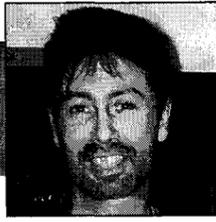




Officer earns US scholarship - P3



A life-changing experience - P9



An entrance into priesthood - P5

A new scheme paves the way for less red tape and bureaucracy

# PENALTY FINES TO TACKLE DISORDER

## Looking down the barrel of a gun



● Force Support Unit constables Jason Lane, Sam Smith and Julie Taylor demonstrate a variety of weapons used by armed response officers.

FIREARMS, dogs, marine, road policing and air support were the focus of an Open Day at Wethersfield that encouraged officers to find out more about specialist posts available within the force.

A series of training workshops, demonstrations and hands-on experience of firearms helped visitors decide whether it was a career path they wanted to pursue. Supt Jacqui Cheer, said: "The feedback

indicates that the programme was well received. Women can be apprehensive about handling firearms so it was encouraging to see that a third of the visitors were female.

"In addition Stansted Airport has already had 18 requests for application packs as a result of the day. Although we can always find ways to improve these events we felt the day was a success."

FIXED-penalty fines will be issued to people committing disorderly offences under a new government scheme being piloted in Essex.

From next month, Penalty Notice Disorders (PNDs) will be given to people for minor, but significant offences.

They will find themselves either £40 or £80 out of pocket. The pilot will run for 12 months, after which a full evaluation will be made by the Home Office.

The fixed-penalty tickets do not replace existing methods of dealing with crime, by either resolving issues informally on the street or arresting the offender and administering a caution, but provide an addition to those measures.

As with other types of fixed penalty notices, such as speeding tickets, PNDs cannot be issued to those under the age of 18.

Offences for which an £80 PND can be issued are:

- Wasting police time by giving a false report.
- Sending hoax calls.
- Knowingly giving a false alarm to the fire brigade.
- Causing harassment, alarm or distress under Section 5, Public Order Act.

Offences for which a £40 PND can be issued are:

- Drunk and disorderly.
- Trespassing on a railway.
- Throwing stones at a passing train.

### by Ben Pennington

- Being drunk in a highway.
- Buying alcohol for an under 18.
- Throwing fireworks.
- Drinking in designated public areas.

Offenders will have the option to accept the penalty and pay the fine within 21 days or appear before a court.

Measures will be put in place to deal with the non-payment of fines.

Fines will not be on-the-spot, so officers will not be deciding if people are innocent or guilty, but will have to make the decision as to whether a PND is appropriate.

This will mean if a PND is the preferred option, then a file will not have to be prepared for the Crown Prosecution Service, thereby freeing up officers' time.

Offenders not going through the courts will be dealt with much quicker, meaning less paperwork and less cost for Essex Police.

Community Safety's project leader T/Supt Carl O'Malley believes this is a real opportunity to reduce bureaucracy and in turn free up officer's time.

"The reduction in paperwork for officers relating to minor, but annoying public disorder offences can only help officers tackle these offences more effectively, and spend increased time patrolling," said T/Supt O'Malley.

"Communities should see more of their police officers, and that is to be welcomed."

# Pensions can survive a broken marriage

ALL too often I am asked how to divide a pension after a divorce.

Any officer with more than the minimum period of service will have a pension of significant value. It is also recognised, by officers and solicitors alike, that the scheme is possibly the best funded public service scheme available.

For many years, the courts had little appreciation of the cash value of pension funding.

Everyone who has a professional involvement in a marriage breakdown has come to appreciate that pensions are usually the second most valuable asset in a marriage after the house and are more valuable than the house itself.

Officers who have commenced, or intend to commence, divorce proceedings after December 1, 2000 have a choice of two methods of dealing with their pension.

## Off-setting

This has proved to be the most popular option whereby the pension remains with the officer, but its value is taken into consideration when dividing the matrimonial assets.

The spouse will receive a correspondingly greater



proportion of the non-pension assets, such as a greater share of the former matrimonial home or savings.

This is currently the simplest way of allowing for pension on divorce, as it represents a 'clean break' settlement at the date of divorce.

The settlement is full and final and the spouse cannot return to the courts for further redress. The success of this method depends on there being sufficient non-pensionable assets to trade off.

## Pension sharing

Pension sharing is a relatively new option, whereby the member's accrued pension entitlement is split into two parts, not necessarily equal, at the date of the divorce.

The spouse's share will then be transferred into a pension fund in his or her own right.

Most officers will find this option distasteful, as it has the immediate effect of reducing the benefits of the pension fund. For an officer with limited service, this may not prove to be a problem.

However, an officer who has built up a sound pension fund through many years of hard work could face disappointment from a reduced pension on retirement.

Pension sharing is not all bad news. The advantage of this option is that the transfer of pension funds is calculated as at the date of divorce.

Therefore, any increase in pension benefits accrued after the date of the pension sharing order will be untouched.

It is possible for a police officer to rebuild lost funds through private financial investments.

However, it is important to obtain proper advice and go to a solicitor specialising in matrimonial matters.

## Do not ignore near misses

I APPRECIATE that we are all swamped with paperwork, but I would like to remind everyone the importance of submitting 'near miss' forms.

The *PERS 35 Injury on Duty form* should be used.

This should be submitted on every occasion when a person feels a near miss has occurred - an incident that has not resulted in injury or property damage.

They are not only for incidents that happen in the street, but for occurrences that happen around the police station or anywhere in the working environment.

A lot of the time these problems can be rectified at local level but, in some instances, they may require dealing with at force level.

If forms are not submitted, how can we expect the organisation to rectify a problem if they are unaware of it?

Although Essex Police, as our employer, has a legal duty of care, we all have a duty of care towards each other, so if you see any potential hazard, then do something about it.

There has not been, to my knowledge, a near miss in Dangerous Occurrences under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrence Regulations 1995.

**Mick Englefield**  
Secretary of the JBB  
Health & Safety  
Sub-Committee.

## Save money into the Copperpot

WE are one of 20 forces who have signed up to the CopperPot scheme which enables officers to save directly from payroll deductions and borrow money at a competitive rate.

The Federation will be pushing out flyers over the next few weeks promoting this, and any existing or new members who have joined by the end of September will be entered into a special draw to win a DVD player.

You can get an instant loan of £2,000 plus receive a dividend on your savings, with last year paying five per cent. Call 0116 2444 878 for details.

## Streamlined approach to training of officers

TRAINING centre managers hope the government's new national training agency will offer a more "joined-up" approach to the development of officers.

The Central Police Training and Development Agency (known as Centrex) was formed to support the current police reform process and develop career-long learning programmes for every career step.

EPTC Manager Jean Harper believes there will not be a great change in officer training, but it will affect the funding and management of police training.

"The new body is still going to be the first and major provider of police training," said Mrs Harper. "I would like to see Centrex becoming much more joined up as they are currently quite disjointed with faculties which deal with their own little world."

Centrex will still manage senior officer-training and it expects to be the national centre of excellence.

Centrex chief executive Chris Mould said: "The Government is investing heavily in us and so it is down to us to deliver the substantial change programme."

# service|line

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# Car Insurance

# A new man at the helm

ROBERT Chambers has been elected as the new chairman of the Essex Police Authority, to take over from Anthony Peel who had been in the hot seat for the past six years.

Mr Chambers has served on the Essex County Council since 1997 and is leader of Uttlesford District Council.

The 57-year-old is a life-long resident of Essex and was previously chairman of Essex Leaders' Association.

He has been married for the last 36 years to wife Katheryn and lives in Duddenhoe End, near Saffron Walden.

He is an agricultural contractor by trade and owns his own tree company.

Mr Chambers stressed the need for all members of the police authority to pool ideas, resources and experience in ensuring closer ties with Essex County Council.

"Collectively, we will try to ensure we have the right sort of partnerships to make sure we have the best



● Robert Chambers (left), with Chief Constable David Stevens and former chairman Anthony Peel.

police force in the country," he said.

Chief Constable David Stevens said: "The enthusiasm and involvement of Anthony Peel has been greatly appreciated by everyone at Essex Police."

"He has been chairman of the police authority through a period of great change."

"As an experienced councillor with deep understanding of the issues facing Essex and Essex Police we look forward to working closely with Robert."

● Anthony Peel joined the council in 1981 and served on the Police Committee from 1989.

The son of former Essex Chief Constable Sir Jonathan Peel, Mr Peel was brought up in the Chief Constable's house at headquarters.

He was a practising solicitor until 1995, and is married with two grown-up children.

Anthony Peel is now serving as the chairman of Essex County Council.

Detective first in Essex to earn prestigious scholarship

# Trip across the pond to review medical deaths

**INVESTIGATING medical-related deaths is the subject that has earned Ds Geordie Tyson a five-month scholarship in America, the first member of Essex Police ever to achieve this prestigious honour.**

Ds Tyson, based at Harlow's Major Investigation Team, has been awarded the Fullbright Fellowship.

The Fellowship generates sponsorship to award scholarships that will enhance understanding and relationships between the United States of America and other nations.

One of the areas under the scheme is police studies, open to both officers and support staff, and within that there are a list of subjects from which candidates can choose.

