

The Law



www.essex.police.uk

January 2005

A HELPING HAND

IN ASIAN

CRISIS

AS the world begins to come to terms with the tragic events in south-east Asia, the force and its employees continue to provide assistance in the aftermath of the world's greatest natural disaster in modern times.

Essex was one of the first forces to offer and supply officers and police staff to the casualty bureau (established by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and now looks likely to help even further by deploying police officers to the grief-stricken areas in Sri Lanka, Thailand and Indonesia to help with victim identification.

As *The Law* went to print, seven fully-trained officers were awaiting the call to travel to the area to assist with body identification, with nine family liaison officers having already been deployed to assist relatives living in the county with their trauma as they receive the bodies of their loved ones.

A further 15 are standing by to be deployed should the need arise.

As with any major international disaster, staff across the

organisation have been affected not only on a professional level, but also personally as loved relatives and colleagues were in countries hit by the tsunami.

Nishan Wijeratne, from Media and Public Relations, has almost his entire family living in Sri Lanka and was informed of the tidal destruction just thirty minutes after it hit when his mother sent him a text message.

“I was asleep when I got the message at around six in the morning on Boxing Day and the only reason I opened it was because I was on-call at the time,” said the 28-year-old press officer. “I quickly read it, but then went back to sleep again as I didn’t know what she was going on about.”

On-call

“It was only an hour later when I was getting dressed ready for work that I switched the TV on and saw the chaos that was ensuing. Even then, I couldn’t fully comprehend it.

“I rang mum and was relieved to hear her voice. My family usually travels down to the south-east coast to spend Christmas in the wildlife safari park. They rent out a chalet on the beach, which is within the jungle perimeter.

“However, they chose to spend Christmas at home because my cousin paid a surprise visit from Singapore and instead they gave their booking to some friends.



● **HEARTBREAKING . . . A girl weeps for her family as all around is destroyed by the tsunami which struck the coast of Sri Lanka. INSET: Casualty bureau staff at Hendon take calls from anxious relatives.**

“Fate and God were looking down on them.”

“However, our friends were not so lucky as they were washed out to sea and their bodies haven’t yet been recovered.

Honeymoon

Others in the force were actually in the country at the time, with one IT employee marrying his Sri Lankan girlfriend there before taking their honeymoon in the Maldives. Colleagues have heard that he and his wife survived, but do not know if they continued with their honeymoon plans.

Civil Court Disclosure Manager



Scenes of devastation beamed across the world

Sue Spratley was on holiday and left the capital Colombo an hour after the tsunami surge hit the island.

“I was heading up to the mountains and first heard about it when we stopped for a break a couple of hours into our journey, but of course we didn’t fully appreciate the news,” said Mrs Spratley. “The second-week accommodation had been affected and I only found a new place to stay because other tourists had left the country following government advice, with others cancelling their holidays.

“This second hotel was north of Colombo in an area hardly affected by the tsunami, but even so the impact of the waves had destroyed some of the beachside kiosks and shops.”

“It was my first time to Sri Lanka, but I haven’t been put off from returning.”

Despite the immense loss of life, the tragedy has not prevented unscrupulous members of the public from attempting to gain financial benefit, with residents’ concerns raised regarding bogus charity collectors in the north of county.

Photos: Sky News & Press Association.



Deficiencies do lie ahead

THE Police Bill recently had its second reading in the House of Commons, with our concern focused on three areas:

- National Crime Squad and National Criminal Intelligence Service officers losing their status and powers as officers of the Crown.
- Giving police community support officers (PCSOs) more powers.
- The civilianisation of custody suites.

While the Federation strongly supports the creation of a single, co-ordinated and integrated organisation to lead the fight against serious and organised crime, we fear that the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) will suffer from congenital failures unless a number of deficiencies are addressed during the early passage of the Bill.

Police officers from England and Wales who transfer to SOCA will become government employees and no longer be officers of the Crown.

Being an officer of the Crown ensures they are politically impartial, completely accountable, have a duty to report both on and off duty and will refrain from industrial action. Bestowing powers on an ad hoc basis, as and when required, will reduce

flexibility and hinder officers' effectiveness.

We also currently stand to lose a wealth of knowledge and experience as a recent Federation straw poll demonstrated that over 95 per cent of National Crime Squad officers have stated they are unwilling to transfer to SOCA until satisfactory terms and conditions are finalised.

The Federation also believes that the Government is demonstrating a clear and unjustifiable contradiction taking powers away from police officers transferring to SOCA whilst looking to give more powers to police community support officers (PCSOs).

Whilst the Government has always denied that PCSOs were a form of policing on the cheap, proposals contained in this Bill suggest otherwise.

Giving them the power to detain will not only take them off the street, thereby removing them from the job they were tasked to perform, it will inevitably lead them into confrontational situations without the necessary training, equipment, or skills, thereby putting themselves, the public and police officers at risk. We firmly believe there should be no extension of powers for PCSOs.

There are also plans to civilianise the role of custody sergeants in custody suites. The Federation warns MPs that making the proposed changes could put the safety and well

being of prisoners in jeopardy.

Custody is a core policing function, not merely a processing operation. Custody officers make decisions about whether someone should be detained or go free, whether arrests are lawful or not.

Only police officers have the authoritative accountability to carry out such an important and responsible role. We believe that to civilianise the position of custody sergeant will place in jeopardy the well being of prisoners.

Weaknesses in the workplace

WITH the publication of the Morris Inquiry, we are pleased that Sir Bill Morris has clearly taken on board many of the points the Police Federation made relating to national policing issues, especially his recommendation that the office of constable should be maintained.

This unique status recognises that police officers are independent of the Government, unbiased in their approach to the public and non-political.

However, the report fails to make clear how enhancing the office of constable with additional employment rights would actually benefit police officers or improve the police service. It has not been the panacea for all employment issues in other public sector jobs.

The Morris Inquiry has called for better training of officers and a workplace culture that supports diversity, but it is also clear

that many of their recommendations have been made before and not followed through at a senior level.

What is abundantly clear is that chief officers need to sit up and start taking responsibility for managing, resolving and monitoring workplace disputes and not just pay lip service to diversity.

The report also gives numerous examples of poor management practices. To dismantle the employment protections that officers currently have under the existing regulatory framework without first improving the expertise of managers and supervisors would be a recipe for disaster. It would lead inevitably to more, not fewer, employment tribunal cases.

The federation has long fought for improved national grievance and discipline procedures and is a firm advocate of resolving issues

at an early stage.

Last May, the national Federation co-hosted a 'Learning the Lessons of Employment Tribunals' conference and produced a guidance manual, specifically to encourage resolution at an early stage and save time and money for the police service. Regrettably, chief officers were notable by their absence.

It is disappointing that the Morris Report does not promote the 'Learning the Lessons' template despite reiterating many aspects of the guidance manual in its recommendations.

This report clearly demonstrates that chief officers can no longer bury their heads in the sand and need to demonstrate a commitment to dealing with grievances quickly and fairly, ensuring that managers receive appropriate and continuous training in these issues.

Good riddance to red tape

AWARDS are soon to be offered to members of staff who devise new ways to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy in the force.

The autumn 'Bureaucracy Bonfire' signalled the start for chief officers to kick-start the competition to improve the working environment for everyone.

In line with ACTION, 'Stamping out Bureaucracy' divisional teams will be created, with nomination schemes and annual award events held to recognise those who suggest and help implement new policies.

The idea to tackle red tape follows a HMIC inspection that dictates all police forces in England and Wales to identify 48 ways to reduce bureaucracy.

Director of Finance and Administration, Rick Tazzini, admits the goal is "one hell of a challenge", but that it is achievable.

"This whole work ethic is more than just reviewing procedures - it's about controlling the bureaucratic habits of the organisation," said Mr Tazzini. "From unnecessary non-operational paperwork to IT, we can and will streamline many processes."

An intranet website, linked to the 'information' section on the Corporate Support homepage, has been created to



assist people with ideas and suggestions as well as having nomination forms to download. Staff who receive awards will also be submitted for the National Reducing Bureaucracy Award Scheme run by the Police Federation.

Mr Tazzini added: "I'm hoping that officers and staff keep the ethos of stamping out bureaucracy in mind during their working day and, should they discover a procedure they deem bureaucratic, they let us know."

To help maintain both current and future red tape reduction procedures, continuous reviews will be carried out.

New recruits to tackling crime

LOCAL authority partners will be given new powers under the Essex Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) being introduced later this month.

