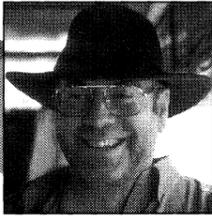
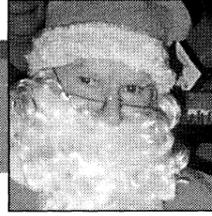




**Review of the Year - Centre**



**MBE for charity efforts - P6**



**Santa drops in to HQ - P7**

Major incident swings into action within minutes

# AIR TRAGEDY TESTS CRASH PLANS

**by Kim White**

**WELL prepared and rehearsed contingency plans paid off when, just two days before Christmas, a Korean Air cargo plane crashed just outside Stansted.**

First reports that the plane was a 747 prompted fears that hundreds may be dead. Even though it emerged that only four crew had lost their lives and no one on the ground had been hurt, there still lay an incredibly daunting task ahead.

While hundreds of officers from the emergency services fought against the most appalling weather conditions in their search for survivors, the world's media descended on the village of Great Hallingbury, which had been narrowly missed by the falling jet.

There's no doubt that those who scoured the fields in darkness, wind and rain, that night should be proud of their efforts. Reports of shrapnel ripping through fire hoses and wellington boots,

and fears of a toxic cargo, did nothing to hamper their determination.

Within an extremely short period of time one of the flight data recorders and one body, and other remains, were recovered.

When the first chaotic hours, expected in any major incident, passed, and daylight dawned, the true reality of the situation was revealed. What was undoubtedly the most surprising aspect to everyone who attended the scene, from chief officers to international television reporters, was the absence of anything resembling a plane.

This jet is believed to have crashed from just 1,400ft and yet the scene could only be described as a landfill site. Apart from the occasional large piece of tangled metal there were just millions and millions of tiny pieces of debris strewn across fields and trees. The fireball, assisted by 30 or so tonnes of aviation fuel, led to complete disintegration.

● Continued on page 7



● Some of the wreckage of the Boeing 747 Korean Airlines cargo plane which crashed in Hatfield Forest, killing all four crew members.

## Officers 'not put at risk'

DEPLETED uranium built into the tail of the crashed jumbo jet did not pose a threat to the health of the public or emergency services at the scene.

This assurance came from Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) Joe Edwards, following media reports to the contrary.

Mr Edwards told *The Law*: "We were not aware until the day after the accident that all Boeing 747 jets of this vintage have small quantities of depleted uranium built into them as a counterweight.

"As soon as we became aware, we sought expert advice from the Air Accident Investigation Branch health

and safety adviser, who gave assurances that there was no risk at all to residents close to the crash site, or to the police officers and other emergency service personnel at the scene," he said.

The AAIB adviser also assured Essex Police that the radiological risk from depleted uranium is very slight.

● Continued on page 7

## Policing of Port under debate

THE Port of Tilbury Police Service is being scaled down in a cost-cutting measure by the port's owners. Until last month, 20 officers policed the port area as a private force; by the end of February 2000 that number will be reduced to a maximum of seven.

Tilbury is one of a number of ports across the country, which operates a private police force. However, the owners, Forth Ports, are now cutting the Tilbury service.

From next month, the private force will no longer deal with any policing at all and will solely operate a security service.

Meetings are planned between Supt Ian Grüneberg of Thurrock Division and the port management to establish exactly what this will mean for Essex Police. So far, the extra workload, which includes thefts from ships, burglaries and car crime, has been passed, via the crime desk, to Tilbury.

The port is a very large and busy area which, including enclosed water, covers 1,150 acres. An average of around 20,000 heavy goods vehicles passes through the port each day and more than 5,000 people are employed on site.

Supt Grüneberg said: "There are implications here, not only for Thurrock Division, but also for Traffic Division and Contingency Planning. In addition, due to the nature of the area, we also have to seriously consider the health and safety of any staff policing the port."

Mr Grüneberg added that there was currently no provision for any extra officers to be made available to manage the additional workload. He added that whilst he would be looking at ways to provide the best level of policing for the port, his priority was to ensure that the community as a whole did not suffer due to extra demands being placed on officers.

# New Year - same debate

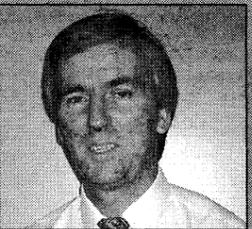
**ANOTHER year, another century.**

I'm sure if we looked back 100 years, we would still be having the same debates. Allowances, budgets, manning levels. The Millennium wheel just goes round and round (or not, as the case may be).

It was interesting to read John Stevens, the next Metropolitan Commissioner, talking about morale. It's not often a chief officer will admit that there is a morale problem but it is evident that, in London, they have a problem with recruiting

## Federation Newsline

by Terry Spelman



and for him to say that morale is very low reflects on the Shire forces also.

I know that morale can go up and down, depending on who you ask and at what time but we have had changes in Essex, i.e. the boundary changes, rural policing review and the deployment policy, which do not gel well

with the majority of officers.

We have our chief constable saying there are more front-line police officers now than years ago. However, we are not so sure. You are the ones who are working at the sharp end and you say to me "Where are they?"

## Travel Insurance

ALL new insurance certificates have now been sent out. Anybody not in receipt of one, please contact Marilyn Carr on extension 54555.

As I reported last month, we had a large increase in the premium this year. I will be looking at other options over the next 12 months to make sure we can still offer the best terms available.

## Financial Services

THESE still continue to go from strength to strength, with clinics available every month. These are managed by Sidney Foster from George Burrows (your group life insurer), who will advise without any pressure. If you require an appointment, please ring our office manager, Trish Morley, on extension 54560.

## Open Meeting

WE have our own open meeting on **Monday, February 7, 2000.**

Our open meeting being YOUR open meeting. The meeting starts at 7.15pm at The Marconi Club, Beehive Lane, Chelmsford. Food and drink are supplied. **COME ALONG - it's YOUR meeting.** Listen to the chief constable, national Federation officers and the chairman of the Police Authority. Ask questions on issues you want answers to. **DON'T WASTE IT.**

Go on - tell us a tale

*THE Law* needs you! We're looking for details of all those humorous quirky or just plain daft incidents for use in our "Offbeat" column.

