RELATIVES of Essex officers killed while on duty have welcomed the dedication of the National Police Memorial unveiled by the Queen in London.

Fourteen Essex officers are among the 1,600 names listed in a book of remembrance contained in a glass box set into the face of a black-clad stone tablet on The Mall.

The memorial was the brainchild of film director Michael Winner who had been lobbying for over a decade for “a fitting tribute” to those police officers who had given or lost their lives in the course of duty.

Sitting in the second row at the ceremony was Sue Bishop, widow of Acting Sgt Brian Bishop who was shot in 1984 when challenging an armed robber in Frinton. He was 37-years-old.

She said: “I feel very proud to know that officers are being recognised this way. Others can now also appreciate the fact that they didn’t give their lives for nothing – they will never be forgotten.”

When asked what Her Majesty the Queen asked, Mrs Bishop said: “She asked how Brian had died and was very shocked to learn that such a tragedy could happen in a small seaside resort such as Frinton.”

The 58-year-old added: “The memorial has been very tastefully designed. I just hope it doesn’t get vandalised.”

Also accompanying Mrs Bishop to the event was Wayne Veal, brother of 36-year-old Gary, who was killed in 2001 when dealing with a broken-down vehicle on the A12 near Colchester. Mr Veal is a constable based at Colchester.

“I felt honoured to be Gary’s brother as well as being a police officer myself, but more importantly it was fitting and a pleasure to be invited to this occasion,” said Pc Veal. “Police officers killed in the line of duty are now finally recognised! It was a proud day for all my family.”

The Essex Police Memorial Trust was set up following A/Sgt Bishop’s murder, with a roll of honour, memorial stone and a book of remembrance at force headquarters.

Chairman of the trust is Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark.

“Often our work does go unrecognised,” said Mr Clark. “Many of our staff face dangers on a daily basis. Fortunately, they are able to walk away afterwards but, for some, that is not the case.”

“Here in Essex, we make sure we pay tribute to those who give their lives and support those left behind,” he added.

The names of 36 officers are recorded on the Essex Police Memorial Trust website and Director of the Police Roll, Anthony Rae, of Honour Trust (PRHT), says “Essex is the primary force for remembering their officers”.

He added: “The only reason there are only 14 Essex officers, and 1,600 nationwide, named in the national memorial’s book of remembrance is because they lost their lives in the execution of their duty; as a result of criminal acts; in the course of effecting an arrest; in the performance of acts of gallantry; or other hazardous duty.”

A NEW promotional DVD produced by the Media & Public Relations Department is ready to hit television screens this month, allowing new staff and the public a glimpse into the life of Essex Police.

Your Force is a three-minute film which has been produced by the TV and New Media Unit and looks at the diverse work carried out by both operational and support staff employed across the force.

The DVD, which is set to fast-paced music, uses time-lapse photography from around Essex and includes recent footage filmed by the unit, including visits to police stations, landmarks and real-life policing at events throughout the county.

Producer/Editor David Fogerty said: “The film is a revised, up-to-date version of Your Call which was made in 2000. We’ve shot some new sequences, mixed it with some archive footage and laid some music and sound effects underneath to give a dynamic feel.”

As well as including both a one-view and looped version of the promotional film, the DVD also contains a highlights package of the 2004 2Smart4Drugs Roadshow and documentaries on the Specials, hate crime and citizen focus policing.
The delegates will have the opportunity to consider the implications of the Morris Inquiry and the Commission for Racial Equality’s formal investigation into the police service.

The Home Office also commissioned the Chairmen of the Taylor Inquiry, Bill Taylor, to review discipline and misconduct procedures in the police service. Mr Taylor and Nick Harwick, who is the chairman of the IPCC, will be part of a panel to answer questions.

The day will also see the Home Secretary address the conference, after which officer safety is on the agenda.

Delegates will consider the effectiveness of safety, training and equipment. Research indicates that A C P O - r e c o m m e n d e d minimum training requirements are not being provided.

Delegates will also review the value of providing all officers with taser guns.

The next session is Policing – A Reality Check. Speakers from the floor will be asked to provide a practical assessment of value (or otherwise) of ASBOs, Fixed Penalty Notices, CPRs charging and the National Intelligence Model.

Thursday takes us into the public sector and police reform.

There will be a presentation by Professor Tim Newburn, from the London School of Economics, who will provide an overview of public sector reform and consider the current and future implications for the police service.

Following this, we will take speakers to provide a practical assessment of the views on Police Community Support Officers, civilian investigators, civilian custody officers and Highways Agency Traffic Officers (HATO).

This will lead into a debate on police reform and motions from boards on the issues discussed.

All in all, quite a wide range of topical issues.

If you have questions you wish to be asked on your behalf (I cannot guarantee they will all be heard due to restrictions on time), then contact your local federation representative.

**Fired up for conference**

The National Police Federation Conference takes place at Blackpool later this month (17-19), with your Federation sending delegates from all the federated ranks to represent you on topical issues.