Under the scheme, the Chief Constable is allowed to accredit local authority and private sector staff such as street wardens, park rangers and shopping centre security staff with powers to tackle low level disorder, for example, graffiti, fly-posting, litter, and anti-social behaviour.

CSAS Manager Jay Smith said: "Our scheme will be piloted across the county by accrediting local authority employers."

"We hope they will prove to be a valuable addition and compliment the work of police community support officers."

Any staff will be vetted and receive appropriate training before being accredited with powers that are appropriate to the roles they carry out.

Crime really does not pay anymore

THE force is putting more resources into hitting the criminal where it hurts - in the pocket.

As we seize more of the villains' ill-gotten gains, a proportion will be returned to the force to be reinvested in fighting crime.

In a report entitled *Payback Time*, HMIC is encouraging forces to make greater use of the Proceeds of Crime Act to seize cash found in the possession of criminals, but to go further and deprive a convicted defendant of the benefits of his criminal activity.

In effect, this means presenting him with a bill reflecting the value of his activity which, if not paid, can result in imprisonment. Initially the power to seize cash was set at a minimum of £10,000 but this has been reduced to £5,000.

Last year, the force seized cash totalling almost £150,000, including £30,000

found in the washing machine of a drug dealer - a new 'spin' on money laundering.

Technological moves afoot

A NEW team will be forging the way ahead for the force in managing and delivering IT development commitments.

Jules Donald, Sarah Gulliver, and Insp Richard Phillibrown have been appointed as senior IT project managers, each responsible for managing a group of projects and each bringing with them particular strengths drawn from a variety of backgrounds.

Along with newly-reorganised IT development staff, they will be moving lock, stock and computers to the ground floor at Hoffman's Way later this month.

All suited up
and ready
for action

THE force has acquired its second batch of newly-qualified detectives following last month's graduations in the Initial Crime Investigators Development Programme (ICIDP).

They are: Kevin Cooper and Lena Worrow (Colchester); Mark Finbow (Braintree); Karen Laycock and Caroline Venables (Southend); Phil Merriam and Tanya Shead (Child Abuse Investigation Unit); Phil Moody, Gary Sainty and Nicki Neal (Chelmsford); Caroline Parkes and Nik Strizovic (Thurrock)

ICIDP was introduced by the Home Office last summer following concerns that forces were setting differing standards of training for potential detectives.

Van man Matt
gets mobile

CO-ORDINATORS of the Matthew Green Special Needs Trust Fund have done it - with the teenager now the proud owner of a Ford Tourneo Connect vehicle that was delivered to him after the target of £18,500 was reached following various fund raising events for his "Mattmobile".

The latest, a Christmas-themed quiz night at headquarters, raised just over £300 towards the Mattmobile Fund.

Vaughn High, on behalf of the trust set up to assist Matthew, said: "I cannot start to thank everyone who has assisted in the fundraising. We should all be very pleased that we have achieved the goal.

"Of course the vehicle will need servicing and Matt will continue to be supported by the trust. "Again, thank you to all and happy New Year."

Charity draw

A RAFFLE to raise funds for families who have lost children or who have experienced stillbirths is set to take place next month in Basildon.

The charity event will take place at the general hospital on February 25, with monies going to the Stillborn and Neonatal Death Society.

Over 70 very good prizes have been donated including signed celebrity photographs, mini breaks, meal vouchers, tickets to family attractions, a cd player and various bottles of spirits.

Raffle tickets costing £1 each can be purchased by contacting Pc 2512 Steven Smith by email.

Number crunching to increase officers

A NEW and more user-friendly activity analysis (AA) form has been designed for a forcewide survey taking place next month.

The AA survey is a Home office requirement which may have implications for the force's future funding levels and, in order to meet government targets, each division must achieve a 90 per cent minimum return rate.

Survey Co-ordinator, Cathy Mansfield, admits that some people may see the forms as extra paperwork, but that they should "not lose sight of the fact that AA

by Heather Watts

will ultimately help officers make better use of their time".

"We need to ensure that our activities are aligned with what we have told the public we will be doing in our policing plan," said Ms Mansfield. "It may not be the most exciting aspect of the job but the significance of AA cannot be overstated.

"In March 2004, we achieved a 98 per cent return rate which was an outstanding result and thanks go to all those who contributed to that success.

"We are asking people taking part in the survey to support their colleagues by completing the forms accurately."

All forces were subject to a stringent audit during the last financial year which has meant more checks are now required to confirm the accuracy of the data for audit purposes.

This involves more monitoring of the completed AA forms by supervisors and random validation checks against command and control logs.

Ms Mansfield added: "The force's front line policing (FLP) measure is calculated by the Home Office using the data collected from the AA forms and the government target set for Essex is 70 per cent.

"We will need to work hard to improve on our current figure of 59 per cent in order to meet the Home

Office's target within the three-year timescale.

"The AA form has been redesigned to highlight FLP activities and ensure all the relevant data is captured."

Following consultation, the form has taken into account both officer and police staff needs as much as possible. Packs will be distributed to all personnel taking part in the survey later this month and a divisional liaison officer will be available for anyone needing further assistance.

An intranet site with further information will soon be online and anyone requiring further information can contact Ms Mansfield on extension 50856.

Agent takes a slice of the Pie



● Television starlet Pie takes to the screens in a charity advertisement.

A DOG abandoned by its owners and taken into care by an officer has risen to stardom by appearing in an advert for the Dog's Trust.

Previously known as the Canine Defence League, the charity houses dogs found wandering the streets or abandoned by their owners.

Pc Hillary Curtis took pity on an eight-week-old puppy who had been taken into Braintree Police Station after she was found wandering next to a main road.

The puppy was so tiny that she kept escaping through the bars of the police kennels so Hillary took her home for the weekend with the intention of just looking after her until the real owners came looking for her.

"I believed that being so young she could not really have been abandoned, just lost," said Hillary. "She was far too young to stay in the kennels on her own."

However, nobody claimed the puppy and Pie, as she came to be named, has remained with Hillary ever since.

Four years on and Pie was no longer a puppy with Houdini tendencies, but a well-trained dog that regularly entered obedience competitions where she was spotted by an advertising agency which subsequently contacted Hillary.

Pie has now returned the favour of being 'rescued' by starring in an advert for the Dog's Trust.

Efforts afoot to address under representation

A DRIVE to welcome more minority groups into the ranks of police community support officers (PCSOs) in Essex is underway.

Essex's PCSOs were given a boost when the Home Office announced it would fund a further 41 on top of the 154 the county will have by the middle of this month.

Now the force is keen to encourage candidates from a broader spectrum in order to make PCSOs "even more reflective of the communities they serve".

Project Manager, Insp Glenn Mayes, said: "We want to recruit more people from minority groups, such as ethnic minorities, gay, lesbian and bisexual and disabled groups. Being a PCSO is open to all walks of life as long as you have good people skills."

PCSOs were introduced to Essex in April 2003. Although as members of police staff they do not yet have police powers to detain suspects, they can issue fixed penalty notices for minor public order offences.

PCSOs come from a wide range of backgrounds, from young men and women trying to find out if they would like a career as a police officer, to retired business people.

Insp Mayes added: "Being a PCSO could be a second career for some people, or the chance to work in an environment they've always wanted to work in."

"We need our PCSOs to mirror the various groups which make up our communities in Essex, so that the public we're serving can feel they can approach someone who knows where they're coming from."

Law Letters

HAVE YOUR SAY: Write to Kim Perks, Law Letters, Press Office, Police HQ, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DA.
Letters and emails must include full name and home town. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Breaking down barriers

Keeping up appearances

I WONDER how long you are going to carry the subject of Freemasonry in the police service in *The Law*.

I retired from Essex Police in 1990 as a constable ending up in Thurrock Division. In March 1977, I became a Freemason and have remained one ever since.

Its morals and principles have served me well in my adult life and I would go as far as saying that the fraternity of Freemasonry has within it the ability of improving the very fabric of society in this country and among fair-minded men throughout the free world.

I would be the first to say that Freemasonry is its own worst enemy.

The notion that it is a secret society seems to be in everyone's mind with members offering favours to each other at every turn.

This could not be further from the truth. Yes, within its ceremonies various secret tokens and words are exchanged which are meant to enable us to recognise each other.

These are symbolic gestures based on the beliefs of its founders in the 18th century. All are biblical-orientated.

As far as it being a secret society is concerned, I would invite any interested person to visit their local library and in

the general reference section, you will be able to find out all you want to know about Freemasonry.

