

The Law



The newspaper of Essex Police

Issue 361

November 2004



Keeping tabs on truckers - P8



A year of Special work - P5-7



CID fundraisers on the ball - P11

MP BOOST FOR FUNDING PLEA

ESSEX Police Authority has received the backing of local MPs on funding issues following a successful trip to Westminster.

The police authority chairman, Robert Chambers, and Essex Police Chief Constable, David Stevens, hope the Government will look upon Essex favourably when determining the budget for the county, after lobbying Essex MPs.

Mr Chambers said: "I thought the day was a success. The MPs were very sympathetic to our pleas and they, together with the police authority, will attempt to get extra funds for more visible policing."

Mr Stevens said: "I got a sense of very strong support for Essex Police from the MPs that we met. They were very keen to do all they could to draw to ministers' attention the problems facing the police service."

Early indications to Essex Police Authority have shown that the Government intends to propose a three per cent increase. But the authority made it clear to MPs that the county needs at least 5.5 per cent merely to maintain services.

Mr Chambers said: "Listening to people

By Kate Batson

throughout Essex, everyone is telling the police authority they want more visible policing. The public are also telling us they want a better service from telephone response. The police authority is looking carefully at this and is putting together a new proposal to dramatically improve the service - but this will cost money."

He added: "It looks likely the Government will only be giving us the rate of inflation increase and this will not even cover the extra cost of the officers we already have."

"Essex would need to have a six per cent increase to maintain the service. And the police authority believes the Government should at least try and do what the public wants."

"We at the police authority will be doing all we can to ensure the burden does not fall on local tax payers."

Mr Stevens added: "We don't yet know what we are going to get from the Government, although indications are that it will be around three per cent."

"Essex Police Authority faces difficult choices in closing the gap. One choice is further investment in improving the service given by Essex Police or raising council tax in order to provide sufficient funding to sustain the current levels of service and, indeed, some improvement."

Changes in The Law

THIS newspaper will be sporting a new look from next month in response to a reader survey carried out.

The most noticeable changes will be full colour on all 12 pages and a change to the typeface.

The back page will also become a news page with sport and leisure moving inside.

A new column - Gone but not forgotten - will be introduced alongside the letters.

Each month, the column will profile a former officer featured in the Essex Police Memorial Trust Book of Remembrance.

The editorial team is particularly keen to place a greater emphasis on human

interest stories, and although more corporate updates and items on complex policies and legislation will still be published, more use will be made of other technology referring readers interested in more detail to the intranet.

The team hopes that you will enjoy the new look and will welcome your feedback on the revamped newspaper.

Canteen's scream team



● L-R: Val Stanley, Carol Olsen and Bertha Bannister serve up a Halloween feast to training centre canteen diners.

HQ catering staff staged a hair-raising lunch to celebrate Halloween recently with a blood-curdling menu for diners.

The event saw staff dressing up as witches and devils to celebrate the horror holiday, with both canteens decked out in festive decorations to mark the occult occasion.

Visitors were treated to a menu which included bat's blood soup, battered witch's haddock and

chicken marinated in hot sweet blood.

Vegetarian options featured were balls of fire in spicy pumpkin curry, fried witch's fingers and gooey peas.

Anyone with an appetite left at the end of such dubious delicacies was faced with a dessert of spider's web tart.

Reports that staff used their broomsticks to create a whipped scream have not been confirmed.

Frank and full replies

QUESTION: The Special Priority Payments (SPP) made to all officers in Harlow, Basildon and Thurrock divisions was made to alleviate the problems of recruitment and retention, but was regarded as highly divisive by officers serving at other divisions.

In the last year alone, recruitment has been so effective that there are long waiting lists to join the force.

Will the Chief Constable give consideration to awarding every shift officer a SPP in order to retain frontline officers which is the main issue we're now facing.

Answer (Mr Stevens): Any payment made to certain members of staff can be considered divisive. The responsible thing to do is to use them to address some of the problems we have. It has relieved problems, but has not solved them.

We still have problems getting officers in the bottom half of the county. I am not convinced there is a case made out for making changes to the way we pay this.

Next year, we will have to use two per cent of the pay bill for these payments and cannot pay this to more than 40 per cent of the force.

If we take these payments away, then the problem will

go back to how it used to be. The variable shift system is now so popular that we are having problems getting officers to go into CID.

Recruitment is now slowing down, so the amount of probationers will also be slowing down.

Question: The force has discussed putting photographs of certain officers on the internet under the auspices of the Freedom of Information Act.

Can the Chief Constable ensure that this will not affect those officers in covert and undercover operations?

Answer (Mr Stevens): We will publish unless there is a good reason not to. The officer's views would be taken into account.

We are public servants and it is only right that the public are able to see who their officers are. We will not be unreasonable about this.

Question: In this period of cash restraints and everyone getting value for money, how can the police authority justify spending £2.2m on new offices when funding for new officers and equipment would be seen as better value for money?

Answer (Mr Chambers): Just over 12 months ago, Essex County Council asked the Police Authority to look

Federation Newsline

by Terry Spelman



Chief Constable David Stevens and Chairman of the Police Authority Robert Chambers take part in the annual 'questions and answers' session with representatives from the federation.

for new premises as there was not enough room at County Hall.

Properties in Chelmsford and within a 10-mile radius were considered. It was likely that £150,000 rent per year would be paid. We managed to acquire the plot at £1.7m and, with refurbishment, this came in at £2.2m.

It is much better to have an asset for the people of Essex. The ground floor of these premises is also available for the force to relieve the pressure on headquarters departments.

Question: Prior to their introduction of Police Community Support Officers (PCSO), the Government gave a public assurance they

would evaluate their use.

The Home Office has just published its own analysis which shows no impact on policing.

Is there anything the Police Authority is doing to get its own evaluation on the impact and how are PCSOs to be funded in the future?

Answer (Mr Chambers): The force and ourselves are looking very carefully at the impact of PCSOs in the county. 77 per cent of people think they are the 'next best thing since sliced bread'.

The perception of crime and the fear of crime is rising all the time. We hope that the force can overcome some of that fear.

It does not mean that there will be a smaller number of regular officers. On the contrary, we hope to be increasing numbers.

People want more visible policing. They want to see more of a presence on the streets.

Answer (Mr Stevens): PCSOs are currently funded from Home Office and other grants. We will be facing a potential bill of £11m.

Unless funding is found for this, we cannot guarantee we will be able to continue with PCSOs.

Growth needs to be sustained and the funding for that growth. Sufficient funding hopefully will be built into the system to enable us to sustain both the number of officers and PCSOs.

Question: We appear to be neglecting the Special Constabulary in favour of PCSOs. The Government last year stopped direct entry from the Special Constabulary into the regulars. What are you going to do about this?

Answer (Mr Chambers): The Specials are very special to British policing. The Special Constabulary comprised about 600 officers some two or three years ago.

We now have 340 special constables who are totally committed to the job. We will do anything we can do to encourage people to join the Special Constabulary as that will give them a feeling for the regular police force.

My own personal opinion is that it would be very difficult to police Essex

without the Special Constables.

Question: Thames Valley Police has recently gone down to five BCUs. What do you think the structure of Essex Police will be in two years' time?

Answer (Mr Stevens): I think it will be different. Work is currently ongoing, with a review due at the end of February 2005. All options will be considered. I think we are a long way from regional police forces.

Question: We recently went to the Action Leadership Awards where Mr Chambers presented some awards.

We have had discussions today regarding your recent comments to the press about a fresh start. Could you expand upon your views and have you any message for those people working out on divisions and who are doing a very good job?

A lot of people found the comments you made quite disturbing as our impression is that, as a force, we are doing well.

Answer (Mr Chambers): I was misquoted in the press. We are fortunate. We have an excellent force and, over the last six years while Mr Stevens has been Chief Constable, we have moved a long way to modern policing.

What we have got to do now is move on with the programme that the residents of Essex want us to do and, indeed, the Home Office.

What you have to do today is move on all the time. Each week there are new directives going out. You have to be aware of these and change all the time. I try and get round the county as much as I can.

The police service in this country is the best in the world and Essex is one of the best in the country.

The police authority has to get better at our job too. We have to try and make sure that we give the people of Essex the service they rightly expect - people's expectations are extremely high.

The police authority values the work of the police officers. I apologise if this has caused any concern to them. It is not politically-motivated, but is for the good of the people of Essex.

Working with Mr Stevens, his successor, or the successor after that, the police authority wants to increase the number of regular officers and the number of support staff.

We want to increase PCSO numbers as we believe that is what the public want to see. We also want to increase the number of special constables.

