

The Law



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MAY 2005

A TESTAMENT TO BRAVE OFFICERS

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

by **Heather Turner** and **Nishan Wijeratne**

“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.”

The force is with you thanks to new DVD

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.

● *Your Force* is a new DVD which promotes the diverse work of Essex Police across the county





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 consider the implications of the Morris Inquiry and the Commission for Racial Equality's formal investigation into the police service.

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 Home Office also commissioned the Chairman 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 ACPO recommended 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, CPS 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 (HATOs).

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.

Praise for milestone 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.

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 coordinator 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 coordinated 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 McGowan 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 McGowan 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 McGowan 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."

Thanks for charity cash, says John

A FORMER Essex communications officer has raised more than £1,000 for charity – of which a fifth was donated by former colleagues.

John Howat worked in the Force Information Room for nearly a decade before leaving at the beginning of last year to return to his native Scotland, where he now works for Lothian and Borders Police – in their information room.

In 2002, John was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. However, the then 47-year-old remained upbeat and did not let the illness change him; so much so, that he completed a tandem parachute to raise money for the Parkinson's Disease Society.

"I would like to thank all those who gave money," said John. "I was not only pleasantly surprised, but actually quite taken aback."

Invitation to 'get on your bike'

SPRING is well and truly here. Your motorbike is polished and ready to go but are you?

Chelmsford and District Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) Motorcycle Group holds its first meeting of the year at the HQ Sports Pavilion on Tuesday, May 24, at 7.30pm. Road Policing officer, Pc Jon Harman, said: "Motorcycling is a skill for life and the club, run in conjunction with Bikesafe Essex, is open to everyone wishing to improve their riding."

• Contact Pc Harman on ext 58142 or via email for more details.

Last chance saloon

SOUTHEND is to get a share of £1.25million of Government cash to bring relief to communities plagued by nuisance neighbours.

The money is being made available by the Home Office to offer those committing anti-social acts a last chance to turn their behaviour around.

A recent Government survey showed that half of all nuisance neighbour cases involved threatening and intimidating behaviour. Almost 40 per cent of those affected felt that situations had been improved as a result of a warning, an anti-social behaviour order (ASBO) or an acceptable behaviour contract.



• Insp Luke Collison, Road Safety Officer Elaine Beckett and Sgt Bob Beckwith with some of the officers and riders at Notley High School

• Picture courtesy of the Braintree and Witham Times

Enthusiastic bikers are urged to spread the word

YOUNG moped and scooter riders have given an enthusiastic response to an event centred round 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.

PCSO commended for rescuing girls

A MAN from Southend is the first Police Community Support Officer in the county to receive a Chief Constable's Commendation, writes Heather Watts.

Dean Crowley was awarded his certificate following his life-saving actions last summer when he saved the lives of three young girls who had got into difficulties while playing in the sea.

He jumped into the water, despite there being no life-saving equipment available.

After having pushed two of the girls towards the nearby jetty and safety, and swam towards the third girl who was being swept out to sea and pulled her back ashore where paramedics then treated all three girls.

Basildon's divisional commander, Chief Supt Peter Sheldrake, along with his fellow divisional officers, detective constables Chris Thomas,



• Chief Constable David Stevens hands PCSO Dean Crowley his commendation

Sandra Greenway and Si Myers, were commended for their hard work in ridding the local streets of a prolific drug addict who, when at court, pleaded guilty to a number of offences, including 56 house burglaries.

DCI Mick Jones, from Colchester, was praised for his commitment and expertise over a prolonged period in crime detection and reduction.

The 48-year-old, who is currently honeymooning in Australia, received his commendation for his dedication in

implementing management processes.

Pc Rob Newlyn, also from Colchester, was commended for his courageous actions last May when he disarmed a knife-wielding man who had stabbed his ex-girlfriend and who then began to slash his own wrists.

After incapacitating the man, Pc Newlyn arrested him. The man was sentenced to four years' imprisonment.

Moving across to Braintree, communications officer Peter Laurie was commended for the dedication and high level of professionalism he displayed as principal press officer prior to his retirement from the role.

A couple of Basildon officers were applauded for their actions last year when they attempted to resuscitate a woman found unconscious outside Colours Nightclub.

Constables Keith Nicholls and Michael Bray took the woman to hospital themselves but sadly the 23-year-old died a short time later.

