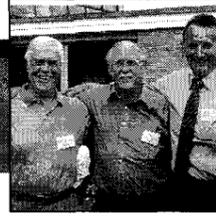




Warm welcome for children - P5



Romania convoy success - Centre



Pensioners enjoy garden party - P9

ON THE ROAD FOR RURAL POLICING



● Chairman of Essex Police Authority, Mr Anthony Peel (left) cuts the ribbon to officially open the new rural police station, watched by Chief Constable David Stevens.

Photo: HQ Photographic

RURAL communities in west Essex are being served by a new mobile police station, giving communities direct access to officers serving those areas.

At the launch of the new facility last month, the chairman of Essex Police Authority, Mr Anthony Peel, commented: "I think this is probably a clear indication that rural communities have not been abandoned."

Chief Constable David Stevens said it was good to see so many representatives of local communities at the launch, which took place in The Essex Barn, at Blake Hall, Ongar, by kind permission of Mr Ronald Capel-Cure.

He said: "The concept of rural policing is to work

by Norman Hicks

closely with the community, using community policing teams, of local officers, working in and known by the communities they serve."

The Essex force has invested £3 million in new buildings for rural areas during the past two years and the launch of the mobile police station was another example of its commitment to rural policing, he said.

Unique

Divisional Commander Supt Ian Learmonth said the unique design of the vehicle had already attracted interest from other forces and that its provision was a clear indication that Essex Police had been listening to the concerns of local communities.

He said: "We all go to our local communities and listen to the views and concerns they raise with us."

"We are told that there are not enough police officers visible in the community, espe-

cially rural areas.

"We have taken account of that concern and believe that this rural police vehicle will address those issues," said Supt Learmonth.

The vehicle has been designed to meet the needs of the community and will both support and enhance the division's community policing teams.

The Essex policing style is community-based and intelligence-led, he said and was already producing many benefits.

The new vehicle will enable rural communities to receive information about crime trends and crime prevention initiatives in their area and will also enable the community policing teams to gather information, which can help them too, he said.

The vehicle will serve communities in the Epping Section initially, before embracing Brentwood Section after the first few months.

Funded by the Rural Policing Fund, the vehicle was conceived by Insp Peter Hesketh, of Epping Community Policing Team and Crime Reduction Officer Tony Ellis and developed by Bob Smith of HQ Transport Services, in consultation with FAME Commercial Ltd.

Insp Hesketh thanked Supt Learmonth for his support for the project and said he and his team had tried to devise a user-friendly vehicle, which would be welcoming, comfortable and would provide privacy for those who required it.

Concept

The project team had visited other forces, which had similar vehicles and had used those visits to shape the Essex concept, of a non-aggressive appearance and practical, functional facility.

He thanked the other team members, of Tony Ellis, Sgt Sean O'Callaghan, Pc Paul Gardener and Pc Julie Quinnell.

● More details and photographs on centre pages.

Protest ends peacefully

WHEN Greenpeace protesters took over the Esso distribution site at Purfleet, Essex Police showed it is capable of rising to more than one major challenge as just miles up the road in Tilbury over 100 officers continued in their search for missing schoolgirl Danielle Jones.

Over 50 protesters descended on Essex during the early hours of the morning.

The main entrance and exit were

blocked with containers bolted to the ground with demonstrators locked inside.

The only other vehicle access to the site was blocked by an advertisement lorry with six protesters chained to the underside.

Others were on rooftops and gantrys, up lighting pylons or wandering the vast compound, some dressed up as tigers, the symbol of Esso.

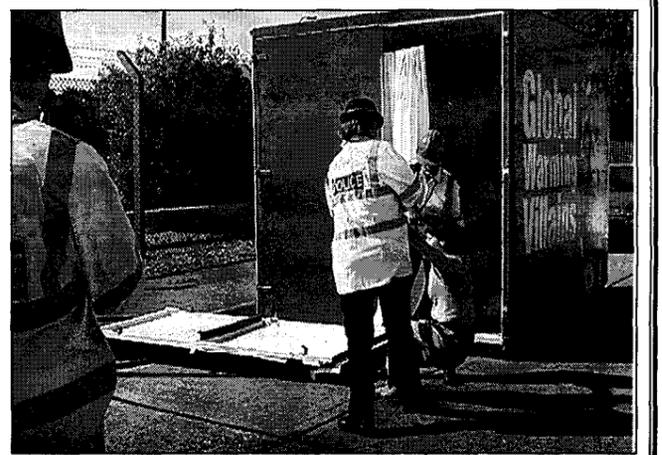
Their purpose, they claimed was to

protect the climate and to highlight Esso's refusal to accept a link between its oil and global warming.

When organisers declined initial requests to stand the protest down, Esso provided Essex Police with the necessary permission to take "positive action".

Hydraulic cutting equipment was used to free two protesters from each of the containers while the Essex Police rope access team used a

● Continued on page 3.



Pay rise agreed at 3.5 per cent

AT a meeting of the Police Negotiating Board held on July 17, 2001 it was agreed to increase the pay of the Federated ranks by 3.5 per cent from September 1, 2001.

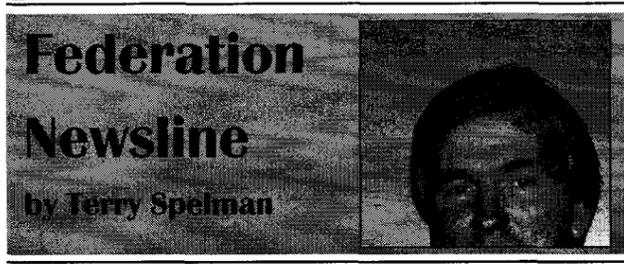
It should be remembered that this agreement will require the approval of the Secretary of State before it can be implemented.

Agreed

It was also agreed to continue discussions in the Joint Working Party in respect of the productivity related pay claim which we tabled earlier, ie 12 per cent. They are looking to report back by October 24, 2001.

Members' services: We have various schemes in being, i.e. legal expenses insurance, travel insurance, private health care, critical injury insurance and the group insurance scheme.

All details can be obtained from the Federation office, but I have been asked to print in



more detail the Police Federation group insurance scheme.

Police Federation Essex Police Group Insurance Scheme: Membership of the scheme is limited to those members of Essex Police whose applications for membership have been accepted by the trustees and who are currently paying the premiums by deduction from pay.

In order to obtain the best possible terms, this type of insurance scheme dispenses with the normal certificate of membership so that the administration of the scheme is kept to a minimum.

Accordingly, once they have been accepted in the first instance, provided the member continues to pay the correct premium, they are regarded as members until such time as either their membership is cancelled by

the trustees; their subscriptions cease; they are no longer a member of Essex Police; or notice has been given by the member of his withdrawal from the scheme.

Members are advised to notify the Federation office immediately he/she has been absent from duty through injury (on or off duty) for more than one week so that a claim form can be sent to him for completion.

Absence

At the end of his/her absence from duty, a declaration of absence form should be submitted for payment of benefit.

In the case of members being absent for a long period, arrangements can be made for an interim payment.

Members are advised to check their pay slips each month.

Any failure of deduction should be notified to the

Federation office immediately.

The benefits of the scheme are as follows:-

● Life assurance: Payable on death from any cause - £96,000.

● Accident insurance: Loss of limbs and/or eyes: £22,000 Permanent total disablement: £22,000

● Temporary total disablement, because of injury, up to 104 weeks excluding first seven days: £15 per week

Please note that winter sports injuries which occur outside of the UK are not covered under the personal accident insurance.

There is a descending scale of payment on compulsory retirement on account of injury or ill-health, maximum £750, which reduces by £150 per five-year period of service.

Sickness insurance: For an additional £2 per month officers off sick for six months, who go on to half pay, will receive £135 per week, tax free, for up to six months. Payments will then cease.

For ease of administration, all officers currently a member of the group insurance scheme, will be deemed to be covered in the "sickness scheme" unless the

Federation office is notified accordingly.

Officers injured on duty should continue to be paid on full pay as agreed by the Chief Constable.

The new scheme is designed to cover officers not injured on duty, ie ordinary sickness.

Cost: Group insurance £7, plus sickness insurance £2, total £9.

Spouse assurance: In conjunction with the group insurance scheme we have negotiated a £32,000 death benefit for the husband/wife of contributing members who undertake to pay the additional premium of £1.55 per month.

Married

Serving officers married to officers within the Essex group scheme must be full members of the group scheme and cannot apply to be included in the spouse scheme. The spouse scheme is only available to married officers - partners are not included.

Retired officers: All members leaving on a normal retirement can continue as stated with life assurance cover only, with 50 per cent of the benefit until the age of 65.

Annual event in memory of Mark

AN annual golf competition will be held in memory of Mick Frost, of Witham CI who lost his battle with leukaemia earlier this year.

The 2001 event will be held at Gosfield Golf Club, Monday, September 10.

The format will be back rolls and coffee followed nine-hole texas scramble with team prizes.

This will be followed lunch and an 18-hole individual stableford competition the afternoon for the trophy.

Cost

The cost for this event will be £33.

There will also be prizes nearest the pin, longest drive and a prize for the lowest score (Mick's favourite).

Please inform DI Peter Orpe by e-mail if you are interested in joining in the day and he will send you full details.

If the day is fully subscribed it will be on a 'first come first served' basis.

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Hit the heights or race to glory for sick children

GREAT Ormond Street Children's Hospital is set to benefit from a sponsored charity event later this month.

The event is an abseil and/or motorised go-kart event at the Lakeside shopping centre car park 12, Thurrock on Saturday, August 25, between 9am and 5pm.

Corringham Pc Steve Smith, who is the regional co-ordinator for GOSH, said: "This is our second year at the centre and last year we raised in excess of £17,300 for the charity.

Gratitude

"We chose the charity as my son is under the hospital for a medical condition.

"He has been operated on several times for life saving operations and we felt that this would be a way of paying back our gratitude to the hospital for saving our son Jack," said Steve.

There are no age limits for this year's event. Last year

the youngest was 10 and the oldest was aged 80.

The organisers would like to see more children involved this year, to make the event more family orientated.

There are still several spaces left and the event can cater for small groups, larger numbers or indeed individual willing applicants.

