



History made in dog trial finals - P3



Another Special year - P5-8



Back on the beat with the DCC - P4

CURBING COMMUNITY CRIME TOGETHER



● PCSOs Daniel Maylin and Maxine Panther will tackle anti-social behaviour in Waltham Abbey and Loughton.

Photo: Susan Wright, HQ Photographic.

AS THE county's first police community support officers take to the street, the Home Office has announced funds which will significantly boost further recruitment.

Ten Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) began working alongside regular officers in Waltham Abbey and Loughton on May 1 but Essex Police, keen to expand the scheme, has budgeted for an additional 80.

This is, however, dependent on 50 per cent of the costs being matched by other agencies.

An announcement by the Home Office to grant-match funding for 45 PCSOs has provided a welcome start.

A pledge from Essex County Council for 20 officers means work can be undertaken to recruit 65.

Uttlesford District Council is also in negotiation with the force to match-fund four.

This tally of 69 will be brought to 80 if funding can be identified for the remaining 11.

By Kim Perks

The role of the PCSO is to provide routine patrols in vulnerable areas, such as schools, neighbourhoods with high elderly populations, shopping areas and problem housing estates.

Training

Before stepping out onto the streets, the recruits undergo intensive classroom training where they learn about the law, their powers and responsibilities, both as citizens and PCSOs, and conflict resolution. They will also be equipped with personal radios and protective vests.

In their aim to prevent anti-social behaviour, their work, in support of the community policing teams, will be intelligence-led and they will have a variety of powers which include the issuing of fixed penalty notices for minor public order offences, confiscation of alcohol and stop checks.

Assistant Chief Officer Philip Onions welcomed the latest announcement for Home Office funding saying: "Any government funding which helps us to provide the

community of Essex with a better service can only be viewed as positive.

"PCSOs are already proving valuable for the police service nationally.

"Working alongside regular officers they are a successful means of combating anti-social behaviour and they provide residents with high visibility reassurance."

Exactly where the new PCSOs will be stationed will be subject to identification of priority locations, but it is anticipated that each division will receive an allocation and divisions have each been asked to nominate a liaison officer who will help co-ordinate implementation.

A less stressful working place

RESPONSES to the stress survey carried out by the University of Nottingham are currently being looked at with a view to taking forward the issues raised.

Last summer's findings provided a list of detailed areas which need further looking into.

In the meantime, a summary of the main report is available on the Intranet and from staff associations.

Guns amnesty is hailed a big success

LAST MONTH's weapons amnesty far exceeded all expectations with more than 1,200 firearms surrendered to police stations across the county.

During the last amnesty in 1996, the force took possession of 793 assorted firearms, 223 other weapons and 15,994 rounds of ammunition.

A total of 1,265 firearms were handed in during April, with

23,000 rounds of ammunition accompanying an array of other assorted weapons ranging from knives, swords and crossbows.

The final week saw more 700 weapons and 11,600 ammunition rounds handed in.

The coming months will see the force build on the work of the amnesty by reinforcing proposed changes in gun laws as laid down by the Government.

Plans include a minimum five-year sentence for illegal possession of firearms, a ban on anyone carrying replica or air weapons in public and raising the age limit for owning an air weapon from 14 to 17.

Posters alerting young people to the proposed changes have been put up around schools in Essex, with schools liaison officers reinforcing this work.

The maths on overtime

AGREEMENT has finally been reached in a locally negotiated settlement which has taken the best part of two years to finalise.

In 1994, certain allowances were bought out, which included bicycle, foreign language, women's stockings' allowance and reimbursement of NHS charges (not if as a result of an injury or accident on duty).

In addition, the first half hour of unplanned overtime of any four days in a seven day period was bought out.

This buy-out was £233 added to pensionable pay.

The calculation box to the right hopefully makes the mathematics side a little clearer.

For instance, a male officer retiring on the August 31, 2003 will have an extra residual pension of £259 per annum and a lump sum of £779 which is attributed to the 1994 buy-out.

The anomaly which existed was up to the year 2000.

Officers who had elected to take time off instead of payment should not have been deducted the 30 minutes in the four-day period.

If it was to be paid overtime, then yes, it should have been deducted.

So the locally-negotiated settlement is for the period 1994-2000; when this anomaly was not being implemented throughout the force.

It is four days of time and, while we have negotiated this as annual leave, it is not available to be taken as payment and is not retrospective to officers who have left the service.

The four days are pro-rata, depending on service.

- 4 days for officers in post prior to December 31, 1994.

- 3½ days for officers joining in 1995.

- 2½ days for officers joining in 1996.

- 2 days for officers joining in 1997.

- 1½ days for officers joining in 1998.

- 1 day for officers joining in 1999.

Part-time officers and officers promoted to inspector in this period will be given leave on a pro-rata basis.

Federation Newsline

by Terry Spelman



The period of time of an annual leave day is classed as an eight-hour day.

I'm sorry if this does not please everybody, but I believe it is the best agreement we could negotiate on your behalf.

The loophole for not deducting the 30 minutes if taken as time off was closed on the April 1, 2003.

So even if you now elect to take overtime as time off, it will still be subject to the 30-minute deduction.

Every increase in pay since 1994 has still included the buy-out, so the figures below illustrate how this correlates with the new agreement.

1994 £233 x 3%	-	pay increase of £240
1995 £240 x 3.5%	-	pay increase of £249
1996 £249 x 3%	-	pay increase of £256
1997 £256 x 3.5%	-	pay increase of £265
1998 £265 x 4%	-	pay increase of £275
1999 £275 x 3.6%	-	pay increase of £285
2000 £285 x 3%	-	pay increase of £293
2000 £293 x 3.5%	-	pay increase of £303
2002 £303 x 3%	-	pay increase of £312

What this means to your pension is approximately:

$$£312 \times \frac{207}{40} - £52 \times \frac{£1500}{100} = £779.22$$

Bonus payments

THE facility for Essex Police to pay bonus payments came into effect on April 1.

Bonus payments of between £50 and £500 can be paid to officers who perform occasional work of an outstandingly unpleasant, demanding or important nature which is not within their normal range of duties.

A panel will meet on a regular basis to review all cases submitted.

Any officer can apply. Supervisors can nominate individuals, as can divisional commanders but if you feel you might qualify then make sure you, or someone, puts in a request with relevant details. The money is there so make sure it is used.

More feet on the property ladder

SUPPORT staff across the force will now be able to take advantage of an initiative offering start-up loans to first-time homebuyers.

Until now, the Moat Housing Scheme was available only to police officers.

However, the scheme, which offers £10,000 to those looking to get on the property ladder, is being opened up to civilians in a bid to distribute the cash before the deadline of March 2004.

Any money remaining is returned to the Government.

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

Recruiting manager Sue Adkins said: "We're delighted to be able to offer this to all of our staff. We hope that individuals will take up the offer and take the first step on to the property ladder."

To register your interest in the scheme, contact Sue on extension 58700 or via email.

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Supporting minority employees

THE Essex Black Police Association (BPA) is looking to the future as a newly-appointed executive committee vows to continue striving onwards in order to develop non-discriminatory policies.

At the last AGM, Basildon's Sgt Cathy Calder was chosen as secretary, confident that the BPA will continue helping the organisation improve its support to members of staff "whatever their background".

