



A strategic rise to the top - P3



Review of 2003 - centre pages



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FORCES UNITE IN CASH PLEA

CASH-strapped police authorities, including Essex, are putting pressure on the Government for better funding.

Chairman of Essex Police Authority Robert Chambers has voiced his anger at the Government's failure to honour its promise of £759,000 for the Airwave Project - a new radio system to improve communications across the country.

The shortfall means that the 2004/5 Home Office grant of £160.9 million equates to just a 2.8 per cent increase in funding, only just in line with levels of inflation.

The funding discrepancy means that the police authority will receive barely enough for services to remain at their current levels.

The government grant accounts for the majority of police funding, with the rest consisting of council tax.

Mr Chambers said: "The Home Office is changing the rules and the £759,000 will now have to be found from the general grant.

"If the Home Office does not come up with the cash, the police authority will have to find it by making cuts elsewhere or asking taxpayers to make up the shortfall.

"This is grossly unfair. The Home Office has admitted this is a mistake and should put this right by giving us what is rightly ours."

Cuts in government funding last year meant that the police precept part of the council tax increased by 19.7 per cent.

Kent Police Authority has expressed similar dismay at its allocation, saying the money given will not be enough to maintain the status quo.

By Benedict Pennington

Chairman of Cambridgeshire Police Authority John Reynolds has also criticised funding levels after the county received a 3.25 per cent increase, falling nearly £4 million short of keeping council tax increases to single figures.

Mr Reynolds said the authority had once again been "short-changed".

He added: "The authority is extremely disappointed that for the second year running Cambridgeshire Constabulary has lost out on funding it rightly deserves and requires in order to function at an appropriate level."

Now Suffolk has joined in a concerted effort to prise much-needed cash out of the Government.

In a letter to Home Secretary David Blunkett, Suffolk Police Authority Chairman Christine Laverock hits out at a settlement which "falls well short of the level needed to sustain the high levels of service in Suffolk".

Mrs Laverock said: "The Government says it wants high quality public services and the authority is committed to delivering just that.

"The Government has also pledged to be tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime.

"But unless the Government's rhetoric is matched by adequate funding, the aims become increasingly more difficult to achieve at a cost which council taxpayers are prepared to pay."

The Home Office was invited to comment on the funding situation in the region, but had not issued any statement when *The Law* went to print.

Avast, me Harlow hearties



● Captain Ian Learmonth and his motley command team waiters prepare to serve staff dinner.

STAFF at Harlow were given a festive treat last month when the command team served up Christmas dinners.

Led by Chief Supt Ian Learmonth, the team once again dressed up for the day, to this year's theme of pirates.

Around 70 staff and officers made the most of having the senior officers at their beck and call for the occasion.

More guns not the answer

AS staff throughout the organisation paid tribute to Pc Ian Broadhurst who was shot dead on Boxing Day in Leeds, the police service has once again stood firm in its desire not to routinely arm officers.

Assistant Chief Constable (Crime) Liam Briggingshaw said: "Our hearts go out to Ian's family.

"The death of a colleague always causes us to reflect upon the subject of arming police officers, but an unarmed service is

currently central to the British understanding of modern policing.

"At this current time, arrangements in the use and deployment of authorised firearms officers have demonstrated the service's ability to respond to incidents. We will continue to monitor gun use in the light of risk to the public or to our officers."

A 37-year-old man has been charged with the murder of Pc Ian Broadhurst and the attempted murder of two other policemen.

Pension plan proposals

PENSION schemes are set to be overhauled and improved following a Government announcement which aims to make them "more flexible and affordable" for police officers.

Officers could find themselves entitled to half their final salary plus a lump sum of four times the pension as part of the new main features of a proposed scheme.

The Home Office consultation is seeking views at a time when life expectancy is increasing and workforces are generally becoming more diverse.

Home Office Minister Hazel Blears said: "The new scheme would allow partners of officers who choose to not to get married or who are in same-sex relationships to receive survivor benefits."

A new police pension scheme would not affect the entitlement of existing officers to stay in the current scheme if they prefer. However, they would be able to transfer to the new scheme if they feel it would better suit their needs.

Essex Joint Branch Board secretary Terry Spelman said: "We're pleased that the Government has listened to our demands and that we have been successful in protecting the pension rights of all officers."

"As well as reflecting the arduous and often dangerous nature of policing, the pension scheme assists with the retention of experienced, trained officers."

The consultation process is set to be completed by the end of this year, taking into account discussions with the Police Negotiating Board.

I HAVE attempted to clarify a few outstanding issues below.

Will the new minimum pension age of 55 set to be introduced in 2005 affect currently serving officers?

This will not affect serving officers who are members of the current Police Pension Scheme (PPS).

Officers who are already in service, and members of the PPS when the Government raises the minimum pension age for members of occupational pension schemes to 55 in April 2005, will not be affected by the change.

Would membership of the current PPS be affected by an transfer after the new scheme was introduced?

No, membership of the current PPS would not be affected on transferring without a break in service either to another force in England, Wales or Scotland.

An officer would also retain membership on transferring back without a break in service.

The question of transfers to and from the Police Service of Northern Ireland will need to be considered further in consultation with the PNB.

Would officers be able to retain membership of the current scheme if they took a career break?

Yes, if it were a career break approved by the force under which you retained your membership of the force and

Federation Newsline

by Terry Spelman



eligibility to a lump-sum grant for death in service.

Will currently serving officers be affected if they leave the force before 25 years' service?

The Government plans to raise the normal pension age for the public services from 60 to 65 by the end of 2006.

It is Government policy that the new pension age of 65 should apply not just to new entrants after that date, but also to some existing staff in the public services, particularly those still relatively early on in their career.

Officers in the current PPS who leave the service early on any grounds, other than medical retirement, may be affected by this policy since it would affect the deferred pension age currently set at 60.

No date has been chosen for this change as yet for the purpose of the current PPS. It is not proposed to apply such a change to the police service before there has been a full debate as to how

this should be implemented across the public services.

Why will some currently serving officers be affected if they leave the force before 25 years' service?

In the interests of consistency, such a policy must apply across the public services as a whole and, for example, include members of the current PPS and members of the current Armed Forces' Scheme, who leave the service early.

What would happen in the case of an officer affected by a later change in deferred pension age?

It is important to note that a change in the normal pension age from 60 to 65 would not affect the value of entitlements to a deferred pension at 60 already built up by officers up to the date of the change.

It would not necessarily prevent those leaving the service after the date of change to age 65 from getting a pension at age 60.

An option would be to offer such officers a deferred pension at that age at a reduced rate in respect of

the pensionable service falling after the date of change.

When would a currently serving officer be able to opt to transfer to the new scheme if he or she wanted to?

This will be the subject of consultation with the PNB, but it may have to be after the introduction of the new scheme.

This would enable the necessary information to be provided to officers about the choice they were to make. It is important that an officer should not make the change without fully understanding the implications.

If an officer opted to transfer to the new scheme, could they transfer back again?

No, that is not included in the proposals. That is why we need to make sure that each officer who is considering a transfer can make an informed choice about opting to transfer to the new scheme in the first place.

I personally feel that this will be like the erosion of the rent allowance and housing allowance which only took some years before we had, and still have, a retention problem.

This, I feel, will have an affect on new recruits and will again lead to further problems with recruiting in the years ahead.

Let's hope the consultation process highlights these potential time bombs before anything is set in stone.

service line

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A wise head revisited

THE review of a 25-year-old murder has demonstrated how valuable an asset retired officers can be to current investigations.

When Norah Trott, 63, was raped and murdered in Rochford in 1978, Det Supt Peter Crust headed the investigation.

