

The Law



www.essex.police.uk

September 2005

THINK CRIME, THINK CAR, THINK ANPR

Neighbourhood Watch group names police officer 'heroes'

COLCHESTER officers have been recognised as the 'finest' after winning the town's inaugural Neighbourhood Watch Community Officer of the Year Awards. The local Neighbourhood Watch initiative – the first in England and Wales – aims to highlight to residents the good work that police officers do. Colchester's Southern Community Policing Team made a clean sweep of honours, with Pc Trevor Clark winning for his 'no-nonsense' approach to policing in Berechurch, which has helped to virtually eradicate the 'anti-social teenage yob element'. Second was Pc Jim Finnigan, who was congratulated for his role in reducing crime by 22 per cent in Tiptree. His high-profile presence and interaction with teenagers resulted in him gaining the respect and trust of the community. And Pc Ryan Whitear was praised for his role in giving Barnhall Housing Estate residents the confidence to walk to their local shops without fear. Divisional Commander Chief Supt Dave Murthwaite said: "My officers have repeatedly proven their dedication to the local communities. "I cannot put enough value on the importance of working with Neighbourhood Watch to create even safer communities for the people of Colchester to live in."



● Two of Colchester Division's finest: Pc Trevor Clark and Pc Jim Finnigan
Picture courtesy of the Evening Gazette

by Ken Bailey

THE Essex Police ANPR team is proving to be a huge success.

Since its formation a year ago, the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Intercept Team, based at Tilbury, has been responsible for 159 arrests and the recovery of 69 stolen vehicles.

And in June alone, the estimated value of recovered stolen vehicles was £93,000!

The team, part of the Mobile Support Division, is a dedicated resource comprising one sergeant – Justin Smith – and six Pcs.

Two of the officers came from Divisional backgrounds with proven investigative skills and the remaining five come from Road Policing Units.

The team are 'Fast Road' trained – specifically to cope with the conditions on busy motorways and trunk routes – and authorised in pursuit management tactics including the deployment of 'Stingers'.

They have the use of three pursuit vehicles and a Spectrum van and are employed on a daily basis at strategic or requested locations to monitor traffic.

To date, they have never failed to stop a vehicle which has tried to get away from them.

The ANPR team is keen to raise its profile in order to improve performance yet further.

Members have devised a poster campaign to highlight the work they do and to encourage fellow officers to update and make better use of the data on the ANPR system, which compares pictures of registration plates with a database to see if a driver is wanted by the police for any reason.

ANPR Intercept Officer Pc Steven Tisseyre said: "We want the word to get around that we are available to assist all officers but we do need their help in constantly updating our data.

"We have had a lot of success following intelligence from the camera enforcement office but we would like to encourage all staff to remember us when submitting intelligence reports.

"We are hoping to have vehicle details included on crime reports so that anyone involved in incidents featuring a vehicle will be brought to our attention," added Pc Tisseyre.

"We're equipped with leading-edge technology and are a vital tool in crime detection and reduction. By the correct use of resources available to us we can deny criminals the use of the road."

● Visit <http://web/divisions/msd/anpr/Default.htm> on the Essex Police intranet for more information

Police review to give Best Value for our future

A BEST Value Review of the 'structure and policing style' of Essex Police is being undertaken to meet our future policing needs.

The move, by Essex Police Authority as part of its Best Value Programme, is part of the continuing drive to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our policing.

The authority's planning and performance committee agreed terms of reference for the work to be done last month.

The Best Value Review will look again at the previous structure review, completed in 2001, and examine how Neighbourhood Policing will need to fit in any future structure or style.

Then a consultation document will be produced for external and internal consultation. A decision is expected towards the end of the year.

Any changes required will be implemented early next year or phased in from the earliest date

possible. If senior police posts become vacant over the coming weeks or months, temporary arrangements will be made to ensure effective command and control is maintained to enable maximum flexibility.

Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers said: "The police authority and the Chief Constable, Roger Baker, are keen to undertake this review as quickly as possible but also to ensure consultation both

externally and internally.

"However, the main thrust will be to see whether we are able to free up officers and staff or alter the way we do things to put more staff on the front-line."

Already Mr Baker has pledged to have 200 officers freed up from support roles and returned to front-line policing by March 31 next year.

Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark will lead the work on the review. He said: "It is normal for

police forces to review their structure every five years or so and this review was agreed by the Police Authority as part of their three-year Best Value Programme last year.

"The Review will look hard at how we can meet the priorities for the people of Essex and support the drive to put more focus on the front-line.

"The service provided by Essex Police will not diminish whilst the review is being undertaken."



Rights on duty statements

QUESTIONS as to whether or not duty statements should be made are constantly causing concern for federated ranks and for our trained Discipline Friends who advise them.

It would be correct and fair to say that the basic principle regarding duty statements is that an officer may lawfully be required to make a duty statement in relation to his involvement in any incident.

There are, however, a number of safeguards and rights which officers should be aware of.

As you all know, it is a well-established principle in law that every person has a right to silence.

Criminal offences are covered by the codes of practice under PACE.

It follows that an officer may lawfully decline to make a duty statement where it could materially prejudice him or her in criminal proceedings which could be preferred against them.

Regulation 9 of the Police (Conduct) Regulations makes it clear that an officer who is the subject of an investigation must be notified in writing of that investigation as soon as practicable.

This notification takes the form of a Regulation 9 Notice which clearly sets out the officer's rights, including the right not to say anything concerning the matter under investigation.

Home Office guidance states that 'where an officer has (or should have) been so notified, he or she should be required to make a duty statement concerning the matter when under investigation (this also applies where an officer has or should have been cautioned in relation to the investigation of a criminal allegation)'.

It therefore follows that where an officer is under investigation in respect of either criminal or misconduct matters, he or she cannot be made to make any statement, verbal or written, about the matter under investigation.

However, the position becomes less clear when a situation arises where no complaint has been made or when initial enquiries are

being made to establish whether an offence has been committed.

This is particularly the case where an obligation to serve a Regulation 9 Notice has not arisen.

In such circumstances, an order to make a duty statement would be lawful and a refusal to make such a statement would be a breach of the code of conduct.

The exception to this would be if the officer could genuinely claim that the making of such a statement would result in providing evidence against him/herself of a criminal or discipline offence.

Under these circumstances, officers would be able to claim that they had 'good and sufficient cause' for declining to make the statement.

In situations where the claim of self-incrimination does not apply and a Regulation 9 Notice has not been served, the best safeguard that officers may avail themselves of is to record a caveat at the bottom of the statement in the following terms: "I make this statement on the express understanding that it shall not be used or discussed in any proceedings of whatever nature against

myself." This caveat, whilst not in itself debarring the investigating officer or prosecuting solicitor from relying upon the statement in any subsequent proceedings, would assist any future defence argument that the statement was obtained oppressively or unfairly.

Alternatively, the officer could seek an assurance from the investigating officer that any statement made under such circumstances would not be used in any subsequent proceedings.

Whilst the absence of such an assurance would not prevent any investigating officers seeking to introduce a statement at a later stage, such a course of action may be construed as oppressive.

• If you are ever faced with such a situation, please contact the Federation Office for advice.

Pay increase of 3 per cent
AS you are probably aware, a three per cent pay increase for the Federated ranks was agreed at the Police Negotiating Board.

New pay scales are on the Federation intranet site. A three per cent increase on the competency payment was also agreed, which is pensionable.

My thanks on your behalf go to the Finance Department for its speed and efficiency in implementing the increases.

Half-yearly report 2005
Roy Scanes
JJB Claims Secretary

FIVE months ago I took over the role of Claims Secretary for the Essex Police Federation Joint Branch Board.

During this time I have processed 37 new compensation applications for our members, 24 being claims for compensation under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act whilst the other 13 are civil compensation applications.

In this same period the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority has paid a total of £6,050 in criminal injury awards to our members.

In 2001, a Tariff Scheme was introduced for criminal injury awards, which has reduced the amount of compensation awarded to successful applicants.

This scheme, which awards fixed levels of compensation, has also reduced the amount of applicants being accepted for an award.

I anticipate that this trend will continue and, at the end of the year, I will be reporting

a decrease in the total amount of criminal injury awards paid to our members in comparison to last year's figures.

In stark contrast, £313,308.95 has already been paid this year to our members as a result of civil claims being successfully settled.

At present there are 137 live, ongoing claims - 76 for criminal injuries and 61 for civil compensation.

So far this year, I have organised three 'surgeries' with our representing solicitors from Russell, Jones and Walker and Pattinson and Brewer.

Members are invited to our offices at Essex Police HQ where they can have a personal consultation about their claim with their representing solicitor.

These seem to have been very successful and of benefit to both parties.

So far these 'surgeries' have involved 12 of our members and there will be more arranged later this year.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to thank my predecessor, Mick Englefield, for his friendship and service to the Federation and wish him a happy retirement.

Police divorce representation, it's an open and shut case.

Worried about your pension?

Talk to Gorvins, the police divorce specialists.

Every divorce is painful: both mentally and financially. If you are a Police Officer that means multiplying the pressures you have to cope with at work to the point that they become unbearable.

The Gorvins matrimonial team are specifically trained to deal with police officers that are facing marital breakdown and family disputes. Each solicitor's caseload consists of purely police and civilian staff matters.

TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT OR DISCUSS YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES CONTACT AMANDA MCALISTER 0800 056 2787

OR VISIT WWW.POLICEDIVORCE.CO.UK FOR MORE INFORMATION

- COMPLETE CONFIDENTIALITY GUARANTEED
- FIRST APPOINTMENT FREE
- 24 HOUR HELPLINE
- DISCOUNTED RATES FOR POLICE PERSONNEL
- REGULAR SURGERIES IN YOUR AREA



GORVINS
solicitors

V2005 Festival policing is a great success

OFFICERS took a more intelligence-led approach to eradicating drug dealing at this year's V Festival in Chelmsford.

For they encouraged festival-goers to contact Crimestoppers with information on potential suspects.

The force celebrated its tenth year of policing the event and arrested 46 people over the two days – an increase of 30 on last year's operation.

Co-ordinator Sgt Chris White said: "Although the number of arrests may appear to be high, it is relatively low when you consider that nearly 130,000 people were at the venue. This represents a massive influx of revellers to Essex, especially to Chelmsford."

As well as using local media organisations to convey police and travel advice, the force website carried further information on drugs legislation as well as how to provide information on possible drug dealers.

... and so was the Scout Jamboree

NO sooner had Chelmsford waved goodbye to the 10,000 participants of the European Scout Jamboree last month than preparations are starting for the World Scout Jamboree in two years' time.

Det Sgt Tony Coleridge, of Harlow Division, has been a Scout leader for 13 years and helped to police the Jamboree in Hylands Park.

He was joined by Pc Rob Kirby, of Canvey, and officers from other forces, who are involved in the Scouting movement.

Det Sgt Coleridge said the team had been held out by members of Essex Special Constabulary who had patrolled the camp and its perimeter.

With 40,000 Scouts and their leaders due to descend on Hylands Park in summer 2007, Det Sgt Coleridge said it was now time for police officers, Specials and PCSOs with links to the Scouts or Guides to consider what help they could offer.

Of this year's event, he said it was a 'very rewarding and memorable experience.'

Make your phone a hero

PEOPLE across the county are being encouraged to make use of a new method of letting emergency services know who to contact on your behalf.

The ICE scheme (In Case of Emergency) was the brainchild of one of the region's ambulance workers.

All you have to do is make a new contact called ICE on your mobile phone, then assign it the number of the person you would like contacted in an emergency.

More than 250,000 have so far joined the initiative, launched nationally in July.

Contact Management programme update

THE Contact Management Programme (CMP) was initiated in December 2004 to deliver the CMP vision of a call management and crime recording capability that meets the public's needs for the next ten to 15 years.

Last month, an independent review was initiated by Essex Chief Constable Roger Baker to provide an assessment of how the vision could best be achieved, given the possibility of new options for accommodation and the priority of focusing resources on the front-line.

Mr Baker is fully committed to the CMP vision for a long-term, high-quality

and sustainable service to be developed which will improve the service to the public.

The main focus of the review has been:

- The need for new accommodation
- The staff required to provide the new service

These investigations are currently underway, and a full report, to enable final decisions to be made, will be presented to Essex Police Authority within the next four weeks. Once this decision is known it will be communicated to all Essex Police staff.

Mr Baker and Essex

Police Authority remain committed to improving the quality of Essex Police's communication with the public according to the criteria defined in the programme.

It is not expected that the review will delay the delivery of the CMP vision.

The overall programme will either continue to work to the current plan or, if alternative suitable accommodation can be made available within the present police estate and less disruption caused to existing staff, it is likely that much of the CMP vision can be delivered earlier than currently planned.



● **Matthew Tebbs, 12, his brother Nathan, three, and Substance Misuse and Use Co-ordinator Pc Victoria Wilson meet staff at the Essex Air Ambulance base at Boreham Airfield**

Sky's the limit for 2Smart winner Matthew

A PRIZE-winning smile from 12-year-old Matthew Tebbs who won a competition on the 2Smart4Drugs website www.2smart.co.uk

His prize was a visit to the Essex Air Ambulance and Essex Police Air Support Unit base at Boreham Airfield.

Matthew, of Colchester, correctly answered two questions about the air ambulance service and was selected as the winner from 367 entries.

Substance Misuse and Use Co-ordinator Pc Victoria Wilson said: "This year's 2Smart4Drugs education programme

was the biggest and most successful yet. We have had a great response from the youngsters who attended our roadshows and Matthew and his 'helicopter mad' three-year-old brother Nathan had a brilliant day with the emergency service aircrews."

CAMEO makes a mark on big investigations

WHAT started as a lunchtime project has now developed into a computer programme which will assist police officers in big and complex investigations.

CAMEO (Crime And Major Enquiry Organiser) does what it says on the tin.

It provides a schedule of statements, a schedule of exhibits, a record of the movement of exhibits – important to keep a track of when they are sent for forensic examination – a schedule of witnesses and actions which need to be carried out.

The system includes a document manager which covers reports, statements, relevant documents and messages with an index of contact numbers and vehicles.

Disclosure – where all evidence gathered and actions taken by the police must be handed over to the defence before a trial – is extremely important and CAMEO simplifies the whole process.

Det Sgt Deirdre Nowell and Det Con Steve Rawson, of Stanway MIT, were both studying for their European Computer Driving Licence and realised that the skills they had acquired through using Microsoft Access could be used to

create simpler alternate to HOLMES (Home Office Large Major Enquiry System).

"We're in the business of putting criminals away and any tools which can assist us in this, by ensuring the best quality of case papers should be welcomed," said Det Sgt Nowell.

"The standard of disclosure can only be better as it is automatically shown on the system – which requires minimal training to use."

Now the pair are looking to make further improvements but say the feedback they have so far received from Senior Investigating Officers has been very positive.

Additional four to govern with Authority

ESSEX Police Authority has appointed four new members following public advertisements.

Paul Bishop, 42, of Colchester, has more than ten years' experience of working on strategic partnership programmes to help disadvantaged communities.

He is currently the Enterprise Adviser for the

London Borough of Hackney with responsibility for advising the senior management teams of the borough's secondary schools.

The police authority also welcomes two magistrate members – Jane Siggers and Ahmad Khwaja – and Cllr Elizabeth Hart. All new members will serve a four-year term of office.

Mrs Siggers, a Deputy Lieutenant of Essex, has worked with Mencap and the Children's Society for several years, was appointed as a magistrate in 2000 and to the Magistrates' Courts Committee in 2001.

Mr Khwaja, of Shoebury, has served on a number of local voluntary and consultative groups and is a member

of Southend Police and Community Consultative Group and Essex Police Independent Advisory Group.

Mrs Hart has served the community of Hockley and Hullbridge for 25 years as a parish, district, county and regional Conservative councillor. She is current president of the Adult Division of St John's Ambulance.

Getting to the root of hate crime

A MAJOR new research project is observing the growing phenomenon of hate crime and the extent to which it is affecting British society and individual victims.

The £100,000 research programme funded and conducted by Victim Support and Co-operative Financial Services (CFS), will examine victims' needs and help determine the extent of hate crime in England and Wales.

The findings will help Victim Support help local communities at risk of hate crime and improve the range of support available to victims.

Following the London bombings, hate crime has hit the headlines but there is far more to it than religiously-motivated offences. It is defined as 'criminal conduct motivated by prejudice'.

Hate crime can include attacks against gay men, members of ethnic minority communities, disabled people and refugees.

In recent years racially-motivated crime referrals to Victim Support have risen and the organisation helps around 22,000 affected people nationally a year.

Tom Elliot, area manager of Victim Support Essex said: "Little is known about how individual victims are affected."

"We need to know more about how to support victims effectively and how to combat further victimisations, he added.

A marathon fund-raiser

HARLOW'S Simon Parkes will be hauling himself around Hungary in October when he runs the annual Budapest Marathon.

The race, on Sunday, October 2, coincides with what would have been the 60th birthday of Insp Parkes's best friend, Stan Black, had he not died of cancer.

Insp Parkes is looking for sponsorship for the event, which he will need to complete in under five hours before the roads are re-opened to traffic!

● Insp Parkes can be contacted on ext 20115 or by email.

To reclaim tax and benefit from Gift Aid, he will need the home address and postcode of any sponsors.

Report goes on the record

FOLLOWING the success of a large-print version of Policing Essex, an audio tape of the eight-page newspaper-style annual report has now been produced for the visually impaired.

● To obtain a copy of the cassette tape, which is supplied with a stamped addressed envelope for its return, please telephone Essex Police Public Relations Unit at police HQ on 01245 452395.

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.

Qualified instructors are wanted

PLEASE may I make a request through The Law to any retired or retiring police personnel who are qualified police driving instructors?

I have been approached by a driver training organisation based within Essex which is planning to deliver 'response/blue light' training commercially.

It is seeking instructors on a self-employed/casual basis, although there may be some contract work involved.

If anyone is interested and wants further details, I can be contacted at County Hall in Chelmsford by ringing 01245 437234 or by emailing dermot.hawkins@essexcc.gov.uk

Dermot Hawkins
Road Safety Officer
Highways and Transportation
Essex County Council
County Hall
Chelmsford

Lunch invite for Romford Division

AN ex-Essex Romford Division reunion lunch is again being held next month.

It will take place in the sports club bar at HQ in Chelmsford on Saturday, October 29, at 1pm. The bar will open at 11.30am. Wives are also invited.

A fork buffet, with wine and/or orange juice included, will cost £12.75. Cheques should be made payable to S P Mather (Lunch account) and forwarded to me at the address below.

Stuart Mather
Copper Leaves
25 Queen's Avenue
Pooles Lane
Hullbridge
Essex SS5 6PS

Can you help me find Canvey floods colleague?

