



Curbing collisions with new technology - P3



A Special weekend - P5



Historical win - centre pages

# ESSEX SEES DROP IN YOUTH REOFFENDING

**A MULTI-FACETED approach to youth crime in recent years has paid dividends in Essex with a 33 per cent decrease in young people re-offending.**

by Ben Pennington

Figures at the end of February show a national decrease of more than 20 per cent

since 1997, attributed to the new system of reprimands and final warnings.

The system, which replaces cautions, was written by Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark and Sgt Ian

Carter, the force's youth section co-ordinator.

In 1997, 30 per cent of youth offenders in Essex re-offended following a caution, compared to 20 per cent in 2001.

The reduction exceeds the county's set target of

21.3 per cent, with 19 per cent the aim for 2004.

The force's status as leaders in youth issues stems from a holistic partnership approach, consolidated in the last two years with youth offending teams, made up of the police service, social services, local authorities, education, health services and the probation service.

Alongside this, the organisation has adopted elements from the Government's street crime initiative, such as the pivotal role Schools Liaison Officers (SLO) have to play.

In this area, the work of Basildon's SLO Steve Wynn and community liaison officer Darren Griffin has provided a template to be emulated across the county.

Sgt Carter said: "Having been involved from the outset with the development of different aspects of youth justice reform, it is pleasing to see these early fruits of all our labours.

"The longer-term outcomes remain to be seen, but we can now approach this task with confidence that it will deliver significant and positive impact on crime within Essex."

DCC Clark said that youth crime and nuisance were "very much part of the core business" of policing.

"Essex Police has taken the development of youth issues seriously for a number of years and has been one of the lead forces in advising Government and the Youth Justice Board on policy and practice," said Mr Clark. "We are also one of the few forces to be developing a comprehensive youth strategy that will seek to focus attention and effort on pre-crime prevention, post-crime reduction, early intervention and post-crime detection and deterrence, all aimed at dealing with persistent and serious young offenders."

The strategy is currently being consulted on and will be published later this year.

## Rolling out the white carpet

IT wasn't a case of *water, water everywhere* for the Royal visit to Chelmsford to commemorate the great east coast floods across Essex 50 years ago but a case of snow, snow everywhere.

With large amounts of the white stuff falling across the county causing disruption to roads and cutting off small hamlets, the force was at full stretch.

For the royal visitors, the Earl and Countess of Wessex, who flew in by helicopter, the visit ran smoothly and was declared a successful police operation for officers at Chelmsford division.

Eight hundred people had been invited to the service at the Cathedral, including survivors of the floods that had overwhelmed large areas of coastal Essex in January 1953.

On Canvey Island, 59 people died and 36 lost their lives in Jaywick, with 24 deaths elsewhere and over 10,000 livestock perishing and a further 20,000 people being made homeless following the worst storm in living memory.

Across the sea in the Netherlands, the storms caused even greater devastation affecting over 600,00 people, with 1,800 people drowning.

Chief Constable David Stevens represented the force at the service which was followed by a reception at County Hall.



Local schoolchildren were rewarded with a smile and a few words from Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex and his wife Countess Sophie. Photo: Essex Chronicle.

## Catch *The Law* on the Web

**THE LAW** is to be made available to a wider audience, with the April issue and subsequent editions soon accessible via the force website.

The newspaper will continue to be published in the printed form, but each page will also be duplicated electronically, making it available to more readers.

The Essex Police Internet site attracts 37,000 visits per month and can be accessed via [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk).

Under the new arrangement, printed copies of *The Law* will no longer be posted to Neighbourhood Watch representatives.

A limited number of copies will be available to NHW members on request at the front desk in divisional police stations.



# The clearer picture

**SORRY if I confused anybody last month on the Green Paper pension proposals.**

The questions and answers were taken from a Home Office document and the point I should reiterate is that full consultation will take place at national federation level IF any of the proposals affect ourselves in the future.

I will now summarise the police pensions scheme as a few people have asked me to clarify a few areas; however, please bear in mind that it is not feasible to cover every possible circumstance.

All police pensions are paid as a proportion of an officer's average pensionable pay (henceforth referred to as APP), with the proportion decided by several factors.

An ordinary pension is one paid to an officer with 25 years' reckonable police service or more (but less than 30 years).

APP is normally the amount of pay received in the last year of service, excluding overtime and allowances. For those whose pay declines towards the end of service (in other words, the officer has been demoted), APP is taken

## Federation

## Newsline

by Terry Spelman



as pay in the best of the last three years.

Reckonable service is the length of service which counts for a police pension and it may include service 'transferred' from other employments.

There is a comprehensive list of 'other employments' which have agreed to pay a transfer fee into the scheme for service to be reckonable.

On a reciprocal basis, the police also pay a transfer value if an officer wishes to take up employment with one of the other organisations before completing pensionable service with the police.

For each of the first 20 years of service, an officer earns a pension of 1/60th of their APP.

Each year after 20, earns them 2/60ths more of their APP, so that an officer with 25 years' service has 20 plus 10/60ths, which entitles them to a half pay pension.

An officer can retire with 25 years' service and take their pension immediately if they have reached 50 years of age, or if they have attained 30 years' service.

If an officer with 25 years' service retires but is aged, for example, 48 years, their pension is not paid until they reach the age of 50 years.

If an officer resigns with 24 years' service, their pension is frozen until they are 60 years of age.

It follows then that an officer who has served 26 years will achieve a pension of 32/60ths; 27 years will earn 34/60ths and so on, subject to a maximum pension of 40/60ths for 30 years or more service.

Even if an officer serves for 40 years, they cannot get more than 40/60ths of APP.

An officer who is required to retire on age limit will be allowed to take a pension related to their service at that age.

## Commutation calculations

THERE are two ways in which police pensions may be commuted to achieve a lump-sum advance or a portion of expected pension entitlement.

The first method relates to where an officer voluntarily retires, having completed 25 or more years, but before attaining 30 years' service.

In this case, the lump sum is calculated as 3/80ths of APP for each year of service for the first 20 years, plus a further 3/80ths for each six months over 20 years.

The second method is where an officer has completed 30 years or has attained age limit or has been retired on an ill health pension.

Under these circumstances, an officer can commute a maximum of one quarter of their annual pension.

For each £100 of pension they give up, they will receive a capital sum according to their age next birthday. These capital sums are shown in the table below.

| Age next birthday | Capital sum for each £100 of pension commuted |       |
|-------------------|---|-------|
|                   | MEN   | WOMEN |
| 50 and under      | 1,500   | 1,725 |
| 51                | 1,500   | 1,725 |
| 52                | 1,490   | 1,705 |
| 53                | 1,480   | 1,685 |
| 54                | 1,465   | 1,660 |
| 55                | 1,450   | 1,625 |
| 56                | 1,425   | 1,600 |
| 57                | 1,390   | 1,575 |
| 58                | 1,355   | 1,550 |
| 59                | 1,320   | 1,520 |
| 60                | 1,300   | 1,500 |

The maximum that can be commuted is 25 per cent of the pension. However, it is possible to work in round figures and commute less if you wish.

Index-linking is only applied to the pension still in payment at age of 55. Retirement pension is treated as earned income and is taxed accordingly.