This year, after new information came to light, a review was launched and retired Mr Crust was invited back in to discuss the case.

He spent time with detectives going over the evidence and provided the names of other former officers who worked on the inquiry and may have useful information.

Det Supt Simon Coxall, who heads the review team, said: "It is useful for us to go through the evidence that we have with someone who was there at the time."

"What is apparent is that the foundations of the investigation and all the hard slog was done thoroughly and it has made the work easier to review the case."

Phantom photograph



DO YOU recognise anything in this picture? The photo has been sent in to force museum curator Sarah Ward is now keen to find its origins.

A retired officer has a faint idea that it was taken somewhere near Brentwood, but admits it is only a faint notion and maybe a red herring. Also, it cannot currently be dated but is probably pre-war.

If you can help contact Sarah Ward at the museum.

Thefts fall at the airport

WITH an increase in passengers and good shopping facilities at Stansted Airport there also comes the inevitable thief who sees the retail outlets as easy pickings.

The force has been working closely with retailers and British Airports Authority to keep crime in check under their retail crime initiative - Essex Retail Against Crime.

DCI Peter French said: "Anybody who comes to the airport to commit crime will be travelling to a destination, but not one of their choice."

Under this initiative, strict guidelines allow the force to circulate photographs and details of known criminals they suspect of committing crime to partner agencies.

Offbeat

New careers on the horizon for three senior Essex officers

The new wave of future talent

THE pantomime season may now be over, but the familiar cry of 'its behind you' is still appropriate.

Red-faced force support officers, responding to an emergency call, had to retrieve their kit from the road after it fell out of the wide-open tailgate of their car as it left headquarters.

□ □ □ □

A TYPING error meant that an arrangement was made for fritters to put more frit on the road.

We presumed they meant grit as fritters would make it more slippery.

□ □ □ □

AT one road policing unit, a particular shift has been given six months to shed a total of nine stones between them following a trouser-splitting episode in the run-up to Christmas.

It appears that their sergeant has taken the personal development review quite literally following a recent weigh-in, which showed each of them weighing 17 stones.

The plan, which includes the skipper losing pounds, has been greeted with relief by others at the unit who were becoming frustrated at the lack of corridor space.

Addicted to retail crime

DEMANDS to invest more money on community-based schemes, like those in Essex which aim to reduce repeat offending, are being called for following recent statistics which show eight out of 10 shoplifters are re-convicted within two years of release from jail.

The study, carried out by the centre for retail research, has prompted calls for more investment in multi-agency punishments, which have been proved to cut crime.

Operation Oliver has been running at Clacton Shopping Village since October 2002.

The scheme sees young offenders brought into contact with the police, store managers and careers advisors in order to have their behaviour addressed.

Shop theft costs retailers around £750 million a year and customers nearly £100 per household per year in added costs.

Force youth strategy project manager Sgt Ian Carter said: "The scheme works because it calls offenders to account while tackling the reasons behind them committing the crime in the first place.

"It isn't a soft option because it makes them face up to the fact that shoplifting is not a victimless crime. It also makes them see that stealing from shops is totally unacceptable."

THREE senior Essex officers are well on their way to becoming Assistant Chief Constables (ACCs) after successfully completing the first stage of the Strategic Command Course (SCC), with Chief Supt Jacqui Cheer the first-ever female officer from the force to do so.

Harlow's divisional commander Chief Supt Ian Learmonth and Chief Supt Patrick Rice, currently seconded to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, join Chief Supt Cheer in becoming the first to complete the stage since Chief Supt Andy Drane, who subsequently joined Avon & Somerset Constabulary as ACC, and Chief Supt Andy Hayman who left to join the Metropolitan Police as a commander.

The occasion also marks the first time that three officers from the same force have qualified at the same time.

This three-day assessment centre, held at the Scottish Police College in Tulliallan Castle, was attended by 130 officers of superintendent or chief superintendent rank from across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, with 46 passing; of whom 15 were superintendents.

The three officers passed the police national assessment centre (PNAC) stage, formerly known as the extended interview, and will now embark on an out-of-force eight-month course in a bid to gain promotion to chief officer level.

By Nishan Wijeratne

Chief Supt Cheer was delighted to receive the news and is now looking forward to gaining the experience and qualities required.

"It's been a while since an Essex officer has qualified to attend the SCC, so it reflects well on the organisation that three of us have done so at the same time," said the 42-year-old. "I'm honoured to become the first woman from the force to attend too and I hope this encourages my fellow female colleagues around the county to strive for promotion and improvement. It is possible for anyone who has the right attitude.

"I'm looking forward to the time out in order to become a better police officer and I'm extremely grateful for this opportunity."

Chief Supt Cheer has spent her 20 years' service at Rayleigh, Tilbury, Chelmsford, Braintree, Community Safety, training centre and Stansted Airport. She became the head of the Professional Standards Department (PSD) two years ago.

Chief Supt Cheer added: "I realise that if I successfully complete the eight-month course and there are no chief officer posts available here, then I would have to apply to other forces. I've no children and my husband, who is in the construction industry, is flexible about where he works, so this would not be an issue for us."

The three officers will embark on the SSC in March, undertaking various study programmes and consultancy work for private companies and other police forces.



● Chief Supts Jacqui Cheer and Ian Learmonth.

Chief Supt Learmonth has been with the force for 27 years. Both he and Chief Supt Rice joined as cadets in 1974.

The 45-year-old, married with two children, has served at Clacton, the dog section, headquarters, Chelmsford, force support and Stansted Airport and Harlow.

"I've succeeded second time round and will be looking forward to my time spent various organisations across the UK.

"I may only have three years left, but I'm certainly going to make the most of it."

Sharp surge in crash deaths

ROAD policing officers are prosecuting one a motorist a month for causing death by drink-driving or dangerous driving.

The startling statistic comes at a time when the number of broken families has risen across the county following a 26 per cent increase in road deaths.

As police become increasingly concerned about driver attitude, figures show that 116 people were killed in road crashes in 2003.

There were 107 fatal collisions around the county; with 43 drivers, 24 motorcyclists, 22 passengers, 23 pedestrians and 4 cyclists killed.

During 2002, 92 people were killed in 85 fatal crashes (21 were motorcyclists).

The force works closely with partner agencies on a host of proactive initiatives, with officers targeting seatbelt offenders, over-worked lorry drivers and drink-drivers.

Road Policing Inspector Nick Burston is extremely disappointed with the figures, especially after the sharp drop during 2002.

"Following last year's 25 per cent reduction in the number of people killed on our roads, we all thought motorists were finally listening to our road safety warnings and messages," said Insp Burston. "Despite

publicising these campaigns, highlighting dangers and enforcing road traffic laws, too many drivers have either been recklessly killing themselves or others."

Despite the many numerous road safety initiatives, the safer driving advice appears not have been adhered to with nearly 100 motorists prosecuted for dangerous driving, 12 prosecuted for causing death by dangerous driving or causing death by careless driving while under the influence of alcohol.

A further three drivers would have been prosecuted for a similar serious offence had they not died in the collisions too.

Insp Burston added: "In a number of circumstances, some drivers have been found to be intoxicated through drugs or alcohol; while in other instances, people have been again unnecessarily killed because they have failed to wear a seatbelt.

"Despite publicising these campaigns, too many drivers just purely choose to ignore us. What more can we do?"

The total number of injury-related collisions in 2003 was 5,983 with 1,107 classed as serious.

The comparative figure for 2002 stood at 6,074 collisions, with 1,015 seriously injured.

Reining in the suspects

THE BBC's *Silent Witness* star Amanda Burton has spoken out in praise of the police after her horsebox, stolen from Sussex, was tracked down near the A127 by observant road policing and dog unit officers from Laindon.

