



A 'pricklier' way to deter thieves - P3



Decoy officers uncovered - Centre



Raising money for Micky - P8

Brave officers win accolade at national police ceremony

TOP AWARD FOR DYNAMIC DUO



TWO constables who risked their own lives to enter a blazing house in order to save a baby have won a prestigious award at a national gala evening.

Constables Gail Lawmon and Danny Nice had been nominated for the national Police Bravery Awards, run annually by the Police Federation and sponsored by *The Sun* newspaper.

The nomination came after the pair attempted to rescue a 22-month-old baby and her six-year-old brother who were trapped in their burning home in Leigh.

They made several attempts to reach the children but were beaten back by flames and heat.

The youngsters were eventually rescued by fire officers and the constables then went about resuscitating and reviving the unconscious baby.

All of the family needed hospital treatment but made a full recovery.

Although not overall winners at the awards ceremony held in London, which was screened the following night on Channel 5, constables Lawmon and Nice did beat eight other counties to win the award for the south east of England awarded to them by pop trio Atomic Kitten.

A stunned, but honoured, Pc Lawmon said: "We're so surprised we won because the competition was very strong with some officers having been stabbed or up against gunmen."

After meeting Prime Minister Tony Blair in Downing Street, Danny and Gail joined other officers from across the country at the Dorchester Hotel for a celebratory evening.

Southend's divisional commander Chief Supt Mick Thwaites said: "Both Danny and Gail were prepared to risk their own lives in an attempt to save others and I am proud of them."

Home Secretary David Blunkett said: "Gail and Danny showed exceptional courage. They made a split second decision to act in order to protect others without thought for their personal safety."

The overall winner and nominated the bravest officer in England and Wales was Pc Ian Fielding from West Mercia after he disarmed a gun-wielding man, who was wanted for attempted murder, in a high street.

Officer slashing: man pleads guilty

A FRENCHMAN who attacked Braintree's James Hardingham pleaded guilty to unlawful wounding at Chelmsford Crown Court, with sentencing deferred as *The Law* was going to press.

Pc Hardingham was assisting with road closures at a fatal crash near Stansted Airport last July when he was subjected to a "totally unprovoked" attack.

The 25 year old Karl Canavy slashed the officer across the face with a knife, leaving a gash from mouth to ear which required 50 stitches.

Remanding Canavy in custody, before making an order under the Mental Health Act, Judge Pearson said: "This was a mindless and dangerous attack on a police officer who was helping someone."

Pc Hardingham has returned to work on light duties.

● Constables Gail Lawson and Danny Nice are congratulated for their bravery by Chief Constable David Stevens and Federation Chairman Sue Kelly.

Don't panic over pensions

WE have received many calls from anxious members concerning a news-paper article which appeared last month which stated that police officers would have to work at least five more years to claim any pension and 10 years longer for a full pension.

This was misleading and merely re-states proposals that were made in the Pensions Green Paper last year and do not automatically apply to officers.

With regard to raising the normal pension age to 65, the Home Office has assured forces that the police service, along with the fire service and the armed forces, is expressly excluded from such a change in respect of those who leave these organisations with an immediate pension.

Federation Newline

by Terry Spelman



This is because the physical activity required justifies the award of an ordinary pension at a lower age.

The Home Office also stated that in relation to changing the minimum age for drawing any pension, there is a need to "consider the position of members of the police, fire and armed forces schemes".

Moreover, it is also made clear that entitlements to pensions before the age of 55 that people have already built up in these particular schemes would be fully protected.

The staff side of the Police Negotiating Board (PNB) responded to the Green Paper in March requesting that any changes to police pensions arrangements would be negotiated through the PNB.

Research has shown that the cost of living around London is so high that £4,000

to £5,000 is needed to retain and attract officers.

With the Metropolitan Police strength projected to increase by approximately 6,500 officers, the competitive environment for officers will continue to be with us.

Mortgage queries

IF you're thinking of moving house, improving your existing property or releasing equity, then why not come along to our mortgage surgery.

We're trying this new venture out on Wednesday 30 July and Friday 29 August between 10.00-2.00pm in our offices at headquarters.

People need to make appointments by contacting us on extension 54560. There will be an opportunity to speak to an independent mortgage adviser - with no hard sell.

The 'police family' to Peter's aid

I RECENTLY had a plea for help from a retired officer's wife. Her husband, who some might remember and he would be happy to hear from, ex-sergeant Peter Tomlison, retired in 1978.

He was a sound member of the Police Federation and was the constables' rep in Brentwood between 1950 and 1965.

He was also the sergeants' rep and secretary of the sergeants' branch board from 1976 to 1978. He was presented with the National Federation Wedgwood Plate for his services.

Unfortunately, his wife June broke the plate and while Peter has not been very well lately, his words were that it was "his most treasured possession".

After a lot of correspondence and digging about, I was able to present Peter with a slightly updated plate for which he was extremely grateful.

He asked me to write a few lines as, again, to quote his words "to show the family of the police was still about".

If you would like his number, give me a ring in the office.

● We have a new member of support staff in the federation office, Marian Godwin, who takes over from Lucy Wheddon as secretarial assistant to Sue Kelly.

Lucy left us at the beginning of April to become a regular and we would like to wish her lots of success in her new career. We also wish Marian well in her new role.

Clacton fun day

TENDRING is breaking new ground in community relations by welcoming the public into Clacton police station for a fun day.

The event - the first of its kind to be staged at the six-year-old divisional headquarters - will take place on Saturday, July 26 from 10am until 4pm.

Organisers Derek Marshall, of the Service Desk, and Sgt Bob Walsham are lining up a wide range of attractions, including guided tours of the police station, exhibits from the force museum, displays of equipment by Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, ambulance, coastguard services and the army.

Other attractions include belly dancing, kick-boxing, judo, pony rides, majorettes, a barbecue, face painting, stalls and a grand draw.

There will also be the chance to launch a wet sponge assault on police officers who will be putting their heads in the stocks.

Admission is free and proceeds will go to local youth charities.

Log on to the future

A DIGITAL version of The Almanac of police forces in the UK is now available on the Internet at www.policoracle.com.

The Police Oracle website provides a support to the police service publishing up-to-the-minute-related news, OSPRE questions and answers a police suppliers database.

The newly-launched version of the Almanac is easy to access in the left-hand menu on the Home Page.

When clicked on, an interactive map of the UK is displayed showing force areas.

By clicking on the force you wish to view a picture of its chief constable is displayed along with the force crest, and central telephone, fax and email details.

A further click through is available to the force's website showing more detailed maps and contact details.

● Doing some last minute revision for promotion exams? Try tapping in to a free resource being provided by Police Oracle.

The website is providing some 400 questions covering all aspects of the syllabus.

The system is interactive showing your statistics in categories as well as help, such as a 50/50 choice if you get stuck.

The database of questions is hot off the press from Police-Training with recent changes taken into account.

The service is free of charge and can be accessed in the Promotion Assistance section of the website.

Blair praises drugs work

THE hard work and success of arrest referral workers was highlighted last month when four of Essex's professionals attended a meeting with the Prime Minister at Downing Street. Neil Watkins, Ian Swift, Jack Aworer and Wendy Lord - who work in Southend and Rayleigh, Basildon, Grays and Chelmsford - were at Mr Blair's residence to discuss the key role that arrest referral workers have in reducing crime and intervening to prevent constant re-offending.

Essex has seven workers operating in custody areas,

offering help to those who want rehabilitation from their habit.

Mr Blair gave a speech in support of their work to the 300 delegates who attended, before taking questions from the audience.

The meeting was also attended by Home Secretary David Blunkett and Minister for Substance Misuse, Bob Ainsworth.

Neil Watkins said: "The messages given out by the ministers were encouraging and supportive of the new initiatives within the local police stations that help to reduce crime."

New role in crime

A GROUNDBREAKING new role offering civilians the chance to work alongside detectives on major investigations has been created by the force.

The position of assistant investigator will see the postholder investigating murder, abduction, rape and extortion offences within the county and could involve local, national and international travel.