Question: There is concern at the level of

substantive sergeants we do not have. Is there any light at the end of the tunnel?

Answer (Mr Stevens): Absolutely right. There are two possible lights. The first is in relation to OSPRE. This has been fundamentally reviewed and a new scheme is being piloted. The second light is the 'Grow Your Own' sergeant scheme. This has identified people with all the skills and abilities to become sergeants and also identified the ones who are not.

Question: Manning-up levels for normal working days and manning-up levels for bank holidays are often less. Clacton will have less officers on August bank holidays than the following Tuesday. Are we not being dictated by finance?

Answer (Mr Stevens): Decisions are made on an assessment of what the bank holiday will require.

Divisional Commanders should be making an assessment based on a reasonable understanding of what the requirements will be. I will look at the Clacton situation.

Question: Based on numbers to date, the force has served 428 Regulation 9 Notices this year and by the end of the year this will probably be 500. This figure does not include notices hanging over from previous years.

The majority of federation friends are divisional representatives. We know a business case for another full-time member of the office was put in last year by Sue Kelly.

The introduction of the IPCC is going to increase the workload. The Professional Standards Department has had a two-fold increase. We are now up to a strength of 3,200 officers. Complaints will go up and this will put even more pressure on Divisional Representatives. Would consideration be given to an overtime budget and another full-time member of the office?

Answer (Mr Stevens): The business case currently being prepared will be considered along with all other bids. The IPCC will increase the work. We will definitely consider this.

Question: What will be done to address the pensions problem in the future?

Answer (Mr Stevens): Pensions eventually will be moved out of the revenue budget and the Government will pick up the bill. This was thought to happen in 2005 but now looks likely to be 2006. We have enough money in the pensions reserve to deal with the peaks and troughs. Short term, we can deal with this. In the medium term, I am not quite so sure. I am more optimistic though than 12 months ago that this problem can be dealt with.

service line

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A chance to catch up again

TICKETS are still available for a reunion lunch for retired Essex officers who served in the Romford Division before 1965, when it became part of the Metropolitan Police.

The lunch will be held at the Sports Club at Essex Police Headquarters, Chelmsford, on Saturday, November 27.

Tickets, priced at £12, can be obtained from Stuart Mather at Copper Leaves, 25 Queens Avenue, Tower Park, Hullbridge SS5 6PS (telephone 01702 231383).

Cheques should be made payable to S.P.Mather (Lunch account).

Mass in memory

POLICE officers, families and friends are invited to attend a Requiem Mass in remembrance of all deceased police officers, which is to be held at Westminster Cathedral.

The service will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday, November 17.

Officers wishing to attend are requested to do so in uniform.

Changing facilities and refreshments will be available in the Cathedral Hall.

Further information is available from dave.morehead@met.pnn.police.uk

Targeting all the regulars

A NEW scheme tackling the county's criminal hardcore is aiming to slash the number of prolific and persistent offenders in Essex.

The Prolific and Priority Offender (PPO) strategy will build on the 2003 national initiative Narrowing the Justice Gap, which targeted the difference between crimes committed and offences brought to justice.

That saw police focusing on the ten per cent of offenders thought to

By Ben Pennington

be responsible for half of all crime, in tandem with the Crime Prosecution Service's commitment to provide a 'premium service' in dealing with them.

This 'catch and convict' approach has now been extended, with each Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership in the county asked to identify their top ten to 20 offenders.

Now a further two strands are being drawn together to buffer that part of the scheme. The first will see Youth Offending Teams, social services and probation – along with other partners

– engaging in work to identify potential PPOs in order to prevent and deter them from a life in crime.

The other will focus on work by probation, police and prison services to rehabilitate and resettle those PPOs re-entering the community.

Chief Insp Chris Macintosh, of Criminal Justice Department, said: "The Narrowing the Justice Gap initiative has had success, but we and our partners need to treat the problem, not just the symptoms.

"Our aim is to target resources against that hardcore of people who become prolific offenders.

"The PPO strategy is a long-term holistic approach of which Essex Police is only one part, albeit a very active one."

Cash to transform museum

ESSEX Police Museum has been awarded a grant of £43,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund to provide an educational service for visitors.

The museum, originally founded in 1991, has become a registered charity and gained Registered Museum status in 2002.

Its popularity is on the increase, visitor figures have more than doubled over the past 5 years and annual open days are extremely well-attended. With this in mind,

the museum applied for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to help increase access to the museum for groups and individual members of the public, and to move away from being mainly of interest to police officers and staff.

As part of this project, the museum will be refurbished and an education service developed which ties in with the National Curriculum, to encourage Essex schools to make use of this resource.

Curator Sarah Ward said: "As a registered charity which

is largely funded independently of Essex Police, we would have been unable to carry out changes on this scale without the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund. Now we can really make the museum, with its intriguing artefacts and extensive archive, somewhere which the people of Essex will want to visit and use."

Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark, chairman of the Essex Police Museum Management Committee said: "The museum is just one

of the many ways that Essex Police are in close contact with the community. We welcome this opportunity to encourage the public to come and find out more about Essex Police and its history."

The museum will be closed for refurbishment from April 2005 and will re-open in the autumn. In the meantime, all of its History Notebooks are available on the museum website at www.essex.police.uk/museum and it will still be taking family history enquiries.

New team to tackle low-level nuisance

FOUR Rayleigh officers met with their local MPs recently to discuss their new role as members of a newly formed anti-social behaviour team selected to target prolific offenders throughout Rayleigh division.

Sgt Paul Howells and constables Simon Newman, Hayley Rook and Mick West will gather intelligence and mount surveillance to tackle the troublemakers.

All the team are known for their no nonsense approach and they will not hesitate to arrest offenders and where appropriate seek ASBO's to curb their anti-social behaviour.

Rayleigh operations manager, Chief Insp Tony Rayner, said: "One of the biggest concerns of residents in the Rayleigh Division is anti-social behaviour which ruins the quality of life for so many people.

"We have a number of measures in place throughout the division, including dispersal orders, which have drastically reduced levels of criminal damage by 80%.

"Our team of trouble-shooters will take to task persistent offenders and hopefully end the misery for the law abiding members of the community."

Marking terror attacks

LOCAL officers joined colleagues from almost 50 forces around the world at this year's 9/11 remembrance ceremonies in New York.

"A very moving experience" is how Special Constable Doug Warren described the services held at the site of the World Trade Centre twin towers, marking the anniversary of the atrocities on September 11, 2001.

A total of 22 Essex Police officers and specials joined 287 officers from 47 police forces at the main ceremony.

Doug Warren also attended a separate ceremony at the proposed site of a memorial garden to the British victims where a choral tribute was made by the North American Welsh choir.

Doug works as a special in Greatt Dunmow and is also headquarters mail supervisor.

He has coordinated the trips to New York for the past three years.

He said: "I have attended the anniversary ceremonies twice now and have been very moved by the experience."

Drive aims to curb car crime menace

CRIME reduction officers are hoping to raise awareness of a new crime trend in which cars are stolen in bulk.

Nearly 300 cars worth more than £4 million have been stolen since September 2003 in house burglaries and from car showrooms, with just over half recovered.

Cars are stolen from driveways or private garages following house breaks where the car keys are taken, but crime reduction officers have also seen an increase in cars being taken en masse from car showrooms and forecourts.

Insp Dave Northcott from Community Safety is keen to get the message out to patrol officers that they should be on the look out for car transporters travelling at night and asks that they are stopped and the paperwork checked with the driver.

He said: "If an alarm goes off between midnight and 6am at a car showroom or garage there is the possibility that this is our thieves at work.

"I would also ask that when a vehicle is recovered that the date, location and time are all recorded on the crime complaint. Community

Safety is working with FIB in a joint initiative to raise awareness of these 'hot crimes', with posters going out to all divisions to alert officers to the problems."

The Crime Reduction unit has contacted all major showrooms and garages in the county, sending them a letter and posters for display. One garage owner did heed the warnings and became suspicious of a group of men hanging around his premises and decided to take all the cars' keys home with him that night; he also parked the cars in a grouping that made it difficult for them to be driven away. His suspicions were justified when the next morning he found the premises had been broken into but thanks to his foresight, no cars had been taken.

Insp Northcott added: "These stolen cars are sold to a handler for between £250 to £600 who then makes a huge profit in reselling them.

"A crime pattern analysis document will be available shortly on the Crime Reduction website, but contact me at headquarters for any other information."

Trailblazer Rennie in the line of fire

A SCENES of crime officer from Tendring has returned from the USA after completing a fire investigation course there.