Special Operations' DI Alison Newcomb was re-appointed as chair of the association, with Ds Jason Stephen elected as deputy chair.

Jason said: "My long-term vision is to eradicate the need for the association's existence, but in the meantime we have to make sure that black and Asian staff are confident that we, as a police force, can work properly to treat all staff fairly."

"It's important to ensure that we can take their views forward to the appropriate forums to achieve this goal."

The Essex BPA, which celebrates its third anniversary later this year, aims to improve the working environment for all black and Asian staff employed by Essex Police in line with ongoing community and race relations developments.

Six down, two to go

MALDON and Basildon District Councils became the latest in the county to decriminalise parking enforcement.

The two authorities joined Brentwood, Colchester, Chelmsford and Epping in taking over responsibility from police.

Harlow is set to follow in October with Tendring Council penned in for April 2004 as a start date.

Police enforcement powers will be retained on de-restricted dual carriageways, such as the A12, A127 and A130, deemed too dangerous for non-police employees to supervise.

Police also retain all powers relating to unnecessary obstruction, leaving a vehicle in a dangerous position, wilful obstruction and stopping on zigzag lines at pedestrian crossings.

For more information, go to the mobile support division Intranet site under traffic management.

A new board member

RECENTLY-appointed ACPO President Chris Fox is to join the board of Centrex, the Central Police Training and Development Authority.

Mr Fox will work alongside the eleven other board members and Chief Executive Chris Mould to guide strategic direction.

Formerly the Chief Constable of Northamptonshire Police, Mr Fox also served with Nottinghamshire and Warwickshire.

He has represented the service on a range of matters from finance and national communications to police reform.

Chairman of Centrex Sir Clive Booth said: "We are delighted to welcome Chris Fox to the board."

"His lengthy and diverse experience with the police, as well as his representation of ACPO, will be invaluable to Centrex as we move into our second year of operation as a non-departmental public body."

Debrief relief from the Gulf

A NEW and innovative programme used by the armed forces during the recent war in Iraq is being pioneered by the force to help staff deal with traumatic incidents.

Trauma Risk Management (TRIM) replaces Critical Incident Stress Debrief (CSID) in response to criticisms of the latter.

By Ben Pennington

TRIM originated in the Royal Marines, with emphasis on peer and management support and ensuring action is taken speedily through prompt risk assessment.

The next few weeks will see 40 practitioners from across the force trained to deliver TRIM.

TRIM is brought into play when practitioners are informed of an incident.

A planning meeting will be held to see how to respond and target those involved.

The next step will then either be to form a small group of those people together and provide a briefing about what symptoms of stress to look out for, or provide information about what support is available.

Welfare officer Vickie Bond recently gave a presentation on the approach to Centrex and other forces are closely monitoring the work going on in Essex.

Miss Bond said: "The primary reason for this is to educate people that it's normal to suffer side-effects as a result of a traumatic incident, and encourage people to seek the support of peers and not see stress as a weakness."

Pc Steve Holgate, who trains road policing family liaison officers, believes the simplicity and smaller scale of TRIM will bring real benefits for staff dealing with trauma.

"It's possible to do this much quicker and easier than CSID and it's not obtrusive to staff," said Pc Holgate. "I think some people were intimidated by the way CSID worked in large groups."

"With TRIM, staff who are working in small groups of peers are more likely to give a genuine response about their experiences."

● The recent annual Police Welfare Officers training event has been hailed a "great success", with over 100 welfare officers from around the country in attendance.

Policing on the move proves popular

POLICING was brought back to the villages with the introduction of the county's first mobile police office in Harlow Division 18 months ago.

Now another landmark has been reached with the 5,000th person paying the office a visit, proving that the Beatmobile - as it is fondly known by local press and residents - is a welcome success.

Villagers, who had been without a police presence, now have a fortnightly visit from the vehicle, manned by Chris Caten and Sue Purkiss.

They are available to offer crime prevention advice and generally just to ensure that a police presence returns to the outlying parts of the divisions.

Chris Caten said: "It's wonderful, superb. The vehicle's visits have brought back the link between the police and public in rural areas. At some places I have people queuing up at the door waiting to speak to me."

"Sometimes Sue, whose role is to do high-visibility police work and follow up crime inquiries, can't leave the bus because of the number of people there."

New members on board

THREE new members will be welcomed at next month's meeting of the Essex Police Authority.

Two advertised vacancies for independent members have been filled by Charles Cochrane, 52, from Old Harlow and Neil Macdonald, 45, from Braintree.

The third new member is Bob Boyce, 64, from Latchingdon, who has been appointed by Essex County Council following the retirement of former authority chairman Anthony Peel.

Cancer quiz night

COLCHESTER are due to hold a quiz night at the end of this month in memory of Chris Strange who died of cancer.

The evening will be held on Tuesday, May 27 at the police station with all proceeds going to the Rhys-Lewis ward at Essex County Hospital where the former service desk assistant was treated.

Teams will consist of 4-6 people, with entry at a cost of £5 per head.

There are a multitude of prizes on offer and each of the 10 rounds can be sponsored at a cost of just another £5.

For further information and to book a table, please contact Nikki Gander or Sue O'Meara at Colchester police station.

Clampdown on failed asylum

SIX months on from its inception and the immigration enforcement unit at Stansted Airport is making steady inroads into removing illegal immigrants from the country.

The unit, which goes under the name Police Operational Support Unit UK Immigration Service - POSU (UKIS) - sees two seconded officers working with UKIS to help meet targets for removal of offenders.

Although the officers, Pc Spencer Wakelam and Pc Alex Imms, are force staff based within crime division, they are also part of a national unit who will travel across the country.

The pair are set to be joined by another officer shortly, with the secondment scheduled for two years, but likely to be extended.

A long life for murderers

CHILD KILLERS face their whole lives behind bars following new guidelines laid down by the Home Office which signal that "life means life" for the most serious offenders.

The landmark change will for the first time provide a framework for judges to determine how long an offender should spend in prison before being considered for release on licence.

The principles set out that anyone who abducts and murders a child should never be released from prison, with whole life terms also imposed for terrorist murder or multiple murders which are

They carry out duties with 15 UKIS officers, making arrests and training immigration staff to enable them to execute arrests.

Pc Wakelam said: "We've making steady progress in the removal of failed asylum seekers and immigration offenders."

"Working in this way means both police and UKIS benefit from each other's expertise and experience, and has proved to be very successful."

The team welcomes any information from staff who come into contact with possible offenders whether through custody, vehicle or person stopchecks, or other means.

Pc Wakelam added: "If you have any doubts about a person's status, feel free to contact us."

premediated, sexual or sadistic.

Home Secretary David Blunkett said: "These principles would ensure that for the most serious crimes, life should mean life as opposed to the current practice of a 20-year minimum term."

"For murdering a police officer or committing a racially-motivated offence, a minimum term of 30 years imprisonment should be passed; an increase of 10 years on current sentencing practice."

The aim is to provide clarity, consistency and confidence in the sentencing of murderers.

Partners in crime



● Colin and Ronnie share an intimate moment.

Photo: Nick Ansell, Basildon Evening Echo.

HISTORY was made last month when Colin Elsegood and dog Ronnie finished second in the national police dog trials held in south Wales.