The cost of taking part in each event is £10, but if the minimum sponsorship is raised, the event is free, as the deposit will be returned. Minimum sponsorship for the abseil is £40 and for both events is £60.

Application packs can be obtained by e-mailing Pc Steve Smith at Corringham, or by phoning him or wife Lisa, on 077908 76376 after 4pm weekdays or anytime at weekends.

Said Steve: "Last year we had some colleagues from the police kindly participate, but the majority were from outside agencies. This year I would like to include more Essex officers and their families.

"To date we have colleagues from a variety of geographical divisions within Essex taking part. Please spread the word to your families, friends, work associates and contacts."

There will be prizes for the go-karting race and the child and adult who raises the most money.

Mobile

Steve is also collecting or unwanted/unused mobile phones and accessories for the same charity. To date has handed in more than 100 phones.

For each phone the hospital receives £3 and for a phone and charger £5.

Any Law readers who would like to donate their personally-owned mobile phones should send them through the internal mail system to Steve Smith at Corringham, with their name and collar number inside, or for non-serving staff, phone him on the above number to arrange delivery.

Figures show Essex is still safe

FIGURES published by the Home Office last month show a further fall in crime in Essex.

The figure of 6,600 offences per 100,000 population in the 12 months to March this year is 60 fewer than during the same period in 1999-2000 and compares with a national average of 9,814 per 100,000.

Commenting on the figures, Essex Assistant Chief Constable (Crime) John Broughton, said: "We are pleased that this confirms what we have known in Essex for many years, that we are among the safest counties in England and Wales."

Burglary

Crimes of particular concern to local communities, such as burglary and vehicle crime, have also continued their downward trend.

Said Mr Broughton: "The Essex Police boundaries expanded in April last year to take in parts of the Epping Forest district formerly policed by the Metropolitan Police and, as a result, we have had to deal with an extra 4,000 criminal offences in the year.

"Despite this, the number of burglaries of people's homes in the expanded force area fell by more than seven per cent, with vehicle crime down by almost three per cent, compared to the previous year," he added.

"This means that there have been 1,000 fewer victims of this type of crime in the county in the 12 months under review, compared to the previous year," said Mr Broughton.

Credit

"Much of the credit for our continuing good performance in terms of reducing crime must go to the partnerships set up under the Crime and Disorder Act, which have seen Essex Police working closely with communities, local authorities and other relevant agencies to tackle issues of greatest concern at the local level.

"We will continue to build on those partnerships and make use of every means at our disposal to continue to impact on crime in Essex," he said.

Railway company backs summer drink-drive campaign

Trains take strain

ESSEX Police has welcomed First Great Eastern Railways on board this year's summer drink-drive campaign.

FGE Railways will

help remind motorists of the consequences of drinking and driving.

The month long operation during August will be supported by an advertising campaign which will warn people of the dangers of drinking and driving, particularly during warm summer

days when the temptation of cooling down with an alcoholic drink is ever present.

Essex Police Road Policing Manager Chief Inspector Tom Diment is delighted

by Nishan Wijeratne

with FGE Railways' contribution to this summer's campaign.

He said: "We recognise that people will drink during the summer, and I'm not seeking to prevent that.

"We just want everyone to be responsible for their community; if you take a drink, don't drive.

"Drink-driving is as much a danger in the summer as at any other time. First Great Eastern Railways is a large service-provider for the community and we certainly don't want their customers becoming our customers."

Target

The advertising campaign will target high-street pubs and bars, garage forecourts and railway stations throughout Essex.

The slogan *Stopping For Another? It's Time To Take The Train* will highlight the dangers associated with drinking and driving.

Road safety continues to be a high priority for Essex Police and officers will be active in their efforts to make Essex a safer place.

Following a surge in the

number of motorcyclists killed on Essex roads, police have stepped up their safety initiative by using the force helicopter to target specific roads.

As part of the next phase of the Responsible Rider Campaign, officers from the Air Support Unit will now fly over major roads en route to incidents to help enforce speed limits on known motorcycle routes.

Essex Police has been loaned four motorcycles for the duration of the summer to help combat the increasing number of riders killed and seriously injured.

Central Road Policing Unit Inspector Norman Crabb hopes the high-visibility presence at motorcycle meetings will ensure riders know that police will come down hard on irresponsible road behaviour.

"There are a number of roads that will be targeted by officers which have been the scenes of recent casualty crashes and are also the subject of complaint by local residents," said Insp Crabb.

"By directing patrols along the known favourite motorcycle routes throughout the county, we aim to reduce the number of crashes brought about by irresponsible rider behaviour."

Soccer thugs in our sights

ESSEX is a key area for attention in a national police operation covering an England football match abroad.

Thousands of supporters will be travelling to and from Munich for the World Cup qualifying match between England and Germany on Saturday, September 1.

Essex Police will be paying particular attention to the departure and return of fans at Stansted Airport and Harwich Port and some officers' rest days have been cancelled.

As well as monitoring behaviour, officers will be on the lookout for fans who are subject to a banning order under the Football (Disorder) Act, which forbids them to travel to the match.

Control

Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) Joe Edwards, of Essex Police, will be Gold Commander of the national policing operation in England.

A special operations control will also be running at Essex Police.

It's show time!

THE Chigwell Show on September 1 and 2 is an open weekend at the Metropolitan Police Sports Club, Chigwell.

Arena events include motocross and motorbike displays as well as from the Essex Dog Display Team. Children are catered for with performances from the Crazy Bears and high wire acts.

The weekend show is the climax of three days of evening entertainment.

On Wednesday, August 29, Big Tent night features looka-

likes of Shania Twain, Ricky Martin, Roy Orbison and Abba.

Thursday, August 30 is Ladies' Night with the Dream Boys and British Chippendales plus full supporting acts.

Friday, August 31 is the annual real ale festival with at least 90 kegs of beer to be consumed.

For more details or to book tickets on any of these please contact the club reception on 0208 500 2735.

Positive action ends protest



● From page 1 hydraulic platform and abseil equipment to reach those up high.

Twelve hours after the operation began an injunction was served on protesters by a bailiff representing Esso and the remaining demonstrators stood down.

In total 47 people were arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to cause criminal damage and one on suspicion of causing criminal damage. They were all bailed until October.

Assistant Chief Constable, Joe Edwards, said: "Greenpeace are not so naive as to believe Essex Police can't and won't respond to this type of protest. They were made aware of the impact it had on the Danielle Jones inquiry and chose to ignore it. I have to question the integrity of an organisation that can switch its collective conscience on and off to suit."



Law letters

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

We need to get tougher on crime

WITH reference to the conference on bogus callers/doorstep sales people, which I along with others attended in Maldon, we were encouraged to be on our guard against potential law-breakers by 'self help' methods.

Should a crime evolve and the culprit(s) be apprehended, what is the likelihood they will get away with it? The present political climate appears to continually favour the wrongdoer.

Consequently, how many incidents involving bogus callers etc go unreported?

As to crime in general, what is required is an entire overhaul of our present judicial system; a much bigger police force, with extended powers; and a strict 'zero tolerance' policy applied by officers on the beat.

I strongly believe these are the only ways you will contain crime.

If you not adopt such measures, then some of the public, through sheer exasperation, may well resort to meting out their own style of justice and the vigilante element — which I doubt few want — will emerge.

We need to wake up to the way crime is progressing and take remedial action now, not a year or two hence.

Alex Jennings,
NHW Co-ordinator,
Burnham on Crouch.

What goes around . . .

THERE'S an old saying which is much-used in the modern era, that 'what goes around comes around' and this can certainly be said of two items in the June edition of *The Law*.

I refer, firstly, to the fact that there has been a ballot on shift systems recently and that preparations are well under way for the trial of a new five shift system, which starts, of all places, at Southend.

You may be interested to know that a five shift system was working perfectly well on the same division back in the 1970s and 1980s.

This involved shift cover of the three main shifts, earlies (6am-2pm), lates (2pm-10pm) and nights (10pm-6am) with two overlapping shifts between 10am-6pm and 6pm-2am, thereby covering the town at its busiest times with extra personnel on the streets.

There was also a time when

extra cover was provided between 8am-4pm and 4pm-12 midnight, but this was, of course, before the strength of the town's police force was decimated for various reasons.

Therefore, the five shift system is nothing new, but merely a return to a system which was proven before removal.

Surprise

I also note that most non-urgent calls currently being handled by the Force Information Room, are to be transferred to "service desks" at divisional level. Now, there's a surprise.

Is it not too long ago that each division had its own control room, incorporating a local personal radio system, with telephone links to the public and within the force, to field just such non-urgent calls and act accordingly?

Why, before we know it, there will be police officers on

. . . comes around!

READING the June edition of *The Law* I saw that FIR is to let stations deal with routine phone calls and other traffic and they will deal with the urgent matters.

This may be just a shot in the dark, but how about having, say, about ten experienced police officers sitting in an office - there is a spare one above the reception in the old HQ building.

They could answer all the urgent calls on the phone (call them nine calls, sounds good) and a few civvies to help them, about four are sufficient.

They could then call on the radio, to contact the right unit for the job, as they would know the area and no doubt the crew in the car. They

could send them to deal with the job and request back-up, if required.

Then you could send the other 100 or so police officers in FIR back to Division to do real police work and the FIR building could be used for the indoor bowls team.

This would not only help the copper on the beat, but also help the new government's figures.

The circle would then nearly be complete and I could start at Eynsham Hall with a clear conscience and the knowledge that nothing ever changes, but just keeps going round.

Before all the politically correct lobby start, this is a joke letter (or is it?).

Ron Ricks, Braintree

Its been a lot of fun

AFTER 32 years and one month in the Essex Police Force, I have finally decided to 'call it a day'.

My retirement has not been an easy decision. After that amount of time in one organisation, it really does become a way of life and one I have thoroughly enjoyed.

I joined 'The Job' in August 1969 and I am extremely proud of the fact I was a one division man, serving all of my time in Thurrock.

I did seem to bounce between Ockendon and Grays subs quite a bit in the '70s and '80s, as a beat officer, area car driver and CID officer, before serving the whole of the division as a scenes of crime officer for ten years and, latterly, as the schools liaison officer for my last eight years.