## Funny

Whether it's those funny calls to FIR or direct to the police station or strange things you come across while on patrol - let us know and share the joke.

All you need to do is phone us with the STORM incident number on ednet 50622, or jot down a few lines about it and fax us on ednet 50215.

## Volunteer wanted to help with research

AN Essex student is looking for volunteers to assist him in his research into stress.

Syd Hiskey is studying for a PhD in health/clinical psychology at the University of Essex in Colchester. He is researching the effect of stressful life events and the way that different people experience the processing of stress-related information.

It's hoped that if more is known about the way people come to terms with stressful situations, then it will be possible to identify those most at risk from traumatic stress reactions.

Syd is keen to hear from officers who would be able to spare an hour or two to chat about their own experiences. He can be contacted at the University on 01206 873818.

# New training for Stewards



● Chief Constable, David Stevens, presents certificates at the first ever Stewards Training Course

UNISON welcomed the participation of the Chief Constable and Mr John Rhymes, Head of Personnel, during our first ever Stewards Training Course held at Essex Police Headquarters.

Just as Essex Police faces major change, Unison must adapt in order to represent support staff in this climate. Whether you are a member of a trade union or not, it is essential that you support the staff side of the Police Support Staff Council if you wish to maintain your current service conditions, pay and indeed seek improvements.

Recently, Competitiveness Minister Alan Johnson MP

## Unison by Lee Robson

said: "Trade unionists have a crucial role to play in business. They can inform their members, and prospective members of their rights and they can ensure that employers meet their obligations."

Lee Robson, Unison Branch Secretary for Essex Police said: "Many staff are reluctant to join unions because of prejudices based on misconception, or they fear detriment if they are seen to be at all interested in unions. Unison members

represent many police staff nationally and their professionalism and dedication is beyond question."

At a recent seminar a Home Office spokesman recognised the excellent work carried out by Unison members who formed part of the Kosovo investigative forensic teams. The dedication of support staff, often outside their contractual obligations, such as during the recent Korean Air crash is a good example.

A new Millennium requires a new approach. Take an interest in your service and more importantly take part. Consider joining Unison or GMB today.

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# Speeding fines go-ahead

ESSEX has been confirmed as a pilot area to trial a system to reinvest funds raised through speeding fines.

The Department of Transport, Environment and the Regions announced last month that the county can use fines paid by motorists to contribute to the cost of the camera enforcement programme.

## Safety

It's hoped this will have a significant effect on road safety in the county by enabling effective targeting of areas where problems have been highlighted.

The pilot programme is a joint partnership between Essex Police, Essex County Council and the unitary authorities of Southend and Thurrock and will begin in April.

The initial investment of up to £5 million over a two-year period will be reimbursed through the funds collected from offending motorists. No profits will be raised through the scheme, as all money will go straight into supporting the use of the cameras, with any excess going back to the Treasury. Head of Traffic Management, Brian Ladd, said: "We're making a commitment to the people of Essex to reduce casualties and speed and red light cameras have already proven to be an effective method of achieving this goal.

"They will be used sensibly and fairly, targeting the worst offenders. In this way, the speeder pays and the community benefits. If motorists consciously alter their driving habits and cut their speed we'll begin to see an overall reduction in road accidents and casualties."

# Keeping up the standards

**WITH effect from January 1, the Complaints and Discipline Department has been re-named and given a new look.**

Under its new title of The Professional Standards Department, it will comprise four teams, each dealing with both misconduct (discipline) and complaint cases.

On average during the past three years, the department has dealt with more than 450 complaints, 86 discipline and 460 miscellaneous cases annually, in addition to 241 civil litigation cases each year.

## Review

Boundary changes which come into effect on April 1 will boost these figures and there are a number of other factors which have prompted a review of the way in which the department operates.

These include the need for budget reductions, best value and efficiency savings; changes in legislation, including the Human Rights Act and the force's own Equality of Service Strategy; the need to improve discipline performance and to engage in proactive integrity work.

A report by head of department Supt Julia Jeapes concluded that the historic separation of complaints and discipline investigations can no longer be justified and that to have area teams embracing both sides of the department's work will lead to greater efficiency and better value for money.

In addition to the new teams, administrative staff will take on some of the non-police tasks previously undertaken by police officers within the department.

## Teams

The four area teams which have been set up now are as follows:-

West Area (Harlow/Met and Thurrock Divisions) Investigating Officer Insp Gary Heard, Assistant Investigating Officer Pc Christine Thomerson; Central Area (Braintree, Chelmsford, Rayleigh) IO Det Chief Insp Iain Logan, AIO Sgt Tony Bull; North Area (Tendring, Colchester, Stansted Airport and HQ) IO Insp Trevor Williamson, AIO Sgt Graham Tuffin;

## Drink-drive total 'disappointing'

SENIOR traffic officers at Essex Police have expressed their concerns that some motorists are still choosing to put lives at risk by drinking and driving.

During the 1999/2000 Christmas and New Year campaign 6,749 breath tests were carried out across the county, 209 of which proved positive, a percentage of 3.1. Although more tests were

carried out last year (13,231), a total of 301 were positive, a percentage of 2.3, representing an increase this year in the number of positive breath tests of 0.8 per cent.

Headquarters Traffic Chief Inspector Tom Diment, said: "We are disappointed that some motorists are still behaving in an irresponsible and criminal manner. Despite high profile local and nation-

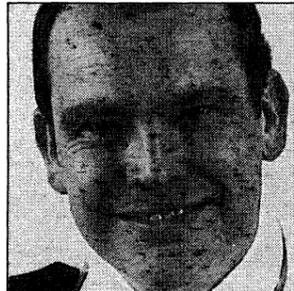
al media campaigns there is a minority of drivers prepared to put their own lives, and the lives of others, at unnecessary risk.

"Safety on the roads remains a top priority for Essex Police, however, it cannot be tackled by the police alone. It is the responsibility of every individual road user. Essex Police will actively continue to hammer the message

home through campaigns and prosecutions," he said.

In December alone, 13 crashes resulted in 15 deaths. Seven of these crashes, more than 50 per cent, were drink related (although not necessarily the driver).