The title of top dog and handler was snatched away by Lothian & Borders who won by 30 points to take the Jordan Shield.

However, the deadly duo from Laindon topped the table for criminal and search work.

A total of 27 competitors from 12 forces attended the trials in Bridgend, with Chief Supt Ian Brown and Insp Peter Culligan providing ample support for Colin and Ronnie.

Chigwell's Tim Slade finished 8th after making it to the finals as the best-placed runner up from the regional trials.

Law letters

Check the small print

I HAVE just read the federation newsliner *Be assured of a relaxing holiday.*

This holiday insurance brokered by Philip Williams is advertised as comprehensive. Until this year, I had been a regular subscriber.

My hire car was broken into in Spain late last year, with personal property and Sterling stolen from the locked car; this was valued at some £440.

However, I discovered the insurance was not as good as advertised. Not that I did not receive any compensation, as I did - £4.95.

I would therefore warn readers that personal property locked in a vehicle may not be covered and definitely not covered if you use one hotel as a base. Moving around on a regular basis may give other results.

I would suggest that before embarking on a driving holiday, the policy document should be read and understood.

It would appear from the inquiries I made that most holiday insurances cover this scenario.

Mr GM Richmond
Great Totham

In our memories forever

I AM writing to express my disappointment in the police force.

My father, Gordon Arthur Friend, died recently aged 88. He served in the Southend force during and just after the war, but because no records could be found his death was not acknowledged by the Chief Constable.

It would have been nice to have received just a small floral tribute.

Mrs L Fincher
Southend

RIGHT TO REPLY: Floral tributes are sent following the death of a police pensioner, and provided that the welfare department is notified of the death.

In the case of Gordon Friend, it is believed that he served in the 1940s, before being retired on medical grounds, but without a police pension.

He was employed as a member of support staff at Southend before retiring from that post. His widow and daughter were visited by a member of welfare following his death.

Mick Tarbin
Benevolent Fund Liaison Officer

Send your letters to:
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Deputy at large



● DCC Clark on the beat with Sgt Bill Holland.

Photo: Nick Strugnell, East Anglian Daily Times.

DEPUTY Chief Constable Charles Clark took to the streets of Colchester in April as part of a drive by senior officers to watch, listen and learn.

Mr Clark spent an eight-hour shift on patrol, getting a feel for the kind of issues and situations which beat officers experience.

He said: "We frequently get out whenever we can to try and get a feel for what others are doing.

"It's a way of keeping us in touch with reality, and also allows more junior officers a chance to give their feedback."

Mr Clark's day on the beat was his first since 1988 when he pounded the streets of Chelmsford, but his local knowledge stood him in good stead.

Forces join to crack cruisers

RELATIONS with Sussex Police continue to prosper following a recent trip to Essex by a traffic officer from the south coast force where the problem of 'boy racers' has begun to escalate.

Pc Paul Masterson spent a Saturday night out with officers from Rayleigh road policing unit in order to gain first-hand experience of cruisers who are once again beginning to cause problems in south Essex.

Road policing Sgt Justin Smith said: "Paul's visit to Southend was certainly an eye-opener for him as I don't think he quite appreciated the scale of things here in Essex.

"We deal with a fair few cruiser-related crashes each weekend and I got the impression that the problem which exists near Brighton hasn't yet caught up with the scale of things over here.

"Hopefully, we were able to provide him with enough intelligence-gathering knowledge for him and his colleagues to tackle the growing problems on the south coast."

The Sussex officer, based at Bexhill, played an important family liaison role in an Essex fatal road crash investigation in 2001 in which four people were killed (Operation Newton).

● MOBILE Support is set to crack down on cruisers in the county with assistance from territorial divisions.

Basildon, Southend and Tendring are attracting boy racers who are causing not only a nuisance to local residents, but are also putting other road users' lives at risk.

Health & Welfare

LAST month we saw the *No Smoking Day* campaign and for those who did not manage to get started but would still like to quite smoking here is a reminder of help that is available.

The National Health Service has two helplines: 0800 169 0 169 and 0800 169 9 169 (pregnant women). There are two other helplines on offer Quitline: 0800 00 22 00 (quitline) and 0800 00 22 11 (Dad's quitline).

There are also a number of useful websites such as www.sickofsmoking.com; www.nosmokingday.org.uk; www.ash.org.uk; www.givingupsmoking.co.uk (NHS); www.quit.org.uk.

Your GP is a good starting point to help with giving up smoking and/or refer you to a NHS specialist clinic for additional support.

The NHS specialist clinics for the cessation of smoking are based at a local level and are also open to people who want to self refer. These clinics are by appointment only and further details can be obtained from the NHS helpline number.

Listening to the public viewpoint

A TWO-DAY conference looking at new ways to meet the needs of the public is to be staged in Leicestershire next month.

Focusing On The Public is being run jointly by ACPO and the Home Office, with the aim of exploring what people want from police and how to meet those demands.

The conference, at the Hanover Hotel in Hinckley on June 3 and 4, will bring together latest research findings and current practice in a mix of active workshops and presentations.

It is aimed at all levels in the police service, government and academia.

Topics covered will include:

- increasing confidence in the police.
- the police and the media.
- E-Policing.
- managing public anxiety.
- school security.
- policing racist incidents.

Other sessions will look at how police can respond better to repeat victims, the

mentally ill, elderly and victims of hate crime.

Northumbria Police Chief Constable Crispian Strachan, who holds the ACPO Research and Development portfolio, said: "We hope to stimulate innovative and responsive ways to improve how the police work with the public.

"This is one of the key issues facing the police service today and in the years ahead."

Keynote speakers include Professor Betsy Stanko of the Office of Public Sector Reform and Professor Mike Hough of South Bank University.

Presentations to the winners of the Police Research Award Scheme will also take place.

Officers are encouraged to book early following last year's over-subscription.

Fees vary and tickets and information are available via email at command-mailbox@northumbria.pnn.police.uk.

Special Edition

A round-up of the work of the Special Constabulary for 2002/2003

Applicants to be fast tracked

A NEW fast-track policy now enables special constables to become regular officers without the need to complete the assessment centre stage.

The new system means special constables can complete a competency-based questionnaire and bypass procedures at the West Yorkshire assessment centre.

Applicants can contact Recruitment and request the form that lists the evidence required to assess the individual.

It is anticipated that special constables will have served for a minimum of 12 months before entering the process.

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

Head of Personnel & Training Charles Obazuaye 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."

Shaping the Special future

MORE than 30 delegates attended the second Essex Police Special Constabulary conference in April to look at the issues facing the organisation.

The conference, held at Five Lakes, was opened with a welcome from Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) John Broughton and the chairman of Essex Police Authority Mr Robert Chambers.

Both expressed their gratitude for the time and efforts the special constables give to the police service.

The day and a half included presentations from George Cook and Derek Hopkins, as well as a CBRN talk from professional standards and Director of Intelligence Det Supt Wil Kennedy.

A look back and an insight ahead

WHEN I sit down and put pen to paper at this time of year, I always find it difficult to believe that yet another year has passed.

Looking back over the last 12 months, many things have taken place which have had an effect on the Special Constabulary.

It is not my intention to cover them all in detail, but I will mention some of them.

