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Parents grateful for the honesty and dedication shown by Essex Police

# TRIBUTE FROM THEIR HEARTS

LINDA and Tony Jones this month paid tribute to everyone who worked on Operation Spinnaker following the successful conviction of Stuart Campbell for the abduction and murder of their daughter Danielle.

Speaking to *The Law* from their home in East Tilbury, both parents reflected on the efforts of everyone throughout the force.

"We can't thank Essex Police enough for all the hard work put in by everyone following the disappearance of Danielle," said Linda Jones. "We were aware that both officers and support staff, along with staff from other forces and agencies were working with a passion.

"For many of you we know the job became more than a job and there was a great deal of personal commitment.

"We were kept informed throughout the investigation with an honesty that was both important and helpful to us.

Tony Jones added: "We can't praise you enough, thank you."

Last month's trial at Chelmsford Crown Court, marked the final stages of the biggest-ever investigation undertaken by the force.

by Heather Watts

Operation Spinnaker was launched on June 18, 2001 following the disappearance of 15-year-old Danielle in East Tilbury.

Danielle did not catch the bus to school and, despite a massive search, there has been no trace of the teenager, her clothing, her school bag or her mobile phone.

The search operation was also far in excess of anything the force had undertaken, with Tilbury police station becoming the search operations centre.

There was a great deal of support from the public, particularly within the local community, with over 500 people arriving one Saturday morning to help with a police search.

Although Danielle's body was never found, the investigation team's close working with the Crown Prosecution Service and counsel secured the conviction of Danielle's uncle, Stuart Campbell.

Head of Crime Det Chief Supt Steve Reynolds said: "This investigation has been the largest and most high-profile case ever conducted by Essex Police.

"It has been a real challenge for us and, at times, resources have been stretched to enable us to carry out all aspects of the investigation effectively, while continuing to police the county as normal.

"This has been a real team effort and one, which I suggest, should be a blueprint for future major investigations."



● Linda and Tony still long to know the whereabouts of their daughter's body.

Photo: Andrew Parsons, Press Association

Nearly 1000 Essex Police personnel were engaged at various times on the investigation.

There were 8,336 actions, 1,489 statements and over 24,500 items of unused material.

Senior investigating officer Det Supt Peter Coltman said: "The trial was a significant moment in the investigation but nothing can bring Danielle back to her parents but finding

her body, so that they can grieve properly and conduct a decent and fitting funeral."

Detectives will seek an interview with Stuart Campbell in prison later this month, with a special programme made by the BBC, *Missing Danielle*, due to be screened on January 20, 2003 at 10.35pm.



● An array of weapons available on the open market. Photo: Nick Ansell, Basildon Evening Echo.

## Essex support for national gun amnesty

ASSISTANT Chief Constable Liam Briggingshaw says he is confident gun crime is "under control" in Essex following Home Office figures published earlier this month.

Statistics show that in 2002, a total of 745 incidents involving firearms were recorded, of which 582 involved air weapons, with the majority of these were incidents causing concern rather than thought to be linked in with organised crime.

ACC Briggingshaw said: "We remain confident that Essex is one of the

safest counties in which to live, where incidents of gun crime are very rare in comparison with overall crime."

Following a meeting between chief officers from across the UK and the Home Secretary on January 10, a seven-point plan was announced, including a national firearms amnesty to help remove many weapons from the streets.

● LIAM Briggingshaw took up his post on New Year's Day, saying he was "looking forward" to maintaining the force's position as one of the safest counties in England and Wales.

ACC Briggingshaw said: "One of the key challenges is maintaining that privileged position; I'm confident that we're more than capable of maintaining that high standard.

While acknowledging the crime portfolio as "extremely demanding", ACC Briggingshaw pointed to the force's everyday approach to crime - as well as high-profile cases such as Operation Spinnaker Jones or Jeremy Bamber's conviction appeal - as a good foundation for future success.

# Reforming justice for all

AS we and our members work closely within the Criminal Justice System (CJS), we felt it appropriate to comment on the policy paper *Justice for All*.

Whilst we broadly support the Government's proposals for CJS reform, many of which we have advocated for a number of years, the search for the truth would be better served if some of the reforms were more radical or far-reaching.

We make specific proposals on such issues.

## Evidence disclosure

THE present procedures for pre-trial disclosure are weighted heavily in favour of the defence: whereas the prosecution has to disclose everything, the defence can spring surprises effectively ambushing the prosecution.

The proposed change to remove the restrictions on the jury being invited to draw inference from discrepancies between the defence case pre-trial and at the trial is a move in the right direction, but we would go further.

We call for the full disclosure of pre-trial evidence, under judicial control, by both the defence and the prosecution.

Further, in the Crown Court, witnesses' intended

evidence should be put down in writing in statements to be exchanged, before the trial, between the prosecution and the defence at a time specified by a judge.

If there were then discrepancies between these witness statements and the evidence as given at the trial, the judge should be under a duty to draw this to the jury's attention and, where appropriate, invite them to draw an inference.

Only in the most exceptional circumstances should either side be allowed to introduce a witness whose witness statement had not been exchanged in accordance with the judge's order.

## Federation

### Newsline

by Terry Spelman



## Evidence gathering

**WE accept, of course, the principle that evidence should be properly obtained in accordance with rules.**

**However, if the search for the truth is to be paramount, the determining factor in admissibility should be the enlightening effect which the evidence has on that search, rather than on a detailed scrutiny intended to identify some minor procedural irregularity, thereby preventing the evidence from being put to the court.**

**We would like to see legislative change which would enable all relevant and potentially enlightening evidence to be put before the court for the court to determine its value and admissibility.**

## Victims and witnesses

VICTIMS should be at the centre of the criminal justice system and providing justice to them is its core objective.

The CJS needs to be more sensitive to the trauma experienced by the victims and witnesses of crimes which is aggravated by then having to give evidence in court.

The search for the truth will not be assisted if witnesses are reluctant to come forward.

What is needed is a holistic approach to making the experience of giving evidence in criminal courts less stressful.

In practical terms this involves ensuring that witnesses do not have to attend court unnecessarily, (sometimes for several days), waiting to give evidence often as a ruse by the defence. The witness service needs improving, not only by extending it to magistrates' courts, but by ensuring that it is reliably available at all court locations.

The national strategy for victims and witnesses needs to be delivered promptly and meaningfully.

Witnesses should be less worried about becoming forgetful or confused if witness statements are used in all criminal courts, with separate facilities provided for prosecution witnesses.

We are disappointed, in light of the above survey, at the lack of specific proposals in *Justice for All* for separate facilities for prosecution witnesses.

We welcome the proposals to publish a national strategy document and to appoint a commissioner for victims and witnesses.

Any codes of practice will need to address the difficult issue of the treatment of witnesses under cross-examination.

We recognise that the testing of prosecution evidence is an essential aspect of natural justice for the defendant, but this should not involve discourtesy to witnesses or preventing witnesses from giving a full answer to the questions put to them in cross-examination. We recognise that achieving the right balance will be no easy task.

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## Museum monument



● Charles Clark greets Mr and Mrs Compton on their visit the force museum.

THE Essex Police Museum has taken delivery of a collection belonging to former Chief Constable Sir John Nightingale.

The museum's benefactors were Simon and Sally Compton, the late Sir John's stepson and daughter-in-law.

The centrepiece of the donation was a bronze bust of Sir John, along with numerous photographs and several presentation truncheons.

These included one from Colchester division, presented in 1978 with the inscription: "To the Chief, in affectionate reciprocation for the 'stick' given to us for 20 years."

Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark, curator Sarah Ward and representatives from the Board of Trustees and the Museum Committee accepted the collection.

## Offbeat

A NUMBER of calls reported a llama on the A120 following a collision with a black Range Rover.

Officers attended to find no trace and declared it a false allarma.

□ □ □

Wait for it!

It was the night before Christmas and an officer had gone with colleagues to collect a prisoner from Bellmarsh due for release that day.