After joining Scenes of Crime last year, Ds Rennie Chivers soon developed an interest in fire investigations.

He met up with the International Association of Arson Investigators and attended a fire investigation course at Wethersfield.

At the end of the course, he was asked if he would like to attend the Advanced Cause and Origin/Courtroom Techniques course in the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centre in Georgia, America.

The opportunity came about as a Hertfordshire police officer was unable to take the place offered.

Rennie's spark of interest had been fuelled by the course at Wethersfield and he was so keen to go he attended using annual leave and paid for the flight, accompanying a Hertfordshire fireman.

The two men joined New Zealand, Colombian and American

fire and police officers on the two week advanced course.

Top names in fire investigation gave input and burnt scenes were used and x-ray testing was demonstrated.

At the end of the course, Rennie sat an exam, which he passed and was presented with a certificate.

Rennie said: "When I went to America I was by far the least experienced person but I had such an interest that I had done a lot of research.

"The course inspired me and I believe that I am now the best qualified SOCO officer in fire investigation and I am sharing my knowledge with colleagues via a fire investigation newsletter.

"I investigated a recent fatal fire and was able to talk the same language as the fire service and forensic scientists and have reconstructed the fire, made a video and carried out tests to present evidence to the Coroner's Court.

"I look forward to my new found knowledge being a useful resource for Essex Police."

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

Thanks to all

I AM writing to thank you for *The Law* newspaper.

My husband Philip passed away on August 30.

Philip was a fairly regular writer to the letters page of *The Law*, so through this I would like to thank all of his colleagues who attended his funeral.

I would also like to offer my thanks for the donation from NARPO.

Brenda Pewsey
Southend

I HAVE just received my long service medal for nine years' service and ribbon, along with other regular officers and specials at the ceremony at Shire Hall, Chelmsford on October 20.

I was proud and privileged to be able to wear my official tunic once more.

Also on show was my Golden Jubilee medal and ribbon, it filled me with pride.

However, I am really upset that we are not able to display these ribbons with pride on a day to day basis.

With the introduction of the national fleece, the use of the tunic has been relegated to the back of the cupboard. The opportunities for their use are few and far between.

No longer do we wear them in court. In the cooler weather we no

longer use them in the streets.

I may have been more fortunate this year than most, as I was able to wear it at the New York 9/11 memorial and the national police memorial in October at St. Paul's.

I have to ask: with the fading out of the issue of tunics for new police starters, both regular officers and specials, those that qualify in future for long service medals or Queen's/King's medals, on what are they to wear or sew them?

Special Constable Doug Warren
Dunmow

World walker needs backing

I AM writing with the hope that you will give consideration to sponsor my son who is walking around the world in aid of Cancer Research UK.

It is his ambition to raise £1,000,000 for this worthwhile cause.

I am well aware of the support given to many charities by Essex Police. I myself received excellent support from the Southend Branch of NARPO and the

former members of the Southend on Sea Borough Constabulary in April this year, in my sponsored walk from Dover to Buckingham Palace for Cancer Research UK in April.

My son will be leaving Buckingham Palace on 29th October 2004, walking to Dover, he will then travel to mainland Europe by ferry, and then commence his walk

across Europe and Russia, then on to Japan, Australia, and the United States of America.

He will then fly from New York to Heathrow or Gatwick, travel back to Lands End and then walk to Buckingham Palace. He will pass through 543 towns, cities and villages, over an 18-month period.

What we are looking for at this stage is sponsorship for

my son directly. He is entirely self-financing and his savings will cover him until Australia, presently. We are therefore looking for any contributions towards his personal, basic living expenses to allow him to complete the entire journey. To support him in his efforts, please visit www.worldwalker.co.uk

Mr AA Cundy
Retired Constable

Appeal for families of woods babes

IN October 1986 my niece and her friend were murdered and since the murder my family have been seeking justice for the girls.

The media referred to their deaths as "The Babes in the Wood Murders".

In the last 18 months we have received a tremendous amount of help and support from a voluntary child

protection group called Phoenix Survivors run by a lovely lady, Shy Keenan, who readily puts herself forward to help others.

Sadly they are in financial problems and likely to close down and this would be a tragedy. Can I ask *The Law* readers if they can help?

This can be done by either a small

donation by cheque to Phoenix Survivors, c/o 81 East Road, Tylorstown, Mid Glamorgan, CF43 3DE or by phoning the donation helpline 0905 4360106.

This call costs just £1.30, of which a £1 goes to the group.

Ian Heffron
Retired Essex Officer

Jim Macdonald
Colchester

Are police wrong to belong?

I FOUND the letter of former Dc David Ward (*The M Word*, October *Law*) quite interesting.

Firstly due to David's rather angry response to what were, I suspect, some "tongue in cheek" comments from a Mr White in a previous issue, I assume he is a Freemason. He seems to have a good knowledge of the subject and, actually, he taught me more about Freemasonry in a few lines than I had previously learned during my 30 years Police Service. If rumours were correct I must have rubbed shoulders with quite a few Freemasons within the Police Service and yet I never found anyone who would admit to being one. Why should it be a taboo subject?

Human nature being what it is any organisation which appears to be run shrouded in secrecy, is certain, rightly or

wrongly, to attract rumour, innuendo and general comment, fair or otherwise.

I thank David for trying to enlighten us more about the charity work of Freemasons but I, and I'm sure many others, would like the secrecy of Freemasonry to be removed much more especially where it is connected with the police service. You suggest that those who make comments are ignorant, yes, of course they are. Ignorance is defined as 'a lack of knowledge' - how can anyone be otherwise if they are kept in the dark!

David Rose
Ex-Pc

MR Ward's recent correspondence concerning Masonic and BPA membership is in itself a prime example of the attitudes that he condemns in his letter.

The argument he uses to condemn critics of Masons is

The debate over Freemasons and political membership continues with a selection of edited letters

even more relevant to his argument against the minority police associations. On the one hand he self righteously accuses the uninitiated as bigoted and ignorant, who know nothing of the inner workings of a Masonic temple; yet criticises the need for a Black Police Association. Surely this stance is, in itself, bigoted and ignorant. Does he know what it's like to be a minority police officer in a service which is still haunted by racism, sexism and bigotry?

This attitude goes to prove the need for the BPA and other organisations until we look for and attain understanding and respect of our entire workforce and community.

Membership of the British National Party has been banned partly because they purport to be a serious, lawful and righteous political party; evidence suggests they are hiding their true aims and beliefs from society.

As long as Freemasonry hides their workings and ideals behind the front of a charitable institution and retains the secret ceremony, then questions will be asked of them.

If I am wrong please let the Freemasons enlighten me of their secrets and rituals so I can cast off this cowl of ignorance; I won't hold my breath.

Graham Pipe
Force Information
Room

DAVID Ward's letter refers to outlawing the BNP within the police service.

Anyone may create a political party in our democratic country. If one disagrees with the policies, one does not vote for it and it will die. In disagreeing, many would fight for free speech. To ban any political party and freedom to join it has never been implemented.

Senior civil servants under their employment contract are "politically restricted" and must provide impartial advice to ministers. Sadly, some Labour ministers, including Blair, who appointed spin-doctor Alastair Campbell on a salary of £131,000 a year funded by taxpayers, ignored the civil servants code. An intelligence dossier was "sexed up" on WMDs, now described as "words of mass deception". Sadly, Dr David

Tribute to a one-off

I WOULD be most grateful if you would allow me to clarify details of the late Arnold Williams referred to in the October issue of *The Law*.

Arnold was known as "Andy" by almost all who knew him.

He joined the force in 1958 and served his first six years of his service in the Chelmsford Division and, for a time, he was one of the original officers to be involved in the section then known as the underwater search and recovery unit (affectionately called the Froggies).

In 1964 he was posted to the Traffic Department at Colchester Police Station, which was later moved to the new traffic garage at Stanway, where he remained until his retirement in 1983.

Andy was a most enthusiastic policeman who really loved his job.

He was a keen sportsman, having represented the force at tennis and his division for many years at football. He was even playing five-a-side football up to a few weeks before he died.

He was an avid supporter of our local NARPO branch, having recently joined the committee.

I was proud to have known him for virtually all his service, he was a one-off with a wonderful sense of humour (as a fanatical supporter of Ipswich Town he had to have a sense of humour).

He will be sadly missed by the many who knew him.

Jim Macdonald
Colchester

Kelly committed suicide.

The Black Police Association is based on skin colour, but there is no "white" or other skin coloured associations. Sometime ago, the BNP described this as prejudice and discrimination.

