



Feet up after 44 years - P5



A host of awards presented - centre



Mike returns to his roots - P5

Amnesty will help reduce the number of illegally-held weapons

WE WANT GUNS NOT NAMES!



● Which one is the replica? Insp Simon Williams demonstrates the stark similarities between a real and a replica firearm. Photo: Essex Chronicle Series

IN the wake of government concerns over firearms Essex Police has joined with all forces in the country to launch a month-long weapons amnesty.

The amnesty, running from March 31 to April 30, allows people to hand in to any police station illegally-held weapons and ammunition without fear of prosecution for unlawful possession.

Those handing in any weapons are not required to give their details and guns and ammunition will be disposed of using a metal shredder.

By the morning of day three of the amnesty, more than 30 guns had been handed in, along with 16 air weapons, four imitations, a flick-knife and nearly 900 assorted rounds of ammunition.

In Essex, efforts are being concentrated on recovering air and replica weapons, which can lead to hazardous scenarios for both the owners and the force's firearms officers.

In 2002, the force deployed armed response vehicles (ARVs) to 289 incidents.

During the year, there were 97 robberies involving firearms of some sort, and 11 incidents in which replica weapons were known to have been involved.

by Ben Pennington

The same year saw 582 incidents involving air weapons.

Speaking at the launch of the amnesty, head of practical skills, Insp Simon Williams, said: "Fortunately, incidents of gun crime in Essex are relatively rare. However, we are not complacent and this is a great opportunity to make Essex even safer than it already is."

Underpinning the amnesty is a major tightening of gun laws, such as the now minimum five-year sentence for illegal possession, and the use of air and replica weapons in a public place becoming an arrestable offence.

During the last amnesty in 1996 following events in Dunblane, the force took possession of 793 firearms of various descriptions, 223 other weapons such as knives and 15,994 rounds of ammunition.

Assistant Chief Constable (Operations), John Broughton, said: "Gun crime is totally unacceptable. This amnesty will help reduce the availability of firearms of all descriptions, sparing injury, lives and the trauma of members of the public being threatened with a weapon."

"The message is simple: hand them in or be caught. We want your gun, not your name."

More details of the amnesty are available on the force intranet and internet sites.

Aerial crime fight enhanced

POLICING across the Anglia region will be further improved this summer when the new force helicopter is unveiled at its launch.

The aircraft is partly funded by a £1.2 million Home Office grant which the force matched. It will replace the existing one which has provided air support across Essex, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire since 1998.

The Eurocopter 135 is a newer and more technically advanced version of Suffolk's which will expand operations in Essex and maintain the aerial fight against crime in the region.

Head of Essex's air support unit, and deputy

chairman of the Anglia consortium, Insp Paul Marrion believes the new machine will enhance the support the unit provides to other officers across the force.

"The new aircraft will be safer, faster and more economical to maintain, whilst also being more environmentally friendly," said Insp Marrion. "By using the new, enhanced technology on board, we will be in a position to offer an even better service to front-line officers."

The launch will take place in July when the Chief Constable and members of the police authority will have a chance to see the Eurocopter in action.

More questions on one-off payments

AS this item goes to press, I don't have the answers to the questions I know you have about subsistence and refreshment.

We have been waiting for determination to be published by the Home Office which was due at the end of December but has still not arrived. I said many months ago that this will cause lots of problems and I'm sure I won't be wrong when this eventually arrives.

The £402 pay increase, across the board, should be in April's pay and officers who qualify for the competency-related threshold payments should also see an increase. Although we did not agree to the attendance and sickness criteria being applied, in the agreement it

does state that account should be taken of these factors. We argued that each case should be looked at on its own merits and there are still some cases which are the subject of appeal.

The special priority payments which will be paid in December 2003 are a cause for concern. The criteria for paying these are in areas where there are particular difficulties in recruitment and retention or where there are especially demanding working conditions or working environments, or in posts which carry a higher responsibility level than normal for the rank.

The force has prepared a list of officers who they believe fit the criteria which I cannot produce at this time as discussion still continues.

We see this as divisive in itself. I'm

aware that all groups of workers were looked at but there is only a limited amount of money that can be paid in the total pot. Many officers will feel demoralised in that they are not getting something which they believe they should also be entitled to.

The Government passed the buck to chief officers to decide and the task has not been easy.

We were advised not to negotiate on this matter with chief officers because of the diverse effect this will have.

That said, we have been involved, if only on an informal basis, so that your views, where possible, have been put across and I believe taken into account. It's not a good scheme but the money is there to be spent so unfortunately diversity and disgruntlement will, I believe, prevail.

Federation Newline

by Terry Spelman



Be assured a relaxing holiday

The group travel insurance scheme gives comprehensive insurance for holiday travel anywhere in the world, to the member, their spouse or live-in partner, and children under the age of 21 years living at home, for as many holidays as you wish to take.

The cover will run from January 1 to December 31 each year (please note that this insurance is only available for persons residing in the UK).

Maximum duration of any trip is 30 days (cover may be extended beyond 30 days for an additional premium arranged direct with the Brokers, Philip Williams & Company). This excludes skiing holidays which are for a maximum period of 17 days.

It also gives cover for holidays within the UK

where an overnight stay is involved or air travel is used.

Sums insured: medical £5 million; cancellation and curtailment £3,000; delay up to £100; baggage and personal effects £1,500 (limit of £300 on any one article); cash £500.

All this cover for a premium of only £47.50 a year for up to 65s and £80 per year for those aged 65 and over. (Maximum age for cover is up to 69 years).

It is essential that you advise the insurers of any pre-existing health conditions. Please ring the pre-screening service on 0800 0133445. Please also see the 'Existing Health Conditions' information on the travel insurance certificate.

Failure to declare any such conditions could result in you not being insured.

Covered against the threat of terror

WE HAVE raised the question of liability on insurance due to an act of terrorism with our group insurance providers and payments would be made under the Federation scheme if officers were killed by such an act.

We raised this issue with the force and, in particular, in relation to officers' own mortgage protection

life cover. I reproduce a reply which we received. In view of this, officers are advised to check with their own mortgage company to make sure they are adequately covered.

Under our employers liability policy we have cover up to £5 million for terrorism for any one occurrence. This would cover for any negligence on

behalf of Essex Police to their employees/officers. However, in most liability cases the negligence would be decided by the courts unless we were to admit liability immediately.

The court would also determine the costs that would be paid to the employees/officers and also in view of the potential costs that may be

involved in a terrorist act, the claim may be handled by our insurers rather than our in-house civil claims section.

We have cover for the officers being deployed in the event of a terrorist act, but cannot confirm that items such as mortgage protection could be included in the settlement offered if Essex Police was negligent.

Cautious welcome for performance monitors

NEW police performance monitors published by former Home Office minister John Denham have been given a tempered welcome by the force.

The monitors, which enable the public to compare a force's performance with other similar forces, compare five major areas of policing: reducing crime, investigating crime, promoting public safety, citizen focus and effective use of resources.

The Home Office says the monitors are designed to work in a wider framework that will identify areas for improvement and ensure action is taken to share best practice and improve standards.

The figures show that 8.2 burglaries occur per 1,000 households in the county, compared with a national average of 13.6.

Essex has 0.6 robberies per 1,000 residents, as opposed to an average of 1.2,

and the force matches the average of 20 per cent of offences detected.

John Denham said: "The monitors are the first step in developing a sophisticated performance measurement system for the police service.

"They are intended to raise questions about why performance varies."

Essex's performance is compared with the average among seven similar forces - Avon and Somerset, Bedfordshire, Hampshire, Kent, Sussex, Thames Valley and Warwickshire.

Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark said: "It is pleasing that the figures show the county in a positive light.

"This monitoring has potential as a useful tool in displaying relative police performance, but in their present form they use a limited set of measures which do not reflect the breadth of policing, and they are more than nine months old."

Christmas catalogue cash

POLICE staff and their families raised a total of £73 for the Essex Police museum through the Fundraising Direct Catalogue over Christmas.

The catalogue, which goes out every autumn, is full of seasonal products such as wrapping paper, cards and confectionary.

It was launched in 1998 as

a means for registered charities - such as the force museum - to obtain simpler methods of fundraising.

Up to 25 per cent of the price of every purchase goes to the buyer's chosen charity.

Staff spent nearly £300 through the catalogue.

Museum curator Sarah Ward said: "The money raised through the Fundraising

Direct Catalogue will help towards the overall aim for the museum, to reorganise and redisplay the wealth of exhibits which we have at our disposal."

If you would like a copy of the 2003 catalogue for your department and details of how to order, contact Sarah Ward by email or on extension 50770.

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Offbeat

IT'S nice to know that some people are conscious about wasting taxpayers' money.

When a woman was injured in a car crash in Chelmsford she declined an ambulance on the basis that she could "hobble to the hospital" which was just up the road from the scene.

Extra pay awards agreed

PAY awards for posts deemed harder to fill or perform have been decided for the coming year.

Special Priority Payments (SPPs) will be paid for the first time in December, based on the number of months between April and December that an officer has spent in the qualifying post.

In Essex, the proposals will see detective chief inspectors, detective inspectors, authorised firearms officers and undercover officers receive an extra £2,000 a year.

Tutor constables, child protection officers and territorial officers in Basildon, Harlow and Thurrock will be paid an extra £650. Officers in those divisions filling the role of detective chief inspector, detective inspector or tutor constable will receive aggregated payments of either £2,650 or £1,300.

Special priority payments are aimed at posts which carry a significantly higher responsibility level than the norm for the rank, present special difficulties in recruitment and retention or have particularly demanding working conditions and environments.

Officers must have completed their probationary period, and meet the requirements of the attendance policy, which will be judged on the time between April and December with a nine days absence threshold.

Staff must not have been subject to a disciplinary hearing with a finding of guilt in the 12 months prior to their application, or more than one written warning.

Chief Constable David Stevens said: "The introduction of SPPs is a real opportunity to provide recognition to those colleagues who work in the most demanding roles and in the parts of Essex where recruitment is most challenging.

"I want to emphasise that this does not mean that we do not value every member of staff, but the rules of the scheme set by government limits the number of payments that can be made to around a third of officers."

Fast-track recruitment for 'special' officers

SPECIALS wanting to become regular officers can now do so without completing the assessment centre stage, following the introduction of a new fast-track policy.

The new system will mean Specials can complete competency based questionnaire and bypass procedures at the West Yorkshire assessment centre.

Applicants can contact recruitment and request the form - PERS92 - that lists the evidence required to assess the individual.

It is anticipated that Specials will have served for a minimum of 12 months before entering the process, but

if they can provide evidence within six to 12 months then they will be exempt from the assessment centre.

Divisional officers will then complete the form with their comments, and divisional commanders will review the application and interview the special constable.

Charles Obazuaye, Head of Personnel, said: "The commitment and value of the Specials is already recognised by Essex Police.

"By introducing this new policy, we are encouraging people who already have valuable experience to join the regulars in keeping Essex safe."

Increased protection

MORE body armour should be available to officers by June this year with a number of companies currently vying to provide the equipment.

The issue of body armour has come to the fore following the sad death of Dc Stephen Oake in Manchester earlier this year.

Since then, invitations to tender have been given to a number of companies, and the tenders are in their final stages of the evaluation process.

The new contract will predominantly cover the supply of personal issue overt body armour to male uniformed officers and male and female recruits and transferees, as well as providing a suitable covert system to be initially supplied to divisional tactical team officers.

Until then, officers will use the pool of body armour available on division, with departments who do not have access to such equipment welcome to arrange loans.

Details concerning the tender process can be found on the purchasing department's intranet page.

Licensing legislation faces radical change to reduce disorder

Open all hours

RADICAL changes to the licensing of pubs and clubs mean officers will need to familiarise themselves with new legislation.

Under legislation currently going through parliament the UK will be brought into line with its European partners in an effort to encourage tourism. One of the major changes will be 24 hour opening for licensed premises.

In the longer term the way in which we use alcohol in the UK is expected to reduce binge drinking and incidents of public disorder.

The Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 paved the way for this reform providing options to the police to enforce 'licensing objectives'. These include the use of penalty notices for disorder, test purchasing, designated

non-drinking public areas, confiscation of alcohol and closure of licensed premises when problems arise.

The new legislation will see 'licensed premises' as such disappearing to be replaced by 'premises licences' and 'personal licences' to be granted by local authorities as opposed to magistrates. Local authorities will stipulate, by way of a policy statement, how they expect each business to be conducted. Activities indirectly related to the sale of alcohol will also require 'premises licences'. This includes selling alcohol on behalf of a club, providing regulated entertainment and providing late night refreshments, such as burger vans.

Sgt Nigel Dermot, from community safety, said: "In short licensing legislation will be made simpler in the future for those who need to enforce it - mainly the police. The emphasis will be to reduce anti-social behaviour and alcohol-related crime and disorder.

"With greater technology at our disposal local strategies should be able to focus on tackling the real issues rather than get bogged down in bureaucracy. We all know the effects that alcohol has on the community by the number of drunken offenders that come through the custody door each night. This is a marvellous opportunity to turn our attention to the real problem."

The Act is expected to be in place by July 2004, although applications for the new licences can be made from about January and some of the immediate changes to enforcement, such as confiscation of 'closed' containers of alcohol will take effect from this summer. There is still a lot of work to be done but by the end of the year it is hoped that a website outlining the reforms will be made available via the Essex Police intranet.

More information can be obtained through your local licensing officer or Sgt Dermott at HQ on ext 54444.

The Law is now online

THIS issue of *The Law* is the first which can also be viewed on the internet.

Each month, readers will be able to access a replica of each page on the web site www.essex.police.uk.

As a result, printed copies of *The Law* will no longer be posted to Neighbourhood Watch members.

Any other reader who would prefer to stay abreast of the news on the web site and no longer requires a printed copy to be posted to their home, can cancel it by contacting Claire Schnitzer at the Essex Police Press Office, telephone 01245 452450 or by email to claire.schnitzer@essex.pnn.police.uk.

Dogs get their chips

THE back yard of Epping police station could easily have been mistaken for Crufts as dozens of pet pooches escorted their owners to a microchip day.

The event, which proved a resounding success, saw 35 dogs receive a rice grain sized microchip inserted into the scruff of their neck. Now if they are lost or stolen a scanner will be able to quickly identify their owner's name and address.

Acting Sgt Rob Hance, who organised the event along with animal warden Lynn Cook, believes that the chipping sessions have help reduce the number of dog thefts in the district but he said: "We shouldn't be complacent. It's important we all do as much as possible to protect our pets."

Similar events were held at Ongar and Waltham Abbey.



● Acting Sgt Rob Hance and animal warden Lynn Cook protect a local dog from theft.

Hat's off to novel new scheme

CUSTOMERS at a Laindon store have been banned from wearing hats in an initiative to make identification of criminals on CCTV easier.