Unfortunately it was the right day but they were a year too early.

□ □ □

A 999 call with no speech, only the sounds of a disturbance in the background prompted a follow-up call from the information room operator.

The woman at the other end said in a calm voice.

"There is no need to attend. My husband and I were having an argument about who was the laziest over Christmas."

## Seizing the cash

POLICE will now be able to seize up to £15million more of criminals' cash each year.

The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 enables officers to seize cash anywhere, not just at borders, allowing authorities to specifically search for cash derived from the proceeds of crime.

Only stashes totalling £10,000 or more will be seized.

## Safety initiatives begin to work in Essex

# Road deaths on the slide

**THE number of people killed on the county's roads during 2002 fell sharply.**

The good news gives police and other organisations hope that their initiatives to make Essex a safer place are working.

The 25 per cent drop in the number of road deaths has encouraged road policing officers, with driver improvement schemes, responsible rider initiatives and road safety cameras being hailed as continuing successes.

During 2002, there were 92 people killed of which 21 were motorcyclists. During 2001, there were 123 people killed of which 31 were motorcyclists.

Casualty reduction manager Brian Ladd believes last year's figures are in line with those anticipated at the beginning of the annual

By Nishan Wijeratne

campaign and therefore a fair reflection.

"It was an horrendous period for us and many families in 2001 with an extraordinarily high number of people killed on our roads," said Mr Ladd. "These figures are certainly encouraging and hopefully our road safety messages are hitting home with motorists."

"Although the number of people killed has been reduced considerably, too many people were again unnecessarily killed. Too many families' lives have been ruined."

Throughout the year, Essex Police, Essex County Council, Thurrock Council and Southend Borough Council have worked together on a host of proactive initiatives designed to reduce the number of casualties on the roads, with the results now beginning to show through.

There were 85 collisions around the county, which

resulted in the 92 deaths, with 35 drivers, 16 passengers, 13 pedestrians and 7 cyclists killed.

Essex County Council's safety camera liaison officer Kelly Fairweather said: "Speed is a major cause of crashes, whether as a result of loss of control on major roads or a failure to stop in time in built-up areas."

"The Essex Safety Camera Partnership has worked tirelessly this year to ensure that the safety cameras played an important role to help address this life-threatening problem and the new statistics prove that they certainly appear to be certainly playing their part."

In addition, a 24.8 per cent decrease was experienced in the number of fatal collisions with 85 accounting for the 92 people killed this year as opposed to the 113 which killed 123 in 2001.

The total number of injury-related collisions in 2001 was 6,709, with 1,052 classed as serious. The comparative figure for 2002 stood at 6,074 collisions, with 1,015 leaving with a serious injury.

# Appearances really can be deceptive

A RATHER unusual presentation to high street traders has resulted in a man being convicted for burglary.

Asked to do a talk on security, Epping crime reduction officer Tony Ellis began telling his audience that many a police case was lost because witnesses get so caught up in the event they fail to notice those crucial identifying factors which might solve the crime.

Halfway through his talk a man burst through the door, angrily accused Tony of speaking to his wife about him behind his back and then left leaving the audience aghast.

A questionnaire was then circulated to the unsuspecting audience and then the penny dropped.

The man who had burst in the room was local sergeant Sean O'Callaghan - it was a deliberate test to see how much the traders would recall.

Needless to say the answers to the questionnaire in terms of Sean's description, words, behaviour, and so on, were rather sketchy and Tony's point had been made.

Just a few days later one of the shopkeepers was at the back of his premises

when he saw a man acting suspiciously at a house on the other side of the road.

Remembering what he had learned at the meeting he grabbed his phone, followed the suspect and began phoning details through to the police whilst making notes of the man's actions.

At one point the suspect actually turned around and punched the shopkeeper but, undeterred, he continued his police commentary until officers arrived and detained the man in possession of £4,500 worth of jewellery stolen from the house.

Tony Ellis said: "The presentation was slightly unorthodox but it clearly proved a point and the group's chairman even wrote a thank you letter."

"Whilst we would never encourage members of the public to place themselves in a position of danger or vulnerability, this particular shopkeeper did a tremendous job and demonstrated just how a partnership with the community can help to solve crime."

Unemployed Matteo Basile, 42, pleaded guilty to burglary and is currently awaiting sentence.

## A guard of honour for a dedicated officer



● Colleagues from both Essex and the City of London Police stand together.

HUNDREDS of mourners packed into Chelmsford Cathedral on a bitterly cold and wet day in memory of Darren Pike, a young officer tragically killed in a road crash.

Darren, 30, had not long transferred to City of London from Essex Police when the accident happened.

He was in Cambridgeshire, in the final week of a standard police motorcycle course when he collided with a car and suffered critical injuries. Six days later, on December 3, he lost his fight for life.

A former police cadet, Darren had served as an officer for 11 years, was highly experienced and had received two commendations.

In Essex his duties included the role of a firearms officer on the force support unit.

Off duty, he was a talented sportsman playing football to a high standard for his local team, as well as cricket, golf, and fishing.

As well as being a popular officer he was a devoted father to his daughter Hannah and close to his father Ron, mother Corinne and brother Dean.

Darren's funeral cortege was honoured with a motorcycle escort and the attendance of the City of London mounted section.

The moving service began with the sounds of Robbie Williams' *Feel* and came to a close with Lionel Ritchie's *Goodbye*.

Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark, who read the eulogy said: "This was a tragic death of a 30-year-old man in the prime of life and a first class police officer."

"Darren was full of life and full of fun, with enough energy and enthusiasm for ten ordinary people. When Darren was acting sergeant, I always thought when I saw him with his stripes how good it was to see an officer with such enthusiasm leading the way, and that the force was in good hands."

"We are all richer for having known him and will miss him dearly."

## Averting job culture

WIDER-reaching and swifter justice to those behaving unsociably are now in force under the Police Reform Act, with courts able to impose anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) more rapidly.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 allowed for the introduction of ASBOs which were designed to protect communities by prohibiting offenders from committing certain anti-social acts or entering specified areas.

It is intended that the new changes will prevent such behaviour from escalating in other areas.

Home Office minister John Denham said: "Anti-social behaviour impacts adversely on many people's lives and so we intend to redress the balance to ensure that people of all ages are aware of their responsibility."

Landlords and British Transport Police will also be able to apply for ASBOs to protect the public from loutish, intimidating behaviour and low-level offending.

# Law letters

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

## It's a dog's life...and I'll miss it

IT IS with great trepidation that I have been forced to say a fond farewell to many colleagues and friends, particularly within the dog unit.

I'm sad to leave the excitement of my previous work ethic and the lost opportunity of fulfilling my aspirations of becoming a dog instructor.

A medical condition has curtailed my career and I will now reflect on life as I move back 'up north' with fond memories.

I would like to take this chance to thank you all for your wonderful support and help.

Although by moving away, I will lessen the likelihood of meeting old acquaintances, I promise I will not forget the happiness afforded to me. I may even have time to train another dog up to regional standard.

Kim Jarvis  
ex-Chigwell Dog Unit

## Le Polacc

FORMER members of the Southend borough police will recall that the town was once twinned with Calais.

Among the activities, included various exchanges, including patrols with French officers.

Off duty, saw us attending the wedding of one of the French officer's daughters.

The following day we had to drive around the town in police vehicles and an amazing thing happened in that, at one of the cross-roads in the area of the market, our two vehicles collided.

Of all the traffic on the road, it had to be ours that was involved. Luckily, there was little damage and nobody was hurt and we returned home tired and happy.

Phil Pewsey  
Southend

## A scientific perspective

I FEEL compelled to write in response to *Stress is for wimps* (November Law).

For a person such as Mr Duffy, who served in scenes of crime for a number of years, it surprises me that he has obviously failed to investigate the medical causes of stress prior to jumping on his soapbox and then insulting his ex-colleagues.

Stress is a medical condition that falls within the scope of mental illness and is due to a chemical imbalance of Serotonin in the brain.