Brian Jordan
Former Detective
Constable

PERHAPS the reason for Freemasonry being seen by some as questionable within the police service (*October Law letters*) is a suspicion that it could give rise to special treatment for people from the same lodge.

Yes, Masons do marvellous work for charity, but I feel the organisation should be treated in the same way as the British National Party, which police officers are now no longer allowed to join.

Name and address supplied.

Special Edition

A round-up of the work of the Special Constabulary for 2003/2004

Praise from
the Chief
Constable

New leader takes volunteers reins

THE Special Constabulary is at the heart of our drive to improve frontline policing.

The public wants to see the reassuring presence of a uniformed member of staff on our streets and they want that person to be part of their community.

The Special Constabulary helps to meet that need and I know regular colleagues recognise that without the dedication of their volunteer counterparts their task would be much harder.

Much has been said and written in recent years about an apparent decline in community spirit. Several hundred Special Constables, willing and able to serve their neighbours, are overwhelming evidence that a sense of community responsibility is alive and well and living in Essex.

I would like to express my personal thanks to each of you and wish you many more years' successful service.

David Stevens
Chief Constable

THE Specials' new Commandant believes that the year ahead will prove to be "exciting times" for the Specials in Essex.

George Cook, who has now been with the Essex Police Special Constabulary for more than 40 years, said that being made Commandant was an "honour and a pleasure".

Acknowledging the work of former Commandant Alan Hill, George said: "I want to pay tribute to my predecessor and thank him for his guidance and expertise over the years.

"The way forward for Essex Police

Special Constabulary is to build and enhance upon what Alan has worked to achieve."

George has set out his key priorities for the next year as utilising extra Home Office funding to employ more staff to improve recruitment, retention and training, and working to with enhancing employer support.

"There are so many wonderful people in Essex Police and I'm looking forward to continuing to work with all of them," he said.

• After more than 37 years with Essex Police Alan Hill is sad to be retiring but it is "the right time and for the right reasons", he says.

Alan's seven years as the top man followed 30 years as a regular officer, including CID, three years as a UK drug liaison officer working in Madrid, and retiring as divisional commander of Stansted Airport.

Alan was asked by then Chief Constable John Burrows to take over the role as commandant in May 1997. He was delighted to accept as he felt that this was a way of giving something back following an enjoyable career.

He said: "I have enjoyed every minute of my time with the Specials. The commitment, enthusiasm and eagerness that they have for their jobs is unequalled, I cannot speak highly enough of them.

"The Chief Constable and divisional commanders all acknowledge that without the contribution Specials make, especially at weekends, then it would be difficult to police Essex."

Alan believes things have changed for the better over the last few years. When he started out, Specials did not have radios but

now all have personal issue airwave sets. Another big step forward was for volunteers to be permitted to drive police cars, and the letters SC removed from their epaulettes so they are indistinguishable from regular officers.

"The training they now receive is tremendous and is better than it has ever been," said Alan. "They are a great group of people and I am proud to be associated with them.

"Historically the commandant has been a retired police officer but George Cook, my deputy, takes over and this is the first appointment from within its ranks. This reflects the quality and skills of senior officers and that they are more than able to lead the service."

Alan will continue to work part time for a firm of solicitors and spend more time with his wife Margaret. "If I was a young man I would do it all over again," he said.

Top award for tough Liz

AN off-duty Special who battled to detain a prolific shoplifter despite serious injury to her shoulder has been named this year's winner of the Norman Dooley Trophy.

Tending Special Constable Liz Donovan, 48, needed several months of recuperation after the incident last November, and has only recently returned to work.

The Dooley Trophy is awarded to the Special deemed to have carried out the most meritorious act of the year, and is given in honour of the late Specials Supt Dooley, who served with the Southend Western Division.

Liz was doing her day job at Boots in Clacton when she tackled the offender, who was seen trying to leave the store with nearly £600 of stolen property. He was challenged by Liz, who has been a Special for a year and a half.

After he tried to escape Liz reached for the bag he was carrying, and a struggle ensued. At one point the thief, who was behind Liz, pulled the

bag and her arm backwards, tearing ligaments in her shoulder.

Mum-of-three Liz said: "That just made me more determined to stop him, and I restrained him with his hands behind his back. The police had been called and turned out quickly when they knew I was involved and who the offender was."

The shoplifter was arrested for assault and theft and later charged with the latter, which earned him a community service order.

In the meantime, Liz's part-time status with her employers means she has gone unpaid during her recovery.

"I don't see myself as being brave," said Liz. "The shoplifter that I tackled hasn't been back to the shop, but my idea of bravery is completely different, such as people who've fought to overcome a disability."

She added: "I'm 5ft 3ins tall and when I wanted to join up you had to be 5ft 4ins. "There isn't that restriction now so I'm doing what I've always wanted to, and I love it."



• Liz receives the Dooley Trophy from Lord Petre, Lord Lieutenant of Essex

Photo: Gary Kenton, HQ Photographic

Gratitude for Special action

AN emotional letter of thanks was received following the actions of two off-duty officers in July.

Divisional Officer Debs Rudd and Pc Ross Luke, who are both based at Harlow division, were on hand when a woman who had been violently assaulted by her partner literally ran into the two officers.

In the letter the woman describes how Pc Luke ran off in pursuit of her attacker and arrested him.

Meanwhile, DO Rudd called an ambulance and gave initial treatment to her wounds, before helping her through an asthma attack whilst remaining very calm and in control.

DO Rudd also accompanied the woman to hospital as she had no one she could call on to help.

The woman said: "I can't put into words what it means to me to know that we have people like DO Rudd and Pc Luke amongst the police force and I truly hope that their acts of complete selflessness that night will not go unrewarded.

"Please thank both of them from the bottom of my heart."

Special Edition

Special Edition

Diverse interaction with the public

OVER the last year, our Specials have been given the opportunity to take complete ownership of certain operations, events and problem-solving initiatives, with the full support of the command team.

Last Christmas, we again ran our annual anti drink-drive campaign, focusing on those who drove home from the railway station after lunch-time drinks.

Based at Colchester's North Station, and working in conjunction with First Railways and the *Evening Gazette*, the Specials offered passengers the opportunity to take a breath test prior to attempting to drive.

The operation was a success, with the team stopping many drivers that would have otherwise taken the chance.

We also received very positive feedback from the public, with officers receiving a Christmas card from one thankful driver!

Special constables from the community policing team (south) successfully ran Operation Summertime, targeting anti-social behaviour in the area.

The Specials provide a continuity of officers for Friday and Saturday nights; something the regulars cannot do.

This has enabled officers to build up relationships with young people from the area and has reduced anti-social behaviour and under-age drinking.

Colchester

Specials are now very experienced at policing local football matches with their large crowds and potential for public disorder.

We have built up a good relationship with the local young fans and now police Club Detention - a monthly disco organised for 12-16 year olds.

The event attracts about 1,500 children from the town and the surrounding areas.

Previously, this event has had problems with a few rogue youngsters causing trouble at, what is generally, a good-natured event but the last three discos have been trouble-free.

In the last year, we have seen a large number of Specials taking advantage of the rapid-entry opportunity to join the regulars, including Colin Shead our former divisional officer.

However, I am pleased to report, that following the very successful recruitment weekend in February, our strength is up nearly 40 per cent over the previous six months.

The successes of the last year could not have been achieved without the dedication and motivation of all the special constables at Colchester and without the support from the divisional command team.

AD/Divisional Officer Leon Dias

A myriad of roles in special policing

Chelmsford

CHELMSFORD town has become a very attractive evening venue for visitors from around the county and further a field, but that brings the problems of late-night revellers as well as drink and public order problems - which have increased many fold.

The division's Specials have played a vital role supporting shifts and staffing ongoing operations like Operation Barros and, more recently, Operation Might.

We have also continued to play a major role in the policing of the division, supporting many of the proactive operations run by the divisional TAC team and community policing teams.

In Maldon, our officers have continued to give invaluable support to the regulars, with many of their proactive operations.

Officers from Maldon and Burnham have targeted the ongoing problem of nuisance youths and underage drinkers with some very good results.

In addition, they have also continued to target speeders around the villages on the Dengie.

Proactive policing yields good results

Thurrock

THE Thurrock Specials have had a very active year, supporting the local community and our regular colleagues.

Unlike other years, due to our deployment policy, our frontline support of community-focused events has reduced a little, but we have still managed to put our mark on the community by supporting various events such as the cycle race, Asian festival, carnivals and musical festivals.

Our deployment is working with the community policing and problem-solving teams. We have been actively patrolling and have taken on more varied and intricate incidents than ever before, with more focused having a positive effect on the pre-planning of the allocation work and responsibilities.