## Shortlisted

Ds Tyson, who chose the category Enhancing Public Safety, competed against nearly 200 individuals to be shortlisted.

Only 14 awards are made in the UK each year. First he had to submit a research project outline which was assessed by senior academics and senior members of the Fellowship.

Once shortlisted he was interviewed by a panel of experts including senior police officers, civil servants and academics.

He will now spend almost five months in Washington DC attached to the American University and the

George Washington University Public Health Faculty.

In conjunction with the universities he will work alongside US medical examiners, coroners and homicide departments, comparing the way both the US and the UK respond to medical-related deaths and researching ways to improve the systems.

Ds Tyson said: "By having a more proficient response to dealing with these deaths we can not only improve the standard of our investigations but also the standard of medical care patients receive."

His interest in the subject stemmed originally from his involvement in Operation Halifax, the year-long Essex investigation involving a former nurse and the care of her patients (terminally ill children).

Essex Police has also been involved in the investigation into the death of a man at Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow and the death of Tony Clowes at Broomfield Hospital in Chelmsford from a blockage in an anaesthetic breathing system. This case led to a linked police inquiry looking into similar jobs, an investigation that is still ongoing.

The death of Lara Touche at the Portland Hospital in London has additionally led to the landmark decision that someone who dies of natural causes is entitled to a coroner's inquest, opening the floodgates for many more cases to

## by Kim Perks



● Ds Geordie Tyson.

reach the courts.

Ds Tyson said: "There has been recognition of the impact these sorts of cases can have on the police service. As such a recent national seminar was held to discuss the issues and it became apparent from talking to police colleagues that there is little expertise on the subject."

A Home Office review of coroners is currently underway and the seminar led to a project to produce a new chapter for the national 'Murder Manual' that provides guidance to senior investigators.

The situation in America varies quite significantly from the UK. American medical examiners, for instance, review all deaths and only hand a case over to the police once it is deemed suspicious.

In the UK, it is the task of the police to decide if there are suspicious circumstances and then report back to the coroner. There are also some

similarities, however, with the percentage of medical deaths, per head of population, fairly equal on both sides of the Atlantic.

Ds Tyson said: "There are clearly lessons to be learned which is the purpose for my trip. I have the opportunity to do something to improve investigations, to improve police response to such incidents and also to improve our dealings with the families."

## Apprehensive

"I am very proud to be awarded the Fellowship but at the same time I am very apprehensive when I think that the work I do could effect the way in which medical-related deaths are handled nationally both in the US and here in the UK."

At the end of his tour of duty he will have to produce an academic paper on his work.

Ds Tyson is married to Dc Marion Tyson who has just joined Professional Standards. While Geordie is in America, Marion will be taking the second part of her sergeants promotion exams as well as taking care of their sons aged five and nine.

He said: "It's only because of the support of my wife and family that I have been able to take up this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. In fact Marion has been the driving force behind my application."

Ds Tyson leaves for Washington in the middle of August.

Essex Police Authority has recognised the importance of this research project and the impact it could have for the people of Essex are has offered Ds Tyson financial support.

## Offbeat

OFFICERS arrested two suspects a little too hastily after they were caught attempting to break into a house.

It later transpired that the property in Colchester was in fact owned by a friend, who had recently died. These friends were not out to steal anything, but were actually trying to recover his hiking leathers so the dead man could be buried in them.

● **NOW remember to stay cool and calm in a crisis and above all keep your nose clean.**

Hearing the calls of a woman, who appeared to be in some distress, coming from the toilets at EPTC, the superintendent who had been working out in the gym stopped to investigate.

Finding out that she had been locked in there for 25 minutes, he summoned people to her aid and went off to shower and change.

● **A CURIOUS schoolgirl on a visit to the police museum was looking at a pair of quick cuffs when to her dismay, and that of the member of staff from public relations, she accidentally snapped them shut on her wrists.**

Unfortunately there was no key.

As the visit was due to end it seemed that a trip to casualty or Chelmsford Police Station was likely for the 14 year old girl.

However a phone round at headquarters proved fruitful as an incredulous member of the FSU came to the rescue.

## Putting the public first

ESSEX remains one of the safest in the country as this year's annual report reflects a continuing commitment by the force to provide an effective service to the public.

With an additional 233 new officers recruited to front-line policing, Chief Constable David Stevens believes the organisation is "well-placed" in its bid to fight crime.

"The pressures on policing continue to mount, but I'm confident that we have a tremendous fund of knowledge, skill and goodwill to meet the challenges ahead," said Mr Stevens.

One of last year's many successes continues to be the campaign against drugs, with 360 arrests across the county.

The police council tax for Essex is now 11 per cent below the national average, with the organisation delivering £25 million of savings, the majority of which have been re-invested into operational policing.

## Combating road deaths



● Assistant Chief Constable Joe Edwards collects the keys from Keymed director and keen motorcyclist Stuart Greengrass. Photo: Evening Echo.

**A SOUTHEND medical equipment firm has joined the support behind the Responsible Rider campaign.**

**Keymed has a long history of supporting road safety and is keen to take a lead in supporting the force in reducing bike-related**

**crashes.**

**The two Honda ST1100 Pan European motorcycles will assist officers with riding assessments which encourage bikers to undertake further training to improve their road skills.**

## A step up on the property ladder

NEW recruits in Essex could receive financial assistance with their first home following a £630,000 government cash injection for around 60 key workers across the county.

The cash is part of the second round of the Department of Transport Local Government and Regions' Starter Home Initiative, which offers support for first-time buyers in housing hotspots outside London.

Moat House Group is managing the allocation of funds to Essex Police.

The second round, called the equity loan scheme, will assist key workers in the force who are on the brink of home ownership.

A lump sum of about

£10,000 is given to key workers towards the price of a property.

Estates and Valuation Manager Jon Doherty believes this is an innovative approach to housing provision and recruitment within Essex Police.

"We're one of few forces that can use the money across the county, although it is in the southern districts where housing can prove more difficult to acquire," said Mr Doherty.

The employee will repay the equivalent percentage of the value of the property at the time of resale.

This will be instead of making regular repayments on the loan.

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# Law letters

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Essex CM2 6DA

## Crunching numbers to suit the government

HAVING read last month's edition of *The Law*, I have devised a plan whereby I cannot fail to get rich.

Using the reasoning behind the article *Rise In Ethnic Employees*, all I need to do is count my money in Euros (each worth about 65p), and I will have more money!

If this works for ethnic employees, of whom Essex Police still actually has the same number as they did before the were recounted, convincing the Home Office that targets are being met, then surely it will convince my bank manager.

Chris Booth  
Traffic

## Bidding farewell to crime scenes

I RETIRED from scenes of crime in May and would like to thank all my friends and colleagues for their kind wishes and generous gifts.

I would also like to send my great appreciation to so many of you who came to my retirement party at Southend police station.

My wife would also like to thank you for the beautiful bouquet of flowers. We will always remember you all. All the very best

Steve Atkins  
Southend

# Surely there is no saving?

THERE seems to be a rule for one, and one rule for another within today's police force - sorry, service - with regards to the saving of money.

The driving instructors' office at the practical skills centre has, for the past 30 years to my knowledge been at the top of the stairs, with classroom two on the ground floor.

The instructors' office has now been moved to what was the classroom and vice-versa.

This has involved several days' work in laying extra power cables, telephone wires and points in both

rooms to make them ideal for their new roles.

Noticeboards, ink-boards, television and video machines have had to be moved, and some of these items have had to be purchased. How can this be saving money?

We were informed that the changes were so that all the instructors were on the same floor.

In addition, having made all the classrooms on one level, which just happens to be upstairs, it has made them inaccessible to disabled people as they can only be

reached at present by a flight of stairs.

Perhaps we are going to save some money and fit either a stairlift or a proper lift to enable these classrooms to be used to their fullest potential.

Please do not think I am against change, or being cynical - I am not, provided it does not involve unnecessary expense.

I think this does.

Mr V.A. Wilcockson  
Driving Instructor  
Practical Skills Centre

## An inside job - though not quite as literally as that!

AS MANY of you will have noticed I do have a few moments now and then (when I'm not writing to *The Law*) to reflect on the more humorous moments I encountered in my 30 years in 'The job'.

I was recently reminded of a particular incident which, while serving, I was never allowed to live down. I thought I would like to just share it with you, hoping that it will sound as funny as it actually was at the time.

One cold evening on a beloved late turn, I was on area-car patrol with a colleague (who will remain nameless) when we were sent to deal with the theft of a musical instrument from a very elite boarding school.

Upon arrival we were ushered into the building to the immaculate office of the very prim and business-like headmistress who briefed us at some length with details of the incident.

The alleged stolen instrument was a quite valuable flute by *Boosey and Hawkes* of London.

After hearing the circumstances I think both my colleague and I were of like mind, but not wishing to hit this highly-intelligent lady with police jargon ("sounds like an inside job"), I was desperately trying to find the right words to use.

Eventually I broke my silence with my immortal words: "It would appear from

what you have told us that the flute may have been taken internally".

