

The Law

The newspaper of Essex Police



Issue 332

June 2001



Deterring bogus callers - P3



Touching tribute to Mick - P5



Marathon team effort - P12

Preparing to reduce the rate of alcohol related crime

SOBERING STRATEGY

ALCOHOL accounts for over two thirds of crime and disorder nationally. Indeed, forty per cent of domestic violence incidents in Essex involve alcohol.

These appalling facts are mirrored locally and will be tackled by Essex Police in support of a National Alcohol Strategy, which has identified the best strategic approach to deal with the problem.

by Heather Watts

With nearly half of all prisoners seeing alcohol as a contributory factor in their offending behaviour it is important that alcohol crime is fully reflected in local crime and disorder strategies.

The Community Safety Department is working closely with licensing officers and divisions in support of crime reduction partnerships to tackle alcohol related crime and disorder in their

next crime reduction strategies for 2002/03.

Three key objectives have been identified, to reduce underage drinking, reduce public drunkenness and prevent alcohol related violence.

Reducing underage drinking may be by enforcement using existing laws, tightened by the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. Alcohol can be confiscated from young people in public and proof of age schemes should be used more widely.

The successful 2 Smart 4 Drugs roadshow now contains an element of education about alcohol and the Health Education Authority offers

help and resources.

Public drunkenness appears to be created by a binge drinking culture and mass turn out times.

Essex Police can target identified trouble spots and street drinking where it is shown to be a problem.

Disorderly

Radical new proposals may mean that following a disorderly night out drinkers spending a night in the cells could wake up with an immediate fixed penalty fine as well as a hangover.

On the spot penalties will not come on line until after national

pilot schemes in the middle of next year and they will be in the form of fixed penalty notices to adults for listed penalty offences including drunkenness, damage and public order offences.

Information sharing on trouble makers through schemes such as Pubwatch is recommended and bar and door staff should be encouraged to engage in more active supervision.

Door staff registration in Essex seeks to reduce disorder in pubs and clubs.

The Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association are keen on getting representatives to the crime partnership table and support can be given to them on preventative good practice.

Community Safety's Sgt Jo Hadley said: "If local crime reduction strategies to tackle alcohol crime include the above elements then we will have gone a long way to reducing much crime associated with alcohol."

For staff requiring further information, and links to useful web sites, look at the intranet.

Challenging targets set

CHIEF Constable David Stevens welcomes the finalisation of service level agreements for headquarters departments which will be published shortly.

He said: "Our Policing Plan and Service Charter set out the standards which our external customers can expect from Essex Police. In just the same way, service level agreements set out the standards which the internal customers of support departments can expect.

"The hard-edged targets included in the agreements are challenging and it will be important to monitor our progress against them."

Riding high in the name of charity

TELEVISION star Bill Murray was joined by over 200 competitors in the Great Dunmow Cycling Experience which is on course to raise over £7,000 for charity.

The Brentwood actor launched the 25-mile bike ride in aid of The Rhys Daniels Trust and the Essex Air Ambulance. But the event also delivered a crime prevention message with Special Constable Doug Warren on hand to give advice and free cycle postcode.

"We were able to postcode over 100 bikes on the day which will help police to reunite them with their owners should they be stolen," said SC Warren. "Bill was a great sport and even gave us an exclusive storyline to his new television show which is out later this summer."

A sunny Sunday morning brought the quiet town to a standstill as well-wishers and a local group of cheerleaders waved the riders on their way from the Helena Romanes School.



Actor Bill Murray balances on a penny farthing with the help of special constables Doug Warren and Simon Horne.

Health and safety is a key focus in Federation review

Taking no risks

THE National Federation has reviewed the way in which information is passed from and to the centre and also the level of training given to individual representatives. One of the areas looked at related to health and safety.

This is an area which affects each and every one of us every day of our working lives. When things go wrong, the consequences to our membership and the public alike could be loss of life, serious injury through to minor injury or what is termed 'near miss' (more on that later).

It is, therefore, vital that we get things right, by ensuring that proper training and equipment is provided and ensuring that risk assessments are carried out and are updated as required. Having said that, responsibility for health and safety does not just rest with management or Federation representatives. Each and every one of you has a role to play. This can be by ensuring that you use the equipment issued, e.g. wearing body armour. Health and safety is everyone's responsibility. If you are aware of an unsafe practice, dangerous piece of equipment, unsafe building or procedure, let someone know about it. Do not leave it to someone else to report.

The National Federation recently

organised a seminar at which all 43 forces of England and Wales were represented, together with representatives from Scottish forces who are way in front of us south of the border as far as health and safety goes.

As a result of that seminar, each force was asked to nominate an individual to act as a health and safety leader, who would become a liaison between each Joint Branch Board and the National Federation. In the case of Essex, I have been chosen as that representative, with Ross Luke of the Constables' Branch Board acting as my deputy.

In that role my function will be to co-ordinate our Joint Branch Board approach to the subject and ensure that your representatives are kept up to date and fully trained in health and safety matters.

It is our intention to retrain those Representatives who have undergone training some time ago and arrange initial training for the new representatives who have joined the Separate Branch Boards. We intend, via the National Federation, to have that training accredited by IOSH (Institution of Occupational Safety and Health - a nationally recognised organisation). As part of that training, your representatives will have to submit themselves to a written examination.

By now, all divisions and departments should have established Health and Safety Sub-Committees and Committees. If a matter cannot be resolved locally or at divisional level, then the problem can be referred to the force Health and Safety Committee via your representatives. The force committee comprises:

- ACO Support
- Insurance officer
- Corporate Support rep
- Facilities Manager
- Police Federation rep
- Food Services Adviser
- Employee Relations Manager
- Programme & Policy Support rep
- Occ Health & Welfare Manager
- Unison rep
- Divisional Admin managers rep
- Health and Safety Adviser
- An operational manager
- A support manager

The Joint Branch Board Health and Safety Sub-Committee meets prior to the force meeting to discuss the force health and safety agenda and to raise, and hopefully resolve, any issues.

The National 'Leaders' Group will meet twice a year, the next occasion being October 2001.

I have developed an Incident Investigation Protocol that would enable the force to inform us of serious incidents so that we would be

in a position to perform one of our functions, i.e. to investigate an incident/accident and report, if necessary, to the H.S.E. Essex Police has rejected this idea. Management, both senior and middle, do not understand our role in health and safety.

To simplify our respective functions:

- Risk assessment is a management function and equates to responsibility and liability;
- Our role, that of the staff associations, Unison, etc., which includes you as individuals, is assessment of risk, which means safety.

At present, there is believed to be a substantial under-reporting of accidents. It is important that you report injuries, accidents and 'near misses'. If you fail to have the incident recorded, you may well find yourself having difficulty at some later date if you tried to make a claim.

With regard to a 'near miss', this is an incident which could have resulted in harm/injury, but on this occasion didn't - next time, it may well do so! Near miss reports help to identify bad practice, together with faulty or dangerous equipment.

Remember. **Highlight the dangers, inform colleagues, avoid accidents.**

by Lee Robson

Partnership to be commended

CONGRATULATIONS to the Metropolitan Police Trade Union side. A partnership agreement between has been signed by the Metropolitan Police and its support staff employees. Commissioner, Sir John Stevens, said: "The Met is a constantly evolving organisation, predicting and responding to ever changing demands. To be successful it requires a genuine partnership approach from staff and management." Unison submitted a similar proposal in 1998. The resulting management document undermined the existing collective bargaining and recognition agreements and frustrated the process. We are ready to co-operate - is Essex Police?

Decriminalisation - We appreciate the concerns of members who feel that they are not being dealt with promptly. We are working on this issue and hope to be able to update you officially in due course.

Individual learning accounts - This is an initiative of the government's Lifelong Learning Strategy and provides financial assistance for you to afford to take up further education courses. For a Unison leaflet please contact the branch office.

Take part in 60th celebrations

If you have ever been on an Outward Bound course or involved with the charity organisers in any way they want to hear from you, not only to include you in their Roll of Honour but also to invite you to participate in their 60th anniversary celebrations.

