

[illegible]

You will note that theft of machinery and other items from rural locations remain prevalent. I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone to regularly review their security ensuring sheds/ barns are locked and secure when not in use. Please remember to record and mark all property serial numbers so these can be passed to the police if you become a victim of crime.

I am pleased to say the IT has now been updated and Farm Watch Whats App is in the process of being expanded across the county. Groups have already been set up for North Division covering Swale, Medway and North Kent, with the West Division to follow. The information shared on this has already been of great benefit to the team leading to arrests and the recovery of stolen property

**Here is a snapshot of the work carried out by the Rural Task Force over the last 2 months.**

## Rural Theft

RTF Officers located a Green Land Rover Discovery and a white Fiat Doblo Panel Van, parked in the entrance to a field approximately 100 yds from the Lydden Traffic Lights on the A2.



Two males were located in nearby field. They were facing the direction of Dover looking towards a treeline some way in the distance and pointing scanning his arm from left to right. Both males were sheepish when stopped by officers. They were searched with a negative result. RTF drone was deployed by along a treeline and into some Woodland. A 13ton Daewoo Excavator in the Woods along with a Forestry Tractor. This appears to be what the males were looking for. Owner of the equipment contacted and equipment moved.



Following on from the investigation work that Pc Perry & Pc Callaghan have been conducting into the Three BOTDs at a Farm in Shepway, where property including a Tractor and ride on lawn mower were stolen.

The Rural Task Force and Shepway CPT came in early to locate suspects, both suspects were located and have been arrested on suspicion of burglary. Following the arrest searches were conducted where further stolen property was recovered the same day.

Enquires continued the next day and the RTF working with Sussex police located and recovered the stolen mower.



RTF patrolling at Pilgrims Way Hollingbourne /byway Greenway Court Rd. Off road bikes and quad made off across Hollingbourne Hill. Located other bikes. 1 quad and 2 bikes seized for identification as suspected stolen.



RTF along with a TFU (Firearms Patrol car) responded to a report of male trying to sell diesel from a white panel van. The van was spotted with a white small hatchback. Both vehicles were stopped. The white hatchback, a Nissan Micra was found to be in order. The white Panel Van, a Citroën Relay, had fuel syphoning equipment and a large bowser were located in the rear. The male was arrested for Going Equipped, Drink Driving and Disqualified Driving. The vehicle was on false Bulgarian plates, after the chassis was checked the true identity was established, which was an exported vehicle, with a number of different index plates located inside. Vehicle recovered.



RTF Officers conducted a search along the riverbank adjacent to a traveller site and located a Kawasaki motorcycle stolen from Canterbury in October. The vehicle has been recovered.



RTF Officers received report of possible stolen moped near to traveller site at Maidstone. Moped located and seized for examination.



RTF found stolen vehicle at South Darenth. Vehicle displaying false ID and internal VIN checks completed showed the vehicle to be linked to TOMV offence on 04/11/2019 from London area. Vehicle seized for examination



A white Isuzu D Max was located at Maidstone Road, Nettlestead Green, displaying a false index and was suspected to be a cloned vehicle. The visible VIN was checked, and it was confirmed that the true identity was a stolen vehicle, stolen in November 2019

Officers from the RTF executed a Theft Act search warrant in relation to stolen Landrover parts in Headcorn. A roof box from a stolen Land Rover Defender was located and recovered. No other items of interest were located. Investigation is ongoing.



Pc Lingham picked up on a post from Thanet about a stolen vehicle which we circulated on Farm Watch. A local farmer had located the stolen vehicle in his field. Which has sadly been burnt out.

