

Students stop speeders - P3



Supporting rape victims - P7



A 90th birthday surprise - P10

New police bird takes to the skies



Essex Police is flying high with the arrival of a new helicopter.

The Eurocopter 135, which replaces the aircraft bought by the force in 1998, was unveiled by Chief Constable David Stevens and the Chairman of the Essex Police Authority Mr Robert Chambers at a ceremony at Boreham Airfield.

Air support constable Russ Woolford, said: "The new helicopter has flown a lot of hours both training and operational with many successes. We've recovered many stolen vehicles and made numerous arrests."

● Pc Mark Shelley pictured with the new Essex aircraft (right) taking flight along side Suffolk colleagues from the Anglia consortium.

Photo: Clifford Hicks, East Anglian Daily Times.

Retired detectives will study all major 'live' and undetected crimes

TOP TEAM TO REVIEW COLD CASES

MURDERS and rapes, some dating back several years, are set to be reviewed by a specialist team of retired detectives.

The team of three is the first of its kind in Essex Police to focus solely on reviews of major crime. Two, who have experience as detective chief inspectors - Ray Newman and Peter Hamilton - took up their posts on August 4. A third is to be recruited.

Their task is effectively two-fold - the review of on-going or 'live' investigations and the review of undetected major crimes, often referred to in the media as 'cold cases'.

Reviews of 'live' cases will be undertaken in stages with



● Det Supt Simon Coxall - "vital support".

the first element occurring after just 72 hours of an investigation being launched.

The team will be looking to ensure that the investigation is conforming to nationally approved standards with integrity and objectivity. They will want to see that the investigation is thorough, is identifying good and bad practice and is not

overlooking any investigative opportunities.

It will do this by studying the lines of enquiry being pursued, the resourcing needs, the financial strategy, the welfare of the investigating officers and the community impact of the investigation.

Unsolved cases will then be revisited at seven day periods culminating in a more detailed review at 28 days. If the case remains unsolved it will be reviewed again after 26 weeks before a concluding review establishes that all leads have been exhausted, no new evidence or techniques are available to assist in identifying an offender and everything has been done to preserve evidence and an audit trail for any future review or investigation.

continued on page 3

Pay increase agreed

A THREE per cent pay increase has been agreed with effect from the September 1, 2003.

I know the majority of you will be aware by the time this goes to print, but for those who don't, this was agreed on July 24 at the Police Negotiating Board meeting.

Also agreed was a three per cent increase for cadets and a three per cent increase to the dog handler's allowance.

Special Priority Payments continue to cause concern through the ranks.

One thousand officers wrote to *Police Review* and these letters were handed to Downing Street with many criticising the scheme for undermining the very basis of what policing is all about.

The Home Secretary has asked the Police Negotiating Board to review the system.

In the meantime there is also a lot of work being done on the **safe crewing policy**.

For your sakes and to help evidence possible submissions, please make sure you submit Pers 35 and Pers 47 Forms.

Divorce and the police pension

THEY say that breaking up is hard to do and this is especially true if pensions are involved.

And now, for better or for worse, the options for dealing with pensions on divorce have increased with the introduction of pension sharing.

We have been in discussions with solicitors who specialise in divorce. They are in a unique position to appreciate the financial priorities that different clients have when they go through a financial settlement. Dealing with a large number of marriage breakdowns involving police officers has shown them consistently that a high priority amongst officers is to try and protect their pension policy if at all possible.

This is not surprising. Any police officer with more than a minimum period of service will have a pension of significant value. It is also recognised by police officers and solicitors alike that the police pension scheme is possibly the best funded public service scheme available.

For many years, solicitors and the courts have had little

appreciation of the cash value of pension funding.

At present, everyone who has a professional involvement in a marriage breakdown has come to appreciate that pension funds are usually the second most valuable asset in a marriage (after the house) and are often more valuable than the house itself.

Police officers who have commenced divorce proceedings since December 1, 2000 or are intending to, will have a choice of two methods of dealing with pensions and will clearly need specialist advice in this complex financial minefield.

There are two key options - off-setting and pension sharing.

In recent years, off-setting has proved to be the most popular option for police officers. Under off-setting, the pension remains with the police officer but its value is taken into consideration when dividing the matrimonial assets.

The spouse will receive a correspondingly greater proportion of the non-pension assets. A common example is for the police officer to preserve his pension fund

and for the spouse to retain a greater share of the former matrimonial home or savings.

This is currently the simplest way of allowing for pension on divorce as it represents a 'clean break' settlement at the date of divorce. The settlement is full and final and the spouse cannot return to the courts in the future for further redress. The success of this method will depend on there being sufficient non-pensionable assets to trade off.

Pension sharing is a relatively new option. Under pension sharing, the member's accrued pension entitlement is split into two parts, not necessarily equal, at the date of the divorce. The spouse's share will then be transferred into a pension fund in his or her own right.

Most police officers will find this option distasteful as it has the immediate effect of reducing the benefits of the officer's pension fund. For an officer with limited service this may not prove to be a problem. However, an officer who has built up a sound pension fund through many years of hard work

could face disappointment from a reduced pension on retirement.

Pension sharing is not all bad news. The advantage of this option is that the transfer of pension funds is calculated as at the date of divorce. Therefore, any increase in pension benefits accrued after the date of the pension sharing order will be untouched.

It is possible for a police officer to rebuild lost funds through private financial investments.

Police pensions are complex in nature. The best advice to any police officer concerned about how their pension will be affected on divorce is to speak to a matrimonial specialist who is familiar with police pensions.

Ring 0800 056 2787 and ask for Amanda McAlister.

Open meeting

EARLY news of an in-force open meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 4 at the HQ sports pavilion at 7pm. The Chief Constable will be there, hopefully with a police authority member to answer your questions.

Federation Newsline

by Terry Spelman



Loan partnership extended

THE National Federation has continued the partnership with Hamilton Bank, whose APR continues to be competitive with a typical rate of 7.8 per cent on £6,000.

Obviously shop around but for more details contact Hamilton direct on 0800 716 566.

Measuring up for personal body armour

ALL eligible officers are to be measured for personal issue body armour following the award of a manufacturing contract.

It is anticipated that the measuring programme will be completed by the end of the year and the issue of body armour for identified officers will be completed shortly afterwards.

Body armour will be available for male uniformed officers, tactical teams, authorised firearm officers, all new recruits, transferees and female special constables. Female uniformed officers already have personal issue armour.

Federation Chairman Sue Kelly said: "I hope the whole process goes smoothly and according to time scales built in."

"Although it has been a long time since the inception of personal issue body armour technology has moved on and the body armour is a lot lighter and a lot more comfortable for officers to wear."

The current pool body armour will be made available to male members of the special constabulary and other groups.

Following completion of the implementation programme a risk assessment will need to be carried out for any other groups requesting personal issue body armour in conjunction with their divisional commander.

Help select new recruits

IF you are trained in selection interviewing there is an opportunity to help in the selection process of new recruits.

Essex Police is changing the selection process for new recruits to meet the

target of 300 recruits by the end of the year.

If available to give up at least one day a month and have the support of your line manager email Patricia Fridd in police recruiting.

County still safe by comparison

ESSEX remains one of the safest counties in the country, according to latest crime figures from the Home Office.

The national report for the 12 months to March, 2003, shows that it had the eighth lowest crime rate out of the 39 English police forces. Only two forces achieved a lower burglary rate.

An additional 7,677 offences were solved in Essex during the period, pushing the detection rate up by one point to 27 per cent. The detection rate for violent crime was 67 per cent.