The post is open to those working inside and outside of the organisation, and could be particularly relevant to recently retired officers.

The assistant investigator will carry out a variety of tasks, including obtaining intelligence, identifying and interviewing witnesses, processing offenders, preparing evidence files, appearing in court and helping to search crime scene premises.

Candidates would demonstrate competency in team-working, investigation, written and non-written communication and awareness of cultural and diversity issues.

Applications close on August 4. For more information contact Det Supt Simon Coxall or DCI Terry Haines.

For an application pack, contact the support staff recruiting department.

Safeguarding sensitive data

ALL staff across the force are to receive tutoring in information security with the launch of a new user-friendly computer-based training package.

The introduction of information security, as defined in the Association of Chief Police Officers' Community Security Policy (CSP), aims to protect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of sensitive police information.

The CSP covers both technical and non-technical aspects of security, such as physical and personnel security, documents, procedures, internal and external networks, and training and awareness.

The policy has been created to provide baseline security requirements for safeguarding this kind of information that can be found around the force and on most police IT systems.

The computer-based training course, available on the training school page of the force website, takes less than an hour to complete.

Chief officers have already completed the course and given it a resounding thumbs up.

By October, all probationers and those wishing to attend any IT course must complete it before they arrive at the training centre.

However, all staff are recommended to complete it as soon as practicable.

Information Security Officer, Chief Supt Ian Gruneberg, said: "This training package is seen as a new means of conveying information to staff in a user-friendly way.

"It will make the job easier for everyone."

Chief Supt Gruneberg added that an information security package is planned for the autumn of this year.

Commercial crackdown

THE first crime reduction partnership between businesses and police in Colchester has been launched to sharpen vigilance by pooling the efforts of police and businesses.

Business representatives attending the inaugural meeting were given advice on making their premises secure and invited to enlist as recipients of email intelligence about offences in their area, in conjunction with Neighbourhood Watch.

Inspector Keith Jones, who chaired the meeting, said: "If a collective approach to crime reduction is adopted in the business community, then a reasonable level of security can be achieved."

Have you got the potential?

APPLICATIONS for the High Potential Development Scheme (HPDS) are now being taken for the latest round of selection in late summer.

Serving officers, up to and including the rank of chief inspector, are eligible to apply for the HPDS.

Stage one of the scheme is a competency-based application form, which must be received by the staff development section at headquarters via line managers by August 28.

After completing stage one, candidates carry out a written assessment and are advised to provisionally book October 29 for the assessment centre due to limited places.

Stage three is an interactive assessment which takes place in January.

Officers who have previously been unsuccessful can re-apply after 12 months have elapsed from the date of the letter received from the Home Office.

Application forms are available from Louise Linzell on extension 51556, quoting reference number PB 244/03.

Revamp aims to aid victims

VICTIM SUPPORT has been restructured in Essex to cater for police divisional boundaries and in a bid to improve the service throughout the county.

The move follows similar modernisation in other parts of England, with all six county schemes now forming Victim Support Essex (VSE); a charity of which Assistant Chief Constable Liam Briggishaw and Crown Prosecutor John Bell are board members.

Chairman Peter Whent believes that at least £80,000 needs to be raised annually in order to meet the current demands across Essex.

"In order to try and raise such a vast sum we have had to establish a fundraising sub-group to continually seek additional funds," said Mr Whent. "It is a perpetual challenge."

VSE is a registered charity, with 80 per cent of its funding currently provided by the Home Office and is in the same building as the Crown Prosecution Service in Chelmsford.

Offender-naming scheme given the green light to go ahead

High Court success over poster scheme

USING photos of convicted criminals on posters as a deterrent to young offenders and a public reassurance tool has been deemed lawful by a top British judge.

A more structured risk assessment, however, is required if the Essex Police Offender Naming scheme is to succeed in practice.

The initiative was the brainchild of Sgt Piers Quinnell from Brentwood who found that offenders 'cared less' about their crimes if they thought they would be identified in the press.

The scheme works on three fundamental beliefs - youngsters would be deterred from re-offending; transient criminals would realise coming to Essex was not a softer option and residents would be reassured that criminals were being brought to justice.

By Kim Perks

The introduction of the scheme caused a stir in the media, prompted debates among victim support and human rights groups and a High Court action by lawyers representing the first candidate.

Other forces around the country, keen on launching similar schemes, had been monitoring the situation and awaiting on the outcome.

Harlow's deputy divisional commander Supt Peter Coltman said: "The judgement was very well thought through. It was clearly taken seriously by the courts and heard by the Lord Chief Justice.

"I think it is very clear - the scheme itself is not unlawful but you need to make sure checks and balances put in place are robust.

"I would accept, in light of the judgement, that maybe we did not have a robust enough risk assessment."

Considering the action began with a human rights objection by the first candidate, the conclusions of the judges, that they had "less concern over the offenders", was telling.

Concern lay in safeguarding the interests of the offender's family, particularly the children.

Consultation

"Criticism over lack of consultation with partners was stinging", said Supt Coltman. "There was quite significant consultation.

"No we don't have a box full of formal reports prepared at great expense and effort by people all over the country, but the level of consultation over a local initiative has to be proportionate to the outcome.

"If on every local initiative we sought expert opinion or went for national consultation, then proactive policing would come to a halt."

The judgement attached considerable significance to the "genuine initiative on the part of

the police" saying their objectives were "in the public's interest since it is to reduce crime and increase the confidence of the public."

Supt Coltman added: "This is where the greatest benefit is from the scheme: we are telling the public we do catch criminals and detect crime, and if you come to the area to commit crime you will get locked up.

"We police with consent and if the public generally said this was reprehensible or this was a move into a style of policing that is simply untenable we wouldn't proceed."

So what of the scheme's future?

"For the time being it is going to be parked, but it is not necessarily the end," said Supt Coltman. "We are going to go back to our partners to look at how we can pull out the best parts, take account of their concerns and try and achieve some broad base of support for a way forward."

A thorny issue for burglars



● Rural police office driver Chris Caten and Graham Gowing from Crowthers Nursery display some of the spiky shrubs which can protect your home.

USING your garden to ward off would-be thieves may not be a new idea but a campaign in Harlow is proving that the old ideas are often the best.

The division's police in conjunction with the Harlow Garden Centre and Crowthers Nursery are holding a series of events throughout the summer demonstrating that some clever

positioning of prickly plants can be an effective crime prevention measure.

One visitor who was handed a pack said: "People can't expect police to solve all their problems but all credit to Essex Police that you constantly strive to give the public awareness of crime reduction issues."

Ban on date rape drug

THE drug GHB, which has become prevalent in rapes and sexual assaults, was outlawed at the end of June with dealers now facing up to five years in jail.

The announcement was made by Drugs Minister Caroline Flint, who said the decision was based on "sound medical and scientific evidence".

It will become controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 after the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) recognised its widespread use and harmful effects.

"By introducing jail terms for its possession and increasing them for supply, we hope to prevent the most despicable of crimes," said Mrs Flint. "It's known as liquid ecstasy because it has similar effects to the Class A

version - and also similar dangers."

Gammahydroxybutrate (GHB) was developed as an anaesthetic, and comes in the form of a white powder.

In small doses it acts as an 'upper', but in larger doses the anaesthetic effects can lead to respiratory problems and can be lethal when mixed with alcohol, as has been the case in bars and clubs.

The force's substance misuse co-ordinator, Pc Victoria Wilson, said: "This announcement reinforces the strong messages that we have been making.

"Essex Police launched the 'Spike' campaign to raise awareness of drug-assisted sexual assaults and the uptake of support for this was extremely high.

It's a very nasty crime of which both men and women are at risk."

Law letters

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

Leave us to it

Wise words save money

I SEE that we have yet another retired officer blasting away at the way we are policing these days and another alleged expert who tells it like it should be and who 'says what he likes and likes what he says'!

I am referring of course to Mr Crust's letter in the June edition.

We are all overpaid and undeserving creatures who wouldn't have been able to cut the mustard in your day aren't we?

I think it is quite poignant that Mr Crust left the service some 14 years ago. He now liaises with forces all over the world.