Along the way I have met many wonderful people who have influenced me in so many ways, both professionally and socially and I would

like to think I have reciprocated in some small way.

I will not be severing my ties with the organisation completely, however.

As you know, during my time I have been actively involved in the sporting side with the EPSA, especially after hanging up my football boots and cricket pads and lacing up my running shoes.

Secretary

I will be staying on in a civilian capacity, as Grays Police Sports Club Secretary, with membership on the EPSA executive committee.

I will continue as force athletics secretary, organising the divisional competition, along with both regional and national representative squads.

I am also very proud to be treasurer of the new Eastern Region Sports Committee and will continue, alongside the Chief, in that capacity.

motorcycles and even on horseback and, who knows, we may even see a return to something similar to the unit beat system, with panda cars patrolling the streets to support the area patrol cars (viz rapid response vehicles).

OK, so I'm like to so many readers who tend to live in the past and remember things as they were in what we consider were the 'good old days'.

But there was a lot to be said for many of the old methods of policing large towns such as Southend and one can only hope that those now in control of our future law and order will learn from history.

Lastly, I was saddened to read that the inevitable has happened. The force in Essex has lost its football team, in local league football at any rate.

Having been involved in the playing of and organising of football at a divisional level for many years, the writing

was on the wall many years ago, when it started to become difficult to field teams at that level, due to a reduction in manpower.

Following the demise of teams representing the local town, it now seems that we have seen the last of the teams representing the force in local football.

One of the reasons put forward is that players lack the incentive to travel to matches in their own time and at their own expense. What are things coming to?

There was a time when members of the force or a division would give their right arm (or should that be leg?) to play for the team, but sadly it seems no more.

Perhaps if 'what goes around comes around' is true, then we may see a return to those days, when playing the game was the all-important goal.

Ex-Pc Alan Watkins,
Leigh on Sea

Memories of lighter times

I'M sorry to say I have found recent letters to *The Law* rather heavy going.

I'm sure the subjects under discussion are very meaningful and important in today's climate. I feel very sorry for anyone who is feeling hard done-by by today's modern procedures - of which I know very little - but I would say, take heart, there is a life outside the police service.

The recent publicity over Ronald Biggs led to quite a few photos of scenes around the time of the Great Train Robbery. In one I noticed a constable wearing a very long

raincoat. I recall quite vividly being issued one of these when I joined Essex Constabulary in the early 1960s. Thinking back, I'm sure this is why anyone under a certain height was not accepted in those days.

When eventually uniform styles changed most of my then colleagues disposed of their large raincoats with a sigh of relief.

However, I kept mine because I saw its potential to cause a bit of a laugh during periods of low morale.

Uniform

If I ever heard a young officer make reference to the standard of uniform I would produce my raincoat and make them put it on along with my original issue county helmet which made a fetching combination and never failed to cause laughter.

I recall when the Queen was visiting Essex University at Colchester, I was one of a contingent from Saffron Walden. All memories of long raincoats had gone.

Following our briefing we were walking to our allotted positions when another group of officers appeared, led by a mature sergeant wearing the exact replica of my raincoat.

In exact unison the chorus went up from my colleagues - "Oh no, not the mac", followed by much laughter. All very unprofessional.

The poor sergeant went three shades of scarlet but didn't utter a word.

Sorry about this diversion - you can now all return to Equal Opportunities.

Dave Rose, Cambs.

Charities grateful for your payroll donations

I UNDERSTAND that a personnel have recently been reminded of the excellent 'Give As You Earn' scheme operated within the force by agents Charities Trust.

The scheme was given boost last year, following the Government decision to pay ten per cent supplement on all donations made up to April 5, 2003.

Since the introduction of the scheme within the force in 1989 many serving and retired police and civilian personnel have made weekly donations, from 50p to £5, to the charity of their choice.

Many have given to their local hospice and on behalf of all the Essex hospices I take this opportunity to thank everyone concerned. Your support has been very much appreciated.

Unfortunately, I am aware that many of my ex-colleagues or members of their families have succumbed to cancer or other terminal illness and have needed the care and support provided by their local hospice.

Over the years I have visited many at Farleigh, the Mid-Essex hospice, where I am involved in a voluntary capacity with fundraising.

Payroll giving ensures that your chosen charity receives a regular income, whilst the giver gets the maximum benefit from the taxman.

Further information and application forms can be obtained through HQ Finance, from Payroll Supervisor Mick Leaf, extn 50862.

Ex-Ch Supt George Harris, Chelmsford

Overtime puzzler

I WISH to bring to the fore the issue of the two units of overtime we get deducted.

As I understand it, the first two units of overtime, if you have it paid, are gone, lost and never to be seen again.

However, those two units, if you take your overtime as time off in lieu, have not gone. They can be claimed back. How can this be right?

This means that if we get overtime paid, we are working for 30 minutes for nothing, but can get these 30 minutes back if it's unpaid.

Thames Valley Police Federation has got this restored for its members.

I regard myself as usually part of the silent majority, but I would like to know exactly what our Federation is doing in this matter.

Andy Marbrow,
Southend

Chernobyl children given a day out to remember

CHILDREN, dogs and handlers gathered at Sandon as part of a charity's attempts to bring happiness and hope to under-privileged kids from Chernobyl.

Each year the Belarus-based charity Education Fund Project flies a group of children to the UK to show them a more prosperous side to life.

Former Essex Police superintendent Ian Wright has been organising these trips with the charity for the past three years.

Pleasure

He witnesses at first hand the immense amount of pleasure these children bring to the families.

"These kids view their local police in Belarus with a lot of fear and this allows them to see what really goes on behind police lines," said Mr Wright.

"We introduce them to a balanced diet and exercise, boosting their immune system. It allows them to leave their problems back at home, giving them a fun-filled break," he said.

This year several families have volunteered to take the 16-strong party into their homes, with each one spending two weeks with an Essex household.

Deprived

Education Administrator Lena Fedorchuk said: "The children come from a socially-deprived background in a tiny village just outside Chernobyl and this is their first trip outside Belarus."

The children were entertained by the dogs performing in trials and training techniques at the Sandon Dog Unit, before the Air Support Unit touched down in the helicopter later that afternoon.



● Children from Chernobyl enjoyed a day with Essex Police to help them forget the horrors of home. They saw a demonstration of police dog training at the Sandon dog unit and were thrilled when the police helicopter touched down to pay them a visit.

Campaign to promote PNC

A FORCEWIDE campaign to promote more effective use of the Police National Computer is under way.

A steering group, led by Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) Joe Edwards, has been set up to address issues of timeliness and accuracy of information on the system.

Its terms of reference require the group

- to promote and develop PNC usage within Essex Police as an investigative tool, in support of the force long-term strategy

- to ensure compliance with data input standards, as defined by the HMIC thematic inspection report *On The Record* and the ACPO PNC Compliance Strategy and

- to provide a mechanism to manage proper and effective use of PNC, recommending policy changes to ACC(O) via Operational Policing Policy Group, as required.

Project

A project team, led by Chief Insp Gwynneth Williams, of Corporate Support, has been tasked with pulling together these tasks, especially the Essex Police response to the HMIC thematic report, which called on all forces to meet certain national criteria for timeliness and accuracy on PNC by March 2002.

by Norman Hicks

Said Chief Insp Williams: "The fact that the steering group is being headed by Mr Edwards is a clear indication of the importance this has been given."

The steering group includes representatives from divisional commanders, training, data protection, IT, criminal justice, crime division, FIR, corporate support, PNC liaison and media and public relations.

A campaign to market PNC use throughout the force is being rolled out, with the aim of improving officers' awareness and ensuring that the force complies with national standards.

Campaign

Campaign highlights include:

- PNC training for all relevant officers
- a dedicated PNC website on the Essex Police Intranet (currently under construction, set to go live at the end of August)
- a user guide booklet (due to be published in September)
- posters, reminding officers

of the need to be PNC aware PNC Roadshows to visit divisions later this year.

There are also plans for a training video to get the message across to new recruits.

Chief Insp Williams said: "The key to success in keeping PNC up to date is for officers to complete their CID 177s before they go off duty."

"The national guidelines require that CID 177s have to be on PNC within 24 hours of an arrest or a summons being issued.

"Criminal Justice Units have a responsibility to update the court results within three days of receipt from the courts and the courts are obliged to notify Essex Police within three working days of the result," she added.

"This would lead to accurate and timely data, so that when officers conduct stop-checks on people in vehicles, for example, information about disqualified drivers is accurate and up-to-date."

EPTC trainers will be devising a training programme, so that input on PNC and its relevance will be

given on all courses such as those for probationers, sergeants, tutor constables and CID officers.

Part of the campaign and training will be to emphasise to officers the importance to the QUEST system (Query Using Enhanced Search Techniques) that CID 177s are filled in with accurate detail, including such things as tattoos.

"Such information is vital in our fight against crime," said Chief Insp Williams. "If it is not on the 177 it will not go on PNC and means we will not be able to use the computer to the best of our ability."

Engine

Underlining this message, Mr Edwards said: "The Police National Computer is a powerful investigative tool and should be seen as the engine which drives much of our core policing activity."

"As with any engine, it requires fuel to operate efficiently and I cannot stress enough the need for all officers using PNC to make sure that the information it contains from Essex is accurate and up-to-date."

What does it mean to you?

A PC stops a car at 3am in an Essex town and asks for a PNC check.

Scenario A - The last person to arrest the driver did not complete the CID 177 accurately and did not include a warning for weapons. As a result, the suspect escapes and the credibility of the police service to police effectively is severely damaged.

Scenario B - The last person to arrest the driver did complete the CID 177 accurately, including the weapons warning. As a result, the Pc was forewarned of the danger, an arrest is effected, a weapon recovered and no-one is hurt. The reputation of the police service remains intact.



● Officers from the United Arab Emirate police service pictured on their visit to Essex Police.

UAE officers visit Essex

FOUR senior United Arab Emirate police officers visited Essex for a one month attachment to learn how police in Britain deal with the varying subjects of road policing, policing a large international airport, major crime investigation and dealing with complaints and discipline.