And Thurrock's Bob Shoemith received a commendation for his dedicated work in implementing a variety of innovative campaigns to reduce burglaries.

Linzy won't let £700,000 Lottery win change her - yet

CHELMSFORD'S Linzy Bromfield has won nearly £700,000 on the National Lottery – just a couple of days after dreaming that she would win the weekend draw!

The part-time Service Desk Assistant was so confident that she went and bought herself a Mini con-

vertible and told friends on the day of the draw that she was indeed going to win.

And she did just that, scooping £684,008 into her bank account.

Linzy said: "It will change my life, but not myself.

"I'm glad I won with six others as

I would not know what to do with the entire jackpot."

The 35-year-old, who has been married for 16 years and has two children, intends to pay off debts, holiday with her family in Florida and buy a new home.

• Force lottery winners on Page 11

Tragic baby death – road killer is jailed for 10 years

ROAD policing officers are satisfied that one of Essex's most dangerous drivers has been taken off the roads following a court case which resulted in the longest sentence in recent force history for an offence of its kind.

David Waterman, of Harlow, was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment after being found guilty of killing seven-week-old Tara Bradshaw in a road-rage incident on the A414 in Harlow in March 2004.

Gary Bradshaw was driving with his daughter Tara and wife Lindi when unemployed Waterman, 24, drove his car at their Mini Mayfair, forcing it into the opposite carriageway – where it was struck by an oncoming van.

Waterman failed to stop at the scene, forcing police to launch a manhunt which lasted a day, during which time Tara died in hospital. Waterman was finally located and arrested and subsequently charged with causing death by dangerous driving as well as a host of numerous other motoring offences.

Horrendous

After the case, Senior Investigating Officer, Chief Inspector Tom Diment, said: "Tara's parents have demonstrated great courage throughout this horrendous ordeal and I cannot begin to understand the pain and suffering they have gone through and will continue to experience."

And outside Chelmsford Crown Court, Gary and Lindi made this statement to waiting journalists:

"Essex Police have been an amazing help. We know that they have done the utmost to get this verdict. We would like to thank the road policing officers who worked on our case; for all their hard work and dedication in getting David Waterman convicted.

"Our sincerest thanks though go to our family liaison officers Mike (Ashman) and Mark (Burey) for their support through this last year. We must also thank the officers from Chigwell Road Policing Unit for getting Gary down to Great Ormond Street on the day of the crash so that he could be with Tara for the last moments of her life." Waterman was also disqualified from driving for 10 years.

Giving hope for children

Roadside heroics from 'sugar' syringe

A religious roadshow to hit Essex

"GOD walking the streets" is the way that some Londoners described the radical new idea of Street Pastors who will soon be working alongside police in Essex.

The scheme is described "as the church going out on the streets to meet the people in the community", especially those who are vulnerable and would not normally go into a church.

Southend Inspector Kevin Turner said: "We will be 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, obtain a reference from their minister and undergo criminal record checks.

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

The pastors' intention is not to preach heaven and hell, 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 and lodgings in Essex has been launched on the force staff development site.

The page allows people with a property to sell or rent out to put details where interested parties can view them.

Situated on the staff development part of the Human Resources site, it is designed for use by Essex Police personnel only.

Cutting the true cost of retail crime

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 householders.

Braintree, 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, DCI Grahame Bird, Insp Cheryl Callow and Crime Reduction Officers Colin Stiff, Ray Stannard and Trisha Staerck.

It is hoped 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.

OFFICERS from the Force Support Unit(FSU) happened to be in the right place at the right time when they saved the life of a young motorist who fell into a diabetic coma.

Scott Digby was travelling along the A12 to meet his fiancée in Colchester when he rang his mother to say he was feeling unwell and hypoglycaemic. However, his mobile phone went dead before the 22-year-old could tell his mum exactly where he was.

A worried Mrs Digby rang the emergency services, obviously concerned for her son's welfare.

by Nishan Wijeratne

However, as Scott was unable to give his precise location due to his ill health, Mrs Digby could only tell police that he was making his way from Welwyn Garden City in Hertfordshire to Colchester, using the M25 and the A12.