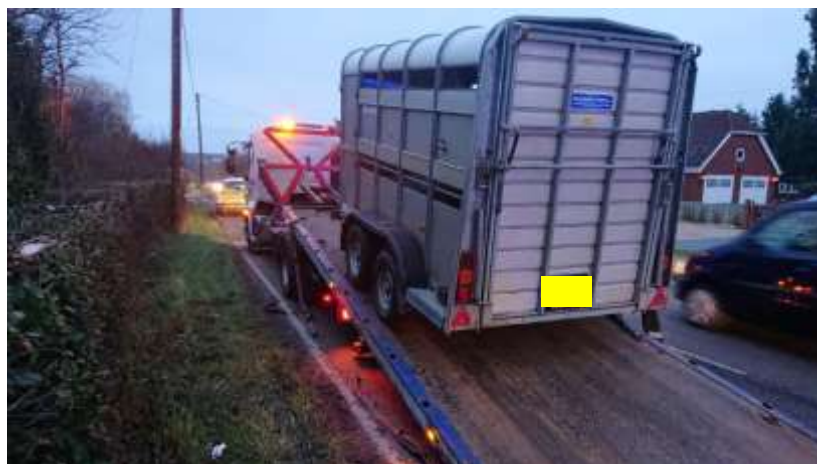


RTF Officers attended the area to an abandoned Land Rover Discovery, in Ethlerbert Road, near the Hospital. PNC shows the vehicle In Trade with a Previous Keeper from East Sussex and Insurance details Not Held. Upon locating the vehicle it came apparent the vehicle had a 1000 litre bowser in the back and two 200 litre plastic barrels in the back of the vehicle, which had front end damage and evidence it had recently been through an Orchard. The vehicle was searched and part of a syphoning kit was located and it smelt heavily of Diesel.



Officers conducted an area search of local Orchard bordering the A2, London bound carriageway which were close to layby areas and located an Orchard off Merton Lane which is alongside a London bound carriageway. The Orchard had tracks leading to the treeline and a gap through two fence lines into the layby. Five apple trees have been knocked over and damaged by a vehicle which is suspected to be the Discovery located, as a piece of the number plate was located. The vehicle was seized under PACE and been tagged for Crime Scene Investigative work.

RTF Officers attended a field of Herne Bay Road, Broad Oak, Canterbury, following report of stolen horse box at the location. They found an Ifor Williams Cattle Trailer and enquiries revealed it has been stolen in 2019 from Ash. Trailer recovered.



## Op Galileo/Poaching

White Ford Transit was reported involved in a hare coursing at Thanet Earth, Birchington. Vehicle located on M2 and stopped at Cuxton. Driver stated he was visiting family in Herne Bay and had walked his dog on the land. The vehicle and driver were searched under the Poaching Prevention Act and no items associated with hare coursing were found. A brindle coloured bitch Lurcher was in the van which did not appear to have been worked.

Report of two groups of males poaching at Godington Lane, Ashford, RTF attended and detained and searched some males located at scene. Informant attended scene and stated not the males he had seen. Advice given to stopped males and intelligence report created.

6 males seen trespassing on land near to Bridge Road, Hythe. Group were stopped and searched by Police. Report that two of the males were aggressive and public order offences being considered.

Officers recovered a silver Hyundai Santa Fe stuck in a field at Faversham. Vehicle recovered with help of local Farmer and seized as used in crime and criminal damage to wheat field recorded. Investigation continues.



Call received reporting two males in a field between Ratling Road and Adisham Road, in Aylesham. The males were seen by the witness Hare Coursing and left their vehicle, a Silver Subaru Forester, on Ratling Road.



Witness saw the Dogs released in pursuit of a Hare before the two males made off towards Love Lane and were detained. Investigation in hand, case file being prepared with a view to prosecuting both males.

Deployed to poaching in progress, Burmarsh East Kent. Vehicle and suspects located, stopped and detained. Both occupants of vehicle arrested and dealt with at Folkestone Police Custody.



Report received on FarmWatch of 3 males hare coursing near to Seamark Road, Birchington. Area search conducted but no vehicles or persons found. Officers extended the search to the area of Shuart Lane and located a Black Hyundai Tuscon. An extensive search of the area was conducted and 3 males were seen walking across fields. Officers witnessed 1 male release his dog which pursued a hare. All 3 males were detained and identified. All searched under the poaching prevention act and each had their mobile phones seized. In addition keys to the Hyundai were found on one of the males.

The Hyundai was seized, used in crime. Slow time enquires with the phones to be conducted in preparation to interviews/prosecution of each suspect.



RTF responded to a report of males in black Ford Transit suspected of poaching at Goodnestone. The vehicle was stopped in Canterbury. Four males and vehicle searched under Poaching Act - several catapults and a quantity of ball bearings seized.