Stress is not only caused by pressures of work but, as in my own case, by extreme fatigue due to night-shift working.

As a result of inadequate sleep over a period of ten years, I was medically retired from the force. Some three years later I am still

prescribed Prozac for this condition.

Mr Duffy's observations regarding "jumping on the gravy boat" are totally unfounded and insulting to myself and other officers who, through no fault of their own, have been medically retired due to stress.

If Mr Duffy, who apparently served for so long in scenes of crime (not frontline, full shift uniform working) doesn't accept that stress exists, then I can only surmise that he felt the need to leave Essex and move to a small village in North Yorkshire to get away from the stresses of the south.

Or is it because he feels safe by insulting people from a long distance away?

Mr MP Umfreville (retired)  
Castle Hedingham

## Understanding the issues behind stress

I THINK my good friend Alan White would be very disappointed if I did not make some contribution to the latest controversial argument.

The language chosen by Mr Duffy (November Law) was very unfortunate - it was over the top; which is a pity because this could probably have led to a more interesting debate on the subject.

Sadly, those who responded were so angry that it probably has not helped Mr Duffy to come

to any understanding as to why things are so different in today's service than they were in his day.

I can only comment on the period from the early 60s to the mid-90s.

I do have some sympathy for Mr Duffy because what he is trying to say is that the word 'stress' in relation to work did not exist during his period of service.

During Mr Duffy's era, it would not have been very advantageous to the career prospects of any officer to admit to feeling any kind of pressure

from the day to day situations.

Most certainly during one's probationary period, this would probably have led to being placed under a fairly severe microscopic examination and it would have been most unlikely that a confirmation of appointment would have followed.

I would admit that, as a 19-year-old walking around the beat, there were many times when I felt frightened.

I would never have dared to admit to being

## The truth is out there

PERSONALLY, I found Mr Duffy's letter (November Law) most offensive, as I am one who retired, albeit with an injury, but with stress caused by that injury.

If he thinks that once retired, the stress just goes away, let me just put the record straight.

Having retired in 1992, I tried to piece my life together in order to become a useful citizen, not to go talking about things I knew little or nothing about.

As a scenes of crime officer, I am surprised that Mr Duffy could really compare himself to those officers who mixed with the real people.

As I remember, SOCOs worked 9 to 5 and only came out in the dark on rare occurrences. They may have seen some grim sights, but who nicked the criminals?

May I suggest that if Mr Duffy is up to it, he might like to go and see some of his ex-colleagues who suffered the indignity of having to retire due to ill health.

I shared his opinion in my younger days but having grown up and seen some of my counterparts suffer with stress, I have the utmost sympathy with them.

If you break an arm or a leg, people can see the actual injury; if you suffer mentally no one sees it but the individual feels it.

I think ex-Ds Duffy should not contemplate to talk of stress, and as for the gravy train, most of us worked for our pension and were justly entitled to it.

Mr ME Pennock  
Frinton

## A grand assist

I WOULD like to thank the federation for its support and help on the issue of the competence-related threshold payment.

I particularly liked the lead the federation took in helping us to apply for this, after all they did negotiate with the Government for it some months ago.

An extra £1,000 per year is quite important to me and I'm sure many other officers who qualify, bearing in mind the Government's announcement on cutting bureaucracy, particularly enjoyed the eight hours trying to fill in the form.

I would also sincerely like to thank Chief Insp Currell who took the time to inform our division this had to be done quickly - at least someone informed us.

On a more serious note, I would also like to pass on the concerns of my colleagues who don't qualify - they feel a little bit undervalued as I and some of my colleagues suddenly qualify for an extra £1,000 per year and they don't.

I and many like me were described as 'chat room charlies', but results are what you are judged by and most of the concerns we had before this was all agreed have still not been sorted out...why?

I would also like to ask if the top-pay threshold, which was dropping from 14 to 10 years, still applies? Is it still happening? If so when? How will that effect officers who would qualify? Why are there so many questions still unanswered?

Andy Marbrow  
Leigh CID

### ● Support for those suffering in silence - see page 11

## Where my remarks were directed

MAY I say straight away that my remarks (November Law) were aimed at public servants, including members of the armed forces, fireman or policemen - yes even policemen - who are clambering on to the gravy train with phantom, manufactured or exaggerated stress.

There are many individuals who have one purpose in mind - to leave their jobs and travel to 'compensation junction' as quickly and profitably as possible.

To those who are suffering from genuine stress-related illnesses, I wish them peace of mind and a speedy recovery.

I did not use the words *Stress is for Wimps* in my original letter. They

were added by the editor - wrongly, I believe.

One person remarked that it was galling to read that I took the gravy train to Yorkshire. Yes Sir, I have, but only after I took the train back to my home town of Dublin I left 60 years ago on my 18th birthday to volunteer for HM Forces.

Another correspondent foolishly suggests that I would like to see those people suffering from stress taken out and shot 'like they did in the good old days'. Actually, in my good old days in the Royal Air Force, if a person reported sick with stress, that person was classed as lacking moral fibre.

He was immediately demoted, reduced to the ranks and posted

away from the squadron where he was assigned to less arduous and dangerous work.

Not only was he thought unfit for flying duties but more importantly, he was considered a danger to other people and himself.

Recently, on the national TV news, a police officer was seen pummelling a prisoner. The officer was convicted and quite rightly given a prison sentence.

Apparently, he was suffering from stress. I make no further comment.

Ex-Ds Vincent Duffy  
Stokesley  
North Yorkshire

### ● Following a healthy exchange of views, correspondence on this issue is now closed.

# Concern over policing cash

THE chairman of Essex Police Authority says he is "very unhappy" with funds allocated to the force by the Home Office for 2003/4, with the force receiving a basic grant of £155.8m.

Although the figure is an increase of three per cent on the previous year, it compares with a national average increase of 4.3 per cent.

The grant represents three-quarters of police funding, with the remainder having to be raised through the council tax.

The budget was due to be considered by the authority's resource and finance committee this month, before going to the full budget meeting on February 10.

In addition to the grant, Essex will receive £2.33m start-up costs for the Airwave

project and a renewed rural policing grant of £500,000.

Speaking ahead of January's meeting, chairman Robert Chambers warned of a council tax rise for policing of between 20 and 25 per cent - around 40p per week.

"I am very unhappy with the allocation to Essex. If fighting crime is a Government priority, it should be diverting more money into shire counties."

Assistant Chief Officer Philip Onions said the force was being disadvantaged by changes to funding.

"While the Home Office states that the new police pay and conditions package is fully provided for in the settlement, initial analysis of the figures shows a shortfall in Government funding which erodes the three per cent increase.

# Beware, don't be a victim

A NEW year resolution to make 2003 unhappy for bogus callers has begun, with a special operation which targets burglars who pose as utility workers and use other ploys to talk their way into people's homes.

The countywide initiative - Operation Grizzlybear - is also targeting those who offer their services for work and present the householder with a hugely-inflated charge.

Bogus caller thefts - known as artifice burglaries because of the guile used by the criminal - have increased dramatically in recent years, but, following special police attention last year, the upward trend was reversed.

During 1998 there were 98 such crimes in Essex, peaking

at 527 during 2001, but during 2002 falling back to 360.

Scenes of crime officers will give priority to attending bogus caller crime locations to seek clues and obtain samples.

All such burglaries will be attended by a designated investigator and a dog unit and the force helicopter will be called in when appropriate.

House-to-house inquiries will be conducted to ascertain if neighbours have knowledge of the bogus caller.

Information about the offence, such as the description of the burglar and the method used, will be fed into an Operation Grizzlybear intelligence database, which will be accessible forcewide.

Police will also be paying special attention to the

movements of people suspected of being involved in artifice burglaries.

Distribution of advisory leaflets to elderly people across the county and crime prevention displays in supermarkets will also be features of the operation.

Assistant director of intelligence DCI Bob Seals said: "Bogus callers are callous criminals who bring misery to innocent people and we are determined to take them out of circulation."