Once again this year, we have seen officers move on from the Special Constabulary - joining the regulars, moving away from the county, extra work commitments and leaving to enjoy the responsibilities of parenthood.

This year has seen some major changes within the Essex Police Special Constabulary.

We have seen stab-proof vests provided for female officers, the issue of personal Airwave radios and new enhanced allowances - all of which, I think, has gone a long way to revitalise the endless enthusiasm and dedication of

our officers.

I would just like to thank all officers for there tireless efforts throughout the year and also to thank all the families who continue to support from behind the scenes and help our officers cope with the every day stresses and strains.

DO Howard Rayner

Special success on board the buses

Rayleigh

IT'S been another productive and progressive year for Rayleigh, with over 14,000 hours and almost 3,000 duties performed.

Throughout the year we covered various events ranging from policing football games at conference side Canvey Island to assisting with the increased police presence at the V-Festival.

During the National Specials Weekend, we patrolled buses, trains, car parks and high streets and staffed recruitment stands at supermarkets, which totalled 250 hours and 35 duties.

We have been involved in divisional operations, targeting nuisance youths, criminal damage, public order and vehicle-related crime as well as intelligence-led initiatives identified by the divisional task group.

Using new powers under the Anti Social Behaviour Act, we

complete restructuring of our training program with more input from regular officers from the division.

With the advances in technology and the need to move away from paperwork, Section Officer Gary Evenett left us on an attachment to headquarters for six months to work on a new computerised recording system for all Essex Specials, which should be of great benefit to everyone.

More recently, Specials from the division attended the September 11th remembrance service in New York.

I would like to personally thank each and every one of my officers for their continued commitment. The hard work and dedication given by everyone has resulted in 67 arrests over the last year and since April 2004 over 7000 hours and 1350 duties have been performed. Well done.

DO Mel Snow

Command team commitment

Basildon

TAKING control of local community events has featured heavily in the work of Basildon Specials over the last year.

The volunteers continued their hectic schedule, supporting the policing throughout the division. The area has had a number of significant major incidents where Specials have turned out to support and assist their regular colleagues.

Numbers have remained static at 27, with special constables contributing 9,013 hours and 1,793 duties. This means an average of 27 hours and 5.5 duties per officer each calendar month - well in excess of the basic requirements.

including our agreement with Thurrock Borough Council concerning noise nuisance patrols.

Once again we worked alongside local environmental health officers for a period of six months, responding to reports from members of the public concerning noisy parties, clubs and industrial units.

Another initiative included our patrols every Saturday and Sunday in areas where motorcycle nuisance was regularly being reported.

The operation lasted for five months and was received positively by our local community and also had a marked response with the reduction of reported incidents. Numerous people were reported and vehicles seized.

I would like to thank all the Specials here in Thurrock and also the regular officers for their total support and commitment over the last year.

DO Ian Reid

Seaside specials seize spectator

Tendring

SPECIAL Constables in Tendring continue to support their regular colleagues with a range of duties despite the challenges presented by the large geographical area and a resident population that can increase by as much as 50 per cent during the summer months.

The division also has its share of events including the Tour-de-Tendring cycle race, the Tendring show, the Clacton Airshow and Clacton carnival.

All these attract large crowds and volunteers from all around the division, with assistance from Colchester providing the necessary police presence. The continued need for the attendance of police officers at these family events is demonstrated by the occasional, but significant situations that arise.

For example, at this year's Clacton Carnival special constables were instrumental in dealing with an incident where an adult spectator was hit on the head by a coin, resulting in a significant cut requiring medical attention, apparently maliciously thrown in to the crowd.

Other Specials were approached by a spectator who had seen a youth displaying a knife amongst the crowd. This youth was subsequently identified, arrested and the knife recovered.

DO Derek Hopkins

Recruiting success

Harlow



● Loughton's Sc Rob King swaps his manager's suit for a police uniform.

THE last year has marked not only the year I took over the role of Harlow's Divisional Officer, but also 12 months of hard work for the division's Special Constabulary with special constables carrying out 7,558 hours of duties.

We have attended over 65 events as well as assisting our regular colleagues and the community policing teams.

The National Specials Weekend saw 25 out of the division's 31 officers give their full support to the various action plans, including road checks and high visibility patrols and warrants.

We have run an effective local recruitment drive, following on from the national campaign.

Open evenings have been well attended and as a result we have succeeded in attracting several new recruits. This year, our training fortnight has been excellent. Our

regular colleagues ran these sessions with both enthusiasm and expertise.

Various topics have been covered and in addition to our compulsory training to meet particular force and legislative requirements, we have also managed to squeeze in driver training for five special constables to drive the mobile police station. This provides greater scope for us when attending events.

Long Service Awards are due this year to Beat Supervisor Bill Boyce, Sc Jeff Osler, Sc Roger Went and ex Sc John English, congratulations to them all.

We have all pulled together this year as a team and for that I wish to thank everyone from the Harlow Division Special Constabulary and colleagues in the regular force for all of their support and commitment over the last year.

DO Debs Rudd

An eclectic mix of urban and rural beats

Braintree

BRAINTREE Division's volunteers implemented a host of special operations that tackled nuisance youths and anti-social behaviour.

The division's mix of rural and urban areas has meant another interesting years for its Specials, covering ground from Saffron Walden through to Kelvedon.

The operation featured high-visibility policing carried out in two teams, which operated in both mobile and foot patrols.

Saffron Walden used the weekend as a recruitment drive in their area, generating a lot of local interest.

The Dunmow section mixed high-visibility policing and interacting with Saturday morning shoppers with recruiting and raising awareness of the work of Specials.



● Witham's Sc Arlen Francke starred in the force's recruitment DVD.

Specials in Witham invited the *Essex Chronicle* to go out with them doing both rural and urban high-visibility patrols on what turned out to be a very busy night.

DO Lynette Flint

Could you be a gov'nor?

STAFF across the organisation are being encouraged to sign up as school governors to support their local community.

The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) is keen to recruit enthusiastic and committed people from within the police service to join others as representatives of the local community.

Volunteers do not have to be a parent or have any specific qualifications, but skills such as negotiating and communicating would be beneficial.

Pc Ian Perkins, from Laindon Road Policing Unit, is a governor at Grove Infant School in Rayleigh where both his daughters attend.

"I took up the role because I wanted to be involved in my kids' schooling," said the 37-year-old. "I get enjoyment out of it and attend as many meetings as I can."

The normal term for serving as a governor is four years and time spent on governing duties is likely to average about six hours a month.

The Local Education Authority publishes vacancies in areas or those thinking about becoming a volunteer can contact a specific school if they have one in mind.

Alternatively, they can contact the School Governors One Stop Shop on 0870 241 3883 or email info@schoolgovernors-oss.co.uk who will send an application form for you to complete and then match you to a school with a vacancy.

Airwave training

MISSED your airwave training at division?

Three dates in November are reserved for airwave training.

They are November 23, 24 and 26. To book a place email Pc John Staines, Airwave Training co coordinator stating your preferred date.

On best behaviour

THREE areas of Essex have been chosen to take part in a Government-backed campaign to counteract anti-social behaviour.

Harlow, Southend and Tendring will be among 50 areas participating in the Together Action campaign, which commits police, councils and other members of crime reduction partnerships to launch initiatives against nuisance behaviour, criminal damage and other anti-social offences.

Hauliers still flouting laws

ROAD policing officers from Bocking were left stunned by the "total lack of respect" some lorry drivers have for people's lives following a road safety operation.

One man employed by a firm was found behind the wheel despite not actually having passed a driving test.

Officers carried out a series of checks on large goods vehicles in a recent three-week-long operation conducted in partnership with the Vehicle Operator Services Agency (VOSA) and carried out on major roads in and around Braintree, including the A120, A131 and the M11.

A total of 307 lorries were stopped, some foreign-registered, and checked for mechanical faults.

Drivers' records were also examined for any signs of excessive driving hours.

Pc Graham Lumley, who co-ordinated the operation, said: "We



● Pc Graham Lumley examines a tachograph chart.

were shocked to discover so many lorries that were in a dangerous mechanical condition. Furthermore, we were disappointed to see so many drivers dangerously tired despite the many road safety campaigns around highlighting this problem. And on one stop, we found a man who has yet to pass a test allowing him to drive such vehicles, yet was employed by a firm to drive every day."

Police had to prohibit 35 drivers from travelling any further, with

nearly 60 vehicles also prevented from being driven because they were mechanically unfit for the road. They were only allowed to take to the county's roads again after they were repaired.

