



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Kent (England) -

CHIEF CONSTABLE OF KENT

FOR

1973

18836

KENT COUNTY CONSTABULARY

Chief Constable's Office,
MAIDSTONE.

26th February, 1974.

TO: The Chairman and Members of the
Kent Police Authority.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the state of
crime in the Kent Police District and the work of the police during
the year 1973.

This will be the last report to be submitted to the existing Police
Authority and I would like to thank the three Chairmen and members of
the Police Authority during the past twelve years for all their many
kindnesses and consideration both to myself, and to the Force which
I have had the honour to command, during that period - we have indeed
been lucky and we are more than grateful for all that has been provided
for us over the years.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,



Chief Constable of Kent.

ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE CHIEF CONSTABLE OF KENT FOR 1973

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CHAPTER ONE

ORGANISATION AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF
THE FORCE

POPULATION, ACREAGE AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE FORCE

The latest available estimate of the Registrar-General shows that the population of the Kent County Police District is 1,434,960. There is one regular male officer to every 607 inhabitants.

The area of the Kent Police District is 922,039 acres, and this amounts to one regular male officer to every 390 acres.

AUTHORISED ESTABLISHMENT AND STRENGTH OF THE FORCE

	Men (Regular)								
	Chief Constable	Assistant Chief Constable	Chief Superintendents	Superintendents	Chief Inspectors	Inspectors	Sergeants	Constables	TOTAL
Authorised Establishment	1	5	13	31	55	118	329	1811	2363
Actual Strength on 31st December, 1973	1	4	11	30	52	126	302	1604	2130
Excess	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	8
Vacancies	-	1	2	1	3	-	27	207	241

(Does not include 43 officers on secondment or central service or 11 candidates who were accepted for the Force and awaiting training).

	Women (Regular)					
	Superintendents	Chief Inspectors	Inspectors	Sergeants	Constables	TOTAL
Authorised Establishment	1	1	2	10	70	84
Actual Strength on 31st December, 1973	1	1	1	7	65	75
Excess	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vacancies	-	-	1	3	5	9

(Does not include 2 officers on secondment or central service)

WORKING WEEK - REGULAR FORCE

The 42 hour week was worked up to and including 1st October, 1972, since that date all officers up to and including the rank of Chief Inspector have worked a 40 hour week.

APPOINTMENT

Chief Superintendent E. W. Bright was appointed Commander in the City of London Police and took up his duties on 1st January, 1973.

Mr. J. A. Dellow, Assistant Chief Constable, was appointed Deputy Assistant Commissioner in the Metropolitan Police on 1st July, 1973.

Superintendent G. F. Hughes was appointed Staff Officer to the Commandant of the Police College, Bramshill with effect from 10th September, 1973.

PROMOTION EXAMINATIONS

The results of the promotion examinations have been made known by the Civil Service Commission and of the 27 Sergeants and 91 Constables who took the qualifying examination to Inspector in January, 4 Sergeants and 17 Constables were successful.

In November 246 Constables sat the qualifying examination to Sergeant.

POLICE WOMEN

Woman Superintendent M. E. M. Bishop returned to the force on 1st December, 1973 after a period of two years secondment as Staff Officer to the Assistant Inspector of Constabulary.

Recruitment during the year was very good although not quite keeping abreast of wastage. Three sergeants transferred to other forces on promotion which left these vacancies within this force.

In addition to their normal duties, the police women continue to give talks to various organisations resulting in many letters of appreciation.

FORCE WELFARE OFFICER

The Annual Report for 1972 referred to the appointment of the Reverend H. A. Phair, M. B. E., M. A., as Force Welfare Officer. Since then he has become widely known throughout the Force and his task has grown steadily.

In the first quarter of the year the number of cases referred to him was 130 - in the last quarter, 355. The total for the year was 852.

In dealing with serving officers and their families, the problems encountered were matrimonial, financial and medical. The problems of civilians were similar. Help given to pensioners ranged from income tax assistance to answering queries about pensions. Widows were given assistance in the shape of arranging home help and meals-on-wheels.

When the help of the Welfare Officer was sought early, some reconciliations were achieved in matrimonial cases.

PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

The facilities afforded by the Public Relations Officer to the local and national press, radio and television have become increasingly well known and used throughout the year. So much so that on January 1st 1974, the department will be enlarged to include a Sergeant as Assistant Public Relations Officer.

There is no doubt that the growing publicity given to the police has played an increasingly important part in assisting us to cope with difficult operational conditions.

During the year this department dealt with the following:-

91 Written Press Notices prepared and distributed.

369 Telephone Releases given.

Approx.

650 Telephone queries answered.

36 Feature articles or interviews arranged and supervised.

150 Radio broadcasts made by police officers.

11 Press Conferences arranged and conducted.

48 Visits to Headquarters by County Organisations arranged.

10 Talks to County Organisations and Schools given.

8 Visits arranged and conducted for a total of 13 Overseas Service Police Officers from Brunei; Swaziland; Nigeria; Winston-Salem; North Carolina; Malaysia; Cyprus; St. Lucia; Dominica and Seychelles.

SICKNESS

	Men		Women	
	Total	Average per officer	Total	Average per officer
Days lost through sickness All Ranks	17596	8.0	1261	16.0

	Men	Women
Average number absent sick per day	48.2	3.5
Percentage of force absent sick per day	2.2	4.4



THE WINNING TEAM

The Chief Constable and Lady Lemon, with the Captain of the Kent Police team which won the F. A. A. Association Football Cup outright, for the first time in its history.

SPECIAL CONSTABULARY

The strength of the Special Constabulary on 31st December, 1973, was 990 men and 76 women but of these 125 men and 2 women were on the non-active list.

During the year there was a decrease of 80 in the actual strength of men as follows:-

Wastage	173
Recruits	93
Decrease	<u>80</u>

The number of women members of the Special Constabulary remained unchanged.

TRAFFIC WARDENS

The expansion programme, approved by the Police Authority in 1967, continues and at the end of 1973 the number of Traffic Wardens was 215. Of this number 113 were men and 102 women.

POLICE BUILDING

The new force Training School at Headquarters was occupied on the 1st January, 1973 and the new Sevenoaks Sub-Divisional Headquarters and Area Traffic Headquarters was taken over in the spring of 1973.

Building continued during the year on the new Sub-Divisional Headquarters at Dartford (completion forecast July 1974) and the new Divisional and Sub-Divisional Headquarters at Gravesend (completion forecast October 1974).

Work commenced in 1973 on redevelopment of the former Training Wing at Headquarters; alterations and additions at Rainham Sub-Divisional Headquarters; adaptations at Tunbridge Wells and Sittingbourne Police Stations; and provision of a Dog Compound at the Police House at Stockbury to replace the police dog accommodation at Headquarters.

Subject to restrictions on capital works which may be imposed by virtue of the national economic situation the programme provides for building to start in 1974 at Force Headquarters on a Communications and Intelligence Centre, additional garages at the Driving School, and extensions at Traffic Headquarters; a new Traffic Area Headquarters at Maidstone; new Area Traffic Headquarters and Support Group Headquarters at Nackington; adaptations at Margate Divisional Headquarters Phase II and Phase III, Deal Police Station, Rochester Divisional and Sub-Divisional Headquarters and West Malling Sub-Divisional Headquarters; and provision of an Enquiry Office to replace the present Police Station at Sandwich.

HOUSING

Of the 10 Standard Houses which were under construction at Kemsing during 1972, 8 were completed and occupied in 1973. 2 have still to be completed.

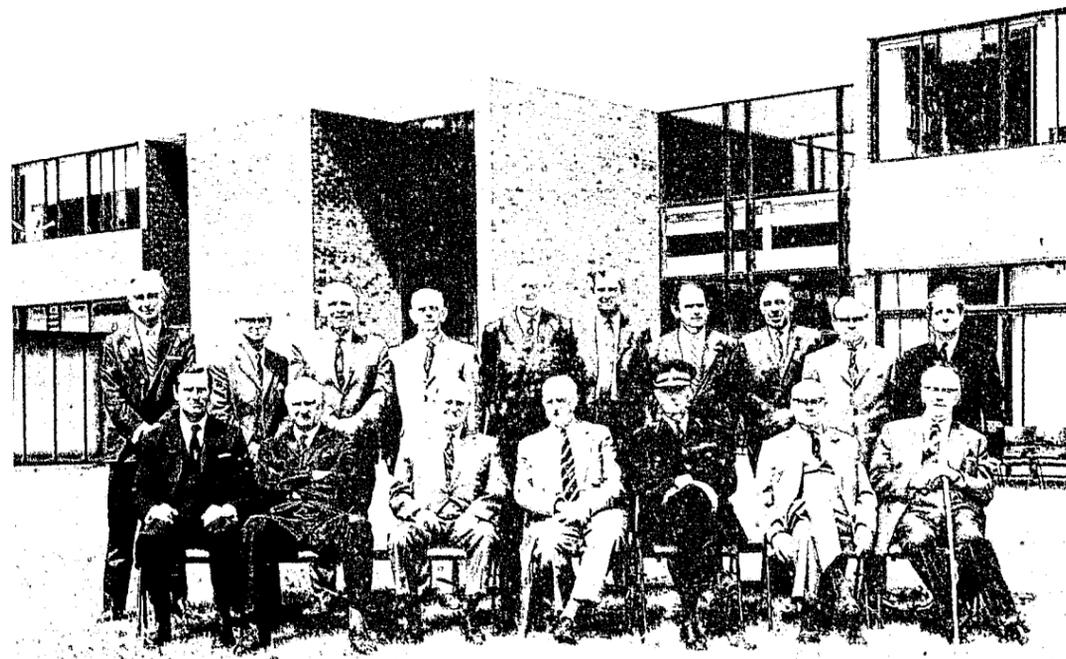
In 1974 it is hoped to secure a site and construct between 8 and 10 more houses at Kemsing.

NEW FORCE TRAINING CENTRE



Charles G. Todd,
Chairman of the

The Chairman of the Kent Police Authority unveiling a commemorative plaque at the opening ceremony.



The members of the Kent Police Authority at the opening of the New Training Centre.

HOME OWNERSHIP

In the Autumn of 1972 the Police Authority reviewed the scheme for promotion of home ownership by police officers and, as a result, some police houses were listed for disposal as being surplus to police requirements. 52 such houses have since been appropriated by various County Council Departments for occupation by Staff, for Health or for Social Services needs. In addition 4 of the houses are being or have been purchased by police officers.

Due to the increased cost of houses and the difficulties encountered in obtaining mortgages, fewer police officers than anticipated were able to become owner occupiers and it was therefore decided, in the Autumn of 1973, not to dispose of any more surplus police houses so that married recruits to the Force could continue to be offered police accommodation.

To ensure that a number of police houses will not be vacant for long periods a scheme is now being devised to enable the Police Authority to temporarily lease surplus police houses to other departments of the County Council or local authorities for limited periods.

The scheme for the appropriation for County Council staff housing of 52 houses at Force Headquarters is proceeding, 21 of these houses are now occupied by County Council staff.

HONOURS, COMMENDATIONS AND AWARDS

Honours

Mr. E. HASLAM, Q.P.M. Deputy Chief Constable was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Awards - Royal Humane Society

The awards made during 1973 to Kent Police Officers by the Royal Humane Society were as follows:-

To Constable A. R. LEWIS, a Resuscitation Certificate for his rescue of a man from a gas filled kitchen of a house at Crockenhill on 23rd November, 1972.

To Constable T. SEAWARD, a Resuscitation Certificate for the resuscitation of a woman taken unconscious from the sea at Folkestone on 3rd May, 1973.

To Constable R. J. BARTLETT and F. G. FANE, Testimonials on Parchment for their attempted rescue of a man from drowning in the River Medway at Maidstone on 8th June, 1973.

To Constable R. S. C. FIDLER, F. G. FANE and R. C. JACKSON, Testimonials on Parchment for their part in the rescue of a man from the River Medway at Maidstone on 4th August, 1973.

To Constable M. J. PRESCOTT, a Testimonial on Parchment for his attempted rescue of a man from the River Medway at Maidstone on 29th June, 1973.

Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

During the year 51 members of the Force, having qualified on completion of 22 years service were presented with the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

The recipients were of the following ranks:-

Superintendents	2
Chief Inspectors	4
Inspectors	5
Sergeants	15
Constables	25
Total	<u>51</u>

FIRST AID

One of the primary duties of the police is to preserve life and it is therefore essential that every member of the Force is proficient in First Aid. To ensure this all recruits to the Force receive instruction in First Aid during their initial 13 weeks at a Police Training Centre. They are examined and if successful receive the St. John Ambulance Association Certificate in First Aid.

To maintain their proficiency all regular police officers with under 20 years service who are not in possession of a second, re-examination certificate are required to take an examination annually until one is obtained.

Sergeants and Constables with less than 20 years service are then re-examined every third year.

During 1973 the number of First Aid re-examination certificates gained by members of the Force was 554.

CHARITABLE COLLECTIONS

During the year 13 licenses were issued by the Clerk of the Kent Police Authority for House to House Collections in the Kent Police District.

In addition, 277, permits were issued by the Chief Constable in respect of Street Collections.

Certificates of exemption under the House to House Collections Act 1939 were issued in 30 cases for collections, which were local in character and for a limited period only.

LICENSING AND ENTERTAINMENTS

Licensing

At the end of the year there were 3,570 intoxicating liquor licences in force in the Kent Police District and during the year 5,153 occasional licences and 21,940 extensions of permitted hours were granted by Justices.

Registered Clubs

At the end of the year there were 729 clubs registered in this Police District.

Although 22 new clubs were registered during the year, 7 existing clubs were struck off the register because they ceased to exist and no clubs were struck off the register after Court proceedings.

Licensed Clubs

At the end of the year 130 licensed clubs existed within this Police District.

Betting and Gaming

At the end of the year 226 licensed betting offices were registered in this Police District.

During the year 139 Bookmakers and 26 Betting Agency permits were granted by Justices.

The Local Authorities granted 488 permits for gaming machines in clubs and cafes and 1,314 permits were issued by Magistrates Courts for gaming machines in public houses.

Entertainments

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number in Use</u>
Cinemas	40
Theatres	17
Dance Halls	35

MISCELLANEOUS

Missing Persons

The number of persons recorded as missing during 1972 was 3,396 and at the end of the year 48 had still not been traced.

Shotgun Certificates

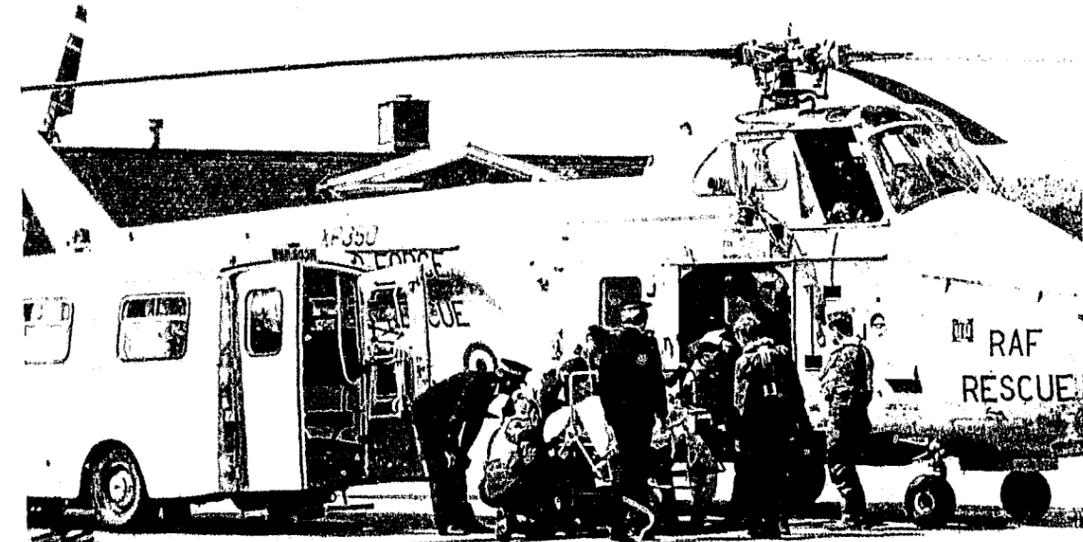
During the year 2,795 shotgun certificates were issued and 8,286 renewed to persons in this Police District. 24 applications were refused.

At the end of the year the total number of certificates in force was 24,859.

Firearms Certificates

During 1972 the number of firearms certificates issued was 456 and 2,025 certificates were renewed. The number of applications refused was 74.

At the end of the year the total number of certificates in force was 6,087.



COMBINED OPERATION

Kent Fire, Ambulance and Police Services co-operated in bringing a man with a fractured spine from the West Kent Hospital to Force Headquarters, where the Royal Air Force Rescue Helicopter conveyed him to Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Legal Representation

During 1973 the police were legally represented on 9,981 occasions (5,860 in 1972) as follows:-

	1973	1972
At High Courts	18	7
At Crown Courts	1021	1115
At Magistrates Courts	8738	4461
Appeal Cases	204	277

ADVERTISING - RECRUITMENT

Recruiting advertisements were placed in the majority of Kent newspapers during the year. Similar advertisements were placed in service magazines, service newspapers, college, youth and educational magazines. The advertisements embraced the recruiting of male and female recruits, also the cadet service.

National recruiting posters produced by the Home Office were displayed on all notice boards at Police Stations throughout the County.

Careers Conventions, film shows and talks at educational establishments were given on sixty-two occasions during the year by officers from the Recruiting Department. Additionally, requests were received at Divisions for speakers to talk on the police service and these commitments were covered by the Divisional Liaison Recruiting Officers. School Careers Officers and Area Careers Officers from the Department of Employment and Productivity are making more frequent demands for such visits and all such requests have been met to date. Liaison is also being maintained with the re-settlement officers of H.M. Forces, particularly those stationed in the Kent Police District.

TRAINING

During 1973 the training staff conducted the following residential courses at Force Headquarters:-

<u>Course</u>	<u>No. of Courses</u>	<u>Duration</u>
Inspectors	1	3 weeks
Sergeants Refresher	5	2 weeks
Sergeants and Potential Sergeants	4	3 weeks
Constables 20th year	2	2 weeks
Constables 15th year	2	3 weeks
Constables 10th year	4	3 weeks
Constables 5th year	6	3 weeks
Constables Pre-Training Centre	12	1 week
Constables Post-Training Centre	11	1 week
Constables Post-Training Centre	1	2 weeks
Potential C. I. D. Officers	3	2 weeks
Regional Surveillance	1	2 weeks
Regional Police War Duties	2	1 week
Regional Policewomens	1	2 weeks
Potential Instructors	1	2 weeks
Traffic Wardens	6	1 week
Communications	2	1 week
Communications	1	2 weeks

The number of officers attending the above courses was:-

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Chief Inspectors	5	Nil
Inspectors	44	Nil
Sergeants	120	2
Constables	573	79
Traffic Wardens	28	43
Civilian Employees	3	13

Throughout 1973 Probationer Constables continued to be trained for two days each month and during the period under review a total of 476 Probationer Constables received instruction under this scheme. This scheme ensures a high degree of training and the standard of knowledge of Probationer Constables continues to improve.

247 Sergeants and Constables received a two-day Police War Duties Course at Divisional Headquarters, the instructor being an Inspector from the Training School.

BOY CADETS

Phase I and II Training at the Metropolitan Police Cadet School, Hendon

Kent Boy Cadets have continued to achieve success and at the Passing Out Parades were awarded prizes for academic and Police Duty Studies.

During the year Kent Cadets were appointed House Captain and Vice House Captain on two occasions and a number of other Cadets were made Prefects.

In the sporting field Kent Cadets represented the School at Soccer, Cricket and other sports, and on one occasion no less than eight Kent Cadets were playing in the first Hockey XI.

Two Cadets qualified through Area Competitions and took part in the National Wrestling Championships held in Edinburgh and were placed third and fourth in their class.

Phase III Training in Kent

During the course of their training Cadets continued to attend Attachments to Hospitals, Special Schools for Physically and Mentally Handicapped Children, and other similar establishments. They also assisted at many charitable functions including an Orienteering Rally organised by the Kent Association for the Blind.

Throughout the year Cadets have continued to assist the staff at the Uganda Asian Resettlement Centre at West Malling, which is due to close in the near future.

One Cadet, whilst on attachment to his local Police Station, received a commendation from the Magistrates as a result of good work when he arrested a man for theft.

Visit to France

A party of Cadets spent one week in France at the invitation of the French Police in May 1973. They were guests of the C. R. S. Police at Lille, where they studied the French Police system. The French Police and local officials gave the Cadets a very warm welcome and during their stay they attended a Civic Reception which was held in their honour. The Cadets also attended the Lille Trade Fair where they were Guests of Honour.

Cadet Camp

The two Boy Cadet Camps were held in June and September at Machynlleth, North Wales. During the two weeks the Cadets were instructed in map reading, compass work, orienteering and camp craft. All Cadets took part in three expeditions which demand a high physical capability and serve to test their moral fibre and initiative.

"Captain Scott"

Three Cadets were selected to attend the Sail Training Ship, "Captain Scott", berthed at Loch Eil in Western Scotland. The course involves strenuous and protracted physical effort in all weathers, and night watches on deck. The course is designed to turn out trainees with developed senses of responsibility, leadership and extended horizons of personal ability.

GIRL CADETS

The Girl Cadets continued to maintain a very high standard of work. During their training they have been attached to Special Schools, Children's Homes and other establishments.

Three Girl Cadets, together with two Boy Cadets, formed the Cadet First Aid Team and have had well earned success in several competitions. This Cadet Team were worthy winners of the Southern Area Police Cadet Competition and will now represent the Force in the National Competition to be held in February 1974.

Several Girl Cadets taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme have made excellent progress and two girls have reached the Gold Award Stage.

Girl Cadets have represented Kent Women Police in Hockey and Netball Competitions and have taken part in Cross Country Running and other events.

The Girl Cadet Camp was held in July at Machynlleth, North Wales, for the second time and proved to be very successful. The Camp was similar to that attended by the boys, and the girls proved themselves capable of completing the same programme.

RESIDENTIAL COURSES

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Duration</u>
Cadet Pre-college	3	1 week
Cadet Post-college	3	1 week
Girl Cadets' Initial	1	3 weeks
Camps	3	2 weeks

A total of 100 boys and 12 girls attended these courses and 42 boys and 18 girls attended the camps.

The Driving School continued to provide a full programme of training for Kent personnel and officers from other forces in No. 5 Region.

The number of places allocated to divisional personnel on Standard Driving courses was considerably increased so as to ensure that emergency vehicle drivers are suitably trained to handle the types of cars now supplied for their use.

Four two day courses relating to the weighing of goods vehicles were run by Traffic Patrol Wing staff, with invaluable assistance being supplied by Kent County Council Weights and Measures Department. These courses provide practical and theoretical instruction in how to deal with the ever increasing problem of over-weight goods vehicles and each traffic patrol officer attending is then authorised to carry out the task.

From the 1st April, 1973 a system of eyesight testing for all authorised drivers within the force was introduced. Keystone Eyesight Testmachines are used for this purpose and drivers will be retested every three years. Those officers of 40 years of age and over will be retested every other year. Several instances have already arisen when it has been found necessary to refer officers to an optician as the machine has indicated an eyesight defect.

'Better Driving' courses for the public were again well supported and a total of 163 people attended.

Driving Courses and Tests

The number of students on driving, motor cycle and traffic patrol courses during 1973 were as follows:-

Driving and motor cycle courses	Kent	305
	* Others	187
		<u>492</u>
Traffic Patrol Courses	Kent	55
	* Others	162
		<u>217</u>

These figures include students from Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire and Thames Valley Constabularies.