Fine - but liaising is not as good as actually still being in the job I'm afraid.

As I have said before, there have been some changes in 14 years; mostly technological, but we are

now policing in a very different way from Mr Crust's day. I'm afraid that whilst he has been away, the 90s came along and everything that he ever knew went out the window.

Why oh why can't ex-police officers just get on with their lives and leave the current officers alone to get on with their job? You really wouldn't recognise it from the one you left - honestly!

When I retire I'm sure that I am not going to be haranguing the police about how they do their job or what they are receiving.

If I could go back in time and scrutinise everything that the police did then, I might have something to say but I wouldn't bother. Things move on - we are learning every day.

We can't defend ourselves against these attacks. But then why should we?

Now then Mr Crust, if this special priority payment that has incensed you so much had been

available in your day and by some strange twist of fate, let's say, you were eligible, then are you saying that you wouldn't have applied for it?

Of course you wouldn't!

What went on in your day is a world away from what goes on now. You say that we should return to the basic concept of policing.

How can we, when the world is advancing so fast that 'good old fashioned coppering' would leave us floundering in the modern criminals' wake?

Mr Crust - enjoy your retirement - you've done your bit.

Please accept that we are not holding our caps out for more money - honestly!

In closing let me remind you of an old saying too.

'If dinosaurs had possessed the wherewithall to adapt to change, then perhaps they wouldn't be extinct now.'

**Moose White (Constable)
Force Information Room**

FOLLOWING Sue Kelly's advice in the last edition, I wrote in after consulting the recommended independent healthcare consultants Berwick Devoil Healthcare Limited (BDHL).

My premiums had increased so much that I spoke to Guy Jones, the managing director at BDHL, who was extremely helpful and suggested I change to KEY plan, still with AXA PPP.

Transferring gave me a saving of £73.23 per month. This covers my partner and my children and works out at £91 per month for myself as opposed to the £164 per month originally quoted.

The cover is exactly the same Classic 6 with the exception of out-patient consultations and diagnostic procedures, reduced from £300 per year.

I would recommend any person who still requires cover and a cheaper premium to make that 'phone call.

**Pc Gary Challis
Rayleigh**

Biking all over the world for good causes

ON MY retirement from Essex Police in 1993, my wife and I bought a touring caravan and camping site just south of Taunton, Somerset and enjoyed 10 years of running our own business.

However, we felt that the time had come for a change and recently sold the site, moving to a bungalow just three miles away.

The opportunity has now arisen for me to do something I have always yearned for and, on October 31, I set off on a round the world trip on motorcycle.

A friend of mine, Len Richards (the deputy chief fire officer of East Sussex Fire Brigade), is due to retire in September and has brought an identical motorcycle to mine with which to accompany me.

Our route will be across Europe to Turkey, then into Iran, Pakistan and India and onto and around Australia where my daughter lives.

After a short break, we travel to New Zealand, then across the Pacific to San Francisco and across the States to New York and finally home.

Our intention is to raise money for charity and instead of asking for a straight donation, we are asking

people to 'buy' a total mileage figure.

We 'guesstimate' a mileage of about 20,000 miles, but of course political situations, personal whims and diversions could radically alter that figure up or down.

If you think we will travel 19,843 miles of instance, send me £2 and I'll put your name on the list.

At the end of the trip, the person guessing the nearest mileage will win a substantial prize, with a second and third prize too.

We guarantee that 66 per cent of all monies received will go to multiple sclerosis, cancer research, with the remaining proportion going on the prizes.

No money received will be used for expenses and needless to say that people can have as many attempts as they like at £2 per guess.

I hope you can feel you can make a contribution towards our efforts and I thank you in advance if you do so.

At a future date, I will publish how much we raised, the winners and the stories.

My address is Melita, Bishopswood, Chard, Somerset TA20 3RS or send an email to tcbeaumont@onetel.com or contact 07799 032853.

**Tony Beaumont
Somerset**

Cash split divides ranks

I BECAME a detective constable in 1977 during the time Peter Crust was the detective chief superintendent.

Since those days there have been massive changes and I would venture to suggest that Peter would hardly recognise today's CID.

I am not advocating that everything has changed for

the better. All forces have had problems recruiting detective inspectors and chief inspectors since the abolition of overtime for inspector ranks in 1994.

In Essex, the concept of a career detective has been re-introduced to tempt some very good detective sergeants to be promoted to detective inspector.

Unfortunately, promotion often leads to a reduction in their pay packets as, because of overtime, detective

sergeants often earn more than their detective chief inspectors.

Special Priority Payments (SPP) were introduced by the Home Office (and not Essex Police) and will be paid for by reducing the overtime budget.

I have not heard of many senior managers who supports these divisive payments; however, it does at least give us an opportunity to do something to attract new detective inspectors.

Incidentally, some other forces have awarded SPPs to all detectives in an effort to bolster recruitment to CID.

If my memory serves me well, over 100 police constables applied to be detectives in 1977. This year, 12 applied.

How things have changed!

**Steve Reynolds
Det Chief Supt
Crime Division**

Fighting forces of floral foul play

AT THIS time of year when many people are turning their thoughts to summer flowers and hanging baskets, I am always reminded of a rather amusing incident which occurred towards the end of my service.

As I had spent some time during my service on a detached beat with a very large garden, I was forced to learn quite quickly some of the finer points of horticulture.

The local council in the town where I was stationed in the late 80s decided to adorn the town centre with hanging baskets during the summer months.

Obviously this caused some nervous reaction among police patrols who could envisage the impending threat of additional vandalism.

We were, however, quite surprised when initially no acts of vandalism were reported or discovered by patrols. Perhaps we were lulled into a false sense of security.

One Friday night when 'muggings' was on duty as area car driver, I recall having one final sweep (or so I thought) of the town centre to ensure all was quiet before a refreshment break.

My young observer and I were very relieved to note the hanging baskets had survived, at least until this time.

Upon returning to our mobile duties and revisiting the town, a scene of devastation met us.

About 12 to 15 of the glorious floral displays had been ripped from their fastenings and it appeared they had been used as footballs.

All the contents were scattered over a large area and, together with the compost, was an awful sight. I cannot print what we said.

This was a case that had to be 'cleared up' but not in the usual sense of those words.

We just had to pray that all would be quiet for about half an hour while my action plan was mounted.

I gave instructions to my observer to start the operation with the broom and shovel from the rear of the police vehicle while I went to find a ladder.

Luckily my previous local knowledge and time spent walking the beat led me to the right spot and not far away.

On my return, much of the mess had been cleared up and the baskets were ready for hasty replanting. I virtually

just threw the contents back in and by pure luck the plants did not appear badly damaged.

Together, we relocated the baskets on their brackets and just hoped our efforts would stand up to daylight inspection.

Nothing was ever said about this incident except later in the summer, one or two letters appeared in the local press congratulating the town council on such a fine display of flowers.

My observer and I had one or two private giggles about this. It was also very strange that for the whole of that summer, the baskets were never touched again by vandals.

So for all you keen gardeners, a little tip - if this year you think your hanging baskets are not performing too well, just take them down, tip 'em out and give 'em a good kicking before replanting with the minimum of care.

A little air to the roots works wonders for most plants. However, I will accept no complaints if it doesn't work for you!

**Ex-Pc Dave Rose
Linton, Cambs**

Gearing up for freedom laws

A SCHEME which will make a significant amount of Essex Police information available to the public is now detailed on the Internet.

The approved Publication Scheme stems from Freedom of Information (FOI) legislation which has to be fully implemented by January 1, 2005 and is part of a wider government initiative for all public bodies to make their decision-making processes more open and accountable.

The purpose of the scheme is to ensure that a significant amount of information is made available to the public, without the need for a specific request and to encourage proactive publishing of information.

By Kim Perks

The kind of material published in Essex Police includes the open section of force policies as well as the open session of ratified minutes obtained during formal force decision-making meetings.

Clearly, there may be a need for some information to be withheld from the scheme if its release would compromise health and safety of staff, personal information, national security matters, commercial interests and ongoing police investigations.