HAVING received the NARPO News last month, I noticed a picture of students from the Southend on Sea branch outside Eynsham Hall in Oxfordshire 40 years ago.

I have, for many years, been endeavouring to track a fellow officer from Southend

in 1953. At that time, Southend was a borough force and not a part of Essex as it is today.

This officer, together with a fireman rescued many people off the rooves of bungalows at Canvey Island where the sea wall had been breached after the storm of

January 31, 1953. Can anyone tell me who this officer was? I was left at Canvey in the early hours while the driver who dropped me off there, Pc Reed, went back to Romford.

I have a picture showing two dead bodies on the roof of a bungalow, which was

where we operated.

It is over 58 years since I was a Pc at Chelmsford.

I still see another man I was stationed with - Jack Draper.

D A S Nicholls
Lyndale, Wragholme Road,
Grainthorpe, Louth,
Lincolnshire LN11 7JD

What about the rights of minority groups?

IN response to the letter from Pc Steve Card in the August edition of The Law regarding Essex Police sponsoring Celebrate - the European Gay Police Conference - I feel it is alarming that a police officer with 25 years service has such a view of individuals' basic human rights.

How on earth can focusing on minority groups not be a good thing?

As a police service, we are supposed to be representative of the communities we serve so how can we give the best service delivery when we have no first-hand knowledge of how to respect the differences within these communities?

Further to this, I would recommend some sick leave if you are sick of the 'expected' rights and privileges of our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) staff.

Are the 'rights and privileges' of heterosexual colleagues met? Are they discriminated against because they are married? I think not. I personally cannot see how giving a gay person the same 'rights and privileges' as their heterosexual colleagues would create a divide - that is unless they believe gay people should not be allowed to be treated as equals?

With regard to the internationally successful Celebrate conference, of which Essex Police was one of the four proud partners, I would have refer you to the chief officers who agreed that.

I will, hopefully, see you at the upcoming Equal Opportunities LGBT conference this month!

Jack Coles
Force co-ordinator
Gay Police Association

My joke idea got binned quickly

THE mention in last month's edition of The Law of parking in the Grays police yard brought back a memory from the early 1960s.

I had finished a call one evening at Tilbury and thought 'midnight tea at Grays nick'.

I always reversed up that yard because trying to reverse a dog van out into the main road in a hurry was a nightmare.

There used to be a bell-push in the front office which sounded an alarm in the canteen, so, on my way in, I gave it a prod and watched as the shift came down in some haste.

Once they realised it was a joke, I came

in for some (good-natured) abuse and that was the end of it, I thought.

Just as I finished my tea, a call came in saying a dog was required urgently at Romford.

I jumped in the van, went off down the yard and, halfway to the street, there was the most awful, metallic racket behind me.

I looked in the mirror, fully expecting the back doors to have fallen off but, no, they were still in place.

Karl, an extremely laid-back dog, not prone to panic attacks, was sitting up quietly, peering out of the back window with some interest at whatever was going on behind us.

I hit the brakes and the clanging went on for a few seconds, finishing with a

solid crash underneath the back of the van. It's not a noise I'll forget in a hurry.

I had no idea what I was going to find. Had the fuel tank fallen off or the spare wheel dropped out? Perhaps the back bumper was being dragged along or maybe the anti-roll bar, fitted after an unscheduled trip across a ploughed field coming out of a fast corner, had come adrift.

It was none of the above. The Grays staff had got their own back. They had tied a dustbin to the back of the dog van with a long piece of rope.

I never dared touch that bell-push again!

Tom Morrison
Braintree

Looking forward to meeting old comrades again

THIS is a final reminder that the autumn lunch of the Essex Police Comrades Association will be held on Friday, October 7, at Essex Police HQ.

The sports pavilion bar will be open from 11.30am and lunch will be served at 1pm.

A park and ride system will again be in operation from

Chelmer Retail Park opposite the end of Sandford Road. A minibus will operate between 11.15am and 1pm and again at the end of the lunch. Please note there will be no parking facilities at HQ.

If you have any special dietary requirements or mobility problems, please let me, Sue Kelly or my

secretary, Marian Godwin, know as soon as possible on 01245 452799 or 452797.

Please ensure that your booking form, together with a cheque for £16.50, made payable to Essex Police Comrades Association, is sent to me at the Police Federation office at HQ, to arrive no later than Friday, September 30.

Unfortunately, for administrative reasons, any bookings received after this date will only be included in the final numbers in exceptional circumstances.

Sue Kelly
Secretary
Essex Police Comrades Association

Gone . . . but not forgotten

Pc 797 Stephen Greet - Essex Police.
Served from March 7, 1983.
Died August 14, 1984



● Pc Steve Greet

PC STEPHEN 'Steve' Greet was a Cornishman whose musical abilities were first harnessed by Essex Police in 1981. He was serving in the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment at Colchester when he became a guest euphonium player in the force band; he was also a singer and bass guitarist.

While in the Army at Colchester, Pc Greet met and married his wife Susan and, after he became a policeman, they lived in Epping with son Matthew.

Seventeen months into his probation, Pc Greet was on an attachment to Harlow Traffic when he and his driver stopped a car on the M11 near Great Hallingbury.

While talking to the driver on the hard shoulder of the motorway, Pc Greet was struck and killed by a lorry.

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.

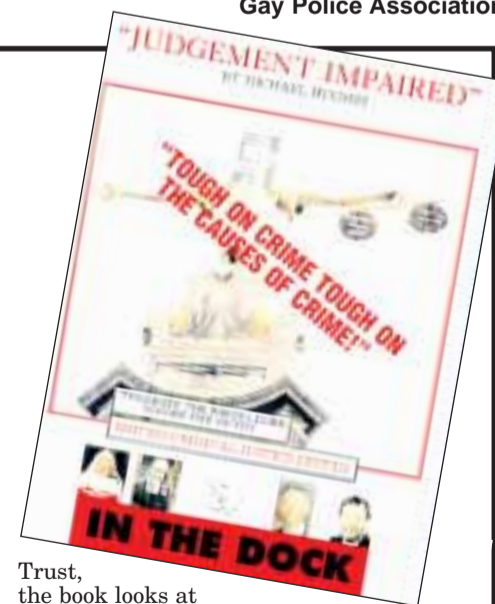
Are the rights of victims reflected in sentencing?

JUDGEMENT Impaired is the title of a book by former Essex Pc Mike Hughes. Mike was a Royal Marine before he joined Essex Police, serving for seven years at Tilbury and Chadwell St Mary. He later joined the Metropolitan Police and retired as a detective sergeant, but there then followed spells as a private investigator and working at a young offenders' institute.

With his extensive knowledge of crime and the criminal justice system, Mike has now written his first book.

What is described as a hard-hitting expose of hundreds of real-life case studies, illustrating many perceived injustices to victims through inappropriate and inadequate sentencing by the judiciary, *Judgement Impaired* will be of interest to police officers and other law enforcement agencies.

With a foreword written by Norman Brennan, director of the Victims of Crime



Trust, the book looks at inconsistencies when sentencing for the same crime and whether the rights of the criminals are more important than the rights of the victims.

■ The book is available via Mike Hughes at Hande-Cuffe Publications Ltd, 15 Queens Court, Goring on Thames, Reading RG8 0EW, telephone 01491 874171.

Corner the chairman



● Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers

More visible policing

“ I AM extremely pleased Chief Constable Roger Baker has already put additional resources on the front line.

This is excellent news for the people of Essex who are always telling us they want to see more officers on the beat.

Even though we are one of the safest counties in the country, we can still be better and we still have to provide the reassurance the public needs.

And we can deliver this, which is something to be proud of. I know it is an insecure time for many officers and staff at the moment but I hope I speak for all of us when I say we all want to drive towards the same goal – to make Essex Police stand alone from the rest because of our hard work and commitment to policing.

People sign up to Essex Police to help with the fight against crime and criminals and this is all we are asking of our staff.

Please remember, my door is always open and, if anyone does have any concerns or questions to raise, then please feel free to do so. But also be assured that even though change can be unsettling at times, it is also a chance to change for the better, which is something worth working for. ”

How does the police authority engage lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people in Essex?

THE police authority encourages consultation and feedback from the public, and would be delighted to meet any group or organisation to openly engage with them. I believe in regular and structured communication which enables us to gather views of a large group or organisation and not just one representative.

We consult with the Independent Advisory Group and the police authority's consultation process is currently being reviewed. If you would like to meet with me at your convenience, I would only be too happy to accommodate you.

● To ask Mr Chambers a question, please write to Kate Batson, Press and PR Officer, Essex Police Authority. Mr Chambers will select some and his answers will appear next month.

TASER joins 'bag of tools' for a firearms job

THE TASER is now being deployed on all Essex firearms operations but will not be a replacement for any of the force's other less lethal weapon options or conventional firearms.

The X26 – approved for use by all forces in England and Wales – discharges two probes connected to insulated wires, which, when both connect with skin or clothing, complete an electrical circuit, incapacitating the suspect.

The TASER can also be applied directly to give a stun effect and, in some circumstances, seeing a red dot laser on the subject's body might be enough to defuse the situation.

Recovery from the effects is instantaneous once the current has been switched off. Injuries caused by the barbs are normally minor and the barbs are then removed by a trained medical professional.

A prisoner who has been

subjected to a TASER will continue to be closely monitored after his or her arrest and provided with an information leaflet. Officers have been provided additional training in the event of someone suffering adverse effects.

As with any weapon in the police armoury the TASER is subject to extremely strict guidance and will only be deployed as part of an armed operation using the force's

authorised firearms officers.