The lump sum is tax-free but, if invested, any interest is treated as unearned income. Once taken, commutation cannot be restored to pensions.

The decision to commute is a personal one related to your needs and ambitions. There are no hard and fast rules.

You may indicate your wishes to commute within two months prior to retirement and not later than six months after retirement.

Think about it carefully.

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If, for example, they have 29 years' service, they will have a pension of 38/60ths.

The age limit for constables and sergeants is 55 years, 60 years for inspectors and above and 65 years for chief officers.

Under certain circumstances, officers of lower rank may obtain extensions of the age limit from 55 years onwards on a 12-monthly basis, which may add entitlement to pension, but not beyond 60 years.

An officer required to retire on grounds of ill health, will receive a pension which is enhanced beyond his actual years of service.

There are some basic rules which govern these enhancements and they are summarised as follows:

- Service from 5 to 10 years reckons as double.
- 10 years plus to 13 years counts as 20 years.
- 14 years and above attracts an additional 7 years (that is to say an extra 7/60ths of APP).

The normal double reckoning after 20 years continues and the 7/60ths enhancement is applied after double reckoning has been taken into account.

All enhancement is subject to the qualification that reckonable service, aggregated with the enhancement, must not exceed what could have been earned by the officer to the age of compulsory retirement.

## Harassment at work

A LEGAL loophole has left officers and some support staff with little protection against harassment at work following changes to the Race Relations Amendment Act 2001.

In addition, a decision made by an employment appeals' tribunal has helped to create a legal minefield.

The federation has tried to take this injustice to the highest court in the land but have been refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

The legal loophole was identified in the case of Cheryl Liversidge, a black female officer who alleged colleagues had racially harassed her.

The Federation supported her at an employment tribunal but her claim was subsequently dismissed when the tribunal found chief officers were not liable for the behaviour at the time of the alleged incident in 1999.

The tribunal found amendments to the Race Relations Act in 2001, making chief officers liable for cases of racial harassment in the workplace, but that did not apply to incidents before April 2001.

To date, the Sex Discrimination Act has not been amended to provide protection for officers against sexual harassment in the workplace.

Chairman of the Police Federation Jan Berry said: "Leaving aside any

legal argument about the need to amend race relations legislation in the first place, the Government has caused total mayhem and injustice by neglecting to amend the Sex Discrimination Act to mirror the change they made to the race relations law."

Mrs Berry voiced her concerns about government reluctance and delays in resolving this unacceptable position.

"Police officers are entitled to legal recourse for such behaviour," said Mrs Berry. "The continuing harm could have been prevented if the Government had accepted our proposal to amend the Sex Discrimination Act when the Police Reform Bill was debated last summer.

"I find it sad, but not surprising that liability for health and safety in the police service was hurriedly moved from chief officers to police authorities with little parliamentary scrutiny and no consultation, but no time has been found to protect police officers against workplace bullies."

The Federation is working with the Equal Opportunities Commission and our legal advisors, reviewing all affected cases and considering whether there are any other legal channels that might be pursued.



## Offbeat

# Tax increase will fund more officers

**ESSEX residents face an average 30 pence a week rise in the cost of policing after the Police Authority unanimously agreed a budget of £212.75 million for 2003/4.**

Council taxpayers will face a 19.7 per cent increase in their contribution to police funding, with Band D rising from £77.67 to £92.97.

Police Authority Chairman Robert Chambers and his fellow members have been conscious of the need to balance the importance of taking progressive steps to make the county safer against the fact

that the public has to pay for this.

"The vast majority of police funding comes from a government grant," said Mr Chambers. "The basic allocation to Essex Police from the Government for 2003/4 was £155.8 million; a three per cent increase on the current year, compared with a national average increase of 4.3 per cent.

"With less money from the Government than we had hoped for, it has been necessary to ask council taxpayers for more, in order to meet the public's aspiration of having a police force which genuinely lives up to its stated objective of taking a lead in making the county safer.

By Helen Cook

"While any increase in tax is not in itself a step which will be welcomed, I hope the public will feel that it is money well spent and in their best interests."

Chief Constable David Stevens, speaking at the Authority meeting said: "There is lots of good news here as all the investment will be directed at operational policing."

He highlighted the extra funding for the national police intelligence model, youth schemes to divert youngsters away from crime, more staff for the criminal justice department and releasing more police officers from custody duties and thus back to policing the streets of Essex.

He also mentioned an increase in scenes of crime officers and funding for the recruitment of support staff investigators for the major investigation teams.

Developments in the pipeline include high-visibility community wardens on the streets, better handling of telephone calls to the police, the release of more officers from desk jobs to front-line duties, 20 extra investigators to deal with serious crime and the appointment of more crime analysts in support of an intelligence-led offensive against criminals.

Mr Chambers added: "For the average council taxpayer, the increase is about 30p per week. I would like to think that many taxpayers will see this as a relatively small price to pay for ensuring that Essex Police is equipped to deal effectively with the challenges it faces on their behalf."

Mr Stevens concluded: "This will be a significant investment for Essex Police and will have an impact on the community."

PERSONAL space can be a great matter of concern to individuals but we had to decline to visit a woman who wanted us to advise her neighbours not to keep standing on her patio.

NOW this is dedication to duty.

A collision was reported to police involving a milk float and a lamppost.

A demolished lamppost and an injury to himself didn't stop the intrepid milkman from carrying on with his milk round.

## Shaping the future

THE force is taking the lead in a major countywide partnership to improve quality of life for Essex residents.

The organisation is one of the key players in the County Strategic Partnership which is currently consulting people on the kind of place they would like the county to be in the next 20 years.

The partnership consists of the county council, district and borough councils and the voluntary and business sector.

The group will look at key questions, such as:

- What are the most important issues affecting life in Essex over the next 20 years?

- What kind of place would those living and working in the county like it to be?

- What should be the top action priorities for a partnership of Essex agencies?

The force has pledged to play its part by introducing a

number of measures aimed at ensuring community policing teams become the cornerstone of the police service in Essex.

Community safety Chief Insp Steve Tutton said: "We've always been part of the community, recognising that issues such as crime and public safety are the responsibility of everyone.

"The Crime and Disorder Act formalised these arrangements and over the previous few years the force has developed close partnerships with other agencies, voluntary groups and the people of Essex. This is why we are delighted to be a part of the County Strategic Partnership."

Consultation will take place until March 31, and residents can obtain a *Shaping The Future* consultation pack by calling 01245 437157 or by visiting the website at [shapingthe-future.essexcc.gov.uk](http://shapingthe-future.essexcc.gov.uk).

## Recording safer driving



● A data recorder and its analytical output.

DATA recorders could be the way forward in a bid to reduce collisions and improve safety to officers and the public.

Mobile support division has started researching the possible use of the devices which other forces, including the Metropolitan Police and Staffordshire, have been using in the last few years.

It would cost around £200,000 to fit the force's marked fleet with data recorders, but figures from other forces show significant reductions in the number of collisions can pay dividend.

A common misconception among some drivers is that data recorders are 'black boxes', as fitted to aircraft.

However, unlike black boxes, data recorders do not record what is said in and around a vehicle, and are not global positioning systems.

However, data recorders can log electrical functions such as when

indicators or blue lights are activated, and can record trigger points such as harsh braking.