Some works are informative and some are critical, written by men who have joined the fraternity, realised that it's not for them and have chosen to belittle and condemn.

Yes there are those that join and give it a bad name.

I would like to see Freemasonry being more open and public, similar but not quite so intense as the United States who have street parades and dedicated columns in local newspapers.

When asked what I do in my spare time I always say I am a Freemason and an extremely

proud to do so. I wish more would do the same.

It might be worthy of mention that, next to the National Lottery, Freemasonry is the next largest giver to non-Masonic charities in the UK.

Within 36 hours of the twin towers disaster in New York, the Grand Lodge of England had sent substantial funds to assist where needed with the promise of more if needed. There is much more.

No, the police are not wrong to belong to Freemasonry. Quite the reverse if the truth is told.

In my experience it can make good policeman even better policeman.

**John Barrett
Stanford le Hope**

HAVING read Doug Warren's comments in *The Law* about the demise of the tunic, I couldn't agree more.

How scruffy officers look in this new age-fleece? I'm sure Trinny and Suzannah would have a field day if they were asked their views. New fashion dictates that officers have little option but to appear as a sack of potatoes in the eyes of the public.

How strange to see a number of dog handlers and other personnel running around a muddy field in the rain during the recent police dog trials. These slightly damp and muddied officers looked so smart in their tunics.

Don't we have strange priorities with our dress code?

**Tony Stevens
Airwave Project**

Plans hijacked by one's own downfall

MR BLUNKETT's (former Home Secretary) latest gimmick whereby all police community support officers are to be known by their Christian names should be a huge success.

One can just imagine when they are on patrol and walk past a group of jobs, the latter all chanting, "Hiya Fred" or maybe sing "Hello Sally" to the tune of that well known song.

Then the little old lady saying: "Thank you Harold" as she is being helped across the road.

I pity the poor chap who has had the misfortune to have been christened Archibald.

I suppose if I was still in the police force I would be "Hi Jacked".

I feel that Christian name-calling would do little to improve respect for police officers.

I sincerely hope that Essex Police does not follow the example set by Devon and Cornwall Constabulary and put photographs of police officers on the internet.

But who knows perhaps the next bright idea will be under the Human Rights Act and the police will be required to give 24 hours notice before they raid a premises.

**Jack Faulkner
Southend**

A good start for the new look *Law*

I MUST say the new colour format in *The Law* looks very nice.

It reminded me of *The Eagle* which I remember was usually bought by my best man, police frogman Mike Dray, many moons ago.

I would rather have seen the police dog Maverick and handler on the cover but never mind.

I would like to see articles on retired officers still about in Essex.

**R White
Chelmsford**

Well, would you pick it up?

HAVING received a few requests for another 'tale' of policing in the 'dark ages', I have 'cracked' under the pressure, so here's another trip down memory lane.

At the end of one early-turn shift, my sub-divisional station was asked to provide a contingent of officers to travel to the divisional headquarters to assist with a serious public order situation which was 'brewing up'.

Our eventual contingent consisted of a wide mix of all lengths of service. Upon arrival, we were informed that the situation had 'cooled off', but it was felt that a show of strength on the streets may bring a hasty end to any further trouble.

It was requested by the officer in charge that we go out on foot patrol in twos.

I can't recall how the eventual 'pairing' was arrived at but one very senior constable from a section station was asked to accompany a young-in-service probationer.

The young officer jumped at the chance, hoping to tap into the experience of the senior man. He also thought that it would be a great opportunity to search for some unusual offences to deal with.

After a short time on patrol, the probationer spotted a man in the distance with a dog on a lead. The dog was in the act of fouling a footpath. The young officer drew this to the attention of his senior

companion, but he stated he had not seen it.

The young officer expressed his desire to confront the dog owner and report the matter for process. The older constable thought quickly and responded: "Well alright, go on then, but remember you'll need to seize the evidence!"

The young officer thought again and needless to say decided that he too may not have been quite sure of his facts. Out of date tax discs seemed to be an easier option!

To conclude, I would add that neither officer was myself, but the story is true. Happy New Year to all.

**Dave Rose (retired)
Linton, Cambs**

Gone . . . but not forgotten



**Police Cadet 130 Lesley Beet - Essex Police
Served from September 1973. Died March 13, 1974.**

COMPETITION for the Cadet Corps was so strong in 1972 that Police Cadet Lesley Beet was unsuccessful at her first attempt. Receiving every encouragement from her parents who were both special constables in Harlow, Lesley Beet decided to stay on at school for another year in order to try again.

This time she was successful, joining the Cadet Corps in September 1973 when she was 17. Cadets led a full academic and sporting life, and on March 13, 1974, Lesley Beet was in a supervised party of cadets canoeing on the River Chelmer. Her canoe capsized and, despite efforts to save her, she drowned.

For details of all those featured in the Essex Police Roll of Honour, visit the Memorial Trust website at www.essex.police.uk. If you have any information you feel could be added to the website email memorialtrust@essex.pnn.police.uk or write to the Memorial Trust at police headquarters.

Opening the portal doors to the Masonic way of life in Essex

RECENT letters in *The Law* have reflected some of the uncertainty and lack of knowledge about Freemasonry which is all too common.

Many people believe that all things Masonic are shrouded in a veil of absolute secrecy.

For this reason they do not ask questions which they believe could cause embarrassment or to which they believe would not receive an honest reply.

The imagined veil of secrecy therefore remains firmly in place.

My main function as information officer for the Masonic province of Essex, is to provide information to the media and the public regarding the

origins of the craft, our guiding principles and our activities.

We would be happy to present a short talk to members of Essex Police including a look at some modern Masonic regalia followed by a question and answer session.

We would be pleased to arrange a number of these talks at locations across the county or if preferred we would be pleased to open one of our Masonic Halls for a brief tour followed by a talk and then questions in Masonic surroundings.

Please feel free to email me at john.emmerick@ntlworld.com.

**John Emmerick
Saffron Walden**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Promoting awareness

A NEW panel has been formed to engage with minority or hard to reach communities in Essex.

The Independent Advisory Group (IAG) will consist of four key groups - race and faith; lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered; elderly, disabled and vulnerable; and youth.

Members of the group can provide vital advice about a wide range of policing issues, from strategic advice to tactical thinking in major incidents.

● A DIVERSITY day in Chelmsford outlined the way forward in ensuring diversity stays a part of the force's day to day business.

The event focused on the launch of the force's revised equality of service strategy.

Workshops were held on operational concerns such as community engagement with the various groups living in the county.

A green light for crime recording

THE force has been judged to be complying fully with the National Crime Recording Standard according to a recently published government report.

Head of Crime Division, Det Chief Supt Wil Kennedy, said: "In the last two inspections, it has been recognised that we are continuing to improve in the majority of areas. It has been acknowledged by the auditors, had they compared us directly to our performance last year, the overall force scoring would be green."

In the market for a house?

OFFICERS will soon be able to see local properties for sale and rent at a glance with a new guide being produced by Staff Development.

The team is in the process of compiling the guide which will detail all accommodation available in each division.

Transferees and new recruits often struggle to find suitable properties close to their posting, as divisional admins no longer hold details of such accommodation.

If you think you have a suitable property, then contact Staff Development on ext 54150.

Giving children back their future

Messaging milestone

IT was not a case of ten green bottles hanging on a wall, but more like 100,000 green messages in a bottle, stored safely in the fridge.

Representatives from the three emergency services met at Essex Ambulance Service headquarters in Broomfield recently to see the handing over of the 100,000th Message in a Bottle to Carl Anderson from Good Easter.

The scheme, which is co-ordinated by Essex County Neighbourhood Watch, has been running for four years and allows for medical information to be stored on a form that is then placed in the bottle and stored in the fridge.

Stickers on the front door alert the emergency services to this information should they be called to the house and find the occupant injured or unwell.

Chief Constable David Stevens said: "This just proves how successful the scheme is. I am sure it is of value to all the emergency services and may well have saved lives across the county. The simple scheme provides reassurance to vulnerable people, and Neighbourhood Watch should be congratulated on reaching this milestone."

Dog's life for Dan

A SERGEANT from Sandon Dog Section has been elected chair of the eastern region ACPO Police Dog Practitioners Committee.

Sgt Dan Elford was at Garda HQ in Dublin for the group's national meeting, representing Essex, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.

Dog Section Insp Martin Parkin, said: "This is quite a coup for Essex, and a position which we have held only once for a brief period in the 1990s."

A GROUP of police cadets have joined the force's youth forum to help improve its links with young people across the county.