The actress told those assembled at last month's Crimestoppers Ball about the swift, same-day recovery of the horsebox.

The 47-year-old actress said: "My horse box was stolen from outside my house, but police retrieved it that evening. A fantastic job."

Sgt Mark Estall, Pc Dave Mayo and Pc Rob Wickins from Laindon Dog Unit, arrested three people and seized two other vehicles.

Law letters

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

A retired bird now takes to the roads

AS was reported in the November issue, I have retired after a full 30 years and I am now a road safety officer with Essex County Council.

I would like you to allow me the opportunity, via *The Law*, to extend my farewells and thanks.

I have met, worked with and been supported by many during my 33 years in the county of Essex, having entered as an outsider from the midlands in 1970 seeking a warmer climate.

'The Job' has given me the opportunity to do things and go places in my life that I would never have dreamt of 33 years ago, as well as working with some interesting people.

Who would have thought that my last summer as a police officer would be spent flying around the county in a helicopter.

I took in sights that members of the public would pay hundreds of pounds for and there I was being paid for doing it as well!

I would like to have celebrated such an achievement in a big way, but unfortunately family circumstances dictated that the final

stages of my retirement were to be celebrated by only by a couple of low-key get-togethers with close colleagues.

At the time I was planning a suitable exit, my father's health was deteriorating to the extent that a lot of my time was taken up travelling to the midlands.

This culminated in his death and his funeral two days before my last day with Essex Police.

However, this ironically provided me with the opportunity to wear my police uniform for the last time along with other family members.

This was as a final mark of respect as he was a retired officer himself.

Although the inevitable was expected, the events unfolding really dampened the occasion of retirement and the step into a new career, so a full-bore celebration really did not seem appropriate.

My new job will still bring me into contact with old colleagues through the nature of the work - and no doubt I will be hearing the comment: "I didn't know you had gone" more than once!

I also promise not to bait Moose (who has been uncharacteristically quiet of late) into

correspondence by writing to *The Law* about what it was like in the good old days either!

Dee Hawkins
Chelmsford

Are these separate colours necessary?

I READ with interest the article in the November issue of *The Law* regarding 'Kicking Racism Out Of Policing'.

Could someone please explain why there is a Police Federation and a Black Police Association?

I realise that the Police Federation represents all police officers irrespective of creed or colour, but why a Black Police Association?

Are we eventually going to see a 'white police association'?

If so surely this would amount to apartheid within the police force.

Jack Faulkner
Southend

Where art thou Fangio?

I HAVE received a letter from a former officer who is trying to trace a Pc Bill Reid whom he remembers was stationed at Hornchurch in 1953.

Pc Reid's nickname was 'Fangio' and he was an area-car driver.

He may have left Essex to join a police force in Canada sometime after 1953, or he may have returned to Essex from Canada.

If anyone can assist me with helping this former officer, then please could they contact me.

Dc Si Myers
Basildon

'A perfect gentleman'

I WOULD like to reply to the letter from ex-Chief Supt Docker which featured in the last issue of *The Law*.

I had the pleasure of escorting the ex-chief from his home to Weeley when he left the division in 1973.

I feel sure I speak not only for myself but for all other officers who served with him in congratulating him on reaching his 90th year.

He was a perfect gentleman and a pleasure to work with.

John Graham
Brixham, Devon

Community policing should come naturally

I READ with interest Tony Hall's letter in the December issue of *The Law*.

I know I run the risk of being criticised again for having an opinion about today's policing, as I have been retired for nine years.

I do not wish to discourage Tony in his efforts of suggesting a higher profile for community officers, but I would point out that I wrote quite a controversial letter to *The Law* (while still serving) as far back as 1983 on this very subject.

I've no doubt that I will be told that I don't understand what the term 'community policing' means in this day and age.

Well OK, I admit it. I don't know what the current job description is; I just assume it cannot have changed that much.

In 1983, I had been in the job for almost 20 years and, although something had struck me as strange many years prior to this, I did not feel that to comment on it would have enhanced my position too much.

I had noticed during my 20 years that, almost without exception, on every occasion that I presented myself for an annual interview, the interviewing senior officer made very little or no reference to local policing matters.

The main subject on the agenda was always promotion and what I was doing about it.

I won't bore you all with my replies but as I retired in the rank of constable I'm sure you don't need a very vivid imagination.

I can even recall as a probationer being advised by almost every senior officer with whom I came

into contact, to 'get your head in those books and pass your promotion exam as soon as you can'.

This attitude made me feel as though the job of community policing (we didn't call it that then) was of very little worth as everyone seemed to be advising me to ditch it as soon as possible.

The other favourite subject was 'what do you want to specialise in?'.

This again gave me great confidence in that I was being gainfully employed on the streets.

The picture was painted that this was a role to get away from as quickly as you could.

Later on in service when I became a tutor Constable, I always used to make a point of asking recruits what type of questions they were asked when interviewed during probation.

The same topics were repeated: promotion and specialisation - certainly no encouragement to continue for any length of time in a community role.

It's strange also that Tony should mention Mr Markham because at the time I wrote my letter, outlining my concerns about these matters, he was ACC, and I was told that he had to 'vet' my letter before it could be published.

I never knew if that was true. However, if it was, Mr Markham was gracious enough to allow my letter to go into *The Law* in November 1983.

I too suggested a higher profile for community officers - I think I may have suggested it should become a specialist department, if this would help to raise its profile.

Ex-Pc Dave Rose
Linton, Cambs

Kings of red tape reduction

THE force is leading the way in England and Wales in driving down bureaucracy.

In the last 12 months alone, Essex Police has rendered 500 forms obsolete, and is aiming to increase that number in 2004.

Those 500 forms account for around ten per cent of all forces' form reduction so far achieved by the 43 constabularies in England and Wales.

Publication Unit manager John Johnson, who supervised the project, said: "This reduction has come about as a result of the force looking for opportunities to reduce bureaucracy. Some forces are yet to start looking at this issue."

Ongoing work includes plans to make force forms available on the intranet and two divisions are piloting a system to bypass some of the repetitive elements of file preparation.

Future plans include new custody and case preparation systems to reduce the bureaucracy involved in dealing with offenders, from the moment they arrive in custody until they appear at court.

Fears increase over imitation firearms

PARENTS, teachers and children have been warned to lock up any imitation weapons and toy guns following several incidents in which gun-toting youngsters were challenged at 'real' gunpoint.

The advice was handed out by firearms officers who have become concerned that, while responding to genuine calls from the public reporting suspects with firearms, they could inadvertently injure someone.

In the run-up to Christmas, officers were coming face-to-face with numerous young people who had imitation firearms and ball-bearing guns.

Firearms manager Chief Inspector Kevin Bailey is keen to make people aware of the dangers of possessing imitation weapons, with



● Firearms manager Kevin Bailey demonstrates to the media the difficulties officers face when confronted with a weapon.

offenders facing possible 10-year prison sentences if found guilty of intending to cause fear or violence.

"When responding to such incidents, firearms officers cannot always identify whether or not a firearm is real or fake," said Chief Insp Bailey. "Carrying an imitation

could ultimately result in a highly-trained armed officer having to challenge a young person and so we are becoming increasingly worried.

"Specially-trained officers have been deployed to over 200 firearms incidents so far this year, with 10 per cent involving a replica or BB

gun. This has to stop now."

Last year's guns amnesty brought in over 1,200 illegal weapons off the county's streets, with the force committed to building on this success and eradicating the growing gun culture which endangers the whole community.

Recent legislation now gives police powers to arrest anyone in possession of an imitation firearm or air weapon in a public place without reasonable excuse.