Project manager Insp Martin Parkin is keen to dispel the idea that data recorders will be used to keep tabs on officers.

"We're at the research stage at the moment, but forces such as the Met have achieved a 20 per cent reduction in collisions through using data recorders in conjunction with more detailed driver training," said Insp Parkin. "Undoubtedly, the information that can be recorded will assist when investigating police accidents, and will also help rebut false allegations against police drivers."

Research into the project is expected to take around three months, after which a decision on whether to install the devices will be made.

## Hitting back at those who hit first

THE recent Home Office drive to address domestic violence - and look at ways to toughen laws to deal with abusers - has been welcomed in Essex.

The Home Office announced a £14m cash boost to help the 376 Crime and Disorder reduction partnerships across the UK.

The cash is to be spent on practical strategies for dealing with domestic violence at a local level, and how it is spent will be agreed by local partnerships.

Home Secretary David Blunkett has also announced the creation of a new co-ordinator's post to work with police and local authorities to deal effectively with domestic violence in communities.

Mr Blunkett said: "Two women a week die at the hands of a violent partner or ex-partner and untold damage is done to children in their family homes. We must continue to invest in preventing domestic violence."

The Government will publish a consultation paper in spring on how the law can be changed to tackle abusers, followed by a draft Bill later in the year.

Community relations co-ordinator Insp Kate Sale said: "I'm pleased that the profile of domestic violence has been raised in this way. Hopefully this will keep it in the public conscience, because it a largely hidden crime and we want to do more to encourage people to report it."

## Welfare in the workplace

ESSEX will be hosting the annual Police Welfare Officers Association conference for the first time in nearly a decade at Hatfield Heath's Down Hall, with over 100 delegates from constabularies across the UK due to visit the county.

Speakers and guests from the police service, occupational health departments, NARPO and the Federation will discuss a variety of topics including stress, parents at work and specialist officer roles.

Chief Constable of North Yorkshire, and Head of the ACPO working group on organisational health, safety and welfare, Della Cannings is looking forward to addressing the proactive approaches that are required for a healthier police service.

"Organisational health safety and welfare are at the core of our business, I am pleased to see that Essex is playing a key role in furthering this very important aspect of modern policing," said Ms Cannings. "I look forward to addressing the conference in April."

Beginning on April 9, the three-day conference will be opened by Essex Chief Constable David Stevens.



# Focus in on the real motor crime

**UNDER the heading *Road deaths on the slide in the January Law*, it is stated that there was a 25 per cent drop in the number of road deaths in 2002 compared to 2001.**

However, what it does not state is that 2000 was also a low figure which only shows that road deaths vary from year to year.

If one looked at figures over 10 years, it would show that the introduction of cameras has not yet contributed to road safety at all.

How refreshing to see that Chief Supt Bill Harding of Surrey Police has devised a scheme in which, drivers stopped for traffic offences, will be offered an alternative to fixed penalties and prosecutions.

He had studied 1,500 accidents and found that excess speed played a part in only a few.

He claimed that the reason behind national campaigns which promoted speed as a major factor in accidents, was not borne out by his research.

Some speed cameras have actually resulted in an increase in accidents, he added.

Furthermore Gordon Campbell, Premier of British Columbia, Canada, followed Ontario's lead in 1998 by ordering all the province's speed cameras off the roads.

"Direct, visible policing and immediate intervention is a much more effective deterrent to speeders than a radar photo ticket in the mail," said Campbell. "A police officer on the scene is also in a far better position to determine if a speeding driver is guilty of drink driving, driving without a licence or other offences. Speed cameras have no effect on safety and are nothing more than a cash cow."

There are an estimated 500,000 drivers without licences plus many more

driving cars that are not registered which means a significant amount of these vehicles are neither taxed, insured or have an MOT certificate.

It seems that almost every day there are reports of deaths caused by drivers of stolen vehicles, how many people are killed or injured by such drivers?

I bet that most of the accidents these drivers cause are recorded as 'speed related' and are simply used as an excuse for more revenue cameras that by design cannot catch such offenders, while ignoring the real problem.

It is absolute nonsense that a driver proceeding at 36mph in a built up area at 2 o'clock in the morning receives a speeding ticket, whereas someone driving at 30mph in foggy or misty conditions with parked vehicles in the vicinity receives nothing but is in fact the most dangerous driver.

An ordinary person driving at a safe speed for the

circumstances now faces a barrage of new speed limits and cameras designed to extract cash from law-abiding drivers unprotected from the actions of truly dangerous drivers.

It is no surprise at all that road deaths have risen under this flawed approach.

A police officer recently commented that we have now reached a situation where a law-abiding person in his own car with a driving licence, insurance, MOT and tax disc is now likely to face harsher penalties for speeding than a criminal would for stealing the same car.

I look forward in future to more facts and less propaganda from any future articles on road safety.

**J.A. Reynolds  
Cornslad, Brentwood**

**RIGHT TO REPLY:**  
Casualty Reduction  
Manager Brian Ladd:  
Figures show that there has been a 20 per cent reduction in all-injury collisions and a 56 per cent reduction in

speed-related collisions within 0.5km either side of all fixed safety camera sites.

The proposals in Surrey are already being addressed here in Essex with the driver improvement scheme, and the Essex Safety Camera Partnership is considering speed workshops for a certain level of speeders.

The politicians abroad set their systems up at the outset purely as a money-making enterprise and so then wondered why they were forced to abandon it.

Ours is cost-recovery only and therefore there is no incentive to detect offenders for the sake of it.

The use of safety cameras to detect speed has freed up officers, allowing them greater attention to target unacceptable driver behaviour.

Drivers cannot have a choice of speed when they feel like it because of the time of day or for any other spurious reason.

## A change for change's sake

If Terry Spellman's article on pension reform in the last issue of *The Law* was meant to reassure me, it failed.

Far too much of the phraseology seemed to come from the Government handbook on 'spin' and the tactics used so successfully in the past by the Home Office appear to be emerging again.

Step one - allow rumours to circulate to the effect that some detrimental change is going to occur.

Step two - announce that the changes will only affect new entrants - (existing members breathe a sigh of relief).

Step three - drip feed a few more ifs and maybes which show that the "advantages and disadvantages" of including existing members in "some parts" of the change will be explored - but only after "careful consultation"

(nothing definite here - existing members wary but not panicking).

Step four - allow plenty of time for the dust to settle (goes on the back burner - members get on with their daily lives).

Step five - announce details of the changes which show HUGE detriment to existing members (well we knew it was coming - but this is worse than we thought).

Step six - allow the Federation some minor victories in softening the effect and amending the change to exactly what the Home Office wanted in the first place. (Oh well, could have been worse if the federation hadn't won those amendments).

The existing pension scheme is a good one for the members - it is one of the few remaining plus points for attracting new recruits and retaining experienced staff.

I can understand why the Government wants to make changes - the cost of paying pensions is taking more and more of the available pot - but that's not OUR fault - that's the way they set up the scheme.

If they have to make changes for new recruits, it is a shame as it will hit recruitment - but at least new members will know the conditions they are signing up under. To change it for existing members cannot be justified.

If changes do go ahead I can see a lot of experienced officers jumping ship before it sinks.