The latest statistics were distorted by the introduction in April, 2002, of the National Crime Recording Standard. Incidents now have to be recorded even if there is no firm evidence of an offence having taken place or the victim does not want to make a complaint.

As a result, the bottom line showed a 20 per cent increase

in crime in Essex. The Home Office estimates that had it not been for the new counting rules, there would have been a year-on drop of one per cent in the number of offences recorded in the county.

ACC (Crime) Liam Briggins said: "The National Crime Recording Standard is a welcome introduction, since it is important that we have a full perspective of offences and trends and that all police forces count crime in the

same way. However, it is no surprise that this has caused a distortion in the first year. A more realistic comparison will be available in future years

He added: "It is pleasing that Essex remains one of the safest counties and that a higher proportion of offences are being detected, but there is certainly no complacency about this. Essex Police is committed to making further progress on behalf of the communities it serves."

Spinnaker media strategy shortlisted

THE handling of the media during the search for missing teenager Danielle Jones and the ensuing murder investigation has led the Media and PR Department to be shortlisted for a prestigious national award.

The department is eagerly waiting to hear if it has been successful in the Association of Police Press and Public Relations Officers annual Awards for Excellence, sponsored by Group 4 Falck, which are announced in November.

Last year the team was highly commended in the planned communication category for its work on the positive aspects of policing in Essex.



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Review team will provide continual scrutiny

continued from page 1

At this point a 'live' case will become an undetected major crime and will be reviewed at a later date under the 'cold case' criteria.

Undetected crime will require the review team to locate original case papers and exhibits. They will then be tasked with identifying any new investigative or forensic opportunities and seeking the views of key staff from the original investigation team.

As many of these cases will date back some years this could clearly open old wounds so families and, in the cases of rape, victims, will only be approached if there is anything significant to tell them or there is a need to glean any information or intelligence not previously divulged.

The review team will also manage other commission reviews such as those resulting from cases adopted by the Criminal Cases Review Commission or reviews on behalf of another police force.

Director of Investigations Det Supt Simon Coxall, who will be the line manager of the team said: "Essex Police is committed to providing the highest standards of criminal investigation. In the field of major crime the Major Investigation Section of experienced detectives has more than proven its worth in achieving just these standards. The introduction of this team supports these aims further and as well as supporting SIOs on live investigations ensures past cases come under continual scrutiny and wherever possible offenders are brought to book.

"It will allow senior investigators to focus on their inquiry knowing that an independent eye is providing them vital support and ensuring no opportunity is overlooked. It should also provide reassurance to families and victims of both new and historical cases that Essex Police will do everything possible to ensure that perpetrators are caught and justice is done."

Airwave update

THE first batch of Sepura SRP 2000 handheld radios is being tested by the Airwave project team.

Pc John Walkington, who represents users, said: "The quality and clarity of the transmissions are excellent. The new radios have a much wider range of features, such as an emergency button, status code updates, messaging and telephone facilities."

There will be 72 Airwave base stations compared with the current 55.

Joint summer crackdown on reckless and high speed driving

Too fast and furious

by Tom Hennessey

YOUNG motorists keen on 'pulling doughnuts' and racing at high speeds are in for a surprise as a widespread clampdown on reckless driving takes place across Essex.

Boy and girl racers are being notified of the 'vigorous' measures to stop young drivers threatening others' lives by using the county's roads as their own personal race tracks to show off to others.

During recent weekends, police have witnessed outrageously dangerous driving including people pouring oil on main roads, and motorists caught travelling at lethal speeds. One was recorded at 138mph on the A127.

The intensive approach by police, in conjunction with local councils and the Vehicle Inspectorate, will ensure visitors from outside Essex, as well as local residents are free from the threat of the 'hooligan elements' on the road.

Leading the special operation is Chief Insp Tim Stokes who has witnessed the full range of stunts carried out by such drivers.

"Every weekend we see some crazy stuff, with nearby crowds who are the potential, innocent casualties," said Chief Insp Stokes.

"We have several contacts through our intelligence sources, and are speaking to them in order to let them know of our intentions and powers available to us.

"We're concerned for those who want to really enjoy the summer weekend evenings in south Essex and we will continue to ensure they do so in a safe environment."

Recent legislation now provides police with a variety of methods. New powers under the Police Reform Act 2002, for instance, allow for the seizure of vehicles which are deemed to be in an unfit state or are being driven in an erratic fashion.

Essex Police has already seized one vehicle under this Act, as well as formally warning a number of motorists who, should they commit a similar offence, will see their cars taken away indefinitely.

The new legislation will be used in conjunction with everyday powers under the Road Traffic Act 1988. Mobile police units fitted with Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) will monitor the influx of vehicles travelling towards hotspots like Southend, with both covert and overt speed camera units.

Chief Insp Stokes added: "We take a very serious view of this sort of recklessness on our roads. Those involved in such crashes often receive horrifying injuries or end up dying a violent death. As such we will always seek to prosecute any driver who causes such a serious and violent crime.

"We admit that this is a big nut to crack, but if we don't do something then people will be killed. As such, we will use various bits of legislation in new and innovative ways to hammer home the message."

During 2002, there were six people killed and another 113 seriously injured following crashes in areas close to Basildon's Festival Leisure area and Southend seafront - popular venues for 'racers' to congregate.

Video ID is great step forward

THE days of the traditional ID parade are set to be a thing of the past thanks to new video-based system.

VIPER (Video Identification Parade Electronic Recording) is a national system which uses a database of thousands of 'posas' (people of similar appearance) which can be supplied across Essex via the internet. Images cover all ages, ethnic backgrounds and sexes.

It is set to quicken the identification process as witnesses can view suspects in custody straight away saving police time in finding suitable candidates.

Witnesses are also saved the trauma of face-to-face encounters with offenders and can even use VIPER via their home computer.

VIPER has reduced the number of abandoned parades from 51 per cent under the traditional 'live' system to just 10 per cent.

Once a suspect has been recorded at one of the three Essex VIPER suites, suitable images are selected from the database by the suspect, solicitors and the identification officer.

The sequence is then sent to the VIPER bureau in Wakefield, edited and returned for use. The process takes minutes.

Its success is already evident after Southend's debut use of the system led to a man being picked out by a witness and charged with a sex attack.

Win a year's study support

FOR those officers mulling over their study programme for next year's OSPRE Part 1 there is opportunity around the corner to win 12 month's worth of on-line assistance.

Police Oracle has teamed up with Police-Training to give away 10 prizes.

The system offers comprehensive support including question and answer sessions on various OSPRE topics, using the same technology already in use by Centrex in such areas as probationer training.

The competition will appear on the website www.policeoracle.com. Keep an eye on the Competition section under the Off-Duty menu. Details will be appearing in the near future.

Students put a stop to speeders

CHILDREN have been teaching speeding motorists a few lessons in safe driving in a new police initiative.

Pupils from Cressing Primary School with the help of Bocking Road Policing Unit and local road safety officer Elaine Beckett began the initiative to raise awareness of the dangers of excess speed outside their school.

Drivers who were found speeding - 23 in three hours - were stopped by police and, where appropriate, given a telling-off by pupils who explained why speeding past their school is so dangerous.

The aim is to ensure drivers realise there is a human cost to their impatience and to encourage them to reduce their speed.

Insp Mark Harman said: "So often children are the victims of drivers' careless and unthinking actions. The initiative allows them to play a part in improving their environment, spreading the message that speed kills."



● Pc Michael McSweeney shows Laura Cox, 11, how to use a speed camera
Photo: Clifford Hicks, East Anglian Daily Times.

Law letters

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

This 'crumble' agrees entirely

I WRITE in response to the letter in the July issue of *The Law* sent in by Pc White.