	<u>Passed</u>	<u>Failed</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Car Courses</u>			
Improver	109	4	113
Standard	90	-	90
Advanced	92	-	92
Advanced Refresher	113	-	113
<u>Motor Cycle Courses</u>			
Standard - Lightweight	28	-	28
Standard - Heavyweight	16	-	16
Advanced - Heavyweight	26	-	26
Potential Instructors	14	-	14
<u>Traffic Patrol Courses</u>			
Vehicle Weighing Courses	73	-	73
Standard	104	-	104
Advanced	39	1	40
	<u>704</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>709</u>
Driving/Riding Tests other than on courses	<u>302</u>	<u>153</u>	<u>455</u>

VEHICLES AND MAINTENANCE

Transport

In previous reports information concerning the police vehicle fleet has been shown in the Chapter covering 'Road Traffic'. The growth of the fleet, in both numbers and mileage run and the consequent increase in administration of the fleet, its control, budgeting, acquisition, maintenance, replacement and logistical support has necessitated re-organisation and a separate department has been created under the Administration and Supply structure.

New Workshop - Sevenoaks

The new Sevenoaks police station incorporates a four car bay workshop which provides servicing and light repair facilities to 63 vehicles, which previously had to travel further to obtain these services.

Changes in Vehicle type

The only major change of vehicle type within the fleet, was the adoption of the Morris Marina Estate as the primary divisional incident vehicle. These vehicles were fitted out with equipment to enable the officers manning these vehicles to deal with the variety of incidents that occur.

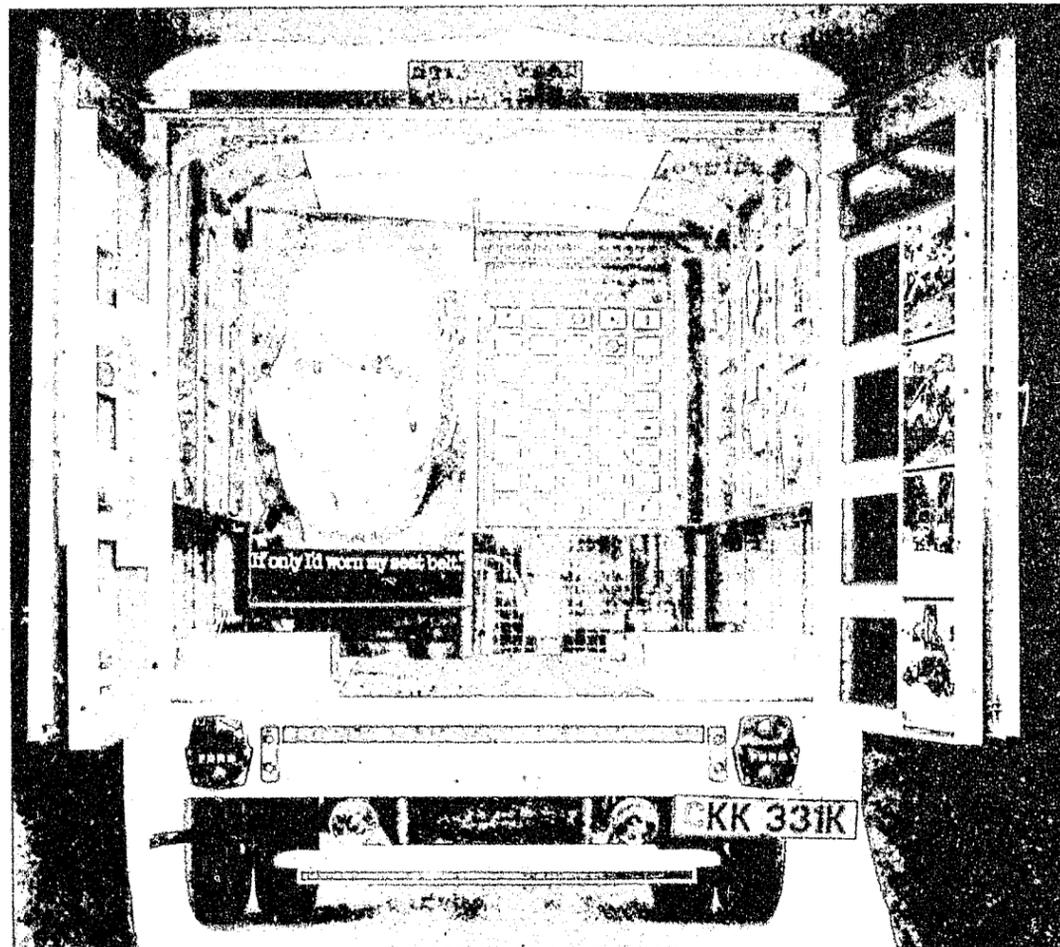
The problem of replacing lightweight motor cycles used by rural officers still remains, no British manufacturer produces a lightweight motor cycle in the 250 cc class. Recent events in the heavyweight motor cycle industry indicates that only the Norton Interpol motor cycle will be available for traffic patrol, unless Triumphs, the makers of our present machines, re-open under a different management structure.

Mechanically Propelled Vehicles as at 31st December, 1973

Traffic Patrol Cars (includes 5 Supervisory and 10 Radar Vehicles)	72
Driving School Cars	15
Unit-Beat Cars	87
C. I. D. Cars	57
C. I. D. Special Vehicles	2
Scenes of Crime Vans	16
Dog Vans	21
Accident Prevention and Intelligence Unit Van	1
Personnel Carriers - General	16
Personnel Carriers - Prisoners	4
Load Carrying Vans	5
Motor Cycle Servicing Vans	2
Underwater Recovery Van	1
General Duty Cars, Vans and Service Spares	175
TOTAL	<u>474</u>



The new Rover 3.5 litre patrol car taken into use by the Traffic Division.



The Ford Transit van in use as a mobile road safety exhibition.

Motor Cycles

Traffic Patrol	54
Driving School	22
Beat Patrol	143
Service Spares	10
	<hr/>
TOTAL	229
	<hr/>

Total number of vehicles in fleet 703

Fleet Establishment 713

Maintenance

The disposition of the maintenance staff is shown in the following table:-

	<u>Headquarters Workshop</u>	<u>Area Garages</u>
Chief Engineer	1	-
Workshop Officers	3	3
Charge Hand Fitters	1	4
Skilled Fitters	18	21
Semi-skilled Fitters	-	3
Storekeepers	4	3
Clerical Officers	5	-
Typist (part time)	1	-
Apprentices	5	-

CHAPTER TWO

ROAD TRAFFIC

GENERAL REVIEW

Traffic Areas and Patrols

A new traffic area (No. 5) was opened at Sevenoaks on 2nd April, 1973 with a very small initial strength. This has been gradually built up during the year as accommodation became available. The areas previously covered by No. 1 and 2 Traffic Areas (Maidstone and Rochester) have been adjusted so that West Kent is now divided sensibly into three from the traffic point of view.

These area adjustments, coupled with minor changes between No. 3 and 4 Traffic Areas based at Canterbury and Ashford, have taken account of the new Local Government districts.

During 1973 a new method of patrolling has been introduced which has proved more flexible and efficient. Now, while continuing to patrol motorways and the major 'A' routes as before, each traffic area has been divided into zones which are large enough to give a variety of classified roads to patrol. By careful briefing, and bearing in mind road conditions and the weight of traffic to be expected, it is thus possible to give patrols a variety of main road and zonal patrolling, when sufficient manpower allows.

New Buildings

Planning is now virtually complete for the new buildings for No. 1 Traffic Area at Coldharbour on the A. 20 Northwest of Maidstone and for No. 3 Traffic Area on its existing site at Nackington, near Canterbury.

Vehicles

The new Rangerovers and Rover 3500s have proved very satisfactory for motorway and main road patrolling during 1973.

At present only Triumph motor cycles are used for traffic patrol purposes in Kent. Until the current uncertainty regarding the future production of Triumphs is resolved, replacements will be Nortons.

Offences by Foreign Drivers

Kent has been to the fore in pressing for new legislation to deal with foreign visitors who commit motoring offences. During the last three months of 1973, foreign drivers in Kent were dealt with in exactly the same way as British drivers and reports in respect of offences detected were submitted in the normal way. During this period 192 offences were reported (including 119 parking offences) and 1154 advices were given by Traffic Patrols. In only 3 cases was it possible to bring foreign offenders before a court. The results of the survey are being reported to the Home Office through the Association of Chief Police Officers.

Traffic in and out of Dover

The following statistics illustrate the growth of vehicular traffic through the port of Dover:

Accompanied Motor Vehicles (Outward and Inward)

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	
Month of October	52,284	50,636	+ 3.25%
Period January/October	950,118	942,529	+ 0.81%

Commercial Road Haulage Vehicles (Outward and Inward)

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	
Month of October	19,018	12,990	+ 46.40%
Period January/October	154,479	129,286	+ 19.49%

All these vehicles create additional work on the, sometimes inadequate, roads of Kent. The most significant figures are those showing the growth in commercial traffic, which was running at an average of 613 vehicles a day in October 1973. As 90% of this traffic uses the A2/M2, this represents the movement of one Heavy Goods Vehicle each way through the village of Bridge every five minutes throughout the 24 hours.

Two years ago, a survey at Dover showed that this commercial traffic was 60% British and 40% Foreign. It is now understood to be more like 50/50 British and Foreign.

Road Projects and Traffic Regulation

Steps have been taken this year to reduce the amount of correspondence flowing between Force Headquarters and the various Highway Authorities, Transport Undertakings, etc., with whom the police liaise on aspects of road safety under the broad heading of traffic management. This was an extension of the procedure referred to in the 1972 report, whereby police observations on minor matters are forwarded direct to the Authority concerned. A total of 789 such reports were made, thereby reducing the administrative work in 57% of the projects considered during the year.

An additional 586 traffic management matters involving prolonged correspondence and meetings on site were dealt with, with a heavy emphasis this year on those measures aimed at the relief of congestion, particularly in urban areas; an area of police involvement which is showing considerable growth. The comparative figures for this latter type of road project work are as follows:-

Projects

Recommendations made

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>
Halt/Stop/Slow/Give Way Signs	6	19	57
Diversions re road closures or markings	86	64	124
Schoolchildren - Road Safety Measures	65	142	168
Parking and Waiting Restrictions	149	163	220
Speed Limit	25	36	39
One Way, Keep Left, No Entry	36	51	26
Pedestrian Crossings	18	10	19
Automatic Traffic Signals	3	3	11
Accident Prevention - (Roads - various measures)	24	170	258
Traffic Signs General	13	54	51
Restrictions on use of roads	21	44	14
Kiosks, Seats, etc.	-	3	2
<u>Bus Routes</u>			
Siting of Stops	96	118	169
Surveys and Diversions	24	41	38
Shelters and Bays	20	26	21
Total recommendations made	<u>586</u>	<u>944</u>	<u>1217</u>

TRAFFIC SUPERVISION AND CONTROL

Motor Sport

The following figures show a marked reduction in motor sport events in 1973. The reduction was spread through the year and was not just due to the fuel crisis during the last six weeks.

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>
Notified voluntarily	178	221	198
R. A. C. authorised	31	34	41
Events on private property	60	88	88
	<u>269</u>	<u>343</u>	<u>327</u>

As in previous years, motor clubs have been encouraged to notify all their events, whether or not required to do so by the regulations. It has thus been possible to exercise a degree of control over events on the public highway and to anticipate potential traffic congestion where grass track and other events are held on private land.

Complaints from the public regarding rallies have risen, the figures being:-

<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>
44	18	43

Road Walks

<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>
54	53	96

During 1973, efforts continued to deter organisers from conducting these events on public roads. A local public school event organiser was persuaded to adopt a route using the River Medway tow path and public footpaths along the River Beult. As a result, only 3 miles of a 30 mile route were on roads.

Cycle Racing and Time Trials

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>
Cycle Races	47	67	57
Cycle Time Trials	439	358	343
	<u>486</u>	<u>425</u>	<u>400</u>

An increase of 14.3% in the overall total of events is not necessarily indicative of an increased hazard on Kent roads. A re-appraisal of the racing circuits in the County has been carried out and accounts for the reduction of cycle races held; whilst the much safer cycle time trials have shown a marked increase.

