



Security advisors hit the road - P3



Tissue donation saves lives - P6/7

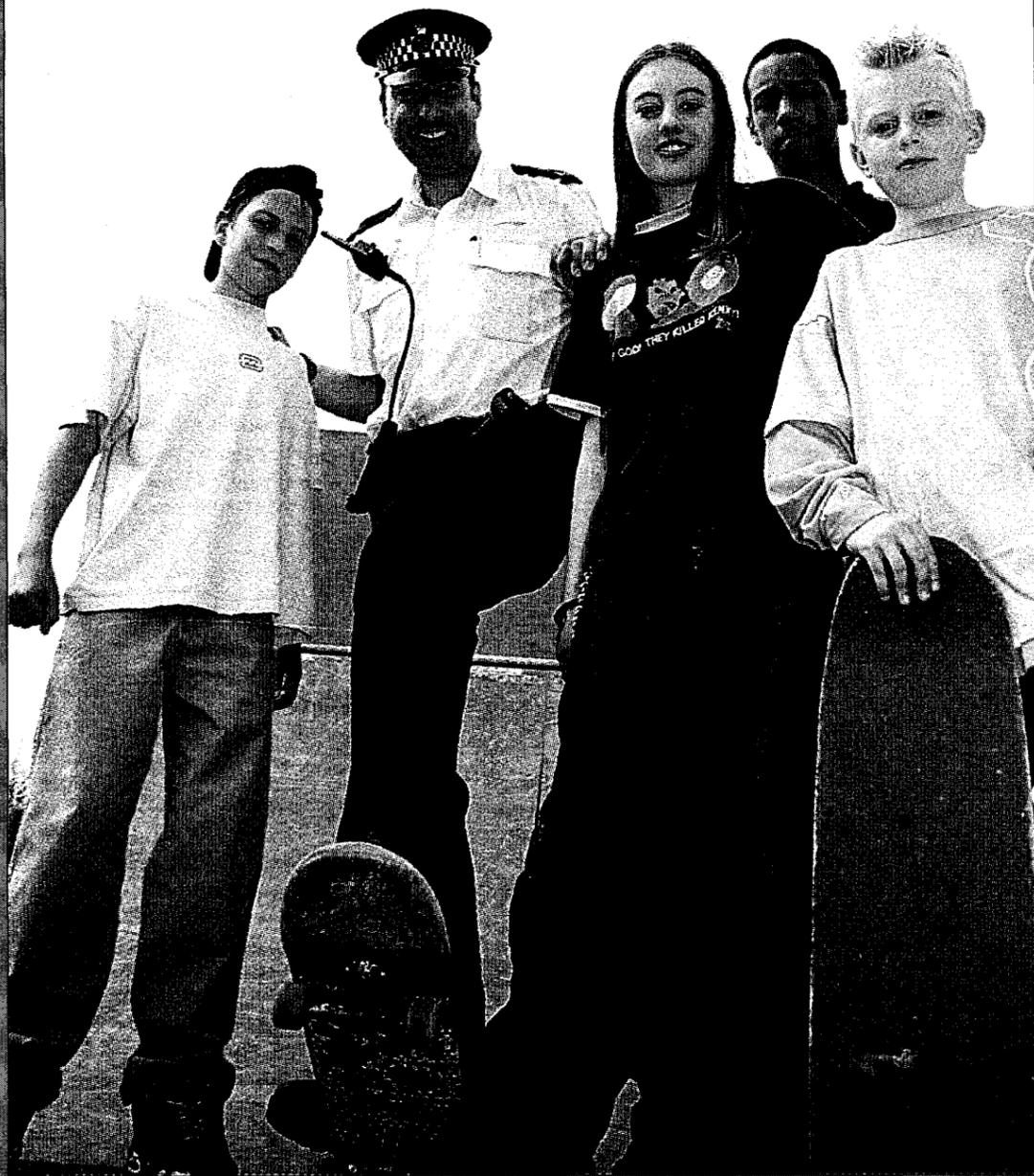


Mobile 'surgery' ready to roll - P5

Relentless pursuit of criminals brings significant arrests and detections

NO PLACE TO HIDE!

Setting the wheels in motion



COULD the skateboard be the new mode of police transport? Not yet but police in Braintree and Witham are certainly acknowledging that support for the popular sport can help reduce crime and disorder and Pc Simon Pomares helps to demonstrate how. See page 3 for full details. Photo: Essex Chronicle.

A ONE-week offensive on crime has been hailed a great success leading to hundreds of arrests and detections.

The work marked the second phase of Operation Relentless. A total of 223 people were arrested and 275 offences detected, a 37 per cent increase in arrests since the launch of the operation earlier this year.

The countywide offensive against car crime underlined the force commitment to ensure that criminals have a greater fear of arrest than the public have of crime.

Assistant Chief Constable (Crime) Joe Edwards said: "We carry out this kind of work all the time, but by focusing the whole force on a specific area for the week, it maximises the offences we detect and the intelligence gathered."

A news blackout was implemented for the arrest phase, the first two days of the operation.

The arrests followed detailed analysis of intelligence, and fingerprint and DNA identifications to match suspects with offences.

Criminals subject to curfew bail conditions were visited to ensure they were complying with the

by Heather Watts

restrictions and letters were sent to known criminals to advise them to change their behaviour.

There were some particularly good results.

More than £90,000 worth of stolen vehicles were recovered in response to an incident involving organised theft of cars in Purfleet.

Checks on a lock-up at an industrial estate near Chelmsford resulted in 11 vehicles being seized and a number of high value vehicles, including two Audi TTs, confirmed stolen.

Warrants executed in Rayleigh Division led to the recovery of a number of car stereos and a stolen BMW and parts.

A high visibility road check in Harlow led to the swift arrest of a man on a stolen motorbike and an 18-year-old man arrested in the early hours of Monday in a stolen vehicle appeared before the court on the Tuesday and is now serving five month's imprisonment.

Intelligence gathered at roadchecks led to arrests for offences ranging from going equipped to steal and possession of offensive weapons.

Mr Edwards said: "With operations like Relentless we will continue to hit back at the perpetrators of high volume crime."

Officers no longer have the blues

PEOPLE less fortunate than ourselves are going to benefit from changes to the police uniform.

Before July 1 this year all male officers of constable and sergeant rank wore blue shirts. But changes to the national uniform mean that all officers regardless of rank or gender will now wear white.

Following the changes, Waltham Abbey officer Kevin Raby suggested some charitable use be made of the

surplus shirts.

Public relations officer Tina Starling contacted various organisations and the Salvation Army were more than happy to take them off our hands.

Collection points were set up around the county and hundreds of shirts have already been donated. There is still time to donate but you need to be quick as the shirts go to charity later this month.

Are you due compensation?

IF you had a variable rate TESSA account between April 1999 and September 2000 you could find that you are in line for compensation.

The information that follows should be read carefully to decide whether you have a case and you should also note that this does not apply to fixed-rate TESSA accounts, only variable rate.

When TESSAs became obsolete in April 1999, the banks and building societies brought out new tax-free savings accounts which either paid a higher rate or had fewer conditions attached (or both).

The Financial Ombudsman has said that the banks and building societies should have paid a fair rate of interest on the TESSAs, comparable with the new accounts. Failing that, they should have written to savers within 30 days of April 6, 1999 to tell them the TESSA was obsolete and let savers transfer their accounts without notice, penalty or fee.

Some banks and building societies did not do this and the financial ombudsman has decided that TESSA savers who were put at a disadvantage by these new accounts should be compensated.

If you believe that this applies to your TESSA account, what you have to do is:

Step 1: Write to the chief executive of your bank or building society. A form of the letter you should write follows:

*Dear Chief Executive
(Name and account number)*

This is to complain about the treatment meted out to me as a TESSA customer of your organisation. I took out my variable rate TESSA on but missed out on interest once TESSAs were withdrawn from sale.

It has come to my notice that in September 2000 the ombudsman said that since TESSAs became obsolete in April 1999, banks and building societies should have paid a fair rate of interest, comparable with those on accounts with less onerous conditions.

Failing this, they should have written to savers within 30 days informing them that the account was obsolete and let them transfer without notice or penalty or any fee.

Between those dates you paid higher rates of interest on other accounts even though the terms and conditions on these were less onerous.

I would therefore be grateful if you would send me a cheque to make up for this interest shortfall.

Then send this to the chief executive of your bank or building society. With a bit of luck, all should go swimmingly, but don't be put off if the bank or building society tries to fob you off without a valid reason. If that happens, you can take your case to the financial ombudsman

but only after you have been through Step 1.

Step 2: Only take this step if you haven't had a satisfactory response from your bank or building society as shown in Step 1.

You cannot complain to the Financial Ombudsman Service until you have first of all written to your bank or building society and are dissatisfied with the reply.

Write to the Financial Ombudsman Service telling them you believe you have been unfairly treated by your bank or building society. Give them the details of your case. The address is:

**Financial Ombudsman Service
South Quay Plaza
183 Marsh Wall
London E14 9SR**

Don't forget to keep a copy of all correspondence and do let us know how you get on. Good luck!

Pay rise agreed

A THREE per cent pay rise for police officers for 2002/2003 was agreed at the July meeting of the Police Negotiating Board (PNB).

