



Museum opens its doors - P3



Reassurance campaign - P5



New range of courses - P7

DECOY CARS TO CATCH A THIEF

IN a nationwide first, Essex Police has launched an innovative new weapon against car crime using decoy cars to catch thieves in the act. Although launched in Harlow the plan is to roll the scheme out countywide.

The inception follows research into a similar project in Minneapolis in America by Dc Andy Bird.

by Kim Perks

Cars of any make, age and style are fitted with hi-tech equipment and placed in different locations. A thief stealing the vehicle will have absolutely no idea it is a decoy car and that the police are, in fact, aware of their every move. The first they will realise will be when they are stopped within minutes of the theft.

Although the specific technicalities of the cars are not being made public, some information has been publicised to act as a deterrent to potential thieves.

The cars will not require observation, the equipment allows for remote monitoring of the vehicles. The 'tracking' system means that at any time day or night the police will know immediately whether the car is being driven, its speed and its location (even if garaged). Even those thieves who choose to just break into the car but not actually steal it will find themselves quickly under arrest. All

of the information obtained is admissible in court so even the manner of driving could result in additional charges for the hapless thief.

As well as remote monitoring of the vehicle, the police can even remotely 'control' it. Technical Support Officer, Ds Andy Richardson said: "Unlike a traditional car chase against the thief who, whenever police decide, will find they cannot control the stolen vehicle and certainly cannot escape capture."

Posters up to 6ft x 4ft in size and bearing slogans such as *Are you about to take a police car?* have been placed at suitable locations across the division as an added deterrent. The local crime and disorder partnership provided the funding.

Divisional Commander Chief Supt Ian Learmonth, said: "Vehicle crime is a problem for every policing area, we are no exception. The decoy car

provides us with another tool to tackle this problem in a more radical way.

"We can deploy this vehicle in any area across the division very quickly to deal with the crime trend as it develops. It is easy to attach the equipment which means we can change the vehicle regularly and target the same vehicles that are being stolen or broken into.

"The decoy car is only one of the tactics we will be using to address this growing problem. We already actively target people who we believe to be committing this type of crime across the division and we will continue to focus our efforts in this area until we reduce the car crime being committed.

"The good thing about the decoy car is that the criminals won't know what sort of car the equipment is deployed in or where it is deployed until it is too late."



● Stuart Creasey from the Essex Police Television Unit takes on the role of car thief for the press launch of decoy car. He also features in the campaign's posters. Photo: Peter Lawson, East News.

Calling time on raves

ORGANISERS of raves are the targets of an Essex Police clampdown to ensure public safety.

The force has declared its intention to stop unlicensed musical events - often held in barns and other premises without the owner's permission.

These events are on the increase and senior officers have met known organisers to advise them of the likelihood of prosecution if they insist on going ahead.

Police are also liaising with the county's other emergency services, councils and the National Farmers' Union.

Head of Mobile Support Division Chief Supt Ian Brown sees the clampdown as a priority because of the safety risk to people who crowd into unlicensed premises for raves.

He said: "We're concerned for revellers. We're concerned about the risk of visitors making drugs available and about the increased dan-

ger on our roads, caused by the massive influx of vehicles. There is clearly a risk to public safety.

"Many of the premises are entirely unsuitable and often downright dangerous when used for such events.

"We will do everything to ensure that we prevent these events and if we can't, then we will close them down. We will also gather and seize evidence and equipment to prosecute anyone involved in organising or running the event."

● Just a week after imposing the clampdown on raves, Essex Police welcomed a prison sentence imposed on a man who held an unlicensed event in Basildon last April.

Michael Coleby, 56, was jailed for three months and ordered to pay £2,500 costs for holding the event without a public entertainment licence and selling without a licence.

Unsure of new reform measures

IT was with mixed feelings that the police reform package on pay was agreed at last month's Police Negotiating Board.

The timescales left for us to consult the membership were far too short, but all the shouting in the world cannot take us back in time.

There are still issues that I don't have all the answers to, but the package will shorten the payscale by four points.

This is achieved by removing two points on April 1, 2003, a third in April 2004 and the fourth in April 2005.

In short, officers will go on to maximum pay with ten years' service against 14 years at present.

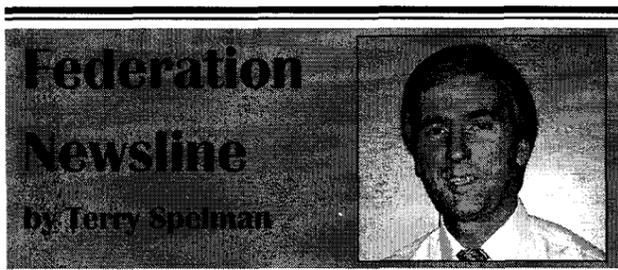
The payscales for sergeants, inspectors and chief inspectors will be shortened by removing the bottom point from April 2003.

Those who at the top of the payscale, and who have been on this for a year, are eligible for a new competence-related payment of £1,002 a year. This is pensionable.

Officers will have to demonstrate high standards under the broad headings of:

- Professional competence;
- Commitment to the job;
- Relations with the public and colleagues;
- Willingness to learn and adjust to new circumstances.

A Police Negotiating Board working group will agree



finer details to the Scheme by the end of this September so that the first payments can be made by April 2003.

There is a £402 increase for all federated ranks from April 2003. This is pensionable.

The annual pay increase this September will still be awarded in line with the median percentage of the Manpower Index of non-manual private sector workers. This is figure is as yet unknown.

From April 2003, the present eight days' notice for double time payment for working on a rest day will be reduced to five days. The current 15-day trigger point will not change.

The disregard of casual overtime of up to 30 minutes four times a week will apply to time off as well as paid overtime.

Plain clothes' allowance will be halved from April 2003 and discontinued in April 2004.

Subsistence refreshment will be discontinued from April 2003 as we know it. Officers will instead be reimbursed expenditure incurred on duty provided:

- it is necessary;
- reasonable;
- additional to what the officer would otherwise have incurred;
- backed by a receipt.

I can see lots of problems with administering this one. The above is a brief outline of some, but not all, of the proposals.

Stress factors

I REPORTED last month that Essex Police would be issuing a detailed questionnaire to every officer and member of support staff.

It is important you complete this form and return it as we feel this will be a valuable piece of work and believe the results will concur with our concerns.

Four health care options available

FOLLOWING recent discussions regarding the PPP healthcare renewal and several enquiries from members highlighting alternative schemes, it was felt important to confirm that Berwick Devoil Healthcare Limited (BDHL) are also able to offer terms with BUPA, Simply Health and a selection of cash plans similar to HSA.

It is important that members of support staff, retired members and serving officers receive independent advice before making any decisions on purchasing healthcare plans or changing, or cancelling existing cover.

This advice will include quotes from other companies offering preferential terms for all employees of Essex Police.

BDHL are the only independent intermediary offering this range of products.

They would be happy to hear from any member who would like to discuss their options.

It is hoped members will feel confident to discuss their range of option.

There are four options open to everyone.

PPP healthcare

A tailored series of plans with discount levels between 35 per cent and 50 per cent off high-street premiums.

Based on claims history and administered through the Essex Police Federation, the plans available include full cover for in-patient and out-patient care; a plan that only offers in-patient treatment and a full level of cover which only allows for in-

patient treatment if the NHS waiting lists are greater than six weeks.

Excess options are also available to help reduce premiums further.

BUPA

A full cover plan offering in-patient and out-patient care. Different levels of discount apply for serving officers and support staff ranging from 25 per cent to 35 per cent off high-street premiums.

This is a stand-alone plan and available to all UK forces. Excess options are available to help reduce the premiums.

Simply Health

A private medical insurance scheme that covers the essentials at a low monthly rate.

The plan is available to all forces across the UK. There is a bolt on cash-plan option to enhance the benefit package.

Cash Plans

Similar to HSA, cash plans offer optical and dental cover, as well as many other benefits including private consultations and, in some cases, Personal Accident Cover, critical illness and stress helplines.

Premiums can start from as little as £1 per week

Members are urged to contact BDHL to discuss their range of options, before making any decisions.

The healthcare scheme company can be contacted on 01892 83812 or via email: max@bdhl.co.uk.

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All change to meet community needs

MAJOR restructuring is underway in Thurrock to provide a more community-based policing style which aims to balance residents' needs and allocate the right levels of policing to each area.

It will see the division split into three areas; Tilbury and Corringham, Grays and West Thurrock, and Aveley and South Ockendon.

Thurrock's operational patrol teams will now be based centrally. Alongside these officers will be the community policing teams (CPTs) devoting their energies to local issues, while problem-solving teams will deal with longer term crime and anti-social behaviour patterns.

The restructuring will include:

- a new mobile police station to tour rural areas such as East Tilbury, Bulphan, Orsett and Horndon on the Hill, for twice-weekly visits;

- extension of the highly successful Fremantle House scheme - in which a team of officers has been using a council flat as a base - to a further five hotspot areas;

- the formation of long and short term problem solving teams, working closely with and within the community.

Thurrock's divisional commander, Chief Supt Terry Sheern said: "We are tailoring the division to the needs of the people we serve. We will be able to make more of a difference to people's lives and make Thurrock even safer.

"Those in more rural areas want to see more police, and they will. Residents

want a speedy response to incidents, and that's in our sights too. By using different working patterns we will have more officers available at times of high demand. This must improve our service.

"Our partnership with Thurrock Council is proving a strong one. Their support and provision of accommodation to extend the pilot scheme at Fremantle House has been tremendous. Our officers will be more deeply rooted in the communities they are serving."

Scientific success

A RECORD number of fingerprint identifications led to a celebration lunch as thanks to the staff of Scientific Support.

Essex Police normally achieves about 2000 identifications each year but by the end of April this year had already hit the 1000 mark.