The gist of his letter was that policeman of yesteryear should largely be seen and not heard.

It was a good letter, which has prompted me to write.

Let's get things into perspective by me telling you that I joined Essex County Constabulary in March 1961.

Then, of course, some of the senior policeman had served in the 39/45 war and some recruited after hostilities ended.

I have to say that sometimes it was difficult to emulate them, as things in 'their day' had been different and better. Some, of course, were brilliant and produced some of the best detectives I have known.

I think that Moose hit the nail right on the head with his comments that the service of today has changed beyond recognition of us crumbles. It must be very difficult to be a front-line officer in today's society. I know that I wouldn't like to be one.

The frustration faced by them must be enormous and demoralising. Things we got away with could never be contemplated now.

I wish the officers of today's police service every good fortune.

If I can offer one crumble observation it would be that the desire to make the academic side of the service so important tends to reduce the production of good 'streetwise' coppers.

John Barrett
Stanford Le Hope

IN so many previous issues of *The Law* retired officers, of whom I am one, compare the working practices of today with yesteryear.

I am not about to criticise because we all have to live with change, as a lot of my senior male colleagues had to, when in the early 50s' there was an increase of women into the force.

However, I would like to inform the 'specially trained officers' that the first time I acted as a decoy was in 1955, when with another WPC I arrested a flasher after observation duty outside the Odeon Cinema in Romford.

Policewomen throughout the

county performed decoy duty for indecency, theft, blackmail, and offences in licensed premises.

I am pleased to see the FSU are backing the 'decoys'.

It was not always so, you were lucky if you got the CID interested in the indecent exposure fiend, but they did support you for an indecent assault crime.

Despite an account in a local newspaper where 'Mr Thomas Lavelle, prosecuting said: 'Woman Police Constable Vera Bayliss's mission put her in some danger because she could not be accompanied by a policeman', I did have a detective

constable hiding behind a tree.

The best thing that came from this court case was that the council agreed to position some street lamps along this unlit lane.

I wish all those who train for and take up this particular duty the best of luck and remember the offenders are not always going to turn up on time and they have a habit of appearing when for some reason you and your team are not there.

Former WDs Vera Bayliss
Rayleigh

Hiding behind technology

WHO is this 'technocrat' in the Information Room to criticise Peter Crust?

Peter was one of the best detectives that Essex ever had and ran the CID excellently for some years.

There may have been many technological changes over the years but most of them seem to be an excuse for doing nothing.

As long as officers can key into a computer they seem to think that is all they need to know, and

an excuse not to think.

Several times recently it has been my misfortune to have to contact the police and knowing something of the system thought I had done it properly.

Not once have I seen a police officer and not once has anyone appeared the slightest bit interested.

Maybe it did not fit into the 'targets' set or the system now operated where policemen do not speak to the public.

Not all change is for the good

I HAVE given long and careful consideration in replying to the comments of constable White. As a serving officer of over 30 years' operational service, and about to retire, I feel well-placed in commenting on changes within the service.

Joining in the early 70s I listened to the old boys 'prattling' on about it not being the same job as they joined and vowed not to be like them when my time came. How wrong I was. Oh, what a different job it is now and not all for the good.

I wholeheartedly agree things move on and we are learning every day but at what cost. Is it that the old timers are saying things were better dealt with the old fashioned way or are they implying that the way it was dealt with gave a better service where people felt they were getting value for money? Where there was a feeling of security and faith in the police that may not now be present.

Mr White works in a department which probably comes in for the most criticism in the service. Call-takers, little versed in criminal law or procedures, are short-staffed and over-worked.

The result is that people are left hanging on the telephone, the phone rings for so long the line is cut off, people are fobbed off to other departments and jobs are taken with scant details.

Now don't think this is a personal attack on the Information Room - because it is not. Neither is it the parting comments of a bitter officer. I have enjoyed my time and would do it again. It is merely that we fail so many members of the public so many times.

OK the crime may not have any chance of detection but at least members of the public saw an officer and felt that value for money was being given. Now they just get a crime reference number and a letter from the victim support services.

Traffic offenders lived in fear of getting caught by a motorcyclist. Now they just keep their eyes open for the

cameras. Police stations were open for personal callers.

Yes things are better, computers, email, PNC, equipment and attitudes between staff. However there was a time when my boss knew my correct first name and would attend a colleagues' retirement 'do'. Where is he now?

In conclusion, I again ask the question, are we giving the public the service they should be getting and do they feel safe in this ever-changing world? If the answer is 'no' then we are clearly doing it wrong.

Brian (known as Dave) Jones
Laindon Road Policing Unit

Let us 'old codgers' have our say

I SERVED under Peter Crust at one time and like him. I still take an interest in how the police service, particularly in Essex is being run.

Like Moose White I didn't always see eye to eye with Peter, but I defend Peter's right to say what he likes.

Being described as "just another retired officer blasting away at the way we are policing" is being a little unkind to us old stagers who, as even Moose White admits, have done our bit. It prompts me to remind him that if his luck holds he will one day join our ranks and look back upon his service with a critical eye.

I have no doubt that he won't always like what he sees.

Let us old codgers have our say. *The Law* is about the only link we have to the service we all loved.

We see chief constables come and go as we read of the deaths of our former colleagues.

We learn of new schemes being hatched to save money, or of plans to catch up with the 'ungodly' that are usually one-step ahead, as they always were. Is it any wonder that we old codgers think we did it better in our day?

I take my hat off to all serving officers who do their job in a climate of fear and criticism that did not exist when I served, well not until the complaints department was born.

A great day

TO all serving officers and support personnel, not forgetting the band, I would like to thank you for taking the time and making the effort (as you do every year) to make the garden party another brilliant day.

It was good to see officers that I served with or their wives and talk about the 'job' and remember absent friends.

When I retired I did not bother to attend this special day until persuaded by others.

I now wish I had bothered earlier, and to those who have not or will not attend I would politely suggest that they have a rethink and make the effort.

Roy Donovan,
Billericay



First class

ONCE again we have enjoyed the pensioners' garden party which was organised with the efficiency we come to expect but do not always appreciate.

First class travel arrangements for an old 'un, lovely band and eats and an appropriate address of welcome from the Chief who mentioned the work which went on to provide the function.

Most of all the joy of meeting colleagues. I particularly appreciate the opportunity to meet colleagues in a venue of a social nature in comparison with attending the crematorium or the cemetery.

Archie Rickwood
Southend



Many thanks

I WISH to say thank you for the police garden party. I enjoyed it very much.

Also thanks for sending a conveyance to pick me up!

A lovely, calm, relaxing afternoon in the sunshine meeting old friends. Thank you.

Mrs Smy
Great Baddow

It is quite obvious that policing has to change with the times, as it always did. But I always found it interesting to know how it used to be before I joined.

I have recently completed a book called *Of Police and Politics*, which is a chronicle of what went on in Essex Police in my time (1953 - 1983) and how change and interference by politicians shaped what you are today.

If anyone ever publishes it I will let Moose White have a complimentary copy.

Former Det Supt George Raven
Maldon

Keeping an eye on the inns

A NEW computer system charting all licensed premises in Essex is now available through the force's intranet.

Inn Keeper is Essex Police's new liquor licensing system, keeping records of premises, licensees, business hours and doorstaff within the county.

Although primarily an administrative tool for licensing officers, the system is also valuable for reference and intelligence gathering for operational officers.

Access to the new system will assist with closure orders and developing strategy around alcohol-related crime.

Community safety co-ordinator, Sgt Nigel Dermott, said: "The system is only as good as the information put into it, so it relies on officers recording offences committed by staff and customers to best utilise it."