Revised pay scales, effective from September 1, 2002, will be published on our intranet website.

As usual, the agreements will need the approval of the Home Secretary. Also agreed was a three per cent increase in the dog handlers' allowance and the London lead for inspecting ranks.

Federation Newline

by Terry Spelman



Britain's bravest awarded

THE bravest officers in England and Wales were announced at an awards ceremony on July 2 attended by Home Secretary David Blunkett and Cherie Booth QC.

The evening was organised by the Police Federation and sponsored by The Sun newspaper.

Sixty-three of the most courageous policemen and women, drawn from 35 forces, attended the Police Bravery Awards, established seven years ago to pay tribute to the unsung heroes of the service. The special evening followed a reception at 10 Downing

Street where each officer was greeted by, and photographed with, the Prime Minister.

The judging panel included Federation Chairman Fred Broughton OBE, police widow Angie Hammond, Chris Fox from the Association of Chief Police Officers, Kevin Morris of the Superintendents' Association and The Sun's crime correspondent.

Our own constable, Mick Hall from Stansted Airport was nominated for an act of bravery in September 2000 and, although he did not win a good day was enjoyed by all

Pensions propaganda

DESPITE some alarmist reporting in the national press following the publication of the Pickering Report on the future of pensions, there are no proposals to change police pension provisions at this time. The police pension is not a funded scheme and officers are advised to treat recent press speculation with extreme caution.

Protecting your personal details

NEW legislation is proposed to allow the public (including police officers) to opt out of having their personal details included in an electronic Register of Electors.

Such registers are often sold on to advertisers for junk mail and other purposes.

The new law, which like the telephone will allow individuals to go ex-directory, will be introduced following an appeal through existing human rights law.

The official Electors' Register, that cannot be opted out of, will not be sold on to third parties.

● A reminder that the telephone number for Berwick Devoil Healthcare Limited, a medical scheme broker which can give independent advice provides quotes giving preferential terms for Essex Police Employees is 01892 838124.

Ferry out the fatigue message

AS the holiday season gets into full swing Essex Police has joined forces with ferry company DFDS to remind drivers that tiredness behind the wheel can kill.

The project is the brainchild of Colchester's Divisional Officer Colin Shead, who is also the manager of the Service Desk at Basildon Police. Wearing his Specials hat he began looking at a number of options to improve road safety and educate drivers about the dangers of driving whilst tired.

The holiday season brings many extra drivers into Essex and neighbouring counties via Harwich Port. Identifying the additional road safety risks this could bring DFDS has agreed to send out an educational leaflet with each ticket it issues for sea crossings.

The leaflets, produced by the Department of Transport Local Government Regions give advice on how to avoid driver tiredness with tips such as planning a 15 minute stop every two hours and checking medication instructions before consumption to ensure it doesn't prompt drowsiness.

Boxes of 5,000 leaflets have already been dispatched to DFDS and further leaflets in both Dutch and German are also being

circulated to cater for foreign travellers. Posters are being put up around the port and further leaflets will be available on board the ferries.

Although targeted at the holiday season the intention is for the campaign to be ongoing and DO Shead will be talking to other businesses with a view to broadening the scheme. It is already acknowledged that stopping for a cup or two of strong coffee or one or two cans of the energy drink Red Bull, as recommended by the Loughborough Sleep Research Centre, can be beneficial.

DO Shead said: "A life lost on the road is not only tragedy for the family involved it also brings horrendous financial costs to the taxpayer. On average it costs the taxpayer £1 million every time some dies in a road crash. What we are trying to drum in to drivers is that simply turning up the radio or winding down the windows does not alleviate fatigue, and it is vital that drivers heed the advice being issued in this leaflet."

"Our work with DFDS is an excellent example of how the police and private industry can work together to educate road users. If just one life is saved by a driver following the guidance in the leaflet than it is a worthwhile project."

service | line

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Car Insurance

Offbeat

A NUMBER of calls were received about a trailer, which was in lane three of the M25 minus its cab.

The cab and driver, who obviously didn't use his rear view mirror very often, was spotted two junctions further on.

□ □ □

NOT that old chestnut again.

The clue is often in the name as a detective who drove his car into a tree stump while reversing outside premises called The Chestnuts found out.

Court help for vulnerable witnesses

THE first phase of new measures to assist vulnerable and intimidated witnesses has been implemented with staff being trained to help such people give their best evidence in court.

Training in this legislation has been continuing and it is anticipated that all police personnel who are in contact with the public will have an understanding of the new measures which stem from the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999.

Assistant Chief Constable John Broughton has recognised the need for a multi-agency approach to support these vulnerable and intimidated victims and witnesses.

"The police requires the support and co-operation of other agencies," said ACC Broughton. "The workshop held earlier this year in Chelmsford allowed us to discuss various issues with social services, the primary health care trust, the criminal justice sector and other statutory and non-statutory agencies."

Home Office representatives announced details of the phased implementation of special measures for young, vulnerable or intimidated witnesses which will address specific practical issues.

Vulnerable witnesses project team leader, Det Insp Pauline Bowers, believes the force can move further forward with its continuing work with various crime and disorder partnerships.

"We were able to share information and discuss best practice which can be developed across the whole force," she said. "We focused especially on the needs of individual witnesses and the special measures given to children who are asked to supply evidence in court."

Royal reform

THE Police Reform Bill has received Royal Assent.

Home Office Minister John Denham said: "The Police Reform Act and the Government's wider programme of police reform will update the working practices of the police service to create an integrated, responsive and proactive police service for the 21st century."

Taking the youth view on board

FREE skateboarding events were laid on for youngsters in Witham and Braintree so that local councils, with the support of Essex Police, could consult with them over plans for two permanent skatepark facilities.

District councillors approved recommendations for two skateparks in July and proposals will go to Full Council in September, but in the meantime two events were held to

consult with youngsters over the specifics of the plans and the best locations for the parks.

Braintree District Council's Young Peoples Representative, Jean Twin, is one of the driving forces behind the project and fronted the events in association with independent skateboard consultants Tribe Enterprises.

Chief Supt Sue Harrison, said: "It has long been recognised that

communities can prosper and crime and disorder can be significantly reduced if young people, particularly in rural villages and towns, have places to go and activities to occupy their time. We welcome and fully support the work being carried out - it acknowledges the popularity of skateboards, roller-blades and BMX bikes among our young people and incorporates it in a worthwhile

project. This type of partnership is an excellent example of how it is possible to improve the quality of life for all members of our community regardless of age."

Executive councillor for community needs, Lynn Green, said: "This is an excellent opportunity for young people in the district to get involved in a project they could really call their own."

Surfing to the top

FINDINGS of a survey have ranked Essex in the top five of police websites.

The Society of Information Technology Management (Socitm) survey *Better Connected: The Police* published its findings after a survey of all 59 police websites earlier this year.

In the foreword to the report, Melanie Leech, executive director of the Association of Police Authorities said: "The survey has sought out and found exciting examples of innovation and forward thinking."

Using a structured questionnaire, it explored each website's ability to respond to a series of needs that

by Heather Watts

potential users of police websites might typically have.

The report stresses that forces should be investing in continual improvement now in order to gain experience in managing both the information and the technology and acknowledges that content management is hard work and does not happen overnight.

Internet manager David White said: "I welcome the results of this report which demonstrates how far our site has come since it was launched in 1998.

"A thousand visitors a day view a

selection of information from the 1400 pages on offer.

"The jobs and recruiting sections are particularly popular and account for almost half of the total number of applications received for both support staff and police recruiting.

"There is still a lot of work to do. My colleague Steven Pollard and I are working hard to ensure the site continues to offer useful and innovative services to the public.

"Expected later this year is an exciting new way for our officers to submit crime advice, information and appeals on a daily basis which will allow us to work more closely with the public, making the county even safer."

Radios to pinpoint cameras

RADIO stations across Essex are now broadcasting locations of the mobile safety camera units, thereby ensuring motorists no longer have an excuse for speeding in designated areas.

The Essex Camera Partnership's new initiative is aimed to further ensure drivers are made aware of the road safety camera zones and reduce the numbers prosecuted and fined.

Essex Police Casualty Reduction Manager Brian Ladd urges motorists to heed the underlying message to the issue of safety cameras.

"We are trying to improve road safety in this county by ensuring all road users, including pedestrian, cyclists and equestrians are allowed to travel in a safe environment," said Mr Ladd.

"We and our partner agencies would be delighted to not receive a single penny through speeding fines accrued by driving at excessive speeds on roads clearly marked as being in road safety camera areas. The announcement of Essex's safety camera zones on local radio breakfast programmes will provide motorists will even less of an excuse for speeding."

Dogs' jubilee

THE Essex Police Dog Unit will celebrate its golden jubilee in 2003.

A dinner and dance is being planned as part of the 50 year celebrations at Hylands House, Hylands Park, Chelmsford on Saturday, October 11, 2003.

All former and present employees of the unit are asked to express their interest in attending this month as numbers will be limited and on a first come first served basis.

Please contact Sara Dean or Belinda Chapman at Corringham dog section by email or telephone on 01375 361212 extension 73145.



Hitting the road to showcase security

A STRONG message to criminals in Essex from Operation Relentless was coupled with a more softly softly approach for the public.