RTF contacted by Game Keeper at Denton reporting a Silver Subaru Forester acting suspiciously around Wootton and Pheasant Pens. The vehicle had been reported in similar circumstances Catapulting Pheasants in Trees last week. Vehicle located travelling along London Road in the Crabble area of Dover and was stopped in Old Charlton Road. The vehicle was searched under the Poaching Prevention Act and a Catapult was located, and feathers in the rear footwell. The vehicle was driven by know OP Galileo target. The vehicle had No Tax since October 2017, so was seized.



# Wildlife

PC Williams attended report of a Badger Disturbance near to High Halstow. Three Setts examined with evidence of being "dug out" though very crudely. Investigation on going.



RTF Officers investigated a report of possible Badger Habitat destruction Hawkhurst. Liaised with Ecologist and all work appears to have been carried out correctly. Awaiting email correspondence to confirm this and RTF continue to monitor.

PC Verrall dealing with report of possible Great Crested Newt Destruction. She attended the site spoke to owner who carried out the works prior ecologist finishing their survey. He commenced the work as his Architect told him it was ok as planning had been granted. Work started by digging out top soil laying and ramming hard-core to allow access for farm machinery. Since being told to stop no further work has been done.



RTF Officers assisted search team officers at the scene of a warrant where a Gold Finch was found in a cage which had no ring and suspected to of been an illegally trapped wild bird. Assisted to get the bird seized and arranged RSPCA collection. Investigation continues.

RTF received a call from Network Rail advising they had come across Great Crested Newts during emergency track repairs. Ecologist had attended and removed the newts and work had continued. Under the circumstances it was deemed an offence had not occurred due to lawful emergency work being carried out. It was established that the site was on Network Rail land and therefore under BTP authority. Report passed to them for final review.

## Cites

**CITES Warrants** – RTF officer with assistance Ian Guilford from National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) executed 2 warrants under CITES legislation for the illegal importation of critically endangered Siamese Crocodile skulls. The NWCU had conducted an investigation into two separate ebay purchases from a seller in China and identified the buyers. Search warrants were obtained by the RTF and executed in partnership with the NWCU.

On entering the first property the owner immediately surrendered the skull. They had spent a considerable amount time and money coating the skull in 24 carat gold leaf. The owner was given suitable advice regarding importation of animal parts and the skull seized.



Two further skulls were located and seized at an address in Whitstable again with the owner being given educational advice.



## Livestock/Animal Welfare

Livestock worrying at Charing. The dog owner had admitted responsibility that his dog was involved in the attack where one sheep was killed at scene and a further 3 were humanely destroyed afterwards due to injuries. The owner has agreed to pay the owner of the livestock full compensation. Restorative Justice process completed and steps have been taken to ensure there is no repeat incident.

Contact received from RSPCA regarding the handing in to them of a peregrine falcon which had been injured. Vet intervention led to the Bird being euthanized and X-rayed. X-rays confirmed the bird had been shot. Enquiries are ongoing.



RTF responded to a report of loose horses at Pett Lane Stockbury. Repeat calls over last week to the location. Horses were transported to another field site. Owner to be issued with a Community Protection Warning regarding keeping their horses secure.



Report of a Sheep Attack on Capstone Road. RTF met Sheep Owner to discuss incident. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sheep attack in as many weeks. The land backs onto the dog walking facility on Capstone Country Park and there is not full boundary fencing resulting in the dogs getting through. Whilst present two dogs have come out of the park onto the land but have gone straight back into the park. PC Southern located the owners and gave them words of advice. PC Southern also attended Capstone Country Park and spoke to the site Rangers and gave them Livestock Worriying posters. He then spoke to the dog owner who stated she is looking after her daughter's Alsatian. The dog is due to go back to Surrey soon. Investigation on-going.

PC Lingham carried out a Non Custodial interview at Tonbridge with Dog Owner regarding 5x Livestock worrying offences in Westerham.

RTF Officers issued Community resolution to dog owner who has agreed to pay for the damage to the farmers livestock via bank transfer.

Two search warrants executed with the RSPCA Special Investigation Unit in relations to allegations of Badger Baiting/Illegal hunting with dogs.