Chief Insp Kevin Bailey, in charge of firearms operations for Essex Police, said officers have the necessary expertise to use TASER and make the appropriate assessments before activating it.

“TASER is simply another tactical option within a firearms operation to be considered alongside negotiation, CS spray, the baton, dogs, baton gun and conventional firearms,” he added.

Spongers give as good as they get

KIND-hearted investigators and staff have raised more than £1,000 for Victim Support-Witness Service Unit at Chelmsford and Basildon Crown Courts. Staff at the Brentwood-based South-West Major Investigation Room held a charity barbecue in the grounds of the town's police station.

Although the event was entirely funded by the staff, it was supported by several local companies which donated raffle prizes.

Cash raised from raffle ticket sales was supplemented by donations from staff buying sponges to throw at Det Supt Kevin Macey.

Main organiser Det Con Nick Newbury gave special thanks to Funday Entertainment, of Romford, which provided the stocks for Det Supt Macey.



● Senior Investigating Officer Det Supt Kevin Macey shows what a good sport he is as he prepares to get wet in the name of charity

Picture by Brian White

Kent are helped to keep officers TRiM

KENT is the latest force to be educated by Essex on the benefits of introducing TRiM (Trauma Risk Incident Management) into its ranks with a view to identify and help those who have developed issues following traumatic incidents.

Chief Insp Jan Harrison, Pc Adrian Ranson, of Thurrock Division, and Vickie Bond, of Welfare, crossed the Thames to Maidstone for a one-day conference where they explained how TRiM was set up in Essex

by Nishan Wijeratne

and the resulting benefits.

Nearly 70 counterparts from the fire and ambulance services, together with Army personnel, were told of both the positive and negative issues which have arisen since the support service's launch in Essex in 2002.

Miss Bond provided an overview while Chief Insp Harrison gave a manager's perspective on how to coordinate a team of TRiM officers, with Pc Ranson offering his personal, operational experiences.

Essex currently have 100 members of police staff and officers who have completed the one-day, in-house founda-

tion course, which allows them to offer professional support to colleagues who have experienced a stressful incident in the operational field.

Miss Bond said: “Several forces have expressed a desire to train their officers but, so far, we're the only one to have any kind of number that is operationally viable.

“We were asked to make a presentation as one of Kent's assistant chief constables holds the ACPO portfolio for healthier and safer working places and so is looking to introduce TRiM across his force.”

Miss Bond highlighted just how much TRiM has been publicised across Essex Police, citing a recent shoot-

ing incident. She said: “A supervisor recognised a problem with one of their officers in the aftermath and referred them to the Welfare Department where a TRiM session was undertaken.”

And she added that the number of officers in the force who were aware of the support service and had a basic understanding of it was on the increase.

A training session is due to be held later this month.

And the force is looking to produce an advanced course for experienced TRiM practitioners after the Royal Marines developed a course qualification. Meanwhile, a seminar is planned for the end of the year for those with basic TRiM training.

A bureaucratic nightmare is unravelled

A FORM which would have generated tens of thousands of sheets of waste paper each year has been scrapped by Essex Police after staff feedback.

The National Collision Reporting Form (NCRF) had been in use since the start of this year, having been introduced by the Department for Transport.

The form was created as part of a wider programme which ultimately aims to have collision reports entered on handheld computers at the scene of an incident.

However, despite the futuristic possi-

bilities, officers and staff have succeeded in kicking the cumbersome form into touch after highlighting its inefficiency and wastefulness.

The form requires three double-sided pages to be completed and returned to Administration Services for inputting, before being returned to the officer in the case for any further enquiries.

The force form which the NCRF replaced, the T28, contained all the information required and did not need returning.

After listening to complaints from

officers and staff, Admin Services successfully challenged the waste and T28s came back into force last month.

Admin Services Officer Sue Spratley said: “As a force we're trying to do away with undue bureaucracy, yet this form has trebled the workload of those who have to use it.

“It is just unnecessarily complicated, so we're going back to the old form. Some 90 per cent of our work involves providing information to customers, so it's vital the data they receive is accurate.”

Gender Act now in force

FROM next month, people who have lived in their preferred gender for at least two years can apply for a Gender Recognition Certificate.

And UK citizens can also apply for a new birth certificate. The Police National Computer will carry the revised details and allow nominal records to be linked.

A new offence of disclosing confidential information is created by the Gender Recognition Act, and there are implications for gender-specific offences to be committed.

● For more details, visit the HR department website on the intranet, click on the Equal Opportunities flag and then on latest news NEXUS, the Essex Police lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans staff support group can also give advice. Contact chairperson Pc Emma Chapman on ext 30445 or secretary Insp Moira Owers on ext 63381 or ring the Diversity Unit on ext 58621 CJD Custody Manager Chief Insp Chris Macintosh can give specific advice on custody practice on ext 54132

Town police back home

HALSTEAD police station has reopened, following building work which began in January.

Since then, Halstead officers had been using nearby Great Yeldham police station as a base and a temporary community policing team office was set up at the town council offices in The Causeway, Halstead.

Insp Tony Sale said: “It is good to see the whole team based back in the town and the permanent presence of officers, along with the improved public facilities, is of benefit to the community.”

The £479,000 building work involved renovating and extending the 145-year-old police station. Disabled access has been provided and the disused magistrates' court now accommodates offices and a training and meeting area.

Walk £1,000 for MS charity

STANSTED Det Con Karen Nicolaou and Braintree Service Desk Supervisor Dilys Ware have raised £1,200 for the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Karen said: “We cursed and swore and vowed never to volunteer to do a 50-mile walk again but guess what? We're already planning next year's!”

The pair walked 50 miles across the Sussex Downs.

MS can strike people of any age and Karen says she has been inspired by the various sufferers she has met on her walks.

Singing band

ESSEX Police Band and Choir are in concert on Saturday, October 15, at Christ Church, New London Road, Chelmsford, at 7.30pm.

Proceeds will be split between Essex Air Ambulance and The Js Hospice.

● Tickets cost £8 from Julie Brown on 01245 494811.

Cancer cash from racing and shopping

CHARITABLE fund-raising by staff at Braintree Police Station has passed £3,600 this year, thanks to a sale of women's shoes and handbags in aid of cancer research, brought in £120.

At the beginning of the year, a sale of unwanted Christmas gifts and other items raised £750 for tsunami victims.

This was followed by police station staff walking or running in the women's 5k Race for Life, which has so far raised £2,800.

● CALLING themselves the CJD Mad Cows, a team of 28 staff from the Criminal Justice unit at Colchester all took part in this year's Race for Life at Essex University in Colchester in July.

Heavy rain did not dampen their enthusiasm. Everyone completed the 5km course and vowed to return next year.

The team want to thank all those who sponsored them – £1,420 has been forwarded to Cancer Research.

Force doing ACTION by the book

EVERY member of Essex Police has either already received, or will receive, the new ACTION supported booklet containing the force objectives for 2005/06.

The credit card sized concertina booklet also carries a key message from new Chief Constable Roger Baker, together with other useful and important information.

If you have not yet received your copy, please contact the ACTION team at headquarters, or your departmental head or divisional commander.

Remembering fallen friends

THE National Police Memorial Day is a chance to remember and recognise the brave actions of fallen colleagues.

This year's service is on Sunday, October 2, at 2pm in St David's Hall, Cardiff. There is a dedicated National Police Memorial Day website for registration and information and a hotline number if people have any queries.

The Police Federation is also seeking police officers and police staff who may be able to give a little of their time collecting donations in their area, eg at local shops. Ring the hotline to volunteer.

● Visit www.nationalpolice memorialday.org or ring the hotline on 07843 293958

House grant?

THE Government has allocated another £2million for Essex key workers and Essex Police officers may be eligible.

Those seeking to buy their first property or those who need to move into a bigger home for family reasons should investigate.

● Visit the Moat Housing website at www.moat.co.uk and click on the key worker homes button for more information.

'I like to think of the Essex Police museum as a bridge between the force and the community'



THE 'grand relaunch' of Essex Police Museum takes place on Saturday, September 10, with a VIP opening by Essex Chief Constable Roger Baker and Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers. Curator Sarah Talmage said: "The opening will be fun and games. I really look forward to the public being able to benefit from the new changes achieved from the grant." The museum staff will be welcoming groups for visits during the day, from 10am and 4pm, so they can learn about infamous murders, changing technology, uniforms and the history of policing in Essex. There is also the opportunity to visit a Victorian police cell. After the relaunch, the museum is open to schools and groups by appointment and also every Wednesday afternoon between 1pm and 4.30pm. ■ For information about Essex Police Museum or to arrange a visit, contact Becky Latchford on 01245 457150 or visit the museum's website at www.essex.police.uk/museum



● Outgoing curator Sarah Talmage, right, and new curator Becky Latchford prepare to put the finishing touches to the new-look Essex Police Museum
● A sergeant in the Special Constabulary on routine patrol during World War Two, above



Grant is just the start ...



● This new exhibit of a woman police officer kitted out in the latest personal-issue body armour was paid for with £2,000 of the Heritage Lottery Fund grant

FOLLOWING a successful appeal to the Heritage Lottery Fund, which took curator Sarah Talmage six months to compile, a number of exciting improvements to the Essex Police Museum are being made.