The visit by Lieutenant Colonel Sultan Arhama Al-Tunaigi, Captain Obaid Salem Rashed Al-Katbi, Lieutenant Salem Matar Al Dhaeri and Captain Omair Mohamed Al-Muhairy was arranged by retired DCI Geordie Wright, former head of the scientific support section.

Mr Wright now runs a

company co-ordinating police training programmes for overseas police services.

The four officers were hosted by the sections relevant to their respective roles and were given a comprehensive introduction to how Essex Police operate.



● The new vehicle is inspected by guests at the official launch last month. Photo: HQ Photographic

New boost for rural policing

A NEW vehicle will be soon on the streets of the rural parishes of Epping section in support of the rural policing teams.

A purpose built mobile police office, a first in Essex, was designed specifically for the rural team's requirements and will provide a reception area and also a private interview area.

Two people will staff the vehicle full time, a support administrator who will also drive the vehicle and a police officer.

They will be supported by the rural officer for the village when that officer is on duty.

Contact

The vehicle will visit the villages of Fyfield, Willingale, Moreton, Abridge Theydon Bois, Sheering, Roydon, Nazing, North Weald, Upshire, High Beech and Epping Green from this month.

The mobile office will provide a point of contact for the rural community on a fixed day and time.

The officer will be able to provide accurate information of crimes in the area that will hopefully help reduce the fear of crime; the officer will provide advice on policing matters and deal with local concerns.

This office is an additional service in support of the community policing teams that were introduced to the rural areas in Essex in April 1999 to help reduce crime and disorder and improve the policing of the countryside.

Essex Police Authority chairman Mr Anthony Peel, accompanied by Chief Constable David Stevens, officially launched the vehicle last month (see page 1), in front of an invited audience, including councillors and representatives of the rural communities at Blake Hall, Ongar (with the kind permission of Mr Ronald Capel-Cure).

The mobile policing office is on a Citroen Relay chassis and has been fitted out by Fame's Commercials based in Colchester at a total cost of £44,000.

Funding for the project comes from a Home Office grant to Essex Police of £251,315 for rural policing which was divided among the divisions serving rural communities.

Officers from Epping visited other forces in Northumberland, Lincolnshire and Leicestershire to research the vehicles that those forces use for rural policing, before adapting the best ideas and developing them.

The Essex vehicle has low access for people with pushchairs; air conditioning as well as heating provided by a generator, tea-making facilities and even has a bicycle.

This will allow the police officer to patrol the village and they would also be able to visit any local resident who, through any disability, was unable to personally visit the mobile office.



● Chief Constable David Stevens and Essex Police Authority chairman pictured at the launch of the new mobile rural police office.

CONVOY 20

AFTER many months of what seemed like a never-ending task of letter writing, fund raising and collecting of donated goods and lorry loading activities the day had arrived.

At 4.45am on Monday, June 18 we were finally off.

Convoy Romania was on the road, albeit at this time the convoy was made up of one vehicle, a 14 seater minibus equipped with wheelchair hoist facilities donated by Keymed, the Southend company and crewed by the former Deputy Chief Constable Jim Dickinson and myself.

Convoy Romania 2001 was a joint initiative, involving representatives from the Metropolitan Police, Essex Police and the Inner London Probation Service and followed on from a similar venture last year, to take aid to orphaned children at six locations in and around Bucharest.

We met up with the rest of the convoy at Blunts Farm, joining a truly impressive sight of 12 fully loaded articulated lorries, all of which had been donated by the National Transport Company MAN.

Loaded on the trailers were some £300,000 worth of equipment and material from armchairs to adventure toys, beds to buckets, clothes to curtains and many more desperately needed goods.

The drivers of the lorries, the three support vans, a breakdown truck, the all important chuck wagon were officers and civilian staff members of the Metropolitan Police Service as were the supplies van which was to be driven by Lady Cynthia Stevens, a nurse by profession, who was to be the convoy medic as well as the convoy cook.

Sharing the driving of this vehicle as well as other tasks was Christine Kirk, the mainstay and driving force behind The Aid for Children Project, an organisation that has refurbished and equipped a children's hospice in Constanta.

The hospice known as Sunshine House is the last home/resting place for so many orphan children dying of Aids-related illnesses.

We were allocated our position in the convoy immediately behind the last of the artics; a vehicle crewed by Chief Superintendent Chris

For the second successive year, Essex Police officers and support staff joined colleagues from the Metropolitan Police and Inner London Probation Service to bring relief to orphaned children in Romania. Retired Det Supt DAVID BRIGHT reports on the 2001 Convoy of Hope.

Alyson from Westminster, and recently retired Pc Bob Smalley, a former protection officer of the Commissioner.

The convoy was waved off at 7.30am by family and friends of the convoy personnel, together with the Commissioner, Sir John Stevens (who was flying out to Romania to meet up with the volunteer workers four days later).

Tiring

For the next four days the convoy travelled some 2,000 or so miles, through France, Belgium, Germany, Austria and Hungary.

The days of driving were very long and tiring, from day break to darkness.

Once into Romania the Essex minibus broke away from the main convoy and we made our way to Breaza which is a country town situated in the Prahova Valley 90 kilometres from Bucharest and south of the Carpatian Mountains.

We arrived at about 11pm on Thursday June 21, meeting up with the 30-strong Essex contingent and 20 volunteers from the Metropolitan Police, most of whom were from Acton Police Station.

We had worked with a good number of this group the previous year in Bucharest, they having all flown in to Bucharest on this same day.

The work to be undertaken by the Essex/Acton team was to be carried out at the Centrul De Plasament, which is a three-storey building, and is home to 214 girls and boys

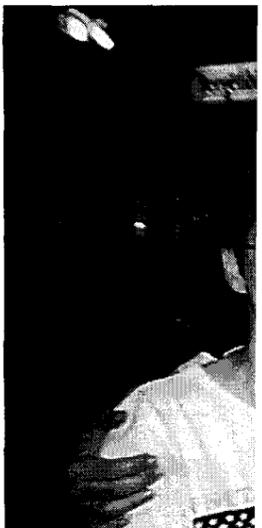
unable to get into the gro of the orphanage and a single item had to be man dled off and carried into complex.

This was not made any er by the fact that for majority of the time unloading was complete the pouring rain with stones the size of marbles

Depression

When we descended or children's home it was ha believe that we were European country, the v place was one of total de sion and despite the time efforts of the director of establishment, M Augustin Goga and his hardworking staff, who cl have great affection for children in their care, hour of every day had be chore for them.

Following on from our and the work completed director and his staff now hope, and having been



● Essex Pcs Nicky Police Commissioner six project sites.



● Just some of the children at the orphanage, wearing some of the shirts, shorts

01

tools and materials, they will continue and complete the unfinished decorating of the remaining bedrooms.

During the course of the week spent at the Breaza home there were many highlights such as:

- The smiles on the children's faces at seeing their new playground facilities and hearing the laughter as they enjoyed themselves.

- The looks of amazement when they saw their new beds and newly decorated bedrooms.

- Watching as the children saw that they had electric lights, which worked at the flick of a switch

- Seeing the children trying on their new clothes and playing with their new toys

And being hugged and kissed and dragged by the hand of children so grateful to see people who were interested in them and had time for them.



● The Essex and Met team spread across the stage and A-frame built by the Mets (but note whose crest is on the stage!)

The children's smiles said it all

THE team achieved a major overhaul of the orphanage and brought happy smiles back to the children's faces and those of their dedicated carers.

Bedrooms - A total of 23 bedrooms were completely redecorated - ceilings, walls and floors, new light fittings and switches installed, curtain tracks and curtains hung. Ten new beds complete with new mattresses, duvets and bed linen and pillows were placed

in each room ensuring a level of comfort never experienced before by the children.

Electrical work - Considerable electrical work was carried out to replace broken or defective light fittings and new electrical plugs were installed throughout the corridors and stair areas. A number of new fluorescent lights were installed in the dining area where previously there had been no lighting at all and a partial fire alarm system was installed, which can be extended in future.

Laundry Room and Drying Area - The one ancient and dilapidated washing machine was removed and three new washing machines and tumble dryers installed. An extended drying area was erected within the grounds to help with the problems of drying and airing the bedding and clothing of the 200 plus children.

Kitchen - Two new chest freezers were provided and wired in.

Doctor's Examination Room - The doctor who has care of the children in the home had little or no facilities for examining and treating the children. At his request a room to be used as an examination room was decorated, a sink unit with hot and cold water system was plumbed in, floor and wall cabinets were

fitted, an examination couch provided and an adjoining room decorated and fitted as an office.

Two small infirmary rooms were also decorated and equipped with beds and bedroom furniture, thus enabling sick children to be kept in isolation. All of the medical equipment including a stethoscope in the possession of volunteers was given to the doctor, who was in tears when he offered his thanks.

Playground - This area was completely transformed with the installation of swings, a helicopter climbing frame, slides, a stage, a castle, a wooden climbing frame a metal A frame, a volley ball court, bucket shower facilities, basket ball court and the provision of a number of sets of garden furniture.

What had been ugly waste ground has been transformed into excellent playground facilities which will amuse, entertain and stimulate the children whilst providing respite for the overworked staff.

During his whistlestop tour of the projects, Commissioner Sir John Stevens commented on the work done at the orphanage: "Fantastic, absolutely fantastic, what you have achieved in such a short space of time is fantastic."

The orphanage director

added: "Happiness is too small a word, there is no word big enough to describe all the good you have done for my children."

And among the volunteer workers, there was also pride and pleasure at their achievements.

- "In my life I have so much but my week in Romania will go down as one of the best weeks of my life."

- "I was not prepared for the amount of poverty, heart wrenching or mental anguish I encountered but I was so glad to be part of the team that was able to help and I will return."

- "I will never forget the look of excitement on a little boy's face when he turned on a radio and was so excited just upon hearing the crackle of his new possession, even before it had been tuned in and when another boy opened his box of sweets and before helping himself offered the first sweet to me."

- "My second trip to Romania leaves me no less touched than last year. Oh for a few of our children to visit these orphanages and adults as well and see how fortunate they are to live in England."

Whilst the conditions in the home at best can be described as awful in every respect, the one thing that is clearly obvi-

ous is the love and affection between the staff and the children.