In recognition of the commitment of the staff who achieved this new record Assistant Chief Constable Joe Edwards and Head of Scientific Support Det Chief Insp Tom Harper laid on a buffet at the HQ Sports Pavilion.

Det Chief Insp Harper said: "This is an outstanding achievement even by our own very high standards. Success on this occasion has not come by accident or luck. It is a testament to all the staff involved from the point where the prints are found by scenes of crime officers, enhanced using chemical treatments and complex photographic processing, and then given to the fingerprint experts who make the final ID.

"The celebration lunch was organised in recognition of this achievement and to say a sincere thanks to all of the staff."

Pocket-sized companion

A BOOKLET covering a wide range of subjects has been designed to assist officers out on patrol.

The need for Patrol Companion 2002 was identified when it was discovered that officers were making mistakes due to gaps in their knowledge of legislation and procedures.

Insp Joe Wrigley proposed the idea and he and Det Chief Insp Vaughan Mullender have provided much of the content.

With contributions from officers around the force, who are experts in their field, the pocket-sized booklet took about 18 months to produce and will be reprinted annually to make sure the information is up to date.

Insp Joe Wrigley said: "We wanted to support officers in the front line with this easy reference guide. I have already received over 60 emails from officers in possession of the booklet and their response has been overwhelmingly positive."

Squad has a new name

ESSEX Police Drugs and Serious crime Squad has been renamed Essex Police Crime Squad.

This follows the Essex Police adoption of the National Intelligence Model and a shift of emphasis from time to time by the force proactive teams away from the investigation of drugs offences.

Phone bill could lead to prison

A RECENT government bill could mean five years imprisonment and unlimited fines for those re-programming stolen mobile phones.

The Mobile Telephone (Re-programming) Bill contains proposals that would create new offences of changing the IMIE, a 15 digit serial number unique to each phone, and owning or supplying the necessary equipment with the intent to use it for re-programming mobile phones.

The new offences could be heard in either magistrates' or crown courts.

New uniform on its way

IN the first step towards adopting the national police uniform, officers of both sexes and all ranks will wear white shirts and black ties from July 1.

Delays in the manufacture of fleeces and new style trousers mean that it has not been possible to introduce these at the same time.

Blue shirts for male sergeants and constables, together with the cravat worn by women, will become a thing of the past.

THE first Acceptable Behaviour Contract in Colchester has been issued against a man whose anti-social conduct created problems for neighbours and others.

By signing the contract, he has agreed to refrain from anti-social behaviour, such as public drunkenness and assault.

Should he break this contract he would then face the next step, under the Crime and Disorder

Contracted to behave in public

Act. This would be an Anti-Social Behaviour Order and any breach of it would make him liable for a court appearance.

The contract is a joint initiative between Essex Police and Colchester Borough Council, who work together as a local crime

and disorder reduction partnership.

Det Chief Insp Mick Jones, crime manager for Colchester, said: "We see this as a positive result from partnership working, resolving a long-running problem which has been difficult for neighbours and other people. We shall be monitoring the situation to ensure that the required progress is made".

Rise in ethnic employees

The number of employees from minority ethnic backgrounds has risen after people were asked to re-declare their ethnic origin for monitoring purposes.

The rise is due to the changes in the classification system which was brought about following the 2001 census in which a 16-point monitoring system was used as opposed to the nine-point system used in 1991. The switch has increased the number of

by Nishan Wijeratne

categories and has led to an additional 23 staff members being identified as being from a minority ethnic group.

Following the publication of the MacPherson Report, the Government set police forces in England and Wales a target of employing a more diverse workforce.

There are now 49 officers from minority ethnic backgrounds in Essex and this meets the 1.5 per cent target

laid down by the Home Secretary. The targets for support staff fall short, with 1.3 per cent reflecting the workforce.

Equal Opportunities Advisor Jan Woodhouse is keen that the reference to targets is not misinterpreted and that the force continues to take steps to attract people from all backgrounds to further improve the service we deliver.

"We are about recruiting the best people regardless of ethnic origin, gender or any aspect of their individuality," said Mrs Woodhouse. "It is encouraging that we have met the targets, but also reassuring to see

that employees feel comfortable with declaring their ethnicity."

The Essex Black Police Association was formed to allow minority ethnic staff to share experiences and to have a positive impact on such issues in the county. All staff associations and networks are working closely with local communities to aid the recruitment and retention process.

The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 has introduced a legal requirement for public bodies to monitor their workforce in order to demonstrate equality of opportunity is being achieved.

Helping to shop retail thieves

TRADERS in Harwich and Dovercourt have joined forces with Essex Police to launch an initiative to combat shoplifting and other crimes at retail premises.

The Harwich and Dovercourt Retailers Against Crime scheme has the full support of the Harwich Chamber of Trade and Commerce.

It involves the creation of a network between police and shops, with intelligence being shared and police photographs of known professional shoplifters and other criminals being distributed confidentially to retailers.

The scheme is already running elsewhere in the Tendring Division, at Clacton.

Harwich-based Insp Peter Gardner said: "We see this as a good partnership approach to reducing crime and look forward to this project adding further strength to our links with the community."

A step back in time

THE doors of the Essex Police Museum were opened wide for a special weekend as part of Museums and Galleries Month.

Usually only open to prebooked groups, over 600 visitors took advantage of the weekend to look at the exhibits.

Volunteers helped to look after the visitors who were given a special treat as Charles Thompson brought along an old Wolseley police car, which sparked many a conversation about policing the roads.

Driver jailed for five years

A GERMAN lorry driver who fell asleep at the wheel and killed four people on the M11 last summer was sentenced to five years' imprisonment at Chelmsford Crown Court.

A six-month investigation by road policing officers and the Traffic Investigation Unit found sufficient evidence to determine that Egon Boerner had worked and driven in excess of 43 hours without rest or sleep.

Senior Investigating Officer Inspector Simon Morgan said: "This is yet another example of the dangers of driver fatigue. The innocent lives of four people were lost, shattering the lives of loves one. I cannot begin to understand the pain the families have gone through and will continue to experience."

Judge Gareth Hawkesworth commended the entire investigation team for their hard work and commitment.



● Danny Leeks, 5, wore his own uniform to the police museum open day. Photo: Nick Strugnell, East Anglian Daily Times.

Law letters

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

Back in my day when...

THE letter in April's issue from Dave Rose about advice from 'old timers' reminded me of my days as a probationer in the early 50s on foot patrol on the seafront at Southend when the pubs turned out.

We were nearly always coupled up (and this was the only time or it was a question of idling and gossiping) and I learned from the old timers not to rush in too quickly when a fight could be seen on the pavements packed with crowds of day trippers from London.

"Let them have a go first was the theory" when by the time we reached them they had disappeared at the sight of helmets coming their way, or they were weakened and not so difficult to get to the station for drunk and disorderly.

Phil Pewsey
Southend

The Wildman pays tribute

I AM writing in response to Jacky Brown's letter 'Wildman sighted in Ongar' (*The Law*, May).

I have been called many things but trust a woman to say something nice about me. Wild is hard to accept at my age, but it was still a nice letter.

Many thanks to Martyn Lockwood for his hard work organising the reunion. It was nice to see many of the old faces and some are looking very old.

It was a brave effort for Micky Page and his wife to attend that afternoon. Although Micky was in a wheelchair he was still able to smile and have a joke and, as we now know, he did not have many more days to live. Our thoughts are with his family.

Micky was a young officer when he arrived at Ongar. He was full of life. He was a person that if there was trouble, he would never let you down. He was like myself, a bit of a headache to senior officers but he still got the job done. A brave boy right to the end and one to be proud of.

Arthur Saville, Long Melford

Pension regulations prove an obstacle

I HAVE been trying for several years to establish a route where you can air your differences about the Police Pension Regulation, specifically with regard to interpretation of state benefits deductions.

Last year I asked the county pensions office to implement the internal dispute procedure, but was advised there was no procedure and was referred to the Home Office, who referred me back to Essex.

I discovered the Occupational Pension Schemes (Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure) and the Occupational Pensions Schemes (Disclosure of Information).

These were both subjects covered under Home Office

circulars to police authorities and chief constables. This information was withheld and their existence concealed.

I have asked the police authority when and how these regulations were implemented but so far they have not replied, so I have had to resort to the Local Government Ombudsman.

I would suggest that all members of the pension scheme familiarise themselves with these regulations and challenge the police authority to advise you of their existence, as they are required to do since 1997.

If anyone has had similar problems you can contact me on 01728 832788.

Malcolm Briggs
Leiston, Suffolk

Response from Exchequer Accountant Barry Faber: I hope that serving and retired officers do not have the impression that no right of appeal exists against the award (or non award) of benefits under our pension scheme.

All public service pension schemes have contained such a right for over 50 years. The private sector was not required to have similar arrangements.

In the wake of the Robert Maxwell affair, the Pensions Act 1995 introduced a requirement for both public and private sector pension schemes to implement Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure (IDRP) arrangements, with the initial decisions on such disputes all being dealt with at local level.

It was believed that this modification to appeal procedures had been notified via a message on pension slips, while Force Orders informed serving officers.

However, it now appears that retired officers did not receive this message. This deficiency is being remedied in the next pension advice slips.

We thank Mr Briggs for bringing this lapse to our attention as his is the first appeal in the four years since the IDRP arrangements were introduced.

We apologise for the erroneous impression given to him that no appeal mechanism existed, rather than the IDRP route being different for police officers as distinct from support staff.

Are they short-sighted?

WE are hearing calls from inside and outside the police service, advocating decriminalisation of hard drugs.

The rationale behind this is that by removing sanctions you remove the crime associated with supply and use. With what consequences?

Would the number of addicts increase or decrease?

Has relaxation of pornography laws resulted in less of it?

Does relaxing alcohol laws lead to less consumption? Will relaxation of betting and gaming law lead to less participation? Will hard drugs be available over the counter at Boots? What rules will apply over strength and quantity?