Once the Act is fully implemented in 2005 any individual or body will have the right of access to information held by the authority.

This right of access includes both a right to be told whether the information exists and to receive it if it does.

FOI project manager Sgt Jimi Tele said: "For us, the implementation of this new legislation provides us with a fresh opportunity to reduce bureaucracy, promote greater transparency, provide better service and improve public reassurance as we continue taking a lead in making Essex safer."

Details can be found on both the Intranet and the external website at www.essex.police.uk/foi.

● Data protection officer Darren Thomas has recently been given the role of assisting with the implementation of the new force policy in relation to FOI.

Community links continue to improve

CHIEF Constable David Stevens says he is "very encouraged" following a recent presentation of the work and achievements of PACT (Police And Communities Together).

PACT's roots go back to 1994 when Pc Andrew Meyer presented a report to the then ACC Geoff Markham on issues surrounding police interaction with all sections of the community, from victims of crime to different groups of sexual orientation.

PACT's members include the county's various Gay Switchboards, Action for Men, Victim Support and Lesbian Health Project.

In the last nine years, the various PACT-led developments include the

introduction of homophobic incident reporting and the inception of the Hate Crime - A Menace in Society campaign in 2000.

The campaign has since spawned a website, roadshow and, last year, began visiting schools in the county for the first time.

Following the presentation, Mr Stevens said: "I am very encouraged by the hard work and dedication of PACT. It is an integral link between the force and the communities we serve."

Vulnerable Persons and Minorities officer Pc Andrew Meyer said: "As a founder member of PACT, I am delighted that we have seized the mantle in working with the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community."

New support for religion

A NEW network providing advice and support to Jewish staff within the police service has been introduced.

Membership of the Jewish Police Association is available to all serving and retired staff.

The association also aims to promote understanding of the Jewish faith within the police service and to act as a resource reference regarding religious and cultural issues.

For more information, contact Pc Paul Vogler on 0208 733 5558 or visit www.jewishpoliceassociation.org.uk.



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Decoy: digging out the evidence

WITH a deluge of dramas depicting so-called 'real-life' police action hitting our television screens of late, many members of the public, including some of us within the force, may actually begin to believe murder inquiries can be solved in a matter of days.

Do scientific tests take a matter of hours to conduct? Are investigations solved every time using conventional everyday methods of policing that are well known to you, I and the prospective criminal? Not entirely so.

A growing number of assailants are devious, cunning people who commit crime in a way which makes it difficult for evidence to be collated against them.

Consequently, a growing number of cases are being dismissed at the charging stage because the crown prosecution service do not believe there is sufficient, high-grade evidence to put such attackers behind bars.

Here in Essex, a group of specially trained officers has been formed to redress this problem and ensure proactive teams on division secure evidence which is fully

Undercover sting operations now help police to put the fear of crime back in the criminal. NISHAN WIJERATNE looks beyond the veneer of such policing with Essex's decoy teams.

Officers' names have been changed for operational reasons.

corroborated, beyond reproach and therefore enhances the chances of a successful prosecution in any court proceedings.

The decoy unit is part of the special operations section and has 12 officers across the force who are appropriately trained in placing themselves in situations where they seek to become the next intended

victim for the purpose of arresting a culprit.

Such undercover policing represents a more focused approach to 'buying' top-quality, irrefutable evidence against the suspect.

Essex has enjoyed great success in this field and is one of only 12 nationally-accredited forces in the UK, reflected in the fact that it has become the centre of excellence for the eastern ACPO region.

Assaults

The decoy unit specifically looks at dealing with those offences against the person, whether this be an assault of an indecent, sexual or violent nature; thefts or robberies.

Alex and Chris are two detectives constables who joined the unit after a combined 15 years' experience on division.

And, as Alex highlights, it is the liaison and co-operation from division which ensures success.

"We require proactive units to be just that - when they require assistance, they should think about us and contact us as soon as they become stuck. We obviously need something to work with, but it doesn't require much.

"As long as we have a pattern of offences being committed by a suspect who the team have profiled, then we can get cracking immediately.

"The information can be as little as an attack in the park at certain periods of the day over a time period, or something even in the very early stages which could potentially turn out to be a problem; for instance, two attacks on a particular kind of person on the same day.

"What I'm trying to highlight is the fact that you don't have to wait weeks or months for a consistent pattern to develop as we can get to the root of the problem usually within only a few days."

A recent operation saw the team at work in Basildon where a man was carrying out a series of indecent exposures on women, including schoolgirls.

As Chris explains, there was a concern on division not only about the frequency of the offences, but also of the likely potential of violence against the victims which could turn decidedly nasty.

"The attacks had taken place during only a matter of days, with each time the man showing his penis and making vulgar suggestions to the women between a one-hour window each morning.

"We were contacted with a view to seeking advice and help and, within a matter of days, were ready to mount a decoy operation.

"We enlisted the help of the Force Support Unit (FSU) and the suspect was arrested within 90 minutes of the operation commencing on the morning.

"On this particular occasion, the suspect exposed himself to a female member of the public rather than to the decoy, but the FSU just jumped out and got their man. They also, from a covert aspect, ensure the safety of the decoy officer and any other potential victim."

Basildon's Detective Inspector John Kreyling said: "We were becoming increasingly concerned about this man's intentions and carried out a short period of observations, fearing that this man's actions could escalate into something more sinister.

"We approached the team at headquarters with a view to getting some assistance. The proximity of these attacks to a nearby school was the final straw and it took only a few days for the relevant authorisation checks to be carried out before the decoy team and FSU successfully caught the man in the act."

Due to the close proximity of the decoy officer and the FSU, they were able to give detailed evidence in court.

Alex, Chris and their colleagues place themselves in the position of the victim and thus reporter of the crime.

This allows for the best chance of a successful conviction in court as the officer is providing evidence as a victim.

This method also avoids much, if any interface between a member of public and an attacker.

The 22 year old cleaner, who lived locally in the neighbouring area and who had no previous convictions, was subsequently reported for 11 offences and received a community punishment and rehabilitation order.

Any officer in the force can be trained to become a 'decoy', with a need for all parts of society to be reflected from the young man to the vulnerable pensioner.

However, Alex points out the constrictions involved in performing the role.

"There are no tools or props available to us in this game; we must act as passive individuals.

"As well as the obvious adherence to several sections of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act, we can not use any form of procurement if we are to gain the irrefutable evidence for the courts."

Lifestyling

Decoy officers will spend a great deal of time 'lifestyling' their victims, before exposing themselves to be suspects.

The officer must look like the vulnerable person, dress like them and even mimic their mannerisms.

Chris says: "We must do so carefully as defence lawyers will often question any collation of evidence if there has been to be any provocation of the attack.

"For example, it wouldn't be appropriate for the decoy officer to wear knee-length boots and a short skirt to entice a potential sex offender if the victims were dressed in a twin set and pearls.

"It really does take a special person to become a decoy officer, as you have to reverse everything you've been taught to be a police officer.

"By this, I mean you have to change your demeanour and persona in order to mimic a victim and thereby a member of the public."

Undercover techniques are one of a number of policing tools available and operations much be within the law and benefit the community.

Alex concludes: "It's normal practice for decoys to be deployed if other alternative and conventional policing tactics have been considered, but it is unlikely to achieve the desired result."

Marching to the sounds of music

PRAGUE reverberated to the sounds of police musicians from across Europe last month as Essex took part in Festpol 2003 - a biennial music festival for police bands and choirs hosted by the police and Castle Guard of the Czech Republic.

The Essex Police Band and Essex Police Choir joined colleagues from Poland, Denmark, Northern Ireland, Germany and Sweden, together with their Czech hosts, for a series of public performances.

The first was a concert in the gardens of Prague Castle where each of the bands was given a short slot before all the musicians and singers joined forces in two rousing items by Czech composers.

As temperatures soared in the blazing sunshine, everyone made their way to the cellars of a former monastery in U Thomas for a first-class lunch where the monks used to brew the many beers for which Prague is justifiably famous for.

To combat the effects of dehydration, many members felt obliged to sample the products of the monks' labours and were very complimentary on the results.

