



Scenes of crime officers now work around the clock collecting evidence

PUTTING SCIENCE ON THE FRONT LINE

SCENES of crime officers are joining the front line providing 24 hour operational working, following a successful pilot in the county.

It was back in November 1998, when scientific support was being provided on a call-out only basis after 10pm, that the trial began.

Alongside its aim of improving the quality of service both to officers and members of the public, was the hope that the perceived remoteness of scenes of crime officers to their operational colleagues would be dispelled.

With one officer covering south of the county and a second covering the north, it was, initially, the decision of the scenes of crime officers whether there was a need to attend an incident or simply advise.

Such was the positive response to the service, however, that the mandate was reversed to the effect that every crime should be attended unless specific reasons dictate otherwise. Rare examples for not attending would be the needs of householders, or weather conditions making evidence recovery impossible.

It has now been decided that the pilot be made permanent with two officers providing cover 10pm to 6am and two more filling the gap between 6am and the 9am day shift. As well as providing a better service during the night it alleviates the

by Kim White

pressure on those working the day shift who no longer arrive to a backlog of jobs.

In cases where there is a major crime, the duty SOCO will take initial action to preserve the scene until the arrival of the on call SOC DCI or DI. Likewise if both SOCOs are tied up with a job and a third is required there will always be additional officers on call.

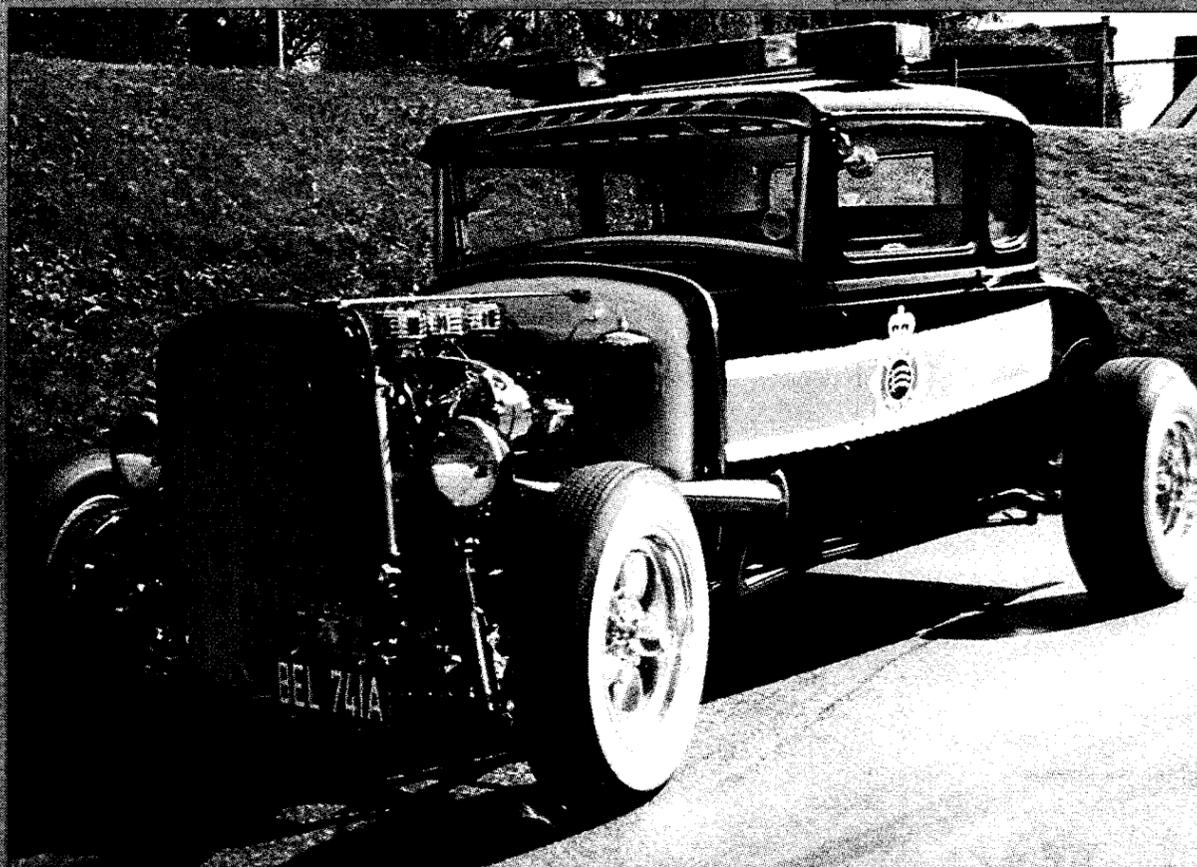
The system was recently subject to favourable comment during a HMI inspection.

Head of Scientific Support, DCI Tom Harper, said: "I am extremely pleased that 24 hour SOC working is now a permanent feature of SOC life. I am determined to bring operational scenes of crime officers shoulder to shoulder with front-line colleagues using science at every opportunity to detect and prevent crime."

"In my view this could only be achieved by 24 hour working and I am especially pleased with the efforts of all SOCOs in making this work. The endorsement of 'good practice' by the HMI during his inspection was the icing on the cake."

Any officer requiring scientific support during unsocial hours can contact the duty SOCO via the Force Information Room. Each front office should also have a list of which division is providing the nightly cover.

Dragged into a new look



OFFICERS will be disappointed to discover that this is not the new line in Essex Police response cars, but the customisation of a drag racer owned by Transport Management's acting purchasing manager, Mark Watson.

Mark got rather a surprise when he found colleagues had lived up to his pride and joy with the Essex Police livery, but had to admit it gave the American 1931 Ford Model A a smart new look.

Don't be deceived, however. It might be fabulously fast but the road holding and braking performance are somewhat suspect.

An insight
into the
work of our
colleagues

PAST and present members of Essex Police may relate to the type of events covered in *Call an Ambulance*, a new book about the NHS Ambulance Service.

The author tells of his experiences as an operational ambulance-man in the late 1960s and 1970s when personnel were appointed and dispatched, untrained and without uniform, for 'on the job training' with an experienced colleague.

These ambulance crews turned out to tackle incidents from births to deaths and everything in between.

The reader is taken through a series of often-unbelievable incidents and situations experienced by very few outside the emergency services.

Copies of the book can be obtained after July 1 from Woodfield Publishing, Babsham Lane, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 5EL at a cost of £8 including postage and packing.

Chairman claims service is at 'its lowest ebb'

FOLLOWING on from the National Federation Conference held last month your national chairman called for a Royal Commission on Policing. I precis his comments below:

The clarion call for a new root and branch examination of the police service was made by Fred Broughton, Chairman of the Police Federation, in front of more than 1,000 officers attending the organisation's annual conference in Brighton.

The demand comes at a time when the new century finds the service at its lowest ebb in recent memory and 40 years after the recommendations of the last Royal Commission, undertaken between 1960-



62, have become redundant.

"The county and the police service has changed out of all recognition since 1960," said Mr Broughton. "The recommendations and conclusions of the last Royal Commission relate to a police service that has long since disappeared. There was then no drugs problem, virtually no gun crime, almost no motorways, immigration was an issue in a few city areas but race relations were not considered.

"Eighty thousand police officers dealt with about half a million crimes a year. In the year 2000, there will be at least five million crimes reported to 125,000 officers. We now have 46,000 more

officers to deal with four and a half million additional crimes. In simple terms, that means today's officers are dealing with ten times as many crimes.

"In 1960, the patrolling beat bobby was the foundation of policing, there were no personal radios, policewomen were employed only on duties relating to women and children, they had their own department and career structure, but not equal pay. The police use of firearms was virtually nil. There were no specialist squads. There was no public order training and no kind of riot gear."

Mr Broughton said that society's transformation over the last 40 years has been accompanied by tinkering with policing, usually dictated by politicians, which has often satisfied neither police officers nor the public.

Confidence

"The police and the public it serves is crying out for redefined direction and the impetus to go forward with confidence in the difficult years ahead. A Royal Commission would set a reasoned, logical, balanced, and non-partisan agenda for the police service of this new century," he said.

The Chairman believes the public's esteem for the police has gone into decline in recent years with the police service becoming the 'fall guys' for many of the ills of society, social tensions and sustained under investment.

"If we look at some of the areas which attract criticism from the public, we find that we are seen as losing the fight against drugs. We are seen as remote and no longer omniscient. People say we have got our priorities wrong. The trouble is that different groups have different ideas of what police priorities should be.

"Years ago, there was no ambivalence about the role of the police service. We were there to achieve the primary objectives - protecting life and property, preventing and detecting crime, prosecuting wrong-

doers. The job description was simple, and the job was done.

"Today the terms of reference of policing have become muddled, and often contradictory. The service has become the handy dustbin for the insoluble problems for a wholly more complex society than the one that existed 40 years ago. Policing has diversified.

"Now we carry out a range of tasks that, admirable and essential as each might be, begs the question of whether the police should be doing them. Should, for example, police time and personnel be tied up in case conferences about young offenders? Why should the police be seen as part of the treatment of offenders?"