In terms of recruitment, we have continued our radio and press advertising to attract new recruits. We now have a new recruitment stand which is available to all divisions to use at local recruitment initiatives.

The open evening computerised presentation has been updated and we have revised the interview arrangements for potential applicants, as well as reduced the

Commandant ALAN HILL provides a personal viewpoint on the past 12 months before highlighting the challenges of the future

time for application processes and introduced the Police Initial Recruitment Test (PIRT) for special constables.

As far as retention is concerned, four important matters have been dealt with this year. The removal of the 'SC' insignia, the fast tracking of special constables into regulars and the working party set up with the Chief Constable's support to look into the 'bounty' issue, examining the possibility of paying special constables an annual sum for their work.

The field of training has seen the introduction of staggered induction intakes. The new driving policy has also been implemented, a new supervisors training programme was started and Community and Race

Relations (CRR) training is due to begin rolling out shortly.

I recently attended the pilot CRR course, along with the divisional officers, and found it to be of great benefit.

I learnt a lot and was particularly impressed with the way the day's programme was presented.

In terms of the commitment of the Special Constabulary to Essex Police and the community of Essex, it has been yet another tremendously successful year, with the number of hours worked by you all again in the region of 100,000.

The Chief Constable always takes the opportunity to tell you that without your contribution to the policing of Essex it would not

be policed to the level it is, and how grateful he is for your support.

This is a view that I know is shared by all of the chief officers and the divisional command teams.

Robert Chambers, the chairman of the police authority, is a committed supporter of the Special Constabulary, and is lavish with his praise of your commitment.

However, the most important feature of this article is the fact it gives me the opportunity to say a personal thank you to you all for the support, commitment, dedication and professionalism that you have shown throughout the past 12 months.

I also extend this personal thanks to your families for allowing you to carry out your work as a member of the Special Constabulary, and for the support that they have given to you.

A unique arm of the law

THE county's special constables were out in force in February for the national Special Constabulary weekend (NSW) to promote the service and drum up more recruits.

All special constables throughout the county were asked to complete at least one tour of duty during the Home Office initiative.

Various activities were carried out to clamp down on youth nuisance, under age drinking and drug use.

Mobile police offices were used in Thurrock and Colchester to provide crime prevention advice to the public while in Southend, special constables took part in initiatives to tackle anti-social behaviour and other problems blighting the community.

In Thurrock, a local newspaper featured SCs Grahame Ward and Dave Borrell, and the work they undertake every week.

The initiatives culminated in over 30 enquiries from members of the public interested in joining the Specials.

Chief Constable David Stevens said: "I am in no doubt that the Special



● Special's Grahame Ward and Dave Borrell look to the future.

Constabulary is a vital and integral part of Essex Police.

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

Extra training pays off

Basildon

IT'S been another busy year for Basildon which has seen hours and duties performed outstrip 2002 despite numbers decreasing from an average of 29 to 26 officers.

I have been pleased to hear of the excellent work of the special constables and have received numerous thanks from regular officers at all levels.

This is due largely to Sgt Steve Smith and Pc Colin McCabe, who continue to deliver local weekly training to all levels of special constables.

This year has also seen an increase of courses available to us from the training school and it is true to say that this has considerably improved the skills and experience of our officers on the streets.

With numbers slightly down, we have recently introduced a small working group who are responsible for co-ordinating recruitment events throughout the division.

Our annual Salter Cup entry indicates a contribution of 10,848 hours and 1,776 duties. This is an increase of three per cent in hours and 10 per cent in duties.

DO Scott McCabe

Setting out in numbers

Rayleigh

RAYLEIGH has seen another busy year with officers working in excess of 12,000 hours.

Last July saw the first Canvey festival that attracted over 12,000 people on a hot summer's day.

We saw an increase in recruitment and two new Beat Supervisors Darran Jeffery and Anthony Briddock.

We have also continued to support our regular colleagues to target youth nuisance, criminal damage, public order and underage drinking, as well as increasing high-visibility foot patrols in intelligence-specified areas.

In February, Rayleigh took part in the NSW, which resulted in 41 duties performed over the three days.

On top of this, extensive patrols were carried out on public transport and vehicle security awareness activity at high street and station car parks.

The event was manned entirely by the divisional officer and 12 special constables, led by Section Officer Gary Evenett, which ended in a very successful, trouble-free day.

Other events throughout the year included the Canvey Road Race, Halloween and various fireworks displays throughout the division.

I would like to personally thank all officers for their support and help over the past year and look forward to the continued commitment and devotion from everyone within the division for the year ahead.

DO Mel Snow

Tragedy comes with the terrain

Braintree

SOME 50 special constables in this division have continued to provide support to their regular colleagues in a wide range of duties over the large, rural area.

On average, the team has contributed a total of 1,000 hours per month, 600 of which were regarded as a high-profile, visible presence on the streets of our towns and villages.

Particularly relevant in such a large division has been the change in the driving policy, which has allowed greater flexibility in the deployment of special constables.

Many have been able to increase the scope of duties performed as a result, allowing special constables to carry out a wider range of tasks with increased confidence.

Sadly, members of the Special Constabulary, supported by colleagues from Colchester, were heavily involved in the necessary cordons following the crash of a gyrocopter in a remote field near Great Leighs which killed its pilot.

Some of these officers were exposed to extremely harrowing scenes while assisting both the Air Accident Investigation team and undertakers, but nevertheless carried out their duties in their usual highly professional manner.

It is clear that a focus for the coming year will be recruitment and retention, and we must extend the partnership approach with local

communities at all levels, with initiatives to spread understanding and support for the role of special constables.

The staff of the new mobile police office are already assisting by handing out leaflets and information in the areas they visit.

It is hoped the new vehicle will become a focus for recruiting activity at weekends and at local events.

I would like to thank all special constables in the division for their continued dedication and commitment, with particular thanks to the section officers who consistently respond to the ever-increasing demands placed upon them.

DO Derek Hopkins

A clearer perspective

Thurrock

WE'VE had yet another busy year with restructuring and recruiting high on the agenda.

Following re-structuring within the division and the introduction of the new Special Constabulary driving policy, the deployment of resources was reviewed in more detail than ever before, leading to a clearer direction of staff allocation.

Our advanced duties are now publicised alongside our regular colleagues and officers

are specifically pre-allocated tasks for their arrival on duty. We have also taken on the responsibility for numerous high-profile divisional events throughout the year.

Establishment levels have remained stable during the last year and several new initiatives and ideas for recruitment are being carried out.

It is hoped with this new focus on recruitment they will prove effective in raising the numbers joining the force.

The Home Office's NSW in February produced a number of initiatives, including a member of the press office who joined special constables on patrol with two officers during a very busy shift one Friday evening.

This led to a very positive half-page article appearing in the most prominent local newspaper, the *Thurrock Gazette*.

Other initiatives were also promoted during the weekend, some of which are still ongoing, such as crime prevention and recruitment stands at local supermarkets.

These generated a lot of interest and led us to have an additional recruitment evening.

With the change in our driving policy we have been able to give even more committed measurable support to the division with mobile patrols.

On several occasions due to major incidents happening, special constables have been the only officers patrolling and dealing with day-to-day incidents.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all of the special constables and regular officers in the division for their total support and commitment over the last year.

