

# The Law



www.essex.police.uk

November 2005

Chief Constable says police stations must be more accessible

## OPEN MORE HOURS

## AND BETTER TIMES



● PCSO Louise Webb on patrol Picture by Denise Harvey

### Praise for pair who put in a little extra

IT was all in a day's work but the way PCSO Louise Webb and Pc John Phelan dealt with an elderly couple following a distraction burglary at their Harlow home certainly lessened what was a nasty experience.

John said that when they arrived, the couple were very upset. He helped to calm the husband down while Louise chatted to his wife and made cups of tea.

Then they tidied up – the burglars had ransacked the bedroom – to lessen the couple's distress.

The couple's son, Bob Hodgson, is a community advisor both for the Metropolitan Police and Centrex.

Because of their actions, he said in an email to Louise and to Assistant Chief Constable Andy Bliss, 'what could have had a nasty impact on an old and frail couple had actually been turned into a positive experience for them both'.

Praising the pair's actions, Mr Hodgson said: "I use the example of your response to my Mum and Dad as a classic example of what good policing should be.

"When I went over after the burglary to 'pick up the pieces', expecting them both to have been adversely affected by the event, I asked Mum what had happened.

"She started telling me that 'nice

Louise made us a cup of tea ...', 'they really took care of us ...'."

When Mr Hodgson asked about the burglary, his mother said: "Oh, that was before. Then we looked at all the photo albums ..."

Sadly, Mr Hodgson's mother died a few weeks later but he said that, thanks to Louise, she had had the opportunity to go through 93 years of memories in her photograph albums for one last time before her death. John – now with Hertfordshire Police – said: "I think this incident had a strange effect on me, and on Louise. We did our jobs but we put that extra little effort into it. I certainly enjoyed the company of his parents."

**THE opening hours of police stations countywide have been extended as part of Chief Constable Roger Baker's plans to give the public the service it wants.**

Divisions will have extended the hours at some of their rural police stations – and, in some cases, re-opened them – by the end of this month.

Mr Baker said the public wanted an increase in visible policing and face-to-face contact and that is what they will get.

"Police stations are an important part of the community and give a lot of reassurance to the community when they are open," said Mr Baker.

"The public needs to know they are accessible."

Having police stations open 9am-5pm on weekdays clearly did not satisfy the needs of Essex residents and so it was time to extend opening hours at those not open 24/7.

"We have extended opening hours over a good number of them and in some cases we have re-opened them," said Mr Baker.

"People have worked hard within Essex Police to make this possible, particularly the people facilitating those extended opening hours so I thank them, on behalf of the public.

"Feedback from the public is that they would like police stations to be open, putting their needs first and making them feel safe.

"This is just the beginning of us looking at how we can improve the accessibility of policing services in Essex," said Mr Baker.

And Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers said he was delighted the force would be opening police stations for longer.

"This is what the public have repeatedly told us they want

and I am pleased we are able to deliver it," he said.

Colchester division is re-opening front desks at five of its stations – Ipswich Road, Shrub End, Wivenhoe, Tiptree and Mersea – and increasing opening hours at Copford.

This is an extra 12 hours per week and a total of 180 hours a week for the division.

Opening times at Pitsea, Laindon and Billericay police stations have been increased by 16 hours a week – the total number of hours all five stations in the Basildon division are open is now 300 a week.

In Chelmsford division, Maldon and South Woodham Ferrers police stations will be open an extra 15 hours a week, making a total of 249 for the division.

Additions to opening hours at Shoebury and Leigh police stations mean Southend division opening times have risen 15 hours a week to a total of 183.

In Thurrock, South Ockendon and Corringham police stations will open an extra 20 hours a week, giving a total of 188 hours a week for the division.

Dunmow, Halstead, Saffron Walden and Witham police stations benefit from an additional 33.5 hours a week, giving a total of 242 hours a week for the Braintree division.

Harlow has an extra ten hours' opening at Ongar and Waltham Abbey, meaning the seven stations in the division are now open for 697 hours a week.

Canvey Island Police Station – in the Rayleigh division – will now be open 365 days of the year. Opening times will be confirmed at a later date.

Tendring division already has two police stations – Clacton and Harwich – open 24/7 operationally and is making no changes to opening hours at Brightlingsea, Mistley and Walton on the Naze.

● For details of all the new opening hours, and when they come into force, visit [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk) click on news and then on news archive and look for 'Longer opening hours for police stations (October 31)'



# Rights on joining the NCS

## OFFICERS joining the National Crime Squad from Essex Police will automatically be transferred to the Serious Organised Crime Agency on April 1.

On transfer, they will have a choice either to accept the terms – which are intended broadly to reflect the terms and conditions of appointment they will enjoy as an NCS direct recruit or, alternatively, new SOCA terms and conditions of employment.

The Federation has been in consultation with SOCA about the terms and conditions which will apply for those who don't wish to accept the new SOCA terms and conditions but who would rather remain on the broadly-comparable terms – which we describe as the SOCA transfer terms.

Whereas much progress has been made, there remain several areas where the Federation is concerned about the current draft SOCA transfer terms.

It is important to emphasise that the decision as to whether to accept direct recruitment from the NCS is a matter for individuals. They must make a decision based on the information published by NCS and SOCA.

### Areas of concern

But the Federation has identified some of areas of concern which remain.

For those who accept direct recruitment from the NCS, then:

Terms and conditions, whilst within the NCS, will be as they are now – governed by the Police Regulations and determinations made thereunder:

- An officer will remain a member

of the Police Pension Scheme (PPS)

- Following transfer to SOCA, an officer will be eligible to remain a member of the existing Police Pension Scheme

- Following transfer to SOCA an officer will become an employee of SOCA on the SOCA transfer terms – unless they elect to accept the new SOCA terms – and terms and conditions will be governed by the contract of employment with SOCA and not, therefore, the Police Regulations 2003 and determinations made thereunder.

The Federation understands that a copy of the current draft of the SOCA Transfer Terms is available on the NCS intranet. There is, as yet, no legally-binding commitment for SOCA to make these terms available from April 1, although SOCA has made clear that is its intention, subject to further amendments to the draft.

### Direct recruitment

SOCA has sought to encourage officers to become direct recruits of NCS, in effect, on the basis of trust. It acknowledges that the SOCA transfer terms and conditions are not yet finalised.

The Federation has made representations to SOCA about the inadequacy of this position but, regrettably, at the time of writing, the deadline to accept the NCS offer of direct recruitment remained October 21.

If an officer decides not to accept the offer of direct recruitment with the NCS they will remain a secondee within NCS from their parent home force.

Unless the officer has previously returned to their home force, from April 1 they may compulsorily be seconded to SOCA – although still remaining a member of their current home force, to which they would return once the secondment

ended.

However, if the officer subsequently wanted to join SOCA as an employee, they would need to resign from their home force and would join on SOCA terms and conditions – not SOCA transfer terms.

They would not then be eligible to remain as a member of the existing PPS as a SOCA employee but would be eligible to join SOCA's pension scheme.

In determining whether or not to accept the offer of direct recruitment, it may be a good idea to consider the following:

On transfer from NCS to SOCA, an officer will remain eligible to be a member of the PPS. The Federation's understanding is that if the officer then chooses to leave SOCA and rejoin their home force, they would need to join the new – and *not* the existing – PPS, although this is the subject of clarification being sought from SOCA.

### Negotiation

Whereas the officer would remain entitled to the same pay immediately following transfer – and be on the same pay scales – increases in those pay scales are currently the subject of negotiation and there won't therefore be automatic uplifts as for members remaining employed under the Police Regulations and determinations.

Following transfer, officers will no longer be subject to either the conduct or efficiency regulations. Different disciplinary and efficiency procedures are being prepared, which are materially different and provide less protection than the current position.

SOCA has intimated, however, that if the matter needs to be considered by the Independent Police Complaints Commission, then, and only then, the procedures may provide the same protections as

exist under the disciplinary regulations.

### Still waiting

The Federation is still awaiting a copy of the updated draft discipline procedure.

Whereas the employment of a member of a home force can only be terminated on grounds of age, medical retirement or following and pursuant to the procedures under the conduct/ efficiency regulations, once an officer is a SOCA employee their employment can be terminated for other reasons, including redundancy or on the provision of three months' prior written notice.

Whereas officers will have the right not to be dismissed unfairly and can progress a complaint through an Employment Tribunal, it is very rare indeed that an Employment Tribunal orders re-instatement/re-engagement if the claim is successful and any compensation is subject – in most cases – to a statutory maximum.

### Dismissed for any reason

Hence SOCA could dismiss an officer for any reason, although, depending on the procedures used by it or the reason, a compensation claim could be pursued although there would be little, if any, prospect of re-instatement/re-engagement being ordered.

Whereas SOCA has indicated that its seeking to put in place a scheme to compensate transferees in the event that they are to be dismissed on grounds of redundancy, the current provision in the draft contract would provide no legally-binding entitlement to any sum – and is therefore inadequate.

The Federation has raised this with SOCA.

The contract currently seeks to preserve entitlement to replacement allowance – ie the equivalent of a housing/transitional rent allowance

– as payable at March 31, 2006 and would not, therefore, lead to any changes in the event of a change in personal circumstances thereafter.

In the current draft, SOCA appears to have reserved its right to change normal hours of work, rather than being in a position to require officers, without changing those normal hours, to work longer hours from time to time but on a temporary basis. The Federation is challenging this.

### Permanent move

SOCA may, after consultation with officers, require them to move permanently to another place of work anywhere in the UK, although they will be compensated/reimbursed with relocation and removal costs, subject to compliance with the SOCA redeployment and relocation assistance policy.

Special Priority Payments will be payable for 2006 if officers are in receipt of the same immediately prior to April 1, 2006.

After that date, a scheme of retention payments is being introduced, although no commitment has yet been made that the overall value of these will reflect the value of Special Priority Payments payable prior to April 1, 2006.