Crime reduction officers were out and about the county showcasing car security devices and offering help and advice.

The Community Safety Car Crime roadshow also went to town centres and supermarkets throughout the county spreading a serious message to shoppers and providing fun with kiddie cars and competitions.

● Pictured is Insp Ewen Wilson with six-year-old Nathan Watkinson who's shopping trip to Sainsbury's in Chelmsford was brightened by a trip in a mini police car.

Law letters

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

Last of the characters?

IN a recent issue of *The Law* Jack Faulkner wrote about a game of football in the backyard of a police station and the resultant damage to police property which had a happy ending.

About that time I was Eastern Division clerk and in a room overlooking the yard was the office of the superintendent who in addition to being Deputy Chief Constable was also secretary to the Supts' Association. His office was quite small, on the first floor, and in much earlier times had been part of the single mens' quarters.

A daily task was to take files and papers to his office as he also prosecuted in the magistrates' court.

On one such occasion I took papers to him, and he put them on another pile. As I was about to leave and turned towards the door the papers slid on the floor, whereupon the DCC took another pile from the other side of his desk and threw the whole lot into the air exclaiming: "Now the whole bloody lot is on the floor" with a broad grin on his face.

I often wonder if we still have people in the job like that.

Phil Pewsey
Southend

A test of sanity

I FIND the letters in *The Law* are becoming far too long.

I lose the plot half way through!

At school I had to write the word lacedaemonian - a man of few words, a thousand times, or laconic.

Perhaps I am losing my marbles.

R White
Chelmsford

Two wheels are better than four

COULD it be true that Essex Police are considering reinstating the motorcycle patrols?

Getting rid of the 'bikes' to save money was to my mind and others a step in the wrong direction. It certainly wasn't well thought out.

The motorcycle is a very important part of police work, if used efficiently, not solely in connection with traffic matters.

In my day, 1950s to 1970s I was, I believe, the longest serving police motorcyclist (over 17 years), so I speak from a little experience.

I can recall on many occasions, being sent on early morning distress calls from victims of burglary and the like.

The quick response was vital, it was a case of 'showing the flag' so to speak, to show the victims they were the important factor.

The presence of police motorcycle patrols could, I am sure, deter the young racers around town, many of whom ride machines far too heavy and fast for their capabilities.

Someone take note of the NHS paramedics on their cycles and

motorcycles, attending calls in double quick time. No gridlocks for two wheels.

Essex Police had an excellent driving school and later a motorcycle school, where I took a refresher course, having already taken a course at Preston, Lancashire many years earlier.

The cost of hiring outside police motorcycles for special occasions such as air shows must be astronomical, so the sooner we see the bikes back on the streets of Essex, the better.

Doug Richards, Southend

RIGHT TO REPLY:
Chief Supt Ian Brown:

CARS offer a greater operational flexibility than motorcycles. At times of financial constraint, we have to make choices, hence our decision to disband motorcycles.

We have a number of initiatives to ensure we maintain contact with the motorcycle community, but there is no evidence to suggest that any increase in motorcycle collisions in Essex is related to our lack of a motorcycle unit.

It flies in the face of critics

WORKING as I do in the Information Room, I am involved, almost daily, in the dispatch and recording of flights of our force helicopter. It flies most every day when fully available and is crewed by dedicated members of our service.

But just how do we really see this resource - how many of us realise the true value of it, when used as a crime-fighting, live-saving tool in our repertoire?

The 'paraffin parrot' as it is affectionately or sometimes cruelly known has been in service for many years and for all of those years we have poured scorn upon it - hopefully light-heartedly in the majority of cases.

It can be frustrating I know when you have the seemingly ideal scenario for the helicopter to assist you but your call to FIR or ASU comes back with the answer, "Too cloudy . . . or too wet . . . or sorry, out of service . . ."

It is easy therefore to criticise and I hear many comments, both on and off the radio like "waste of money . . . ruddy useless etc."

Come on people! What are we moaning about? It's all about safety at the end of

the day isn't it? As we are sworn to protect life, why do we expect the helicopter to go up in dreadful weather conditions just so that we can catch someone for theft? Is it not the same as pursuing a stolen vehicle at breakneck speed just to catch the driver? How many people died before we stopped that practice?

Not long after the ASU's inception in the very early nineties, I was on duty as the acting sergeant at Clacton where we were suffering a spate of amusement arcade break-ins. A lot of money had been stolen and Andy Lindsay, the officer in the case, had put together an intelligence package and profile of the offender. A line of enquiry led us to ascertain that the suspect was believed to have purchased a purple and green two-man tent at a local shop.

Andy asked me about the helicopter and with some derision we contacted them.

"Could you overfly the coastal region of Tendring to find us a purple and green two-man tent?" we asked.

We were amazed when not only did they say yes but they lifted within a hour of the call.

Within 30 minutes they had found a two man tent matching the description in St Osyth and landed nearby. A youth and a girl were then found inside counting hundreds of 10 pence pieces!

Suffice to say, I have personally been a fan ever since.

Most of us take to the skies in aircraft on holidays and most of us, if we are honest, do so with trepidation and some degree of fear. ASU staff do this day in and day out all over the country.

It can and does carry out some amazing tasks when available.

In a pursuit situation, for example, the helicopter is invaluable - it allows us all to follow a stolen vehicle in complete safety. No need for ground units to pressurise drivers into fatal errors, no need to put our ground units at risk. At night, it can see where the human eye cannot and has been responsible for a lot of crime detection and for locating vulnerable people.

Rest assured that if the helicopter says that it cannot assist us then it is for a very good and valid reason and should not be criticised.

I have heard a few people say that they'd rather have the horses and motorcycles back and ditch the helicopter.

In an ideal world, we'd have all of them but I think that in the ASU we have the best option.

If it went tomorrow we would all miss it - of that I am sure.

Pc Alan White
Force Information Room

Humour in the court room

JUST thought I would put a smile on your faces with a few jokes from the courts:

"What is your date of birth?"

"July 21st."

"What year?"

"Every year."

"What gear was you in at the time of the accident?"

"T-shirt and jeans."

"How far apart were the vehicles at the time of the collision?"

"You say he threatened to kill you. Did he?"

Jack Faulkner
Southend

My beloved Larry would have been proud

I AM writing to sincerely thank all colleagues and friends who attended the funeral service of my beloved husband, Larry.

He would have been proud of such a good turnout.

I would also like to say thank you and express how much I have appreciated all

Strong but sensitive in name and nature

AS his name indicates Lawrence 'Larry' Alexander Leo Nevin was a strong man both in his stature and his personality.

I was always reminded of the Roman Centurion, short sword in hand chopping lumps out of the enemy whenever he could.

Fortunately for Essex Police he managed to chop several lumps off lots of enemies before he retired.

Under the 'hardman' surface he was a very sensitive man who was kind and a loving family man.

the cards and telephone calls I have received from people offering their condolences.

Your kindness and support has been a very great comfort during this very sad time.

Maggie Nevin
Chelmsford

A good friend, I was always pleased he was with me when you needed sturdy hearts.

Larry sometimes fell foul of his supervisors because he had a point of view that didn't 'sit right' but whatever the occasion his effort, dedication and passion for his work could not be faulted.

I am proud to have served with him and I thank Larry and his wonderful wife Maggie for being part of my life.

John Garrard
Suffolk

Welcome support after tragic loss

MANY of you may already be aware of the tragic loss of my beloved husband Gerry French.

My family and I wish to convey our deepest thank and gratitude for all the cards, flowers, support and overwhelming attendance at his funeral service at Chelmsford Cathedral by his friends and colleagues.

Also a special thank you to Braintree police officers who were involved on the day of the accident, and to Chie Insp Glen Caton and Sg Debbie Grafton for the support and help they have given us.

Gerry will be greatly missed by all who knew him
Andie French
Chelmsford

Great comfort at a sad time

I WOULD like to thank all those who have sent cards and tributes following the death of my husband Brian Waller.

It has been a great comfort to the whole family to know that so many of Brian's former colleagues and friends are thinking of us at this sad time.

Thank you also to those who attended his funeral and who came back to the house afterwards. It was lovely to see so many old faces, Brian would have loved seeing you all.

I'm sorry if I did not get the chance to speak to everyone but please be assured that I really appreciated you all being there for us.

Ruby Waller
Thorpe Bay

My gratitude to Roy's colleagues

MY husband William Bowers (known as Roy) died in June and I would like to express my gratitude to the many people who offered their condolences and thank many of my husband's former colleagues who sent in bouquets of flowers.

I would also like to thank the Chief Constable for his letter of sympathy. I was so pleased to see many representatives from police headquarters at the funeral.

Joan Bowers
Chelmsford

Don't lose your liberty this summer

MOTORISTS are being warned of the dangers of drink-driving as the onset of summer holidays lures people to public houses and barbecues.

The annual summer campaign began at the start of the month as road policing officers across the county actively enforce drink-drive laws.

Road Policing Manager, Chief Inspector Tom Diment, is hoping this year's campaign will help people focus on the dangers behind drink-driving.

"I hope everyone enjoys themselves during the summer," said Chief Insp Diment. "All I'm asking is that if you choose to drink alcohol, then please ask someone else to drive. If you're caught, then you run the risk of losing your liberty, driving licence and job. Surely, it's not worth it."