New chairmanship

THE Chief Constable has agreed to take on the chairmanship of the Essex Vulnerable Adults Protection Committee.

David Stevens will lead the multi-agency group following the retirement of head of Essex Social Services Michael Leadbetter.

DVD lends a hand to Herts

RELATIONS with Hertfordshire Constabulary continue to prosper after the Essex Police TV Unit produced a briefing DVD for the policing operation at the Robbie Williams concerts at Knebworth.

Officers from Hertfordshire who were involved in policing the performances were shown the unique briefing DVD which was specially designed following talks earlier this year on various policing requirements.

Essex, only one of a few forces across the UK to have an in-house TV Unit, spent three weeks producing the 15-minute DVD for their colleagues across the border in preparation for one of the biggest pre-planned policing operations in Hertfordshire.

Event planning officer Pc Jill McCracken said: "The video that the team from Essex has produced provided our officers with the operational information they required. We're extremely grateful for their contribution."

Producer Dave Fogerty believes such briefing programmes have a pivotal role to play and can help reduce confusion and improve communication prior to such pre-planned operations.

No match for DNA success

DNA profiles on the national database have hit the two million mark.

The National DNA Database has transformed the fight against crime helping to catch both serious criminals and those committing 'volume' crime like burglary and car theft.

Last year alone 21,000 crimes were detected using DNA evidence - a 132 per cent increase on 2000.

Each month, on average, the database links suspects to 31 rapes, 15 murders, and 770 car crimes.

The Home Office is funding the expansion of the national database with an investment of £182 million from April 2000 to 2004.

In Essex there have been just under 2,700 crimes detected through the National DNA Database.

According to the head of scientific support, DCI Tom Harper: "The

success rate will increase further with the more samples taken."

Home Office Minister Hazel Blears on a recent visit to the Forensic Science Service praised the database: "The crime-fighting success of the national DNA database is staggering."

"It has quickly become a vital police intelligence tool - helping police identify criminals more quickly, make easier arrests and get more secure convictions."

Transfers into Essex double

by Angeline Burton

THE number of police officers transferring to Essex from other forces more than doubled in the first six months of this year.

Sixty officers agreed to join the force between January and June. Just 24 officers transferred into Essex during the whole of 2002.

Supt Dave Folkard, training and development head, believes the rise is partly due to the introduction of new measures making it easier for officers to join Essex.

However, with 61 officers leaving the force since January, he admits there is more work to be done to ensure that skilled officers choose to remain loyal to this force.

He said: "Streamlining the transfer process and introducing incentives on division to attract staff, such as special priority payments, have paid off. Officers can now get an on-the-spot decision on whether Essex will offer them a job."

"We're not complacent about the

number of officers leaving. We're working hard to keep our skilled officers. Of those who have recently left the force, five have returned, so the grass is not always greener."

The signs are that, over the next few months, the numbers of officers joining Essex will continue to match those leaving. Supt Folkard is also confident that special priority payments will ensure that divisions such as Basildon and Thurrock can operate at full strength.

"If divisions are better resourced, people feel they're getting the support

More than just a number

THE challenge of Essex and the respect given to officers as 'individuals', as opposed to 'a number', are just two of the reasons why the grass isn't always greener on the other side.

Pc Trevor Brown transferred to the Metropolitan Police in May this year but returned a short time later.

He said: "I felt more of a number than an individual with the Mets and after phoning my previous inspector my return was made very easy."

they need, and they're less likely to look elsewhere," he said.

Much work has gone into developing incentives to encourage officers to remain in Essex. These include dropping the current rule that detective constables must return to uniform before winning promotion to detective sergeant, and development of the Sergeants Development Scheme. Other initiatives are still under consideration.

Supt Folkard believes the signs are positive. "Some people still believe a move to the Met will help their career but many others are realising that what they've got with Essex Police is worth keeping."

Detective constable Paula Bradley transferred to Cleveland Police in April and returned to Essex at the end of June.

Paula said: "We left because I have family up there so it seemed a good idea. We both returned to uniform and although we were well looked after the work wasn't challenging. Our return was handled quickly and efficiently. Essex would have taken us straight away but we had to give 28 days notice."

Recruitment workshops

A NEW run of one-day workshops for staff involved in recruitment and selection processes will be staged over the next year by human resources.

The workshops are an opportunity for staff to update themselves about changes in legal issues and practical approaches to selection processes.

The workshop supplements the training centre's structured interview course, but does not replace it.

The following dates are open to all staff regardless of rank or grade; July 1 and 22, August 21, September 25, November 11, December 16, February 17, 2004 and March 16, 2004.

To book places on the course, email Lucy Myall at the training centre.

Staffing at all time high

POLICE numbers have reached record levels.

At the end of December 2002 there were 132,268 police officers in England and Wales, the highest since records began in 1921.

Officers are being supported by nearly 1,400 community support officers who offer vital assistance to police officers in tackling low-level crime and anti-social behaviour.

Essex Police has seen a rise in officer numbers from 3,073 in June 2002 to 3,134 in June 2003.

According to Essex Police recruitment manager Sue Adkins the increase in police officer numbers is set to rise: "We have a big recruitment drive on at the moment and are currently interviewing 70 people a week. This is set to carry on through July and August to achieve our target of 300 new recruitment's this year."

Home Secretary David Blunkett's target of 130,000 police officers by March 2003 has been exceeded, and the 132,500 target for March 2004 looks set to be met as well.



● Up close and saturated - Sgt Bob Walsham takes it on the chin in the stocks.

A delightful debut

IT was more akin to an invasion than merely a big turnout when Tendring Division staged its first fun day at Clacton police station.

An estimated 20,000 visitors attended and 8,000 of them were prepared to queue at various times of the day for a tour of the police station.

The event, organised by Derek Marshall, of the service desk, and Sgt Bob Walsham, was a huge success, offering a wide variety of family entertainment, ranging from an opportunity to clamber aboard emergency services

vehicles to belly dancing.

Police officers took turns to stand in the stocks as targets for a wet sponge assault.

Although there was no entry fee, the proceeds from a grand draw and sideshows are expected to total at least £3,000, which will go to local youth groups.

Divisional commander Chief Supt Dick Madden, who took his turn in the stocks, said: "It was a wonderful day, which brought us close to the community under happy circumstances. The public interest was incredible."

Never say never!

Sgt Roy Scanes never dreamed he would need the facilities of the police rehabilitation centre. How wrong could he be!

I JOINED Essex Police in 1981 - a fit, invulnerable young man, without a worry or health problem in sight, writes Sgt Roy Scanes.

As a new recruit I was given lots of information, including the details and the benefits of Flint House, the police rehabilitation centre at Goring-on-Thames in Oxfordshire. I subscribed thinking it was the right thing to do.

It never crossed my mind that I would benefit from the use of these facilities but after 22 years of subscribing I now know how wrong I was.

I had played semi-professional football

before joining the force and continued to play, representing Essex Police. I also raised charity money at divisional level running marathons in uniform.

In 1989, I was diagnosed as suffering from osteoarthritis. I had basically worn out both hip joints and eventually they would need replacing.

In December 2002, I underwent the first operation, having my left hip joint replaced and was on crutches for three months before applying to go to Flint House.

Every day during my ten-day stay I underwent intense physiotherapy and hydrotherapy with qualified specialists. I also made full use of the swimming pool and newly refurbished gymnasium.

There were also lessons on posture, back problems, relaxation and sleep methods, and many other health-related matters.

Part of my rehabilitation programme included NHS physiotherapy at Broomfield Hospital where I performed strength tests. The hospital physiotherapist concluded that the Flint House treatment was obviously first class and very relative to my injury.