• Fewer breath test procedures were carried out this year as a lot of police resources were lost to the Stansted air crash and Millennium duties.



● C/I Iain Logan



● C/I Ray Newman



● Insp Gary Heard



● Insp Trevor Williamson

South Area (Southend, Basildon) IO Chief Insp Ray Newman, AIO Sgt Graham Stubbs.

The new structure will be reviewed after three and six months, to ensure that workloads for the four new teams are broadly equal.

## Feedback

The IOs will be visiting divisions on a regular basis, to give feedback in terms of any lessons learned from complaints or misconduct issues and to share best practice.

The department will be launching a web site on the Essex Police Intranet in the near future. This will be updated regularly and will provide information to assist officers in dealing with and helping to prevent complaints.

# Y2K - the bug stayed away

A NIGHT to remember - for all the right reasons, is the verdict on the long-anticipated Millennium celebrations.

Pre-planning by Essex Police, along with local authorities and other agencies, meant the county was prepared for the worst.

In the event, responsible behaviour by local people resulted in only a small number of incidents being reported.

Gold Control operated from the Training Centre from 6pm on Friday 31st December 1999. A total of 1,450 officers were on night shift and available to respond to any incidents, relating to celebrations or Millennium bug problems.

## 999

Between 10pm on New Year's Eve and 4am on New Year's Day, Essex Police handled 501 999 calls, which was normal for the New Year period. The majority of calls concerned typical weekend problems such as drunkenness, domestic violence, other assaults and criminal damage.

# New recruits on their way

**Essex Police will be aiming to recruit approximately 200 new officers during 2000.**

The Force is making a bid to the Home Secretary's Crime Fighting Fund and we are hopeful of receiving funding for additional posts. We have already been informed of funding for new posts for Special Branch and at Stansted Airport.

Each year 100-120 police officers leave the force, mostly on retirement, and these officers need to be replaced.

Last year was a fairly quiet year on the police recruiting front. The substantial programme of civilianisation associated with the budget reductions meant that our efforts have been concentrated on recruiting support staff to fill the civilianised posts, and releasing officers from those posts into those which we would normally have been recruiting to fill.

## Support

The budget settlement for 2000/01 has been much less severe so normal recruiting will resume.

This year we will recruit officers to fill vacancies across the Force created by the deployment of existing

A total of 91 people were arrested and taken into custody, most of them in the south of the county. Although this is a high figure, it is not exceptional for the New Year period.

The roads were quiet and there were no serious crashes. It appears that the majority of motorists were wise enough not to drink and drive. However, one driver arrested in Colchester was three times over the legal limit for alcohol.

## Technical

There were no Y2K technical problems at Essex Police, and none were reported elsewhere.

The success of the night has been put down to people opting for private, family celebrations. Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) Joe Edwards, who was Gold Commander on the night, said: "Considering so many people were celebrating, it was relatively quiet and the night was a credit to the people of Essex. My thanks goes to them and to everyone in the emergency services who worked through the night to support public safety."

officers into the area affected by the Boundary change. Essex Police is also creating additional posts to provide specialist support to that new area, traffic, scenes of crime officers, dog handlers etc. New recruits early in 2000/01, will fill the vacancies created by selection internally to those posts.

Following the success of the deployment policy in beginning to even out the experience profile of officers across the Force, probationers will be recruited county-wide, and should result in a more even spread of probationers across territorial divisions.

Personnel are working with an advertising agency to develop the adverts, posters and so on, which will be used during the campaign. They are also reviewing and improving the pack which we send to applicants.

Essex Police will be working with other Forces on a national advertising campaign alongside regular advertising in local newspapers. We will also be taking the opportunity of a high volume of recruiting to progress towards our target for ethnic minority recruiting set by the Home Office following the Stephen Lawrence inquiry.

Review of the Year 1999 . . . R

ESSEX Police is fully primed to enter the new Millennium, to face whatever challenges lie ahead. As we bid farewell to the 20th Century, **RUTH COLLIN** looks back at the last 12 months and a year in which the force has taken a lead in making Essex one of the UK's safest counties.

# FAREWELL TO

## JANUARY

THE public were asked for their views on the Rural Policing Review of Essex. The consultation paper was published following a thorough analysis of current practices across Essex and the rest of the country. Public meetings were held for local residents to have their say on the policing of rural areas.



● Rural policing teams were launched in January

## FEBRUARY

THE new command and control computer system, **STORM**, went live. The new system replaced the 15 year old **IRIS** programme as the service's key control tool. Colchester was the first division that moved onto the system, with all divisions live by the summer.

## MARCH

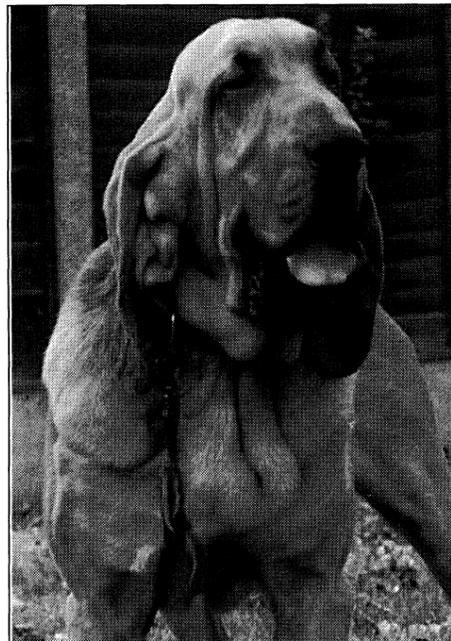
THE Chief Constable said: "Racism has no place within Essex Police," following the publication of the Lawrence Inquiry report. The report set a standard for police forces in dealing with racial incidents, as well as highlighting concerns about "institutionalised racism" with the service.

The first ever National Police Bloodhound Training Course was held at the Sandon Dog Unit. The course followed the research into the use of bloodhounds carried out by Pc Malcolm Fish. The course was attended by officers and dogs from Northampton, Dyfed Powys and Devon and Cornwall who have all now bought bloodhounds.

## APRIL

DEDICATED teams to investigate major crime were first recommended this month to relieve pressure from divisions.