We all saw the "careful consultations" that took place in last year's pay and conditions fiasco. No doubt any changes imposed in the pension scheme would be "balanced" by giving us something to which we should be entitled anyway.

The Federation should be consulting its lawyers regarding the legality of these proposals and strongly challenging them from day one.

In the 80s, we all had the opportunity to opt out of the police scheme and take out private pensions instead. We were discouraged by the official side who pointed out all the benefits of the police scheme.

Although it appears that leaving the scheme was not the best option, it doesn't change the fact that those that stayed agreed to do so based on the terms and conditions of the existing scheme. Surely that alone provides some sort of legal argument.

**Jon DeVries  
Airwave Project**

## Hair of a lot of money Correct terminology Define me one thing

**I WOULD like to thank everyone who supported my charity head shave and for which £1,139 was raised.**

**I would not only like to thank those who donated money, but would also like to thank those who spent their own time exhorting their friends and workmates to add to the promised fund and then collecting the sponsor money.**

**I have been humbled by the amount of money raised as we managed to collect four times more than I expected, and three times more than I hoped.**

**Martin Asher  
IT Application Support**

**I REFER to the item on page three in the February issue *Out on the rural road* in which mention is made of a "police civilian".**

I submit that this is incorrect. Our police forces are themselves civilian, as are the fire brigades and the ambulance services.

My dictionary defines 'civilian' as a person engaged in a non-military occupation. We do not have a gendarmerie in the UK, and neither do we want one.

As far as I am aware Sir Robert Peel was careful to avoid the use of military ranks when he established the police force, apart from that of sergeant.

The rank of commander is, of course, peculiar to the Metropolitan Police.

On occasion, sadly, our police are obliged to carry arms but that does not make them members of HM Armed Forces.

I suggest that a better description for non-police personnel would be 'police auxiliaries', certainly not 'police civilians'.

**Mr AG Robinson  
Colchester**

**THE Intranet is indeed a wondrous thing.**

**And among its many virtues is that it affords one a glimpse into worlds previously not known to us.**

**For example, drifting down to us from the 'adminisphere' comes such gems as the fact that certain of our company are now to referred to as 'transpeople'.**

**Transpeople? They PAID someone to come up with that? Stone the crows, they'll be inviting dead people to self-define their ethnicity next, won't they?**

**Charles Cadwallader  
Colchester CPU**

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

### Give us some credit back

I AM writing to convey my disappointment at reading the Health and Welfare column *Forced to take on credit cards?* written in February's *The Law*.

For Mike Thomas to deprecate the use of credit cards and the reasons for feeling pressurised into taking them on, I find rather duplicitous when the only correspondence I have received from the federation this year was an offer of a credit card.

Perhaps the Federation could make better use of its time by ensuring all its members have things they really need, like a 2003 diary, or things they would like, such as a copy of *Police Magazine*, rather than leading them into temptation.

**Pc Spencer Wakelam  
Stansted Airport**

### Thank you

I WRITE with regard to my retirement and to thank those who attended my farewell party.

In particular I would like to thank Chief Supt Ian Brown and Alan Gillfillan for their speeches.

I would also like to express my gratitude to everyone for the gifts I received and my wife and friends for the superb buffet.

It was great to see so many friends and colleagues attend, and a special thank you must go to the bar staff for their unstinting support.

I am told that the bartakings were a record.

**Keith Simpson  
South Woodham Ferrers**



# Secondary lines of defence

SCHOOLCHILDREN in Epping Forest are being given special courses in conflict resolution as part of a scheme led by the force and funded by the local community safety partnership.

The move follows a series of highly successful safety awareness courses for women in the area, with subsequent feedback suggesting that the courses should be offered to young people. Secondary schools in the area have been keen to participate.

Educational welfare officer Jo Barclay has been a driving force behind the scheme bringing together the headteachers of six schools and confirming a series of dates during March.

A total of 17 courses will provide all Year 11 students (aged 15/16) with the chance to participate, and a letter outlining the initiative has been sent to all parents, giving them the chance to decide whether they want their child to attend the sessions.

Epping's crime reduction officer Tony Ellis said: "It is heartening that the secondary schools in Epping are taking such a positive stance. The response to the courses for women was overwhelming and we see no reason why schoolchildren shouldn't be afforded the same opportunities.

"Fear of crime is a real issue, even if it is often more prevalent than crime itself, and children have just as much right as adults to feel confident, independent and safe in their community. These excellent courses will not only provide the students with new skills, but will give parents the added reassurance that their children are equipped to protect themselves."

As with the adult courses, the trainers will address intimidation, conflict resolution and avoiding unsafe situations.

There is no requirement for any physical participation, although police defensive skills experts are available to give advice.

## Stick it on your window

A SIMPLE, cost-effective idea is spreading the crime prevention message through Castle Point via the district pay and display car parks.

Pay and display parking stickers have an anti-burglary message on the rear which a driver will notice as the sticker is attached to the inside of the windscreen.

Community safety Insp Andy Parkman said: "The scheme will end at the end of March and is a very cost-effective way of getting a crime prevention message across to thousands of people.

"We hope that although the message is about burglary it will raise their awareness about crime prevention generally."

Along with the Essex Police logo is the message *Burglary Be Bright Leave on a Light* and a reminder to the driver that the police and individuals working together can bring down crime.



● Special Constable Shona Bryan in Colchester. Photo: Nick Strugnell, East Anglian Daily Times.

## A Special weekend for police

The excellent work that the Special Constabulary undertakes nationally was the focus of a weekend of activities when special constables in Essex were out in force to support their police colleagues and encourage more people to join up.

In Thurrock and Colchester, the Specials used the mobile police office as a focal point to offer crime prevention advice and information and to answer questions from potential recruits.

The local MP for Colchester, Bob Russell spent time with the Special Constables in the town to see at first hand their role, whilst in Southend, the

Specials were taking part in operations and initiatives to combat anti-social behaviour, nuisance youths or other problems that affect the community.

They also attended the local football club on a busy Saturday afternoon.

In Thurrock, the local newspaper ran an article showing a typical evening duty for two special constables.

Sc Grahame Ward and Sc Dave Borrell are part of the team of 20 special constables in the division, and the story showed the variety of work they are involved in and the necessary attributes needed

to contribute a vital presence in their own community.

Chief Constable David Stevens said: "I am in no doubt that the Special Constabulary is a vital and integral part of Essex Police.

"The thousands of hours of voluntary duty performed by hundreds of dedicated men and women are a major factor in keeping Essex as one of the safest counties in the country."

The weekend generated a number of calls to the Special Constabulary hotline and they are optimistic that they can boost their numbers from the current 384 to a record number of volunteers.

## Increasing the female presence

FOUR Essex officers attended this year's National Senior Police Womens Conference in London where speakers included Body Shop founder Anita Roddick and Captain Terri Tobin from the New York Police Department.

The conference, hosted by the Metropolitan Police's Deputy Assistant Commissioner Carole Howlett, welcomed over 200 officers from around the world to the Britannia International Hotel at Canary Wharf.

DI Alison Newcomb was present and recommends contemporaries to attend future conferences, highlighting the "excellent opportunity to meet and talk to senior female colleagues".

"We were able to attend two workshops, which gave us the opportunity to give some careful thought to our leadership style and the impact we can have on the staff we manage," said DI Newcomb.