I will briefly outline the programme of discussion topics. Firstly, there is a session on diversity following a number of high profile discrimination cases and the broadcast of the BBC’s *The Secret Policeman.*

The delegates will have the opportunity to review its progress and performance.

Among the panel members are Peter Fahy who is Cheshire’s chief constable as well as being the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) lead on Race and Diversity. In addition, Anesta Weeks QC (member of Morris Inquiry) will also be there.

On the Wednesday, the IPCC/Taylor Report will be discussed.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) is just over a year old and delegates will have an opportunity to review its progress and performance.

The delegates will also review the value of providing all officers with taser guns.

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**Praise for mediators**

A NUMBER of officers and staff across the organisation have been recognised for their hard work and commitment in the area of discrimination and harassment in the workplace.

Chief Constable David Stevens recently presented certificates to the 17 Voluntary Grievance Advisors (VGAs).

They helped celebrate the 11th anniversary of the network which forms part of the force’s commitment to equal opportunities.

The VGAs have proved very successful in providing assistance in sensitive cases of unfair or unlawful discrimination or treatment, and perceived harassment and bullying.

Inspector Kate Sale, said: “The main role of a VGA is to listen and provide an independent perspective on workplace issues that are upsetting colleagues and we can provide advice and support as necessary.

“Often just listening helps people find their own solutions but sometimes the formal grievance system is needed.

“People who contact us are genuinely upset and/or angry and it is rewarding to help people sort things out and get through that experience, sometimes negotiating with supervisors or managers; or even helping with drafting reports.”

The network is keen to recruit new members to its small, but committed group.

Anyone who is interested should contact their local VGA, with contact numbers found on their homepage which is located on the Human Resources section of the intranet.

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**Eradicating erroneous individuals**

A NEW policing team has been set up in Rochford with a view to addressing persistent anti-social behaviour and public nuisance problems in the south Essex district.

Officers have been monitoring crime levels within the local district council and have created a dedicated group of officers to tackle the ongoing problem.

Consisting of a sergeant, three constables and five Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), the team will work closely with a new anti-social behaviour co-ordinator from the district council, as well as other crime and disorder reduction partners “to stamp out unwanted crime” in Rochford.

Sgt Suky Kalar said: “We’ve identified a number of disorder hotspots in the area and will be hoping to eradicate these problems using a variety of intelligence-led strategies and methods.

“Our aim is to provide a more co-ordinated and focused response to alleviate unnecessary misery to local residents and businesses.”

The PCSOs will provide additional reassurance and presence through high-visibility foot-patrols in the community which will seek to reduce the often disproportionate fear of crime felt by the vulnerable in society.

Sgt Kalar added: “We will seek to engage with community members each and every day so that information on issues, individuals or groups can be shared amongst us and thus benefit all those who live and work in the area.”

**Paving the way forward**

“HUMAN RESOURCES has a key role in challenging and changing the behaviour and culture of the organisation”, says Head of Operational Human Resources (HR) Mrs Kerry Megowan as she explains how her department is prioritising hurdles identified at ACTION workshops.

An action plan was devised to address problems, with solutions categorised into eight key areas (reward and recognition, recruitment and training, staff resourcing, development, working conditions, behaviour, performance and organisational structure), and an HR ACTION focus group was set up to closely monitor the objectives.

Mrs Megowan said: “In fact, work had already begun to identify and address issues that were preventing managers from supervising their staff and the workshops have just enabled us to consider remaining problem areas.”

Key objectives include improving the remuneration system for police staff, including developing a bonus scheme similar to the officer scheme; developing a talent scheme for police staff similar to the High Potential Development Scheme for officers; and reviewing current policies to ensure they are fit for their purpose.

Mrs Megowan added: “The ACTION workshops have assisted in identifying where we still have work to do and to ensure that all staff take personal responsibility for achieving high standards.

“Through ACTION, we intend to give a strong message to managers that we will empower and support them to challenge poor performance and create a culture of high standards and improved performance.”
Enthusiastic bikers are urged to spread the word

YOUNG moped and scooter riders have given an enthusiastic response to an event centred around their favourite hobby.

Teenage ‘bike’ owners from the Braintree area were invited to a Young Rider Skills Day at Notley School, organised by police from Braintree and the Bocking Road Policing Unit in partnership with Elaine Beckett, from Essex County Council.

The day comprised workshops including bike maintenance and motorcycle riding tests – aimed at reducing the chances of riders having accidents and raising awareness about how inconsiderate riding is anti-social behaviour.

Although organisers were disappointed with the turnout, the event was extremely well received by those youngsters who joined in.

It is hoped they will spread the word and encourage fellow ‘bikers’ to attend any future events planned by the officers in the division or the road safety department at the county council.

For display advertising in The Law contact United Press on 01282 459533
THOUSANDS of young people around England and Wales have enjoyed holidays of a lifetime thanks to a police charity which recently celebrated raising its first £1 million.

Set up in 1994 following the IRA bombing in Warrington, Child Victims of Crime’s (CVOC) holidays provide an “away-from-it-all” break for young people who have been victims of horrific crime.

