



ESSEX COUNTY HARVEST FESTIVAL - Sunday 27th September 2020



This year the Essex County Harvest Festival will be on-tour! Whilst COVID-19 restrictions limit attendance at Chelmsford Cathedral, the County Harvest Festival will take place around the county.

Revd Canon Janet Nicholls reports that it has been a challenging harvest for our farmers. The Harvest Festivals will offer the space to pause from our daily routines to reflect on this year's harvest and thank our farmers for their commitment and perseverance. Each will be hosted by an agricultural organisation providing the opportunity to highlight the support they offer.

The Harvest Festival services will take place on **Sunday 27th September** and be led by Revd Canon Janet Nicholls, Rural Adviser and Agricultural Chaplain for the Diocese of Chelmsford.

6.30am **Harvest Reflection on BBC Essex radio**

10.00am **Essex Agricultural Society** Baileys Farm, Barrack Road, Good Easter CM1 4SF

12.30pm **Essex Young Farmers' Club** Whitbreads Barn, Whitbreads Farm Lane, Chatham Green CM3 3LQ

3.00pm **Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution and National Farmers' Union**
St Peter's Church, Church Street, Goldhanger CM9 8AS

6.00pm **Farming Community Network** Pleshey House of Retreat (gardens), The Street, Pleshey CM3 1HA

COVID-19 secure procedures will be in place at each venue.

Please contact Revd Canon Janet Nicholls direct for further information: jnicholls@chelmsford.anglican.org

ESSEX POLICE – RURAL ENGAGEMENT TEAM UPDATE



The Rural Engagement Team have been out on patrol and responding to hare coursing incidents across the county. As the fields get harvested, they increasingly become targeted but those involved in the illegal sport. In the last two weeks we have had 32 incidents reported to us and the team have seized a number of vehicles, reported drivers for various traffic offences, and reported several people for hare coursing with enquires

ongoing. They have helped to rehome abandoned coursing dogs that were being mistreated and are working closely with landowners and local communities to help increase reporting.

PC Matt Harkness, from the Rural Engagement Team, said: “Overall we’ve seen a 17 percent reduction in hare coursing reports over the last year and we are working to keep improving on this.

“It not only affects the landowners, but the bigger picture includes incidents of vandalism of property, theft of farm plant, and road traffic offences. This all has a detrimental effect and has impacted on the wider local community.”

Hare coursing causes significant disruption and damage, resulting in young crops and the ground being destroyed, which has a potential financial loss for farmers. This activity is an ongoing concern for those living and working in the countryside.

PC Harkness added: “We are working closely with the local rural and farming communities as well as partner agencies to combat this issue. I’m pleased to say that the information we receive really has helped the team, and I’d asked you to please continue to assist us and combat this illegal activity.

“We would ask that if you see coursing in progress, dogs chasing hares, or people breaking into land to course, then please call 999 immediately, giving as much detail as possible as to what you are witnessing.

“This needs to include vehicle details, descriptions of those responsible if possible, and location of where the incident is taking place. If the report is second hand or a few hours old then, please still report this online to us at www.essex.police.uk

All incidents reported to us help us to build a better intelligence picture of what’s happening and who’s involved so we can then police the rural areas of Essex more effectively, and deal robustly with those responsible.

*The year period referred to is 12 months to July 2020

*The two-week period is from 6 August to 19 August

Source: Essex Police



CALLING FOR ANYONE WITH INFORMATION TO CONTACT ESSEX POLICE



Essex police are investigating the shooting of a Buzzard on 4th September 2020 at Davy Riverside Park, South Ockendon. It has been confirmed the bird was shot and subsequently since died. This is the third bird of prey shooting in the county this year. Anyone with information please contact PC Jed Raven - Essex Police’s Wildlife Crime Unit on 101.

HELP BUY ESSEX LOCAL CAMPAIGN



The Help Essex Buy Local campaign has been launched thanks to funding from the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP). A LEP-wide campaign has been funded which covers Essex, Kent and East Sussex with the aim of literally putting local food and drink producers and retailers on the map. The website www.buylocalfoodanddrink.co.uk shows all

businesses which have signed up so far. The Essex project has only just launched and we are still populating the map – we would like to see every Essex food and drink producer and retailer represented here.

For more information, contact: beverly.davies@essexrcc.org.uk

NOMINATE SOMEONE SPECIAL IN ESSEX



National honours recognise exceptional acts of good citizenship and achievements in public life. Individuals who make a significant contribution to their community can be nominated for a national honour.