Such a relationship is all the more commendable when you consider that their poor pay. For example, a 32-year-old staff member, a divorcee with a young son and elderly mother to support, works 12 hours at the home, six days a week for a total salary of £40 per month, of which £15 is spent on travel.

Much was achieved during the time spent in Breaza and all who went are very conscious that the results attained could not have been possible without the tremendous support and work undertaken by family members, colleagues and friends who did not travel to Romania and from the many sponsors, businesses both large and small, schools, scout groups, churches and youth clubs, charity organisations (Rotary and Masonic) and so many individuals generous with their cash or gifts and equipment and general back-up assistance.

To all very sincere thanks are extended for making it possible for the venture to be undertaken.

Donations towards next year's trip are welcome and can be sent to Angela Smith, Crime Division, Police HQ, Springfield, Chelmsford, CM2 6DA.



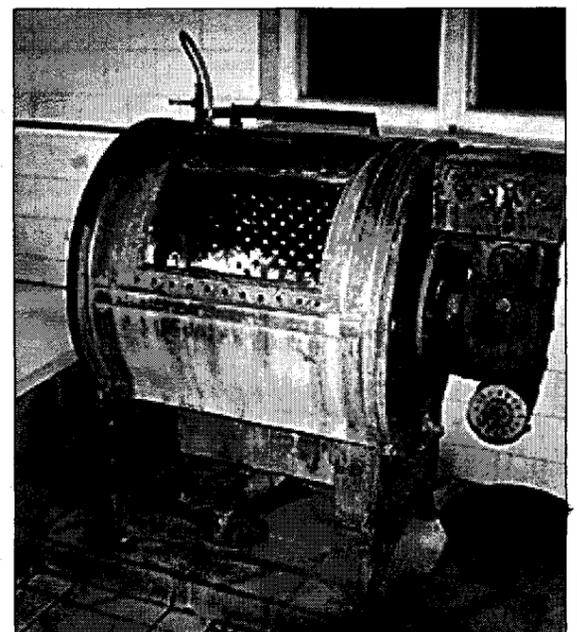
ngsby and Tina Royles, pictured with Metropolitan Sir John Stevens during his whistlestop tour of the



caps taken over from the UK.



● The Key Med minibus, driven to Romania as part of the convoy and donated by the Essex company to the orphanage.



● The only washing machine in operation before the convoy's arrival, catering for 200 children.

Bag snatch hero's reward

A COLCHESTER driving instructor has been presented with a Provincial Police Award 2000 Certificate of Commendation, after tackling a thief and making a citizen's arrest last summer.

Michael Lang, aged 54, was conducting a driving lesson in his home town on August 30 last year when he witnessed a man grab hold of a woman in an attempt to snatch her handbag.

The woman was struggling to hang on to her property

and was being pulled towards an alley.

Mr Lang, who is married with three children, four grandchildren and two foster children, intervened and the thief tried to run off.

Mr Lang held him against a wall whilst trying at the same time to phone police on his mobile.

The thief broke free and tried to get into the passenger side of the Mr Lang's car with the female pupil still in the driver's seat.

He forcibly removed him and despite being clawed in the face was not deterred and hung on to the thief until police arrived.

Safety

Mr Lang showed commendable action by putting the safety of both the woman and his pupil before his own.

He was presented with his award by Chief Constable David Stevens at County Hall in Chelmsford.

The award is given in recognition of particular acts of

bravery performed by members of the public in support of law and order.

Mr Lang, said of the award: "I'm very surprised to get the award, I saw the lady being attacked and just naturally went to help her.

"There were a lot of people around at the time and yet nobody nowadays seems to want to help anybody.

"The police have a tough enough time and I think the public should do what they can to help," said Mr Lang.



● Michael Lang, pictured with Essex Police Authority chairman Anthony Peel.

Actions commended

SPECIAL Constable Lee Francis has been commended for his professionalism and compassionate manner at the scene of a stabbing at Canvey Island's Kings Nightclub in 2000.

He comforted the victim whilst emergency first aid was performed on the 18-year-old victim.

He then accompanied the injured party to Southend

General Hospital and remained with him until he went to the operating theatre.

Unfortunately, the man died during the operation.

Lee also met with the deceased's parents at the hospital and comforted them.

Lee, 29, has been with Essex Special Constabulary for nine years. He works for Barclays Bank and lives in Rayleigh.

Dc Jim Hayter was commended for his investigative skills following an armed robbery at Grays in December 1999. His tenacity, professionalism and understanding

towards the needs of vulnerable witnesses assisted in bringing the case to court.

Jim, 43, has been with Essex Police for over 19 years. He began his career with the Force in Basildon, before transferring to Thurrock CID. He now lives in Grays and travels to Brentwood Police Station where he is now based.

Mr Alan Platt was commended for his actions and commitment to the cause of justice following the same armed robbery in Grays.

His links with the community enabled him to assist Dc Hayter in the case and also

support the vulnerable witnesses.

In November 2000, two men appeared at Basildon Crown Court and were sentenced to 9 and 12 years' imprisonment respectively.

Pc Stewart McDonald was commended for his actions, whilst off duty, when he attempted to arrest a man who he found committing theft from a garage in White Roding.

This man put up considerable resistance and sprayed Pc McDonald in the face with a form of pepper spray.

Despite this, the struggle continued with an accomplice of the man joining in the attack and subjecting him to a second burst of spray directly in the face. The accomplice then made off, but the man was detained until the arrival of other officers.

Stewart is a serving officer with the Metropolitan Police Service.

Pc Steven Ryan is commended for his professionalism and dedication to duty when he attended the scene of a road crash in November 2000 where a young male was covered in blood and had no signs of life.

Despite having no face masks or barriers he attempted to resuscitate the injured male until an ambulance

arrived. Although, the male was transferred to Basildon General Hospital, he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Steve, 33, is based at South Ockendon Police Station and has been with the force for over nine years. He was stationed at Basildon at the time of the incident. Steve lives in Kent.

Pc Andrew Young is commended for his investigative skills, tenacity and sensitivity whilst investigating a female suspected of stealing money from the bank and credit card accounts of her mother and grandmother.

Both aggrieved ladies were frail and inquiries were made with a number of financial institutions and family members both locally and in other parts of the country.

In December 2000, a woman pleaded guilty to a specimen charge of obtaining money by deception. She was sentenced at Basildon Crown Court to 12 months' probation and ordered to undertake 60 hours' community service.

Andy, 45, is based at Rochford and has been with the force for over 20 years. He lives with his wife in Eastwood. He has four children and two grandchildren.

Pc George Timms was commended for his bravery and dedication to duty whilst off

duty in July 2000 at Shoebury, when he came across a fight between two men. He identified himself as a police officer and arrested one of the men.

The other man initially made off, but returned to the scene and assaulted Pc Timms, who eventually overpowered this second man and arrested him, restraining this offender, with the assistance of a member of the public, until the police arrived. A man was found guilty of assault at Southend Magistrates Court in September 2000.

George, 56, has been with Essex Police for 20 years and is based at Shoebury Police Station. He lives with his wife and daughter in Wakering.

Pc Roy Keyes was commended for his sustained enthusiasm and self-motivation over the past year. His dedication has led to him making in excess of 70 arrests for a variety of offences including burglary, theft and auto-crime. His tenacity has also led to him submitting an exceptionally high level of traffic process.

Roy, 40, has been with Essex Police for 23 years and is based with the Southern Road Policing Unit at Laindon. He lives with his wife in Hockley.

Officers honoured

OFFICERS Jim Nichols and Gary Simpson from Chelmsford Police Station were applauded by fellow colleagues from around the country at the National Police Bravery Awards held in central London.

Pc Nichols and Sgt Simpson visited the Prime Minister at Downing Street before the evening gala where Sussex Pc Bob Greenall walked away with the national award.

The Provincial Police Bravery Awards were also held on the night where two members of the Essex public were due to win the Jill Dando Award. James Buckingham and Stacy Marie Westphel from South Ockendon had originally been

chosen as the winners after playing a crucial part in the conviction of a man for murder and another for manslaughter.

However, due to unforeseen circumstances and threats made against Stacy, she was forced to pull out from the joint award, leaving another equally deserving recipient from North Yorkshire to accept the honour.

Tribute

In recognition of his bravery Mr Buckingham was invited to the event, where host and BBC Crimewatch presenter Nick Ross paid special tribute to him.

His role earned him a standing ovation from a host

of Chief Constables from around the country, including Essex Police Chief Constable David Stevens, the Metropolitan Police Service Commissioner Sir John Stevens, the Home Secretary and cast members from ITV's *The Bill*.

Former Essex Police Det Supt David Bright was proud to sit at the same table as Mr Buckingham.

"James was sorry that Stacy was unable to make it," said Mr Bright.

"I felt humbled to sit at the same table as him. His bravery was beyond belief and his action in helping another member of the public nearly resulted in him losing his life."

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Pensioners swap yarns at garden party

ESSEX Police Chief Constable David Stevens joined over 400 retired police officers and former members of staff at the annual garden party to celebrate highlights from the Force's past 30 years.

The police band and current staff members gathered in the sunshine at the Force Training School in Chelmsford to recollect stories and achievements over cream cakes and tea.

Former Detective Sergeant Terry Lunn recalls the fatal stabbing of a man in 1998 as one of the highlights of his career.

"I served nearly all of my career at Southend, but I can still feel the adrenalin as the deputy crime team manager

at this murder in Basildon," said Mr Lunn. Terry retired in September 1999 after more than 30 years' service with Essex Police.

Bernie Beesley also had memorable recollections of 1998. As an Inspector with the Driving School, he was involved in the Tanzania hijack at Stansted Airport.