Within a second of those words leaving my mouth I knew I had dropped a very large clanger. It did not help when my colleague followed up by saying: "What do you mean - swallowed before dinner with a glass of water?". That was it - we were just unable to control our explosion of laughter and to make matters worse we just could not stop. The headmistress did not appear to be at all amused.

We were very relieved to get back out into the fresh winter air and both felt convinced that our very unprofessional behaviour

may result in an official complaint but thankfully it did not. I often wonder if the headmistress upon leaving the office had her own private attack of the giggles.

A few days later I had a call from the school to say that the missing flute had been traced in the building and was no longer considered to be stolen.

At least our instincts were correct even if my choice of wording was a bit unusual. I was tempted to ask which brand of laxative had resulted in the reappearance of the flute but decided to keep my mouth well and truly shut!

Dave Rose  
Cambridgeshire

## It worked in those days too

WITH reference to last month's front-page article - *Decoy Cars... To Catch A Thief* - I have to say this is not a first for Essex Police.

I was a constable in Grays in 1935. Car theft was a problem, and I was very keen to get on CID, so proposed that we use a decoy car to catch the thieves.

One night I borrowed a car from CID and parked it in Rectory Road opposite some new houses where I hid with a CID officer.

The car door was left unlocked, lights left on and the keys were still in the ignition but I had taken the rotor arm off to immobilise the car.

Five men came along and with

one already sat in the driving seat I was able to make an arrest. The other men made off but all the men were later

**RIGHT TO REPLY: Kim Perks, Editor**

**ALTHOUGH** the concept of decoy car is not new the specifics of the current Essex campaign are a first for the county, and in fact for the country.

There is no bait, such as unlocked doors, keys in the ignition or even valuables left on view to tempt the would-be thief.

To all intents and purposes the car looks like any other. The state-of-the art equipment is hidden inside

traced and admitted to a series of house breaks.

Allan Coe  
Chelmsford

**so as not to be visible to the naked eye and no surveillance is required saving on human resources.**

The technology is coupled with a unique poster campaign warning potential thieves of the car's existence meaning the scheme is actually used as a deterrent rather than entrapment.

The aim of the scheme is to reduce car crime regardless of whether decoy car actually ever gets stolen.

## Over the ropes for four

SOUTHCHURCH Park in Southend is not only renowned for kids falling into the boating lake and damage sustained by yobs, but also for its cricket festival.

The fans who flock there on calm summer days need refreshment and this is provided through both food and liquid form in a large marquee.

The latter is a strong attraction and beat officers were instructed to keep an eye on the place years ago on night duty in the days of the famous Southend Borough Police.

One hot, moonless night this was my beat known as six and 16. So as to make little noise, I cycled slowly round the marquee on the grass when suddenly I was thrown from the machine.

My helmet disappeared. Recovering my senses and grateful I had not sustained injury, I realised I had ridden into a supporting guy rope for the marquee.

I treated my visits to the area on other occasions with circumspect and guy ropes around tents and marquees remind me of what happened all those years ago.

Phil Pewsey, Southend

## Stay in touch with those who are sick

SINCE the recent letter in *The Law* in relation to email contact with people who are sick, we have received an offer to assist in this matter from a retired colleague.

He has an interactive screen-phone with keyboard, which is inexpensive, doubles up as a telephone and just plugs into existing telephone lines. Some even have a printer attached.

These will facilitate email contact with an email address, in addition to having the means of accepting a reply.

All of this without the outlay for a computer and the back up care for it.

This is an affordable way for anyone to communicate via email and could bridge the gap identified by the *The Law* letter.

This service (no printer) is also often available with cable television.

Should anyone require further information please contact me on 01245 452990, between 8am and 10am on Tuesdays.

Mick Tarbin  
Benevolent Fund  
Adviser

## Blunkett's reform plans

Home Secretary David Blunkett has announced a review of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act in order to free up officers' time and speed up the criminal justice system.

A *Policing Bureaucracy* report suggests reducing red tape by using mobile phones and reporting crimes online.

The report also proposes a cut back and standardisation of forms and a plan to introduce a national non-emergency number to reduce the number of 999 calls and improve call handling.

The report also looks at the possibility of only senior investigating officers attending crown courts, with other officers carrying out normal duties.

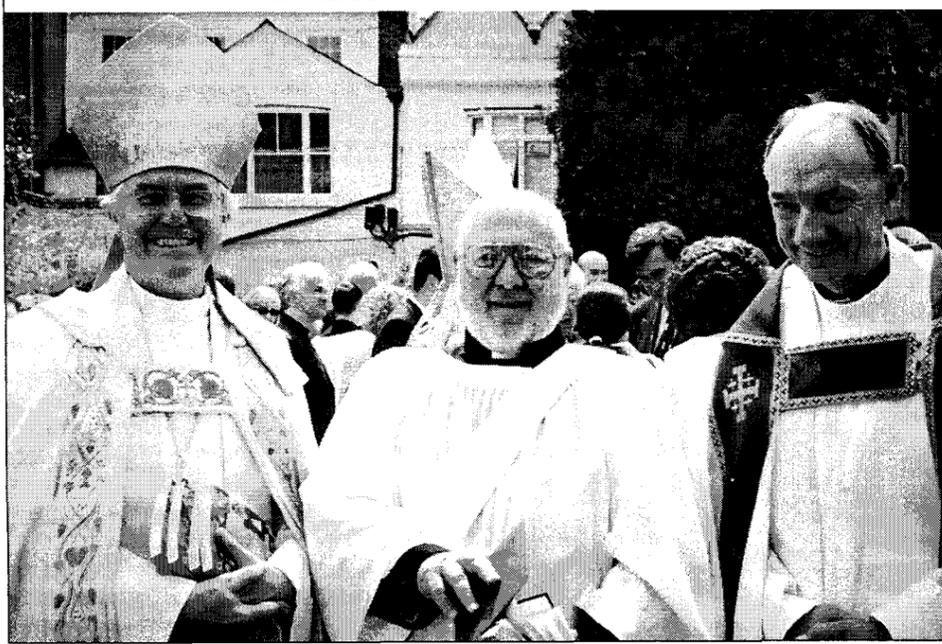
● Mr Blunkett believes divisional commanders are the future, praising their innovative changes to front-line policing.

He said a £2.5m fund would support these changes and told commanders he would ensure they had more direct control within their forces.

Mr Blunkett believed that a third of commanders felt hampered by an insufficient local control of resources.

# Arrest referrals are breaking the circle of crime

# Stopping drug abuse



**BASILDON'S** drugs arrest referral worker Ian Swift is pictured (centre) following his recent ordination at Chelmsford Cathedral.

The 55-year-old will continue to work with drug and alcohol addicts in the south of the county, but will also work on a part-time basis at St Martin of Tours church in Basildon.

"I've been involved in church activities for the past decade, and it has taken me the best part of the last two years to prepare and train in order to enter the priesthood," said the former Fleet Street photographer.

It is believed that Ian is the UK's only arrest referral worker who is also a reverend.

**ARREST referral schemes across the county are helping to break the link between chronic drug use and crime, according to an independent evaluation recently published.**

Essex Police now has seven arrest referral workers, using the point of arrest as an opportunity for offenders to voluntarily take up the offer of help and access to treatment for their drug and alcohol abuse.

Agreeing to see a worker does not affect how police proceed with a case, and does not provide an alternative to prosecution.

In the last financial year, Essex's arrest referral workers saw 3,084 prisoners, and carried out 375 assessments, referring 345 on for treatment.

Out of 743 prisoners surveyed, 612 had previous convictions and 397 had served a prison sentence with an average of five offences.

Just over 340 of those offenders admitted to committing more than 10,000 separate offences in the 30 days before they saw the referral worker.

The survey showed that 61 of those who entered treatment went on to have their drug use legalised (eg methadone), stopped or reduced.

Arrest referral workers are being used increasingly in pre-planned operations.

During Operation Relentless, workers were at their local stations early on both days to maximise the opportunities for referral.

The scheme has also featured on Anglia Television's *Crimenight* earlier this year where one offender, previously described as one of Britain's most wanted criminals, described how he was now drug-free after being referred by a Colchester worker.

Community Safety Department's Insp Stuart Ashton said: "There can be no doubt that these offenders are committing crime in order to finance their drug habit, and it would appear a custodial sentence does not stop them taking drugs or offending."

"Arrest referral is a legitimate criminal justice intervention aimed at targeting those who cause most harm to our society."

"Some regard it as a soft option. What is important is what works."

## Making a mark on crime

EVIDENCE suggests that thieves stealing marked property are more likely to be caught, and marked property is far more difficult to dispose of, and yet many of us are still not taking the simple steps of protecting our belongings.

Police in Harlow intend to put this right by holding a series of property marking roadshows to raise awareness, issue advice and mark property free of charge.

In particular police are encouraging owners of mobile phones to get their handsets postcoded to discourage the increasing number of street thefts nationally.

However, it is also acknowledged that marking property is only half of the equation; checking for genuine ownership and reuniting stolen goods with their owners is the other half.

To this end, all officers in the division (about 300) will be armed with a new tool against crime - an ultraviolet key fob.