Essex people are being actively encouraged to nominate that special person, the ordinary person whose actions often go unrecognised but who make a big difference to the community.

Honours are awarded for long-term voluntary service, innovation and entrepreneurship, achieving positive change for others, improving the life of those less able to help themselves and displaying moral courage.

If you know of someone who has shown commitment to their community, or someone who has consistently and diligently helped others, you can nominate them.

For further details and to nominate someone please [click here](#)

DO YOU STRUGGLE WITH YOUR ENERGY BILLS OR KNOW SOMEONE THAT DOES?



Warm Homes Essex is a new service delivered by the Citizen Advice Bureau, working in partnership with Essex County Council it aims to help people struggling with their energy bills.

Staffed by experienced, professional advisers, based in local Citizens Advice offices around Essex, the service is resourced by the Warm Homes Fund.

Call 0300 3033 789 to find out how the service can help or alternatively for more information please [click here](#)

LATEST FROM ESSEX FRAUD ALERT - Gift Card Scams—Have HMRC *really* contacted you?

Many of us are aware that criminals regularly make telephone calls claiming to be HMRC. Increasingly, they are making these calls claiming that there is a warrant out for the arrest of the recipient and that they are required to pay their 'outstanding debt' in order to avoid arrest. However, they proceed to ask the recipient to pay off this debt using gift cards, including Amazon and iTunes gift cards.

Due to the fact that gift cards are relatively untraceable, this proves to be a low-risk, high-reward scam.

What to look out for:

- You cannot pay bills or outstanding debts using gift cards
- Fraudsters claiming to be from HMRC **will try to panic you** by informing you there is a warrant out for your arrest.
- Once the gift cards have been purchased, **scammers will ask you to scratch off the back of the gift cards** and send them the codes underneath—this is particularly suspicious if they ask them to be sent via platforms such as WhatsApp.
- If you are unsure, **hang up**, and call back on a trusted number. Never use a number supplied by the person on the phone, and use an alternative phone if possible. Genuine organisations have no issue with you confirming who they are. For more information please [click here](#)



If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, please call Essex Police on 101. Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

KEEPING OUR COUNTRYSIDE CLEAN

The poster for the 'Countryside Clean-up' features a photograph of a grey recycling bin overflowing with various pieces of litter, including plastic bottles, bags, and food waste, set against a backdrop of a green field and a blue sky. The text is overlaid on the image. In the top right corner is the 'Countryside Alliance' logo, which consists of the text and a green leaf icon. The main text reads: 'We need your help to clean up the countryside' in large, bold, black letters, followed by '19th - 20th September' in a smaller white font. At the bottom, the event title 'Countryside Clean-up 19th and 20th September' is written in a blue font. The background image also shows a 'NO LITTER' sign on the bin and some scattered trash on the ground.

Not only is discarded litter an eyesore, it is bad for the environment and is also potentially hazardous to farmed livestock, wild animals and domestic pets. We all have great respect for the countryside, and this is just a small way in which we can demonstrate how important it is for us to ensure that it remains a wonderful place to live and visit. To register please [click here](#)

HARVEST POEM

Ears of Harvest is written by Revd Canon Janet Nicholls and dedicated to all farmers managing the implications of the poor wheat yields of Harvest 2020.

Ears of Harvest

*This ear of wheat plucked from the farm
Now nestled and protected in gently cupped palm.
Prayer-poised hands roll this ear of unknown,
Kernels exposed, chaff softly blown.
Smaller and fewer, the grains of this harvest;
Each precious and treasured, not to be tarnished.
These tiny grains, what do they hold?
Feeding the body, nourishing the soul?
The Farmer of the world promised all would be gathered;
The smallest, the weakest; all to be treasured.
This wheat in my palm hides priceless creed;
With the faith of the Farmer, grain becomes seed.
As finger-grip loosens, where will the seed fall?
Amidst rocks or thorns or the good soil of the soul?*



Revd Canon Janet Nicholls
Rural Adviser and Agricultural Chaplain
Diocese of Chelmsford
Harvest 2020

MEETING DATES

Essex Rural Partnership Future Meeting Dates:

TBC

This newsletter is produced and sent by Rural Community Council of Essex on behalf of the Essex Rural Partnership. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter in future please e-mail info@essexruralpartnership.org.uk with 'unsubscribe' as the email subject.

Compiled and edited by Lizzie Rose, Rural Community Council of Essex. Rural Community Council of Essex Registered Charity No. 1097009. Company registered in England and Wales No. 4609624