



Staying safe in the air - P5



Investigating crashes - centre



CD message for pubs & clubs - P3

HOOOLIGAN FOOTBALL FANS FACE RED CARD

UNRULY football followers who try to travel to England's game in Turkey this month will find themselves tackled with a full-blooded challenge by the force.

Senior officers have vowed that Essex will not be used as a "gateway to Europe where hooligans can cause trouble", as the force's strategy for the game, Operation Volley, swings into action.

It will mean any subjects of football banning orders will be detained should they try to leave via ports or Stansted Airport.

The operation combines three strategies to ensure troublemakers stay onside; enforcement of banning orders within

Essex, liaison with other forces to ensure banning order subjects do not get to Essex, and the potential public disorder before, during and after the game.

The measures are particularly important for the European Championship qualifier, as the Turkey fixture historically brings with it tension between fans.

The Football Association has refused to sell tickets to English supporters, and has asked fans not to travel to the match.

There are more than 1,800 football hooligans subject to banning orders across the country, of which 16 are in Essex. These are enforced by respective divisions.

Subjects are required to hand over passports five days prior to a match abroad, and report to a nominated police station on the day of the game. Essex Police is going

further, writing to and visiting individuals to remind them of their obligations.

Additionally, people suspected of planning to attend the game will be photographed at the airport, taking flights to Turkey or countries with direct links.

There will be national liaison, including with the National Criminal Intelligence Service, to send hooligans for an early bath.

Chief Insp Tim Stokes said: "Football hooligans should not even contemplate trying to fly to Turkey for the match. They will end up out of pocket and probably won't even get to see the match on television.

"We will deal with troublemakers and ensure Stansted Airport is not used as a gateway to Europe where they can cause trouble."

You like us just the way we are

READERS have voted overwhelmingly for this newspaper to retain its current name of *The Law*.

A survey was carried out as part of an ongoing review of *The Law's* overall style and content.

In total 305 readers voted with 266 (87 per cent) opting to retain the name

which was established in 1969.

From the 39 readers who opted to change the name suggestions included *On the Beat*, *Blues & News*, *Essex Patrol*, *The Blue Lamp* and *Law & Order*.

The review continues and the new look *Law* will be unveiled next year.

A mighty message



● Delivering the message that the bottles save lives is Neighbourhood Watch area manager for Castle Point, Maria Georgiou. Photo: Standard Recorder.

SUCH is the success of the life-saving Message in a Bottle scheme that Castle Point alone has just handed out its 9,000th bottle.

The scheme, run by Neighbourhood Watch and supported by Essex Police, uses the simple concept of a plastic bottle which contains details of medical conditions, medications and next of kin, and is then stored in the fridge.

The intention is to provide life-saving information relating to vulnerable people who live alone.

Launched in November 2000, over 90,000 bottles have been distributed countywide through Neighbourhood Watch, Age Concern, doctors' surgeries and crime reduction officers.

County organiser Geoff Ireland said: "The scheme has been a tremendous success in Essex. It provides reassurance to people living alone and vital information to the emergency services.

The green sticker by the door shows that a bottle with its crucial details, is to be found in the fridge."

Prisoner of bureaucracy

When delegates to this autumn's party conferences visit the Federation's exhibition stand, they will meet an unnamed police officer. He will be sitting disconsolately in a cell, staring out through a network of red tape, not the usual bars. He is our *Prisoner of Bureaucracy*.

Our prisoner is not a robot, or in modern jargon an 'animatronic'. He is there to tell the hundreds of MPs, councillors and party activists, plus Home Office ministers and their Parliamentary 'shadows', some of the unpalatable facts of life that confront our members every day of the year.

The Police Federation has been present at every party conference over the past ten years. Besides the exhibition stand, we hold a fringe meeting at each conference with the Home Secretary or the leading party spokesman on home affairs as the main speaker.

This year, our national chairman, Jan Berry, will be one of the guest speakers when the Conservatives discuss home affairs. This will be the first time that a Federation chairman has addressed a national party conference.

We believe that our presence at the conferences produces positive results for our members and the service in general. In previous years, we have used them to highlight police manpower problems.

Starting from the low point of the mid-nineties, when it was Home Office policy to reduce police numbers, we have helped to make successive Home Secretaries

understand that there is no substitute for a strong police presence on the streets and in rural areas.

We found that this message gained broad acceptance among rank and file delegates in every party, especially those who served on local councils and police authorities. They got the message and, eventually, so did the present Government.

This year, we will be stressing the vital importance of freeing the police service from the web of bureaucracy that is stifling police effectiveness. This is the main reason why we are unable to deliver the quality of service that the public expects and is entitled to receive.

Hardly a day passes when the national press does not feature yet another story about the alleged incompetence, negligence or even indifference of the police, complete with bitter complaints from victims of crime who feel that their local force has let them down.

Whatever the full facts of these lurid tales, they make familiar reading to MPs, councillors and police authority members, all of whom find themselves listening to the same complaints in their own localities.

Visitors to our stand will be invited to put their concerns to our Prisoner of Conscience and, in return, they will be told how operational police officers are constantly frustrated by the demands of the bureaucratic machine.

In this manner, we hope to help the key decision-makers among our visitors to understand the paramount importance of freeing police officers to do the job they should be doing - preventing and detecting crime and serving the public in keeping with the traditions of British policing.

Open meeting

Don't forget that 7pm on Tuesday, November 4 is your chance to question ourselves and chief officers. The open meeting will be held in the HQ sports pavilion.

Federation Newsline

by Terry Spelman



Don't inherit a tax problem

NOW that house prices have risen to extremely high levels, inheritance tax can potentially affect many more police officers.

The current 'nil rate' band for inheritance tax is £250,000. In the past, when house prices were relatively low, this threshold would have amply covered the assets of most officers who owned an average-sized house, unless they had fairly substantial additional assets, but the situation has changed and the consequences are serious.

For example, a single officer living in a house worth £250,000 and with £50,000 in savings, who died today, would have tax charged on his estate at 40 per cent on the excess over £250,000.

Fortunately, there are a number of ways in which inheritance tax can be mitigated.

For a married couple who are both of UK domicile (broadly, of UK origin), there is an 'unlimited' spouse exemption. Accordingly, the family home can be left to the surviving spouse without inheritance tax liability.

A legal point to note is that there must be a will in place to ensure that the property did, indeed, all go to the surviving spouse. This is especially important where

the family home is in the name of one spouse only.

A point worth considering is that where the estate amounts to over £250,000 the surviving spouse's estate will probably then exceed the £250,000 threshold because they will have inherited everything on the other spouse's death - so there will be a tax bill when they, in turn, die.

Under these circumstances, specialist advice would be needed whereby, essentially, each spouse would make a will leaving, on the first death, the first £250,000 in a will trust of which the surviving spouse would be trustee, but whose beneficiaries would include children as well as the surviving spouse.

The idea is that, on the first death, the will trust will take a charge of £250,000 against the family home (there would be no inheritance tax because this would be covered by the £250,000 inheritance tax nil rate band on the first death).

On the second death, the surviving spouse's estate would be reduced by the £250,000 owed to the will trust. So, a £500,000 estate on the second death would escape inheritance tax altogether.

This is only an overview of the arrangements and,

clearly, specialist advice would be needed, with the will being drafted by solicitors who are expert in trust/inheritance tax matters.

Unmarried couples must appreciate that there will be no inheritance tax exemption on legacies between them. Furthermore, unless there are wills in place, then generally a deceased partner's assets would go to his or her parents or other relations. So, it is vital for unmarried couples who are buying property to take extra care.

