

The Law



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July 2005

NEW CHIEF VOWS TO PUSH UP STANDARDS

by Heather Turner

“CRIMINALS visiting Essex should pack an overnight bag because they won’t be going home,” the new Chief Constable Roger Baker has vowed.

“Local people committing crime and anti-social behaviour will receive the same relentless focus,” he said.

Mr Baker, 46, marked his arrival with the force on July 1 with a pledge that Essex Police will be the best force at reducing and detecting crime and disorder, dealing with calls from the public and providing highly visible policing services.

He recognises the hard work already undertaken within Essex to address these key issues.

Improving detections plays a significant part in reducing crime and, when crimes were committed, Mr Baker said: “We will do everything possible to take offenders off the street and bring them to justice.

“My message is: Expect a call from us – with the support of our communities we will catch you.”

He added that a partnership approach was essential and that our main partners are the communities of Essex.

A priority for Essex Police is to disrupt crime and anti-social behaviour activities and, through pre-emptive action, take the fight against crime and disorder to those who commit it.

“And,” said Mr Baker, “Behind the crime statistics are victims and witnesses. These are real people whose lives are being adversely affected by a small number of offenders.

“Every incident we prevent or detect makes a big difference. Most of us joined the police service to make that kind of difference.”

He added that the forthcoming ‘Days of Action’ would send a message that we mean business.

A police officer for 28 years, Mr



● **New Essex Chief Constable Roger Baker**

Baker started as a Pc and Dc in Derbyshire. He progressed through the ranks with extensive policing experience both at home and abroad – he has worked in India and North and South America.

Mr Baker is committed to building

on the already strong links which Essex Police has with the communities it serves.

Neighbourhood Policing is something that we will be concentrating on. He said: “There are clearly pockets of excellence in what Essex Police is doing in this area and together we will develop a corporate style for Neighbourhood Policing across Essex.”

He added: “We are all citizens and I want my staff to view the services we deliver from the viewpoint of those we serve. We should ask ourselves the question ‘What service would I want from Essex Police if I needed them?’”

Another priority for Mr Baker is to ensure that the public’s first point of contact with Essex Police is of the highest standard – whether on the telephone or face-to-face.

“I don’t believe that the public contact the police for a chat – they want us to take some action and help them when they contact us. They also want feedback on the action taken”, he said.

“One of the best ways to provide reassurance and tackle the fear of crime is face-to-face contact. This is what people want and what the police are good at. We will be doing a

lot more of this.” Mr Baker will review the structure of Essex Police. He said: “It is not simply about the number of territorial divisions or supporting departments.

“It is about ensuring that we have the right people, with the right skills in the right place at the right time to serve the public.”

He said he is committed to putting more of the county’s 3,200 police officers and 2,300 police staff to frontline activities – to serve the public and fight crime, nuisance and disorder.

Mr Baker added: “Essex Police has an excellent reputation for policing – justifiably so. We have outstanding people working for us who are committed to making Essex a safer place.

“Added to this, our communities fully support the police – together this makes a winning combination.

“The foundations put in place by David Stevens and the rest of the Essex Police team will enable us to become the leading police force in the country,” he said.

“I am immensely proud to have been appointed as the Chief Constable of Essex Police. Now is the time for us to take the next steps.”



● **Assistant Chief Constable (Personnel) Andy Bliss and Positive Action Officer Pc Tina Royles with the sticks of Essex Police rock**

Photo by Heather Turner

Conference rocks as we look for recruits

A GLEAMING police bike, sticks of rock and fortune cookies were just some of the ideas dreamt up to attract potential recruits to the Essex Police stand at the Celebrate conference. Among those attending the two-day conference – celebrating 15 years of the Gay Police Association in the UK – on behalf of Essex Police were Assistant Chief Constable (Personnel) Andy Bliss and Positive Action Officer Pc Tina Royles.

The force spent £12,000 supporting the conference, held on June 30 and July 1 in west London.

A display stand with ‘impact’ would attract delegates who would then be able to speak to the recruitment team, said Mr Bliss.

“We are always after high-calibre staff and this is one of a number of operations this year to attract good people,” he explained.

Calling Celebrate a ‘watershed’ conference for gay policing, he said diversity in the police service was more

firmly on the agenda than ever before. He attended because ‘I wanted to show support for all of our lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender staff and for the valuable contribution they make to our policing effort. He also believes it is ‘vital’ that Essex Police reflects the community which it serves.

Mr Bliss has also been invited to a special anniversary dinner to mark the GPA’s anniversary.

Unfortunately, said Mr Bliss, he was unable to attend the London Pride march on July 2 because of other commitments but Nigel Arnold, Deputy Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall Police, had agreed to represent ACPO chief officers at the annual Gay Pride event.

The GPA had been asked by organisers this year to lead the London Pride march, to link in with Celebrate. Mr Bliss said the invitation was a ‘great honour’ for the GPA and ‘very symbolic’.



What can we do for you?

AS the body representing 95 per cent of all serving police officers from Pc to chief inspector, the Police Federation of England & Wales is the voice of the police service.

Our voice is heard regularly on TV and radio and in the Press as we campaign on your behalf to ensure you are given a fair deal financially, legally and professionally.

Our voice is heard in the corridors of power as we lobby to ensure that our case is heard by the Government, Opposition parties and the House of Lords.

By reflecting the true picture of operational policing and the practical implications of proposed legislation, we endeavour to influence law-makers.

You will also hear our voice on the other end of a phone when you need help and advice in times of trouble.

We know you are forbidden to strike and can sometimes be the subject of malicious allegations and unfounded criticism – which is why we spend £millions each year, using our resources to support individual

officers and to secure a fair deal for the policing profession as a whole.

Your membership of the Police Federation is the best insurance policy you may ever take out.

What can we do for you?

The Federation negotiates on all aspects of pay, allowances, hours of duty, annual leave and pensions. It is consulted when Police Regulations are made dealing with training, promotion and discipline. It takes an active interest in a wide range of subjects which affect the police service and puts forward views on your behalf.

The Federation is more than a staff association – it is also a professional body able to influence not only living standards through pay and benefits but also the development of professional standards.

Members' benefits

- free legal advice and assistance if faced with criminal proceedings for any offence
- representation and advice at disciplinary hearings and employment tribunals
- help with civil and industrial injury claims
- personal public liability cover

- maintenance of professional reputations during defamation proceedings
- national negotiations on pay and conditions
- welfare advice
- up-to-date police equipment and uniform
- assistance with grievance procedures
- advice if suffering sexual, racial or other discriminatory harassment
- financial and pensions advice, debt counselling
- training

How are we structured?

Each force has a branch of the Police Federation, with three separate Branch Boards, elected every three years by constables, sergeants and inspectors respectively. Each board also has a representative of women officers. On matters which apply to all ranks, the Branch Boards sit together as the Joint Branch Board and negotiate local conditions of service with the Chief Officer. The local or departmental rep negotiates with the appropriate local senior officer. A central committee operates nationally on behalf of each rank.

Members are elected for three years by the central conferences. The officers are appointed by committee members, who also nominate members to serve on the national negotiating and consultative bodies – the Police Negotiating Board and the Police Advisory Board.

Every year, the Police Negotiating Board reviews police pay according to an agreed formula.

Conditions of service, i.e. pay, allowances, working hours, leave and pensions, are set out in the Police Regulations, which are approved by Parliament.

Non-negotiable subjects – such as training, promotion and discipline – are dealt with through the Police Advisory Board.

One of our committees in Essex is the Equal Opportunities sub-committee, comprising assorted members of all Federated ranks trained to assist officers in order to help resolve their complaint within the workplace. They will:

- be objective and independent,
- maintain confidentiality,
- help officers to clarify matters and identify relevant information
- explore the options available

- assist officers to achieve a resolution or how and when to use the force Grievance Procedure

- arrange for a solicitor to advise on the possibility of taking a case to an employment tribunal

Resolution strategies

No-one benefits from protracted disputes in the workplace and the Federation is committed to resolving complaints at the earliest opportunity.

The Federation will also offer 'witness support', when officers have to give evidence at a disciplinary tribunal or Coroner's Court.

Remember, we represent all parties – no-one should be deemed guilty unless proven.

Members' services

Have a look at our intranet site for more details but, briefly, we sell all force memorabilia with any profits going to our charity account.

We also offer cheap weekend breaks, deals on loans, house contents, buildings, car and travel insurance – given a bit of notice.

- For more details on Federation services, ring Jackie Card on ext 54555.

Bravery is commended by the Chief

THREE members of the public receiving Chief Constable's Commendations have also had their 'outstanding acts of bravery or meritorious devotion to civic duty' recognised by ACPO.

Chelmsford teenagers Sarah Bishop and Robyn Aldrich won Provincial Police Award silver medals, while Peter Richards, of Clacton, won a certificate of commendation, after each helping the police in potentially dangerous situations.

A fourth member of the public, Paul Cook, of Clacton, also won a Chief Constable's Commendation.

Sarah and Robyn were commended for their courage and actions last October, when they witnessed a series of violent domestic assaults by a man on a woman in Chelmsford.

They followed the couple around the town and intervened on several occasions as the man repeatedly assaulted the woman while other members of the public looked on.

Through their willingness to give evidence, the man was jailed for four months for common assault.

Mr Richards, his wife and daughters, were in their car in March, 2004, when they saw an elderly woman struggling with a man trying to steal her handbag. Another man was standing nearby.

The woman fell to the ground and the man dragged her along in his attempts to escape with the bag.

Mr Richards ran to the woman's aid and the two men off but Mr Richards went after them, singling out the attacker when the pair split up. Losing sight of the man, Mr Richards

checked some outbuildings, found him hiding by a wall and grabbed hold of him. The man began to struggle violently but, with the help of a local resident, Mr Richards held on to him until police arrived.

Mr Richards received the Provincial Police Award 2004 Certificate of Commendation.

Part of his citation reads: "Although he was travelling with his wife and young daughters, Peter refused to stand by and allow the offenders to escape justice.

"He showed great tenacity in pursuing the main offender and, even though he suspected him of carrying a knife, grabbed hold of him and managed to hold on to him, despite a violent struggle, until police arrived."

Mr Cook was commended for his courage, initiative and public-spirited actions while pursuing a man, who had just helped to rob a post office of £3,000.

He kept observation and assisted an off-duty police officer with the suspect's arrest.

Two men were subsequently jailed for a total of ten years for robbery, theft and possession of an offensive weapon.

