

Police Dispatch 193

News 3 March to 9 March

Thurrock: Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour to keep residents and road-users safe

Local officers are actively patrolling Thurrock to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour, making sure residents and road users remain safe.

Recent operations have led to arrests for assaults and drug possession. Officers conducted stop searches and vehicle searches. Efforts to reduce car cruising events have been successful, with a significant decrease in such activities over the past year.

We continue to work with Thurrock Council to enforce the public spaces protection order and address dangerous driving.

[Read more](#)

Clacton: Father and daughters charged with drug supply

A father and his two daughters have been charged with supplying Class A drugs in Clacton. The investigation, which began in November 2024, led to their arrest on 6 March 2025. They are accused of conspiring to supply heroin, crack cocaine, and cocaine.

[Read more](#)

Purfleet: Man charged with kidnap

A 38-year-old man has been charged with kidnap after a teenager was reportedly forced into a vehicle in Purfleet.

We were called to reports of dangerous driving and an assault in Vineyard Way in Purfleet at about 7.35pm on Friday 7 March.

A driver reportedly left their vehicle and assaulted the victim before forcing them into the vehicle and leaving the scene.

Officers quickly located the teenage boy, who had been left close to Purfleet train station, and located the suspect's vehicle in Botany Terrace within 30 minutes of the initial call to police where he was arrested.

Now, a 38-year-old man from Purfleet, has been charged with kidnap, causing serious injury by dangerous driving and common assault.

The teenager was taken to hospital for further treatment by paramedics.

[Read more](#)

International Women's Day: Don't accept the status quo, challenge it

Deputy Chief Constable Rachel Nolan encourages women in policing to challenge the status quo and aim for leadership roles.

She highlights the importance of mentorship and the diverse opportunities within the force.

[Read more](#)

Cannabis plants worth £546k seized and 13 arrested following warrants

Thirteen people have been arrested and more than 1,200 cannabis plants have been seized and destroyed following 12 warrants across the county.

Officers entered properties in Brentwood, Chelmsford, Chigwell, Canvey Island, Harwich, Grays, Great Wakering, Shoebury, Southend and Westcliff in a coordinated series of strikes throughout February.

A number of the properties being used were rented houses that had been converted to into cannabis grows, causing extensive damage.

The 1,249 plants seized were worth an estimated £546,000. All have been taken to a secure location and destroyed.

Detective Chief Inspector Mark Cadd of the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate said:

“The trade in illegal drugs is inextricably linked to violence, exploitation and other forms of criminality.

“This is not people growing a few plants for their own use. These are substantial grows tended by professionals with the sole aim of making money for organised crime gangs.”

[Read more](#)

Detectives solve car theft conspiracy involving 70 stolen vehicles

Our detectives have solved a £1.3 million car theft conspiracy involving 70 stolen vehicles.

Dozens of victims were impacted by a series of car thefts carried out across the South East of England last year.

The thieves used a sophisticated keyless relay system to steal cars from driveways.

Jack Reid, 22, was convicted and jailed for three years and nine months.

Connor Jones, 26 was convicted and sentenced to four years and 11 months imprisonment.

[Read more](#)

Chelmsford: Jailed after hitting two men with car

A 30-year-old man has been sentenced to more than nine years for causing grievous bodily harm with intent after he drove a car at his victims in a McDonald's car park.

Two men were struck with the Mini Cooper Glenn Hobbs was driving before he fled the scene in Drovers Way on 18 December 2023.

Officers arrived within three minutes of the attack and quickly gathered a description of Hobbs and his car and carried out a wide search of the surrounding area.

Following an extensive search over the following two hours the car was located and Hobbs was arrested. He was charged with causing grievous bodily harm with intent and actual bodily harm, remanded in custody and on 9 December 2024 at Chelmsford Crown Court, he pleaded guilty.

He was sentenced to a total of nine years and two months in prison at the same court on 14 February 2025.

[Read more](#)

Brentwood: Man caught drinking pint at the wheel of his car

“Such blatant ignorance of the dangers of drink driving proves the continuing challenge we have in keeping the roads of Essex safe.”