It may well be advisable for a property worth more than £250,000 to be held in both names.

Clearly, it is essential that a will is executed by each partner to ensure that the surviving partner would inherit in accordance with the deceased wishes.

Also unmarried couples need to consider life insurance arrangements whereby, for example, a joint life first death insurance policy would be written in trust from the outset for the benefit of the surviving partner.

Similar comments apply to the death in service benefit from the Police Authority as employer.

I Finally, a thank you to all in the Finance Department, on your behalf, for the work involved in making sure you received your pay increase in the September pay.

Kid's bash thanks to Clacton cash



THE first donation from the proceeds of this summer's highly successful open day at Clacton police station is going towards a community centre children's party in the town.

The £500 cheque was presented at a hospitality evening for supporters of the open day. Another £3,500 is to

be divided among other projects for young people.

Divisional commander Chief Supt Dick Madden is pictured presenting the cheque to community coordinators Karen Tedder-Ward and Tracy Ford, watched by open day organisers Derek Marshall, far left, and Sgt Bob Walsham.

service | line

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Thousand arrests through hotline

THE first 15 years of partnership between Crimestoppers and police has been marked with a week of raising awareness.

The week also saw Chief Constable David Stevens announce the 1,000th arrest in Essex as a result of information given through the anonymous freephone number, 0800 555111.

The organisation's method of paying rewards without identifying callers has given individuals the confidence to supply vital information without fear of reprisal.

Since its beginning in 1988, Essex Police has been able to act upon nearly 12,500 calls.

In Essex last year, calls to Crimestoppers led to the arrest of 64 people, as well as the recovery of £3m of drugs and stolen mobile phones worth nearly £750,000.

This year, more than 600 calls have resulted in the arrest of 55 people.

Crimestoppers Week allowed the media to see a simulated call centre and a chance for Mr Stevens to thank the public.

He said: "The importance of Crimestoppers cannot be overestimated. Information from the public is the lifeblood of any criminal investigation, and without the assistance of the communities we work within, policing Essex would be much more difficult."

Driver facility saves on time

CUTTING down on the amount of time spent checking driving licences, insurance details and issuing production notices (HO/RT/1) is one of the benefits of a special application on the Police National Computer (PNC).

The driver licence database is updated daily by the DVLA and may only be accessed for the purposes of prevention, investigation or prosecution of offences under traffic legislation.

When dealing with motorists, officers can now check licence and insurance details from PNC rather than issuing a HO/RT/1.

Only if there is doubt about the validity of the information provided, or where offences are suspected, should a HO/RT/1 be issued.

PNC Bureau manager Michael Berry, said: "Access to this information should only be requested through the VHF main channels and not through personal radios.

"There will be a trial period for three months to see if the facility should be opened up to personal radios in future."

Further details including the full policy can be viewed on the PNC website.

Safety across the speakers



● Launching the safety message CDs are Licensing Officer Martin Reed and community safety officers Pc Victoria Wilson and Sgt Nigel Dermott. Photo: Essex Chronicle.

PUBS and clubs in the county are helping the police and local councils to reduce crime and disorder and promote safety by playing messages over speakers at the end of the evening.

The initiative involves a series of CDs produced by the TV and New Media Unit, in consultation with community safety officers who have varied the messages depending on the venue.

A male or female voice, for instance, can be chosen according to clientele and it can be delivered without music or to the track *The Beat Goes On* -

popular in media campaigns. Raising awareness of CCTV use and a reminder that noise is a nuisance to residents are just two of the messages.

Others give advice on how not to become a victim including taking care of valuables.

The focus is on venues which are licensed to open beyond normal public house hours, such as nightclubs and theme pubs which traditionally have doorstaff.

However, any licensee wishing to get involved can contact their local police licensing officer and

CDs are available for temporary events such as those in community centres.

Community safety officer Sgt Nigel Dermott said: "Like any initiative, it is only as good as the level of participation by each of our partners but I expect a good take up by the majority of the licensing trade.

"The face of licensing is about to change within the UK and we welcome the focus of the national policing plan on these important issues that can seriously affect the quality of life."

Can you be sure it is a Tic Tac?

A NEW computer programme originally designed for pharmacists has been rolled out to help police staff to identify more than 18,000 drugs.

TicTac has been introduced into the force through Community Safety's substance misuse coordinators to be used as an initial screening process.

Its uses include helping custody sergeants determine whether drugs found on detainees are medicinal or not, finding where a medicine originated or identifying illegal drugs.

TicTac contains visual images of 18,000 drugs, along with manufacturers' information, video clips of how illegal drugs are taken by users, and search facilities based around colour, shape and even logos.

The programme also gives reasons for use of pharmaceuticals, and will be updated every 13 weeks with latest developments.

The technology should not replace forensic analysis of drugs, but is a useful first step for officers unfamiliar with the range of drugs.

Sgt Nigel Dermott said: "We also have an opportunity to influence its development, making it police-friendly, so users should give feedback which will be passed on to the company."

For more information contact either Sgt Dermott on ext 54444 or Pc Victoria Wilson on ext 54239.

Security clampdown

SECURITY is set to tighten across the force, with chief officers getting tough with those who fail to observe basic information security measures.

The decision follows a series of breaches during the summer where strangers were allowed unrestricted access to buildings, sensitive information was disclosed via email and confidential faxes sent to unintended locations outside the organisation.

On one recent occasion, a member of staff was given strong suitable advice following an incident in which they were challenged as to who they were after failing to wear any form of identification.

Other examples of reported security breaches include external doors being propped open by contractors, logged-on computers

being left unattended, unshredded confidential waste being left around and the theft of a police laptop computer.

Information security officer Chief Supt Ian Gruneberg said: "In August, we undertook an exercise to test the physical security of a building.

"An officer, from another force, played the part of a member of the public and was able to gain entry into several police premises around the county and obtain sensitive information, despite failing to wear any form of authorised identification.

"If properly challenged, his identity would have been quickly found to have been bogus.

"We must then challenge those who are not wearing police identity otherwise we will continue to be vulnerable to intruders."

A computer-based training package, *For Your Eyes Only*, provides basic advice on the key requirements of information security.

The programme can be accessed on the EPTC section of the intranet and completion of the package will be compulsory for those attending certain courses; with all staff expected to complete it in due course.

Chief Supt Gruneberg added: "All officers and police staff must wear visible identification while on premises at headquarters and on division for their own safety, as well as for their colleagues.

Cannabis guidance welcomed

OFFICERS dealing with substance misuse have welcomed new guidelines from the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) around policing of cannabis possession.

The guidelines to be implemented in the New Year, come in the wake of the Government's proposal to reclassify cannabis from a Class B to a Class C drug.

ACPO has said that "in the spirit of the Home Secretary's decision to reclassify there should be a presumption against arrest.

"Security cannot be assured until every member of staff accepts their personal responsibility to implement basic security measures."

During the course of the next few weeks, various measures will be taken to increase awareness of security issues, with those who decide to ignore this security guidance liable to face punishment.

In practice, it is thought that officers will primarily issue a warning and confiscate the drug, considering arrests, as the guidance suggests, in certain cases such as smoking in public view and repeat offences.

Insp Trevor Williamson, of Community Safety, said: "The guidelines clear the air of any confusion about the legality of cannabis possession and the reclassification in theory allows us more time to focus on the supply of Class A drugs."

Law letters

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

An emotional exit

I WOULD like to express my gratitude to my friends and colleagues, past and present and including those from the police band, for attending my retirement.

My sincere thanks for my gifts of the lovely ornamental duck and the beautiful flowers along with the biggest card I have ever seen, signed by so many.

