

Autumn 2022

AIRSHOW RETURNS FOR 2022

This year saw the return of the Clacton Airshow in it's full glory after having been restricted for the last couple of years. The event sees up to 250,000 visitors over the two days and is a huge operation involving plenty of planning and preparation for not only Essex Police but also our partner agencies including Tendring District Council, Clacton Coastguard Rescue Team, Clacton RNLI, Clacton Beach Patrol as well as the East Of England Ambulance Service and Essex County Fire and Rescue (the list doesn't stop there).

Our team has always attended so that we can provide a Policing presence on the water and help keep the Marine Community safe. We also work with Clacton Beach Patrol to keep the restricted zone clear so that aircraft have a safe and clear location to land in the event of an emergency.



Swimmer brought back to the safety of the shore on our PWC

Photo courtesy of Nigel Cox

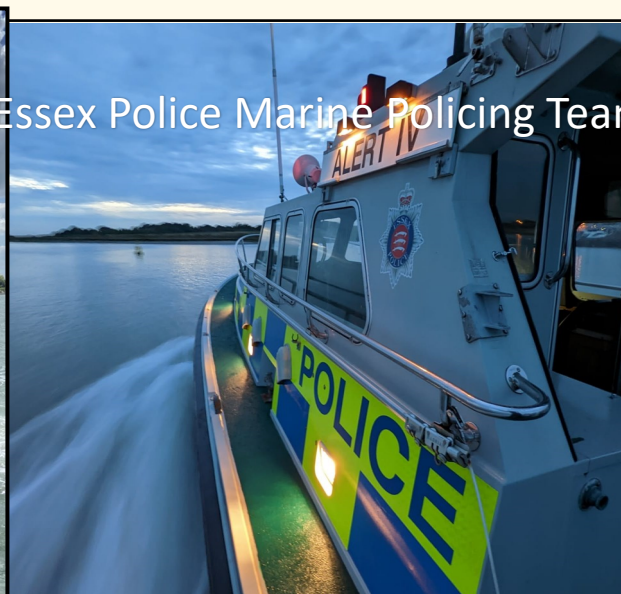
During the two day event we were involved in several rescues including helping three young people who had become caught in the tide having gone for a swim from their anchored boat as well as a swimmer who had become tired while swimming out beyond the pier.

We also supported the Beach Patrol in keeping the shoreline clear during the event—not an easy task when the weather is so warm!! It was great to see so many boats moored out on the water with everyone enjoying the event safely. We look forward to seeing you there next year.



PC Perry and PC Clark helping the children to safety

Essex Police Marine Policing Team



Operation Wave-Breaker

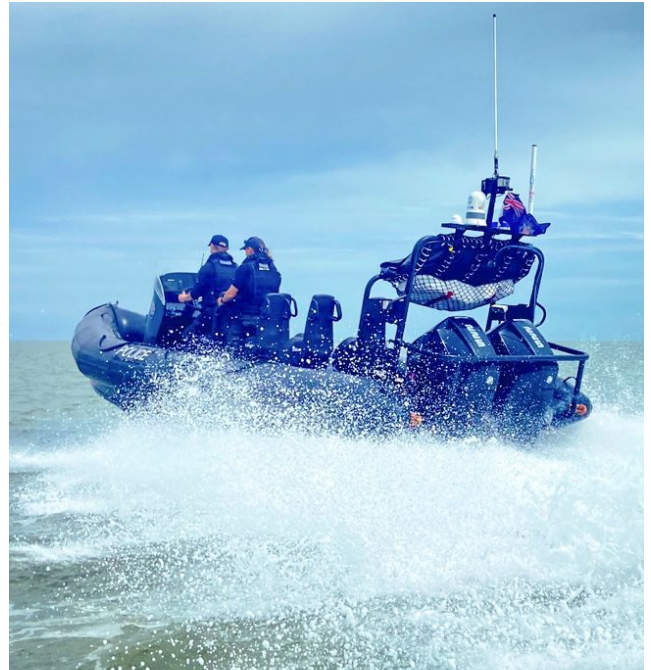
Our Operation Wave-Breaker activity continued this year as we increased out patrols along the Essex Coast during the summer months to promote safety on the water and tackle anti-social behaviour.