Mr Broughton said the time had now come for a wholesale review of policing which could include an examination of the structure of today's 43 forces, of police training which is currently failing the service, the status of the police constable - a rank which the vast majority of officers hold, a debate about the role, if any, of the private sector in future policing development, the merits of patrolling, and the extent to which technology plays an everyday part in policing.

He said: "We hear much talk about more changes in the offing. But why should we leave our futures, and the futures of those who come after us, to the politicians? It is 40 years since the representatives of the police service had the chance to sit down with a body of independent and eminent Royal Commissioners, and set out our vision for the future of policing. A very large part of what we proposed was embodied in the Royal Commission's report. I am convinced the time is right for us to do an equally valuable job with another such Commission."

Addressing Jack Straw, Mr Broughton said: "The previous Royal Commission got it right when it said 'the maintenance of law and order ranks with national defence as a primary task of government. It is an essential condition of a nation's survival and happiness'.

"You Sir, would be rendering a profound service to your fellow citizens, and to us, if you decided, in the near future, to set in a train the root and branch examination of the state of the British

police service that present circumstances so clearly demand."

In 1960, there were 80,000 police officers dealing with half a million reported crimes. Today we have 126,000 officers dealing with at least five million crimes. In effect, we have half a many officers as in 1960 dealing with ten times a many crimes.

In 1960 crime was predominantly local. Criminals were not a mobile. There were just ten million registered vehicles. Now there are 40 million.

Declined

Violent crime increased nearly three fold between 1979 and 1997 (168 per cent increase). In 1979 there were 129,285 violent crimes recorded by the police. In 1997 the figure had jumped to 347,064.

Between 1979 and 1993 the overall trend for police officer strengths was up. This has declined since 1993 with a drop of nearly 3,000 officers.

Figures between March 1997 and March 1999 show officer strengths decreased by over 1,200.

Between March 1998-99, recruitment fell by 837 officers (13 per cent) whilst wastage has remained stable.

Emergency 999 calls to the police have increased by nearly 3.5 million (3,434,392) in five years. Between 1993-94, when Audit Commission performance indicators began, there were 4,563,936. In 1998-99, latest available figures, there were nearly eight million calls (7,998,323).

In 1960 there were 126 police forces. Today there are 43.

I must say Jack Straws reply gave no promises for a Royal Commission but he did say talks would take place. His whole speech left a lot to be desired, with political talk but nothing actually being said.

Finally, I must say best wishes to Brian Pallant who was your Branch Board Secretary up to 1997 and has been a Joint Central Committee member up to his leaving on the June 9 this year. He was an excellent ambassador for Essex and also worked to represent your views in the best possible way. I wish him and Ann many happy years of retirement and best wishes for their future.

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Intelligence at a touch of a button

THE intelligence network of Essex Police has taken a step forward with the introduction of divisional briefings on the intranet, available to all users.

The idea first emerged about a year ago when Harlow Division requested a slot on the intranet where they could place briefing items such as, daily incidents, wanted people and prisoner releases. It was authorised, but there was concern that the briefing sheets for Harlow, Epping and Brentwood all had individual appearances and it was felt that a more corporate look was needed.

A software company was tasked with creating a package and there are now new-look briefing sheets available for all divisions, with the exception of Harlow which was being rolled out as *The Law* went to press. There is also a site for the Central Intelligence Bureau but designated users are yet to be trained in updating the sheet.

You can find both daily and weekly information on the system with details deleting automatically after 28 days. Also included on each briefing sheet are details of all arrests made each day. This is made possible by the system being linked in with custody records, automatically copying details on to the relevant briefing sheets every hour.

Not only is the new system easy to update by designated users, and easy to view by all personnel, it reduces the amount of duplicated paperwork. In addition it enables officers to keep abreast of intelligence in neighbouring divisions and may help investigations or inquiries of their own.

Local intelligence officer at Chelmsford Tara Boutell, said: "The new system is a lot quicker and easy to access. It gives officers the chance to view up-to-date information at the touch of a button."

Tara's supervisor Lorraine Bower admits: "It's not without its teething problems. For instance you can only attach one photo to each item. But we've fed back these issues to IT, and the officers certainly seem to like the new system."

Squad motors on

THE Essex Police Car Squad would like officers to know that they are still motoring on.

Based at Brentwood, under the supervision of a sergeant, Dc Andy Bird and vehicle examiner Dave Godard are particularly keen to have any stolen vehicle intelligence passed to them, as well as hearing from officers who require vehicle examination.

They come under the wing of the CIB road policing section and have their own email address, which is CIB - Car Squad.

Reducing the language barrier

by Norman Hicks

A NEW facility has been launched by Essex Police to help improve the service it offers ethnic minorities in the county.

Language Line is a telephone-based translating service, which will enable non-English speaking individuals to become fully included in the county's policing.

More than 100 languages are spoken in Essex and for some

residents English is not a first language, if spoken at all. This means that services such as those provided by Essex Police are not easily accessed and perhaps avoided.

The basis of the new translator service is that, when dealing with a person unable to speak English, an officer can ring a dedicated number, identify the language required and within a minute have an appropriate translator on the line.

Road death research reaps reward

AN Essex Police officer has been congratulated by the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, for his research into the handling of road deaths.

Sgt Mark Bird, based at HQ Driving School, won a Home Office Police Research Award Scheme last year and used the opportunity to examine nationally the minimum effective training levels for those officers that investigate road deaths.

The research has been carried out involving all 43 police forces of England and Wales and has looked at good practice from all these force areas.

The study highlighted how officers can feel isolated with little or no training being offered. They also sometimes feel they do not have the ability to effectively, efficiently and ethically investigate this type of incident.

Sgt Bird said: "The research also looked at the expectations of victims groups and other agencies and for me working within this area has given me a great insight into victims' needs, especially with regard to the manner in which police officers investigate the circumstances surrounding the death of a relative."

The research is expected to be published this month and already has support from ACPO.



● Sgt Mark Bird accepts his award from Home Secretary Jack Straw.

Offbeat

A HARLOW man reporting criminal damage to his vehicle did not get the result he expected.

His Peugeot car had had 'no road tax on the vehicle' scratched on the paintwork.

Funnily enough the police officer attending reported the man for 'no road tax on the vehicle'.

I DON'T think we can help you madam as assault by beddery is not a criminal offence!

Force information room contacted ambulance control after a woman reported that her remote control adjustable bed had had a bit of a wobbly, folding up with her still inside, and not responding to the remote.

She was in pain as she had been in the predicament for an hour or more.

Ambulance personnel managed to extract her without any police assistance.

OFFICERS attending a house after a woman reported an attempted break via the front door found a wasp stuck in the lock.

Maybe he thought he was a front door buzzer!

A THIEF who thought he had made a clean break for it after being found in the compound of a heating firm was later arrested in possession of ten boxed shower units believed to have been stolen from the premises.

Officers asked to submit DNA

IN January 2000, the Government allocated funds with the specific intention of creating a DNA database for front-line police staff.

The object of this is to facilitate the elimination of innocent contamination, for instance a cough or single hair, by police personnel against DNA profiles obtained by Criminal Justice samples, crime scene stains and evidential casework, which have been loaded onto the National DNA Database.

So far about 150 Essex officers have given DNA samples, which is on a purely voluntary basis.

Any front-line officers who want to give DNA (non-intimate) samples, should contact their local divisional scenes of crime officers.

An elimination search procedure will only be initiated by the senior investigating officer or the Scientific Support manager.

All profiles taken from police staff will be removed from the database when individuals leave the employment of the police service.

Law letters

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

Make better use of your Watch

IT IS with much interest that I open *The Law* each month.

Being a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator can be a thankless task, and receiving *The Law* reminds us we are not forgotten or alone.

I also feel privileged to be able to read of the highs and lows of Essex policing.

I agree with Frank Holden's letter (May), the public want to see bobbies on the beat. A face-to-face, low key role for police would do wonders for public relations and probably public assistance, so it is not even counter-productive.

We otherwise see the police only when they flash noisily by in their panda cars, or when they 'hound' the motorist for what is perceived to be a minor technical offence.

I believe it would also be productive if the Neighbourhood Watch schemes were 'milked' harder by the police, even if police resources are diminishing.

We can borrow post-coding kits, anti-crime videos and pamphlets on demand; and get the rare, and increasingly infrequent phone calls asking us to produce a newsletter advising members of confidence tricksters in the area or seeking other help.

However, I believe we should receive at least weekly updates by Ringmaster phone, at least a monthly report to copy round to our members, and have at least an annual meeting with Neighbourhood Watch and the local police.

If we cannot keep the Neighbourhood Watch members interested, or up to speed, the potentially excellent scheme is going to fizzle out.

Mike L Smith
Witham

No support in our country havens

I RETIRED from Essex Police in 1977.

Living as I do on the Essex, Suffolk border, I begin to appreciate what it must have been like to live in the early west of the USA, without a sheriff.

You see we don't have one either!

The results are clear to see, we have become a dumping ground for stolen and burned out vehicles (three within a thousand yards of

my home), sheds raided, tools stolen, even burglaries unreported, being regarded as a 'waste of time'.