My special thanks to Andy Butler and Mike Lucas for organising those things. I must also thank Geoffrey Markham for his address and kind words. I would have expressed thanks on the evening but emotion got the better of me. It was suggested I was lost for words! It was a most memorable evening, one that my husband and I will never forget.

Many thanks

AS was reported in the last issue of *The Law*, I lost my husband, former sergeant Peter Tomlinson, in August.

He served in Essex for 28 years and made many friends. I had many, many sympathy cards and many of his former colleagues were at the funeral.

I would like to say a thank you for their kindness.

June Tomlinson, Lincs

I have been fortunate during my almost 29 years' service to work in the only division I ever wanted to be in - traffic. During my 26 years there I saw many changes. I sincerely hope road policing continues as a separate and valued division.

Towards the end of my service I spent much time away from shift on Operation Walker, working as part of a team investigating a haulage company and its drivers following a road death.

My role was that of exhibits officer. At the conclusion of the seven-month trial at Basildon Crown court, which saw the last two defendants receive prison sentences, I was proud to be one of the officers given a commendation by the judge. This I felt reflected upon the hard work put in by all those involved, as well as bringing due credit to road policing.

I have enjoyed my years of serving and assisting the public and without doubt I will miss the camaraderie of my colleagues. I wish you all the very best with your futures and will not pass you by if help is needed.

Joy Madigan,
Chelmsford



● Bottoms up! Hadleigh traffic wardens Bette McAughtrie, Lin Smith and Kathy Marven toast their charity venture with a cuppa.

Cheers to a cuppa kindness

A CRESCENDO of chinking coffee cups were heard throughout police canteens last month when staff took part in the Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning.

The event was co-ordinated by the Occupational Health and Welfare Department to help raise funds for the charity, which provides nurses to support and advise cancer sufferers.

Thanks go to Sodexho staff at the canteens at the training centre, HQ, Basildon, Chelmsford, Colchester, Harlow, Southend and Clacton, who all supported the event baking cakes and providing a cuppa. The total amount raised is estimated at around £1,000.

Hadleigh police station also threw open its doors to

with a magnificent array of donated cakes for sale.

Castle Point deputy Mayor Wendy Goodwin supported the event, spending over an hour talking to visitors and staff.

Traffic wardens Lin Smith and Kathy Marven organised the coffee morning and with the raffle raised a magnificent £227.67 for the Macmillan fund.

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Double worry

ROAD policing officers are disappointed that four per cent of the 2,114 motorists breathalysed during the summer drink drive campaign were over the limit - an increase on the previous year's figures.

A total of 85 people were arrested, showing that a number of drivers continue to blatantly disregard a law which aims to improve road safety.

Officers were further dumbfounded by the frightening number of people putting the lives of themselves and others at risk by failing to wear seatbelts.

During one three-and-a-half hour period in Halstead 120 vehicles were stopped with 145 occupants found not wearing a seatbelt.

In one instance three young children were discovered unrestrained in the car while the driver himself was belted up.

Car ring cracked by crime squad

AN international car ringing team has been cracked by the crime squad following a three-month covert operation, codenamed Ice Blue, and a year-long intensive investigation.

Seven men were arrested in September 2002 at addresses in Billericay, Wickford, Ingatestone and Dagenham following the operation investigating the importation of stolen cars, carried out in conjunction with the National Criminal Intelligence Service.

A total of 82 stolen cars, mostly Audi TTs, Mercedes and some BMWs valued at £1,654,521 (the loss to the

owners plus their selling price) were imported from Germany.

A number of them were found at an address in Billericay with others traced to Nigeria, Portugal, Majorca and Spain.

Dc Paul Keable said: "We had a year of intensive investigation that involved inquiries and obtaining evidence in Holland, France, Germany and Italy. It has cracked a sophisticated international car-ringing team which had been operating for at least a year-and-a-half."

Four pleaded guilty at Chelmsford Crown Court and at the time of going to press were awaiting sentence.

Director of Intelligence and Volume Crime. Det Supt Wil Kennedy, praised the team.

"This was an excellent result and shows the crime squad have both the skills and determination to bring organised crime groups to justice.

"This was a protracted operation into high-quality criminals at the top of their profession in one of the most significant volume crime offences in the county."

He also warned: "Other professional car criminals who aspire to be like them know that Essex Police can, and will, arrest them."

Special rank

FOR the first time in Essex, two specials have been promoted to the new rank of assistant commandant.

Simon Wootton will be responsible for the south and west of the county - Harlow, Thurrock, Basildon, Rayleigh and Southend, and Derek Hopkins will cover the north, including Tendring, Colchester, Braintree and Chelmsford.

The new rank supports the commandant and deputy commandant and their new roles will mean them overseeing and providing additional support to the divisional officers in their nominated areas as well as promoting the Special Constabulary.

AC Hopkins has been a special for over 23 years, also working for Essex Fire and Rescue Service. AC Wootton is a retired banker who became a special in 1993.

Jailed for motorway nightmare

A MOTORIST was sentenced to over 11 years' imprisonment after dragging an officer who was hanging onto his car along the M11 at speeds of nearly 80mph.

Pc Geoff Poyser was dragged for over half a mile down the southbound carriageway of the M11 last October after initially stopping the driver for speeding through roadworks near Stansted Airport.

Joe Butler was found guilty following a six-day trial at Chelmsford Crown Court.

The 25-year-old from Sussex was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for attempted grievous bodily harm with intent to resist arrest against the road policing officer from Newport.

He also received a further 13 months for two counts of

handling stolen goods, one count of making off without payment and one count of perverting the course of justice.

Pc Poyser, who has never been able to return to work since the incident, is due to officially retire later this year after serving 25 years with the force. The 54-year-old from Harlow is still "haunted" by last autumn's events.

"The incident has had a profound effect on both my family and myself and I will forever be reminded by Joe Butler," said Pc Poyser. "As I travelled at high speed down the M11, Butler looked into my eyes and told me that I was going to die - it shook me up."

"It also brought a different aspect to what was happening - it lit a fire within my soul which made me determined to hang on to my life. It is so much more precious than anything."

Judge Ben Pearson said that Butler was a "dangerous

young man who was a risk to the public and whose actions ended the career of a police officer".

The actions of Pc Poyser were also commended, with Judge Pearson commenting on the officer's courage and dedication to duty.

Investigating officer Dc Rob Dix said: "The verdict clearly reflects that the criminal justice system will not tolerate those people who take it upon themselves to attempt to injure a police officer who is carrying out a duty of safety to the public.

"Butler's only concern was to escape and didn't care that he was putting a police officer's life at risk. A two-month manhunt ensued and he was eventually arrested in Sussex."

At the time of the incident Butler was a disqualified driver who was driving a stolen vehicle which had stolen items inside it.

Replica weapon warning

REPLICA and blank firing pistols are continuing to cause serious problems for the police and it is hoped that new legislation, due shortly, will help.

However, several makes of blank firers have already failed the model firearm examination test and are

therefore deemed as 'readily convertible'.

Firearms Office Manager Mick Fidgeon said: "These blank weapons should not be sold from shops and police should ensure that they are not offered for sale. Outlets that sell these weapons should be

reminded of their responsibilities under the 1982 Firearms Act."

Details of weapons known to be readily convertible and those that have failed the MFE test are on the intranet or people can contact the firearms office on ednet 50660.

Police base closes after 30 years

AFTER 30 years the policing unit at Thorpe has closed. Road policing officers have transferred to Stanway while dog handlers moving to Clacton.

The Victorian building is in a poor state of repair and

would not be financially viable to bring up to the required standards for housing operational police units.