Abnormal Indivisible Loads

<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>
6245	5921	5295 (an increase of 5.4% in 1973)

Once again the number of abnormal loads has risen. A breakdown of escorted loads by traffic areas, and the cost in manhours, for the last three months of 1973 is as follows:-

<u>Traffic Area</u>	<u>No. of Escorted Loads</u>	<u>Cost in Manhours</u>
T/1 (Maidstone)	130	176
T/2 (Rochester)	222	416
T/3 (Canterbury)	132	139
T/4 (Ashford)	56	117
T/5 (Sevenoaks)	66	84
	<u>606</u>	<u>932</u>

As these figures show, No. 2 Traffic Area based at Rochester carries over a third of this task, not only due to the concentration of heavy industry in north west Kent, but because the A2/M2 takes nearly all the heavy traffic from the greater part of Kent and the Channel Ports to London and the rest of the United Kingdom.

FIXED PENALTY

In 1973, the fixed penalty system for dealing with certain traffic offences was extended to another five localities so that by the end of the year the scheme was operating in:

Maidstone, Chatham, Gillingham, Rochester, Gravesend, Dartford, Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks, Margate, Broadstairs, Ramsgate, Canterbury, Sittingbourne, Faversham, Leysdown, Ashford and Tenterden.

Further extensions will take place in 1974, before the end of which year it is expected that all the urban areas in the County will have been covered.

The offences dealt with comprise those related to:

- Vehicle waiting and parking
- Vehicle lights
- Prescribed routes and 'U' turns

Non-payment of penalties necessitates steps being taken to trace drivers and this, of course, is done, in the majority of cases where only a vehicle has been identified, by tracing registered keepers through the appropriate vehicle taxation offices. Records so far have been in the hands of local authorities and for offences in this area most enquiries are made to the Kent County Council Vehicle Taxation Department from whose staff the utmost co-operation is obtained. Information is sought by a member of the Central Ticket Office staff visiting County Hall and carrying out a search of the records, a facility which is to both departments' advantage.

The introduction during the year of telex communication with a number of other authorities' taxation departments has speeded up the receipt of information from them, and although the Central Ticket Office work load has thrown a considerable extra burden on the force operations department staff, they have provided a service of communication which is greatly appreciated in the Central Ticket Office.

27,265 fixed penalty tickets were issued in 1973; 19,665 payments were made; 3,489 tickets were cancelled; 1,457 prosecutions were taken and, on 1st January, 1974, 2,654 cases were still outstanding.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION AND INTELLIGENCE UNIT

Officers of the unit based at Traffic Headquarters have taken every opportunity to further the cause of road safety. The main involvement has been that of all day visits to senior schools in the County. The reception and co-operation by heads of schools has been particularly encouraging. Instruction is usually aimed at two groups, those who are cyclists and the 14 to 17 year olds, the drivers and motor cyclists of the future. 113 such visits were made during the year involving instruction to approximately 46,000 pupils. Assistance was also given to seven schools running pre-driver training courses.

Static road safety exhibitions of varying sizes and duration were staged at Ashford, Maidstone (2), Dover, Sandgate, Loose, Tunbridge Wells and Sittingbourne. Demand for the mobile exhibition rose during the year and resulted in 25 attendances at various functions.

Locally based officers continued their involvement in road safety instruction by making 928 visits to primary schools. 4,514 bicycles were examined and 779 were found to be defective. 4,386 pupils were assisted in training/testing under the National Cycling Proficiency Scheme. 3,839 were successful in passing the test.

56 parties from various organisations visited Traffic Headquarters. Speakers were provided by request on 20 occasions at outside functions. It is considered this reflects the growing concern felt by responsible organisations towards road safety.

In common with many other police forces a new system of accident investigation was introduced. The aim is a thorough investigation into individual accidents incorporating the use of certain mathematical formulae based on accepted principles of the laws of motion and friction. 13 courses were held during the year resulting in 156 traffic officers receiving training.

Patrols are encouraged to look deeper into accidents. By efforts to find the various causes it is hoped that preventive measures can be taken.

Summary of Accidents and Casualties

6,380 accidents resulted in 8,846 casualties, a decrease of 16 accidents and 133 casualties compared with 1972.

The breakdown of casualties is:-

	1973	1972	1971
Killed	212	189	209
Serious	2640	2713	2603
Slight	5994	6077	5984
TOTAL	8846	8979	8796

The breakdown of fatalities is:-

Pedestrians	73
Drivers	60
Passengers	46
Motor Cyclists	21
Pedal Cyclists	12

The petrol shortage, together with the introduction of a voluntary 50 m.p.h. speed limit in November and a compulsory one in December, are considered responsible for the substantial decrease in the accident rate for those two months.

The number of persons killed regrettably rose to 212, an increase of 23 compared with 1972. This can be almost entirely accounted for by the rise of pedestrian fatalities by 21. The elderly continue to give cause for concern in this respect.

Casualties - Persons under 15 years:

	1973	1972	1971
Killed	21	22	22
Serious	396	431	421
Slight	976	1099	1028
TOTAL	1393	1552	1471

Casualties - Persons over 15 years:

	1973	1972	1971
Killed	191	167	187
Serious	2244	2282	2182
Slight	5018	4978	4956
TOTAL	7453	7427	7325

ACCIDENTS IN POLICE DIVISIONS

Police Divisions	Fatal Accidents			Injury Accidents			Total		
	1973	1972	1971	1973	1972	1971	1973	1972	1971
A	35	33	44	942	903	906	977	936	950
B	24	21	17	835	851	894	859	872	911
C	27	19	23	879	927	967	906	946	990
D	20	22	28	875	815	788	895	837	816
E	13	10	13	482	486	450	495	496	463
F	16	12	16	557	608	527	573	620	543
G	17	19	14	475	455	442	492	474	456
H	17	17	13	392	436	383	409	453	396
J	21	15	16	753	747	693	774	762	709

CASUALTIES IN POLICE DIVISIONS

Police Divisions	Killed			Seriously injured			Slightly injured			Total		
	1973	1972	1971	1973	1972	1971	1973	1972	1971	1973	1972	1971
A	39	37	45	427	381	461	892	951	918	1358	1369	1424
B	24	23	17	313	319	306	769	778	846	1106	1120	1169
C	29	27	25	366	490	432	869	819	937	1264	1336	1394
D	23	22	33	359	350	359	943	842	797	1325	1214	1189
E	13	11	15	212	176	161	444	525	481	669	712	657
F	19	12	20	222	263	212	554	607	523	795	882	755
G	23	22	19	205	213	172	474	418	452	702	653	643
H	17	19	19	208	207	226	344	412	371	569	638	616
J	25	16	16	328	314	274	705	725	659	1058	1055	949

ACCIDENTS IN LOCAL AUTHORITY AREAS

LOCAL AUTHORITY	FATAL ACCIDENTS			INJURY ACCIDENTS			TOTAL		
	1973	1972	1971	1973	1972	1971	1973	1972	1971
Canterbury City	4	3	3	157	176	181	161	179	184
<u>Municipal Boroughs</u>									
Chatham	6	5	5	236	264	227	242	269	232
Dartford	3	4	3	194	211	228	197	215	231
Deal	2	-	1	72	81	83	74	81	84
Dover	6	3	-	160	172	158	166	175	158
Faversham	-	1	2	45	54	39	45	55	41
Folkestone	2	1	7	182	177	146	184	178	153
Gillingham	4	7	6	285	260	322	289	267	328
Gravesend	6	3	3	187	205	218	193	208	221
Hythe	-	1	1	52	38	29	52	39	30
Lydd	1	1	-	5	7	15	6	8	15
Maldstone	4	3	7	236	226	212	240	229	219
Margate	3	4	4	185	227	179	188	231	183
New Romney	-	-	2	15	14	9	15	14	11
Queenborough	4	5	4	109	101	111	113	106	115
Ramsgate	5	2	5	171	154	160	176	156	165
Rochester	10	2	4	196	230	248	206	232	252
Sandwich	1	-	-	27	16	22	28	16	22
Tenterden	1	1	1	22	26	28	23	27	29
Tunbridge Wells	1	3	4	205	169	157	206	172	161
<u>Urban Districts</u>									
Ashford	5	7	1	111	154	134	116	161	135
Broadstairs	-	-	-	77	67	65	77	67	65
Herne Bay	3	-	5	101	117	91	104	117	96
Northfleet	5	1	-	84	72	77	89	73	77
Sevenoaks	-	1	-	72	72	60	72	73	60
Sittingbourne	2	5	-	117	98	105	119	103	105
Southborough	1	-	1	36	23	26	37	23	27
Swancombe	3	2	3	29	33	34	32	35	37
Tonbridge	3	2	2	116	77	81	119	79	83
Whitstable	4	3	2	102	98	79	106	101	81
<u>Rural Districts</u>									
East Ashford	3	3	2	75	58	73	78	61	75
West Ashford	2	4	5	96	113	82	98	117	87
Bridge Blea	5	5	6	169	176	133	174	181	139
Cranbrook	2	4	7	91	101	73	93	105	80
Dartford	8	6	12	323	330	333	331	336	345
Dover	5	4	3	76	98	99	81	102	102
Eastry	6	9	5	160	142	147	166	151	152
Elham	2	1	1	78	75	72	80	76	73
Hollingbourne	4	11	13	188	185	201	192	196	214
Maldstone	8	5	2	120	115	93	128	120	100
Malling	15	10	14	304	270	317	319	280	331
Romney Marsh	5	1	3	41	36	55	46	37	38
Sevenoaks	11	12	12	273	291	315	284	303	327
Strood	6	10	4	181	175	174	187	185	178
Swale	11	8	8	204	202	187	215	210	195
Tenterden	2	1	1	48	53	33	50	54	34
Tonbridge	6	4	10	177	189	154	183	193	164
<u>Totals</u>									
Boroughs and Urban Districts	89	70	76	3586	3619	3524	3675	3689	3600
Total: Rural Districts	101	98	108	2604	2609	2526	2705	2707	2634
Totals: All Areas	190	168	184	6190	6228	6050	6380	6396	6234