Many villages are plagued with gangs of boorish male and female louts on an almost nightly basis (daily at weekends). A visit by the occasional 'panda' deters them, until it departs; then back to square one!

Car and van owners blatantly drive without any apparent form of

documentation. One at least to my knowledge has been stopped or moved on without any forthcoming apparent proceedings.

The elderly in my village will not answer their front door to me, (I am Neighbourhood Watch), I have to push notes through their letterbox.

I recently travelled to and toured Yorkshire by motor coach and, including the journey through the

'Met' and other counties, I personally saw five police - all in cars!

The Chairman of the Police Federation was quite right in his statement "we are not there when we are wanted".

Will I awake one day and find I have been dreaming all of this; I think not!

James Allen
Haverhill

Positive response to new shift system

IN the *Police Review* magazine of May 12, 2000 Essex Federation Chairman Dave Jones writes of his "concern over impact of 11-hour shifts on front-line officers".

His attitude seems to indicate that he is against the system and is in fear that it has already been decided that it will stay and be a success. I have news for Mr Jones, it may have been running for a little over two months but the overwhelming feeling by those who are actually working it, is that it has many advantages and can work.

It is interesting to note that when, as a Chelmsford officer, I meet officers from Southend or Basildon they tell me that they have heard that Chelmsford officers don't like it. The same rumour seems to be available to us at Chelmsford that the other two don't like it.

However, again the truth is that all those that I have spoken to love the new 11-hour shifts, from all three divisions. Why the confusion and negativity? Could it be that senior officers, apparently supported by the Federation are briefing their officers that they should not get too comfortable with the new system as there are a lot of resourcing problems to be overcome.

Bedford has thrown their system out so ours must naturally be doomed to failure.

Yes we only have two shifts available on any one day, but those two shifts are lifelong partners and get used to each others habits and working practices. How often do large scale support calls occur - often enough that we should scrap such a good working pattern that appears to make the shift officers job attractive for the first time in many years?

I have 20 years' service and the thought of my return to three shifts of seven days duration, whether straights or any of the hybrids, filled me with fear. I can report that despite my service I feel healthy, alert and happy to be on a core policing shift and this is wholly attributable to the new 11-hour shift pattern.

Yes, there is more time off, no it does not make you tired, and shift numbers are not less than where fielded under the old system.

It is a new system and we

need to stop comparing it with the old. It can be made to work but it may need some give and take on behalf of the Federation. I would certainly support the possibility of the first or last of the three day rest period being subject to cancellation without remuneration, simply a day owed in lieu.

I personally would also support time-and-half pay instead of double time for the other days if cancelled with less than eight days notice, such is my support of the new system. I am sure that any Federation rep's will be horrified at this suggestion but what do the rest of you think.

Resource concerns are natural but the welfare and job satisfaction experienced by the police forces' greatest asset, its officers, should surely take a lead in any assessment of the 11 hour pattern. Also, it certainly

appears that the casual overtime being worked has reduced which should provide funds for contingencies. I may not work for all sections of the organisation but if only makes the core role of shift officers attractive for once then it must be worth of retention.

Please print this letter as I hope a useful debate will ensue and hopefully show that the rumours are unfounded. Many of our supposed perks were squandered by the Federation in the past with no concessions from the official side e.g. rent allowance. Here we have an opportunity to improve our working pattern and I hope that the Federation does not dig its heels in at the wrong time and lose such a potentially good working pattern.

PC Mark Harvey
D' Shift Chelmsford

Parking pandemonium

THE roads, side streets, closes, side road bus routes, even major roads, As and Bs are packed with overnight car and commercial vehicle parkers, many, just like my neighbours, who have double garages filled with junk, or cannot be bothered to put them away.

Some find it difficult to even put them on their empty drives.

Also, a very important factor is forgotten, a jammed up side road/street suffers from reduced house values.

There is the inability for emergency vehicles to proceed without moving an offending vehicle.

Companies allow their employees to house their goods vehicles at their home (saves expensive parking areas at the place of business), however cluttering up the highways.

I feel there is no incentive for the police to do anything about them, because they get no back-up from the judiciary.

The law, going back to the early 60s when it was no longer necessary to have illuminated parking lights, was made quite clear, parking of an unlighted vehicle, was prohibited, also it was an offence to park facing the wrong direction, on A roads or on a bus route.

A lot of good that is now, it would

appear to make life easier all round to ignore that rule.

Drivers even park at the bus stop.

There are no foot patrolling police about to knock on their door and tell them to move it!

I therefore suggest, as my resolve to help solve the problem, that all cars should display a disc (a punch out cert of insurance, similar to a road fund disc).

This disc should state the insurance company name, in a known code for only the police to check by, names could lead to fraudulent claims, the policy number, grouping covered, registration number, period covered, and whether covered to be parked outside the insured premises overnight.

If all insurance companies followed this procedure then perhaps there would be less opportunity for cars to be stolen, or interfered with.

It would clear the streets and roads, in view of the additional cost these people would have to pay by being honest.

I can easily guess that most people say their car is garaged when it is not.

For people away from home, the code would tell the police immediately.

Those with no garage facilities at all, should be dealt with sympathetically, but those with garage facilities should be

hit hard.

The current situation, with politicians, is that the police are all doing a magnificent act of being ostriches with their heads in the sand and waving their hands in the air "What can we do? Our hands are tied".

My view is to attack the source and solve the problem.

I have small hopes for Mr Prescott to support my plan, he, more than likely, parks his Jags in the kerb.

Answer untie the hands, remove the head from the sand, the pocket is the only way of getting to these inconsiderate people.

Billericay, like other areas is becoming jammed.

Why can't we do something about it?

As a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator (a founder member of Billericay Neighbourhood Watch and ex-chairman of the Billericay Neighbourhood Watch Support Group) there seems to be no interest in the matter.

I have already written, with photographic evidence, on two occasions to Basildon District Council.

Their reply is "we will refer this matter to the police" result nothing! Help!

Roy Hems, Billericay

More memories to mull over

WHEN I saw the letter from Gordon Leonard in the May issue, I did a double take. The name of Chris Burgin took me back 40 odd years.

I too was a dog handler in the RAF Police at Honington. I came back from the Middle East and worked there until I was demobbed in March 1957 when I joined Essex Police. Chris Burgin and I used to travel home to Chelmsford together on the train, and I think mentioned his father was in the police.

However, being of crumbly persuasion, memory of those days is exactly crystal clear, I had a feeling he had been a police cadet before joining the RAF.

After spending half time talking over 'the days' in the police service now can get started on the now.

I wonder if any of the kids from primary school in Stirlingshire are around...

Tom Morrison, Braintree

Burglary bid pays off

THE hard work of a constable at Southend has helped to successfully secure an £80,000 Home Office grant for a burglary initiative in the Milton area of the town.

Pc Lyn Fenn, is part of the recently restructured Community Unit which now enables the division to make its own bid for extra finance. This award is the first tangible result of Pc Fenn's work.

Finance

The money secured will finance a two-year-old initiative which will see:

- support to victims of burglary, with repeat victims and vulnerable residents receiving assistance in upgrading security;
- additional support to the county-wide arrest referral scheme ensuring offenders have avenues open for treatment to stop re-offending;
- a targeted crime prevention campaign.

Chief Insp Wilson Kennedy said: "A lot of hard work has gone into preparing this bid in partnership with the Southend Borough Council and we are delighted that the potential for reducing burglary has been recognised by this award. Whilst the focus will be in the Milton area the success of the initiative will bring benefits to the whole borough."

Important

"It is important to recognise that it was the quality of the bid and its potential results that enabled us to secure the money and not the fact that burglary was on the increase. Indeed the opposite was true with a substantial reduction last year. The money will help to ensure that this downward trend continues."

It is hoped that this will be the first of a number of successful bids from the Home Office Crime Reduction Initiative, as Pc Fenn works in close collaboration with the council's funding department, drawing on their already existing ability in this area.

Assistant Chief Constable (Crime) John Broughton, said: "I congratulate Southend, and in particular Pc Fenn, on their hard work. We are in a climate where it is essential to target our resources, and one way of achieving this is through our commitment to partnerships, and by seeking support from the Home Office. Formulating business cases and making bids for extra finance is an activity to be encouraged if we are to continue to make Essex a safer place."

Review analyses the effect of rural teams

A THOROUGH study of the work carried out by the rural policing teams across the county is now underway.

Following the introduction of the rural policing model just over a year ago, the implementation of the model is being reviewed as part of our ongoing commitment to providing the best rural policing service possible.

The review is being headed by Chief Insp Jed Stopher and will

by Ruth Collin

look at divisional management of the model and at public response to it.

Command teams have been asked to confirm the current status of staffing and resources within their division's teams. A selection of rural and community teams from across the county are being surveyed on their comparative workloads and levels of abstractions. This will be analysed together with data from divisions without rural teams to establish the impact of divisional

requirements on rural teams.

The effect of the implementation on the local community will also be measured through a study of the levels of recorded crime, disorder and detected crime.