● THE 'get tough' approach to gun crime has been further bolstered after the National Firearms Forensic Intelligence Database (NFFID) became operational at the end of 2003.

The database, set up by the Forensic Science Service in association with ACPO, will aim to build a better picture of the criminal use of firearms.

As well as providing strategic intelligence, by using state-of-the-art technology, NFFID will also be able to speed up the process of linking crimes together and guns to crime more efficiently.

Top honour for diversity work

BRAINTREE-based Insp Cheryl Callow has been awarded the Queen's Police Medal in the New Year Honours, "bursting into tears when she opened the letter".

The 44-year-old, who has 25 years' policing service and been at Braintree for the past two, was "overwhelmed at the good news."

"I'm obviously very, very pleased and truly honoured," she added.

Insp Callow was nominated for her outstanding contribution to police diversity issues particularly in the area of developing awareness and support.

As a key founder of the Police and Community Action Team in 1999 Insp Callow carried out some ground-breaking, nationally recognised work.

She was involved in devising the Essex Police Equality of Service Strategy



● Insp Cheryl Callow QPM.

with particular focus on mentoring minority groups and was instrumental in the formation of NEXUS, a national group representing minority groups in the service.

Two murder investigations in other police forces have also benefited from Insp Callow's expertise in diversity.

She assisted in an inquiry for Hertfordshire Constabulary and a helped Suffolk Police after the body of a transsexual was found on a beach.

Braintree divisional commander Chief Supt Sue Harrison said: "Cheryl's well-deserved award is the result of her boundless energy and innovative enthusiasm, not only in her day-to-day duties but in her efforts to ensure that every individual in the service is treated fairly and receives the appropriate training and support."

Southend-born Insp Callow, who now lives near Chelmsford has dedicated the medal to her parents, Ray Callow who died 19 years ago and Betty Callow who still lives in Southend.

"I would also like to thank my partner Moira who has fully supported me over 18 years together," added Insp Callow. "My work colleagues have been very supportive over many years, as has police service in general for all the opportunities it has given me."

"I don't think the award is just for one person, it is for the service that you serve," she said.

Calls really count against criminals

COMMUNITY Safety officers are aiming to build on the force's strong relationship with Crimestoppers for the coming year.

Crimestoppers has been in Essex since 1988 and exists to encourage public involvement in the detection of crime by providing the means to give information anonymously and receive a reward if it leads to an arrest.

During those 15 years, nearly 14,000 calls have been received relating to Essex cases, leading to more than 1,000 arrests and the recovery of £3.77m worth of stolen property and illegal substances.

Last year, 71 arrests were made in Essex as a result of calls, of which 27 were for murder, 29 for robbery, 250 for vehicle crime and 28 for sexual offences.

However, Essex's rate of arrests per calls made is three per cent behind the national average of 9.6 per cent.

Crimestoppers is not connected to the police service, but is a charitable trust run by a board of volunteers from all walks of life.

In the eastern region, Crimestoppers works from a call centre in Norfolk via the number

0800 555111, which works across the UK and is free from landlines.

The centre is open from 8am to 10pm on weekdays and 9am to 5pm a weekends, and is likely to go 24 hours in the near future.

Members of the public can call anonymously, and still claim a reward. In the run-up to Christmas, three £50 rewards were given for information leading to the arrest of drink drivers.

In the case of particularly serious crime, Crimestoppers can authorise an enhanced reward up to a maximum of £10,000.

The information taken is sent by fax to the Force Intelligence Bureau, which double checks the material and passes it to division for action.

Crime Reduction Inspector Dave Northcott said: "Crimestoppers isn't just for major crimes, but can also be used for smaller investigations in a targeted way.

"In Essex we've made great use of the charity, and we want to further that relationship this year.

"If you come across a reluctant witness during an inquiry, you can refer them to Crimestoppers."

POLICING ESSEX IN 2003

JANUARY:

THE year started on a number of positives for the force, not least that road deaths for the previous year were down by 25 per cent, from 123 in 2001 to 92 in 2002.

Casualty Reduction Manager Brian Ladd credited the decrease to the much maligned safety cameras and the force's proactive approach to traffic incidents.

In the New Year's Honours, Head of Scientific Support DCI Tom Harper was awarded the QPM for services to policing.

Deputy Commandant of the Special Constabulary George Cook and Basildon Community Safety's Pc Ray Williams, joined him at the Palace with an MBE each.

New Year's Day was the first on the patch for the force's new Assistant Chief Constable Liam Briggingshaw who came to Essex from Sussex.

However, the last day proved a challenging one not only for Essex, but also neighbouring counties, as severe weather left motorists on the M11 stranded in snow and ice.

The duty road policing inspector at the time completed a 16-hour shift to



● ACC Liam Briggingshaw. help out fellow officers deal with the motoring mayhem.

FEBRUARY:

IN Harlow, the hunt was on for the killer of 35-year-old mother of three Beverley Brinkley.

She was found suffering from head injuries at flats in the town, and later died in hospital.

February also brought the kind of court action that the force can live without.

Essex Police's offender naming scheme was due to hit the streets of Brentwood in poster form, naming convicted offenders in a bid to deter others from vehicle crime and burglary.

BEN PENNINGTON takes a look back at some of the force's efforts during 2003 - a year which once again saw Essex take on and tackle new approaches to policing,

However, with days to go before the first poster would go up, solicitors acting for the first subject, 28-year-old Gary Ellis, sought and were granted an injunction preventing publication of his details.

The move would see the force face Ellis' legal team at the High Court later in the year.

MARCH:

WITH war in Iraq in the offing, Essex was experiencing a smaller scale of the peace protests which the capital had seen, with the majority focused on the garrison town of Colchester.

Two members of the force were to be called into service for the conflict in Iraq, for both frontline duties and support work.

Cuts in government funding meant a 19.7 per cent increase

in the council tax police precept, a rise which Police Authority Chairman Robert Chambers hoped residents would see as a "relatively small amount" to enable the force to do its job.

The simplest of ideas are often the best, as a scheme in Laindon proved when it hit the national media.

Pc Alan Batchelor's 'Hats Off' initiative encouraged people entering shops to remove hats and hoods to make identifying CCTV images easier.

Heated and misdirected comments about 'big brother' watching us were soon to follow from certain sections of the media, but that didn't stop several forces from adopting the scheme.

APRIL:

IN the wake of the murder of two girls in the West Midlands at the start of the year, Essex joined with all forces in the UK in a month-long firearms amnesty.

The first in the county since Dunblane, the final count saw nearly 1,300 weapons and 23,000 rounds of ammunition handed in, the largest outside the UK's city forces.

A new addition to the police family made their debut in Essex as 10 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) were piloted in Waltham Abbey and Loughton, to act as 'the eyes and ears' of the police.

Ian Parr was sentenced to 10 years in prison after he was found guilty of offences under the Official Secrets Act.

The 46-year-old from Rochford, who worked at BAE Systems in Basildon, was caught after attempting to sell defence information to Russian agents for £130,000.

Unfortunately for him, the 'agents' were in fact Security Service personnel.



● Spyman Ian Parr.

MAY:

MAY saw the retirement of the last officer to have worn the white helmet of the former Southend-on-Sea Constabulary, as Chief Insp Roger Lowe took his bow from Basildon.

Officers from Rayleigh's Major Investigation Team (MIT) flew out to Albania for the start of the trial of 32-year-old Nik Pylla, accused of the stabbing of Pal Ton Qerimi in Southend during April 2000. A verdict is due within the next few weeks.

The inquest into the death of nine-year-old Tony Clowes was heard in Chelmsford. Tony died in a pre-operation anaesthetic room at Broomfield Hospital in July 2001, following which a lengthy, linked investigation was carried out.