Last summer's figures showed 6.3 per cent of motorists risked someone's life after drink-driving, with 121 drivers testing positive; an increase of nearly three per cent on the previous year.

Air rescue

THE Essex Police helicopter crew stepped into the breach to help an injured boy when the air ambulance was unable to attend.

An ambulance had been called to Martello Caravan Park in Walton after reports of a young boy with serious neck or spinal injuries. The land ambulance crew who attended were concerned about the speed bumps leading out of the park and felt the boy should be airlifted out to avoid further injury, but their own aircraft was already occupied.

The crew of the Essex Air Support Unit adapted the aircraft to facilitate a casualty and attended the caravan park.

The boy was airlifted out and taken to Abbey Field, Colchester where another land ambulance took the youngster on the last leg of the journey to Colchester General Hospital. Current restrictions do not allow the police aircraft to use the hospital's helipad.

Once the casualty was delivered the police crew made the necessary alterations to the aircraft and resumed policing duties.

Proud on parade

FOR two Essex officers the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations are a day to remember.

Insp Moira Owers and Sgt Allison Campbell took part in the 4000 participant services parade as representatives of the British Association of Women Police.

Crime may have risen but Essex is still safer

RECORDED crime in Essex rose by six per cent during 2001/2, compared with a national average increase of seven per cent, according to latest Home Office figures.

Despite the rise, the report showed that Essex remained one of the safest counties in the country.

Assistant Chief Constable (Crime) Joe Edwards said: "While any increase in offences is unwelcome, the report shows Essex in a good light by comparison with the national picture."

- Out of 40 English police forces, only four had a lower crime rate than Essex.

- Households in Essex were far less likely to be burgled than anywhere else in England, except Surrey.

- There were 84 violent crimes per 10,000 population in Essex, compared with a national average of 154 such offences.

- The overall detection rate for all offences in Essex was 26 per cent, compared with a national average of 23 per cent.

Mr Edwards said: "However you look at these statistics, they set a challenge for both the police, other agencies and the law-abiding community. Essex Police is taking a determined approach to combating crime, with initiatives ranging from the preventive Arrest Referral Scheme and projects with councils to improve the quality of life, to intelligence-led operations against criminals. It is important that the public provides information which helps officers to work on their behalf against criminals."

Changes to school role

THE role of the school liaison officer is to change so that it is more supportive to the work being carried out by crime and disorder partnerships across the county.

September 1 will see the new role formalised and this will be followed by structured training.

The aim is to ensure that all the work of school liaison officers supports divisional command teams in fulfilling their commitment to local policing plans and crime and disorder strategies.

Supported by the Education Authority the role of school liaison officer will mean significant changes in working practices and schools

by Heather Watts

expectations will need to be addressed.

There will be a move away from traditional items such as cycling proficiency to specialised talks to pupils mainly in years Five to Eight in relation to personal safety, crime and its consequences, drugs (including alcohol) and other police related matters.

Working in partnership, the school liaison officer will undertake attachments to Youth Offending Teams, share community intelligence and manage crime reduction initiatives in and around schools.

The school liaison officer will

provide a 'one-stop shop' for pupils, staff and parents during and outside school hours and give advice in relation to crime matters.

School liaison officers will also assist in the reduction of truancy and deal with any minor offences by informal action.

Community Safety Youth Inspector, Jon Dodman said: "We will support and advise the officers in line with the objectives of the Force Youth Strategy. The change in role is necessary to ensure that the work of the SLOs supports the force's objectives around crime reduction.

"We are giving children an anti-crime message via choices and consequences at the age when they are most receptive."

Seven skills for silver

STEPS are being taken to ensure that Essex Police officers carrying out silver command duties are competent in seven key areas.

Their skills will be assessed under the new personal development review system and training will be given to fill in any gaps in experience or provide refresher tuition.

The scheme concerns the ranks of chief inspector and above who take command at critical incidents.

It is designed to ensure that these officers have sufficient competence to take command at:

- Chemical, biological or radiation and nuclear incidents.
- Firearms operations.
- Major disasters.
- Other major incidents.
- Public order incidents.
- Special events.
- Sports events.

Senior officer firearms training will now be included at the assessment centre stage of the selection process for promotion to chief - inspector.

The new arrangement has been approved by the force's Operational Policing Policy Group and a detailed explanation is being sent to all silver command officers.

Skidpan sale

A VOUCHER enabling someone to have a go on the Essex Police skidpan raised a dizzy £105 at an auction for Reach for the Stars.

The money goes to St Helena Hospice and Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

Officers take to the road in new mobile 'surgery'

COLCHESTER division's new mobile police office has taken to the road.

The van is visiting villages on a regular timetable to provide a 'surgery' aimed at strengthening links between the police and rural communities.

Colchester divisional commander Chief Supt Dave Murthwaite said: "The mobile office reflects our commitment to serving rural areas. It gives the public a convenient and accessible opportunity to talk over any concerns they may have and to seek advice on non-urgent matters."

The office is a white box van, specially built onto the chassis of a Citroen Relay, by Fame Commercial, of Colchester, and kitted out in Essex Police livery. To offer privacy, it has been divided into two separate offices. An awning is included in its equipment. The total cost of the project was £55,000.

The mobile office will also be available as a police base at special events.

Its launch follows a similar successful venture in Harlow division last year.



● Jennie Bussandri, of Fame Commercial, hands over the mobile office's keys to Chief Supt Murthwaite, with Colchester Council executive director Adrian Pritchard and Bob Smith, of Essex Police Transport Services, alongside. Photo: East Anglian Daily Times.

Turning tragedy into a gift of life

HELEN COOK looks at the life-saving benefits of tissue donation and how officers broach the subject with bereaved families

WHEN someone dies unexpectedly police officers are often faced with the difficult task of breaking the tragic news to the family.

If that isn't tough enough, Mobile Support officers are also encouraged to consider suggesting tissue donation to bereaved families, if and when appropriate. If the family agrees, tissue donation can help seriously injured or impaired people lead vastly improved lives.

Organ donation, involving heart, liver and kidneys is well known, but other tissues can be donated after death and transplanted with dramatic and, in some cases, life-saving effects.

Tissues have been successfully transplanted for many years and clinical demand is high. Bone, tendons, cornea, skin and heart valves can be donated up to 36 hours after death and one donor can benefit up to 40 people.

Bone is needed for orthopaedic procedures including joint replacement surgery, trauma surgery and correction of spinal abnormalities. Some bone grafts can prevent limb amputation in people with bone tumours. Corneas are used to restore the sight of people with eye diseases or injuries and tendons are primarily used for sports injury surgery. Heart valves are used to save the lives of children born with severe heart defects or adults with diseased or damaged

valves. Skin is used for severely burned people as part of early life-saving treatment.

Potential donor families are given full information and interviewed by trained donor co-ordinators in order to seek consent for tissue donation. After a donation has taken place, the body is always restored to its normal appearance.

Following the donation the family receives a letter from Tissue Services thanking them for their generosity at such a difficult time and the police officer who referred the donor is also thanked and told how many potential donors may benefit.

'It gives the family something to focus on and can provide some comfort'

Tissue Services is part of the National Blood Service and has a local tissue bank at Brentwood with two co-ordinators, Jan Purkis and Awena Warmington.

Jan said: "Many families have expressed their gratitude that they were asked to donate as it gives them some comfort that someone is benefiting from the donation and often say that it is the one and only positive thing that comes out of the tragedy."

ONE family liaison officer who tackled the subject of tissue donation with a bereaved family is Pc Pete Harris, based at Laindon Traffic.

Pc Harris was appointed the family liaison officer for a family from Grays whose son had died in a motorcycle crash. He had been to see the family and was dealing with the various issues concerning the death and the collision.

It was while he was travelling back to his traffic unit at Laindon that he thought the case was ideal for tissue donation.

His first task was to locate the brother of the victim who was working abroad, as the family were most concerned that he should be made aware of the tragic incident. After finding the brother, Pc Harris returned to the family with the positive news.

He said: "After giving them the information about the brother, I asked them to sit down

As part of her role Jan speaks at the Police HQ road death seminars where she provides road policing officers with information about her work and encourages them to consider raising the subject with families.

She says that despite some negative feelings at the start of her presentations, most officers come to agree that unless families are given the option, they have no choice, and that the choice is theirs to make.

Jan added: "Some police officers have said that at this very traumatic time mentioning tissue donation might make matters worse, but in practice when offered at an appropriate time it gives the family something to focus on and can provide some comfort."

Essex officers have referred ten potential donors since June last year. Unfortunately not all the referrals were able to proceed, but donated tissues have made it possible for up to 120 people to receive tissue transplant surgery.

Jan said: "I am so impressed by the way that police officers have taken this on board, particularly in view of the very difficult situation they are in at the time. I have received a great deal of support and assistance from the road policing training department and I hope with their help to expand the education programme to other areas of the force."

The national tissue collection team provides 24 hour on call cover to take referrals of potential donors. If you would like to know more contact Jan or Awena on 01277 306061.

To refer a potential donor or speak to the on call co-ordinator call 07693 086823, leave a message and they will return your call.

and told them I wanted to discuss with them a very delicate subject. Their initial reaction was 'oh no' but then they tried to consider what their son would have wanted."

