

18th July 2019

News and appeals

Man assaulted while sitting in a car in Eastbourne

Police are appealing for witnesses after a man was assaulted in Eastbourne.

The victim, a man in his 60s, was sat in his car in Terminus Road, Eastbourne around 7.20pm on Tuesday (July 9) when another man approached the driver's window and punched him in the face. The victim drove off and was treated at Eastbourne District General Hospital for facial injuries.

Anyone who was in this area around this time and witnessed the altercation please report online or call 101 quoting 1425 of 09/07.

Melissa Bethel, reported missing from Eastbourne, now found

We're pleased to report Melissa Bethel, reported missing from Eastbourne, has been found safe.

The 28-year-old was located at her home address this morning (Tuesday 16 July). Thank you for sharing and caring.

New Police Contact Centre Officers join our team

A warm welcome to our new contact officers who join our team this week to help you when you need us most. They'll be responding to your emergency and 101 calls under supervision after completing months of intensive training on Friday.

Former estate agent, Richard Snatt: "This job & I are made for each other. I really enjoy keeping people calm and helping them through distressing situations."

Penny Clapcott wanted a challenge: "It's so rewarding helping others in time of need. I find through having a disability I have high empathy and am able to stay calm under pressure."

Assistant Chief Constable, Dave Miller, pictured with the recruits and their trainers, said, "I am delighted to welcome the new contact handlers to our team. As a first point of contact with the police for the public, they will play a vital role in our operational frontline. I wish them a rewarding career."

Could this be you? We will be recruiting again soon, register your interest and find out more [here](#).



Make the right call - Is your call a police matter?

If you have concerns about - noise nuisance, bins and rubbish or littering - [please contact your local council](#) as these are not police matters.

Lost something?

Please don't call us for lost or found property - we no longer take reports or handle lost/found property.

If you find or lose something of value to you, [here's what to do](#).

Help us keep our phones free those who genuinely need us

Eastbourne Pride Saturday 20th July

During July and August, we're excited to be supporting a number of Pride events throughout Sussex, which are celebratory events that also raise awareness of the discrimination LGBT+ people still face.

This weekend (Saturday 20th) sees Eastbourne Pride, with a parade that will take place on the road from Eastbourne pier, and walking up to Princes park. More information on this event can be found [here](#).

Sussex Police recognises the importance of observing these events, Officers and staff from Eastbourne Police teams will be taking part in the parade this year and holding a stall at Princess park offering support and information to members of the community who have or may experience hate related crimes.

We are committed to a diverse and equal workforce that represents the communities we serve. [Read more](#).



Bogus Police caller in East Sussex

Police are investigating after an elderly couple in East Sussex lost £13,000 when a bogus caller pretended to be a police officer and got them to withdraw cash from their accounts.

On 25 June the man phoned them, claiming to be from the 'Metropolitan Police fraud squad'. Over the next six days he convinced them to go twice to a bank and withdraw a total of £13,000,

telling them it was necessary as part of an investigation into fraud within their own bank's HQ in London.

On each occasion one of the couple then had to go to locations near their homes and hand the cash to someone driving a van. Only when family members visited and overheard one of the phone calls was the fraud stopped.

Detective Constable Sam Collyer said: "Remember - no police officer, or bank staff on the phone, will ever ask for your bank details or for cash. Don't give your details or cash to anyone in these circumstances!

See these top tips to help stop this type of fraud;

Act with care if you get an unsolicited phone call

- Never transfer funds into a new account on the instruction of an unexpected caller – even if they tell you the account is in your name
- Always check your phone line has properly disconnected before making another call – try calling a good friend first, wait 5 minutes or use a different phone
- Never share your PIN number or enter your PIN into a telephone
- Never withdraw money and hand it to a courier or a police officer
- Never give your bank cards to a courier or anyone who comes to your door

For further advice and information on preventing this type of fraud, see the [Sussex Police website](#).

For further advice on fraud prevention, and information on Operation Signature, the work done by Sussex Police to prevent fraud and support victims, also see the [force website](#), which includes a short film from the Operation Signature team helping to show the signs to look out for, [please view here](#).

An agreement between police and banks is also helping prevent some of these crimes. In June this year alone 38 attempts to get unwary residents to withdraw cash in Sussex were foiled by alert bank staff who became suspicious of the circumstances, saving losses that would have totalled £144,000.