At the end of the week-long inquest, the jury reached a verdict of accidental death brought about by management systems failure.

JUNE:

MEMORIES of Danielle Jones were back in people's minds in June, as two local newspapers began a campaign to raise cash for a permanent memorial to the teenager killed by her uncle.

The TV Unit also launched the force's full-length DVD on the search for Danielle, Operation Spinnaker, created as a learning tool both for Essex and other forces.

The offender-naming scheme went to the High Court in London where judges declared it was not unlawful.

Two 15-year-old girls were involved in a car crash in Pebmarsh, when one was killed after the vehicle - driven by the other - ploughed into trees.

However, the court did prohibit the force from using the details of Gary Ellis, out of concern for his family.

The media, however, were not covered by the same constraints and named and shamed at will.

JULY:

THE new force helicopter took to the skies, equipped with the latest state-of-the-art electronic equipment.

The Eurocopter 135, faster and cheaper to maintain than its predecessor, was bought



● The new Eurocopter 135 takes to the skies to bolster air support in the Anglian region. Photo: Clifford Hick, East Anglian Daily Times.

with a £1.2 million grant from the Home Office.

A specialist team of retired detectives, the first of its kind in Essex, was set up to tackle cold cases and review ongoing investigations.

Director of Investigations Det Supt Simon Coxall said the team would offer the "vital support" of an independent eye.

Colchester pensioner Thelma Avis, 90, died shortly after two bogus callers stole her savings from her home.

Pupils from Cressing Primary School helped Bocking's road policing officers out with road safety awareness in July.

The youngsters were on hand as officers stopped vehicles speeding past their school, to enlighten motorists of the perils of excess velocity.

AUGUST:

THE groundworks were being laid for the successful policing of football fans travelling abroad for Euro 2004 qualifiers in August.

With many of the nation's football followers using Stansted Airport, the force was ready for action in enforcing football banning orders on hooligans for the away tie with Macedonia.

The annual V-festival came to Chelmsford, the biggest to

date with headline acts from Coldplay and David Gray.

The event was relatively trouble-free, with only a handful of arrests for drug-related offences.

The force's officers of the year were toasted, under the categories of Community Officer, Probationer and Lifetime Achievement. Rayleigh's Pc Jessica Fisher, Thurrock's Pc Suzanne O'Neill and Pc Tony Welham of Tendring won respectively.

SEPTEMBER

JOE BUTLER, a 25-year-old from Bognor Regis, was sentenced to 11 years' imprisonment for attempted

GBH while attempting to resist arrest.

Butler drove his Mercedes away from a stop-check on the M11, with Pc Geoffrey Poyser clinging to the driver's door. Pc Poyser later fell into the motorway. A company and its directors were found guilty of offences against the Health and Safety Act, following the death of 15-year-old Dean Butler at a quarry near Stanford-le-Hope in December 2001.

The directors were fined £7,500 and Clearserve fined £32,500. Clearserve was also ordered to pay £10,000 in costs.

OCTOBER:

THE cold case review team were hot on the trail of the killer of Norah Trott.

Mrs Trott, 63, was murdered in Rochford in 1978. New information led the team to take up the case again.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system was rolled out across the county, with a launch showcase at Lakeside Shopping Centre.

The first few hours of the operation highlighted the crime-fighting tool's worth, with several people wanted by police caught and arrested.

Roger Gordon, 52, was sentenced to life for the murder of his wife in Wickford in March 2002, and Gary Roberts was given an

indefinite hospital order under the Mental Health Act after pleading guilty to the manslaughter of Jayne Poppy. Ms Poppy was found dead at her home in Leigh-on-Sea on Christmas Day, 2002.

NOVEMBER:

THE biggest exercise Essex has ever seen swung into play in November, when Rogue Patriot had hundreds of staff playing for real.

The exercise, involving personnel from the military, government and travel companies, was the culmination of more than a year's work and lasted for 48 hours.

After a six-month pilot in Harlow division, 60 new PCSOs joined the force to bolster the visibility of police patrols around the county.

The Media and Public Relations department scooped the top silverware for police

communications teams when it was presented with the Association of Police Public Relations Officers Award for Excellence.

The award was in recognition of the work carried out during the search for Danielle Jones and the subsequent prosecution of Stuart Campbell.

DECEMBER:

IT was a bad month for the A13, the scene of six road deaths. Those fatalities helped to bring the total for the year to 116, up by a quarter on 2002.

On average in 2003, the force prosecuted one person each month for death by dangerous driving.

New legislation was implemented making it illegal to use a mobile phone while driving unless it was hands-free. The new Airwave radios

will also fall under the legislation.

MIT officers in Harlow completed a re-investigation into injuries suffered by Stuart Lubbock discovered following his death at a party in Roydon in 2001.

The investigation, requested by the solicitor of the homeowner, found that the injuries could not have been inflicted anywhere but at the residence.



● Stuart Lubbock.



● Pc Mike McSweeney helps Laura Cox convey the dangers of speeding to motorists outside her school. Photo: Clifford Hicks, East Anglian Daily Times.



● A selection of weapons - some replica some real - which are on the open market. Photo: Nick Ansell, Evening Echo.



● Daniel Maylin and Maxine Panther shine the light for the new PCSOs in the Harlow division. Photo: Susan Wright, HQ Photographic.

Health check

WE all spend long periods at our workstations, so our muscles can end up feeling tired and tense.

Pause Gymnastics are simple exercises designed by physiotherapists to move joints and stretch muscles.

They can be done in a few moments at the desk.

Try a selection of these:

● **STRETCH** the head from side to side (ie ear to shoulder).

● **BREATH** in, pull in the chin to make a double chin; hold for five seconds then relax.

● **STAND** up; put the palms in the small of the back and gently bend backwards.

● **INTERLOCK** the fingers; turn the palms to face away from you and lift the arms up so the palms face the ceiling. Now stretch the arms gently behind the head.

● **STRETCH** the arms back to each side at about hip height. Keep the elbow straight and then bend the wrist (palms facing out). Gently try to get the arms as far back behind the body as possible.

● **CURL** the fingertips of the right hand into the palm. Keep the right elbow straight and with the left hand passively bend the right wrist so the palm side of the hand moves towards the inside of the forearm. Repeat on the other side.

Feel a difference? Muscles less tense? Try one or two stretches every 20 minutes or so. If you have any existing muscular/joint problems, you should seek medical advice first.

Skill and courage rewarded

A TEAM of detectives from Rayleigh have received Chief Constable's Commendations after their determined efforts to bring a potential murderer to justice after an attack in September 2002.

DI Paul Everett and Ds Malcolm Buckley were commended for the high level of skill and professionalism they displayed.

A young man was left with hideous injuries after being attacked with a petrol-driven concrete cutter.

The offender was arrested the following day, and later sentenced to 13 years imprisonment.

Thurrock officers Sgt Janet Anderson and A/Sgt Michael Taylor were commended for their actions at a fire at Leatherland Lodge, South Ockendon in May last year.

Upon the officers' arrival at the complex it was clear that the incident was very serious.

The officers took control of the incident and with colleagues from other emergency services cleared the complex of elderly residents, many of whom were very frail and scared.

Drink drivers still on the up

A BUS driver is halfway through a four-month prison sentence after being found to be over four times the legal alcohol limit while driving.

The 35-year-old man Chelmsford was driving a single-decker bus that was in service on route to Harlow from Chelmsford.

This was just one example that officers from across the force came across during the Christmas drink-drive campaign which showed that 4.1 per cent of motorists stopped were found to be over the limit.