That's from the head of our Roads Policing Unit after a man was caught by officers drinking a pint of lager while behind the wheel of his car.

He was banned from driving for 14 months and ordered to pay £256 in fines and court costs.

[Read more](#)

Chelmsford: Man jailed for murdering beloved mum-of-two

A man convicted of murdering his ex-partner in Chelmsford has been jailed for life.

Mark Donovan, 39, inflicted 70 separate injuries on 37-year-old Elise Mason in a sustained attack at his address in Great Baddow, on 25 April 2023.

Our investigation began after Donovan walked into Ilford police station, in east London, the following day eating a takeaway Chinese meal, before telling Metropolitan Police officers he had done “the worst thing”.

[Read more](#)

Colchester: Sex offender jailed

A 42-year-old man has been jailed for 10 years after being found guilty of multiple sexual offences involving a young girl.

In October last year a young girl’s family were concerned she was meeting a stranger she'd met on online video game Roblox and may be in danger. They tracked her down to the side of the A120 and contacted police.

Steven Pearson, 42, of Somerfield Road, Finsbury Park, London, was arrested on suspicion of sexual grooming and breaking bail conditions related to child sex offences. When officers looked at his mobile phone they found messages on social media apps which caused them concern.

Pearson was left with no choice but to admit guilt. He was sentenced to seven years in jail and three on an extended licence. He is also now on the Sex Offenders’ Register for life and subject to a 20-year order preventing contact with children.

[Read more](#)

Saffron Walden: Man charged with rape and stalking

A 53-year-old man has appeared at court charged with multiple offences including rape and stalking.

[Read more](#)

Officers link £20,000 in stolen items to two offenders

Two shoplifters, Thomas McDonagh and Martin Stokes, were caught on the A12 with thousands of pounds worth of stolen items in their car. Linked to 11 incidents, including thefts from Boots and Next stores, McDonagh received a 16-month prison sentence and a five-year ban from these stores. Stokes got a suspended 16-week jail sentence and 80 hours of unpaid work. The stolen items were worth nearly £20,000.

[Read more](#)

Let's talk

Upcoming community police events across Essex this week

Monday 10 March

10am to 11am

The Council Offices, Victoria Place, Brightlingsea.

10am to 11am

Morrison's Supermarket, Centenary Way, Little Clacton.

11am to 12pm

McDonalds Canvey, Northwick Retail Park, Northwick Road, Canvey Island

11am to 12pm

Miracle House, Silver Island Way, Wickford, SS12 9NR

11:30am to 12:30pm

Sainsburys, London Road, Southend

Tuesday 11 March

10am to 11:30am

Lister House Medical Centre, Abercrombie Way, Harlow

10:30am to 11:30am

Belle Vue Baptist Church, Belle Vue Avenue, Southend

10:30am to 11:30am

The Megacentre Rayleigh, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh SS6 7UT

11am to 12pm

Orleto Lounge, 2 East Square, Basildon SS14 1HS

12pm to 2pm

Asda, Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh SS6 9RN

Wednesday 12 March

10am to 11am

Costa Coffee, 76/78 High Street, Billericay CM12 9BT

10am to 12pm

Walk & Talk with local PCSO, starting at Connaught Avenue, Frinton walking towards Walton Pier.

10am to 11am

McDonalds, Hartley Brook Road, Clacton on Sea.

10am to 12pm

Loughton Library, Traps Hill, Loughton

10am to 11am

Baby & Toddler Group, Holland Library, Public Hall, Frinton Road, Holland on Sea.

Thursday 13 March

9:30am to 11am

Touchpoint, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted

10am to 11am

Ashfields, Green Street, Great Canfield

1pm to 2pm

Takeley Park, Station Road, Takeley

3:30pm to 4:30pm

Costa Coffee, T Grove Brook Park West, Clacton on Sea.

6pm to 7pm

Hannakins Farm, Rosebay Avenue, Billericay CM12 0SY

Friday 14 March

9am to 9:30am

Rickling and Quendon Village Hall, Cambridge Road

10am to 12pm

Joining Peabody at Walton food bank, Standley Road, Walton on Naze.