CASUALTIES IN LOCAL AUTHORITY AREAS

LOCAL AUTHORITY	KILLED			SERIOUSLY INJURED			SLIGHTLY INJURED			TOTAL		
	1973	1972	1971	1973	1972	1971	1973	1972	1971	1973	1972	1971
Canterbury City	4	3	3	53	61	57	151	153	153	208	217	213
<u>Municipal Boroughs</u>												
Chatham	6	6	5	74	93	64	209	222	205	289	321	274
Dartford	3	4	3	63	104	98	172	171	202	238	279	303
Deal	2	-	1	34	26	31	58	73	69	94	99	101
Dover	7	4	-	62	80	56	132	147	141	201	231	196
Faversham	-	1	2	24	18	16	35	46	27	59	65	45
Folkestone	2	1	7	80	74	59	150	174	126	232	249	192
Gillingham	4	7	6	101	90	112	264	251	294	369	348	412
Gravesend	6	3	3	69	86	90	164	175	196	239	264	289
Hythe	-	1	1	21	19	13	52	35	21	73	55	35
Lydd	1	1	-	3	2	11	5	14	13	9	17	24
Maldstone	5	3	7	73	76	71	204	192	194	282	271	272
Margate	3	4	4	73	75	54	169	247	200	245	326	258
New Romney	-	-	2	4	7	5	14	13	10	18	20	17
Queenborough	4	5	4	56	49	38	104	92	112	164	146	154
Ramsgate	5	3	5	75	60	69	157	174	155	237	237	229
Rochester	10	3	4	87	88	78	160	204	240	257	295	322
Sandwich	1	-	-	14	5	6	27	20	26	42	25	32
Tenterden	1	1	1	13	7	14	19	26	25	33	34	40
Tunbridge Wells	1	3	4	61	57	55	217	163	147	279	223	206
<u>Urban Districts</u>												
Ashford	5	9	5	56	56	60	82	124	115	143	189	180
Broadstairs	-	-	-	35	22	12	68	62	64	103	84	76
Herne Bay	4	-	6	33	56	33	115	124	99	152	180	138
Northfleet	5	1	-	44	36	27	84	57	64	133	94	91
Sevenoaks	-	1	-	31	14	27	59	74	53	90	89	80
Sittingbourne	2	5	-	37	34	24	103	89	99	142	128	123
Southborough	1	-	1	11	14	16	43	16	20	55	30	37
Swancombe	3	6	3	17	27	15	30	30	31	50	63	49
Tonbridge	3	2	2	42	35	17	112	58	93	157	95	112
Whitstable	6	3	2	43	43	39	96	101	70	145	147	111
<u>Rural Districts</u>												
East Ashford	3	3	2	38	37	48	72	61	88	113	101	138
West Ashford	2	4	7	49	59	53	91	116	80	142	179	140
Bridge Blea	5	5	9	84	76	68	158	189	155	247	270	232
Cranbrook	2	4	8	57	48	42	75	107	86	134	159	136
Dartford	10	10	14	150	190	163	338	298	350	498	498	527
Dover	7	4	3	40	39	36	78	106	119	125	149	158
Eastry	6	9	7	73	79	72	171	140	153	250	228	232
Elham	3	1	1	29	27	31	93	89	83	125	117	116
Hollingbourne	5	13	13	88	93	161	196	214	210	289	320	374
Maldstone	8	5	2	60	42	58	112	128	81	180	175	141
Malling	17	12	14	148	120	137	297	308	342	462	440	493
Romney Marsh	5	1	3	32	13	26	45	30	37	82	44	66
Sevenoaks	11	12	16	130	154	170	331	320	331	472	486	517
Strood	6	10	4	74	96	91	218	191	201	298	297	296
Swale	17	11	13	88	112	94	232	191	214	337	314	321
Tenterden	2	1	1	25	36	21	43	49	32	70	86	54
Tonbridge	9	4	11	86	78	76	189	213	158	284	295	145
<u>Totals</u>												
Boroughs and Urban Districts	94	80	81	1389	1414	1266	3255	3327	3264	4738	4821	4611
Total: Rural Districts	118	109	128	1251	1299	1337	2739	2750	2720	4108	4158	4185
Total: All Areas	212	189	209	2640	2713	2603	5994	6077	5984	8846	8979	8796

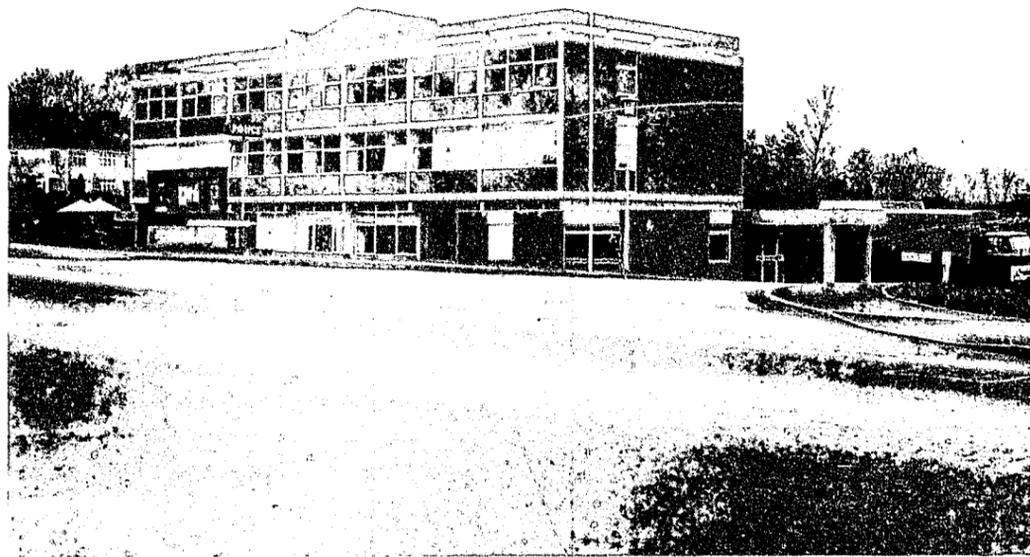
ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1972 - BREATH TESTING

	1973	1972	1971
Number of tests required to be made	2763	2286	1565
Number of persons tested under Sec. 8 (1) (b) (Traffic offence while vehicle in motion)	672	528	340
Of these, number arrested under Sec. 8 (4) (Positive breath test)	360	307	206
Number of persons arrested under:-			
(a) Sec. 8 (4) Positive breath test	1366	1218	873
(b) Sec. 8 (5) Failure to provide breath	230	171	152
(c) Sec. 5 (5) Impairment	63	55	55
Result of analysis of blood/urine:-			
(a) Positive blood	1,006	932	706
(b) Negative blood	311	232	143
(c) Positive urine	97	71	48
(d) Negative urine	23	21	10
(e) Refused	107	69	68
Court results:-			
Number of persons appearing before the courts	1131	945	736
Number of persons found guilty	1106	925	720

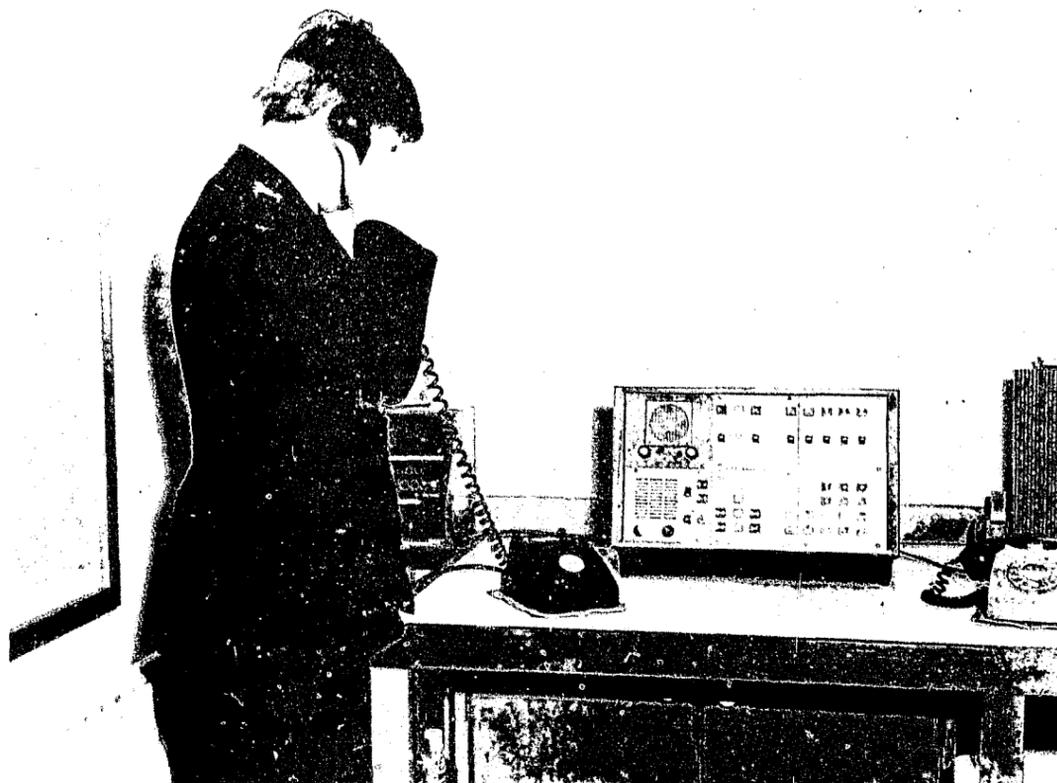
ENFORCEMENT OF TRAFFIC LAW

The following table shows the number of prosecutions taken and written warnings issued by the Force in 1973:

Offences	Prosecution	Written Warnings	Totals
Unauthorised taking or Theft of Motor Vehicle	1183	52	1235
Death or Injury to Person	8	-	8
Unfit to Drive - Drink or Drugs	1310	-	1310
Dangerous Driving	243	1	244
Speeding - Road Limits	10095	59	10154
Speeding - Vehicles Limits	885	8	893
Motorway Offences (excluding speeding)	510	45	555
Careless Driving	4162	41	4203
Prohibited Driving (other than play street)	652	139	791
Neglect of Traffic Directions	2931	320	3251
Obstruction, Waiting, Parking Offences	15983	1577	17560
Lighting Offences	4559	1349	5908
Vehicle or part in Dangerous Condition	5935	234	6169
Vehicle or part in Defective Condition	1822	148	1970
Trailer Offences (excluding provisional licence)	51	17	68
Motor Cycle Offences (excluding provisional licence)	79	25	104
Load Offences	308	43	351
Noise Offences	534	51	585
Driving Licence Offences	7008	511	7519
Carrier's Licence Offences	131	16	147
Vehicle Insurance Offences	5227	269	5496
Vehicle Registration and Licensing Offences	2044	244	2288
Work Record and Employment Offences	198	53	251
Accident Offences	856	49	905
Vehicle Testing Offences	3909	449	4358
No Vehicle Excise Licence	5503	3	5506
Miscellaneous Offences	806	116	922
TOTALS	76932	5819	82751



New Police Station and Area Traffic Office at Sevenoaks



MASCOT installation at new Sevenoaks station

CHAPTER THREE
OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

OPERATIONS ROOM

The present Operations Room at Headquarters, which is the Police Communications Control and Information Centre for the County, was established and equipped some eight years ago. Since that time, teleprinter traffic and emergency calls have both nearly doubled and both motorway distress calls and requests for checks on the stolen/suspect vehicle records have increased by more than 50%. Future projects in the County, such as the Channel Tunnel, can only add to the volume of work.

To cater for this, plans for a new Operations and Criminal Intelligence Centre were finalised during the year and it is hoped to start building in 1974, the finish being scheduled for some 18 months to 2 years later.

The upward trend of work continued in 1973 with 52,150 emergency calls being made on the 999 system (against 48,346 in 1972). All of these calls terminate in the Operations Room regardless of where in the County they are made and the Operations Room Staff direct personnel to attend or take such other action as may be called for.

Similarly, calls from broken down motorists on the M.2 and M.20 motorways increased slightly to a total of 11,187. Apart from radio links, the main means of communication within the Force are direct private line telephones and the internal teleprinter network.

Telephone calls via Operations Room showed a slight decrease over 1972 but teleprinter traffic was once more heavier than the previous year - 93,089 against 91,890, an average of 255 messages each day.

38,220 checks were made on suspect vehicles during the year, each of which involved a physical check of records held in Operations Room and also, in many cases, a check with the centralised vehicle records at New Scotland Yard. The introduction of the police national computer, referred to later, will greatly assist in the making of rapid checks, although the very simplicity of the system is likely to lead to an escalation in the number of checks made and, although providing a vastly improved service, will merely add to the problems at Headquarters.

With the extensive coastline of the County, it is not surprising that marine emergencies form a significant part of the duties of the Operations Room staff. A direct 'hotline' to the Coastguard Station at St. Margaret's Bay near Dover has been in existence for some time and this has now been supplemented by a further direct line to the coastguard station at Warden Point on the Isle of Sheppey to cater for incidents on the North Kent Coast.

Police National Computer

A terminal in the form of a visual display unit (similar to a television screen) has been installed in the Operations Room and this is already connected to the Police National Computer for test and training purposes, in preparation for the time when the computer will start operation in 1974, initially with vehicle owner and stolen vehicle records. Combined with the Mascot mentioned above, the new system is designed to give police patrols very rapid answers to queries on suspicious vehicles or persons.

In due course further terminals will be installed both in Operations Room and in the Criminal Record Office.

Training Equipment

It will be appreciated from the foregoing that, from the point of view of operators, the use of police equipment is becoming very complex. A wing of the Kent Police Training School has been equipped with teleprinters and a simulated wireless scheme for training purposes. Details of the courses are referred to elsewhere.

Hoax Calls

We have so far been fortunate in being spared the type of political extremist activity which has manifested itself in London and certain other large cities during the year.