The treatment I received at Flint House was indeed first class. It taught me to walk again without a limp, gave me greater joint flexibility and developed the muscle of the joint to the strongest it had ever been.

The demand from officers wanting to attend Flint House has doubled over the past five years as more and more officers learn of the excellent facilities it can offer.

These facilities may make the difference between returning to duty or the threat of going onto half pay.

Apart from severe psychiatric disorders and contagious conditions, Flint House accepts most surgical and medical problems, every year admitting over 2,500 individuals.

Some will be requiring intensive physiotherapy, many will require help with

stress related illness, and all will receive a level of care that is unobtainable elsewhere.

Most officers during their service will be injured, sometimes severely - to get back to duty, the help of Flint House will be invaluable and undoubtedly the cheapest access to such sophisticated health care.

To benefit from the facilities at Flint House you have to be a contributing member to the Essex Police Benevolent Fund.

The monthly contribution at present is just £5.54p (£66.48p per annum). Of this sum, £2.77p (£33.24p per annum) goes directly to Flint House increasing to £3.25p per month (£39 per annum) through Benevolent Fund subsidies.

From September 1 there is going to be an increase in subscriptions of 56p per month, the first increase in almost four years.

Currently the centre is in a period of expansion with a new building, providing an additional 60 beds, due to be fully operational by mid-October.

The increase in subscriptions will cover additional benefits including the cost of doubling the number of physiotherapists.

It has been calculated that if you have cause to attend Flint House just the once, the cost is the equivalent to 30 years' contributions and when you retire, you will still be eligible for free admission, but no longer required to contribute.

Flint House is a non-profit making registered charity and depends on voluntary contributions, donations and income from investments. It is worthy of note that the Essex Police Benevolent Fund made a contribution this year of £20,000, to assist in the funding of the new building.

If you are not contributing but don't feel so invulnerable after reading this article contact the HQ Welfare Department and ask for details of how to start contributing.

It happened to me, it could happen to you!



● Flint House - a lifeline to so many .

Rape - dealing with the distress

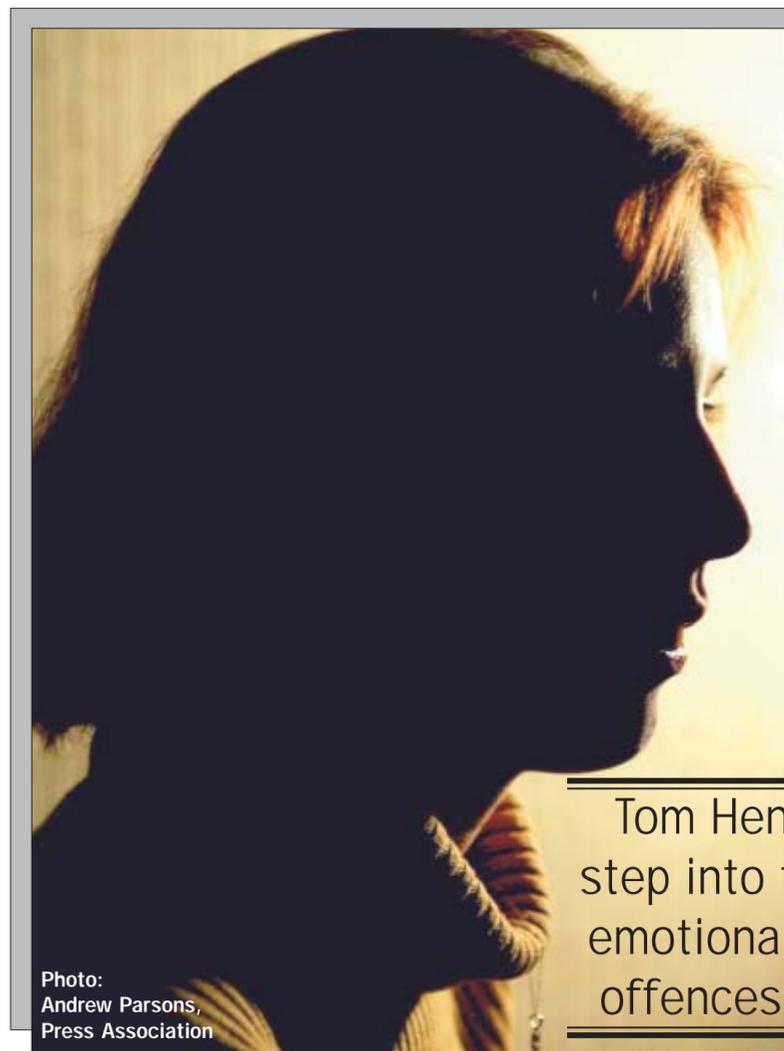


Photo: Andrew Parsons, Press Association

Tom Hennessey takes a step into the sensitive and emotional world of sexual offences trained officers

STARTLING figures suggest female rapes have soared in the UK in recent years, going up by 27 per cent last year alone.

Are so many women really being attacked? Or is there another story behind these rocketing statistics?

According to latest police figures there were 11,441 reported rapes last year compared to 8,990 the year before.

While the police and Home Office say the increase is partly because of new ways of collecting statistics. It is also the case that female rape victims are more confident coming forward following changed policing practices.

Policing minister Hazel Blears recently announced that a rise in reported rape cases was "actually good news" and praised the work of the police in dealing with rape cases:

but as Karen points out - not at the expense of the victim's own feelings.

"The importance is to understand the victim's needs; every victim is an individual and has to be treated in a different way. Sometimes they will blame themselves thinking they could have done something differently. To get your victim to overcome these feelings and get them to trust you is how to be successful."

Having seen and heard the accounts of many female rape victims, Karen admits she sometimes finds it hard to cope with the distressing ordeals.

"Every officer is different, we all have different ways of dealing with it, but personally I do find it difficult to leave my work behind when I go home."

"At Harlow we do support each other through regular meetings to discuss how we are dealing with any difficulties. We are given plenty of time to deal with the stresses."

Although trained to deal with the sensitivities of interviewing victims it is not the role of a SOTO to act as a long-term counsellor. It is important to offer victims support through other organisations.

"It's really up to the victim how long you remain in contact with them. Often it helps to have a familiar face with them - especially if the case goes to court but they let us know, I've had victims who won't want to speak to you afterwards at all, some a phone call a week and some a call a day."

"From an early stage we try to introduce as much information as possible to victims - Rape Crisis, Victim Support - but again it is down to the victim whether they want these organisations to get involved."

Disappointingly recent police and government figures show that of those cases which make it to court the number of successful convictions has remained low, but Karen believes it would be difficult to make improvements to the current system.

"Improvements have been made so that it is easier for intimidated witnesses to give evidence. But in rape cases the issue of consent is very important, and the burden of proof is with the prosecution."

"It can be difficult accepting a jury's decision sometimes, but as a police officer I maintain the law and I have to accept the system."

Karen strongly believes, however, that the improvements made in the police service have encouraged rape victims to come forward.

"Practices have changed immensely in my time as a SOTO. Advances in forensic sciences and continual training have improved and people's attitudes to dealing with rape victims have brought a more professional approach."

Although the grim reality of being a SOTO can take its toll, it seems for Karen that the job comes with its benefits too.

"It is rewarding - every single victim is an individual and provides me with a different challenge."

"It's once you have managed to get your victim to confide in you and to trust you that I feel satisfaction with my work."

"We've got a number of sexual referral centres right across the country, much better doctors, much better medical examinations, so that woman are coming forward in increasing numbers."

Understanding the effect rape has on a woman is essential for anyone who has to deal with a rape victim.

