

## **Wealden Police News and Alerts November – December 2020**

### **More than 50 stolen tools and machines were recovered after police executed a warrant in Wealden.**

Officers from the Prevention Enforcement Team (PET) executed the warrant at a property in Cross-in-Hand this month as part of an ongoing focus to tackle those responsible for burglary in rural areas.

At the address, dozens of suspected stolen items were found including chainsaws, lawn mowers, trimmers, leaf blowers and an industrial wood chipper. A tractor, quad bike, mini digger, caravan and a trailer were also recovered.

A number of the items have already been matched to reports of crime and their rightful owners have been contacted. Enquiries are ongoing to establish who the other items belong to.

DCI Alasdair Henry, Wealden district commander, said: "This warrant is the culmination of extensive work by officers investigating burglaries and thefts of tools and machinery from farms in the rural areas of north Wealden as part of Operation Atlanta.

"This operation has helped us develop intelligence on criminals operating across Sussex and the wider south east region.

"Thefts of power tools and machinery such as this have a devastating financial and emotional impact on victims as it often affects their jobs and livelihoods.

"To recover more than 50 tools and machinery was a fantastic result and we are in touch with many of the rightful owners to get these items returned to them in due course.

"Our work continues now to find those people responsible for these crimes and hold them accountable for their actions."

Anyone who recognises any of the items pictured, or who may have any other information that could help with the investigation, is asked to contact police online or by calling 101 quoting serial 247 of 27/10.

Members of the public are encouraged to continue reporting crime and suspicious behaviour to police, so officers can build a picture of crime in the area and respond effectively.

People are also urged to take photographs and note down details and serial numbers of their high-value items, and also visit our website for more information on how to keep your outbuildings secure and to seek free crime prevention surveys.

## **Operation Sceptre - Tackling Knife Crime In Sussex**

Operation Sceptre bolsters the work undertaken by Sussex police all year round to help keep residents safe from knife-related harm in their local communities.

Sussex is a safe place to live, although in line with national trends Sussex has seen an increase in knife crime. The vast majority of young people (99 per cent of 10-29-year-olds) do not carry a knife. However, bringing violence and knife crime down is a top priority and Sussex Police is determined to get knives off the streets for good.

During the week of action, teams from across Wealden conducted various knife/weapon sweeps across the district, at local parks, and open spaces, as well as offering a knife amnesty bin, with no questions asked at front offices across the district.

Operation Sceptre is a campaign that aims to tackle the danger that knife crime poses by educating those most at risk and carrying out proactive work that takes knives off our streets. It is a misconception that carrying a knife makes you safer. Carrying a knife for protection is not a defence in law and even being caught with someone carrying can result in a sentence if you are caught.

Superintendent Stu Hale said: "Knives and dangerous weapons have no place on the streets of Sussex. We are determined to reduce the risk of knife-related harm by working together and making our message on knife possession crystal clear.

"Operation Sceptre is an opportunity to discuss knife crime in an open and honest way. We want to send the message to young people that carrying a knife is dangerous and can have serious consequences. Carrying a knife does not make you safer, in fact it puts you at more risk of being a victim.

"Addressing the root causes of knife crime is essential in tackling it. This is why we're combining educational activities and amnesty with targeted, intelligence-led operations to both raise awareness among at-risk groups and disrupt crime in action.

"We have year-round operations to address knife crime including engaging with young people in schools, the launch of our knife crime engagement van and work with partners to ensure people are signposted to help at an early opportunity.

"We also work hard to target disrupt prolific offenders, through the Tactical Enforcement Unit and are intensifying our activities through days of action - which means individuals carrying knives are increasingly likely to be caught and prosecuted.

"This anti-knife week is also a crucial reminder that there is help out there for those who do not feel safe."

Tactics will include targeted high visibility and plain-clothes patrols across the county. Other prioritised activity includes target stop and search against habitual knife carriers and previous offenders as and weapon sweeps by police officers.

As always, knife amnesty bins where people can safely dispose of dangerous or unwanted knives and blades at police stations across Sussex, no questions asked.

To tell Sussex Police about knife crime please report online or call 101, we will treat information you give us sensitively. In an emergency always dial 999.

### **Operation Blitz ASB targeting Patrols each Friday and Saturday reminder:**

At this time of year there is often an increase in anti-social behaviour, which can distress and worry many residents.

Additional Officers will be deployed this Friday and Saturday on our ASB targeting patrols, Op Blitz - call 07770 700642 between 1800-0000 to report ASB directly to officers out on patrol.

Officers are deployed across the Wealden district, and the contact number above is available to all residents, if teams are unable to reach your area, your call will be passed to the radio queue should it need attendance.

Sussex Police will not tolerate any anti-social behaviour at any time of the year. Outside of these times report ASB online or to 101, and always call 999 in an emergency.

### **Keep a light on this Winter – burglary advice:**

Whenever you go out, it's important to leave your home secure. Getting into an 'exit routine' can help ensure that you don't forget obvious, but important things, like not leaving your valuables near windows, or no lights on if it will be dark before you get home. Here's our quick reminder on what to do just before you go out.

Become a creature of habit

Try to get into the habit of following your own course of action when you lock up your home. This will ensure that you don't forget anything.

Here's what we recommend you do before you go out:

- close and lock all your doors and windows, even if you're only going out for a few minutes
- double-lock any door
- make sure that any valuables are out of sight
- keep handbags away from the letterbox or cat flap and hide all keys including car keys, as a thief could hook keys or valuables through even a small opening
- never leave car documents or ID in obvious places such as kitchens or hallways
- in the evening, shut the curtains and leave lights on
- if you're out all day, then it's advisable to use a timer device to automatically turn lights and a radio on at night
- set your burglar alarm
- make sure the side gate is locked
- lock your shed or garage
- lock your bike inside a secure shed or garage, to a robust fitting bolted to the ground or wall, like a ground anchor

**Keep your presents under wraps this Christmas:**

Christmas is a time for giving...but sadly for taking, too!

We're working hard over Christmas to keep you and your family safe, but here are a few simple steps you can take to protect your home, presents and loved ones this festive season.

**When you are out shopping please remember:**

- Keep valuables in inside coat pockets or internal zips in bags to prevent pickpockets
- Only carry the cash you need, do not carry large amounts with you
- Avoid going back to your car to drop off presents part way through your trip, if you do keep presents in the car ensure they are well out of sight and the car/boot is locked

**When you're out in the evening:**

- Never leave your valuables unattended in public areas
- Avoid walking home alone in the dark, and never with someone that you do not know
- Drink responsibly, never drink and drive, arrange for a taxi or a designated driver for the evening

**When you are at home:**

- Don't leave presents under your Christmas tree if they are visible from windows or doors
- Never keep large amounts of cash at home
- Check you have adequate home insurance to cover high value items
- Make sure your home looks occupied, leave a light on or a timer light or radio playing

**After Christmas:**

- Avoid becoming an easy target for post-holiday burglars/robbers by not leaving boxes for new electronics and other items outside your wheelie bin; break down boxes, and remove labels before putting inside a wheelie bin
- Register your newly gifted items with your home insurance provider and with property registering websites such as [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) - if your valuables are stolen it will allow you to tell the police, your insurer and second-hand traders to assist in recovering your property and catch the thieves.