The Essex Police Authority approved the proposals of the Rural Policing Review following a comprehensive public consultation programme. Over 900 people attended 24 open meetings held across the county. Some amendments were made as a result of the public consultation and the new policing model went live.



● The first national bloodhound training course was hosted in Essex.

## MAY

DNA testing took a step forward with the extension of eligible offences. Samples can now be taken in the case of motor vehicle crime and drug related crime. It is hoped that, over time, the wider database will have an impact on investigating serious crime.

It was all change in O's office as Geoffrey Markham retired and Joe Edwards took over as Assistant Chief Constable (Operations). Mr Markham

left the force after more than 43 years of service. Mr Edwards joined Essex Police from Hampshire.

## JUNE

ESSEX Police Scenes of Crime Officers were described as the best in the country in Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary Report. The inspection showed the service was performing well, but facing a wide-ranging programme of change.

Two serial rapists were brought to justice following massive police operations. Richard Baker, 34, was charged with and convicted of 12 attacks following the Operation Monarch investigation which involved Essex, Met and Sussex offences.

Operation Catchment resulted in conviction of 41-year-old Anthony Chandler for three offences of rape in London and Brentwood.

The Essex Police Dog Unit held its first ever open day at Sandon (held on 12th June). More than 1,000 people attended the event to see demonstrations, meet handlers and visit the kennels and the loo! The day was hailed a great success.



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# Law letters

Send your letters to:  
The Law, Press Office,  
Police Headquarters,  
PO Box 2, Chelmsford,  
Essex CM2 6DA

## Human Rights law a challenge now

IN the November edition of *The Law* you published a letter from sergeant Jerry Morgan in which he refers to the basic principles of Human Rights and asks questions about what are they and when and where were they written.

Human Rights legislation and advice is to be found in International Law in a wide range of covenants, declarations, rules, principles and instruments etc.

### Important

Some of the most important of those, which directly apply to policing, include: -

- The Universal declaration of Human Rights (1948)
- The International covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
- The Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials (1979)
- The Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms

by Law Enforcement Officials (1990)

● The convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984).

There are many others at the international level and there are similar provisions promulgated by the Council of Europe solely for the European continent.

The principle European instrument, the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1950), is now published in the UK in schedule 1 of the Human Rights Act 1998.

Jerry can be reassured that most of the provisions are already incorporated into domestic law within the UK but, unfortunately, without police officers always being made aware of this.

Compliance is therefore achieved with much of what police officers already do in fol-

lowing rules and procedures their daily duties having roots in international law.

I suspect that if there is any greater understanding of this, some reservations those expressed by would diminish.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has produced a manual to Serve and To Protect - Human rights and humanitarian law for police and security and because of his interest I will send a copy to Sergeant Morgan.

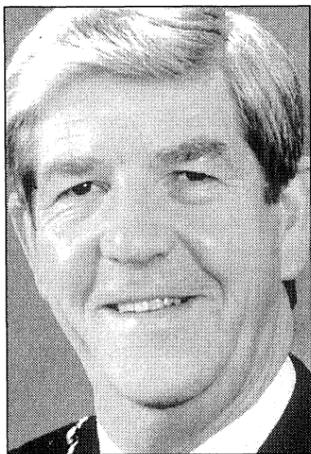
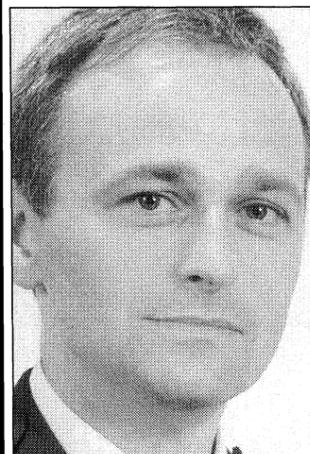
### Prepare

Human Rights is an area of law and procedure increasingly likely to exercise the minds in the United Kingdom when the new Act of Parliament takes full effect so now is the time to prepare.

Ex-Supt Graham Edwards  
ICRC Co-ordinator  
Relations with  
and Security

Review of the Year 1999 . . . Review of

# THE 20th CENTURY



patrol on the River Thames.

Fast track court hearings were introduced for the first time in cases of driving with excess alcohol and whilst disqualified. In the first week, eight people were arrested and appeared before a court within 72 hours of charge. The process heralded the introduction of "Narey", which was formally introduced in November to increase fast-tracking.

Children's BBC and Paul Lovett from Essex FM. This was the fourth year of the tour that has now been presented to nearly 20,000 students. Highlight of this years tour, which was sponsored by Ford Motor Company was the biggest ever show which was held in Southend and featured a special appearance by chart-topping band A1.

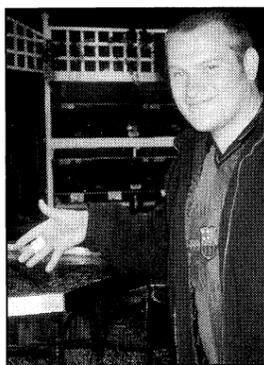
During a drugs raid in Chelmsford, an aquarium was broken and the poor creature was left high and dry. Mick Battersby for the rescue, but was bitten on the finger for his trouble.

Home Office crime figures showed Essex to have the fifth lowest crime rate in the country.

The statistics reported a five-year fall in crime levels for the county with 6,290 offences recorded per 100,000 population.

## OCTOBER

AN Essex Police officer hit the headlines after being attacked - by a fish! Pc Mick Battersby, right, from Chelmsford was bitten on the finger whilst trying to rescue a piranha.



## NOVEMBER

THE first ever blue liveried Essex Police car hit the streets. The new car, used by Traffic Division, is the Ford Mondeo ST200 that has been bought to replace the Mondeo estate. Chief Officers approved the look of the car with the battenburg livery making the vehicle possibly the first blue police car in the country.

## DECEMBER

LAST year's Christmas drink-drive campaign threatened drivers with seeing the Millennium behind bars. The new fast-track system saw drink drivers appearing before court within 72 hours of being caught. One man, who blew 115, was sentenced to five months in prison.

Top dog Sherlock, one of the Essex Police bloodhounds picked up a prestigious life saving award at the PRO Dog of the Year Awards. Sherlock won the silver medal for his actions in tracking and finding an elderly and confused woman.