Unfortunately we have continued to receive reports of PWCs/Jetskis breaching the local bylaws including on the River Blackwater at Steeple Bay and West Mersea, as well as the River Colne at Point Clear and even as far up the river as Colchester Hythe Quay.

Where offenders are identified, we have submitted files to the local councils who have taken them to Court. So far this year all prosecutions have resulted in fines of varying amounts.

The laws are very different to those that regulate vehicle use on the roads and as such, we don't have the powers to issue fines or seize vessels.

We will continue to pass details and evidence of breaches of the by-laws to the local councils to enable them to review and decide if they wish to prosecute.



Clacton Pier

During the summer our team responded to a report of a group of people who had got into difficulty while swimming close to Clacton Pier.

As we joined both of the Clacton RNLI boats at the scene as well as the Clacton Beach Patrol team, the Coastguard Rescue Helicopter from Lydd arrived and a significant multi-agency operation commenced, led by the Humber Coastguard Operations Centre. Updates from the shore informed us that the group had been pulled to safety by the Beach Patrol team with the exception of one male who had disappeared under the Pier. All agencies came together to work tirelessly to look for the male but unfortunately we were unable to locate him.

This tragic accident does highlight the dangers of swimming near to or under the pier as well as how easy it is to be caught out by the tides.

Our thoughts go out to the family and friends of the victim as well as all those who were involved.



What's been happening in your area?

River Colne

During the last quarter we have spent a large amount of time patrolling the River Colne due to an increase in anti-social behaviour. We have patrolled both shore and water side for more than 200 hours and have spoken to over 100 Jet Ski users, issuing water safety and Anti-Social Behaviour Advice. We have also prosecuted three PWC owners for speeding, and these cases are now awaiting court dates to discuss the penalties for breaching the local speeding bylaws.

We have had a very social quarter and were lucky to attend the Brightlingsea Regatta where we spoke to many families and helped to advertise RNLI's #FloatToLive scheme. We also met with Fisheries for a joint agency patrol and met some of the local fishing community, discussing concerns and issues they are faced with. Not only have we been invited to events, but we also hosted an event with the Essex Police Cadets, teaching them how to use the safety equipment and showing them the Essex Police RHIB.



Above—PC Chambers reports a PWC rider for prosecution at Brightlingsea/Point Clear. Right—PCs Clark and Chambers at the Brightlingsea Regatta



Harwich/Walton/Clacton

I have continued to work closely with Harwich Haven Authority this year to support them in keeping the area safe. Together we investigated a report of a collision between vessels in the harbour. Ultimately it was an accident but, it did highlight that by holding back and giving people a bit of room and time to manoeuvre these things can be avoided. It also reminds us all of the importance of knowing and following the Col Regs as well as the local harbour by-laws. On that note, its worth pointing out that PWCs/jetskis are not allowed on the Stour. Please report any use to either us or the HHA.



Above—PC Perry with the Harwich Police Cadets

Unfortunately we also saw a couple of reports of PWC related ASB on the Hamford Backwaters earlier in the year. Again, please ensure you report this to us if they are being driven in a dangerous manner.

Earlier in the summer I attended the Ha'penny Pier and gave a water safety presentation to the Harwich Cadets which was extremely worthwhile. They were also given a chance to head out on our RHIB—Sentinel.

What's been happening in your area?

Rivers Crouch and Roach

In June I took over from Dawn Wood as your local Marine Unit representative. Since then I have been working hard to introduce myself to various yacht clubs and Marina's and I am hoping to carry this on throughout the rest of the year. I am already liaising closely with the Crouch Harbour Authority and various working groups to discuss ongoing issues on the rivers. Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss a particular issue.

I am aware of the ongoing issues surrounding nuisance craft, particularly around the upper parts of the river and Hullbridge slipway and I am working with the Harbour Master, Highways and Rochford Council to try and reduce or resolve the issue. There are some short term potential solutions for the near future, these may include better signage and monitoring of the slipway. Longer term resolutions may take some time and are currently under discussion.