The bands and choirs then assembled in the Little Quarter for a parade across

the famous Charles Bridge and on to the Old Town Square.

The Essex Police Band were conspicuous in their helmets and drew many favourable comments from the British and other visitors who were provided with a musical accompaniment to their enjoyment of the spectacular architecture of the Old Town.

The remainder of the day was free for sightseeing and relaxation, with many choosing to round it off with a night-time cruise on the River Vltava.

Sunday saw the visitors separating for afternoon concerts, with the Essex band performing in Wenceslas Square, and all the choirs singing in the ancient church of St Simon and St Juda.

The variety of male voice, female voice and mixed-voice choirs resulted in a diverse programme which was appreciated by audience and fellow performers alike.

Festpol 2003 drew to a close with a gala evening in the national museum which stands looking out over Wenceslas Square.

A magnificent buffet was provided by our hosts and this was supplemented by impromptu performances by the festival participants.

Festpol achieved its objectives of demonstrating to the local population



● Jenny Nicholls helps a local girl lead Essex into Prague.

that the police are part of the local police musicians across national community and not just an oppressive barriers across Europe. force, whilst building links between Roger Grimwade



● Indecent exposures are commonplace, yet an offence which decoy teams can eradicate. Subjects posed by models.

Orphans' fitted footwear



● Lynda Barkaway shows the kind-hearted goodwill of the Musical Society audiences.

THE force's Musical Society donated £150 from the proceeds of last summer's concert to this year's Convoy 2000.

Organisers Lis Bingham and David Bright take a number of volunteers from across the organisation to Romania in order to carry out some much-needed work on orphanages.

They paint, scrub, lay lino and generally work like demons to bring these places up to scratch.

In the process they rely very heavily on donations from all and sundry

and, each year, take a lorry load of goodies and much more basic things like soap, toothpaste, medicines clothes for the children.

Essex Police Musical Society chairman Lynda Barkaway said: "I came up with the idea of getting as many pair of shoes as the money would allow. We had been told that most of the children don't have shoes at all.

"I rang Matalans and asked if they would do us a deal and, bless them, they let us have 150 pairs at a £1 a pair."

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Health & Welfare

HEPATITIS is inflammation of the liver resulting in jaundice, nausea and vomiting, acute abdominal pain and extreme fatigue. One of the causes is a virus known as Hepatitis B Virus (HBV).

If the HBV enters your bloodstream, it can take up to six months for symptoms of Hepatitis to occur and many cases do not show symptoms.

The majority (95 per cent) of infections resolve within six months, but a few people may develop chronic infections which mean they become carriers of the HBV but without noticeable symptoms.

There are estimated to be 350 million HBV carriers worldwide.

Infected blood or blood-stained body fluids need to enter your own blood system for you to be at risk of contracting this virus.

We recommend that any cuts are covered in order to keep the skin intact to prevent blood accessing your own system.

Should anyone have any concerns about HBV, then they should see their GP and ask about getting a course of vaccinations; moreover, if you are in a job where you may come into contact with blood you can claim the fee for the course of injections.

It is anticipated that a credit card-style memo advisory card will be distributed to officers during the next few weeks.

For further information, please visit the occupational health site on the Intranet.

Team grabs top awards

A NUMBER of the force's lifesaving officers were presented with awards at a luncheon at headquarters following the recent National Police Lifesaving Championship.

The trophies were won at the four-day event hosted by the Police Service of Northern Ireland in Belfast, where 14 Essex officers compete in men's, women's and mixed competitions.

The women's team took top spot in the first-aid event and after the rope throw and swim and tow competitions, the team was third, with the spot maintained after the final day's water event.

On top of that, the women's individual event was won by Pc Sarah Pike.

The Halstead-based constable beat more than 120 competitors to scoop the award.

"I'm delighted to have won the award, but the credit is shared by all members of the teams who put in a fantastic performance," said Sarah. "All in all, the teams had a fantastic four days."

Wildlife officer is first to use force's new retention scheme

Hunting for a new lifestyle

THE first candidate to take up the 30+ Retention Scheme enjoyed just 24 hours retirement before returning as the force's full-time wildlife liaison officer (FWLO).

Pc Barry Kaufmann-Wright has been re-engaged for 20 hours a week under the scheme which allows officers to stay on with a tax-free retirement lump sum and a partially-abated police pension.

It is the ideal set-up for Barry who already runs his own business using his vast expertise in wildlife to deliver educational talks, write books and expand his wildlife and landscape photographic repertoire.

"I accept the scheme isn't necessarily for everyone but I would certainly urge people to look at what it has to offer and give it consideration," said Barry. "I also think it could prove valuable in retaining experienced officers."

By Kim Perks

"I could have delayed my retirement for another two years but was keen to go part-time and this scheme allowed me to take my lump sum and carry on in my wildlife liaison role.

Reducing my hours doesn't affect my pension and, although I will no longer receive housing allowance, I also don't pay pension contributions."

Barry has lived in Thaxted for 28 years and, apart from two years at Ongar as a probationer and six months on CID in Harlow, all of his service has been in and around that area.

He spent 15 years as the divisional wildlife liaison officer and has been in the force role for 18 months which he can now concentrate on full-time.

Married with two sons and two daughters, Barry has been a naturalist since he was a boy and, after leaving Writtle College, he had difficulty finding a post in

agricultural research so decided on a change of direction and joined Essex Police.

He said: "I have really enjoyed my service and have been extremely fortunate to have always worked in rural areas, including the detached beat officer for Thaxted, for a number of years."

Barry will now spend his time building up the role of the FWLO and supporting the divisional liaison officers.

"One of the most popular talks I do is about the police role, as Essex has a lot of wildlife problems and people are interested in this unusual aspect of policing," said Barry. "Hare-coursing is a particular problem and we come across many other cases from badger-baiting to illegal sales of ivory."

Fortunately Barry's wife shares his wildlife passion and spends much of her time organising his public speaking bookings which hit a record 166 last year and is already up to 72 this year.

ASBO curbs junior lout

THURROCK won the first police-led interim Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) in the county against a 13-year-old running amok on the estate where he lives.

The six-week interim order, served until the full case is heard at Southend later this month, means that any breach by the subject could see them facing a fine of £5,000 or imprisonment.

ASBOs were introduced in April 1999 under the Crime and Disorder Act and gives police and local authorities the chance to apply to the courts to have an individual bound over against unacceptable behaviour.

The minimum duration of an ASBO is two years, although courts can impose the sanctions until adulthood.

Sgt Stuart Hooper, of Thurrock's Community Safety Team, said: "We now have the processes in place to take positive and decisive action against those who make life miserable for others.

"These orders will make sure that those causing problems will be dealt with promptly by the anti-social behaviour management group, and no longer be tolerated in our community."

Magistrates imposed reporting restrictions on naming the 13-year-old boy, but council and police officers will be aware of him and the limits on his movements.

Running for fun in the sun

FORMER world heavyweight boxing champion Frank Bruno joined more than 60 members of the force for a Fun Run in memory of Micky Page.

Officers and support staff took part in last month's 5km run at Chelmsford's Hylands Park.

Micky died last year following a two-year battle against cancer and the run was organised in order to raise funds for the Helen Rollason Cancer Care Charity Appeal.

The run, which was so well attended it had to be moved from its original venue in Harlow, raised nearly £3,000 with donations still being accepted by organisers.

Event organiser Dc Liz Chalk said: "It was a wonderful day, and the support from runners and spectators alike was incredible, for which we're very grateful."

Frank Bruno awarded trophies to the men's and women's



● Micky Page's widow Sally gets set to race alongside Frank Bruno.

race winners - Ian Jennings and Alison Cotter.

Micky's widow Sally, who works at Harlow police station, was presented with a copy of the book *Pages of Life*, recounting humorous and serious events chronicling Micky's life.

"I'm just overwhelmed with it all", said Mrs Page. "I'm so pleased and we're looking into continuing it on a yearly basis.

"I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who was involved."