Will the price be any cheaper than current street prices or will the existing criminal market simply compete with the 'legitimate market', like the present market in smuggled alcohol and tobacco?

When addicts become unemployable and state benefits no longer support their growing need, will the state through our taxes, pay

them more or supply them on prescription, or will they resort to crime to finance it?

If I decide I would like to try out cocaine or heroin, will I just pop along to my GP for a prescription?

When I become addicted will there be a never-ending, escalating supply, until it kills me, or will my GP only be able to prescribe it as a part of a treatment regime if I am already addicted, as was the case nearly 20 years ago?

If so, where will the drugs have come from that got me addicted in the first place?

Can our NHS afford to re-run what happened with smoking-related illnesses, at the taxpayers' expense?

Will large supplies of these drugs stored at retail outlets or pharmacies lead to increased burglary or robbery, or a huge market in stolen prescriptions as happened previously?

These are a few of the complications those proposing such stupidity do not appear to have seen. Perhaps their vision is impaired, either by rose tinted spectacles or a drug-induced haze.

Tony Hall, Harlow

The final words have been spoken

I HAVE just returned from leave to read *The Law*.

Could I thank Dave Rose for his interesting letter, David Bates for his crystal clear letter and Walter Ablett for his acknowledgement that we do have a youth problem?

I also cannot let JC of Chelmsford's comments

about *Heartbeat* pass without mention.

I gave up on this subject a couple of months back as it was all getting a little one-sided in favour of non-serving officers.

I don't mind reading your stories, it's just that I was really asking how current serving officers might feel.

No one came forward, which as I said before, led me to believe that they were truly too busy.

Who knows I might even have got a bit of light-hearted banter going, but it seems that I have also been denied that in favour of our peers, some of whom seem to take umbrage at anything I say!

I personally have moved on and am busy with my life. I also like a laugh, so much so that I actually considered ringing our Chief Constable to see if he was free one Sunday night to come round and watch *Heartbeat* so that we could solve the youth problem of today!

The only thing that stopped me was the thought of today's

hi-tech crime rate multiplying at an alarming rate whilst we all went round on nobby bikes talking to today's youth to put them straight!

As I stand accused of starting this argument (not my words!), perhaps I might be allowed to finish it?

There is a vast difference in the way the world works today. As technology develops so does crime unfortunately, so it follows that we have to try to find evermore resources.

I appreciate that as much as anyone else should. So perhaps youth nuisance has to take a little bit more of a back seat in our list of priorities.

Anyway, you will note that we are now going to charge them £40 or even £80 for unsocial behaviour, so if speed cameras are anything to go, then that might be good deterrent.

Who knows, this could be the answer I was looking for. Can't we just agree to disagree on this?

Alan White
FIR

Mutual respect required

THE letter from Walter Ablett in last month's edition hit the nail on the head.

The softly, softly approach over many years has led this country into lawlessness, aggressive attitudes and lack of respect. It is time that a sledge hammer approach was used.

Criminals should be made to serve the full length of their sentence with time added on for bad behaviour rather than so called good behaviour rewarded with time off.

Both the police and the judiciary have to also change their attitude whereby a youth who

commits 80 plus crimes still walks the streets, whereas a person diving for golf balls is jailed.

Then there is the anger created towards the police when they are unable to attend a 999 call due to lack of personnel (probably forming in the station) and the unproven speed cameras that are entrapping safe drivers whilst fewer drunken and dangerous drivers are taken to task.

If the respect between the public and the police declines further then this country is in serious trouble.

J Reynolds
Brentwood

Life is good despite poor pension increase

AS a sergeant who retired 21 years ago having served just over 30 years with Essex Police at Harlow, I have just received May's pension advice slip and I was greatly impressed to discover that my new annual increase was - wait for it - 1.52 per cent.

Last year we celebrated with a 3.3 per cent increase after a miserable 1.1 the previous year.

Little wonder that we dream of an annual increase based on average earnings instead of inflationary increases! I hope all members of the Police Federation, of which I was once a member, will read this letter as one day they will all to retire and become pensioners.

However, on the plus side my wife and I are still enjoying life immensely, having celebrated our Golden wedding anniversary last year.

We still enjoy an accepted standard of living and are managing to pay our monthly council tax - a mere £114.

After discussion my wife has suggested that I spend our monthly increase of £21.04, i.e. the whole of my pension increases, both police and state retirement, on the first day of each month by driving to the nearest petrol filling station.

I can then join the 'big spenders' by putting 28 litres of unleaded petrol into our car and then with a flourish donate the remaining 7p into the nearest charity box.

Derek Morbey
Sawbridgeworth

Help for money worries

THE Support Staff Benevolent Fund helped nearly 30 members last year as £15,000 was distributed to employees to alleviate poverty, distress and suffering.

The Essex Police Fund is available to all members of support staff, employed and retired, who make the contribution of 50p per month via their payroll.

The registered charity was set up in 1975 and is financed mainly by subscriptions from over 1,000 members of staff. All claims, which can range from sickness to short-term invalidity assistance, are handled in strict confidence and assessed on its own merits.

Fund Secretary Ann Ackland reflects on a recent claim made by an employee.

"A female member of staff working on division came to us after her mother was diagnosed with a terminally ill disease," said Mrs Ackland. "We looked at her circumstances where she found the travelling distance to the south of the country was having a financial burden. We helped by paying for her journeys and thereby allowed her to see her mother every weekend."

Monies are handed out in the form of loans or grants. Claimants are helped mainly with hardship and emergency assistance, but funding for hospital visits and travel make up around 24 per cent of the cases.

Mrs Ackland added: "There are still around 1,104 members of support staff who are not fund members so we would really like these people to join. You may think you do not fall into poverty, distress and suffering through your working life or retirement. Some of last year's claimants had this thought, and we were able to help them."

The Support Staff Benevolent Fund does not have the capacity to provide financial assistance with medical treatment, but does have the capability to supply equipment to help with illness or injury. It also can assist with funeral arrangements. Further information and advice can be sought by contacting divisional Benevolent Fund representatives or the Welfare Department.

Air open day

THE Essex Police Air Support Unit is having its debut open day on Sunday, July 7 in conjunction with the Essex Air Ambulance.

The event will take place at Boreham Airfield between 11am and 4pm when both aircraft can be seen in action. There will be a number of other activities.

Entry fee is £1 per car and proceeds will be donated to the Air Ambulance.

Campaign will help to maintain and improve community confidence

Maximising public reassurance

WORK has started at Essex Police on a campaign to enhance public reassurance.

The initiative is one of the force's key objectives.

It follows last year's report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary entitled Open All Hours, which highlighted the importance of retaining public confidence and stressed the need to tackle crime and disorder in a style that is visible and accessible.

HMIC has identified good police-media liaison as one way to promote reassurance.

In response, Essex Police has launched a research project, piloted by Corporate Support and due to report back by September, as a first step towards an action plan.

Areas under consideration include:

- Identifying policies, practices and procedures which would enable the force to enhance public reassurance and develop more problem-orientated policing.
- Maximising Community Policing Teams' visibility and accessibility, through information technology, deployment and media strategies.
- Ensuring that police liaison with partner

agencies is as effective and efficient as it could be.

Project manager Insp Luke Collison said: "The thrust of this initiative is to give officers the tools to ensure the public recognises that Essex is a safe place to live and to provide systems, together with our partners, for continual improvement in this area."

Annual crime rate figures issued by the Home Office have shown Essex to be consistently one of the safest counties in England.

The force's Media and Public Relations Department is working in support of the reassurance objective.

It has increased the range of media skills training it provides for police officers and has committed itself to increase the flow of positive information from divisions to the media.

Press officers have been given responsibility for encouraging and supporting specific divisions (see the Press Office intranet site for more details).

Principal press officer Peter Laurie said: "This not a spin doctor exercise. It is about fostering important support and assistance by



● Achieving positive impact - front page coverage of a recent Essex Police initiative in the East Anglian Daily Times.

No need to suffer in silence

SOME victims of domestic violence have suffered over 30 assaults by their partners before they seek help, so to aid these people Chelmsford Divisional Commander, Chief Supt Julia Jeapes has launched an information pack and a new web site for the Chelmsford and Maldon area.

It will provide help and advice to anyone who has been affected by this 'hidden' crime. Victims of domestic violence are sometimes reluctant or ashamed to seek help and it is hoped that the information will let them know where they can receive confidential support and advice.

Chief Supt Jeapes said: "A victim of domestic violence suffers on average 37 assaults before seeking help and we must stop this crime. It encompasses all cross sections of society, affecting not only the victim, but their whole family, especially the children. This crime damages many people and its effects are not just limited to those directly involved."

"The Domestic Violence Forum and all the voluntary and statutory agencies have worked hard to put together this information pack and website. It offers tangible advice and assistance. If it helps just one woman escape from the circle of violence and abuse that is domestic violence, then it is a success."

The multi-agency initiative involves both the Chelmsford and Maldon Domestic Violence Forums with input from Essex Social Services Child Protection, Chelmsford Women's Aid, NHS Primary Care, Victim Support, Asian Women's Group, Community Mental Health teams as well as support and funding from both Maldon and Chelmsford councils, and Essex Police.

In addition to the information pack, there will be posters and cards that give details of who to contact in an emergency, advice on keeping yourself safe and details of the statutory and voluntary agencies who will help.

Domestic Violence officers Pc Sara Costa and Pc Helen Butcher, based at Melbourne police station are co-ordinating the new scheme. Police officers attending domestic assaults will offer the pack to victims during follow up visits.

Pc Costa said: "There were over 1,400 calls to police last year in this division for domestic incidents and many more go unreported. No one should accept that their partner can mistreat or abuse them, verbally or by violence."

The web site address is www.dontputupwithit.co.uk.