As the only national police children’s charity, CVOC is also involved in pioneering child safety projects and plans to host a series of activity centre holidays in the UK in which child victims can spend a week throwing themselves into the fun as well as being beneficial to specific counselling to help them rebuild their lives and start to draw a line under what has happened to them.

CVOC Manager, Dominic Wijerante, is proud to have awarded the £1 million to the most deserving youngsters, but recognises the fact that the satisfaction should be shared by every force, including Essex.

“I know from talking to police officers that they want to do more for young victims of crime,” said Mr Chambers.

“Sometimes it isn’t enough to catch the offender, the child goes on hurting. So, if an officer can arrange for something practical, then they feel as if they are making a difference.”

Only police officers can nominate a youngster who might receive awards from CVOC, whose patron is BBC Children in Need, and they can do this by downloading a form from the website www.cvoc.org.uk.

A detailed design of many uses

A SERIES of posters covering a range of topics relating to the Police National Computer (PNC) are now available for display use.

The posters detail some of the many functions that PNC offers and are suitable for a variety of different display areas.

They can be accessed through the PNC website and printed, or contact PNC Bureau Manager Mick Berry on ext 51921 for glossy A4 copies.

POLICE Constable Sidney Dodd served in the Royal Artillery throughout World War II. On leaving Essex Police, he was posted to the Grays Division and, as a married man with a small son, Sidney became a detached beat officer at Horndean-in-Hill.

He was very popular on his beat and well respected by local magistrates for the clear way in which he gave evidence in court.

One of Sidney’s particular concerns was road safety, and he often visited the local schools in his own time where the children affectionately called him ‘Uncle Sid’.

One Sunday evening in February 1957, Sidney was cycling along the Stanford-le-Hope bypass when he was knocked down and killed by a drunk-driver, leaving his wife Sidney and six year old son Peter. Peter now has two children of his own, Thomas and Emily.

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.

A religious roadshow to hit Essex

“GOD walking the streets” is how some Londoners described the radical new idea of Street Pastors who will soon be working alongside Essex Police.

The scheme is described “as the church going out on the streets to meet the needs of the community”, especially those who are vulnerable and who normally go not into a church.

Southend Inspector Kevin Tomkins said: “This means working closely with the pastors to impact on anti-social behaviour and improve the quality of life for all.”

Volunteers must be over 18, committed Christians, attend a reference from their minister and undergo criminal record checks.

Street Pastors are funded by contributions from churches, Essex Police and Southend Borough Council and individuals.

The pastors’ intention is not to preach; it is to listen, help and, but to listen, help and encourage young people to move on to more positive endeavours.

The scheme was pioneered in London by the Ascension Trust in 2003 and since set up in a number of UK cities.

For more information, visit www.lovesouthend.org.

Accommodating news for all

A NEW page listing properties for sale or rental in Essex has been launched on the force staff development site.

The page allows people with a property to see who is renting out to put details where interested parties can view them.

Situated on the staff development part of the regular crime prevention roadshow, it is designed for use by Essex Police personnel only.

POLICE Constable 780 - Essex Police.


THREE divisions have joined forces to protect industrial premises in Colchester, Maldon and Witham from crime.

Under the banner Industrial Link, police, security experts and representatives of firms met at an advisory conference which is seen as the first step in the formation of a group to serve businesses in the way Neighbourhood Watch protects households.

Brantley, Chelmsford and Colchester divisions are all involved in the initiative.

Companies represented at the conference were given advice on keeping their premises free from burglary and other crime.

Speakers included Tony Allen, chairman of the Road Haulage Association, who covered HGV theft; Chief Supt Dave Murthwaite, DSI Grahame Bird, Insp Cheryl Gilmour and Crime Reduction Officers Colin Stiff, Ray Stannard and Trisha Staerck.

The group will help the conference will lead to the formation of a permanent group which will enable members to receive regular crime prevention advice and pool their knowledge. An email intelligence link to keep firms alert to crime trends is among future thinking.
Tainted histories to be exposed

OFFICERS and police staff who are set to give evidence at court will now be subject to criminal and disciplinary records checks – similar to those carried out on defence witnesses.

The new legal requirement, agreed between the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), will mean that any criminal convictions, cautions or misconduct hearings which have resulted in punishment will have to be disclosed to the CPS.

It will then be a matter for CPS solicitors and barristers to use their discretion and decide whether to disclose the ‘taint’ to the defence counsel.

In addition, and as part of the new requirement, forces’ professional standards departments will keep a record of those staff and officers who do have taints.

People who are likely to be affected by the new policy will be asked to verify their records ahead of any possible disclosure to the CPS.

Policy co-ordinator for Essex is Assistant Investigating Officer, Mick Hicks, who recognises the need for matters to be managed properly under the new rules.

“We’ll shortly be contacting people who are affected by the new policy in order that an agreement can be sought on the contents of any file,” said Mr Hicks of the Professional Standards Department.

“It clearly has the potential to be sensitive and all matters kept here in professional standards will be confidential and subject to data protection.”

The new policy guideline was published at the beginning of the month and sets out the circumstances and measures for officers and police staff.