Seven sparkling new conservation-friendly display cases, equipped with brilliant internal lighting and dust sealing, have been purchased, ensuring all the newly-designed displays can be seen clearly. Each of the displays has now been redesigned and rewritten to show the chronological development of Essex Police, with different themes, such as uniform and past crimes, ready to be explored by the public. In order to make the museum more accessible to a wide variety of people, an audio tour has been created to talk the visually impaired and anyone else interested through its different displays. In addition further technological improvements, such as interactive activities for children have been installed.

Citizenship
And an educational consultant has been employed to create Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 history and citizenship packages which will enable the museum to market itself to primary schools as a venue for visits. Sarah hopes the improvements will encourage children to take an interest in their police force.

ESSEX Police have received a £43,000 grant to be spent on the force's 14-year-old museum. Work experience student Emily Hadley visited to find out what the cash has been spent on before the museum re-opens to the public on Saturday, September 10 after a six-month refurbishment

She stressed that she saw it as important that children have a chance to explore and learn about the police without being involved in crime.

Community
"I like to think of the museum as a bridge between the police and the community," she said. "It is an intermediate, informal place to learn about the police – rather than through the usual 'opposites' of being either a criminal or a victim." Activities soon to be available to visiting schools or groups of children include fingerprinting, handling the collection – such as police uniforms and equipment – quizzes, creating warrant cards and even the exciting opportunity to become involved in the Midnight Trail. "The trail is carried out in the winter when it becomes dark earlier and children will search HQ for clues in the dark. "It provides a fun and an informative time for the children," said Sarah. And there is now a specially-built police box, which is being used to mount brand new puzzles – reconstructing mug shots and an Essex Police jigsaw. As well as being an enjoyable experience for young people, the new museum will provide adults with an informative

history of Essex Police and their work, including displays about famous crimes such as the notorious Moat Farm murder, in which Samuel Herbert Douglas, a serial womaniser, stood trial for the murder of Camille Cecile Holland, a woman who had posed as 'Mrs Dougal' and shared a house with him, which the couple named Moat Farm.

Suspicious
Following suspicions after Miss Holland went missing, Essex Police officers literally moved into Moat Farm to see if they could find clues into her whereabouts. On Monday, June 22, 1903, in Shire Hall, Chelmsford, it was indicated that Samuel Herbert Douglas, 'on May 19, 1899, did feloniously, wilfully, and of his malice aforethought, kill and murder Camille Cecile Holland'. Douglas is buried in the grounds of Chelmsford Prison and just his initials and a number on the wall nearby mark the grave of one of Essex's most notorious murderers. The museum also has displays and information about a number of other famous cases, such as the murder of Pe George William Gutteridge, who was brutally killed by William Kennedy in 1927. Within the museum, artefacts from the

case are displayed, including the bullets and Webley revolver used to kill the policeman. Numerous other exhibits include information about policing during the wars, a life-sized model of a police box and changing forms of transport used by the police. A new notice board has also been designed for visitor comments so the museum can be further improved.

New curator
To complement its newly-decorated and updated interior, on August 8 the museum welcomed its fifth curator. Becky Latchford, 25, previously a collections officer at Redbridge Museum in Ilford, took over the position in time for museum's grand relaunch. Becky, who was attracted to the job due to a combined love of museums and the police, said: "I'm really excited to be able to join Essex Police Museum at this exciting time in its development and to be involved in the decision-making for its future." She follows Sarah, 28, who has been the curator for the last three years. Sarah had always been interested in the police and originally wanted to be a police officer but could not because of her eyesight.



● Samuel Herbert Douglas in the Dock during his trial, above

So the Essex Police Museum has provided her with a happy medium between her interest in museums and desire to work with the police. It was also the ideal chance for her to run her own museum and she has been pleased to have seen visitor figures double since 2000 to 2,500 a year and believes the refurbishment should continue the upward trend. Sarah has now moved to Cambridge as she recently got married and will work for the National Trust at Ickworth House near Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk. She commented: "I cannot wait to see the museum flourish in the hands of its new curator – the grant is just the beginning of its success."

● One of the puzzles for youngsters to enjoy in the police box, right



Website will answer your UKIS queries

OFFICERS needing information about immigration issues can find most answers on a new intranet site.

The UK Immigration Service (UKIS) has set down information about legislation, who can be arrested and why, prosecution and which countries are EU members at web/info/immigration

Immigration officer Jon Edwards, based at the Standed Enforcement Unit, said it was hoped the website would answer a lot of queries and help Essex Police and the UKIS liaise better.

He also pointed out that now, following agreement between the CPS and the UKIS, qualified immigration officers can provide statements suitable for charging where a forged document has been identified, which would save the police having to contact the National Document Fraud Unit at Heathrow if the fact of forgery was not contested.

● Constructive feedback about the website is welcome. Email jonathan.edwards@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

All your NIM ideas will be welcomed

A TEAM tasked with putting in place a new intelligence system for the force is looking for your views on how to make it the best around.

The National Intelligence Model (NIM) Project will last for 18 months, culminating in buying the new system.

The aim is also to ensure the force is entirely compliant with NIM.

Det Sgt Janette Coe, who is leading the revamp, said: "We will make the lives of every officer and member of staff easier in terms of inputting and searching the intelligence database.

"The current system isn't very user-friendly, so we'll be looking to make it more simple and practical to use with straightforward ways of searching for information and who put it there."

But the team needs users' views on the current set up and it is making visits to divisions and other forces.

● Contact the NIM Project on ext 61627.

More ACTION

ESSEX Police is to provide support to South Yorkshire Police in setting up its own leadership programme.

A delegation is due in Essex this month on a two-day visit for support in setting up their own leadership programme.

Members will hear the principles behind our own ACTION programme. Greater Manchester Police, who already have a leadership programme, are interested in our ACTION awards dinner.

Partying on

DON'T forget the new date for the Pensioners' Garden Party at Essex Police Training Centre – Friday, September 16, at 2.30pm.

● Contact Jan Pynner in Welfare on 01245 452990 if you want to attend.

Law Classifieds

Holiday lets

AUTUMN break – relax in comfortable and well-equipped French gite. Overlooks river with fantastic views. Ring +33 (0) 549 97 10 93, email philetlin@free.fr or visit www.giteinvienne.com

COSTA Blanca, La Marina, two-bed, two-bath luxury villa, sleeps four to six. Communal pool, 25 minutes from airport. Contact Mick Ager on +34 617 110 096 or 07775 616142 or email casadomi02@hotmail.com

COSTA Calida, La Manga, two-bedroom apartment, sleeps six. Overlooking golf and sea, 20 yards to beach. Gardens, two pools, tennis. Sailing school close by. Ring Gary Franklin on 07753 606996.

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

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

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

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, woodburning oven, quiet village location, lots to do nearby. £150-£175 per week. Contact Emma Bowditch on 07711 421579 or email emma.bowditch@essex.pnn.police.uk

LAKESIDE chalet, Cotswold Water Parks. 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. Police and associates welcome at our home on a B&B basis, with en-suite. Fishing and other Highland pastimes. Reductions for police. Ring Andy Nunn on 01479 841717 or e-mail apf.nunn@btinternet.com

SOUTH of France, three-bedroom villa, sleeps six, quiet complex. Mediterranean coast 150m. Visit

www.la-cypriette.com email kevin.harman@freeuk.com or ring 01702 470926.

TENERIFE, two-bed, two-bathroomed villa, at Amarilla Golf on south coast, sleeps six. Sea view, satellite TV. From £300 per week. Ring Dave Britton on 01702 201701.

TURKEY, two-bedroomed apartment, sleeps six, air conditioned, shared pool. Tranquil setting, two hours from ski-ing. £200 per week. Ring Roy on 07803 522737.

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

Flats to let

STUDIO flat for single person, non-smoker, in Danbury, available now. Parking. Rent £350pcm, all inclusive. Ring 01245 222234 or 07712 535101.

Cars and bikes

FORD Fiesta, 1.3 LX, N-reg, blue, 50,000 miles, recent MoT and service. Tax til Nov. Full service history. £950 ono. Contact Nicola Coutts via email

JAGUAR XJ6 3,200cc, rare manual model, white with brown leather, 1990 T&T, good condition, £1,185 ono. Contact Paul Davey on 01787 269792.

KIT car, Merlin Roadster, 2l engine with electrics wired. Mahogany dashboard with fitted dials. Many extras but needs finishing. £800 ono. Call Jeff on 01708 706539.

VW Golf tdi 1.9l, silver, alloys, CD/radio, tax/MoT until August 2006, serviced and well looked after. 88,000 miles, air conditioning, registered July 2000. £5,700, ring Alex on 07811 374730.

Miscellaneous

DINING table, inlaid mahogany, four chairs, two carvers. Highly polished, excellent condition. Cost £900 new, £200 ono. Ring Sandra on 01708 706539.

GUITAR amplifier, Trace Elliott C50, all-valve combo. Excellent sound and condition. £300 ono. Email nb.roberts@virgin.net or call 07837 857016.

SHETLAND 535 motorboat, 17½ ft, 40hp Mariner outboard – up to 25 knots. Two-berth, two-burner stove, grill. Navigation lights, canopy. Plus trailer. Tows and launches with ease. £2,500 ono. Contact Paul Davey on 01787 269792.



Cricketing traditions from the 1870s

TAKEN in 1959, the faces of police officers and local Braintree traders reflect pleasant anticipation of the match to come, but some of their names have escaped the memory. The annual cricket fixture has continued virtually unbroken for 134 years and has been going from strength to strength recently, breaking records on charitable donations.

This year's match, at Braintree

Cricket Ground in July, raised around £1,400 for NEEDED (the North-East Essex Doctors' Emergency Service). The traders, who scored 224 for seven wickets, beat the police by 54 runs in the 40-over match.