**by Kim Perks**

This means that officers on patrol, or carrying out stop checks, who have any suspicion about ownership or find property during inquiries and house searches will be able to check its validity on the spot.

Large companies across the division will also be sent UV pens with a letter encouraging them to mark up phones and property belonging to their business and their staff.

Harlow Divisional Commander, Chief Supt Ian Learmonth said: "We recognise that property theft can be reduced using relatively cheap and simple methods."

"However, the police can only effectively prevent theft or reunite property with rightful owners if the owners themselves play their part in ensuring their belongings are properly marked."

"These roadshows should help make that task easier and encourage people not to put off until tomorrow what could be easily done today... after all tomorrow the property might have been stolen!"

Neighbourhood Watch co-

ordinators are being encouraged to collect UV pens from divisional station front desks to mark up property belonging to those residents who are unable to attend any of the pre-arranged events in the area.

## Stolen lorry found via the information highway

**The importance of the Lorry Load Desk was highlighted in May after some quick thinking from an officer in Thurrock division.**

**The officer immediately alerted the desk when between 50 and 100 boxes of tracksuit tops were stolen from Moto Services in West Thurrock.**

**Within a few hours detectives from Staffordshire were inquiring about the same property, and the goods were found the same day in Liverpool after being driven in a lorry stolen from Middlesex.**

**Iain McKinnon, from the Lorry Load Desk, said: "It was the immediacy of notification that made this job come together as it did."**

**"This shows the importance of the desk, and the importance of informing officers through the intranet, which is where Thurrock's officer got the contact details."**

## Learning life the enjoyable way

SCHOOLCHILDREN from across Castle Point took part in Crucial Crew week last month in a bid to discover the role of the emergency services and avoid becoming a future client.

Over 20 schools and nearly 1,000 Year Six children spent a half-day session at The Paddocks in Canvey Island where they learnt fundamental safety issues focusing on everyday situations.

Schools Liaison Officer Jacque Barber has been organising Crucial Crew weeks in Castlepoint for nearly 10 years and is pleased with the popular response from both schools and parents.

"We put the kids through role-play situations where they have the opportunity to think on their feet, making them appreciate the underlying safety message that little bit more," said Pc Barber. "We don't want to see them involved in similar, real life circumstances later on in

life, so we hope they remember what they learn. People often don't forget previous experiences in life."

A debrief at the end of each half-day session enables the children to demonstrate what they have learnt and also air their views on the initiative.

Lauren Kurm, 11, from Thundersley Junior School said: "I've had a fabulous day out and have enjoyed learning about practical stuff. It's important not to be silly with the police, get out quickly from a burning house and not to take drugs from a stranger. I want to be a teacher when I grow up, but it would be fun to be a police officer."

Essex Police was supported by the Essex County Fire & Rescue Service, Canvey Island lifeguard service and Essex County Council among others, to make the children aware of fire safety, drug safety, electricity safety, stranger danger, road safety and water safety.



● An Afghan hijacker on guard duty near to the Ariana plane.

# A port of call

IN the last two years, special branch has dealt with incidents that any officer would regard as career landmarks.

As well as the Stansted hijack, Operation Fisher saw SB working with the major investigation team (MIT) and the Metropolitan Police to jail a member of the Provisional IRA.

Thomas Mellon was arrested under the Terrorism Act 2000 after he was detected forging passports in Colchester.

He was convicted in April at Basildon Crown Court of passing false passports, forging driving licences and driving with no insurance, and was jailed for 12 months.

SB officers are trained in surveillance and some undertake firearms courses to provide protection for visiting dignitaries.

Dc Dan Fallows has been based at Stansted Airport for just over a year, after transferring from uniform at Basildon.

Working as a port officer, Dc Fallows' main responsibility is to act as an examining officer, using powers under the Terrorism 2000 Act to stop and search anyone at ports.

"There are different reasons for doing it," explains Dc Fallows. "We might have specific intelligence received which we're acting upon, or we could be doing it randomly to disrupt the plans of those who might wish to use the airport as a gateway."

"It's not just a case of identifying a terrorist. What does a terrorist look like?"

## Informants

Dealing primarily with sensitive information, officers at the airport also work to develop covert human intelligence sources (CHIS).

"A CHIS can be anyone who wants to give information, such as regular travellers who might come into contact with groups we're interested in."

"Airport policing is very different to other aspects of the job. It really is a world in itself at Stansted."

## Football fans

Recent years have brought new challenges to SB - human trafficking, the handling of football fans coming in and out of the country, as well as the responsibility for smaller airfields dotted around Essex.

Dealing with terrorism and extremist groups might seem nerve-racking to many, but Dc Fallows is philosophical about that.

He said: "On the whole, it's more dangerous being a uniform officer on division that it is on SB."

"You're exposed to all sorts of things on a daily basis on division. There are occasions in SB when you will meet dangerous criminals, but it's primarily about the communication and investigative skills needed to gather intelligence."

# Reigni terr

SINCE the atrocities of September 11 the role of those officers working in special branch units across the county has become even more vital.

The Essex SB is part of Crime Division, and has over 40 officers operating from divisional bases in Colchester, Braintree, Rayleigh, Chelmsford and Tilbury Port, as well as the obvious locations of Stansted Airport and Harwich Port.

The unit was originally established in 1970 to counter Irish Republican terrorism, but changing times have brought new responsibilities ranging from human trafficking to the Stansted Airport hijack.

In the aftermath of the

September 11 strikes, their work has become even higher profile.

DI Lorrie Austin has been with SB for just over three years, working to collate - by human or technical means - intelligence which can be used in operational policing.

DI Austin said: "Our main function is as intelligence gatherers for matters with security implications or political sensitivity."

"As a result of September 11, a large part of our work is related to Middle Eastern terrorism, but we're dealing

## Ben Pennington one of Essex Po

with domestic matters such as animal rights demonstrations.

## Intelligence

"If we can provide operational command with predictive intelligence as to numbers and actions of any demonstrators, then they can allocate appropriate resources to plan policing operations in response to that."

SB maintains daily contact with other branches across the country, and has access

# Convoy of

## Special report by retired superintendent David Bright

"THERE is nothing more precious than a child, and it shouldn't hurt to be a child."

That is the view of directors, trustees and volunteers of Convoy 2000, a joint initiative linking representatives from the Metropolitan Police Service, Essex Police and the Greater London Probation Service.

It aims to provide continuing aid to orphaned Romanian children whose plight

can only be described as tragic.

After a year of fundraising and planning, 13 lorries - provided by Wallace of Renault Trucks and loaded with £300,000 worth of assorted goods - were sent to North Weald at 5am on May 13.

The convoy, bound for Bucharest, will also call at numerous towns including Breaza and Campina, under the command



● All aboard that's going aboard - the children of Campina take to the seas.

# ng in Or

easily illustrated in one of its recent jobs - to advise Chelmsford divisional command on appropriate policing in relation to the Indian cricket team playing in the town following tensions with Pakistan.

## Uncertainty

DI Austin said: "SB is suited to officers who have integrity, enthusiasm and experience of investigative work and intelligence gathering techniques."

"The best part of this job is the variety. No two days are ever the same. You can be dealing with animal extremists one day and working with the Security Service on terrorism the next."

"People have become much more aware of security and sensitive issues, and SB benefits from a much better awareness of the value of intelligence and providing information."