Plotting crime

MARKER pens and blutack are heading for the bins in the force's major criminal investigations sections following the introduction of interactive technology allowing joined up briefings.

SMART Board interactive whiteboards have now been installed at all four major investigation rooms and its administrative support section MICAS.

The technology displays a projected image from a networked computer, allowing the presentation of live data, and access to information on the force network, electronic mapping data, aerial photography and data from other units.

The information can be annotated over, areas highlighted, ideas grouped, and at each stage the information is automatically time and date-stamped and saved for future use.

MICAS manager David Blackiston said: "It is a completely new way of presenting information to investigation teams."

Further developments are also in the pipeline, such as Microsoft's Net Meeting - an audio conferencing tool so that information from teams supporting a major investigation can be displayed live on to computers across the county, reducing the need for travel.

Unmasking criminals

HATS OFF to Pc Alan Batchelor for a cracking good idea which, after beginning in Basildon, is being taken on all over the country.

The initiative encouraged customers go bareheaded in shops, with signs, designed by Essex Police, warning customers that they may be asked to leave retail premises if they do not remove their hats or any other headgear which masks their face.

The scheme will assist police by making it easier to identify offenders against CCTV images.

Inspector Sue Mackey, from Laindon police station said: "It is really good to see an idea from a constable at grass root level be taken up so enthusiastically."



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Rates quoted are for new customers and exclude optional Payment Protection Insurance (PPI). Existing customers of these companies may be eligible for a different rate. Rates correct at 1st May 2003. Source: Lenders website. Typical loan £6,000 at **7.8% APR**, repayable in 60 monthly repayments of £120.40 without PPI. Total amount repayable is £7,224.00.

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Hamilton Direct Bank

Get active for charity

THE Essex branch of the British Red Cross are looking for active people to help raise much-needed funds for the charity at a September Funday.

The Five Star Challenge will take place at Grangewaters Outdoor Centre in South Ockendon on September 21, with teams participating in a day of abseiling, all-terrain biking, archery and orienteering.

Teams of 10 people are ideal, although odd numbers will be joined with others to make complete teams.

Each entrant pays a £20 non-refundable booking fee and is asked to pledge at least £50.

Anyone raising £100 or more for the British Red Cross will receive a limited edition T-Shirt.

Places are allocated on a first-come first-serve basis, and all entrants must aged at least 16. Participants between the ages of 16 and 18 will require parental consent to enter.

For further information, contact Yvonne Jackson on 01245 291014 or email yjackson@redcross.org.uk.

Final wag of the tail

Pc Barry Barlow retired from Thorpe Dogs in June after seeing out exactly 30 years with the force.

Thorpe resident Barry, 49, previously served with Orsett and Ockendon Dog Units, as well road policing stints in Grays and Tilbury.

Asked for any fond memories of his career, Barry quipped: "My retirement."

Pc **Jon Lane** retired in June, ending his 28 years with Thurrock.

The 52-year-old from Grays served at Harlow, Corringham and with Mobile Support during his time with the force and will be keeping busy with some part-time work.

Jon said: "I've got a large allotment garden to tend to, and I'll be taking the opportunity to go on some walking holidays."

DCI **Alan Hurley** last month retired as Southend's

crime manager. Alan, who is 49 and lives in Rayleigh, served a day over his 30 years, having joined the force in 1973.

Pc **Kevin Maleary** called time on his stretch with the force in June. He served exactly 30 years, including almost a year with Dorset Police in the mid-80s.

Kevin, who is 52 and from Clacton, was stationed at Thorpe Road Policing Unit.

Sgt **Stephen Fairman** retired from his post in Rayleigh custody at the end of June.

Stephen, of South Woodham Ferrers, spent 27 years with the force. He is 51.

Colchester man Pc **Derek Player** has moved on to pastures anew after nearly 27 years with the force.

55-year-old Derek, who was stationed at Chelmsford, joined in 1976 and left at the end of June.

Obituaries

Former inspector **Bernard Salt** died in June at the age of 84. Mr Salt, of Harlow, spent 30 years with the force between 1947 and 1977. He served at Harlow, Brentwood, Hornchurch, headquarters and Epping. He leaves a widow, Rita.

Ex-Pc **Peter Ashbee** died last month, aged 75. Mr Ashbee, who leaves a widow June, spent his 30 years with Essex Police between 1949 and 1979, serving at Colchester, Canvey Island, Ramsden Heath Bellhouse and Brentwood.

Leonard Stibbards, a former sergeant who was living in Shoebury, has died at the age of 77. Mr Stibbards served his entire career with the Southend Borough between 1948 and 1975.

Former sergeant **Frederick Nash** died in June. He was 87 years old. Mr Nash, of Southend, served from 1936 to 1967 with the old borough force. Mr Nash's son also followed him into service with the borough, and three of his grandsons still serve with the force.

Frank Bond, a former detective constable with the force, died in May at the age of 87. Mr Bond joined the force in 1934, and served until 1948. He was living in Devon.

Former constable **Ronald North**, who was 80 years old, died in June. Mr North, of Shoebury, leaves a widow, Eileen. He served from 1951 to 1975 with the Southend Borough.

NARPO News

THROW away those preconceived notions about NARPO.

The idea of joining an association concerned with the welfare of pensioners may paint a picture of God's waiting room, but nothing could be further from the truth.

Research indicates that the majority of pensioners spend longer in retirement than they do in the police service and the organisation is about ensuring that this part of your life is the most successful and fulfilling.

Currently on a recruitment drive, its cornerstone remains welfare and pensions and is open to spouses, widows or widowers of pensioners or officers who have died in service.

Although the association is rankless and, for it to be truly effective, its political involvement is essential, employing a well-known parliamentary lobby firm to ensure members are properly represented within the parliamentary arena.

With an annual subscription of £13.80, NARPO believes there is simply no better value for money.

In addition to its political involvement, it offers specially-discounted members services including reduced car, house and holiday insurance, holds an annual conference, organises a lively round of social activities and produces a quarterly magazine posted to the homes of all 70,000 members.

The association's website www.narpo.org is updated weekly with a variety of news, information, services and an archive of the magazine.

NARPO's future, however, does depend on new members joining the ranks and younger members assisting with social events, welfare visits, newsletters etc. So if you are eligible to join why not find out more by logging on to the website or contacting the office in Wakefield on 01924 362166.

Riverside reunion

FORMER cadets and Police Vocational Course (PVC) attendees can roll back the years and catch up on old times at a reunion to be held in Chelmsford later this month.

The event, at the Riverside Inn in Victoria Road on July 19, will be open to all ex-cadets and PVCs.

The evening will be an informal one, as attempting to work out numbers of those attending will prove too difficult.

Dc Pete Chivers of the High Tech Crime Unit is organising the event and says it will largely be played by ear.

For more information, contact Pete on ext 54842 or by email.

Searching for sweet talent

PATISSIERES across the organisation are being asked to proffer their favourite cake recipes for a book which is being compiled for this year's Children In Need.

Tried and tested ingredient mixtures will only make it into the book which is due to be published later this summer.

Contributors will be acknowledged in the book which will be sold throughout the force.

Editor Norma Blamey said: "I'm looking for as many recipes as possible to fill the book and raise money prior to the big night. I would also be very interested to hear from anyone who knows of a friendly printer who might be able to assist on the publishing side."

Anyone who would like to offer a recipe is asked to send them to recipes@blamey143.fsnet.co.uk.

A moving night

A CHARITY musical evening held by Transport Services raised over £600 for the Essex Air Ambulance and Harlow's Princess Alexandra Hospital.

The night, organised by Doug Adams and Phil Knight, featured The Curves and a stint from their very own Keith Morris.

Disco Dog, aka garage mechanic Richard Elborn, supplied the disco for the entire evening which was enjoyed by many.

Market Place

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

● Advertisers should be aware that *The Law* is now published on the Internet and any telephone numbers given will be in the public domain.

COSTA Blanca, Gandia. Apartment within new house, mountain location. Two bedrooms, can sleep six, lounge, two bathrooms and kitchen. Large swimming pool and patio area. Excellent beaches 10-15 mins drive. Alicante or Valencia airports, reasonable rates. Contact Gary Skull on 01805 804303.