The idea is the brainchild of Pc Alan Batchelor as part of a fight back against shoplifters. By displaying signs clearing warning customers that they may be asked to leave the shop if they don't remove their hats it is hoped the number of shoplifting incidents will be reduced.

Hailed as an excellent crime prevention initiative the scheme is expected to be extended across the Basildon division.

Insp Sue Mackey said: "Retail crime has a knock-on effect on everyone. Outlets have to reclaim the cost of their losses by passing on the cost to the consumer."

Figures show that retail crime costs the industry over £2 billion annually.

The grass is not always greener

AS of March 28, I transferred to the Metropolitan Police following 18 years of service with Essex Police. On the week that my transfer was announced in the personnel bulletins, there were a further nine officers also shown as transferring to other forces.

The purpose of my letter is

intended to highlight the fact that whilst recruitment and retention of staff is an obvious and pressing concern for Essex Police (together with the majority of the southern forces), the motivation for transfer is not always what some people might think.

Throughout the 18 years that I served with Essex Police, I was (and remain) fiercely loyal and grateful to the force, but for me the transfer represents the challenge of being able to police one of the most diverse cities in Europe. My new role exposes me to

a high volume of critical and large-scale incidents, which fortunately for those of us who live in Essex, we do not have to endure. This unique style of policing is my main motivation for transfer.

The notion of 'the grass is always greener' is a tempting and persuasive argument, but Essex officers should carefully weigh up the drawbacks of transferring. Essex officers are exposed to a greater variety of policing styles than their colleagues in the Met. In terms of sergeants, inspectors and above, the opportunity to work at a strategic level is without

doubt greater in Essex.

The additional remuneration that the Met also heavily advertises needs to be weighed up in the context of the additional travelling that in most cases is incurred and the subsequent effect it might have upon ones 'work-life balance'.

Whilst I am quite obviously looking forward to my new role, Essex Police remains an attractive proposition for a stable career and I for one have far from ruled out a return in the future.

Insp Mark Bird
Metropolitan Police Service

Do the stats add up?

I MUST comment on the reply from casualty reduction manager Brian Ladd in the March *Law* regarding accident statistics and cameras.

It's the kind of response that alienates public opinion on this subject and ultimately reduces the support of law-abiding citizens for police efforts in reducing road accidents.

First of all any scheme that just reduces collisions within a few hundred yards of a sited object must be of very limited value. I suggest a parked empty police car would achieve the same result. If 20 per cent of the resultant injury reductions were, by inference, non speed-related, how was this achieved?

In my experience percentages can prove anything the writer chooses.

To suggest that a system is only operated on the basis of cost recovery and therefore, by inference, not law enforcement or money making purposes is, with respect, nonsensical. If the cost of the system is, say £10 million, presumably at least 250,000 penalty tickets need to be issued to make sure the scheme remains solvent - ie just for the sake of it!

No excuses

I AM becoming more and more annoyed by the people who complain about speed cameras and paying fines when they are caught exceeding the speed limit.

They are breaking the law and should be punished. No 'ifs' or 'buts' it is a simple, clear situation.

If these people keep within the limit at all times they would have no problems - it is their attitude and lack of common sense which is wrong.

Excess speed does frequently cause accidents and I believe that more frequently unmarked (not painted yellow) cameras would help the situation.

Frederick Wood
NHW co-ordinator
Hatfield Broad Oak

As for the statement that officers have been freed up for other duties, I find this very hard to accept. In my area of Essex it is quite a common sight for mobile camera vans, manned by uniformed police officers, to site themselves for two or three hours, particularly late evening (I wouldn't be so cynical as to suggest it's overtime) in very lightly used roads with no accident records whatsoever, that I am aware in 27 years of residence. Surely not the best use of police resources.

The three accident blackspots in Wickham Bishops seem to have received little if any police attention over many years, although one has been greatly improved by a new road lay-out.

More speed, more lives

MR Reynolds response to the use of safety cameras typifies today's use of the motor car by drivers who believe they know best and any controls over their speed is unreasonable.

He didn't use the usual "why aren't the police catching the burglars instead" argument but came pretty close.

Burglars rarely kill anyone - speeding drivers kill thousands each year and what is rarely referred to, maim many more thousands leaving families just as devastated as those affected by murder or serious assault.

Of course annual statistics fluctuate and there will always be a minority of experts claiming speed is not one of the main causes of road accidents. One doesn't need to be a statistician to realise that as speed increases accidents are more likely to occur AND to be far more serious than those at a lower speed.

My view is that accident reports by police officers (from which statistics are compiled) probably understate the influence of speed.

As a keen cyclist I know many families are intimidated away from both cycling and walking by speeding

There is obviously a big gap between the views of people like me, and we are not a few, and the police authorities on these subjects. Until it is bridged I suggest general support and co-operation from the public is always going to be a little strained.

W. Tatum, Wickham Bishops

EDITOR'S NOTE All police officers manning mobile camera vans do so on their rest days funded by the Department of Transport. Under the scheme mobile safety cameras can only be used in areas which are clearly marked as being safety camera areas and can only be used in areas which have had a least four serious injury or fatal crashes.

drivers, this sorry state being compounded by those who drive 300 yards for the daily newspaper and expect to park within five yards of the shop door irrespective of yellow lines or a dangerous position.

The car has given many benefits to our society but unfortunately it has also increased the laziness and obesity factors many times over. Local government transport plans quite rightly put the car well down the list of priorities behind public transport, walking and cycling.

Drivers need to realise the car can be an instrument of death and injury. It is neither amusing nor macho to drive at excessive speed.

I worked with retired Det Chief Supt Ralph Barrington for many years and we both spent more time in CID than in uniform. He quoted a classic comment about 12 years ago which I will never forget: "Would you rather have a police officer call to deal with a burglary or tell you a loved one has been killed in a road accident?"

I'll have any number of burglaries thank you.

As for painting cameras yellow . . . Should we tell robbers that the police have planned an ambush to be fair to them??

Malcolm Hargreaves
Marks Tey

It is not all down to speed

J.A. REYNOLDS states unpalatable facts on real motor crime and refers to Chief Supt Bill Hardy of Surrey Police, who stated that he had studied 1,500 accidents and from this, excess speed played a part in only a few.

Speed cameras have actually resulted in an increase in accidents. His findings were also confirmed in investigations made in British Columbia, Canada.

It is not solely speed that kills, but kinetic energy. To explain - if a feather hit you at 30mph it is unlikely to injure you but if a vehicle travelling at 10mph hit you it could cause injury or even death. Testing kinetic energy is simple. When driving a car apply the brakes and the car does not immediately stop but skids forward. If while driving the engine is switched off the car continues to travel forward.

If a heavy goods vehicle travelling at 20mph hits you, it could result in you being injured or killed, no less than a car travelling at 30mph. Speed cameras would not be helpful in these circumstances. Recently whilst I was driving a car on the M25 a heavy goods vehicle travelling too close behind me ignored the 40mph road sign. It hit the rear of my vehicle but fortunately no damage was caused.

HGVs, often foreign, on motorways, leave the slow lane to overtake a vehicle and swerve in front of a vehicle travelling in the centre lane, endangering those proceeding along the centre lane. It is another example of bad driving, the cause of many accidents not related to speed.

Walter Ablett
Chelmsford

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

Looking out for old Bill

I AM hoping retired officers from the old Southend borough force can help me find a photo of Sgt William Arthur Gosling, known to colleagues as 'Uncle Bill'.

I know some photos were taken at the last parade of the borough force on March 31, 1969.

Uncle Bill was in the parade alongside officer 273 Michael Bedford, who retired as a detective sergeant.