Another man involved in the incident, Paul Reed, 21, also of Clacton, was awarded an ACPO Provincial Police Award silver medal. After one of the thieves tried to drive off but was blocked in by a passer-by, Paul wrestled with the driver, who dropped a knife.

Members of ACPO provide these Provincial Police Awards to recognise outstanding acts of bravery or devotion to civic duty by members of the public in support of the police.



● Pc Brian Edwards, Pc Simon Conquest, Det Con Angela Torrance, Chief Constable David Stevens, Assistant Chief Constable (Personnel) Andy Bliss, Det Con Vicky Denmark, Insp Mick Pitcher and Pc Shelley Wildish

ACTS of bravery by police officers were also recognised by the latest Chief Constable's Commendations.

Pc Shelley Wildish, of Shoeburyness, was commended for her courage and tenacity while off-duty in challenging a burglar.

The man threatened Pc Wildish with what appeared to be a long knife – later found to be a 7in screwdriver – but she continued to follow him, as he made threats to kill her.

She had previously been awarded with the force's Wilson Trophy – awarded to the officer judged to have performed the most meritorious act.

Pc Brian Edwards, of Maldon, was commended for his tact, diplomacy and courage when investigating offences of assault and criminal damage.

Pc Edwards was isolated and confined in an area where a 42-year-old man threatened him with a kitchen knife but calmed him, making a safe arrest possible.

The man was later jailed for 28 days, concurrent, on three offences, and was ordered to pay £50 compensation. Det Con Angela Torrance, of Southend, was one of a group of officers from Thurrock commended for their actions

at Aveley in January 2004.

Det Con Torrance was praised for her professionalism, tenacity and bravery when faced with a hostile crowd threatening her and fellow officers with violence and obstructing them during the course of their duty after they arrived at a house in order to make a pre-planned arrest. Five people were arrested and eventually received sentences ranging from six months' jail to conditional discharge.

Insp Mick Pitcher, of Chelmsford, was commended for his leadership and devotion to duty. He was confronted with a man threatening suicide who was locked in a bathroom.

After the man cut his wrists with a kitchen knife, Insp Pitcher kicked in the bathroom door and, in a confined space, wrestled the knife from him. Insp Pitcher then administered first aid, as the man stopped breathing four times, before trained medical staff were able to stabilise his condition. Trusting their instincts led to commendations for Pc Simon Conquest and his police dog Spud, of Laindon Dog Unit.

Pc Conquest was commended for his

tenacity and determination during the search for a suspect in Southend in March, 2004.

A man had doused his wife and home in petrol and was believed to be armed and extremely dangerous.

Despite being told by members of the public that the search was not being conducted in the right place, Spud's actions convinced Pc Conquest that the man was nearby and Pc Conquest eventually located him hiding under a garden shed. The man was jailed for six years for attempted murder. Spud was commended for his 'sniffing out' skills.

And Det Con Vicky Denmark, of Rayleigh Child Abuse Investigation Unit, was commended for her professionalism, determination and attention to detail during an investigation into a serious assault within a children's home. Despite very difficult circumstances, she ensured that the matter proceeded to trial. In December, the suspect received a five-year custodial sentence and a Sexual Offences Prevention Order and was ordered to stay on the Sex Offenders Register for an unlimited time.



● Chief Supt Win Bernard QPM

'Proud but humble' man dedicates his honour to country's police

PROUD but humble was the reaction of Chief Supt Win Bernard at the announcement had been awarded the Queen's Police Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Chief Supt Bernard, who took over command of Chelmsford Division at the end of July 2004,

has been an officer with Essex Police for 27 years.

The 50-year-old married father of two sons and a daughter lives in Braintree and has enjoyed a varied career.

Former posts include the Drug Squad, Fraud Squad and Special Branch. He has been

involved in a number of high-profile incidents, including hi-jacks at Stansted Airport, and, as the head of one of the force's major investigation teams, he led a number of investigations, not least into the murder of teenager Debra Carne in Castle Hedingham in

2002 and the death of nine-year-old Tony Clowes at Broomfield Hospital in Chelmsford back in 2001.

Chief Supt Bernard said of his award: "I feel very humble and slightly embarrassed by the honour as I am very conscious of the wealth of people who do

such admirable work and remain unsung heroes.

"I will however, be very proud to accept the honour and the recognition it gives to the thousands of police officers across the country for the increasingly difficult job that they undertake."

Champions for vulnerable crime victims

NEW Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Units have been launched by Essex Police this month.

The units, one per division, will deal not only with victims of domestic violence and hate crimes – which cover racial, faith, disability, homophobic and transphobic incidents – but also with vulnerable adults abused by carers.

Vulnerable Victims Co-ordinator Insp Jim Shaw said the aim was to increase the level of service given to victims of such crimes, increase detection rates and reduce the amount of repeat offending.

"There is repeat victimisation against certain sections of society who are at risk and it is a major issue to be tackled," he said.

Domestic Violence and Hate Crime liaison officers will aim to improve the relationships between police and victims, provide risk assessments where appropriate and compile reports for the CPS and the courts.

In effect they will become specialist investigators of offences up to and including GBH and will provide specialist support in more serious crimes. This will include evidence-gathering in the event a victim does not wish to prosecute.

The units will also maintain databases in a bid to spot trends.

Bus project needs special co-ordinator

A NEW initiative in Southend offering young people a safe haven when they're out on the town is looking for a co-ordinator to get things rolling.

The SOS Bus Southend is a converted double-decker bus which will give Friday and Saturday night revellers another place to turn if their plans go awry on a night out.

In partnership with Essex Police, the SOS team of trained volunteers will use the bus as a base to provide first aid, advice and safe place for the vulnerable.

Now the project needs a co-ordinator to get the SOS Bus on the road, ready to help young people out this summer.

Dean Trotter, of Southend YMCA, said: "We are now anxious to get this exciting project going – we just need the right person as co-ordinator."

Southend licensing officer Sgt Matt Bell added: "We need a very special person to get involved in this project."

● For more details about the SOS Project Co-ordinator post, or for an application pack, visit www.essex.police.uk/jobs or call Dean Trotter on 01702 301301.

Savings on new doctors' contracts

WITH the introduction of new Force Medical Examiners (FME) contracts, Essex Police hopes to make considerable time and efficiency savings.

The contract for call-outs has been managed by Essex Medical and Forensic Services (EMFS) since June 1.

Custody manager Chief Insp Chris Macintosh said it was the first time doctors had had a proper contract and could be held to account for their work.

"The feedback I am getting from custody staff is excellent because of the prompt response, the doctors and health care professionals are used to dealing with trauma and they know the situations under which we work.

"We now have one organisation which is a group of doctors supported by a host

of healthcare professionals. Previously, doctors were trying to run their own practice and then help the police.

"Now the contract says they should arrive within 60 minutes of being called."

New GP contracts introduced in April 2004 also meant a shortage of doctors available to be called because they could earn more money for out-of-hours services.

In a medical emergency, this previously meant two or more officers plus a car taken away from operational duties to escort a prisoner to another custody suite or to A&E for treatment.

Meanwhile, force administration officer Paul Sugden was spending 80 per cent of his time liaising with divisions to try to ensure enough doctors were available.

Head of Administration Services Claire Heath said the old system had simply become unworkable. "If we called an FME we did not know if we would get one in some divisions," she said.

But, instead of simply increasing payments, Claire and her team reviewed the entire system using the principles of ACTION to drive the project forward.

During the consultation process, they listened to the views of GPs and were helped greatly by divisional staff. They decided the best way forward was to put FME services out to tender.

Although the sum of £1.2million for 2005/06 is £100,000 more than for 2003/04, Claire is confident that the rise will be more than offset by the time and efficiency savings created, with officers and cars released for operational duties, less time spent by finance staff processing invoices – 2,100 in 2004/05 down to less than 20 so far this year – custody staff no longer spending hours waiting for an FME and not closing custody suites because none was available.

Essex Police has now been contacted by 26 other police forces interested in how the new contracts work.



● Chief Constable David Stevens and Sgt Andy Ford, of the Marine Unit, hand over traditional bottles of bubbly to Amy Trigg, 13, and Richard Townrow, eight, so they can name the Seaxe and the Sentinel

Photo by Julia Goward

Winners taste life on the ocean wave

TWO lucky competition winners took a trip with the Essex Police Marine Unit following a vote to name the force's latest acquisitions for the high seas.

A shortlist of names was placed on the internet and 'surfers' voted to christen the new boats Seaxe and Sentinel.

Two winners drawn were invited to attend the official naming ceremony of the boats at Burnham Yacht Harbour Marina.

Internal winner was Graham Furnival, of Chelmsford, Essex Police Authority business manager, and external winner was Cathy Mitchell, from Braintree.

And they were not the only special

guests at the unveiling.

Amy Trigg, 13, of Witham, who is the daughter of Sgt Rob Trigg and suffers from spina bifida, and eight-year-old Richard Townrow, of Great Yeldham, who has a pelvic tumour, were asked to name the boats officially on behalf of the people of Essex.

Chief Constable David Stevens then commissioned the boats – the traditional and official acceptance of the boats into service.

The high-speed Rigid Hulled Inflatable Boats (RHIBs) replace two of the existing fleet. The twin-powered Halmatic Artic 24s are capable of transporting officers rapidly to incident scenes via the county's

waterways and coastline.

Other guests included representatives of Essex Fire & Rescue, Kent and Metropolitan Police Marine Units, the RNLI, Coastguard, Harwich Haven Authority, the Harbour Authority, Southend Pier and Foreshore and representatives of Essex Police Authority.

Authority chairman Robert Chambers said: "We are pleased to have been able to fund these new boats and I am delighted we have got two boats capable of helping to prevent crime, such as preventing people trafficking and hard drugs being brought into the county. The boats will also contribute immensely to public safety."

Volunteers step out on to streets with young people

AN independent team of volunteers has taken to the streets of Southend for the first time to talk to young people there.

Southend Street Pastors made their debut in the town at the end of May, dealing with the public almost 200 times in five hours.

Street Pastors are from local churches and walk around the streets from 10pm to 4am.

The team has a clearly identifiable uniform, comprising a dark blue baseball cap, blue denim shirt and two-tone coat with reflective 'Street Pastor' markings.

On their first deployment, the Street Pastors worked in three teams of four, patrolling Marine Parade, the Kursaal and Woodgrange areas of Southend. They have received police training in various areas, including defensive skills.