Police will also respond to calls from people who have been presented with highly-inflated bills for work carried out at their home.

These complaints will result in liaison with Essex Trading Standards.

# Rave right off!

Police will attempt to make Essex a "no-go area" for unlicensed raves as concerns grow about safety and drugs misuse at such events.

The force will make its position clear in a firm new strategy which will make "every reasonable effort" to prevent unlawful raves taking place in the county, including advising organisers against going ahead and moving in to close down those unlicensed raves in progress.

It will set out to prosecute if criminal offences are uncovered and will work in partnership with local authorities and other agencies to ensure public safety.

This includes seeking a prosecution by the local authority if a rave organiser holds an event without applying for the necessary public entertainment licence.

Head of Mobile Support Division Chief Supt Ian Brown said: "Anyone who feels the police are being killjoys should think again."

"It adds insult to injury when promoters believe they have a right to invade other people's property without any consent being sought to make money from these events."

In May, a man from Basildon who held a pay dance attended by around 300 people in his own outbuilding was jailed for three months and ordered to pay £2,500 costs for not obtaining a liquor licence or a public entertainment licence.

# Killer's conviction appeal quashed

**SERIAL killer Jeremy Bamber lost his bid for freedom following a ruling by three senior appeal judges.**

The five-times murderer, now aged 41, was imprisoned for life in 1986 for killing his adoptive parents June and Nevill Bamber, his adoptive sister Sheila Caffell and her twin sons Daniel and Nicholas.

After several attempts to get his conviction overturned and two independent reviews, the Criminal Cases Review Commission referred the case to the court of appeal and the Metropolitan Police were asked by Essex Police to carry out an independent

by Kim Perks

investigation, acting as the respondent throughout the appeal hearing.

There were 16 grounds in total, with most relating to disclosure and an alleged failure by the police and the prosecution to disclose items essential to the defence team's original case.

Two of the grounds, and the most crucial to the appeal, were scientific and related to DNA and blood found in the gun's silencer. The final ground was an over-arching allegation of police misconduct suggesting that the actions of investigating officers had tainted the prosecution case and rendered the convictions unsafe.

However, Lord Justice Kay, Mr Justice Wright and Mr Justice

Henriques found in favour of the respondent on all 16 points stating "the more we examined the detail of the case the more likely we thought it to be that the jury were right".

No new scientific evidence was presented by the appellant which could have "had any significant impact upon the jury".

The judgement also completely vindicated Essex Police of any impropriety acknowledging that even Bamber's own barrister, Michael Turner, whose opening address had suggested "widespread conspiracy", had abandoned this theory and fallen silent of such allegations during his closing remarks.

The judges said: "Nothing has emerged to cause us to believe that there was any improper conduct by investigating officers that threatened the integrity of the trial process."

Det Supt Win Bernard was a member of the second investigation team in 1985 and the liaison officer for the latest independent investigation.

He said: "In 1986, upon Bamber's conviction, Judge Justice Drake said 'Essex Police [initially] believed this to be a suicide and four murders because the defendant led them to believe so'.

"In 1992, the Police Complaints Authority at the conclusion of their review said: 'Once Essex Police realised they were dealing with a quintuple murder they performed a thorough and professional investigation'.

"We have always known that the verdict in 1986 was correct and never doubted the integrity of all those officers involved, both points verbally supported by the appeal judges.

"The original enquiry has yet again been tested and passed that test under contemporary legislation and guidelines 17 years later. Justice and the public owes a debt of gratitude to all those involved in the original investigation, the subsequent reviews and the latest enquiry led by the Metropolitan Police."

## The WAY ahead for grieving victims?

**FAMILY liaison officers who are notifying next of kin that their loved one has died suddenly may wish to know how they can offer additional help to the bereaved person.**

The WAY Foundation is a self-help social and support network for people aged under 50, who have been widowed, and their children.

The main aim is to help those who have been widowed young to rebuild their lives by helping one another.

Caroline Allan, who was widowed when she was expecting her second child after her husband Ian was murdered, paid tribute to the WAY Foundation when she gave media interviews following the conviction of the man responsible for Ian's death.

Any officers who are interested in finding out more about the WAY Foundation can contact the organisation direct on 0870 011 3450 or visit their website [www.wayfoundation.org.uk](http://www.wayfoundation.org.uk).

## A Pitsea revamp is granted

BASILDON division is celebrating a Christmas windfall of almost £300,000 from the Government, with the money going towards improving Pitsea police station.

The grant of £290,500 has been made from the Government's Premises Improvement Fund, with Essex one of 41 forces sharing a £20 million investment.

Divisional Commander Chief Supt Peter Sheldrake said: "We're delighted at this investment in policing which

will enable us to demonstrate our commitment to Pitsea."

Police strength is to increase from 26 to 45 as a result of decentralisation.

There will be improvements to the station in the form of extensions and refurbishment, providing better working conditions. IT facilities will also be upgraded.

The total cost of the project is £581,000, half of which is being provided by the Government grant.

Work is scheduled for completion by March 2004.

# IN AND OUT OF THE MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

## JANUARY

THE new year brought Home Office proposals on police reform - the advent of dramatic changes to the service aimed at standardising forces and targeting priority-policing areas.

Chief Constable David Stevens gave the white paper a cautious welcome, expressing concern about how it would affect pay and conditions.

Pc Gary Veal of Stanway road policing unit was killed on the A12 at Colchester as he tried to protect drivers from a broken down vehicle.

Gary's shift Sgt Chris Tyler said it was "typical of him" that his final moments were spent ensuring the safety of others.

Baton guns became part of the force's armoury, and saw action straight away during an armed surveillance operation in Southend.



● Pc Gary Veal

## FEBRUARY

OPERATION Invicta finally came to a conclusion when nine Afghans were sentenced at the Old Bailey for their part in the longest ever aircraft siege at Stansted Airport in 2001.

The men received a total of 27 years and three months in prison for the 75-hour siege, the fourth in 25 years in Essex.

Senior investigating officer Det Supt Kevin Macey praised

all staff involved in bringing the operation to a successful resolution.

Supt Steve Golding became the new head of the force's information room, moving on promotion from mobile support division.

## MARCH

LIFE was made even easier for the county's motorists when all road safety cameras were painted yellow to help make

them visible to those who complained of being unable to see them.

Officers rejected Home Secretary David Blunkett's pay proposals which would see salaries rise by £400, but overtime rates reduced.

Essex officers joined colleagues in central London to protest at the plans.

Operation Relentless hit the streets, with the major offensive against car crime detecting 516 offences in the first four days alone.

## APRIL

THE arrival of spring brought changes to crime recording, with the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS).

Described as a "victim-focused approach", NCRS would see crime figures rocket as all reports of incidents from victims, witnesses or third parties thought more likely to have occurred than not, would be recorded.

Essex received £1.2m of Home Office cash to go towards a new helicopter, which should be in place by this summer.

On the roads, the force's Responsible Rider campaign was helping to cut motorcycle casualties, with the end-of-year figures showing a dramatic decrease from 2001.

## MAY

The beginning of the bank holiday season saw Essex named as the fourth safest county in which to live, according to residents who participated in the British Crime Survey.

The survey, which asked respondents to rate their fear of crime, showed that only one in seven people feared physical attack, compared to a national average of one in five.

Assistant Chief Constable John Broughton said the results were "very heartening" but would not allow the force to become complacent.

Mobile support division celebrated the sentencing of a German lorry driver to five year's imprisonment after he

Last year was a dramatic year for policing - and not least here in Essex. The force took on and accomplished more than ever before, tackling new approaches to policing while dealing with some of the most high-profile investigations in the county's history. BEN PENNINGTON looks back at some of the events during 2002.



● The press launch of the decoy car with Stuart Creasey from the force's television unit taking on the role of a car thief.

Photo: Peter Lawson, East News.

fell asleep at the wheel of his lorry, killing four people on the M11.