Smart new way to tackle drugs

COMMUNITY Safety has taken delivery of a Smart car from Mercedes Benz Direct, of Springfield, Chelmsford to help promote the county's anti-drug roadshows.

With the Essex Police crest and the 2 Smart 4 Drugs logo the sponsored vehicle visits schools around the county and is used by community police officers around the divisions to promote community projects.

It is causing a stir, as it is small, curious and most eye-catching, particularly with two large police officers inside.

Community Safety Sergeant Nigel Dermott said: "It is the most productive mileage I have ever done on patrol since being in the job. I was amazed how quickly we engaged the kids in conversation about drugs."

Secondary school students have summed up the car as 'cool' but whatever the reaction it most certainly is a talking point.

The Smart car has a six speed semi-automatic gearbox and is great around town, being very easy to park.

Facing up to new technology

ESSEX Police is working with Securicor Information Systems in piloting and developing a pioneering facial recognition system.

The solution, developed by Securicor and based on the Visionics Face It platform, has undergone a series of enhancements during tests in Southend Division.

The new system has been used to automatically compare external images with the 100,000 plus pictures of offenders held on the Video Witness 2000 (VW2000) system used by Essex Police since 1993. VW2000 is a force-wide offender image management system supplied by Securicor that is used in accordance with the provisions of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act.

Essex Police receives thousands of suspect images each year from the business community and colleagues in neighbouring forces. The images received are mainly supplied from CCTV footage and they contain 'still' pictures of people who need to be identified for further investigation.

The force is impressed with the software solution developed by Securicor, but is hoping for improvement in the quality of the images it receives to put through the system. In some cases, poor positioning of camera systems, inadequate maintenance and out-dated technology are seen as barriers to crime clear-up.

Det Sgt Steve Jones, of Southend Division, said: "The results of the pilot have been highly encouraging but inconclusive because the actual number of good images available to feed into the system has been too low."

"The software developed by Securicor is excellent and works well. We had a couple of good results during the early phase of the trial. Given more quality external images to work with, the force is confident that Facial Recognition will play an important role in assisting the Police with clearing up crime and subsequent offender identification."

Fighting criminals

ONE hears the names. One hears the voices. One rarely sees the faces. One always sees the end results.

In its current form, Special Operations has been around for over seven years. Split into four main sections, the Undercover Unit, Witness Support, the Authorities Bureau and the Technical Support Unit all play a role in the 'behind-the-scenes' side of Essex policing.

The Undercover Unit advises territorial divisions and specialist teams, but also provides practical assistance in operations where traditional methods have failed or would not succeed. In return, they rely on those same divisions to supply the resources to fulfil various aspects of an operation, but also to ensure the long-term future of the unit. They train officers in test purchasing and decoy operations with the aim of gathering irrefutable evidence against criminals.

The unit has become the centre of excellence for the eastern ACPO region, with Essex officers responsible for training those from neighbouring forces. The skills needed to become a level-one (highest) undercover officer can only be gained through years of experience and training. The number of specialist officers within Essex as such is at a premium. Ds Steve Tuckerman now oversees the Undercover Unit, after accruing over 20 years' experience in the field, having served at Basildon and with the Regional Crime Squad.

"We use sensitive policing methods and enjoyed immense success working with divisional colleagues," said Ds Tuckerman. "This type of policing is dynamic and rewarding. We always try to attract officers who have dedication and enthusiasm. We understand that divisional commanders don't want to lose their more motivated officers, but the operations only allow for the quality officers to participate with us."

Undercover policing is the authorised police activity carried out by officers alongside villains as crime is taking place. The attraction within the force is great with investigating officers feeling they are succeeding against known individuals where previously they have failed.

A fundamental element of ensuring criminals are dealt with appropriately is to ensure evidence is presented clearly. Any

Nishan Wijeratne unveils the work of those officers shrouded in mystery

witness can help support this evidence to effectively seal the suspect's fate.

Witness Protection supports those individuals who testify on behalf of the Crown and who are in danger of being threatened by the suspect. Dc Lindsay Anderson is a witness protection officer who has dealt with several cases over the past year involving people from all types of background.

"We have had, and in some cases are still dealing with, 13 groups of individuals who have been offered our services," said Dc Anderson. "The majority of people who require witness support usually have police records, hence why they may be in danger from others. We rarely come into contact with law-abiding citizens who witness crime; but, in the main, we are really there for them."

"At the moment, we haven't any such clients on our books though. Each one has their own individual needs and we have to be versatile with our lives and shift patterns. Security is paramount and for not only their sakes, but also ours."

There are three tiers of protection which witnesses are placed in. There are very few people who have fallen in the highest category where a full identity change has been required together with changes to databases. The majority of people fall into tier two where witnesses are housed and relocated elsewhere for their protection pending or during a court case. Tier three is available for people who require advice or the installation of panic alarms.

Vulnerable witnesses

Intimidated or vulnerable witnesses are not offered any inducements and, should they be relocated, then they will enter a new environment which is similar to the one from which they have been temporarily taken out of. Due to the stressful nature of the job, witness protection officers undergo regular counselling every six months to safeguard their welfare.

As with all public body organisations, Essex Police has certain procedures in place which need to be adhered to ensure investigations do not fall down in court. The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 was introduced for this purpose.

The Authorities Bureau handles applications for all operations involving property interference, intrusive surveillance, the use of covert human intelligence sources (previously known as informants) and any associated payments.

Ds Peter English and his colleagues Dc Pauline Foreman and Dc David Bates, ensure the force complies with the Act, with the Office of Surveillance Commissioner already praising the bureau for several examples of best practice.

"A recent three-day inspection by the commissioners, who report directly to the Prime Minister, highlighted many areas in which the force was excelling," said Ds English. Essex Police employs more of the advanced intrusive surveillance techniques than most other forces across the UK because we are confident in our abilities. Officers of all rank do respect our advice because of the knowledge we hold."

The Telephone Enquiry Unit is an arm of the Authorities Bureau which handles subscriber checks, itemised billing

documents and specialist services. The disappearance of people, reported missing or otherwise, forms a large part of its workload, usually utilising the 24-hour on-call cover, available via the Force Information Room.

The integrity of both offices is ensured as its employees are security-cleared to deal with the often-sensitive issues they handle. Joint operations with Essex Trading Standards are common practice, with underage drinking targeted on a regular basis.

For every case that comes to court, more often than not, one team of dedicated officers skilled in the art of gadgetry provides the intelligence and evidence to detect the crime. The Technical Support Unit, based in the north of the county, houses some of the more advanced pieces of hi-tech equipment for both gaining and retrieving evidence. From murder and rape, missing people and terrorism, to repeat victimisation, TSU has the capacity to deliver the necessary expertise to ensure sections of the criminal fraternity are kept off the streets.

TSU can kit out a person or vehicle with a variety of covert cameras, listening devices and tracking equipment whilst also offering more basic services such as videotape processing and the downloading of 999 calls.

Ds Andy Richardson has been at the helm of the rural unit for the past two years. An engineering qualification and an avid interest in gadgets pushed the 36-year-old towards this job after 16 years in Basildon.

"A majority of our time is currently spent on some of our inside duties," said Andy. "For instance, last year we analysed over 1,000 mobile phones and with each one taking around an hour to complete, you can understand why we're often racing against such tight deadlines."

"The last five years have also seen a 1000 per cent increase in the number of video recordings seized for evidential purposes. The retrieval of emergency call recordings from members of the public is also a painstaking task, but one which nearly every lawyer now wants presented in court."

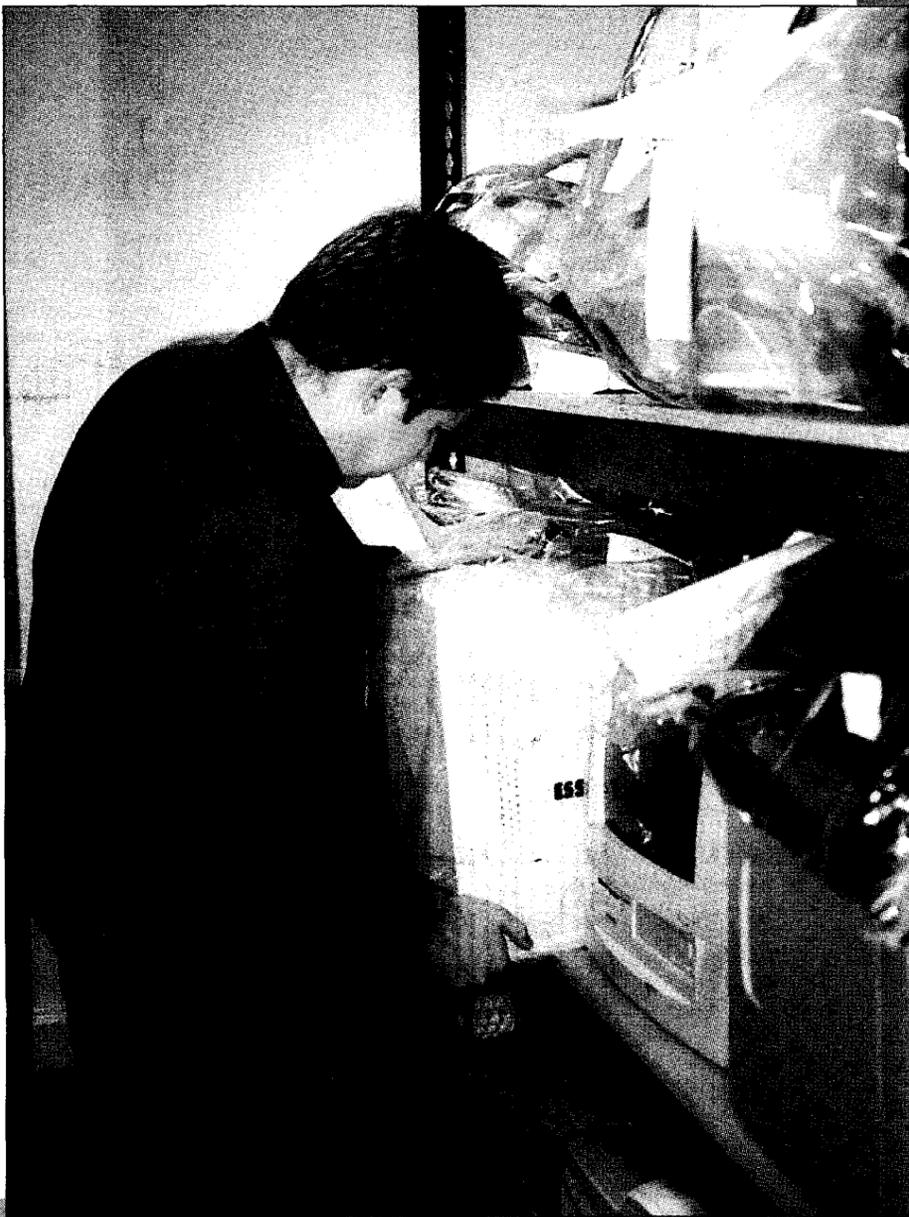
A small warehouse stores the increasing number of computers which make their way to TSU following seizure by officers who suspect owners to be accessing child pornography. They, like all other items of evidence, are taken to the unit by hand to ensure that no damage is incurred to, what is after all, a court exhibit.