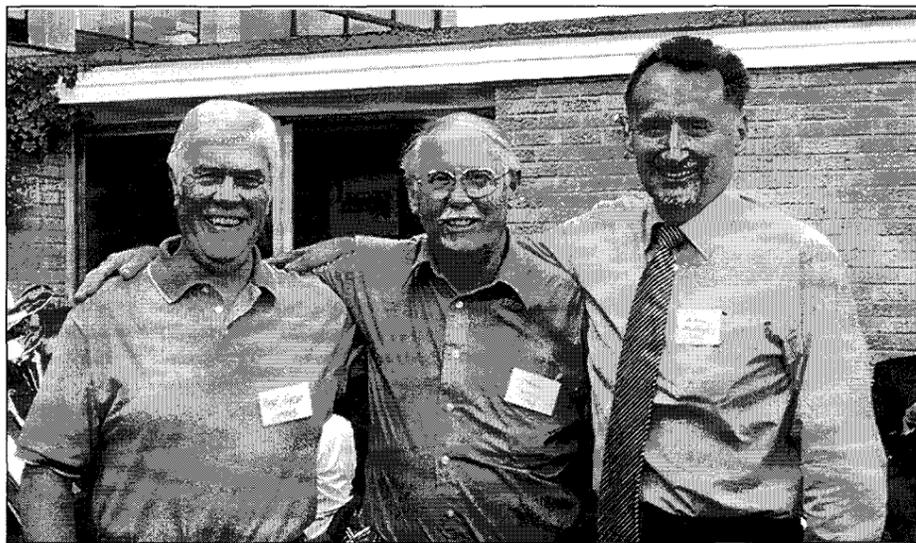
Test

"We had just formed the Major Incident Logistics Team and this was our very first test," said Mr Beesley. "We supported the troops admirably over the two-day saga." Bernie retired in 1992 as a Superintendent with the Traffic Division having also served over 30 years with the Force.

The murder of 'Vodka' Pat Cannings in the early 1980s in Grays was just one of the many highlights of former detective Roger Eason's career.

"Pat was believed to be a prostitute whose body was cut in half and dumped in two bags at Pig's Corner in Grays," said Mr Eason. "She was battered to death and mutilated in East London before she was dumped here in Essex. It took us just three weeks to catch Pat's killers."

Mr Eason was the deputy Senior Investigating Officer and received a Chief Constable's Commendation. He retired in 1995 as Detective Chief Inspector. He served 30 years with Essex Police.



● Terry Lunn (centre), Bernie Beesley (right) and Roger Eason get together to chew over old times at the annual Essex Police pensioners' garden party.

Bureau draws on best practice

A CENTRALISED system for controlling the issue of all authorities under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) has been established, drawing on best practice from around the force.

The Authorities Bureau, based at Headquarters, will ensure consistent standards across all divisions and provide a central reference point for the force.

The bureau will also offer advice to officers seeking such authorities and will be

involved in rolling out dedicated source units throughout divisions, if recommendations from a pilot in Harlow Division are accepted.

Det Sgt Peter English, who was the project manager for the Harlow pilot, has teamed up with Dc Pauline Foreman and Dc David Bates to form the new bureau, which will be managed by Det Insp Alison Newcomb (Special Operations). The new Director of Intelligence, Supt

Wil Kennedy, will be responsible for setting policy.

"With the courts placing more and more emphasis on the processes used by the police, it is imperative that we comply strictly with RIPA, so that valuable evidence is not excluded," explained Det Insp Newcomb.

"The bureau is there to assist officers in this area of work and hopefully make their job a little easier," she said.

In October 2001, the team will be joined by four members of support staff, who will be directly responsible for all telecommunications authorities.

Det Sgt English explained the thinking behind the new bureau. He said: "There is a need to ensure that surveillance authorities follow a standard which is the same across the force.

"With ten divisions, there are ten different systems. There needs to be a central reference point, which other forces have found to be beneficial.

"The Telephone Enquiry Unit will form part of this," he said. "The increase in staff will provide a better service than in the past, because they will be dedicated to telephone inquiries and not have other responsibilities."

The Authorities Bureau will also administer the rewards of covert human intelligence sources (formerly known as informants) and will be looking towards standardising the confidential sources registers.

Dc Foreman added: "At the moment numerous officers can handle informants, but with the success at Harlow, Dedicated Source Units have been recommended, which the HMIC has said is the way forward."

Dc Bates said that since the bureau had started operations in June, effort had gone into visiting divisions to find out current practice.

"We've been using the opportunity to identify best practice from around the divisions. The next phase will be to set up a system of where we want to be as a force, but that does not mean that we



● Ds Peter English, Dc Pauline Foreman and Dc David Bates, the newly-formed Authorities Bureau.

want to stop divisions continuing with their best practice."

Part of the bureau's remit will be to have an input into training at Essex Police Training Centre, again with the aim of maintaining consistent forcewide standards.

The Authorities Bureau will operate during normal office hours and can be contacted on extensions 50323/4/5, via e-mail, or via FIR out of hours (for telephone advice).

Graduation day for police students

THIRTEEN Essex Police officers and support staff who have successfully completed the first dedicated BA degree course in Society, Law and Policing, have graduated from Essex University.

BA Society, Law and Policing course co-ordinator Dr Maggy Lee, from the Department of Sociology at the University of Essex said: "We have learned from working with the police students, they have been a pleasure to

teach and they have brought their own experience and a different perspective to our debates. It is hard coping with course work and a full-time job at the same time, and they have all done so enthusiastically."

The Essex Police graduates were: Det Chief Insp Andy Adams (Clacton, Tendring); Insp Mark Bird (Force Information Room, HQ); Dc Lee Bowen (Chelmsford

Child Protection Unit); Det Insp Pauline Bowers (Brentwood CPU); Sgt Mark Britton (Leigh); Susan Long (Laindon); Det Sgt Greg Potter (Stansted Airport); Insp Paul Smith (FIR, HQ); Jean Steele (Harlow); Sgt Chris Tyler (Mobile Support Division, Bocking); Insp John Walker (Rochford); Sgt Clive Walls (Colchester); Insp Adrian Went (Norfolk, ex-Harlow).



● The successful Essex Police graduates.

Good month for sponsorship

JULY was a good month for the Essex Police sponsorship co-ordinator, who has registered two sponsorship deals worth £45,000.

Both are being kept under wraps for the moment until all the partners have finalised their press and public campaign launches.

Mark Ellis, sponsorship co-ordinator is delighted with the news but explains that the two partnerships help illustrate the topsy-turvy nature of income generation.

He said: "Gaining sponsorship is difficult at the best of times and sometimes I can have only a few small benefits to register for weeks on end - and then along comes notification of two very worthwhile partnerships in the same week.

"The first sponsorship I was half expecting having built up a relationship with the sponsor over several years. The second I found out

about very late in the day - in fact I have Ruth Collin in Media and Public Relations to thank for bringing it to my attention.

"Not everyone realises that we have a responsibility to register sponsorships and partnerships where cash or in-kind benefits to Essex Police are derived.

"This is because we can only attract up to one per cent of our budget in such benefits and have to keep an audit accordingly."

To help encourage and capture more sponsorship Mark is publishing a guide to attracting and administering sponsorships, partnerships, grants and benefits.

It is available as a PowerPoint publication and can be sent to anyone embarking upon a partnership with a third party.

Contact Mark Ellis on 01245 452243 for more details.

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

Teaching role now for DI Steve Bright

DET Insp Steven Bright, from Southend CID, is retiring from policing to take up a new career as a teacher.

Steven, who spent 30 years with Essex Police - more than 27 as a detective - will be starting work as a teacher of Humanities and Science at Belfairs High School in Leigh-on-Sea, when the summer holidays are over.

Steven, 50, dealt with several high profile murder cases including the Grays torso murder in the late 1970s.

Career

He says it was the challenge of working on murder and serious crime cases and helping to bring those responsible to justice, that made the job worthwhile.

Now he's looking forward to starting his second career. "I've met some really super people, both police officers and civilians, but it's a young person's game and it was the right time to retire."

Det Sgt Albert (Albie) Morhall is retiring from the Drugs & Serious Crime Unit after a 30-year career in the force.

He served at Grays, Chelmsford, Harlow and the fraud squad at HQ, before moving to Brentwood.

He said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed this period in my life and have met some truly decent, hard working, dedicated people."

Sgt Michael Hollis has retired after almost 33 years' service, but he is not lost to Essex Police, as he is now managing the Basildon Resource Management Centre, as a member of support staff.

Names in the news

He said: "I've thoroughly enjoyed my service and would love to be able to do it all again!"

He served at Billericay, Harlow, FSU, Leigh, Rayleigh, Southend, Benfleet and Canvey, ending his career at Basildon

Pc Chris Caten, who is retiring from the police to take up a support role as driver of Harlow Division's new rural policing vehicle, must rank as one of Essex's most colourful officers.

During his 25-year career, Chris has ridden an elephant through Epping High Street, played "minder" to children television character Grotbags during a fun jog in Epping's Stonards Hill recreation ground, and landed himself in the Guinness Book of Records for his role in a record-breaking double decker bus ride.

His working achievements have been equally memorable. He received the John Hunt Award, a national individual award sponsored by magistrates for work with youth in 1986, and was presented with Epping Forest Council's Community Police Medal for services to the public.

He was also awarded the district council's Road Safety Trophy for his work in primary schools and the Essex Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Chris's new role, driving the policing vehicle through rural Epping and Ongar to help keep the local community in touch with the force, means he won't be far away from the scene from some of

his favourite memories.

His wife, Katherine, thinks he'll miss the thrill of policing, but Chris commented: "We'll just have to see what happens. I've certainly had a lot of fun."

De Peter Bettis worked as a Scenes of Crime Officer in Chelmsford for 21 of his 30 years in the force.

During that time his work has covered some of the county's most violent crimes, including the notorious Rettendon Murders.

Skills

The skills he learned on the job are helping him to launch a freelance career as a photographer.

Peter, who lives in Chelmsford, explains: "I'm hoping to get commissions from magazine and book publishers. My ideal would be to do travel photography. It would be great to go on holiday, take some photographs and pay for the holiday by selling the photographs."

"One market I won't be approaching is newspapers. Once they found out I'd been a Scenes of Crime Officer, they'd have me out to every road accident that happened!"

Pc Graham Lowes retires from the Traffic Investigation Unit in Mobile Support Division after 30 years in the force.

Like all members of TIU, Graham served his apprenticeship in Traffic before graduating to investigating road accidents and their consequences. He spent 18 years in the unit.

He said: "There's a lot of

satisfaction in looking into the causes of major road accidents and finding out why they happened."