Southend operations manager Supt Steve Currell said: "The scheme has worked very well in Birmingham, London, Manchester and Leicester and we're looking forward to this being a valuable addition to the presence of capable guardians on the streets of Southend."

The scheme, which has cost nothing to set up, allows officers to concentrate their efforts on trouble spots.

Supt Currell added: "We will be keeping data on where they are deployed and how the number of crimes there runs, to evaluate the scheme. Although we are in the early days of this scheme I feel this is an opportunity just waiting to be grasped."

Crimewatch proves fruitful

FOLLOWING an appeal on the BBC's Crimewatch programme, detectives investigating the homicide of a woman following a flat fire in west Essex arrested two youths on suspicion of murder.

A 16-year-old was later bailed until July 21 and an 18-year-old bailed until July 18.

Kerry Youngs, 24, died following the fire at Bush Fair in Harlow on the evening of Wednesday, May 4. She died in hospital two days later. Her partner, Kevin Chapple, remains in a critical, but stable condition in hospital.

The incident room at Harlow took eight calls resulting from the programme on June 15, while the BBC studio took a further 25 from members of the public offering information.

Law Letters

HAVE YOUR SAY: Write to Heather Turner, Law Letters, Press Office, Police HQ, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DA.

Letters and emails must include full name and home town. We reserve the right to edit letters. Please be aware The Law is reproduced on the internet and circulated to the media.

I support Kay in her campaign

I READ with great interest the letter from Catherine Dodd in last month's edition of The Law.

During the early years of my service at Grays, as a single man, I knew both Sid and Kit, not only as a colleague and his wife but also as my landlords.

I was billeted with them for some time when they lived in Hampden Road.

Later, Sid was often my observer on the area car. As a dedicated and experienced officer, he taught me a lot.

I fully support Kit in her endeavours to have all officers who lost their lives whilst on duty recognised at the National Memorial.

A second point I would like to raise is that I always seem to know about the death of ex-colleagues only when I read The Law.

A case in point is ex-Sgt John Smith, an officer with whom I served and whose funeral I would have attended.

In this day of speedy communications, would it not be possible to devise a quicker means of letting us 'oldies' know of the passing of fellow pensioners?

**Mick Brangham
Wickham Bishops**

● **Editor's note:** When the Welfare Department is notified of a police pensioner's death, staff inform the National Association of Retired Police Officers (NARPO), the Police Federation and the PNC Bureau. The information is also posted on www.essex.police.uk and relatives are asked who they would like to be informed, too. Alternatively, pensioners could make a list of people they would like contacted in the event of their death. Unfortunately, there will always be people who slip through the net.

Honours are 'divisive and embarrassing'

THERE must literally have been millions of people like me who groaned and laughed at the same time at yet another long list of mostly anonymous but some more famous people being given something to do with a non-existent Empire for services to what I know not.

I believe the awards system should now be obsolete – like that of hereditary peers.

It is divisive, archaic, pervasive and embarrassing. Some of the recipients should know better than to accept them.

They may be alright for one's ego but I don't think they are for the common good. People such as David Bowie et al are to be commended for their courage to say 'no' to this relic of the past.

A large and growing number of us in the Labour Party are persistently pressing Tony Blair to scrap this system in the name of Socialism and common sense. Hopefully, the Labour Representation Committee in its future work will pursue this with some vigour.

**Robert Miller
Springfield Green**

We take action if crimes are committed

FOLLOWING Pat Harle's letter to The Law last month, I have examined the issues he raises.

In the last five months, there have been 25 calls to police regarding incidents at Golden Cross parade, of which eight reports relate to incidents of theft at Somerfield Stores and only five relate to reports of youth nuisance.

Given these figures, I find it difficult to agree with the description of this location as a 'crime hotspot'.

Although I agree that Golden Cross parade does attract a lot of local youths,

the fundamental issue here is the proximity of the shops to the local secondary school.

We have previously received complaints from one particular resident in Golden Cross but, when we have examined video footage obtained by the complainant, there was no evidence of conduct amounting to criminal offences.

Issues of individual tolerance clearly come into play here and we must make professional judgements on those matters drawn to our attention.

I couldn't agree more with Pat's

suggestion regarding assertive policing and I certainly would like to see more uniformed visibility on the streets to tackle 'low-level' incidents of youth nuisance and to deliver community re-assurance.

However, the resources I have at my disposal are subject to competing demands and are directed towards those areas where the problems are greatest, in accordance with the policing style of this Force.

**Insp Andy Parkman
Rochford District**

Fond memories of Colin and his work

I WAS greatly saddened to read of the death of ex-Det Con Colin Prest, with whom I worked in the early 1990s when he was the Force Chemist Register's Inspector.

As the Det Sgt on Drugs Profit Confiscation, I supervised Colin's work by visiting pharmacies twice a year to check the registers in which were recorded prescriptions for dangerous drugs.

The work necessitated noting numerous dates with repetitive details of the type of drug, strength, quantity and frequency of the prescription which, were transcribed from his notes on to Home Office forms.

Copies were kept in files, taking up shelf space. It seemed to me that Colin's

work could be improved by computerisation, with reports being drafted on a computer to reduce the number of repetitive key strokes.

However, Colin was a big fellow with very large hands and fingers, not suited to computer keys.

Often, I heard him say "It's quicker on a typewriter!" He was gently encouraged to persevere and then presented with a laptop with even smaller keys, which enabled him to input his notes directly on to the computer while making his pharmacy visits.

With the assistance of Fraud Squad Inspector Rod Walker, a database was created which linked patient to pharmacy to doctor. In a very short time, Colin, by his sheer determination, had mastered the new technology and I heard the words: "This is much better than using the typewriter!"

It was particularly pleasing when Colin was later requested to make a presentation at a Home Office conference to demonstrate his revised method of reporting to other Chemist Register Inspectors.

Colin was also very pleased when, from his knowledge of local drug dependents, he was able to put up suspects for a pharmacy burglary – his information led to the arrest and conviction of the burglars.

Although dedicated to his police work, I know that Colin was also very much a family man who, I'm certain, will be sorely and sadly missed by his family, having been taken from them at such a young age. They have my sincere condolences.

**Robert Cordery
Lot et Garonne
France**

Police link spans the miles and years

I THOUGHT readers might be interested to hear about the distance to which Essex Police representation extends.

I recently visited a former concentration camp on the outskirts of Berlin – now known as the Sachsenhausen Memorial and Museum – with a small party of serving and former Essex Police officers.

Within the prisoners' area of the concentration camp was a separate

internal prison used by the Gestapo and camp authorities for 'torment and murder' and punishment of infringements of camp discipline.

In the prison yard were three upright posts to which prisoners could be tied.

At the base of one of the posts a solitary wreath had been laid. Imagine our surprise to discover the inscription: "This wreath is a token of our gratitude to those who made the ultimate

sacrifice. Members, family and friends of the Suffolk and Essex constabularies, April 16, 2005."

This is rather intriguing because it was not possible to establish the exact link between this specific concentration camp prison and these two police forces although, unfortunately, the likely connection is more obvious.

**Graham Dossett
Kelvedon**

Gone . . . but not forgotten

A/Sgt Adam Eves – Essex County Constabulary. Served from March 1, 1877. Died April 16, 1893

ADAM Eves joined Essex County Constabulary at 20. As Acting Sergeant he was posted to Purleigh in January 1891.

A/Sgt Eves lived with his wife Elizabeth at Purleigh. He was a popular officer but in the course of his work he had made enemies. On April 16, 1893, his mutilated body was found in a ditch at Hazeleigh Hall Farm, near Purleigh. Initial enquiries revealed that several threats had been made against the dead officer.

Early on, suspicion fell on a group of villagers, all petty criminals. Insp Pryke was dealing with theft of corn from Hazeleigh Hall Farm.

His enquiries showed false entries had been made in the farm ledger.

Had Eves come across the men as they carried the corn away from the farm, tried to arrest them and been killed?

Labourers John Davis, 34, and his brother, Richard, 30, were arrested. Corn found at Richard's home was similar to that at the murder scene at the farm barn. There was also a blood-stained handcart. Dealer Charles Sales, 47, and John Bateman, 37, were also arrested. They had worked together in the past and had recently been threshing corn at the farm. Shortly afterwards, a

villager told police he had heard James Ramsey make threats against Adam Eves. A search of the home of Ramsey and his son John revealed a pair of blood-soaked trousers and sacks similar to those used to steal. They were arrested. The case against John Bateman and John Ramsey was dropped because of insufficient evidence and on the second day of the trial, the case against Sales was dismissed. The prosecution said the three remaining defendants had been surprised by Eves as they left the farm with sacks of stolen wheat. He challenged them and they murdered him.

Ramsey and the Davis brothers claimed they were in bed asleep at the time. The jury found the two brothers guilty and they were sentenced to death but James Ramsey was found not guilty. Richard Davis lodged an appeal but John confessed all, claiming Ramsey had hit Eves with a cudgel and cut his throat. The story might have ended there, but for the arrest of James Ramsey charged with breaking and entering the barn at Hazeleigh Hall Farm, and stealing thirteen and a half bushels of corn. During his trial Selina, the wife of the late John Davis, gave evidence, as did Richard Davis, who was brought from prison. The jury found Ramsey

Come on and join our reunions

I AM looking for ex-members of the Royal Military Police (RMP) currently with Essex Police either as a police officer or police staff to join our meetings.

The Colchester & East Anglia Branch of the RMP Association meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7.30pm for 8pm in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess of 156 Pro Coy RMP at Goojerat Barracks in Colchester.

The current membership fee is only £5 per year. President Peter J Simpson OBE is a former Deputy Chief Constable.

The association has a trip to Newmarket Races on Saturday, July 16, and a pastie-tasting evening on Thursday, August 4, while the annual dinner will be held in October.

Any member of Essex Police, who was once in the RMP or WRAC Pro, can contact me on 07795 025758.

**Allan Adam
Secretary, Colchester & East Anglia RMPA**

● THIS is an important year, marking the 30th anniversary of Course No 7 (1975-77) at the Essex Police Cadet School – some 25 young girls and boys first met and formed a union, which will remain 'with us' always.

HQ sports pavilion's function room has been booked for September 1, at 8.15pm, with some attending for their first time.

Although contact details are available for most of the former cadets and staff, we would like to contact those we have no details for and those whose details have changed.

We want to ensure that the maximum number of relevant people get to know of our September gathering.

For more details, contact me on 01702 423183.