## JULY

THE Bill met Essex Police for an unusual assignment when two brothers teamed up. Pc Rube Zagger of Chelmsford Traffic Unit was joined by his actor brother Rene Zagger, who is now a regular member of the cast of The Bill. Rene spent a week on patrol with Rube to get first hand knowledge of life on the beat.

## SEPTEMBER

THE 1999 tour of the 2 Smart 4 Drugs Roadshow was launched (pictured below). The show featured the successful line-up of local boy-band Skandal and presenters Kirsten O'Brien from



## AUGUST

THE Essex Police Marine Section celebrated 50 years of policing Essex inland waterways and the county's coastline. The section began life in 1949 when the Essex County Constabulary introduced a river

### A sincere thank-you

THROUGH *The Law*, my wife and I wish to express our sincere thanks to the force Welfare Department for the help they have given to my wife who has multiple sclerosis.

The help we have received has made life so much easier.

Our thanks in particular to Bob Coxon for this involvement.

Ron and Helena Douglas Brentwood

## How times have changed since the 1950s!

IT was good to see ex-Insp Ralph Chapman looking in such good health at the Comrades lunch.

Ralph was my sub-divisional inspector at Halstead when I was stationed there in 1950.

He and his wife Marie lived in the house attached to the station until a pair of new police houses were built in Trinity Road, Halstead.

I was then moved from a police rented pre-fab in Braintree.

For my sins I cycled each day from Braintree to Halstead - a distance of six miles - for my shift until we were moved into the station house that Ralph had vacated.

Our main bedroom was above the cells, the passage of which was used as the refreshment room!

You can imagine the noise when the cells were being used.

While I was there the stables at the rear of the station were converted into an inspector's

and a sergeant's office.

There were six constables and we took our refreshment break in the Justices' retiring room attached to the court.

Nearby in Trinity Road were three police houses, called the Police Barracks, consisting of two houses at the front and a passageway between to a third house.

### Capes

Whilst I was there these houses were occupied by Pcs Boley, Harry and Johnson.

The area car came from Braintree every so often for a four hour shift.

These were Humber Hawks with a radio but no heating.

To keep warm we wrapped our capes round our legs.

How things have changed!

Mick Morgan  
Ex Pc 262 and Ps 196.

### Rural policing?

YEARS ago we all had a police house - Broomfield was one of those. (Sgt Pye did a good job then!).

We are all heavily taxed for a proper blanket cover whether we live in Wendens Ambo, Stisted, Broomfield or a main town.

I have seen only one policeman on foot in the last few months - that was in Braintree town centre.

R. White, Broomfield



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# MBE for Dennis

**AN Essex Police officer who has raised more than £600,000 for charities was made an MBE in the New Year Honours.**

The honour was bestowed upon Chief Inspector Dennis Rensch, aged 52, who is based at Grays and was previously at Chelmsford.

His charity work dates back to 1977 and involves some epic expeditions.

They include the 1988 Marathon March between New York and Philadelphia, as part of an Essex Police/Royal Military Police team, in aid of St Luke's Hospice, Basildon.

In 1992, he climbed Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro with a local guide to raise money for the Chelmsford and Braintree Victim Support Scheme.

Two years' later, he took part in the Arctic Challenge trek to the North Pole and his team raised £71,000 for the NSPCC.

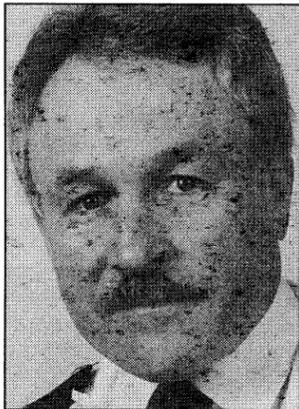
This was followed in 1995 by a solo 700-kilometre walk across the Mauritanian Sahara, which raised £40,000 for the Essex Hospice Movement.

Following this expedition, he was made a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

## Names in the news



● C/I Denis Rensch MBE.



● Supt Mick Benning QPM

In 1997, Chief Insp Rensch took part in a route-finding reconnaissance for the Amazon Challenge in South America, but he did not join the actual expedition, due to secondment to policing in Albania, where he served during 1998 and 1999 and experienced civil unrest and rioting.

His efforts have not gone unnoticed at Essex Police, which in 1992 awarded him its Millard Trophy for his work in the community and fund raising.

Also honoured in the New Year list is the county's longest serving Divisional

Commander, Supt Mick Benning. Mr Benning has been awarded the Queen's Police Medal for his service with Essex Police of nearly 31 years. His service started on the beat in Wickford, and has also included time in Traffic Division, where he played a key role in the formation of the Traffic Investigation Unit, and as staff officer to former Chief Constable Robert Bunyard.

Supt Benning said: "I am very, very honoured to receive this award, particularly as it is an award reserved for the police service. I am exceptionally fortunate

to have worked with so many professional, dedicated staff and without their support I would not have been given this honour. This will truly be a New Year to remember."

Newly appointed divisional commander of Stansted Airport Division is Supt Ian Learmonth, formerly with Operations Division, where he was operations manager.

He is replaced in that post by Chief Insp Steve Golding, who has returned from secondment in Albania.

### Retirements

Chief Inspector Andrew Wilson from Complaints and Discipline officially retired on New Year's Eve. He leaves the service after nearly 31 years' service.

FIR said goodbye to Pc Alan Clay who has retired after 32 years' service. This time also includes service with Warwickshire and West Midlands.

Also retiring after 30 years' service are Pc David Ellis of Saffron Walden, Ps Geoffrey Aves of Halstead and Ps Martin Piper of Tiptree.

Pc Alan Carter of Colchester has also retired after 17 years' service.

Retiring on medical grounds are Pc David Richards of FIR after 24

years' service, Pc Andrew Cracknell of Harlow Traffic after nearly 23 years, Pc James Panting of Witham after 21 years' service, Pc Carol Sinclair after 15 years and Pc James Haldane of Southend after 12 years' service.

### Obituary

Former Supt Arthur Ernest Wales died on January 4, aged 88.