I have started an engagement programme with various members of the marine community and currently have the following visits programmed into our diary for the Autumn :

7th October – Up River Yacht club, Hullbridge (evening)

27th November - North Fambridge Yacht Club Presentation at AGM (12.30 onwards)

I would be delighted to see you at these events or if you feel you or your club/group would benefit from a visit from the Marine Unit please contact me to discuss our availability.



River Blackwater—Maldon, Mersea, Bradwell

It has been a very busy summer on the River Blackwater and it has been great to see people enjoying the water. This summer we have had the pleasure speaking to many of you on water and on land at events including regattas, club races, the Blackwater Country show and our own "Coffee with cops" sessions. We advertise these events on Twitter (@epMarine) so please follow us and come and say hi and tell us what's important to you.

Unfortunately some of this summer's fun has been spoilt on a few occasions by a small minority of people who seem unaware of the bylaws on the river – particularly when it comes to speed.

We saw an increase in anti-social behaviour on the water at West Mersea and Steeple Bay. I responded by increasing patrols in the area and have already secured several successful prosecutions for breaching the bylaws in conjunction with Maldon District Council.

If you are using the water – be it by sailboat, powerboat or jetski, please make yourself familiar with the speed limits. They are clearly advertised on signage next to most launch slipways.

Just like our Road Policing colleagues, we regularly find ourselves prosecuting people for the safety of all. We would much rather see people enjoying themselves responsibly.

We have plans to make ourselves more accessible on the River Blackwater for next year – Once we have finalised the finer details I will give you more info in future newsletters, in the meantime stay safe.



River Thames

With the hot weather it's been another busy summer season on the Thames and encouragingly there has been a slight drop in reported Anti-Social Behaviour incidents compared to the previous two years. The footage of some of these reported incidents can be quite concerning and we will always endeavour to identify the people and their craft responsible to build a prosecution case where appropriate.

The draught for the new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is currently going through due process and should hopefully be finalised in the coming months. The PSPO has been extended out beyond the foreshore to cover all the Southend Council controlled waters and beyond this Port of London Authority legislation will be in place. In its current form the PSPO will provide a more in-depth legal framework to deal with future ASB incidents.



August saw the launch of Op Ocean, a joint initiative with our landside Police teams and colleagues from Border Force stopping vessels and vehicles around Canvey targeting drug related crime.

The Marine Unit have also deployed a number of times in recent months to provide Policing support in relation to the Stop Oil Protests. We also responded to a Greenpeace protest on the water close to the Dartford River Crossing which resulted in several arrests being made.

Port Of London Authority

The PLA runs Britain's biggest, most modern Port Control Service, which oversees the safe movement of 230,000 commercial and leisure vessels each year.

We work closely with the Port Of London Authority to support them keeping the River Thames moving and safe for all users. This year we have worked with them to manage various events from protests and missing person searches to providing a Police escort for the Queen's Jubilee Baton when it crossed over the Thames from Gravesend to Tilbury. Although we usually enjoy trying to get a good photo of our boats, we think the timing of this photo of a tug boat during the Jubilee Baton crossing is difficult to beat.



We are a team of Essex Police Officers based at Burnham on Crouch who have responsibility for Policing the entire coastline of Essex from Mistley in the North right round to Crayford Ness on the border with the Metropolitan Police as well as the inland waters. The team consists of 1 Sgt and 5 Pcs, however we are supported by 2 Special Constables and are able to utilise 12 marine reserve officers from across the force when required.

We have a 42ft launch (Alert 4), a 24ft RHIB (Sentinel) and also have joint use of a Seadoo PWC (jet ski) which Maldon District Council purchased for us to patrol on.

We conduct patrols both on the water and land and our primary focus is -

- ◆ Ensuring the coastal and inland waters of Essex are safe for everyone to use
- ◆ Reducing Marine related crime and tackling water based anti-social behaviour
- ◆ Being visible in our Marine Community
- ◆ Engaging with our Community to ensure we understand their concerns and act accordingly to resolve them

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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



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