Meanwhile major refurbishment means Pitsea police station will be closed

for six months with staff working from a nearby office complex. Phone numbers remain the same.

The £600,000 project to improve facilities and security has been part-funded by the Government.



● Air to air filming gleaned interesting shots for air support project.

New DVD takes flight

A NEW television unit production explaining the 'dos and don'ts' of flying in the force helicopter is showing the sky really is the limit with DVD presentations.

The DVD, EC-135 Flight Safety, is a 13-minute feature which starts with an overview of the air support unit (ASU) and the craft. However, its flexible format offers the means to choose which sections to view, and is designed to make sense even when chapters are skipped.

Included in the instruction module are two 3D animations, designed by IT trainer Kevin McPoland, which demonstrate the helicopter's ability to land on inclines. Also included are TV clips featuring ASU.

The film was directed and produced by TV Unit producer Dave Fogerty who said: "The film was directed to try to throw life into what's basically an instructional DVD, and there were plenty of challenges along the way.

"In a film about a helicopter, people expect to see the craft in flight. Air to air filming is always difficult, but we managed it with help from Suffolk ASU."

The DVD may now be marketed to others forces which use the same craft.

Air observer Pc Mark Chapple, said: "The DVD is really well made, it's of a very high quality and gets all the key messages across clearly. It gets a big thumbs up from ASU."

On the road to justice

● AI Kevin Crosby uses a theodolite to map a crash scene.



THE A127 Arterial Road near Leigh, shortly before 8pm on a spring evening in 2002. On-call accident investigator Pc Chris Black surveys the scene of a fatal collision between a grey BMW 320 and a pedestrian pushing a bicycle across traffic lights near to Bellhouse Lane.

Lesley Mansell, the 45-year-old victim, would die later of her injuries. Her bicycle lies crumpled in the road. The BMW stands stationary, more than 60 yards beyond where it should have come to a halt

Ben Pennington takes a look at life as a traffic investigation officer

at red traffic signals, and at the end of a perfectly straight set of skid marks, half the length of a football pitch.

First sight of the tyre marks tell Pc Black what he needs to know – that ahead of him are three hours of scene investigation, and that 25-year-old Christopher Dimmick is very likely to face a charge of causing death by dangerous driving. This is what the Traffic Investigation Unit (TIU) was created for.

This year, TIU, based at Kingston House, marks its 20th year of investigating road crashes in Essex.

TIU exists to go out to serious, complex and fatal road crashes, and try to work out why they happened.

The force is pioneering in its approach to traffic investigation, leading the way in creating a dedicated team that now boasts the greatest expertise in the UK.

Unit leader A/Sgt Ricky Goold was then the youngest member of the team, and is now the most experienced accident investigator (AI) in the country. Testimony to the unit's reputation came when it was asked to investigate the 1999 South African coach crash which killed 28 people. After his work in

South Africa, A/Sgt Goold was presented with a commendation - an award he says belongs to the whole unit.

"There was a traffic department before TIU was formed," said A/Sgt Goold. "But it was decided we needed to be able to investigate at a higher technical level."

The training required by TIU officers had to be created alongside the new unit.

"It grew with us," said A/Sgt Goold. "We started off doing training in accident investigation with the Metropolitan Police at Hendon, then had forensic scientists training us."

TIU consists of ten officers – eight accident investigators and two HGV specialists – and has an officer on call at any time. From initial call to accident scene, AIs will lead the way in determining whether criminal charges are appropriate.

A/Sgt Goold said: "It's not an easy job. By definition, officers routinely attend the very worst and most tragic incidents. I could never say that the people in here aren't affected by what they go to, particularly if a child has died. But you have to rise to a professional level."

When TIU arrive at a scene, the first job is to preserve and protect it, even to the point of closing a road.

After the fire and ambulance service have finished, TIU officers move in to mark areas of interest in red paint – anything from skid marks to debris.



● A TIU vehicle tests the skid resistance of an Essex road.

"When you talk about tyre marks most people think about skid marks," said A/Sgt Goold. "But there are different patterns and types of marks, and from very careful measurement we can determine the initial speed of the vehicle that left them."

The tyre marks at the scene of Lesley Mansell's death on the A127 told investigators a number of things; that the car was travelling at around 60mph – 50 per cent above the 40mph speed limit – and that the brakes were applied 15m after the stop line.

Deviations in the tyre marks showed when the car struck the victim.

In the absence of marks, the damage a vehicle suffers also gives clues about position and speed of impact. Officers use a theodolite – which marks out roads and objects with pinpoint accuracy – to draw up precise plans of a scene, which will be handed to the coroner, and can be used in court.

All the officers are qualified vehicle examiners, and carry out mechanical checks.

"Vehicles can crash because they've gone wrong – it's rare but it does occur," says A/Sgt Goold.

Tyre pressure is checked, as well as steering, brakes and other control components. Seatbelt abrasions will tell if they were being worn at the time of crash. Foul play is always a possibility.

"If it's a single fatality with no witnesses, we have to consider whether it was a criminal act rather than a pure accident," said A/Sgt Goold. "It hasn't happened in Essex, but there was a case in Norfolk where the car was deliberately driven into a ditch in an attempt by the driver to kill the passenger."

Photographs are taken of scenes, and the vehicles removed by approved recovery firms who can move them exactly how the AI wants them to be, before they are examined.

Afterwards, the road surface friction is assessed, and the scene revisited.

"We always drive through the scene, at the

'It's not an easy job. By definition, officers routinely attend the very worst and most tragic incidents.'

same time of day and if possible in the same type of vehicle," said A/Sgt Goold. "Ultimately one of us is going to stand in the witness box and explain to members of the jury how we believe the crash happened and we want to know what the driver saw and what the visibility was."

In the case of the death of Lesley Mansell, the expert testimony Pc Black gathered using these techniques saw Christopher Dimmick plead guilty to causing death by dangerous driving at Southend Crown Court in November 2002. He was sentenced to five years in prison and disqualified from driving for eight years.

Following an inquest, TIU officers will make themselves available to bereaved people to answer any questions.

"That's one of the best parts of the job," says A/Sgt Goold. "To sit down and answer their

questions and help if we can. I've had queries come in 15 years after an accident."

To the TIU officer, snow, traffic jams and rush hour are things to be welcomed. Quiet roads and fine weather mean faster drivers and more serious accidents.

"We pray for snow," said A/Sgt Goold. "That's when we're really quiet."

So far this year, TIU has dealt with more than 80 fatal cases from 247 incidents, but it's not just on the roads that their expertise is valued.

"We also go to things like murder scenes," explained A/Sgt Goold. "Our specialist equipment enables us to produce plans of the area and put the exhibits that have been found on it. We're called out to every major event that occurs in Essex – like the jumbo crash at Stansted."

"We're usually right in the middle of whatever's happening."

Road deaths follow particular trends. Pedestrian deaths rise in winter when visibility is poor, and teenagers losing it in high-powered cars are now rare because of insurance rises. Instead, it's slightly older people with the good jobs and high-performance cars that have taken over that mantle.

The main menaces on the road are speeding and lack of attention, often brought on by mobile phones.

"We can check to see if people were using their phones at the time of an accident," said A/Sgt Goold. "If your actions are careless, that aggravating element will make it dangerous, and you will serve a prison sentence."

The officers who comprise TIU are self-confessed 'petrolheads', always keen to see the latest developments in vehicle design.

The advances manufacturers are making encourage accident investigator Pc Black, a former engineer who spent seven years with Marconi.