The Trust has spent its 60 years giving young people, from all social backgrounds, the opportunity to fulfil their potential and achieve success through a variety of different courses which test teamwork, problem solving and communication skills.

To be included in the Roll of Honour or to receive more information about the exciting anniversary events that are planned, send your name, address, telephone number and email details to: Kate Jones, The Outward Bound Trust, Watermillock, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 0JL. Alternatively email: katejones@outwardbounduk.org.

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Orheat

MY cup runneth over, well not quite.

The Information Room received a call from The Quay Theatre, Halstead saying: "We have a lady who has suddenly stood up during a performance and said that she has left her potatoes cooking on the cooker."

Well would you credit it?

An officer, who called at a petrol station to collect the CCTV footage of a driver making off without paying ended up rather red-faced.

The petrol station made a further call to say "police have collected the CCTV and left without paying for their petrol!"

A woman telephoned in the early hours of the morning asking for police to attend her home as she could hear banging downstairs and she was alone in the house.

Officers reported that all was in order. It seems a robot had activated and was bashing against the furniture.

Meanwhile officers attended an address where a caller was worried about an envelope he had received from Ireland.

However this turned out to be a circular about placing a bet on the Grand National.

Top dog

DOG handler Colin Elsegood with his trusty sidekick Ronnie have clinched the top title at the Inter Counties Police Dog Trials.

The event was held during a day organised on behalf of Brentwood Council called *All About Dogs*, where anything and everything to do with dogs was going on, including agility and obedience shows.

There were 11 competitors for the police trial with representatives from Essex, South Yorkshire, the Metropolitan Police, Greater Manchester, and Nottinghamshire.

Pc Colin Elsegood, from Laindon, and two-year-old Ronnie, who had taken the lead in the early control work, were the last to compete in the criminal work.

This meant a very nail-biting end to the competition with the winner unknown until the final dog had worked.

Colin and Ronnie held their nerve and produced an excellent display to come out as worthy winners, also receiving a trophy for the best control and agility work.

Pc Mark Hall, from Rochford, also competed with four-year-old Bruce, finishing seventh overall.

Supt Ian Learmonth presented the trophies to the winners of a keenly fought competition.

Shift ballot is nearing completion

PREPARATIONS are well under way for a new shift system trial.

Since the three on, three off 11-hour shift system was declared not viable work has been on-going to identify a shift pattern that is operationally acceptable but still provides benefits to those working shifts.

A new five shift system will shortly be on trial at Southend division, starting July 1, and at Basildon and Harlow, both starting on October 1.

Although Chelmsford division took part in the first trial it was felt that due to the rural nature of the area and numbers of patrol officers available it would be preferable to revert to an eight hour Witham 'B' shift pattern which they did on April 2.

Ballots held at Southend and Basildon have shown that of those eligible to vote, 79 per cent voted yes to the trial with a majority for Option Five, the six days on, four days off

pattern.

Harlow are currently running their ballot.

The trial will be evaluated on all three divisions at the end of the year when it will be ascertained if there is sufficient data available to make a decision for the future.

Meanwhile the three divisions will continue to work the chosen five shift option until March 31.

It is hoped the five shift system will

retain benefits for staff whilst maximising our ability to match resources to demand.

There will be regular updates on the intranet home page including details of the shift patterns, the variable shift agreements and ballot results.

If you have any queries on the trial please contact the Project Manager, Insp John Meggison at Southend on 30810.

Recruitment process revised

THE selection process of new recruits has been modified following the introduction of an assessment centre stage to help maintain the recent increase in numbers joining the force.

The new selection procedure will ensure that all candidates can demonstrate their understanding of the five national core competencies in a more effective environment.

The new stage is based on a West Yorkshire Police model which is being used by 17 other forces. Staff Development Officer Sgt Perry Funnell, believes the new, more robust method

will improve current standards.

"We've had a tremendous amount of support from West Yorkshire Police who have helped with assessor-training sessions," said Sgt Funnell. "Officers up to, and including inspector-rank, will ensure a cross-section of the organisation is represented to support these assessment centres."

Several forces in the eastern region have begun using assessment centre-style recruiting and, with the potential for shared resources, it is hoped that it

may help to introduce a regionalised structure of recruiting.

The new selection procedure was introduced in May, with the first intake pass rate exceeding the national average. Recruiting Manager Sue Adkins says: "Those who are unsuccessful have the opportunity to evaluate their strengths through our feedback, allowing them to address any weaknesses before their next application."

The assessment centre is the third of the five-stage recruitment and selection procedure. Despite replacing the interview stage, the assessment centre has incorporated an interview into the day which has been tailored to assess the competencies a new recruit requires.

Forensic success

SOUTHEND'S Forensic Vehicle Examiner Dave Peace became the first in the county to identify a known criminal after only ten days under the new Autocrime Recovery Policy. In fact he retrieved eight fingerprints and two DNA samples on jobs during the first ten day period.

On one occasion Mr Peace was called to a garage in Rawreth to examine a vehicle which had been abandoned in the Rayleigh division. He carried out a 45-minute forensic inspection of the vehicle and sent the palm and fingerprint results to headquarters, which returned with a positive match on a man known to police.

The 23-year-old former mechanic from Chelmsford is delighted to have his and the force's first positive match since the scheme started in April.

"This scheme will illustrate to potential car thieves that Essex Police is taking new and innovative steps to crackdown on autocrime," said Mr Peace. "We can now assist officers in getting a successful result."

The former Dovercourt Ford employee joined Essex Police at the start of the scheme.

Hoax email

AFTER a recent Chelmsford campaign to combat drug-assisted sexual assault, and a seminar to train officers in recognising symptoms of this type of offence, it has come to notice that a hoax email is in circulation.

Some officers may have received the email about Progesterex, or read about it on an internet site. The drug allegedly sterilises the victim of a date rape, but this email and any reference to it is a complete hoax.

Mutual support

FOUR Essex Police public order trained medics attended the May Day protests in London as mutual aid support for their colleagues in the City of London Police, British Transport Police and the Metropolitan Police.

War against bogus callers



Actors from Shout! Theatre re-enact a bogus caller scenario.

THE crackdown on bogus callers has only just begun. A conference staged by the Community Safety Department proved a huge success and is just the start of a hard-hitting campaign which aims to ensure these callous

criminals think twice before acting in Essex.

As part of the conference Shout! Theatre used interactive drama to grab audience attention and drive the serious message home.

Sgt Steve Nuttall said: "Delegates have since spoken favourably about the conference and feel they are much better informed about the problem and are hence able to be part of the solution."

The old tactics are the best

BEING made aware, via the extensive media coverage, of the fizzled out May Day 'riots' in London, and the numerous pats on the back for Deputy Assistant Commissioner Mick Todd, who incidentally is an Essex export, made me think about the tactic used so effectively on this occasion.

I seem to remember this system was devised to cope with the many hundreds of Mods and Rockers, and later Skinheads, who descended on Southend, not just once a year, but on every Bank Holiday.

In these days of mass civil disturbances which our televisions have shown from Seattle to Quebec, it was interesting to see, that, once again we have shown how the old system still works. This was purely a method of containment.

When the above groups arrived in Southend they were escorted to the seafront and corralled at the bottom of Pier Hill by a few police officers. When there were sufficient numbers gathered up they were escorted to the Central Railway Station where British Rail had

laid on special trains and they were sent on their way under a Transport Police escort.

Whoever thought up this strategy must be smiling, if they are still with us. It was so simple, but very effective.

I wonder whether Mick Todd learnt this policy within the hallowed halls of Bramshill or if he heard someone swinging the lamp in either the Westcliff or Southend canteen many years ago. I doubt if he will read this but it would be good to know.

Ken Wright, Benfleet

Sweeping statement is unjust

I WOULD like to take issue about a number of remarks made by Tony Hall (*The Law* April 2001). He seems to have seized upon the issue of 'single crewing' and used it to explore his own agenda which seems to be about making sweeping generalisations about the managers and supervisors within Essex police.