Pc Harris left them to digest the information but made them aware of the critical time restraints. He was later asked by the family to make initial contact with Tissue Services on their behalf. This was done and he recently received a phone call telling him that they had been able to use the 25-year-old man's bones, tendons and heart valves.

Pete says that now he has broached the subject with one bereaved family he would have no problem raising it next time.

He said: "It gives you some satisfaction that you have been the link between the family and tissue services."



◆ Essex teacher
IN 1995 Everett
from Essex was
eye disease that
make him blind.
Life became
deteriorated but

Constable's experience of the hope that tissue donation can bring

Ma

INVESTIGATION of Essex has brought results and have been report to Chief Stevens.

It was during the annual review of division that Det Reynolds was able to a number of serious excellent results had the major investigation protection units and Serious Crime Essex Police Crime S Det Chief Supt Reynolds Division consistently results week by week during reviews and meetings that were forums of our own officers.

"When new management division they are always amount of quality achieved, previously when working in their

"It is clear that we are justice in marketing the excellent work that

Despite the largest undertaken by Essex missing teenager De

Wiping out graffiti blight

GRAFFITI is set to be wiped out of South Woodham Ferrers following a protocol scheme involving Essex Police, Chelmsford Borough Council, the town council, William de Ferrers School and local businesses.

The scheme has been inspired by the success of a similar operation in Bath.

A central reporting point has been established at the Community Information Centre to report graffiti damage.

Community Information staff will in turn identify the owners of the defaced property and contact them.

Commercial owners will be asked to

remove the graffiti.

If the property is privately owned the owners will be offered assistance in the form of information relating to removal products and companies or local authorities which will remove the graffiti.

It is proposed that sponsorship is sought and a community action team, prepared to roll up its sleeves, be set up for anyone who is not in a position to help themselves.

The aim is to reduce graffiti and the fear of crime associated with it by involving everyone in removing this blight on the town.

High hopes of blooming in competition

WITH judging due to take place soon green-fingered staff at Hadleigh Police Station are hoping to be winners in the Castle Point in Bloom Competition.

Not only showing their prowess at

gardening the team have also all taken part in producing a flower mosaic.

All the hard work has been put in during breaks for the business premises container gardening section.

Free subscription to justice magazine

IF you want to keep abreast of developments in the world of criminal justice you can now subscribe free to a specialist magazine.

Criminal Justice Management is a business strategy magazine for the entire criminal justice sector, read by an estimated 54,000 people.

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First aid brigade has top trio

THREE familiar faces feature in the top jobs of the Essex branch of St John's Ambulance Brigade with the appointment of Harlow inspector Alan Cook as Commissioner at the beginning of July.

He joins former Chief Constable John Burrow who is the Commander and former borough officer Bob Mann, Director of Marketing and Training.

Crimes bring outstanding results

cases in excellent maintained in a David

Major Investigation Section not only maintained its level of work from the previous year it in fact increased the number of referrals.

There were a number of inquiries from other forces requiring assistance and a total of 88 referrals in the year.

Among these referrals were 25 murder or manslaughter offences with all but one classified as detected.

April 2001 saw the launch of five murder investigations in the county, a pattern that thankfully did not continue throughout the year.

Some examples of investigations included Operation Spinnaker. Danielle Jones, aged 15, left her home address in East Tilbury to go to school but never arrived and was reported missing.

Despite extensive searching, that will continue for the foreseeable future, her body has yet to be discovered.

Her uncle, 43-year-old Stuart Campbell has been charged with her murder and will stand trial at Chelmsford Crown Court in October 2002.

Another case that the section investigated was the death of Julie Foster.

On July 10, 2001, a heart-wrenching 999 call was received from a young boy aged eight, claiming his mum was dead.

Julie Foster's former boyfriend was arrested on suspicion of murder but was later acquitted at trial.

This was the first MIT loss on a case. The investigation into the death of nurse Anita Gordon, aged 57, who was found dead on her settee with serious head injuries, at her home in Laindon

Out of 25 murder investigations only one remains undetected and only one was lost at court

on March 14 this year, is still ongoing.

She lived with her husband in their first floor flat. He rang the police to say he had found her in the early hours of the morning upon his return from night-shift as a taxi driver.

The detectives on the major investigation teams were not however the only part of the division to be kept busy.

Child protection units received 3,007 referrals from a variety of sources throughout the year and 1,326 required further investigations.

There were many successful convictions at court and one case was considered serious enough for the offender to be given life imprisonment.

Chelmsford Crown Court sentenced a man to life imprisonment for offences of indecent assault and buggery against a nine-year-old boy.

The offender got close to the boy's family through horse-riding lessons and then absconded to Ireland where he was later extradited for trial.

Other examples warranted a variety of terms of imprisonment.

A primary school teacher carried out 14 assaults on female pupils, both at the school and on female friends of his family at his home.

He was sentenced to five years imprisonment.

Basildon Crown Court sentenced a man to 10 years imprisonment after he committed nine rapes and an indecent assault on his daughter.

Head of Child Protection unit DCI Roy Fenning said: "Not all our investigations end in prosecutions, in some cases we are able to protect a

child through multi-agency intervention that does not result in a court appearance.

"A lot of our work needs patience and sensitivity towards both the victim and offender and it needs an understanding of what we are actually dealing with.

"Above all it is paramount to protect the child and deal appropriately with the situation.

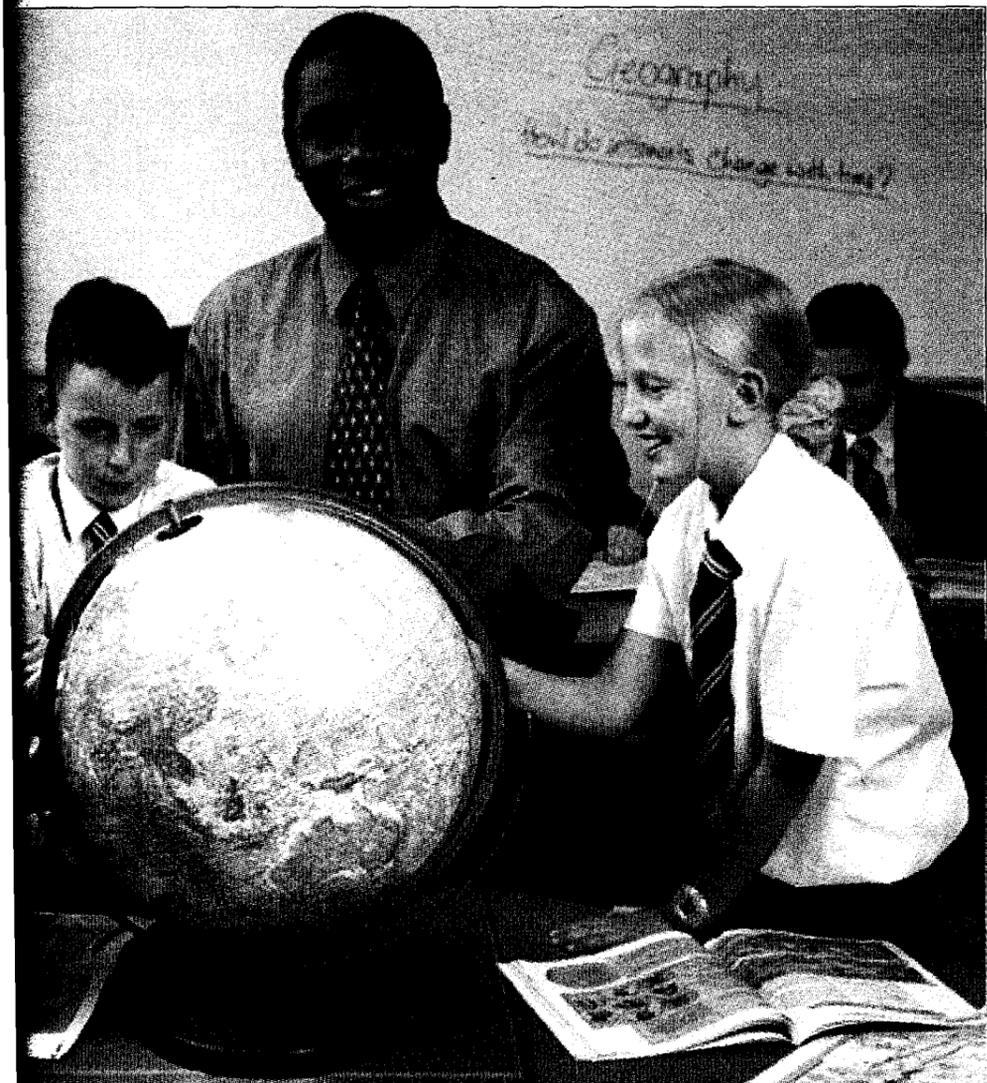
"To this end we have developed a close working relationship with social services that is of benefit to both the victim and the agencies involved."

The then Drugs and Serious Crime Squad teamed up with Norfolk Police during a joint investigation looking at class A drug dealers in Basildon, Norwich and Southend.

This operation was a major success and produced nine arrests for the possession with intent to supply of the drugs.

A total of 120,000 ecstasy tablets were found along with £40,000 in cash. The trial took place on May 13 2002, at Norwich Crown Court.