"I enjoy the technical aspect to the investigation of an incident," said Pc Black. "There are a lot of new developments coming through. For example, electronic braking assist by Mercedes has come in during the last few years, and monitors how hard a driver brakes, and when they need electronic assistance in an emergency. When something new comes out we all want to know how it works."

Pc Black has also been involved in improvements to the policing side of things. A new theodolite system, which can be manned by one person, is on its way, and Essex Police is catching up with forces like the Met in its use of incident data recorders in fleet vehicles.

Data recorders will log a vehicle's activity – from its speed and braking to whether its lights were on – for a set period before and after an incident.

A/Sgt Goold has tunnel-vision when it comes to TIU's role.

He said: "If drivers behave badly on our roads and as a result of that someone dies, there's a team of us who are going to look into every nook and cranny. We will find out what they've done and bring them to court. They can't expect to talk their way out of it."



● LEFT: A13 Corringham, Spring 2003. Two people walked away from this wreck because they were wearing seatbelts.
● RIGHT: A car involved in a collision on the A127 is stored in the TIU garage awaiting a full inspection.

Honoured for their first-aid feats

THE first-class first-aid efforts of four officers based at Stansted Airport have been rewarded with Royal Humane Society resuscitation certificates.

Constables Craig Pirie, David Watkinson and Richard Melton were all on duty when a man collapsed, stopped breathing and had no pulse.

While Pc Melton and Pc Watkinson performed the kiss of life and cardiac massage, Pc Pirie collected a trauma life support kit and set up the defibrillator and oxygen supply.

They continued with their efforts until an ambulance crew arrived.

This was the first case when the defibrillator at the airport had been used to revive someone. Regrettably, the man died five days later, but the citation states that his family was afforded the opportunity to say their farewells to him.

Collapsed

Pc Arin Andrews won his award for helping two women to revive a 15-year-old boy who collapsed while playing football at a Halstead school.

They brought him back from the brink of death by carrying out cardiopulmonary resuscitation, before the boy was airlifted to hospital where he made a full recovery.

Secretary of the Royal Humane Society Major General Christopher Tyler said: "It is down to their fast actions that the lad will now go on to live a long and full life. I am sure that both he and his family are more grateful than I can put into words, and I hope that our awards go some way to providing recognition for these rescuers' expertise."



● Shell-shocked trio Pc Suzanne O'Neill, Pc Jessica Fisher and since retired Pc Tony Welham accept their Officer of the Year awards from Chief Constable David Stevens.

Top accolades

NATIONAL recognition is on the cards for three officers nominated to represent the force in November's Officers of the Year awards.

Chief Constable David Stevens unveiled their names at a special ceremony during which he also awarded them with the accolades - community officer of the year, probationer of the year and lifetime achievement.

Picking up the community title was Pc Jessica Fisher, based at Canvey Island.

Jessica, who also lives in the area, is described by her commanding officers as "the epitome of a community police officer". She was nominated for her achievements and commitment over the last year through partnership working and problem-solving policing.

Jessica said: "I'm absolutely amazed. I didn't imagine I'd win this award, and it's a real honour."

Pc Suzanne O'Neill, based in South Ockendon, was the winner of the probationer of the year award.

Suzanne, 31, has been with Thurrock division for nearly two years and works within the Aveley problem-solving team. She said: "I'm so grateful to everyone who has helped throughout the last two years, there have been a lot of people involved and I haven't done this on my own."

The lifetime achievement award, a new award for this year, was presented to Pc Tony Welham.

Tony, who served 32 years with Essex Police, has since retired. He was nominated as "a credit to his uniform and himself throughout his career."

"I didn't know I'd been nominated until I got back from holiday," said Tony. "I've got so much out of this job, but helping people has brought the greatest pleasure."

The winners will go on to *Police Review* magazine's awards in London on November 20.

Speaking after the awards, Chief Constable David Stevens said: "All three award winners have excelled in their respective roles. The standard of nominees from across the force was very high and the judges had great difficulty in selecting our representatives for the national awards."

"I wish all the winners the very best for the national award when they will have the support of the whole force behind them."

Just rewards for the brave and the bold

FACED with danger and death, both on and off duty, Essex officers have come up trumps and received recognition from the Chief Constable.

A/Sgt Garry Munoz and Pc Andrew Bagley, from Chelmsford were commended for rescuing a boy from a flat fire in the town.

After forcing entry into the flat they were met with a wall of acrid smoke, but undeterred they went inside twice to locate and lead the teenager to safety.

Arresting a knife-wielding man while off-duty led to a commendation for Pc Gerrard Parker, from Chelmsford.

The man had made off from

the scene of a burglary, having threatened members of the public with the knife.

Despite repeated threats, Pc Parker pursued the man over a number of garden fences until local officers arrived to assist.

Dc Iain McKinnon, based at HQ was commended for developing the stolen lorry load desk to such a degree that it became nationally recognised. Now called Truckpol it has a new home with the Metropolitan Police.

Enhancing community service with the launch of an innovative problem-solving process called 'united solutions' rewarded Sgt Paul Johnson.

Constables Craig Pirie, David Watkinson and Richard Melton, Stansted

Airport were commended for their professionalism and commitment when faced with a collapsed man whose pulse and breathing had stopped.

They also received Royal Humane Society certificates as did Pc Arin Andrews, for helping to revive a teenage boy (see article in column 1).

Two members of the public also had their heroic actions recognised by the Royal Humane Society and Chief Constable David Stevens who presented them with Testimonials on Parchment.

Steven Lane, from Chelmsford and Steven Brewer, from Witham went to a suicidal woman's aid after she had jumped into near freezing waters where the River Chelmer meets the River Cam.

Another training success

THE county's constables continue to fly the flag for the force at Ashford's Police Training Centre with yet another award.

Pc Andrew Jackson recently underwent Stage Two training at the centre in Kent, and was awarded the Baton of Honour.

The Baton is presented to the student who throughout the course shows the most leadership, personality and strength of character, and who demonstrates a high degree of professional ability in classroom and practical situations.

Southend throws open its doors

HUNDREDS poured into Southend police station but not to confess their sins, they were visitors to the station's second annual open day.

Children had fun trying on police uniforms and providing fingerprint specimens, while guests of all ages enjoyed wandering around the various displays.

The Essex Police museum, air support unit, marine unit, dog unit and road policing section were all on hand to demonstrate their roles in the force.

Special constables, Southend Borough patrol, community support officers, the RNLI and the division's cadets also joined in with stands containing information about their jobs.

A variety of vehicles were on show and a guided tour took groups to the identification parade room and cells. The most popular display was by defensive skills constables Warren Lamb and Matt Hylands, who worked tirelessly to involve spectators in an angry man role-play.

Divisional commander Chief Supt Mick Thwaites said: "We consider this to be a very valuable exercise as it allows the public to see the friendly face of the 'law' and learn a little something about what we do."

Can you help?

VOLUNTEERS are being sought to act as local liaison points for dyslexia sufferers.

At a meeting of the Dyslexia Help Group it was suggested that sufferers might be reluctant to attend a large meeting but would be more comfortable if they knew of a local contact.

Sgt Mitch Goodchild at the HQ training centre wants to hear from anyone interested in helping out.

He can be contacted by internal email.

The group's next meeting has been arranged for November 14 at EPTC.

Bike mystery

A DISTINCTIVE motorbike has been recovered by the Thurrock tactical team but they are now struggling to trace the owner.

The Yamaha is an off-road trials bike with bold blue colouring and gold trim on the inside edge of the wheels. It was made in 2002 and originally destined for Oregon, USA bearing the registration plate YZ426FP.