If anyone can loan me a front picture of Bill with all his medals so that I can make a copy, I would be extremely grateful.

If you can help, please contact Angela Smith at crime division on ext 52004.

Ex-Supt David Bright
Southend

We were moved

I WISH to acknowledge my thanks and deep appreciation to all those friends and colleagues of David, who attended his funeral at Great Burstead on Friday, March 28.

The uniformed salute given by Dick Madden on entry to the church was a particularly moving moment.

The many cards of condolence, letters, flowers and tributes have helped to sustain me and my family during this particularly difficult time.

Thank you everyone.

Ann Murrells
Billericay

A fine way to deal with disorder

MORE than 700 fines have been issued by the force at the halfway stage of the year-long pilot for penalty notices for disorder (PNDs).

The pilot, also being operated by the Met, North Wales and West Midlands, began on August 12 last year.

To date, West Midlands have issued over 1,700 tickets, with Essex second followed by the Met on 176 and North Wales on 130.

The majority of PNDs have been issued for causing harassment, alarm or distress, or for being drunk and disorderly.

No court appearances have been requested by recipients of the tickets, and around two-thirds of all fines have been paid within the 21-day period.

Chief Insp Carl O'Malley, who has managed the pilot for the force, said: "Most officers have been keen to increase the range of disposal options available to them, and see the scheme in a positive light."

"With summer now nearly upon us we would encourage officers to consider using PNDs as a quicker and more efficient form of dealing with offenders, which frees up officer time and saves the cost and time of court proceedings."

A full evaluation is due to be carried out by the Home Office at the end of the pilot. The government department has already declared the initiative a success and is keen to see it extended.

More safety cameras planned

A SET of new safety cameras are to be installed during this spring as part of the ongoing strategy to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on the county's roads.

The 22 cameras are being installed on roads which are proven crash hotspots and have a history of speeding problems. A further six red-light cameras will also be mounted, with some replacing existing ones in order to address visibility restrictions or changes to road layout.

The locations will be advertised locally and on the website www.essexsafetycameras.co.uk when the cameras become live.

Team approach to recruitment

IN a bid to recruit more residents into public service Essex Police has teamed up with Thurrock Council, Thurrock Primary Care Trust and Essex County Fire and Rescue Service.

A recruitment fair was held at the division's council offices giving people the chance to make a real difference in their area.

Each organisation staged a

series of presentations and information stalls were open to the public.

Chief Supt Terry Sheern said: "Massive investment is being ploughed into the borough, giving the sort of experience a police officer would not get elsewhere. The recruitment fair was a superb way to enhance the profile of the work we and our partners are doing every day."

Constable's princely project

A LEIGH constable has been seconded to the Princes Trust on a full-time basis in the first deal of its kind in Essex.

Gary Bradford, a neighbourhood beat officer with Leigh's community policing team, will work with Trust volunteers in the town for four months.

He will assist the group of 16 to 25 year-olds as they undertake a local project, centred around the Salvation and focusing on improving the look and usability of the area. The 12-week project develops personal skills and helps to equip young people for work and build confidence in their own abilities.

Hitting criminals where it hurts - in their pocket

Criminals who cash in at the expense of their victims will be made to pay following the launch of a new Home Office body.

The Assets Recover Agency will seize, investigate and recover assets obtained illegally, and can tax any individual or company where there are 'reasonable grounds to suspect' that they have gained financially from crime.

The agency is currently 70-strong, and set to expand by more than a quarter this month.

Since the Proceeds of Crime Act came into force last Christmas, £8.7m of cash suspected of being intended for use in crime or the proceeds has been seized by police and customs officers.

Although there has been no confiscation in Essex so far under the Act, seizing of criminals' cash and assets has been taking place for more than 20 years under various legislation.

In 2002, more than £130,000 was seized in Essex, of which £20,000

went to Essex Police with the remainder going to the Government.

Laws have also been introduced to combat money laundering in the UK, which require financial institutions to report all transactions where there are reasonable grounds to suspect money laundering.

Home Secretary David Blunkett said: "Seizing the proceeds of crime takes away the main motive for crime, and stops criminals using the money to build up their criminal enterprises."

ACPO has backed the new agency, and welcome the partnership approach in preparing to use the new powers.

Head of the ACPO working group on proceeds of crime, and Deputy Chief Constable of Warwickshire, Roger Aldridge said: "ACPO is fully committed to supporting the Assets Recovery Agency and will be referring cases to it for action. The agency will have a small number of police officers seconded to it to ensure the smooth running of case referrals."

Bringing justice on persistent offenders

A NEW partnership between county criminal justice agencies aimed at bringing more persistent offenders to book has been launched.

The Persistent Offender Scheme is part of a national drive to narrow the justice gap - the difference between recorded crime and cases brought to justice.

A persistent offender is someone over 18 and convicted of six or more recordable offences in the last 12 months. Home Office research suggests that at any one time, ten

per cent of offenders will be committing half of all crime.

In Essex in 2001 to 2002, there were 113,150 recorded crimes, of which 21,893 were brought to justice, representing less than 20 per cent.

The scheme will see persistent offenders flagged up on a new web based system, J-track, so that through information sharing between different organisations an offender can be tracked through the system, and cases given priority.

Those organisations have joined up to form local criminal justice boards, consisting of the Chief Constable and representatives of the courts, CPS, probation service, youth offending teams and the prison service.

By each organisation keeping others aware of the status of offenders, and where they are in the system, the scheme will help to plug gaps from submission of poor case files to rehabilitation in prison for repeat offenders.

Home Office minister Lord Falconer will visit Essex on May 2 to view the implementation of the scheme.

Project manager Insp Stuart Ashton, said: "Through greater information sharing we will maximise the opportunity to convict people who are committing most crime."

Insp Ashton has met with all crime managers in the force, and in the next few weeks officers can expect to learn more about the scheme from their managers.

Reunion of the crossing patrol

THIS year marks the 50th anniversary of the school crossing patrol and organisers of a reunion are looking to seek out the oldest, retired officer in Essex in order to celebrate the fundamental role they play in today's community.

County council school crossing manager Keith Welham is looking to organise four buffet lunches to reunite former officers.

He said: "It would be fantastic to see those Essex officers come together and share memories and memorabilia, and catch up on old times."

There are four dates in the diary for these lunches, with Chelmsford hosting the first one on May 13, Harlow on May 15, Basildon on May 19 and Colchester on May 22.

Anyone who is interested in attending is asked to contact Mr Welham on 01245 437592.

A lifetime of loyalty

AS if 30 years as a police officer wasn't enough for Brian Simpson he spent another 14 years as a civilian police driver. But he has finally seen sense and decided it's time for a piece of quality retirement.

Brian joined Essex Police the year Manchester United lost seven of its star players in the Munich air crash - that was back in 1958.

Much of his police career was spent on traffic patrol at Halstead and Thorpe so it was only natural for him to return to Clacton as a driver.

Now aged 65 he says: "There are lots of things I want to do and places I want to go and it really is the end this time."

Divisional commander Chief Supt Dick Madden added: "He has given us a lifetime of valuable service."

For details of more retirees turn to page 10.



● After 44 years with Essex Police Brian Simpson finally puts his feet up.

PHOTO: Steve Argent, Essex County Newspapers.

The cream of the crop

THE outstanding work of Essex officers has been marked in a month of commendations and awards, from long service to acts of bravery.

High commendations are rare occurrences, given only for actions in exceptional circumstances. The courageous efforts of two constables who tackled a fire and rescued an unconscious woman was a deserving case.