It is Tony's prerogative to express his opinion, which is what he has done, but to suggest that the vast majority of supervisors and managers are incapable of making decisions and accepting responsibility for those decisions is clearly doing them a disservice.

I agree with Tony that any attempt to change the culture of any organisation must be driven from the top. However, what really makes the difference are the persuasive arguments and discussions that take place in the canteen where apparently a lot of our 'culture' are formulated.

If this is the case then it is the responsibility of every person in a professional organisation to move heaven and earth to ensure that the culture within Essex Police is positive and receptive to innovation and new ideas and this would include Tony of course.

**Insp Paul Smith
Force Information Room**

Bring back the bikes

I SEE from *The Law* and local newspapers that members of the Road Policing Unit are currently engaged in a campaign to reduce the rising casualty rate among motorcyclists.

It is not clear whether the casualty rate is higher in Essex than elsewhere but to a casual observer there is a definite rise in the incidence of speeding and poor riding.

The question is whether there is any correlation between this phenomenon and the absence of police motorcyclists in the county. From conversations with motorcyclists of all ages, I believe that the two things are linked.

No amount of unmarked cars, static or portable speed cameras can substitute for the presence of motorcycle patrols - they are an effective tool and a role model for other motorcyclists.

The decision to do away with motorcycle patrols in the county was no doubt made in good faith but the mark of good management is to acknowledge that some decisions are wrong and to effect a remedy. Can we expect a return of traffic (sorry - road policing) motorcycle patrols on the roads of Essex or are we to remain out of step with the rest of the country?

**Bernie Beesley,
Chelmsford**

The band plays on!

IT has become apparent recently that, regardless of budget cuts and lack of manpower, if you play a musical instrument you can take time off work and travel abroad. I appreciate that the Essex Police Band raises money for charity and assists with public relations.

Even in France recently a number of English people were fortunate enough to be there at the same time as the band and now think Essex is a safer place to live than Lancashire. I have therefore decided to set up a fourth Essex Police Musical Society. The Essex Police Band Fan Club & Listeners Group.

The main role of this group will be to attend all band engagements, record the events and prepare newsletters on a regular basis. Becoming a member of this group will have a number of drawbacks and anyone thinking of joining should consider these carefully.

- Only 16 hours a month can be taken off from work to attend. (unless you have already used your 16 hours then a chief officer will authorise more.)

- Rest days can be re-allocated, as band duty is to be considered as duty time even on rest days.

- Extra rest days can be re-allocated as above.

- Duty's can be changed to accommodate the inconvenience of attending in the evening. If this means that other officers have to change duties to accommodate this, tell them it's in a good cause.

- Senior officers will support band events as a priority.

- Food & drink, where provided, must be consumed at these events.

- Any trip abroad will mean a senior

officer must attend.

- You must be prepared to travel in the force coach to events. (except Austria where a plane will be preferred although your instruments will have to use the coach). The advantage of this is the additional carrying capacity for bringing Duty Free Goods back).

As can be seen from this list, sacrifices will have to be made but at the end of the

Right to reply:

THE policy in relation to the police band, choir and musical society was reviewed some two years or so ago and acknowledges the valuable contribution they make to community relations. As the letter is principally about the band I will respond accordingly.

During 2000 the band played at 24 engagements and raised in excess of £15,000 for various charities.

They visited Dijon, France in October, at the invitation of the Chief of Police, and played at Europolice 2000, an international police gathering. In addition to the band, officers from Essex and other forces attended in their own time to support the event. Travel was in the force coach with a van driven by retired officers accompanying with the instruments. Food and accommodation was provided by the hosts.

As would be expected operational duties necessitated a number of band members remaining in force and they were replaced with guest players. I accompanied the band as senior officer having taken over as chairman on the retirement of Mr Markham.

The band, at the invitation of Graz Police, travelled to Austria in 1999 by budget airline to avoid an overnight stay,

day it's all for charity.

Anyone prepared to make these sacrifices and would like to join this group please apply to us at Chigwell Traffic. We may not be available to take any calls due to being on patrol covering for the nine band members on MSD whilst they attend another engagement.

Pc Dave Jones,

and band members contributed to the cost. It was more cost effective to transport the instruments by coach, which could then be used to transport the band in Austria.

In relation to time off, the band are expected to fulfil engagements within the area of Essex Police and attend practices within a monthly 16 hours maximum. The remainder is in their own time.

Exceptionally, additional time can be given for representation outside the force area or ceremonial events, or events of a special nature. This is in accordance with policy. Policy also states that divisional/departmental commanders adopt a flexible approach including accommodating duty changes and split shifts with the consent of the staff member and, where duty changes involve other members of staff, there is a requirement for it to be with their agreement.

I can recall only one occasion when application of the policy has been questioned at my instigation.

Meeting operational demands must of course always be the prime consideration.

ACO (Support) Philip Onions

Your questions answered

I READ of the new system of recognising number plates in *The Law*.

I am wondering what happens when a plate - let's say reading 'R4VEY' or a number like '5ILLS' - is to be recognised, and if so what happens when the registered owner is ever traced?

I believe it is illegal to rearrange an issued number to be misread - even when issued by DVLA at about £400 a time.

I would like to see an answer to this in *The Law* if possible.

**R A White
Chelmsford**

RESPONSE: ANPR systems are designed to read number plates. Where a number is misrepresented, the camera may have difficulty in registering the correct registration. In these situations the system may not register a 'hit'.

In March 1999, enforcement measures were introduced so that the DVLA could withdraw registration marks without

compensation where, despite prosecution, offenders continued to display them in a manner which made them difficult to identify.

The enforcement measures rely predominantly on the police service reporting misrepresented registration numbers to the DVLA following payment of fixed penalty notice by the offender or his/her conviction at court.

In cases where the number plate is technically illegal (eg an italicised font has been used) but the number plate is neither illegible nor misrepresented, the DVLA may decide to warn the offender that a further offence could result in the registration mark being withdrawn.

Where the registration number is badly misrepresented or illegible, the offender will be warned that a further offence will result in the registration mark being withdrawn.

**Insp Simon Morgan,
Mobile Support Department**

Spot the squad

MAY I ask if 'truancy squads' will be operating in marked or unmarked police vehicles?

The reason I ask is that in this Essex Police district the citizen who spots a policeman on routine patrol has their name entered into a lottery for a free holiday.

As no-one so far has claimed last year's holiday, I would be grateful if you could help our committee as there are now two free holidays on offer. We would not like to see them given to the spotter of a 'truancy squad' operative' chasing a wanted truant rather than a car thief or a burglar.

**James Allen
Sturmer**

Varied debate

DUE to a large influx of letters, and to allow a variety of voices and issues to be heard, the editors of *The Law* are having to bring to an end two debates.

The first is in relation to a gift of defibrillators offered by the Freemasons and declined by the Chief Constable, who responded in last month's edition to a letter written by Brian Williams from Chelmsford. We would like to acknowledge four more letters sent in by Brian Jones of Laindon Traffic, Tony Hall from Harlow, A.R. Mitchell from South Woodham Ferrers, and Frank Reed from Clacton, all of which agree with the original author and feel Essex Police was wrong to decline the gift.

The second issue is in relation to whether or not Britain should stay a nation state. Walter Ablett from Chelmsford agrees with Jim Reynolds that it should, whilst Tony Hillam from West Mersea feels we are being 'a little arrogant' to think that we have nothing to learn from Europe.

The editors of *The Law* do not wish to stifle healthy debate and apologise that occasionally it is not possible to publish every letter received.

Hate crime campaign takes to the road

NEARLY 200 invited guests were at Basildon for the recent launch of the multi-agency campaign, *Hate Crime a Menace in Society 2001* which focuses on those crimes directed at people with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and ethnic minorities.

Assistant Chief Constable (Crime) John Broughton said the campaign, designed to raise the profile of minority groups and encourage the reporting of hate crime, received the endorsement of Essex Police.

Following the opening address Jeremy Spake of *Airport* fame presented 17-year-old

Lucie Bright from Leigh-on-Sea with her £100 prize for winning a competition to design a logo for the campaign.