Director of Intelligence Det Supt Wil Kennedy has nothing but the utmost admiration for these officers who regularly support and mount operations to crack both volume and serious crime.

"They are all, whether test purchases or level-one undercover officers, working in a criminal environment without the protection which many of us take for granted," said Det Supt Kennedy. "This is not a glamorous job, it is one of the most disciplined and professional areas of policing I've had the privilege to be involved in."

"We are investing time and money to expand the capabilities of Special Operations as this is one area where we are fighting criminals on their own ground."

At the end of the day all 24 officers, all of whom are security-cleared, know exactly what their job remit is. Sadly, by the very nature of the job, these officers cannot shout about their results which are often very impressive.



● Computer porn seizure storage.

on their own ground



'This is not a glamorous job, it is one of the most disciplined and professional areas of policing.'

Heard about the latest recording device?

Taking the stress out of giving evidence in court

OFFICERS and support staff have the opportunity to present themselves and their evidence in court more effectively following the successful introduction of a new course at the force training centre.

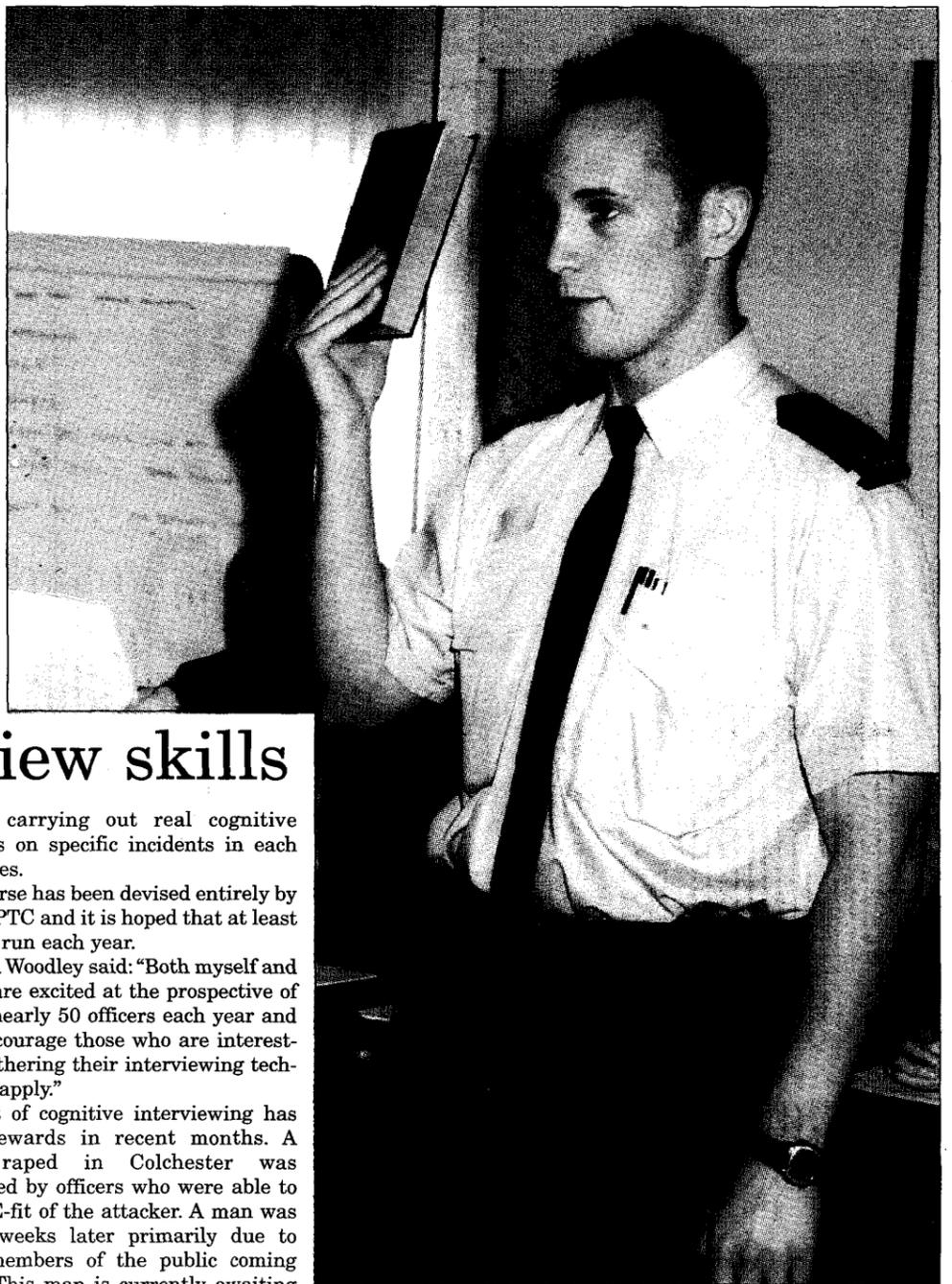
The court skills course was set up at the beginning of the year for those who are likely to appear as witnesses and give evidence in court. The one-day course is open to anyone who wishes to improve their court skills presentation - providing evidence is usually an extremely stressful experience and students who enrol will find their planning and presentation skills put to the test.

A wide variety of people within the force can be called to give evidence, including scenes of crime officers, crime analysts and police surgeons. Crime Training Manager Det Insp Bob Chatterton is particularly keen for probationers who have gained independent patrol status to attend.

"We've had several remarks made by judges and barristers regarding the quality of evidence supplied by some officers in a law courts," said Det Insp Chatterton. "This course addresses the problem by examining and role-playing every procedure involved."

The course is run five times each year and can cater for 50 people. Those who wish to apply can do so by getting release forms from their Resource Management Units. The one-day seminar is run by Det Insp Chatterton who is assisted by members from other agencies including the Crown Prosecution Service.

Det Insp Chatterton concludes: "There are many aspects which are learnt on the day, but the one fundamental message I try to convey is that people should not find that their first ever experience of a court is when they are there to give evidence. They should familiarise themselves with a courtroom beforehand even if it is only to sit in on a session."



● Grays constable David Wheddon practises the oath.

New course to enhance interview skills

A NEW training course specifically focusing on cognitive interviewing skills has been devised for officers who deal with incidents of serious crime.

Following the success of a pilot course in April, the three-day course has been designed for people who have an interest in enhanced interview technique with victims or witnesses of major crime such as rape, murder or extortion.

The practical skills-led course is being initially offered to officers from the Major Investigation Section, before being rolled out to other departments and divisions. The course is open to officers of all rank, irrespective of whether they are uniformed or not, but is specifically targeted at sex offences trained officers and family liaison officers.

The course is run at EPTC by two trainers who guide the six students

through the various elements of the skill. Dc Graham Lawrence has been a crime trainer for three years after serving at both Benfleet and Basildon.

"The students on April's pilot course found their time with us to be extremely satisfying and were able to interact with one another in a safe learning environment," said Dc Lawrence.

"There has never been any formal course of this type, but it has been introduced to several officers across the force previously as it is an excellent investigative tool to enhance memories of both victims and witnesses."

Cognitive interviewing is a skill recommended in the ACPO Murder Manual and has always proved a useful weapon in the senior investigating officer's armoury.

The three-day course is interactive with

students carrying out real cognitive interviews on specific incidents in each other's lives.

The course has been devised entirely by staff at EPTC and it is hoped that at least eight will run each year.

Dc John Woodley said: "Both myself and Graham are excited at the prospective of training nearly 50 officers each year and would encourage those who are interested in furthering their interviewing techniques to apply."

The art of cognitive interviewing has reaped rewards in recent months. A woman raped in Colchester was interviewed by officers who were able to form an E-fit of the attacker. A man was arrested weeks later primarily due to several members of the public coming forward. This man is currently awaiting sentence.

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Embracing rural issues

A NEW police unit to combat rural crime has been set up in Tendring Division.

Detectives and a tactical team of uniformed officers have joined forces in a rural base created at the refurbished police office in the village of Weeley.

Embracing a community policing style, they will work together to combat crime in small towns and villages in the Tendring district. The existing CID units at Clacton and Harwich will continue to serve these urban areas, leaving the Weeley-based officers free to focus on rural investigations.

Det Sgt Barry Blackman has moved from Clacton to head the rural CID office, which will include three detective constables. The tactical team will consist of four constables, who will also work in Harwich when the need arises.

Is it the job for you?

THE high-profile work and roles at the airport and in mobile support have been highlighted ahead of an open day aimed at attracting more officers into specialist fields.

