they do not have to remain in the room with the client to remain in touch if an emergency occurs, and the new Lifeline Vi product which adds audio/visual messages and medical reminders to the current Telecare system. Coming soon will be a GPS tracking system for out-of-home instances. Fred answered questions on whether the system is only confined to the Medway Council boundaries (it is not, and they will install and maintain systems in other Boroughs in Kent), and gave rental and installation costs where the system is not part of a social care package.

Our third speaker was Colin Hector, Southern Business Development Manager of Avocet Hardware aided by locksmith Mike his Sidcup-based Kent agent. Colin highlighted the poor construction of Eurocylinder locks which are universally installed in UPVC (and

many wooden) doors and demonstrated how easily these locks can be snapped using readily available tools. While not currently a serious problem in Kent where 90% of break-ins are by breaking window glass, many burglars in Yorkshire use lock snapping as the preferred route of entry. Avocet has developed an improved lock barrel that is virtually impossible to snap and has enhanced anti-bump and anti-pick characteristics.



Colin and Mike demonstrating lock snapping

Making a welcome return to our Conference this year was Rob Hadfield, Head of Content at Get Safe Online an organisation that is part Government funded and part funded by other public and private sector bodies.

Rob highlighted the ever growing numbers of internet users and huge increase in on-line spending before debunking some of myths around the threats to internet users. Rob was keen to get across the message to use passwords on all computers and mobile phones and to update computer programs, 'phone and tablet Apps and – of course – anti-virus software to the latest versions to reduce the risk of compromising the security of your data and your on-line persona.

To highlight the most basic security mistakes made by people, Rob produced figures to show that in a six month period in 2014 five thousand laptop computers and 63,000 mobile 'phones were left in London Taxi cabs. Rob especially mentioned how hard it is for criminals to hack passwords, and how much easier it is

to ask for them so never give any account details to someone who rings you saying they are from the police or your bank.



Rob Hadfield's entertaining but informative presentation style

After an excellent buffet lunch the afternoon session began with an insight into the life of a Crime Scene Investigator from an Investigator at the North Division Serious Crime Directorate whom we cannot name for operational reasons. She was once a student at Rainham School for Girls (our Conference venue) where she found her love of science and where she first realised that she wanted to be a crime scene investigator.

After a short career with two pharmaceuticals companies, she has spent the last 12 years as a civilian employee of Kent Police as a Crime Scene Investigator. Starting with the basics of Locard's principle of exchange (Locard was pioneer in forensic science who became known as the Sherlock Holmes of France who formulated the basic principle of forensic science as: "Every contact leaves a trace"), she went on to explain the types of primary and secondary sources of evidence that she looks for at a crime scene. Primary sources are things like fingerprints, and DNA but can also include shoe prints, hair, and soil. Secondary sources of evidence can include glass shards or fibres from clothing.

She explained that though the principles of sampling fingerprints are the same now as 100 years ago the analysis and interpretation is now done electronically and all the fingerprints she takes are scanned and searched on the national database for a match. Palm prints are also sampled and matched this way. Shoe marks found at the scene of a crime are also scanned and she told us that the Kent Police Footwear Unit scans the shoes of all offenders on arrival at the Police Station to see if there is a match with one or more crimes.

One area of technology that has seen exponential growth in the past few years is the analysis of DNA from crime scenes. With the increase in computing power, the complexity of data that can be obtained from even the smallest amount of DNA has grown enormously and the cost and the length of time to analyse a sample has decreased dramatically.

Our next speaker was Stephen Wills of SmartWater Technology Ltd. Stephen served as a Police Officer for 10 years and is a Neighbourhood Watch coordinator himself nowadays. SmartWater was invented around 20 years ago by brothers Phil and Mike Cleary. Phil was previously a Police Officer and Mike a Chartered Chemist. It is a traceable liquid and proprietary forensic asset marking system that is applied to personal, commercial, and industrial items of value to deter theft and to identify culprits for prosecution. The non-hazardous liquid leaves a long lasting and unique identifier that is invisible to the naked eye except under an ultraviolet light.

It comprises of a binary code property marking system produced from a mixture of 24 rare earth metallic elements mixed with a fluorescent marker and a polymer glue. When Police recover what they believe to be a stolen item marked with SmartWater, they send a trace of the material to the SmartWater laboratory where it is analysed and linked back to its true owner.

Stephen also explained other commercial SmartWater systems are available including a spray system for use in jewellers or bank premises, and a similar one for cash in transit. The company has worked with the likes of Network Rail to mark high-value copper cables, and has marked the lead on many church roofs to aid the identification of thieves.



Stephen Wills of SmartWater Technology Ltd.

Our last invited speaker was Anita McAloren of Autosparx Vehicle Solutions, a family-owned car security company specialising in alarms, immobilisers and tracking systems. Anita brought us up-to-date on the latest technology in vehicle security including in-car video recording to counter crash for cash and fraudulent personal injury claims, and after-market vehicle alarms incorporating technology such as proximity sensors for convertible cars and gas alert sensors for motor homes.



Anita McAloren of Autosparx Vehicle Solutions

The latest in-car cameras record to a digital SD card that can be read by computer and most modern TV's, have night vision, and are able to also record audio and driver behaviour all of which is date and time stamped. The systems that Autosparx install are usually hard-wired into the vehicle ignition system so are always 'live'.

Anita fielded a question about whether vehicles with an on-board recording system have to display a sign in the same way that those who operate CCTV on commercial premises have to. Anita replied that if the vehicle is privately owned there is no legal requirement for signage, but there is for commercial vehicles.

Our last speaker was Watch Liaison Officer John Haddaway who while trying not to say thank you too much went on to thank the Conference Sub Committee for organising such an interesting and informative event, the Medway Neighbourhood Watch Committee as a whole and Watch Coordinators for their continued support in making Medway a safer place.



John Haddaway