COSTA Blanca near Torreviesta, two-bed apartment, sleeps six. Ten minute walk from beach/town, small private pool, from £155 p.w. Contact Mick Ager 0034 966 790 815 or email casadomi02@hotmail.com.

COSTA Blanca, Villa Martin, three-bed two-bathroom, garden, car port, terrace, solarium, next to three golf courses near to blue flag beaches, quiet area. For details contact Brian Cook ext 31915 or 07814 591129.

TWO bed, three-storey villa in Costa Del Sol, 15 mins from Marbella with private shared pool on famous 5-star La Cala golf complex. All usual high-class facilities including sun terrace and private square. Tranquil location, £400 per week for whole villa. Contact Derek Patten on ext 44073 or 07958 209909.

TENERIFE villa, two bedrooms, two bathrooms, sleeps up to six. Quiet location with ocean view, communal swimming pool, satellite TV, from £275 per week.

NERJA Torrox, Costa del Sol, two-bed-two-bathroom apartment in a quiet location, views to the sea and close to golf course. Contact Lyn Gowlett ext 51638 or 01376 514593.

HOUSE share, Braintree. Double room, to share with professional female. Nice house, garden, heating, all usual facilities. Two-minute walk to railway station and town centre. £325 per month inc bills. Contact Jo on 07734 967928.

FLORIDA villa, four bedrooms, nice location close to Disney and airport which overlooks a small lake. Booking for 2004 from £450 pw. Contact Linda or Pete on 01245 321378.

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

ORLANDO. Luxury villa. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms. Sleeps up to 10. Private screen pool near Disney and other central Florida attractions. For more details contact 01245 266949 or 01376 573406.

SCOTTISH Highlands. Self-catering bungalow which sleeps two. Fully-equipped, open all year or B&B in Austrian-style home. Fishing, skiing, shooting, walking, bird watching or chill out in 600-acre pine forest. Police discounts. Contact Andy Nunn on 01479 841717 or woodlands.nunn@btopen-world.com.

CARAVAN Elldis Typhoon GT, 1994, sleeps four, full awning with bedroom annexe, porch awning, end shower / toilet, oven, four-burner hob, fridge, many extras £5,250, contact Lydia Odell on 01245 358837.

DAEWOO Matiz, gold, 1,800 miles only, one owner. Excellent condition, regularly serviced, £4,000. Contact Mrs Eldridge on 01206 504957.

TWO large dark-green table lamps, excellent condition, £40 for the pair one, contact Debbie on 07960 405263.

SOLID, pine stereo cabinet, 3ft, excellent condition with glass front. £70 ono. Contact Tracey Bishop on 01376 330526.

IPA

THE Essex area of the International Police Association has a number of social events planned for the forthcoming months, with the first being an evening barbecue on Friday, August 1 at the sports pavilion at headquarters.

On August 23, the association is going to the dogs at Romford.

The dog track event is £10 per head which includes parking, a basket-meal supper, two drinks, a bet and a future admission pass.

A visit to National Newspaper Printers in Docklands is planned for September 19, with 15 places available at £8 per head.

The IPA will be travelling to the Tower of London on October 21 for an evening visit to the Ceremony of the Keys, with 30 spaces on offer.

On November 3, there will be a Jack the Ripper Walk in east London.

Anyone who wants further information can contact branch secretary Dc Steve Hunt on extension 70432.

Summer sing song shows

A guide for the future



● Sarah Ward shows a Brownie how to record fingerprints.

THE 1st Silver End Brownies enjoyed a visit to the force museum last month and brought along their leaders and some younger brothers.

They were shown around FIR by museum curator Sarah Ward and also enjoyed the gory tales of the museum as told by Jeff Walker.

The then tried on costumes and helmets, threatened to handcuff Brown Owl and proudly took home their fingerprints.

● Scouts Groups across the county are looking to recruit more volunteers to assist with the good work youngsters are carrying out.

Volunteers who wish to become leaders receive free training on such roles and events such as sailing, abseiling, tunnelling and first aid.

For further information about how to join a local group, visit the county website at www.essexscouts.org.uk.

ALL ABOARD A

MUSICAL JOURNEY

An evening of song and laughter

The Essex Police Musical Society invites you to their summer show

Assembly Hall, Headquarters

Thursday, July 24 -

Saturday, July 26, 2003

7.30pm

Tickets cost £6 and available from either Jenny Hillyard or Lynda Barkaway

Proceeds during the show period will be donated to local charities

FINAL rehearsals for this year's summer shows have begun as the Essex Police Musical Society get to work on giving their audiences light-hearted evenings where they can sit back and enjoy themselves.

The summer shows are always relaxed, informal evenings where audiences are invited to bring food and drink, and participate too.

This year, 25 members of the society will be performing and will be supported by all those working hard behind the scenes.

The songs are varied and reflect the theme of a musical journey based on methods of transport and destinations, travelling across different musical genres.

There are rip-roaring numbers, bluesy ballads, cockney tales and comedy sketches all cleverly linked together by our Master of Ceremonies Peter Simpson.

There are full chorus numbers, solos and group performances.

Without giving too much away, there are songs by Judy Garland, Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, Chas 'n' Dave and Boyzone to mention but a few, as well as songs from the shows *Chess*, *Grease*, *West Side Story*, *Calamity Jane* and a comedy version of a song from *The Sound of Music*.

There are also songs from earlier times to ensure that there is something for everyone to enjoy.

As usual with the summer show, some of the proceeds will be going to charity, with £150 donated to the Romanian orphanages earlier in the year.

The Society has already chosen the show for February, but we will keep you guessing for the moment.

We very much hope you will support the summer show and come along to what promises to be a most entertaining and enjoyable evening.



● George Lambeth receives a surprise presentation.

The National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) and long-standing member George Lambeth (pictured above) was recently presented with an award for best individual performance in the entire eastern region for 2002 for his portrayal of Tevye in the Society's

production of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

George was handed the cup by NODA representative Colin Butcher.

Many of you will know George from his time with Essex Police as he joined in 1972 and became a traffic officer in 1976.

Hockey boys home in third

ESSEX hosted the PAA hockey finals for the first time, acquitting themselves well with a third-place finish ahead of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) at Maldon Sports Centre.

Essex had high hopes after beating last year's winners West Midlands in the quarter-final stage.

Avon and Somerset won the first semi-final, beating the MPS. Essex were drawn against the powerful Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI).

The Irish opened the scoring with a break-away goal very early on which caught the Essex defence napping.

However, Essex came back strongly and some good approach play by Paul Arthey put Matt Brooking in a good position and he rounded a back to lift the ball superbly past the Irish keeper.

Then, a quick clearance by the Irish had them four against two and 'keeper Ward had no option but to try and cut out a cross on the edge of the area, but this time a quick shot was taken at goal.

The ball struck full-back Kevin Bailey on the foot but was clearly going wide.

The umpire however immediately signalled a penalty flick and although Ward got his stick on the ball

it slipped over the line to give the Irish an undeserved lead.

A great move down the right from the Irish was met with a powerful high shot that Ward had no hope of stopping.

Another goal scored in similar fashion a few minutes later put the result beyond doubt, with the PSNI running out 4-1 winners.

The following day Essex faced the MPS in the third-place play-off with Essex knowing that they had never beaten their opponents before.

The MPS started strongly and Essex were under pressure early on, but the defence stood firm with Ward again proving unflappable in the Essex goal.

A superb run was only stopped by a foul which should have merited a penalty flick.

However, from the resulting penalty corner, the ball was stopped on the line by a defender's foot.

Matt Brooking stepped up to take the penalty and crashed it high into the top corner to give Essex the lead.

This had two unfortunate results - Geordie Tyson pulled a muscle while celebrating and limped off. Graham Pipe, his intended replacement, on celebrating the goal jumped up in the dug-out and hit his head on the roof.

The whole Essex team played in such a determined

fashion that there was only going to be one winner and, although they could not break down the MPS defence again, a 1-0 victory by Essex left the MPS with the wooden spoon for a change.