Scott's vehicle details were circulated to the police units covering these roads, with officers on the lookout for the Peugeot 106. Within just a few minutes, dog handler Pc Terry Blackmore spotted Scott's car parked in a layby near Sandon. Pc Blackmore checked the car to find Scott drifting in and out of consciousness.

An FSU car happened to be traveling to headquarters from Boreham and heard the commotion, so immediately diverted to Sandon. FSU officers are not only trained in first aid, but can also administer a variety

of life-saving drugs to individuals as well as resuscitating unconscious patients using defibrillator machines that they carry in their vehicles.

On this occasion though, an injection of Glucagon was all that was required and this helped increase the blood-sugar levels in Scott's system. Essex is currently the only force in England & Wales that has officers trained in such life-saving drug administration techniques.

FSU's Pc Matt Clark said: "When the paramedics arrived, they gave Scott something to eat and then carried out a quick medical exam to ensure he was indeed alright. He soon recovered and was extremely grateful to us for our timely intervention and life-saving assistance."

Scott said: "When I told the police officers I was returning home in the evening, they reminded me to buy a Mars bar and keep it in the car to avoid the same thing happening."

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.

Overhaul for court hearings

OFFICERS in charge of indictable-only cases which are automatically dealt with at crown court now have to attend the first hearing date following new criminal procedure rules introduced last month.

The new practice should mean less need to attend crown court after the initial remand hearing before magistrates, with plea and directions hearings replaced by plea and case management hearings.

In all indictable-only cases sent to crown court under Section 51 of the Crime And Disorder Act 1998, magistrates' courts will now issue directions to enable the plea and case management

hearing to be an effective hearing.

Criminal Justice Department's Resource and Operations Manager, Tricia Brennan, said: "It is part of a whole raft of changes aimed at creating greater efficiency in the court process and ensuring that cases progress when they are listed for a hearing, rather than the constant adjournments which used to occur."

"The main emphasis is on reducing the number of ineffective hearings and providing a more positive experience for victims and witnesses to increase confidence in the criminal justice system."

Prosecution case papers must be served within 50

days of 'sending' and magistrates have no power to extend that period.

However, where it is clear that more than 50 days will be required, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has to apply for a preliminary hearing at the crown court.

As the officer in charge must now attend that first magistrates' hearing, they can inform the CPS about availability of evidence and service of the papers. The prosecutor then knows whether to apply for a preliminary hearing in crown court.

If the application is granted, the officer must then attend the hearing.

Gone . . . but not forgotten

Police Constable 780 - Essex Police.

Served from September 1, 1949. Died February 24, 1957.

POLICE Constable Sidney Dodd served in the Royal Artillery throughout World War II. On joining 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 Horndon-on-the-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 Catherine 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.

Opening up to those who want a life in crime

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

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 Heather Turner on ext 50620 or 01245 452455

Tainted histories to be exposed

OFFICERS and police staff who are set to give evidence at court will now be subjected 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 50348 or via email.

TV spotlight falls on star canines

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 goes 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

by Nishan Wijeratne

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."

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 is rare to observe 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."



● Pc Dave Hawtin and his new colleague Obee get ready to pounce

Leaping into ACTION to overcome barriers and reap rewards

CHELMSFORD Division leapt into ACTION after an initial recruitment drive for Service Desk Assistants (SDAs) produced a poor response, writes Ken Bailey.

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 Adkins, organised a recruitment open day at the police station.

Staff from the division's service desk and admin, Press Office, TV and New Media, Public Relations, Resource Management, Human Resources, cadets, Force Information Room and Data Protection all

pulled together.

Thanks to media coverage beforehand, 30 eligible candidates turned up and the four posts were subsequently filled by high-quality candidates – and a further five candidates were placed on a reserve list.

Service Desk Manager, Nick Whipps, said: "The effort and commitment shown by a large team of

staff has been excellent and I feel proud to have been part of it.

Divisional commander, Chief Supt Win Bernard, and Assistant Chief Constable (Personnel) Andy Bliss thanked staff for taking such successful action.

ACC Bliss said it was "a positive example of an ACTION-based initiative".

Tie tacs for charity cash

KEEN to raise money for charity and proud of his work, Basildon Scenes of Crime Officer (SOCO), Wayne Lagden, has found the ideal way to combine the two. He has had a tie tac designed for the force's Scientific 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.

Dc Lagden, 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 Tuberosus 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.