Often the first on scene are the forces' sexual offences trained officers (SOTOs), who have been specially trained in dealing with the sensitive issues surrounding a rape.

Dc Karen Wells of Harlow, a SOTO for 11 years, knows the difficulties in maintaining professionalism in such emotional circumstances.

"The first time I had to deal with a victim was an absolutely terrifying experience. You know that the detective inspector, the investigating team and most importantly the victim are all counting on you - there are a lot of expectations."

"It is difficult - you need to keep your police head on because we have to ask some very intrusive and sensitive questions and only have a very short space of time to obtain information."

"There is a need for your victim to confide quickly as there are other people working around us, so it is important that they tell us where it happened, when did it happen and who did it."

Clearly in such circumstances it is essential to ascertain the facts quickly,

Preparing for festival fever

POLICE preparations for this year's V-festival are well underway.

With the expectation of nearly 150,000 people - the largest ever crowds - descending on Chelmsford's Hylands Park over August 16 and 17 it essential the environment is safe.

As in previous years, local residents, motorists and those attending the festival are being asked to co-operate with the police in order for the event to continue being a success.

Safety measures will be taken with temporary speed limits of 30mph enforced along nearby roads.

Parking spaces will be available inside Hylands Park with two gates for entry and exit, but parking restrictions will be in place in surrounding areas, including the villages of Writtle and Widford.

Offending vehicles will be towed and impounded.

Extra trains are running courtesy of Great Eastern Railways and free buses will run from the festival site to Chelmsford town centre at the end of the concert on both nights.

Police co-ordinator Sgt Chris White is looking forward to experiencing yet another successful event, but hopes that everyone works with the police in making V2003 safe and enjoyable.

"We want to make this annual weekend crime-free, thereby allowing everybody to have

a good time," he said.

"There will be frequent police patrols in the car parks, but people should use common sense and leave valuables at home."

"The festival has always been a fantastic occasion for both the police and the public, so criminals are warned that the extensive array of CCTV cameras will combat their actions, with robust action taken against offenders."

A mobile police station will be in position outside the main entrance to the licensed area, but police will not have the responsibility to look after property for safekeeping.

True tales bargain

PAGES of Life - the title given to the book surrounding the life and times of Dc Michael Page has been reduced from £50 a copy to £29 due to demand for the limited publication.

The book features a collection of true accounts of the long serving police officer who lost his battle to cancer in May 2002 aged 42.

Stories include *The Eating Comp* at the John Barleycorn pub between Michael and Moose and the wonderful tale of *The Cat up a Tree*.

There is just the one print run so this is the only chance to receive a copy. Proceeds will go to the Helen Rollason cancer charity.

Email Chris.Caten@essex.pnn.police.uk.

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POLICE MUTUAL

Health & Welfare

Dangers of the demon drink

ALCOHOL is our favourite drug. Most of us use it for enjoyment, but for some of us drinking can become a serious problem.

Alcohol is a tranquilizer, addictive and causes physical/emotional difficulties.

Keep an eye on how much you drink. We often underestimate our weekly intake. Try keeping a weekly diary, when you evaluate the entries you may be surprised by the result.

Recommended weekly limit for alcohol consumption is 21 units for men, and 14 units for women. One unit equals half a pint of beer, a shot of whisky or small glass of wine.

Associated problems

- Arguments, money troubles, family upsets, accidents, mood swings, problems at work.

- Drinking heavily can cause physical problems, in extreme cases liver disease and increased risk of certain cancers.

- Alcohol is used to make us feel happier or deal with stress. However, heavy drinking does the very opposite and makes you depressed.

Where to get help

If you are worried about your drinking and finding things difficult, make steps to change as early as possible. Seek support from friends and family. Try talking to your GP.

Specialist treatment is available via the Occupational Health and Welfare Department (58601). Any query will be handled sensitively.

A royal honour

FINDING your name among the various stars and dignitaries in the Queen's New Year's Honours list is one thing. The daunting experience of actually collecting the award is something else entirely.

George Cook, who leads a double life as both divisional administration manager for Southend and deputy commandant for the Essex Special Constabulary, and Basildon crime reduction officer Pc Ray Williams can now boast 'MBE' after their name following a special ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

They were two of three Essex employees to find themselves in this year's list. Head of Scientific Support, DCI Tom Harper was awarded his Queen's Police Medal earlier this year.

Pc Williams was awarded his MBE for services to policing and general involvement with the community, as a leading member of his local crime reduction partnership.

He attended the palace's Grand Ballroom for a two-hour ceremony with his two daughters and son.

HRH The Prince of Wales

presented his MBE and even found time to chat with Pc Williams about youth issues.

Pc Williams said: "I have to admit the sight of about 500 guests and various armed guards as I entered the ballroom was quite daunting, but it was a special moment and a great honour to be there."

Mr Cook's services to the special constabulary led to his award. He has been a special constable for 40 years.

Accompanied by two friends and his brother for the ceremony he said: "It was a splendid affair. The Queen was charming and although there were over 100 recipients on the day Her Majesty took time to speak a few words to us all and made us feel welcome.

"I was over the moon."

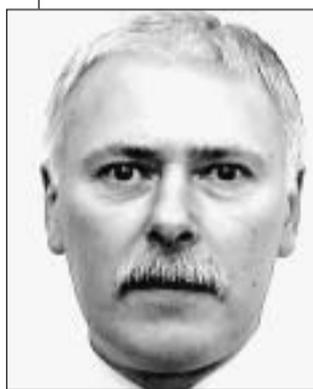
When the awards were announced in the honours list, Chief Constable David Stevens said: "Each has, in their own field, done a great deal to support the people of Essex and to develop and implement new ideas.

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

Two awarded MBEs for their services to the police



CHARMED . . . Deputy Commandant George Cook accepts his MBE from Her Majesty the Queen.



INSET: Pc Ray Williams MBE . . . for services to the police and the community.

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Licencees pass the test

RAYLEIGH Police and trading standard officers have been cracking down on illegal sales of alcohol and its consumption by underage drinkers.

In a joint initiative licensing officer, Pc Kevin Hemsworth and trading standard officers have contacted a number of off-licencees and reminded staff and management of their obligation not to sell alcohol to underage customers and to ask for proof of age when in doubt.

Officers then carried out visits to off-licencees using an underage test purchaser. Only one shop made an illegal

sale, at all the others staff demanded proof of age and refused to sell alcohol to the test purchaser.

Rayleigh's operations manager, Chief Insp Tony Rayner said: "We receive regular complaints from the public that off-licencees are selling alcohol to underage youths.

"This operation tested those accusations and proved that the licensees are responsible professionals.

"However we will repeat this initiative at intervals to keep them all on their toes."

Disclosure training package

A NEW joint training package for disclosure of unused material has been rolled out to improve the Crown Prosecution Service and police compliance with the disclosure regime introduced by the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996.

Developed by the police and development centre Centrex, and the Crown Prosecution Service, the training package consists of a case study that can be adapted to suit the needs of both organisations.

There is revised guidance

on confiscation proceedings, forensic support material, third party material (including the planned introduction of a national protocol with social services and the police) and the introduction of a common protective marking for sensitive material.

A comprehensive national disclosure wall chart has also been developed and produced as a useful quick reference guide to disclosure duties.

More information is available on the CPS website at www.cps.gov.uk.

Precis your part-time role

ACPO Eastern Region Diversity Group is seeking part-time officers that would be willing to write a brief precis of their role and experiences, to share with regional forces.

If you are interested or would like further information, contact the equal opportunities advisor on 58621 or Karen on 58635.

Squad posts are made permanent

THE National Crime Squad is set to offer permanent appointments to police officers for all its 150 posts at inspector level and above.