Once an officer has taken up direct employment with SOCA – rather than being seconded – they will no longer be eligible as a member of the Police Federation. SOCA has indicated that it will be negotiating collectively with a trade union representing direct employees of SOCA, although we don't think a decision has yet been made as to which union.

If you are working part-time, or would wish to work part-time on transfer terms, the terms and conditions applicable have yet to be finalised.

## Your calls help tackle criminal behaviour

SINCE Harlow's Action Area launch earlier this year, nearly 400 calls have come through to the It's Your Call line – 0845 605 2222.

This number was set up as an easy way for the public to report ongoing anti-social behaviour and is used by most Action Areas around the country.

And town residents have also responded to the fight against crime, with latest figures showing that burglaries in the area have halved during the past three years, with burglaries of garages, sheds and businesses reducing by almost a quarter.

Dealing with anti-social behaviour and burglary are top priorities for The Safer Harlow Partnership, which has 50 objectives under its action area TOGETHER programme.

And police in Harlow have been offering essential crime reduction advice.

## Business crime scheme wins national award

POLICE involvement in the new Braintree Against Retail and Business Crime organisation has helped it to win a national Safer Business Award – the first to be presented in Essex.

The retail organisation's 45 members work with police to share intelligence and deter crime and anti-social behaviour.

- From left: Insp Luke Collison, David Leigh, regional advisor on Action Against Business Crime, who presented the award, Brenda Baker, chairman of Braintree Against Retail and Business Crime, and Pc Mark Railton, the scheme's police liaison officer



## There's no hot air at new STORM user-group meetings

STORM user-group meetings are being resurrected in order to share best practice and improve methods of usage.

Regular consultation meetings petered out about 18 months ago but have now been revived – the first was due to be

held on November 7, chaired by the force's Incident Registrar, Pauline Shaw.

Analysts, researchers, service desk supervisors are welcome at the meetings and will be joined by IT Application Administrator Dave Wickins, Rhys

Lovegrove, of NMIS Business Development, Crime Registrar Jackie Hammond and reps from FIR and EPTC.

• To attend future meetings, contact Pauline Shaw via email or on ext 52955

## Our PEPYS shows it can deliver

THE Proactive Essex Police Youth Strategy (PEPYS) Project has been presented with the Delivery Partner Award at an awards ceremony organised by the Prince's Trust.

The PEPYS project has been working in partnership with the Prince's Trust to employ an outreach worker, Lynn Worrall, in the Thurrock area. She forms a local contact for young people on behalf of both PEPYS and the Prince's Trust and her work includes consulting and engaging young people with PEPYS and schemes run by the Prince's Trust.

• MEMBERS of the PEPYS youth forum have been invited to write a monthly opinion column in the *Essex Chronicle*. Watch out for it soon!

PEPYS Public Relations Officer Ruth Collin said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for young people to share their views and experiences with the public. We hope this will improve some people's perceptions of young people."

## Tug's Dad inspires new book on our volunteers

A NEW book written in tribute to nine Southend officers who lost their lives during World War One is being published to coincide with Remembrance Day. *In Search Of Tug's Dad* has been written by former Deputy Chief Constable Jim Dickinson. Mr Dickinson met Wilfred George (Tug) Wilson in 2002 at a re-dedication of the memorial of police officers in Southend who were killed during World War One. Tug's father, Alfred Wilson, was one of the constables killed during the war, however Tug knew little of the circumstances of his father's death. By coincidence, the following week Mr Dickinson was to visit France and offered to photograph the memorial on which Tug's father was commemorated. *In Search Of Tug's Dad* features tales of all nine Southend officers.

Mr Dickinson, who joined the Southend-on-Sea Borough Police in 1968 and retired from Essex Police in 1997, said: "Tug's father, Alfred Wilson, joined Southend Police on March 10, 1915. "Just nine months after joining the police he volunteered to enlist with the 16th Rifle Brigade." By February 1916, he had moved to northern France with the 39th Division. In 1917, as part of the XVIII Corps and as a Lance Sergeant, Alfred, 27, fought in the Third Battle of Ypres, where, on September 20, close to the Menin Road he gave his life.

• Mr Dickinson is now researching Essex and Colchester Constabulary officers who were killed during World War One. He would like to hear from any relatives or anyone with more information or photographs on 01702 585657  
• To order one of the 500 copies of *In Search Of Tug's Dad*, costing £5, contact the Essex Police Museum on 01245 457150 or from Terry Spelman in the Federation office on 01245 452798. All profits will be donated to the Essex Police Memorial Trust.

● Pc Lee Heaton is helping to crack down on graffiti artists in the Brentwood area



## His war on graffiti proves a success

BRENTWOOD and nearby villages have suffered an increase in criminal damage since the start of the year, most of which was caused by unsightly graffiti. On many occasions a clear association was made between the graffiti and a rising level of complaints regarding nuisance youths and anti-social behaviour. After officers gathered evidence and obtained intelligence – including taking photos of each graffiti tag for a database – in April Pc Lee Heaton was able to start cracking down on those identified

as being involved. Four months later, 17 arrests had been made, resulting in 131 offences of criminal damage caused by graffiti being detected in the area. Pc Heaton said: "Residents and businesses are constantly giving us good information. This information is vital and has helped lead to further suspects being identified." "There is still a long way to go in this campaign and anyone out there who thinks they have got away with this type of damage will be proved wrong in the very near future."

# National plans for larger police forces

**FOUR proposals for merging Essex Police with neighbouring police forces have been put forward to the Home Office.**

Home Secretary Charles Clarke has asked all forces countywide to prepare proposals for the creation of strategic forces because it is felt that having 43 police forces in England and Wales is no longer the best way to tackle certain types of crime.

So, these larger forces will be better able to deal effectively with major, serious, organised and cross-border crime, terrorism, public order and strategic roads policing.

The proposed minimum strength for a force under the plans is 4,000 police officers – and up to 6,000 police officers and staff, in total. Essex currently has approximately 3,200 officers.

An initial report has been sent to the Home Secretary outlining the following options:

1 Creating a regional force



● Chief Constable Roger Baker

by merging all six East Anglian forces – Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Norfolk  
2 Amalgamating Essex Police with Suffolk and Norfolk  
3 Amalgamating Essex Police with Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire  
4 Continuing the status quo with Essex as a standalone force.

The preferred and final option must be submitted to the Home Office by December 23.

Both Chief Constable Roger Baker and Essex Police

Authority chairman Robert Chambers said in a joint statement that any proposal by the force would emphasise the need to deliver an improved service to the public.

Mr Baker said: "An instruction from the Home Office to review force structures regionally is an even greater chance to build on our success. These are very exciting challenges for a successful and ambitious force.

"It's also true that these things cause uncertainty, and sometimes anxiety, and will cause us to reflect on some other areas where we had planned to move forward.

"However, Essex Police will minimise this by making sure that it informs people all the way along the line – involving staff and staff associations, the public and partners."

And Mr Chambers added it was a top priority for Essex to have the best local policing in the country.

The police authority, he said, wanted all options properly considered 'to make sure that any changes will bring benefits and are not just change for change's sake'.

If the Government decides to go ahead with any

amalgamations, they would be implemented within the next 18 to 30 months.

The Home Secretary has asked all forces to consider any planned major investments in the light of possible amalgamations.

This means that Essex Police's Contact Management Programme accommodation project – including a new-build contact centre – has been put on hold until at least the end of the year.

Chief Constable Roger Baker said: "We are still committed to the Contact Management Programme vision and the other three strands of the project will continue to be developed.

"These include the crime bureau, which will aim to provide feedback to callers at every key stage of an investigation, and incident management work, which will improve our quality of service for non-emergency incidents ensuring a prompt local effective service to our community."

Mr Baker added: "We need to look at our options for the force nationally before we press ahead with the accommodation plan."

## Four options for internal restructuring

ESSEX Police is also examining its internal structure in order to streamline itself and help to return an extra 200 officers to frontline duties by March 31.

Four proposals will be considered by members of Essex Police Authority at their meeting on Monday, December 5, and a decision is expected.

The options are:

- 1 Four divisions plus Stansted Airport
- 2 Five divisions plus Stansted
- 3 Six divisions plus Stansted
- 4 Keep the current structure of nine divisions plus Stansted

At the time of printing, responses to these options have been received from the public, local politicians and partners. The debate is ongoing.

Other initiatives are also being developed to deliver Neighbourhood Policing, so that residents know who is their local police officer and how to get in touch.

This early work has put the force ahead of the national agenda – and will ensure that both our local restructure and the national work is co-ordinated.

Whatever the result of the internal restructure, we must deliver better services, said Chief Constable Roger Baker.

# Door closes on criminals ... and mini-moto riders

UNWANTED or bogus doorstep traders will soon be history in parts of mid-Essex following the introduction of No Cold-Calling Zones.

Residents will no longer be subjected to cold-calling salespeople after Essex Police teamed up with Trading Standards and Chelmer Housing Partnership to implement the new initiative in Chelmsford.

The zones (NCCZs) are high-visibility schemes which can also be implemented in areas of private homes.

Residents can contact a special number when they receive unwanted traders on their doorstep.

Permanent signs are put up in NCCZs to warn potential cold-callers or bogus traders that they are not welcome.

Each resident is issued with an information pack which highlights the procedure when a trader infringes the zone.

Assistant Chief Constable Liam Brigginsaw is confident the multi-agency approach will 'put bogus callers on the back foot'.

"We're breaking barriers with this new scheme," said Mr Brigginsaw. "Some initiatives are set up and left alone but we will be keeping in close contact with these residents. We patrol the areas

regularly and re-visit residents who feel vulnerable."

A survey of residents in Andrew's Place, considered to be one of the county's hotspots found those aged between 59 and 95 felt most at risk, with the majority having already been victims to bogus doorstep traders with jewellery and money stolen.

Mr Brigginsaw said vulnerable people often opened their doors to such people 'because they are lonely and look for anyone to talk to'.

NCCZs are due to be introduced in Margaretting, Stock and Writtle by the end of the year.

A COURT has sent out a powerful message in support of police efforts to curb the mini-motorbike menace.