The annual event explored issues affecting female officers in realising their full potential in the police service, with this year's theme of

*Creative Leadership, I Can Do That* looking to progress issues affecting women in the police service.

Sgt Nick Allum said: "The conference was very inspiring for me and the item which will stay with me the longest was the talk given by Terri Tobin, who was at the World Trade Centre on September 11.

"She spoke about the sacrifices made by female emergency service officers and it was a stark reminder of what our job really is about and the challenges which could face all officers at any time.

"It was very powerful, extremely moving and the courage shown there outstanding."

There are currently just over 3,000 police officers in Essex, with women currently making up 20 per cent; a figure which is mirrored across England and Wales.

The final night at the conference saw a charity dinner raise over £21,500 for Breast Cancer Research.

## First time home buyers required

A SCHEME offering start-up loans to first time homebuyers has been extended to all officers across the county.

The Moat Housing Scheme, which offers £10,000 to those looking to get on the property ladder, was originally targeted at officers in the south of the county.

So far, 15 people have applied with nine meeting the criteria.

With around 60 places up for grabs, the scheme has been opened up to all officers in a bid to distribute all of the cash before the deadline in 13 months time, at which point any money not used will be returned to the Government.

The cash is given as a lump sum towards the price of the property, but instead of making regular repayments, the same percentage of the property value is repaid if and when it is sold again.

## Health & Welfare

OCCUPATIONAL health services have developed a Health Management Framework (HMF) which came into being with effect from August last year which aims to reduce the incidence of absence attributable to muscular-skeletal and mental health problems.

The HMF will assist financially and allow specialist intervention at an early stage in specific health problems, facilitating earlier assessment, investigation and diagnosis and hopefully benefit those individuals who find themselves waiting for National Health Service appointments.

Physiotherapy can also be provided for muscular-skeletal injuries and this service is managed by Anglia physiotherapy services which are situated at Essex County Cricket Club.

The HMF is available to all staff and applications are considered on their own merits and may be subject to the following:

- clinical recommendations of the FMO and/or associated specialists.
- application of best value principles.
- availability of allocated budget.

Invoicing and payment are handled directly between the occupational health department and the service provider.

If you are unable to obtain an appointment quickly within the NHS, then contact the administrator, Susan Beecroft, on extension 58607.

She will be able to advise you on the eligibility of your application and what you need to do next.

Further information is available on the occupational health Intranet site.

Recruiting manager Sue Adkins said: "This was initially geared towards recruitment in the southern areas, but we feel it would be good to support any officer in this way.

"This really is a case of use it or lose it. Those who have gone through the process so far have found it to be straightforward and beneficial, and by enabling our staff to become homeowners, officers will be even more rooted within the communities they serve."

She added that it was possible that support staff could benefit from the scheme in the future.

Moat Housing, which facilitates the scheme, is looking to present an exhibition at EPTC later this month.

To register your interest in the scheme, contact Sue Adkins on ext 58700.



# SUPER WOOFERS LEAD THE WAY



● ACC John Broughton and Pc Colin Elsegood share the cup with Ronnie.

ESSEX has for the first time in its history won the combined south east and eastern regional dog trials with Colin Elsegood and dog Ronnie beating 18 other competitors in the finals held at Surrey.

The Laindon officer Pc Elsegood has been held off stiff competition, including that from Chigwell's Tim Slade who finished third, to claim the Essex Cup after scoring 928 out of a possible 1000 and in achieving so, also winning four of the five individual trophies.

Pc Slade and his dog Buster were also competing in the regional trial finals after finishing second to Pc Elsegood in the Essex trials held last Autumn. Colin said: "It's an absolute privilege to win this competition and put Essex back on the map. To have won our own trials last year was an achievement in itself because of the high standards set, but to claim the regional title is truly fantastic."

The four-year-old pedigree German Shepherd Dog (GSD) is a general purpose day on duty, whilst away from police action becomes "an integral part of the family", residing at home with Colin, his wife Karen and their two children Alex, 8, and Garry, 13.

The dog unit here in Essex has long been synonymous with success and will forever fly the flag of the force.

All our dogs are donated to us and trained to high standards, regularly resulting in incidents being brought to a safe end in all manner of circumstances.

NISHAN WIJERATNE helps celebrate another recent achievement following Essex's triumph at last month's regional dog trials held in Surrey.



● The triumphant couples surround ACC John Broughton with the Essex Cup.

## Call of nature

Colin describes one incident in which Ronnie came to his rescue and just why he is described as a "top dog".

"It happened last summer and technically when we were off duty," said the 42-year-old. "I was taking Ronnie out for his last walk of the day at around 11pm and on returning home disturbed two men on my drive who were about to break into my car.

"I challenged them, upon which they began punching me, but Ronnie ran in and bit them. A group of officers then turned up and arrested them.

"It turned out that they had just run off after crashing a car on the nearby Bread & Cheese Hill; they were looking to steal another to get away from police as they had been drinking."

"On average, a dog and his handler will work together for a period of 5-7 years before the animal is retired and resides at home as a pet. Colin explains the temperament and skills his dog possesses.

"Since the first day, I realised that Ronnie had potential in him and so it's very satisfying, from a professional point of view, to see him perform to such high standards," said Colin. "He is looking to do things all the time and is an absolute joy.

"He is superb at home, fitting in well with my family who think more of the dog than me!"

The Essex Cup was donated to the regional trials' organisers in 1973 to represent a goal for the forces to attain, but had never been reclaimed until last month.

## Division

Mobile support division's Chief Supt Ian Brown was full of praise for his two officers and is keen for them to perform well at the national trials.

"The standards achieved by Colin, Tim, Ronnie and Buster were exceptionally high," said Chief Supt Brown. "I'm sure they'll be able to translate this success to the national stage and look forward to congratulating Colin, and hopefully Tim too, later this spring.

Colin and Ronnie continued to where they left off from Essex as they repeated their feat of winning four of the five trophies at Surrey and scoring

a maximum 220 points in the search exercise.

"I will be going to the national trials with a competitive dog who I know will put in a good performance," said Colin. "During the past couple of years, Ronnie has been excellent and has always shown a high standard of achievement which has been reflected in his outstanding performance."

Not content with walking away with the top honours in the individual event, Colin and Ronnie joined forces with Tim and his dog Buster, with the foursome scooping the team award after scoring the aggregate points tally when Tim came third.

The 35-year-old Chigwell handler, who has recently moved to Chelmsford with his wife Karen and their two children, Mathew, 11, and Eloise, 9, scored 84 points with Buster who has been operational for less than a year.

Pc Slade has been the force for 18 years, and has served 11 of those years in the dog section.

His two-year-old dog was donated to the force by a family from Southend and is a general purpose GSD who became operational in May 2002.

As well as joining the Slades in their new family home, Buster also lives Tim's former dog Ben who was "a legend" when working for Essex Police.

Tim believes Buster has a "wealth" of potential in all the fields and just needs a few more real-life experiences under his collar before he matches Ronnie's all-round performance.

"I was really pleased with him at the regional trials, considering his relative inexperience in everyday life," said Tim. "He is a confident, consistent dog who can only improve and so we'll probably give Colin and Ronnie and run for their money next year!"

