



# Kent Police

## Rural Policing Update 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017

The Rural Liaison Team (RLT) has continued to tackle Hare Coursing and Poaching Offences across the county. They responded to East Kent to a vehicle linked to rural crime in the Thanet area where it had been suspected of being involved in hare coursing offences and had caused significant damage to farmers fields. The vehicle was located by an off duty RLT officer and was stopped and seized as part of the clamp down on Poachers. Enquiries are ongoing with the driver of the vehicle.

On Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2017 two people were convicted of 9 counts of fly tipping across the district of Dover. They were sentenced to a 16 week prison sentence suspended for 2 years, 200 hours unpaid work, 20 days completing a rehabilitation activity requirement, £1500 costs and an 8 week prison sentence suspended for 2 years, 200 hours unpaid work respectively. The vehicle involved was also forfeited. This was a result of a joint investigation between Dover District Council, RLT and Dover Community Policing Team.

Joint collaboration work was carried out by Kent Fire & Rescue and the RLT with visits to victims of arsons at Farms. This was done to promote a joined up approach to preventing and detecting offences and to share intelligence between the two organisations. More visits will be carried out later in the year.

Operation Farm was carried out in West Kingsdown and the surrounding area on 21<sup>st</sup> January. A male was stopped in a vehicle connected to burglaries and was found to be in possession of a significant amount of stolen items. A further search of his hotel room located more stolen items that had been stolen on the same day from an address in Hodsoll Street. The male was arrested and has been charged with two offences of burglary.

There has recently been an increase in thefts of trailers, particularly Ifor Williams. Ifor Williams hold a database of owner details for their trailers and horse boxes and it is important to update them when you buy or are about to buy a trailer as they will be able to confirm if it is a stolen one. Please also consider photographing and recording the details of your trailers including chassis numbers and any other identifying features.

Dover Community Policing Team has been investigating the Theft of a Caravan (Valued around £20,000) from the River area of Dover. As a result of enquiries the property was recovered in the area of Essex. This led to the arrest of one suspect and the investigation is ongoing.

Two men have been charged in connection with the alleged theft of items from a sunken Royal Navy warship in the English Channel. HMS Hermes was a protected cruiser built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and converted into an aircraft ferry and depot ship ready for the outbreak of the First World War. It was sunk by a German submarine in the Dover Strait in October 1914 with the loss of 44 lives. A criminal investigation was launched in 2015 when officers from Kent Police's Rural Task Force were informed that a number of historical artefacts had been reported stolen from the wreck. John

Blight, 57, of Old River Way in Winchelsea, East Sussex, has now been charged with three counts of dishonestly failing to disclose items of wreck to the Receiver of Wreck with intent to make a gain. Nigel Ingram, 56, of London Road, Teynham, has been charged with the same three counts in addition to being in possession of £16,000 worth of criminal property. Both men have been bailed to appear before Margate magistrates on Thursday 2 March 2017. The investigation into the alleged offences was carried out in partnership with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, the Marine Management Organisation, the Receiver of Wreck, Sussex Police, Historic England and the French authorities.

Two working farm dogs have been recovered following a theft in Ryarsh and three people have been arrested. One dog was located at an address in Wateringbury on the same day that the offence took place along with a further four suspected stolen dogs. Three days later a male handed himself into Tonbridge Police Station with the second stolen dog. Both dogs have now been reunited with their owner and as they were microchipped this made the process of identifying them that much easier.

And finally PC Michael "Geordie" Laidlow is retiring from Kent Police on 31/1/2017 and we would like to thank him for all of his support in dealing with Rural and Wildlife Crime for the past 15 years and for the excellent work he has carried out with our Partner Agencies. PC Nick Lingham has taken over from Geordie covering West Kent and can be contacted via [nick.lingham@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:nick.lingham@kent.pnn.police.uk) or 07817956427.