For Chelmsford magistrates ordered one of the novelty vehicles to be destroyed.

Kelvin Tan, 25, from Witham, was caught riding a mini-moto on the highway illegally by PCSO Charlotte Pearce. Pc Jeff Moye, of Bocking Road Policing Unit, then took on the investigation.

At Chelmsford Magistrates' Court last month, the rider pleaded guilty to using the vehicle on the highway with no insurance, no protective headgear, no registration plate, no brake lights, no warning instrument, no speedometer and two defective tyres.

He was fined £250, with £35 costs and seven points on his driving licence, and the court issued a destruction order for the mini-moto.

Strong media coverage of the case was welcomed by Braintree division, where a

campaign is under way against the danger and nuisance of these vehicles.

A Braintree Community Safety Partnership advertising promotion is to be launched soon, on buses serving the area.

Pc Moye said: "We have received many complaints from the public about the danger and nuisance caused by mini-motos and we have a duty to protect people and also those who put themselves at risk by riding inappropriately.

"We shall continue to take action and we have power to confiscate them without going to court if this is warranted.

"Parents considering buying one for a child should be mindful of this."

Such vehicles can normally only be ridden on private property, subject to the owner's permission. Riders could face the chance of being sued for injuries and/or criminal damage if an accident occurs and parents are responsible if a vehicle is seized from their child.

# 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.

## Memory research may help to understand

WE are a group of researchers from University College London interested in your memories of difficult life events from many years ago.

We know that, for some people, memories of these events resurface again and have an impact in later life.

If you are over 65 and have experienced any very difficult life event which you no longer think about much or which has resurfaced again and is currently on your mind, we would like to hear from you.

The event could be anything which was challenging at the time, eg being in combat, having a life-threatening illness, a vehicle accident, a fire, being assaulted or being imprisoned.

The study will take place either at the Kings Wood Centre in the grounds of Colchester General Hospital or in your own home, whichever you would prefer.

To find out more, please contact me on 07732 123387, by emailing sydhiskey@hotmail.com or by writing to me at the address below.

**Dr Syd Hiskey**  
Sub-department of  
Clinical Health  
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## An Operation Lager reunion is proposed

I AM currently in the process of trying to organise a 30-year reunion in 2008 for anyone who was involved with Operation Lager, a criminal investigation which ran from 1978 to 1983.

I was a member of the team involved in this most successful and special investigation which led to many friendships being cemented.

I also intend to invite the Kent and Dutch officers involved, along with Pam from the DPP, the prosecution team, Chelmsford magistrates' clerk Harold Leach and any others whom Essex team members think appropriate.

The reunion will be held at Police HQ, probably on a Friday or Saturday evening.

A buffet will be provided and the anticipated cost is about £20 per person.

To establish that I will get support and whether this idea is worth pursuing, please would you either telephone me on 01376 584873 or email me at tarby69@tiscali.co.uk

**Barry Tarbun**  
Braintree

## Keep consulting, drop bureaucracy

I WAS pleased to see that Chief Constable Roger Baker is extending consultation with stakeholders further than ever before.

He has arrived and made his mark like no other before him and the proof of the pudding will be now whether he listens to people and puts their views into action.

It is bound to include

reopening of rural beats, more walking, high-visibility policing where youths gather and cause nuisance and paying attention to things like parking and cycling on footpaths and dropping litter without regard for others.

In other words, day-to-day stuff that gets up people's noses – deal with the minor matters first otherwise

'silence implies assent'.

Mr Baker identifies jobs for the boys – and girls – as going and more 'real police work' being undertaken by everyone else.

Unfortunately this is then undermined by a Divisional Commander going to the Home Office as a Temporary Assistant Chief Constable to head up a Bureaucracy Task

Force – whatever that is – and perpetuating more of the same.

Can this be giving taxpayers value for money and shouldn't someone independent be carrying out such a survey to establish and conclude what hundreds of us have known for years?

**Bob Miller**  
Springfield Green

## Haven't I seen re-organisation before?

I READ with interest that consultations will soon start with a view to perhaps reduce the number for the force's divisions from nine to six.

When I joined the Essex force in the early 1960s, there were, I think, ten divisions. About 15 years later, after much consultation, the number was reduced to six.

In 1990, when I retired, after another 15 years – and two years' consultation – a committee recommended that the number be increased to the present nine divisions.

Now, it seems, it might well be going back to six again!

There is, I humbly suggest, an alternative to this expansion or contraction

every 15 years – give divisions a different name, call them something different.

**Roy Clark**  
**Horringer**  
**Suffolk**

• *Editor's note:* Four proposals will be considered by members of Essex Police

Authority at their meeting on Monday, December 5:

- 1 Four divisions plus Stansted Airport
- 2 Five divisions plus Stansted Airport
- 3 Six divisions plus Stansted Airport
- 4 Keep the current structure of nine divisions plus Stansted Airport.

# Everyone has a right to live without fear

**IN response to Steve Card's letter (The Law, October issue) regarding not being expected to be given time off work, to attend parades or meetings to celebrate being heterosexual:**

Have you ever walked around with a partner and had to risk-assess any physical contact or even the fact of speaking as if you were together – with the fear/knowing that if the wrong person were to overhear your conversation or see you have any contact, you could be seriously assaulted or even, God forbid, murdered?

Parading is very important for many gay people; it is their opportunity to show that it is OK to be openly gay without fear of violence or prejudice.

As for meetings, we attend these to discuss relevant issues within the force

and how we can reassure our gay communities when they feel vulnerable, as well as help colleagues who are still harassed and bullied on a daily basis because narrow-minded individuals do not think lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgendered (LGBT) people are entitled to equal rights.

With regards to John Beckett's comments (The Law October issue) regarding what goes on in the bedroom has no place at work:

Firstly, one's sexual orientation has little to do with sex. If a gay man or woman did nothing in their bedroom except interior design, would they still be gay? I think so.

Similarly, if you have a celibate heterosexual would they still be heterosexual?

It's important to lose the preconception that being LGBT is about antics in the bedroom.

LGBT people who wish to be open about their sexual orientation, whether at work or at home, should be able to do

so without the fear of being disadvantaged, abused, harassed or having their personal safety put in jeopardy.

By engaging *all* our communities – ethnic minority, LGBT or, for that matter, pensioners – we can provide the best service by truly understanding the people we serve.

I disagree that policing standards are slipping – we are understanding our communities more, getting better detections and more arrests, and the minority communities' confidence in our abilities are increasing, which will, no doubt, assist with more reports of hate crime, thus enabling us to see the full picture of what is going on within Essex so we can show the public that there is no place in Essex for people who wish to persecute minority groups.

**Jack Coles**  
Force co-ordinator  
Gay Police Association

• *Editor's note:* These letters are the last correspondence on this subject.

## Thanks for support with fundraiser

I WRITE to say a massive thank you to all the fantastic people who supported the rock 'n' roll blues night on October 7 at Eight Ash Green, near Colchester, in order raise funds for Market Field School.

Not only was it great fun in good company, it also raised in excess of £2,000 – unbelievable.

On a personal note, I have to say the band, Bluenote, was great and the 'banter' was first-rate too.

Once again, many thanks to all involved. The money will help us to support a vast array of activities in the coming months.

**Gary Smith**  
Headteacher  
Market Field School  
Elmstead Market

## Treat minority groups as our equals

I REFER to the letters of both Steve Card and John Becket in the October issue of The Law.

I must admit, having followed the story, I cannot understand why there is a need for these splinter groups.

I thought the Police Federation represented all members of the police service and did a good job.

I also fail to understand why the Chief Constable has allowed these groups to exist, other than as ordinary members of the Police Federation.

**John Graham**  
Brixham  
Devon

## A rip-roaring read through farm riots

MICK Holland retired from Essex Police in 1991 and turned his attention to teaching and researching local history. His interest in the agricultural riots of 1830 to 1832 saw him appointed academic adviser to a national research project into what are commonly known as the Swing Riots.

And he has now edited a collection of essays – *Swing Unmasked* is based on incidents in Essex and other rural counties, with details of victims and protesters listed.

• The book costs £16.50, plus £3.50 p+p from FACHRS Publications, West Hill, Aspley Guise, Milton Keynes MK1 8DP or visit [www.fachrs.com](http://www.fachrs.com)

## Gone . . . but not forgotten

**Sgt John Harvey Essex County Constabulary**  
Served from November 30, 1885 – Died January 5, 1894

Sgt John Harvey served in the West Riding of Yorkshire before transferring to Essex in 1885. He was posted to Ardleigh the following January and promoted to sergeant on October 1, 1891.

He had a wife and three children and, at the time he died, his wife was again pregnant.

On January 4, 1894, Sgt Harvey made some inquiries on his beat and patrolled for some distance with one of his constables.

He was last seen by that constable at about 7.30pm.

The following morning his body was found head-first down a well in the snow-covered garden of a cottage in Ardleigh; his watch had stopped at 8.21.

He had suffered facial injuries but it could not be determined with certainty how they had been caused and it has never been proved whether Sgt Harvey fell or whether he was pushed.



• Sgt John Harvey

**For details of all those featured in the Essex Police Roll of Honour visit the Memorial Trust website at [www.essex.police.uk/memorial](http://www.essex.police.uk/memorial)**  
**If you have any information you feel could be added to the website email [memorialtrust@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:memorialtrust@essex.pnn.police.uk) or write to the Memorial Trust at police headquarters.**

## Corner the chairman



● Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers

## Nearing the end on internal restructuring

“We are nearly at the end of our consultation with the public on force restructuring. We have been very encouraged by the feedback so far and we are positive that we can offer a better standard of service to Essex residents by choosing one of the three options identified. We will have a firm decision on this next month after we have gathered all the comments from the public, local partners, Unison, the Police Federation and the Supts' Association. The police authority and the Chief Constable believe that we can only improve the service if we reduce our number of divisions.

Any of the three options being considered will improve visible policing and face-to-face contact with the public as well as giving us the capabilities to deal with critical incidents 24/7. We are also pressing ahead with our internal restructure to be the frontrunner for the national amalgamation proposals.