Members of the public will also be asked for their knowledge and experiences of the new teams. A survey is being produced that will assess residents' awareness of the service available to them and their perception of it.

Chief Insp Jed Stopher said: "We want this review to look at how the model has been implemented by Essex Police and the effect of that implementation on the service received by the public. We'll be analysing the information received and will be reporting back to chief officers later in the summer."

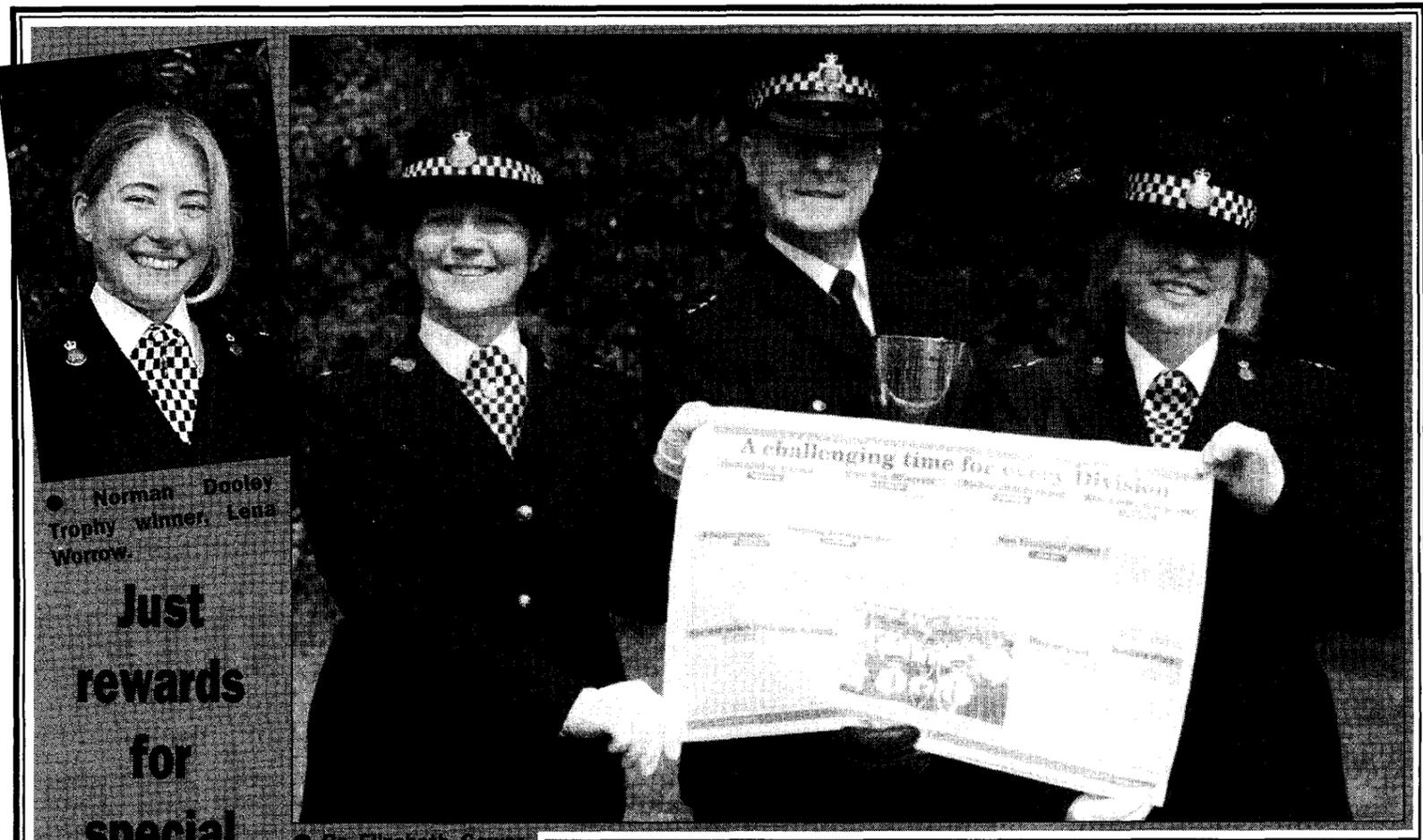
Disability facilities assessed

ESSEX Police is being proactive in its approach to providing a service to the whole community.

A focus group has recently been set up which includes people with various disabilities to work with Essex Police Property Services Manager, Russell Whitaker, to review all Essex Police buildings with regard to their use by members of the public with disabilities.

Southend division has also formed a focus group, this time with staff, to contact local disability groups so that a better understanding and awareness of their needs will enable them to use our services to the full.

For any further information please contact Jan Woodhouse, Equal Opportunities Adviser.



● Norman Dooley Trophy winner, Lena Worrow.

Just rewards for special volunteers

● Bc Elizabeth Gower, A/Do Terence Hills and A/So Mandy Parsons with the Salter Cup.

A SPECIAL event for special people was held at headquarters recently when Chief Constable, Mr David Stevens, presented Essex Police Special Constabulary with awards for merit and long service.

Officers receiving awards for long service celebrated a total of 209 years service between them.

The Norman Dooley Trophy for the Essex Special of the year went to Tendring Acting Beat Supervisor Lena Worrow, and The Salter Cup, awarded to the division whose specials have carried out the greatest number of duties in a year, was presented to Rayleigh.

Chief Constable Stevens praised the commitment shown by Essex Police Special Constabulary saying: "Even though many of you have family and work commitments you still find time to serve the public."

Over 120,000 hours were served by the specials last year.

University of Portsmouth

Degree Opportunities for Police Staff

Certificate of Higher Education in Policing and Criminal Justice Studies

Police civilian staff and members of the special constabulary can study History, Criminology and Psychology. With two intakes per annum, the programme (equivalent to the 1st yr of a degree) provides tutor support via telephone and E-mail.

BSc (Hons) in Policing and Police Studies

This flexible degree offers a range of subjects such as Interviewing, Issues in Criminal Justice, Criminology, Police and Society and Information Technology. With two intakes per annum, the course is usually completed over a 3 yr period, but is extendable to 6 yrs.

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Clubbing together to ensure safe nights out

A NEW search procedure has been introduced to improve safety and security at night clubs in Southend.

The initiative is a partnership between Essex Police and Southend Borough Council. It involves customers agreeing to be searched by door staff as a condition of entry to a club.

Signs at club entrances advise patrons of the voluntary search condition. Anyone who refuses to be searched will not be admitted.

Sgt Steve Leese, from Southend Licensing Unit, said: "As a result of a recent Act of Parliament, the local authority and the police now have some far-reaching powers to deal with clubs perceived to have a drugs problem. It is important we all remain

vigilant to ensure we maintain a high level of safety in Southend.

"The police and the local authority, in partnership with the clubs, are always looking at ways to improve safety measures, with the aim of making clubs as drugs-free as possible."

He explained that anyone who is searched and found to be in possession of illegal drugs or a weapon faced the prospect of being arrested.

Sgt Leese added: "Door supervisors are now trained in search techniques. The searching should not cause undue delay at the door and I am sure that law-abiding customers will understand that these measures are to ensure that their evening is safe and trouble-free."

Nominate a crimefighter

A NATIONWIDE search has been launched to find outstanding local crimefighters to be nominated for the CGU Insurance Neighbourhood Watch Awards Scheme 2000.

The joint venture by CGU Insurance and the National Neighbourhood Watch Association, in association with BBC Local Radio, has become an established event in the crime prevention calendar, offering a total of £8,000 in prize money.

The competition is open to all of the 10 million people covered by the UK's 155,000 Neighbourhood watch schemes. The awards search out and reward the best crime prevention practice and pass on these ideas to

other schemes.

The eight award categories, each receiving £1,000 are: Co-ordinator of the Year; Urban Award; Rural Award; Community Service Award; Partnership Award; Police Award; Home Secretary Award for Young People and Scottish Young Persons Award. Certificates of Commendation are given to the best entries from every police force with the national award given to the overall winner from amongst the eight categories.

Closing date for nominations is July 28, 2000 and entry forms are available from NNWA, Schomberg House, 80-82 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HF, tel: 020 7772 3348



Artists Scott Irving and Darren Luka have tackled other projects in Essex. The example above

Street art

CHELMSFORD crime reduction Pc John Hills and Chelmsford Borough Council art development officer Juliet Martin, have won £1,000 for winning the category Improvement of the Local Environment in the council's Millennium Awards.

The money will go towards their project entitled 'U' and concerns an anti-graffiti for the Vineyards Shopping Great Baddow.

Looking at the graffiti on toilets, pedestrian ramp and bay area the management shopping centre discussed

EXCLUSIVE

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By the way, if the above deal is not entirely what you're looking for at the moment, don't worry, we can select the best from thousands of others that you may prefer. HATCH Associates are independent mortgage brokers who specialise with Police so we'll help you find the best of whatever you want - guaranteed! Call HATCH Associates now to see how much we can save you, we'll even pay for the call!