Road policing officers were commended by the crown court judge for their investigation which found evidence to suggest that Egon Boerner had worked and driven in excess of 43 hours without sleep or rest.

## JUNE

AT the half-way mark, Essex led the way in combating car crime with the launch of an innovative new weapon against car crime, using decoy cars to catch thieves in the act.

The scheme was launched in Harlow, and means thieves will have no idea whether the vehicle they are stealing is a decoy or not.

The force declared a clamp down on unlicensed raves, amid concern for the safety of revellers.

June also saw the beginnings of an unusual trend in Essex, with the discovery of a burned body near Galleywood.

Two more murder victims would be found in unlinked but similar circumstances by the end of the year.

Stanway major investigation team watched a 23-year-old from Suffolk sentenced to nine year's imprisonment for the rape of a female pensioner in Colchester earlier in the year.

The five-month investigation was a good example of

how the force worked with the local community after local residents came forward with information which led to the initial arrest of Matthew Fitzpatrick.



● Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers.

## JULY

THE onset of summer welcomed Robert Chambers as the new chairman of Essex Police Authority, taking over from Anthony Peel who had been in the hot seat for six years.

Ds Geordie Tyson travelled to America after winning a five-month scholarship through the Fullbright Fellowship.

DS Tyson became the first Essex officer to win the award, and chose an attachment to the America University in Washington to work alongside medical examiners and homicide departments in comparing US and UK responses to medical-related deaths.

The force cricket team qualified for the semi-finals of the National PAA event for the first time after beating West Midlands.

The mobile road safety camera sites were publicised



● Two adults and two children died after a driver ignored the need for sleep.

Photo: Essex Police Air Support Unit



● The year's most saddening event as Essex Police is asked by Cambridgeshire Constabulary to assist with their search for Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman.

Photo: Andrew Parsons, Press Association.

HQ's community safety was amalgamated into crime division after six successful years in its own right establishing working practices around the Crime and Disorder Act.

## OCTOBER

AUTUMN brought the first community support officers (CSOs) to Essex funded by a £118,000 grant from the Home Office.

Ten CSOs were recruited, with all going to Harlow as part of the pilot trial.

Former Chief Constable Sir John Nightingale died at the age of 89.

He served with the force from 1958 to 1978, overseeing the amalgamation of the Southend Borough force and introducing degree courses for promising officers.

ACC Joe Edwards left the force after three years to take up the post of deputy chief constable at Sussex Police.

Market trader Kemal Hassan, who was fined £1,000 and banned for 12 months in June for his part in the road death of Pc Rod Daniels, was caught driving a van in Clacton and jailed for four months.

Detectives at Brentwood's major investigation team were in crown court to witness Richard Chapman sentenced to life imprisonment for murdering his wife Tina nine months earlier.

The 39-year-old man from Basildon had strangled his wife so he could start a new life with his 16-year-old lover.

## NOVEMBER

Bonfires were lit as nine forces in the southeast - including Essex - joined forces to plead for higher pay for officers, requesting a review of the difference between London allowances and those in the Home Counties.

Detectives from Rayleigh's major investigation team became the first in the UK to successfully use a new test linking the smell of smoke on a suspect's clothing to that at the crime scene.

Ian Jarvis was found guilty at Chelmsford Crown Court of murdering his future sister-in-law Ann-Marie Coulridge at her home in Canvey Island the previous year.

The 28-year-old, who was convicted as a result of chromatography-mass spectrometry, was sentenced to life imprisonment.

The force information room was closed for two weeks for a revamp, and the ladies' hockey teams capped a memorable season when they were voted BBC Essex's Sports Team Achievers.

The ladies won the national police hockey championship, which the Metropolitan Police and West Midlands had held between them for the last ten years.



● Stuart Campbell.

## DECEMBER

LAST month brought the conclusion of two of the force's biggest ever cases.

Jeremy Bamber, jailed after killing five members of his family at White House Farm in Tolleshunt D'Arcy in 1986, has been granted leave to appeal by the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

However, after hearing the grounds for appeal from Bamber's counsel, three Appeal Court Judges rejected all 16 grounds, upholding the jury's original verdict and vindicating the actions of Essex Police.



● Danielle Jones.



● Hockey ladies Kay Blackman Toni Brockwell Di Taylor pick up their team award at the BBC Essex Sports Achievers dinner at Chelmsford in November.

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## Jolting the joyriding journey

NUISANCE drivers using local streets, wasteland and footpaths as racetracks now face having their vehicles seized on the spot.

The Police Reform Act 2002 allows officers to seize vehicles driven carelessly and inconsiderately in a manner that causes alarm, annoyance or distress.

The new powers will support those introduced last year which give community safety officers powers to remove broken down, illegally parked or abandoned vehicles.

Road policing Inspector Steve Brewer believes the new measures will support the existing initiatives already in place across the county.

"Those motorists who drive in a reckless or dangerous manner should be aware that we will do everything to ensure that fewer people are killed and seriously injured on our roads," said Insp Brewer. "In addition, we are mindful that housing estate areas are used as racetracks and, again, we have been successfully targeting and reducing this nuisance crime wherever and whenever it has occurred in Essex."

The owner of the vehicle will have to pay nearly £400 to retrieve it, unless it is proved that it has been taken without prior consent.

# Drink-drive menace continues in Essex

**A LARGE number of motorists continued to flout the law and put other road users' lives at risk during the festive period as 3.4 per cent of motorists stopped during Christmas were found to be over the limit.**

The force teamed up with First Great Eastern at the beginning of December to help launch the annual Christmas campaign to help drive home the dangers

associated with drink-driving, including the effects of morning-after levels.

A total of 6,591 tests were carried out, with 225 drivers providing positive breath specimens and another 25 refusing or failing to provide a specimen.

Road Policing Operations Manager Chief Inspector Tom Diment is determined to rid Essex of dangerous motorists.

"This set of figures, in comparison to last year's, show a very slight decrease in the number of drink-drivers

here in Essex," said Chief Insp Diment. "It's extremely disconcerting that, despite numerous publicity campaigns, drivers still consciously choose to put themselves and other members of society at risk.

A further 32 motorists were arrested on suspicion of driving whilst under the influence of drugs.

Chief Insp Diment added: "One motorist who was involved in a road crash on New Year's Day blew three times over the legal limit.

"I'm grateful for the contribution and efforts of the officers in detecting and dealing with offending drivers. We will continue to be proactive in this area of enforcement and ensure that drivers who wish to take the chance are caught."

In 2001, a total of 7,147 tests were carried out, with 265 drivers providing positive breath specimens; a hit rate of 3.7 per cent. A further 11 refused or failed to provide a specimen.

## Reducing retail crime

POLICE and businesses have joined forces to launch Billericay Retail Watch to crack down on crime in the town.

Billericay town centre is the latest to join the countywide initiative - Essex Retail Against Crime.

The Billericay scheme enables police and retailers to link together under an agreement to disclose photographs of convicted criminals known to frequent the area. The offenders must be aged 18 to 65 and have been convicted at least twice within the last three years.

Billericay Community Liaison Officer Pc Julie Dawes said: "This will play a significant role in the prevention and detection of crime in the Billericay area, making shopkeepers more aware of those responsible.

"The better informed shopkeepers are about crime prevention, then the better and more reassured the community can feel about our joint efforts to crack down on crime.

"If this can save one shop from being a victim of retail crime then it is well worth it."

So far 20 stores in the town have signed up to the scheme, an integral part of the Basildon district plan's crime reduction strategy for the next three years.

## Fining the festive frolics

**OFFICERS were encouraged to issue Penalty Notices for Disorder (PND) to reduce unruly behaviour on the county's streets over the Christmas period, a time which traditionally brings anti-social behaviour as high spirits and increased drinking lead to a variety of minor offences.**

The pilot of PNDs, which began in August, now gives officers another tool with which to combat such activity, with the power to hand out on the spot fines for £40 and £80.