Pc Ian Hardy and Pc Daniel Jordan, based at Southend, were on routine patrol when they came across the blaze on the third floor of a house. Without a thought for their own safety, they went into building. Driven back by intense heat and smoke they used wet towels to cover their faces and continued to fight their way in until they were able to find and rescue the woman trapped inside. All three were treated for smoke inhalation.

After the rescue it was thought that there was still a baby inside so dog handler, Pc Patrick Lyons, Pc Jeremy Freeman and Dc Ian Steele resumed the

search despite thick smoke and intense heat. Fortunately there was no one else trapped. The trio all received commendations.

Tireless efforts to revive a woman at the scene of a road crash brought commendations to Pc Jonathan Hill, formerly Brentwood and Mr Simon Chambers, an off-duty paramedic from Hornchurch.

The crash happened on the Ongar Road in Brentwood last February. An elderly passenger collapsed and the two men immediately began heart massage and resuscitation, while ambulance crews worked on her compromised airway. Despite considerable efforts, even en route to the hospital, the woman sadly died.

Pc Richard Barstow from Colchester was commended for persuading a volatile woman to give up a knife at the scene of a fatal stabbing. He then succeeded in making an arrest.

On another occasion a man found dead next to his car in Southend was initially thought to be the result of a heart attack. However, thanks to the diligence and hard work of a team of police officers, two men were convicted of the manslaughter and robbery of Ronald Dennis in August last year and sentenced to eight years' imprisonment.

Det Chief Insp Alan Hurley, Det Insp Brian Elkington, Ds David Murray, Ds Robert Sandford, Dc Andrew Glister, Dc Philip Smith, Dc James Ling, Dc Matthew Hussey, Dc Kevin Harman, Dc Philip Butt, Pc Carl Chinnery, Pc Jeremy

Freeman, Pc Caroline Venables and Pc Kellie Golding (now a sergeant at Basildon) were all awarded commendations for their actions.

Det Insp Brian Elkington said: "We always felt that the death of Mr Dennis needed further investigation and as a result of good basic policing the identities of the attackers were discovered after six days."

Among other commendations in March were those to officers faced with violent offenders.

Pc Linda Brooking was called to a cafe in Walton to deal with an armed and violent man threatening to kill himself and anyone who tried to stop him.

The man was persuaded to put the knife down by Pc Brooking and using her CS incapacitant spray she was able to arrest him.

Off-duty Canvey constable Jason Sutton went to the aid of his family doctor, who was struggling with a violent and aggressive man on a footpath. The man, who was later diagnosed to have severe mental health problems was physically restrained by Pc Sutton for over 10 minutes until local officers arrived.

In an unusual twist a member of the public went to the aid of a police officer undoubtedly preventing him from being seriously assaulted.

The offender had already threatened to stab the police officer when Mrs Jennifer Robinson, showing no concern for her own safety attempted to restrain the man suffering an assault as a consequence.

Sgt Peter Rawlings from Rayleigh managed to



● Pc Daniel Jordan is interviewed by the press having received a high commendation alongside Pc Ian Hardy, for rescuing an unconscious woman from a house fire.

follow a stolen lorry across two divisions, despite intimidation by gang members following the lorry in a car. He maintained his position, directing colleagues to his location, where the lorry and load valued at £1.2 million were recovered and the driver arrested.

When an incendiary device was discovered at Lakeside Shopping Centre, Pc Adrian Ranson, Dc Stephen Little and Ds David Bishop used their local knowledge and initiative to identify four suspects.

Their arrests led to the discovery of four more devices which could have caused both injury and disruption.

Dc Keith Banks, Rayleigh was commended for his professional investigation of a series of indecent assault by a teacher.

His sensitive and thorough handling of a number of interviews with both young children and the defendant's secured a conviction and five year custodial sentence.

Although a probationer at the time Pc Clayton Ford, from Benfleet, detected a wide range of offences, including burglary, theft, deception, assault and perverting the course of justice, resulting in a total of 104 arrests.

He was proudly commended for his exceptional work.

Last, but by no means least to receive an accolade from the Chief Constable was Rayleigh special constable Matthew Smith.

SC Smith was travelling as an ambulance technician for the Thames Ambulance Company when a car crashed into the rear of the ambulance.

The car driver tragically died and SC Smith was himself injured. But despite his own pain and injury he deployed his paramedic skills to help those in a more serious condition.

Loyalty rewarded

IT was the first time that the county's new Lord Lieutenant, Lord Petre, had the honour of presenting long service and good conduct medals to officers and support staff.

A total of 30 staff received the medal, awarded for 22 years' service with the force. In addition annual trophies were presented to four officers for their extraordinary endeavours.

Speaking at the awards, Chief Constable David Stevens made mention of some of the events that will be remembered from 1980 and 1981, when the officers receiving long service awards joined the force.

"Pirate Radio Caroline's ship the Mi Amigo sank, and JR was shot in Dallas," said Mr Stevens. "John Lennon was shot dead in New York, and President Reagan was shot and wounded by John W Hinckley III. John McEnroe exhibited a disgraceful act of misbehaviour at Wimbledon."

The Wilson Trophy, for the most meritorious act of 2002 was given to Pc Gerrard Parker, based at Chelmsford.

Pc Parker was off-duty when he confronted and arrested a man armed with a knife.

Pc Nicola Gander, of Colchester's community policing team, picked up the Millard Trophy, given for the greatest contribution to social services in the community in the furtherance of police and public relations.

Inter-agency teams to look at underlying reasons for some of the problems in the area have been set up thanks to her hard work.

The highest placed officer in the police promotion to sergeant exam was Dc Amanda White, of Colchester CID, who won the Sir Jonathan Peel Trophy.

The final trophy, the Anthony Peel Trophy, is awarded for crime reduction and was presented to Pc Vincent Brown, based with

Southend's central section, for his consistent high work rate which led to 281 detections within the last year.

The ceremony also saw the presentation of three Royal Humane Certificates.

Mr Keith Pigott and Pc Robin Beauchamp were awarded the certificate after resuscitating a man who stopped breathing in Southend. The man was taken to hospital and released the following day.

Mr Bradley Hutcheson received the certificate for emergency first-aid treatment given to a man at the scene of a serious road collision, allowing officers to deal with other injured parties and make the scene safe.

Mr Paul Hyland and Mr Neil Kirby were awarded certificates for pulling an unconscious driver from a burning vehicle.

The long service and good conduct medal was presented to the following officers:

Insp Robert Adams, Harlow; Det Chief Insp Michael Allen, Harlow; Pc Graham Anslow, Training Centre; Pc Paul Bird, Basildon; Sgt Dave Birkett, HQ Community Safety; Sgt Doreen Campbell, South Ockendon; Dc Stephen Card, SOC, HQ; Pc Tina Clothier, Stanway Road Policing Unit (RPU); Pc Helen Culligan, South Ockendon; Dc Kevin Ford, Brentwood; Insp Perry Funnell, Colchester; Pc Graham Garnham, Colchester Dog Section; Pc Duncan Horner, Grays; Pc Alan Husk, Laindon RPU; Sgt Jeffery Kettle, Southend; Sgt Stephen Mann, Force Information Room; Sgt Nicola Norris, Epping; Pc Alan Perry, Force Information Room; Pc Robert Piper, Rayleigh RPU; Pc Susan Powl, Driving School; Dc Stephen Rawson, Stanway MIT; Pc Michael Sharp, Colchester; Dc Paul Toms, Harlow Child Protection Unit; Dc Peter Voss, Special Branch; Pc Alan White, Force Information Room; Pc Ray Williams, Basildon; Dc Mark Wojcik, Stanway MIT; Pc Andrew Young, Rochford; Rosemary Dabbs, Laindon RPU; Jan Durr, Training Centre.