Addresses searched and 8 x dogs seized under the Animal Welfare Act due to being in poor condition.



Parked in the road at one of the searched address was a white Ford Transit. This had been untaxed since February 2018 and was seized.



Whilst dealing with the search warrant it was noticed that a white Mercedes Sprinter was parked further up the road with people working at an address opposite. Enquiries identified that the vehicle had been untaxed since January 2019 and was seized. The mini digger they were using was also checked and appeared to have had all of its identifying features removed. This was seized as suspected stolen for a vehicle examination and later confirmed as stolen.



RTF West Officers attended a Farm at Maidstone for a theft matter and found that RSPCA Officers had just arrived at the site following a report of a horse in distress on its side. Inside the main barn a small black pony was located in a near death state, it had a noose around its neck and both drag marks and blood pooling would suggest it had been dragged into the barn, most likely by the red quad bike parked in the barn. RSPCA Vet attended and euthanised the animal immediately. Further assessment of animals on site were conducted with the results as follows;

Advice given on 1x horse immediate medical treatment sanctioned against a separate horse

2x Dogs seized.

No persons were identified against ownership of the main horse. RSPCA enquiries are ongoing in relation to all animal welfare cases disclosed at the scene.

Livestock attack at a farm at Lenham Heath, Maidstone. Farmer called police reporting 2 Doberman found attacking sheep in a field. Dogs left prior to police arrival but were located by PC Smith but could not be contained. Dogs then attended land to the rear of Oxley House where they attacked and killed a goose. Dog owner then arrived, and dogs were secured. DNA swabs taken from dogs and injured animals. Dog owner has reimbursed the farmer and goose owner for any costs involved. It is thought the injured sheep will have to be dispatched. Dog owner has had both dogs destroyed as they do not want to risk this happening again. All parties are happy with these actions and do not want to go down the prosecution route.



## Heritage

Reports of Illegal Metal Detecting at Langdon Cliffs. Contact made with Ranger at White Cliffs Dover to establish the extent of the problem and to link in with Heritage Watch.

There have been a spate of thefts and damages at Churches across the County. Research is being conducted to see if there is a pattern and the RTF Specials Unit and the local Policing Teams have been tasked to increase Police presence around these sites. Crime Prevention guidance and measures to be reviewed.

# Op Assist

14/01/20 – RTF Officers worked with Canterbury Council Environmental Enforcement Team. 2 Vehicles Seized and Waste Producers and Penalty Notices issued by CCC.



21/01/20 - RTF Officers worked with Swale Council Environmental Enforcement Team. 1 Traffic Offence Report for Mobile Phone offence, 1 vehicle seized, 7 Intelligence Reports submitted and SBC issued 8 Waste carrier penalty notices and production documents. Also one outstanding Domestic Assault suspect from West Sussex was located and arrested by RTF Officers.



RTF stopped a high sided Ford Transit visiting a farm in the Stourmouth Road, Preston area. Two occupants known to Police. Claimed to be collecting scrap and search of vehicle revealed lots of scrap in the rear. Arrangements made for Occupants to be interviewed for Waste Carrying offences.

RTF stopped a White Ford Transit on Lower Road Faversham. Details of the two occupants recorded. There was a large amount of scrap metal on board which was recorded on officer's Body Worn Video. When asked about waste transfer notices driver stated his licence for Canterbury District Council is being sorted. Intelligence Report to Canterbury Environmental Enforcement Team.



Blue Ford Transit travelling A249 Sittingbourne bound. PNC on vehicle showed No insurance, No MOT and No Tax. Vehicle stopped and driver identified. Vehicle seized No insurance & No Tax and Traffic Offence Report completed. Rear of the vehicle was full of scrap metal. Search conducted of the vehicle under the Environment Act.

27/01/20 – RTF Officers worked with Maidstone Council Environmental Enforcement Team. 3 Vehicles Seized, Penalty Notices issued by the council. 3 persons invited for interview with regards to ongoing prosecutions.

Whilst on way to Maidstone for OP ASSIST on 27/01 a White Polish Citroen Van was witnessed driving erratically and failed to stop for rural officers in Lenham. The vehicle finally came to a stop in Harrietsham. The driver was arrested for failing to stop for Police and Possession with Intent to Supply Drugs following number of drugs, phones and scales located in van.