Mr Wales served from 1933-63 with the Southend Borough. He leaves a widow, Ruby.

Former Southend Borough officer Brian Weston has died at the age of 82. Mr Weston served the Borough from 1937 to 1968, retiring as an Inspector.

Retired sergeant Arthur Watson has died at the age of

89. Mr Watson spent the majority of his career with Essex Police in the Driving School, from 1935 to 1964.

And former Pc Stewart Hodgson has died at the age of 85. Mr Hodgson joined Essex Police in 1935 and retired in 1960. He moved to Somerset where he died in November.

The Law has also learnt of the death of former Pc Les Kill, who served in Romford. Mr Kill was based at the Plough Corner Police Station in the 1950s and transferred to the Met when they took over the Romford Division.

Ex-Pc Roy Frederick Crow died on December 30, aged 72. Mr Crow served from 1953 to 1983 at Rayleigh, Pitsea, Castle Hedingham and Maldon and leaves a widow, Shirley.

## Musical Society seeks volunteers

ESSEX Police Musical Society is looking for one or more volunteers to be responsible for the Front of House box office.

EPMS produce two shows each year in February and July.

The job would entail sending out forms to the extensive mailing list and then collating the returns and allocating tickets accordingly. There is no charge for the tickets so no sell is required.

The position would suit someone who could spare a couple of weekends each year and would like to belong to the society but does not necessarily want to tread the boards.

However, anyone interested is welcome to do both.

If you are interested ring Lynda Barkway at Corporate Support on 51030 or at home on 01245 355612 for more information.

## Market Place

**ALGARVE** Portugal, two bedroom apartment, sleeps six. Swimming pool on complex, 15 mins from sea. Winter £80, summer £200. Contact Brian Spiers on 01268 558211.

**CALPE**, Spain. Apartment, sleeps 4, 2 bathrooms and wc, large lounge, balcony, kitchen, beach 5min walk, town location. From £110 pw. Contact Bob Naden on 01255

815140. **CHEAP** transport. Vauxhall Nova, G-reg, 85,000 miles, MOT, £1300, John Anderson, 01279 415116.

**CLEANER WANTED.** If you can recommend a good cleaner for 3-4 hours per week in Chelmsford, contact DC Steve Smith, Drug Squad, extn 76512.

**CORNWALL**, Polperro. Chalet sleeps 4/5. All mod

cons. Pleasant site with heated indoor and outdoor pools. Club and all facilities included, £75 to £250pw. Contact Craig Bailey on 01279 653570 or 01279 832837.

**COSTA Del Golf**, Malaga half hour, Marbella, 14kms, 2 double bedrooms, 2 toilets, sleeps 6, 50 yards to beach, 6 local golf courses, communal pool to 12 properties. Contact Dave Rogers on 01376 550954.

**FLORIDA**, Kissimmee, luxury 4 bed, 3 bath villa, sleeps 10, heated pool, privately owned by police officer. 11 mins to Disney, 2 miles to golf course. Ring Neil on 0191 252 7130 or Ian on 0191 253 0234.

**FLORIDA**, Kissimmee, luxury villa, own heated pool, sleeps 10, many extras included in price, police owned. Contact Chris on 01724 739812 or Jeff on 01724 721239.

**FLORIDA** luxury villa, with heated pool. Sleeps 8. Only minutes from all major attractions. Contact Jim Tarbox 01375 403890 for colour brochure and prices.

**FLORIDA**. 10 mins from Disneyworld. Luxurious 4 bedroom villa with private heated pool, on gated estate. Also clubhouse, communal pool and sports facilities. 2 mins from golf course. Available for 2000 and 2001. Discount for police officers. Contact 0191 385 6549.

**FLORIDA**, Orlando. Luxurious holiday home to rent, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, beautifully furnished, fully equipped, large patio and 30ft swimming pool.

Home is brand new for e patio and 30ft swimming pool. Home is brand new for Year 2000, ideally located for all attractions, 10 mins to Disney. For further details contact Keith or Lorraine Murphy on 01482 659452.

**FLORIDA**. New 4 bed holiday home on private estate, Extended screened pool and deck, air-con, 2 bathrooms, sleeps 10. 15 mins from Disney and other attractions. Nearest golf, one mile. Available from December. Contact Dave Yarwood on 01928 735609.

**FLORIDA**, luxury 4 bed/2 bath villa, screened heated pool, air conditioned, sleeps 10. Minutes from Disney and other attractions. Situated in gated community with clubhouse, communal pool, tennis and soccer facilities. Numerous golf courses nearby. Contact Darren Bawden on 01625 502584 or James Benson on 01946 591255.

**FORD** Sierra Sapphire 1987 D-reg, tax Mar, MOT Aug, good cond, some service history, 2.0L tow bar £550 ono tel 01268 757367 or 07788 430626.

**FOR** sale, golf bag and balls, together with irons, all in very good condition, £80 ono, Ron Douglas 01277 215078. **FULL** set left-handed Howson Derby golf clubs. One, three, five woods, three to wedge, sand iron, putter. Good condition, £65, Supt John Coyle, Corporate Support, extn 51000.

**HALESWORTH**, Suffolk. Two bed victorian cottage lov-

ingly restored, close to town centre but near coast, Broads and lovely countryside. Weekly or weekend hire at reasonable rates. Contact Pc Taylor on 01245 324651.

**HIGHLAND** Holidays. Set in the wilds of the Highlands, bed and breakfast on a daily or weekly basis, in the comfort of an Austrian style home set in woods in Duthil. Alternatively a 4 bed bungalow in the forest, sleeps 8 comfortably, open fire and privacy. A 20% discount for police personnel past and present. Call Andy Nunn on 01479 841717.

**HOLIDAY** accommodation in Florida. Three bed luxury house, sleeps up to 6, air conditioning, all sports facilities, 8 mins from Disneyworld and Orlando attractions, £325 per week. Contact Pc Mike Hall at Stansted Airport or 0585 156000.

**HOLIDAY** bungalow. Bempton nr Bidlington, East Yorkshire heritage coast. Privately situated. Sleeps 4. Maintained and equipped to high standard. Dc Pat Oxley on 01964 527531.