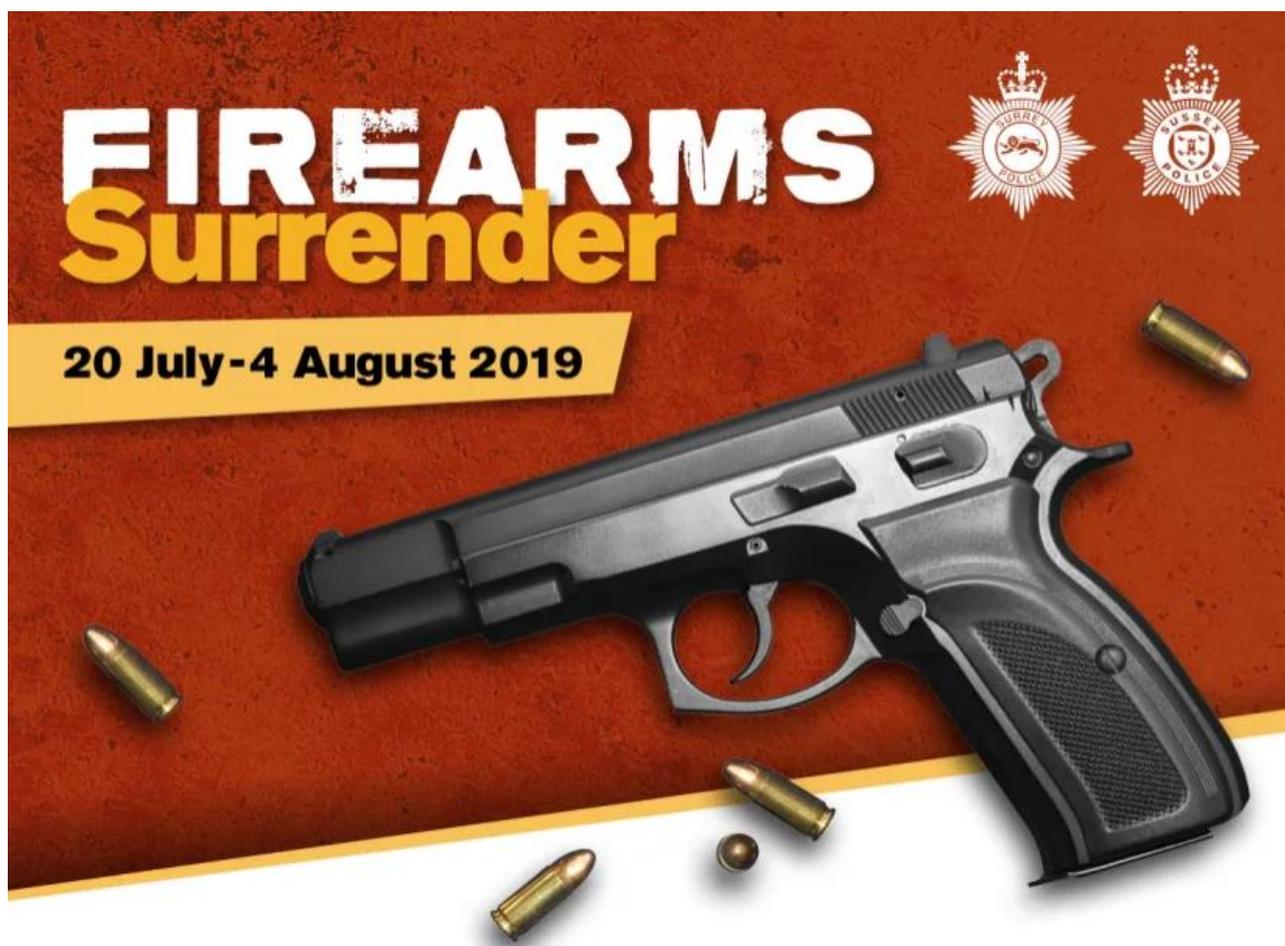
National firearms surrender week starts 20th July

People in possession of unwanted guns or ammunition are being encouraged to hand them in as part of a campaign to make Sussex and Surrey safer.

Many firearms are held in innocence and ignorance of their illegality, or are overlooked and forgotten in people's homes. Others are acquired and distributed by criminal networks to harm, threaten and intimidate their local communities.

This appeal gives people the chance to dispose of firearms or ammunition by simply handing them in at their local police station – a list of opening times and locations can be found below.

During the surrender period, those surrendering firearms will not face prosecution for illegal possession of a firearm at the point of surrender of the firearm to lawful authority, and they can remain anonymous.



However, this surrender does not mean police will not investigate firearms offences, should any come to light, once the operation has concluded.

This is a firearms surrender; not a firearms amnesty, and police are committed to reduce the harm to our communities from firearms crime.

The surrender, which runs from Monday 20 July to Sunday 4 August, forms part of a national campaign by the National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS).

The aim of the operation, supported by Surrey and Sussex Police, is to reduce the number of illegally held firearms in circulation which could fall into the hands of criminals.

This includes replica firearms, air weapons, BB guns, imitation firearms, antique guns, de-activated guns, component parts, stun guns, Taser, cs/pepper spray and other ballistic items.

When and where can I hand in firearms?

Weapons should be handed to police station front counter staff. A list of designated stations and their opening times can be found below.

If someone is unable to travel to a police station they should contact police via 101 and arrange for the firearm to be collected.

Sussex:

Crowborough: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm;
Eastbourne (Hammonds Drive): Mon-Fri 9am-5pm;
Hailsham: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm / 3pm-6pm;
Horsham: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm / 3pm-6pm;
Uckfield: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm;

Surrey:

Guildford: Mon-Sun 8am-10pm;
Reigate: Mon-Sun 8am-10pm;
Staines: Mon-Sun 8am-10pm;
Woking: Mon-Sun 8am-10pm.

Crime summary

During the daytime of the 9th July, a property off Faygate Road, Eastbourne was broken into whereby suspects have gained entry to a rear ground floor window, once inside have stolen personal items including a tablet. (0959 of 09/07 relates)

Over the daytime of 10th July, a property off Dillingburgh Road, Eastbourne, suspects entered via an insecure door and have stolen various amounts of cash from the victim's home. (1072 of 10/07 relates)

A distraction burglary occurred during the early afternoon (around 1345) of the 11th at properties off Staveley Road, Eastbourne, whereby victims have been distracted by a male needing to access their homes to check ceilings for water leaks from properties above. Unfortunately, whilst in the homes the suspect male has taken various jewellery items and cash from each victim. The male is described as a white male, mid 40's+, around 5'10" with short hair, medium build and wearing dark blue clothing. (1128 of 11/07 relates)

Overnight on the 12th July a garage off Bedfordwell Road, Eastbourne, reported finding their motorcycle stolen from within their locked garage. Suspects have potentially picked locks to enter and cut padlocks. (0364 of 12/07 relates)

In the small hours of the 14th July, a business address along Grand Parade, Eastbourne whereby suspects have entered a rear door and made an untidy search of the property, fortunately nothing has been taken. (1071 of 17/07 relates)