The open day, on June 28 at Wethersfield, is aimed at anyone - male or female - who wants to learn more about specialist posts, from firearms to dogs.

Supt Jacqui Cheer, former divisional commander at Stansted Airport, believes the day will be a chance to dispel some of the myths about the jobs.

She said: "There's an impression that there's not a lot to do at Stansted. It is the safest airport in the UK, but it's not through luck that it's the safest.

"12,000 people work at the airport as a community, so officers stationed there are still using all their policing skills, and communication is vital to the role."

Since September 11 firearms have come to the fore of counter-terrorism.

Supt Cheer said: "Officers need to be switched on to what's happening in the world. At the airport, developments in the Middle East can have an immediate

effect on your work."

Supt Cheer is particularly keen to break the myth that the jobs there are all male-orientated and all about strength.

"The open day will show that firearms is not just about fitness and strength, and it's important for people who have never handled a gun to come and do so."

The airport offers subsidised transport and free parking, and training is given on a flexible basis on division.

Chief Supt Ian Brown, head of mobile support division, is crystal clear on the kind of people he wants working in the division.

"I want well-rounded officers in MSD, who understand the needs of territorial divisions, and are able to support them in meeting force objectives.

"Whether it's in traffic, dogs, air support, marine or firearms, it gives people a chance to specialise into areas of police work that are still about front end policing. All of the posts within MSD allow people to use skills they have developed to date and apply them in that more specialised arena, and communication is the key skill required."

Chief Supt Brown is proud of the opportunities available in MSD which do not crop up frequently elsewhere: "There are some jobs which aren't open to divisions, for example, surveillance work, or investigating homicides in the form of road deaths.

"We have the best jobs. We have the best equipment. We have some of the best staff with the best level of support available within Essex Police. We can and do make a real difference."

Anybody who would like to discuss privately the open day or opportunities available, can contact Supt Jacqui Cheer at HQ or Insp Chris Bainbridge at Stansted.

Healthy food is a winner

BOSSES of the force staff restaurants have been applauded by the local health authority for their range of healthy menu options available to customers.

Sodexo Catering and Support Services was commended for its commitment to healthy eating and compliance of health and safety legislation.

Chef managers from Chelmsford, HQ and the training centre received the Heart Beat award from company operations director Nick Potter.

Cash rewards for first class suggestions

DURING the 2001/2002 award year 89 proposals were registered with the Force Suggestion Scheme.

Twenty-eight proposals were recommended to the Suggestion Scheme Awards Panel for consideration and monetary awards were made in respect of 21, which included six encouragement awards.

Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark presented the awards earlier this month.

Praised for fighting spirit



● DC Micky Page never once gave up hope or resolve.

TRAGICALLY the lives of three serving members of Essex Police have been lost following a battle against cancer but they have all been praised for their fight and resolve while friends and colleagues have embarked on a host of activities to raise cash to fight the cause.

DC Micky Page, a scenes of crime officer at Harlow had been fighting the disease for two years but on May 2 lost the battle, aged just 42.

He will be remembered, however, for the courage he showed and his determination to ensure that future cancer patients received the best possible care and facilities.

Micky joined Essex Police on April 17, 1979 having recently received his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal for the 22 year point of his career. In 1995 he married Sally, who also works for Essex Police as Resource Manager at Harlow. They lived together in Harlow with their two dogs.

His 'spark' and 'boundless energy' made Micky unique and, according to former sergeant Tony Ellis, occasionally unpredictable. It was no surprise to colleagues when Micky climbed a tree to rescue a cat or dived into water in full uniform to check a submerged car for people.

His wife Sally said: "Micky was such an incredible person. During the two years he was ill he put up such a tremendous fight never once letting his illness get him down. He has moved so many people with his sheer determination and taken on the NHS to ensure other cancer patients in the future receive the best possible treatment and care. He will be greatly missed by me and all his friends and colleagues from Essex Police."

Micky's funeral service was held at St Mary's Church in High Ongar followed by a cremation in Harlow.

Pc Ross Luke, who has worked with Micky since day one of his career and read the eulogy, said: "Micky loved work, loved life, but most of all loved Sally with all his heart and soul. A love that knew no bounds or borders. He was a good friend to me and many others. He had a big heart and a huge capacity for love which burned brightly to the end."

Anyone who has passed through the training centre in the last eight years would no doubt have met the friendly reception of **Carol Hatchard**. Sadly Carol died on April 30 after a long battle against cancer.

Carol, aged 52, was married to husband William and had two daughters.

She has been described by the head of the training centre, Supt Dave Folkard as a committed member of Essex Police. He said: "Her battle against the disease was long and arduous but throughout she remained positive and buoyant and bounced back against the odds on many occasions. She impressed all who knew her with her determination and strength, we were proud to know her and work with her, she will be sadly missed."

Similar tributes were paid by Sandy Parratt, friend and colleague, who worked alongside Carol.

She said: "Carol was a remarkably brave,

honest person who was always more interested in the welfare of others than her own. She was always smart, cheerful and forever optimistic and a pleasure to work with. I only wish we could have worked together longer. She will be sadly missed."

Carol's funeral took place at Chelmsford Crematorium after a drive-by EPTC by the cortege. A plaque for a bench which will sit in the garden area at the training centre is being arranged in her memory.

Former inspector **Peter Hudson**, who became licensing officer for Tendring on his retirement, died on May 15, after sadly losing his battle with cancer, aged 55.

Peter was diagnosed with cancer earlier this year and appeared to be winning the fight against his illness.

He retired in 1999, from the post of inspector at Harwich, after serving for 34 years as a police officer and became a member of support staff.

Peter who lived with his wife Carole in Clacton had a son and daughter.

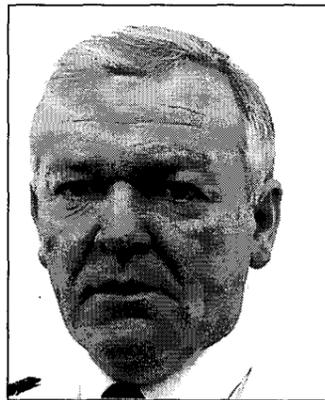
He made many friends around the county and his funeral at Weeley Crematorium on May 24 was well attended.

Chief Insp Peter Anderson of Clacton said: "Peter's death comes as a shock, his abilities and good humour will be missed by us all."

Sgt Peter Wood also paid tribute. He said: "You could

not have wished for a better gov'nor. He was a good example both at work and in his home life. I think I can say on behalf of all those who worked with him that he was a very fair man, you always knew where you stood with him. He was a keen sportsman who used to play football and cricket for the force. As a season ticket holder for Norwich City he was ribbed at work by the Ipswich supporters but always gave as good as he got. It is easy to talk about him because everything about him was so positive."

● In the July issue of the *The Law* read the stories and the advice of two men on the road to recovery from cancer.



● Peter Hudson.

How to help the cause

ANY optimist will tell you that a positive can always be found from a negative and the charitable actions of employees across Essex Police since the deaths of Micky Page, Carol Hatchard and Peter Hudson provide the proof.

Some people will, however, take their commitment to extremes as trainer Ds John Chambers demonstrated when he agreed to have his head shaved. Some would argue that he had little to lose and he did turn down offers to make up the difference with a leg waxing.

But John said: "Obviously the treatment involved with cancer can lead to hair loss and I have always seen it as a badge of courage. I was proud to do something to acknowledge that courage."

His actions raised £520 which has been given to the Macmillan nurses to start a new fundraising recruitment campaign.

In addition a collection at the training centre raised £370 and has been given to the family's chosen charity, Helen Rollason Cancer Care.

Over 30 Essex Police employees Walked the Walk from Leigh Railway Station to Southend Pier and back again to raise cash for breast cancer at the end of May. The Essex Police contribution was organised through the force Sports and Social Club and raised £1,350.

● If you are still keen to do your bit, there are more events in the pipeline.

The *Race for Life* is a women's only 5km walk or run. Essex has three venues - one at Hylands Park, Chelmsford on June 30, Gunners Park, Southend on July 7 and Castle Park, Colchester on July 14. Entry forms are available via the internet at www.raceforlife.co.uk or by phoning 08705 134314.

If that event is a little too gentle for you how about an abseil down the side of county hall in Chelmsford.

This takes place on June 23 between 10am and 4pm in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care. Registration is £10 and a minimum of £50 is required in sponsorship. For details contact Hannah or Natasha on 01920 467177.

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

Autumn cadet reunion

FORMER police cadet Theresa Kennard is trying to track down the intake of 1969 for a grand reunion in October.

She said: "We are all around 50 now and I think it's about time we all met up and had a review of what life has done to us all."

If you were a cadet in 1969 and haven't already been in touch with Terri, or indeed have any ideas for this autumn's reunion then please contact Terri at: terrikenard@btinternet.com.

An event is planned for the second week in October.

Launch of 999 website

THE independent publishers of *Police News* have launched a new website dedicated to the emergency services.

The site can be found at www.emergencyservices-uk.com and is for police, fire, ambulance, coastguard and the National Health Service.

It will feature a worldwide 'chat room' for police personnel, a question-and-answer facility enabling the public to quiz key police officers.

A recruitment section for police forces and news pages containing news and features will be updated daily.

New commander for Stansted Airport

SUPERINTENDENT Steve Bottrill has been appointed as divisional commander for Stansted Airport having previously served as a chief inspector at Rayleigh.

Sarah Ward has been appointed Essex Police museum curator and public relations co-ordinator.

Previously employed by Cambridge University's Fitzwilliam Museum, Sarah, will divide her week equally between the museum and the public relations unit.

Ben Pennington has been appointed as a press officer, replacing Norman Hicks who left to join the Ministry of Defence.

Ben is no stranger to Essex having previously been employed as a senior reporter for the *Thurrock Gazette* and *Basildon Evening Echo*.