In the meantime, anyone with any concerns can contact Mr Hicks on ext 50548 or via email.

STAFF across Crime Division are this month reaping the benefits of the open day held earlier this year after more than 50 people from underrepresented groups attended the event at the Three Rivers Gold and Country Club in Coggeshall.

Officers and police staff from across the county paid a visit to the one-day event, which looked to attract potential recruits from other divisions.

Presentations by detectives from the Crime Squad, Major Investigations, Special Branch, the Child Abuse Investigation Unit (CAIU) and Intelligence were complemented by the support given from the division.

Divisional Resource Manager, Victoria Butler, said: “The whole event was a success from top to bottom and wouldn’t have attracted so many people and so many positive comments had it not been for the enthusiasm and dedication shown by those who helped organise and staff the event.

“So a big thank you to everyone involved.

Feedback

“We’ve been processing some of the feedback from the day and will be looking to make contact with the dozens who demonstrated an interest in joining us.”

One such visitor to the event was Alan Stevens, the detective inspector recently joined the Economic Crime Unit after a couple of years in the vulnerable victims section.

DI Stevens, who has 30 years’ service with the police, was still keen to learn more about sections in his division, saying it was still “one of the most diverse within the force”.

“There are so many varied, specialist roles with plenty of scope for officers to apply themselves in,” said DI Stevens.

“I would also encourage people from under-represented groups to consider joining the division because the opportunities here are boundless, with varied and rewarding careers on offer.”

Also attending were officers from the Professional Standards Department who, although not affiliated to the Crime Division, were keen to show detectives the work they do.

Have you a story to tell?

The Law/Ring Hoeber Turner on ext 50620 or 01245 452455

Leaping into ACTION to overcome barriers and reap rewards

CHELMSFORD Division leapt into ACTION after an initial recruitment drive at the Police National Tie Tac Register.

The traditional methods through advertisements in the local newspapers and on the internet failed to find suitable candidates for the four SDA posts.

So the service desk management and HR Business Manager, Sue Scott, and Assistant Chief Constable Constable (Personnel) Andy Adkins, organised a recruitment open day at the Three Rivers Gold and Country Club in Cold Norton.

Also attending were Sue’s ‘sidekicks’ – Assistant Business Manager, Sue Scott; and Business Manager, Sue Scott. The three were ready to pounce on any interested parties.

“It may sound glamorous but It clearly has the potential to be sensitive and all matters kept here in professional standards will be confidential and subject to data protection.”

The whole event was “one of the most diverse within the force”, said DI Stevens, who has 30 years’ service with the police.

He observed that although the officers and their sidekicks should find dealing with the public a whole lot easier than having to deal with dogs, its handler and their sidekicks, as well as the joy – that the dogs can be trained as a training aid, but also review the progress we’re making as a dog section in general.”

Anglia Television presenter, Tim Evans, followed the lives of the dogs and their handlers from day one, broadcasting short films at various stages of their development.

“IT was fascinating watching the dogs and handlers progress through the training programme,” said Mr Evans. “It’s rare to see this type of police work at close quarters. I know Anglia Tonight viewers are keen to learn how Essex Police maintains law and order. These days, police forces are in the media spotlight – often in connection with controversial issues. This was an opportunity to go behind the scenes and see an aspect of policing which interests many people.”

PC Frost added: “Although we have provided Tim and Anglia TV with some good material, they have also been helpful to us with this programme.”

THE newest set of canine recruits has hit the streets and fields of Essex following the latest pass-out of dogs and their handlers.

However, the officers and their sidekicks should find dealing with the public a whole lot easier than having a film crew watching nearly every step of their way – as has happened since their training began.

Since the start of the year, the dogs and their handlers have been the focus of a mini-documentary series filmed by Anglia TV, which has allowed viewers to see the trials and tribulations – as well as the joy – that the dog, its handler and training instructors experience as the dog grows through the various stages of training.

It may sound glamorous but for instructor, PC Dave Frost, it was daunting.

“This was my first course as a fully-fledged trainer, so the cameras were probably the last thing I needed,” said the 43-year-old. “Having said that, it was good to use the filming crew for some of our practice work and the distraction they caused helped us with another element of our work.

“We can look back at the videos and not only use them as a training aid, but also review the progress we’re making as a dog section in general.”

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by Nishan Wijeratne

PC Dave Hawtin and his new colleague Obbe get ready to pounce

Tie tacs for charity cash

KEEN to raise money for charity and ground breaking work, Basildon Scenes of Crime Officer (SOCO), Wayne Laidgen, has found the ideal way to combine the two.

He has had a tie tac designed for the force’s Scientific and Support Department (SSD) – showing two men in short white coats – one holding a magnifying glass, the other a camera, to signify the fingerprint and photographic sections.

Dr Laidgen, who is shortly off to Thailand to help in the ongoing process of identifying Asian tsunami victims, has ordered his badge from Neil Boden, who runs the Police National Tie Tac Register.

Last year Pc Rob Bright, of Chigwell Road Policing Unit, had a special tie tac made up, showing an Essex Police road policing vehicle, to raise money for Harlow’s Princess Alexandra Hospital special baby care unit.