Vehicle involved in a fly tipping of builders waste in Nov 2019. Vehicle seized by Maidstone Borough Council and appointment made for the owner to attend for interview with waste crime team.



Vehicle involved in a fly tipping of soil around 2 weeks ago, Vehicle seized by Maidstone Borough Council and appointment made for owner to attend for interview with waste crime team.



Vehicle seen with cage loaded with green waste. The driver had an expired waste carriers licence from 2016. He was issued a £300 FPN and his vehicle was seized by the council, he obtained a waste carriers licence on line at the roadside. In total the cost to him will be £624.



RTF stopped a Mercedes Sprinter van, seen entering numerous farms on East Division. Vehicle located and stopped in Bapchild, Sittingbourne. Vehicle searched and was found to be heavily loaded with aluminium refrigeration parts. Although the driver had waste carriers licence, he did not have metal carriers licence. Details passed to Swale ERT for follow up. Reported for traffic offences.



On the 04/02/20 RTF officers worked in partnership with enforcement officers from Canterbury Council on OP Assist targeting Fly Tipping and illegal waste transfer. Several vehicles were stopped during the operation. 3 drivers were issued producers by the council to produce waste transfer notices and scrap metal licences, if unable to do so they will be issued with a £300 fixed penalty notice.

1 driver was reported for using his vehicle with no MOT, another 2 were reported for no tax with 1 of these seized but subsequently released as the penalty notice was paid at the road side and the vehicle taxed.





Fly tipping Bogshole Lane, Whitstable – Several tyres and boxes dumped at the side of the road. Waste inspected and evidence found. To be followed up by Canterbury Council.

On the 11/02/20 RTF officers worked in partnership on a joint fly tipping operation with Maidstone Borough Council Op Assist.

Throughout the day 15 vehicles were stopped. 1 vehicle seized for fly tipping offences, 1 vehicle seized for no tax and 1 vehicle seized for no insurance.

The team visited a site in Headcorn which is owned by Kent County Council, however unknown residents are burning Waste Illegally. Evidence of Waste smouldering at the location, enquiries to be actioned by MBC.





Vehicle was involved fly tipping in Yelsted Lane Maidstone on 09/02/2020. Vehicle seized by MBC.

Two vehicles stopped by RTF officers on 21/02/20 during their patrol duty. Both vehicles were carrying waste without the required licences and details have been passed to respective Environmental Enforcement Teams for action.



On the 26/02/20 RTF work with Environmental Enforcement Team at Thanet. Several target waste carrier vehicles stopped. 7 Intelligence Reports were submitted. 4 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued by TBC Enforcement Team and 3 Productions Notices.



## Other Business

Single vehicle injury RTC at Pluckley. RTF attended and dealt with the incident. The female driver was negative EBA and taken to hospital for treatment.



RTF stopped a red Mercedes Citan at Harbledown, near Canterbury. The Driver was reported for No Driving Licence, No Insurance and No Tax and the vehicle seized.

RTF Officers asked to assist with high risk missing person incident in the Beneden area. Drone deployed by PC Lingham and male located and taken to Pembury Hospital.

RTF Officers stopped a LR Discovery who appeared to be avoiding them at Hartlip. Vehicle stopped and searched. Various accounts given by Driver as to how he came into possession of vehicle. Checks confirmed it was insured but not taxed. Vehicle seized.



Stop check on BMW 320 at Hartlip. Vehicle untaxed since July 2019 and driver not insured to drive. Vehicle seized.



RTF stopped a white Citroen Berlingo at Coxheath. The driver and his passenger smelled of cannabis and due to their initial attempts to avoid Police a S23 Search was conducted. A rolled joint and two bags of herbal cannabis were located and seized. Passenger stated they were his and he was issued with a cannabis warning.

Black Corsa seized from Coxheath area after it made off from patrol. It was temporarily lost but then found parked unattended. Vehicle had no tax and was seized.

RTF Officers stopped a motorbike at Parkwood, Maidstone. . Rider very wobbly. Vehicle checked and no tax. Mot or insurance. Rider pulled over and made full and frank admission to the driving offences. He was interviewed at the roadside and was reported. Vehicle seized.