All forces nationwide have been given three months to state their case to the Government. We will be taking an assertive lead and proposing the best option for the people of Essex. Currently we are looking at four options:

- Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk
- Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire
- All of the above plus Cambridgeshire
- Essex to stand alone

If we are merged with other forces it will not affect our internal structure plans. There may be short-term cost implications but, as authorities, we shall be fighting for the Government to pay its share of those short-term costs so the Essex tax-payer will not be penalised.

We understand it is an uncertain time but, be assured, we are working towards building on the solid foundations we had here before Mr Baker arrived and are now pushing the boundaries even further, to deliver higher-quality policing to the people we are duty-bound to serve.”

- We have received several questions about restructuring which we hope we have answered within this column.
- If you have any further questions on this topic or any other, then please contact Kate Batson, Press and PR Officer, Essex Police Authority, at HQ Press Office. Mr Chambers will select some to reply to next month.

# Leading the way in cross-border data

ESSEX Police are in the vanguard of sharing electronic command and control incident data safely, effectively and efficiently between forces.

IT services company Steria has linked up with Essex Police to design and deliver a cross-border data exchange method for information from the STORM command and control system.

Force IT Application

Administration Manager Daniel Demonakis said cross-border collaboration was the 'way forward' for UK policing and Steria's system – produced as a series of test and development sessions with Dave Wickins, IT Application Administrator – was at the heart of this.

“It is entirely necessary in allowing forces to work together to take a more holistic view of an individual

crime or incident and tackle it in the most effective way.

“The need to share mission-critical incident data has never been greater,” said Mr Demonakis.

Most police forces pass data about incidents to other forces via e-mail, fax or phone.

But Steria's Cross-Border Exchange Interface Module allows Force Information Room staff to transmit

incident data electronically via the dedicated police secure communications network CJX and to other suppliers' software.

So Essex Police will soon have the potential to pass data to more than 30 UK police forces and the Highways Agency – increasingly important with the proposed mergers of some police forces and the centralisation of motorway policing.

Outlining other benefits, Mr Demonakis said it would reduce the need for re-keying in data – eliminating the possibility of mistakes – there would be low implementation and support costs and CAD operators would not need re-training.

Steria has worked with Essex Police since 1998 and also works with 15 other UK forces providing the STORM command and control system.

- From top, Louise Simpson, Sgt Ian Carter, Insp Kevan Griggs and Jenny Portway winners of excellence awards



● Jacqueline Tyrrell, Gaynor Forster, Alison Howe and Charlotte Knowler receive their certificates from Jenny Tolhurst, High Sheriff of Essex

# Recognition for being the best at their jobs

## POLICE officers and staff have been rewarded for 'going that extra mile' at the first Essex Justice Awards.

The awards were set up by Essex Criminal Justice Board to recognise people who demonstrate their commitment to improving the criminal justice system.

And four awards were collected by members of the force from the High Sheriff of Essex, Jenny Tolhurst.

Chief Supt Graeme Bull, head of the Criminal Justice Department, said: “These awards not only recognise the hard work and effort put in by those concerned but also demonstrate the determination of Essex Police as part of the prosecution team to deliver a quality service to the people of Essex.”

### Awards for excellence

Louise Simpson, of the Criminal Justice Unit in Colchester, was recognised for her attitude and for leading by example when caring for victims and witnesses of crime. She has inspired staff countywide to improve performance and their own standards of support to victims and witnesses.

Proactive Essex Police Youth Strategy (PEPYS) project leader Sgt Ian Carter gained his award for his work on the Independent Advisory Group, improving links between young people and police.

A success has been the change to the process of Reprimands and Warnings for young offenders, reducing the incidents of re-offending, by making young people aware of the consequences of their actions to victims.

Insp Kevan Griggs, of the Criminal Justice Command Team, and senior



● Witham Special, Melanie Harmer

prosecutor Jenny Portway both received awards for their partnership working across the criminal justice system.

Insp Griggs, as area co-ordinator for the National Charging Programme, was closely involved with a number of forces with the move towards Statutory Charging for Essex – said to be the single biggest change to affect the police service since the introduction of PACE.

While Jenny undertook the training on Statutory Charging of all CPS prosecutors and a range of police personnel – six out of the ten Essex Police divisions are now operating the Pre-Statutory scheme and the rest are set to start soon.

### Commendations

Colchester PCSOs Jacqueline Tyrrell, Gaynor Forster, Alison Howe and Charlotte Knowler received certificates of commendation for their public reassurance work in Colchester town centre.

They have assisted, and had a pivotal role, in more than 50 arrests and contributed to successful prosecutions.

And a Southend acupuncturist received certificate of commendation

for his work with offenders after he was nominated by one of the force's drug arrest referral workers.

Lee Player, assistant manager and senior acupuncturist from Southend Night Shelter, was put forward by Neil Watkins, the senior practitioner arrest referral worker at Southend custody suite.

### Work with homeless

Mr Watkins said: “The award was in recognition of Lee's work with the homeless and treating substance misuse offenders at Heroin and Crack Cocaine acupuncture drop-ins four afternoons a week.”

● A SPECIAL Constable from Witham has won a top honour for her work after being called to deal with a suicide on a railway line.

Melanie Harmer received the Norman Dooley Trophy from the Essex Lord Lieutenant, Lord Petre, in front of Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark at Shire Hall, Chelmsford.

### Meritorious act

The trophy is awarded to the Special deemed to have carried out the most meritorious act of the year, in honour of the late Special Supt Dooley, of the Southend Western Division.

Sc Harmer was called to Motts Lane Crossing in Witham on April 7, to an incident involving a train, along with regular officers.

She checked on the train driver's welfare and relayed the details to fellow officers – vital in identifying that the incident has been a suicide – before walking him away to ensure he did not see the victim.

She was said to have 'displayed a high level of professionalism during an extremely difficult and demanding incident.

## Old habits die hard for a detective

ONCE a detective, always a detective ...

A former senior detective was walking his dog when he came across about 50 boxes of rubbish dumped in a lane.

Old habits die hard – he collected some papers with company headings and a sample of items dumped and returned the next day to video the evidence.

His work concluded successfully when a man pleaded guilty at Southend Magistrates' Court to being the owner of the vehicle used for the unlawful disposal of waste, was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £1,000 costs to the Environment Agency.

The man had been contracted to clear a shed and its contents and employed two casual staff to do it.

Despite paying them enough money to take the rubbish to a registered tip and allowing them to use his van for the job, the waste was fly-tipped.

The defendant refused to name the two men in court and faced the penalty, as he was held ultimately responsible.

After the case, the Environment Agency said that without the former detective's statement and evidence 'we wouldn't have been able to locate the man, let alone get a conviction'.

## Looking at youth crime

CHAIRMAN of the ACPO Youth Issues Group Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark represented Essex Police at its annual Youth Justice Conference in Belfast.

Speaking there were Pc Andrea Prout and Julia Hennessey from the Braintree Children's Trust, a multi-agency team dealing with early intervention and prevention services for children and young people, from birth to 19 years. Essex is unique in having a police officer on the scheme.

Delegates examined the key issues that have had a real impact on youth crime at a local and national level over the past 12 months and considered the emerging priorities for the year ahead.

Topics covered included drugs in schools and policing, young people and weapons, Neighbourhood policing and youth engagement.

### Cross-border procedures are updated

FORCES are being reminded of new procedures when dealing with cross-border surveillance requests under the Schengen Convention.

The National Criminal Intelligence Service is the central authority for all Article 40 requests, whereby Schengen countries permit the continuance of surveillance across national borders of participating EU member states.

The International Surveillance Co-ordination team (ISCT) will co-ordinate all Article 40 requests – inland and outbound – and can advise on all matters involving cross-border surveillance, including controlled deliveries.

Kate Matthews, NCIS Senior Intelligence Officer, said Article 40 could not be requested for surveillance on targets already abroad.

And she added that applications for cross-border either abroad in Schengen countries or in the UK could either be pre-planned or urgent.

It is advisable to contact the ISCT at the earliest opportunity so that all the options available can be fully explored and the requested Schengen country can be consulted as soon as possible.

But every country is different in terms of what can be done and how," she added. ● The ISCT can be contacted on 0370 496 7622 or london@ncis.x.gsi.gov.uk ● Countries signed up to Article 40 are: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.

### Have you got what it takes?

NOMINATIONS are now open for the Public Servant of the Year Awards 2006 – open to individuals, teams and projects at all levels.

The awards – to be presented at London's Grosvenor House Hotel on May 17 – recognise demonstrable, lasting improvement in the quality of service.

Winners will receive a donation to a charity of their choice.

Full details of the award categories can be found at the website www.publicservants.org.uk together with applications forms and submission requirements.

Completed application forms should be sent to Margot Gallie, 3 Robert Street, London WC2N 6RL, emailed to margot.gallie@cpfa.org or completed online.

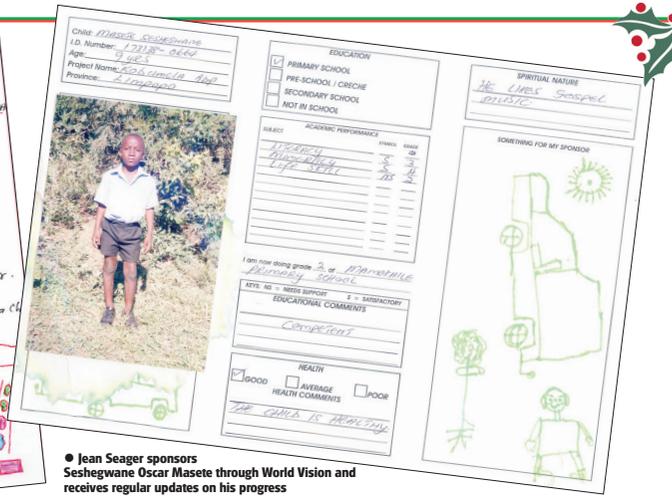
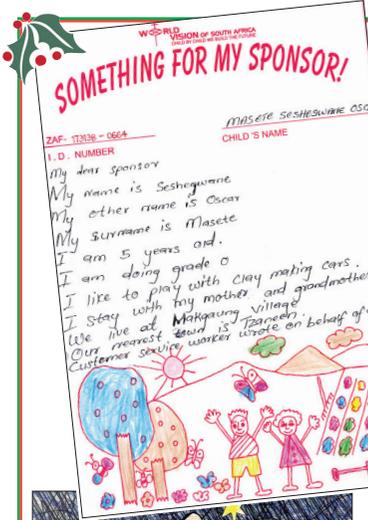
All nominations must be received by Friday, November 25.