**Paul Watson
Shoebury Police Station**



● **A/Sgt Adam Eves**

guilty and he was sentenced to 14 years penal servitude. Mrs. Eves was awarded the maximum pension payable at that time, £15 per year, and a public subscription raised £400.

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.



● **New vice-chairman Neil Macdonald**

Councillor is chairman for a fourth year

COUNCILLOR Robert Chambers will continue as the chairman of Essex Police Authority.

The 17 members of the authority (EPA) voted him in unanimously for another year.

Mr Chambers became a member in 1997 and has been chairman for three years. He has been an Uttlesford district councillor for 25 years.

Mr Chambers said: "It is an honour and a privilege to be chairman of Essex Police Authority. I hope I can work together with the other members to give something back to the people of Essex in the ensuing year."

EPA members also voted Neil Macdonald in as vice-chairman. He replaces Tony Williams, who was unable to continue in the role because, as one of the EPA's magistrate members, he will soon be up for reselection.

Mr Macdonald is an independent member of EPA and has been a member for two years.

He said: "I am looking forward to the new role. It will mean working closely with the chairman of the authority and the Essex Police ACPO team in driving forward the force objectives in tandem with those of the authority."

● EPA member Colin Churchman has become Mayor of Thurrock following local elections.

His sister Kathleen Evans will be Mayoress.

First post for village police

THE village of Feering has its own post office again, thanks to Essex Police and a local shopkeeper.

The previous post office and village store, closed in September, 2003. Now the service has been restored, with a sub-postmaster working from the front counter at the police station in London Road, Feering, two days a week.

The police station houses Bintree divisional staff involved in community safety work, but the front office is no longer in use. As a gesture of goodwill, Essex Police agreed to provide the space free of charge.

The counter has been welcomed by the parish council. It opens 10am-2pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

New post will help area to 'strangle' crime

RESIDENTS in Tolleshunt D'Arcy are being invited to become a part of policing their community following the arrival of a new police post – the first in the county this century.

The opening of the police post is being seen as an ideal opportunity for homeowners to help fight anti-social and nuisance behaviour in the surrounding parishes of Little Totham, Tolleshunt Knights, Tolleshunt Major, Goldhanger,

Tollesbury and Great and Little Braxted.

The police post was officially opened on June 23 by 92-year-old Bertrum Ponder, the oldest villager along with St Nicholas' Primary School pupils Thomas Humberstone and Jaime Cole, both five.

The building has been opened next to the school in Tollesbury Road. Pc Eddy Edwards and PCSO Mick Joslin will be based at the £166,000 police post, with

Special Constables assisting them in 'maintaining a stranglehold' on crime in the area.

Insp Kevin Jacobs, who is responsible for policing the area, is now encouraging people to take a vested interest in the local policing strategy.

"We know that we have been unable to police the communities in the north-eastern part of the Chelmsford Division as much we would have liked to," said Insp Jacobs.

"This new post provides us with an ideal opportunity to do exactly this while also engaging residents in having a say in where we should concentrate our resources.

"We're keen to hear from anyone who wants to help to keep the station open while officers are away on patrol or responding to incidents."

"These Volunteers in Post (VIPs) would help interact with the community and maintain a visible police presence."

Great ideas reap their cash reward



● **Special Constable Matt Dolphin and Sgt Phil Closs get ready for another night 'on the town'**
Photo by Nishan Wijeratne

Tracking down thugs

DRUNKEN, violent and yobbish behaviour in Chelmsford is becoming a thing of the past thanks to new mountain bike patrols in and around the town centre – the only kind of policing anywhere in Essex which tackles such street disorder.

The squad of two police cyclists – soon to be increased to four – hit the streets and alleyways of the town and surroundings areas each Friday and Saturday night as they look to prevent assaults.

The patrols began at the end of May and will continue throughout the summer in a bid to ensure that late-night revellers can enjoy Chelmsford without fear of being hassled or attacked.

Sgt Phil Closs, of the Town Patrol Unit, said: "The patrols are working

because of the good relationship we have with the door staff at the local nightclubs and bars in the town and also from the borough council's CCTV section.

"Our response times before the arrival of the bikes were pretty good, but now they're excellent as pedal power is clamping down on alcohol-fuelled fights before they really get going.

"We can now also seize alcohol with ease from youths coming into the town and surrounding parks because they cannot outrun us any more." So far police pedal cyclists have arrested a number of people for assaults, issued a number of fixed penalty notices for public order offences and stopped numerous fights in Chelmsford town centre.

HARLOW has again swept the board at the annual Force Suggestion Scheme Awards.

But it remains unclear as to whether this is a consequence of the local air or the fact that it is the largest division staff-wise.

Winning submissions to the scheme varied wildly from the provision of protective marking on electronic documents to those dealing with aids to intelligence gathering or officer safety.

Dc Mark Heard, of Basildon DIU, proposed a computer-generated display of those wanted on warrant, within the custody suite.

Whilst Pc Jon Meggison, of Tendring, had undertaken research into a throwing line which will now be incorporated into operational vehicles.

And Pc Anne-Marie Gostling, of Southend, had undertaken work which resulted in the inclusion of foil blankets in all vehicles – enabling officers to respond more readily to first aid emergencies.

Thurrock Crime Reduction Officer Bob Shoemith had implemented schemes to reduce the reduction of thefts of high-value vehicles and credit cards at ATMs.

Meanwhile both Dc Mike Smith, of Crime Division, and Pc Terry Wheeler, of Basildon, had identified processes to reduce credit card fraud and deception.

And, on the operational front, a clutch of inspectors had identified processes and procedures to: encourage the admission of TICs – Neil Murray, of Chelmsford; improve actions when establishing a STORM incident – Anne Cameron, of Braintree; and Inspectors' Authorisations – Jim White, of Professional Standards.

Presentations were made by Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark on June 14, and were attended by 13 of 26 recipients.

Other proposals, adopted by Essex Police and recognised at the presentations were made by: Pc John Mackman, Bryan Sams, Pc Andy Hanrahan, Brenda Hunt, Denise Harvey and Mary Murray, all Harlow; Sgt Paul Bates, Thurrock; Insp Andy Parkman, Rayleigh; David White, Media & PR; Pc Scott Woods and Sgt Peter Gerard, Tendring; Justina Becusse, lately Corporate Support; Marc Williams, Procurement; Pc James O'Connell, Basildon; and Ian Curry, A/Det Sgt Peter Chivers and Det Con Nick Newbury, all Crime Division.

● If you have a bright idea that could save Essex Police time and/or money email it to the Force Suggestion Scheme and it will be considered for a cash award.

Policing the airwaves

THE latest Essex Police promotional DVD has hit the county's airwaves.

Your Force is currently playing on Chelmer TV in the High Chelmer shopping centre, Chelmsford. The firm involved, Flying Saucer, has 50 sites across the country, including some in Essex, and is giving the force free airtime.

"We are delighted Flying Saucer is supporting Essex Police again in this way – it is a valuable source of publicity for us," said TV unit producer Stuart Creasey.

Leadership course 'was inspirational for my work'

BLACK, minority and ethnic police officers and staff are being encouraged to apply for the Personal Leadership Programme at Bramshill.

Det Insp Pauline Bowers, of Brentwood CAIU, has been in the force 24 years and an inspector for eight.

She said she found the course, which she took in spring 2004, 'positive and motivational'.

"I wanted to go on the course for both my own development and to see how it could assist BME staff in Essex Police," she said.

The three-day programme comprises two days of intense development, motivation and thinking techniques, followed, after a two to three week break, by a third day of consolidation.

Det Insp Bowers, deputy chair elect of the Essex Black Police Association, said: "I really recommend every eligible member of staff take up this opportunity which is fully supported by Essex Police."

Different styles of leadership were examined, as well as students' own abilities and confidence.

Students come from very mixed backgrounds and there are no barriers to rank or role.

Although the course was initially devised for senior-officer training, it has now been introduced to support BME staff, too.

Det Insp Bowers said it was vital because it helped BME police officers and staff of any rank confront both visible and invisible barriers they experience.

● To find out more, ring Pc Tina Royles on ext 54056 or Bramshill tutor Sgt Gary Chapman on 01256 602887.

Disabled staff support network

A NETWORK to consult and support people with disabilities in Essex Police has its first meeting this month.

The group was born out of a one-day conference at the Essex Records Office, which looked at issues around disability within the organisation.

Attended by staff with disabilities, support and administration managers and human resources, the conference concluded that there was a real need for a support network to be put in place.

Positive action officer Pc Tina Royles said: "There's a need for a support network not just to provide support to each other but also to consult with on issues around disability."

● The meeting is at 10am at HQ Sports Pavilion on Tuesday, July 26. Any staff who consider themselves to have a disability and who wish to attend can contact Pc Royles on ext 54056.

Officers have big designs on crime-fighting

EVERYONE wants to feel safe in their own home and, as part of a national initiative, Secured By Design was promoted across Essex last month.

Crime reduction officers were out and about with the force trailer offering advice and information on protecting homes against invaders.

The website at www.securedbydesign.com has been updated and has a dedicated section for homeowners seeking advice.

It also gives a list of security products, such as locks, windows, doors and shutters, which have passed tests showing they can best withstand criminal attack.

Crime reduction officer Pc Heather Alston said: "It's very much about the public being aware that there are standards for safety and security and they should be demanding them for all security products they buy."

The Secured By Design website also offers a new book written by Pc Alston and fellow crime reduction officer Pc Calvin Beckford, of the Metropolitan Police.

Home Security – The Complete Handbook contains comprehensive, straightforward and essential advice on keeping home, family and possessions safe. It can be purchased through the website or from good bookshops.

A new leaflet, Beat The Burglar, has also been designed by Essex Police, giving advice on how to protect vulnerable areas at home and to prevent burglars entering and stealing possessions.

It is available from the Community Safety Department on 01245 491491 or from crime reduction officers at local police stations.

And Essex Police also has a Burglary Pack – already issued to victims of crime – which contains much crime prevention information and can be obtained from local crime reduction officers.

Police authority sets out mission

ESSEX Police Authority has launched its own mission statement, 'moving closer to meeting the community's needs'.

The independent organisation's aim is to provide an efficient and effective police force for the residents of Essex through its roles and responsibilities, which include determining an annual budget for the police force, appointing chief officers and assessing the performance of Essex Police.

Chairman Robert Chambers said: "We have a great responsibility for policing in Essex.