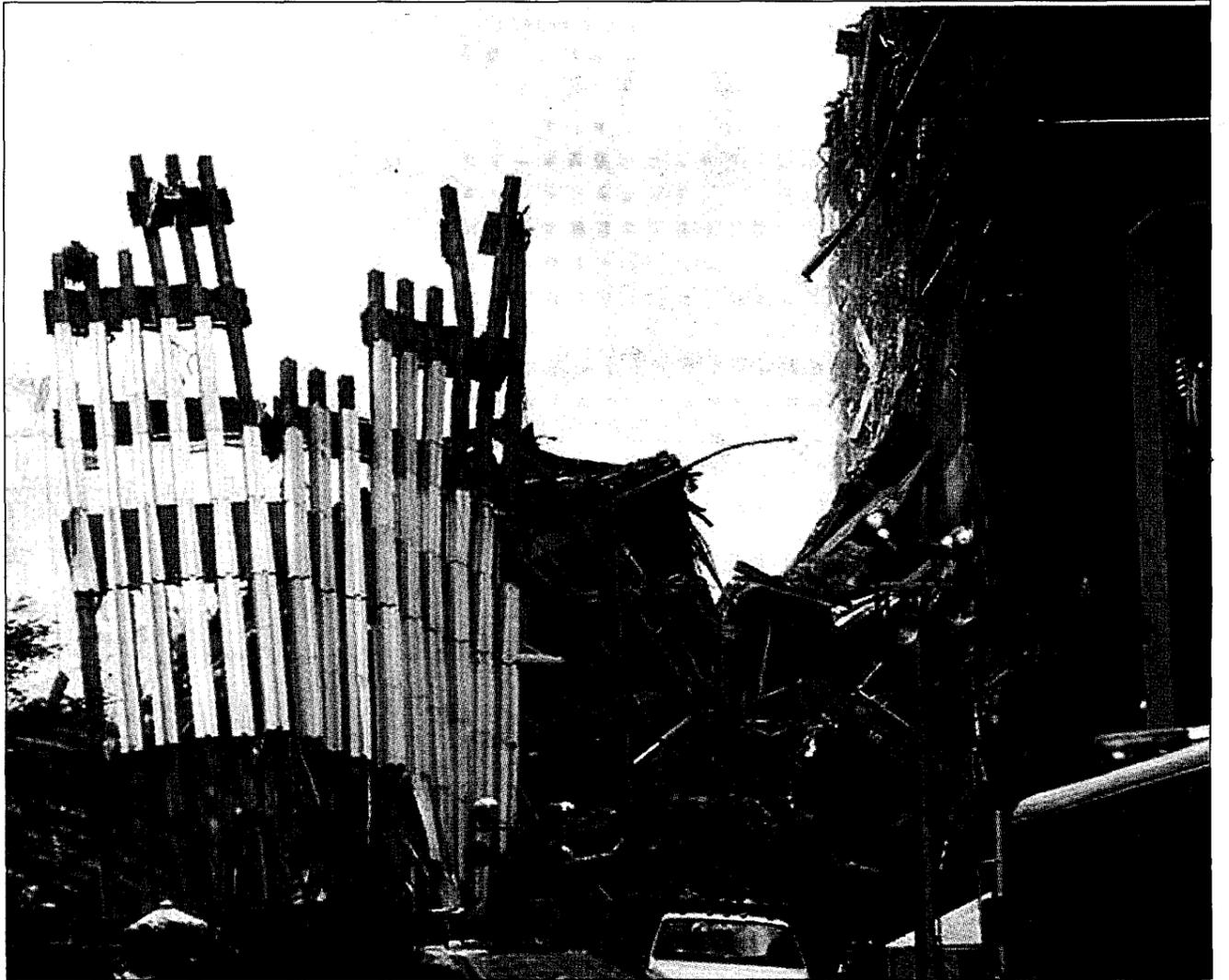
## vides an insight into s best kept secrets

intelligence held by the Security Service.

But SB is not necessarily as secret as one might think - for instance, it publishes a monthly bulletin on the intranet which can be accessed by the whole force, detailing current work and targets which might be a risk.

"Because of the work we deal with, it sometimes gives the impression we're trying to be mysterious," says DI Austin. "But we're open and we're only as good as the people who give us intelligence."

The diversity of SB's work is



● Ground Zero at New York's World Trade Centre after the September 11 terrorist strikes.

# hope

of Met Traffic Officer Pc Roger Brooks.

Once there work was to be carried out at a young persons' home, a children's hospice and a number of orphanages.

Between the start date and May 16, a further 45 volunteers flew out to Romania to undertake preparatory work at various sites.

On May 17, the 41 volunteers from Essex Police met up with 24 Met colleagues at Heathrow.

Also in the party was Met Commissioner Sir John Stevens, who would be viewing all projects and attending the official opening of Sunshine House Children's Hospice at Constanta, which provides respite care for 36 children suffering from AIDS-related disease.

At Heathrow, the group encountered its first problem. With air traffic control systems failing, all flights to and from Europe were cancelled.

With no one leaving the airport, the situation looked dire for Convoy 2000.

Each lost day of work would prove critical, with a very tight schedule allowed to meet up with other workers in Romania.

Things weren't looking good until Geoffrey Want entered the picture.

Geoffrey, senior director at BA head office, made available a Boeing 747 and staff to get it to Bucharest at a few hours notice. At 6.15am on May 18, the group boarded the Jumbo for Romania.

On arrival at Bucharest Airport, Romanian Police colleagues ensured swift passage firstly through the airport, and then at an

even quicker speed to Breaza. There, three lorries had already arrived.

Work at the Breaza Orphanage started in earnest. The first task for director and former DCC Jim Dickinson was to sort items which should have been at Campina orphanage, or vice versa.

Problems were aggravated by lack of transport - the only vehicle available was a 14-seater minibus donated by Southend-based Keymed in 2001.

But once problems were tackled the group settled down to a week of 12-hour days, completing all of the main projects.

At the Breaza Orphanage, UPVC double-glazed windows were fitted and the exterior of the three-storey was painted. Inside, a gas cooking range, hot water system and two sinks were installed.

Sixteen classrooms were redecorated at the Breaza School, refurbished with desks, chairs and blackboards.

Classrooms were adapted for various subjects, and an extensive electrical upgrade

of the building carried out.

Redecoration and the installation of kitchen equipment was also undertaken at the children's home in Campina. Windows were replaced, washing machines fitted and bathrooms refurbished, and a playground was created to stimulate and entertain the children.

Met Commissioner Sir John Stevens said: "Co-operation between Essex and the Metropolitan Police and other agencies was, as ever, simply first class. Most importantly of all, through the hard work of all volunteers we continue to give both support and hope to so many Romanian orphaned children."

Remaining building materials and tools were given to the staff for them to do further work, and children benefited from clothes,

toys and confectionery.

Chief Constable David Stevens said: "As a trustee of Convoy 2000 I am delighted that this year's trip was yet again a success."

"I am full of admiration for the tremendous amount of hard work undertaken by so many people both in the planning and the execution of the project."

With two week-long visits in two years, convoy volunteers have helped transform the sites to create a more welcoming environment, which will help children to achieve their potential. Staff there have also been shown what can be done by working together with outside assistance.

Convoy director David Bright said: "Our satisfaction at the end of the week was to observe the faces of the children when they saw what we had done for them, and likewise the appreciation of their carers who work so hard for a pittance of a wage and who give so much love and affection to so many children in need."

"These are children who have no parents, children who are mentally or physically disabled, children who do not need any more hurt"

Convoy 2000 is booked to return to Romania next year, with the Essex volunteers flying out on Friday, June 13.



● The seaside comes to Campina.

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It does not matter how fit you are - any man is susceptible

# Two tales of a fight and survival against cancer

**IN retrospect, and if I am to be totally honest, I had been aware of some discomfort in my right testicle for some years - it being very tender on occasions.**

However, it was over the last few months that the discomfort had become more common than the time without, and indeed more recently any physical contact at all with the testicle was downright painful.

My age, combined with more openness on the subject of testicular cancer, led me to research the subject on the internet where I was amazed to find a vast amount of information, both factual and those of personal accounts from well known personalities.

I was pleased I did that research, as the

## Paul Watson turns a negative experience into something positive informative and hopefully life-saving

information made me recognise several signs and symptoms of testicular cancer that I had myself. This made me certain that I had to put my embarrassment to one side.

My GP confirmed a concern with my right testicle, and with the benefits of PPP Healthcare, I was referred within days for a



● A year's radiotherapy followed the operation

testicular ultrasound scan.

This revealed that my right testicle appeared abnormal. Fortunately the other one appeared fine.

The consultant radiologist advised me that it was likely that my right testicle would have to be removed, but the consultant urologist would make that decision.

I asked myself the question "Would I rather grow old with one testicle or likely die earlier with two?" and in my view there was no contest and I would go along with what was considered the most appropriate treatment.

The consultant urologist had already booked a theatre for surgery the next day. I underwent removal of my right testicle (Orchidectomy) and associated spermatic chord as a day patient at the Wellesley

Hospital in Southend.

A follow-up scan, in order to determine whether the surgery had removed all the cancerous tissues showed the result was clear.

Histology testing (examination of the removed tissues) followed to determine what, if any, further treatment was appropriate.

After specialist consultations, it was decided that it would be best for me to have radiotherapy to the lymph nodes (part of the body's natural defence mechanism, which house the vessels which ironically act as carriers for cancer cells!).

This treatment was proposed as purely 'preventative', as I had been found to have the least serious 'stage one' disease. This was an excellent prognosis, with a 98 per cent chance of cure, and

normal life expectancy - extremely welcome news.

The radiotherapy treatment was arranged at Southend Hospital, and to be administered over three weeks in 15 sessions.

**'I asked myself the question of whether I would rather grow old with one testicle or die earlier with two - in my view there was no contest.'**

Paul Watson

I was expecting the treatment to make me feel tired, but it additionally brought about nausea and vomiting - which on average lasted between

3-6 hours after each session.

These after-effects of the radiotherapy were very unpleasant, but I had to find comfort in the understanding that chemotherapy would have been worse, and more importantly after the radiotherapy, I should have a normal life expectancy! It seems I've been one of the lucky ones.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my family and friends, both in and outside the job, who have been so considerate and supportive, through this difficult and rather strange time. Their worth has been priceless.

I would be happy to talk to anyone on the subject and can be contacted on 01268 786976 or email paul.watson1@tinyworld.co.uk.

## New legislation requires education of information

OFFICERS and support staff alike will have to be informed of the issues surrounding document creation before the Freedom of Information Act becomes law, according to the force solicitor.

The message being conveyed to all forces is that the new Act, due to become law next summer, has a multitude of implications for the police service.

A member of the public will be able to access information by all public authorities.

Force Solicitor Adam Hunt believes that all members of staff must be made aware of the legislation's implications if public confidence in the police service is to be increased.