The final between Avon and Somerset and PSNI turned out to be a well-contested affair.

At 3-3, it went into extra time and the Irish just snatched it with a goal two minutes before the end of extra time.

Chief Constable David Stevens, who had watched the game, was on hand to join Wiltshire Chief Constable Liz Neville (PAA hockey president) in presenting the PAA Cup to the worthy winners.

The presentation evening and dinner was held at Five Lakes Country Club where the force's hockey president Mr Philip Onions was the guest of honour.

There was fulsome praise for the organisation the force had put into the tournament and the organising committee would personally like to thank Doug Adams, his drivers and John Stonehouse for all their hard work and support.

A special mention and thanks to veteran organisers, Geordie Tyson, Vic Murphy, Steve Rawlinson Kevin Bailey and Bob Ward.

Miller's Man of the Match

FRIDAY the 13th may be unlucky for some, but not so for the Gentlemen of Essex CID's Bob Miller who achieved career-best figures of 6-52 against the third oldest cricket side in the world.

As always, the sun shone on the picturesque East Hanningfield ground where the detectives lost the toss.

Incogniti's batting was pegged back after scoring freely in the opening overs, but then Dave Griffiths had one of the openers playing on to his wicket.

After this dismissal, wickets became more regular and Bob Miller was able to cause all sorts of problems for the batsmen.

After the interval, two Australian overseas players helped reduce the police to 9-4 before Stuart Pinkerton was joined at the crease by Griffiths where they put on a partnership of 81.

Both Peter Orpe (forearm) and Richard Wardleworth (ribs) received injuries as a result of this pace attack that was unrelenting.

Phil Mellon again in sparkling form was joined by Barry Johnson and they saw the remaining overs out to ensure an honourable draw was achieved with 125-7.

Sport and Leisure

Hants swept away by bowlers

ESSEX are through to the quarter-finals of cricket's national PAA Cup after dispatching Hampshire to all quarters of the ground in a hugely entertaining game and setting up a showdown against the Metropolitan Police.

Having vanquished South Wales in the previous round, the team travelled to Hursley

Park near Winchester for a match which, in the end, turned out to be a closely-contested and enormously competitive duel.

Skipper Andy Garnham again won the toss and chose to bat, with openers Lorrie Austin and Jon Butcher amassing an impressive 87 for the first wicket before the latter was bowled after playing around a straight delivery.

Austin soon followed after making 42, lobbing a catch back to the bowler. Events soon started to look very English when Paul Gamman and Kevin Cooper surrendered without overly troubling the scorers.

At 94-4, a partnership was needed and Vin Bird (25), making his debut looked assured and capable as he and Andy Prophet (28) battled to shift the balance of power back to Essex.

Assisted by some resistance from the lower order, most notably Russ Abbott and Andy Garnham, Essex ground their way out to a respectable 210 all out.

The Hampshire umpire didn't endear himself to some with several dubious decisions, but made up for it by remaining consistent throughout the game after giving at least one awful LBW decision.

The old adage about catches winning matches certainly was evident even though Essex

struggled early on thanks to the skilful batting of Neil Cunningham and Zed Malik.

As in the previous round though, the visitors hung on in and were rewarded when Chris Roper bowled Malik.

Hampshire were still ahead of the required run rate but another vital spell from Austin turned the game around with 5-26, putting the home team under unbearable pressure.

Andy Prophet took an excellent and crucial catch at long off as Cunningham tried to hit his team into an unassailable position but perhaps it was his knowledge of the batting to come that forced his error of judgement.

In any case, the game began to slip further from Hampshire's grasp and Russ Abbott came into the attack and bowled a very tidy spell putting the Essex score beyond reach.

For those of you with hours to spare, Joe Wrigley will enjoy telling you about the two catches taken out of the sun at deep mid-wicket on the run.

By the time the last wicket fell, Hampshire were 40 runs short of the Essex total and thoughts of the quarter final against the Metropolitan Police were being realised.

The match was due to be played at Halstead as *The Law* was going to press.

Reward on home soil

COLCHESTER was bathed in sunshine and clear blue skies for this year's Croker Cup athletics held at the town's Garrison Athletics Stadium.

Neighbouring forces and guest athletes joined the fray, with British Olympic wheelchair athlete, Hadj Lahmarr, also competing in the men's 400m and 800m events.

From the first event, Colchester sent a message out to the rest.

In the women's 100m event, Colchester's Karen Wilson clocked 14sec, ahead of teammate Debbie Batey, with Braintree's Karen Nicolaou taking third place.

Wilson then went on to claim first spot, ahead of Braintree's Louise Yeadon in the 200m, but it was a Colchester 1-2-3 in the 400m with Kelly Gibbs taking third place.

Yeadon, not content with a runners-up spot, cruised to an easy victory in the 800m.

Colchester analyst Alix Jordanova, fresh from her London marathon exploits, attempted the much shorter distance of the 1500m

finishing third and then went on to win the women's discus competition.

The women's field events were predominantly a two-division tussle, with Colchester and Harlow fighting it out.

Harlow's Tracey Sanders picked up two second-place spots in the high-jump and shot, and a win in the triple jump.

In the men's event, Colchester were strong in the track and on the field.

Derek Walker took wins in the 1,2,4,8 and 4x100m relay, closely followed all the way by Harlow's Daniel Sorrell.

Tendring brought the seaside sunshine and also provided a gallant team of athletes who picked up their fair share of points to finish in joint fourth place.

Basildon's Al Barley took the Super Vets 100 & 200m wins, with team-mate Glyn Evans retaining the 200m Maurice Brazier Memorial Cup.

Kent and Hertfordshire supplied some distance specialists in the longer distance events, but it was Chelmsford's Mick Bond who took maximum points in the 1500m, 3000m steeplechase and 500m, chased all the way by Rayleigh's Charlie Quaey.

Glyn Evans jumped to victory in every jump event, ahead of Braintree's tug-of-war specialist Matt Noone, Harlow's Paul Toms, Chelmsford's Simon Halford



● Harlow's Tracey Sanders successfully negotiates the bar in Colchester.

and the versatile Ian Ross from Colchester.

In the men's shot, Chelmsford Special Constable Shane Bartley roared out his throws earning him first place just ahead of Colchester's Trevor Clark second and Matt Noone in third place.

The final events of the day were the relays, with Colchester already assured of victory; both divisions' men

and women's teams finished in a blaze of glory.

This year's Victor Ludorum trophy went to Colchester's Karen Wilson who won a total of eight events on the day.

After taking the runners up spot for too many years, Colchester finally claimed the John Hedgethorpe Charrington Cup after a gap of 20 years, amassing a colossal record breaking 222 points, ahead of Harlow's 109.

A big thank to all of those who made the day happen: the officials, Colchester Garrison, Colchester Division's help with the refreshments and the gorgeous weather. And of course the athletes that came and participated in what turned out to be a very enjoyable day.

Derek Walker

Crowned footy champions of England

ESSEX became national five-a-side football champions after sweeping aside Surrey in the tournament final held in Derby last month.

The 20 forces were split into leagues of five, with the first two going through to the quarter-final stage.

Essex won their group with three wins and a draw and progressed to the quarter final against West Yorkshire. After a 1-1 draw in normal time, Essex went on to win on penalties.

Following a 2-1 semi-final win against Worcestershire, they met Surrey in the final and went two goals down.

A brave fightback by Essex made it 2-2 at full time, setting up a nail-biting penalty shoot out, where they won 3-2 to become British police champions.

The team consisted of Matt Clarke and Darren Pitt (both of FSU), Glyn Evans, Lee Crane and Paul Keane (Basildon), team captain Steve Crane (Southend) and Mark Gridley and Kev Hughes (Clacton).

It now enters the next stage of national five-a-side competition.

Captain Steve Crane said: "The next stage is in May and will probably take place at Highbury where 32 teams out of the original 6000 will battle it out.

"The lads did extremely well to win against some tough opposition and I think they really deserve their place in the next stage which will be televised on Sky Sports.

"We'll provide more details of dates when we have them - the more support we get, the better!"