The squad which comprises less than 1200 police officers is currently 200 officers below the required level.

At present these positions are filled by officers on five to eight year secondments from the 43 local forces in England and Wales, but the Police Reform Act now gives the squad the authority to offer police appointments on a permanent basis.

Posts can be found on the squad's website at www.ncsrecruitment.co.uk.



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Bank of Scotland	10.9%	£165.20	£5,947.20	£343.08
Abbey National	9.3%	£158.83	£5,717.88	£113.76

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Lunch with Romford colleagues

ROMFORD Division reunion luncheon will be held at the Essex Police HQ Sports Club, Springfield, on Saturday November 15, 2003 at 1pm.

It will be in the form of a fork buffet, with wine, orange juice and water, included in the price of £10 per person.

Wives and partners are invited and the bar will be open at 11.30 am.

Anyone who wants to attend is asked to send a cheque to S. P. Mather (lunch account) at 25, Queens Avenue, Pooles Lane, Hullbridge, Essex SS5 6PS.

It is important to enclose your name, address (including postcode), telephone number and email address (if you have one).

Closing date is October 30, 2003.

New heads of complaints

A DIRECTOR of a civil rights group and a deputy district judge have been appointed to head up the new Independent Police Complaints Commission.

John Wadham, director of Liberty since 1995, and Claire Gilham, have been appointed as deputy chairs of the new body which will replace the Police Complaints Authority in 2004.

They will take up their posts in September, along with 15 commissioners, to oversee complaints and monitor and review procedures for dealing with police misconduct.

The IPCC will be independent of police and government.

Home Secretary David Blunkett has welcomed the appointments.

Thank you and goodnight

Names in the news



● Speechless . . . Joan Reed is given a surprise cake in celebration of her 90th birthday.

ONE of the first officers to take flight in the force helicopter and a sportsmen who boasted his own fan club has retired after 20 years' service.

Sgt Michael Kliskey has spent time with South Ockendon, Basildon, Braintree, Dunmow and Saffron Walden divisions and was part of the air support for seven years following its initiation in

A keen sportsman, Michael was captain of the hockey team and was national police duathlon champion from 1993-95 as well as winner of the Police Slate Man Triathlon in 1993 and 1994. He was also part of the cycling team with Mick St.Leger and Graham Snelling which won awards from 1991-95.

In fact he had his fingers in so many sporting pies he was never out of the pages of *The Law*, so much so that colleagues formed a fan club writing into the newspaper and buying anoraks in celebration.

Michael would like to say thank you to his 'adoring' fans.

Pc **Michael Hall** has retired following 28 years in service.

Michael who spent time at Basildon in firearms training and at Stansted Airport won the Essex Police Bravery Award in 2002.

Michael also devoted much of his time to the force rugby club taking on the chairmanship.

In retirement, Michael is running his own company in conflict management consultation.

Grand reunions in the garden

THE weather had been booked to shine, the band played and the cakes were delicious.

The force's 84th annual garden party once more drew hundreds of visitors from the amassed ranks of serving and retired staff.

Chief Constable David Stevens had a surprise in store for Joan Reed - mother of Chelmsford licensing officer Martin - with the presentation of a cake to mark her 90th birthday.

Joan was married to Wilfred, who served with the police service for 36 years.

Also present was Pam Arnold, 73, for her first garden party. Pam retired 18 years ago after 30 years as an officer and nine as support staff, and was one of the first female detectives employed by the force.

The day ended with combat on the cricket pitch. For more details see the back page.

Are you a traitor?

CAN you hide a guilty face? Can you tell fact from fiction and spot a traitor?

If so the BBC wants you for a new show where deception, shrewd judgement and accusation are the name of the game.

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COSTA Blanca, villa Martin, 3 bed, 2 bath, detached. Garden, terrace, solarium, carport. Next to golf course, near blue flag beaches. Sky TV, quiet area. Contact Brian Cook on ext 31915.

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		Total	£25,555.97	£19,366.37	£22,357.91	£18,063.03	£19,585.57	£16,816.16	£18,273.38	£16,213.98
7.8% APR	£10,000	Monthly	£202.83	£153.70	£248.43	£200.70	£362.70	£311.41	£507.60	£450.39
		Total	£17,037.18	£12,910.89	£14,905.23	£12,042.00	£13,057.06	£11,210.81	£12,182.25	£10,809.32
7.8% APR	£5,000	Monthly	£101.41	£76.85	£124.21	£100.35	£181.35	£155.71	£253.80	£225.20
		Total	£8,518.74	£6,455.41	£7,452.66	£6,021.01	£6,528.52	£5,605.38	£6,091.12	£5,404.66
8.7% APR	£3,000	Monthly	£62.49	£47.36	£76.01	£61.41	£110.16	£94.58	£153.57	£136.27
		Total	£5,249.31	£3,977.80	£4,560.51	£3,684.41	£3,965.56	£3,404.85	£3,685.63	£3,270.26

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Three peaks pilgrimage

TWO years ago, I successfully completed the ascent of the three highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales and, despite the exhilarating experience and personal satisfaction, I said "Never again!", writes Paul Watson.

But this year, I found myself once more facing the National Three Peaks Challenge, partly as a favour to support a first-timer but also as a kind of 'pilgrimage' to celebrate my having come through testicular cancer last year.

Raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Relief, a cause which has obvious significance for me, I was fortunate to also be accompanied, for the most part, by a last-minute entry from Southend colleague Pc Vince Brown.

This year's event followed a similar timetable - a continuous walking challenge in both darkness and daylight with little or no rest (apart from the coach journeys between the mountains).

It began with the ascent and descent at night of 3,560ft Snowdon in Wales in 4hrs 24 mins.

Breakfast and a coach journey then the ascent of Scafell Pike in the Lake District. Completion time for this 3,209ft peak was 6hrs 18 mins.

A further coach journey took us to Ben Nevis in Scotland and a round trip of 6hrs 40 mins for this 4,408ft peak.

All three were demanding in their different ways, but good weather and the company Vince Brown provided made the task less arduous. However, a good degree of fitness, some hill-walking experience and a dogged determination to succeed were still essential ingredients to the successful completion of the challenge.

Once more, Scafell Pike proved to be technically the most awkward, with its many rocks and boulders near the summit requiring much concentration and care to avoid an accident.

Ben Nevis provided a wondrous sight with some snow on its summit, which for mid-June was quite beautiful! The majesty of being at that elevation, with a panoramic view of the surrounding geography, sun drenched in all its natural splendour, was an awesome sight, and I was glad I had made the effort to see it again.

My return to ground level was followed by my succumbing to the effects of sleep deprivation and cumulative fatigue.

Thanks to the many people that sponsored me, I have raised in this event about £1,500.

For anyone interested in taking part in this

challenge I would recommend logging on to www.ukoutdoorpursuits.co.uk. They provide a well organised package and likely one of the safest. I would however also add, that the event is not to be underestimated and I believe that a good level of fitness, combined with some hill-walking experience, is essential its safe and successful completion.

Thank you to all those individuals who sponsored my participation this year and helped to fuel my determination to succeed in an event which many find just too difficult to complete.

On a par with the celebrities

WITH the help of a few famous faces officers drove, chipped and putted their way to £20,000 for charity at a celebrity golf day.

Held at Hanbury Manor Golf and Country Club in Hertfordshire the event raised money for the President's Sporting Club, which helps provide sporting facilities for disabled children.

Among the 33 teams were well known names such as Sir Geoff Hurst, Sir Steve Redgrave and Ronnie O'Sullivan.