Other significant operations netted numerous kilos of cocaine, several tonnes of cannabis and hundreds of thousands of pounds in cash.



has had a life-changing experience thanks to tissue donation.

generosity of strangers he underwent two cornea transplant operations. Today he has near perfect vision.

He said: "I can't describe what it means to me to see my children's

faces again and so much is once again possible.

"Not only have I benefited but so has my family, and others share in it with me. It is all thanks to the incredible kindness of others."

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Paving the way for new radio system

THE first, visible sign that Airwave is coming to Essex Police is obvious to anyone who passes the vicinity of the Force Information Room.

Work has begun on the construction of a high-spec equipment room within the FIR compound which will house all the IT equipment needed before Airwave becomes operational.

Airwave is the national radio system that will provide encrypted communications across the whole county. Digital signalling will deliver clearer speech.

Airwave will enable users to make direct contact with other officers in the force via 'point-to-point' communications and will allow telephone calls to be made from the same handset.

As Airwave is a national system there will also be a need to standardise status codes and an aide memoire with the new, national codes will be distributed to all staff in the autumn and training will be given to new recruits.

Airwave is scheduled to be introduced in Essex in autumn 2003, with the roll-out completed by summer 2004.

Sweeping changes planned for criminal justice system

Radical reform

A RECENT government white paper has set out proposals for substantial changes to improve the criminal justice system.

The biggest overhaul of the criminal courts for ten years is intended to slant justice in favour of the victim and the police.

Sir David Phillips, President of the Association of Chief Police Officers has welcomed the proposals.

Sir David said: "It contained some radical and strikingly simple ideas. The system is riddled with delay and complication. It is no longer either an effective way to deal with wrongdoing, or a search for the truth."

by Heather Watts

There are plans to relax the 800 year old double jeopardy principle, so that offenders can be tried twice.

It will end many defendant's rights to be tried by a jury under plans to double magistrates' powers.

Judges will also be allowed discretionary powers to disclose to juries details of a criminal's previous convictions as well as previous acquittals seen as relevant to the case.

Defendants will also be allowed to opt for judge only hearings.

There are proposals to lessen the number of young offenders

appearing before juries in Crown Courts by putting them before 'strengthened' youth courts.

Delaying tactics by lawyers will result in financial penalties and plea bargaining is to be considered to stop delaying tactics by defendants. This will entail defendants being told in advance what their sentence will be if they plead guilty.

To ensure a fairer balance between prosecution and defence, juries will be allowed to hear the defendants pre-trial statement and 'draw inferences' from any discrepancies in the case being presented at the trial.

Indeterminate sentences are proposed for sexual and violent

offenders who are considered dangerous.

Police powers are also to be extended and custody sergeants may be able to attach conditions to police bail prior to charge.

The Government wants to reduce the number of offenders in prisons but without sufficient funds it proposes to rely on a form of suspended sentence involving community-based penalties.

Victims of domestic violence could also find themselves provided with anonymity similar to victims of sexual offences to encourage them to report the crime.

Last year 30,000 court cases were abandoned because victims or witnesses failed to turn up.

Detective gives marathon gift to ambulance service

AS the Essex Ambulance Service are sharing facilities at Westcliff Police Station it seemed fitting that Det Insp Pauline Bowers, of the Vulnerable Witnesses Project, chose to hand cash raised from her marathon run, to them.

Pauline was due to compete in the London Marathon but was unwell, so she ran the Halstead marathon a few weeks later. She said: "It was much harder, it was hilly and a sunny day. With no crowds to spur me on it was hard going."

Moving forward with equality

MINORITY issues and, in particular, amendments to race relations legislation were the subject of discussion at a workshop held recently by the Essex Black Police Association (BPA).

A number of guests from Essex Police attended the workshop at the Danbury Conference Centre, facilitated by Ionann Management Consultants.

Acting BPA Chair Rose Lewis said: "The workshop was an excellent opportunity to consider where we are with minority ethnic issues generally and the Race Relations Act in particular."

A report outlining the outcome of the workshop and an action plan is being produced and the BPA has expressed its thanks to all the participants and to Ionann for facilitating a worthwhile day.

The objectives for the senior managers of Essex Police who have key responsibilities for issues of race, were addressed.

By the end of the day they were to identify the impact of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 on their role.

This includes an understanding of the need for a combined approach to race issues through interdepartmental work, resulting in consistent application of policies and practices.

It also includes an appreciation of the value of each other's roles in matters of race and recognition of the benefits to be gained in service delivery from a combined approach to race relations.

Divisional support manager Insp Chris Bainbridge said: "Whilst the workshop was organised specifically to address the implications of the Race Relations Act, as the day progressed it became clear that we should grasp this opportunity to move forward on all aspects of equality across the board, so that we don't lose sight of the issues affecting other groups too."

Assistant Chief Constable Joe Edwards said: "I found it very useful as a learning opportunity. More than this, I came away with a sense of what we have achieved in Essex so far, also very aware of how much more we can and must do, although I've still to see a summary of outcomes."

"I believe we set a well defined agenda for continuing action. Working in mixed groups was an excellent way of testing my own understanding of where we are. We are achieving a critical mass of people who are determined to promote diversity and tackle discrimination. My view is that this is at the heart of leadership. Credit to the BPA for arranging the workshop and Ionann for excellent facilitation."

New course for learner drivers

A HUNDRED lucky personnel are to take part in a trial of a course which teaches internationally-recognised computer skills.

At the end of the course individuals will receive the qualification of a European Computer Driving Licence.

The British Computer Society has approved the Essex Police Training Centre as a test centre and Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark was presented with an Accredited Test Centre certificate at a recent launch of the trial.

Mr Clark said: "This is a big step forward for Essex Police. Computers have become an essential piece of equipment but we don't always have an operator and we need to give people the skills to use them."

The course, which consists of seven modules, can be undertaken on the intranet or by obtaining a CD from IT Training Manager Tony Kavanagh.

Each person has been issued with a logbook and as they progress through the programme and pass the exams at the end of each module their book will be stamped accordingly.

Representative of the British Computer Society Chris Slocombe said: "ECDL is a tremendous success story with 2,000 test centres in the UK and I am pleased to see the hard work behind the scenes at Essex Police has come to fruition."

Former Assistant Chief Constable Geoffrey Markham has already obtained his European Computer Driving Licence via the Anglia Polytechnic University.

Admitting that he thought that computers were there to wedge open the door, he said: "I needed basic IT training for work I was doing for the European Court of Human Rights and I now have the proof with my licence that I have the necessary skills."



● British Computer Society representative Chris Slocombe presents the accreditation certificate to Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark.

Photo: HQ Photographic

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

Start up a transport franchise

IF you've ever thought about running a transport company or feel your area is lacking suitable transportation facilities there is a new grant scheme which might be right up your street.

Land Network International Ltd has a contract with the county council to start up a taxi and bus carrier service based in rural parishes and small towns which are short of transport.

The idea of these vehicles is to never travel empty, so the vehicle can carry up to eight passengers with space for goods, parcels, supermarket deliveries, luggage and anything which industry legitimately wants to pay for.

If you have recently retired or are shortly retiring you may be interested in the opportunity to be involved in this 'reverse franchise' operation in which the operators own the franchise.

There is substantial start-up cash available and help with the setting up of contracts with more help available, if needed.

It may be that several drivers who could offer some time and commitment might work together.

For further details with no obligation contact Bill Butterworth on a local call 0845 1306900.

RECENTLY promoted to chief superintendent, **John Mauger** is the new divisional commander for Rayleigh.

He previously served as operations manager at Harlow and head of Community Safety.

Chief Supt **Jim Noakes** retired in July after nearly 33 years' service.

He was based all over the county before he settled at Rayleigh Division and intends to use his retirement as time to do more charity work and travel.

Jim said: "I've thoroughly enjoyed all my years in the force and I hope others gain as much from it as I did."

Community safety inspector **Mike Grout** is retiring this month after 30 years' service with Essex Police serving 26 years at Southend.

He lives with his wife in Southend and has three boys and intends to work part time.

Mike said: "I joined Essex Police at 16 and am going to find it very strange once I have left and ventured into retirement."

Pc **Paul Reeve** retires this month after serving exactly 30 years.

His last 19 years have been in the Traffic Investigation Unit.

Names in the news

He said: "Strangely enough I found this part of my career very rewarding. Many road death victims' relatives are grateful for the work we do."

Although Paul has plans to improve his golf handicap and do voluntary work at a local school, two of his children have recently left home and have plans for him to decorate their new homes

Pc **Steve Goodair** has retired on medical grounds after 22 years.

He served at Pitsea, Billericay, Basildon, Great Horkesley and Shrub End before being redeployed to Chelmsford.

He particularly enjoyed the earlier part of his career and said: "It was a pleasure to serve the general public."

Mr **Michael Ellis**, driver at Epping retired last month after nearly 12 years' service.

Mrs **Patricia Summerhayes** is being medically retired this month after over 23 years' service, mostly as

a telephonist in the Force Information Room.

Headquarters registry clerk Mrs **Sheila Johnson** retired this month after over 12 years' service.

Sheila was vice-chairman for headquarters sports and social club for the last two years and had served on the committee for several years.

