



Beating the drug gangs

ESSEX Police is winning the war against drug gangs and driving them out of the County and helping to keep our communities safe.

In just three months, officers have arrested 170 people in 68 raids, more than half of whom were charged and put before the courts the next day.

Essex set up a Serious Violence Unit last summer to dismantle and disrupt county drug lines and gangs and target knife offenders in the county.

Between January and March, they dismantled 19 county drug lines.

Catalytic converter theft

CATALYTIC converter theft is soaring and police believe that criminal gangs are behind the rise in this lucrative crime

More than 300 police officers took part in an early morning operation last month to smash what is believed to be gangs fueling an increase in the thefts of catalytic converters in Essex and London.

On the Essex coast, a shipping container holding stolen metal and car parts was intercepted before it could be sent to Ivory Coast.

You can also register your converter and mark it with a forensic marker, which will make it harder for thieves to dispose of.

Volunteer required

DO you have a couple of hours per week to help our team? You will need some computing skills and be able to use Excel spreadsheets. We work out of the Police office in the Community Safety Hub in Kiln Road Thundersley. If you are interested please get in touch, see details at the bottom of the front page of this Newsletter and we can provide you with additional information.

Your local coordinator is...

DVLA fraudsters after your money

RESIDENTS are being made aware of a continuing scam that claims to be from the DVLA.

Texts are arriving in people's emails saying that the recipient had an outstanding overpayment vehicle tax refund of £40.59 due with a link that would have taken them to a fake website.

As a word of caution, DVLA don't send emails or text messages that ask you to confirm your personal details or payment information. If you get anything like this, don't open any links and delete the email or text immediately.

Similarly, if you get a call from someone claiming to be from DVLA who asks you for personal details or payment information, this will be a fraudulent call so end the call immediately.

Top tips to protect yourself

- Only use GOV.UK so you can be sure that you're dealing directly with DVLA.
- Never share images on social media that contain personal information, such as your driving licence and vehicle documents.

Report online scams to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk

Keyless car theft is rising

HUNDREDS of popular cars - including four out of the UK's five best-selling models - are susceptible to keyless theft, one of the fastest-growing crimes nationwide.

Which?, the consumer champion, analysed research from the General German Automobile Club (ADAC) to find out the impact of keyless attacks on the five best-selling cars in the UK in 2018.

Four of them - the Ford Fiesta, Volkswagen Golf, Nissan Qashqai and Ford Focus - were found to be susceptible to this kind of theft. Only the Vauxhall Corsa was deemed safe from such attacks, because it is not available with keyless entry and start.

Thieves have been using keyless theft - also known as the relay attack - for several years, but manufacturers continue to make new models that can be stolen in this way, meaning there is an ever-larger pool of vehicles for thieves to target.

ADAC tested a total of 237 keyless cars and found that all but three of them are susceptible to relay attacks. 230 of the vehicles tested, from more than 30 brands, could be unlocked and started using relay boxes, while a further four models could be either unlocked or started.

Make sure your pet is legal

ESSEX County Council Trading Standards team has seen a worrying increase in the number of illegally imported puppies being bought by innocent purchasers. It is believed the trend has been driven by inflated UK bred puppy prices and because of Covid-19.

Critically if the animal was born outside the UK it must be:

- microchipped
- properly vaccinated against Rabies
- accompanied by a Pet Passport
- a minimum of 15 weeks old when imported.

These rules apply to kittens too!

However, Trading Standards is seeing a spike in the number of puppies with false passports, incorrect dates of birth and ineffective vaccination records. This could result in a serious Rabies outbreak.

The Government offers advice to anyone considering buying or rehoming a dog. Visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/buying-a-cat-or-dog>