"The Act will require an overhaul of information management and greater awareness by officers and staff in relation to document creation," said Mr Hunt. "While it has the potential for causing greater bureaucracy, greater openness - if managed properly - will provide greater reassurance to the public and enhance performance."

The new legislation will allow an individual to access information held by the police service and have the data sent to them within 20 days of the request.

The Act will have retrospective effect, so that in January 2005 an applicant will be able to ask for documents created today.

There are two general categories of exemption - those that are absolute and those where there is a duty to consider a public interest in disclosing the information.

With emphasis being on disclosure, forces who do not wish to release information must be able to demonstrate that an exemption applies.

All forces must also produce a publication scheme which will deal with the proactive release of information and which will outline what a police force intends to publish, how it will be published and at what cost.

Hampshire Constabulary's Chief Insp Robin Jarman is the national project team manager whose role it is to ensure there is consistency of implementation.

"All forces will have to ensure that they have appropriate information-management systems in place, otherwise they will not be able to administer individual requests for information," said Chief Insp Jarman. "Where the public interest test is to be applied, the emphasis is on disclosure rather than withholding information."

**THE National Cancer Institute recommends that the following steps be taken every month:**

- Stand in front of a mirror and check for any swelling on the scrotum skin.
- Examine each testicle with both hands.
- Place the index and middle fingers under the testicle with the thumbs placed on top.
- Roll the testicle gently between the thumbs and fingers, you should not feel any pain when doing this.
- Do not be alarmed if one testicle seems slightly larger than the other - that is

normal. The testicle should feel smooth and have an egg-like appearance, with the exception of where the epididymis is attached.

This is the soft, tube-like structure behind the testicle, which you need to be familiar with so you do not mistake it for a suspicious lump.

Cancerous lumps are usually found on the sides and sometimes the front of the testicle.

If you find a lump, see a doctor, preferably a urologist right away. The abnormality may not be cancer; it may just be an infection. However, when in doubt get it checked out.

**MICK MacAULEY was a former Southend and Information Room officer who retired in 1999 and now lives in Bournemouth. Last year, he was diagnosed with prostate cancer - an experience which came as a complete shock to the 52-year-old.**

I WAS diagnosed with prostate cancer just days after my 52nd birthday. It took a while to take in and accept the reality. It is the word cancer that strikes a chord of fear, but if this particular type of cancer is found early enough, it can be treated with very good results.

How do you know if you have prostate cancer? Surprisingly enough the test is quick, easy and painless. Unlike women who are automatically screened for breast cancer, men have no automatic screening process and as such it is easy for the illness to go unnoticed.

The test initially consists of a simple blood test. Many men of all ages regularly have blood tests, so why then is it not picked up on those?

The answer is simple. The test for prostate cancer is known as a PSA test and these are not usually requested by the GP unless there is a specific reason.

If you are a man aged 50 or over, prostate cancer is one of the most common forms of cancer, and yet we are not told about it and it is often too late - when the symptoms are much stronger. I had the test and this was followed up by further tests.

All of these tests are

painless and involve no more than just a few hours at the most in hospital, but the outcome can save you years!

I was given two options - one was surgery and the other radiotherapy. The consultants in both fields gave me support and they discussed the options and side-effects with my wife and myself. I opted for surgery and hopefully I am on the road to recovery.

Concise information on prostate cancer can be found at [www.bacup.org.uk](http://www.bacup.org.uk). I would be happy to discuss the issue with anyone if they wish to contact me at [mick.macauley@btinternet.com](mailto:mick.macauley@btinternet.com).

If you are over 50 and have any reason to think you may be affected, talk to your GP and ask for a PSA blood test. It could just make your pension last that little bit longer.

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



THE southeast Essex branch of the International Police Association will be meeting at Rayleigh police station on Thursday, July 18.

A look back at the group's activities and a discussion on forthcoming events will take place.

For more information contact Steve Hunt at Grays.

## Fun down on the farm

THIS year's 4x4 Fun Day will take place on Thursday, August 29.

The committee will be taking 150 mentally and physically-disadvantaged children to Hop Farm in Kent for a fun-packed day out.

Anyone interested in helping out should contact the committee via the intranet.

## Reminisce at reunion

A ROMFORD reunion lunch has been arranged for Saturday, September 21 in the HQ sports club.

The bar will be open at 11.30am and lunch served at 1pm and the cost of £14.50 will include wine. Wives and partners are welcome.

Anyone wanting to attend should send details to Stu Mather, 25 Queens Avenue, Tower Park, Hullbridge, Essex SS5 6PS and make cheques payable to 'SP Mather - Lunch account'.

# An unforgettable night for many in the county

## THE Korean air crash and multiple road deaths on any half-night shift never leaves one's mind very easily.

For Ian Debbage, these events were just two of many over-riding memories from his 30 years with Essex Police.

"It was a night which I'll never forget and one which always crops up in conversation with friends and colleagues," said the 49-year-old.

"I was the road policing inspector on county cover that night and there were already several road incidents going on around the county when the plane came down near Stansted.

"As that was taking place, so was a fatal crash nearby on the M11, so our resources were a little stretched that night it's safe to say."

Ian lives in Hullbridge with his wife Carol. He was the operational Inspector at Mobile Support Division's HQ.

**Peter Symkiss** came to the end of his 30 years with the force at the start of June. Peter, who lives in the Colchester area with his wife Patricia, retired a day before his 49th birthday. He served

## Names in the news

as a sergeant in Colchester's operational support.

**Sgt Neville Shelley** has retired after nearly 32 years with the force. Neville, who is 51 and lives in Harlow, left the Dog Unit in June.

**Pc Christopher Dicks** has called time on his Essex Police career at the age of 54. Living in Galleywood, Christopher has retired after 30 years with the force.

Southend's **Trevor Chaplin** left the in June. Trevor, who lives in Rayleigh with his wife Margaret, had served for just over 30 years when he retired as an inspector.

**Colin Reid** has worked his last day at Chelmsford division after his retirement in June.

Colin, who was warrants officer in the administrative support section, spent nearly 16 years with Essex Police.

Retiring a day before his 65th birthday, Colin lives in the Chelmsford area.

**Pc Paul Kelly** retired from Harlow division at the start of July. Paul, who worked in the Brentwood Community Policing Team, served almost 26 years with the Force.

He previously served at Tilbury and Hutton. Paul, 55, said: "I've had hundreds of great memories from the job - I could probably write a book about it!"

## Obituaries

Former **Insp Leonard Shadbolt** died in May, aged 90.

Mr Shadbolt, of Saffron Walden, served from 1936 to 1966 at Tilbury, Hornchurch, Elm Park, Romford and Saffron Walden. He leaves a widow, Annie.

**Patrick Ladbrook**, who served as a sergeant with Southend from 1949 to 1976, died on June 11. He was 74.

Mr Ladbrook, who lived in Southend on Sea, leaves a widow, Marilyn.

Former **Pc Brian Waller** died in June at the age of 65.

Mr Waller, who lived in Thorpe Bay, leaves a widow, Ruby.

He served from 1961 to 1991 with Southend and Rayleigh Traffic.

Former **Pc John Crewe** died in June at the age of 76.

Mr Crewe, who served from 1956 to 1985 at Chelmsford, Maldon, Holland-on-Sea and

Clacton, lived in Clacton until his death. He leaves a widow, Joan.

**Donald Robertson**, who served as a Pc from 1968 to 1991, has died at the age of 61.

Mr Robertson was living in Doncaster at the time of his death, having previously resided in Saffron Walden.

He served in Maldon, Saffron Walden and Stansted.

Former **Insp Leonard Atkinson** died in June. Mr Atkinson, of Colchester, served with the Force from 1931 to 1962 at Chelmsford, Colchester, Romford, Elm Park, Grays and Braintree.

**Alan Southgate**, who served with the force from 1939 to 1964, died in June.

Mr Southgate, a former Inspector, served at Chelmsford, Epping and Harlow. He leaves a widow, Dorothy.



ALL three branches of NARPO, chairmen and secretaries attended last month's national executive meeting in Maidstone.

Local secretaries will inform members of items covered, but members are reminded of the pensioner's garden party on Friday, July 12. Those with transport problems should contact their own secretary.

Colchester and Southend branches should be aware of the latest news, as they have received their programmes. Chelmsford branch should now have received the last newsletter.

One item raised was the forthcoming NARPO diary. Chelmsford branch has decided it will not be banking any cheques until the bulk order is sent off in August.

## Stories for the young

ANYONE with children may be interested in a series of stories by Angela Davies.

Policeman Pete, the imaginary policeman, walks his beat around the streets of Bedwffili, South Wales.

He helps villagers and visitors and, when off-duty works, with the children in the Friday Club.

Everyone loves him because he is such a hard working, honest, good and caring person.

Author Angela Davies hopes her stories will encourage young people to think positively about the police.

Angela intends to support The Police Federation Fund, The National Autistic Society, The Birthmark Support Group and LATCH, a children's cancer charity from the sale of her books.

Contact [angeladavies.policemanpete@virgin.net](mailto:angeladavies.policemanpete@virgin.net).

