

March 2022

ENGAGEMENT

For the first three days of the month the team were busy engaging with our rural and farming communities at The Doe Show in Ulting. The team utilised the Eastern Region Wildlife and Heritage Trailer to show the public what sort of work PC Raven and the team do.

We were able to showcase the many different types of wildlife we're fortunate to have in the countryside from mammals to insects. We also gave crime prevention advice to farmers in relation to GPS thefts from tractors. These important tools in farming are being targeted so it's important to know what you can do to protect them.



SCHOOLS IN

Whilst officers were conducting speed checks as part of our on going force wide operation in Takeley they took some time out to speak to the pupils of the local school. Whilst there the officers discussed road safety and how the children can remain safe around our roads.

PC Harkness (pictured) is never one to miss an opportunity of a photo and was happy to let the children have a go in the police car.



For up-to-date information about **Coronavirus (COVID-19)** in Essex, please check [essex.gov.uk/coronavirus*](https://essex.gov.uk/coronavirus) and make sure you **#StaySafeEssex**

 thurrock.gov.uk

* in **Thurrock**, please check thurrock.gov.uk/coronavirus

 southend-on-sea.gov.uk

or in **Southend-on-Sea**, please check southend-on-sea.gov.uk/coronavirus

Now there's a quick online alternative to calling 101 or visiting a police station:
DIGITAL 101



Do it online at:
essex.police.uk

**IN AN EMERGENCY
ALWAYS CALL 999**

RURAL ROAD SAFETY

As we continue our ongoing operation into protecting the safety of our motorists and public on rural roads we have conducted more speed checks at locations you've told us about. This falls into the campaign 'You said, we did'.

We ask you to tell us about issues of speeding in your villages or rural areas and we will target those areas. This month we have conducted numerous operations around the county where we have issued in excess of 20 traffic reports as well as seizing cars. The van pictured was driven by a disqualified driver who had to walk the rest of his journey.

If you have concerns regarding speeding in your village, please get in touch.



IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE WOODS TODAY...

....You may find a few police officers and staff. On the 9th February officers from the team as well as officers and staff from around the county were joined by Craig Fellowes from the Badger Trust where he gave an input into crimes relating to badgers, their homes and different offences people commit. The talk included what we as police can do to prevent the crimes, how we can gather evidence from the scenes and how to protect these protected animals.

In the afternoon Craig took the officers and staff to a live badger sett to further implement the understanding that his teaching gave.

This was really useful as it's really important we do all we can to protect our wildlife and bring those to justice who cause them harm.

If you have any questions or require assistance on investigation involving badgers then please get in touch.

Speak up to stop rural crime.

Criminal gangs exploit our local wildlife, environment and communities.

Your voice can make a difference.

Speak up to our charity. 100% anonymous. Always.

crimestoppers-uk.org



CrimeStoppers.
0800 555 111
100% anonymous. Always.



STORM FRANCIS

In February we saw Storm Francis come to the county causing damage in its wake. I hope you all managed to stay safe. Our officers were out throughout the county utilising the equipment we have including the mighty Landrover as well as our other vehicles and cutting equipment. The team assisted officers by removing trees from roads allowing the road network to stay open as much as possible. This also freed up local officers on road closures, enabling them to continue fighting crime.

Pictured is just one of the trees removed by the team.



DOG ENGAGEMENT DAYS

The team regularly conduct dog engagement days in which the officers offer advice to owners on protection and crime prevention of your beloved pets.

These engagement days have arrived as part of a force-wide effort supported by the Police and Fire Crime Commissioner's (PFCC) office to tackle the national problem of dog theft. Whilst we have been lucky in Essex to not have had many thefts of dogs it is something we are passionate about preventing.



The officers from the team will work with Community Policing Teams throughout the county to attend events, give displays and offer vital crime prevention advice. They will check the dogs for microchips to make



sure they have one which is a legal requirement. The microchip database is then checked to ensure the details are correct. It's important to update the details of the microchip if you change ownership, move house or get a new phone number. This is how we find out who the dog belongs to and how we'd return them should they ever be lost or stolen. All of our vehicles have microchip readers for this very reason.

BYWAY PATROLS

The team continue to patrol the byways of Essex. We have a large amount of byways in the county. These are ancient roads which people are free to enjoy either walking, cycling or in a vehicle. A common misconception is that you don't need to have insurance, MOT etc to use a vehicle on the byways. Always think, a Byway is a Highway and you can't go wrong. This means the same requirements are needed to drive on the byways as anywhere else. We patrol the byways as those who enjoy them want to test their vehicles which can make them stray onto neighbouring farm land damaging crops or drive in an antisocial manner. If you have any similar issues then please get in touch.



LOCATING STOLEN VEHICLES

We're fortunate on the team to have use of a wide range of technology for various different issues.

One piece of kit we have in our vehicles is Tracker. This is not fitted to just our vehicles but many across the force too. If you have a tracking device through the company Tracker, then our tracking system will locate the device. On this occasion a Range Rover (right) that had been recently stolen was located quickly to be returned to a happy owner. The trackers can also be fitted to plant machinery or items such as generators etc.



We also use Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) to locate vehicles of interest to us. On the 17th February we assisted our colleagues on the Roads Policing Unit (RPU) to locate the vehicle pictured (left). This van had been reported stolen, went through one of our ANPR cameras which enabled officers to stop the van and arrest it's two occupants.



Pleased to say the there are two happy owners being re-united with their vehicles.



WARRANT EXECUTED

On the 22nd February the team assisted in executing multiple warrants in Essex, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire. The team assisted mainly in Chelmsford during which they found a number of dogs living in a poor conditions- some requiring vet treatment. We're all dog lovers on the team and a quick phone call to our contacts in the RSPCA and we had an Inspector on route. They too were appalled with the living standards of the dogs and the conditions they had to live in. The team acted quickly to locate the owner who will be dealt with by the RSPCA. The team seized 11 dogs who will now get the treatment they need and a new loving home.

WEEK OF ACTION

February saw the team take part in a national week of action to tackle cable theft. In Essex we have suffered with the theft of large telecoms cable from underground. We worked with BT who own the cable to inspect scrap metal sites around the county. The team took BT engineers with them so they could identify any cable as theirs and help us to identify any other metal that could be stolen. During the week of action the team also targeted vehicles carrying waste metal to check for waste carrier licences and where the metal had come from.



Digital 101

You can report non-emergency crime by calling **101** or by using **Digital 101**, our quick and easy to use online service that's available at any time.



Digital 101 is available on the Essex Police website: [essex.police.uk](https://www.essex.police.uk)



If you, or anyone you know, is interested in protecting and serving Essex, you can follow us on social media, or search #FitTheBill

#FIT THE
BILL