The new recruits join a team of 60 other youngsters who attended a meeting a police headquarters in the autumn where they had their say on how they see the police in their area.

It is the first time cadets have been used in any forcewide consultation, with the Proactive Essex Police Youth Strategy (PEPYS) team hopeful that their views and experiences will help develop the way Essex Police deals with young people involved in anti-social behaviour and stop and searches.

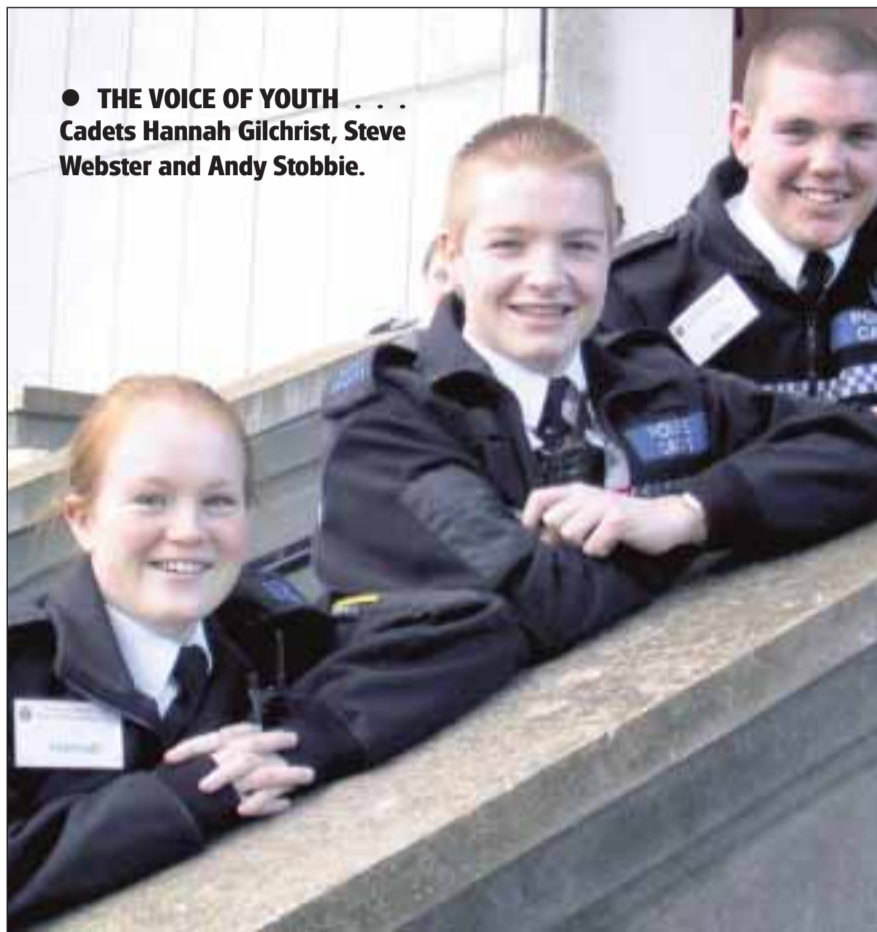
The forum is made up of young people from across the county aged between 13 and 17 who either volunteered or were nominated by police staff, their schools, youth groups or other agencies.

Cadet Hannah Gilchrist said: "We're really pleased to take part in this group and we'd like to help more by getting our old schools and clubs more involved as well."

The group also discussed hopes for the forum and their desire to promote a better image of young people.

PEPYS PR Officer, Ruth Collin, said: "One of the first things the forum members said they wanted to change was the portrayal of young people both in the media and amongst the public, so we decided to include positive media liaison as part of our work."

Eight forum members attended a



● THE VOICE OF YOUTH Cadets Hannah Gilchrist, Steve Webster and Andy Stobbie.

media training session and finished the session with their first ever radio interview which was broadcast on Essex FM.

One of the forum members, Alex Hayes from Colchester, said: "I got involved in the forum to get my voice heard."

Now I want that voice to speak to the press to let others know what we are doing and how we want to make a difference."

Members of the forum are also helping the PEPYS team design a new website to help communicate the strategy to other young people.

They are also involved in the

organisation of the next Essex Police Youth Conference to be held in the spring.

Programme Manager, Sgt Ian Carter, said: "The programme is looking at all police interaction with young people, so it's vital we get their input."

The strategy is designed to be for young people, with young people, by young people, so this forum will have the opportunity to make a real difference."

For more information about PEPYS and the Youth Forum, please visit the Community Safety website or call the team on ext 52031 or 01245 457245.

Heavy duty

IT would appear that a major investigation would have to be launched following the discovery of a freezer in a country lane that appeared to be leaking blood.

The blood had extended into a river running 20 metres down the road.

The informant was very wary of what he would find when the freezer was opened but intrepid Thurrock officers opened the freezer to find...defrosted strawberries leaking from plastic bags.

It was OK though as they had made quite a bit of a mess but weren't causing a jam.

A reflection of success

A JOINT Crimestoppers and Essex Police campaign against the menace of crack cocaine has been given a boost with the launch of a government initiative supporting the county's blitz on drug crime.

Crack Under Pressure was launched last May, using raids, crack house closures and media publicity to raise awareness about Class A drugs and generate intelligence about those bringing them into Essex.

In the space of six months, more than 30 people were arrested during the campaign, while users asking for treatment doubled.

The media coverage generated in partnership with newspapers, radio and TV stations led the force to be awarded a prestigious award for planned media campaigns.

Now the Home Office has launched Operation Crackdown, aimed at highlighting the work of police and their partners in combating drugs

markets and closing crack houses.

The government campaign mirrors the aims of Crack Under Pressure which was geared towards disrupting drug supply and use, gathering intelligence and making the public more aware.

Director of Intelligence, Det Supt Tim Newcomb, said: "Working with the Government and our local partners we will continue to target drug dealers in Essex."

"Crack Under Pressure has given us an excellent platform to work with the communities we serve in order to keep drugs off the streets of our county."

"We want to build on the campaign's successes to make sure Class A drugs have nowhere to take root in Essex."

It is hoped that the continued pressure on dealers will persuade more users into taking up available treatments, such as medication, therapy and counselling.

A LOOK BACK THROUGH 2004



● **MAKING HISTORY . . . Patrick, Jacqui and Ian all dressed up with somewhere to go.**

Hundreds of people from all over the county paid tribute to serving officer Ds Graham Carter, described by a colleague at his funeral as “the best detective sergeant ever, respected by colleagues and criminals alike”, after he died suddenly on Friday, March 12, aged just 50.

APRIL

APRIL saw the force spring into a new approach to improve performance and public satisfaction with the introduction of the ACTION leadership programme.

Chief Constable David Stevens said: “It is about inspiring those we lead, being clear about what is wanted and giving help and support in order to achieve it.

“It is also about challenging those who do not reach the high standards we expect and helping them to improve, working together to achieve the necessary results.”

The Independent Police Complaints Commission replaced the Police Complaints Authority at the beginning of this month.

MARCH

THIS month blew in the wind of change as Andy Bliss took up the post of assistant chief constable following the retirement of Assistant Chief Officer Philip Onions.

The 43-year-old arrived from Sussex to take over responsibility for staff issues and training development.

Over 300 delegates attended a two day conference to introduce the pioneering Essex Police Proactive Youth Strategy (PEPYS) to officers and partner agencies.

Project Manager, Sgt Ian Carter, said: “The conference exceeded expectations in terms of practical feedback and the willingness to share experience and ideas.

“This enthusiasm will help us draw together a conference report in the shape of a multi-agency strategy and we are now in a much stronger position locally and strategically.”



● **STANDING FIRM . . . Officers stand by to support eviction of the travellers at the Little Waltham site near Chelmsford.**
Photo: East Anglian Daily Times.



● **ADMIRER . . . Ds Graham Carter.**

MAY

SUMMER started well for the force and staff blossomed as they received accolades.

Transport Services announced its arrival as a major national player in fleet management by winning top plaudits in the industry’s most prestigious awards taking a highly commended second place.

The award came hot on the heels of their accreditation to the global

The last 12 months once again saw many defining moments for the force. HEATHER WATTS reflects on these and other highlights of the year.

quality system ISO 9002:2000.

A ground breaking agreement with the Forensic Science Service put the force at the head of the pack for detections through crime scene analysis.

The agreement meant that from finding a crime scene stain to matching it to the DNA database would take just seven days.