If you think you might be able to assist with reuniting the bike with its owner you should contact Pc Alison Quinn at the Thurrock tactical team on 01375 391092.



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Tribute to Southend police chief

FRIENDS and former colleagues have paid tribute to former Southend divisional commander **Peter Blythe** who has died aged 68.

Mr Blythe served Southend Borough for 10 years from 1955 before postings at Canvey Island, Basildon, HQ, Grays, and HQ OPs.

He retired as the chief superintendent in charge of Southend in 1992 and was living in Shoeburyness with wife Ann.

Current divisional commander Chief Supt Mick Thwaites said: "Peter Blythe grew up, lived and worked for most of his career in Southend and had a great affinity with the area. He retired after a phenomenal 37 years, 290 days service to the people of Southend and continued to work hard for the town being involved in the lifeboats, Rotary Club and Westcliff casino.

Names in the news

His death is a great loss, he was an all round good guy, extremely supportive to me and will be greatly missed."

Tragically a serving staff member from has also died aged just 56.

Christine Sumpton had worked for Essex Police for nearly 15 years when she died last month. She was based at Laindon's criminal justice unit and former colleagues have arranged a collection in memory of Christine with the money raised donated to St. Luke's Hospice.

Former constable **William Fletcher** died last month at the age of 95. Mr Fletcher, from Eastwood, served from 1930 to 1955 with Southend Borough police.

Serving 25 years at stations across the county, former sergeant **Kenneth Revell**, from Corringham died last month aged 77.

Brian Jelf, who served at Grays and South Ockendon, retiring in July 2000 as a detective constable, died aged 54. Mr Jelf lived at South Benfleet with his wife Shirley.

Former Pc **Derrick Hughes** from Clacton died last month aged 71. Mr Hughes served 30 years at Clacton, Grays and Colchester.

John Wiles a former constable died aged 65. Mr Wiles served from 1965 to 1991 at Brentwood, Billericay and Pilgrim's Hatch.

Former special constable **Janet Jones**, (nee Rimmell) who served from 1981 to 1996 as a Special in Harlow division has died aged 42. Mrs Jones leaves a husband and young son.

Retirements

TWO former special branch officers have handed in their ticket serving nearly 62 years between them.

DCI **David Bailey** served 31 years retiring HQ Special Branch, having previously served as crime manager for Braintree.

Ds **Gary Egerton** joined as a cadet in 1972 and spent the last 20 years as a royal protection officer, supervising the visits of politicians, royalty and other VIPs. Especially memorable for Gary were visits by the King of Jordan, when he was Prince Regent, and Margaret Thatcher.

Gary was nominated for a lifetime achievement in policing award and also commended for his work.

In retirement, as a qualified Blue Badge guide he has joined his brother who organises tours of the Cotswolds, Oxford, Cambridge and

London. Diplomatic Guide Services, also arrange Jack the Ripper tours of London and clients have included a film director and most recently a certain Arnold Schwarzenegger with his wife and family.

Described as the definitive local beat bobby, Pc **Tony Welham** has retired after a career spent entirely as an operational patrol officer in the north of the county.

He was the force nomination for the national community officer of the year in 2000, won the Millard Trophy for the the biggest contribution towards community policing in 2001 and this year after 32 years' dedicated service, won the Lifetime Achievement Award (for full story of this year's award see page 8).

Not one to put his feet up Tony is now working for the Ministry of Defence Police.

NARPO

ON page two of the Chelmsford branch September newsletter, a form was mentioned for subscriptions being stopped out of the pension. This form was not sent with any of the 324 letters.

Should anyone wish to pay by this method, and have not done so, they should contact the Chelmsford branch secretary **Tony Cooper** whose details are at the top of the letter.



A perfect gift

A LIMITED edition print of policing Essex through the ages could make an ideal Christmas present.

When the painting was commissioned it was agreed that the sale of prints signed by the artist would be restricted to police personnel and are not commercially available.

Framed they cost £77.49 and prints are £36.50.

You can order by credit card on 01487 773799 or 01288 331461. Alternatively send your details and a cheque payable to Blue Lamp Prints to: Blue Lamp Prints, The Friary, Rectory Farm Close, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon PE28 2LE by December 17.

Market Place

BOSCH larder fridge, vgc, very clean. 2 years old, £75 ono. Contact Andy Fusher on 07976 729971.

CHELMSFORD, Springfield. One bed house redecorated, unfurnished, gas, parking, garden, no pets. £495 pcm. Tel: 01621 772195.

COSTA del Sol, 2 bed, 2 bath apartment. Lounge, dining area, well equipped kitchen, 2 large terraces. Quiet location overlooks sea which is a few mins walk. Complex situated 10 mins from Nerja and Torrox. Contact Lyn Gowlett on 51638 or 01376 514593.

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE - ONE WORD PER BOX

Name and rank

Station Home Tel.....

Date Signed

Send to The Editor, The Law, Press Office, Essex Police Headquarters.

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

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

GOOD homes wanted for cats and kittens. Ring Miss S Parsonson on 01206 864284.

FLORIDA, Kissimmee. Luxury villa, 4 bed, own screened pool plus kiddie pool. Tel Del or Pam on 01268 750062.

FLORIDA. Luxury 4 bed villa close to Disney and golf. Sleeps 10. Private screened pool. Contact Jill on 01702 586092 or www.my-florida-villa.net.

FLORIDA villa. 4 bed, pool, overlooks water, close to Disney and airport. Booking 2004. From £450 pw. Pete or Linda on 01245 321378 or peterwtaylor@yahoo.com.

FORD Fiesta Mistral 1300cc 'M' reg, silver, tape, radio, sunroof, MOT June 2004, taxed, airbags. Lady owner, vgc, low mileage, £1,200 ono. Contact Neil Seymour on 01268 693255.

FORD Focus Tdi estate, 2002, 44,000 miles, aircon, e/w, twin airbags, roof rails, five months tax, ex condit, 55mpg, fsh, £6,650, contact Graeme on ext 35230 or 07720 882538.

FORD KA, 1.3i Collection. Pacific green, 'Y' reg 2001, 20,000 miles, abs, pas, e/w 4 airbags, central locking, 1 lady owner, vgc, £4,200. Contact Deborah on 07960 405263.

FORD transit horsebox 1986/7. Ex condit, recon engine, well maintained, MOT, taxed. Hold one horse or two ponies £2,295 ono. Tel: 01268 472957.

HOUSE sale, 2 bed maisonette with garage, private balcony, excellent location walking distance

Colchester town centre, £145,000 ono, contact Marie Berhardt 01206 867547.

JAVEA, Costa Blanca, 4 bed 3 bath house, La Sella golf, roof terrace, aircon, golf, tennis, horse riding, restaurants on site. Winter breaks from £250 pw, contact Paul Marrion 01245 494043 or paul.marrion@btopen-world.com.

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

LA MANGA classy southern Spain, panoramic sea views, close to beaches, 2 bed 2 bath, new fully equipped apartment sleeps 4 to 6, cheap flights, contact Bernie 07986 098422.

MERCEDES E220 auto saloon, 1995, red, 100k miles, history, sunroof, e/w/mirrors, radio cassette, CD, 12 months MOT ex condit, £4,200. Contact Graeme on ext 35230 or 07720 882538.

NORMANDY manor house and converted cider press. Sleeps 8 + 4. Set in beautiful walled garden. Total tranquility. Contact Ann Jones on 20713 or 01920 411219 www.Twilightshadows.net/les-vignes.

ORLANDO. Luxury villa. 4 bed, 2 bath. Sleeps up to 10. Private screen pool near Disney and other central Florida attractions. Contact 01245 266949 or 01376 573406.