Tim and Buster have attended numerous incidents throughout the past nine months, including a fight in Loughton. Tim describes one in which Buster's attributes shone through.

"It followed a car crash in Epping in which the driver ran away from the scene and hid in dense undergrowth," said Tim. "As it was a public car park, the scene became contaminated very quickly, with the scents of many people giving Buster a difficult task.

"However, he managed to pick out the driver's smell and tracked him for nearly three-quarters of a mile before the suspect gave himself up.

"Buster's strength is in his confidence, with motivation and enthusiasm playing a key role in everyday life.

"At the end of the day, it's operational results which count and produce an effective police dog."

Tim has a strong possibility of joining Colin at April's national finals in Bridgend, Wales as he could go through as one of the highest-placed runners-up.

Chief Supt Brown added: "It is clear, not only to myself, but to the rest of the division that our dog section is making huge strides forward and this is clearly illustrated by our performance against our neighbouring forces who must think highly of us."



● Colin and Ronnie on display with their trophies.

## In-house training approved for PNC use

ESSEX has recently been given approval to deliver in-house training in using the advanced searching capabilities of the Police National Computer (PNC) and increase its potential for solving crimes at an early stage.

A series of training sessions in Leicester has given EPTC staff the necessary knowledge and authority to teach the tools that PNC possesses to selected personnel across the force.

It is hoped that during the course of the next few of months, more investigators will be able to witness and gain these benefits via a number of presentations, as it is believed that the facility is "not being used to its full potential".

The PNC holds details of people, vehicles and certain property and has a marker against each name entry which indicates whether the individual is wanted, disqualified or has a criminal record. It also shows those vehicles that are linked with criminal activity.

PNC Bureau Manager Michael Berry says that the system relies on everyone providing complete and accurate

information on a prompt basis so that PNC can be more effective both nationally, as well as for the force.

"The facility is not being used to its full potential and for PNC to be a continuing success, details of every entry must be completed fully and at the earliest opportunity," said Mr Berry. "The PNC is there for the benefit of all investigators at every level, whether they be dealing with a fail to stop road crash, minor crime or a terrorist threat.

"The results can only ever be as good as the information that is input and stored on the computer."

### VODS & QUESTS

There are two search facilities which can assist officers in a number of ways.

A Vehicle Online Despatch Search (VODS) can search for a vehicle using limited descriptive details, and will respond with all likely vehicles that match the description given.

The Query Using Enhance Search Technology (QUEST) search can be used to search known details of a suspect and

again will provide details of possible records that match the search details.

Mr Berry added: "In order for the searches to be successful, all those involved in the collection and input of data to PNC need to know how the system works and the part they play in the successful use of PNC in investigations.

"It is essential that everyone, arresting officers, PNC operators and investigators alike, know and understand all the concepts involved and use identical methods to input and search.

"Hopefully, the in-house training will soon be provided and this will assist in improving the current service."

At present, searches will be undertaken by PNC Bureau staff with divisional analysts and local intelligence officers also having the facility for their research purposes.

A series of presentations will be held at various locations around the county during the week commencing April 7.

# service line

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# Car Insurance



# Oriental travels

**A TRIP to China will be the first venture of John Yee King in his retirement from Essex Police after 30 years' service, and in between his travels he plans to dabble in antiques.**

John reached the rank of inspector before his retirement, having started his career in Maldon, and worked at various stations around the county.

He describes his stint at Southend as the most "busy and entertaining" but views a secondment to Albania as the highlight.

Shortly after arriving as a logistics advisor, war broke out which made for very interesting times.

John also spent a period of his service on secondment to

## Names in the news

the Metropolitan Police on an anti-corruption operation.

John takes with him two commendations, one of which followed a man dangling a small child off a building. John said: "I bored him into coming down!"

### Obituaries

**FORMER** Chief Insp **Leslie Manning**, of Chelmsford, died in February at the age of 91.

Mr Manning served from 1936 to 1969 at Clacton, Brentwood and headquarters.

Ex-Sgt **Robert Nicholls** died in February at the age of 86.

Mr Nicholls, of Westcliff, served from 1938 to 1968 with the Southend Borough. He leaves a widow, Betty.

Brightlingsea resident **Ronald Rose**, who served with the force for 33 years, died in February at the age of 84 years.

A former sergeant, he served from 1938 to 1971 at Grays, Tilbury, Rainham, Colchester and Brightlingsea.

**John Gyseman** died in January at the age of 60 following a short illness.

John, who lived in Epping, worked as a station office assistant at Epping Police Station for ten years, after 30 years as a sergeant with the Metropolitan Police.

Over a varied police career from 1962 to 1992, John took part in operations as diverse as undercover work in Soho to the Brixton riots.

## Develop your training needs

**MINORITY ethnic staff from across the force are being invited to attend a Home office-approved course which is aimed at developing their leadership, management and communication skills.**

The three-day national programme is being run by the central police training and development authority Centrex and was devised with a view to progressing and raising awareness of the needs and issues of minority ethnic staff.

For further details, please contact course administrator **Philip Lobb** via email at [philip.j.lobb@centrex.pnn.police](mailto:philip.j.lobb@centrex.pnn.police).

## NARPO

THE Southend branch of the National Association of retired Police Officers will be holding its AGM on April 25.

The meeting will start at 7.30pm at the social club in Southend police station.

All agenda items should go to the secretary who can be contacted on 01702 202959 or via email at [cpc@onetel.net.uk](mailto:cpc@onetel.net.uk).

## Market Place

**NERJA TORROX**, Costa del Sol, 2 bed, 2 bath apartment in a quiet location. Views to sea and close to golf courses. Contact Lyn Gowlett ednet 51638 or 01376 514593.

**CALPE**, Spain two bed flat, two bathrooms, fully-equipped, kitchen, living room, balcony. Three-minute walk to beach. From £150 per week. Contact Bob Naden 01255 815140.

**FLORIDA**, Kissimmee. Luxury villa, four beds, own-screened pool plus kiddie pool. Telephone Del or Pam on 01268 750062.

**FLORIDA** luxury 4 bed villa close to Disney and golf. Sleeps ten, private-screened pool. Contact Jill 01702 586092 or visit [www.my-florida-villa.net](http://www.my-florida-villa.net).

**FLORIDA** villa, 4 bedrooms, two bathrooms, pool, home overlooking water. Nice, quiet location but near Disney and airport from £475pw. Contact Lin or Pete on 01245 321378.

**ORLANDO** villa for sale. 4 bed, 3 bath, screened pool. 20 mins Disney. £145,000. Contact Adrian on 01277 372510 or Chigwell Motorway control room.

**ORLANDO** luxury villa, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, sleeps upto 10. Private-screened pool. Near Disney and other central Florida attractions. For more details contact 01245 266949 or 01376 573406.

**VILLA MARTIN**, Alicante 3 bed-det villa, 2 baths, with terrace, solarium, car port, garden on top, near major golf courses and blue flag beach. Details from Brian Cook, 07814 591129, ext 31915 or e-mail.

**TENERIFE** 2 bed, 2 bath villa. From £275pw, shared swimming pool. Quiet location close to shore, satellite TV, fully-equipped, sea view, car hire arranged. Contact Sgt Dave Britton on 01702 201701.