Lucie, who is an art and design student at Southend College said: "I was shocked at being chosen the winner and was absolutely over the moon when the logo was unveiled."

Jeremy Spake and Master of Ceremony Melvyn Hayes from *It Ain't Half Hot Mum* talked about their personal experiences of being treated as perceived members of a minority group.

Guest speakers, BBC newsreader George Alagiah, local resident Ms Terri Gray and

local paralympic athlete Danny Crates spoke about their personal experiences as victims of other people's prejudices.

The Essex Police Television Unit showed a trailer of an information video they have produced about hate crime and how to report it, featuring Culture Secretary Chris Smith, victim accounts and services available. Agencies attending the launch had displays with information available.

Messages of support for the campaign have been received from Home Secretary Jack Straw, Cherie Booth QC, TV personality Sandy Tosvig, ITN broadcaster Sir Trevor

McDonald OBE, Channel 4's Graham Norton and London's Burning star Ben Onwukwe.

Campaign Organisers Basildon PC Andrew Meyer and Simon Ford, from the Southend Primary Care Trust, said: "We were very pleased with the launch receiving very positive feedback."

But now to get the show on the road! There will be roadshows at Basildon, Southend, Thurrock and Canvey Island to promote a positive image, raise awareness and encourage the reporting of incidents. Entertainment to appeal to all ages will feature bands, dancers, a DJ and karaoke.

Changes to call handling

THERE are no immediate plans to transfer the handling of all non-emergency calls, currently dealt with by FIR, over to service desks which are being introduced across divisions.

The service desks are being implemented throughout the next couple of months as part of the Call Handling 1 project. They will handle contacts with the public, bring together crime desks, help desks, and the switchboard function on divisions, and ensure that there is dedicated management for the service desks functions.

As a result of the implementation, concerns are being raised that non-emergency calls received at FIR will immediately be routed to the service desks, but this is not the case.

Part of the project is to undertake an analysis of demand and resources to see if changes can be made to improve the service being provided (which may mean a change of call routing for some non-emergency calls). If changes are to be made, they will be made after Call Handling 1 has been rolled out to the force, after the demand and resources analysis, and will fully involve all concerned.

Call Handling 1 is intended only to create divisional service desks as a position from which to progress to a future strategy for call handling.

Missing boy found at crime day

A TEENAGER who was attracted to a community crime open day in Loughton was reunited with his parents after police recognised him from a missing person's report.

The boy, who had been reported missing overnight, was spotted by officers from Loughton as they were offering advice to members of the public on matters from crime to home security. He was seen talking with officers while sitting on a City of London Police motorcycle.

Last month's open day attracted many local residents and motorists as police illustrated the importance of home and

Cash boost for youth projects

ESSEX Police has been awarded £81,000 by the Youth Justice Board for crime reduction initiatives following the latest round of bids for funding.

In February this year the Community Safety Department at headquarters circulated all divisions and partner agencies with details of opportunities to obtain one-off funding for preventative work relating to robbery, burglary and motor crime. The funding offer from the Youth Justice Board gave only two weeks to prepare the bids.

One successful joint bid by the Community Safety Department and the Essex Boys Club gleaned almost £20,000. The money has gone towards

the Respect programme, which works with youngsters deemed to be at risk of offending and engages them in challenging activities including expeditions and outdoor pursuits. New equipment and premises hire will now be possible.

Rayleigh division made 10 bids and were successful with two, one for £24,000 will enable a school to buy and build a "Kit Car" which when sold will enable another to be bought and built. This project therefore has the potential to roll on in the future. The other project received £7,350 to pay for the redesigning of two shopping areas in the locality to improve lighting etc.

Basildon received £28,000 for the Bonus scheme, a project working with the Essex Motor Project in Basildon.

Unfortunately the community safety bid for £90,000 for a holistic approach to the problem in the three divisions of Basildon, Harlow and Thurrock, including a prevention phase co-ordinated by Neighbourhood Watch, and a diversion stage also using the Essex Motor Project, was not successful.

Community Safety sergeant, Andy Loveridge, said: "It is good news that four projects were recognised by the Youth Justice Board and now have the opportunity to further reduce crime in the county. Various other initiatives are now being developed with our partners ready for any further bids in the future and relationships have been developed and enhanced as a result of the work undertaken."

Plump for pedal power

GET on yer bike is the message to the owners of the 20 million cycles in the UK as National Bike2Work looms just around the corner.

The scheme, which is fully supported by Chief Constable David Stevens, takes place on June 20 and forms part of a week-long cycling festival.

Employers and employees are being encouraged to forsake their cars and take to two wheels instead.

Braintree special constables are taking full advantage of the opportunity to extend their ongoing campaign against cycle crime. As part of the cycling festival they have planned a free postcoding event at George Yard Shopping Centre, Braintree on Saturday, June 23 between 10am and 4pm.

If you're interested in other planned events go to www.cyclingfestival.org.uk.

Tragedy shouldn't deter donors

FRIENDS and colleagues gathered at St Luke's Church, Tiptree to celebrate the life of Witham Detective Constable Mick Frost and say farewell.

Despite a brave 15 month battle against chronic myeloid leukaemia, Mick died at home in Tiptree on Sunday, May 20, aged just 33.

He leaves a widow Donna and two daughters Emma-Leigh and Alice.

The division's DI Peter Orpe said: "Mick was a conscientious, hard working officer who always did his best for the public. He had an infectious laugh and was well liked by everybody."

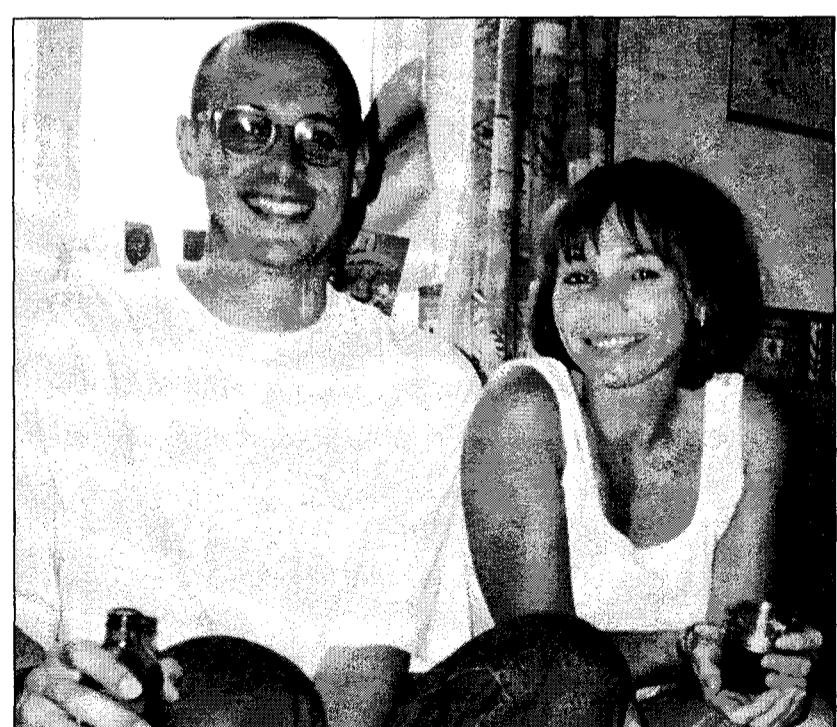
These sentiments were echoed by divisional Chief Insp Glenn Caton who said: "He will be a great loss to the division and the force as a whole. He will be sadly missed by all his colleagues."

Mick, who joined Essex Police in 1986, was keen to publicise his illness in the hope that it might encourage people to join the bone marrow register of potential donors.

He had been treated at Hammersmith Hospital and received a bone marrow transplant from a German donor. His later care was at the St Helena Hospice in Colchester.

Donna said: "Although Mick's transplant was not successful I hope it won't discourage people from becoming donors. Before Mick died he said that he just wanted to be given that chance and we would have felt so cheated if he hadn't. I would like to thank all those in Essex Police who have given Mick, myself and the girls their support throughout, particularly Paul Ritson, Roy Burnett, Peter Orpe and all his colleagues and friends in Braintree division."