Charlie Storrar, a former constable at Braintree and now aged 84, is pictured top left of our photograph. He remembers some of the names but would love to complete the list.

The names known are from the top row, Charlie Storrar, Ken Rowe, John Stanton and Sgt Gray; middle row Mr Reading, Pc Stud, John Waddington and Pc Saward; bottom row Mr Wickes, Supt Wood, Fred Tarbun, Chief Insp Baker, Barry Tarbun and Insp Chapman.

• Anyone who can help can contact Charlie Storrar via his son, Trevor Storrar, who works at Transport Services at HQ on ext 53374

Pastures new – at home and abroad

Names in the news

RETIRING after 34 years in the force is Det Chief Supt **Steve Reynolds**.

Mr Reynolds headed up Crime Division for four years.

After three years as a Cadet, he spent his entire career in CID, save for his initial two years as a probationer and six months as a uniform inspector.

He served at every rank in CID, in Southend, Rayleigh, Basildon and Grays and was then Senior Investigating Officer for the county, dealing with a number of high-profile cases – he became the SIO in the Danielle Jones murder case.

But the most satisfying moment of his career was the recovery of a baby who was snatched from its mother in the late 1990s.

“It was a big team effort and the public helped enormously,” he said.

Mr Reynolds is still investigating, having a job at the IPCC – he is on the team investigating the shooting of Brazilian Jean Charles de Menezes on July 22 in London.

“Investigating has always been my passion. I like to think I will stay in contact with my many friends in Essex Police,” he said. “I will miss being a police officer the most – I was very proud to be a policeman.”

Most officers after 30 years are looking forward to putting their feet up for a while, but not **Ann Clear** who is choosing instead to trek across Vietnam with elephants – in the name of charity.

Ann, who retired as a Pc at Harlow in July, will spend ten days living far from the lap of luxury as she camps in the most basic of jungle conditions by night, and treks across tough terrain by day.

Not quite the same as pounding the beat, but Ann says being a uniformed constable was the best part of being a police officer, despite her specialist roles in child protection and Special Branch.

Her latest challenge is raising enough money before November to

ensure her Vietnam trip goes off without a hitch and that St Luke's Hospice in Basildon receives an injection of much-needed cash.

Ann is preparing for car boot sales and selling off personal items to raise £2,500. She has written to local businesses to find additional support.

• For those who want to sponsor Ann, forms are available at Harlow Police Station or email her at lesandann@scubadiving.fsworld.co.uk

Thurrock Division has a new commander.

Chief Supt Simon Coxall takes over command from Chief Supt Terry Sheern, who is moving to a new role at HQ.

Mr Coxall is 46 and has 21 years service with Essex Police. He has been promoted from his current role as a detective superintendent and Director of Investigations within CID.

In this role he was responsible for setting up the ‘cold case’ review team which re-examines serious crimes committed years ago but which remained undetected. The work of that team, coupled with advances in forensic science, has led to the arrest of some who thought they had avoided detection.

Mr Coxall has previously served in Thurrock as both a uniform sergeant and inspector, and has been the SIO in a number of murders and other major crime enquiries.

He said: “Policing is about thorough investigation, catching criminals and keeping the streets safe. Success demands public support and I look forward to working with the people of Thurrock. They need to have the confidence to report matters to the police and be willing to give evidence. We can then do our part in bringing offenders to justice.”

Meanwhile Chief Supt **Terry Sheern** is transferring to Corporate Support at HQ, where he will be working with Chief Officers to implement forthcoming changes in

the force.

And he will also be working with Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark on the East of England Regeneration and Thames Gateway projects until his retirement in December.

Mr Sheern, 52, said he was proud to have been the only person in the history of Essex Police to have served in the division at every rank except Pc – he joined Southend Division as a Pc in March 1976 – and to have achieved his ambition of becoming Divisional Commander, a post he has held for the past four years.

Obituaries

FORMER Sgt **Wilfred George ‘Tug’ Wilson** has died, aged 91.

Mr Wilson, of Southend, served from 1934 to 1964 with Southend Borough Police.

If ever there was an era of ‘Dixon of Dock Green’ policing then Mr Wilson belonged to that period.

He patrolled the streets of Southend for 30 years until his promotion to sergeant and his subsequent retirement in 1964.

His tough upbringing and experiences as a regular soldier both in the early 1930s and during World War Two helped to develop a character that understood life and enabled him to deal firmly, fairly and often compassionately with those he met on his policing duties.

On his retirement from the police he became office manager of a local firm of solicitors.

Another former Southend Borough policeman died last month. Former Det Sgt **Michael Bedford** was 62.

Mr Bedford, of Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, served from 1962 to 1987 – first with Southend Borough and then with Chelmsford CID.

And former **Pc William Catmore**, 60, of Grays, has died. He served the force from 1971 to 1992 at Braintree, with the Drug Squad and in Great Leighs and Abridge.

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE - ONE WORD PER BOX

Name and rank

Station Home tel.

Date Signed

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

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

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

Another great benefit of your Federation membership

Attractive loan rates

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

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Phenomenal growth gives airport police a challenge

MANY myths surround Stansted Airport; not least that it is a quiet backwater where nothing ever happens. Speak to those officers and staff who work there, however, and a completely different picture will be painted. Even the new airport commander Supt Michelle Dunn admits she had preconceived ideas and yet, just five months into her new post, she exudes enthusiasm and believes others should consider the career opportunities there. "I'm the first to admit that unless you've worked there you don't really understand what it's like and that the perceptions are so out of date," said Supt Dunn. One thing's for sure, Stansted has faced numerous challenges over recent years including hi-jacks, a major air crash and plane diversions under military escort as a result of bomb threats. The future also predicts massive change as Stansted is growing at a phenomenal rate. "This year there will be over

by Kim Perks

22 million passengers," said Supt Dunn. "Over the next two years passenger numbers are likely to move up to 25 million and, ultimately, 35 million even without a new runway and new terminal. It is also likely that, over the next 12 months, transatlantic flights to the States will open up a completely new market." This brings plenty of chances to experience specialist policing but doesn't mean that there is nothing to do in between times. "There is still all the normal policing and day-to-day problems that any territorial division brings such as crime work, road traffic work, intelligence gathering and community policing," said Supt Dunn. "We may not have a resident population but we can have 70,000 people coming through the airport in one day. Add to that the 15,000 employees and you are dealing with the equivalent of a small town with a shifting population. "You deal with everything from the woman who flew



● Pc Alistair Sims and Sgt Iain Masheder on armed patrol



● Airport Commander Supt Michelle Dunn found out many of her preconceived ideas were wrong

out leaving her husband behind to children going missing and people turning up from all over the world with no documentation. "Lots of unusual items come through the airport and Stansted has a huge cargo area which has the potential

for all sorts of issues. Add to that the armed response requirements and what is currently going on in terms of terrorism and you have a fast-moving environment where officers and staff need to be really multi-skilled and work well as a team. "We are joining forces with other agencies such as the Immigration Service, HM Customs and the DVLA on operations to help tackle the issues and drive up performance." All of this reinforces the need for good interpersonal skills, particularly when one considers that most visitors will be going on holiday or a business trip so even the briefest delay can be

stressful and needs a positive and sympathetic response. Then, of course, there is the assistance the airport can provide other police forces. The number of low-cost air carriers at Stansted means people travel from all over the UK to fly out of Essex and criminals are no exception so there are huge opportunities to identify and arrest individuals wanted by other divisions and police forces and obtain intelligence that will prove useful in investigations. And there are financial considerations. After all, airport policing is paid for by Stansted Airport Limited. Supt Dunn said: "We are in a unique policing situation

with an ever-changing population and we have to acknowledge that every decision we make can have huge financial and commercial implications. "All of this combined makes it a really thriving, exciting environment to work in with a buzz about it 24 hours day. "I believe the proposals in terms of the airport's growth and development will bring yet more challenges which we are determined to meet. "I lead a team that is committed to making Stansted a safe and friendly airport for people to travel to and from, and to maintaining a high level of performance in respect of prevention and detection of crime."

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Variety of jobs means there's an opportunity for everyone

FIREARMS, flexible work patterns and opportunities for women are all issues that in the past have potentially prevented officers and staff considering Stansted Airport as an option. When you delve into the truth, however, it is completely different. Insp Chris Bainbridge, support manager at the airport for seven years, has spent much of that opening the doors to the array of opportunities that the division has to offer. "There has certainly been a mythology about the airport being a place where nothing much happens and officers are just wandering around with guns acting as security," said Insp Bainbridge. "It has a fairly negative reputation that is historical. "Stansted has grown and passenger numbers have doubled and the result is a variety of interesting work to undertake and a phenomenal range of skills to gain. "It's not for everyone and with the armed remit in particular. A desire to do the job has to be met with the

appropriate ability and aptitude. "Firearms officers have a tremendous responsibility and it is a job which seriously focuses the mind," said Insp Bainbridge. "There are, however, an awful lot of other opportunities at the airport with other responsibilities that officers and staff might not necessarily get on division. If there is a large incident at Stansted it is generally going to be something that attracts national news and those people on duty will be at the sharp end." Natural wastage means an ongoing recruitment process and negotiations are taking place with Stansted Airport Limited to consider any needs to increase establishment in line with growth at the airport. With a woman now heading up the division, another taking charge of one of the armed response shifts, and three female armed response constables, it is clear that some myths haven't stood in

the way of equality. "There have been issues in the past about the firearms environment being macho but I don't know that there are any really barriers now for women", said Insp Bainbridge. "Again it is about personal preferences. "Operationally, like any division, we need women as part of the team and we will help to promote the opportunities available." Curious but not wanting to work full-time? Don't close the book just yet as the airport has supported part-time working and currently has six authorised firearms officers on flexible working patterns.