SCOTTISH Highlands. B&B in Austrian-style home.

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SPAIN. Costa Blanc, 3 bed apartment. Large roof terrace, aircon and heating close to superb pool. Available Oct to Apr £150 pw. Contact Brian Elkington on 01277 262212 ext 76501.

TWO bed, 3-storey luxury villa, Costa Del Sol on famous 5-star La Cala golf course. 15 mins from Marbella. Private shared pool, high-class facilities including sun terrace. Very tranquil. From £400 pw. Contact Derek Patten on ext 47434 or 07958 209909. Website re C185 on

www.sunholsdirect.com.

TWO mosquito nets for sale. Unused £30 ono for both nets. Still in original packaging. Contact Gemma Tyler on 01206 541865.

VAUXHALL Frontera Sport, 1994, metallic burgundy, 69,000 miles. Full year's MOT, good condit £2,400. Contact 01268 774786.

VW Polo 'N' reg 1.4cl, MOT Mar 04, average mileage, 3-door, e/w/mirrors. Metallic red, £1,900, service history, great condit. Contact X23038 or 07973 639342.

TECHNICS C300 organ, cost new £2,200, built in piano sound, 8 bass pedals, 2 keyboards, accept £350, a bargain. Contact 01277 656647 evening only.

Southend Borough Annual 'White Helmet' Reunion

Friday, December 19, 2003 from 12 noon at Southend Police Station bar

Ploughmans lunch provided. Please notify club manager of lunch requirement on ext 30915 or NARPO Branch Hon Secretary Tel: 01702 202959 or email: cpc@onetel.net.uk

Island antics

A ROUND the island rowing race was the highlight of an annual event organised by Tina Cottis, from MICAS.

The fourth Heybridge Basin-sponsored race was blessed with good weather.

As well as the row around Northey Island there were shore-based activities including raffles, face painting, barbecue, home made cakes stalls and numerous charity and fun stalls. Entertainment was provided by the Dallaway Caribbean steel band and Dream FM.

Competitors set off in a variety of vessels, 41 in total, and many donned fancy dress.

Line honours went to Glen Maleary, now with the NCS, who completed the course in his canoe/kayak in 37 mins.

Tina and her sister-in-law were the first ladies home in 48 mins

The day looks to beat last year's cash total of £6,800 which will be split between St Clare's Hospice, the Helen Rollason Cancer Care appeal and the Essex Air Ambulance.

Dates for your diary

STOCK up for Christmas with the sports and social clubs day trip to France on Saturday, November 15. Leaving by coach from HQ training centre at 7.30am, you catch the 10.45am ferry, then visit Cite Europe and Calais. Return crossing is at 7.15pm. Cost is £18 for members, £20 non-members.

On the subject of Christmas, how about a shopping trip to Oxford Street and Harrods without the hassle of driving or catching the train? Saturday, November 29 is the date, leaving EPTC at 8.30am and returning at 5.30pm, cost just £6.

There are still tickets available for the evening performance of *The Snowman* at the Peacock Theatre, London on Saturday, December 20, at 7pm. Tickets cost £22 and include travel and top priced stalls seat.

It's your last chance to join the exciting trip to Canada next April. From April 15-21, visit Toronto for three nights and Niagara Falls for two. Cost of £499 per person includes return flight with Air Canada from Heathrow, accommodation, excursions, transfers and taxes.

Finally there are a few places left to experience some Irish charm next June. Flying out with Ryanair from Stansted on June 4, to Kerry, price includes three nights bed and breakfast and all excursions, flying home June 7. Cost is £249 per person.

Singing stalwarts' society surprise

TWO music moguls were left lost for words when they presented surprise award.

Longest-serving members of the Essex Police Musical Society, Lynda Barkway and Bob Drake received their awards following the rousing Saturday night curtain call at this year's summer show.

The honour of presenting the wards went to Colin Butcher from the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA).

Society vice-chairman Jenny Hillyard said: "Neither knew they were to receive their presentations and members of the society managed to keep it a well kept secret until the night.

"Mr Butcher presented them with their awards and gave a short speech about the achievements of Lynda and Bob which is not an easy thing to do when tasked with such dedicated people."

Bob became a society member in 1978 - his first show being *No, No Nanette*.

He has been involved in a variety of capacities, as well as being a valuable member of the committee.

He has recently put away his make-up and hung up his dancing shoes, but still helps when asked with off-stage jobs. He is also actively-engaged as a member of the force choir.

Lynda joined in 1978, her first main show being *Guys and Dolls in 1979*.

Lynda has been involved in the majority of shows and concerts either in the chorus, supporting or leading roles.

She has been a stalwart of the committee, holding offices of cast representative and secretary and has been chairman through some very difficult times. It is due, in no small part, to her that the society is not only still up and running, but positively thriving.

How she has done this while raising five children and assisting with 12 grandchildren is anyone's guess, but it is a tribute to her dedication.



● Chairman Lynda Barkway and Bob Drake with their 25-year service awards, presented by NODA's Colin Butcher.

Coming soon - men in tights!

REHEARSALS are now underway for *Kiss Me Kate* which will be the 37th February show that the force musical society has staged, the first being in 1966.

The society performed *Kiss Me Kate* last in 1982 and it was agreed that it was time to present this lively and highly entertaining show once more. It is only fair to warn the prospective audience at this early juncture that featured in this production will be men in tights!

Dedicated director for the past few years, Pam Corrie, really is bringing out the best in the troupe, as is musical director, Jim Dougal.

Pam has not only managed to get most of them moving in time but has bought her choreography talents to the forefront of recent productions and *Kiss Me Kate* will be no different.

As well as cast members being involved in the musical numbers with colourful routines, there will be a team of dancers performing tap and ballet routines to compliment some of the numbers. Who said variety was dead?

Coupled with the colourful costumes and set which are promised by the duel setting (present day and Elizabethan), the

show promises to be entertaining.

The dates are Monday, February to Saturday, February 21 at 7.30pm with a Saturday matinee performance at 2.30pm. These will take place in the assembly hall thanks once again to the kind permission of the Chief Constable.

As a result of the feature in the September issue of *The Law*, four new recruits, all employees of Essex Police, have joined and we are delighted to welcome them.

If you would like further information on the musical society, contact Jenny Hillyard on 50335 or Justina Becousse on 51037.

Choral collaboration

THE Essex Police Choir will be teaming up with Welsh colleagues this month for a special concert at Christ Church in Chelmsford.

The show, with the Morlais Welsh Male Voice Choir, will take place on Saturday, October 25 at the venue in New London Road.

Tickets are selling fast, and can be obtained from Julie Brown on 01245 494811.

The choir also has three

Chorus Lines

other concerts coming up in the next few months.

On Saturday, November 29 they will give a show at Great Burstead Church in aid of Basildon General Hospital's Renal Unit.

Tickets for that show are from Doreen Potter on 01277 624255.

The choir will be joined by the 60-strong South Woodham Ferrers Swift Singers on December 9 at St Luke's Church in Tiptree.

The show is in aid of the church's organ fund.

The annual Christmas Concert will take place at Trinity Methodist Church in Chelmsford on December 13.

Tickets for that show and the Tiptree event are available from Julie Brown.

Run raises thousands

A FUN run held in memory of Dc Micky Page has raised over £3,000 for the Helen Rollason Cancer Care Charity Appeal.

More than 60 officers and support staff took part in the 5km run at Hylands Park in tribute to Micky, who died last year after a two-year fight against cancer. The final total raised stands at £3,321.