**MIJAS** Golf, Costa Del Sol. Luxury Spanish pueblo style house overlooking golf course and Mediterranean. Twin bedded room downstairs with attractive upstairs lounge with sofa bed. Fully equipped, satellite television, south facing sun terrace. Three swimming pools, discount golf. Gary Glassfield on 35613 or 01245 328262.

**ORIGINAL** Florida. experience. Idyllic quiet setting

backing on to wetlands, 4 beds, detached, air con, large solar heated pool, sleeps 10, close to Disney and major road links, competitive tee. Contact 01621 850957.

**PINE** Lodge Hotel, Newquay, Cornwall. Ideal location for town centre and beaches. All bedrooms en-suite with tea-making facilities and colour televisions. Refurbished for 1999 season. Large car park, heated outdoor pool. Contact Roger Wheeler for brochure and tariff on 01637 850891.

**POLZEATH**, Cornwall. Self-contained static home, five mins walk to sandy beach. Miles of National Trust coastal walks. TV/video, own toilet. Most dates available (fishing and golf nearby). Contact D. Turner on 01375 846704.

**TEAK** dining suite, oval gate leg table, six chairs, large sideboard, £150 ono. Tel. Mick Ager on 01787 473397.

**TO LET**. Florida - 10 mins from Disney World. 4 bed, 2 bath luxury villa with pool. Sleeps 8 to 10. Situated on quiet Lindfields Development close to major attractions and golf courses. Private rental. Owned by serving officer. Special offer for January to March 2000, reduced to £350 per week for police employees. For colour brochure, price list and availability for 2000 and 2001, contact Steve or Lyn Parry on 01446 411961.

**WANTED** Atari ST1040 computer for my son for music studies. Fair price paid. Neil Davidson, Corringham, Extn 70125.

### BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE - ONE WORD PER BOX


Name and rank .....

Station ..... Home Tel.....

Date ..... Signed .....

Send to The Editor, The Law, Press Office, Essex Police Headquarters.

# Another 108 officers are on the move

A FURTHER 108 officers will be sharing their experience across the county in April, following the introduction last year of a deployment policy.

November saw the start of redressing an imbalance in the workforce, which had built up over many years, with 51 officers being redeployed.

The movement increased the number of experienced officers in the south of the county and gave the north more young-in-service officers.

The latest deployment

moves will take place at the beginning of April coinciding with the Essex Police boundary changing.

However, "new" Harlow involves less than a third of the number of officers being redeployed.

All divisions except Stansted will be affected by the changes, which have to come about to maintain a quality service for all parts of the county, including rural areas.

Officers have been notified about their redeployment and to minimise disruption most

officers will be redeployed to a neighbouring division.

Any officers with problems arising from redeployment should discuss these with their manager.

Although it is recognised that some of the officers affected do not wish to move, change is necessary for policing in Essex to keep in step with present day challenges.

Chief Constable David Stevens, reporting to the Essex Police Authority about deployment, stated that all officers join Essex Police on the understanding that they

will serve anywhere in the county.

Assistant Chief Constable, Joe Edwards explains the reason for the moves:

"It is about sharing responsibility for policing Essex. Quality policing requires a balance of resources with their respective skills and experience," he said.

This is expected to be the last large movement of personnel under the deployment policy as redeployment of personnel to police posts will be ongoing as required.

## Taxi Watch success

TAXI Watch in the Uttlesford District is celebrating the success of its first year.

The scheme was launched last year as a partnership between Essex Police, Uttlesford District Council and local taxi drivers.

The scheme had two main aims of protecting Taxi Watch members from violent crime and helping to ensure a safe travel environment for passengers.

### Arrests

During the first few months alone, information circulated via the network resulted in several arrests. These included offences of vehicle theft and GBH.

Local Crime Prevention Officer, Peter Caulfield said: "I am delighted with the success of the scheme and I extend my sincere thanks for all the support that has been provided by the watch members".

## Swim gala

THE Croker Cup swimming gala takes place at Gloucester Park swimming pool, Basildon, on Sunday, January 16 (6pm).

Trophies will be presented at the poolside after the event, followed by a buffet at Basildon Police Station bar.

For further information, contact Pc David Mathlin on extension 47135 or John

## Air disaster test

### From page 1

As air investigators set to work VIPs began to arrive. Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott expressed his thanks to the emergency services, while Korean Ambassador Sung Hong Choi, paid his respects at the scene.

There followed representatives from the Korean Government, the airline and Boeing. Even the families of the dead flew to Essex to see for themselves the tragic scene which had claimed their loved ones.

Days of sifting through the wreckage followed and, as the airport re-opened and gradually returned to normal, the media dispersed.

It was after Christmas that the second flight recorder was recovered in the main crater and air investigators are currently working on their report.

Early indications are that the crew were experiencing instrumentation problems shortly before the crash.

### Clean-up

Protection of the scene continued into the New Millennium requiring 80 officers at any one time. Only in the last few days has the clean-up operation begun with the scene now under the control of the insurers, the RAF and a commercial security company.

Assistant Chief Constable

(Operations) Joe Edwards said: "The eyes of the world were on Essex Police during this operation and I want to personally thank each and every officer and member of support staff for their role in both the investigation and ensuring public safety.

"Our successful handling of incidents like this show what can be achieved when we all work as a team."

## Officers 'not put at risk'

### From page 1

A risk assessment was made by Essex Police of the crash site, which was physically hazardous, but the criteria for depleted uranium becoming toxic were in this instance not met and therefore did not become an issue, said Mr Edwards.

A multi-agency meeting took place on Thursday, January 6 to discuss reinstating the landscape at the site.

Mr Edwards said he was aware of a number of concerns raised by officers about potential dangers at the crash site in the immediate aftermath of the accident.

He said: "Expert advice was taken from the health and safety adviser to the AAIB, an organisation fully experienced in the potential hazards surrounding such a crash, and we were assured that there was no danger to the health of our officers.

"Before receiving this advice, all emergency services staff at the scene were pulled back to a safe distance as a precautionary measure.

"Police officers who attended this incident were not exposed to danger and this message has been circulated around the force," said Mr Edwards.

## PAA dates and selection

THE Regional PAA Indoor Games take place in Peterborough, on Monday, February 7 (darts, billiards, snooker and table tennis).