By the end of November, nearly 300 tickets had been issued in Essex, which is one of four forces piloting the scheme for the Home Office.

Project manager Chief Insp Carl O'Malley said: "The holiday season tends to see an increase in unruly behaviour, generally fuelled by more frequent and heavier alcohol consumption. It was no different last month."

"By using PNDs our officers spent less time dealing with public order offences, freeing them up to patrol the streets during this busy time of the year."

Of those tickets, 39 per cent were issued for drunk and disorderly and a further seven per cent were handed out to people found drunk in a public place.

Only three people issued with a PND have so far requested a court appearance rather than pay the fine, freeing up police and court time.

## Speaking about spiking

CHELMSFORD's County Hotel was the venue for a mock court case in which an actress gave the evidence of a young woman who was the victim of a sex attack after a drink-spiking incident.

The community safety-led initiative was aimed at raising awareness of the dangers of consuming a spiked drink, targeted at the licensing trade and local authority members.

Speakers included officers from the Metropolitan Police's Sapphire team and the Jill Dando Institute.

The event was supported by a poster campaign and a scheme to encourage licensees to place spike bookmarks on unattended drinks.

● SUPPORT from all major clubs and pubs in Chelmsford town centre to reinforce the anti-drink spiking message has been received by police in the town.

Bar staff at pubs and clubs are wearing T-shirts with the logo 'Watch out, Spike may be about'.

They are also trained to look out for potential problems and if a drink is left unattended then they will clip a warning to the glass that reads: 'Don't give Spike the chance! Look after your drink'.

Divisional Commander Chief Supt Julia Jeapes said: "Drink spiking is not a major problem in this area but we

are always keen to raise awareness and to make Chelmsford a safe place for people to enjoy their leisure time."

Spike the hedgehog will feature largely around the county after the recent presentation of a banner to Community Safety Sergeant Nigel Dermott.

The banner made by PEP and funded by Thurrock sports council was presented at Thurrock civic offices.

Approximately six-foot by four, the banner, which fits on a stand, will feature prominently at clubs, pubs and other venues to promote the anti-drink spiking message.

## A life sentence for what?

MOBILE phone thieves risk being sentenced to life imprisonment for stealing something that is technically worthless following action which will disable handsets within hours.

A shared database has been set up by the mobile phone industry as a result of a joint initiative between the police and the Government.

Criminals who use force to take a mobile phone face a charge of robbery, which carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and those convicted of theft face the prospect of seven years behind bars.

Sgt Dave Northcott said: "Anyone who has their mobile stolen should contact their service-provider immediately.

"The network operator can identify the IMEI number (International Mobile Equipment Identity) for the handset and arrange for it to be blocked on their own, and all other, networks.

"Blocking the IMEI number means that even if the SIM card is swapped the phone will still be useless."

The force has been promoting property-marking with ultra-violet pens particularly amongst school pupils.

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**TWO-SEATER** settee, yellow, washable covers, 84" in length. Very good condition. Contact Sally Hart on 07786 363973.

# Returning back to the fold

## Names in the news

**BASILDON and Thurrock coroner's officer Pc Phil Sitch retired as an officer on January 5 - and promptly returned to his role on January 6 in a support staff capacity.**

Phil started as a cadet in 1969 at the newly-formed cadet school, before joining the force in May 1972.

He was stationed at Tilbury, Clacton, Harwich, the force information room, Ardleigh and Billericay before being appointed coroner's officer in 1991.

Phil, who fondly recalls meeting Princess Anne at the opening of the training centre, is currently combining his hobbies of photography and DIY in building photographic studio at his home in Chelmsford.

Pc **Keith Simpson** left the force in December to concentrate on more leisurely outdoor activities than his previous role as a dog handler.

Keith, 55, began his career at Chelmsford before moving to Harlow, then returning to Sandon Dog Unit where he remained apart from an attachment to Special Branch.

Keith, who lives in South Woodham Ferrers, said: "One of the highlights was when my dog, Taz, recovered a haul of property stolen in a burglary from an elderly woman's home. Seeing her reaction was one of the job's big rewards."

Keith spent 10 years at sea before joining, and hopes to spend his retirement sailing, hillwalking and fishing. In March he will travel to China.

Pc **David Grimshaw** retired at the start of this month, aged 49. David, of Colchester, completed his 30 years on January 10.

Dave was the family liaison officer for a Colchester couple who lost their son following a road crash on the A12.

### The Comrades' Association AGM

THE annual general meeting of the Comrades' Association will be held in the federation offices at headquarters on Wednesday, February 12 at 11:00am.

All members are welcome to attend, with membership open not only to all retired officers but also to serving officers with 10 or more years' service.

The annual subscription is only £1 and the association would particularly an increase in the number of serving officers.

For further information, contact Sue Kelly or Lucy Wheddon at headquarters on extension 54501/2.

Operation Walker is the largest-ever road death investigation carried out by Essex Police. After commencing in 1999, the trial is still currently proceeding through crown court.

Dave ended his career at Stanway Road Policing Unit.

Chief Insp **Peter Hamilton** left the force in December after 30 years. Peter, of Southend, was crime manager at Rayleigh upon his retirement.

Pc **Paul Daly** left the force in January following nearly 13 years' service. An Upminster resident, Paul was serving at Basildon division before his retirement.

**Donald Hylton**, a constable at Thurrock, retired in December. Donald, of Stanford-le-Hope, retired with 27 years' service under his belt.

**Tom Tompkins** retired from the force in December after more than 14 years. Tom, of Dedham, was serving at Stanway RPU at the time of his retirement.

Pc **Paul Last** ended his days with the force in December after nearly 17 years. Paul, 42, of Haverhill in Suffolk, was serving at Stansted Airport.

Dc **Tracy Howard** has left the force after 14 years which culminated in a posting to Rayleigh Child Protection Unit. Tracy, who is 38 and lives in the Benfleet area, joined the force in 1988 and retired in December.

After nearly 11 years with the force, Pc **Jerry Goodchild** retired shortly before Christmas. Jeremy, who is 39, worked at Thorpe RPU.

### Investing in the community

SOUTHEND drug arrest referral worker Neil Watkins has been awarded an Investors In People award for his work with drug dependants and homeless people.

Neil set up a voluntary project for the homeless last

Pc **Brian Darton** left the force in November. Brian, who joined in 1972, had served a day over his 30 years, leaving at the age of 51.

Dc **Ernest Fosker** retired on New Year's Eve, leaving behind nearly 31 years with the force. Ernest, who lives in Colchester, was serving with Chelmsford scenes of crime at the time of his retirement. He is 55.

Pc **David Proud** retired in December following 27 years with Essex. David, 55, was based at Hadleigh.

Dc **Adrian Smart** will retire from Special Branch on January 31.

Adrian, who has worked as a tactical firearms officer and weapons trainer, will be celebrating his retirement at the Ash pub in Burton End on February 14 from midday onwards and all are welcome to attend.

Adrian is currently in Australia, and all queries should be directed to Rob Vickers on ext 53037.

### Obituaries

Ex-chief supt **John Farnsworth** died in November in Welwyn Garden City, where he was living. Mr Farnsworth served with the Southend borough police and Traffic between 1947 and 1977. He leaves a widow, Sue.

Ex-Sgt **John Cackett** died in December at the age of 77. Mr Cackett, who served from 1946 to 1979 with the Southend Borough, leaves a widow, Joan.

**Cecil Byrne**, a former sergeant who served with the Southend Borough, Benfleet and Hadleigh, has died aged 74. Mr Byrne, of Thorpe Bay, was with the force from 1953 to 1979. He leaves a widow, Margaret.

Former Sgt **William Chester**, who was living in Southend, died in October aged 78. Mr Chester served from 1948 to 1977 with the Southend Borough, Rayleigh, HQ and FSU.

**Peter Weber**, former sergeant with 28 years service, died on New Year's Day aged 78. Mr Weber, of Southend, served from 1948 to 1976 with the Southend borough police. He leaves a widow, Betty.