## Superb response to stress survey

THE University of Nottingham has received a huge response from employees participating in the stress research project, with over 2000 questionnaires already returned.

Dr Phil Leather and Adriana Ortega would like to express their gratitude to those who have already sent in their forms, and urges those who have not already done so, to do so.

"The response from police officers and support staff has been superb," said Dr Leather. "The response rate already exceeds that achieved from any other force that we've recently worked with."

"It is important to get as many views as possible in a bid to develop the overall picture of stress and its consequences within the organisation. To put it simply the more questionnaires that are returned the better."

Employee Relation Personnel Assistant Vick Crosby said: "It's really encouraging to see such positive response to this initiative."

"The audit has the full support of Chief Officers, the Federation and Unison, and is great to see so many of our staff and officers also lending their support."

## Dress in the past for charity

THE Essex Police Musical Society is in the final stages of rehearsals for its annual summer concert.

The Society will stage The Best of Times on July 25, 26, and 27 at Force HQ and will feature songs from the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s. Costumes will be in-keeping with the four decades.

Donations from ticket sales will be made to The Respite Association, Motor Neurone Disease Association, the east London cabbies' children's outing, and a children's orphanage in Zambia.

Vice-chair of the society Jenr Hillyard said: "Those who have attended our summer concerts before will know they are informal evenings with the audience seated around tables."

"There's a great atmosphere and in the second half we normally have some of the audience singing along with us."

Tickets are £5 each. For a booking form or for any information on joining the Society please ring or email Lynn Barclay, Jenny Hillyard or Sally Wilson.

## Market Place

**BUFFALO** Super Six jacket, the ultimate outdoor jacket, size L, and blue. Only used once, fantastic piece of kit. Normal RRP £100, selling for £70. Contact 01708 620080.

**CUMBRIA** Ravenstonedale, 4-star B&B, unspoilt village,

convenient for lakes and dales, Eden Valley. All rooms ensuite, TV and hairdryer, coffee and tea. Fishing, walking, golf nearby. Two pub/restaurants in village. Contact Neil or Paulette Brook on 01539 623641.

**FLORIDA** 4-bedroom pool home close to Disney and airport. Full video brochure, luxury villa, fully-equipped. Call Lin or Pete on 01245 321378.

**FLORIDA** Kissimmee, Luxury villa, four bedrooms, screened pool plus kiddie pool. Contact Del or Pam on 01268 750062.

**FORD FOCUS** 1600 Ghia saloon, silver. One owner, excellent condition, 8,700 miles. £10,500 fully serviced. Contact Paul Kelly on 01277 223007.

**HALESWORTH** Suffolk holiday cottage to let. Two bedrooms Victorian-end terrace, lovely restored beamed accommodation close to Southwold, Broads, Heritage close. Off-peak only. Contact Mr Taylor on 01379 741883.

**HONDA** H100 motorcycle, X-reg, 1981, MOT, tax until December. £170 ono. Contact Andy Young on 07754 962683 or 01702 527896.

**KAWASAKI** ZZR1100 D6, 1998 R-reg. Candywine red and silver. 13,000 miles, one owner, data tagged. FSH, six months tax and MOT. £3,400. Call Ryan on 07979 963462.

**PSO** Comet 50cc scooter. Y-reg, low mileage, top box and rack. Front disc lock included. One lady owner, excellent condition, only £850. Phone 01702 291925.

**TOYOTA** Rav 4 GX, five door, low mileage, CD. VGG, PAS, electric windows, E/S/R,

FSH, metallic green, remote locking, £7,200. Contact 01245 492310.

**TENERIFE** two bedroom two bathroom villa in quiet location near sea with ocean view. Communal swimming pool, car hire arranged if required. From £250 per week. Contact Dave Britton on 01702 201701.

**LAKESIDE** chalet, Cotswold Water parks. Exclusive fully equipped, two bed/two bathroom, kitchen, lounge, terrace. Leisure centre on site. From £150 to £250 pw. Call Stuart on 07973 639342.

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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.

# Bikers down on the farm

**A WEEKEND of leather-clad men sleeping together is something not usually experienced by many, but 16 bikers did enjoy themselves on a trip to the hamlet town of Bamford.**

The motley assortment of bikers and machines assembled at headquarters, with banter about the best bike.

There was a delay while Ian Learmonth went home to look for a piece of his bike that had already fallen off.

However, off we then went along the A130 from Chelmsford, and onto the B184. By the time we had weaved up to the A505 near Duxford, we had already lost a number of riders - among them Ricky Goold - whose fuel pump had broken, signalling the end of his weekend. I still do not know what happened to the others.

At Duxford, Ian Brown took the opportunity to watch television, smoke a pipe and listen to the radio all at the same time whilst still in his armchair BMW Tourer.

We set off at a leisurely pace, wondering where all the other riders were, and eventually stopped for a spot brunch at Little Chef.

We continued north, only getting lost about every 10 miles or so. Regular checks on the internet hinted at dry, overcast weather for the duration of the trip.

Wrong! The heavens opened with the proverbial cats and dogs. I was so pleased that I had brought only summer gloves. Sadly for Tim Wills, his hands looked necrotic when he took his gloves off;

either that or he had just handled booby-trapped cash with black/green dye!

After a couple of further fuel stops we arrived at the farm, with the smell of cow excrement hitting you right between the eyes!

## Snoring

A beautiful location and excellent accommodation was only undone by my lack of judgement in bunking down with Tim Stokes who snores for Europe! Ian Learmonth awoke on Saturday morning and wondered where the piles of logs were that Stoker had been chopping up with his chainsaw during the night!

Matt Clark eventually arrived, after a few detours - Lake District, Skegness, Southend and Land's End (I think in that order).

Saturday saw some good riding, but again the weather was not on our side. We ended up at the cafe where *Last of the Summer Wine* was filmed. A ride back to the billet over some lovely moors was followed by watching England take on Denmark.

Most of us celebrated with a ride in the afternoon, but Stoker and Ian decided to go fell-walking. They got about 100 yards and were lost (don't let them tell you different). They eventually reached their destination, but not without losing their compass, for which Mick Dunham got the blame (as officers of inspector rank and above can never be wrong can they?).

I had to go to bed early as I was overdrawn in the sleep bank. I chose to move rooms to get away from Stokers' ear-shattering nocturnal 'conversation'. Ian Brown had remarked on a low-flying bat, with Tim informing him it was actually a swallow!

Sunday saw a leisurely ride back down south, punctuated by the customary fuel stops. It took a lot less time than riding up there and most of us had the pleasure of seeing the rear end of Steve Golding on his yellow VFR - not a pretty sight (the bike was all right though).

We travelled nearly 600 miles and had had a whale of a time. I would like to impart one tip - never, ever sleep in the same room as Tim Stokes, preferably a different building! Seriously though, Tim did us all proud and we are all looking forward to the next one

Doug Hayward

## The Chief's garden revamp

UNIVERSITY students from Writtle College last month presented design proposals for the Chief Constable's garden as part of their course.

The BSc Landscape Design students were invited to submit designs to recreate the existing Victorian/Edwardian garden.

It was the brainchild of Pauline Dines and Alan Humphreys to offer the garden as an educational site for the college.

After a couple of visits, students

began their research last year.

Facilities Manager Pauline Dines said: "At that time Essex Police did not employ an in-house gardener and needed some guidance to develop the garden."

"The Chief Constable also took an interest. He was very keen to improve the existing garden as he too is an avid gardener."

The students found photographs and historical accounts of the garden, and were delighted when former chairman of the police

authority Anthony Peel provided some pictures of himself during the time he lived at the house as a young boy.

They also met newly-appointed gardener Jeremy Craig who provided background information on the garden's current stage.

Presentations were made in June by each student in the Chief Constable's Lounge.

These will be assessed by course tutors and will be used in the final marking of students' work.



● Tina Veal and her daughters receive the cheque from Chris Tyler and Craig Pirie.

Photo: Nick Strugnall, East Anglian Daily Times.

## A quiz night to remember

THE bar was drunk dry as over 250 people packed into Colchester police station last month for a quiz night in aid of the Gary Veal Memorial Fund.

All monies raised from the evening are being donated to a trust fund set up for Gary's daughters Chloe and Lucy.

Nearly 3,000 raffle tickets were sold for the 43 prizes, all of which were donations.

Quiz night organiser Chris Tyler said: "Gary's wife and brother were astonished by the turn-out and huge support shown on the night. I would like to thank everyone who participated in what was a great night's entertainment."

Gary Veal was struck by a car and killed on the A12 earlier this year whilst on duty.

## Heroic deed saves horse rider

RETIRED chief superintendent Ian Wright is one of only five people to have won a British Gold Hero Award for 2002.

The awards, sponsored by SAGA, honour and celebrate men and women over the age of 50 who have acted courageously in the face of danger.

Ian, 62, plunged into the River

Chelmer which was torrent one cold winter's day last Christmas to rescue a woman who had been thrown from her horse.

## Races for Life to help cure cancer

HUNDREDS of female employees from across the force have participated in Races For Life around Essex, with many more running in Colchester later this month.