"Mick will be a great loss to the division and the force as a whole"



● Mick Frost with his wife Donna in happier times.

The Drugs and Serious Crime Squad might be

Expelling the 'r'

WITH 107 arrests under their belt during the last 12 months, and £379,850 worth of property (including drugs) recovered, officers from the Drugs and Serious Crime Squad are clearly a force to be reckoned with, but only with the help and support of everyone out on division and at headquarters.

There are still a number of myths about the squad lingering from the 'good old days' of bottomless budgets and unequal opportunities, not least the myth of a group of "mavericks who only undertake jobs for the boys". But team leaders DI Phil Tucker and DI Terry Geraghty are looking to dispel these myths and improve internal communications.

DI Tucker said: "There is a real suspicion that we have a hidden agenda and don't want to be corporate or tow the party line. It couldn't be further from the truth."

A lot of this stems from the misconception that the Drugs and Serious Crime Squad

Feature: Kim Perks

chooses which requests for assistance they adopt for further investigation. It is, in fact, a Central and Co-ordinating Tasking Group, meeting once every fortnight and chaired by Assistant Chief Constable (Crime) John Broughton or Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) Joe Edwards, which makes those decisions.

The idea is that intelligence about a criminal, who is difficult to catch or transcends divisional or inter-county boundaries, is collated by the divisional intelligence officer and a request for assistance is presented to the next available tasking group.

Even those jobs self-generated by squad members have to go through the same process and have been known to be turned down in favour of a divisional request for assistance.

Any request which warrants urgent action and can't wait until the next tasking group must be referred to CIB and the Director of Intelligence.

This procedure ensures all jobs are prioritised

"There is a real suspicion that we have a hidden agenda and don't want to be corporate."

and leads to a fair dissemination of work across the county. The squad, which comprises a chief inspector, two inspectors, four sergeants and 28 constables, is currently undertaking jobs in Thurrock, Colchester, Basildon, Southend and Harlow.

DI Tucker, said: "The problem we face is that when requests are turned down there is often an assumption made that the squad have simply decided not to take the job on, and this in turn can result in a reluctance to submit any further requests. The reality is twofold. Firstly resources may simply not be available to cope with every submitted request and secondly some requests don't meet the criteria required.

"It is not sufficient to say if you follow Joe Bloggs around you will eventually catch him committing crime". Surveillance, which is a very large part of what we do, is an expensive commodity and manpower intensive. To get a job done quickly and effectively we need a focus and a time frame - which in turn requires good sound intelligence."

Another area sometimes not considered by the applicant is start points. The criminal in question may be unemployed or may not reside at any particular address.

Team sergeant Glenn Maleary explained: "We

don't have infinite resources so we require a of information about current lifestyle and need the officer submitting the request for assistance to continue sponsoring it by providing updated intelligence. Without a start point have nothing, but this is where divisions come in to their own. Most of our subjects are already committing offences of volume crime. It is understandable that officers want to convict for the more serious offences, but recent convicted criminals are easier to keep track of so convict of a volume crime offence and you find you have a start point. This type of action is an investment in future jobs."

Although surveillance is a large part of the squad's work, and includes armed surveillance, it is by no means the only work. Undercover operations, investigation and the development of Covert Human Intelligence Sources (informants) also play a role. And contrary to rumours the squad members do complete their own case papers and disclosure files and undertake classic leg work such as house-to-house enquiries teaming up with divisional officers or specialist units, such as FSU, as required.

DI Tucker said: "I am determined to drive away any image that creates a divide between the Drugs and Serious Crime Squad and the rest of the force, especially as it is not an image based on reality. It is a nationally accepted fact that intelligence-led policing is the way forward in combating crime and this can only be achieved if we all work together as a team."

One step behind

SURVEILLANCE may seem like a fairly straightforward aspect of policing but training is intensive and passing the training is not a foregone conclusion.

There are two courses currently being offered at Essex Police in line with national policy.

There is the new five day level 2 course being rolled out to divisional pro-active teams teaching photographic skills, foot surveillance, observation, log keeping etc.

Level 1, is the level required to be a member of the Drugs and Serious Crime Squad, and involves an intensive three week course comprising both foot and mobile surveillance.

Even the driving instructors, who are responsible for teaching the 'pre-surveillance

driving course' now have to pass level 1 before they are allowed to tutor in surveillance driving skills.

The course itself (at level 1) is not an easy feat. The manual is no bedtime reading and by the end of the first day you will be hard pushed to know your subject from your targets and your eyeballs from your toenails. The jargon is endless and differs depending on whether you are on foot or mobile surveillance. In addition you have to consider what you wear, what you carry and even what tune your mobile phone plays.

Being prepared for every eventuality is essential if you are to glean the power evidence that surveillance, in particular foot surveillance, can provide you with.

FOLLOWING on from the Millennium, Essex Police IT systems not only survived but continue to be successfully developed and enhanced.

Intelligence has been 're-engineered'. Development is now complete and following testing should be released to the user community within the next few months. As a result of consultation with users, enhanced features will include search displays in date order, the ability to tag an individual with a specific crime marker and a divisional interest flag. Once implementation has been completed and the system is functioning fully, further enhancements will be investigated, again in consultation with the users.

Crime Recording - the re-engineered

system went live on March 9 and is currently proving stable and reliable under considerable workload. Further enhancements to improve the way capture address data is underway and I'm also exploring the viability of plotting data on to maps.

Following widespread consultation, custody is currently being enhanced to meet the increasing demands of the role. This will include the comprehensive recording of prisoner risk assessments. More information will also be captured to benefit officers from the intelligence perspective.

A property system designed to handle lost, found and miscellaneous property is currently being evaluated - several options are being explored with a view to Es-



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Thursday	14th June	June	6.30pm

AFTERNOON FIXTURES

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Tues 8th May	2.25pm	Tues 14th Aug	2.15pm
Wed 16th May	2.25pm	Mon 20th Aug	2.30pm
Fri 25th May	2.10pm	Wed 29th Aug	2.00pm
Mon 18th June	2.15pm	Tues 4th Sept	2.30pm
Wed 4th July	2.30pm	Sun 30th Sept - FAMILY DAY	2.25pm
Tues 17th July	2.30pm	Wed 3rd Oct	2.10pm
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ringing home results, but not without your help

'Maverick' myths



Chief Constable David Stevens takes on the role of the villain alongside instructor Dc Richard Shakespeare to assist the latest surveillance course.

The four basic rules are:

- Am I acting naturally?
- If I am seen, can I be remembered?
- Do I have a good cover story?
- Am I being covert?

Dc Richard Shakespeare has been involved in operational surveillance for 11 years and is now one of only two officers in Essex Police qualified to teach the national training

course, having previously been seconded to the National Crime Squad and the Specialist Crime Centre at Loughborough.

He explained: "Even with the impact of recent legislation, surveillance in this day of intelligence-led policing, is still one of the best weapons in our armoury. The best evidence is

Operation Sniper - A case study

FOR legal and operational reasons names have had to be changed.

IF you are designated by NCIS as a core nominal criminal you have the dubious honour of being one of the 100 or so top professional lifestyle criminals in the country. Kenneth Jones is one such man living in Essex, when not a guest of Her Majesty.

Essex Police received intelligence that Jones intended to supply drugs at a specific time and place. A range of male and female foot operatives and covert observation vans were carefully put into position to provide optimum coverage.

Would the intelligence be correct? Would the location be the best place to make an arrest, to gain the evidence, to provide a safe containment and to protect the public?

At the eleventh hour NCIS asked the squad to allow Jones to leave the area after the transaction and only arrest the buyer as new intelligence suggested Jones had planned an even larger deal the next day.

Would it be ethical to let a drugs supplier walk away? Would it stand up in court? Would identification of the supplier become an issue?

Although Jones was extremely surveillance conscious he didn't spot the covert teams. He met an unknown man and they drove in their respective cars to a car park. Alongside one another, and with very little ceremony, Jones took a bag from his boot and handed it to the unknown man before departing.