**Henry Moxham**, known as Harry, died in December at the age of 75. A former constable living in Westcliff, Mr Moxham served from 1952 to 1984 with the Southend Borough, Rochford CID and Southend Airport Special Branch. He leaves a partner, Pat Holmes.

Former Pc **Stewart MacPherson** has died at the age of 75 years. Mr MacPherson, of Stanway, transferred to Essex from Lanarkshire Constabulary in 1965 and retired in 1976. He served at Colchester and Colchester traffic.

Ex-Pc **Eric Arthur Bridgeman** died in November at the age of 69. Mr Bridgeman, of Glenrothes in Fife, leaves a widow, Marjorie. He served from 1956 to 1958, and then 1959 to 1987 at Chelmsford, Rayleigh, Pitsea, Basildon, HQ and Chelmsford traffic.

Former Pc **Dennis Swan** died in October at the age of 75 years. Mr Swan died in Malaga, Spain, where he was living, after serving with the force from 1954 to 1979. He leaves a widow, Eufemia.

**Roger Parker**, who served from 1960 to 1992, has died at the age of 65. Ex-Pc Parker, of Chelmsford, was stationed at Romford, Ongar, Braintree, HQ Traffic and HQ Information Room.

Ex-Pc **Michael Elridge** died at the age of 67 in January. Mr Elridge, of Colchester, leaves a widow, Maureen. He served from 1956 to 1983 at Clacton, Colchester and Stanway traffic.

### It's a drag after the AGM

THE Gay Police Association will be holding their AGM and a new year social later this month.

Tickets for the event at The Pheonix on Saturday, January 25 are £12 for members and £15 for non-members. Tickets available on the night will cost £15.

The price includes food and entertainment, with the cabaret for this year's event starring Dave Lynn and Britney stars of Channel 4's *Faking It* series.

To book tickets or for further information contact 07092 700203.

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# It's no longer black or white

MEMBERS of the public coming into contact with officers will be able to define their own ethnicity from February under proposals to be considered by the force later this month.

The Operational Policing and Policy Group is expected to give the green light to the implementation of 16+1 self-defined ethnicity, which will provide more accurate and detailed data on those dealt with by officers.

The new system gives 16 categories of ethnicity, plus one for "any other ethnic group" and will work alongside the current six-point descriptions.

It has been developed after consideration of the 2001 Census, Recommendation 61 of the McPherson Report, the Human Rights Act and the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000.

The Criminal Justice Act also requires data from all criminal justice agencies on matters such as stop and search, which will be enhanced by the new approach.

The implementation has been led by community relations co-ordinator Insp Kate Sale and Personnel's Sgt Dave Birkett.

"This is about giving everyone the chance to define themselves," said Insp Sale. "With more detailed information we can monitor and view outcomes, such as

By Ben Pennington

what reasons there are behind particular groups being stopped.

"It's a response to community concerns, and hopefully it will raise public confidence in the police."

The change will require adjustments to other force systems, including custody IT systems, intelligence for stop and search and forms.

To prepare the force for the introduction, policy guidelines will be drawn up, as well as published on community safety's Intranet page, and a guide will be printed in the officers' companion handbook.

Divisional training will be given and information worked into latest CRR courses.

It is thought the system will go live on February 3, to give a buffer for teething problems ahead of the statutory launch on April 1.

Alongside self-defined ethnicity, a new Code A of PACE commences on April 1, requiring a copy of stop search forms to be provided to the subject at the scene.

Feedback from officers is required to gauge the new approach, and anyone with comments can contact Insp Sale on extension 515311.

# Queen honours Essex officers

**THREE officers from Essex were recipients of awards on the New Year's honours list.**

Scientific support manager DCI Tom Harper was awarded the Queen's Police Medal for services to police work.

DCI Harper took the helm in scientific support in 1998, since when his efforts and those of his team have made Essex the UK's leading scientific investigators.

DCI Harper has also worked with the Albanian police for the last six years to improve their scientific capabilities.

Pc Ray Williams was made an MBE for services to policing and his general involvement with the community.



● Tom Harper

As Basildon's crime reduction officer, Pc Williams has 24 years' service at various locations within Essex and the Metropolitan Police.

He is a leading member of the very successful partnership with Basildon District Council.

Deputy Commandant of the Special Constabulary and



● Ray Williams

Southend divisional administration manager George Cook has been made an MBE. Mr Cook, who has been a Special for 40 years, said he was 'deeply honoured' by the award.

Chief Constable David Stevens said: "I am very pleased to see three of our officers being honoured by the Queen for their outstanding contributions to policing."



● George Cook

"Each has, in their own field, done a great deal to support the people of Essex and to develop and implement new ideas.

"The awards are a fitting recognition of their contribution and I like to think that the whole force can bask in a little of the reflected glory."

## Curbing community crime in Canvey

**THE newly-formed Rayleigh proactive community unit has shown a promising start as they go all out to target offenders.**

Following an internal review of how best to deliver results and improve performance, the first week's activities included a drugs raid in Benfleet.

Team leader Sgt Ian Collins said: "The results we've obtained, even at this very early stage, are very pleasing. We now have the level of resourcing where we can respond quickly to good information that we receive.

"The work we do is intelligence-led and we need the support of the public to enable us to target offenders quickly."

Other operations have led to a 20-year-old man from Westcliff being questioned in relation to 22 car crime-related offences.

He is due to appear before magistrates for drugs offences.

The unit has also provided additional operational support for local initiatives to tackle youth nuisance in Hockley and Canvey.

## Support for those suffering in silence

WITH the results of last year's force stress survey in the pipeline, occupational health and welfare are urging all staff "not to suffer in silence".

The team, situated at the training centre, offers support to any staff suffering from stress or the effects of a traumatic incident.

Alongside musco-skeletal injuries, stress is the main reason for sickness and absence from work.

Senior occupational health adviser Vince Lungley believes that through educating people about stress and with better peer support and management, welfare of officers could be vastly increased while significantly reducing the number of lost working days.

"Stress is the pressure people are put under and is what happens when they

respond to that," said Mr Lungley. "We all need some pressure to function everyday, but problems occur when that rises to an unreasonable degree and performance is expected to rise with it."

The team emphasises that no one is immune to stress, which comes about when the balance between work, homelife, relationships and health is upset.

Officers who have suffered no ill effects for 20 years can suddenly find themselves unable to cope with the pressure of the job.

Welfare Adviser Vickie Bond said: "There's been a lot of debate recently about stress, and while some has been negative for those suffering from it, hopefully bringing the matter into open forum will be positive for the future.

"People need to know they can come to us in confidence at any time."

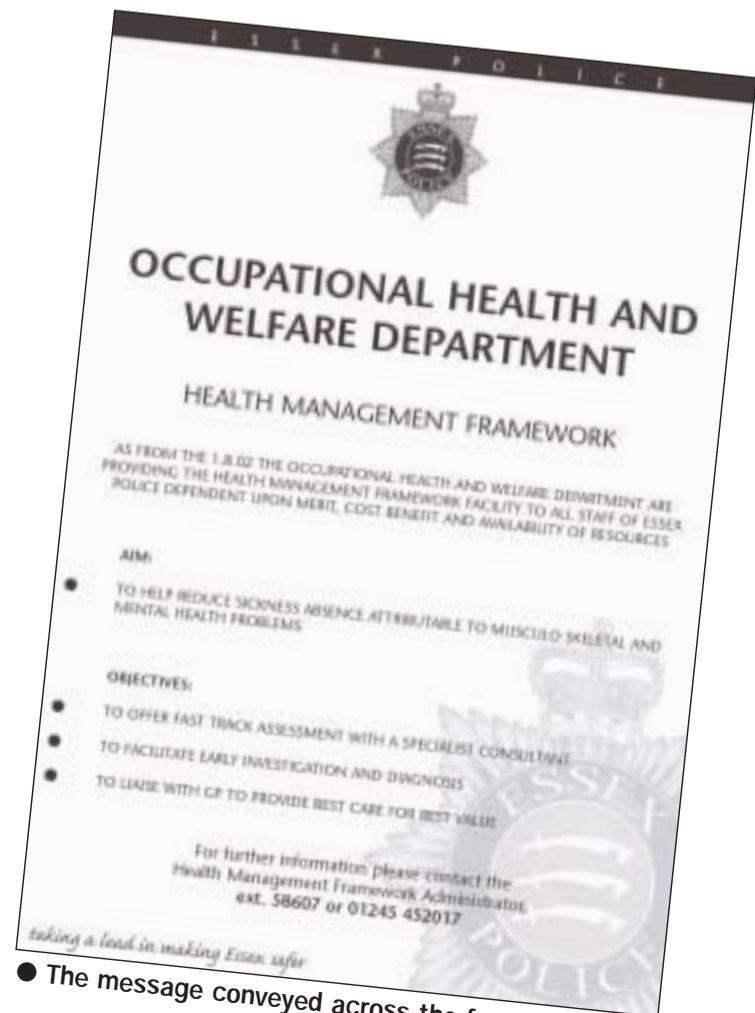
The department is looking at new approaches to critical debriefs following traumatic incidents, and educating managers in how to recognise signs of stress in staff.