Road policing officer, Pc Pete Harris, was recognised for his services to family liaison work at an award ceremony in London. Kazi Quinton, Western Major Investigation Team, was recognised by the National Blood Service for her support and she was also recognised for her contribution to promoting tissue donation in her former role as coroner’s officer.

Mayor of Southend, Councillor Charles Latham, presented the Mitchell Certificate to Sgt Dave Rudd, Pc Leigh Norris and Pc Carly Wickes for the trio’s outstanding courage rescuing a woman from a house fire.

JUNE

HIGH impact posters depicting someone whose life had been touched by a crack addict’s habit hit the streets of Essex to highlight the summer campaign *Crack Under Pressure*.

The campaign, known inside the force as Operation Orlando aimed at raising awareness of crack cocaine and targeted dealers.

A Thurrock operation, coinciding with the launch, seized nearly 70kgs of cannabis and more than 10kgs of a substance thought to be cocaine in an ongoing operation involving intelligence-led raids and covert policing.

The first Essex officer was called up for jury service after changes in the Criminal Justice Act 2003 came into force.

Head of Criminal Justice Department, Supt Andy Adams, paid tribute to Brenda Crawshaw from Colchester’s criminal justice unit who was tragically killed in a car crash on May 22.

Brenda was married to former Chief Supt Ralph Crawshaw and had worked for Essex Police for



● **TRAGIC . . . Brenda Crawshaw.**

nearly 21 years.

Supt Adams said: “Brenda was a committed and able member of the team at Colchester who will be remembered with affection.”

Essex paved the way for forces across the country by assisting in the development of new software to computerise casualty bureau procedures and was one of a handful of forces able to use the system to the full and to have all their call-takers trained.

Newly-recruited probationers released 512 Essex Police balloons to represent the number of officers the force attracted and placed on the county’s streets over the previous two years in celebration of the force’s recruitment figures being at a record high.

JULY

JULY marked a turning point for the year and the force with the introduction of Airwave to divisions.

The new terminals, combining a

radio system and mobile phone facilities, were chosen to provide improved secure communications with a better level of coverage and encrypted transmissions.

With a general reduction in demand for catering services time was called on canteens after a decision taken by the Support Service Policy and Programme Board looked at the cost, demand, service impact and how any savings could be reinvested.

The closures this August will result in an estimated annual saving of £400,000 which will be invested in frontline policing.

Allison Campbell, former sergeant, was awarded the MBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List for her services to the community of Purfleet.

AUGUST

ALTHOUGH the holiday season was in full swing, Harwich and Southend police stations were nearly overwhelmed by the public response when they opened their doors for open days giving thousands of Essex residents the chance to see may aspects of police work.

Pitsea police station reopened its doors after a major refurbishment.

Investigative Review detectives were hoping that Crimestoppers rewards of up to £5,000, announced in a high-profile campaign would give them extra work.

The rewards were offered to help solve 10 undetected murder



● **EDUCATIONAL FUN . . . A young visitor to Southend Police Station feels the full arm of the law.**
Photo: Evening Echo.

investigations, so-called ‘cold cases’ in a joint initiative by the charity and the force.

Planning permission was granted for a new police station at Dunmow after the £4.5 million project was approved by Uttlesford District Council despite concern that the design was reminiscent of the 1960s.

The force was granted the prestigious ‘Investors in People’ award after independent assessors indicated the force generally has “high morale and job satisfaction, with staff feeling valued” in a healthy working environment.

Following the introduction of the Initial Crime investigators Development Programme (ICIDP) six Essex detectives passed a new national exam and received their certificates at a special ceremony.

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER got off to a flying start with a green light for a new police call centre after the police authority agreed a major investment program to establish a major call centre to handle non-emergency calls to police.

It is hoped the centre, which will house a central criminal bureau, will be up and running by 2007.

Police staff received an extra three per cent increase in their wages with effect from the beginning of the month.

A ‘fly-on-the-wall’ DVD aimed at promoting recruitment to the special constabulary was produced by the TV unit for use across the country.

The British Crime Survey showed that public perception of personal crime in the county, including violence, domestic burglary and vehicle crime, was at an all time low, having been decreasing over the previous four years.

Awards for Probationer of the Year, Community Officer of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement, along with awards under the ACTION leadership programme, were presented at a special awards dinner.

The first national airport crime reduction conference took place at Stansted Airport with delegates attending from major airports across the country.

OCTOBER



● **SPECIAL . . . Commandant George Cook.**

OCTOBER turned out to be a special month.

Southend Divisional Admin Manager, George Cook, was appointed as the new specials commandant following the retirement of Alan Hill.

The Norman Dooley Trophy, awarded to the special who carried out the most meritorious act of the year, was presented to Tendring’s Sc Liz Donovan who battled to detain a shoplifter despite serious injury to her shoulder.

Thurrock was the winner of the Salter Cup awarded to the division where special constables have performed the highest average number of hours over the year.

Plans to introduce taser guns to the force’s armory were announced after a five-force pilot scheme success.

Behave Or Be Banned (BOBB) was the message given to drinkers under a new banning scheme due to go countywide after its introduction to the force in Chelmsford.

Stansted Airport was the venue for a plane involved in a hoax bomb call; the second such incident that police responded to in a matter of weeks.

NOVEMBER

A GLOOMY start to the month as early indications showed that the Government intended to propose only a three per cent increase for police funding in the county.

Chief Constable David Stevens and Police Authority Chairman Robert Chambers lobbied Essex MPs at Westminster in a bid to get the extra funding required just to maintain services.

The Essex Police Authority’s new home in Hoffmanns Way, Chelmsford was officially opened by former Northern Ireland chief Ronnie Flanagan.



● **HEARTFELT APPEAL . . . Stanway Road Policing Unit’s Inspector Brewer helps launch his seatbelt awareness campaign.**
Photo: Evening Gazette.

Despite a blaze of publicity about the dangers of not wearing seatbelts, a record number of motorists in the north-east of the county were fined after failing to belt up leaving a couple numb with disbelief.

At a police news conference earlier in the month parents David and Heather Thompson had movingly described how their son Aidan had been left brain damaged for the rest of his life after failing to wear a seatbelt and being involved in a crash.

However it wasn’t all doom and gloom as the Essex Police Museum was awarded a grant of £43,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund to provide an educational service for visitors.

DECEMBER

THE last month of the year remained upbeat for the force.

A new-look *Law* newspaper was launched by the Media and Public Relations Department which also scooped a second consecutive award at the annual Association of Police & Public Relations Officers conference for its work on the *Crack Under Pressure* campaign.

A new intelligence unit was set up in Essex to disrupt organised immigration crime under Operation Reflex joining in excess of 15 similar teams across the UK.

The facilitation of people trafficking, forged documentation and identity fraud linked to immigration crime will come under the team’s spotlight until the end of 2006 when it is anticipated that the new Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), similar to the FBI, will be formed.

Following a successful trial in Southend, Epping, Harlow, Saffron Walden and around Lakeside there will be a roll out across the county of new powers to bail suspects without taking them into custody.

Street Bail, introduced under The Criminal Justice Act 2003, allows any officer who has the authorisation of a sergeant to bail arrested people to a station after arrest.

Road death figures dropped by 10 per cent this year, but there were still 104 people killed on the roads of Essex.

The callous killer of West Yorkshire traffic officer Pc Ian Broadhurst, who was brutally shot dead in Leeds last Boxing Day, was jailed for life.

World events overshadowed the end of 2004 but, in the true fashion of the police service Essex officers, responded to the call for help.

Drawing a close to police career

THE Law has never been quite the same since Pc Peter Caulfield drew his last cartoon for the monthly newspaper after 18 years of topical sketches.

But now he has also calling it a day as an officer with Essex Police.

Peter joined in 1980 serving in Witham, Chelmsford, Braintree, Heddingham and Halstead. For the last ten, he has worked from Saffron Walden as crime reduction advisor for Uttlesford.

Drawing was a means of keeping sane during training at Eynsham; it was a talent that his father had shared in wartime publications such as *The Onlooker*.

When posted to Witham, it was not long before *The Law* heard about him. A one-off request turned into an 18-year allegiance and over 200 contributions, until lack of time took its toll.

Although no longer cartooning, Peter continues his love of art and has illustrated some children's adventure books.

Peter said: "I've had a fantastic 25 years with Essex Police and my cartoon scrapbooks are better than any service record for reminding me about the great time I've had."

(See page 12 for some of Peter's past sketches.)