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Typical example: Mortgage £60,000, interest only, property value £100,000, term 25 years. Gross monthly repayments: 36 x £249.50 at 4.99% (APR 6.7%), representing a 2% discount from the lender's normal base variable mortgage rate for the first 3 years of the loan, followed by 264 gross monthly repayments of £349.50 at the lender's normal base variable mortgage rate, currently 6.99% (APR 7.2%). In practice, the lender's normal base variable rate and APR might differ from that assumed. Total amount payable £162,137.00 calculated to include a lender's arrangement fee of £225, a mortgage discharge fee of £125, a telegraphic transfer fee of £20, assumed legal fees of £148 and an application fee of £299 (including valuation and funds reservation). A cashback equivalent to 2% of the base loan amount will be sent by the lender direct to the applicants after receipt of the first monthly payment. Written quotations available upon request. Credit broker fees of up to 1% of the amount borrowed may be charged. Insurance may be required. No provision for early repayment fees has been made. Full or partial redemption will result in a charge as follows: years one and two, 6% of loan; years three and four, 5% of loan; year five, 4% of loan. One month's interest or notice thereafter. The total amount payable excludes any endowment policy, life assurance or buildings insurance premiums. Loans subject to status, type and value of property. Mortgage secured on property. Where loan exceeds 90% of the lower of the purchase price or valuation of the property an Additional Mortgage Security Fee will be required by the lender. Rates correct at 30/11/99. Limited funds available. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LDM SECURED ON IT.

Computer p make fina

OVER 75 per cent of Essex Police's budget is now devolved to divisional commanders or departmental heads at a time of increased financial constraints, which make it necessary to seek efficiency savings and budget reductions.

Difficult and complex decisions must be made to

by Heather Watts

meet the financial targets set.

ICL is a computer firm which has devised a decision conferencing package to aid the process.

A computer-based model is created during a two-day workshop to incorporate the views of the participants and it is used to explore the implications of their judgements with the aid of a facilitator and a

School security under scrutiny

ESSEX County Council will be assessing applications from schools across the county this month bidding for part of the £550,000 for installation of security measures. Chelmsford John Hill

Officers coping well with new shifts

THE extended hours shift system trial is now into its third month and initial reactions from officers working the trial are generally positive.

Most seem to be coping with the 11 hour shifts whilst enjoying the benefits of the three days off. Some limitations are, however, emerging from an operational point of view and are being monitored for the benefit of the final evaluation.

The Trial Guidance Notes have just been up-dated and give details about the working of the trial e.g. annual leave, rest days and refreshment breaks. If you wish to see a copy please ask your divisional Trial Liaison Officer.

In fact, if you have any comments relating to the shift trial please forward them to your liaison officers who are as follows:

Kim Bright, RMC Chelmsford
Ext 60830;
Pc Jan Chown, Basildon
Ext 40434;
Sgt Ian Clark, RMC Southend
Ext 31914.

If you have any comments and are not stationed at any of the three trial divisions contact the Project Manager, Insp John Meggison on ext 33175. Further information on the shift trial can be found on the intranet home page under the article *Facing the challenge of change - Targeting Resources*.

Conspiracy case commended

AN elaborate plot to con two elderly people out of their estates, led to the conviction and imprisonment of three people for conspiracy to defraud and forgery.

Two officers have since been commended for the exceptionally high standard of case preparation.

Dc Adrian Thomson and Dc Marion Tyson both received certificates from Chief Constable David Stevens following the lengthy and complex case which led to the exhumation of two bodies, the first of its kind in Essex for many years.

Also receiving commendations since the least edition of *The Law* were:

● Inspector Ian Debbage for his leadership together with Insp Paul Spooner for a high degree of professionalism, policing skill and effort displayed whilst involved in the major investigation of a road death on the M25 at Thurrock.

Their work in this complex inquiry resulted in the conviction of a man for causing death by dangerous driving and he was sentenced to six years' imprisonment.

● Pc Steven Chandler for his actions in April last year when he was the first officer at the scene of a large scale violent disturbance in Tilbury. Despite being vastly outnumbered he managed to effect arrests and the incident was safely ended without injury.

His positive actions brought about a quick and successful conclusion which resulted in five people being prosecuted and convicted of violent disorder.

● DCI Winston Bernard, Ds Graham Hancock, Dc Edwin Mayo, Dc Richard Bailey, Dc David McKenzie, Dc Andrew Borton, Pc Sian Mayo and Pc Russell Gay were commended for the professionalism and commitment they displayed during a joint Essex Police/Metropolitan Police Flying Squad investigation into a series of armed robberies.

The robberies took place at a number of travel agencies and convenience stores in both Essex and Metropolitan Essex. On most occasions firearms were used to threaten staff. On only one occasion was someone injured, but no shots were ever fired.

Four men stood trial as a result of the investigation. One man was sentenced to life imprisonment for armed robbery, one received ten years' imprisonment for armed robbery, one received five years'

imprisonment for armed robbery and one received two-and-a-half years' imprisonment for conspiracy to handle stolen goods.

● Pc Michael Hammond, for his drive and professionalism over a number of years at various locations in the Chelmsford division, which has seen a high level of self initiated arrests in respect of core crimes. The last 15 months have seen over 85 arrests for offences ranging from attempted robbery, burglary, violent crime, auto crime and drug offences.

● Pc Liam Allardyce and Mr Robert Derbyshire (member of the public) for their actions when in the early hours they witnessed four men leaving a vehicle in suspicious circumstances.

Observation

Pc Allardyce, who was off duty, and Mr Derbyshire kept the vehicle under observation. The suspects returned and the vehicle made off at high speed. Pc Allardyce and Mr Derbyshire followed the vehicle for several miles whilst providing a commentary to the police via a mobile phone. The vehicle was eventually stopped in the Metropolitan Police District. Four people were arrested and charged with various offences including theft of the vehicle.

● Pc Graham Bloomfield and Pc Mark Hylands for their prompt actions following a stabbing at an Essex nightclub. The stabbed man was unconscious and had to be resuscitated twice. Due to his injuries they decided to transport him direct to hospital where the staff confirmed that but for their quick thinking and use of immediate Trauma Life Support skills the man would have died.

● Pc Paul Fountain for his quick thinking and decisive action in disarming a violent drug addict who attacked a fellow officer with a carving knife at the scene of a domestic incident in Clacton.

● Pc Ian Steele for his dedication, persistence and the professional manner in which he performs his duties. For several years he has been responsible for a high level of detection of core crimes across the Chelmsford division. In the last 22 months he has been responsible for 154 arrests for offences including arson, burglary, crimes of violence, auto crime and drug offences. The high quality of file he subsequently submits greatly assists the course of justice.



found at Blackshott's Leisure Centre in Thurrock.

is a winner

Working with John and liking his suggestion of street art rather than graffiti they are donating the paint for the project.

Chelmsford Borough Council has donated some money and funds have come from Essex Police Community Safety.

Professional street artists Scott Irying, whose father is a serving Essex police officer, and Darren Lake, both from Essex, have been contacted and they will begin their work by

distributing leaflets to attract the youth of the area to join in the project.

A teaching school will be set up by them, and discussions about designs will take place with the young people joining in the art work before painting begins in earnest at the Vineyards site in July.

Any money left over from the project will be used for further sites needing a makeover in the Chelmsford borough.

Package helps to make crucial decisions

analyst. successfully by other police forces, and Essex Police Training volunteered to trial this new system.

of service delivery were with Braintree choosing sections, CID, command functional inspection, the Unit and divisional target.

workshop target had to exceed the reduction required to investment.

for each area had to be and the budget was split

over ten service areas.

Braintree chose to involve a cross-section of the division in the workshop representing all ranks and support staff levels and the command team, a total of 15 people.

Options for reductions were scored against chosen criteria and against each other, results reviewed, changes debated and considered.

When the final options were identified they were also assessed to see if they met the criteria for two per cent efficiencies.

Braintree Divisional Commander, Peter Sheldrake, said: "Whilst the

initial work by division and Finance takes a while to get exactly right the final outcome was well worth the effort.

"The process involves the full range of staff, each carrying equal authority, and thereby ensuring the budget is fully developed and influenced down to street level."

Decision conferencing is on the agenda at the next Danbury conference.

For further details see the Financial Services site on the intranet.

available the four-man panel to security decide where the funding schools will go.

unstable At the International e part of Fire and Security

Exhibition held recently John won £75 worth of stencilling in a draw, which he has donated to Woodlands School,

Patching Hall Lane, Chelmsford.

This will enable them to property mark their equipment.

New focus on medical retirements

STEWART Rowe has recently been appointed Employee Relations Officer to develop and manage a review system in respect of police ill health pensions, embracing the requirements of the Police Pension Regulations.

This new post within Personnel Department has been created as a result of recommendations made in Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary Report *Lost Time* which addressed the 'management of sickness, absence and medical retirement in the police service' and was endorsed by The Audit Commission.

Stewart Rowe will work in conjunction with Occupational Health and the Sickness Monitoring Group to provide accurate and relevant information to assist the Force Medical Officer (FMO), who is responsible for making any assessment.

Dr John Mackenzie joined the staff of Essex Police as FMO in April, a first for Essex Police.