Vickie added: "Officers are perhaps expected to have a stiff upper lip, but peer and management support is key.

"It's not a weakness to admit you have a problem with stress. It's a normal reaction to stressful situations."

The training centre runs a one-day stress management course to help those under pressure but not under extreme stress.

Vince Lungley and Vickie Bond can be contacted on extensions 58611 and 58605 respectively.



● The message conveyed across the force area.

# A stroll in the park

**LAST month's Croker Cup cross-country race saw Harlow run away as team winners, with Braintree finishing second but over 150 points behind the west Essex division.**

This year's race was combined with the regional police league fixture, with 100 runners providing a boost to both the men's five-mile and ladies' two-and-a-half mile competition.

Race organiser and Essex captain Mick Bond crossed the finishing line first, with Colchester's Derek Walker in second. Braintree's Vic Spain became Essex's third finisher in the top ten, coming in eighth, with Harlow's Russ Welch 14th and Harlow's Matt Rees capping a fine debut in 16th.

Essex A's final member, Colchester's Don English, came in 21st, thereby ensuring victory for the veterans.

However, the A team were beaten into overall second place by Kent. A similar story was had for the B team, only this time Sussex pipping Essex to the top spot.

Harlow's Dan Sorrell, HQ's Kevin Kirby, Basildon's Chris Mathlin and Southend's Jim Ling all finished within five places of each other.

Meanwhile, Braintree's Lucy Bradley claimed first veteran position in the league after finishing seventh, one place ahead of Harlow's Kathryn Southall, with Rayleigh's Rachel Crosby completing the Essex team in tenth place.

A disappointingly low number of competitors from Tendring saw the north-east division propping up the table with 25 points.

Basildon, Chelmsford and Thurrock settled for mid-table mediocrity, leaving Colchester and Braintree to fight it out for second place; Colchester finishing with 130 points, Braintree with 176 and runaway leaders Harlow on 354 points.

● Harlow also began the year at the top of the overall Croker Cup table, but nearest challengers, Braintree, only two points behind on 50.

A two-horse race (like many a sporting competition of late) appears to be on the cards with Colchester 12 points behind. Tendring once again look up to the rest, with only eight points on the board.

## Angling for fun

APPALLING weather conditions produced a very rough sea and very little fish at the Southern Region Boat Championship sea angling competition off Felixstowe in December.

Despite the conditions and several competitors suffering from seasickness, eight teams managed to take part.

The Essex A team battled bravely against the conditions and came third overall and Braintree's Dave Ware and Roger Cockett from the force information room pulled out all the stops for individual seconds.

● The Croker Cup sea angling competition will be on Thursday March 27, and not as previously notified.

## Swimming for success

SWIMMERS from across the organisation are being urged to consider a role with the force's lifesaving team and help ensure Essex remains competing with the top teams in the country.

The Essex Police lifesaving team consists of both male and female officers from across the county, with the dedicated group of individuals travelling around England and Wales to various competitions throughout the year.

Competent, fast swimmers who are aware of first aid and basic life support procedures are being sought after, with team member Sarah Frost looking to meet new colleagues as soon as possible.

"Essex has won this competition and have been national champions at this event before," said the community policing officer from Shalford. "The competitions are physically challenging and test initiative under pressure in a number of ways. They are also good fun!"

For further information contact Sarah on 01371 851632 or via email.

## Southend Santas stock up



● Chief Supt Mick Thwaites takes the new Southend unisex headgear pilot scheme a little too far. (Contributed)

THE Southend command team showed off their culinary skills, at the Christmas meal, allowing others to tuck into the turkey.

Divisional Admin Manager George Cook was full of praise for the quantity and quality of food cooked by the canteen staff.

"Our thanks and a debt of gratitude must go to Violet, Julie,

Caroline and Mark for their hard work in the run-up to the big day," said Mr Cook. "Not only was the food good, but the decorations in the dining room must have taken some time to put up judging by the splendid decor on the day."

● Divisional Commander Chief Supt Mick Thwaites is donating a special bottle of House of

Commons claret wine as the prize to the person who comes up with the best caption for this Christmas lunch photograph.

All nominations should be sent to Julia Pack. The closing date is Monday, January 27 with the winner announced four days later.

## Essex Police Choir

### A charity chorus to end the year

THE force choir raised more than £1,600 for Essex-based charities after three performances last month.

The Trueloves Supported Living benefited to the tune of £650, with £1,000 raised for the Chelmsford-based Mid-Essex Respite Care.

The group performed at St Peter's Church in Hutton to enhance the social lives of the residents of Trueloves, providing outings and holidays.

Two concerts were performed at Trinity Methodist Church in Chelmsford on December 21, with an

afternoon concert played to 220 people by invitation only from sheltered housing groups.

Chief Constable David Stevens attended the evening concert with the first half made up of the choir's usual repertoire, followed by Christmas tunes in the second half.

Choir spokesperson Jackie Lee said: "Our thanks go to The Friends of the Essex Police Choir who provided refreshments for the audience and choir at both venues."

### Putters and drivers welcome

THE Police of Essex Golf Society is recruiting early in the hope that good weather is only around the corner.

Existing member Nigel Ginn said: "A lot of people don't join our society because they feel they are not good enough to play in a match; that is absolute nonsense," said the road policing officer. "Everyone is more than welcome."

Anyone who wants further information can contact Nigel on extension 65125 or visit the website at [www.pegs-golf.co.uk](http://www.pegs-golf.co.uk).

### Fight flab to cheque out for charity

WITH the Christmas excess now weighing you down, what better resolution could you have than to get in shape for a good cause.

A fun run has been organised in memory of Mick Page, a scenes of crime detective based at Harlow, who lost his battle against cancer and died aged just 42.

The event on Saturday, May 31 will be an off-road 5km race in the Harlow area and organiser Dc Liz Chalk is trying to attract runners from across the force to take part on the day. All proceeds will be donated to a cancer charity.

You don't have to be a runner to take part. As well as competitors Liz is looking for marshals, water bearers and first aiders.

The Helen Rollason Cancer Care Appeal has been chosen as the beneficiary of the event's proceeds as it is a division of HEAL, the Herts, Essex and London Cancer Charity based in Chelmsford.

To become a 'Hero for Helen', the team needs to raise £1,000 and each individual runner will receive a certificate of achievement with their name recorded in a leather bound 'Heroes for Helen' record book. The team will also receive an engraved crystal award.

If you want to run or could help contact Dc Chalk at Epping on extension 28431.

### Bowled over

JOHN STEWART has been selected to represent the national PAA bowls section in matches against the British fire service, the British civil service and also in the home international series.

John will be racking up the mileage as the tournaments visit Blackpool, Edinburgh and Belfast.