"We are here to provide the best policing service for the residents in the county, by supporting and challenging the police force and by achieving our three main priorities.

"Through our priorities, which are determined through our consultation with the public, we will continue moving closer to meeting the community's needs."

The authority's main priorities are to increase visible policing, to reduce anti-social behaviour and to improve the police response to calls from the public.

Action is taken out on to the streets

HARLOW'S Action team has been out and about in the town's Harvey Centre, encouraging locals to report anti-social behaviour on its new hotline.

It's Your Call - the dedicated Action line 0845 605 2222 - was launched by the Safer Harlow Partnership and the Home Office to help local people tackle problems in their community.

The new service should make it easier for residents to report anti-social behaviour and it also aims to improve access to council services, tackling problems such as nuisance neighbours, vandalism and graffiti.

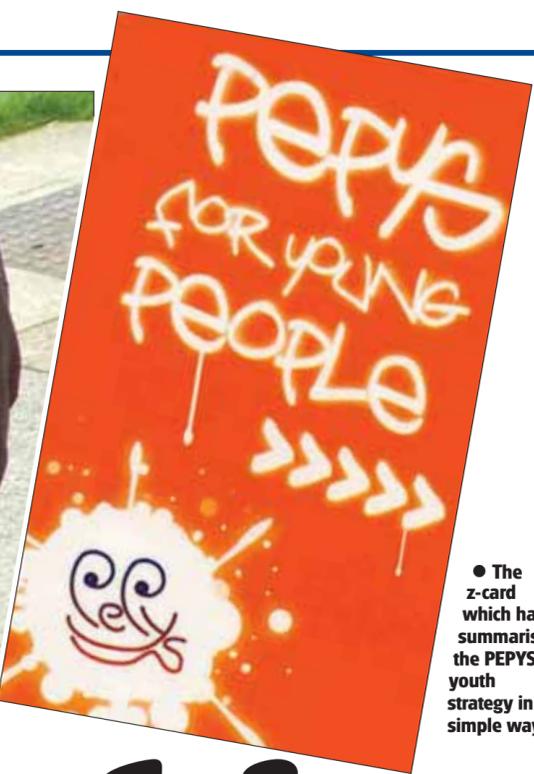
The Safer Harlow Partnership has made a commitment to step up its response to anti-social behaviour as the town has been named by the Government as one of 50 Action areas across the country.



● PEPYS Youth Forum members Jake and Rob



● 16-year-old Alex faces the cameras at the PEPYS Youth Forum during some media training



● The z-card which has summarised the PEPYS youth strategy in a simple way

Young people breaking down the old barriers

ONE of the first tasks for the PEPYS Youth Forum was to write the new strategy in a way young people would understand and engage with.

Georgina, 16, from Colchester, said they had needed to think about what information young people wanted.

"The old strategy was very 'police-y' and used technical terms and policies which meant nothing to us. So we cut all that out and just included the bits that were relevant to us," she said.

"Then we needed to make sure it was something we'd pick up and look at. We thought it should be a style that kids could put straight in their pocket or wallet and look at when they wanted. The z-card is ideal."

The leaflet, called PEPYS for Young People, is credit card-sized and the inside information folds out like a concertina. Already, nearly 30,000 have been distributed to young people through schools and youth groups.

PEPYS for Young People was launched at the force's youth conference held earlier this year; and the youth forum played a key role in deciding the agenda and topics for discussion at the event.

Many members of the youth forum attended the conference and a number of them spoke, giving

More than 60 young people, aged 13 to 17, are now helping to shape the force's youth policy.

Ruth Collin, public relations officer for the Proactive Essex Police Youth Strategy, talked to forum members about their hopes for the initiative.

their personal experiences and opinions.

Most had never even been to a conference before, let alone spoken in front of 300 delegates, including police officers, other agency professionals and their own peers; so the experience has increased their confidence and public-speaking skills.

Nervous

Ben, from Braintree, was one of the first speakers at the conference. The 14-year-old said: "I was really nervous, but also really wanted to do it. I had done the PowerPoint presentation myself and got together all the information I needed for my speech.

"Once I got up there and stood on the platform it was fantastic!"

One of the main topics the forum wanted to discuss at the conference was the public perception of young people.

They had all talked about being asked to leave certain places without understanding the reason why or being watched with suspicion and they felt that this gave the public and the police an inaccurate view of young people.

They were also concerned about

media coverage of young people's issues and felt they wanted to try and raise a more positive image of young people in Essex. So they've formed a media group and are making themselves available to the media to give their view on any young people's issues in the news.

Media training

The group has received training from Essex Police's media trainer Eric Dixon and members have already taken part in a number of radio and newspaper interviews. They've also written their own articles for magazines such as *Young People Now*.

Jack, 15, from Tolleshunt D'Arcy, said: "Some recent research showed that 71 per cent of press stories about young people are negative and young people are only quoted in eight per cent of stories about them. "We think this gives people a really negative view of young people. We're not saying everyone's perfect but we're not all as bad as some of these articles make out and we should be allowed to have our say."

Brian Farmer is the Essex reporter for the *Press Association* and has been extremely impressed

with the media group. "I spoke to some of them at the youth conference and it was really interesting to hear their views – not only on typical youth issues, but also on wider topics," he said.

In the few months the forum has been meeting, members have also had their say on the development of a new website which is to be officially launched this summer.

The site – www.pepys.org – is aimed at young people, giving them the information they need to help them to make choices in their lives.

It will also include a message board and details of things to do and places to go, as well as games, downloads and other interesting features.

Forum members will be working with the PEPYS team on a promotional tour of the county to launch the website during the school holidays.

Looking ahead

Looking ahead, the group is now keen to find out more about other areas of the force and has already identified police training as an area it could become involved with.

Through increasing its knowledge of Essex Police, the PEPYS team

hopes it will be able to make a more informed contribution to the development of the youth strategy.

In addition, as more and more departments need to deal with the community, the PEPYS Youth Forum is an ideal opportunity to reach young people – either to assess baseline opinions and experiences or to obtain a more proactive input into the development of services.

The PEPYS team also hope to link the Essex Police Youth Forum to other groups, such as the Young Essex Assembly and other agency forums.

In order to get involved with the police and other agencies on a more local level, these links could also include local district and borough youth councils.

Delighted

PEPYS Programme Manager Sgt Ian Carter said: "I am delighted that so many young people have taken this time to engage with us. Looking at what has been achieved so far, I have every confidence that the group will continue to play a key part in helping us to move this agenda forward.

"It is a clear demonstration that, given a voice and the right information, young people can make a very worthwhile and positive contribution, both for themselves and the wider community."

● If you, or your department or division, would like to be involved with the youth forum, members would be pleased to hear from you. It may be that you would like to support their activities or perhaps get some feedback or ideas from them on your own initiatives. For details, contact the PEPYS office on 01245 457245 or ext 52031.



● Youth Forum members take a break from their discussions about how to get more involved with life in Essex

Licencees told to get their new applications in

WITH the handover of licensing responsibilities to district and borough councils imminent, Essex Police – is concerned that only 10 per cent of businesses and organisations have so far applied for new licences.

Sgt Nigel Dermott – who is managing the licensing project for Essex Police – is anxious that owners of off-licences – including corner shops – premises selling hot food and drink between 11pm and 5am – including petrol stations, burger vans and kebab shops – and even community centres are not aware of the changes.

Sgt Dermott said that although Essex Police were not responsible for issuing licences, licensing units would be glad to assist with inquiries about the new Licensing Act, which comes into force on November 25 – although not able to complete application forms on behalf of applicants.

Existing businesses, which come under the scope of the new act, should consider applying to their local licensing authority by August 6 in order to take full advantage of all benefits provided within the legislation.

After that date, applications could take at least three months to be determined and some businesses may have to close until a licence is granted.

Sgt Dermott said: "Of the main businesses we would like to see submitting applications, only 10 per cent have so far been received."

And he added: "Essex Police cannot be held liable for failing to inform any person of their obligations under the new legislation, as we are only one of eight relevant authorities in this process together with the licensing authorities."

Pensioners' pay slips will become a distant memory

PAY slips will become just a memory for Essex Police's 2,500 pensioners, widows and widowers next month in a move which will save the force around £10,000 a year.

It will cease sending monthly pay advices to recipients of an Essex Police pension because the majority of the force's 2,500 pensioners receive exactly the same amount every month.

Instead, the force will only produce pay advices if the payment varies by £5 or more on the previous month. However, it will continue to send out the P60 tax advice at the end of the tax year.

Rick Tazzini, Director of Finance and Administration, said: "The Government's continued drive for increased efficiency savings means that we have to examine every area of the service to identify cash savings.

"In order to protect front-line services, we firstly have to take those savings, however small, that have least impact on policing."

"The cash saving from this policy change is estimated to be at least £10,000 per annum. There are also staff time savings within force.

He added: "Fewer public and private sector pension schemes now routinely send pension pay advices. A growing number of police forces have adopted a similar approach.

"The benefits are not merely financial. The proposals reduce the risk of your payslip being intercepted in the mail and, in turn, this lessens the risk of identity theft or fraud."

New bike group is a roaring success

A SUCCESSFUL inaugural meeting of the Chelmsford and District Motorcyclists (CADAM) group saw 33 members join.

Now the group has arranged its meetings until the end of the year.

The next meeting at HQ sports pavilion is on Tuesday, July 26. Then meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of every month: August 9, September 13, October 11, November 8 and December 13.

New members are welcome at any of the meetings.

● For more information, contact Pc Jonathan Harman on 01245 491491 ext 58142.

Law Classifieds

Holiday lets

AUGUST and September availability. La Manga, two-bed apartment, superb location, en suite pool, panoramic sea view, very close to beach. Contact Bernie on 01787 370317 or 07986 098422.

COSTA Blanca, La Marina, two-bedroom, two-bathroom, luxury villa. Sleeps six. Quiet, private residence with communal pool. Beach five mins, golf ten mins, airport 20 mins. Contact Mick Ager on 00 34 617 110 096 or 07775 676142 or visit casadomi02@hotmail.com

FLORIDA, Disney, four-bedroom villa, three bathrooms. Private pool, air conditioning, cable TVs, DVD, CD, PlayStation, games room. Golf five mins, Disney 15 mins. Ring Karen or Chris McAulay on 01625 431373 or 07881 614045, visit www.mcaulayvilla.com or email mcaulay60@hotmail.com

FLORIDA, luxury four-bedroom villa, private heated pool, close to Disney and golf. Christmas still available. Free brochure. Ring Jill on 01702 586092 or visit www.my-florida-villa.net

FLORIDA, new, luxury, five-bedroom villa, sleeps 12. Three en suites, air conditioning, games room with pool table, private, screened pool, Jacuzzi spa, Disney and Champions Gate golf course ten mins. From £600. Visit www.floridianretreat.com

FLORIDA, Orlando, four-bedroom pool home, overlooking water, close to Disney and airport. Nice location, from £450 per week. Video available. Email petewtaylor@yahoo.com or call Pete or Lin on 01245 321378.

