

January 2024

HIGH SHERIFF VISITS RET

The team were delighted to welcome the High Sheriff of Essex, Charles Bishop for a visit.

The role of the High Sheriff is mainly ceremonial but involves all things judicial, including courts and policing.



We were keen to highlight the varied work we carry out.

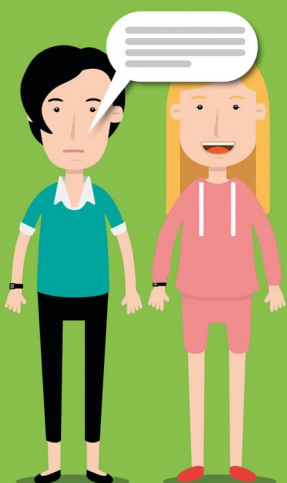
First he visited a farm at St Lawrence, near Maldon to hear about our work tackling agricultural theft. He also learnt about the very successful Farm Watch scheme run by Mr Michael Pudney.

From there he was taken on patrol to Colchester where he visited Gosbecks Archaeological Park. This site is of

national importance and contains a Roman temple and amphitheatre.

The High Sheriff had a talk from PC Jed Raven, our wildlife and heritage crime officer about his role, and met Colchester Park Ranger Carla Davis to find out how we work together to tackle crime and safeguard our heritage.

We were also able to demonstrate our drone capability.



Domestic abuse is all about control. If you notice that someone seems to be controlled in all areas of their life, it could be a sign they are being abused.

SETDAB.org

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**

HARE COURSING FOCUS

The team have continued to focus on catching and deterring hare coursers throughout January.

Two vehicles have been recovered from fields in Maldon after becoming stuck and abandoned.



We continue to work closely with the police helicopter to catch suspected hare coursers.

The team joined forces with Uttlesford



Community Policing Team for a joint day of action. RET crewed up with local officers to patrol the district and deal with any reports of coursing. We also carried out speeding checks and burglary patrols.

No hare coursing was reported during the

operation.

Essex Police received 13 calls to hare coursing during January.

So far this season we have caught 22 suspects and seized 6 vehicles.

The team work with surrounding police forces as part of Operation Galileo to tackle coursing across the Eastern region.

As well as prosecuting offenders, we also deter them by issuing Community Protection Warnings, banning them carrying out certain



activities in the region.

RET have issued 9 warnings this season and two more serious Community Protection Notices.

Since 2019 hare coursing in Essex has fallen by 28%. Overall. In the last year coursing has fallen 17%.

We encourage the reporting of hare coursing to help us target our resources.

FIREARMS MEETING

RET delivered a talk on the teams role and work to the annual meeting of the Essex Police Firearms Licensing Team.

Firearms licence holders from across Essex attended the meeting at police headquarters.

It was a great opportunity for the team to talk about responsible shooting and wildlife crime, as well as give advice and guidance.

As a result of the meeting, we have received several invitations to present to shooting groups across the county.

RET work closely with the British Association of Shooting and Conservation to tackle poor practices in the shooting industry.



COLD WEATHER RESPONSE

The team were kept busy during the recent cold snap, responding to accidents and keeping the counties country lanes flowing.

RET drive 4x4 vehicles and have the capability to tow, something normal police cars can't do.

The team were called to two accidents in a short period of time in Chelmsford.

A Land Rover Discovery had slid on ice before hitting a verge and turning over, blocking the road. Luckily the driver and three passengers escaped without injury.



MOTORHOME RECOVERED

A stolen motorhome worth £47,000 was recovered by the team in Chelmsford.

The vehicle had been stolen overnight from Sible Hedingham in Braintree.

Luckily, the owner of the vehicle had a tracking device fitted which allowed our officers to swiftly locate it and return it to its rightful owner.

The team regularly recover stolen vehicles across Essex. In 2023 we recovered 66 stolen vehicles.



RAPTOR CRIMES

Our wildlife crime officer, PC Raven has responded to several incidents of birds of prey being injured.

A buzzard was found to have been shot in Layer Marney, Colchester. Fortunately it survived. Enquiries continue.

In Chelmsford a Peregrine Falcon was found suffering a gun shot wound.



Anyone with information about wildlife crime should report it to Essex Police via the website or calling 101. The team advise and lead the force on wildlife matters.

CATAPULTINGS CRIMES

The team has received more reports of wildlife being shot with catapults.

In Thurrock a swan was rescued after being shot in the head with a ball bearing.



We are working with the National Wildlife Crime Unit as part of Operation Lake Shot to tackle this barbaric activity.

Anyone with information should report it to Essex Police via the website or calling 101.

If you would like to speak to a member of the team directly email us at Rural.Engagement.Team@essex.police.uk

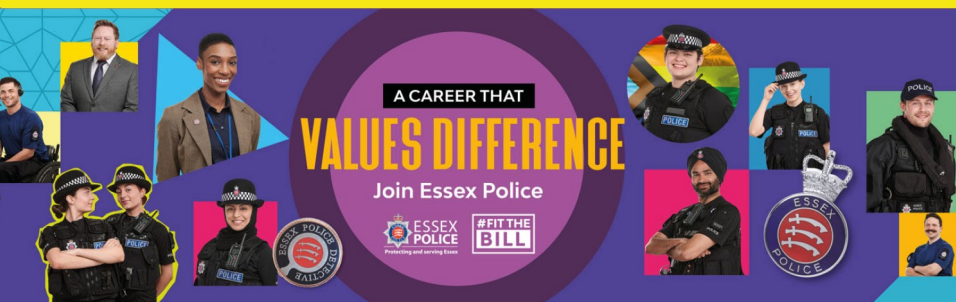


Digital 101

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**