### Cancer research gets a boost

POLICE at Brintree have given breast cancer research a boost.

The fourth annual sale of practice and draw for staff at the town's police station in aid of the charity is expected to raise £500 once all cash is in.

The event will be organised by Station Office Assistant Carol Bailey.



● Jean Seager sponsors Seshegwane Oscar Masete through World Vision and receives regular updates on his progress

# Give a gift of love this year

DET Con Jean Seager and Val Fitz-John, both based at Harlow Police Station, helped raise over £200 last Christmas through the World Vision giving scheme.

The charity will provide large Christmas cards for everyone to write their greetings so there is no worry about trying to remember name of the wife of the bike who sits in the far office – and instead of buying loads of cards you donate the money you have saved.

Jean said: "The money was used to sponsor gifts and last year Harlow division was responsible for a small farmyard, raising enough for a herd of pigs and sheep, a flock of hens and a few cows. With the devastation of the tsunami a lot of people felt they had chipped in at the right time – if ever there is a right time."

Val has a large brood of grandchildren and last Christmas she told them that, instead of giving them her usual generous gift of money she was going to hold back £10 each and they had to choose how it was to be spent through the charity's catalogue of gifts.

She was surprised how well her then nine grandchildren – now ten with another due before Christmas – took to the idea. "The grandchildren really went for the idea and spent ages deciding what they wanted to buy. It gives me a sense of satisfaction that the money goes to something useful instead of being thrown away after about five minutes' play."

this Christmas joy to the world and to each other



● World Vision can supply this huge card so colleagues can still wish each other a happy Christmas while donating their Christmas card cash

HOW many world disasters have there been in the last 12 months? The Boxing Day Tsunami, Hurricane Katrina, the London bombings and now the South Asia Earthquake. And how many times have we been asked to dig deep for the charities supporting the victims? This probably leaves less money for the other charities which work around the world, tirelessly supporting families and children whose lives have been damaged by poverty, often in countries savaged by war or drought. Helen Cook looks at ways of helping them this Christmas.

be my friend!" She is aware of other people within the force who, like her, also sponsor a child in a developing country. Jean pays approximately £20 a month to World Vision, which then provides a child with education, healthcare and other extras. There are many other organisations, such as Oxfam, which also seek child sponsorship.

"What it means to me," said Jean, "is that in South Africa there is one little boy who has a guaranteed school place. World Vision is one of the world's leading relief, development and justice agencies, currently helping more than 100 million people in nearly 100 countries.

It aims to educate children and their families to help them to help themselves. They are also given equipment and advice to set up shops and farms and sell their produce. "I originally received letters back written by his link worker but, now he has grown older, Seshegwane writes to me himself."

"Part of my sponsorship goes towards the community for projects such as clean water supplies, health and school centres and the organisation of local co-operatives. "My village grows chilli peppers and farms eggs. I can visit if I want to, although last time I went to South Africa it was too dangerous for the local people to organise as it is too close to the Zimbabwe border."

Some of Val's grandchildren attend a school in a country in need. Other schools have also taken up the idea and the children

have to organise fund raising ideas to get the money to provide the annual sponsorship. So, instead of buying a card for colleagues you may speak to on a daily basis, why not support one of the charities working in the countries with greatest need and put the money you would have spent on cards towards buying a goat, a flock of hens or vaccinations for young children?

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● Celebrating ten years of the Essex Police Association sports pavilion last month, top ● Above, from left: John Rhymes, chairman of the wine committee, bar worker Adrian Sykmis and his wife Sarah, former barworker Sandra Zaggar and founding bar manager Gwen Seabrook

# Old friends gather to mark pavilion's 10 years

FRIENDS, old and new, got together to celebrate a milestone in the history of Essex Police Sports Association.

For it was the tenth anniversary of the HQ sports pavilion – the building of which marked a rejuvenation of the association's fortunes.

And fittingly, the occasion was also marked by the news that the association has been nominated for a prestigious Club Mirror award.

Nowadays, EPSA's membership is 4,500 and rising steadily – a recent drive netted another 50 – and more than 3,000 take part in the monthly lottery.

The origins of EPSA are lost in the mists of time but in the early 1990s facilities and pitches were being lost for ever and so it was decided that, in order for Essex Police to continue encouraging its officers and staff to compete in FSUK and inter-force competitions, as well as in the Essex-wide Croker Cup, a focus point was needed.



● EPSA Chief Executive Christian Robinson is working hard to attract more benefits for members

And so the idea for a pavilion was born – all the hard work coming to fruition on October 20, 1995. It was opened by Richard Boyd, then chairman of Essex Police Authority and now chief executive of the Essex Disabled People's Association.

John Rhymes, now chairman of the wine committee, remembers how he came up with the idea of a clubhouse. "The building as constructed is very much like the very first rough drawings I put together."

"At the time we were gradually losing sports facilities at HQ to concrete and office space. The bowls green went, the tennis courts went, the table tennis and snooker areas went and then even the

changing rooms for football were going." John said there followed a three-year battle to convince the police authority that some of the lost facilities should be replaced.

A committee was formed, led by him and then EPSA secretary Chris Jacobs – which soon dwindled to John and Chris. But, with backing from then Chief Constable John Burrow, the £300,000 scheme got into gear.

John and Chris struck up a deal with Riddleys brewery, of Hertford End, for some cash and an interest-free loan to get the clubhouse of the ground and furnished.

John added: "Gwen Seabrook became the first manager and put her heart and soul into it, and Chris joined the committee. "I became chairman, although I did have a short break when Doug Adams took it on, and Chris joined the committee. "Of course, there have been many people working for and in the club and it is the people behind the scenes, working on functions etc, who make it a success," he added. Three years ago, then Chief Constable

### International co-operation nets results

A CLACTON man is now serving a three-month jail sentence due to the international efforts of a marine unit officer who has been working with his counterparts across the globe.

Det Con Simon Lofting returned from last month's eighth annual European training seminar for the International Association of Marine Investigators (AMI) conference in Germany and immediately made inroads into two marine offences following contact with his worldwide policing counterparts.

Det Con Lofting contacted Orange County Florida Marine Police in connection with a deception investigation whereby a man from Essex had claimed two of his jet skis, which he apparently bought while on holiday in Florida, were stolen.

This resulted in a successful prosecution. Det Con Lofting said: "This close international team works on the basis of trust and exchange of information. "It's a unique multi-national investigation system and each year's conference provides the opportunity to develop personal police contacts."

At the five-day conference, Det Con Lofting, together with 80 other delegates from 19 countries, listened to a host of various lectures and presentations from marine agencies across the globe and covered extensive training in relation to marine craft/engine identification.

And Det Con Lofting has scored another result – a website developed as a result of the National Marine Forum, to which he belongs, has won a Hitwise Top 10 Award.

Still in its first year of operation stoneloats.org.uk has received over 1.1 million hits, and assisted in 29 recoveries from 649 stolen boats.

Said Det Con Lofting: "This award is evidence of what a valuable service the site is offering."

### Pc spends a night behind prison bars

THE tables will be turned on a Canvey Pk when she spends the night behind bars at Her Majesty's Prison.

But it's all in the name of charity as Pk Tanya Bailey, 27, hopes to raise more than £200 for Cancer of the UK during her stay at the women's prison.

She was prompted to undertake the night behind bars following the death of family member Danny Tisbury, 28, from cancer five years ago and the diagnosis of her older sister Gemma Bailey, 28, who is currently being treated for cervical cancer.

During her 12 hours behind bars on November 26, Pk Bailey will wear prison uniform, eat prison food and even take part in a gym session. ● To sponsor Pk Bailey, contact her on ext 38135

## Law Classifieds

### Holiday lets

**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

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

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

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

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

**SCOTTISH** Highlands. Associates to police welcome at our B&B, with en-suite. Fishing, shooting, walking, bird-watching, ski-ing or general 'chilling out' in stunning scenery in the Cairngorms National Park. Reductions for police. Ring Andy Nunn on 01479 841717 or e-mail apf.nunn@btinternet.com

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

**ANDALUCIA**, Spain. Two-bedroom apartment, quiet location, ideal walking, cycling and horse riding. Lakes and views away from tourist trail. £120 per week. Contact Arthur Emmett on 01376 515445.

**COSTA BLANCA**. La Marina. Luxury villa, sleeps 4-6. Two bedrooms, two bathrooms, solarium,

communal pool. Five minutes from beach, 10 minutes from golf course, 25 minutes from airport. From £125 pw. Contact Mick Ager on 00 34 61711 0096 or 07775 676142 or email casdomi02@hotmail.com.

**FLORIDA**. Luxury four-bedroom villa, private, screened pool close to Disney and golf course. For free brochure, contact Jill on 01702 586092 or visit www.my-florida-villa.net

**FLORIDA**. Orlando. Luxury three-bedroom villa with private pool. Fifteen minutes from Disney, quiet location, full A/C. From £350 pw. Contact John De'ath on 01245 420043.

**FLORIDA**. Orlando. Four-bedroom pool home overlooking water, close to Disney and airport. Video available. Prices from £450-£550. Contact Pete or Linda on 01245 321378 or email petewtaylor@yahoo.com

**FRANCE**. Loire valley. Stone cottage. Sleeps 2-4. Beams, wood-burner. Quiet location. Lots to do nearby. Two hours from Caen, five hours from Calais. £150-175 per week. Contact Emma on 07711 421579 or email emma.bowditch@essex.pnn.police.uk

**ORLANDO**, luxury villa, four bedrooms, three bathrooms, sleeps up to 10. Private, screened pool near Disney and other central Florida attractions. Contact Alison and Michael on 01245 266949 or Ron Cook on 01376 573406.