Vehicle seizure, Ford Transit flatbed for no tax. TOR issued for vehicle defects.



A Black Vauxhall Astra, was located in the area of Sutton and stopped due to having No Tax. Driver reported and vehicle seized.



A white Volkswagen Golf stopped in FORSTAL LANE, COXHEATH. A PNC check was conducted on it which showed no tax, MOT or insurance. The vehicle was stopped and driver identified and dealt with for the above offences and the vehicle was seized.

A Ford tipper was stopped after being seen driving poorly on Sittingbourne Road, Maidstone. The vehicle had no insurance and Driver was shown as disqualified from driving until 07/05/20, so he was reported for these offences. Summons file to be completed.

Stop check on a silver Mondeo on Waterinbury Road, East Malling revealed vehicle was not insured and it was seized.

RTF Officers assisted with search of high risk missing person in the Gravesend area. RTF North officers subsequently found male who was handed to local patrols.

RTF Officers located a high risk Sexual Offender who was ignoring his legal requirement to notify new address. Male arrested and taken into Custody.

RTF officers located and arrested a male in Margate wanted for recall to prison.



This vehicle was showing as being untaxed since Nov 2019 and no MOT since July 19.

Driver spoken to he was aware the vehicle was untaxed and thought he could get away with it as it was just up the road. Vehicle seized and he was issued with a TOR for the no MOT.

RTF North officers stopped a reported stolen VW Golf at Crown Quay Lane, Sittingbourne. Both driver and passenger initially arrested at scene on suspicion of theft but enquires revealed that Metropolitan Police had not removed stolen marked from vehicle. However it was established that both persons had been driving the vehicle with no insurance so both were interviewed and reported for this offence.



RTF officers stopped a vehicle in Coxheath, Maidstone and enquires revealed it was not insured or taxed. Vehicle seized.



RTF West Officers stopped a moped in Tunbridge Wells for a moving traffic offence. The rider was a 16 years old male who was found to be in possession of a small amount of cannabis. Checks confirmed offender had no previous convictions so disposal through Kent Youth Drug intervention Scheme.

RTF officers assisted with the search for a Suicide Risk/High Risk Missing Person. The male had threatened to jump off Cliff in Ramsgate after running from care home with no shoes or coat on. RTF located male and returned back to care home by LPT.

RTF officers responded to a report of a Robbery in progress at Mill Way, Sittingbourne where victim has been assaulted and his car keys stolen. The Suspects were intercepted by RTF and Swale CPT at Queenborough Train Station and 3 suspects arrested.

PC Lingham deployed in assistance to RPU at an RTC on M2 London bound. An army Lorry carrying JCB Digger had overturned blocking lanes 2,3 and 4 having spread debris across all 4 running lanes. Its digger bucket and tire blocked the hard shoulder. Highways in attendance and the M2 was closed due to danger and road surface damage.



The below horse seized as per Kent Police Horse seizure policy whilst straying on the highway. The owner was identified and the horse issued a passport and microchip. Following full payment the horse was successfully reunited with its owner. This is a cost to the owner that could have been avoided if fencing is maintained and horses are microchipped with current owner details recorded. Not to mention the police time and risk to other road users.



Stop Check on a White Citroen Berlingo van in Coxheath. Officers noticed a strong smell of cannabis from the vehicle, the driver confirmed he had some herbal cannabis. The vehicle was searched and lock knife located inside which the owner stated he used for fishing. There was fishing equipment in the vehicle. The driver was issued with cannabis warning, the lock knife seized for destruction and van seized as it was uninsured.



RTF North Officers stopped a red Jaguar on Chatham Road, Aylesford as it was suspected as being driven by a wanted male. Male Driver was indeed the wanted male and was arrested for a Fail to Appear Warrant.

A silver Audi A3 had been activating ANPR between Maidstone and Medway. It was suspected to be cloned vehicle as the Registered Owner is from out of county and had been generating speeding fines in Kent. The vehicle was located by PC Pennicott/Smith, a search revealed drug paraphernalia, including scales and also the correct number plate for the vehicle. Driver confirmed it was his vehicle, that he was a provisional licence holder and did not have insurance. He failed a drugs swipe and was arrested for Driving whilst over the drug driving limit, no insurance, no licence and fraudulently displaying an incorrect index. Vehicle seized.