Bocking Road Policing Unit's Inspector Mark Harman said: "One actually tried to hide his driving records which showed that he had driven for 12 hours the day before without any significant break. It is these drivers who put other road users lives at risk."

Records first for force

A NEW team has been created to ensure efficient handling of the force's records.

The recent Richard Report highlighted the importance of information and knowledge management in the police service.

With the implementation of the Freedom of Information legislation in January 2005 and, subject access requests under this and the Data Protection Act having to be completed within strict time limits, the efficient management of its

records has never been more important to Essex Police.

Records Management has replaced the role of Registry as well as the name on the door and the force has also appointed a recognised authority on the subject former Essex superintendent, Mike Frost, as its first-ever Records Manager.

Mr Frost retired in 1994 and went into financial services and was Head of Special Inquiries and Intelligence for the Personal Investment Authority before



● Records manager Mike Frost.

leading the team responsible for Data Protection, Freedom of Information and Records

Management at the Financial Services Authority, the UK's leading financial regulator.

Mr Frost said: "I am delighted to be back. "There's quite a bit to do and some hurdles to overcome but it's very similar to the early days of records management at the FSA.

"It doesn't take long for people to reap the benefits of good knowledge management once the ground work is done."

Mr Frost can be contacted on extension 50650.

Heroes remembered

NINE men from the Southend on Sea County Borough Constabulary who gave their lives in the First World War were formally commemorated for the first time in France earlier this year.

This marked the 90th anniversary of the formation of the Borough police force and the commencement of the First World War.

The remembrance ceremony at the poignant Lochnagar Crater Memorial was chosen to collectively honour and remember the Southend Borough officers.

It is said to be the largest crater ever made by man in anger and resulted from a detonated explosion and marked the start of the Somme offensive.

Superintendent Steve Currell and

Commandant of the Essex Police Special Constabulary George Cook laid a wreath in honour of the fallen officers at the ceremony watched by retired Southend officers Brian Jones and Jim Dickinson.

Later that day the pair laid another wreath at the Memorial to the Missing at Theipval where constables Charles Gillings and George Shipgood are commemorated.

The graves and memorials of George Brenchley, Herbert Guiver, Thomas Joyce, Harry Mann, Philip Saban, Ernest Weavers and Alfred Wilson had a cross of remembrance placed on them.

It was particularly appropriate for George Cook to visit Tye Cott

Memorial to pay his respects to Alfred Wilson as his son Wilfred (Tug) Wilson was a sergeant when George joined the specials.

Wilf, now aged 91, and still living in Southend was aware that his father had died near the Menin Road and that his body was never recovered but did not know until recently that he was commemorated at the Tye Cott Memorial.

The Memorial Committee of Essex Police are now researching the circumstances of the deaths of Colchester Borough and Essex County Constabulary Police Officers who died in the First World War and it is hoped that in 2006 they will be similarly commemorated.

Kids get a taste of work

TOMORROW'S generation is already getting a taste of police work thanks to a work experience scheme which has seen numerous youngsters spend time with the organisation to see what life in their local police is like.

Over the past year almost 70 schoolchildren have had placements with departments across the force.

Assistant Chief Constable (Personnel) Andy Bliss believes the placements benefit both the force and the students.

Mr Bliss said: "The opportunity to build strong links with young people is important; to give an insight into the world of policing and to give staff an insight into the perceptions and experiences of people at school."

Student Neil Bromley, 15, was one of the recent successful applicants to be given a placement with the force, describing it as an opportunity "to see beyond a classroom of 30 teenagers".

"I spent two weeks at police headquarters, working in the Unison section," said Neil, from Chelmsford's Boswells School. "I've always had an interest in the police and so was delighted to get a placement at Essex Police."

Force co-ordinator Sue Rothwell said: "The number of applications is increasing, with schoolchildren clearly having an avid interest in Essex Police."

Relaunch for GPA

THE force's Gay Police Association is hoping to restore confidence for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender staff with the appointment of two new co-ordinators.

Positive Action Officer Pc Tina Royles and Stansted's Jack Coles have taken on the role and are looking to increase membership from all staff regardless of sexual orientation.

The GPA is hoping to become more active within Essex, supporting, assisting and informing staff.

Following complications in changing over the membership system, membership is currently low within the force. If you have not received your copy of 'Over and Out', then you are probably not a member, and should contact either Tina or Jack for information.

The membership application form can be obtained from the website, www.gay.police.uk

If you would like to contact someone in confidence, you can either email GPA@essex.pnn.police.uk or call Tina on ext 54056 or Jack on ext 22822.

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Making sweet music

A LOVE of music will be more than enough to occupy **Pc Ray Smith** as he leaves after 30 years.

Ray set up the Tendring mobile police office and has worked on it up to his retirement. He served all his time in that division, with a long spell at Walton. He remembers being called out to a head-on train crash at Kirby Cross in the early 80's and finding himself all alone to deal with it, with the nearest help two hours away. Whilst he has enjoyed his time he feels that it is now time to go. He sends his thanks to everyone for their time, help and best wishes. Retirement sees him spending more time performing with his band, the Jasper Ceilidh band, and giving talks to clubs and primary schools about acoustic musical instruments. He can be contacted about his music on 01255 676372.

Ds Tim Mildenhall began his career with Essex as a Cadet in 1970 and joined as a regular in 1973 with a posting to Basildon. Work on the major drugs investigation, Operation Lager, was followed by a move to CID, and then onto the role of firearms instructor. Tim was promoted to sergeant in 1989 and moved to Headquarters CID in 1991 where he regularly provided armed protection to VIPs, culminating in protection duties at the funeral of the Queen Mother. A keen athlete, Tim represented the country at national level and competed in the European Police Championship in Berlin in 1974. He will remain with the force as a contingency planner, working at Stansted and funding his four children through university and into employment.

Pc Peter Sarling worked in the motor trade before he achieved his ambition of joining up. Twenty five years later he says that it has not really sunk in yet that he has retired.

Starting at Harlow in 1979, then Brentwood, he joined the training centre as a Development Training officer in 1993. This was, he says, the most memorable

Names in the news

time, with a good band of people and he enjoyed tutoring the new constables and then working on their development. He also remembers some of the high profile murders and spending three days searching the rubbish tip at Pitsea for body parts. Retiring from FIR, he has no immediate retirement plans but will be looking for part time work eventually.

DI David Brew retired at the end of last month from the Economic Crime unit following 30 years and 163 days service.

Vic Russo retires this month as a constable with 26 years service, plus two years as Met Police staff and through his work he has found his true vocation – information technology.

Seconded to PITO for the last two and half years he has stepped straight back into the same job; a job he describes as “brilliant and thoroughly enjoyable”.

He says that there have obviously been a lot of changes in the last 28 years from when he joined up and was posted to Westcliff. He spent most of his service in CID and uniform in Southend then joined the EPICS project in 1994.

IT training both within force and outside, hard work and lots of exams saw him

qualify as a software engineer and he will continue with PITO implementing NSPIS, the electronic custody and case preparation system for forces throughout the country.

Retirement sees **Pc Ken Price** continuing to renovate his Victorian house in Chelmsford with his wife. In the last ten years they have enjoyed buying property that needs work, knocking it into shape then selling it and moving on. Twenty five years police service has been spent mainly in the Basildon division, although he started at Corringham. He remembers 18 months of travelling to Nottingham for the miners' strike and another memory from about 10 years ago was when he was assigned to look after a witness in a major drugs case, called Op Max, which involved 17 defendants. His recipe for a happy retirement: “Chill out, take it easy and enjoy.”

Playing a range of acoustic musical instruments including the mandolin, guitar tenor banjo and bouzouki has been a life long passion for **Insp John Smith** who retires this month.

His 28-year police career began at Basildon and includes spells at Harlow, Clacton, Harwich and Shotley with the final

years spent at Colchester. He said: “I have thoroughly enjoyed the last five years at Colchester; it is a great place to work with an excellent command team.” His retirement plans include spending more time playing traditional folk music at pubs and clubs with his wife Helen, who also plays the Irish bodhran drum as well as an Irish and Appalachian dancer. Currently they are renting a house in Tyne and Wear before deciding where their future lies. Attending more music festivals is also on their agenda. John can be contacted about his music on 0191 252 2620.

Pc Ed Walker retires this month from Southend after service of 30 years and one day.

Ian Frakes retired after a 25 year career that included serving at Brentwood, 11 years at FSU, firearms, and finishing with the Marine Unit.