Acting DO Ian Reid

Well done to you all

Harlow

OUR special constables have managed to maintain a high standard of hours and duties performed despite difficulties over recruitment and retention.

The problem has hit the division hard, but the team has still ended the last 12 months with 6,695 operational hours performed, compared with 7,594 executed last year.

Initiatives undertaken throughout the division have been comparable with previous years.

Epping worked closely alongside both the community policing team and with shift.

Harlow concentrated on hot spot areas where pockets of crime continue to be ubiquitous.

Along with the community policing team, Loughton targeted similar problem areas, as well as carrying out recruitment drives within the local area.

Brentwood undertook similar activities, in addition to which a drink-drive campaign was carried out over the Christmas period.

The hard work and support of all officers has been greatly appreciated during a trying year.

Many thanks to you all.

A/DO Debi Parrish

Camaraderie pulls through

LIFE in Colchester is never dull and this year has been no exception.

With war breaking out in Iraq, Colchester saw the first joint patrols between Ministry of Defence police officers and specials in March.

The patrols, sparked by anti-war demonstrations around the barracks, were aimed at preventing demonstrators blocking access to the army premises.

These events, which resulted in the arrest of 24 demonstrators, led to a high level of media coverage that was beamed around the world courtesy of *Sky News*.

Specials received praise from the MoD for the expertise and professionalism demonstrated during this operation.

Earlier in the year the special constables played an important role in the policing of the home matches at Colchester United Football Club.

Having been spared relegation this season, the Ewes have fought back following the departure of their manager Steve Whitton.

Policing these matches has not been an easy task.

My thanks again this year to those officers from Braintree for their help in dealing with these games. Without their help we would have struggled.

Like other divisions, Colchester has had its fair share of officers departing to the regulars, adding to the problem of raising enough trained officers capable of policing the fixtures.



● Sc Shona Bryan hits the street during National Specials Weekend. Photo: Nick Strugnell, East Anglian Daily Times

It was a pleasure to see one of our former special constables with only two years' service promoted to sergeant.

Sharon Taylor, who left as a beat supervisor in July 2000 to join Tendring, will soon be donning her stripes.

The regular team-building exercise was held in Longleat

Forest and saw special constables past and present come together for the annual challenge.

Fighting back the fear of heights, a former section officer managed to climb the 60ft pole to take the walk of death along the tight rope. He was joined by his divisional officers

to take the final leap to the waiting trapeze.

The year ahead will continue with the loss of more officers to the regulars as we begin to see the benefits of developing the special constables into regulars.

Our aim, therefore, will be to maintain an even keel in order

to avoid complete depletion of our numbers.

My thanks go to all officers past and present, not just from this division but also from supporting divisions, for all their hard work throughout the year.

DO Colin Shead

Putting a stop to public order problems

Chelmsford

CHELMSFORD has had something of a roller coaster year, particularly with the retirement of Brian Moyo from the post of divisional officer.

Brian had served for 22 years, always leading the way with his enthusiasm and dedication.

Throughout the year, Chelmsford officers have continued to give invaluable support to the regular force by way of many proactive operations.

Officers from Maldon and Burnham have targeted the ongoing problem of nuisance youths and underage drinkers with some good results, as well as issues of speed problems around many of the villages situated in the Dengie.

V2002 saw one of the major events of the year within the division and a large involvement of special constables that resulted

in a very busy, but enjoyable weekend.

The NSW saw Chelmsford run various operations with some 30 officers working over the three days.

Officers targeted public order within the town centre, together with road policing operations that resulted in a number of arrests and a very successful weekend.

I know that the everyday stresses and strains of full-time employment and family life and finding time for the special constables can sometimes prove too much, but I would like to thank all the officers and their families for the support and dedication given throughout the year.

DO Howard Rayner



● Sc Nikki Coutts swaps her city clothes for a Friday night out in Chelmsford. Photo: Essex Chronicle.

Proud and proactive

Southend

NOISE patrols, airshows and football matches - the last 12 months have been exciting and demanding in Southend.

Last year saw record numbers at the usual Southend attractions such as the airshow, the carnival and other major events throughout the division.

In addition, we have performed divisional duties such as the environmental health noise patrols, football matches and the very successful Operation Beaulieu - the high-profile uniform patrols on the seafront and high street.

We have also had an officer on attachment to headquarters on the diversity team where they have been instrumental in helping to set policy.

We played an integral role liaising closely with the senior management team and being deployed by the tasking unit in accordance with risk profiled objectives.

Having duties arranged this way has made the special constables feel more part of the team, working towards the same goals as our regular counterparts.

DO George Cook

Comings and goings

Tendring

YET another year has come and gone - like members of Tendring's special constables.

This year has seen the division's fair share of officers leaving.

Beat Supervisor Rob Knights left in March to follow a career as a paramedic with the Essex Ambulance Service.

His presence around the station will be really missed, as will Louise Carney who joins the probation service.

Last but by no means least is Julia Finch, who swapped her special number for that of a regular and now polices Clacton full time.

Our best wishes go with all of them. I hope that they enjoy their chosen careers and I have no doubt that our paths will cross again.

The division has kept busy in the last year, with Operation Joker taking up a lot of time.

1,000 hours was spent on the operation, with 12 arrests made in that time for various offences from drink-driving and criminal damage to offensive weapons.

Well done to all officers who took part, with special mention to Acting

BS Mark Thomson, who did a lot of work setting it up and a lot of the duties while it was running.

New arrivals this year include Vicky, Andrew, Kirsty, Marc and Alan, with more in the paperwork mountain, I hope.

The special constables have been aligned with D-beat officers and now share the same office and are working closely with the beat to reduce crime in a troubled area, providing reassurance for residents by means of high-visibility patrols.

I have said this before and I am sure I will say it again in the future; the Special Constabulary has gone from strength to strength and although we lose a few on the way, we are still able to provide the backup to the regular service that it so needs.

The special constables remain a good training ground for anyone thinking of a career with the regulars.

What for the next year? More of the same assisting with action plans to make Clacton a safer place to live.

A/DO Mark Rowley-Guyon

Special Edition

Sorry I'm late... I was with the Queen

THE Deputy Commandant of Essex Special Constabulary hit the headlines for all the right reasons at the turn of the year when he was made an MBE.

George Cook, who is also divisional administration manager at Southend, picked up the award in the New Year's Honours List.

Now in his 40th year with the Special Constabulary, Mr Cook said he was "deeply honoured" by the award.

"I'm elated," said Mr Cook. "My thanks go to all those in the organisation and those who put me forward."

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my work here, with officers, Specials and support staff who I regard as a wonderful bunch of people."

Mr Cook celebrated with a quiet dinner followed by a get together with close family and friends over the New Year.

Gunman flees in fright

THE HIGH standard of Specials' training was highlighted in February when an off-duty constable in Basildon was confronted with an armed attacker.

Colin Smith found himself looking down the barrel of a handgun after helping a man who was being assaulted by two attackers.

Colin, who has been a special constable for six years, was himself attacked by one of the men after trying to arrest him for assault. The two men fled with Colin in pursuit.

Colin said: "I told them I was police and the shorter of the two raised his hand - palm downward. Then I noticed the firearm and heard the shot."

However, Colin's training kicked in, along with his concern for the safety of the public.