Unfortunately, each press report of a bomb outrage prompts certain immature and unbalanced people to make hoax reports of bombs or similar devices being placed in public places. In the last two months of 1973, a total of 84 such calls were made to the Kent police and, as these have to be taken seriously until proved to be hoax, the public were put to considerable inconvenience, being required to evacuate shops, cinemas and places of employment, whilst a great deal of police time was wasted - well over 100 hours in the last two months of the year.

Although it is difficult to trace and apprehend the culprits, two such people were tracked down and proceedings against them are pending at the time of writing.

Anyone who has been closely involved in one of these incidents will well know the distress and indeed danger they can cause and will support us in our efforts to stamp out this growing contemporary problem before someone is hurt in the panic which could well follow such an alarm.

DOG SECTION

During the year an Inspector was appointed to take charge of the Dog Section, the establishment of which is now as follows:-

1	Inspector
3	Sergeants
30	Constable with Alsatian dogs
2	Constables with Labrador dogs (for Drugs use)

There is currently a world wide shortage of suitable dogs for police work, due in no small part to the present day demands of the police, the Armed Forces and the ever growing private security industry. With this in mind, every opportunity has been taken to obtain suitable puppies and young dogs. Currently we have four puppies which have been allocated to handlers to work alongside experienced dogs.

A police house at Stockbury has been equipped as boarding kennels so that officers going on leave or on courses may leave their dogs somewhere where they will be properly cared for. The occupant of the house is one of the handlers and his wife is employed as a part-time kennel maid.

The handlers involve themselves in all aspects of police work including the checking of vulnerable premises at night, patrolling areas where there is a high incidence of hooliganism or where there is a special crime or other problem. This work is, of course, additional to their specialist tracking and searching functions which they may be called upon to perform at any moment as the need arises. This obviously makes full use of the existing, limited manpower and is capable of expansion when manpower and finance permit.

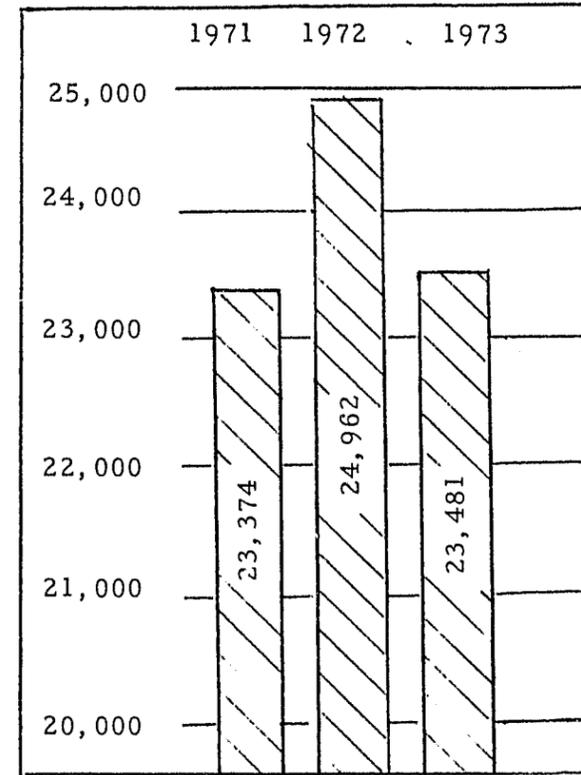
New handlers continue to attend basic courses at the Surrey and Metropolitan Police Dog Training Establishments and frequent refresher courses are held at Headquarters. Permission was given on occasions for handlers and their dogs to take part in dog trials and competitions as an off duty activity. In these they distinguished themselves.

Where duties permitted, the section took part in demonstrations, and talks on the use of police dogs were given to various associations and schools. Unfortunately, operational demands mean that many requests have to be refused.

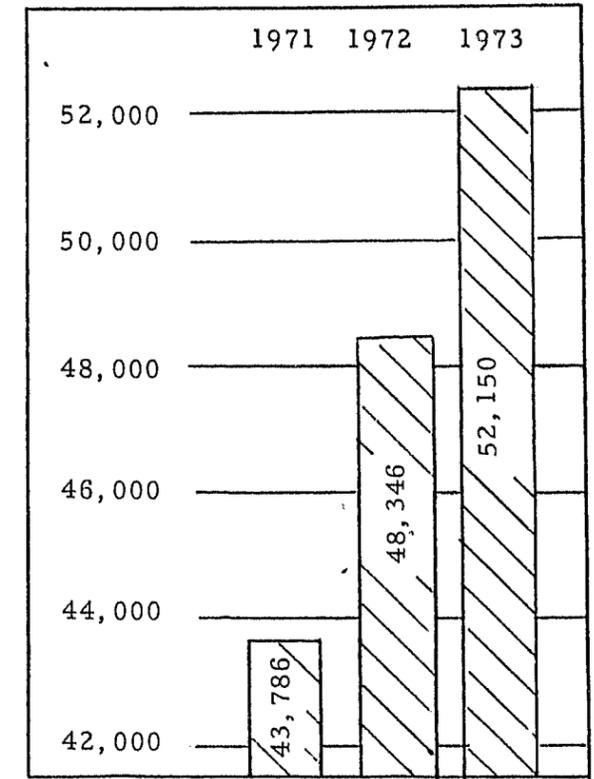
WAR DUTIES

The Home Office U. K. Warning and Monitoring Organisation Carrier Line Broadcast Equipment of the early warning system and the means of providing public warning in case of attack, have been maintained, tested and exercised during the course of the year.

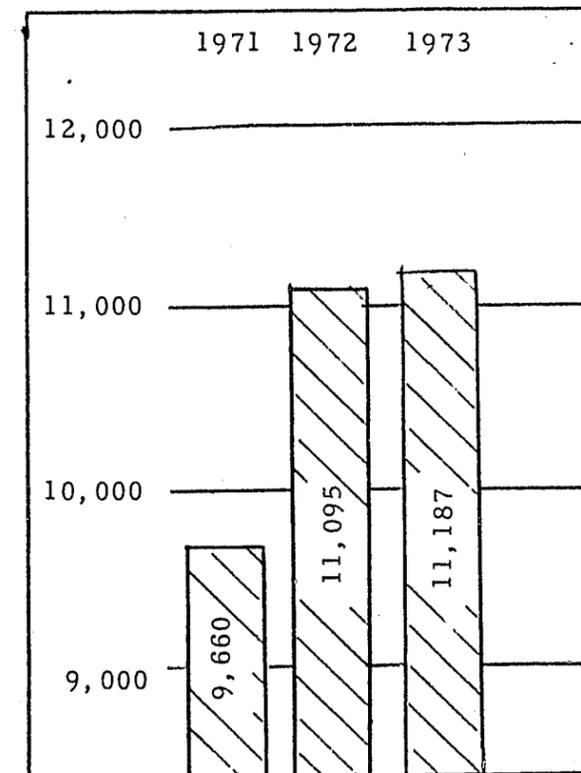
Three senior officers attended courses at the Home Defence College, York and three attended courses at the N. B. C. Defence School, Salisbury. Two officers received instruction in aerial map reading and reconnaissance on a course arranged by the Southampton University Air Squadron, Royal Air Force.



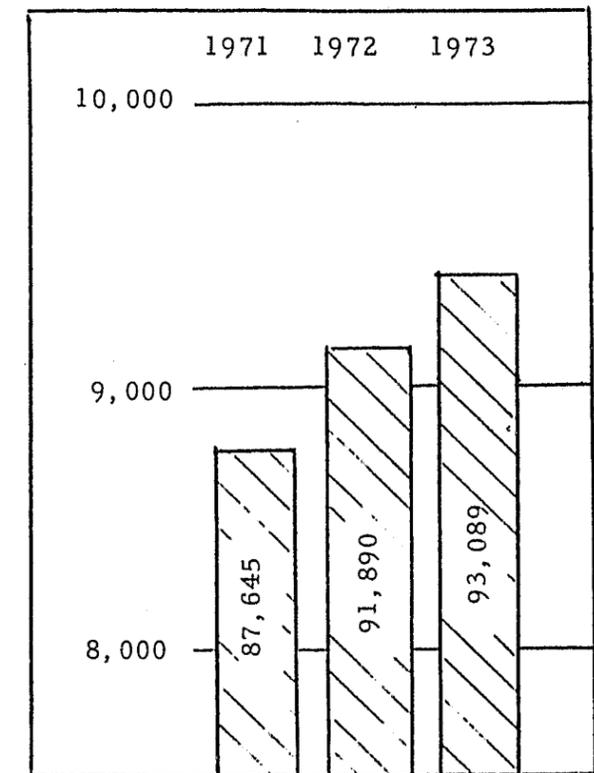
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Emergency Calls



Motorway Telephone Calls



Teleprinter Messages

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CHAPTER FOUR

CRIME

INDICTABLE OFFENCES

In 1973 indictable offences recorded in Kent totalled 32,684. The total yearly crime figures from 1966 are as follows:-

1966	23,610	1970	28,038
1967	23,637	1971	27,986
1968	23,744	1972	31,215
1969	28,172	1973	32,684

In 1972 the increase over 1971 was 11.5%. The increase continued in 1973, however, but by July the figures within the County levelled out and gradually decreased. For 1973 the percentage increase over 1972 amounted to 4.7%.

Within the burglary classification it is pleasing to note a decrease of 481 crimes or 6.0% compared with 1972.

Classification of crime showing an increase

	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>
Malicious etc. wounding	890	1076
Theft of pedal cycles	1027	1179
Theft from vehicles	2977	3042
Theft from shops	2487	2903
Stealing and unauthorised taking of motor vehicles	3975	4465
Criminal Damage over £20	534	786
Forgery and Uttering	911	1027

The crime detection rate for all crime fell from 50.7% in 1972 to 49.4% in 1973.

The increased total crime rate in the County, which goes against the overall national trend, cannot be accounted for with any degree of certainty. The South East is described as an area of growth and it is also a main trunk route to the various channel Ports involving the transit of thousands of vehicles and persons not resident in the County.

The opening of many new self-service stores and increased activity by private security staff accounts for an increase in the 'shoplifting' classification. With the exception of thefts from shops and forgery, the latter involving fraudulent use of stolen cheques and credit cards, which incidentally the police can do little to prevent, the remainder of the classifications showing an increase are, in the main, committed on the streets within large conurbations.

Violence towards children

The expression "battered babies" has been highlighted by the press during the past few years and this, together with the closer working relationship between the Police and Social Services, could be having an impact on the incidence of violence towards children. Not all child deaths fall into the category of the "battered baby" syndrome but the number of cases involving

a child or children where a person was charged with causing their death during the past six years is as follows:-

1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
6	1	1	6*	-	2 cases pending

* (one case involving the death of a mother and her 5 children).