● Anyone interested in what the airport might have to offer can contact Sgt Wendy Welham, who can provide advice and arrange a structured visit. Alternatively, check out a series of profiles on the division's web pages which can be found under Divisions and Departments on the intranet.

Sport & Leisure

Iron man is ready for the world

A MALDON officer swapped his handcuffs for a dip in ice-cold waters when he took part in an international Iron Man contest and raised money for a local charity. Andy Jopson returned from Austria, finishing 1,415th out of 2,200 competitors. He is only the second officer from the force to compete in such an event.

The competition was the probationer's first and he underwent six months' training to attain peak physical and mental fitness. "I originally began doing this sort of thing during the last year of university and it's spiralled from there really," said the 27-year-old. "I find it acts as really good motivation in life and leads to a healthier lifestyle." Jopson has the backing of Blackwater Triathlon Club as well as support from Blackwater Leisure Centre, which has given him an annual membership pass. Life-saving community group First Response benefited from Jopson's exploits after friends and family donated over £150. Jopson, who participated in this year's force triathlons, is now preparing for the national PSUK championship later this month in Peterborough.

Soccer game proves to be the winner

CHARITABLE officers from Braintree Division put their football skills to the test in a fund-raising match at Witham Town's Spa Road ground on August 26. They played a team from NACRO (the National Organisation for the Rehabilitation of Offenders) to raise funds for the Braintree Sports Project. The project exists to encourage young people into sport to develop their character and keep them out of trouble. Despite losing 5-4 on the night, the Braintree officers are all-square, having won the match last year in Halstead and drawn the first encounter, which was played at Braintree Town's ground. Lee Abraham, of Braintree CID said: "It's a good fund-raising event for NACRO and gets the community together, doing something positive." Between £400 and £500 was raised on the night, from admission charges, the sale of refreshments and a raffle, enjoyed by a crowd of more than 100 family and friends.

Bowls win

BOWLER Alan Rees, 60, was part of the Essex county team which beat Warwickshire by five shots in a friendly last month. The Stansted Airport traffic warden, who lost his individual match, got his county badge five years ago. He competes in Colchester and Tendring group.

All's fair and equal in love and football

THE annual MIT football match between Rayleigh and Brentwood was fun-packed with excitement and controversy as Brentwood looked to avenge last season's 2-0 defeat.

Rayleigh showed off their new kit, while some of the Brentwood stars donned Arsenal shirts in a bid to transfer 'Gooner-esque' skills to the pitch.

Brentwood kicked off proceedings but, apart from an early raid by Taff Phillips on Rayleigh's goal, the first half-hour saw possession from both sides until, shortly before the break, a cross from Pat

Ring was met by the ever-youthful Martin Oakley, who slotted the ball into the Brentwood net.

Brentwood responded with two quick attempts on goal which keeper Nick 'The Cat' Stoneman did well to save.

Rayleigh doubled their lead soon after the restart when Wolfy Byrne scored. Brentwood keeper Grahame Hadley was subjected to a few jeers for leaving the goal empty but rallied his troops in a bid to salvage the game.

Captain Kevin Macey missed an opportunity from a corner before Brentwood's Nick Newbury was warned

by referee Dave Sharpe for attempting to decapitate Rayleigh's keeper, Stoneman.

This stern rebuke shook Brentwood into life and they reduced the deficit when Mike Smith, on loan from Harlow MIT, scored.

A nail-biting finale saw Rayleigh succumb to an equaliser from Phillips, which Rayleigh players protested was blatantly off-side and they were vocal in their questioning of the ref's eyesight.

Guest chefs Roy Burnett and Ray Turner then cooked up bangers and burgers, courtesy of HQ Garage, on a slightly-soaked barbecue.

Show was simply the best of talent

by Lynda Barkway

THE Best of British – from Variety to Victory, the latest production from Essex Police Musical Society, played to packed audiences for four nights.

This was a show where the audiences needed little persuasion to join in and sing along with the cast.

The following are excerpts from the report sent in by the retiring regional National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) rep Colin Butcher:

"Act One was set in a seaside pub and opened with effective rendition of *There Is A Tavern In The Town*.

"Other familiar numbers followed and, with a sprinkling of comedy, the Act closed with the *Lambeth Walk*.

"Act Two moved into the war years and, with the cast suitably costumed, opened with *The Army The Navy And The Air Force*.

"With the effective uniforms, other popular wartime numbers were presented and the highlight for me was a



● Gemma Westrip and Brian and Pat Nicholson tread the boards during The Best of British

very emotive performance, given by Paul Walker and the cast, of *Coming In On A Wing And A Prayer*.

"Ensemble and principle singing was very good throughout and well balanced with the proficient five-piece band. Both acts were framed by excellent back-cloths and I must congratulate Jenny Hillyard on her artistic

talents. The whole show was compered by Peter Simpson, who ensured that the proceedings moved at a good pace, and who also regaled us with his now legendary anecdotes and short stories.

"This was an excellent show and was fully enjoyed by the full-house audience, and was a worthy show for my final review."

Clay success

A RAYLEIGH Pc helped Essex to fourth position in the Olympic trap clay-pigeon shooting south-east region Inter Counties Championships. And Dick Grimes, of Resource Management, also finished in the top 20 out of more than 100-plus competitors.

CID knock Essex CC&G to an 81-run defeat on home ground

'THOSE boys took one of hell of a hammering' is one way to describe the latest game involving the Gents of CID when they played Essex Cricket Club and Ground at Broomfield.

Essex thrust some young potential on to the pitch to face up to the experience that the force had to offer.

The home side won the toss and elected to bat, but soon questioned this piece of wisdom as CID opening bowler Bob Miller claimed three early wickets.

However, the middle-order showed some resistance and put a respectable and 187 for seven on the scoreboard.

Wicketkeeper Chris Westwood claimed

two stumpings, with Mike Long joining Miller in the 'threefur' brigade.

The Gents opened their account disastrously as they were reduced to 33 for four, with Paul Toms, Richie Adams, Westwood and Dave Griffiths all back in the pavilion after just a few overs.

However, the ever-reliable Peter Orpe sent the ball crashing to all parts of the ground until former CID player Glyn Evans, now representing Essex Cricket Club and Ground, came on to bowl and immediately snapped up the Braintree inspector for 23.

The captain brought himself on and picked up Phil Mellon in his first over.

At 52 for six, the Gents looked a long way off their target.

However, Mr Jones – Miller's postman! – showed off some of his shots until he too was out to a new bowler, leaving Long to mount a rearguard action, hammering 19 off one over.

As he was finding the gaps, he said goodbye to Miller who played a shot he would rather forget and then took an eternity to get back to the pavilion.

Once again, a new bowler got the breakthrough and the tail folded, leaving the Gents to plod off with 106 all out on the scorecard.

Essex claim a sweet victory over Norfolk

THE Essex Police cricket team travelled to Old Buckenham Cricket Club to take on Norfolk in the semi-finals of this season's regional PSUK competition expecting a stiff test.

The Norfolk side included previous Essex skipper Joe Wrigley amongst their ranks but they were without their Australian overseas star.

Missing a number of first-team regulars, holders Essex were asked to bat after Norfolk won the toss.

After a tentative start openers Vince Bird and Keith Sargeant began to find their feet and put together an opening stand of over 100. Sargeant went on to make 60 while Bird, Essex's sole PSUK rep, smashed his way to a superb 120.

Then the experience of Paul Gamman and Kevin Cooper was shown. Gamman scored a hard-hitting 45, while Cooper nudged his way to 43 not out.

Captain Adrian Garnham smashed the wilting Norfolk bowlers for 46 and the Essex middle order of Richard Bushell and Steve Berry also contributed as Essex amassed 320 for five.

In reply, Norfolk were pegged back by a hostile opening nine-over burst from Bushell, who finished with two for 28.

But then the Norfolk batsmen began to open their arms and at one stage looked to be in with a shout. Spin bowlers Phil Mellon and Dave Moon and seamer Steve Berry were treated with disdain as they were smashed to all parts of the ground.

But quick bowlers Bird and Garnham changed the game, bowling accurately to ensure that Norfolk finished 50 runs short.

Good golfing

THE force's golfers acquitted themselves well on a difficult course at the English Police Golf Championships in West Yorkshire.

Nigel Ginn, Dave Britton and Stuart Stranger finished mid-table representing Essex at Hollins Hall, where most of the 72-strong field scored in the mid 80s, thanks to some tricky greens.

● KEITH Davies, of Brentwood Crime Squad, won both his matches for the PSUK golf team against the British Civil Service. Davies's wins at Walton Heath Golf Club helped the police get their trophy back as they won 9-6 overall.

Angling joy

TIM Hills, based at the Professional Development Unit at South Woodham Ferrers, has been selected to represent the national PSUK sea-angling section in a match against the Combined Services. The match is due to take place in Minehead on Friday, October 7.

THURROCK'S Matthew Parrish was the £3,000 jackpot winner of the August force lottery.