Dc Lagden 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 01268 244011 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 all out of breath.

Darn...I think I'm going to pass out.

DISPATCHER: Sir, where are you calling from?

CALLER: I'm at a pay phone. North and Foster.

DISPATCHER: Sir, an ambulance is on the way.

Are you an asthmatic?

CALLER: No.

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

CALLER: Running from the police.



● Youngsters at a roadshow enthusiastically join in with a quiz designed to test their knowledge about the dangers of drug use.

All pictures courtesy of Sue Andrews Photography



● Comic Mike Gunn tells a story of how being a drug addict devastated his life.

Smartening up

2SMART4DRUGS (2S4D) has a raunchy new image and it's showing at a venue near you, writes Heather Turner.

The youngsters' anti-drugs educational campaign is now in its ninth year and has had a radical revamp for 2005.

As substance misuse and youth co-ordinator Pc Victoria Wilson says "it's as near the mark" as it can be for the campaign's audience of 11 to 13-year-olds.

And top of this year's roadshow line-up is stand-up comic and former drug addict Mike Gunn – who is proving to be a huge hit with the youngsters.

"In the past, young children have said they want to see a real drug addict and, until now, it's something we have not been able to do," said Pc Wilson.

The 2S4D team had wanted to get a comedian on board to liven up proceedings and to get their roadshows talked about more in school playgrounds – thus helping to spread the message that drugs are 'uncool'.

"Jokes in the school playground are very popular," explained Pc Wilson. "They have some longevity – kids might tell each other jokes they have heard at 2S4D."

Thanks to a chance remark in the TV and New Media Unit, Pc Wilson heard about Comedy Store performer Mike Gunn, went along to see one of his 'adult' performances and liked what she saw.

Mike was already working with Essex schools, talking about his experiences with drugs, and was happy to jump aboard the 2S4D bandwagon.

Drug-free now for 15 years, Mike got

The 2Smart4Drugs campaign is now in its ninth year of warning schoolchildren about the dangers of drug use

involved with Class A drugs in his last year at school and, by the age of 28, his life was in pieces.

"I was skeletal and yellow with hepatitis," he admits. "I'd lost everything and I had no friends. I couldn't see any way out."

During the roadshows – which will be seen by about 14,000 children from 80 per cent of the county's schools by the time this year is out, including disabled youngsters and those attending pupil referral and offending units – Mike recounts the horrific truth of his real-life drug addiction, with anecdotes of life before, during and after.

Pc Wilson, a police officer for 15 years, said: "It's gone down really well with the children – it's one of their favourite pieces and is as near the mark as teachers will allow."

"Teachers like it but they are surprised we are going that far, pushing the boundaries. However, the feedback we have had is really good."

And, judging by the emails, messages posted on the 2S4D website – www.2smart.co.uk – and feedback forms returned from the special 2S4D magazine offered to youngsters attending the roadshow, there is a lot of feedback.



● One of the delighted winners of the 2Smart4Drugs goody bags.

A competition on the website asked youngsters to devise an anti-drugs slogan, with limited-edition wristbands up for grabs. The site attracted over 700 entries – averaging one hit every six minutes.

The Community Safety Department had to take the competition off the site because it had run out of the bands, which are now selling on eBay for £7.

These wristbands have also featured in the popular goody bag given out to all youngsters attending any of the 16 roadshows held each year. Other popular items can include CDs, pens, cups, T-shirts, fridge magnets, key rings and even vouchers – all helping to reinforce the message that the youngsters are too smart for drugs.

Another powerful weapon in this year's anti-

drugs campaign is the family of drug addict Craig Robinson, who died aged 35 last year in a squalid flat.

Craig's mum Jo, of Leigh-on-Sea, has told his story in the 2S4D magazine as a warning to others. It shows how drugs can affect normal people in a loving family.

Now the family are fund raising for charity and helping to raise the 2S4D profile. They have already held a dance night, with proceeds going to the Essex Air Ambulance which Craig once needed.

And this month they held a 'fusion' hair and fashion show in aid of the Essex Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service and 2S4D.

Members of a young theatre company, London Bus, tackle everyday issues faced by children everywhere during their section in the roadshow.

"Young people are dealing all the time with bravado, peer pressure and competitiveness and there are other teen pressures bubbling along," said Pc Wilson. "They can't cater for that in the classroom."