During 1973 eight cases of assaults on children were made known to the police and investigated. The disposals of these cases are as follows:-

Court action	3
Insufficient evidence	3
Referred to Social Services	1
Enquiries pending	1

Details of indictable offences known to the police for the past three years together with a comparison of crimes committed in 1972 and 1973 are given in the following table:-

Offence	1973	1972	1971	Comparison 1973 with 1972	
				Increase or Decrease	%
<u>Offences against the Person:-</u>					
Murder	3	4	11	- 1	- 25.0
Attempts, threats, etc. to murder	16	12	15	+ 4	+ 33.3
Manslaughter, infanticide	4	5	2	- 1	- 20.0
Causing death by dangerous driving	16	23	24	- 7	- 30.4
Wounding and assault	1076	890	697	+ 186	+ 20.9
Rape	26	18	24	+ 8	+ 44.4
Other offences against females	469	398	465	+ 71	+ 17.8
Indecency between males	92	136	111	- 44	- 32.4
Bigamy	8	3	3	+ 5	+ 166.7
Other offences against the person	4	6	6	- 2	- 33.3
SUB-TOTAL	1714	1495	1358	+ 219	+ 14.6
<u>Burglary & Kindred Offences:-</u>					
Burglary in a dwelling	3671	3991	3813	- 320	- 8.0
Aggravated burglary in a dwelling	2	2	1	-	-
Burglary in a building other than a dwelling	3831	3982	3886	- 151	- 3.8
Aggravated burglary in a building other than a dwelling	5	3	10	+ 2	+ 66.7
Going equipped for stealing	57	69	65	- 12	- 17.4
SUB-TOTAL	7566	8047	7775	- 481	- 6.0

Offence	1973	1972	1971	Comparison 1973 with 1972	
				Increase or Decrease	%
<u>Other Offences against Property :-</u>					
Robbery and assault with intent to rob	119	92	84	+ 27	+ 29.3
Thefts from the person of another	101	85	49	+ 16	+ 18.8
Thefts in a dwelling (other than from meters)	892	762	525	+ 130	+ 17.1
Thefts by employees	501	501	475	-	-
Thefts of motor vehicles and unauthorised taking of motor vehicles	4465	3975	3536	+ 490	+ 12.3
Thefts of pedal cycles	1179	1027	1046	+ 152	+ 14.8
Thefts from unattended vehicles	3042	2977	2266	+ 65	+ 2.2
Thefts from shops and stalls	2903	2487	2732	+ 416	+ 16.7
Thefts from meters and automatic machines	643	635	818	+ 8	+ 1.3
Other thefts and unauthorised takings	5328	4965	3898	+ 363	+ 7.3
Fraud	1539	1771	1728	- 232	- 13.1
Handling stolen goods	560	557	635	+ 3	+ .5
SUB-TOTAL	21272	19834	17792	+ 1438	+ 7.3
<u>Other Indictable Offences :-</u>					
Forgery, coining and uttering	1027	911	693	+ 116	+ 12.7
Miscellaneous	1105	928	368	+ 177	+ 19.1
SUB-TOTAL	2132	1839	1061	+ 293	+ 15.9
TOTAL INDICTABLE OFFENCES	32684	31215	27986	+ 1469	+ 4.7

OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON

Deaths by Violence

The number of deaths due to violence amounted to 23 in 1973 a decrease of 9 over the previous year. There were 16 cases of causing death by dangerous driving in 1973, 7 less than in 1972.

Woundings

There were 186 more cases of wounding and assaults recorded in 1973 than in 1972, an increase of 20.9%. Of these 49 were of the more serious type (formerly felonious wounding) and 1027 were those of the less serious type and assaults occasioning actual bodily harm.

Sexual Offences

There were 26 cases of rape and 293 indecent assaults on females during the year compared with 18 and 247 of these offences in 1972. Cases of unlawful sexual intercourse on girls numbered 164 in 1973 whereas in 1972 the figure was 143.

In the group relating to violence as a whole an increase of 219 offences or 14.6% was recorded in 1973.

OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY

Burglary etc.

The offence of burglary can be committed at any time of the day or night and, includes any building. The offence of aggravated burglary occurs when the offender has with him a firearm, imitation firearm, any weapon of offence or any explosive. The latter crime imposes a maximum sentence of imprisonment for life whereas the maximum sentence for burglary without aggravation is one of fourteen years imprisonment.

Seven offences of aggravated burglary occurred in 1973 as opposed to five in 1972 but burglaries without aggravation decreased both in relation to dwelling houses and other premises. In 1973 there were 3,671 burglaries in dwelling houses and 3,831 in premises other than dwellings resulting in an overall decrease of 5.9% on the figures for 1972. Taking this group as a whole there were 481 offences (or 6.0%) less in 1973 than in 1972.

Robberies, Thefts, Frauds and Handling Stolen Property

Indictable offences under this heading show an increase of 1,438 offences or 7.3% in 1973, but offences of theft alone accounted for most of the increase and, in fact, amounted to 58.3% of the total crime committed, but of these many were of a trivial nature.

Robberies and assaults with intent to rob numbered 119 during the year which is twenty seven more than in 1972.

THEFTS

Thefts from the person

101 cases of this type of offence, which includes thefts from shopping bags, handbags and pockets, were committed in 1973, 16 more than in 1972, an increase of 18.8%. Most of these crimes occur at shopping centres, markets, race meetings and football matches.

Thefts from unattended vehicles

There were 3,042 crimes of this nature recorded in 1973 which is 65 or 2.2% more than in 1972 when 2,977 offences were committed. This class of offence continues to increase despite the appeals and advice which have been issued to the public through advertisements in the press and other media. Needless to say many of these crimes could have been avoided had the losers heeded the warnings given. It can only be stressed that still greater care must be taken by the owners of vehicles which are left unattended if any reduction in this class of crime is to be achieved.

Thefts from meters and automatic machines

643 offences of this type were committed in 1973. This is 8 more than in 1972. The majority of these were thefts from gas and electricity meters, but also included are thefts from telephone kiosks and vending machines, placed on the forecourts of shops.

Thefts from shops and supermarkets

In 1973 there was an increase in this category after the decrease recorded last year. 2,903 offences were committed in 1973 as compared with 2,487 in 1972 representing a rise of 416 or 16.7%.

Thefts of pedal cycles

In 1972, 1,027 pedal cycles were stolen. In 1973 the figures increased by 152 to a total of 1,179, a rise of 14.8%. Offences in this category may be expected to increase still further as the market value of cycles rises due to the fuel shortage.

Thefts and unauthorised taking of motor vehicles

During the year 4,465 motor vehicles were recorded as either stolen or taken without consent of the owner as compared with 3,975 offences in 1972 which is an increase of 490 or 12.3%. The theft or taking of a motor vehicle without authority continues in an upward trend as it has done for many years past, although the majority are recovered intact. Even so these vehicles are often used in the commission of yet another crime, such as burglary or robbery. The fact that many of the vehicles stolen are never recovered does cause concern and every effort is made to uncover evidence of "ringing". The possibility that some of the cars are transported abroad, particularly to Europe, is not overlooked and a close liaison is maintained with the customs and other enforcement agencies in an endeavour to detect this method of disposal.

Other thefts

Thefts under this heading relate to thefts of mail, thefts of livestock and other thefts not classified elsewhere. 5,328 offences in this group were recorded in 1973 and 4,965 in 1972 - a rise of 363 or 7.3%.

Fraud

Frauds in this group include frauds by company directors, false accounting, obtaining money by deception and cheque frauds. In 1973 the total amounted to 1,539 which is a decrease of 232 or 13.1% over the total of 1,771 recorded in 1972.

Handling stolen goods

During 1973 there were 3 or .5% more cases of handling stolen property than in 1972 when 557 offences were disclosed. The numbers do not include those where persons were found guilty by the Courts of handling as an alternative charge to burglary or theft and in these cases the classification of the original charge remains unaltered.

DISTRIBUTION OF CRIME

The following table gives details of indictable offences on a divisional basis over the past three years, and shows how the year under review compares with 1972.

Division	Indictable Offences			Comparison 1973 with 1972	
	1973	1972	1971	Increase or Decrease	per cent
A	4,719	4,606	3,695	+ 113	+ 2.5
B	5,685	4,892	4,814	+ 793	+16.2
C	4,333	4,212	4,029	+ 121	+ 2.9
D	2,835	3,160	2,940	- 325	-10.3
E	3,729	3,408	2,576	+ 321	+ 9.4
F	3,355	3,398	2,825	- 43	- 1.3
G	2,231	2,172	2,145	+ 59	+ 2.7
H	1,795	1,726	1,737	+ 69	+ 4.0
J	4,002	3,641	3,225	+ 361	+ 9.9
TOTAL	32,684	31,215	27,986	+1469	+ 4.7

Crime and Police Strength

In order to provide an approximate assessment of the crime-strength situation for the year, the number of recorded crimes was divided by the number of policemen at sub-divisional strength which produced an average figure of 20.9 crimes per officer. In 1972 this figure amounted to 20.0.

Crime and C.I.D. Strength

By taking the number of C.I.D. personnel operating at sub-divisional level and excluding those engaged at divisional and Force Headquarters on supervisory duties, the number of crime complaints received during the year amounted to 236.9 per C.I.D. Officer, a decrease of 7.1 on the previous year.

Crime and Population

According to the most recent census, the estimated population in the Kent Police District is 1,434,960 and the number of indictable offences per thousand residents amounted to 23.2 compared with 22.4 in 1972 based on the population for that year. The table below sets out by divisions the total number of actual crimes recorded together with the number of crimes committed per thousand head of population.

DIVISION	A	B	C	D
Sub-Division	Maidstone Malling Cranbrook	Rochester Chatham Gillingham and Rainham	Gravesend Dartford Swanley	Tunbridge Wells Tonbridge Sevenoaks
Total Crime in 1973	4719	5685	4333	2835
Crimes per 1,000 population	25	23	22	16

DIVISION	E	F	G	H	J
Sub-Divisions	Margate Ramsgate	Canterbury Herne Bay and Whitstable	Sittingbourne Sheerness Faversham	Ashford Tenterden	Dover Deal Folkestone and Hythe
Total crime 1973	3729	3355	2231	1795	4002
Crime per 1,000 population	27	31	23	20	27

CRIMES CLEARED UP

A table showing details of indictable offences cleared up in 1973, together with a comparison of the detection rates over the past three years for these offences is given below:-

INDICTABLE OFFENCES CLEARED UP

Offences	1973		Percentage cleared up (including previous years)		
	Offences recorded	Offences cleared up	1973	1972	1971
<u>Offences against the Person:</u>					
Murder	3	3	100.0	75.0	90.9
Attempts, threats, to murder etc.	16	16	100.0	100.0	93.3
Manslaughter, infanticide	4	4	100.0	100.0	100.0
Causing death by dangerous driving	16	16	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wounding and assault	1076	852	79.2	81.9	81.9
Rape	26	16	61.5	61.1	83.3
Other offences against females	469	343	73.1	71.4	77.2
Unnatural offences	92	62	67.4	90.4	77.5
Bigamy	8	8	100.0	100.0	100.0
Other offences against the person	4	2	50.0	100.0	83.3
<u>Burglary and Kindred Offences:</u>					
Burglary in a dwelling	3671	883	24.1	40.9	42.9
Aggravated burglary in a dwelling	2	1	50.0	50.0	100.0
Burglary in a building other than a dwelling	3831	1373	35.8	39.1	46.2
Aggravated burglary in a building other than dwelling	5	3	60.0	33.3	20.0
Going equipped for stealing	57	57	100.0	100.0	100.0
<u>Other offences against property:</u>					
Robbery and assault with intent to rob	119	81	68.0	58.7	46.4
Thefts from the person of another	101	28	27.7	49.4	44.9
Thefts from a dwelling (other than meters)	892	380	42.6	48.2	64.4
Thefts by employees	501	477	95.2	96.2	97.3
Thefts of motor vehicles) Unauthorised taking of motor vehicles)	4465	1383	30.9	35.0	39.5

Offences	1973		Percentage cleared up (including previous years)		
	Offences recorded	Offences cleared up	1973	1972	1971
<u>Other offences against property:</u>					
Thefts of pedal cycles	1179	196	16.6	17.9	20.7
Thefts from unattended vehicles	3042	805	26.5	30.9	42.2
Thefts from shops and stalls	2903	2604	89.7	89.5	91.4
Thefts from meters and automatic machines	643	270	41.9	48.5	61.9
Other thefts and unauthorised takings	5328	1591	29.9	37.5	45.6
Fraud	1539	1288	83.7	87.3	92.1
Handling stolen goods	560	560	100.0	100.2	99.8
<u>Other Indictable Offences:</u>					
Forgery, coining and uttering	1027	981	95.5	95.9	97.5
Miscellaneous	1105	578	52.3	59.5	77.4
TOTALS	32684	14861	45.5	50.7	57.2

Details of crime cleared up at divisional and County level during 1973 are given in the following table. The detected crime percentages include any offences which were cleared up in the current year even though they were committed in a previous year.