"It's drilled into you to assess the situation, observe what's happening, where you are and what they look like," said Colin. "I shouted out again that I was police and they both ran."

Basildon's DO Scott McCabe said: "Obviously it's hard to prepare anyone for something like this, but I think Colin acted admirably."

"Even when there was risk to his own life, he thought of other members of the public

'Keep it warm, love'

AN off-duty section officer who chased a robber for nearly a mile has been made this year's recipient of the Norman Dooley Trophy.

The trophy is given in memory of the late Specials' Supt Norman Dooley who served with the Southend Western Division, and is awarded for the most meritorious act of the year.

Grays SO Dermot McGoldrick, 33, was at a cafe near to his workplace in Bromley, Kent, when another customer spotted two men fighting outside.

Dermot and a friend initially had a joke about whether he would be intervening and "doing his police thing".

But, when he realised that one of the men was actually mugging the other, Dermot set off in pursuit after giving staff strict instructions to "keep his dinner warm".

Accompanied initially by three builders, Dermot proceeded to chase the man through



● Top Special Dermot McGoldrick.

three streets for three-quarters of a mile, before they were joined by an officer from the Metropolitan Police.

After the chase went through a resident's house, only the officer remained with SO McGoldrick, and it was left to them to

corner the attacker and slap the cuffs on him.

After failing to feign unconsciousness, the cash was recovered from the robber and he was brought before the courts after admitting the offence.

Dermot, who lives in Grays, has been a special constable since 1997. By day he is a senior systems engineer for NTL, providing cable service for the whole country.

Dermot said: "The regular officers provide great support for the Specials at Grays, which makes it all the more rewarding."

"I'm just putting my time where my mouth is. If you don't like people speeding down your street, get out there and do something about it."

Thurrock Divisional Officer Ian Reid praised Dermot for his actions, saying: "Congratulations go to Dermot for the courageous assistance given by him while off duty in Kent."

"Without any thought for his own safety he stepped in and ran after the male for a considerable distance."

On the move and on the up

YET another year has passed, during which we have recruited 70 special constables and had 62 leave us.

Of those leaving, 21 have moved on to join the regulars. As some of our officers join with a view to then joining the regulars, we have now introduced a scheme that will help fast-track officers through, providing they have been in service for a minimum of 12 months.

Although officers will still be required to complete the PIRT and physical test, they will not be required to undertake the assessment centre but will

instead complete a competency-based questionnaire.

This will be signed off by their divisional officer, with the applicant sitting an interview with the divisional commander to ensure that they meet the necessary competencies required to become a regular.

With our current strength at 379 and our establishment set at 500, I am optimistic that over the next year we will continue to recruit more officers.

Our recruitment process has changed which means that potential recruits now have to sit the PIRT followed by a formal interview at

headquarters, as well as medical screening and necessary checks.

This means applicants are now processed much quicker.

To ensure new recruits don't have to wait too long before starting their initial training, we have now staggered intakes to eight a year.

With the introduction of the new national training package from Centrex, recruits now have to do an additional weekend of training, taking it up to six weekends before being allowed out on duty.

Lindsay Hurrell
Specials Co-ordinator

Walking through Essex

THE Specials' ninth annual sponsored walk for charity takes to the road later this month, beginning on May 30.

Organisers are looking for even more participants to raise cash this year for Essex-based charities.

All are welcome to take part in the walk, which takes in some of the finest scenery in the county over five days, from Epping to Harwich Lighthouse.

Deputy Commandant George Cook said: "The walks are easy-going without any hills and suitable for most people."

To encourage more people to take part, the itinerary remains the same as last year's and includes two circular walks, enabling participants to start and complete the day's walk at the same place.

On Saturday May 31, the group will undertake the 10-mile Admiral McHardy walk which starts and ends at EPTC, and the Sunday will include the walk from Dedham to Flatford Mill.

Limited accommodation is available at EPTC for the first three nights, free of charge, and first-come first-serve accommodation is on offer at the Marks Tey Hotel for the last two nights.

These cost £45 per head, including full board.

So that transport and accommodation can be arranged, contact George Cook on extension 30500.

Sponsorship forms are available from the Special Constabulary at each division, Lindsay Hurrell or from George Cook.

Money raised for memorial fund

A TOTAL of nearly £9,000 raised by Essex officers and staff was presented to the New York Police Memorial Fund in April.

On the anniversary of the incident last year, 27 Essex officers joined 340 from across the country to visit New York and show their support for emergency services there.

Special constable Doug Warren, who was one of those officers, said: "When I heard of a trip to New York, I felt that I wanted to do more to show my respect and support to our fellow officers in New York."

A big American double, please

A GROUP of special constables crossed the pond this month to join American officers for the official opening of a new police station.

The Specials, all based at Chelmsford Division, travelled to Chelmsford, Massachusetts for the unveiling of the state-of-the-art \$7m police station there.

Sc Doug Warren was one of the many officers who flew out for the memorial service held in New York last September.

"While over there, a group of us visited Massachusetts where the police chief invited us over for the official opening of their station," said Doug.



● Specials (BACK L-R): Pat Snape, Derek Scott, Andy Bjorck. (FRONT L-R): Howard Rayner, Doug Warren.

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Lowe and behold...

THE last serving officer to have worn the white helmet of the former Southend-on-Sea Constabulary leaves the force later this month.

Basildon's Chief Insp Roger Lowe joined 'The Borough' in December 1966 but left after two and a half years to work as a rep for British Gas.

The grass was not as green as he anticipated and he rejoined the Essex and Southend-on-Sea Joint Constabulary in December 1972.

Speaking of his time in the Southend force, the operations manager said: "Southend officers had a great pride in their force which they considered to be among the best in the country.

In a small force everyone knew everyone else and this led to tremendous sense of camaraderie."

Roger is now set to embark on a lecturing career in south Essex.



● Roger Lowe spends the last few hours at his desk.

A summer picturebook

SOUTH Yorkshire Police has helped launch this year's police family album for serving and retired police officers and support staff, with a presentation evening of the best pictures due later this summer.

The South Yorkshire Police camera club is inviting entries of prints and slides to be mounted for a one-week exhibition at the county's Wath library from Wednesday, July 2.

A selection of prizes will be awarded in the categories: Best Open and Applied, Monochrome, Colour Print and Slides, with £15 vouchers and medals to the winners in each group.

For further information and entry forms, please contact Tom Walton on 0114 237 2920 or via email at tom.walton@btinternet.com.

Closing date for entries is Monday, May 26.

An open forum

THE first meeting of the new dyslexia group will be held later this month at EPTC.

The meeting, on Friday, May 16, at 5pm, will begin with an introduction to the group, followed by a series of talks from local experts.

The meeting will also include time for an informal chat about individual problems and coping strategies.

For more information about contact Pc Rhea Beauchamp on extension 35826 or via email.

Names in the news

INSP Graham Gurnett called it a day last month after 30 years' service as an uniformed officer.

Spending a large proportion of his time in Basildon division, Graham has had a number of personal highlights throughout his career.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time both here in Essex and during my time at Ashford's police training centre where I developed my skills as a trainer," said Graham. "One of the many highlights was when the new terminal was opened at the airport - I was there as a sergeant.

"Another interesting time was during the implementation of the new PACE procedures."

Graham has now joined the probation service.