Working very hard for the club, Sheila raised money for various local charities and helped every year with the Children in Need quiz night and the children's Christmas party.

Obituaries

The obituary regarding **William Budd** in the June issue of *The Law* contained inaccuracies for which the editors apologise.

Mr Budd joined Essex Police in 1952 having previously served five years with Worcestershire Police. During his time with Essex he worked at Upminster, Canvey Island, Pitsea, HQ and Laindon Traffic.

Having reached the rank of sergeant he retired in 1975 but sadly died on May 22, aged 81. He leaves a wife Joyce.

Former constable **Gordon**

Hunnable died in July aged 63.

He served from 1960 to 1991 at Brentwood, Billericay, Hutton and Sandon and was a coroner's officer from 1978 until his retirement covering Basildon and Brentwood divisions.

Gordon leaves a widow Betty.

Roger House died on July 9 aged 56. He served as a constable from 1978 to 1996 at Harlow and Epping.

The funeral took place at his hometown of Bournemouth.

Roger leaves a widow Nan Kirsteen

Former detective constable **Lawrence 'Larry' Nevin** died on June 25 aged 62.

He served at Saffron Walden, Harlow, Hutton and Chelmsford retiring in 1995.

Larry leaves a widow Maggie.

Former constable **William Bowers** died in June, leaving a widow Joan

William served at Brentwood, Pitsea, Grays, Laindon and HQ traffic before retiring in 1965.

Former constable **David Cund** died on July 4 aged 78.

He served from 1952 to 1982 at Grays, Hadleigh and Maldon.

David leaves a widow Patricia



● Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark is reunited with his former secretary Pat Oram.

Garden gala

MEMORIES were rekindled and exchanged at last month's pensioners' garden party which attracted over 400 people from both the past and present.

Chief Constable David Stevens joined retired police officers and former members of staff at the 83rd annual police pensioner's garden party.

Chairman of the Pensioners' Garden Committee Tony Kavanagh was delighted and encouraged to see so many old faces.

"I think everyone had a great day out," said Mr Kavanagh. "A good deal of time and effort was put in by a lot of people, but I must pay tribute to Jan Pyner in particular for her hard work and commitment in making the day a huge success."

I WISH to record my thanks for the excellent organisation of the pensioners' garden party.

I was conveyed from and to home, saw a lot of former colleagues, heard the Chief's speech and the band were excellent. Congratulations to the catering staff and all the organisers.

I sat near the entrance so I didn't miss anyone I knew and just as I was about to go home I met a couple of dear friends. They will know who I mean.

What a lovely day.

Archie Rickwood, Southend

● The sentiments of one visitor.

Market Place

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Send to The Editor, The Law, Press Office, Essex Police Headquarters.

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

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Contact Sally Hart on 07786 365973.

CREDA Expression L152G gas cooker. Excellent condition, only a year old. £150. Contact Ronnie Bell on 07766 780280.

HORSE wanted. Young horse, approx 16hh, safe in traffic top box, shoe and clip. No greys. Fully broken and jumped. Guaranteed a good home. Contact Matthew Noone on 07801 929438.

LAKESIDE chalet. Cotswold Water Parks. Exclusive fully equipped, 2 bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, lounge, terrace. Leisure centre on site. From £150 - £250 per week. Contact Stuart Mckie on 01277 232847.

ONE bed flat for rent. Situated in quiet street, Hadleigh. 2 mins from shops. vacant August 2002. Own garden, fully furnished, £400 per month. Contact Guy Judd on 07967 330970.

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 R Cook on 01245 266949 or 01376 573406.

PAPHOS Cyprus. Large two bedroom apartment on small friendly complex. Air conditioning, balcony, pool. Fully furnished to high standard. Contact Alex Kaufman on 01245 601940.

PEARL tiara with central crystal droplet. £20. Contact Sally Hart on 07786 365973.

RETIREMENT property. 'OMAR' park home. Lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, 2 bedrooms, central heating, own garden. Located Crays Hill between Billericay and Wickford. £55,000. Contact 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.

TENERIFE, Playa De Las Americas. Quality timeshare resort available for two weeks Friday 221102 - Friday 061202. Still very much sunbathing weather. Studio

apartment overlooking pool, adjacent to main beach. Easy flights from Stansted and quick taxi trip the other end. Only £450. Contact Mike Klisky on extension 68125, by email or on 01245 362784.

TENERIFE. Two bed, two bath villa, sleeps six in quiet location with ocean view. Communal swimming pool. Car hire arranged if required. From £250 per week. Contact Dave Britton on 01702 201701.

THREE piece suite, Sanderson linen print, including four seat settee 6ft 8ins long, £150. Mahogany oval coffee table £25. Buyer collects. Contact Peter Laurie on 01206 543155.

VW Golf Gti, 80k, P reg May 1997. Sony 10 cd, MOT, tax, mystic blue. Full service history, very good condition, £5,200 ono. Contact Albie Moorhall on 01245 381629 or 07765 883416.

Please note that Market Place is unable to accept any adverts relating to profit-making businesses. Anyone wishing to take out an advert of this nature should contact United Press on 01282 459533.

New group to tackle disorder

REDUCING crime and anti social behaviour is a priority for Witham, which is why a new group has been set up to identify problems and find ways of tackling them.

The multi-agency-tasking group includes key agencies such as the police, the town council, Braintree District Council and the youth service and it will meet once a month to discuss local issues and set tasks for the agencies involved to action.

Chairman of the group Insp Alan Cotgrove, said: "This is an excellent opportunity for all the agencies to work together on real issues that will have an impact on the local community"

The group has just met for the first time and has already set tasks which include assessing the feasibility of community watch on the Templars estate in Witham, enforcing the HGV ban in Witham, and other initiatives aimed at crime reduction and reducing the fear of crime.

Sport and Leisure

Great gym discount

HEALTHCLUB Esporta is very keen to provide a corporate membership for members of Essex Police Sports Association.

It is offering a discounted monthly membership of £47 per individual and £36 per month for accompanying partners.

Depending on the number of personnel taking up the offer the cost may actually come down.

This is a big saving on current membership prices.

For further details contact Drew Brown on 01245 396004 or email drew.brown@esporta.com.

Free fitness

WHAT is free, tones you up, improves your stamina and is good fun?

The answer is circuit training and it's on Mondays at 5pm in the gym at HQ training centre.

So if you are feeling ashamed of your body and want to get back into shape, or just need a good workout, why don't you join in.

It is suitable for all ages and fitness levels as you work at your own pace, but with the help of Simon and Mervyn you'll be amazed at the improvements you can make over the weeks and months and the best bit is that it costs nothing for the class.

Lottery winners

THE July lottery winners are: £1,500 - Sgt Richard Steane, HQ; £750 - Michael Wade, FIR; £375 - Jacqueline Norris, Thurrock and £200 - Sue Cove, HQ.

The following will receive consolation prizes:

Pc Alan Proud, Leigh, Dc Ian Box, Stansted, Pc Neil Young, Benfleet, Pc Mark Cadd, Braintree, Jenny Pealling, HQ, Sgt Tracey Sanders, Harlow, Det Insp Godfrey O'Toole, Clacton, Dc Nick Treadway, Southend, Dc John Walne, Rayleigh and Pc Nicholas Coston, Stansted.

Abseil date has changed

YOU can put it off but not for long. The sponsored abseil event being conducted by the Essex Police rope access team is now taking place on Saturday, September 14.

The event, which takes place at Wellington House, Butt Road, Colchester, had to be postponed due to leave and availability of sponsors.

Money raised on the day will go to the Market Field special needs school in Colchester.

If you want to take part contact Market Field School on 01206 825195.

Broaden your orchestral horizons

THE British Police Symphony Orchestra is on the look out for new players.

If you are a serving or retired police officer or a member of support staff and play an orchestral instrument up to at least grade 6 standard (grade 8

woodwind and brass), they would love to hear from you.

The orchestra was founded in 1989 and since then has performed at venues both at home and abroad, raising tens of thousands of pounds for charity.

They perform a wide repertoire of classical music, from full orchestral symphonies and concertos to the more popular classics.

Further details about the orchestra can be found on their website www.bps.org.uk.

If you are interested in joining the orchestra, particularly if you play the oboe, trumpet or strings and you want to expand your horizons contact the secretary, Pc Alex Roe on 01270 884347 or by email alexbpso@aol.com.

Singing for the rooftop

Essex Police Choir

RAISING the roof was the order of the day for the choir at a concert at St Paul's Church, Bentley Common, Pilgrims Hatch in June to assist in raising funds to repair the church roof and stonework.

The latest concert, the *Rhythm of Life Concert* was performed at the Ipswich Corn Exchange at the invitation of The Suffolk Constabulary Male Voice Choir to join them and Castleton Brass.

The event was compered by Roger Wood of BBC Radio Suffolk and performed in aid of the Rhythm of Life Appeal. Money helps the cardiology department at Ipswich Hospital with specialist equipment to alleviate the

need for patients to travel to Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.

The concert was recorded and we were not allowed to foot tap in case the noise got picked up by the sensitive recording system. A CD will be produced to raise further funds.

An 'afterglow' visit was made to Ipswich Police Station after a very successful concert which raised in excess of £2,000 that evening.