A life of sun, wine, good food and leisure beckon for Pc **John Taylor**, who will be moving to a cottage in the Aude region of France in May.

After initial service at Basildon, John spent the bulk of his 32 years in and around Halstead.

As one third of the group TCP, John was delighted that they were able to make a significant contribution to the Mattmobile appeal with their farewell concert at Bulmer Village Hall in December.

He will miss his other passion, Morris dancing, but hopes to confirm French views of 'les Anglais' by forming a side there.

Former Insp **Andy Robertson** is planning his retirement in Norfolk. He married Amanda in November and is building a future with at the same time as building their new home.

His last seven years with the force were as a response inspector in Harlow.

He said: "I loved being at the sharp end, dealing with incidents and seeing the team get good results."

"I enjoyed all my service - it was everything I wanted it to be."

Andy won't miss the bright lights of Harlow however as he plans to build an observatory and study the stars.

Pc **Len Bickford**, Basildon has retired after serving nearly 26 years.

Fifty-five-year-old Len was stationed at Basildon.

Pc **Richard Williams** has retired after 24 years with Essex Police.

Richard previously served with Durham Constabulary.

Crime Division officer, Dc **Gary Matthews** has retired after 30 years service.

Former constable, **Ian Packer**, has retired after nearly 12 years' service with the force, leaving Laindon Road Policing Unit as his final posting.

Obituaries

Ex-DI, **Derek May**, has died aged 76.

Derek served at Grays, Romford, Colchester, Brentwood and Basildon before his retirement in 1977.

Former constable, **Donald Avenal**, has died at the age of 72.

Donald served from 1960 to 1985 at Colchester, Purleigh, Witham and Clacton.

Ex-Sgt, **Roger Jones**, who retired in 1968 has died.

During his 21 years with the force Roger served at Hornchurch, Rainham, Grays, Colchester and Braintree.

Ninety-six-year-old former Sgt, **George Rushforth**, has died.

George served 30 years with Southend Borough Police.

Former Sgt, **Peter Frost**, has died at the age of 62.

Peter served at Chelmsford, Sandon Dog Section, Rayleigh, Rochford, Southend, EPTC and Professional Standards before retiring in 1996.

Mrs **Maggie Nevin** died last month.

Maggie worked at headquarters Special Branch before her retirement.

Pastures new for our Peter

FORMER Principal Press Officer, Peter Laurie, retired last month after nine years.

Peter, who lives in Colchester, joined Essex Police in 1995 after a distinguished career as a local newspaper editor and became principal press officer a year later.

During his time with the force, he has managed the press office team on major incidents such as the hijack of an Afghan airliner at Stansted.

However, the 58-year-old (pictured, right, in his younger days) was missing police life so early on in retirement and has now taken up the reigns as Braintree Division's communications co-ordinator on a short-term contract.

Taking over the helm from Peter is Kim Perks who has spent nearly 12 years with the force.



Comrades AGM

THE annual general meeting of the Comrades Association will be held at headquarters on Wednesday, February 2 with the 10.30am start in the Federation Office.

All members are welcome to attend, but not only is the association open to retired officers but also to those serving officers who have been in the police force more than ten years.

The subscription is only £1.00 and the association would particularly welcome an increase in the number of serving officers.

If you would like more information on the matter, please contact Sue Kelly by email or extension.

Law Classifieds

Holiday lets

COSTA BLANCA. Three-bed det, 1 dbl, 2 twin, 2 bath, lounge, dining, kitchen, balcony, gardens, utility, solarium, DVD/Sky, BBQ. Close blue flag beaches, centre, 2 golf courses. Call 07814 591129 or email brian.cook@essex.pnn.police.uk.

FLORIDA. Luxury 4 bed villa near Disney and attractions. Sleeps 10, own heated pool. Contact Jill on 01702 586092 or visit www.my-florida-villa.net.

ORLANDO. Luxury 3-bed villa with private pool, sleeps 6/8, close to Disney. From £350pw. Contact John (HQ mail driver) on 01245 465855.

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Date Signed

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

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

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

COSTA BLANCA. La Marina. Two-bed luxury villa, sleeps 6. Communal pool. Five mins beach, 10 mins golf, 20 mins airport. Contact Mick Ager on 0034 617110096 or email casadomi02@hotmail.com.

DISNEY villa. Luxury upgrades, 4 bed, 3 bath over-size pool and spa, games room. 10 mins from Disney, 8 golf courses nearby. Contact Steve Crane on 07970 452053 or visit the website at www.cranesorlandoretreat.com.

FLORIDA. Sarasota villa sleeps 6. Quiet village environment, communal pool, tennis, BBQ, clubhouse, hot-tub, beautiful beaches. Contact Norma Gill by calling 01255 870134 or email normaisabella@aol.com.

FLORIDA. Four bedroom villa with pool, overlooking water, close to Disney golf and airport. From £450pw. Ask to see video by emailing petewtaylor@yahoo.com or call Pete or Lin on 01245 321378.

FRANCE. Beautiful hamlet location overlooking river, fantastic views. Interesting places to visit, including local markets. Tasteful, well-equipped, detached farmhouse. Sleeps 4/5. Visit the website at www.giteinvienne.com or email philetlin@free.fr.

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.

FRENCH farm house. Situated in an idyllic hamlet in the Poitou Charente region. Bordeaux and the renowned beaches of Royan only 45 minutes away. Three separate bedrooms plus sofa bed. Typically French with barns, large pond and wildlife. Country walks and fabulous food. Prices from £200pw. Contact Derek Patten on ext 47421 or 07958 209909.

SOUTHERN SPAIN. On Baviera golf course, beach, restaurants, all shops only 2 minutes, 3 bedroom luxury apartment, sleeps 6. Large lounge, overlooking shared pool, dining room, fully equipped kitchen, 2 bathrooms with baths and showers. Large 40m sun terrace, very quiet road. Contact Mr & Mrs Gosling on 0034 650124382.

LA MANGA. Two-bedroom apartment, ensuite pool, panoramic sea views, excellent beaches, shops, restaurants, £100/300pw per hire. Cheap flights (Stansted). Contact Bernie on 01757 370317 or 07986 098422.

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. 4 bed, 3 bath, private screened pool, jacuzzi. Sleeps 10. 10 mins to Disney, excellent location. Police discounts. Visit the website at www.the-haven-at-westbury.co.uk.

TENERIFE. Two-bed, two-bath villa. Year-round sun, sea view, 100yds from ocean, quiet location, satellite TV, communal pool. Sleeps 4-6. From £300pw. Contact Dave Britton on 01702 201701.

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 email woodlands.nunn@btopenworld.com.

SOUTH OF FRANCE. 6 berth luxury mobile home on Haven Flagship site, nr La Rochelle. Fully equipped, all amenities. Kids clubs, pools, entertainment excellent. Tel: 01268 792011.

SOUTH OF FRANCE. Sleeps 6. Villa, communal pool, 2 mins walk to Mediterranean. For more information, visit www.lacypriette.com or contact Tracey Harman on 01702 470926.

TUSCANY, Italy. Nestling in the foothills of the mountains of northern Tuscany, rustic and romantic medieval village house. Breathtaking views. One hr to Florence, Pisa, and coast. Contact 07919 057437 or visit www.tuscanlife.co.uk

Cars, bikes & boats

AUDI 80. 1.8 sport, 1989(F), metallic glacier blue, 104,000 miles, all MOTS, 2 owners from new. Immaculate in/out. £795. Contact Clive on ext 22432 or 07801 042184.

BMW 318ci. V-reg, 40,000 miles, FBMWSH, topaz blue, 6-disc CD, air con, elec windows, elec mirrors, like new. £10,250. Tel Greig on 07961 321753.

SUZUKI Bandit 6005 fared. Black, serviced, MOT, tax 12 months, 12,000 miles, £2,500ono, datatag. Contact 01279 641212, ext 20832.

HURLEY 24/70 sailing cruiser. Four berths in two cabins. 6ft headroom 9hp. Diesel engine, excellent survey, June 2002, copy available. £8,500 ovno. Tel: 01255 851416.

PIAGGIO X9 250cc 02 reg, silver. Quick and economical. Low mileage, very good condition, £1700 ono. Tel: 01799 513330.

Miscellaneous

HOUSEHOLD items for sale, including pine modern coffee table, microwave, toaster, coffee, tea and sugar jars; teapot set all in yellow. Contact Jennie on ext 50951.

HOUSEHOLD items for sale, including fridge, freezer, dining tables, display cabinets, and TV amongst others. Contact Derek Patten on 07958 209909 or ext 47432.