Retirements

Chief Insp Dave Halsey served exactly 30 years with Essex Police.

During that time he had 21 postings, both in uniform and with CID and for a time was seconded to 'The Yard'.

Names in the news

As his career progressed he enjoyed the job more but felt that it was time to retire while still young enough to change direction.

He will now be directing his own operations in his business venture as a handyman.

De Stephen Atkins has retired after 30 years' service, with 26 years in scenes of crime, making him one of the force's longest serving scenes of crime officers.

Stephen finished his career at Southend after starting at Saffron Walden.

He moved to Harlow and was the first uniformed officer to welcome the first Ugandan refugees.

He is now "just taking it easy", but is planning to move permanently to France in two years with his wife.

Insp Jo Dudley is hoping to become a Church of England priest after 29 years with Essex Police.

Jo, who served her last day with Colchester's community safety team at the start of May, is planning to have a gap year to enjoy her second youth.

Insp Ian Kennedy has retired after serving 30 years.

Leaving with mixed feelings, he is disappointed that he failed to achieve his aspirations but remained committed to Essex Police. He will miss his former colleagues.

Currently working part time for a local undertaker Ian hopes to put his skills to helping the local community.

Obituaries

A TRAGIC accident in a gyrocopter led to the death of former constable Gerald French in May, aged 58.

Mr French had served Essex Police from 1962 to 1990 at Colchester, Romford, Harwich, HQ and

Chelmsford.

His friend Ron Turck was also killed in the same accident. Mr French leaves a widow Andie.

Former Pc William Budd died last month, aged 81. Mr Budd, who joined Essex Police in 1952 after five years with Worcestershire Police, served at Canvey Island, Pitsea and Laindon Traffic. He leaves a widow, Joyce.

Phillip Davies, former sergeant who served at Brentwood, Canvey and Pitsea, died on April 29, aged 88. Mr Davies, of Basildon, finished his time with force as a road safety officer at Pitsea, and served from 1937 to 1964. He leaves a widow, Marguerite.

Former sergeant Raymond Street died in April, aged 69. Raymond, who lived in Rayleigh and was known to his friends as Bill, leaves a widow, Brenda. He served from 1962 at Corringham, Canvey, Rayleigh and Hadleigh, before his retirement in 1988.

Former chief inspector James Gorham died in April, aged 71. Mr Gorham, who was living in Black Notley, served from 1951 to 1984 at Braintree, Colchester and Halstead. He leaves a widow, Beryl.

Roy Maplestone, who served as a constable with Essex Police from 1954 to 1985, died in May at the age of 71. Mr Maplestone, of Stisted, leaves a widow, Anne.

He served at Braintree, Chelmsford, Colchester.

A day to share your prayers

THE third national Day of Prayer for the police service took place in May.

The day was supported by the Essex Police Christian Association.

Both churches and individuals were asked to pray for police officers and for their families.

The Christian Police Association has both a national and an Essex website which can be found at www.cpauk.org or alternatively www.cpaessex.org.uk.

Extra patrols

MORE police officers are patrolling Colchester town centre on Friday and Saturday nights.

This follows a divisional review of resources, aimed at providing strength where the need is greatest.

There is now a set establishment of one sergeant, five regular constables and two special constables, with back-up available from response units.

The previous arrangement was more fluid, based on demand as they developed through the evening.

Jubilee medals for all members of staff

ALL support staff and those who did not qualify for a jubilee medal, but were employed by Essex Police on February 6, 2002 will receive a Queen's Golden Jubilee medallion.

The expenditure for this was approved by the Essex Police Authority, in recognition of the tremendous amount of work of all employees, including support staff and special constables.

Market Place

BABY accessories including Bebe comfort pram-carrycot, car seat, carry chair and buggy, hardly used £1400ono, £300 new. Bath c/mat bits and bobs box, £12. Phone 01268 551229.

BMW 316i Compact, 1995, Boston green, 9 months'

MOT, taxed, recent BMW full service, alloys, central locking, 88K, fully electric, Pioneer CD, good condition, £3995, contact Claire on 07904 515343.

BONTEMPI electric organ, two tier keyboard with music and stand, hardly used, £125.

Sally Hart on 07786 365973. CALPE Spain. Self contained apartment sleeps four. Two bathrooms, balcony, five minutes walk from safe sandy beach. Town location, from £120 per week. Contact Bob Naden on 01255 815140.

CAMPLAIR trailer tent. Four to six berth trailer can be used independently, vgc £600. Contact Mr Gilfillan on 01245 475568.

CUMBRIA, Ravenstonedale. 4 star B&B, unspoilt village, convenient for lakes and dales, Eden Valley. All rooms en suite, TV and hairdryer, coffee/tea, fishing, walking, golf nearby. Two pubs/restaurants in village. Contact Neil Brook on 01539 623641.

FLORIDA, Kissimmee. Luxury villa, 4 bedrooms, own screened pool plus kiddie pool. Tel: Del or Pam on 01268 750062.

FORD Puma, 1999, T-reg, Melina blue, air con, electric mirrors and luxury pack, fsh, £8,000. For details contact Steve Chandler at Wickford on 47433 or 07979 867430.

LAKESIDE chalet. Cotswold Water Parks. Exclusive fully equipped, 2 bed bathroom, kitchen, lounge, terrace. Leisure centre on site. From 150 to 250 per week. Please call Stuart on 07973 639342.

MOBILITY scooter, 4 wheels, one year old, shopping basket, cost £2,000 new. Will accept £850. Give someone back their independence. Contact Kathryn on 01279 814930 or ext 22140.

OMAR Park home, suit retired. Lounge dining, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, central heating, own garden, shed, Crays Hill, £56,000. Sally Hart on 07786 365973.

ORLANDO. Luxury villa, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, sleeps up to 10. Private screened pool, near Disney and other central Florida attractions. For more details contact 01245 266949 or 01376 573406.

PEARL tiara with central crystal droplet, £25. Sally Hart on 07786 365973.

SCOTTISH Highlands. Self-catering bungalow, sleeps 2. Fully equipped, open all year. Or B&B in Austrian-style home. Fishing, skiing, shooting, walking, bird-watching or chill out in 600 acre pine forest. Police discounts. Contact Andy Nunn on 01479 841717 or email andy@nunn-woodlands.freeserve.co.uk

TROMBONE student size in hard case with practice mute and mouthpiece, vgc, £160. Contact Kenny Meager at HQ on 50653 or 01245 251256.

VAUXHALL Corsa Club 1.2 16v. 1999 'T' reg, 5 door, dark blue met, 36,000 miles, elec windows, heated door mirrors, fsh, driver airbag, PAS, 1 careful lady owner, excl cond, £3,500ono. Tel: 01277 653614 or 07930 486079.

WANTED. Cash waiting for car sales brochures. Age immaterial. Contact Roger Blaxall on 01695 574019 (pm only).

A golden garden

RETIRED officer Jane Bastow has, with some friends from night school, won a gold medal at the Chelsea Flower Show for their courtyard garden.

Jane, who was married to the late Byron Bastow, served at Southend, Wickford and Chelmsford before her retirement in 1991.

Deciding that she needed to keep her brain active and having a large garden, Jane enrolled at Otley College studying horticulture.

With friends from her Royal Horticulture Society diploma class, who raised sponsorship money, they entered Chelsea Flower Show

and were amazed that from thousands of entries their was one of those selected for the show.

Jane said: "To win a gold medal at our first attempt was beyond our wildest dreams."

You can see Jane's talent first hand as she holds a open garden every year for village funds and will be delighted to see old colleagues.

Her garden in the village of St James South Elmham Suffolk will be open on June 22 from 10am to 3pm.

The garden will be signposted from Halesworth and Harleston.

Brave tackle earns Matt a silver medal

FRIDAY July 13, last year was to prove a particular unlucky date for a Colchester robber. It was the day when he had the misfortune to encounter Sergeant Major Matt Firth, Royal Artillery, whilst making his escape from the scene of his crime at a jewellers in Colchester.

The sergeant major's response to the robbery has earned him a silver medal in the Provincial Police Awards.

The robber had terrified two female shop assistants: he smashed a display case with a chisel, snatched two Cartier watches, and made his escape.

Sgt Major Firth abandoned his shopping bags and gave chase, even though the man was still armed with the chisel. After some distance Sgt Major Firth tackled the robber, bringing him to the floor and, despite violent struggle, detained him until police arrived.

An officer who knew the man said: "It normally takes six of us to retrain him."

Matt Firth, from Clacton, who is now a Warra Officer, was presented with his medal by ACIP President, Sir David Phillips in recognition of his bravery in support of the police.

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 does not meet this criteria.

Anyone for ditch crawling? Choirs sings for young musicians

THE last thing you would associate with employees past and present from Essex Police is 'ditch crawling'.

However, a group did just that and met last year to discuss their enthusiasm.

Ditch crawling is another name for people who enjoy boats and using the English canal system.

A spring meeting for members was arranged in the Northamptonshire village of Braunston.

Although a small village, Braunston is a bustling centre for canal industries of all types, as well as being close to moorings.

It was going to take some of the group at least a day and a half to get there, although it was only a journey of ten miles but included 12 locks and a tunnel.

David and Selina Sweeney were the first to arrive and met a delayed Graham and Sue Schneider at Braunston lock flight.

This was due to one of the pounds (stretch of water between two locks) being low on water.

With rain lashing down,



● Standing on the edge of the Grand Union Canal

everyone was drenched but a warming glass of sloe gin put things right.

Anne and Ralph Young completed the gathering and it was decided that a barbecue was in order.

Graham was nominated as chef and, with the rain set in for the weekend, had to complete his task leaning out of the side door with the barbecue on the bank. Maybe it was the sloe gin

that led to the spatula and Ralph's sausage going into the canal! The spatula was retrieved but the fish ate the sausage.