At this stage nearby factories were winding up for the day. The roads were very congested and the revised plan meant arresting the buyer away from the crime scene. Short notice meant no surveillance

bike was available. Just one traffic light against the team and the whole operation would be lost. The force helicopter was called for back-up.

Then out of the blue the unknown man's vehicle pulled onto a garage forecourt and it's now or maybe never. With nerves tested to the limit the command is made - STRIKE! STRIKE!

What if it's not safe? What if the bag doesn't contain drugs?

But it was and it did - 10 kilos of cannabis resin to be exact, carefully seized for analysis and forensics.

As is often the case the 'big job' the following day never happened and the inevitable did. The unknown man, later identified, said he had no idea who he was meeting or what was in the bag. He did eventually plead guilty and was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment.

Jones, as suspected, when later arrested, denied he was ever at the scene and refused to participate in an ID procedure. A search of his home address found no further evidence of drug dealing but a mobile phone and financial documents were seized.

It was here that post arrest skills came into play. Officers from the Drugs and Serious Crime Squad seized security film and placed Jones at the scene using two different techniques, phone analysis and facial mapping. His assets were also looked at to consider whether any were the proceeds of his crimes.

Not only was Jones found guilty he was sentenced to several years' imprisonment and the judge ordered that his car be confiscated and then forfeited to the benefit of Essex Police.

to catch criminals with their 'hands on' and being out on surveillance behind these people gives us that chance."

It's nothing new of course, but the nature of the beast is forever changing and there is a need to keep updated with new techniques, legislation and other anomalies. It is no longer acceptable, for example, to call the person you are following a 'target'. This is the result of a case in which the wrong man was shot by police, and the subsequent jury took exception to the fact that he was being called a 'target' throughout the police operation.

So the advice if you are planning to take a course is dump everything you have ever been told about surveillance, as the chance's are it is now outdated.

Linked to intranet, the **extranet** is also being developed. This will allow police forces to be able to link and view selected information from each others systems. Proof of this concept has been established in a limited context between ourselves and Hertfordshire Constabulary whereby we are currently viewing each others briefing pages. It is hoped to develop this theme further with the inclusion of other forces within the region.

These are the main projects. However, several others are either in progress or in the pipeline. These include systems for **child protection, covert surveillance procedures, accident information, aliens, human resources, and licensing**.

For more information about any of these

Having just finished teaching a level 1 course in which three out of 15 passed, Dc Shakespeare said: "The type of skills required to become a surveillance operative may not be achievable by all, hence a percentage do fail the course. The students are assessed at regular intervals by myself and by 'qualified in-car trainers' from the Drugs and Serious Crime Squad, who work together to get officers on the course to the standard required.

"The course is however, unique, in that the people training it are themselves involved in operational surveillance on a daily basis. Any officer who attends will tell you it is hard work, but is a great experience that stands them in good stead for their future careers."

systems contact Chief Insp Graham Carey, Insp Paul Hand, Insp Kevin Wakefield or Insp Ted Higgs in IT Developments.



WE CAN DO IT FOR YOU

Technology update

Police buying a system that best suits force needs.

The National Management Information System (NMIS) is currently being procured and the plan is for implementation by the end of the year. The system is designed to capture data from a number of our existing systems and create links thereby allowing extensive research to be undertaken providing a wealth of useful and relevant management information. It will also provide Home Office returns and pre-defined reports at all levels.

Informant management is in the process of being computerised into **PIMS** (the Police Informant Management System). Following the completion of a pilot in Harlow division it is now being considered for roll-out to the rest of the force.

The **intranet** continues to be developed. Whilst there are many sites on the system, a comprehensive report examining the way forward is being considered. This will include design standards and planning, maximising the opportunity for future development across all areas of policing activity.



Trophy triumph

THE brave actions of PC James Finnigan (pictured left) when he arrested a man armed with a knife were rewarded with this year's Wilson Trophy presented by Lord Braybrooke.

PC Tom Bellham (picture right) received the Millard Trophy for his contribution to social services in the community.

Constables Roy Knott and Ian Goss (left) were jointly awarded the Wilson Trophy for dealing a suspected burglar who had threatened them with a knife.

PC Neil Tyson (right) was awarded the Wilson Trophy for saving the life of an elderly woman.

PC Adrian Ranson (left) was awarded the Wilson Trophy for saving the life of an elderly woman.

PCs David Dunn, John Rout, Mark Hayes, Andrew Weeks and Alexander Draycott (right) were all commended for bravery and teamwork displayed during the arrest of a suicidal man in Basildon.

The man had barricaded himself inside a house and threatened to kill the officers with a knife.

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INSURANCE

Town surveys 'rowdiness'

A NEW system for registering incidents of rowdy behaviour could help Brentwood Police to better target their resources.

The recently launched initiative follows concerns about incidents in the town of an evening, and particularly at weekends.

A form has been introduced which records where an incident took place, the type of incident, who was involved and where they come from, whether drugs or alcohol were involved, which licensed premises was visited, and if there were door staff on duty.

The form will be used, even if the incidents are not crimes, to identify if there are any particular trends and whether police need to target particular areas, such as the railway station if it appears the troublemakers are coming in from other areas.

Any relevant information about licensed premises may be used to oppose any licensing applications that the police consider unsuitable.

Constables David Dunn, John Rout, Mark Hayes, Andrew Weeks and Alexander Draycott were all commended for bravery and teamwork displayed during the arrest of a suicidal man in Basildon. The man had barricaded himself inside a house and threatened to kill the officers with a knife.

Mrs Dorothy Denton of the Town Partnership Group said: "There is the perception that there are problems with drunkenness and rowdiness in the High Street, but we need facts."

If the findings show there is a serious problem, the group could ask Brentwood Council to introduce a by-law banning people from possessing alcohol in the High Street altogether.

Police patrols already confiscate alcohol from under 18s.

The initiative, believed to be the first of its kind in the county, will continue so that enough data can be collected for evaluation.

Brentwood Crime Reduction Officer Bob Shoesmith explained: "We will feed results onto a database and after a while should be able to observe trends. This will help us deploy our resources more efficiently."

A recent bid for government funding to extend the successful CCTV system in Brentwood was rejected but it is hoped that data collected may help in any future bids.

Commended for their bravery

BRAVERY from around the county was rewarded during the latest commendation ceremony.

Pc Neil Tyson and Pc Adrian Ranson were both commended for saving the life of an elderly woman in Stanford le Hope. The woman was in a distressed and confused state when she poured petrol over herself and then attempted to set herself alight. Both officers wrestled a lighter from her hand and stayed

Beyond the call of duty

IN recognition of the hard work of staff from Transco in Romford in supporting Crimestoppers initiatives throughout the county, seven members of staff were invited to police HQ to receive a commemorative plaque.

One of the group, Richard Hadden is head of emergency and meter services for Transco and also a member of the Essex Crimestoppers Board. He said: "I am very proud of the work that has been carried out by my team and it reflects the commitment the company has to supporting the community."

Transco has provided sponsorship to enable thousands of letters to be sent to householders in Essex - the staff volunteered to help in their own free time to generate and despatch the letters. One of the mail shots was sent to people on the Greenstead estate in Colchester where criminal damage and graffiti were affecting the quality of life.

The letters explained how members of the public could provide information to police anonymously via the Crimestoppers telephone number. The initiative proved successful with a reduction in cases of damage and nuisance and praise was received from the local council and police.

DI Malcolm Oakey, said: "We are really grateful to Transco staff for their help and their continuing efforts. Transco as a company and their staff have provided people in Essex with a means of helping themselves and Essex Police to deal with crime in their neighbourhood. Without the help of Mr Hadden and his staff we would have found it very difficult to bring so much information about Crimestoppers to the attention of the people of Essex."

Web site dedication

THE death of Pc Rod Daniels has prompted a former Laindon traffic officer to build a web site dedicated to his time with the unit.

Bryn Seldon is currently an officer in Cumbria Constabulary but was employed by Essex Police between 1976 and 1988.