Nearly 5,000 took part at Chelmsford's Hylands Park which saw one young man sneak into the race and finish with a medal.

Another 3,000 ran the course at Southend's Gunner's Park, all hoping to raise part of the £12 million which Cancer Research UK is looking to raise this year.

## Shopping in the Big Apple

SHOPPING weekends to New York have once again been arranged for this autumn with flights and hotel accommodation from only £429.

In conjunction with Carefree Travel, the three-night weekend is spent at the Pennsylvania Hotel with Thursday morning departures and Sunday night returns.

For further information and forms contact the Force Sports Secretary on extension 58888.

## A gentle descent

A CHARITY abseil by the force's Rope Access Team later this month will help raise funds for children with special needs.

The event, which is open to all, will take place on Saturday, July 20 at Wellington House in Butt Road, Colchester and is in aid of Market Field School which caters for children.

The school provides a high standard of education for youngsters across north Essex and money raised will help purchase specialist learning equipment and fund outdoor trips.

Car company Bentley's is sponsoring the event which is being hosted by owners Mayfield Property Consultants.

Anyone who wants to take part in the event should contact Market Field School on 01206 825195.

Sport  
and Leisure

# Essex through to the semi-final

## Detectives in white fall short

THE Gentlemen of Essex CID could only manage a draw against a Roger Buxton BBC Essex team in this 40-over match, which had looked destined for a police victory.

The home side made 181 for four wickets before declaring, with Jim Cousen making a fine 58 and Peter Orpe making a solid contribution with 14 runs off just seven balls.

After tea, Roger Buxton's team got off to a slow response, losing an early wicket with only a few runs on the board.

Pearman and Heyburn then brought them back into the game, adding 79, but a flurry of wickets from David Bloxham (3 for 42) made victory a possibility.

However, Pratt and Lodz held on to the end and Buxton's XI finished at 155 for eight to force a draw.

The inaugural match against Epping Foresters CC saw the detectives slump to a 35-run defeat, despite an award-winning effort from Dave Griffiths.

The match was

organised by Peter French as part of Epping's annual cricket week.

Some fine CID work in the field was backed up by excellent bowling by captain Phil Mellon, with figures of 6-43, and Griffiths with 3-48. With three stunning catches by the the Man of the Match winner Griffiths, Epping were dismissed for 175.

Despite being set what was thought to be an achievable target in the remaining time, CID needed their tail-ender to stay at the crease a while longer to avoid defeat.

French scored steadily to reach 39 and newcomer Richard Wardleworth managed 23. However, an England-style batting collapse saw the police fall just short.

Team manager Bob Miller said: "The excellent tea compensated for the defeat and an invitation to come back next year was testimony to the game being played in the right spirit; an example to all the young players present."

### A season to review and preview

THE Essex Police Football Club AGM will be held at the Sports Pavilion on Friday 19 July.

Manager Cliff Haines will be reviewing the club's achievements over the past year, as well looking ahead to the next 12 months.

The Vets will play on Saturdays in Division One of the Essex Vets League next season. The team will maintain a

side in all police competitions, but will not be entering a side in any other competition.

A Super Vets team could be on the cards next season for players aged 50. A couple of friendly games are being arranged and anyone interested should contact Cliff Haines.

The AGM starts at 7.30pm with DCC Charles Clark presiding. The bar will be open.

**THE force cricket team has qualified for the semi-finals of the National PAA event for the first time following a convincing victory over West Midlands.**

Skipper Joe Wrigley lost the toss and Essex were put into bat on the Halsted pitch.

A steady opening partnership of 43 between Joe (15) and John Butcher (34) set the pace.

Andy Prophet (40) and Paul

Gamman (24) kept the score moving at a steady pace, before Kevin Cooper (47 from 49 deliveries), Russ Abbott (51no from 39) and Adrian Garnham (35no from 17) accelerated the run rate towards the end of the innings.

The team scored 110 from their last 11 overs, ending on 276 for 5 after the 45 overs.

West Midlands moved onto 29 before the inspirational introduc-

tion of Chris Roper. Aided by some tight bowling from Russ Abbott and Adrian Garnham, Roper reduced the opposition to 67 for 7, with a spell of 6-23 from 9 overs.

Phil Mellon (1-25) and Dave Miles (2-9) mopped up the tail to leave the opposition stranded on 103 all out.

The victory means that Essex will play the Police Service of Northern Ireland at home at the end of this month.

## Triathlon tribulations

IT WAS 3am on a Sunday morning and Chris Mathlin was in Gloucester Park, Basildon.

Another CID operation to catch some elusive criminal? No...For the third year he was up at this unearthly hour tying tape and fixing signs, ready for the 54 competitors taking part in Basildon's off-road triathlon.

The weather for this year's event was much kinder; with previous years seeing heavy rain in the lead up to the event. This year saw dryer weather, making the going firm.

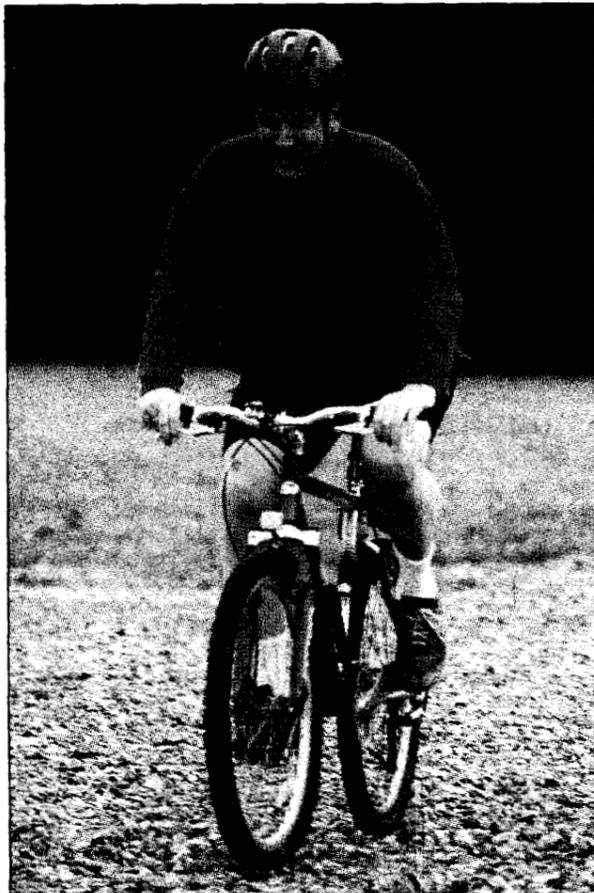
The course was the same as in previous years; a 400m swim in Gloucester Park swimming pool, a short damp dash to transition and then a six-mile bike ride around the park, before returning to transition and going for the 4km run.

The first swimmer set off on the 12 lengths of the pool at 7.30am, followed 30 seconds later by the next one.

Courtney Cowell, swimming for Colchester's defending relay champions, put in the fastest time, doing the 400m and transition dash in a mere 5 mins 35 sec.

The bike leg involved a three-lap loop. The firm ground conditions saw nearly 10 minutes taken off the time for the undulating course. The run is fast and flat. Although for some, just flat!

Sadly our Colchester relay team failed to reclaim their crown, beaten into second place by



● Charles Clark has neared the finish of the cycling stage of the triathlon.

a Gloucester Park Swimming Pool Staff team.

Veterans of this event (in more ways than one) saw the ACPO team of Messers Stevens, Clark and Edwards, once again chase for honours.

At the finishing line, the phrase "I will do the whole thing next year", was heard from a rather fresh-looking Joe Edwards.

Other competitors of note were the triathlon first timer's: Mobile Supprt Divisions's Ian Brown who

helped Basildon's new crime manager Tim Wills to get round.

Braintree's Vic Spain took the third place male vets trophy and, although he had his doubts, Merv Fairweather of Contingency Planning finished with a smile.

I must thank Chris Mathlin, Mark Harman, Eddie Clarke and Basildon Council without whose help this event could not happen.

Peter Bryan

## Another catch for the Essex boys

THIS year's PAA Beach Sea Fishing Championship was secured by Essex, winning by a clear margin of more than 200 points.

The event, held at Southend Pier, included teams from Essex's old region five, and 5 competitors started the match on a fine day. The fish that were caught include Flounder, Plaice, Bass and Garfish.

Retired Insp Phil Baxton was on great form, leading the Essex team home with seven Garfish and Flounder. One of the Garfish, weighing in at 2 4oz, won Phil a specimen award with the NFSA. He totalled 244 points and won the top individual cup as a top retired officers cup.

Bob Sanford came third with 168 points and John Stonehouse came in fifth with 92 points.

Retired Det Sgt David Giblet came a creditable 14th with 46 points, a fine return after his recent illness.

Essex ended the day with 550 points, with Suffolk trailing in second on 380. Norfolk took third place, Cambridge eighth and Hertfordshire eleventh.

The reception presentation was held at the TEAC Club on Southend seafront, and a donation of £152 given to the Little Haven Children's Hospice.

The fishing team presented John Stonehouse with a knot board to acknowledge his retirement from the force.