**SCOTTISH** Highlands. Self-catering bungalow which sleeps two. 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

# Raise your glass one final time

A PARISH church has been reunited with its treasured silver communion chalice, thanks to painstaking detective work at Harwich CID.

The chalice has been used for communion wine at St Peter's Church, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire since 1575, but was stolen in a burglary in 1997.

However, it came to light again last autumn when it

was intercepted by HM Customs & Excise and passed to Dc Julie Bartlett.

No-one knew who owned it, but Julie rose to the challenge, making checks with antiques experts and stolen property records, which enabled her to return it to the church.

A man serving a prison sentence for burglary has now admitted stealing the chalice.

It was one of Julie's last successes as an Essex officer as she is now with Suffolk Constabulary.

or email [woodlands.nunn@btopen-world.com](mailto:woodlands.nunn@btopen-world.com).

**LAKESIDE** chalet, Cotswold Water Parks. Exclusive fully-equipped 2 bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, lounge, and terrace. Leisure centre on site. From £150 to £300 per week. Contact Stuart McKie on 07973 639342.

**HOLIDAY LET** cottage in Sandown, Isle of Wight. Sleeps six, 2 mins to sea, shops, restaurants, etc. Ideal for families, regret no dogs. Phone for brochure 01279 437560.

**FOR RENT** one bed terrace house in Noak Bridge. Fully-furnished, Sky TV, own garden, 2 parking spaces directly outside. Contact Clare at Pitsea on ext 42135.

**TOYOTA** Previa 2.4GL, 1994 L-reg. Dark metallic red. Power steering, electric windows, electric mirrors, twin sunroofs, captains seats, long MOT & tax, VGC £4,550. Contact Diana English on 01277 841501.

**PORSCHE** 1980 924 turbo, silver/blue, seven months' MOT, taxed end March. 16i alloys, 90k miles. Reliable, good condition £1,395. Contact 01376 344743 after 5pm.

**VOLVO** 440SE 2.0i, 29,800 miles, L-reg, 5-door, one owner. Taxed Oct, MOT Sept. Fsh, sunroof, £1,995. Contact Dick Taylor 01268 780426.

**VOLVO** S40 TD, titanium, E02, 15,000 miles, fully-loaded. Two years manufacturers warranty, cheap tax, very good condition. £14,500. Contact Esther Kitteridge 07810 308218.

**FORD** Escort 1.8 diesel, 1992, white, service history, towbar, roof bars, very economical. £500 contact Nik on ext 50821 or 01245 466612.

**VW CAMPER** VAN 1986 2.0 petrol, 71k, sleeps two with microwave cooker, electric hook up. Extras, CD, MOT, fsh, immaculate. Reluctant sale £3,800 ovno. Tel 07946 621083.

**MOUNTAIN BIKE** gents Univega Rover 360, 24" alloy frame (suit tall person), sprung seat pillar, 600 wheels, 21-speed shimano acer X gears, vgc £70. Contact Pc Alan Batchelor on ednet 44069.

**SKIS** and boots, ladies size 6. Salomon SX55 intermediate boots with matching Kastle RXI skis, size 165, only used twice so vgc. £75. Contact Pc Alan Batchelor on ednet 44069.

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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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and 50 runners-up will receive a week's complimentary accommodation in Europe courtesy of GVC Holidays.

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I have read, agreed and understood all the terms and conditions of this offer.

Send your entry to: GVC Holidays, The Law Competition, Citrus House, Caton Road, Lancaster, LA1 3UA. Or apply on-line: [www.gvc.co.uk/caseclosed](http://www.gvc.co.uk/caseclosed)

Closing date for entries: April 14th 2003. The draw will be made on April 15th 2003.

**Terms and Conditions:**

1. This promotion is organised by Canaryroute Ltd trading as GVC Holidays, registered office Citrus House, Caton Road, Lancaster, Lancashire, LA1 3UA.
2. This promotion is open to persons over the age of 25. Current members of the Grand Vacation Club, members at a GVC resort, persons connected with this promotion, and those who have previously attended a GVC resort in the last 12 months, are not eligible.
3. The closing date for entries is April 14th 2003. Entry forms that are illegible, damaged or otherwise incorrectly completed will not be entered into the draw. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. GVC Holidays will carry out the draw on April 15th 2003 and the winners will be notified by telephone within 28 days. The identity of the winners will be made available on request by sending a s.a.e. to the address above within 28 days of the closing date.
4. The first entry drawn will receive the first prize of seven nights' self-catering accommodation which sleeps up to six people at a GVC resort in

- either Tenerife, Costa del Sol, Gran Canaria or the Algarve and two return flights from Manchester or Gatwick subject to availability. The prize must be taken before 30th March 2004.
5. The next fifty entries drawn at random will each receive a runner-up prize, which consists of seven nights' self-catering accommodation (sleeps up to six) at a European GVC resort. Flights are not included and must be booked through GVC Holidays. Further details are available on request. GVC Holidays will not accept single sex group bookings.
6. Meals, flights, additional travelling expenses, insurance, costs of excursions, and/or any other costs or expenses are not included in any prize unless stated. Electricity will be charged for upon departure from the resort. All parties travelling must be named at the time of making the booking and cannot be changed for any reason.
7. GVC Holidays' standard booking conditions apply. You can obtain an information document about this product and a copy of GVC Holidays Standard

- Booking Conditions by writing to GVC Holidays at the above address.
8. No cash or credit alternative is available in relation to the prizes. The prizes are not transferable and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or draw. It is recommended that travel and cancellation insurance is taken out by the successful entrants who must provide valid passports and comply with all visa and health requirements.
9. All winners who meet with the specified criteria and attend a presentation with their spouse or partner to find out about the benefits of membership and holiday ownership with the Grand Vacation Club whilst on their prize holiday will receive a cheque in the sum of £100.00 within 14 days of their return to the UK.
10. This promotion is governed by English law.
11. We comply fully with our obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998, and a copy of our data protection statement is available on request.
12. No purchase is necessary to enter this draw.





## Trumpeting the trooping talent

THE Essex Police Band has appointed a new bandmaster with Keith Manners due to conduct his first performance at the Barbican later this month.

The 44-year-old started at the beginning of February after being chosen from an original shortlist of 12.

The legal executive from Great Wakering, who is married with three children, has conducted bands at schools in the midlands and across the Anglia region after spending five years with the Household Troops Band and 10 years in the Salvation Army's International Staff Band.

Keith's interest in music began at the age of seven when he learned to play the euphonium with the Salvation Army.

As well as studying cello and organ, he progressed through the youth band to become principal euphonium and soloist of the Southend Citadel band.

In 1994, Keith relinquished his position as principal euphonium to take up the baton as bandmaster, a position held for the past 19 years.



● Keith Manners.

During this time, he visited many countries including Europe and the USA, with concert work in the UK including festivals at the Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall and two memorable occasions when he was privileged to meet the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

The new bandmaster's musical interests are not restricted to brass as later this year he will be again by directing the production of the musical *Spirit*.

As a composer, Keith has had a number of brass and vocal compositions published with two further contributions ready for print this year.

## Flash, bang, wallop!

A WEEK-LONG series of shows by the Essex Police Musical Society was well received by audiences who came from all parts of the county to watch *Half A Sixpence*.