Sgt Andrew Swan (Bocking Road Policing Unit) won the second prize of £1,000, while Martine Rout (Basildon) claimed the £500 third place. The £100 prize winners were: David Cunliffe (FIR); Felix Sinclair (HQ Crime); Ryan

Tullett (Southend); Pc Andrew Simpson (FSU); Pc Lee Winfield (Clacton); Ds Simon Willett (Colchester); Pc Alistair Boyle (FIR). The winners of £50 each were: Pc Stephen Wheeler (Brentwood); Pc Sam Pateman (South Woodham Ferrers); Pc Paul Dines (Braintree); Pc Eric Turnbull (Colchester); Dc Paul Byrne (Southend); Pc John Berwick

(Waltham Abbey); Pc Mark Pearson (Southend) and Louise Parke (FIR). And the following all won 12in teddy bears donated by Benenden Healthcare; Anthony Richards (Basildon); Colin Wookey (Chelmsford); Dc Kelly Ebdon (HQ Crime); Owen Clements (Grays); Pc Lynda Morris (Dengie); Pc Keith Rowland (Colchester).

Protecting our valuable information

BY the end of the year all forces will have to comply with a revised Information Systems Community Security Policy as mandated by ACPO.

Information Security Officer Alain Ramjane and Information Security Officer Auditor Lee Scott have started a series of road shows to introduce the way Essex Police will have to comply so they can share information with other forces and agencies, knowing it will be treated with the same value.

Protective Marking is the method by which the originator of an information 'asset' indicates to others the level of protection required when handling it, in terms of its sensitivity, security, storage, movement both within and outside the originator's own department or force and its ultimate method of disposal.

Information assets include paper records, electronic data records, drawings, images, magnetic and optical media.

Mr Ramjane said the roadshows would tell people all about the Government scheme.

"All procedures under the new policy are very straightforward and computer-based training and support will be offered to all staff via the intranet," he said. "Safeguarding our valuable information assets needs to become second nature to all staff."

An aide memoir booklet explaining the scheme will be issued to everyone.

Volunteer searchers hit the spot

THE benefits of strong links between a voluntary search group and the force were demonstrated during the hunt for a vulnerable missing woman.

Essex Police has worked with Essex Lowland Search and Rescue Association (ELSARA) for the last two years, using the fully-trained volunteers to increase the force's search capacity.

ELSARA members are trained by the Mountain Rescue Association and can be called out by the Police Search Adviser (POLSA) in high-risk cases at any time of the day or night.

In June, officers in the Mountnessing area were called to search for a vulnerable woman in her 70s who had been missing for several hours.

On-call POLSA Pc Mark Challis quickly chose to involve the volunteer search team. He worked through the night with divisional officers and ELSARA members before the volunteers located the missing woman near her home the following morning.

Pc Challis said: "ELSARA members are worth their weight in gold."

"If more officers are aware that POLSAs can draw on resources like this, then decisions around searches can be made quickly and effectively."

Pounding the pavements for cancer charity funds

OFFICERS and police staff are putting their best foot forward this month to support the Breakthrough to Breast Cancer Charity Walk.

The 60km walk through London from September 23 to 25 will generate funds for research into breast cancer, which affects one in nine women in their lifetime.

Detention Officer Cathy Renew, of Grays, has lost close family members to cancer

including breast cancer.

Cathy said: "I am not the fittest of people but want to do this to help. I know it seems a long way but it is for a good charity and should be lots of fun."

Rayleigh MIT Investigating Officer Wendy Napper will also be treading the tarmac along with former constable Hayley Fusher, who was involved in a serious road crash when she was working

at Southend. Hoping that her training pays off, Hayley said: "I hope that you'll share this incredible adventure with me - by supporting me in my fund-raising efforts."

Laindon Community Liaison Officer Fiona Clements organised a night of live music, featuring The Most, and a tasty buffet at Rayleigh last month.

The evening raised £1,100 in addition to the sponsorship

money she has raised for her forthcoming part in pounding the pavements - she now has around £2,700.

Fiona said people attending also helped to save lives.

• All walkers have to raise a minimum of £1,500 to take part. Donations can be submitted via the website www.breakthroughweekend.org via the Essex Police team or the individual's name.

FIDO is an officer's best friend



• Handler Pc Paul Nicholls and dog trainer Pc Peter Beauchamp watch as six-year-old Sabre takes the new equipment in his stride Photo courtesy of the Essex Chronicle

THE Dog Section has a new best friend.

Firearms Intervention Dangerous Operations (FIDO) camera equipment means that handlers and their dogs can provide a much better service during police firearms operations.

The new lightweight kits mean the dogs - six have been trained to use FIDO - can move much more easily when searching for suspects. Everything relies upon a dog's natural inquisitiveness as their acute hearing will pick up the slightest noise and they turn their heads - plus camera - towards it.

And each kit comes with two monitors so the tactical firearms commander or Gold commander can keep abreast of the developing situation.

Sound is a new feature - so the handler can hear if anything is said to the dog while it is working. Sandon-based trainer Pc Peter Beauchamp said: "It gives firearms officers enormous confidence to enter a building after a dog has done a search."

Fear of crime is so low in our county

CONCERNS about crime levels, public safety and fear of crime are so low in Essex that the county has come out top nationally in three of six categories in an annual survey.

The British Crime Survey (BCS) measures perceptions in 42 forces in England and Wales. The force is also compared against the other forces within its 'family' of similar geography and demographics - Avon and Somerset, Derbyshire, Hertfordshire, Hampshire, Warwickshire and Cheshire.

So few respondents had experienced car either household crime or personal crime that Essex is sitting at the top of

by Kim Perks

both of these categories nationally. Likewise, levels of worry about car crime in Essex are the lowest in the country.

Essex fared extremely well in the other three categories: second for perceived levels of anti-social behaviour; fifth for worries about burglary; and tenth for worries about violent crime.

The county remains top of its 'family' table for anti-social behaviour and second in the burglary and violent crime 'family' tables.

Assistant Chief Constable Liam Briggins said: "We always strive to take a lead in making Essex safer and it is heartening to see from the survey responses that the people who live and

work in Essex feel we are succeeding in this mission.

"This survey was also conducted before we launched our Days of Action drive to increase detections and send a strong message to would-be criminals that we will not tolerate their actions.

"We have also pledged to bring more officers to the frontline and an ongoing review and restructure of current posts has already seen the first wave of 20 officers back on the frontline.

"We accept there is no room for complacency and that perceptions are influenced heavily by actual performance."

Mr Briggins said Essex Police would continue to provide the best policing service and improve in those areas where the community had concerns.

Taking the lead with persistent offenders

A SCHEME which monitors persistent and prolific offenders across the Basildon district has been commended for its good practice.

The Persistent and Prolific Offenders (PPO) scheme, set up by Basildon Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP), targets people who cause most problems.

Now the Home Office has identified it as the lead project in the region and wants to share 'best practice'.

Basildon CDRP, which includes housing, health, probation, education, fire and social services as well as the police, identified the top 20 adult offenders in the area and reviews their cases every fortnight.

The partnership developed a confidential data-sharing protocol, put structures and practices in place so members knew what their PPOs were doing and cut through bureaucracy to ensure a

streamlined process. And the simple idea of using different-coloured type for the different agencies in the partnership has proved very useful to identify the source of information at a glance.

Deputy Divisional Commander Supt Glenn Caton said: "This scheme has gathered momentum at a sensational rate because all agencies feel comfortable they can share data and it is acted upon confidentially.

"Each agency has a direct impact on the results we achieve and they all get feedback on them."

The PPO scheme started in October 2004 and by March 2005, ten of the adults were in prison. A month ago, four were in prison and three on bail five were in contact with drugs counselling and rehabilitation agency CDAS, one was on an intensive drug rehabilitation programme and two were interested in college courses.

Talking to youngsters reduces the problems

THE Safer Thurrock Partnership is tackling anti-social behaviour in one area with a new outlook.

After hearing about reports of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and nuisance youths in the Gardener Avenue area of Corringham, the partnership tried a new proactive approach.

A meeting was set up between parents of the young people causing problems, police, the Youth Offending Team (YOT) and the Housing Services ASB Team.

Anti-social behaviour, its consequences and implications were explained, as was ASB legislation.

Nine parents signed up to a 10-week parenting course and a meeting was then set up with the 25 youths said to be causing the problems.

During this meeting, four young delegates were elected by their peers to work with the agencies to offer ideas and to help progress plans for activities they want to see and do in Thurrock.

ASB figures for the area reduced by 63 per cent in the three months to July.

Andy Meyer, of the ASB team said: "The action taken so far has clearly had a dramatic effect. Nuisance youths hanging around streets is the biggest complaint we receive and the young people complain there is nothing to do. What we are doing now is trying to put the right things in place."

And Sgt Chris Mullin, of Corringham Community Policing Team, said: "This early intervention with the parents restores the parental control.

"This, combined with formal meetings with the children, informing them of the effect their behaviour is having on their local community, has, as figures show, had a dramatic effect."

Susanna Cairn-Neeson, the YOT Parenting Support Officer, added: "Anti-social behaviour and dispersal orders are great for tackling hardcore anti-social behaviour but our approach is aimed at solving the problem and not pushing it somewhere else."

The idea will now be rolled out across the Thurrock Division.

• Parenting meetings are available for those wanting extra help. Contact the YOT on 01375 652652 ext 4900

Are you safe on the road?

FOR just £40 motorcyclists can brush up on their skills in time for autumn.

Bikesafe Essex has three workshops this month which aim to reduce the number of riders killed or seriously injured on the county's roads.

Participants will spend at least four hours on the road.

• For details and to sign up, visit the website www.essex.police.uk/bikesafe