Mr Rowe said: "Initially I have been examining our current process and also liaising with other police forces and the Home Office to provide me with a clear understanding of where we are now and where Essex Police want to be in the future.

The bottom line is that we want to be fair and consistent in our management of police ill health pensions, ensuring appropriate financial support is provided where necessary, yet mindful that we are managing public money."

Fuel for thought

ALL personnel who drive police vehicles can help keep costs down by using the cheapest form of fuel for the vehicles.

At the moment this is provided by bulk fuel sites, although these are currently under review and new replacements may be cost prohibitive.

However, there are a number of garages located throughout the county which will give Monitor Fuel Card holders, which are in every vehicle, a discount.

The companies who give discount are Jet, Safeway, Total, Fina and Texaco.

A list of the garages involved can be obtained from Transport Management at headquarters or via divisional admin departments.

By using these garages considerable savings can be made for divisions.

New policy aims to provide better support to police personnel

Targets to tackle rising sickness

A NEW policy to improve sickness levels within Essex Police has come into force.

The aim of the policy is to identify and understand why absences occur, and for appropriate action to be taken to improve attendance.

Targets have been set to reduce, by March 31 next year, the number of working days lost per police officer from 13.2 to 12.7 and per civilian support staff member from 12.8 to 12.3 annually.

Rising sickness levels in Essex were highlighted by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in its report following last year's inspection, in which it was recommended that a review of sickness management should take place.

Each division and department has been set individual targets for reducing sickness levels and the new

by Norman Hicks

policy has been backed up by training for managers and support from area personnel advisers.

Human Resources Policy Group will monitor performance against targets, highlighting good practice and seeking explanations where the targets have not been met.

Anyone who is sick will be expected to notify their division or department as soon as is practicable on the first day of sickness, giving a reason for their absence and their anticipated return to work.

The individual's supervisor/line manager will contact him or her within 24 hours, to confirm the details and to check their welfare.

After eight days' absence, the supervisor/line manager will carry out a home visit, or arrange a meeting with the individual.

Contact will be maintained at least

every seven days thereafter, with a second home visit arranged after 28 days' absence, after which period details will be passed to the Occupational Health Unit for advice on what further action is required.

Such long-term illness will also be referred to the Sickness Management Group, led by the head of personnel and training.

Normal duties

On the first day of an individual's return to work, an interview will take place with his/her supervisor/line manager, to confirm the reason for absence and to ensure that they are now fit to resume normal duties.

Trigger points for the new procedures will be three occurrences of sickness over three months, six absences over a rolling 12 month period or 12 days of sickness over a rolling 12 month period.

Full details of the new policy can be found on the Essex Police intranet site or from supervisors/line managers.

John Rhymes, head of personnel, said: "Much of the focus of the attendance policy has been on the better management of absence and it has introduced a number of compulsory actions for supervisors and managers.

"This element is extremely important and is central to just about every policy we examined both inside and outside the service," he said.

"However, I would like to emphasise the work we have done to improve the service we provide through Occupational Health and Welfare.

"The introduction of an in-house medical officer, supported by two occupational health advisers, the creation of the Sickness Management Group and the inclusion of policies which deal with such issues as compassionate leave and the management of disability are all aimed at providing better support to our employees who suffer ill health," said Mr Rhymes.

Don't miss a day of family fun

WITH only a few weeks to go before the Essex Police Millennium Family Day volunteers across the organisation are busily working to create a great day out for everyone.

Over 50 charities have already booked their pitch for the event on Sunday, July 9, and they range from small local pet rescue organisations to nationally recognised charities.

Some pitches are still available so if you are interested in raising some money for a local charity or you know a charity who would like to have a pitch free of charge please ask them to contact the Tina Starling, public relations officer on 01245 452395 ext 50770.

Many divisions and department are also playing their part. The skid pan and museum will be open and Steve Powell from CJD at HQ is running a book stall, so if you have any books that you no longer want why not send them to him.

During the day there is a comprehensive arena programme which starts at midday. There will be

bands, gymnasts, an Essex Police dog display and vintage cars. The Essex FM Roadshow will be in full swing at 2pm and an emergency service accident scenario will be the grand finale of afternoon.

The musical evening starts at 5.30pm with different bands to suit all musical tastes. Please make sure you bring your rugs to sit on to enjoy this festival of music.

The event will be open from 11am until 17pm with a music running from 5.30pm until 8.30pm. A free park and ride bus service will be provided to get everyone on site. It will run on two routes one from Wharf Road Car Park and the other from Essex County Commercial Services in Beaufort Road on the Dukes Park Industrial Estate.

With a lucky programme you could win two flights with KLM Buzz to any of their destinations across Europe or a family day ticket on the Great

Eastern Railway. Entry programmes will be available on the day but they will also be sold in advance through divisions. Entry is £1 and free for children under 16.

We are still looking for volunteers on the day. If you are interested in helping out phone Tina Starling.



For display advertising in The Law contact United Press on 01282 459533

IPA

Association gains royal approval

HRH The Princess Royal had strong praise for the work of the International Police Association (IPA) when she officially opened its World Congress in Bournemouth recently.

Before an audience of around 500 members representing forces from around the world the Princess said: "It is a pleasure for me, as someone outside, to say thank you to all those people who commit themselves to policing around the world."

The Princess, as patron of Save The Children Fund also accepted a cheque for £16,000 following a Golden Jubilee Appeal set up by the IPA which received donations from all over the world.

Association President, David Read, said: "The congress was a wonderful opportunity for officers from all over the world to share experiences and information. This was the aim of the association when it was set up 50 years ago and it was tremendous to see what has been achieved over the past 50 years."

Pension package tells of changes

WOMEN born between 1950 and 1955 should be aware of changes ahead that will affect their pension.

A package especially designed for women is available, containing lots of useful information, by calling 0845 7313233.

The power of the press

WHEN a road accident left a retired officer's wife wheelchair-bound and brain damaged, there began a very difficult year.

While Ruth Henry slowly rehabilitated in a London hospital, Alf Henry travelled to London on a daily basis to visit her and set about having his home adapted for Ruth's return.

That day came in January this year, but then they received the added blow that no carers were available to help with Ruth's round-the-clock support and she would have to stay in hospital until the situation changed. As the weeks rolled on Alf decided to contact Bob Coxen in Welfare, who in turn contacted Kim White in the Press Office to see if anything could be done.

A news agency was asked to put out a brief news item which was picked up by Alf's local Guardian and there followed a front page article headlined *Home Alone*.

Within days a company of carers accredited to Essex social services had come to the rescue and within two weeks Ruth was back at home.

Mr Henry said: "My wife is now at home and being cared for as she should have been a long time ago. She

is much happier at home and it is noticeable despite her limited ability.

"I would like to thank all the friends and colleagues who have constantly been contacting me about their concern for Ruth and I know she would do

the same. Everyone responsible for making this happen deserves a 'pat on the back'."

Everyone likes a happy ending and it just goes to show we never forget our retired colleagues.

Be aware of new trade vouchers



ASYLUM-SEEKERS who are housed in Essex while their cases are being decided, are being special vouchers which have a trade value for goods in a variety of shops.

A specimen of the Bypass Voucher is pictured above for the information of all officers.

Support the museum

ARE you interested in police history? If the answer is 'yes' then the Essex Police Museum Committee is looking for new members to support the museum. Whether you are a police officer, special constable, support staff, or retired from the service, your help is needed.

For further details contact either Martyn Lockwood on 01245 491491 ext 50294 or Elizabeth Farnhill on ext 50771.

Murder research

JOHNNIE Johnson, who is a Police History Society member and author of *Kent Murder Casebook*, etc is now researching a book on Essex murders. He is interested in the murders of Josephine Backshall of Maldon (1974) and Diane Jones of Coggeshall (1983), both of which remain unsolved, although someone was tried and acquitted of the murder of Jones.

Anyone who has any information which would help Mr Johnson can contact him at 58 Berkeley Court, Wilmington Square, Eastbourne BN21 4DX, tel: 01323 725524 or email JohnHijo@btinternet.com.

Farewell to Fed rep

CONSTABLE Brian Pallant, Branch Board Secretary of the Federation, retires this month after serving over 36 years.

Officers retiring this month after serving 30 years are Chief Insp Dennis Rensch, Thurrock, Pc Geoffrey Orvis, Braintree, Sgt Roger Bodley, Mobile Support, Pc Gordon Sinclair, Rayleigh and Pc

Names in the news

David Brooks, Basildon.

Pc Michael Aitchison, Colchester, retired in April after serving 32 years.

Rayleigh constable Maureen Chaplin retires after 28 years' service and constable Christopher Clancey, also serving at Rayleigh retires on medical grounds after over 26 years'

service.

Pc Paul Bradford, Southend retired on medical grounds in May after serving 12 years.

Ill health has also forced the retirement of Pc James Knights, Braintree after 21 years' service and Colchester Pc Kevin Nowell after serving 25 years.

Retired Colchester constable

Thomas Bateman died aged 82 on April 26.

He served for 30 years at Colchester.

Retired sergeant David Howell died aged 78 on April 22.