Quiz helps crime victims

THE brains of Clacton were put to the test at a charity quiz with teams came from police departments and community groups.

Money raised from a raffle, £135, will be donated to Victim Support, based at Clacton.

Victim Support liaison officer, A/Sgt Alan Coley said: "Everyone had a great night and it was unanimously agreed that it must be repeated."

by Nishan
Wijeratne

Runners lay down the gauntlet

Turf war is all good clean fun

VICTORY was tugged out of the opponents' grasp at a fun day when Colchester's central community policing team won the tug-of-war and an It's a Knockout competition.

The team took on their colleagues from the north sector, with Hill House Hammond and the scout group adult band making up the semi-final tug-of-war.

Andy Simpson, Clive Walls, Darren Knowles, Ady Garnham, Kevin Cooper, Nikki Gander and Jolyon Martin pulled through to take first place, while coach Bill Holland watched on.

The central team then got up to win the It's a Knockout competition captained by Knowles.

Divisional commander Chief Supt Dave Murthwaite was on hand to award the medals to his winning team while commiserating the northern troops.

The event marked 25 years of local Neighbourhood Watch and funds raised went to local charities.

Golf memorial closely fought

THE annual golf day in memory of Dc Mick Frost saw 28 competitors battling it out for the Mick Frost Shield.

Held at Stisted golf course, Mick's widow Donna, and children Alice and Emily, attended the prize giving and caught up with Mick's former colleagues.

Ronnie Steward took first place with 37 points, with Peter Orpe second on 35 points and Matt Noone third with 34.

The longest drive of the day was from Nigel Ginn, and Micky Bennett excelled with his putting. Terry Bragg collected the booby prize.

The Texas Scramble Team Winners were Dick Argles, Graham Perks and Matt Noone, and Ian Shead won the sweep.

WITH the start of the new cross-country season only a few days away, Essex look set to challenge for a host of regional titles following their performance at the recent PAA road running championship.

Set in the grounds of Exeter's Powderham Castle, the 10-mile course, with its undulating terrain, was a tough event compounded by the humidity.

Mick Bond led the way for Essex, coming in 13th in a time of just over 58mins and winning him the men's over-45 competition.

Other finishers included Derek Walker, Paul Anderson, Charles Quaey, Pete Bryan, Dave Rout and Steve King.

Lucy Bradley led the Essex women home, finishing 4th in the over-35 category, closely followed by Rachel Crosby, Debbie Batey and Alix Jordanova.

On the athletics track, the force represented themselves well at the PAA national championships in Edinburgh.

With a low turnout, there was a lot of hard work to be done.

Leading the way was Colchester's Karen Wilson who picked up bronze in the javelin, long-jump and high jump before winning silver in the 200m.

Divisional team mate Debbie Batey finished a creditable 4th in the 800m and was part of the ladies relay team which came 2nd.

Laindon road policing officer Laura Heggie was making her national debut in the 100m and high jump.

The men had mixed fortunes. Southminster's Mick Bond returned from illness to perform in the men's 5000m and, after winning bronze last year, Colchester's Steve King picked up silver in the 3000m walk, completing the event in a time of just over 16mins.

After the disappointment of not collecting a medal last year, Colchester's Courtney Cowell brought home the bronze in style in the triple-jump.

Colchester's javelin specialist, Trevor Clark, threw to success and picked up the bronze in what was a tough competition.

An out-of-sorts Derek Walker from



● Triple-jumper Courtney Cowell is presented with his bronze medal by Essex Chief Constable David Stevens who is also chairman-elect of police sport UK.

Colchester found the heat of the day too much and was lucky to collect the bronze medal in the men's 5000m.

However, he was more comfortable on the final leg of the 400m men's relay, helping Essex home in 4th.

Following the silver success attained by Essex's tug-of-war squad, the force will be hosting both the national athletics and tug-of-war championship at Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium next July.

Arrangements are already well underway, with accommodation and evening formalities to take place at Essex University.

Anyone interested in competing in this or any of the forthcoming cross-country races, should contact Derek Walker or Mick Bond.

Sports news in brief

THE sea angling Croker Cup competition postponed due to weather will now take place in Hampshire.

The contest will be off Hayling Island on the south coast on Wednesday, November 19. For further information, please contact Dave Clark on 01702 332315.

THE force is entering a ladies' team for PAA hockey this year despite being unable to enter a league.

Doubles drama

AFTER a tenacious fight to the final, tennis doubles Alison Oddy and Fiona Rayne, sadly saw the PAA national title pulled from their grasp by holders the Met.

They had already beaten one Met pairing as well as duos from Strathclyde and West Mercia but lost 6-2 6-4.

A trophy was lifted in Norfolk however, by Stu Bowman and his South Wales partner Roger Michael in the retired officers' event, winning all four matches.

It is the first national tennis trophy to be won by an Essex man in living memory.

Alison Oddy and Mark Wheeler lost to the eventual winners in the mixed doubles and the ladies veteran pairing of Jeanette Poston and Frances Harrison lost in the first round to a strong Leicestershire duo.

Pc Tracey Bishop has taken over the mantle of secretary and would like to hear anyone who would like to play PAA for the force. She can be contacted on ext 63240 or by email.

THE cream of the force's sports men and women met for lunch at HQ to celebrate their national achievements.

Chief Constable David Stevens attended to pay tribute to the wealth of sporting talent

Cup glory but the triple out of reach

ESSEX have driven their way to double cricket cup glory this season after winning the Home Counties Cup and regional PAA championship with victories over Kent and Suffolk.

In the eastern region PAA final at Elmstead Market the home side were hot favourites.

Skipper Ady Garnham won the toss for the 7th successive time and put the visitors into bat.

Suffolk got off to a solid start, losing only one wicket in the first 20 overs for 83 runs, but Essex clawed their way back after Garnham and Lorrie Austin initiated a middle-order collapse; snapping up five wickets between them to leave Suffolk on 196-8 from their allotted 45 overs.

In reply, Essex slumped to 21-3 after Jon Butcher, Austin and Paul Gamman returned to the pavilion within the first five overs.

However, vice-captain Kevin Cooper and Vince Bird shared a century stand with Cooper leading Essex to victory, finishing with a superb 91no.

The final was secured after Essex beat Norfolk in what was Joe Wrigley's last game for the force.

A mini batting collapse was halted when Chris Roper arrived at the crease, scoring 25.

Essex took to the field knowing they had to take some quick, early wickets if they were to keep the Norfolk run-rate down.

A superb catch in the deep by debutante and 'male model' Steve

Berry spurred on the home side, with spin twins Phil Mellon and Roper ensuring Norfolk ended the game 34 runs adrift.

The force experienced their first taste of season glory when Butcher hit a run-a-ball 120 knock against Kent in the Home Counties Cup final - an innings described by locals as "one of the finest seen at the ground for many a year".

Regional and local titles are all Essex had to contend with after they were outclassed by the Met in the nationals.

Essex posted a challenging total of 252-2 on a dry, flat wicket at Halstead after openers Wrigley and Austin put on a century opening stand, with both scoring 75; Austin's knock coming at a run-a-ball.

Bird and Gamman then came to the crease to ensure the scoreboard ticked over just as quickly as before; Bird hitting 59 and Gamman a solid 45.

The Essex bowlers knew that, if they were to successfully defend their total, they would have to bowl tightly as the outfield had completely dried out by the time the Londoners had come to the crease.

Sadly, this was not to be the case as the Met raced ahead to reach their target with an over to spare and for the loss of only two wickets.

Phil Mellon was the pick of the bowlers, completing a tidy nine-over spell for the loss of only 34 runs while also claiming two wickets.