Dc **Robert Neale** called time on his policing days in April after 30 years with the force.

Robert, 49, who finished his career at HQ FIB after spending 17 years as a surveillance specialist, started at Chelmsford after two and half years in the cadets.

He policed two firefighters' strikes and the miners' dispute during his time with the force, and is looking forward to building up his own gardening business.

Pc **Moira Ainsley** has retired from service after serving just over 27 years.

Moira, 46, finished her career with Personnel & Training.

Pc **William Clark** retired at the beginning of the month after completing exactly 30 years service.

William, 49, also finished his career at Personnel & Training.

Pc **Peter Ryan** is currently enjoying his retirement on the Pennines as part of his training to walk 100 miles in less than 24 hours.

The 49-year-old from Billericay served a full 30 years, leaving Harlow Division to embark upon his quest.

With just a few months until his 60th birthday, Pc **Mick Thorp** is retiring after 30 years' service.

Mick worked the majority of his career at Clacton and Westcliff, but spent three years at the sea rescue unit, and a further three at Rayleigh with the marine section.

After a spell with the prosecution department, Mick has spent time working in schools liaison roles, finishing at Westcliff.

Mick was the lucky winner of £200,000 to spend on a house through an online competition, and is now househunting with his wife Ann, teenage daughter Suzy and son Richard.

He said: "I will certainly miss the camaraderie in the force and the fact that you're in a position to do some good in the community."

Sgt **Rita Warriner** retired

in April after 26 years with the force.

Rita ended her career at Colchester, having joined Essex Police in 1977.

Sgt **Richard Matthews**, who was based in Rayleigh division, has headed for greener pastures after 30 years in the county.

Richard, who is 54 and lives in the Benfleet area, joined in 1973.

Pc **Jim Connolly** is heading for a more leisurely life after notching up his 30 years.

The former Chigwell RPU information room operator from Stanford-le-Hope retired at the end of April at the age of 53.

Speaking of his plans for retirement, Jim said: "I will be at home, spending as

many holidays as I can before I'm too old to get out of bed."

Mobile support division lost three valuable road policing inspectors last month as **Noorman Crabb** and **Alan Jelley** transferred across the border to join the Metropolitan Police, while **Doug Hayward** has gone on a six-month attachment in order to transfer his policing skills and experiences in Bosnia.

Obituary

Former Sgt **Arthur Awcock** died in April at the age of 74.

Mr Awcock, of Canvey Island, served from 1958 to 1986 at Harold Hill, Tilbury, Grays, Stanford-le-Hope, HQ and crime prevention.

He leaves a widow, Mavis.

Market Place

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MERCEDES 140, black, manual, FSH, 30,000, sunroof, all electrics, lady owner, reluctant sale, excellent condition, must be seen, £8,000ono. Contact Sandra Collins on 01245 320333. **EXERCISE** bike for arms and legs, £40 ono, tel 01245 441209.

FORD Cougar 2.5 litres V6, 1999 (V), 27,000 miles, metallic blue, FFSH, super condition, pas, traction control, e/w, air con, cloth seats, CD player. Quick sale required hence price £7,850. Contact Derek Patten on ext 44073 or 07958 209909. **METAL** action sofabed, grey cover, £50 ono, tel 01245 477519.

THREE piece suite, coral, £350, three coffee tables, light oak £75, £50 and £25. Open cabinet, one shelf £25, CD tower £15. Chris Brown ext 16395 or 01255 475810.

Recording history

THE force museum has seen an increase in visitors by nearly 25 per cent in the last year.

The museum, charting the force's history, received more than 1,600 visitors in the last 12 months - 400 more than the previous record.

The growth follows the appointment of full-time curator Sarah Ward and comes on the back of the successful open day held there in May 2002.

This year's open day, held at the beginning of this month, once again saw a steady stream of visitors come through the doors of headquarters to see for themselves what the museum has to offer.

"I'm absolutely delighted we are receiving so many members of public, who are coming in to learn about the history of their police force," said Sarah.

For more information about the museum and visits, contact Sarah on extension 50771.

Raising awareness of Down's Syndrome

A NEW charity supporting children with Down's Syndrome and their families will be raising cash with a funday at the sports pavilion next month.

Down Syndrome Extra 21, covering the Essex area, will stage the event at the pavilion and surrounding grounds on Sunday, June 15, from 11.30am to 4.30pm.

It is hoped the funday will raise awareness of both the condition and the charity, while entertaining children at the same time.

Sandon dog unit's Pam Smith: "I hope the day will highlight some of the facilities that are, and that will soon become, available throughout the county."

A Scottish walk for little bonnies

THREE Chelmsford-based officers have managed to raise over £600 for the special baby care unit at Colchester General Hospital.

Norman Pearson, Alex Black and Mick Bond walked the 97-mile route of the West Highland Way in Scotland to raise funds for the unit as a way of appreciation following the care given to Norman's daughter Jessica when she was born two years ago.

The three constables were sponsored by family, friends and work colleagues as the trio paid for all their own expenses for the journey, ensuring that all the money raised went to the baby unit.

The day will feature a bouncy castle, puppet show, dancing class and many other activities as well as the force's police dogs and guest appearances.

The charity is hoping force staff who know of children and parents who would like to attend can spread the word.

A brief AGM will held prior to the event at 11am in the pavilion and is open to anyone interested in attending.

For more information about the charity or the fun day contact Pam on extension 61240 or via email, or Frances Harrison at scientific support on extension 52234 or via email.

Charity climbs for cancer

TWO officers from Shoeburyness will be putting their best foot forward for charity next month as they tackle the Three Peaks Challenge.

Pc Paul Watson and Sgt Stephen Leese will attempt to scale Snowdon in Wales, Scafell Pike in England and Ben Nevis in Scotland, one after another and all within 36 hours.

The pair will be raising vital funds for Macmillan Cancer Care dedicated to supporting people with cancer and their families.

The challenge will see Paul and Stephen walk nearly 27 miles as they ascend to a total of 11,170ft.

The cause has particular significance for Paul who was diagnosed with testicular cancer last year. Fortunately the illness was identified in time for him to receive treatment and make a full recovery.

Anyone who would like to sponsor the officers can send a cheque to either of them at Shoeburyness police station, payable to '3 Peaks 2003'.

Sports & leisure news in brief

THE vets came out on top in the annual Brian Bishop memorial football game as they defeated The Old Chelmsfordians 5-1 at headquarters.

● The annual golfing day in memory of Mick Frost is due to be held at Stisted Golf Course on Wednesday, September 17 when Donna Frost and the girls again handing out the prizes.

The day consists of 27 holes and lunch costs £36. A £10 deposit secures a place on a first-come-first-served basis as spaces are limited, so contact Peter Orpe at Braintree to book a spot now.

● With a dearth of female competitors in track and field athletics, an urgent plea for women is being sent across the force with Essex organisers looking for competitors in road or cross-country events.

Any ability is welcomed and anyone who wants further information is asked to contact Mick Bond or Derek Walker via email.

Fundraising at twice the fun

CHELMSFORD'S Hylands Park plays host to two fun runs in the next couple of months, with cancer charities the beneficiaries from all monies raised.

Harlow is first up after persuading Frank Bruno to make a guest appearance on Saturday, May 31 when the Helen Rollason Appeal will be profiting from the runners participating in the 5km off-road course.