Property to buy

HOUSE for sale. Extended three-bedroom, semi-detached house in Rayleigh, large lounge, luxury kitchen, family room downstairs toilet, garage, 50ft garden, close to station, schools. £265,000ono. Contact Ian Packer on 01268 784608.

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¹ Loans for business and timeshare purposes excluded. As a responsible lender we recommend the maximum amount you apply for is half your annual salary, before tax. All loans and interest rates are subject to status. The quoted rate is a typical APR. You must be 18 years or over and in receipt of a regular income of at least £7,500 (gross) per annum. All your credit commitments must be up to date. For your security and to help improve our service to you, we may record or monitor telephone calls. This offer is available only to UK residents (excluding residents of the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands). Rates are correct at time of going to print. Hamilton Direct Bank, a division of HFC Bank Limited, is a trading name of HFC Bank Limited. HFC Bank Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Registered Office: North Street, Winkfield, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 4TD. Registered in England No:1117305.

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Lady luck runs sweet

A BASILDON staff member was the winner of the force's December lottery, scooping a Ford Ka as first prize.

Service Desk Supervisor Leigh Day was completely "gobsmacked" when she found out, even calling back Chief Constable David Stevens, who had given her the good news, to ensure it was not a "wind-up".

Leigh, who is engaged to Pc Darren Bull from the same division, has been with the force for nine years.

Leigh said: "Winning the car has come at just the right time as Darren had, at the time, just given me his old car after getting a new one himself - he can have that back now!"

Over 4,000 employees take part in the monthly force lottery, with the prize of a Ka a special one-off; although Essex Police Sports Association Chief Executive, Christian Robinson, may pursue similar plans for another car for a lottery later this year.

"It attracted so much attention

both internally and outside," said Mr Robinson. "At the presentation where Leigh collected the keys, we had photographers from all of the local newspapers. We are keen to build strong relationships with other businesses and create a greater awareness of community policing so we'll see if we can get another car on the books."

Meanwhile, Leigh has been enjoying the first full month with her new set of hot wheels given to the force for a special discount by the Essex Ford Group.

"The car is kitted out with the best trim and the seats give it a real cool look," said the 37-year-old from Rochford. "Driving to family and friends is now more exciting as I get to show off the sporty little number."

Recent newcomers to the force lottery include two other service desk personnel from other police stations as they bid to emulate Leigh's success.

Leigh added: "December turned out to be a great month for me after I won the car as I also celebrated my birthday after Christmas."

"I would like to thank Essex Ford Group for giving me a really nice car. They even paid for a year's insurance and road tax. I guess it's lady luck."



● STAR PRIZE . . . Leigh Day collects the new keys to her new Ford Ka from Ford's Joanne Foster.

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Car Insurance

TV adverts hope to have hammered home message

by Helen Cook

EVEN as an experienced crime reduction officer, Kathy Payne is still upset when she visits an elderly woman who has been the victim of bogus callers.

While she offers advice and suggests practical things like door chains and spy holes, she knows that it really is too late and the message is not hitting home about stopping people entering your home.

So Ms Payne, based in Chelmsford, was an ideal choice to try and get the message home through a series of short items broadcast on Anglia TV.

Ms Payne secured a £5,000 Home Office grant which was spent on filming costs and putting together home security packs that went out to homes all over East Anglia.

She said: "We gave details of our nominated neighbour scheme run here in Chelmsford where, if a stranger calls at the home of an elderly person, they show a card saying they should call at a neighbour who will check their credentials before they are

allowed entry."

The items lasted just under five minutes and were shown twice a day for two weeks. They included 68-year-old Barbara who was a victim of bogus callers.

Despite having a German Shepherd dog on the premises, she was still duped by callers at her door and lost money and valued possessions. Barbara was greatly shocked and suffered an asthma attack that needed hospital treatment.

Ms Payne said: "People like Barbara never really get over being tricked like this; it has long lasting effects on victims."

"We must keep plugging the message not to let strangers into your home, all the time, so these items on Anglia TV are vital to reinforce the message. If just one person slams the door in the face of bogus callers then I will feel we have achieved something worthwhile."

Panda-ing to classic cop car fans

DO you remember that old Velocette or Mk 3 Ford Zephyr?

Well if you do and are interested in other old emergency services vehicles, you can take a trip down memory lane with Classic 999 magazine.

Launched in March 2004 the magazine features such gems as the only surviving Mk 3 Ford Zephyr, plus a regular series looking at traffic patrol cars written by a serving officer.

The editorial team led by Ian Cushway would like to hear from anyone currently

employed in the police force who has any memories, stories, suggestions or topics for an article.

Contact Ian Cushway by emailing him at 999.ed@kelsey.co.uk. More details can be found at the magazine's website www.classic999.co.uk.

Sport & Leisure

Awards for sports stars

The heads rule over the Herts

Tense battlelines

TWO Braintree officers have won this year's EPSA awards for outstanding achievements during the calendar year as well as dedication to sport through a career.

The management committee voted unanimously in favour of Brett Lummis for his outstanding achievements in the swimming pool at Croker Cup, National and European Championships.

The Service to the Association award went to Peter Orpe for his sterling efforts in a wide range of sports over very many years, together with his co-ordinating role in masterminding the success of his division in the Croker Cup.

Peter and Brett will receive their awards at the EPSA AGM which will be held in the sports clubhouse at headquarters at 2.15pm on Thursday, February 3.

All retired officers and staff are entitled to be members of the sports association.

Members can participate in the force lottery which regularly has £3,000 as first prize and there are a host of other benefits.

These include discounted cinema tickets, discounts at various restaurants and leisure facilities plus travel deals and offers.

To find out more, email christian.robison@essex.pnn.police.uk.

ESSEX kicked off the new season in style with a first league victory in the South Midlands Cup as well as a quarter-final berth in the National Police Football Cup after a recent double-header against Hertfordshire.

In their first game of the new season, the first team made the trip to Bushy in the South Midlands Cup and promptly gave their hosts a 5-0 drubbing.

Although the first 20 minutes saw an even game, Essex soon got into their stride and took control. A cross from Steve Crane to the far post found Nicky 'Simmo' Simpson who headed home the first having already had a good goal disallowed.

Essex pressed home their advantage and, within five minutes, Simon Gray met another far post cross to head home the force's second.

Hertfordshire were undaunted and fought back in the last 15 minutes of the first half, pinning Essex down and putting them under pressure. However, the back four defended well, with Paul Nicholls, in particular, looking very confident against the Hertfordshire attack.

The second half began well and the team played some good possession football, with Simon Gray breaking out to score two more

by Heather Watts

goals and Simmo producing a top-drawer volley. An overhead kick from Keano rounded off a magnificent performance by the visitors.

After such a resounding defeat, Hertfordshire would not have wanted to see Essex again so quickly, but just a couple of weeks later, they visited the county to play in the national area final of the National Police Cup.

Matters began grimly for the away team as injuries crippled their playing staff and they had to begin the game with only nine men on the pitch.

However, they scored first as Essex took their time getting through the gears.

Hertfordshire soon managed to find two new additions to the pitch, but Essex soon took control and equalised just before the break when an unselfish cross from Gray found Mark Gridley at the far post.

Two defensive errors early in the second half saw Essex go 2-1 down, but they continued a relentless attack against Hertfordshire and, with only 20 minutes to go, Essex scored from a free kick headed in by Paul 'Keano' Keaney.

With the pressure lifted, the last 10 minutes saw Gridley, Darren Pitt and Gray score three more goals in quick-fire succession.

The 5-2 scoreline sees Essex through to the quarter-finals where they will meet either the Metropolitan Police or Kent.

BRENTWOOD's Russ Welch took home the title of this year's Croker Cup cross country champion – but not without a battle all the way to the finishing line.

A total of 103 runners took part in the race which was also the third fixture of the Eastern/South East Police League. Although conditions at Basildon's Gloucester Park were mild and dry, it made the course no less testing.

Currently enjoying his best ever season, Welch made a fast start with only Angus Crosby from Hertfordshire - winner of the opening two league races - for company.

Welch continued to look strong in the last lap and was spurred on from the sidelines by his young daughter to win a decisive 14 seconds ahead of Crosby. City of London officer, Matt Rees, won the battle for third place.

The Chelmsford duo of Mick Bond, who incidentally finished sixth in the veterans' race and Andy Jopson, together with Braintree's Alex Webb ensured a league win for the Essex men though.