And Pc Darren Bruce, who is based at Stansted Airport, used his tie tac to raise money for the Tuberous Sclerosis Association.

In 2004, Mr Boden donated £20,000 to charity through his website sales alone. However, he is anxious to point out to badge collectors that, although his tie tacs sell at around £2.50 on his website (www.tietacs.org.uk), they could pay anything up to £40 for the same thing on internet auction sites, such as eBay.

De Laidgen hopes to sell his SSD badges for £2.50 each and raise £625 – and he wants to hear from worthy causes which could do with the cash. Contact him on ext 40805 or 01282 441011 from the start of June.

Criminal on the run …

SPECIAL Constable Doug Warren has close contacts with colleagues in the New York Police Department.

He recently received an amusing email from one listing a series of transcripts of conversations between emergency call operators and members of the public.

DISPATCHER: 9-1-1
CALLER: Yeah, I’m having trouble breathing. I’m out of breath.
Darn… I think I’m going to pass out.

DISPATCHER: What were you doing beforehand?

CALLER: Well, I was taking a walk. North and Foster.

DISPATCHER: What were you doing before you started having trouble breathing?

CALLER: Running from the police.

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CALLER: Running from the police.
The 2Smart4Drugs campaign is now in its ninth year of warning schoolchildren about the dangers of drug use.

A competition on the website asked youngsters to devise an anti-drugs slogan, with limited-edition wristbands up for grabs. The wristbands have also featured in the community category of the Essex Countywide Business Awards 2005 which are going to the Essex Air Ambulance which Craig Robinson, who died aged 35 last year in a squalid flat, was saved in.

Some of them had not even seen the roadshow – proving that the 2Smart4Drugs message is reaching far and wide. 

Craig Robinson, who died aged 35 last year in a squalid flat, was saved in.

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THE force has lost one of its senior officers from its ranks, with Chief Supt Ian Learmonth taking up his new post of assistant chief constable at Strathclyde.

The former Harlow divisional commander joined Scotland’s largest police force last month after 28 years’ service. “I loved my time at Essex,” said the 47-year-old. “It’s a force which I regarded highly throughout the country and I will miss being there with all the officers and staff who go to make it an enjoyable place to work for.”

Brantree has a new divisional commander, with Peter Colman taking up his position early next month.

The chief superintendent moves across from Harlow to take up the reins from Sue Harrison who moved to police headquarters as chief superintendent of the contact management project.

Chief Supt Colman, 48, has 25 years’ service with the force, with one of his notable career landmarks being senior officer where he was in charge of the case of murdered Tilbury teenager Danielle Jones.

The 57-year-old, who lives in Westcliff, has been a Scene of Crime Officer (SOCO) at Basildon since his early days in uniform at Southend.

David said: “Being a SOCO is the best job going.”

Choosing not to retire just yet is Pc David Groom. The road policing officer from Rayleigh has chosen to remain with the force under the 30+ retention scheme.

FORMER detection chief constable Colin Prest has died in Cyprus at the age of 67 after suffering heart failure.

Prest and his wife Anne spent a lot of their time on the island and he was buried there in an orange grove.

His son-in-law, Pc Mike Lee, of EPTC, said the family would be planning a celebration of a life later this year.

Mr Prest served in the former Great Division, Braintree and with the drugs squad, where he was latterly responsible for the恰达芬分队。

He joined in 1967 after moving from Yorkshire and retired from the force in 1993. He and his wife moved back to Beverley in Yorkshire five years ago.
Another great benefit of your Federation membership

Attractive loan rates

As a Police Federation member, it’s only sensible to be fully aware of all the benefits of membership. One of which is The Police Federation Personal Loan Scheme, which has been especially arranged with you in mind, in association with Hamilton Direct Bank.

Hamilton Direct Bank has over 7 years’ experience providing loans for Police Federation members and over 7,400 of your fellow members have already benefited from our expertise.

As the table below clearly shows, the loan you want could be more affordable than you thought.

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You can borrow up to £25,000 and the money could be in your account within days (or the same day we receive your documents for a small additional charge). Figures quoted exclude optional Payment Protection Insurance.

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For more information on the rates and repayment options Hamilton Direct Bank can offer you, just visit www.hdb.co.uk/police

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TWENTY members and friends attended the International Police Association’s mid-Essex branch annual meeting.

Vice-chairman George Lambeth handed over to a serving officer, Stewart Eastbrook. Chairman John Eady thanked George for all his work during his four years in the post and welcomed Stewart to the branch.

At the end of the formal business meeting – where 11 members were eligible to vote, the highest for quite a few years – an excellent fish and chip supper was laid on. Future events include a hog roast at the Sports and Social Centre on Sunday, August 14, from 2pm.

A local butcher will provide the hog roast, complete with salads, rolls and desserts. And the branch has booked a five-piece jazz group to keep guests entertained.