● LEFT TO RIGHT: Pc Gerrard Parker was awarded the Wilson Trophy for the most meritorious act. Dc Amanda White wins the academic accolade, the Jonathan Peel Trophy, for coming top in the promotion exam. Pc Vincent Brown's 281 detections gave him the Anthony Peel Trophy for crime reduction and Pc Nicola Gander picked up the Millard Trophy for the greatest contribution to social services.

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Health & Welfare

Don't suffer in silence

A PERSON suffering from depression finds that it affects everything in their lives. It affects thoughts, sleep and eating habits, and can have an influence on our relationships at home and work.

Depression is not a personal weakness. People who suffer from it can't merely "pull themselves together". It can be attributed to a chemical imbalance in the body that the individual has no control over.

The symptoms of depression can leave the person feeling very isolated and alone. It is a complaint that has been stigmatized over the years and there is a fear that they will be labelled as weak.

Therapeutic treatment, time and understanding are often very successful in helping the individual recover from depression. Medication can have significant benefit if closely monitored and appropriately prescribed. Other therapies include counselling and cognitive behavioural therapy.

If you believe that you are suffering from depression contact your GP in the first instance. You can access counselling via the occupational health and welfare department. Any contact will be treated in a confidential manner and they will provide an understanding and supportive environment. Please give them a call and do not suffer in silence.

Symptoms include: sadness, anxious, "empty" mood, feelings of hopelessness, pessimism, feelings of guilt, worthlessness, helplessness, loss of interest in hobbies, activities, sex, disturbed sleeping patterns, over or under eating, fatigue, suicidal thoughts, irritability, lack of concentration, poor decision making skills and physical symptoms such as headaches digestive disorders or chronic pain that do not respond to treatment.

Community to benefit from seaside fun

ORGANISERS of an open day in Clacton are looking to raise money for local community projects ahead of the big event this summer.

The funday, due to be held on Saturday, July 26 on the front grounds of the police station, has been planned in order to improve facilities at schemes across the Tendring area.

The entertainment will be supplied by local radio station Dream 100 and will be complimented by live bands and that firm

summer holiday favourite the barbecue.

Derek Marshall is looking forward to the event he hopes will generate valuable cash to help support the community.

"I'm hoping that the day itself brings sunshine if not for the rest of the season so that there is a big turnout and people can have a really fun time, but with the knowledge that they are doing their bit for the local community," said Pc Marshall. "As well as Dream 100 supporting us, we're hoping to have the army, fire service and

coast guards on hand to help entertain the adults and children."

There will be a host of activities to keep youngsters happy all day, with a bouncy castle, face painting stalls and games laid on by a team of volunteers.

Anyone who has any unwanted toys, records, crockery, books or other household items which can assist the project is asked to contact Derek or Bob Walsham at Clacton police station on extension 16322 or via email.

A page in the life of Mick



● Mick Page.

THE humour and dedication of a detective who tragically died of cancer last year, is being honoured in a book of true life tales and anecdotes.

Mick Page, a scenes of crime officer from Harlow described by one colleague as "the human dynamo", was just 42 when he lost his two-year battle against the illness. He had served 23 years with Essex Police.

Former colleague Chris Caten, who was a constable alongside Mick when they were based at Ongar, has now put pen to paper to record a host of amusing, serious and sometimes life-threatening stories.

Material for the book has been provided by a variety of people who knew Mick and some 72 chapters including around 140 stories have now been penned.

Chris, who retired from the force last year and is now the civilian driver of Harlow Division's rural police office, said: "I've never

attempted anything like this before. I just feel we lose so many stories revolving around people.

"Lots of us were saying 'I remember Mick doing this' and 'I remember Mick doing that'. I've known so many people in my career with some amazing stories, really comical ones."

Among the true tales set to be included in the book is one recalling the time when Mick and Tony Ellis, Mick's former sergeant, were called to a cat stuck up a tree.

Using a ladder that would reach only half way up the tree, Mick climbed the ladder, and then pulled the ladder up behind him.

After handcuffing it to a strong branch, he was then able to climb higher.

The cat, however, spitting and biting, was not appreciative of Mick's efforts.

A more serious incident, to which Mick was called with retired sergeant Geoff Lee, occurred in Stanford Rivers. They arrived on the scene and were confronted by two men armed with electric stun guns, shotguns and CS gas canisters who were trying to kidnap a bank manager and hold his wife to ransom threatening to inject her with AIDS-infected

blood if a large payment was not made.

There is also a story about Epping police station being haunted by a police sergeant who shot himself in the building.

Mr Caten said: "If you have a real character everyone has a story to tell and unless someone makes an effort to sit down and note those stories and keep them then it's all forgotten."

Initially Mr Caten intended to get just three copies of his work printed, and leather-bound.

One would be presented to Mick's widow, Sally, who works at Harlow police station, one would go to the Essex Police museum, and one he would keep for himself.

But now that the project is attracting widespread interest both in the force and from Mick's former colleagues, it is thought a full print run could now be on the cards, with the proceeds raising money for the Helen Rollason cancer charity.

Anyone who has a story for the book or is interested in obtaining a copy should contact Chris at Ongar on 01277 362013.

Tom's royal moment of pride



● Det Chief Insp Tom Harper receives his MBE from the Queen.

SCIENTIFIC support manager Det Chief Insp Tom Harper joined other luminaries at Buckingham Palace in March to receive the Queen's Police Medal for services to policing.

Mr Harper was among 125 recipients to receive awards from HM the Queen, including the actress Jean Simmons and golfer Sam Torrence, who picked up OBES.

The ceremony took place in the Grand Ballroom, where the Lord Chamberlain, The Rt. Hon Lord Luce, announced those receiving awards.

Mr Harper said he was proud to represent the force at the ceremony, adding: "When I reflect on the reasons for getting the award it would have undoubtedly have involved the continual disruption and abstraction from home and family life that my job has had over the last 27 years.

"This couldn't have been achieved without the support and understanding of my wife Jean and I would like this to be seen as a joint award."

Help to trace a friend

CAN you help Veronica Betts trace a childhood friend?

Veronica, who was Veronica Grigg at the time, lost touch with Valerie Knight about 30 years ago when they were just 13 and school friends at William Edward's Comprehensive School in Stifford Clays.

Valerie's father was a police officer, who it is believed transferred to the Colchester area in about 1973. She had a younger brother Tim and they owned a white poodle. They lived in the last house next to the field in Blackshots Lane, Grays.

Veronica has often wondered how she is over the years and would dearly like to hear from her or anyone who may know of the family's whereabouts. She can be contacted on 01375 644347.

Free email can reunite you

AN internet service set up to help reunite colleagues and old friends and provide a safe and secure way to stay in contact, has now launched a free email service.

Police Reunited is part of Police Oracle and you can now contact anyone who subscribes to the site by typing their username and then @policeoracle.com.

Typewriters put to good use

WE often donate time, money and material goods to worthy causes but don't always hear how they are used.

However Essex Police last year donated 52 redundant typewriters to one of Africa Educational Trust's projects in Somalia - the Community Police Education Programme.

The typewriters left HQ and soon after were shipped to Somaliland where they are now being used by the Somaliland Police.

