

Raiders take cigarettes

THIEVES got away with about £3,000 of cigarettes in a raid on a Gravesend newsagent.

Two intruders broke into McColls, in Leander Drive, through a back door and also stole a stash of scratch cards and a sat nav device between 1.45am and 2.10am last Tuesday.

The thieves were both white men aged between 25 and 35.

One is described as slim and wearing a black jacket, blue jeans, baseball cap and boots.

The other is about 5ft 10in, clean shaven and wearing a khaki fleece, black tracksuit bottoms, black gloves and woolen hat and white trainers.

A woman in her 20s from Gravesend arrested in connection with the incident has been released on police bail.

Anyone with information is asked to phone Det Sgt John Ralph, 01474 366045, or Kent Crimestoppers, 0800 555 111.

Grand entrance to the grotto



Father Christmas arrives on an open top bus
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Pictures by Nick Johnson

ELF and safety were well taken care of during a special guest appearance from Father Christmas.

The weather might have been wet and wild, but nothing was going to prevent Santa stopping off at St George's Shopping Centre in Gravesend.

Santa swapped his sleigh for a vintage open-top bus when he arrived to open his grotto at the town centre shopping mall.

He joined Mrs Claus for a tour of the town on Monday afternoon to see if little ones have been naughty or nice during the special service.

And the festive magic was in the air when they were joined by an army of singing elves from the Julia Young Academy of Performing Arts.

Father Christmas will be at the Bath Street mall's festive grotto every day from 10am to 4pm until December 23.

Centre manager Nicky Blanchard said: "It was marvellous, an absolutely fantastic event and we are all really thrilled."

"The elves were magnificent and the whole afternoon a great success."

"But of course, this is only just the start of our festive fun, Father and Mother Christmas will now be in the grotto until December 23."



The little elves are captivated by Father and Mother Christmas

Pictures: Nick Johnson PD1651056/1651050/1651052



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