### Cars and bikes

**METRO** GTA alloy wheels, five for £25. Contact Terry Wheeler on ext 40432 or on 07812 376129.

**RIDE**-on mower for sale. MTD Pinto, 24-in cut, two years old. Ring Phil Nicholls on 01268 733000.

**SUZUKI** Baleno, 1.6GS, sporty hatch, R-reg, alloy wheels, 62,000 miles, MoT/tax until Dec 2005, CD player, remote central-locking, body kit, electric windows/door mirrors. £1,500. Contact Sarah Symkiss on 01245 357524 or 07881 551021.

**VAUXHALL** Omega estate, 2l, GLS 16v, automatic, blue, W-reg, 68,000, very good condition, upgraded brakes, 10 months' MoT and service. £3,250 on contact Shona on ext 58715 or on 07786 481267.

**VW** Golf. TDI 1.9, silver, five-door. July 2000, W-reg, CD, AC, alloys, tax/MOT until August 2006. VGC, FSH, automatic wipers. £5,200. Contact Alex on 07811 374730 or email alex.szabo@essex.pnn.police.uk

# Duty spent in just one town

## Names in the news

### AFTER spending all his 30 years of service in Wickford, Community Liaison Officer Pc Geoff (Steven) Whiter is retiring.

Although it is unusual to spend all one's service in the same place, it meant that Pc Whiter's local knowledge was invaluable – but it didn't mean 'lack of variety'.

He worked tirelessly with the travelling community, building bridges with the police and health service.

Being part of the community is the main thing he says he will miss.

"I loved being part of Wickford and actually seeing a difference on a daily basis by the work I do. I think it is the diversity of the job which has kept me hooked.

"Every day is different and you never know what you are going to get," said Pc Whiter.

The force said goodbye to **Keith Fitz-John** last month after 33 years with Essex Police – three as a cadet.

The 49-year-old inspector served across the south of the county, with stints at Southend, Rayleigh, Thurrock, Laindon Traffic Unit and EPTC before finishing in the Force Information Room.

Asked about some of his highlights, Insp Fitz-John picked out his work as the cadets' outdoor pursuits trainer.

"There's people across the force who I made suffer – including chief superintendents such as Sue Harrison – by just a few little words: 'Right, we're off for a little bumble'," said Keith. "People would cringe. They referred to me as the Grim Reaper."

Keith represented the force at various cross-country and race-walking events.

He is currently completing the handover of the Chigwell Motorway Control Room to the Highways Agency.

**Vera Cousins** has retired after spending over 21 years with the force. The 62-year-old began her service in July 1984, spending a good many years with Mobile Support Division, finishing as the unit administrator at Rayleigh RPU.

Laindon Police Station begins a new era following the departure of **Yvonne Hughes**. The 61-year-old has spent the last 18 years as the Station Office Assistant after joining



● Pc Geoff Whiter, left



● Michael Bright, right

the force in 1987. She spent a brief spell at Basildon Crown Court as a clerk in the prosecutions department before returning to Laindon, citing the new police station as one the highlights in her career.

She said: "I've enjoyed my time here with Essex Police, working with a great number of officers and colleagues. I'm going to put my feet up for a couple of months before, hopefully, embarking on some travels around the world."

### Obituaries

The legendary William 'Uncle Bill' Gosling, a former sergeant with Southend Police asked David Bright about his younger brother **Michael Bright** 'Is he honest?' and 'Is he a big-un?'

When David said yes, Uncle Bill told him: "Get your brother down here to the Cop Shop and I'll get him signed up before the amalgamation."

So Michael, who died last month, was sworn in a couple of days before April 1, 1969, when the Southend-on-Sea Borough Police merged with Essex Police – making him the last borough officer.

All of Michael's service was within the Southend Division apart from a period of secondment with the Regional Crime Squad.

He was commended a number of times and will be remembered for his easy-going and laid-back style, his kindness and good manners.

Michael wanted people to know how much he appreciated all who called to see him, rang, or who sent letters, cards and goodwill messages by way of others during his illness.

David said: "The receiving of letters and cards, he would say, was like little bars of gold landing on his doormat. The friendship and kindness

shown to him was, he said, priceless."

Some 250 serving or former members of the force were among the 400 or so mourners who attended Michael's funeral at Southend Crematorium. He leaves his wife, Pauline, daughters Michelle, Emma and Kate and seven grandchildren.

A PCSO based at Colchester has died, aged 53, after a short illness.

**Brian Wyatt** was a member of the Northern Community Policing Team.

### Degrees and awards

**Rick Tazzini**, Director of Finance and Administration, used his 'local' knowledge when completing his dissertation for his Master's degree in Business Administration (MBA).

Mr Tazzini has completed a two-year course at Anglia Polytechnic University with an evaluation on PCSOs in Essex.

Divisional Training Officer **Pc Mairhi Mowbray**, of HR, has been awarded a Certificate in Education by the University of Greenwich.

Three officers in the Mobile Support Division have completed a first for the UK police service and been recognised as State Registered Paramedics.

**Sgt Andy Ford**, of the Marine Section based at Burnham, **Pc Richard Melton**, of Laindon Road Policing Unit, and **Pc Matthew Clark**, of HQ Force Support Unit, are now recognised nationally as paramedics – rather than just within Essex Police – by the Health Professionals Council, the statutory body which legally accredits all medical staff in the UK.

Divisional Commander Chief Supt Mick Thwaites said the qualification 'recognises the outstanding level of training given to Essex Police firearms medics'.

## Couple's cruise along the international way

AN Essex Police plaque now has, no doubt, pride of place at the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary, thanks to a former officer.

When Stuart Mather and his wife June, of Hullbridge, visited Canada on a cruise recently he contacted the secretary of the International Police Association (IPA) there, who arranged for the couple to be met at every port of call.

They visited HQ in St John's, escorted by the just-retired Assistant Chief, Gary Browne.

On the quay at Corner



● Stuart Mather and Pc Steve Mercer

Brook they were met by Mountie Pc Jolene Garland in full ceremonial dress.

And IPA member Pc Steve Mercer also met the Mathers

– his job is to meet all cruise ships and be photographed by passengers.

At Quebec, the meeting and greeting fell to IPA member Insp Bob Dumais, of the Quebec Port Police, who also gave them a tour of the city and surrounding area, with a visit to the IPA house near the airport.

Mr Mather said: "It is a totally different world over there. There is no graffiti on buildings and practically no litter. The police are armed but serious crime is rare.

And he added: "If you are not a member of the IPA, consider joining."

## A gathering of white helmets

THE NARPO and Southend Borough annual White Helmet reunion will take place on Friday, December 16. All former and serving Southend division officers are invited to attend the event from midday in the Southend Police Station bar, where a ploughman's lunch will be provided.

● Lunch requirements should be notified to the club manager on 01702 341212, ext 30915, or to NARPO branch secretary David Jones on 01702 523214.

Alternatively email david.jones385@btinternet.com

### BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE – ONE WORD PER BOX


Name and rank .....

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

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# 'I thoroughly enjoyed my police experience'

“ MY name is Maria Wheele – I'm 15 years old, I live in South Woodham Ferres and I'm a member of the PEPYS (Proactive Essex Police Youth Strategy) Youth Forum. I decided to ask Essex Police if I could have a placement with them for my Trident Work Experience. Since I am a member of PEPYS and have been for the last 12 months, I decided to get in touch with people I knew in Essex Police to make it possible. I eventually got a placement and a timetable consisting of attachments to different units, including Sandon Dog Unit, the PEPYS office, HQ Main Reception, the Press Office, Scenes of Crime and Community Safety, as well as working alongside PC Miccy Turton, Safer Schools Partnership Officer for St Peter's College. I thoroughly enjoyed myself everywhere I went. The people I worked with were extremely polite and friendly and I didn't want to leave after spending the day with them. I thought the idea of spending a day at various placements was more useful because it gave me an insight to other

## Work experience is a valuable way of allowing young people to decide what career path to take – Maria Wheele spent her fortnight with Essex Police

units in the Essex Police. Since I am hoping to become a police officer myself it gave me an experience that will help me in my future career. The best experience I had working with Essex Police was just the fact of being there and interacting with the police and police staff. It has given me more inspiration to join Essex Police and has given me an insight into some of the many things they deal with. Unfortunately I was only there for two weeks and could not possible see everything the police deal with. My time spent with Essex Police was interesting, enjoyable and very educational. I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone at Essex Police for giving me a chance to experience everything I did and for taking time out of their lives to supervise me to let me get a real understanding of what they do to help Essex Police. ”



● Maria Wheele talks to PCSO Lynda Samways about her day-to-day job

## A speedy way to get information

AN online survey has been launched in a bid to discover why drivers speed on Essex roads.

The survey – found at [www.essexsafetycamera.co.uk](http://www.essexsafetycamera.co.uk) – has been developed by the Essex Safety Camera Partnership (ESCP), a partnership which includes Essex Police.

ESCP Liaison Officer Rachel Whitelock said: “The ESCP is committed to reducing road casualties caused by excessive vehicle speed and an important part of our work is educating and changing driver's attitudes towards speeding.

“By launching this survey we hope to find out what drivers in Essex think about speeding and what circumstances are most likely to make them speed.

“The findings will be used in future education and publicity programmes and we will also be displaying the results on this website.”

The survey only takes a couple of minutes. Everyone who completes it will be entered into a draw to win a day on an advanced driving course with skid car training or gift vouchers.

# 'We must tighten belts'

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\*Subject to status quote reference 'LAW'

## Car Insurance

### THE 2006/07 budget will be the most challenging in Essex Police's recent history, says Finance and Administration Director Rick Tazzini.

The force now spends ¼ of a billion pounds every year and has the highest number of police officers and staff ever recorded.