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		Total	17,491.54	13,255.01	15,197.76	12,278.31	13,216.05	11,347.29	12,283.23	10,898.90
8.7% APR	£5,000	Monthly	104.12	78.90	126.65	102.32	183.56	157.60	255.90	227.07
		Total	8,745.62	6,627.45	7,598.86	6,139.13	6,608.02	5,673.67	6,141.62	5,449.45
8.7% APR	£3,000	Monthly	62.47	47.34	75.99	61.39	110.14	94.56	153.54	136.24
		Total	5,247.43	3,976.48	4,559.29	3,683.49	3,964.78	3,404.19	3,684.97	3,269.66

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Bigger crowd would have been nice

OUR meal at the New Times Restaurant in early March was a success despite only ten members and friends turning up. I realise that the later date meant that some of our usual diners were committed elsewhere but we will have to consider whether it is worth organising a similar event in 2004.

Our AGM on March 13 at HQ was again an enjoyable event although the numbers only just exceeded those at the New Times with a total of eight members.

Fortunately we were as always supported by our wives and a useful business meeting was held and was followed by an excellent fish and chip supper.

The evening was rounded off with a photo quiz organised by Derrick Thomas.

During the AGM it was proposed that in an attempt to generate more interest in branch activities we should re-institute the issuing of a regular branch newsletter. This was agreed and it is planned to issue the first of these during April.



Although we are not in a position to publicise too many events at the moment there are two events we would ask you to make a note of.

The first is a Christmas market cruise which leaves Chelmsford on Thursday, December 4 and returns on Sunday, December 7. The trip has been organised by Frank Joslin through Travelscope International and consists of a coach journey from Chelmsford to Maastricht in Holland where we will join the MV Serena.

We will have three nights on the boat while we visit a number of towns on the river Maas before returning to Maastricht and then back to Chelmsford.

The cost of the trip is £155 per person and this includes bed and breakfast and an evening meal on board the boat for three nights. We already have over 30 bookings so if you are interested in joining us please call Frank on 01245 602872.

The other event is also at Christmas and is our annual dinner and dance which will be held on Friday, December 19, at the HQ Sports and Social Club. We are not taking bookings for this yet but please make a note of the date. We don't have an exact price as yet but it seems likely that we will have to make a slight increase on last year's prices.

Bill Fancourt, Treasurer

World is their oyster

NO corner of the world will go untouched now Eric Tatum has retired.

The former Billericay-based constable spent almost 25 years serving Essex Police in many a guise. Patrolling Colchester as a probationer led to a posting on the force support unit, where he became directly involved in both the Toxteth riots and the miners' strike. He then became a member of the tactical firearms group before winding down his career as town beat officer in Billericay.

But now there is nothing standing in his way and a camper van tour of Europe with his wife is his first port of call. Then there will be a short holiday to Cyprus for a wedding before taking on the arduous task of jetting off on a round the world ticket or "back packing for dinosaurs" to quote Eric.

Constable **Tab Hunter** has retired after serving the majority of his 30-year career as a police motorcyclist.

Fortunately Tab did not hang up his motorcycling boots as he is the proud owner of several motorbikes and he will need them in his new role as director of a motorcycle repair and sales business.

Working out of a modern fully equipped workshop at Tiptree Heath service station, Tab is looking forward to seeing old colleagues.

He was captain of both the force freshwater angling team and the ski team and is planning to spend time with his wife teaching their five-year-old daughter Danii to ski.

Another former traffic officer Sgt **Kevin Fussell** has also retired after exactly 31 years with Essex Police.

Kevin, 50, whose last posting was as a divisional sergeant at Loughton, is married with a son and a daughter and lives in Harlow.

Retiring on medical grounds is Pc **Geoffrey Howell** after 23 years' service. Geoffrey's last posting before his retirement on March 31 was Rayleigh traffic unit.

Names in the news

Tribute to those sadly lost

FORMER superintendent **Robert Palmer** died on March 21 aged 81 years.

Mr Palmer, who was living in Norfolk, served with Essex Police from 1946 to 1977 with postings at Brentwood, Billericay, Rayleigh, Hornchurch, Chelmsford and HQ.

Essex Police also says a sad farewell to **David Murrells**, a former detective sergeant who has died aged 57.

Mr Murrells, from Billericay, died on March 16 leaving a widow Ann. He had served from 1966 to 1996 serving at Grays, Basildon, HQ Fraud and the National Criminal Intelligence Unit.

Former constables **Alfred English** and **William Smith** have also sadly died.

Mr English, from Harlow, was

aged 79 when he died on March 17 leaving a widow Daphne. He had served from 1948 to 1977 at Chelmsford, Billericay, Ingatestone, Hatfield Heath, HQ, Colchester and Harlow.

Mr Smith, from Clacton, died on February 19, aged 83. He served from 1939 to 1969 at Romford, Saffron Walden and Clacton.

Well-known member of Victim Support **Marj Warren** died on March 15 following a long and courageous battle against cancer.

As well as being a Victim Support member and being instrumental in developing the group in Basildon and Castle Point, she worked proactively with the local crime and disorder partnerships and leaves her successor much to build on.



● Chief Constable Mike Todd

Mike comes home for university honour

A PRESTIGIOUS award from the University of Essex has been won by former Essex Chief Supt Mike Todd.

Mr Todd, who served Essex Police for 19 years and is now the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester was chosen as the university's Alumnus of the Year.

He interrupted his Essex Police service to study full-time for a degree in Government at the university, graduating with first-class honours in 1989. He continued his studies part-time and was awarded a Master of Philosophy degree in 1994.

The award, introduced last year by the University of Essex Foundation, recognises former students who have

made a substantial contribution to the community.

Since leaving Essex Mr Todd has also served as Assistant Chief Constable in Nottinghamshire and Assistant Commissioner in the Metropolitan Police. He has been responsible for policing many high profile operations including the May Day demonstrations, Notting Hill Carnival, the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations, and a major London-wide anti-terrorism exercise.

A strong believer in being "highly visible out there on the street and in communities" Mr Todd has already spent several occasions on patrol in Manchester.

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FLORIDA villa. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, overlooking water, own pool. Quiet location near Disney and airport. From £475 pw. Contact Lin or Pete on 01245 321378.

HOUSE exchange. New 2 bed house, Swavesey, Cambridge, small garden. Wanted 2 bed flat or house in Chelmsford or Southend areas, rented. Ring Shirley on 01245 465792 or ext 50666.

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ROVER Metro Rio. Turquoise 1.1, 'L' reg. MOT and tax until August, vgc, cheap tax, insurance, petrol. Very reliable, service history, £800 or sensible offer. Contact 01621 743590.

ROVER Sterling 820. Taxed April, MOT Jan 2004. Hand controls can be removed. Auto, 'M' reg', cream leather. Airbag, heated front seats, stereo, CD, 4 door, good condition, racing green, £2,495. Contact Mrs Cackett on 01702 468832.

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TURKEY, Hisaronu. "Oludeniz Hotel", self-contained apartments, own balconies, aircon, pool, vast array of sport, culture, sun and fun, £25 per night per apartment. Contact Caroline Dunn on 01702 219653.

Final call to comrades

THIS is a final reminder to members of the Comrades' Association that the spring buffet will be held on Saturday, May 10, at the Essex Police training centre at HQ.

The sports pavilion bar will be open from 11.30am and lunch will be served at 1pm.

This is your opportunity, not only for you to attend, but also to bring your partners

and guests in order that you can renew old friendships and, hopefully, make some new ones in most convivial surroundings.

Please let Sue Kelly (Federation) have your booking forms and cheques as soon as possible.

The cost will be £15 per head inclusive of mineral water, fruit juice and table wine.

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Sport and Leisure

New team manager required

A NEW football manager is required to help maintain the veterans' position in the first division as current boss Cliff Haines retires to pursue other ventures.