Tickets cost £12 per person, Book early by calling Bill Fancourt on 01245 235569 or by email bfancourt@clar.co.uk

And Friday, December 16, is the date of the branch’s popular Christmas dinner is the date of the branch’s popular Christmas dinner, with ales, lagers and other real ales in the form of well-known breweries in the Essex region.

The Essex Police Sports Centre on Sunday, August 14, from 2pm.

A bemused helpdesk operator was shocked to be told by marine investigators that a vessel-theft investigation training and education.

A member of police staff – may they remain anonymous – rang IT help-desk.

And De Loffing said: “With just one telephone call, members can be linked if it is known where the result of a ‘marine crime’ committed in the UK may end up. Membership provides the force with those vital contacts needed by marine investigators such as ourselves.”

A SPECIAL constable from Maldon has been recognised by the town mayor for his contribution and that of his fellow Specials who have ensured levels of crime and disorder in the district have remained low,

He said: “I’ve accepted the award, but stressed that it was on behalf of the team.”

Sc Pipe’s most interesting job as a Special was a few years ago when a body was found entombed in concrete at a takeaway job as a Special was a few years ago when a body was found entombed in concrete at a takeaway.

Community thanks for Special

Further aid for Asian flood survivors

A CHILDREN’s charity in Sri Lanka has benefited from a £250 donation from Media & Public Relations – buildings I had visited a few years ago had been reduced to rubble, with whole sections of wall just uprooted and thrown hundreds of metres inland.

“Some scenes were really quite upsetting,” said Mr Wijeratne. “The buildings I had visited a few years ago had been reduced to rubble, with whole sections of wall just uprooted and thrown hundreds of metres inland.

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New team members on the cards

CARD players around the force are being urged to join fellow colleagues in the South East Essex Cribbage League. Cribbage is a game of low animal-running where players must balance a number of different objectives and remain quick-witted enough to recognise combinations.

Ken Elliot is looking to ‘top up’ his team which consists of both serving and retired officers who play every Thursday evening at either their home base in Rayleigh or away to a local team in the county.

For further information, contact Ken on ext 35130 or via email kenelliot.ml@gmail.com

Women getting in the swing

WITH Essex hosting the inaugural PSUK golf tournament for women only, the force is recruiting potential winners in a bid to take the title first-time round.

Maldon’s Five Lakes complex will be the setting for the two-day competition at the end of August which is open to serving and retired officers, Specials, PCSOs and police staff.

A practice round is scheduled for the first day, with a 36-hole competition on day two.

Women who have a handicap of 28 or below and would like to represent Essex in the first-ever PSUK National Ladies Golf Championship are urged to get in touch with Toni Brockwell on ext 60935 or via email before the end of month.

Triathlon marks fifth anniversary

NORTH Essex plays host to its first major sporting event of the year, with the Braintree Triathlon expected to attract over 200 competitors.

Nearly 100 police officers will be taking part in the three disciplines: a 400-metre swim, a 13-mile cycle ride and a three-mile cross-country run.

The event takes place on Sunday, June 5, at the Riverside Centre, with the event commencing at 9am as the PSUK Sprint Triathlon.

Event promoters, Essex Police Triathlon, are still keen to recruit volunteer marshals for the day. Anyone who can spare a few hours is urged to contact Mark Harman at Bocking Road Policing Unit on ext 63240 or via email markh@essex.police.uk

Sports success is snow joke

THE Essex ladies once again put the force in the spotlight as they brought home the medals and silverware from the Snow Sports Championship, with the men looking to improve next year.

Earlier this year at the Austrian venue of Hinterglemm in Salzburg, competitors endured some of the coldest conditions ever, with temperatures dipping to -20°C, causing Camera Enforcement’s Trevor Hall to suffer frostbite of a toe.

Basildon’s Mel Warren claimed gold in the snowboarding giant slalom and silver in the dual slalom and border-cross events, with the other lady of the team, Harlow’s Marina Ericson, working wonders in the alpine events. She collected bronze in the individual giant slalom competition and won gold in the slalom event – making her national ladies champion for 2005.

Essex finished 11th overall in the final league standings and sixth in the English section, with new member, Braintree’s Stuart Ashton, receiving an award for the most improved racer.

Fellow competitors were Basildon’s Chris Mathlin, road policing’s Simon Morgan, Colchester’s Pat White and former forces estate manager, Cliff Collings.

Event co-ordinator Steve Milbourne said: “As a team, we did really well. Maybe next season, we will see the men stepping up to receive the medals. My thanks go to all for their efforts and commitment.”

The team is still looking to attract new members, so anyone who is interested should contact Steve at Colchester via email.

Southend staff clean up in force lottery

SOUTHEAST’s Emma Hewitt has scooped the jackpot in the April lottery, with the PCSO winning £3,000.

It was a lucky month for Southend staff, with Pc Daniel Branman winning the second prize of a cool £1,000. Di Phil Mellon from Crime Division claimed the third money prize of £500.

The six lucky recipients of the £100 cash prize were: Inpt Paul Morton, Tendring; Sgt Peter Treynner, Colchester; Pc Sian Crocker, Southend; Inpt John Ross, Chelmsford; Pc Dave Wood, Rayleigh; and former assistant chief constable, now retired, Geoff Markham.