He has already contacted a few friends and has launched the web site, but is short of a great amount of information regarding fellow colleagues, photographs etc.

You can surf the site on www.laindontraffic.freeserve.rs.com.

If you have any information which would help Bryn expand the site you can write to him at Woodford House, Bothel, Wigton, Cumbria CA7 2JA or email him on Brynseldon@hotmail.com.

Strategic visit to the county



SENIOR police officers from Sierra Leone, including Assistant Commissioner Richard Moigbe, recently paid a visit to Essex Police to look at strategic direction to supplement their ten week International Commanders course at Bramshill.

They are pictured here with tutor, former superintendent Stuart Cullen and Assistant Chief Constable (Crime) John Broughton.

Mobile technology

MORE than 340 extra pairs of eyes will be on the lookout in connection with recently committed crimes in Southend following the recent issue of pagers to the town's cabbies and private hire car drivers.

The Southend Licensed Vehicle Watch Partnership is a joint initiative between Southend licensed taxi and private hire vehicle associations and proprietors, Southend Police and Southend Borough Council.

They have provided sufficient funds to pay for the pagers, which have been programmed by Stanford Communications to be linked direct to Southend police station.

Alpha Print has provided rear and front windscreen stickers for those vehicles with pagers. Southend Community Safety officer, PC Lyn Fenn said: "We see this as a great opportunity of having mobile help in the war against crime."

Essex Police and the Hackney Carriage licensing section of the council will be administering the scheme and measuring its effectiveness in solving crimes.

Winning suggestions

TWENTY members of staff are to be rewarded for suggesting ways to make improvements within Essex Police.

Solving crime on the web

A CRIMEWATCH style feature has been introduced to the Southend Neighbourhood Watch website, and is believed to be the first of its kind among the county network.

Descriptions of suspects, vehicles, and e-fits, are featured with requests for public assistance and a particular focus on burglary, bogus callers,

The Force Suggestion Scheme's Awards Panel reviewed a total of 90 proposals for the Year 2000 and will be making 21 awards to 20 employees.

vehicle crime and assaults.

Anyone with information will be able to email their information via a dedicated link to Southend's Divisional Intelligence Unit.

Also keen to promote charity events, officers from Southend can send details to the editor through the Contact Us link on www.nhw.org.uk.

Crime literature in libraries

VISITORS to libraries in Rochford have been able to read all about crime reduction. Noticeboards have been provided for Essex Police leaflets and posters by the Essex County libraries.

Crime Reduction Officer Jason Sculthorpe said: "The scheme has been

running for six months and the feedback I have had from library managers has been encouraging. So far, I am confident that awareness levels around the district have been raised through the distribution of around 1,000 leaflets."

Once again Harlow topped the table with the most ideas, closely followed by Rayleigh. Most divisions submitted suggestions with half of the proposals sent in by constables. A quarter of the winners are support staff.

Following changes to the scheme in 2000, monetary awards are given according to merit, benefits to Essex Police and synergy with force objectives. A further category of encouragement awards is given to those whose proposals, for one reason or another, cannot be adopted.

The Panel made a total of 12 encouragement awards.

Proposals, which have been accepted as force policy or best practice, include:

- an effective method of marking received firearms to identify whether they had been safety checked;
- a more user friendly means of removing fingerprint ink;
- a good practice guide and 'search kit' for aiding the evidential recovery

of computers;

- the incorporation of direct dial numbers and email addresses on letterhead templates.

Among the encouragement awards for this year is one to Little Havens Hospice which is unusual for a number of reasons.

The original submission was anonymous but the proposals, regarding improving communications practices in FIR, were so well researched and thought out that it was submitted to the FIR command team for comment. The practices had already been identified by the command team, but had not been disseminated to staff. As a consequence the command team recommended that the encouragement award should go to the proposer's charity of choice - Little Havens.

Recipients of all awards will receive them from Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark, at a presentation due to take place in mid-July.

A very special walk



● The sun shone on Southend for this charitable group of walkers.

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

Sport and Leisure

A host of great deals

MEMBERS of the Force Sports Association can enjoy guaranteed savings on worldwide holidays thanks to a new deal which has been secured with New Forge Travel.

All holidays will be discounted with a minimum of seven per cent on High Street prices, many will provide even greater savings.

To take advantage of the offer phone direct on 028 9066 9808 or email travel@newforge.com. On being asked for identification all serving personnel should quote their P.I.N. and all retired personnel should quote their payroll number.

New Forge will take your booking and subsequently check with EPSA to ratify your club membership.

A RETIRED officer, who now runs a health and leisure club is offering discounted membership to members of EPSA.

You can join Devon House, in Anchor Street, Chelmsford, with no joining fee and a monthly fee of about £20. Paying annually will bring a bigger discount.

There is no swimming pool but just about everything else to keep you fit. Further details are available from the Force Sports Association on 01245 491491 ext 58888.

THE Clubhaus golf deal available to EPSA members now covers The Essex Golf Club at Earl's Colne.

Rates are £370 for full membership, which includes playing free at sister courses such as Benton Hall and Three Rivers. Applications forms are available from John Stonehouse on 01245 491491 ext 58888.

A worthy social life

IT'S always nice to have a social, but knowing you are raising money for a worthy cause makes it all the more enjoyable.

Recent events have included a quiz night, followed by a fish & chip supper which was arranged by Dave Jepson and The Friends of the Essex Police Choir.

They also arranged, a trip to the London Eye followed by a trip to Camden Market and then a return trip on the Regents Canal on a narrow boat from Camden Lock to Little Venice. The weather was kind to us, one of the first warm clear days so we had wonderful views over London, from the Eye, and a very varied and enjoyable day.

These events helped to raise funds to enable the choir to be self-funding. The will help buy copies of music for us to sing at future concerts, broaden our repertoire, and also purchase uniforms.

The choir performed at Takeley Church, Takeley, on May 19, helping to raise funds for cancer charity HEAL as well as the Takeley Church funds. Ticket sales raised £800 and with additional sponsorship, a very grand total of £2,400 was raised.

League decision delayed

WITH the problems caused by the foot and mouth restrictions a decision on the outcome of the 2000/2001 cross-country running league will now be decided at the league AGM later in the summer.

The choices are a) hold the twice cancelled race before the start of the

new season in October and include the regional championships in this fixture; b) hold the 5th league, but disregard the championships or; c) decide the final league positions using the results from just the four races that did take place.

As the results stand, Essex would win both the men's and ladies league, but there would need to be some discussion over the individual awards,

as these are usually scored from the best four out of five races so as not to penalise anyone missing just one fixture.

In the meantime there is an opportunity to take part in a few track races (contact Laurie Rampling) and plenty of time to train for what is going to be a very busy autumn with the PAA marathon, the re-arranged cross-country and the PAA ten mile road race.

Future events are as follows:

- Regional championships - June 13, Dartford, Kent;
- PAA championships - June 27, Solihull, West Midlands;
- PAA cross-country - September 12, Southampton;
- PAA marathon - September 23, Manchester;
- PAA ten mile road race - November 10, Gragside, Northumbria.

Shoot for top prizes

A THRILLING day of competition could also lead to you winning a Tudor Monarch watch donated by Rolex.

Crimestoppers Trust has arranged the event - a 75 clay sporting and skeet competition - on Wednesday, June 27, at Doveridge Clay Sports Club in Derbyshire.

Police teams of three are invited to enter at the team price of £175. The day includes a superb summer barbecue, prize presentation and raffle.

There will also be a 100 open English sporting competition running alongside the

team event with entry, between 10am and 2pm, costing £35.

It promises to be a fun-filled day with fantastic prizes available for both competitions and all shooters entered into a free draw to win the Tudor Monarch watch worth £1,300.

The event will raise vital funds for Crimestoppers Trust. More details about the event and entry forms can be obtained from Events Co-ordinator, Clare Blakeslee, on 0208 254 3245 or by email on clare.blakeslee@crimestoppers-uk.org.