Various scenarios aim to manufacture positive peer pressure so that those 11 to 13-year-olds who may be thinking of experimenting with drugs are carried along with the 'anti drugs and bad behaviour' mood engendered by the actors.

"It's education, education, education buried in a fun format. Everything in the programme has a purpose," said Pc Wilson.

Essex FM presenter Dom Atkins and singer Tina Cousins co-host the 90-minute roadshow, which also features appearances from the county's ice-hockey team Chelmsford Chieftains – who explain how sport and drugs do not mix – and also the force's cadets.

Pc Wilson said the cadets were surprisingly popular and many of the schoolchildren wanted to model their behaviour and values along similar lines.

After four years working on 2Smart4Drugs, Pc Wilson reckons she now has a 'polished' roadshow and is now busy monitoring feedback "to make sure we are hitting the right buttons and achieving our target of delivering drugs education in a fun format" and carrying out an evaluation with the schools, too.

"We like to adopt a drugs education stance around choices, decisions and consequences, our input in schools focuses on these points," she said.

And she must be doing something right. 2Smart4Drugs has been chosen as a finalist in the community category of the Essex Countywide Business Awards 2005 which are being held at Southend's Cliffs Pavilion later this month.

Chief Constable David Stevens is delighted about the nomination.

He said: "Over the past few years, thousands of children across the county have seen the lively and exciting performances. I am convinced that this is a really powerful way to drive home the message about the dangers of drugs."

And that's not all. Next month, Pc Wilson has been invited to give a presentation on 2S4D for the Drugscope agency at its London offices as part of the consultation process in compiling Association of Chief Police Officers's (ACPO) drugs education guidance for schools.

Hopefully that will lead to youngsters all over the country also becoming 2Smart4Drugs.

Slogans are getting the message across

THE 2Smart4Drugs website competition to coin an anti-drugs slogan in return for a stylish lime green wrist band proved so attractive that it had to be halted after 700 kids logged on and sent in their ideas.

Some of them had not even seen the roadshow – proving that the 2Smart4Drugs message is spreading fast.

Here are a few of the best:

- Class A B C – not for me
- You'll be whingeing after bingeing
- Only thugs do drugs
- Drugs are for nobody, leave them and they will leave you
- If you take drugs, then you're a mug but if you turn them down, you deserve a hug
- No drugs a day keeps death longer away.

One slogan refers to 'disco biscuits' – Ecstasy and other tablet drugs – which Pc Wilson said showed a high level of knowledge for a child: 'If you take a biscuit, you'll end up in a casket'.

She said: "They probably read it on our website, but it shows they are reading it."

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More in store for IPA

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 225569 or by email bfancourt@clara.co.uk

And Friday, December 16, is the date of the branch's popular Christmas dinner dance in the function room of the Essex Police Sports Association.

Members also discussed the possibility of resurrecting the long weekend trips which were enjoyed by many.

However, as none of those

at the meeting were able to find a free weekend during 2005, it was agreed that a proposed visit to the Eden site in Cornwall should be held in spring or summer 2006.

Support your helpdesk - not impede them

SERVICE-DESK staff in IT have begun logging "silly" calls from customers in a bid to highlight training issues and help alleviate unnecessary workload which delays service to other staff across the force who are "genuinely stuck".

The bizarre and often funny examples will feature in *The Law* as the IT department looks to cut down on the number of needless calls to their help-desk.

A member of police staff – may they remain anonymous – rang IT support and said they were having problems with their computer screen.

"It says 'press any key'. Where's that?"

A bemused helpdesk could only just manage to reply 'nowhere!'

A continental experience for marine unit

MARINE unit officer Simon Lofting recently returned from a trip to Belgium where he joined other police officers in a training seminar which included a re-enactment of a marine accident and investigation.

Hosted by the International Association of Marine Investigators (IAMI), the conference included various lectures and presentations by the Belgian federal police, the US coastguard and the Dutch water police.

The IAMI concept started in 1986 when the Florida Marine Patrol produced a vessel-theft manual intended to assist investigators.

It now has more than 2,000 members and is a non-profit-making organisation which provides boat and identification training, investigation training and education.

DC Lofting 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."