The force teamed up with Chelmsford-based radio station Dream FM and First Great Eastern

By Nishan Wijeratne

Railways in a bid to help drive home the dangers associated with drink-driving, including the effects of morning-after alcohol levels.

A total of 6,414 tests were carried out, with 264 drivers providing positive breath specimens and another 32 refusing or failing to provide a specimen.

Road Policing Inspector Nick Burston is determined to rid the county of these dangerous motorists who believe they are above the law.

"This set of figures, in comparison to last year's, shows an increase in the number of drink-drivers here in Essex," said Insp Burston. "This disappoints me as there is a significant proportion of the motoring public that is continuing to blatantly break the law. It's extremely disconcerting that, despite numerous

publicity campaigns, drivers still consciously choose to put themselves and other members of society at risk.

"The support and partnership approach offered by both Dream FM and First Great Eastern Railways is greatly appreciated as it is important that companies help convey such a road safety message."

A further 23 motorists were arrested on suspicion of driving whilst under the influence of drugs.

Insp Burston added: "Four drivers were arrested on Christmas Day morning alone. One woman was found slumped in her car after she had crashed. Despite crashing some five hours earlier, she still managed to blow a positive at the scene.

"I'm grateful for the contribution and efforts of the officers in detecting and dealing with offending drivers."

In 2002, a total of 6,591 tests were carried out, with 225 drivers providing positive breath specimens; a hit rate of 3.4 per cent.

Mark of quality for team

A PRESTIGIOUS accreditation to a global quality system has been awarded to the force's Transport Services team.

The ISO 9002:2000 has been built on the team's BSI accreditation achieved in 1993. Then, the workshops were the first police vehicle maintenance organisation to achieve that benchmark.

Head of Transport Services John Gorton said: "This new standard is considerably more wide-reaching in terms of quality systems and business processes, and directly links in with Investors in People and the Business Excellence Model."

Since 1993, the standard has been revised to give wider coverage of service industry factors.

It now features new clauses such as the requirement to evidence continuous improvement and effective customer communication.

Mr Gorton added: "My team has worked hard towards this accreditation, and is rightly proud to have achieved this standard."

Step closer to a new station

THE building of a new police station in Dunmow is set to take a step forward, with contracts due to be exchanged with the landowners as *The Law* was going to press.

If everything goes to plan, Braintree Division will have a modern facility within the next two to three years equipped to house over 150 personnel, including resources that the division currently has to draw from elsewhere in the county.

A new station has been in the pipeline for a number of years and, development on the outskirts of Dunmow, including improvements to the A130 and A120 roadways, have provided a prime location.

Just before Christmas, the Essex Police Authority Resources and Finance Committee approved the purchase of the land allowing contracts to be exchanged.

The force now has three months to submit a detailed planning application.

If accepted, there will be a period of at least nine months for architects to finalise designs before construction, which will take between a year and 18 months.

Although the building will replace the existing section station in Stortford Road, the town will not lose its police presence.

Discussions have taken place with Uttlesford District Council regarding shared use of their local offices in Dunmow.

One key asset the new build will bring is a scenes of crime capability, currently unavailable within the division.

It will be headed up by a detective sergeant and five scenes of crime officers, with administrative support.

There will also be a lab facility, high quality photo studio and an anti-contamination room.

Another benefit of the proposal is a large room to cater for divisional defensive skills training. This can be adapted to two classrooms or incident rooms.

Road policing officers from Bocking will be based there, as will the local dog section.

There will also be an archive facility, capable of storing documentation for the next seven years, and a finishing kitchen which will allow for outside caterers to provide hot and cold food to personnel during an emergency or major incident.

Divisional commander Chief Supt Sue Harrison said: "We are pleased that the new station is now a step closer.

"The extra facilities the building will provide will be extremely beneficial to the logistics of policing the division and to the personnel who work within it. It will also help to ensure that we continue to provide a first-class service to residents and visitors to the area."

Your views on uniform

FEMALE officers are being consulted over a new two-piece uniform to replace the traditional coverall worn in situations such as public disorder.

Although the coarse, flame-retardant materials used in the coveralls have been refined in recent years, they can still prove uncomfortable.

Other problems surfaced this summer during hot weather when female officers, in particular, were not taking on enough water and began to feel unwell. A one-piece uniform with a fully-laden equipment belt also makes comfort breaks for women very difficult.

Practical Skills Sgt Tim Johnstone looked at several items and narrowed the designs down to two. Officers were then asked to take a look at the two suits and make suggestions for the way forward.

A key issue is that a two-piece uniform still needs to be secure in the middle to meet flame-retardant tests. A zip joining the jacket to the trousers was one designer's solution.

The evaluation sessions received a reasonable response and the feedback and various suggestions for improvement will be raised with the two designers.

Once a design has been agreed a budget will be identified and the new uniform ordered. It will be issued only to those female officers who carry out public order and firearms roles, are on the dog section, or have a search capability.



● Pc Jo Taylor of Southend models one of the proposed new uniforms.



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Friendly face of

sadness

Names in the news

GRIEVING families in north-east Essex will have a new face to deal with from now on as Nick Waltham has hung up his gloves as Tendring's coroner's officer after serving 30 years with the force.

The 49-year-old former constable from Little Clacton was the "friendly face at a time of sorrow", ensuring families were looked after at the time of tragedy.

Nick had worked in Harlow, Ongar, Harwich and Chelmsford before becoming a coroner's officers; a position he had held for the past 10 years.

"In a strange way, I'll miss the work," said Mr Waltham. "It's not everybody's cup of tea. They all had some effect on me, with hanging the way most chose to end their life."

"I would sometimes sit there with the file and if I had a suicide note, I just wouldn't look at it until just before the inquest. It's the words that get to you."

He conceded that few people would want to do his job.

"You've got to be a certain person. It's the way you talk to people. Some just want to talk as they have no one else and you're the only one."

"Baby deaths were very upsetting. You don't take it home with you because if you did, you would not be able to do it."

Julian Coady has retired following 30 years' policing. The 53-year-old ended his time with the force

in the community safety section at Rayleigh.

Allison Campbell put her stripes away for the last time in December as she retired from the force following over 23 years' service.

The 55-year-old finished her career at South Ockendon.

Christopher Rawlison completed just under 31 years with Essex Police before retiring at the beginning of this month. The 51-year-old former sergeant ended his career in the force information room.

Dick Steane retired last month after serving just a couple of days over the 30-year mark.

The former sergeant finished up as a force driving school instructor, after serving at Basildon, the information room, force support, Harlow traffic, Chelmsford and Harlow.

He said: "I've thoroughly enjoyed the job. I've been the longest period of my service at the driving school, seeing it through good and challenging times. I'm very proud to have worked there and leave not only colleagues, but a host of friends."

"I'm not leaving a bitter and twisted man as I've worked with

some characters which have ensured I enjoyed my time. I look forward to keeping in touch with these people."

The 49-year-old has now started his new job with the Ministry of Defence as a driving instructor.

Former constable, **Ray Williams** retired at the beginning of the month after over 23 years' service. The 54-year-old concluded his time with the force in the community section at Basildon.

David Leech, 50, completed one day over the 30-year mark before he retired, finishing his police career as a constable at Stansted Airport.

Richard Day retired last month after just under 29 year's service with the force. The 55-year-old former constable said farewell to his colleagues in Southend.

Ian Wright retired after 30 years' service with the force. The 50-year-old former detective constable completed his term at the Technical Support Unit in crime division.

One of the founder members of the Essex Black Police Association (EBPA) left the force

earlier this month, with **Rose Lewis** starting a new beginning in Lancashire.

Ms Lewis is first getting married on the top of Mount Sinai in Egypt before embarking on her new career as a freelance training consultant.