Division	ALL CRIMES			BURGLARY ETC.		
	Committed	Detected	% Detected	Committed	Detected	% Detected
A	4719	1928	44.7	1129	237	27.5
B	5685	2323	48.2	1518	427	45.5
C	4333	1854	45.5	949	310	38.8
D	2835	1464	53.9	646	193	32.7
E	3729	1653	46.5	809	266	38.8
F	3355	1473	48.6	758	242	39.7
G	2231	1153	39.3	654	233	39.3
H	1795	969	57.0	358	112	37.7
J	4002	2044	54.0	745	297	43.9
TOTAL	32684	14861	49.4	7566	2317	38.5

The percentage of detection for 1973 in the two main categories of burglary is shown for each division in the table below. No useful purpose would be served by including in this table the number of crimes cleared up in relation to the offence of 'going equipped for stealing' as such offences are automatically detected upon discovery.

Division	BURGLARY IN DWELLING		BURGLARY OTHER THAN DWELLING	
	1973	1972	1973	1972
A	24.9	47.1	28.6	33.5
B	52.0	36.9	37.8	40.6
C	28.9	46.3	46.9	42.4
D	22.8	48.9	44.1	37.4
E	28.9	36.3	47.0	33.7
F	34.4	20.1	44.8	45.7
G	25.9	37.3	49.7	38.2
H	29.8	51.5	45.0	38.7
J	38.9	43.9	45.8	43.1
COUNTY	33.7	40.9	42.2	39.1

NON INDICTABLE OFFENCES - other than motoring

Classification of offence	1973	1972
Food and Drugs	22	36
Aliens Orders	-	9
Assaults on Police	208	213
Assaults - Common	29	51
Betting, Gaming, etc.	4	68
Cruelty to Animals	20	23
Cruelty to Children	4	4
Diseases of Animals Acts	2	-
Dog Offences	174	139
Education Acts	9	22
Firearms Acts	438	366
Fishery Laws	11	16
Game Laws	81	106
Highways Acts (Other than Motor Vehicles)	206	183
Pedal Cycle Offences	183	173
Indecent Exposure	129	96
Drunkenness - simple	247	187
Drunkenness - aggravated	364	291
Licensing Offences	15	50
Other Liquor Offences	34	31
Malicious Damage	11	4
National Assistance Acts	155	115
National Insurance Acts	62	124
Offences against Service Law	9	2
Disorderly conduct (Other than drunkenness)	114	101
Prevention of Crimes Acts	122	151
Public Health Acts	16	86
Railway Offences	104	227
Motor Vehicle Licences	5503	5867
Dog Licences	163	103
Other Revenue Offences	1	8
State Carriage and P. S. V.	40	18
Vagrancy Acts	21	25
Weights and Measures Acts	15	13
Wild Bird Protection Acts	7	9
Wireless Telegraphy Acts	204	263
Indecency with children	12	25
Other Offences	753	694
Drug Offences	382	425
TOTAL	9874	10324

SCIENTIFIC AIDS IN THE INVESTIGATION OF CRIME

The total number of materials submitted to the Home Office Forensic Science Laboratories in 1973, for examination amounted to 1706 compared with 1778 in 1972.

The materials examined related to murder, attempted murder, manslaughter and wounding (27), rape, attempted rape and other sexual offences (41) arson and other criminal damage (27), robbery (10), burglary (62), theft (19), forgery (8), firearms and explosive offences (18), road accidents (29), suspicious deaths (10) and miscellaneous offences (13). Evidence submitted in relation to drug offences totalled 185 and 1261 samples of blood or urine were forwarded to the laboratories in connection with prosecutions involving driving or being in charge of a motor vehicle whilst under the influence of drink or drugs.

CRIMINAL RECORD OFFICE

In the year currently under review the details of 6,455 persons, not previously recorded, were added to the main Nominal Index which now houses the records of 94,231 persons. In addition during the year, 2,079 persons already on record were reconvicted of criminal offences compared with 2,147 in 1972.

During the year, 23,756 searches were made on the Nominal Index, which includes all persons wanted or suspected of crime, and from these 10,252 persons were identified as being on record and 372 identified as wanted or suspected of crime. Comparable figures for 1972 were 21,498 searches of which 9,288 persons were identified as on record and 249 persons identified as wanted or suspected.

Reports were received regarding 1,975 missing persons and 1,645 absconders from mental hospitals, borstal institutions and places of care. These showed an increase of 237 missing persons and 126 absconders over the previous year.

TRAFFIC AND MINOR CONVICTIONS - DISQUALIFICATIONS

In accordance with national policy certain categories of traffic and other non-indictable offences are no longer recorded by the police. In spite of this, the number of persons recorded in the appropriate indices have increased during 1973 from approximately 35,000 to 46,000. Persons resident in Kent who were the subject of orders of disqualification from driving as at 31st December, 1973 numbered 2,568 as opposed to 2,250 in 1972 and 1,700 in 1971. 1,819 of the current orders of disqualification will terminate during 1974 but 749 will remain in force beyond 1974 and these include several orders of disqualification for life.

CRIME INTELLIGENCE SECTION

There has been a steady increase in the work carried out by the section during 1973. There is no doubt that in the main this is due to Divisional staff becoming more aware of the facilities available to them. All courses at Headquarters are lectured on Crime Intelligence and many of them visit the department.

There was a complete change in the Field Intelligence Staff and they are now attached to the Support Groups. The officers attached to No. 1 Support Group have been engaged for the greater part of the year on a single complicated enquiry. However, a considerable amount of useful information has been obtained and assistance rendered on operations and other Divisional problems in relation to crime.

The photofit and antiques officer has given valuable assistance to divisions throughout the year and has been responsible for the identification of property on a number of occasions. The number of identifications by photofit also increased in 1973.

1973 saw the commencement of the Central Illegal Immigration and Drugs Intelligence Unit in London. Close contact has been maintained and the information held in the Crime Intelligence Section has been of great assistance to the unit.

Much useful information has been obtained from the French and Belgian Police and Customs Officials through the Continental Liaison Officer. He has also carried out enquiries on the continent for this force and assisted other forces in making enquiries.

FINGERPRINT AND PHOTOGRAPHIC DEPARTMENT

Scenes of Crime

During 1973 the divisional Scene of Crime Officers attended 10,731 scenes which was a considerable increase over the 8,714 visits made during the previous year.

249 total loss and re-built vehicles were examined during the year by the vehicle examiners of the section and while a number of stolen vehicles were identified none were found during this type of examination.

An addition to the normal work load was experienced, particularly in West Kent Divisions in the last quarter of the year owing to the problems of suspect mail thought to contain explosive devices. In all 385 suspect packets and letters were dealt with between August and the end of the year. In many instances it was necessary to have the mail screened by the explosive officers at Cannon Row Police Station.

Of the four officers who received basic Scene of Crime training during the year, three have now joined the department to replace officers who have left.

Fingerprint Department

During the year the number of persons identified by finger and palm prints increased by 83 over the previous year to a total of 620. This is the highest figure yet achieved by the department.

The employment of two additional fingerprint officers during the year has not only reduced to a minimum the delays in searching which were always present previously, but has undoubtedly contributed to the increase in identifications and has helped to produce a steady work flow through the department.

Evidence has been prepared and given by the experts from the Department on 46 occasions.

There are four qualified experts within the Department and no fingerprint officers attended the experts course during the year.

Photographic Department

In this department there was also an increase in the work produced. One of the largest factors in this increase was the additional 825 fingerprint lifts photographed for the fingerprint department making a total of 4,341 dealt with in the year. From them over 26,000 prints were produced.

While the volume of work is high and has increased, the amount of work now processed automatically has offset many of the time consuming processes and the staff have no difficulties in coping with the increased work load.

DRUGS SECTION

A total of 490 persons were dealt with during 1973 for offences concerning controlled drugs. This is an increase of 20% over the 1972 figure.

Although part of this increase is due to greater success by H. M. Customs at Kent Ports the overall picture is one of drug abuse increasing year by year. A comparison with 1969, when H. M. Customs dealt with 44 persons, shows that in four years the number of known offenders has risen by 64%.

Illegal trafficking in drugs is highly lucrative, consequently the would be drug user does not have difficulty in finding a willing supplier. Also, because of the profitability, the tendency is for traffickers to become more organized and thereby more difficult to combat.

The following table gives a comparison of drug offenders and offences in Kent during 1971, 1972 and 1973:-

	Action B: Police	Action B: Customs	Ages of Offenders			Possession Offences			Cannabis	Supplying or Possessing with intent to supply	Permitting use of Premises	Illegal Importation	Thefts & Burglaries	Other Offences
			Under 20 years	20-36 years	Over 36 years	Opium Based etc.	L. S. D.	Amphetamine Type						
1971	354	9	174	176	13	12	42	114	232	4	10	9	19	43
1972	389	8	180	215	12	17	52	82	304	6	10	8	17	42
1973	436	36	151	303	36	12	35	110	373	11	8	50	37	38

The number of persons dealt with who were under 20 years of age decreased for the first time. The reasons for this are not known but it is to be hoped that it is a trend which will continue. Similarly the number of persons dealt with for possession of the drug commonly known as L. S. D. decreased for the first time. The dangers of misuse of this drug cannot be over emphasised, thus any sign that its use might be diminishing is to be welcomed.

Many of the persons dealt with by H. M. Customs for illegal importation offences were aged over 30 years consequently that category of person shows an increase over the previous year.

During the year the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971, and Regulations made thereunder, was brought into force and updated the law. In particular the Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) Regulations, which become fully operative during 1974 provide for additional security in the storing and custody of drugs. The responsibility for enforcement of these regulations will be shared between Crime Prevention Officers and the two Chemist Inspection Officers. These two officers were, as reported last year, appointed during 1972 and the position was to be evaluated after a period of twelve months. As a result, a decision was made that the posts should continue on a permanent basis. Their regular inspection of registers dealing with supplies of drugs together with the new safe custody regulations should effectively deal with this aspect of drug security.

ALIENS OFFICE

The number of aliens registered in the County on the 31st December, 1973 was as follows:-

	Male	Female	Total
European	428	442	870
Asiatic	375	224	599
American	230	191	421
African	90	52	142
Others	14	8	22
	<u>1137</u>	<u>917</u>	<u>2054</u>

988 initial registrations were effected during the year compared with 1,835 in the preceding year but one factor which accounts for the reduction in registrations recorded during 1973 is that on the 1st January, 1973 new provisions of the Immigration Act 1971, were introduced exempting certain aliens from registration, i. e. students provided their stay in this country does not exceed six months.

1971	-	99
1972	-	58
1973	-	101

It should be borne in mind, however, that the figures quoted above only relate to the position at the end of the year, when, due to the winter closing of certain establishments such as restaurants, the figures are considerably less than during the summer months.

CRIME PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

The availability of experienced Crime Prevention Officers at most police stations in the County and publicity connected with this service has led to 2,435 premises being surveyed and recommendations made to improve their security. Requests for advice were received from large commercial undertakings, local authorities, and public utilities in addition to householders and small shopkeepers. That the general public heed the advice is borne out by the fact that there are now 5,104 commercial alarm systems installed in premises throughout the County compared with 2,593 in 1970.

The number of alarmed premises attacked has fallen from 268 in 1972 to 258 this year despite an increase of 880 systems. 73 persons were arrested as a result and loss of property or entry avoided on 129 occasions. It is apparent that an intruder alarm is an important crime prevention measure but its effectiveness is greatly reduced when inexperienced installation, poor maintenance or misoperation results in unnecessary attention by patrolling police officers. In 1973 there were 12,482 false calls from intruder alarms which inevitably wasted many police man hours. During the year therefore the section devoted a considerable amount of time examining installations which produced an excess of false calls and 160 formal site meetings with subscribers and alarm companies were attended. In all but 11 cases false calls were drastically reduced.

37 radio alarms are currently owned or hired from the Home Office, and they have been installed for varying periods in 156 different premises where an unlawful entry was anticipated thus avoiding lengthy observations. 30 persons were arrested as a direct result of these installations.

Talks to local organisations continue to play a prominent part in educating the public in crime prevention and 157 were given during the year. 49 lectures to police officers in training were undertaken and regular broadcasts on the subject were presented on B. B. C. Radio Medway. It is essential that Crime Prevention Officers work closely with Insurance Surveyors and a seminar was held at which mutual problems were discussed and an improved degree of co-operation was obtained.

END

7. 11/12/73