He served from 1941 to 1972.

He leaves a widow Constance.

Retired sergeant James Graham died on May 10 aged 65.

He served from 1958 to 1984 at Romford, Rayleigh, Pitsea, Canvey Island, Basildon And South Ockendon.

He leaves a widow Joyce.

Market Place

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.

Only adverts from those directly connected to Essex Police (either serving or retired) will be accepted. Adverts should be restricted to a maximum of 24 words and repeat ads should be re-submitted on a monthly basis. The Law team reserves the right to edit or omit any advert which doesn't meet this criteria.

AMSTRAD word processor, runs on 3.5 floppy discs with Canon bubble jet printer plus all cables, handbooks etc; ideal for kids £50. Contact Pc R Longden on 01268 410101 or 01277 650514.

BAYONETS required by genuine collector. All types welcome in reasonable condition, no particular country. Contact Pc Dave Sims extension 29422 or 01992 812713.

CARAVAN, Eldiss two berth special with awning, toilet, kitchen at end. Double glazed and full electrics, £1,500. Contact Sandy Parratt extension 55507 or 01245 496843.

CLACTON, superb executive quality family house. Unfurnished, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, quiet location, no shares, dogs, smokers, £625 pcm. Contact A. Ashley by phone or fax on 01255 475550.

CLAUDE Butler tandem. Excellent condition, some accessories, £350 ono.

Contact Roger Burrows on 01279 647118.

COMPUTER Acer Pentium 120 with modem, £150. Girls mountain bike, suit 10 to 13 year old, £45. Both items excellent condition. Contact Insp Gary Heard extension 50308.

CORNWALL, Polperro. Chalet, sleeps 4/5, all mod cons, on pleasant site with heated indoor and outdoor pools. Club and all facilities included, £75 to £250 per week. Contact Craig Bailey on 01279 653570 or 01279 832837.

GOOD homes wanted for cats and kittens. Contact Miss S. Parsonson on 01206 864284.

HALESWORTH Suffolk. Two bed holiday cottage, lovingly restored, end terrace, beamed and close to Heritage coast, Southwold, Broads, Norwich, close to town centre, fully equipped. Contact Pc Bob Taylor on 01245 324651.

MERCEDES, 190 E, automatic, black, tax, MOT, 1989, 99,000 miles, beauti-

ful car. Move forces sale, below book price, £3,500 ono. Contact Sgt Neil Brook on 01702 613280.

SANYO 771 Music Centre, 5 play CD, double tape, radio, speakers, vgc, 2 1/2 years old, £80. Contact Pc Rowe on 0771 3814545.

ORLANDO luxury villa, four bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, sleeps up to 10, private screened pool. Near Disney and other central Florida attractions. For more details contact 01376 573406.

SEATON Devon. Detached cedarwood chalet on small select park, heated and fully equipped, 2 bedrooms. For full details contact J. Batchelor on 01404 891188.

TONING tables x 7 for sale, £1,000. Health rider bike, £200. Contact Janice or Gary on 01376 563505.

TWIN bunk beds. Excellent condition, with 2 base drawers on castors, all in top quality pine, very nice strong design, £175 ono. Contact L. Barton on 01206 271492.

SCOTTISH Highlands. Self-catering in new one bedroom bungalow or four bedroom bungalow or stay in our beautiful Austrian style home on a Band B basis or full board by the day or week. Skiing, fishing, shooting, walking, bird watching or just relaxing in dramatic Highland scenery Contact Andy Nunn on 01479 841717.

SONY hi-fi, CD player, model TC-WR 535, twin cassette deck, model CDP411. Both finished in black, boxed with instructions, £50 each. Tel: 01268 757628.

TENT, 4 to 6 berth, brand new last winter, only used 3 times, many extras, £300 ono. Contact Clare Deedman on extension 55216 or 01376 346840.

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.

Essex secure hat-trick of wins

Third time lucky

THE RUC were desperate for revenge for previous defeats when they took a trip to Essex for hockey's annual meeting for the Irish Bowl - which Essex won last year.

The game held at Basildon got off to a flying start. With the RUC out to win their forwards came very close to scoring in the first few minutes.

Essex not quite settled in, were put under more pressure as the RUC midfield began to gel together. It was fine goalkeeping by Nicole Leeder that kept the RUC at bay.

With 20 minutes gone Essex finally broke the deadlock, with a fine piece of midfield work by Gill Marr which let Sarah Bamfield in for a tremendous shot - Essex 1-0.

The pairing of Sarah Bamfield & Toni Brockwell, started to work, Essex were awarded a penalty and a well worked corner led to Toni slamming the ball in the net for 2-0.

From this point on it was Essex all the way despite the RUC trying in vain to stop the Essex attack.

The start of the 2nd half saw Essex immediately increase the lead - a fine piece of individual skill saw Sarah notch up her 2nd goal.

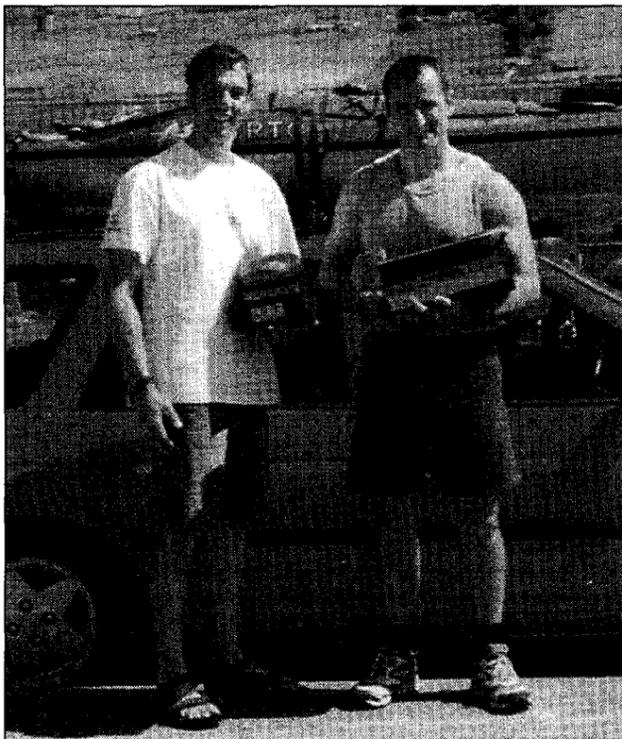
Essex newcomer Theresa Oxley and the rejuvenated Kay Blackman kept the pressure on the RUC defence. This continuous pressure saw a move which started from the right with Sue Bakewell and ended up with Toni knocking in her second and the Essex sides 4th.

In all fairness to the RUC they came close to getting on the score sheet, but a fine interception by Sharne Taylor saw an immediate breakaway, Sharne to Toni, Toni to Sarah, and a superb reverse shot into the top right corner - a well deserved hat-trick.

The RUC were rewarded for their efforts, a great move by their midfield saw Julie push the ball past the keeper.

The final result Essex 5, RUC 1, an extremely friendly and pleasant game, played in a fine sporting manner.

Our thanks must go to Willhire, and David Hewson, for their support, to the girls from the RUC for a fantastic weekend, and to all at Basildon Police station for their hospitality and generosity.



● Dc Ian Wilson with an endurance team mate.

Record run in this year's marathon

ONCE again in all their glory the Essex Police Marathon team pounded the streets from Blackheath to Westminster in the 2000 London Marathon.

This year the national Dreams Come True appeal will benefit from the team's efforts, to the tune of an anticipated £3,500 - a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has once again supported the efforts.

This year's team (on its 10th anniversary) was once again a mixture of youth and experience. Alby led by Allan Barley and Janet Adcock, with youthful exuberance supplied by International Rower Paul Anderson and supervision by Sgt Pete Bryan.

The 'boss', Supt Denis Sheppard, yet again delayed his holiday to join the fun with newly promoted Insp Vic Wallace giving support.

The rest of the 12-strong team comprised Mark Estall, Paul Purkiss, John Woods, Amanda Adams, Matt Schneider and Jim Page.

Last, but by no means least, yours truly Laurie Rampling, Thurrock, who this year realised my own 'dream come true' when I participated in the colours of my beloved Bromwich Albion, in fact the shirt Albion's Dutch star, Richard Sneekes, kindly donated by the club.

This year's time of 5hrs 11 mins and 25 secs was, we understand, a London Marathon record for a group 12-strong running as a team.

Other Essex personnel to compete with the team this year were former inspector Merv Fairweather, Ade Coombers, Gary Myers and Andy Gladman, Mick Green, and husband and wife team Kate and Tony Sale.

A special mention for Rayleigh's Paul Gould who in his first marathon chalked up a very creditable 4hrs 5 mins.

So now we look forward to next year when the team will give its full support to the Mayor of Southend's Heartbeat 2000 appeal for lifesaving defibrillators.

Laurie Rampling

New date for athletics

TORRENTIAL rain waterlogged Gloucester Park in Basildon and forced the cancellation of this year's Force Athletics championships.

A new date has now been set for Wednesday, July 26 at the same venue, which we all hope will have dried out by then.