The Regional PAA Badminton Championships take place at Kempston, Bedfordshire on Tuesday, February 8.

The following officers have been selected to represent the National PAA in forthcoming events:

Dc John Stewart (HQ CID) and Pc John Anderson (Harlow Traffic) in a bowls fixture versus the British Fire Service at Blackpool.

Pc Mick Bond (Coppford),

annual cross country fixture versus RAF and Prison Service.

The sports shop opening times for early 2000 are: every Wednesday 12-2pm, and Saturdays January 22, February 5 and 19, March 11 and 25, all between 9am and 1.30pm.

## Santa's helper



● Santa got a helping hand from Christopher White, two-year-old son of David White from the TV Unit, when he attended the Sports and Social Club Xmas party last month.

The popular event was attended by 120 children, who were entertained by Billy Buckle who organised balloon modelling and party games to keep them amused.

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*Sport  
and Leisure*

# Youth scheme taps into soccer popularity

**THE popularity of football is being used in Braintree Division to encourage young people, who are frustrated or alienated by society, to link up with their community.**

**by Kim White**

The Braintree Football

Community Link Project, is a partnership between NACRO Youth Activities Unit (a national charity), Braintree District Council and Essex Police and has been officially launched by Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark.

Already the scheme

includes four clubs in Braintree, Halstead and Witham, providing opportunities for youngsters aged 10 to 16 to learn the skills of sport and be part of a team no matter what their level of ability.

## Fun

Tournaments and funs days will provide interac-

tion between the clubs and the youngsters will also get the chance to learn about other issues, such as diet and nutrition and drug awareness.

Weekly training sessions are run by volunteers who are fully vetted and receive professional guidance on subjects such as coaching and health education. Sponsors such as Sport

England, Lions Clubs International and Rotary International have aided funding.

Supt Pete Sheldrake said: "This is an excellent scheme and will benefit Essex Police in actively engaging the youth of the area, thereby reducing calls to us."

"We wholeheartedly support this financially and also with our volunteers."

## Hockey teams line-up some tasty fixtures

IT'S been an exciting time for Essex Police Men's and Ladies' Hockey Teams - with some great fixtures coming up.

The ladies are still in the PAA Cup, having recently knocked out Merseyside 4-3 and are away to the RUC on January 12.

Let's hope they can repeat last year's performance when they won there.

They are also through to the final of the Essex Shield on Sunday, February 27, to be played at Redbridge and Ilford Sports Centre where they will be playing Old Loughtonians, the current holders, or Waltham Forest, both of whom are in the division above.

The ladies secured their place in an exciting semi-final against Witham which they won 4-3 on penalty flicks.

In the Saturday Essex League they are currently in second place in division four and approaching the half-way point of the season are

looking good for promotion for the second year running.

They have currently scored more goals than any other team - 44 so far.

The men's side is also having a good season despite being knocked out of the PAA Cup in the second round by the Metropolitan Police East London team.

This was due mainly to having to field a weak side and going down to ten men through an injury part way through the game.

However, in the PAA Plate they recently travelled to Exeter, thankfully with a full team, and defeated a very strong Devon & Cornwall team 2-0. They are now away to either Kent or Sussex in the next round due to be played on January 12.

In the Saturday league they are having their best season yet, currently leading Division 5SE and being undefeated as they approach the half way point in the season.

**Bob Ward, Secretary**

## National call-up

CONSTABLES Justin Beacher, Stephen Morris and Nathan Munson were all selected to represent the British Police in a football match against the West Midlands Police in November.

They also represented the English Police with their colleague Steve Crane against

Loughborough University in December.

Also selected to play for the British Police Section, but this time playing squash, was Dc Jason Foster from Harlow.

Constable Chris Jacob, Rochford was recently selected to play table tennis in the National League for British Police.



● Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark kicks off the youth soccer scheme at Braintree, watched by some of the youngsters who will be taking part and the volunteers who will be running the scheme.

*Photo courtesy of Tim Fox Evans Photography.*

## Lads' new strip

**FA Cup Sponsors AXA came to the aid of Elmwood Colts Under 13's from Rayleigh by kitting out the whole team in a brand new football strip.**

**The kit donation is part of a nation-wide programme run by leading insurance group AXA to benefit clubs at the grass-roots level of football.**

**Inspector John Meggison, who runs the club said: 'The kit has come at a great time for us and we're extremely grateful to AXA for choosing us.'**

## Cricket practice Paul is world class

ESSEX Police Cricket Club is holding its usual winter nets for those who wish to be involved in the forthcoming season. Nets commenced on January 4 (2-3.30pm) at the Essex County Cricket Club Indoor School and will con-

tinue through until March. They will not be available in half-term time (February 22). Anyone who has not played for the club before, but thinks they might be good enough should contact Joe Wrigely on 54201.

## £2000 by 2000

THE Essex Air Ambulance has benefitted to the tune of £2000 this year following fundraising by the Notley Air Ambulance Fund.

A collection of foreign currency from Essex Police members has contributed £48.20. Trustee of the fund,

Paul Stirland has now beaten his target, with the grand total now standing at £2001.10.

Anyone wishing to make a donation can send foreign currency or sterling to Sue Ajmi in the Area Personnel Advisers Office in Personnel.

## Magnificent efforts

THANKS to all the helpers a magnificent sum of £1475 was raised by the fireworks night at HQ for the Essex Air Ambulance Fund.

A well supported Children in Need quiz night and raffles

raised a grand total of £2096 this year. The wheelbarrow was won by Ryan Gilliard from IT. The scarecrow family of dolls have yet to be claimed. The winning ticket was pink 972.

CHELMSFORD Traffic officer Paul Anderson competed in an Open International Canoe race in Dublin, named the Liffey Descent, winning the Racing Canadian Singles Class.

Paul completed the 17.5 mile course, negotiating numerous rapids and weirs in flood conditions in 2 hours 30 minutes, in first position with a six minute lead.

The race marked the end of the 1999 International season confirming Paul's 13th world ranking and 2nd national ranking.

He has also recently been included in the Great Britain team, senior development squad, preparing for the 2000 Worlds.



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