The former learning resource developer was the first deputy chair of the EBPA when it launched in 2000, helping to bring minority ethnic issues to the forefront of policing in Essex.

She said: "I've experienced a lot of firsts during my 10 years with the force; I was the first member of police staff to become a qualified police trainer (1996).

"I'd like to thank everyone who has enabled me to develop myself both professionally and personally. I've had many good years with Essex Police and will always be grateful for that."

Obituaries

FORMER constable **Stanley Bailey**, better known as Craig, has died aged 77.

Mr Stanley, from Bishop's Stortford served from 1952 to 1982 at Harlow and died on December 18 leaving a widow Hildegard.

December 20 saw the death of **Desmond Biggs**, a former sergeant from Chelmsford.

Mr Biggs joined Essex Police in 1950 serving in Romford, Colchester, as a driving instructor at the driving school, and the HQ garage.

He was 75 years old when he died leaving a widow Audrey.

Former constable **Robert Gibbins** (known as Peter) died last month aged 72.

Mr Gibbins began his policing career in 1957 and served at Southend, Rayleigh and road policing. He leaves behind his widow Kay.

IPA

THE AGM is due to be held at the Sports Pavilion on Thursday, March 18.

Members from the 10 regions are invited to attend the meeting which begins at 7.30pm.

A buffet will be available, with the bar open as well.

For further information, contact Steve Hunt on ext 70432.

Top dog at Ashford

YET another Essex probationer has been awarded a training accolade at Ashford.

Martin Stedman, who recently completed Stage 2, was presented with the 'Best Achiever/Developer Award' after performing the best in academic and personal development.

Comrades unite

THE AGM of the Comrades' Association will be held on Thursday, January 22 at 3pm at the Federation Office, Stable Lodge, HQ, with all members welcome to attend.

Readers are reminded that membership of this association is open not only to retired officers but also to serving officers with 10 or more years' service.

The annual subscription is just £1 and the association particularly welcomes an increase in the number of serving officers.

For more information or details of membership contact Honorary Secretary Sue Kelly at the Federation Office on 01245 491491, ext 54501.

Market Place

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

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FLAT for rent in Leigh-on-Sea, single bedroom, modern, spacious unfurnished, fitted kitchen. Car parking. £500 per month. Contact Phil Golding on 01268 757623.

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TWO bed, 3-storey luxury villa, Costa del Sol on famous 5-star La Cala golf course. 15 mins from Marbella at La Cala de Mijas. Very private shared pool, all usual high-class facilities including sun terrace and private square. Very tranquil. From £400 per week for villa. Contact Derek Patten on ext 47434 or 07958 209909. In addition, visit www.sunholdirect.com (ref C185).

TWO bed bungalow, Costa Blanca. Large roof terrace and patio, BBQ, rear door to shared secluded pool, satellite TV from £100 pw. Contact Tony on 07906 655958.

WOOLA COMBE, north Devon. New three-bed, fully-equipped holiday cottage situated on 18-hole golf course. Beautiful views, outside heated pool, fishing lakes. Contact Lydia Odell on 01245 358837.

Choir charity concert cash

MORE than £3,000 has been raised for the ophthalmic unit at Broomfield Hospital by the Essex Police Choir.

The choir's first concert of 2004 will be at the Salvation Army Citadel in Southend.

Tickets are available from Doriel Philips on 01702 557688 and details of forthcoming concerts

can be found on the force website.

If you can't attend a choir concert, the group has a few of its CDs left, called 'On the Beat with the Essex Police Choir'.

The CDs are priced at £10 plus £1.75 post and packaging, and are available from Mrs Adams on 01376 514461.

Lottery results

THERE was a festive bonus for Pc Karen Kendall from Thurrock who scooped £1500 in the Christmas lottery. Pc Steven Terry, from Basildon, took second prize of £750 while Lydia Odell from Chelmsford won £375 and Pc Jane Ball from HQ FIR won £200.

As a Christmas gesture there were double the usual number of 50 consolation prizes which were awarded to: Sgt Justin Siggins, Thurrock; Kim Perks, HQ; Lynda May, HQ; Sgt David Bishop, Thurrock; Laurence Hayes, HQ; Chief Supt Mick Thwaites, Southend; Pc Steve Holgate, Rayleigh RPU; Pc Clive Harding, Marine; Ds Tom O'Brien, Brentwood; Mr G. Moss, retired; Pc Aidan Brick, EPTC; Insp Keith Beechener, HQ; Pc Mark Sawyer, Shoeburyness; Pc Melvyn Buckley, Stanway RPU; Det Supt Win Bernard,

Crime; Insp Paul Hand, HQ; Pc Gary Jackson, Shoeburyness; Pc Patricia Foster, Pitsea; Sgt Paul Lawson, Harlow; Pc Richard Day, Leigh.

In the November lottery, Insp Mark Furneaux took the top award of £1500, with Pc Michael Florey from Tendring winning £750, Pc Stephen Harris from Rayleigh winning £375 and Pc Rob Sharman from Stanway RPU winning £200.

Consolation prizes of £50 went to: Jo-Anna Sainty, Harlow; Bernadette Giffen, Loughton; Dc Mark Spellman, Stansted Airport; Pc Trevor Abrahams, Tendring; Reg Shelley, retired; John Preston, Rayleigh; Brian Boon, HQ; Pc Keith Draycott, Rayleigh; Pc Samantha Clark-Smith, Leigh and Sgt Russ Abbott, Laindon RPU.

Fond memories of a fallen hero

RECOLLECTIONS of a constable who died during service 26 years ago have been rekindled by a former pupil whose memory was jogged by a website.

Seb Rees, 33, happened by chance upon the reference to Pc Leslie Bloom on the Essex Police Memorial Trust website.

The Trust, chaired by Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark, honours the memory of officers who have died either in service or during the World Wars.

Pc Bloom, who was 30, served from November 1967 until his death in January 1978. He was killed when his motorbike was in collision with a van in Colchester.

As a child, Mr Rees attended Great Tey Primary School, where Pc Bloom regularly gave road safety awareness tuition and was known to the youngsters as 'Pc Blue'.

Mr Rees said: "I never forgot about Pc Bloom and, as I grew up, he became my 'mental mentor' in helping me keep on the straight and narrow while using the road. When I entered the website it was as if my mentor jumped right off the page and I am thankful for that."



● L-R, former ACC Geoffrey Markham, Seb Rees, David Whiting, Wendy Bloom and Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark

At Christmas, Mr Rees met at headquarters with Pc Bloom's daughter Wendy, 29, who presented him with a county council calendar from 1979 featuring a picture of her father working with schoolchildren.

They were joined by DCC Clark and former ACC Geoffrey Markham, who founded the Memorial Trust.

Wendy said: "When I saw Seb's message on the website it was so touching that it brought me to tears."

"It's wonderful that the site exists, and that it brings such nice tributes from people."

Wendy's father was buried at Elmstead Market, where she and her fiancé David Whiting will be married in June.

DCC Clark said: "The website is a great idea which has hits from all over the world. It makes links between people who wouldn't otherwise come together and share experiences, and is a valuable archive of the force's history and heritage."

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'HAPPY TIME' EVERY MONDAY 7.30PM TO 9.30PM

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Saturday, February 14, 2004

Come as famous lovers - prize for best costume

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March 2004

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FOR QUERIES ABOUT EVENTS OR TO BOOK FUNCTIONS AND CORPORATE MEETINGS CONTACT SAM OR JO ON EXT 58884 BETWEEN 9.30AM, AND 12.30PM WEEKDAYS

Making a song and dance of it

IT'S nearly show time again, with the Essex Police Musical Society busy rehearsing songs, painting scenery, making costumes, and learning lines and dances, for the next show in February - *Kiss Me Kate*.