Charity walk for hospice

BOOTS are made for walking, so if you have got some please join in the charity walk which is taking place at Markshall Park, situated between Coggeshall and Colchester, on Saturday, June 24.

Last year over £1,000 was raised for the Little Haven Children's Hospice.

Fun rather than hardship is the order of the day for the five-mile walk or walkies, as friends including the four-legged variety, and families are welcome to come along.

For more information and sponsor forms please contact Sheila Johnson at headquarters registry on extension 50650.

FINE but windy weather accompanied competitors taking part in the Western Isles Challenge endurance event, which took place over three-and-a-half days last month.

Fourteen teams took part, a slightly smaller field than usual, due to events in Sierra Leone keeping army teams from competing, and 13 individuals competed over a cut-down version of the event.

Over 250 miles in total are covered by team members, cycling, running, swimming and canoeing from the Western Isle of Barra in the south, via Lewis and Harris to the Butt of Lewis in the north, islands approximately 30 miles to the west of Skye.

For detective constable Ian Wilson of the Drugs and Serious Crime squad it was his third time of competing in what is considered to be Europe's toughest endurance event.

True to his previous form, for the third time canoeist Ian came second in his 100 kilometre canoeing event, being closely beaten by Devon and Cornwall police officer Shaun Morley.

Headhunted by his fellow team members for his canoeing prowess, Ian made a mistake on the first day, going the wrong way and losing

30 minutes, taking all but one of the other canoeists with him.

The last canoe race however saved the day with Ian pulling back a magnificent 17 minutes leading the team to overall victory.

Ian said: "It is Europe's toughest endurance event and I was over the moon that at the third time of competing our team was successful. Although it was a slight disappointment not to have won the canoeing, it was a dream and it took me over a week to come back down to earth."

Angling for a sea trip?

IF you want to take part in the latest police sea angling competition, it's happening on Tuesday, June 27.

Hosted by Kent Police, it will take place at Dover Breakwater, with contestants meeting at 12.30pm in the harbour for transport.

Main species to be caught are plaice, pouting, flounder, pollock, scad, bass and smoothhound.

The fee is £7.50 which includes the pier fee. Boat fee is extra. If you're interested contact Clive Skingley on 01268 775533 ext 36810. or 07850 706072.

THE results of the May lottery were as follows:
 £1,500 R. Parke, FIR;
 £1,000 P. Knowles, Grays;
 £500 P. Symkiss, Colchester;
 £300 J. Gozzett, FIR; £200 S. Hancox, HQ; £100 Y.

Lottery results

MacDonald, Canvey.

The following people will receive £50 consolation prizes:

G. Milbank, Southend; C. Barnes, Rayleigh; A. Allison, Colchester; D. Merry, HQ; Butler, EPTC; B. Jeapes, FSU; P. Rankin, Basildon; L. Nevin; D. Lee, Tendring; J. Ling, Southend.

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Sport and Leisure

Double winners again!

ESSEX Police FC have done the double in repeating the cup successes of last season. Over a long, hot weekend, and during a fixture bottleneck, EPFC retained both the PAA No. 5 Region Cup and, more notably, completed a hat-trick of wins in the Southern Counties Cup a feat in which those involved can be quite justifiably proud, writes Joe Wrigley.

In the Southern Counties Cup, played at Imber Court, Essex suffered an early setback when goalkeeper Matt Clark was forced to stretch to tip a ball onto the crossbar only to see the rebound headed in.

It was important that Essex struck back quickly and the equalising goal came from a lovely move that saw Crane, enter the left side of the penalty box, sidestep a challenge at pace and drive the ball across the Sussex keeper. A further goal from striker, Craig Bolton gave Essex a 2-1 half-time lead.

In the second half Essex continued to press forward and stretched their lead. Darren Pitt caused Sussex untold problems before Justin Beacher scored an outstanding solo goal, teasing defenders on the edge of the box before crashing a swerving right foot shot into the top right hand corner of the net.

A measured pass from skipper Joe Wrigley that curled between the defence and the keeper left Craig Bolton with a simple chance for his second, then a persistent run into the box from Mike Hammond saw him crisply drive left footed into a bottom corner after a ricochet had dropped the ball at his feet. At 5-1 many teams would have totally folded, but to their credit Sussex fought back.

A defence marshalled by sweeper Matt Schneider repelled a number of quick attacks. Ten minutes from the end Sussex pulled a goal back, but Essex had not finished and in the dying moments midfielder Glyn Evans stole forward to hammer the sixth and crush the Sussex resolve.

Returning to Imber Court to face Surrey, Essex faced soaring temperatures set to affect the pace. Nothing could have been further from the truth, the first half was played at a

blistering pace and after a shaky start, Essex began to dictate the game.

A combination of good passing and hard work allowed Steve Crane and Matt Schneider to effectively run the game but Essex were disappointing around the box as Surrey continued to repel what was essentially one-way traffic.

In the second half the pace gradually dropped off and eventually the game was forced into extra time.

Essex took the initiative and piled on the pressure until Surrey cracked. The game was finally decided in the second period of extra time. Crane exploded into the box and drove hard and low, the shot bounced up and struck Darren Pike in the chest and the deflection carried the ball into the bottom right hand corner of the Surrey net.

Surrey rallied and, knowing there were only minutes to go, threw everything forward. Matt Clark made an outstanding save from a powerful downward header and Mike Hammond cleared off the line with Essex successfully defending their second title with a 1-0 final score.

The period of management by Martin

Oakley and assistant Doug Adams has been extremely successful. Winning the Southern Counties Cup three times in the last three years and successfully defending the No. 5 Region Cup is an outstanding achievement and the duo should be rightly proud of the standard of squad they are handing over to new manager Paul Keaney and assistant, Joe Wrigley.

Unfortunately Essex finished further down the Essex Intermediate League Division 1 than their cup form would suggest. The league is very competitive and with three new teams joining next season, all promising to be good quality, the force side needs to look carefully at adding new players to the squad.

The new management team would like to post its early intention to openly invite anyone interested in playing football for the Force side to the pre-season training sessions which start at 6.30 pm on Tuesday, July 11 at HQ.

Pre-season friendlies are being arranged at the moment and the force is hoping to host Leyton Orient as well as playing some good quality opposition in the shape of Heybridge Swifts, Stanway Rovers and Halstead Town.



● LEFT: The 'bosses' Assistant Chief Constable Joe Edwards, Chief Constable David Stevens and Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark boost team morale by entering the triathlon.

● BELOW: Still smiling but not quite standing Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark makes it to the finish line.

Triathlon triumph

WHEN Essex Police hosted the first-ever off-road, short-course police triathlon, chief officers showed team spirit by turning out not to support - but to take part.

The event took place in Gloucester Park, Basildon, and what had seemed like a good idea 12 months before, became more daunting as the day approached.

Administration of such a complex event caused stress levels to rise and what seemed to be a beautifully prepared course early in the week, became a sodden bog by the weekend with the constant opening of the heavens.

Then to make matters worse it rained constantly overnight and as the four-plus competitors from as far afield as Yorkshire, assembled to brave the conditions, strict warnings regarding their safety had to be announced.

Never-the-less, those who did start in the pool at the unearthly hour of 7am, made it a day to remember.

Among the starters were Chief Constable David Stevens, his deputy, Charles Clark and Assistant Chief Constable Joe Edwards, entering as a relay team.

'The Boss' was first away in the

pool for the 400 metre swim before handing over to Mr Clark who certainly drew the short straw with the most demanding of the disciplines - a three lap course of Gloucester Park in atrocious conditions, on a bike.

It was indeed a bedraggled and dishevelled deputy who handed over to Mr Edwards, who probably had the least demanding leg - a two mile run.

Despite conditions the team finished in 1hr, 4 mins and 15 secs receiving the overall team prize.

Individually the men's overall winner was an unattached athlete Neil Burville in a superb 52 mins and 11 secs, with the men's open victor being Basildon's Vic Span in an equally impressive 53 mins and 26 secs.

Third man and first veteran in the police competition was Pete Horne from West Yorkshire in 1hr and 8 secs.

In the ladies' competition the first home was veteran Wendy Read in a fantastic 59 mins and 37 secs. Our own lady, Sue Clark from Shoebury won the open event in 1hr 2 mins and 40 secs, while Jan Adcock, from Colchester, came third overall and was the second lady vet in 1 hr 6 mins and 52 secs.

So, despite very trying conditions, it was an overall successful day with some lessons to be learned before

preparing for next year's event.

Everyone appeared to have enjoyed the experience, if the smiles glimpsed through the mud were anything to go by.

Thanks must be given to everyone concerned in the organisation, especially Pete Bryan and Chris Mathlin, who put together a breathtaking course.

Then of course, there was Basildon Council, their ground staff and pool staff, whose help was invaluable, the marshalls who gave up their time and my wife Marian for a superb after race spread.

Not to be forgotten are the athletes who made it all worthwhile, with a particular mention to the 'bosses'. In a time of constant criticism concerning low morale, it was nice for the foot soldier to see the top team mucking.

Laurie Rampling



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