Members of Essex Police helped provide stewards for the course and services such as driving the drinks buggies but two lucky volunteers, Pc John Lace and Dc Miguel Diaz-Rios, also got to play. Miguel partnered former England footballer Alan Ball who he described as a "real character who wouldn't settle for second place" - well he did win the world cup!

Team spirit wins through

IT is expected that a team of women from Braintree have raised in excess of £1,000 for charity after taking part in the Race For Life.

The 12-strong group of staff and friends completed the Chelmsford 5km leg of the annual event to raise money for cancer research.

Lori Rowe romped home first in 28 minutes closely followed by Braintree's divisional commander Chief Supt Sue Harrison. The rest of the team - Carol Bailey, Sue Domain, Sue Toms, Sally Fester, Petrina Goodchild, Naomi Andrews, Victoria Butler, Verity Butler, Anne Payne and Carol Donegan - walked the circuit in about 53 minutes.

Team captain Carol Bailey said: "Raising money for cancer research is a subject very dear to my heart having been treated in 1997 and having friends who have either been treated recently or are still undergoing treatment. In October we held an event at the station during breast cancer awareness month to raise money, and I will definitely be looking to enter another larger team to the Race for Life next year."

Join gypsy jazz duo

ACOUSTIC gypsy jazz guitarists Dc Mark Wojcik and Pc Ian Frakes are looking for other musicians with similar musical interests to join them.

They are particularly keen to hear from a double bass player, violinist, accordionist and an acoustic or electric bass guitarist.

The duo is keen for the group to play the national and international festivals and this will require a certain amount of commitment including weekly rehearsals and individual practice.

Other than that the requirements are simply that any new recruit is willing to have fun.

Contact Dc Mark Wojcik at Stanway MIT on 01206 761222, ext 13226 or Pc Ian Frakes at the Marine Unit on 01621 785961, ext 61140.

Pitch up for new club

THIS could suit you to a tee if you are a lady golfer looking for a challenge.

It has been decided to progress the introduction of a National PAA Ladies Golf Championship and a new committee is required to promote the section and initiate competitions.

After the initial set up the committee would be responsible for co-ordinating the location and administration of an annual championship, similar to the existing men's competition.

Anyone interested should contact John Stonehouse on ext 58888 or Nick Todd, the secretary of the National Golf section before Friday, August 22 on 0208 246 0506 or 07764 760437.

Lucky winners

CONSTABLE Ian Harlow, Shoeburyness was the winner of £1,500 in July.

The other results were: £750 Richard Phillibrown, Harlow; £375 Ross Luke, Harlow and £200 Terence Rackley, MSD.

Consolation prizes of £50 go to: Damon Bainbridge, Basildon; Alan Hatchman, Harlow; Gareth Oats, Stansted Airport; Martin Allen, MSD; Helen Wakelam, HQ; Zara Spiro, FIR; David Mayo, MSD; Paul Baxter, Witham; Mark Shelton, Crime; and D Lane, retired.

Sport in brief

A BEACH angling section has been set up by the Essex Police Sports Association. The new tournament, run by Dave Clark, will be staged in autumn or early spring.

DC John Stewart, HQ, has been selected to represent the national PAA bowls team against the Civil Service. He has also qualified for the All England Championships.

Pc Brett Lummis, Braintree, swam his way to victory in a competition for the British Police coming first in the 100m individual and relay breaststroke and second in the 200m individual.

The might of maturity

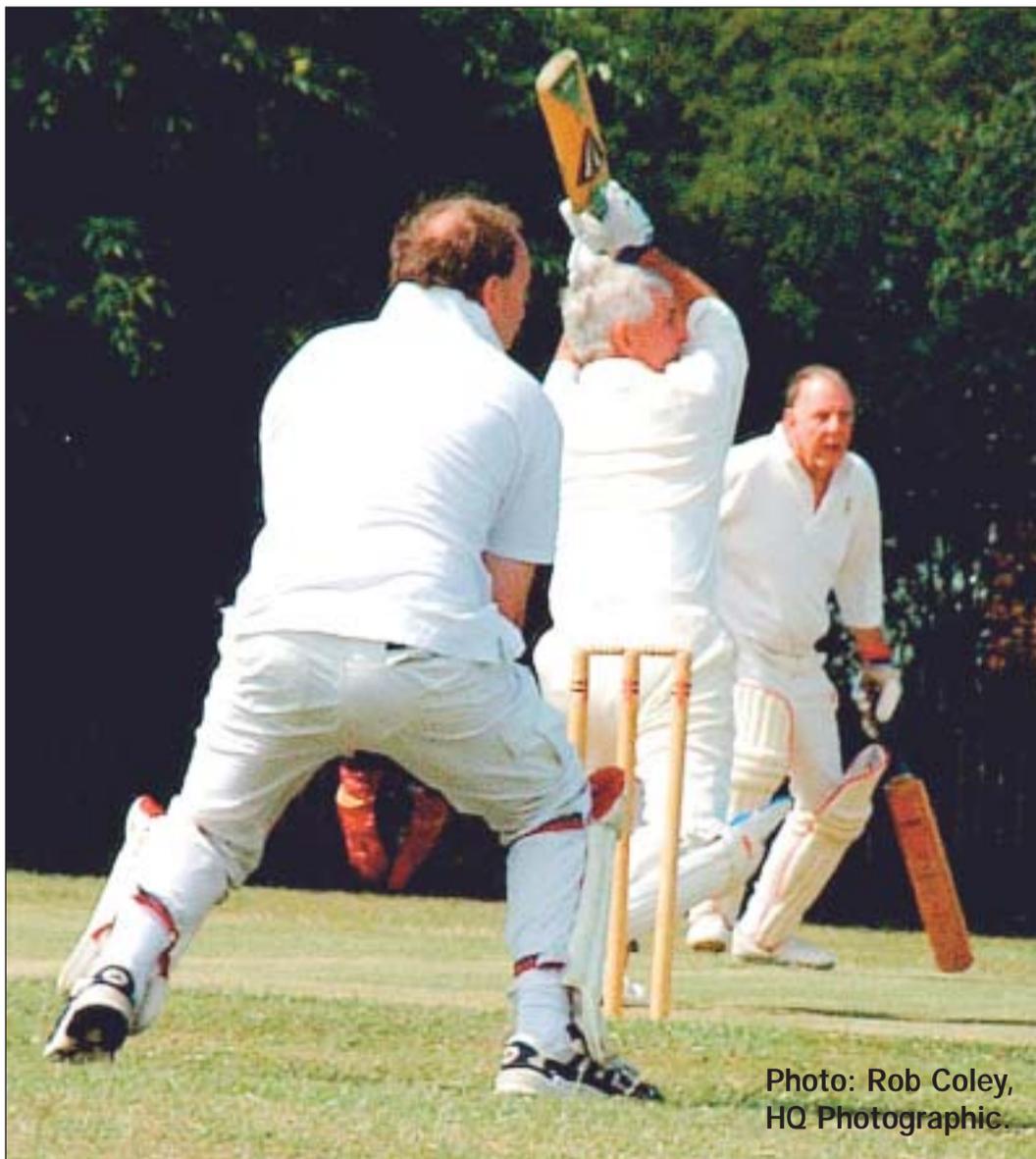


Photo: Rob Coley, HQ Photographic.

A TEAM of retired officers proved there is life in the old dogs yet when they gave serving staff a sound thrashing on the cricket field as part of this year's garden party entertainment.

Martin Reed opened for the retired officers, before such luminaries as Det Supts Graeme Bull and Kevin Macey, Chief Supt Mick Thwaites and force solicitor Adam Hunt fell to the power of the pensioners. More garden party details on page 10.