Living at Bradwell surrounded by water he has no plans, however, of taking up sailing and is content to sit on the sea wall and watch the barges go past. Another music fan, Ian plays the guitar and chromatic accordion. His guitar has been a great way for him to relieve the stress of the job over the years. He loves acoustic gypsy jazz and electric blues which he plays at clubs and festivals and will have more time for now he is retired.

Chris James has called time on his Essex Police career after 25 years in order to pursue his twin passions of car restoration and a property in France.

The former Saffron Walden Ds, who is 51, served with Basildon division for half of his career, but most enjoyed his five years heading up the HQ Car Squad where he became the force expert on stolen vehicles.

His retirement will be spent restoring old cars – Chris specialises in Renault 4s – and hiring out his French residence, but colleagues will still see him as his egg-selling trade thrives at his former place of work.

Still in our memories

Ex-Pc David Wilson has died aged 73 in his home country of Devon. He served from 1953 to 1978 at Harold Hill, Wivenhoe, Chadwell St Mary, Basildon, Grays and Saffron Walden. He leaves a widow Dorothy.

Pete Carr, 38, who

retired as a constable in 2000, has died in Almeria, Spain, following a car crash. He served at Harlow and Stansted Mountfitchet from 1989 until his retirement. He leaves a widow Julia and four children. (see page 12 for information on charity

fund raising rugby match).

William Crisp who retired as a sergeant in 1959, died at Lowestoft in Suffolk.

He had served at Benfleet, Clacton, Chelmsford Manningtree and Pitsea during his 25 year's service.

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COSTA BLANCA 3 bed, 2 bath detached, balcony, solarium, garden, utility, dining, lounge, kitchen, BBQ. Next to golf courses, blue flag beaches. Contact Brian Cook on 07814 591129 or brian.cook@essex.pnn.police.uk

DRASCOMBE DABBER 16ft sailing dinghy. Trailer, outboard, safe family boat. Norfolk Broads mooring paid until April 2005. £2,500 ovno. Contact Mick Berry ednet 51921.

FLORIDA luxury four-bed villa near Disney, beautiful location sleeps ten, own heated pool, free brochure 01702 586092 or www.my-florida-villa.net

FLORIDA Sarasota villa sleeps 6, quiet village environment, communal pool, tennis, bbq, clubhouse, hot-tub, beautiful beaches. Contact Norma Gill e-mail normaisabella@aol.com

FOR SALE Nike Slingshot irons, set 3-PW, steel gents right hand reg. Flex. Hardly used. Very good condition, £259. Contact Mike 01245 491491 ext 54539.

HAMSTER free to good home. Due to change in circumstances must let him go. Cage included, lovely natured. Contact Jennie Davies 07731 360995.

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

ORLANDO Luxury villa. 4 bed, 3 bath, sleeps up to 10. Private screened pool near Disney and other central Florida attractions. For more details contact 01245 266949 or 01376 573406.

ORLANDO luxury villa with private pool. 3 bed, sleeps 8, close Disney from £350 per week. Contact John De'ath on 01245 465855.

ORLANDO villa, 4 bedroom, pool, home overlooking water, close to Disney and airport. nice location. Ask for video. From £450pw. Call Peter/Linda 01245 321378 or petewtaylor@yahoo.com

SCOTTISH Highlands. B&B in Austrian-style home. Fishing, skiing, shooting, walking, bird watching or chill out in 600-acre pine forest. Police discounts. Contact Andy Nunn on 01479 841717 or woodlands.nunn@btopenworld.com

SCOTTISH TROSSACHS real log cabins. Private fishing rights. Cycling, walking, outstanding remote mountain location with complete privacy. National park. Contact Duncan Campbell on 01877384676.

SKODA FABIA 1.2 Comfort, 2003 (53).

One owner, fssh, 24k miles, a/c, pas, r/c/l, e/f/w, a/c glovebox! 2 years warranty remaining, excellent. £5,995 tel 01245 261810.

SWIFT Diamond Caravan Corvette, special edition, one of a hundred. Four berth, cooker, fridge, toilet/shower, flyscreens, sunscreens etc. £3,100 ono, contact Pete Murray 01702 544375.

TENERIFE two-bed two-bath villa, sea view, quiet location, TV, safe, microwave, washing machine and other facilities, communal swimming pool, from £300 per week, contact 01702 201701.

TOASTMASTER weddings, dinners, civic functions, Essex and beyond, adding distinction to any occasion contact Glenn Mayes 07821 375529 or email glennmayes@aol.com.

TWO bed, 2 bath villa, Sarasota, Florida. Quiet location, near restaurants, shops, beaches. Pool, BBQ, tennis available. Contact Norma Gill on 01206 240281.

VILAMOURA, Portugal. Spacious apartment. Lounge, dining area, fully equipped kitchen. Contact Joe Hiluta 01245 421465.

VOLVO 440 1800cc, L reg, two owners, one year's MOT, very reliable, good mileage, clean, £550, telephone 07967 193172.

VW POLO 1.4 CL. 5 door, P reg, central locking, sunroof, electric windows, 6 months tax, FSH. £1,950 ono. Contact Kay on 07867 676345.

Crimefighting charity needs your ideas

THE board of Crimestoppers in Essex is appealing to current and retired police officers and staff for help in raising the charity's profile.

Crimestoppers was established in Essex in 1988, the second force area in the country to set up the charity.

Since then, 1,089 people have been arrested as a result of calls to Crimestoppers' 0800 555111 number. Hundreds of thousands of pounds in property have also been recovered, as well as large amounts of drugs.

The board is always looking to raise funds and to advertise the number, like last month's hog roast at the Chief Constable's house and recent unsolved crimes campaign.

Chair of Essex Crimestoppers, David Bright, said: "After the hog roast, 200 people went away knowing a little bit more about the work we do, and I want to thank the Chief Constable and everyone who helped to make that day a success."

"But we don't have a copyright on the good ideas, and we need your help."

"If any serving or retired officer or member of police staff has any ideas about how to keep the charity in the public eye, then we want to hear from them."

If you have a suggestion which you think will help to promote Crimestoppers in Essex, email Jill Denton at jill.denton@essex.pnn.police.uk

Walker's website

Force Information Room communications officer Paddy Cocks has been busy building a website for Mark Cundy from Shoebury who last month began a round the world walk in aid of cancer charities.

The walk is scheduled to last approximately 18 months.

The website www.worldwalker.co.uk will contain news and a visual representation of how the yomp is progressing.

Open days at Crime

WANT to know more about the different roles within Crime Division and territorial CID?

Open days are being held on Wednesday, November 17 and Thursday 18 at the Three Rivers Golf and Country Club, Cold Norton.

The days are for both police officers and police staff. For more information go to the Crime Division website or contact Nikki Folkard on ext 541119.

Fundraising horse play

A CHRISTMAS disco in aid of abandoned and rescued horses and ponies is being held on November 17 at the Archers pub, Garron Lane, South Ockendon.

Tickets are £6 for adults and £3 for children and include a buffet. Money raised will go to the Essex Horse and Pony Protection Society. Contact Sue Allery on 01268 584603 or Pc Clare Fordham at Pitsea on ext 42135.

Band's Lottery birthday bash

ESSEX Police Band entertained shoppers at Lakeside Shopping Centre in West Thurrock as part of the National Lottery's tenth birthday celebrations on November 6.

The Band, formed in April 1966 is a self supporting voluntary trust and received a lottery grant of £68,000 from Arts Council England in 1996.

This paid for the replacement of musical instrument and to help maintain the band's high standard of music.

Annually the band plays about 32 concerts throughout Essex, ranging from concerts at local village halls to large

venues such as the Cliffs Pavilion and the Brentwood Centre.

Band secretary, Pc Mark Harvey, said: "The lottery grant has enabled the band to go from strength to strength without the need to upgrade and chase funding for new equipment and the raise money for local Essex charities."

The Band's annual Christmas concerts will be held on Thursday 16 and Friday December 17 at the Marconi Club in Beehive Lane, at 7.30pm.

Tickets at £5 each are available from the Marconi Club reception or by e-mail to Joy Madigan.

Sport and Leisure

Concert must for lovers of Proms

THE British Police Symphony Orchestra will be performing its Last Night of the Proms Spectacular Concert in the first week of December.

The show will take place at the Symphony Hall in Birmingham on Saturday, December 4.

Viennese classics by Johan Strauss will line up alongside glamorous numbers such as the Can-can for the event, as well as

music from movies like *The Lord of the Rings*.

Jill Pert will sing a selection of show hits, and the evening will also feature a marching bagpiper.