RTF North officers were looking for a wanted male who is a prolific burglar and drug dealer. His vehicle was located on A249 heading Sheerness bound by RTF and stopped outside in Queenborough. The wanted male was the driver and arrested for the recall to prison and conveyed to Medway Police Station.

RTF Officers attended an address in Medway and located a male wanted for Possession of Extreme Pornography. Search of the address was also completed resulting in a number of media items being seized.

RTF attended Sheldwich Village Hall to a report of damage to its external wall. Upon examining the scene it would appear that a vehicle had reversed at considerable speed into the building causing considerable damage which early estimates indicate in excess of £10000. The layout of the small carpark and access road would suggest that it was deliberate or reckless act.



Further to the above report of the damage at Sheldwich Village Hall, PC Williams has now identified the offending vehicle. Vehicle was stolen the same evening from Dunkirk Faversham and involved in FTS RTC near Selling. Vehicle found by police dumped in Selling school car park and recovered by Ashford recovery. Vehicle awaiting CSI but clearly has damage consistent with ramming the building and reversing into the recycling container. In addition it has a door trim missing which matches the one seized from the scene.



Enquires are ongoing.

RTF West Officers spotted a wanted male standing outside the Chinese on Heath Road, Coxheath with a group of males. When officers turned around to speak to male he was jogging off holding a girl aged approximately 3 and went into the off licence. He was located in the Off Licence and detained for no bail warrant. Despite still holding the girl he became aggressive and tried to leave the shop.

RTF Officers were conducting Patrol around Sandwich area when they were advised of a suspected regular drink driver who recently crashed into bollards at nearby estate. As Officers drove out of the estate they noticed the subject vehicle heading into the estate. The vehicle was stopped and the driver arrested drink drive and conveyed to Margate custody where he blew over the legal limit. He has been charged and bailed to court.

# Court Results

RTF and Dover Environmental Enforcement Team did a joint search warrant on the back of intelligence received of a Fly Tipper who was collecting waste in the London area and dumping it in East Kent.

The offender was a Rodney Matthews. From the evidence obtained by the Dover Environmental Team together with that found at his home address, Matthews was charged a number of Fly Tipping Offences.

Rodney Matthews attended Court on the 21<sup>st</sup> February and has been sentenced to 6 months in prison, ordered to pay £115 victim surcharge and his vehicle that he used to carry out the fly tipping offence and which was seized when the Search warrant was executed has been forfeited by the court.

RTF and RSPCA joined forces to investigate a badger persecution ring involving a number of offenders. This has resulted in a total of 8 Search Warrants throughout 2019 and 2020. Due to the evidence secured from these search warrants for both the badger persecution, Hunting Act offences and animal welfare offences disclosed at the scene of the warrants, cases have been progressed to Court and these matters are now being finalised.

Samuel Powell

Sentenced for 8 Weeks for 5 Counts of Animal Welfare and Suffering Offences at North Kent Magistrate Court on 10/01/20.

Jimmy Price

Sentenced to 6 Months for 3 Animal Welfare Offence and 3 Counts of Killing/Hunting offences at North Kent Magistrate Court on 10/01/20

Danny Price

Offered a guilty plea in relation to an animal welfare offence. He received a community sentence of unpaid work 150 hours over 12 months, costs of £1,500 and a victim surcharge of £85.

A further Badger Persecution Case has been to Court and 3 suspects have all entered guilty pleas due to the standard of evidence presented and will be sentenced on the 25<sup>th</sup> March.

The offences relate to

Defendant 1- 4 charges (2 x badger act, 1 x hunting act, 1 x animal welfare act)

Defendant 2- 3 charges (3 x badger act)

Defendant 3 - 8 charges (4 x badger act, 2 x animal welfare act, x2 animal welfare act).

These convictions have stemmed from a protracted joint investigation with RTF/RSPCA and is an excellent example of partnership working to bring to justice an organised group of suspects who engage with illegal poaching and hunting offences.

Kind regards, Darren Walshaw

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