10am to 10:15am

High Street, Newport

11am to 12pm

Clements Hall Leisure Centre, Hawkwell SS5 4LN

11:30am to 12pm

Debden Village Hall, Mill Road

2pm to 2:30pm

Town Street, Thaxted

3:30pm to 3:45pm

Village Hall, Great Easton

4:30pm to 5:30pm

Runnymede Leisure Centre, Kiln Road, Benfleet

Saturday 15 March

9am to 10am

Chelmsford Park Run, Central Park, Chelmsford

9am to 9:30am

Village Hall, Great Canfield

10am to 10:30am

Playground, Rumbles Way, Little Canfield

10am to 11am

Quadrant Department Store, 220 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford

10am to 11am

The Martello Lounge, The Promenade, Clacton on Sea.

10am to 11:30am

Woody's Restaurant, Thurrock Garden Centre, South Road, South Ockendon

11:30am to 12pm

Chestnut Way, Takeley

12pm to 1pm

Secret garden tea room, 93 High Street, Rayleigh SS6 7EJ

1pm to 2pm

Miracle House, Silver Island Way, Wickford, SS12 9NR

2pm to 2:30pm

Museum, Mill Lane, Great Dunmow

3:30pm to 4pm

Woodlands Park, Great Dunmow

4pm to 5pm

Morrisons, 175 London Road, Hadleigh, Benfleet

Sunday 16 March

11am to 1pm

Rayleigh High Street, Rayleigh SS6 7EJ

12pm to 1pm

The Mill Arts & Events Centre, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh SS6 7ED

[More events](#)

For full details of upcoming events, please visit the [Essex Police website](#) and enter your postcode.

Keep your home secure

Burglars are often opportunistic thieves who target houses and flats, looking for any opening they can exploit.

If your door has a letterbox, fitting a guard to the rear of the door can prevent someone from reaching in with a stick and hook to fish for nearby items like handbags or keys.

[More advice](#)

Be fraud smart

Attention businesses

With the end of the tax year approaching criminals might attempt to target businesses to commit their crimes. Stay vigilant and protect your business from potential threats.

Take a moment before paying that invoice. Criminals send fake invoices that look like ones from a genuine supplier hoping you will pay without checking the account details.

Always question changes in payment information.

[More advice](#)

This week we remember

Frank Brace

Frank Brace served with Colchester Borough Constabulary from 20 March 1914. He joined after being discharged from the Bedfordshire Regiment but was recalled after just four months at the outbreak of war on 4 August 1914.

He served as Corporal and his battalion sailed to Harvre and then on to Le Cateau. He was mortally between 6 to 11 March 1915 and died in hospital on 13 March whilst waiting to return to England.

Lesley Ann Beet

Lesley Beet joined the Cadet Corps in September 1973 when she was 17. Cadets led a full academic and sporting life, and on 13 March 1974 Lesley Beet was in a supervised party of cadets canoeing on the River Chelmer. Her canoe capsized and despite efforts to save her she was drowned.

Read more about other Essex officers on the [Essex Police Memorial Trust website](#).

When and how to contact the Police

We're offering more ways of reporting non-emergency crime and anti-social behaviour through the digital 101 service on our [website](#).

You can also use the service to contact your local policing team, tell us about something you have seen or heard, or request information.

We also have a 24-hour Live Chat service, where you can send direct messages to a digital 101 operator.

We still have our 24-hour 101 service which people can call if they feel it is more appropriate to speak to us or don't have access to the internet.

Always call 999 if a serious offence is in progress or has just been committed, someone is in immediate danger or harm, property is in danger or being damaged, or a serious disruption to the public is likely.

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service 18000.

Or text us on **999** if you've pre-registered with the [emergencySMS service](#).

British Sign Language (BSL) users please use our [video relay service](#) where an interpreter will help you report the crime to us.

If you're in danger but you can't talk on the phone, you should still call **999**, then [follow these instructions](#) depending on whether you're calling from a mobile or a landline.