Cruising on the Caribbean

AFTER the tremendous success of last year's Caribbean cruises the EPSA has negotiated once again with Carefree Travel to bring you more cruises in January, February and March 2002.

From only £759 (Jan and Feb) and £799 (March), you can enjoy an all inclusive 11 night cruise. Price includes flights, transfers, inside twin accommodation, full board, entertainment and all taxes.

There is a choice of dates and cruises. To apply contact the Force Sports Secretary on 01245 491491 ext 58888.

Shopping in New York

THERE are still a few vacancies left for the New York shopping trips. Departing on Thursdays and returning on Sunday night or Monday morning, you can give yourself a well earned break from only £449.

Departures are September 27 through to November 2001 and details are available via the Force Sports Secretary on 01245 491491 ext 58888.

Essex Police Choir

Then on June 2 the choir performed at St Luke's Church Tiptree, as part of Tiptree's Summer Fair Festival.

Forthcoming concerts include:

Saturday, June 30 - 7.30pm at the Baptist Church in Victoria Road South, Chelmsford, in aid of church funds. For tickets contact Glenda Lance on 01245 261056

Saturday, July 14 - 7.30pm at Trinity Methodist Church, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford, in aid of the charity RESPITE. For tickets contact Bob Drake on 01245 223819.

Saturday, September 1 - 7.30pm at St Peter's and Vincula, Coggeshall, in aid of the church funds. For tickets please contact Derek North on 01376 561968

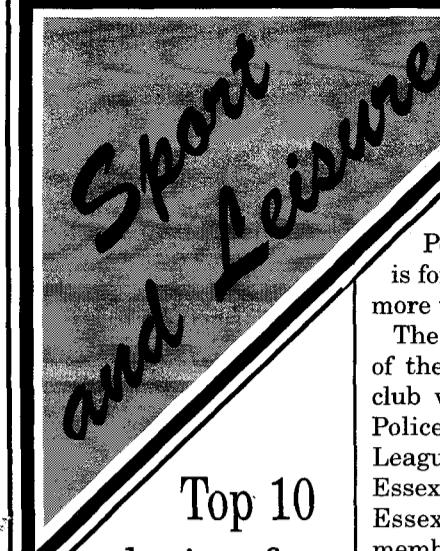
Jackie Lee
Essex Police Choir Publicity Officer

Do you play a brass instrument or a percussion instrument to a reasonable standard?



If so, why not join the Essex Police band.

If you are interested, come along to one of our rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 7pm, in the Assembly Room at Police Headquarters, or contact the band secretary on 01245 452327.



Top 10 placing for rifle hot shot

LOUGHTON'S Martyn Wells continues to shoot to fame after finishing in the top ten of the Police Athletic Association's rifle-shooting championship.

Representing Essex Police, Pc Wells qualified for the short-range individual finals by virtue of his second-place finish in the short-range regional championships. The national finals were held at Surrey Police HQ in Guildford over a weekend in April and Martyn eventually finished ninth.

In the run-up to both events, the 30-year-old from Braintree, who has been shooting for about 13 years, finished first in the winter league postal division, scoring a maximum 18 points from nine rounds.

Martyn is keen to hear from any smallbore shooting or rifle enthusiasts and are asked to contact him at Loughton Police Station.

New recruit takes title

UNFORTUNATELY Pc Jason Foster, from Harlow CPU, has lost his national squash title at the national championships in Belfast, but not without a fight.

He was beaten into runner-up position by a new recruit from South Wales, who is, in fact, a former professional.

Jason will still, however, represent the British Police throughout the rest of the year, so well done.

Kent take the weight

THIS year's PAA weightlifting, powerlifting and wrestling championships will be hosted by Kent on Saturday, November 24.

The weightlifting and powerlifting are open to competitors of either sex. And, although the championships are of a good standard, entries from novices are welcome.

For further information interested parties should contact Pc Paul Cole on 01634 884258 or 07867 978418.

IT'S a sad day for Essex Police football as the squad is forced to quit the league after more than 30 years.

The move will come at the end of the current season when the club will drop out of the Essex Police Intermediate Football League, formerly known as the Essex Olympian League of which Essex Police were founder members in 1966.

It means Essex Police will cease to compete among the

community it serves and many other clubs within the league are said to be disheartened that the club will no longer be able to continue or maintain the excellent relationships which have been forged over the years.

There are a number of reasons why the club is having to quit. Firstly there is the new policy regarding time off for police sport coupled with the introduction of new 11-hour shift patterns (although these have now been

abandoned). Club secretary Chris Dicks has also cited the lack of incentive to members to travel as much as 50 miles in a round trip to play a home game in their own time and at their own expense. Essex Police (and they are not alone) simply can't support sport in the way they have been able to in the past.

For the past three seasons regular Saturday competition maintaining skill and fitness has led to officers being selected to

represent England Police and Great Britain Police. The withdrawal of the club will no doubt have an impact on future selection.

On a more positive note, the force will continue to run a team but playing only police football. Time off is still given for PAA events so any players interested in being involved next season should contact Chris Dicks at HQ Driver Training, Practical Skills Wing on ext 53633.

Marathon effort by largest team yet

THEY have done it again! And once again they have raised money for another worthy cause.

The Essex Police marathon team comprised the ever present Al Barley (Basildon) and Laurie Rampling (Thurrock), previous Basildon combatants Mark Estall, Vic Wallace, Jim Page and Matt Schneider, and first timers Jerry Rider, Danny Walker, Debbie Lincoln, Brian Palombella (Basildon), Emma Barker (Braintree) and Mick Battersby (Chelmsford). Then there was the late inclusion of the 'last minute supersub' Steve King (Colchester). It meant the largest squad fielded since formation in 1989 and more importantly, the largest to finish together in the Mall, 5hrs 10mins and 22secs after leaving Greenwich.

This year's charity is the Heartbeat 2000 appeal supported by the Mayor of Southend, Mr Graham Longley, whose vision is to supply life saving defibrillator machines for the town. The team aim to raise enough money to purchase a machine in the name of Essex Police, at a cost of approximately £3,000.

Despite being overtaken by a rhino, a caterpillar and a double decker London omnibus, not forgetting the five times Olympic gold medallist Steve Redgrave, it was once again a terrific emotional experience and Laurie Rampling thanks all the team for making his last London marathon (in uniform) before his retirement a wonderful experience.



Next year the Essex Police marathon team will be supporting Child Victims of Crime

Rapid rise for top canoeist

CANOEIST Paul Anderson is currently out in Europe after becoming Britain's number one canoeist following national time trials for the World Cup finals.

The 29-year-old constable based at the Central Road Policing Unit is competing against the world's best in the European Championship, the pre-World Championship, the World Cup Series and the World Cup finals.

The month-long trip follows Paul's participation in the UK selection trials at the National Watersports Centre in Nottingham earlier this year where over 40 canoeists spent the weekend racing in both Classic and Sprint races over distances ranging from 500 to 5,000m.

Paul entered last year's World Cup

Canoeing Series in New Zealand ranked second in the world. He competed in six races as a member of the Great Britain team, finishing 13th from a field of over 50 canoeists. As he paddles with this year's nine-strong team he will be displaying the Essex Police crest.

Pc Anderson, from Billericay, said: "The force has been extremely supportive, allowing me to train twice a day with Chelmsford Canoe Club. They have been very accommodating about my sport requirements."

A far cry from his work on the county's roads Paul will be racing down river and fighting white-water rapids in Italy, Slovenia, Austria and the Czech Republic. He said: "The European

rivers are very different to those here in Essex as the weather plays a major part in the flow of the water."

Basildon claim cup

BASILDON have lifted this year's Croker Cup with Braintree coming in runners-up for the second year running. The rugby tournament had to be postponed due to foot and mouth and all other section tournaments have been suspended until the new Croker Cup year.

The final results were: 1 Basildon 135, 2 Braintree 118, 3 Rayleigh 110, 4 Southend 84, 5 Harlow 61, 6 Chelmsford 49, 7 HQ 48, 8 Thurrock 39, 9 Colchester 37, 10 Tendring 34.

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