Graham is now taking it easy and enjoying spending time with his family, alongside doing some DIY around his Colchester home. "I'll probably get a part-time job for a couple of days a week, but there's no rush."

Other retirees include:

Det Sgt Anthony Bull, from HQ's Professional Standards Department, who is leaving after a 25-career in both Essex Police and the Met. Anthony, and wife, Joy, are moving from Clacton to enjoy retirement in Ceredigion in Wales; **Pc David Smith** has left Tendring Division, having completed more than 26 years' service and **Pc Paul Spurgeon** leaves the Community Safety team in Colchester Division at the end of a career spanning nearly 28 years.

Pc Joanne Barry has taken medical retirement after more than ten years' service. She was based at Stansted Airport when she left and now lives in Kent.

Obituary

THE death has occurred, aged 85, of **ex-Insp Henry Illingworth**, of Leigh-on-Sea.

Mr Illingworth served from 1937 to 1962 with the Metropolitan Police and Southend Borough. He leaves a widow, Gladys.

Former **Sgt John Chapman**, of Basildon, has died, aged 77.

Mr Chapman served from 1947 to 1976 at Upminster, Grays, Saffron Walden, Wickford, Hornchurch, Pitsea and Basildon.

Ex-Pc Derek Cant has

died, aged 75. He served with Essex Police from 1955-67, before transferring to Norwich City Police, retiring in 1981 on medical grounds.

While he was with Essex Police Mr Cant served at Colchester, Roxwell, Chelmsford and HQ Traffic.

He was a regular member

of Essex Police cricket team, was well known for his prowess at billiards and snooker and was a keen golfer.

He was also a member of Narpo. He is survived by his widow, Betty and son Paul, who is a serving officer with the Norfolk force.

Ex-officers wanted to work in Kosovo

APPLICATIONS are invited for a number of general policing posts working with the United Nations International Policing Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

These challenging opportunities are open to retired police officers only.

Retirement must have been taken no earlier than three years prior to the date of this advertisement and applicants must not have reached 55 years of age by December 6.

Briefing

The secondments are for a minimum of 13 months (extendable in some circumstances) starting with a briefing course, beginning on Sunday, October 21.

Employment with the Foreign Office will start on that date and deployment to Kosovo will take place on December 6.

This mission will be operational in nature and officers will carry firearms whenever on duty. Therefore all applicants must have some firearms experience. An intensive pass/fail firearms refresher course will form part of the pre-mission briefing.

The work is demanding

and for this reason each individual sent on mission must meet the following evidenced criteria:

Proven background and experience; good level of fitness; good discipline record; firearms knowledge; adaptability and resilience under pressure; team working skills; communication skills; supportive domestic and personal circumstances; good health.

Application forms, job descriptions, allowance details and an information pack can be obtained from the International Policing Unit, tel 020 7273 2418, fax 020 7273 3733, email: ipu@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk



Colchester and North East Branch

Branch secretary is Reg Shelley, tel 01206 547739. See newsletter.

Chelmsford Branch

Branch secretary is Tony Cooper, tel. 01376 329563 email: cls254ps@aol.com See newsletter.

Southend Branch

Branch secretary is Bob Craven, tel. 01702 582750. or email: lsg@tinyworld.co.uk, or write to 20 Marcus Chase Southend on Sea SS1 3LG.

Social Activities:

Unfortunately the theatre trips had to be cancelled although the London Eye, Covent Garden and Canal Trip on Thursday, August 9 have proved popular and only a few seats are available. Departure is at 7.15 am, cost for member/partner £14.50, guest £19.50.

Mike Beaveridge and Alan Watkins want to arrange events for next year so please inform them of your ideas.

Contact Mike on 01702 529985 or 01702 421176; fax him on 01702 421176; email: mbaconsulting@connetcfree.co.uk, or write to 17 The Spinneys, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, SS9 5QZ.

Mayor's Reception: As part of the 40th anniversary of Southend Police Station we have received an invitation to a reception at Porters by the Mayor of Southend to be held at 3pm, on Friday, October 5.

All ex-Southend Narpo members, widows and partners are invited. Contact Bob Craven (numbers are limited).

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.

CRUISE in style. Cruise Specialist Cathy Mitchell has something for anyone considering this all-inclusive holiday experience. Visit www.worldwidecruise.co.uk for special offers, or call 01376 573889.

CUMBRIA Ravenstonedale, delightful B&B, unspoilt village, convenient for lakes and dales, Eden valley. All rooms en suite, TV and hairdryer, coffee/tea, excellent walking, golf nearby. Two pub/restaurants in village. Contact Neil and Pauline Brook, tel 015396 23641, mobile 07890360972, or brookgreenbank@aol.com

DARK brown Panasonic microwave oven, with grill, convection, defrost facilities. Excellent condition, class leader when new at £350, now £100, owing to kitchen renewal. Tel 07740 305977.

DELTA gravity walker exercise machine, as new £60. Contact Shirley on extn 50666.

FLORIDA villa, Gulf coast, share offered private syndicate (not Timeshare). Sleeps

6, private heated pool, £4950, contact ex-Dc David Sweeney (rtd), tel 01702 544545.

FORD Escort Sapphire 1995M, 1.3 5-door hatch, taxed, MOT Feb, 52,000 miles, good condition, serviced HQ workshops, £2,300, Lucy Extn 54502, tel 01268 711215 or 07946 484461.

FOR sale J reg late 1991 silver Mazda MX5 1.6ltr, chrome rollbar, CD/radio, alarm, immobiliser, taxed, MOT, v.g. condition, £5995 ono. Contact Neil Seymour, 01268 693255.

GOOD homes wanted for cats and kittens, tel 01206 864284.

GUITAR amp, Fender Hotrod Deville 60 watts, all valve, two 12in speakers, three channels, mint condition, £425 ono, contact John, extn 39431, tel 07887 486715.

HALESWORTH Suffolk, two-bed holiday cottage, lovingly restored end terrace, beamed accommodation, close to Heritage Coast, Broads, Norwich, Southwold, near town centre, fully equipped, tel 01245 324651.

HONDA Bali 50cc moped, 1999, less than 300 miles on clock, one owner, immaculate condition, £1000. for more details contact Michaela, extn 50830.

HOUSE to let, three-bed detached, Clacton, gas heating, utility room, w/machine, fridge, cooker, garden, driveway etc, £475 pcm, max two-year let. Tel 01255 435483.

IBUS M175/4 rifle. Must hold firearms certificate. Less than 100 rounds fired, mint condition, £600. contact Steve Tolliday, tel 017801 368878.

LUGGAGE roof ski box, fits any roof rack, vgc £69. Steve Currell, extn 70106, tel 07711 095454.

POLZEATH, Cornwall. Self-contained static home, five mins sandy beach, miles of NT coastal walks, TV/video, own toilet. Most dates avail. Fishing and golf nearby. Contact D. Turner on 01375 846704.

SCUBA diving equipment, BCD, Octopus, gauge set, all unused, less than one year old, under guarantee, £320ono, tel 07967 707813.



● The victorious Essex squad, pictured with Chief Constable David Stevens and Riverside pool manager Greg Barnsby.

Life-savers' success

RIVERSIDE Ice and Leisure Centre, Chelmsford was the venue for a presentation by Essex Chief Constable David Stevens to the Essex Police Life-saving Team.

The team reached the finals of the National Police Life-saving Championships in Bognor Regis earlier this year, beating seven other teams to win the mixed competition.

This consisted of teams of three men and three women and involved a two-part contest.

On the first day teams took

part in a resuscitation test, a rope throw and a swim and tow competition. The following day there was an open water incident.

The Essex team of Sue Clark, Derek Davis, Phil Dodd, Sarah Pike, Dave Salmon and Sarah Wadforth led the eight teams after the first day.

Individual

They maintained their position after winning the open water event the following day.

In addition to the mixed competition, there were sepa-

rate men's and women's individual events, with Sarah Pike also winning the women's contest.

At last month's presentation, Chief Constable David Stevens presented the National Police Life-saving Mixed Competition Trophy to the Essex team and also handed the Individual Ladies' Cup to Sarah Pike.

On hand, too, was Riverside pool manager Greg Barnsby, who generously allows the team to make use of the facilities there for training before competitions.

Cricketers on top

WITH a blue sky and a superb country ground on which to play the first match of the season, the Gentlemen of Essex CID began their 2001 campaign with memories of last year's tour to Guernsey a mere memory.

Having adopted East Hanningfield as a home ground, due to its delightful setting and friendly hosts, our heroes (average age, well, let's just say mature) won the toss and invited Hanningfield to bat first.

Veteran

With one opener hitting everything and the other playing a sound supporting role, the first wicket put on 39, before veteran Barry Johnson successfully appealed for lbw.

Tony Bull bowled a good opening spell and Alan Pritchard also troubled both batsmen.

But with Hanningfield's Wingham (95) hitting the ball hard and high, it took the dual spin attack of Norman Bambridge (3-46) and Phil Mellon (5-37) to dismiss the

home side for a reasonable total of 176.

After a superb tea, Alan Pritchard (41) and Chris Higgins (18) put on a sound 58 for the first wicket, but with 121 wanted from the final 20 overs, a draw looked a likely outcome.

However, enter Simon Loft, drafted into the team at the last minute and who was to have batted at No 9, but who had to leave early to take his wife out!

Despite only having 15 minutes before he HAD to leave, Lofty stroked the ball to all parts, scoring 39 and putting the Gents on track for an unlikely win.

With runs from Stuart Pinkerton (24), Jim Cousen (22 n.o.) and Peter Orpe (13 n.o.), the game was won with an over to spare.

An excellent start to the season, although one cautionary note should be mentioned - if we keep playing like this, people will start to think we are a serious cricket team and not the predominantly social side we are known as!

● THE Gentlemen of Essex CID cricketers celebrated the club's tenth anniversary at the glorious setting of Audley End House.

The match was played in sunshine and watched by a goodly number of spectators, as the detectives set about maintaining their unbeaten run this season.

Captain Phil Mellon, on winning the toss, put the home side into bat and engaged Simon Payne and Barry Johnson to open the bowling attack.

Scored

Hard as they tried, they had great difficulty in dislodging the opening pair, who scored persistently, yet moderately on a slow pitch.