Setting lab standards

HOUSE burglary victims now have an almost 100 per cent chance of being seen by a Scenes Of Crime Officer (SOCO), according to new figures from Scientific Support.

The department now regularly publishes its performance to the force, detailing how many scene visits and sample recoveries it has undertaken.

Figures for December 2004 to February 2005 show a steep rise in attendances at house burglary scenes, up from 85 per cent to 93 per cent.

And the good news for the department is it's not just attendance where performances is good – SOCOs have also managed to maintain a recovery rate from house burglaries of 40 per cent of

by Ben Pennington

scenes visited. Of those, 11 per cent yield fingerprints while two in five produce a DNA sample.

Head of Scientific Support, DCI Tom Harper, acknowledges the effect that an extra 10 staff over the last year or so have had on results, but is in no doubt about the effort taken to raise performance so significantly.

"A huge amount of effort has also been put in to increase timeliness, meaning that it's now routine for a DNA match to be with divisions seven days after the offence took place," said DCI Harper. "We have one of the fastest turnaround times of any force in the country. The onus is now on divisions to action those results as

quickly as we're getting them out there.

"It's pleasing to see the effort put in by all members of Scientific Support to improve timeliness is yielding real results for the force."

● BRAINTREE division has had four uniform officers trained in scientifically examining thefts from motor vehicles as part of a five-month trial starting this month.

The officers received three weeks' training from Scientific Support before being issued with the same equipment as (SOCOs).

The officers will examine as many vehicles as possible during the trial, which will end in September. It is hoped that the initiative will help in getting scene examiners to vehicles in a shorter space of time, before owners have to use them again.

Community thanks for Special

A SPECIAL constable from Maldon has been recognised by the town mayor for his services to the community – an annual award which has never before been won by a member of the Essex Police Special Constabulary.

Adam Pipe, who also works as the force's senior traffic management officer, was presented with his certificate by Maldon Mayor, Cllr Ken Smith.

The 36-year-old joined the special constabulary 12 years ago to play an active role in the community and to "give something back".

"I know it's an old cliché, but this is exactly why I joined the Specials as there is nothing better than going home after a shift with that sense of achievement and satisfaction," said Sc Pipe. "It's especially nice when the regular police officers also recognise this by giving thanks for a job well done."



● Section Officer Adam Pipe.

Each year, nominations are put forward by various upstanding members of the community as to who they think should receive the Mayor of Maldon Award for Services to the Community.

Maldon's Insp Kevin Jacobs nominated Sc Pipe for the award, explaining that it was Adam's committed service to the community throughout the past decade which had been instrumental in recruiting and maintaining a

motivated team of Specials.

"Without his individual commitment, there is no doubt that the streets of Maldon and Burnham would receive less police presence and it is his contribution and that of his fellow Specials that have ensured levels of crime and disorder in the district have remained low," said Insp Jacobs. "There is always a need to recruit more Specials like Adam."

The most enjoyable part of the role for Sc Pipe is proactively assisting the community and being out in the frontline.

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 by workmen at a takeaway kebab restaurant in Maldon High Street.

Further aid for Asian flood survivors

A CHILDREN'S charity in Sri Lanka has benefited from a £250 donation from Media & Public Relations - personally handed to them by press officer Nishan Wijeratne, who flew out to the Indian Ocean island.

Combining a holiday with a visit to see his family, Nishan flew out with the money which had been raised by the department since the Boxing Day earthquake.

The money was given to the charity on the south coast of the island which provides clothing, shelter and education for girls who had been left orphaned or who had relatives recovering from long-term injuries sustained in the tsunami.

"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."

"There were still bodies buried under the many tons of debris that were in the process of being cleared away – three months on from the disaster!"

"In one place, the tidal waves had deposited a 20ft mound of sand on the beach which the locals were putting to good use by mixing it with concrete to rebuild the road."

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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-cunning where players must balance a number of different objectives and remain quick-witted enough to recognise combinations.

Ken Elliott 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.

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, Specialists, 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 contest takes place on Sunday, June 5, at the Riverside Centre, with the event also doubling up as the PSUK Sprint Triathlon Championship.

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.

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 Hintertglemm in Sallbach, competitors endured some of the coldest conditions ever, with temperatures dipping to -20c, 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



● Marina Ericson hugs the runners-up as she claims gold.

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 force estates manager, Cliff Collings.