Audiences will have the chance to join in the finale of *Land of Hope and Glory*, *Jerusalem* and *rule Britannia* in a concert featuring a light show and fireworks.

The day will start with a free children's matinee show of mayhem and music at 2.30pm, before the evening gets under way at 7.30pm.

The show comes at the end of a hectic year for the orchestra, which has performed to over 7,000 people at Proms in the Park in Lichfield, and undertaken a mini-tour of the

Midlands last month to raise £4,000 for charities.

At the beginning of October the orchestra also played at the inaugural National Police Memorial Day at St Paul's.

The 85 members are all serving or retired police officers, police staff or members of the extended police family. They come from across the country to attend rehearsals and concerts in their own time and at their own expense.

Free tickets for the matinee performance are available from matinee@bpso.net or on 01543 512400. Tickets for the evening performance are available from Village Classics Ltd at alex@villageclassicsltd.co.uk or 01270 884347.

Cadets celebrate 30 years on



MORE than 20 former cadets met up at the sports pavilion recently to mark 30 years since they began their association with the force.

The recruits of Cadet Course Number Six were reunited in Chelmsford to reminisce over their formative years with the force.

Guest of honour was Elizabeth Hedgethorne, front centre, wife of the late cadet school commandant, Ch Insp John Hedgethorne.



Fundraising's a ball for Chelmsford CID

DETECTIVES from Chelmsford raised £900 for the Farleigh Hospice following a late summer's ball held at the Three Rivers Golf & Country Club.

Dc Claire Bailey said: "We all had a great evening, but the most important aspect was raising money for the charity."

"To raise almost £1,000 is fantastic and it's great testament to everyone who attended."

"We would like to thank those Chelmsford companies who donated the various prizes for the evening's raffle as this was the source of the majority of the money gathered."

Pictured with the cheque for the money raised are DCI Alan Gooden, Dc Claire Bailey, Dc Brendan Cox, Dc Dave Knight, Dc Phil Moody and Gary Hawkes of Farleigh Hospice.

Car up for grabs

PLAYERS in December's force lottery are in with a chance of winning a car thanks to Essex Ford.

The Ford Ka Collection is black with aqua-jade interior and comes complete with air-conditioning.

To enter the lottery log on to the Essex Police Sports Association intranet site under 'divisions and departments'.

Charity quiz

THE training centre canteen will be the venue for the annual charity quiz night and raffle at 7.30pm on November 19.

Teams of six to eight should contact Chris Evans by e-mail or ext 50661.

Entry is £2.50 per person.

Sport
and Leisure

Basildon boys swinging in rain

All square on the wicket

A TOTAL of 12 players braved the cold and rain to contest the inaugural Basildon divisional golf championship.

Waterproofs, hats and umbrellas were all part of the day's playing kit to assist the players in their endeavours to strike the ball true and fair on the par 6,192-yard par 70 course in Brentwood.

The main competition was won, unsurprisingly, by Dave Britton with a round of 75, followed by Lee Hull and Matt Schneider, ten strokes behind.

Matt Schneider did however

come out the winner in the Nett tournament, played on Stableford points system, with Lee Gadsby second and Joel Henderson and Lee Hull tied in third place.

The 19th hole was very popular with all the players and supporters, especially for its hot meals.

Joel Henderson won a pair of tickets to the World Matchplay championships, donated by Dave Britton.

Divisional Commander Ch Supt Peter Sheldrake carried out the presentations.

One of the event organisers, Darren Griffin, said: "It was a very enjoyable day, despite the rain and one that we hope to hold on an annual basis.

"There were players of differing abilities taking part who helped to make it a balanced event."



● L-R Dave Britton, Lee Gadsby and Lee Hull enjoy Basildon's first divisional golf championship, if not the weather.

A CRICKET match in memory of former Essex Pc Darren Pike saw Essex beat the City of London in October.

Darren, who served with both forces, died in a motorbike accident while training in Cambridgeshire.

A tightly fought game was played in the glorious surroundings of the Honourable Artillery Company's ground in the City.

The win means that honours are even after the City won the inaugural match last year.

The evening was a huge success with a great turn out, raising over £500 for the premature baby unit where Darren's daughter was born.

Darren Pitt, one of the organisers, said: "A big thank you to all who played and turned up to support the evening.

"I think Darren would have been very proud."

Croker top spot

BRAINTREE has managed to maintain its lead at the top of the Croker Cup table after seven events.

The division remains in pole position in the competition following wins in both the angling and golf tournaments.

The Ladies Football competition was won by Tendring at the end of October.

Colchester came in second of the six teams competing, ahead of Harlow, Braintree, Rayleigh and Southend.

In the freshwater angling contest, Braintree beat competition from second place Southend.

The table now sees Braintree on 65 points, nine points ahead of Harlow, who lead Southend.

Runners off to winning start

IT was victory for the Essex men's cross country team at Sparrows Den, West Wickham in the 2004 regional championships.

Torrential rain greeted the runners but there was a strong turn out of teams from across the East and South East regions for a race that also served as the first league event of the 2004/2005 season.

Russ Welch set off at a fast pace, catching the rest of the field by surprise, and with only a runner from Hertfordshire for company, they quickly built up a significant lead.

Outran at the finish, however, Russ Welch had to settle for second place.

Mick Bond finished in fifth place but retained the veteran 45 title. Defending champion Derek Walker

had to settle for seventh but Alex Webb once again battled bravely to ensure the team win over Kent.

There were a number of good runs and cross country debuts from the other Essex men and overall there was delight at the result.

In the women's event no force was able to field a third runner so the team results were determined by the fastest two.

Lisa Bolton and Pauline Bowers showed commitment and finished well to give Essex a well deserved third place in the team competition.

The next league race is at St Albans on November 10, followed by a home fixture on December 8 at Gloucester Park, Basildon, which will include the Croker Cup event.

Rugby memorial match

FRIENDS of a former Essex officer are in the process of arranging a rugby match in his honour after he died in a car crash.

Pete Carr retired from the force on medical grounds four years ago and set up home with his family in Spain.

He died recently following the crash in Almeria.

Pete was aged just 38 when the accident happened.

Now former colleagues are arranging a memorial rugby match, as Pete was a keen rugby player and cricketer who had represented both Essex and the British Police teams.

He also played for Harlow Rugby Club, and the match will be against his former team mates.

Organiser Nick Cohen, based at Harlow CID, said: "The provisional date for the match is Sunday December 5 at 11am and I would urge any players who are interested to contact me.

"Support on the day would also be very welcome.

"There will be a BBQ and the bar will be open.

"All money raised will be sent to support Pete's wife, Julia, and their four children."

Nick Cohen can be contacted by e-mail or on ext 20436.

Matt's on target Lottery wins

A CHARITY five-a-side held at headquarters recently has raised £500 for a specially adapted vehicle for a colleague's son who was involved in a car crash.

Approximately 15 teams took part in the sponsored competition in aid of the Matt Green fund.

Pc Terry Rackley's team Park Life managed to come in second to the team captained by Pc Adam Field. Pc Rob Staples from Epping said, "The day went extremely well. I would like to thank everyone who took part and helped in organising the day to make it so successful."

● Reforming by special request in support of the Matt Green fund, TCP will be performing two

concerts at Bulmer Village Hall near Halstead on Friday 10 and Saturday 11 December.

TCP - John Taylor, Steve Card and John Pheby - disbanded in 2002 after the loss of their talented pianist Angela, but they aim to provide an entertaining show featuring the words and music of Flanders and Swan, plus sketches, impressions, light hearted banter and other irrelevances. Hot food will be provided and tickets cost £8.

All proceeds will go to the Mattmobile fund. Tickets can be bought from Steve Card on 01787 477345 or ednet 52232 or John Taylor on 01787 223660.

WINNER of the lottery top prize of £3,000 this month was Pc Sarah Gormer of MSD.

ACC (Operations) John Broughton scooped the second prize of £1,000, with £500 going to Dc Claire Brodie of Stanway MIT.

The seven winners of £100 are Pc Mark Jones, Harlow; Pc Tina Royles, HQ Personnel; Dc Julie Baker, Crime Division; Dc Sarah Bamfield, Tendring; Pc Simon Milligan, Braintree; Sue Edwards, Colchester Service Desk; Christopher Long, HQ network administration.

The eight winners of the £50 prizes are Pc Darren Potts, MSD; Bertha Burgess, Southminster; Caroline Loader, who is retired; Dc Barney McKenzie, Crime; Trevor Clarke, Harlow service desk; Pc Kay Doe, Basildon; Pc George McGroarty, Colchester; Pc Bradley Cox, Thurrock.