The show is about a theatre group putting on a production of Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, with the troubles of a temperamental leading lady, a case of mistaken identity,

and some over-eager gangsters.

It will be staged in the assembly hall at police headquarters, during the week of Monday, February 16 - Saturday, February 21, starting at 7.30pm, with a matinee on the final day starting at 2.30pm.

For tickets please contact Lynda Barkway on ext 50739, or Justina Becousse on ext 51037 (01245 452179 external).

Charity auction

MORE than 30 items from the former Essex Police Dining Club are to be auctioned off to raise money for charity.

The club disbanded in 2001, leaving various items redundant, which will be sold via intranet and phone bidding, with a minimum bid set by the auctioneers.

They include lead crystal jugs at a minimum of £10 each, rose bowls at a

minimum of £6 each, crystal decanters at £10 each, and two silver-plate candelabras at £8 each.

Bids can be made online or, for those no longer within the organisation, through Sgt Trevor Roe in Executive Support on ext 51015. The final day for bidding will be Friday, January 23, when winning bidders will be contacted to arrange collection of items.

New chair for funday

A NEW chairman has been elected to the force 4x4 Funday committee following the recent AGM.

Sgt James Grant previously held the post of vice-chair but, following a vote, the Basildon officer was promoted to the top spot.

Outgoing chairman, Sue Adkins, delivered her annual report which contained nothing but praise for her fellow committee members, officers from Colchester's Royal Military Police and all those who had given up their time voluntarily to assist with events over the past 12 months.

"James was a popular choice to take up this year's reigns," said Ms Adkins. "He has been involved with the 4x4 Funday since its inception and has put in a lot of hard work over the years."

A special note of mention was also made for the efforts from Mobile Support who assisted with events by providing dog units and visits by the force helicopter. The Essex Ambulance service and Essex County Fire & Rescue Service were also thanked for supplying teams and vehicles.

Other notable appointments included John Gorton to vice-chair, with Ms Adkins taking up the role as treasurer and Pc Andy Wells as secretary.

All other posts were filled and included the election of five newcomers to the committee.

Sport
and LeisureLose
festive
pounds

SHED those Christmas calories with a weekly aerobics session which won't break the bank.

The well-established and friendly class is held every Thursday evening between 7.15pm and 8.15pm at the training centre sports hall and is suitable for all levels.

It costs just £1 for members of the sports and social club and £2.50 non-members. Friends and family are welcome to join in the fun.

So if fitness is your New Year's resolution what better way to start?

Quiz cash
for cancer
charity

CHARITY quiz nights staged by Tendring Division Sports and Social Club are making an impact.

The latest quiz raised £307 for the Sargent Cancer Care for Children charity. This followed a donation of £130 to the Victim Support Service from the first quiz in the series.

Contestants will have the next opportunity to test their brains in aid of a good cause in the bar at Clacton police station on March 12.

TV award

FORMER Press Officer Paul Dunt has won a prestigious Royal Television Society Award as co-producer in the category for best regional television programme.

Made in Luton, part of BBC's *Matter of Fact* series, took a look at the last Vauxhall cars being produced at Vauxhall's Luton plant.

Paul worked for Essex Police from 1990 to 1993.

His previous work includes *Biker's Heaven*, which featured the Responsible Rider Campaign and interviews with the traffic investigation unit.

Christmas mud
sweat and cheers

SEVERAL of the force's officers were among those who took part in the annual Maldon Mud Race at Christmas.

The race, across the River Blackwater and back at low tide, started out as a bet between two friends around 30 years ago.

It has since developed into an Essex festive tradition, and is now organised by the Lions Club and Rotary Club of Maldon.

Competitors, taking part in the 150m haul, raise money for various charities.

This year, cash went to the Essex Air Ambulance, Little Haven Children's Hospice and Buddies, which cares for handicapped children in the area.

Participants can donate half of the money they raise to a charity of their own choice.

Unfortunately for Pc Simon Newman, the day ended at Accident and Emergency after he injured his leg during the race.

Pc Allan Barley took part in his fifth Maldon mud race, along with the rest of the Essex Police marathon team.

He said: "We did quite well. The secret is to go as fast as you can because the second you stop for a rest you start to sink in the mud. Simon is OK but I don't think he'll be doing it again!"



● A brave Pc Simon Newman is helped away from the mud race by Paramedic staff, and was later found to have a minor leg injury. Photo: Essex Chronicle.

Seasoned runner beats
Walker past the tape

A GOOD turn-out saw 75 competitors brave freezing fog conditions in this season's Croker Cup cross-country race which was held at the University of Essex's campus in Wivenhoe.

The event also included the third fixture of the eastern/south east police league and, despite the cold temperatures, conditions were ideal for a fast race.

From the beginning, Essex runners were among the leaders in the men's five-mile race, with Derek Walker (Colchester) leading the field through the wooded section on the first lap.

However, as the first incline approached, it was Mick Bond (Chelmsford) who took on the pace and quickly pulled away, going on to win by 30 seconds from Walker, with Kent's Steve Elliot in third place.

At the age of 47, Bond claimed his sixth Croker Cup win and became the oldest-ever outright winner of a league race.

With four runners in the first

eight finishers, Kent were the first men's team in the league contest, just four points ahead of Essex.

Braintree's Alex Webb was the third Essex man (10th overall), just one place ahead of a Chelmsford's Andy Hynes who made a fantastic debut.

Mick Benning, representing headquarters for the first time, finished 53rd but was placed first in the V55 event.

In the women's event, Bedfordshire's Louise Prole comfortably won the three-mile race. However, she could not stop Essex from recording their first league win in over two years when Braintree's 38-year-old Lucy Bradley finished fourth just ahead of Rayleigh's Rachel Crosby, Colchester's Debbie Matey and Southend's Lisa Bolton.

Maddy Pollard, Diane Frew, Karen Nicolaou and Gail Taplin made up the remainder of the team.

Colchester bagged top spot in the Croker Cup competition, totalling 213 points; 21 ahead of Braintree. Chelmsford finished

third, with Harlow, Rayleigh, headquarters and Southend following. There were no entries from other divisions.

I would like to thank everyone for their efforts, especially my own family who did all the marshalling and catering. Derek and Russ helped set the course, with Steven King helping me clear the course at the end in the dark, freezing conditions.

For anyone who may have watched the event or fancies their chances in futures athletics competitions, then please contact me.

● THE annual Croker Cup swimming gala is to be held at its usual venue of Basildon's Gloucester Park pool on January 18.

The warm up is at 6pm with the main event starting at 6.30pm. The event is open to swimmers of all abilities.

Performances at this year's event will be used to pick the Essex Police team to swim at the National Police Championships in April.

Mick Bond

Walker edges
runner into
second place

AFTER the disappointing turn out in the first fixture of the Eastern/South East Police league, Essex fielded a total of 16 runners at St Albans for the second race.

With the support of two new team members in a very competitive ladies event, Rachel Crosby (9th) led Essex to a close second behind Hampshire who had the advantage of fielding race winner & European police champion Sarah Hill (nee Bradbury).

Making their first appearance for Essex were Michelle Berkovitch (11th) and Lisa Bolton (13th). With a bit of support, the ladies could again challenge for the league title.

The men's race saw a reversal of the leading places from race one. Again setting the pace from the start was Mick Bond who held out until half way, only to be passed by eventual winner Nigel Cook (Kent). However, Bond held on to finish second ahead of Essex team mate Derek Walker.

Improving to 11th, Dan Sorrell ensured Essex were second to Kent, who again had seven runners in the first 10 finishers.