Event co-ordinator Steve Millbourne 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.

Four in a row for Braintree

BRAINTREE again romped to Croker Cup success this year and Chief Supt Sue Harrison was presented with a replica of the trophy to mark her move from Braintree to her new post at headquarters.

Victory means the north Essex division has won the cup for the past four years, with neighbours Harlow having to contend with being runners-up for four years too.

The Braintree team included officers and staff from across the division as well as colleagues from Stansted Airport.

Captain, Peter Orpe, said: "We are delighted with yet another win. We have a nucleus of 20 strong competitors and the result also demonstrates the importance of teamwork. It makes the division all

the better as a place to work."

The last event of this year's competition saw Braintree finish second behind Headquarters in the netball tournament, with Harlow third and Southend placed fourth.

Nearly 30 points separated first from second in the final league standings, with Southend a further 30 behind. Thurrock ended the year with the wooden spoon, with Tendring narrowly avoiding the embarrassment by just three points.

The new Croker Cup year gets underway next month, with the Basildon triathlon on Sunday, May 8, followed by the beach angling competition a couple of weeks later and then the athletics competition in Colchester on June 1.

Southend staff clean up in force lottery

SOUTHEND'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 Brannan 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: Insp Paul Morton, Tendring; Sgt Peter Trenerry, Colchester; Pc Sian

Crocker, Southend; Insp 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, Dc Rob Dix from Saffron Walden and Colchester's Paula Bradley each winning £50.

Other recipients of £50 were: Pc Leeann 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 Café.

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 forces, booking-in time 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 four days 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, never mind for one 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.

'They're deaf, not daft - so don't shout' Cries for help now heard

DEAF people and who 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 one another by telephone.

Property Services' Operational coordinator, Insp Rob Warwick, said: "Deaf people who are in need of the police urgently dial 1-8-0-0-0 on their text phone and an operator then 'asks'

by Heather Turner

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 service desk operator has to contact the deaf person again, they can from a standard telephone, by dialling 1-8-0-0-2 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 Administration 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.

"Deaf people feel very intimidated when they come into a police station because they are not understood," said

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 you do 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 used 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 as well as sympathy and video interview suites, with fixed loops set to be in place by the end of next year.

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 they 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 increase of 58 per cent in bogus caller burglaries in the division.

Evening deployments are now being carried out by the division's 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 Stranger has moved from his Witham beat to act as the mobile office's foot patrol officer, backed up by either Pc Kelvin Wilson or Service Desk Assistant Darren Humphrey.

Van's the man at beating thieves

ESSEX Police and Ford have gone into partnership to promote greater vehicle security.

Together with a number of other organisations, Ford's vehicle security planning section has linked up with the police to try to improve the security of all vehicles, particularly commercial vans.

Vehicle security engineers have kitted out a standard Ford Transit van with a range of the latest security devices showing motorists how they can protect their vehicles from being stolen or broken into.

Included are vehicle security systems and equipment ranging from Micro Dots to a stolen vehicle tracking system.

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 Dave Northcott said: "It's important that owners take all reasonable steps to protect their vehicles."

"The van has something for everyone from a highly-sophisticated tracking and immobilising system to very reasonably-priced deterrents."

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

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 Farleigh Hospice and have raised £35,000 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. It started 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 out 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.

"I 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



● Cllr Ian Wright.

me the 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 Jaywick.

Forming part of Operation Chicken Run, the cleaner streets 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.

Better security for holidaymakers

THE Express Holiday Inn at Stansted Airport has been given an award by the force in recognition of the safety and security features that have been built into its design.

Senior Architectural Liaison Officer, Pc John Hills, who is a Safer Parking Award assessor, worked alongside the hotel's architects and designers prior to it receiving the *Secured by Design*

standard and safer parking award *Park Mark*.

Pc Hills said: "We are pleased to give the hotel the two certificates in recognition that they are providing a secure and safe environment, which helps reduce the fear of crime for both visitors and staff at the hotel."

The hotel is one of the first hotels to achieve the *Secured by Design* award and the first

hotel car park to achieve a Safer Parking award in the eastern region.

Both awards were presented by Assistant Chief Constable John Broughton.

The hotel has a CCTV system covering the hotel, car park and grounds.

Since the hotel opened in January there has been no crime reported.