FLORIDA, Sarasota. Villa sleeps six. Quiet village environment. Communal pool, tennis, barbecue, clubhouse, hot tub, beautiful beaches. Contact Norma Gill via email at norma@desgill.com

FRANCE, Loire Valley, stone cottage, sleeps two-four, beams, woodburner, quiet village location, lots to do nearby. Calais five hours, Caen two hours. £150-£175 per week. Contact Emma Bowditch on 07711 421579 or email emma.bowditch@essex.pnn.police.uk

FRENCH farmhouse, situated in idyllic hamlet in the Poitou Charente region. Bordeaux and Royan beaches 45 mins. Three bedrooms plus sofa bed. Country walks and fabulous food. From £200 per week. Ring Derek Patten on 07958 209909.

HOLIDAY gites, south-west France, Chez Chaillou, near Barbezieux. Three gites – six, three and two bedrooms, patios, pool. Visit www.chezchaillou.com

LAKESIDE chalet, Cotswold Water Parks. Exclusive, fully-equipped, two bedrooms, one bathroom, kitchen, lounge and terrace. Leisure centre on site. From £150 to £300 per week. Ring Stuart McKie on 07973 639342.

SCOTTISH Highlands. Associates to police are welcome at our beautiful home on a B&B basis, offering en suite and a welcome. Now offering fishing in private trout loch, shooting, walking, bird-watching, ski-ing or general 'chilling out' in stunning scenery in the Cairngorms National Park. Reductions for police. Ring Andy Nunn on 01479 841717 or email apf.nunn@btinternet.com

SOUTH of France, three-bedroom villa, sleeps six, quiet complex. Mediterranean coast 150m. Visit www.la-cypriette.com or email kevin.harman@freeuk.com or ring 01702 470926.

TURKEY, villa, sleeps six adults. Calis, Fethiye, on the south-west coast near Olu Deniz. Well equipped, three double-bedrooms, full air conditioning, close to beach and bars. £275-£325 per week. Ring 07976 065969.

TUSCANY, Italy. Rustic and romantic medieval village house nestling in the foothills of the mountains of northern Tuscany. Breathtaking views. One hour to Florence, Pisa and coast. Ring 07919 057437 or visit www.tuscanlife.co.uk

Cars and bikes

2003 Renault Clio Dynamique, 1.2l, 16v, three-door, metallic black, 18,500 miles, FSH alarm, alloys, CD and all extras, excellent condition, warranty, taxed, AA membership, £5,200. Ring Catherine McPherson on 01375 400540.

FORD Puma, 1.7i, 16v, S-reg, silver, lux pack, air conditioning, taxed, MoT, service history. £3,995. Ring 01371 823098 or 07717 758946.

Miscellaneous

HOUSEHOLD items for sale, incl fridge, freezer, dining tables, display cabinets and TV. Ring Derek Patten on 07958 209909.

WEST Mersea Type 220 A-frame dinghy, road trailer, galvanised. Very good condition, £125. Ring Ian on 07905 948550.

Special volunteer keeps on helping

Names in the news

GEORGE Cook took on the role of Commandant of the Special Constabulary in October, whilst continuing as the Divisional Administration Manager at Southend.

But he feels he cannot do full justice to both roles and has decided to retire at the end of this month and spend more time managing his voluntary role.

He said: "I shall miss the hustle and bustle of Southend and the friendship and support of all the staff who work within the division and throughout Essex Police."

"However, everyone who knows me is aware of my passion for the Special Constabulary."

"I am supported by excellent command and management teams and I am confident that, over the coming years, the Special Constabulary will continue to enhance its professionalism and contribution towards assisting our regular colleagues, PCSOs and police staff to provide the people of Essex with an excellent service."

After eight years with the Air Support Unit, **Pc Dave Manders** is planning to 'chill out' on terra firma.

The Air Observer is retiring after 30 years with Essex Police, which included stints in Harlow and Chelmsford and with the Road Policing and Force Support units.

Pc Manders, 49, said the highlight of his career had been fulfilling an

ambition to fly in helicopters – and to get paid for it.

His most memorable moment was making an emergency landing at Boreham Airfield in the old helicopter, G-EPOL, after having a fire inflight.

"Hearing the engine fire extinguishers being fired into the engine compartment at 800ft up, with a strong smell of burning and then smoke filling the cockpit certainly focused the mind," he recalled.

"However, it wasn't until a few days later that I discovered the original fire warning was just a malfunction and there hadn't been a fire at that point."

"Once we had fired the extinguishers an electrical fault developed which actually caused the fire to start. "Still, I survived to tell the tale," he added.

Former bank manager and computer salesman **Clive Stewart** has been appointed Neighbourhood Watch coordinator for Braintree, Halstead and Witham. He was previously involved with the organisation in his home village of Belchamp St Paul and on its Halstead area group.

He will support and develop Neighbourhood Watch schemes on the eastern side of Braintree Division.

Obituaries

FORMER Pc **Peter Gibbs**, of Gosfield, has died aged 49.

He joined Essex Police in

November 1977 and retired in August 1997 on medical grounds. He leaves a widow, Pauline.

Mr Gibbs served at Chelmsford and Billericay and in the Community Services Branch (CSB).

Donations were made in his memory to Stock Ward Staff Fund at Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford.

Ex-Det Con **Terence Mead**, 68, has died in Carmarthenshire. He leaves a widow, Rosemary.

Mr Mead served from October 1957 to December 1989, first with Southend Borough and then with Essex Police.

Former Southend Borough officer **Donald Canham**, of Leigh on Sea, has died at the age of 85.

Mr Canham served in the borough as a detective constable from September 1948 to May 1976. Donations have been made in his memory to Fair Haven Hospice.

Lionel Gallagher has died, aged 75, in Gozo. The former Pc served in Thurrock between December 1949 and October 1979.

Donations in the memory of former Pc **Francis Boyle**, 70, have been made to the British Heart Foundation and for Multiple Sclerosis.

Mr Boyle, who leaves a widow, Betty, served from 1962 to September 1987 at Grays, South Ockendon, Southminster, Burnham and Maldon. He lived in Southminster.



● Ex-students in front of the main entrance at Eynsham Hall – most visiting for the first time in 40 years

Reliving memories of 40 years ago

RETIRED policemen returned to the scene of their training on a trip organised by Southend's branch of the National Association of Retired Police Officers (NARPO).

After World War Two, most male officers who joined a police force in what was then No 5 Region would have undertaken their initial and sometimes continuation training at

Jacobean Eynsham Hall near Oxford.

Sixty NARPO members who were ex-students, partners and friends re-visited Eynsham Hall to find it beautifully restored and operating as a conference and training centre to business.

Organiser and branch social secretary Mike Beaveridge said: "Needless to say there was no PT or early

morning parades this time around and the food was considerably improved. In fact the catering was outstanding.

"This was a place that changed most of the young men who trained there and the emotions felt on their return were very mixed."

The trip included visits to Cotswold towns and villages. It was enjoyable and may well be repeated.

Former sergeant recalls VE-Day

THIS photograph was taken on VE Day 1945 and was sent in by former Sgt Jack Faulkner, of Southend, who retired from the borough police in 1979. He is pictured at Portslade, Hampshire, aboard Gunboat no 109, on which he served as a seaman gunner for Coastal Forces during World War Two. "We had just 'spliced the mainbrace', having had an additional tot of rum issued," he recalled. "Naval rum is also known as Nelson's Blood. The story goes that, when Lord Admiral Horatio Nelson was killed at Trafalgar in 1805, his body was preserved in a barrel of rum. "But when HMS Victory returned to Portsmouth, all the rum had gone, having been drunk by the crew."



● Jack Faulkner (circled) on board Gunboat no 109 at Portslade

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Sport & Leisure

Running away with the golds

HQ claimed first place in the Croker Cup athletics championship, with Colchester consigned to second place and Chelmsford third.

In the men's 100m, Braintree's Dave Hiscock pipped Colchester's Derek Walker to gold by a microsecond as both finished with a time of 13 seconds dead.

In the women's event, HQ's Natalie Benjamin finished first with Colchester's Julie Bolingbroke second.

In the men's vets race, Chelmsford's Simon Halford beat divisional colleague Phil Closs into second place by 4/100 of a second.

Halford also beat Hansen in the Maurice Brazier Memorial Cup for the men's vets 200m. In the women's version, HQ's Shirley Quinn beat Tendring's Debbie Wyatt.

The super vets race was next, with Braintree's Peter Orpe beating Basildon's Al Barley.

In the sprint relays, Colchester - Danny Stoten, Neil Gibson, Andy Young and Walker - finished 2/10 of a second ahead of Chelmsford. In the women's event, Tendring - with a mixed team - produced the goods to beat Harlow.

Tendring's Kev Hughes stormed to victory in the 200 and 400m and Harlow's Kat Southall proved she has recovered from injury as she won the women's 200 and 800m.

Colchester's Lucy Bradley won the vets 200m as well as the women's 400m, pipping Rayleigh's Rachel Crosby. Bradley also won the 1,500m, with Crosby second. In the 800m,

Derek Walker beat Braintree's Alex Webb.

There was further heartache for Webb as he finished behind newcomer Will Cubbin (HQ) in the 1,500m.

Cubbin then consigned his Braintree rival to second in the 5,000m. However, Webb won the 3,000m steeplechase ahead of Rayleigh's Charles Quae. In the men's 3,000m walk, Colchester's Steve King finished ahead of Harlow's Vic Faccini.

In the field, Harlow's Alex Spur won the discus, beating HQ's Owen Clements. Spur also won the shotput, but had to settle for bronze in the long jump - Kev Hughes and Simon Halford beating him. Dave Hiscock claimed gold in the triple jump and javelin, while Halford won the high jump.

Kat Southall won the women's high jump, with Chelmsford's Vania Askew second - she claimed gold in the shot. Benjamin won the triple jump ahead of Chelmsford's Andrea Smith.