But 70 per cent of police forces' funding is pre-set, using a Government formula which is changing on April 1. This introduces a level of uncertainty until the provisional funding allocations for next year are announced early next month.

However, Mr Tazzini is confident Essex Police will rise to the challenge as, he says, staff have a well-established and confident approach to planning and setting the annual budget.

“We are confident we can deliver a balanced budget which seeks to deliver improved police performance for the people of Essex and will not excessively increase Council Tax bills,” said Mr Tazzini.

“Essex Police has an excellent financial track record. Our overall spending is comparatively low and we have the fourth lowest Council Tax of any shire force in the country – that is almost 20 per cent below the national average, saving Essex Council-Taxpayers £22.”

Police forces are likely to only receive a rise

of three per cent in Government funding for the coming year.

That sum will be insufficient to fund pay awards, inflation, unavoidable cost pressures and essential service investment. Therefore the force will have to identify other savings to bridge the gap and pay for new investment.

The main financial issues affecting the force's budget include the review of the Contact Management Programme, changes to the funding arrangements for police pensions and unavoidable cost increases such as energy including fuel and pay increments.

Forces are still required to deliver three per cent in efficiency savings by reducing budgets, increasing time spent on front-line and visible duties, increasing productivity and reducing sickness.

As well as dealing with the national police structures review, the force is also carrying out its own review into its internal, divisional structure, which it is planned should release between £3million and £4million for frontline services.

Investment will be required for neighbourhood policing, including the force's 25 per cent share of the Government's plans for considerable growth in PCSO numbers over the next two years.

Divisions and departments have been submitting budget proposals for the 2006/07 financial year but no final decisions will be made until chief officers and Essex Police Authority members have all the relevant information next month.

## ACTION spreads its net wider

A DELEGATION from South Yorkshire Police which visited Essex in September to see at first hand how the ACTION programme has been implemented has provided excellent feedback.

The team consisted of the chairman of South Yorkshire Police Committee, the chairman of the Performance Committee, a divisional commander and members of the force's Corporate Review Team.

They spent two days as guests of the ACTION team learning about the force's leadership programme with a

view to it assisting them in developing one of their own.

South Yorkshire Police Corporate Review Team member Carla Devolto has now written to the ACTION team describing the visit as ‘exceptionally useful’.

She went on to say that police authority members were inspired by what they saw and she felt sure the information gained would ‘prove invaluable to South Yorkshire Police in the future planning and implementation of any such programme’.

ACTION project manager Laurie Posner said: “We are

flattered that South Yorkshire Police chose us to assist in setting up its own leadership programme.

“It is a form of acknowledgement that our programme is amongst the best and we are happy to share best practice with any other forces who would like us to do so.

“It is gratifying to know that our South Yorkshire colleagues were inspired by what they found and I am confident that they will be able to incorporate ACTION in the development of their own programme.”

# Sport & Leisure

## PMAS goes for gold with new sport sponsorship

POLICE Sport UK has announced that the Police Mutual Assurance Society is to be its official sponsor until next autumn.

PMAS has been the police service's own financial services company since 1922 and provides a range of financial products.

The 12-month sponsorship deal has reinforced the close links between PMAS and the police service.

Police Sport UK aims to provide additional support to the diverse schedule of athletic events for police employees across the UK.

The sponsorship relationship was launched at the PSUK Triathlon Championships at Tallington Lakes, Lincolnshire

Police Sport UK currently runs 53 national sporting championships a year for its 250,000 Police Employee membership.

Chief Constable Andrew Cameron, chairman of PSUK said: "We are delighted to be working with Police Mutual. This is an important step in continuing to provide high-quality police sporting events throughout the UK."

And PMAS chief executive Graham Berville added: "This is a natural partnership, with Police Sport UK being concerned with the physical well-being and Police Mutual looking after the financial well-being of the entire Police Family. We are looking forward to an exciting 12 months supporting Police Sport UK."

## Golfers rise to challenge

CHELMSFORD retained the NARPO Golf Challenge Trophy following a close contest with Southend and Colchester.

Brilliant sunshine graced Witham's Benton Hall Golf Club where Chelmsford's Fred Stannard claimed top spot by two points ahead of Fred Nicholls.

Nick Padmore, Jeff Murray and Neil Seymour were awarded Nearest The Pin prizes, with Bob Hayes picking up the award for the longest drive.

A post-match raffle was held, where £150 was raised for the Chelmsford branch to help fund its Christmas gifts for widows.

## Nominate sportspeople

IT'S the time of the year to make your nominations for Essex Police Sports Association's two annual awards.

One is for Sportsman of the Year and the other for Outstanding service to the association.

• Submit your nominations, with a brief pen picture, to Force Sports Secretary John Stonehouse ASAP no later than Thursday, November 24, via email or on ext 58888

## Officers lay down a soccer challenge

A FOOTBALL tournament organised by officers from Rochford Community Policing Team has been an overwhelming success.

The event, at Clements Hall Leisure Centre on October 28, saw six five-a-side teams of local 14 to 16-year-olds go head to head.

In addition, a scratch Rochford Community Policing Team (CPT) side took on a selection of the youth players, narrowly winning 2-1.

Pc Steve Joynes, of Rochford CPT, said: "The day was a great success with 30 youth players turning up. We also had a

number of visitors, including local councillors and Southend Utd's Mitchell Cole, who brought a signed ball and football boots."

The tournament lasted several hours and was followed by food and refreshments.

Pc Joynes added: "It proved a great way to get to know the young people who live in the community, and wouldn't have been possible without the support of numerous local businesses."

• Thanks go to Holmes Place Leisure Centre, Rayleigh Karting, Farm Fresh Meats in Hockley, McDonald's,

Southend Sports Trophies, UCI Basildon, Southend Utd and St John Ambulance.

• THE tournament came about after Rayleigh division's footballing officers hit on the idea of challenging local young people to a game after complaints about youths loitering around Clements Hall Leisure Centre and minor reports of criminal damage were received by local police.

With the assistance of the leisure centre manager, a police team made up of CPT and ASBO unit officers faced the teenagers and ran out 6-2 winners.

# Sport Aid for Asian earthquake victims



• John Ixer, Claire Homer, Louise Wakelin and Stuart Hooper raise their racquets and cash for South Asian Earthquake victims

NEARLY £1,500 has been raised for the South Asian earthquake appeal by the newest set of trained detectives who undertook a 12-hour charity badminton tournament.

One of the recently-qualified investigators lost a relative in last month's disaster and her course colleagues wanted to raise money to help those families in Pakistan who had lost loved ones and homes in the 7.6 magnitude earthquake, which has led to the deaths of more than 50,000 people.

The team of 14, which included trainers Alan Phillips and Nigel Cooper, thought a game of badminton during a 12-hour night shift would 'get people digging into their wallets and purses' for a worthwhile cause.

Led by Alison Cotter, the squad members each played a game of doubles for one hour before resting and allowing the others to take to the court.

She said: "We all brought our sleeping bags in and saw the night through with short rounds of badders interspersed with equally short stints of kip."

EPTC catering provided the players with breakfast as they awoke or finished their games.

Alison also thanked staff in the Force Information Room, who contributed £200 for the pleasure of wearing casual clothing instead of uniform for two days.

The detectives will be donating a proportion of the money raised to a Colchester GP who is flying out to Pakistan later this month in order to assist the ongoing rescue mission.

• Charity giving at Christmas – see Page 6

## All go for band, choir and music society

THE Essex Police Band and the Essex Police Choir performed together at Christchurch, Chelmsford, on October 15, raising funds for the town's J's Hospice, which caters for the 18 to 40 age group.

The concert was sold out weeks before and it is hoped to make a donation of over £2,000 to the cause as a result.

With Christmas approaching, the choir will be the guests of The Swift Singers at St Luke's Church, Tiptree, on December 10, and have their own Christmas concert at Trinity Methodist Church, Chelmsford, at 7.30pm on December 17.

Meanwhile, the band has started rehearsals ahead of next month's Christmas concert at the Marconi Club

in Beehive Lane, Chelmsford, at 7.30pm on Monday, December 19.

Tickets cost £5 – send a cheque, made payable to Essex Police Band, to Joy Madigan, Essex Police Band, Essex Police HQ, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DA.

• If you're thinking about New Year's resolutions which may include a new hobby, why not consider joining the choir?

To see what they look and sound like, either go along to a performance or turn up for a rehearsal at 7.45pm on a Tuesday evening at the Essex Police Training Centre.

• ESSEX Police Musical Society are looking for replacements for their retiring wardrobe mistress.

Chairman Lynda Barkway said they wanted to recruit two or three people with spare time and an interest in amateur theatre who could help organise the wardrobe for two shows a year.

She said: "We have an extensive wardrobe of our own but the team would need to utilise this and organise and collect costumes from hire premises for the cast of each show."

"They would need to be handy with a needle and tape measure – you have no idea how many buttons and zips go haywire during show week – and would be very important members of our society."

• Contact Lynda Barkway on ext 50739 or vice-chairman Jenny Hillyard on ext 50335 or via email

## Harlow, Colchester and HQ take the top three lottery prizes

THE winner of the top, £3,000 prize in the Essex Police Sports Association October draw was Pc David McKenzie, of Harlow.

Pc Steven Clay, of Colchester, won second prize of £1,000 and Cathy Robinson, in HQ Uniform Sstores, won the £500 prize.

Winners of the £100 prizes were: Pc Tommy Batchelor, of Southend; Richard Malcolm, retired;

Steven Rawlings, seconded staff, Police Information Technology Organisation; Det Supt Kevin Macey, of Brentwood MIT; Michelle Banham, of HQ Forensic Intelligence Unit; Sgt Paul Keely, of Brentwood; John Coyle, retired. And the winners of £50 were: Michael Beale, of Chelmsford; A R Richards, of Basildon; Jacqueline Lovegrove, of FIR; Brenda Hinchcliffe, of Chelmsford;

Det Con Andy Marbrow, of Rayleigh CAIU; Noel Fordham, retired; Pc Andrew Jones, of Brentwood; and Dave Blackburn, of HQ Driving School. Those who won Benenden Healthcare bears were: Pc Chris Rail, of Braintree; David Keenan, of HQ Corporate Support; Pc Mick Fordsick, of FIR; Ian Pryke, of HQ Firearms Licensing; Pc Melanie Warren, of Laindon; and Pc Helen Butcher, of Chelmsford.