We are continuing to practice every Tuesday evening and are currently

rehearsing new musical numbers for our own concert that will be held on Friday, October 11, 2002 at Christ Church, New London Road, Chelmsford. Tickets are on sale for £6 via our box office on 01245 494811.

Our next concert is on Saturday, September 28, 2002 at St Aidan's Church, Leigh on Sea in aid of Lady McAdden's Appeal. Anyone wanting tickets is asked to contact Norma Heigho on 01702 522360.

Jackie Lee, Essex Police Choir

Thirsty work

COMPETITORS in this year's PAA Marathon Championship were faced with warm bright weather and a tough hilly course, which caused drink stations to run out of water and left many runners in a state of dehydration.

Despite suffering a calf muscle strain at 12 miles Mick Bond bravely continued to finish seventh overall in 2 hours 53 mins and gain first place in the male over 45 category.

Still under the weather from a flu virus Vic Spain came through strongly to finish in 3 hours 11 mins.

The biggest cheer was saved for Laurie Rampling who was competing in his 49th marathon and took his first ever PAA running title when winning the male over 55 award in 4 hours 7 mins.

The remainder of the Essex Police team were all making their debut in a full marathon.

No reason to miss out

GOLFERS now have the opportunity to join an exclusive club designed specifically to cater for emergency services' staff who miss out on special weekend rates.

The 999 Golf Club has been set up by two retired officers and allows enthusiasts to test their skills on the 27-hole Warley Park course.

The club offers low-rate membership fees during the week for all emergency services and hospital personnel, with specially-organised guest days and mid-week competitions.

Club secretary Keith Lennon realised the fun he was missing out when he was a serving officer and would now like to offer those in the job a chance to enjoy the game during the week.

"Alan Herridge and I never really had the opportunity at weekends to indulge in our pleasure because of our jobs," said Mr Lennon. "We decided to set up a club within a club to give mid-week 999 players the same opportunity as seven-day members."

Anyone who would like to join the club or who wants further information is asked to contact Lynne Pykerman on 01277 224891.

Jubilee honour

THE only police officer to carry the Queen's Jubilee Baton during its journey through the UK, was one of Essex' finest.

Chief Insp Tony Payne, from Southend, was nominated by members of Rayleigh and District Round Table, where he has been responsible for community service.

Tony carried the baton through part of Hounslow on Monday, July 15, which was day 40 of its 50-day journey through the four corners of the UK.

The baton had visited 23 Commonwealth countries before returning to the UK on June 6. It contained the Queen's message, which was read out at the opening of the XVII Commonwealth Games in Manchester.



● Walking with pride Chief Insp Tony Payne carries the Queen's Jubilee Baton on a leg of its Commonwealth journey.

Sport
and Leisure

Boundary ball wins the day

STAND-IN captain Dave Bloxham led the Gentlemen of Essex CID to an emphatic five-wicket victory over Audley End last month with a fine all-round display with bat and ball.

Eagleton opened the batting for Audley End, played some first class strokes and edged his way to a well deserved 42 before being bowled around his legs by Bloxham, whose figures of 4-18 represented a consistent spell of bowling.

First class fielding by cat-like Kevin Stiff and

the veteran's veteran Mick Patrick dismissed Marsh and Hill respectively with spectacular catches.

Bob Miller's three wickets for 26 runs wrapped up the Audley End innings at 112 all out. The Gentlemen of Essex response was to have Bob Richards open the batting and reach 19 before being given out lbw.

The wickets of Paul Baker and Mick Collins followed in quick succession and the CID team were looking in a precarious position before

Bloxham and Melton formed a solid partnership to almost reach the required run total.

Skipper Bloxham remained at the crease a 35 not out while Melton playing down the pitch was stumped having contributed 30 very useful runs.

All that remained was for Wardleworth to get out and knock off four runs, which he did by hitting a boundary off just the second ball he faced giving the Gentlemen of Essex a convincing win.

Anglers reel in first place

THE Essex team finished as winners in the recent Eastern Region PAA Freshwater Angling competition held in Suffolk.

Paul Bird was the individual winner with David Crichton-Smith individual runner-up.

De John Stewart has been selected to represent the national PAA bowls section in a match against the British Fire Service and a match against Bedfordshire Bowling Association.

De Iain Fraser has been selected to represent the national PAA fly fishing section in the international championships being held in September after qualifying by winning the Eastern region competition.

True test of stamina

ESSEX duo Vic Spain and Mick Bond helped the PAA achieve the best ever result in the prestigious Welsh Castles Relay, a 20-stage event that covers 210 miles on roads and trails.

The all veterans police team finished fourth overall and were winners by over 10 minutes in the veterans category ahead of Wirrall, winners for the last three years.

Vic Spain made an excellent effort on his PAA debut on leg nine, Foel to Llanfair, a distance of 8.8 miles, which he covered in 51.40 mins.

Mick Bond then took over for the final leg of the first day, and the longest, 13.3 miles, known as the King of the Mountain stage.

Mick Bond completed this strenuous stage, which climbs between 500ft and 1000ft, in 82 minutes.

Tug team pulls off a bronze finish

A LOSS of key players and a day of strong competition didn't stop the Essex Police tug of war team performing beyond expectations in the PAA championships in Devon.

The competition ran in conjunction with the national athletics championships in which Mick Bond and Vic Spain were on the line for the Vets 5000 metres.

Setting off at a swift pace, the field split up quickly, leaving Mick Bond in a favourable second place towards the end of the race.

Disastrously with 300 metres to go Mick pulled up with an damaged Achilles leaving the door open for Vic Spain to bring Essex home in fourth place in a time of 18.31.

After his marathon exploits in May, Colchester officer Derek Walker, was realistically left with only the under 40 men's 5000 metres.

Finding the going hard in fourth place, Derek looked on as the top three runners battled it out for honours at the front.

With a lap to go the opportunity arose to take bronze away from the Met and in making an attack he caught and passed the second and first placed runners on the back straight.

Leading the race into the final

straight he was passed in the last 50 metres by West Midlands, relegating him to silver in a time of 16.47.

Steve King set off quickly for Essex in the 3000 metres walk and was watched carefully by officials who gave him a warning towards the latter stages of the race.

Thankfully Steve kept his cool and finished in bronze position, just ahead of Dennis Sheppard finishing in a time of 16.16 and 16.34 respectively.

Essex field eventers Courtney Cowell, Phil Molloy and Trevor Clark took to the national stage after waiting patiently for most of the afternoon.

Phil and Trevor were up against the big javelin throwers of Devon and Cornwall and Surrey.

Weeks of hard training paid off as both held their own in a tough competition throwing 38.90m and 36.42 metres gaining 5th and 6th place respectively.

Courtney Cowell up against competitors who have represented the UK threw creditable 9.27 metres in the shot putt and he went on to leave his mark in the long jump.

The Essex men's relay team, exhausted and drained by the day's events, fought gallantly to finish the final race, an 800, 400 and 2 by 200 metre relay in a time of 4.19.4.

Meanwhile the Essex Tug of war men, Andy Thorpe, Skelly Lambert, Matt Noone, Richard Wardleworth, Steve Gibbs, Stuart Byrne, Steve Tyrell and John Brewin making up the numbers for the team depleted by injuries finished a creditable third in



Selected for the British Police team were Matt Noone, Paul Fountain, Richard Wardleworth, Skelly Lambert and Steve Tyrell.

the catchweight and 720 kg competitions.

Steve Tyrell and Steve Gibbs both gained silver medals guesting for the Metropolitan Police, and Skelly Lambert gained a gold pulling for Staffordshire in the 680 kilo event, a weight Essex were unable to make.

Matt Noone, Richard Wardleworth, Steve Tyrell, Skelly Lambert and, back from injury, Paul Fountain along with Staffordshire officers recently pulled for the British Police team for

an event against the Combined Services and the Civil Service in Portsmouth.

The police team dominated the event, taking gold for the first time in this competition for four years, winning the 620kg, 640kg, 660kg taking runner-up place in the 680 class.

Anyone wishing to try the sport should contact Skelly Lambert at Dunnings police station on 01371 872208 or by email.

Gearing up for a year of competition

THE re-scheduled date for this year's Croker Cup Championship is Thursday, August 8, 2002 at Gloucester Park, Basildon.

This will run in conjunction with the South East Regional Championship.

All Essex participants' points will count towards their division results and also Essex regional points total. Other fixtures for the year are:

- The PAA National 10 Mile Road Race Championship on September 11, 2002 in Edinburgh.
- The South East Regional Cross-Country

Championships on October 9 in Hampshire, November 14 in Herefordshire, December 11 in Essex, January 9, 2003 in Thames Valley, February 12, 2003 in Bedfordshire and March 13, 2003 in Surrey.

● The PAA National Cross-Country Championships to be hosted by Strathclyde Police on a date to be advised.

Anyone interested in participating in any of the fixtures is asked to contact either Mick Bond at Chelmsford or Derek Walker at Colchester.

Sporting heroes

A RECEPTION for over 30 sports champions was hosted by Constable David Stevens at headquarters last month.

It is the second such event to recognise the achievements of sportsmen and women at county, national and international level.

In praise of their efforts Mr Stevens said: "We punch well above our weight and compete well. I know all achieved by enormous dedication, hard work and training. Well done."



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