Epping's Liz Chalk is still looking for support from all staff members, if only to help marshal on the day and provide support, first aid and water for the fun-runners.

The event begins at midday and has been organised in memory of Mick Page who died of cancer at the age of 42.

A month later, a women's only one-lap circuit of the park has been organised by Braintree.

This is part of the national *Race For Life* event for Cancer Relief.

Celebrity couple Mike Smith and Sarah Green will be hosting the event on Sunday, June 29.

Divisional Commander Chief Supt Sue Harrison will be leading the runners, with Cheryl Callow marching out the walkers.

A congregation of musical talent

SUFFOLK and Hertfordshire police choirs are joining Essex to participate in a musical evening at Colchester's Charter Hall in aid of charity.

The three choirs will be joined by the Essex Police Band on Saturday, July 12 for the '3 Counties Concert', compered by BBC Radio Essex presenter Liz Mullen.

The St Helena Hospice and Headway Essex will be the beneficiaries of money raised on the night, with tickets on sale now from the Charter Hall Box Office on 01206 282020.



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Sport and Leisure

Essex brush off the Brummie boys

THE men's hockey team warmed up for this month's PAA finals with a convincing victory over current champions West Midlands at Maldon.

Essex are due to host the finals competition on May 14-15, featuring the Metropolitan Police, Avon & Somerset and the Northern Ireland Police Service in Maldon where the men hope to progress through to the latter stages with as much support as possible.

A fiercely-fought encounter against the Midlanders last month saw the men hold out to win 2-0, with a man-of-the-match performance from goalkeeper Lee Ward paving the way for goals from Paul Arthey and Gareth Ingram.

The match started in hectic style, with Gareth crashing two superb shots against the crossbar in the first 10 minutes and Geordie Tyson only missing out due to a mis-hit with only the goalkeeper to beat. It appeared that lady luck was not smiling on Essex.

However, Lee Ward was in inspirational form, either saving at the feet of oncoming forwards or making goal-line dives to ensure a clean sheet was kept.

His full-backs, Kevin Bailey (MSD) and Gareth Oats, also ensured that this feat was kept as they put on a determined show of solid tackling to unsettle the West Midlands' forward line.

With the teams going into the half-time interval level at 0-0, Essex captain Oates encouraged his team to take the game by the scruff of the neck and put the opposition's goal under seige.

The teams ran out for the second half and Arthey immediately crashed the ball home to give Essex the lead.

It was then a case of 'backs to the wall' as the half-back line soaked up a great deal of pressure, with Matt Brooking, Arthey and Mark Potter making some excellent interceptions as well as linking up some fine play with Ingram and Mark Shaw.

One lovely through ball found Vic Murphy who had made a super run from the left, but he was unable to control his shot quickly enough in order to make it count.

West Mids again pushed forward in search of the equaliser, but were caught short at the back when Lee Parrish cut a cross and released Ingram with a clinical long ball.

Ingram had run from the centre line, beat three players and the 'keeper before unleashing a shot to give Essex a 2-0 lead with five minutes left on the clock.

The opposition went for all-out attack, but Ward and his defence were resolute and had kept a clean sheet when the final whistle went.

Following a devastating performance like this, Essex can only look forward to a successful knock-out tournament

Croker competition concludes

BRAINTREE are once again champions as they retained the cup, despite a late surge from Harlow who lost out by a mere two points.

The final run-in saw the two north-Essex divisions battle it out during the April competitions.

However, the form book was upset at the beginning as Basildon took the honours in the ladies 5-a-side football tournament.

Tendring grabbed second spot, with Harlow in third and fourth place shared between Chelmsford and Braintree.

The rugby competition was not so well attended with only the top two rivals competing - Harlow beating Braintree.

In the netball competition, Harlow once again did their best to close the gap on Braintree, winning the contest and then seeing their rivals only manage fourth spot.

Colchester came in second and a team from headquarters finished third.

● The new Croker Cup season kicks off later this month on Saturday, May 18 at Basildon's Gloucester Park when the first triathlon of the year gets under way.

Chigwell RPU's Pete Bryan is the organiser and is hoping the chief officers' team gets a run for their money from other competitors.

On May 28, the athletics meeting at the Colchester Garrison will keep organiser Derek Walker busy.

While on Thursday, July 17 at Longstone Harbour in Portsmouth, Dave Clark will be doing the business for the sea angling competition.

All members are welcome and inquiries should be directed to divisional sports secretaries or to Dave on 01702 332315.

Charity's the winner



● Hot-footing it across Colchester as part of Dave's training. Photo: Colchester Evening Gazette.

AS ON previous occasions, the force was well represented at the Flora London Marathon.

Whilst they may not have challenged the amazing performance of Paula Radcliffe, there were some excellent results and a considerable amount of money raised for a variety of charities.

Chelmsford's Mick Bond crossed the finishing line with a time of just over 2hrs 46mins, placing him 248th out of the 35,000 entrants.

The leading lady was Debbie Batey from Colchester who ran in with

an excellent time of just over 3hrs 55mins and raised money for visually-impaired children.

With a target of sub-three hours, Colchester's Derek Walker made it with 12 seconds to spare, but despair for Braintree's Alex Webb who was 42 seconds too slow.

Gary Jay and Dave Rout from Stanway Road Policing Unit ran for different charities, with Gary raising nearly £500 Diabetes UK when he finished in a time of 4hrs 29mins.

Dave, who completed the

race in 4hrs 43mins, has so far raised over £1,500 for the East Anglian Children's Hospices.

Money can still be donated via www.just-giving.com/davidrout.

Once again, Al Barley put together a 'uniform' squad, with Pete Bryan, Paul Anderson, former Essex officer Dick Steane, Allan Phillips and Kirste Snellgrove crossing the line in under six hours.

Corporate support's Nick Allum followed in her mum's footsteps 21 years later, running in with a time of 4hrs 56mins.

A round-up of athletics

ESSEX produced their best result in the cross country championship for 30 years, finishing fifth at the national event held in Strathclyde, Scotland.

Completing an excellent winter, Derek Walker led home the Essex team in 14th place ahead of Mick Bond (22nd) who had to settle for runner-up in the over-45 category for the second successive year.

In his last appearance before transferring to the Metropolitan Police, Norman Pearson managed to keep in front of another injured runner Steve King to cross the line in 182nd.

In the national race walking competition, Essex fought off the challenges of West Midlands and the Metropolitan Police to retain the title - and just eight days before his retirement, Peter Ryan also retained the national individual title.

In the national swimming championship held in Liverpool, Essex acquitted themselves honourably, with Braintree's Brett Lummis winning the 100m freestyle and finishing second in the 100m breast and backstroke events.

The team finished third in the 4x50m relay, when Brett was joined by Courtney Cowell, Paul Eveleigh and Matt Rees.

THE force is due to host this year's PAA orienteering championship at Hatfield Forest next month.

The event, on June 23, will include five course lengths; 7km open, 4.5km for veteran men (aged 40 or over), 4.5km for the women's open, 3km for veteran women and 5km with easier navigation for novices.

The forest is subject to an embargo for anyone taking part in the competition.

For more information contact Dave Birkett at community safety on extension 54401 or via email.