Colchester's Chris Lacey claimed the over-40s award only days after his 40th birthday.

Chris's divisional colleague, Paul Fieldsend finished second in the V45, with John Mackenzie (Admin Services) claiming top spot in the V50 race.

In the women's competition, Bedfordshire's Louise Prole remain

undefeated in the league, but the excitement was really behind her as the Essex Ladies battled it out to be the first Essex Lady.

Rayleigh's Rachel Crosby of Rayleigh won the contest, finishing two places ahead of tenth-placed Katherine Southall (Harlow), with Colchester's Lucy Bradley a further place behind and Southend's Lisa Bolton just one place behind her.

However this was not enough to stop Hampshire from claiming a team victory, finishing nearly 30 points ahead of Essex.

Congratulations also go to the child protection duo of Pauline Bowers and Sam Deer as they finished first and second respectively in their age categories.

Lottery results

THE winner of the January lottery draw was Clacton's Sgt Kay Blackman who wins herself a cool £3,000.

Scoping £1,000 is Thurrock's Carolyn Sisto, with Basildon's Dc Kelly Drennan bagging £500.

The winners of £100 are: Duncan McDowall and Pc Ian Banks (Harlow); Graeme Bryson (FIR); Michael Latham and Alister Bevan (Southend); Pc Jay Leeson (Thurrock) and Pc Andy Bareham (Stansted Airport).

The winners of £50 are: Derek Walker and Sgt Steve Millbourne (Colchester); Pc Doug Pyatt and Pc Steve Simmans (Chelmsford; Pc Andy Waldie (Sandon Dog Unit); Ds Barry Wix (Crime Division); Pc Andrew Turrell (Harlow) and Ryan Tullett (Southend).

The winner of the December lottery draw and so, winner of the Ford Ka, was Basildon's Leigh Day (see opposite page).

The top three cash prize winners all go to staff at headquarters, with Ds Haydn Oakey (Scene of Crime) better off by £3,000. Chief Supt Jacqui Cheer won the second prize of £1,000 and Jenny Grantham (PNC Bureau) picked up the third prize of £500.

The 10 £100 winners were: Pc Gary Bradford, Southend; Dc Shirley Culliton, Immigration Unit; Pc Pete Ellis, Chigwell Motorway Control Room; Theresa Hodgkin, MICAS; Insp Kevin Wakefield, HQ IT; Dc John Stewart, HQ CID; Sgt Stuart Jeans, Basildon; Diana Hammond, Colchester; Pc Anna Brown, Basildon; Pc Liz Bailey, Rayleigh.

The consolation prizes of £50 went to: John Martin, Southend; Lucy Gordon, Braintree; Dc Norman Stone, Crime Division; Laurie Posner, Corporate Support; Insp Malcolm Ding, FSU; Sue Ding, retired; Pc Richard Ambrose, Harlow; Cathy Renew, Basildon; Pc Terry Hobbs, Chigwell RPU; Claire Roper, Thurrock; Ian Cotgrove, retired.

The cutting edge of Japanese sport

STAFF across the organisation are being encouraged to take up the Japanese sword art of laido following a recent session at police headquarters in which students from Chelmsford were awarded certificates for progress.

laido is a solo Japanese art form practiced, eventually, with a real blade. In contrast to Kendo, laido is performed without protective coverings of any kind. Students must strive to achieve power, precision and perfection in their form; along the way, learning balance, grace, and control both of the body and the mind.

Students from the Taigakai Chelmsford Dojo have all been striving towards attaining their National 1st Kyu, with training involving intense practice and scrutiny of the 12 laido Seitei forms.

If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the Chelmsford Taigakai laido Dojo or would like to watch any forthcoming seminars, then contact Chris Barnes on ext 55433 or via email.

Chris will be travelling to Japan in April where he will be meeting members of the Kobe Dojo, with the hope of laying the foundations for future trips as well as implementing study seminars.



● Sensei Mike Kellet practices the Japanese art of laido with an itaito.

Flying the flag of personal safety

TWO police community support officers (PCSOs) have been promoting safety awareness - both on and off the streets - to local Brownies in Harlow Division.

PCSOs Louise Webb and Daniel Maylin joined the Second Church Langley Brownies as part of a four-week programme to help them gain their crime prevention and road safety badges.

Louise and Daniel gave them lessons in personal safety and having the courage to say 'no' when someone invades their personal space.

Louise said: "The Brownies showed commitment and worked hard to achieve these awards and we are very proud of them."

The Brownies had to successfully complete six courses with the officers: The Green Cross Code, road safety, stranger danger, post-coding property, and personal and home security.

Brown Owl, Valerie Murphy, said: "The girls now know their local PCSOs and they thoroughly enjoyed meeting them. With the dark nights at the moment, it's extremely important that they get a reminder of this personal safety information."

After their trip to Harlow Police Station, the Brownies were given 'goodie bags' containing police badges, bookmarks, balloons and ultra-violet marker pens to postcode their possessions.

Modern times lie ahead

CHILD Protection has changed its name in a bid to accurately reflect the work which officers now investigate these days.

The new name - Child Abuse Investigation Unit (CAIU) - is a title "commonly understood throughout all police forces", with the name derived from a national guidance model.

DCI Roy Fenning, said: "Child abuse investigation more accurately reflects the fact that my officers investigate serious crime, most of which is just as important as any other form of major crime and we need to eradicate any suggestion that child protection is of a lower status than other forms of policing."

Essex is one of the last forces in England and Wales to standardise its title in this way, thereby removing one of a number of names previously used to describe units that investigate child abuse.

New scheme for assault victims

A NEW centre offering victims of sexual offences more choice in how crimes against them are dealt with, could soon be up and running in Essex.

Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC) have been used in Manchester and London for some years and have been recommended as best practice following 2002's HMIC inspection into rape investigation.

This report identified the need to have separate facilities for adult and child victims of sexual

by Ben Pennington

offences, and research in Essex has identified more ways in which a SARC could be used.

It would act as a self-referral centre for both male and female victims who may not wish to see police to report a crime.

The centre could take and store forensic samples, giving victims more time to think about if and how they wanted the incident to be handled.

However, the project needs £60,000 in supporting funds from local partners such as health services in order to get off the ground.

Project Co-ordinator Allison

Campbell said: "A centre will give victims more choices in the criminal process, while providing more intelligence from people who won't now report these things to us."

"At the moment, we believe at least one in five sexual offences victims doesn't report such offences. If they felt more comfortable in reporting them to a SARC, we would be able to build up profiles of where and when attacks are taking place."

Work has taken place to develop partnership working with Primary Care Trusts and other local authorities, whose services would be signposted by the centre.

Keeping the criminals cooped up

A SPECIALLY-formed team of Tendring officers is putting the pressure on thieves, dealers and anti-social residents in Jaywick.

Operation Chicken Run was launched last month following feedback from residents about criminal activity and quality of life issues in the town.

In the first stage of the operation, the team carried out 13 search warrants at addresses in the town, recovering more than £15,000 of stolen property and over £2,000 of drugs including crack cocaine, heroine and cannabis.

The raids saw several suspects arrested and their cases are now working their way through the courts.

Phase two of the initiative will see officers clearing up outstanding court warrants, as well as targeting disqualified drivers.

In phase three, the team will be cracking down on unacceptable behaviour in partnership with Tendring's anti-social behaviour co-ordinator as well as working with local authorities and groups to tidy up the coastal town.

Operation Co-ordinator, Sgt Bob Walsham, said: "Jaywick has a very strong sense of community and the vast majority of residents are good people who want the chance to live their lives in peace."

"It is a mindless few who are ruining it for them, and we're determined to stamp it out."

"We've done some good work down there and we've cracked the tip of the iceberg. With the help of residents I'm confident we'll see some really positive change there for the long-term."

New goal for hockey team

FORMER professional hockey coach constable Gaz Ingram has taken over the men's hockey team and is looking for new players of any level to join the team and make them a force to be reckoned with.

The team also tours often, so if you are keen to bully off then Gaz would like to hear from you.

He can be contacted by email or 07766 241972.

Read all about it

AN Essex Police Authority newsletter has been launched detailing positive media coverage.

The quarterly publication also acts as a useful guide for people wanting to know more about the authority's work.

Painting pictures of police life



FOR nearly two decades, Peter Caulfield's cartoons kept avid readers of *The Law* amused and entertained.

His sketches illustrated tales of comedy concerning issues on both a local and national level and so his departure from the force will be missed.

These examples of his work show that little has really changed over the years.

See page 8 for his retirement.