Fiona Philpott from Legal Services claimed the Red Letter prize, with the new mum set to take to the skies in a light aircraft for a half-hour session – probably without daughter Holly.

It was a good month for detectives at the lower end of the cash stakes, with Ds Dick Mason from north-east Major Investigation Team, De Rob Dix from Saffron Walden and Colchester’s Paula Bradley each winning £50.

Other recipients of £50 were: Pc Leeanne Moore, Harlow; Coral Bloomfield, Rayleigh; Gerry Milbank, Southend; and Barry Bright (retired).

Road policing officer Pc Jason Boots hit lucky by not only managing to bag £50, but also by winning himself a meal for two at Chelmsford’s Chicago Rock Cafe.

Angling for top spot

ANGLING enthusiasts across the force are being asked to prepare their fishing tackle ahead of this year’s beach sea angling competition.

The Croker Cup competition, which also doubles as the Open Beach Championship, will be held off Southend Pier on Monday, May 23, with the venue fishing well for flounder, bass, garfish and mackerel.

With past events proving to be popular and attracting competition from other bodies, bookings will begin at 9am at the dry end of the pier, with the contest commencing at 10am and finishing at 4pm.

Competitors can either pair up for Croker Cup purposes or fish as individuals. A post-match awards ceremony and buffet will take place at the SMACK pub in Leigh-on-Sea.

There is no size limit although fish will be measured for extra points on top of points for each fish. Competitors will be encouraged to return their fish after recording.

Each place costs £12 which includes entry fee, fishing permit at the pier, buffet and prizes.

All cheques should be made out to D Clark and sent to Clive Harding at the Marine Unit, Burnham Police Station, 49-51 High Street, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex CM0 8HF.

Entries need to be in by May 20, but late entrants will be accepted on the day.

For further information, contact Clive in the office on 01621 782121 or at home on 01621 773649.

Vocal angst just the ticket

A MUSICAL production would be nothing without drama and there was certainly some of that prior to Fiddler On The Roof – performed by the Witham Amateur Operatic Society and starring Harlow’s very own Mick Dunion, writes Heather Turner.

The constable lost his voice just before the start and, as he was playing the lead part of Tevye, the head of a poor Jewish family in pre-Revolutionary Russia - this could have been a disaster.

Fortunately, his voice recovered and its understandable huskiness probably added more angst to a role which requires angst in bucketloads.

Mick accurately portrayed the frustration of a man who tries to cling to tradition in a fast-changing world, which he doesn’t understand and of which he wants no part.

Tevye is a very demanding role for a singer, not to mind a man with throat problems, but I doubt the audience – without the background information I had – would have noticed anything.

The musical was gripping from beginning to end, Mick well supported by the rest of the cast, who were obviously as enthused with their acting and singing as I was.
DEAF people and those who are hard of hearing can now expect an improved service from the force following the installation of state-of-the-art equipment at police stations around the county.

In previous years, deaf people were left with no alternative but to ask neighbours or people passing in the street to help them contact the police, but now they can do so without fear of being unheard.

Typetalk – set up by the Royal National Institute for the Deaf (RNID) - enables deaf and hearing people to communicate with another by telephone.

Property Services’ Operational co-ordinator, Insp Rob Warwick, said: “Deaf people who are in need of the police urgently dial 1-800-0-00 on their text phone and an operator then ‘asks’ them which emergency service they require and the ‘caller’ is put through to the relevant information room. The operator stays on the line and acts as the conduit between the caller and the emergency room call-taker.

“If the desk service operator has to contact the deaf person again, they can from a standard telephone, by dialling 1-800-0-02 before their telephone number, with the RNID operator acting as a conduit again.”

Insp Warwick added: “Those who have a minicom/textphone facility can contact the Force Information Room directly by dialling 01245 452828.

Divisional Administrator Manager, Jean Steele, whose daughter who is deaf, said that many problems in communicating with the hard of hearing could be solved with a little thought and consideration.

“She should write to the force with your contact details and ask for the Typetalk service. This will be set up in their station for their use, and it’s free to them.”

She added: “It’s been fabulous, it’s been a real focus on us from a service point of view. The service is now direct and most important to them which is what they’ve been asking for a long time.”

The Law

Mayor made of the Wright stuff

SKILLS learnt during his 35 years with the force helped Chelmsford Mayor Ian Wright make the most of his year in office which ended earlier this month on a high after the success of his brainchild One World Chelmsford – a celebration of the town’s culture and friendship, writes Heather Turner.

During the past year, Cllr Wright and his wife Carol – who worked in Essex Police’s welfare section and in the press office – have done their best to promote the work of the town’s Fairleigh Hospice and have raised £5,000 for the cause.

And just a fortnight before standing down, Cllr Wright hosted a community evening to thank volunteers and people who ‘go that extra mile’ to help others.

“Everywhere we’ve been, we have met so many good people who really do care for the community,” said the 65-year-old. “It’s been fabulous and an experience which we could never have obtained from anything else.”

