

## RTF officers recover stolen property worth in excess of £400,000 in January, with assistance of eagle-eyed Farm Watch Members and our partners.

There have been a number of vehicles (pictured) stolen from rural areas across the county in recent months, many of which have been located and recovered by the RTF as a result of great communication and co-operation with vigilant local people.

Please consider the following crime prevention advice to avoid becoming a victim of crime -

- Vehicles such as 4x4's, tractors, quad bikes and ATV's are tempting to thieves if left unattended.
- Always remove keys from ignition and store the keys in a safe place.
- Avoid leaving vehicles in fields. Secure them to an anchor point such as a wall or inside secure buildings.
- Consider security lighting, CCTV and alarms.
- Security mark vehicles. Photograph any distinguishing marks, keep a record of chassis, serial numbers and make and model to help identify them.
- Consider a tracker device to aid the recovery of the vehicle if stolen.



# RURAL TASK FORCE newsletter



## Kent Police

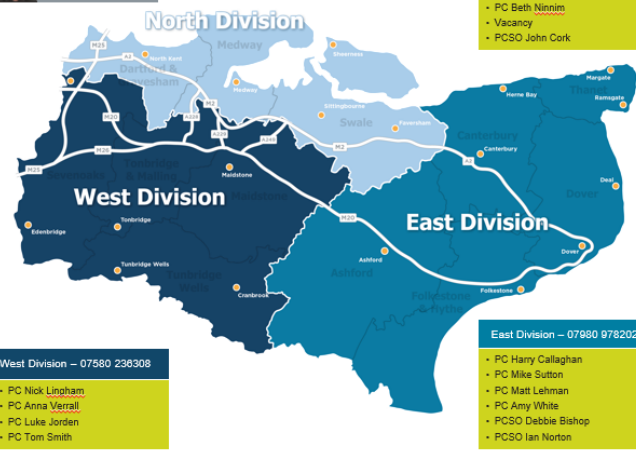
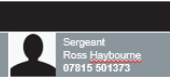
Get the latest crime statistics by visiting: [www.kent.police.uk/yourarea](http://www.kent.police.uk/yourarea)

January 2024

### Meet some of the team to discuss Rural issues.

- February 13<sup>th</sup> Ashford Cattle Market TN24 0HB 09:00-13:00
- February 22<sup>nd</sup> The Guildhall Sandwich, CT13 9AH 08:00-13:00
- February 24<sup>th</sup> Hythe Farmers Market, CT21 5BG 09:00-13:30
- March 3<sup>rd</sup> The village Green Bearsted, ME14 4DL 0800-1300.
- March 6<sup>th</sup> Farmers EXPO County Show Ground 0800-1700.
- March 9<sup>th</sup> Red Lion Inn, 73 High Street Bridge CT4 5LA 09:00-13:00
- March 19<sup>th</sup> 12:00-15:00 hours Painters Forstal, Faversham ME13 0EN

### Rural Task Force



## Commercial Fly Tipping Partnership Operation

The Rural Task Force recently worked alongside the Environment Agency at the Boughton DVSA stop site and weigh bridge. This was a multi-agency joint operation targeting HGV tipper lorries to stop and speak to drivers who may be involved in large scale fly tipping's in the areas of Rochester, Ashford, Canterbury and the Isle of Sheppey. The DVSA inspected the lorries' road suitability and checked drivers' hours, while HMRC carried out diesel dipping on all the lorries that were pulled in. The day saw numerous stops, a vast amount of intelligence, sanctions, and a seizure. This multi-agency approach without doubt resulted in more results seen on the day due to information sharing and joint partnership working.



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## Illegal off-road motorbikes targeted as part of ongoing crack down on riders using the vehicles anti-socially in West Kent and Medway.

The operation took place on Sunday 28th January 2024 and involved officers from Kent Police's Rural Task Force, supported by officers from Sussex Police's Rural Crime Team and Kent Police's Road Safety Unit.

During the day the teams used cars, motorbikes and drones and Sussex Police supported the operation by using their off-road motor bikes which allowed officers to track through numerous muddy byways.

Areas targeted during the day were Holly Hill in Snodland, Common Road in Aylesford and St Peters Village in Wouldham, Eccles and Burham.

During the operation officers stopped 60 off-road motorcycles and quad bikes, seizing two of them which included a suspected stolen vehicle. Three traffic offence reports were issued after riders were



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found to be riding without insurance or appropriate licences. Six riders were also given words of advice.

This operation generated some great results not only in terms of numbers of riders stopped but we also had a chance to meet with numerous members of the community, including dog walkers and other groups of riders who were positive about the action we were taking.

'One group of riders who were stopped appreciated the efforts we were going to identify any offences as they themselves had been victims of their vehicles being stolen.

The use of the off-road motorcycles proved a real talking point and allowed us to engage with riders whom we wouldn't have been able to track.'



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RTF officers, supported by Dog Handler PC Nathan Southern (ex RTF) located and arrested a male hiding within the grounds of Canterbury hospital.

The male was wanted in relation to a series of 11 burglaries in rural Canterbury, around Petham and Waltham. He was also wanted for failing to appear at court in Bristol for a drug offence and failing to comply with a court order in Avon and Somerset.

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RTF PCSO assisted a member of the public who appeared to have broken down on the A2 slip at Bridge. The PCSO was not happy with the male and RTF officers assisted. It transpired the unlucky motorist was driving a stolen car which had been stolen in Manchester and was destined for Europe. The male was arrested for theft of motor vehicle and later collected by Greater Manchester Police.



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