Set in Folkestone 1900, the popular and lively show tells the story of Arthur Kipps, a young shopworker who gives his childhood sweetheart half a sixpence as a token, then inherits a fortune, and falls in love with a well-bred and cultured young lady he has admired from afar.

Upper-class society proves challenging for Kipps who provides some great comedy moments and, after some plot twists, he ends up married and happy (of course!), with tantrums, face-slapping, moving ballads and rousing musical numbers along the way.

The February shows were hard work but, with the involvement of so many



● The song Flash Bang Wallop at the wedding.

people and plenty of hours of hard work, it was amusing and everyone had tremendous fun.

The charismatic principles, strong supporting roles, and lively chorus all contributed to making the shows a great success.

There was wonderfully colourful scenery and

costumes which just seem to get better each year.

A lot of thanks also goes to the musicians, properties' coordinator, the prompt, back-stage and lighting crew, front-of-house staff and tea ladies.

The organisers would like to thank all those who attended the show and hope that they enjoyed it.

This year's summer concert is in July and not to be missed.

If you fancy getting involved, being on stage with the lights and greasepaint, or helping out behind the scenes, ring or email Lynda Barkway (ext 50739) or Jenny Hillyard (ext 50335).

Justina Bécousse

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Sport  
and Leisure

# Basildon battle to a squash success

## Croker Cup hots up

THE Cup's snooker and billiards competitions saw Rayleigh rise to third place in the overall stakes after they beat Southend in the snooker final.

The two took 12 points and 10 respectively, with losing semi-finalists Tendring and Braintree taking eight points apiece, and Harlow picking up four.

Braintree beat Rayleigh in the billiards tournament, with Tendring and Southend losing semi-finalists and Harlow the losing quarter-finalists.

There remains two sports left in the Croker Cup year which have been finalised, but hockey, netball, rugby and ladies football games have still to be arranged. The tennis tournament takes place on March 24 and Sea Angling due to take place on March 27.

## Football focus

THE force football teams look set for glory with the national team appearing in the quarter-finals of the National Police Cup and the veterans riding high in the league.

A lone goal from Craig Bolton in the last round, away to Suffolk, sees Devon & Cornwall make the trip to Essex on March 12, with the team urging fans to turn up and support them. Kick-off is at 2.30pm at headquarters.

The team are also through to the semi-finals in both the South Midlands Cup and the Southern Counties Cup with opponents as yet unknown.

The veterans are currently third in Division One of the Ridleys Essex Veterans League. However, this is in part due to the 22-point deduction given to Britannia.

The then league-leaders voluntarily approached the league organisers in order to notify them that they had inadvertently fielded an ineligible player.

Sadly, the governing body was in unsympathetic mood, fining the club £100 and deducting the points which now sees Britannia propping up the table.

**BASILDON** were the comfortable winners in this year's Croker Cup squash challenge defeating Harlow in the final 4-1.

The team, which included 17-year-old cadet Daryl Fryatt, romped to victory with only Harlow's Jason Foster, the reigning national champion, managing a consolation point.

Jason Stephens, Steve Oakes and Derek Patten completed the dominating line-up as the contest quickly became a two-horse race, with Grays narrowly pipping Braintree into third spot.

Organiser Adrian Bunting said: "It was a very competitive, yet thoroughly enjoyable day as so many people turned up to ensure it was a worthwhile competition.

"Our thanks go to Flights sports club who hosted the matches and provided excellent facilities and we're all eagerly looking forward to next year's tournament already."

The team from headquarters came fifth, with Southend and Rayleigh close behind. Tendring brought up the rear, mainly due to only two players being able to make the trip to Southend.

The current Croker Cup table sees Braintree top with 103



● The teams from Basildon and Harlow line up with their winning medals.

points, a lead of 12 over second-placed Harlow.

Rayleigh, Colchester and Southend are battling it out for third place, with another mini-league between Basildon, Headquarters, Tendring and Thurrock.

With only a month left of the season, it looks as if Chelmsford are doomed to finish last, languishing at the bottom with

15 points, 17 adrift of Thurrock.

● This year's regional squash championship was hosted by Essex at Bishop's Stortford, with Jason Foster coming second in the men's open competition, Graham Hadley, from Brentwood's major investigation team, winning the men's over-45 competition and Epping's Alison Oddy winning the ladies final.

A busy year for the force

concludes later this month as the county also hosts the national PAA championship at Harlow Squash Club.

The weekend competition will see over 100 players from across the UK competing in the men's, ladies' and over 45 categories.

The Essex players look forward to seeing as many supporters as possible to cheer them on from March 28.

## Sports & leisure news in brief

Lee Ward and Gareth Ingram have been picked for the British police hockey team to play in games against the RAF, Civil Service, the Navy and Army.

Pc Ward, of Colchester, and Basildon's Pc Ingram, will be travelling to Buckinghamshire's RAF Halton and Royal Navy Portsmouth to take part.

Loughton's Stuart McKie was selected to represent the British Police Water Polo team in the Willie Mellors International tournament in Edinburgh involving Scotland, Wales and the Combined Services.

THE Cheviot 2000 Team Fell Race will again be staged in the Cheviot Hills on June 21.

Now a respected part of the police sporting calendar, the entrance fee is £48 per team of three.

Entry forms can be obtained by sending a SAE to Insp D Rickaby, Newcastle Central Area Command, Market Street police station, Newcastle NE1 6XA, or by telephoning 0191 214 6555.



THE Sports and Social Club have laid on a range of events to suit everyone in the coming months, starting with a performance of *Les Miserables* in London on April 10.

Dress circle tickets and coach travel is available for £33.

Lovers of European culture can make the most of May's weekend visit to Paris, from the third until the fifth.

At £109 for members and £119 for non-members, visitors will enjoy

two nights' bed and breakfast near the centre of the city, coach travel and the Eurotunnel crossing.

In December, the group is heading for the German Christmas Markets for three days from December 4 - 7.

The trip includes three nights' bed and breakfast at a four-star hotel in the centre of Cologne.

Coach travel and the Tunnel crossing are included in the price of £180 for members and £190 for non-members.



The Club recently handed over a cheque for £800 to Harlow's Princess Alexandra Hospital's Neonatal Unit after raising the cash through November's annual bonfire night display at headquarters.

Phil Knight of Vehicle Services, who organised the event, handed the cheque over to the unit, which is saving for a new ventilator at a cost of £25,000.

## Police, camera, action

TWO of the force's sporting heroes found themselves exerting themselves in a different manner recently - when they wrestled a sword-wielding man to the ground whilst out on a run.

Pete Bryan, famed for his triathlon prowess, and canoeing champ Paul Anderson, were pounding through Epping Forest when a 20-year-old student, brandishing the weapon, leapt out in front of them hollering a war cry.

It was small fry for the dynamic duo who apprehended the swordsman, along with two of his accomplices who jumped out of the bushes.

However on questioning, it transpired that the three lads were would-be actors preparing for a play.

Paul is said to have described the scene as "like something from the *Charge of the Light Brigade*", adding: "I couldn't believe my eyes."

Pete added: "My secondment to Special Branch didn't go too well. I never could see the wood for the trees as I thought he was a would-be 'rapist'."