Following her national debut last year, Shirley Quinn dominated the discus and javelin, with Julie Bolingbroke having to settle for silver in both, before claiming long-jump gold.

Event organiser Derek Walker revealed several athletes had secured their position at the nationals in Derbyshire.

● Overall results were: 1 HQ; 2 Colchester; 3 Chelmsford; 4 Harlow; 5 Braintree; 6 Tendring; 7 Rayleigh; 8 Basildon.

● Results of the beach angling competition, held on May 23, were: 1 Chelmsford; 2 Rayleigh; 3 HQ; 4 Southend; 5 Thurrock; 6 Braintree.



● Christine Sweetman, Chief Constable David Stevens and Kerry McGowan with the CIPD Police Forum Best Practice Award

Award shows what a bit of ACTION can do

LEAPING into ACTION has netted Human Resources a top award - beating 42 other police forces into the bargain.

The department has been awarded the Chartered Institute of Personnel Development (CIPD) Police Forum Best Practice Award for its work in improving performance.

Using the six principles of ACTION, the force has made significant gains in two areas particularly, reduction of absence levels within Essex Police and the improvement in sanctioned detection rates.

In the 12 months to April 2005, police officer absence fell to an average of 6.4 days a year from 7.8 the year before - the force target is 8.3 days - and the police staff rate dropped from 10.4 days to 7.8 days - the target is 9.5.

Meanwhile, Essex Police has also improved sanctioned detections by six per cent. In April 2004, Essex was joint bottom of its group of eight most similar police forces. Twelve months on, Essex was in joint third place and pushing for top place.

Kerry McGowan, Head of Operational Human Resources, said of ACTION: "The idea is to change the culture of the force so we improve the performance of our 5,800 staff. We need to link the performance of our people and improve and raise standards in how we spent public money."

She said that much of the time, performance improvement was about improving the skills of managers and this was how rates had been improved.

And HR Research and Project Manager Christine Sweetman, who put together the award entry and collated information from various departments, said ACTION was all about focusing the mind.

"HR assisted in the innovation of ACTION. We must streamline it so it becomes second nature to everyone and doesn't take up additional time."

The CIPD Police Forum judges thought ACTION was the best example of a best practice initiative.

After receiving the award at the Police Forum conference in Chesham, with HR manager Wendy McGuinness, Kerry said: "It is obviously a huge honour to win this and beat 42 forces. In terms of our profession, it is something that is very prestigious and it is a joint effort between Human Resources and the ACTION team."

Kerry and her team looked outside Essex Police to other public and private-sector companies to try to achieve the best results. "It is all part of the road we have been taking to improve our performance," she said.

Human Resources department and the ACTION team are 18 months into the programme to integrate ACTION into Essex Police and the department is taking a long-term view on improving performance.

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● Cliff Benton

Cliff muscles in on the competition

A PUNISHING schedule for Thurrock's Cliff Benton paid off when he came second in the National Amateur Body Building Association (NABBA) South-East Regional Competition at his first attempt.

It was the first contest Cliff had entered since he started training in earnest about six years ago at a gym in Tilbury.

To reach the peak of perfection for the competition meant a diet of brown rice, turkey steak and broccoli every two hours, as well as training twice a day, every day, for five months.

Cliff's weight went down to 12 stone at competition from 14 stone, reducing his body fat to four per cent.

Cliff said: "Sticking to the diet was particularly hard and I craved ice cream and chocolate.

"Eight of us took part in my height category and I came second to a guy who had been body-building professionally for 20 years so I was very pleased.

"This qualified me for the NABBA Mr Britain Competition and I went on to be placed seventh at Southport earlier this month, just missing out on qualifying for Mr Universe."

Cliff will take a rest from competition next year to move house but plans to be back the year after at a challenging 13 stone.

Mixed results for hockey

HOCKEY players Lucy Robinson, of Thurrock, and Diana Reynolds, of MSD, were selected to represent the British Police team in a series of matches played in Aldershot last month.

They drew 2-2 against the Combined Services and 3-3 against the Civil Servants team.

Lucy, who was awarded player of the tournament by her coach and manger, played centre defence. Her home club is Old Loughtonians.

Diana, a sweeper, has played for 17 years and plays for Brentwood.

● Lewis Smith, 24, of Epping, represented the full Essex men's hockey team in May.

The mid-fielder is first team captain for Havering and has played for the Essex Police team for the past year. He has also been selected for the national police team.

In the tournament in Stoke-on-Trent, Essex finished third in their group and missed out on the national finals tournament.

There's no boundary to their cup success

ESSEX opened the new season with victory in the PSUK cricket final – held over from last year due to fixture congestion reasons.

For the second consecutive year, the force lifted the regional trophy following a crushing 200-run victory over Suffolk.

Captain Ady Garnham (Colchester) won the toss at Elmstead Market and immediately took advantage of the sunny conditions by opting to bat first.

On his home ground, opener Jon Butcher notched up a century as he treated the bowling attack with contempt to score 135, ably supported by Kevin Cooper (Colchester) with 26, hav-

ing come to the middle with the score on 33-2.

The pair batted in contrasting styles during their 117-run partnership.

Once they had been dismissed, the Essex middle order were called upon to increase the run rate, with Garnham helping as he smashed his way to an unbeaten 76 to take Essex's total to 288-7.

Suffolk began knowing they needed to score six runs an over to win. However, they were soon on the back foot as Vince Bird and Dave Miles obliterated the batting line-up to leave Suffolk reeling on 6-8; though a lower-order recovery saw Suffolk stumble to 88.

● The Essex lads were brought down to earth just a few weeks later as they were crushed by Dyfed-Powys at Ammanford.

The hosts posted a useful 306-8 on a hard, flat wicket. Bird was the pick of the bowlers as he finished with figures of 4-52 off his nine overs.

In chasing, Essex never really got going, despite a second-wicket partnership of 47 between veteran Paul Gamman (Southend) and debutant Keith Sargeant (Tendring). Following their dismissals, both for 23, Cooper was the only other real contributor as he made 46; but the team finished 123 runs adrift for 9.

Chief officers settle the score

by Kim Perks

SPORTING prowess is clearly one of retiring Chief Constable David Stevens' many talents as he led his triathlon team to yet another relay victory.

The more youthful executive support team lost by just 21 seconds at the Basildon Triathlon earlier in the year and competition had been hotting up since then to even up the score in the Braintree event.

But it was not to be, and the swimming skills of David Stevens (11:16), the cycling of Charles Clark (44:40) and the running of Andy Bliss (27:44) jointly put a 1 min 47 sec lead ahead of Alexa Fox (8:34), Graham Stubbs (43:57) and Liz Roberts (32:56).

Neither team were the quickest overall however, with Surrey Police taking the title in an overall time of 1:12:10.

The Braintree District Triathlon is one of two events organised each year by the force's tri club and also incorporates the Police Sport UK national sprint championship.

It grows ever-more popular each year, with over 220 people

taking part, supported by an excellent combination of helpers, race marshals and sponsors including Cycles UK and Braintree Chiropractor. Local PCSOs even lent a hand and a number of officers from the division took part.

The overall 'open' winner, once again, was Roy Young in a time of 56:29. The first vet home was Mike Ratcliffe who was third overall in 57:46. Phil Kibble, from Wiltshire Police, took both the police title and the police vet's title in 55:25 although Essex officer Andrew Jopson was not far behind finishing fifth in the police event in a time of 58:40.

First in the 'open' women's competition was Sue Rule in a time of 1:07:48. She also took home the winning vet's trophy.

Winner of the women's police event was Kate Balchin, from the Metropolitan Police, in a time of 1:03:47. The women's police vet's title went to Christine Howard, from Derbyshire Police, who crossed the line after 1:04:40.

Other Essex Police times were: Tony Benjamin 1:06:26, Mark Schofield 1:12:01, David Browning 1:12:16, Gary Lane 1:13:57, Graham Lee 1:18:11, Kathryn Southall 1:18:37, Gary Murray 1:26:39, Terry Balding 1:26:48, Allan Barley 1:29:24, Lyndon Holt 1:36:36, Susan Smith 1:37:15, Carl Crysell 1:40:52.

Deb makes a marathon recovery from fall

HARLOW Service Desk Assistant Deb Butler has hit the ground running since joining Essex Police two months ago.

Deb said: "I didn't want an ordinary office job and I am very glad that I joined Essex Police.

"The shift work has given more flexibility and the time to run and look after my horses."

Deb fractured her back in January in a horse riding incident and had also been

made redundant from a very technical job. She had taken up running shortly before her accident but it wasn't long before she was back in the saddle and her trainers.

Recently, she was due to take part in a 15 mile opt-out from a marathon when she found out that you didn't get a medal for taking part.

Deb said: "There was no way I was going to run 15 miles and not get a

medal so just half an hour before the start I decided to take part in the full marathon.

"I hadn't trained properly for 15 miles, let alone 26.2, and at 20 miles I had to slow to a walk but managed to get up speed again and run for the final mile.

"Five hours and 27 minutes after leaving the starting line I triumphantly crossed the line, having completed my first marathon."

Trio win top cruises in the Canaries from the Force lottery

THE Essex Police lottery winners for June were:

Winners of two-week cruises in the Canaries were: Pc Robert Bates, Epping; Dc Paul O'Callaghan, Tilbury CID; and Pc Alan Blakesley, Pitsea D-shift. Pc Bates also receives £1,500, Dc O'Callaghan £1,200 and Pc Blakesley £1,000 to spend. Fourth-prize lottery winner Pc Karen

Kendall, Thurrock Community Policing Team, wins £1,000.

Other winners were: £500 Albert Horne, retired; £100 Charlie Wood, Southend Service Desk; £100 Dc Hazel Harley, NCS, seconded staff; £100 Dc Chris Winstone, Operational Support, HQ; £100 Pc James Crabb, Leigh; £100 Amy Metson, Forensic Intelligence Unit, HQ; £100 Det Sgt Gary Washbrook, West

MIT, Harlow; £100 Tricia Brennan, CJD; £50 Det Insp Keith Davies, Crime Squad, Brentwood; £50 Pc Simon Corker, South Woodham Ferrers; £50 Sgt Jon DeVries, Wickford; £50 Sally Wilson, Property Services, HQ; £50 Det Sgt Mel Koya, Thurrock CID; £50 Pc Dawn Senior, Chelmsford RPU; £50 Helen Irons, Records Management, HQ; and £50 J Merrison, retired.