The next day's activities were taken up by a walk to the Admiral Nelson for lunch and then the journey home.

First the hard part, turning the boats around, not easy with a howling wind and a boat 55-60 feet long.

David showed off his skill while the others gratefully accepted help from bystanders.

The next boating weekend will be arranged in August.

Anyone interested in boating and wishing to join the group is asked to contact Graham Schneider on 01799 599184 or contact Peter Hesketh on 07946 390135.

THE Essex Police choir performed in aid of the Tom Acton Memorial Trust at St Peter's Church, Bocking last month.

They were joined by a newly-formed wind quintet consisting of players from the Essex Symphony Orchestra.

The church was beautifully decorated with a flower festival in celebration of the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

The memorial trust provides help for young musicians and was set up in memory of Tom Acton, who was passionate about music and a keen bassoonist, but who sadly died two

months before his 21st birthday.

The police choir are performing their next concert at St Paul's Church, Pilgrims Hatch on Saturday, June 22.

Tickets are available from Judy Stafford on 01277 228395.

On Saturday, July 6, the choir will be appearing with the Suffolk Constabulary Male Voice Choir and the Castleton Brass at the Corn Exchange in Ipswich in aid of the Rhythm of Life Appeal at Ipswich Hospital.

Tickets are available from the Corn Exchange on 01473 433100.

Jackie Lee

Success for Pat and Matt

AS a result of their individual performances in the national PAA swimming tournament Rayleigh RPU's Pat Whitehead and Harlow's Matt Rees have been selected to represent the British Police in fixtures later this year.

The hills are alive with yodel-ay-ay-ay

A GROUP from HQ Sports and Social Club recently returned from the Austrian Tyrol where they had a wonderful holiday.

They are still yodelling their praises about the lovely hotel in Fieberbrunn, a renovated 16th century castle, and the warm weather.

Visits were paid to Grossglockner, the highest mountain in Austria and The Eagle's Nest, Hitler's summer retreat, over the border in Germany, Zell am See and Salzburg.

A quiz night held at the Sports Pavilion at the end of May raised £711.

Barclays Bank kindly matched this amount following some gentle persuasion by quizmaster Andy Chaplin.

All the proceeds will be added to sponsorship being raised by Nicole Tomlin who is doing 'The Walk the Walk' on the Inca Trail in Peru this month.

"This is an adventure opportunity not to me missed," said Nicole. "I'll be having fun whilst also raising money for an extremely good cause."



● The log train heads for the hills

The final amount will then be sent to the two charities.

Anyone interested in

sponsoring Nicole for this worthwhile cause can contact her at Firearms Licensing on ext 50669.

Lucky lottery winners

The latest lottery winners are: £1500 - Pc James Couchman, Harwich, £750 - DI Trevor Burdett, Colchester, £375 - Pauline Salmon, Southend and £200 - DS Vaughn High, Witham. £50 consolation prizes go to: Pc Joy Madigan, Central Road Policing Unit, Chief Supt Mick Thwaites,

Southend, Pc Mairhi Mowbray, Force Information Room, Pc Jason Boots, Stanway Road Policing Unit, Pc Kenneth Corbett, Southend, Sgt Patrick O'Riordan, Epping, Cheryl Gilbert, HQ, Pc Kevin Conerney, Braintree, Geoff Butler, Braintree, DCC Charles Clark, HQ.

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Break it like Beckham

THE Essex Police veterans' final game of the season ended in defeat when they lost 3-0 to Greater Manchester Police in the semi final of the PAA National Vets Cup.

A daunting challenge got even tougher when captain Joel Henderson broke his arm. His Basildon colleagues and team-mates wish him well.

The annual friendly against the Old Chelmsfordians finished with just the one goal from Martin Oakley, enabling the Vets to retain the Bill Bishop Memorial Cup.

General Manager Cliff

Haines hopes everyone has had an enjoyable season.

"It's been a great season and certainly one in which we can build upon next season," said Det Insp Haines.

The vets eventually finished second in Division Two behind Havering NALGO, but the west Essex team have been kicked out of the league due to a poor disciplinary record.

Team secretary Ian Howitt said: "Hopefully this month's World Cup tournament will inspire some to think about rekindling their skills and we would certainly welcome any new players."

Ladies follow suit

AN UNOFFICIAL Essex Police ladies football team secured victory over Nottinghamshire Police, winning 11-3 in a friendly match which proved a great advertisement for women's football.

The team, formed last August, have been contacting other UK forces in order to establish a PAA competition.

In order to gain PAA status, a tournament had to be held and the findings presented to the PAA committee.

A successful tournament was held in Nottingham during where good links were established for future matches.

Due to the fact that it was not yet a recognised PAA competition, time off could not be given which meant a lack of players, with Essex merging with Cheshire and Thames Valley among others.

The eleven teams travelled from as far north as Strathclyde and from as far south as Devon and Cornwall. On the Saturday night, over 120 female police officers and support staff descended on the city centre to establish links in more social surroundings.

The friendly atmosphere was carried over to Sunday's play with Essex winning 2-1 against Strathclyde. South Yorkshire won the tournament with Nottinghamshire finishing as runners-up.

Friendly matches over the summer months have been organised against Thames Valley and Cheshire.

Anyone interested in joining the team is asked to contact Tina Royles at Harlow on ext 20026.

● For the second time in recent years the weather has forced the cancellation of the Force Athletic Championships.

The competition has been rearranged for the Thursday August 8 at Gloucester Park.

Start time is 1pm with registration by noon. The contact for the event is Laurie Rampling on 07909 985343.

THE Essex Police cricket team reached the quarter-finals of the national PAA competition following victory against Lancashire.

Skipper Joe Wrigley lost the toss and, after agreeing to a 40 over match, Essex was put into bat on a damp track.

Things started well with Joe (16) and Andy Prophet (38) taking Essex to 59 without loss after 15.1 overs.

It was then that the slow

bowlers caused an England-style collapse; Essex reduced to 65 for 5 just 40 deliveries later.

Kevin Cooper was unlucky to be bowled by a ball that turned a mile. Simon Payne was sent in with instructions to "push it about for a while and get a few singles".

He tried this for one delivery and then tried to put the next one into neighbouring Morecambe Bay. Needless to say he didn't and was clean bowled.

The middle order of Russ Abbott (8 not out) and Darren "this pitch is making me look bad" Lewis (16) helped to rally the fall of wickets for a while.

Adrian Garnham (2) was run out by a sheer fluke and they finished on 111 all out.

The threatened downpour arrived during the tea interval, forcing the game to be abandoned as part of the ground became waterlogged.

The outcome of the match was decided by a bowl-out,

with five bowlers from each team bowling two deliveries each at a the stumps from the statutory 22 yards.

Russ and Chris both hit 1 and, obviously still stinging from the run-out, Adrian hit 2 out of 2.

Kevin then managed to hit 1 from his 2, which brought pressure to bear on Lancashire, who had only managed to score 1 so far.

With the score at 5-1 Lancashire duly succumbed to pressure and missed.

A narrow miss on the rapids

LOUGHTON'S Sergeant Paul Anderson returned from Val Sesia, Italy where he was competing in the World Wild-Water Racing Championship.

After winning the British Open Sprint event at the GB team trials, Paul paddled for glory in both the classic and team events, as well as entering the World Canoe Sprint Championship.

The team finished just 15 seconds off a bronze medal position in the team event, but sadly failed to impress in either the mixed doubles or the sprint challenge.

The success he has achieved has guaranteed the ex-Chelmsford road policing officer first place in the national championship.

Walking away with the title

BRENTWOOD Schools Liaison Officer Peter 'Charlie' Ryan became the first Essex officer to win a PAA walking title when he triumphed in the national championship.

Five other officers from the force finished in the top ten.

Another outstanding performance just weeks later saw Charlie walk away with the over-45s World Masters Championship.

The 30km race in Riccione, Italy also witnessed the walking maestro lead the Great Britain team to a bronze medal-placing behind Italy and Germany.



● Karate kids take to the floor mats

Karate kicks fly high in Clacton

A TOUCH of the Far East enveloped Clacton over the May Day bank holiday weekend as the town hosted a karate tournament.

British Wado Kai Karate students from across Essex travelled to the coastal town for a two-day training session under the supervision of Japanese instructor Master Yoshitsugu Shinohara.

The weekend activities were organised by Dave Gillies and Tendring Wado Kai Karate Club. The invitational tournament was held at Clacton Leisure Centre and attracted over 120 entries with Pc

Alex Nellist finishing third in the men's Kumite (fighting) section.

Pc Gillies said: "Everyone had a fantastic time and this was mainly due to the assistance we received from local businesses, officers from Clacton Police Station and the entire team from the leisure centre for their help on the day."

Tendring Wado Kai train every Monday evening at Clacton Leisure Centre and at St Andrew's School in Weeley on Wednesday. For further information, contact Dave Gillies at the Clacton Community Policing Team.

Braintree on top of the cup table

HARLOW attempted to stage the Rugby Sevens in the Croker Cup Competition but Basildon dropped out, leaving only Harlow and Colchester.

Both captains agreed to share the points, although judges frowned upon the situation. However, the executive endorsed the decision on this occasion but insisted that in future all single

matches are to be played.

However this did not affect the final Croker Cup table.

Braintree 138, Harlow 114, Rayleigh 109, Basildon 86, Colchester 71, Southend 70, HQ, 42, Chelmsford 42, Tendring 41 and Thurrock with 33.

Presentations of trophies are still to be arranged.



NEXT ISSUE: July

COPY DEADLINE: June 28, 2002

PRINTED: July 08, 2002

The Law was edited this month by Kim Perks, Heather Watts and Nishan Wijeratne.

Published by Essex Police HQ, Chelmsford. Tel: 01245 491491 ext 50620/50625. Printed by The Essex Chronicle Series, Westway, Chelmsford