Mellon brought himself on to bowl and started to make inroads into the batting order, earning a jug by taking five wickets, as the home team made 151 in their allotted time.

Graham Hancock and Bob Richards opened the batting for the CID and Hancock

especially, played some strong shots off the back foot, to various parts of the ground.

He eventually succumbed to a lbw decision, after making 61 runs.

The police team found themselves needing just 15 runs to win, with wickets in hand and eight overs remaining.

A slight panic set in and they were still short of the winning total with four overs to go and four wickets remaining.

Dave Anthony and Bob Miller were together at the crease and Anthony despatched three boundaries in an over, in cavalier fashion, to put the match beyond doubt - a win for the CID by four wickets.

A cracking game of cricket, played in the right spirit, thoroughly enjoyed by all concerned, who repaired to a local hostelry in true fashion, to chew over the cud.

● Footnote - The club would like to wish player Mick Barlow a speedy recovery.

Bob Miller

A class act in concert

TOP West End performer Dave Willetts will be joined at the Cliffs Pavilion, Southend by his orchestra and singers for an evening concert of classic songs next month.

The former lead singer for lengthy runs of both "Phantom of the Opera" and "Les Miserables" will be singing everything from big bands to ballads, romance to rock'n'roll and West End to Broadway at the concert on Sunday, September 16 (7.30pm).

The concert is in aid of Southend Hospital Foundation, Fairhavens Hospice and Macmillan

Nurses and will be attended by Chief Constable David Stevens.

Tickets are £12, £13 and £14 each and are available from the Cliffs Pavilion box office, tel 01702 351135.

Organiser, retired Det Supt David Bright, said: "It will be a very good night, aimed at helping those who help others."

"Dave Willetts has performed in the West End and elsewhere in the world and has many musical appearances to his credit. He is currently appearing in 'Cats' at the New London Theatre."

Lottery winners

THE result of the July 2001 Lottery is as follows:

£1500 Sgt Kenneth Ward, Thurrock; £750 Dc Veronica Bell, NCS Hainault; £375 Dorothy Bell, Corringham; £200 Pc Dennis Oliver, Bocking Dog Section.

The following will receive £50 consolation prizes: Pc Ian

Turner, Leigh; Gavin King, FIR; Pc Russell Gay, Mobile Support; Pc John Field, ex of Rayleigh Division; Pc Brian Treadgold, Canvey; Pc Steven Catton, Leigh; Pc Malcolm Dyer, Copford; Pc James Hollick, EPTC; Dc Peter Phillips, Rayleigh CPU; Georgina Brymer, Tilbury.

Choir kept busy

THE Essex Police Choir has had a busy time in recent weeks.

Firstly, on June 30, it appeared at the Central Baptist Church, Chelmsford, in the newly refurbished church hall, to raise funds for the church.

Charity

On July 14, the venue was Trinity Methodist Church, Chelmsford, raising money for the charity Mid Essex Respite Care. This evening was attended by the Chief Constable David Stevens and his wife.

The Friends of the Essex Police Choir arranged a social outing to the Hampton Court Flower Show, which was greatly enjoyed.

The choir continues to

rehearse every Tuesday evening in the Essex Police Training Centre, preparing for its next concert on September 1, at St Peters ad Vincula Coggeshall (7.30pm start), in aid of church funds. Tickets are available from Derek North on 01376 561968.

The annual concerts featuring the choir, the Essex Police Band and Essex Police Musical Society, are on October 19 and 20, at Christchurch, London Road, Chelmsford.

Tickets at £6 each are selling fast, so ring the box office on 01245 494811 now.

Proceeds will be for the Neo-natal unit at St John's Hospital Chelmsford, and also the charity for Motor Neurone Disease.

ALAN 'Skelly' Lambert, a constable at Dunmow, has been going from strength to strength this year on the tug-of-war scene.

The Essex Police team have been unable to train this year, as their venue for training was subject to the foot and mouth restrictions.

This meant they were not able to compete at the national championships, in June at the West Midlands Norman Green stadium, Solihull.

This did not deter Alan, who attended as an individual at that event, competing with the Staffordshire Police and coming away with two gold medals in the 640kg and 680kg classes (a feat not seen for many a year).

These golds are the only

ones obtained by any Essex officer at the national track and field event. Well done Alan.

Because of his exploits he was selected again to represent the police in a tri-Services competition, in Staffordshire, where the police team obtained a silver medal in the 680kg class.

Training for the police team still remains at the MCTC Army correction training centre at Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester every Monday, at 7.30pm. They are actively appealing for members to come and give it a try.

If you require any further information please e-mail Skelly Lambert or Andrew Thorpe.



● Alan 'Skelly' Lambert digs in on his way to gold.

Sport and Leisure

More sailing success for Essex champion

Alan keeps title

Essex win PAA angling

THE Eastern Region PAA Freshwater Angling competition took place last month at Fennes Fishery, Bocking.

The Essex A-team, consisting of Graham Garnham, Paul Bird, Dave Smith, Dave Crichton-Smith, Phil Brochen and Robert Hunter were the overall winners, with Paul Bird finishing second in the individual competition. Well done to all!

● The Croker Cup freshwater angling competition is scheduled for Tuesday, September 25, also at Fennes Fishery.

Organiser is Alan Diver, Braintree RMU, extn 63302.

Awards nominees sought

THE BBC Essex/Ridleys Essex Sport Achievers Awards will be up for grabs soon.

They are wide and varied, comprising long-term achievement, behind-the-scenes, sporting achievement and team awards.

There are definitely some prime candidates within the force, they just need nominating.

If you feel you know someone who fits the bill, just apply for an application form by contacting 01371 820316, extn 613, or e-mail: innsight@ridleys.co.uk

Well done

SARAH Bamfield, based at Clacton, has been named as 'Player of the Year' for the British Police Ladies' Hockey team. Very well done Sarah.

Are you tempted?

YET another health and leisure club is looking for new members.

Springhealth, situated in Brian Close, Moulsham Lodge, Chelmsford is tempting potential members with a free day pass, to use its squash courts.

Further details from the force sports secretary on extn 58888.

Charity run plea

SOUTHEND Hospital Foundation and Southend Athletics Club are arranging a charity run from Land's End to Southend, finishing at the pier.

The run is approximately 340 miles and is due to take place around March 2002 - ideal training for the London Marathon!

It would be nice to get a

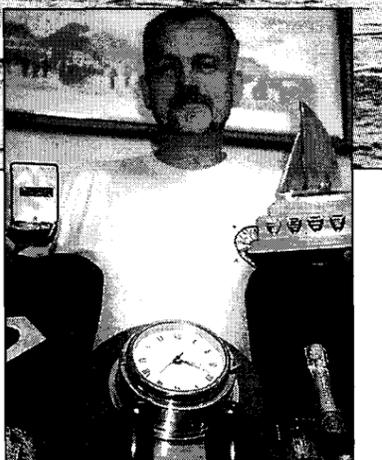
police team together, so if there is anyone foolish enough, please contact Supt Mick Thwaites, Southend Division Command Team, extn 30666, or e-mail, as soon as possible.

The money raised will go towards building a new centre for disabled children in Southend.



● Above - Alan Husk at the helm of his Phantom no 999 in the police national championships.

Photo: Eddie Mays (Marine Photographer)



● Right - Alan proudly displays some of his sailing trophies.

ESSEX policeman Alan Husk has retained his title at the 2001 Police National Sailing Championships.

The PAA event took place over two days, at Netley Sailing Club, Southampton, hosted by Hampshire Constabulary.

It is traditionally sailed over five races, of which four are counted towards the final points score, the worst result being treated as a discard, not counting as part of the final score.

The start of the competition saw fine, sunny weather with a gentle breeze and more than 30-plus boats from all over the country, out to compete in this general handicap competition, which allows different styles of boat to compete on an even basis.

Trapeze

There were boats ranging from a two-man twin trapeze "Boss" at the top end of the fleet, to a "Topper" at the lower end.

Netley Sailing Club is situated on the northern shore of Southampton Water and is a narrow estuary venue, about half a mile wide.

It is tidal, with a strong running tide at times, which is used by numerous small pleasure craft and some extremely large commercial shipping.

Day one of the racing was sailed around a triangular course. Richard Mansfield and crewman John Pierce (Metropolitan) in their "Fireball" took first place in races one and two.

Peter Walters and crew (Notts) in their RS400/no 815 won race three, while Alan Husk (Essex) sailing a "Phantom" no 999, achieved 2nd, 3rd and 2nd in the three races, to end day one in second place overall.

Capsize

Tony Britten, sailing a laser, was the only other Essex competitor, finishing 20th, 20th and 13th in the first day's sailing, having managed to capsize in race two. He was heard to state

that he was "only checking the bottom of the boat for weed".

Tony was placed 22nd overnight, but pulled up to 16th and 14th on day two, with no further upsets, to improve his final position to a creditable 18th.

Day two racing was sailed around a trapezoid course. The start of race four was delayed for over an hour, as there was no wind at all. The sea breeze started to fill in at about 11am.

Alan Husk had to win both of the last two races to retain the title, which he did, to become the national police champion for the second year running.

Alan also retained the title of highest single-handed boat throughout the competition.

Alan has been sailing now for about 15 years. He started sailing in a friend's Mirror dinghy, then bought an old Solo, before buying in all three new Solos over the next few years, as he competed in local circuit races, national and international racing.

Alan's best result in the Solo was in the world championship in Holland in 1995, when he was placed fourth overall.

Alan moved to a different class of dinghy in 1998 and started sailing his current boat, a Phantom.

Training

In his first year he won the national championships, being second for the past two years. Alan is training hard to regain his title once again if possible.

Alan's results in the police championships over recent years have been 10th, 4th, 2nd, 2nd and latterly 1st and 1st, showing a steady improvement.

We wish Alan all the best in the coming year, with his sailing and look forward to the possibility of a hat-trick next year.

Don't forget 4x4 day

DON'T forget the 4 x 4 Fun Day, which this year takes place on Thursday, August 30, at the Hop Farm, in Kent. Anybody requiring more information can visit the fun day website at www.4x4funday.org or e-mail: fourbyfour.funday@btinternet.com