Steady start for the men in suits

THE Gentlemen of Essex CID began their new season in style as they encountered the Cricketers Club of London at East Hanningfield.

The detectives were soon into their stride, with Richard Melton, Steve Jones, Peter Orpe and Jim Cousen bagging two wickets apiece.

Fielding was tight, catches were held and the visitors were dismissed for 130. A 16-year-old schoolboy from Kent was their highest scorer with 31.

After a sumptuous tea, the CID batting was led by Richie Adams and Dave Bloxham, closely followed by a match-winning partnership between Phil Mellon and Lee Parrish (42).

However, the winning runs were left to Cousen and Melton to dispatch, with victory secured by four wickets.

● The Gents took on the graduates of Wolfson College, Cambridge, at Corpus Christi in a 20-over game.

The Gents' side, weakened due to police duties, opened the batting but were slow in making runs. Orpe, at five, scored a respectable 20, with John Halliwell smashing 18 off one over. However, the detectives could only amass 82.

Expecting a quick ending, the Gents doggedly pursued their younger, more athletic opponents with vigour and Bob Miller's 3-23 gave them hope, but the students got home by four wickets.

Team manager Mr Miller said: "This was a fine win for the college in a game played in the right spirit and celebrated by all in the college bar afterwards."

● The Gents are set for a six-game tour of Tobago in March.

'Best day in our history'

ESSEX Police had the best day in their tennis-playing history at the regional PSUK tennis tournament – winning through to the national finals in four categories.

Alison Oddy, of Harlow, and Debbie Lincoln, of Basildon, beat Suffolk in the ladies' doubles while Frances Harrison, retired, and Christine Goodman, of Harlow, qualified in the ladies' veterans' doubles.

Oddy and Mark Wheeler, of Grays, beat Hertfordshire in the mixed doubles final and Alec Draycott, of Basildon, beat that county again in the men's veterans' doubles.

Clean sweep

JOHN Stewart, 50, of the Force Intelligence Bureau at HQ, was part of the winning English Police team in the Home International Series Bowls Tournament last month.

Stewart, who won all three of his fours games, was first selected in 1995.



● Phil Kibble – the PSUK national triathlon sprint champion
Photo by snapperhedz.com

Youngsters face £40 on-the-spot crime fines

ESSEX Police is taking part in a national pilot scheme for issuing Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) to children aged 10-15. The tickets will impose penalties of £30 and £40 on children who are caught committing an offence such as theft or criminal damage and tickets will only be issued in the presence of an appropriate adult.

The parent/guardian will be responsible for the payment of the penalty within 21 days of receipt of a notifying letter. If no payment is received, the penalty will automatically become a fine against the parent/guardian.

The scheme started on June 28 and will run until June 2006. Six other forces are taking part in the pilot, including the Metropolitan Police and Suffolk Constabulary.

PNDs will not be issued to young offenders who would normally qualify for a Reprimand or Warning – these cases will be dealt with in the appropriate manner. The notices will only be issued in minor, straightforward cases, where the offence does not form part of a pattern of offending behaviour.

Sgt Andy Bray, of Community Safety's Youth Section, said: "Penalty Notices are already issued to adults and young people aged 16 and 17. They are a useful tool in dealing with minor, straightforward offences."

"Under the new pilot, PNDs are available for issue to youngsters aged 10 to 15. "A PND is punishment for offending behaviour but it is also a final opportunity for youngsters to avoid a criminal conviction. This is a message that must not be lost on them," he warned.

Marine unit welcomes first PCSOs

ESSEX is the first police force in the country to have PCSOs attached to its marine unit.

Dorian Atkins and Ben Mearing were due to start working full-time for the Burnham-on-Crouch-based unit on Monday, July 4.

Their remit is the same as for those working elsewhere in the county – providing public reassurance and gathering intelligence – but their work will be in and around the marinas.

Although primarily land-based, it is a role that is being developed and the pair will be undergoing basic marine training so they can be used on the water where necessary.

Chief Insp Tim Stokes said the pair would work with communities to provide reassurance and identify intelligence which could help prevent and detect marine crime.



● Brenda Hunt and Lindsey Wilding, far left and right, watch as Doreen Hambling hands over the box of 'family treasure' to Sonja Mandel
Photo by Denise Harvey

Hard work finds a home for a box of memories

HARD work by property assistants at Loughton has resulted in a box of family documents being reunited with its rightful owner.

A tin box of travel and migration papers, detailing a Jewish family's escape from Nazi Germany, was handed in to Loughton Police Station in March 2003.

Despite numerous checks, Lindsey Wilding and Brenda Hunt had been unable to trace any family members named on the documents.

But, just as they were getting ready to make another public appeal for information, they spotted a name they hadn't seen before on one of the certificates.

Lindsey searched the electoral roll for Sonja and discovered one lived in The Bowls, Chigwell – very near where the box had been discovered in the first place.

She and Brenda asked the finder,

Doreen Hambling, whether she knew a Sonja and she did. When they met Sonja Mandel, 71, she produced a pass which was filled in by her father's handwriting.

Lindsey said: "It's amazing we tracked her down. We're supposed to dispose of found property within 21 days but there was no way we were going to get rid of that."

Mystery still surrounds the discovery of the box, which had not been outside for very long as it was neither dirty nor wet when Mrs Hambling came across it.

It contained travel passes, doctors' notes certifying the family was fit to travel, birth certificates and the Hebrew marriage licence for Mrs Mandel's parents Beile and Israel Seidler.

However papers for Mrs Mandel and her mother are all missing from the box.

Our bravest for top award

by Nishan Wijeratne

TWO road policing officers have been nominated as the force's bravest officers of the year.

The move follows an incident near Stansted Airport in which one was dragged for nearly a mile along the M11 and the other assaulted and left at the roadside.

Pcs Geoff Poyser and Lorraine Lambert follow in the footsteps of fellow road policing officer Pc Paul Randall, who was nominated last year for saving the life of a man who jumped into a river.

Pc Poyser and Pc Lambert have been nominated for the National Bravery Awards, organised by the Police Federation and sponsored by The Sun newspaper.

The drama unfolded in October 2002 following a stop-check on the M11 when they stopped a Mercedes.

As Pc Poyser verified the driver's details in the police car, Pc Lambert



● Pc Geoff Poyser



● Pc Lorraine Lambert

spoke to the female passenger at the window of the Mercedes.

It soon became apparent that Joe Butler was a disqualified driver and, as Pc Poyser went to arrest him at the roadside, a scuffle broke out.

At the same time, the passenger, Sarah Auld, realised what was happening and punched Pc Lambert in the face.

However, she was not perturbed and tried to grab the car keys from the ignition. Meanwhile, Butler had escaped Pc Poyser's grip and run to the driver's side of the car. He tried desperately to start the car but had to contend with Pc Lambert on one side and Pc Poyser on the other.

Just as Pc Lambert handcuffed one of Auld's hands, the car started and Pc Lambert was thrown clear as it was

driven off at speed with Pc Poyser clinging to the doorframe.

The 56-year-old former officer said: "During the next few minutes, Butler physically tried to prise me off the car while trying to steer straight and, at one point, drove towards the crash barrier, saying: 'You're going to die you b*****', something which still haunts me to this day."

After nearly a mile, the car slowed down to 30mph whereupon Pc Poyser took the opportunity to let go.

Butler was subsequently jailed for a total of 11 years – reduced to 10 on appeal – for attempted GBH with intent to resist arrest, handling stolen property and various motoring offences, while Auld received 180 hours' community service for perverting the course of justice.

Mobile Support's Divisional Commander Chief Supt Mick Thwaites, said: "I'm very rarely surprised at the lengths my officers go to when arresting drivers but, on this occasion, the tumultuous efforts of both Lorraine and Geoff amaze me."

"They are a credit to road policing and this division, and I'm pleased to see their bravery recognised by the force."

"I hope Lorraine has the opportunity to recommence the duties she loves."

Home Secretary Charles Clarke will be presenting the awards at London's Dorchester Hotel later this month.

Claire proves 'exceptional' in OSPRE

A ROCHFORD Pc has become the only officer in the force to pass the latest round of OSPRE Part 1 exams with an 'exceptional' grade.

Claire Taylor chose to go for promotion after four years with Essex Police, citing a desire to 'progress through the ranks at a steady pace'. A total of 169 officers sat the exam, with 40 passing.

Pc Taylor, 26, said: "I really enjoy being on shift and want to continue being on uniform for a while yet; perhaps evening tutoring someone in the near future. But my eventual

career aim is to become a detective and possibly move into child protection."

Pc Taylor graduated in communication studies from Nottingham Trent University in 1999.

Assistant Chief Constable (Personnel) Andy Bliss said: "This is a brilliant result for both Claire and the force."

"We're really proud of her as she should be of herself, especially as she chose to revise without the aid of any external courses; instead using the internet and study books to help her pass."



● Pc Claire Taylor

Spreading the word

TWO Essex officers spread the word of ACTION when they visited Romania.

Insp Tony Britten, of EPTC, and Det Sgt Simon Werrett, of Loughton, attended the Romanian Christian Police Association conference last month. There, they met Christian police officers from the Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, Moldova, Hungary, the USA and Switzerland.

First aid skills save protest actor's life

THE benefit of having officers trained as public order medics was demonstrated to a national audience in June when three Basildon officers went into life-saving mode.

Pc Trevor Edwards, Sgt Kevin Saltwell and Pc Dale Copley were among a dozen officers present at a Basildon Council meeting which was looking at retrospective planning permission for travellers at the Crays Hill site.

During the meeting at the Towngate Centre, attended by more than 150 people, a number of people spoke in support of travellers, including the TV and film actor Corin Redgrave.

Mr Redgrave, who is in his mid-60s and from London, was taken ill and suffered a heart attack after a few minutes on his feet. The three public order medics immediately began CPR, working on Mr Redgrave for eight minutes and using a defibrillator to revive him.

Mr Redgrave was taken to Basildon General Hospital, where his condition was initially said to be critical but stable. He has since been transferred to a London hospital where he is said to be steadily improving.

Essex Police's first aid co-ordinator Sgt Brian O'Donnell said: "Without the availability of the equipment and the officers' professional approach, the outcome would have been much worse."

Basildon operations manager Supt Glenn Caton, praised the officers' quick thinking. "The swift action of our officers undoubtedly ensured that the victim was able to receive the right hospital attention," he said.

"Without their calm and professional approach, events at this meeting could well have resulted in tragedy."