But perhaps his proudest moment was attending One World Chelmsford – traditionally, a retiring mayor will hold a church service but Cllr Wright said he felt this would not reflect the town’s multi-cultural community. He said: “I wanted an event in which everyone could join in, but said small, but such was the enthusiasm that we had to hand it over to the council’s special events team.

“It was lovely to go having done something entirely different and giving the people of Chelmsford something they really deserve.”

Cllr Wright joined Essex Police in 1959 and he believes the skills learnt with the force helped him become mayor, just six years after he was elected to the borough council.

“I was extremely honoured and privileged to become mayor,” he said. “It was something I really didn’t expect to be offered at such an early stage.

“It would put it down to the development of my skills in the police service – standing on your feet and talking, coming to logical decisions and chairing meetings. It’s certainly the grounding of the police service which gave me confidence to become mayor.”

He got involved in borough council politics after getting annoyed about certain planning inconsistencies and now plans to return to his role as chairman of the borough’s planning committee – a job which he had to leave when he became mayor.

But he is hoping there may also be some new challenges on the horizon because he will miss the hectic life of being mayor.

Street cleaning to help clear up crime

TENDRING Divisional Commander, Chief Supt Dave Hudson, has rolled his sleeves up to clean the streets of Clacton.

Forming part of Operation Chicken Run, the cleaner status initiative is part of the strong commitment by Tendring agencies to combat anti-social behaviour.

He said: “It’s important to prevent further fly-tipping in the area. However, we can only be successful if we receive help from the community.”

Chief Supt Hudson was joined by off-duty police officers, local residents, members of the Jaywick Forum, council officers and army volunteers in collecting 18 tonnes of rubbish and unwanted household items.

His bid to raise awareness of the importance of making vehicles secure, and the Ford Transit bears the Essex Police crest.

Community Safety’s Insp Andrew Northcott said: “It’s important that owners take all reasonable steps to protect their vehicles.”

The van has something for everyone from a high-sophisticated tracking and immobilising system to very reasonably-priced immobilising systems and equipment ranging from Micro Data to a very basic immobilising systems.

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Better security for holidaymakers

The force is supporting Ford’s bid to raise awareness of the importance of making vehicles secure, and the Ford Transit bears the Essex Police crest.

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The van has something for everyone from a high-sophisticated tracking and immobilising system to very reasonably-priced immobilising systems.

The van is available to attend crime reduction or other public events. Contact Insp Andrew Northcott on ext 54232 or via email.

Bogus callers get yellow card

A NEW weapon in the war on bogus callers has been launched in Braintree Division.

A Nominated Neighbour initiative will see 5,000 security cards being distributed to elderly and vulnerable people in Braintree, Witham and Halstead.

Householders can either display the card on the inside of a glazed door or hold it to the window if someone do not know calls on them. The inward-facing side gives tips on security and the other has a message to the caller, telling them to make contact with the householder’s nominated neighbour at a given address so that their authenticity can be verified.

This saves the householder the stress of talking to the visitor without someone alongside to offer support.

The scheme is being organised by police and Braintree Neighbourhood Watch. Cards will be delivered by Braintree District Council, Meals on Wheels, churches and other voluntary organisations.

Crime Reduction Officer, Geoff Butler, said: “It is a case of using community spirit for the benefit of a vulnerable section of the community.

During 2004, there was a year-on-year increase of 58 per cent in bogus and unwanted burglar alarms in the division.

• Evening deployments are now being carried out by the district mobile police office in a move to curb nuisance behaviour, damage and other anti-social behaviour.

By day, the office visits more than 60 locations on a set schedule.

It is now being sent out on between two and three evenings a week around the division to provide an additional patrol as and where required.

Police Community Support Officer Stuart Strange has been tasked with visiting the newspapers and playing a part in the campaign.

Heather Turner writes: “It’s a great day for the RNID because many people who are deaf have never been called to a police station when they need to be called to a police station, because they are deaf.

Mrs Steele. “Remember, they are deaf, not daft, so don’t shout. Make sure they can follow your lip pattern and speak clearly. Most people are happy for you to write things down – but do you need to ask them first.

Mrs Steele also advised taking a deaf person into a quiet room so that confidential details were not revealed to other people.

She added: “The main problem is that deaf people feel that hearing people are not listening to them or understanding their problems. They need to be treated like everyone else, but need just a little more time. They are using to having people misunderstand them – it’s just down to how they are treated.”

Mobile induction loops are set to be issued to all station front desks, custody suites, control room, by day and video interview suites, with fixed loops set to be in place by the end of next year.

The Law

Van’s the man at beating thieves

The force is supporting Ford’s bid to raise awareness of the importance of making vehicles secure, and the Ford Transit bears the Essex Police crest.

Community Safety’s Insp Andrew Northcott said: “It’s important that owners take all reasonable steps to protect their vehicles.”

The van has something for everyone from a high-sophisticated tracking and immobilising system to very reasonably-priced immobilising systems.

The van is available to attend crime reduction or other public events. Contact Insp Andrew Northcott on ext 54232 or via email.

Better security for holidaymakers

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