Unlike several premiership managers, Mr Haines has seen his team promoted in the 12 months he has been at the helm, where they are currently pushing for a top three finish in the Ridleys Essex Veterans League Division One.

Matches are played each Saturday, with home games at headquarters and each game ending up as social event.

Team secretary Ian Howitt said: "It'll be sad to see Cliff go as he has taken this team to new heights. He will definitely be missed. We want to maintain our successful status, but are willing to speak with anyone who is available at weekends and who can continue pulling the team together with enthusiastic skill."

Anyone who is interested and believes they can follow in Cliff's footsteps is asked to contact Ian Howitt at Rayleigh MIT on extension 35332 or via email.

Island offer

SPECIAL accommodation for police personnel has been arranged with the Les Douvres Hotel in Guernsey.

In April, staff can take advantage of the special rate of £35 per person per night including breakfast, or £50 for half board, based on two people sharing a double or twin room.

Single occupancy is £35 bed and breakfast, or £50 half board.

For full information call 01481 238731.

Five complete gruelling course

FIVE runners represented Essex Police at this year's English National Cross Country Championships at Hampstead Heath.

Jim Ling, Don English, Kevin Kirby, Vic Spain and Derek Walker all completed the senior men's 12k gruelling two-lap course, regarded as one of the toughest in the UK.

Southend's Jim Ling, running for Southend-on-Sea Athletic Club, finished in 1,073rd place in a time of 1hr 5mins 56secs.

Stanway Road Policing Unit's Don English finished 889th place for Halstead Road Runners with a time of 1hr 1min 10 secs.

Kevin Kirby, from headquarters, completed the course in 59 minutes and 23 seconds for London Heathside Runners, claiming 797th place.

Braintree's Vic Spain finished 534th for Springfield Striders Running Club in a time of 54 minutes and 45 seconds.

Colchester's Derek Walker finished in 361st place for

Colchester and Tendring Athletic Club in a time of 51 minutes and 45 seconds.

All five went on to compete alongside their fellow Essex Police team mates at the two remaining PAA Cross Country Championships in Horsham on March 13, and the PAA National Cross Country Championships in Glasgow on March 26.

Anyone interested in competing at the Regionals, please contact either Pc Mick Bond at Chelmsford or Derek Walker on ext 10320.

HQ reels in cup victory

A TEAM of just three from HQ notched up 191 points to take top spot in this year's Croker Cup sea angling competition.

The event, staged at the end of March in Dover, saw nine divisions competing with reduced numbers all round due to work commitments.

Four boats took to the sea on the day, and were rewarded with steady fishing.

Two anglers scooped notable catches. Ian Shead of Chelmsford division had a 3lb whiting, while Braintree's Dave Ware caught a sizeable skate.

Tim Hills from Chelmsford and Martin Hatfield of Harlow took joint first in the individual section with 91 points each.

Roger Cockett from FIR also got 91 points, but came in third with less fish caught.

The final team placings saw Basildon's 192 points second to HQ (because they has a larger team, with Braintree on 189 and

Chelmsford on 181 bringing up third and fourth.

Harlow came in fifth on 147, followed by Thurrock and Southend on 100 and 97 respectively.

Tendring and Rayleigh brought up the tail with 69 and 51.

Sgt Steve Smith, of Basildon division, said: "All the competitors would like to give a big thanks to Dave Clark and the rest of the organisers for what was a very enjoyable day."

This year's match will be held between the end of July and early August on a date to be confirmed at Langstone Harbour, Hampshire.

Sports news in brief

THE inaugural national 5-a-side Constable's Cup will be staged on April 29 in Newham, east London.

Teams are invited from police stations around the capital and the southeast, and entry fee is £30 per team.

Due to the nature of the tournament team entry is limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

For further details contact the force sports secretary on ext 58888.

THE force sports association has rejoined the local government accommodation club, and this time it's much simpler.

All members need to do is phone 0800 056 2262, quote the Essex Police booking guide, NTC ESS POL, and make the reservation request.

Hotels and current rates can be found on the web site www.nottinghamcity.gov/travelclub or contact the force sports secretary.

MEMBERS of the Sports Association can once again enjoy all facilities at Essex County Cricket Club for the basic price of ground entry.

The force sports secretary has renegotiated a deal with the club that allows members to take advantage of the arrangement at the county ground for just £10 per person per day.

There are two tickets at the secretary's disposal, but if there is excess demand then a draw will have to be conducted, otherwise bookings will be made on a first come, first served basis.

Anyone interested should forward £10 per person to the secretary, payable to EPSA with dates required.

THE Croker Cup year has been extended to accommodate outstanding events that have been delayed by the force's busy schedule in recent weeks.

The competition will now run to the end of this month.

The ladies football competition will now be held at HQ on April 23, and the netball at New Hall, Chelmsford, on April 27.

The date for the rugby is yet to be confirmed.

If the events cannot be staged during April then the trophy will be awarded without those competitions being played.

In the tennis competition Southend took the honours with Braintree and Chelmsford joint second.

Harlow were third, Basildon fourth and, with HQ, Rayleigh and Clacton coming up the rear.

The updated table sees Braintree still in a clear lead.

THE Tendring Triathlon will take place on Sunday, September 21.

The swimming discipline takes place off shore, with all the elements raced over Olympic distance.

The charity event raises funds for the brain and spine foundation. For full details and an application form, go to www.clactontriathlon.co.uk.

Chorus lines

THE year got off to a flying start with the Essex Police Choir raising about £700 in their first concert in Takeley Church on March 22. The proceeds will go to Heal and the church.

The next concert will be at 7.30pm on Saturday, May 15, at Trinity Methodist Church in Chelmsford. This will be in aid of the Chelmsford Sea Cadets, and tickets are available from Robin Butcher on 01245 263926.

Tickets are also on sale for the 3 Counties in Concert at Charter Hall, Colchester, on Saturday, July 12. This should be a superb evening bringing together Hertfordshire Constabulary Police Choir, Suffolk Constabulary Police Choir and the Essex Police band and choir.

The concert will be in aid of St Helena Hospice and Headway. To book call the Charter Hall Box Office on 01206 282020.

Lottery winners

MARCH'S lucky lottery winner was Pc Steve Fisk from Stansted who picks up £1,500.

Sgt Paul England from Southend collects £750, while Rayleigh's Tony Belford and Insp Stuart Ashton, now at HQ CJD, pick up £375 and £200 respectively.

The £50 consolation prizes go to Pc Alison King, Chelmsford, Chief Insp Leslie Chilcott, HQ MSD, Sgt Paul Bates, Thurrock, Arthur Ball, Colchester, Dc Gary Barber, Crime, Pc Kristan Reddick, Basildon, Jeanette Poston, Personnel, Teresa Harrison, Rayleigh and Richard Butler, EPTC.

THE Waveney Valley Triathlon will be held on Sunday, May 18, starting at 8.30am.

Entry fee is £13 to all BTA members, and non members will be charged £16 to cover the cost of one day membership and insurance liability. Entry forms are available from the force sports secretary.

DESPITE the premises being sold by its owners in the last year, the sports association has managed to re-negotiate Essex Police membership of the Three Rivers Golf Club.

The same conditions will apply as in previous years, with a yearly subscription of £390.

Although members have lost the use of the Clubhaus courses, they will still be entitled to play Monday to Friday at the Stockbrook Manor course free of charge with a maximum 24-hr advance booking.

Existing members have been sent renewal forms, and further details are available from the sports secretary on ext 58888.