## Andy comes home sixth in nationals

TRIATHLETE Andy Jopson was the first Essex finisher and sixth overall in the national PSUK triathlon with a time of 2hrs 1min.

He finished around five minutes behind winner Matthew Rees, of the City of London Police, and competed against more than 100 entrants. Andy completed the 10km run in a race best of 34mins 33secs but went a little off the boil in the 1,500m swim, at Tallington Lakes, Lincolnshire, with a time of 25 minutes. And he took 1hr 1min to complete the 40km bike ride. The race was part of the build-up to the Police Sport European Championships in Switzerland next August.

Andy, 27, had warmed up by winning the Blackwater Sprint Triathlon the week before.

## Angling honours

BASILDON took the honours in the Croker Cup freshwater angling at Witham on October 18.

Southend came second, followed by Braintree, Rayleigh, Colchester, Chelmsford and Harlow.

The race walk was due to be held on October 30 at Earls Colne.

• THE Croker Cup swimming gala will now take place on Sunday, February 5, at Gloucester Park in Basildon.

• To take part, contact Chris Mathlin on ext 42743

• Updated table after five events: HQ 38; Braintree 36; Chelmsford 32; Rayleigh 30; Southend 29; Basildon 28; Colchester 24; Harlow 21; Tendring 9; Thurrock 9.

## Running fixtures

THE next cross-country running fixture is at 2pm at Verulamium Park in St Albans, Hertfordshire, on Wednesday, November 16.

Mini-buses will leave Southend and Colchester police stations at 11am, picking up at convenient stops en-route.

The next fixture on December 14 at Basildon, includes the Croker Cup competition.

• Contact Jim Ling on ext 30366 if you want to use the Southend bus on November 16 and Mick Bond on ext 61714 re Colchester

## Andy gets a second

AN officer from Maldon recently returned from the national PSUK squash quadrangular tournament in Nottingham, which featured teams from the fire service, civil service and the Armed Forces.

Andy Hynes was the only Essex officer to represent the six-person police team and helped them to second place behind the Armed Forces.

# Force gets a 'good' show in performance figures

ESSEX Police have fared well in the latest set of Home Office performance assessment figures.

All 43 forces in England and Wales were assessed in seven categories – reducing crime, investigating crime, promoting safety, providing assistance, citizen focus (which includes community confidence in the police) resource use and local policing – in the figures issued by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary.

Overall, the force achieved a 'good' rating in 20 out of 32 areas measured and, in eight of the 27 areas looked at by HMIC, it had improved on the 2003/04 assessment.

In all other areas the force has maintained its good work.

Assistant Chief Constable (Crime) Liam Briggingshaw said: "The HMIC's baseline assessment of Essex Police demonstrates our commitment to constant improvement and consistency.

"Improvements in volume

crime investigation and reduction, call management and the training and development of staff all point towards our determination to take a lead in making Essex safer.

"Our success in doing so is mirrored by HMIC's assessment that public reassurance is also increasing.

"The report notes the excellent work undertaken by the force to reassure communities in providing a highly-visible service. This has led to our consistently

high position in the British Crime Survey, where we fare best in our family of forces in the public's perception of anti-social behaviour."

Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers said of the figures: "I am very pleased that the force has continued to perform well and has indeed improved in many areas.

"We will continue to work with the police to ensure the public gets the service it deserves – a more efficient

and effective police force."

Crime, Security and Communities Minister Hazel Blears said overall policing performance was 'very encouraging'.

She said: "Crime and the fear of crime are both down and the number of offences brought to justice has gone up.

"Over the last three years we have seen real and sustainable improvements in police performance.

"This publication provides a

clear picture of police performance designed to enable forces to identify strengths and weaknesses and to help local communities understand the performance of their force."

The assessment coincided with the publication of numerical performance measures which also showed Essex Police in a positive light, particularly in the areas of crime reduction, promoting safety and providing assistance.

## Cinema jaunt has a serious side in fight against crime

SOUTHEND residents had a real treat last month with a free film show at the town's Odeon cinema launching the Southend Crime, Disorder and Drugs Strategy 2005-08.

The short DVD, screened every 20 minutes, gave people the opportunity to see work funded by the Southend Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to make an impact on crime and disorder in their town.

Home Office regional manager Miriam Minty, of the Together Action programme, was guest speaker.

Shoppers were attracted to exhibitions in and outside the cinema by a variety of organisations working to make Southend a safe place to live.

Several hundred people saw the DVD, which has proved to be so popular that more copies will be produced and provided to partners and schools to spread the word and increase public reassurance.

● IN the same week, the Inside Justice open day was held at the police station and courts.

More than 1,500 people flocked in for a tour of the police station before they walked along the tunnel into the courts. After another tour, they had the chance to play a specially-commissioned version of Monopoly and win prizes.

Acting Chief Supt Steve Currell said: "I would like to thank everybody who took the time and trouble to provide us with some wonderful exhibitions."

Defensive skills and sniffer dogs displays proved popular with the large number of families attending, many of whom have since phoned to say what a great day they thought it was.

● Essex Justice Awards – See Page 5

# Speedy reflex was a bonus



● Pc Liz Bailey and Archie are ready for a bit of PAT-ting at Southend General Hospital

## A PAT on the back...

RAYLEIGH Pc Liz Bailey has very rewarding pastime – she and her 12-stone Newfoundland dog Archie are both members of Southend's Pets As Therapy dog team.

Having been a member for several months now, Liz and three-year-old Archie attend

Southend General Hospital on a weekly basis to spend time with patients there.

Said Liz: "Everyone finds the visits rewarding. Archie loves the company of people and they enjoy having him sit next to them."

Daniel Beale

## SPEEDY reflexes by a Southend officer probably saved a woman from serious injury when the officer grabbed and held on to the woman as she tried to climb over a first floor balcony wall.

Her actions in July have earned Pc Carly Boitout a bonus payment from the Bonus Panel board.

Pc Boitout was called to a stabbing incident in Southend with colleague Pc David Thompson.

A man had received serious stab wounds to his back while his partner had minor injuries. The man was taken downstairs to an ambulance but, when the officers arrested the woman on suspicion of causing his injuries, she rushed to the balcony and was straddling the wall.

Pc Boitout responded instantly, grabbing hold and using her body weight to prevent the woman from injuring herself or escaping. Pc Boitout was praised for her awareness and physical bravery.

And Det Con Jean Seager was nominated for a bonus payment by Harlow Division.

The report said: "Det Con Seager has been pivotal in the performance of Harlow Division. Her knowledge and skills are sought after by junior officers and, due to her input, over 130 TICs were secured recently.

"Quality of try checks has improved and she has designed a template for officers to use in dealing with enquiries."

A second bonus recipient from Harlow Division is Pc Nicola Lark, nominated for her outstanding number of detections over a three-month period this year.

Pc Lark has been attached to the Prisoner Process unit at Harlow and through hard work she dealt with 48 prisoners and achieved 54 sanctioned detections.

Some included crimes dating from 2003, where TICs were obtained. She was also commended by her line manager for her positive attitude towards her work and for volunteering to take on the more complex handovers and assisting others.

And Det Con Rob Coltman, of Halstead CID, was rewarded for his tenacious investigation into a serious disturbance outside a Braintree nightclub.

He refused to give up and thus ensured the victim, who received serious injuries from a nasty attack involving a group of people, received justice.

## New pensions 'discrimination': The spouses' fight goes on

THE widow of a serving officer murdered on duty is highlighting a campaign against 'discriminatory' new pension rules.

Sue Bishop – whose husband A/Sgt Bill Bishop was shot in Frinton in August 1984 – says that rules to be introduced by the Home Office in April do not apply to police widows and widowers already in receipt of a spouse's pension.

The new rules will give lifetime benefits to spouses, partners and same-sex partners on the death of an officer.

Mrs Bishop said: "Any officer who joins the force after April 2006 will automatically enter the new pension scheme and officers currently serving can transfer to the new scheme but those of us who are already in receipt of a spouse's pension have no such choice.

"We will still have our pensions withdrawn if we co-habit or re-marry. This is blatant discrimination, we have already been the victim once, now we are being made victims again."

Now COPS (Care of Police Survivors) and its president, Christine Fulton, a police widow herself, are leading a campaign objecting to the new pension rules.

Mrs Bishop and Mrs Fulton are asking that widows and widowers write to Home Secretary Charles Clarke, their local MPs and press to voice their concern.

Mrs Bishop, Carole Hudson – widow of ex-Insp Pete Hudson, who served at Clacton – and NARPO reps met Tendring MP Douglas Carswell in September and Mrs Bishop said he had backed the campaign, vowing to sign an Early Day Motion in the House of Commons on the subject.

"Letters have been sent to the Chief Constable, the Federation and NARPO, as well as the Home Secretary but those of you who are widowed need to do the same if you would like to see this ruling challenged," she added.

● Christine Fulton can be contacted at [fulton@ukcops.org](mailto:fulton@ukcops.org) and would like to have details forwarded to her by anyone who takes up the campaign

● Also, visit [www.ukcops.org](http://www.ukcops.org)

# Licensing laws apply to new late-night haunts

POLICE officers are being reminded that the new licensing laws come into effect later this month.

To be fully confident of the changes, officers can access a 20-minute training package via the Intranet Home Page and aide memoire cards are also available, outlining the regulation of the sale of alcohol and

other activities through licensing.

Any unlicensed activity after November 24 is an offence punishable by up to a £20,000 fine and/or six months in prison.

The new regime encompasses more than just alcohol and now includes such late-night haunts as the local kebab van.

To sell hot food and drink after 11pm – among other activities – requires a licence under the new Licensing Act 2003.

Powers of entry remain almost the same and the unlicensed sale of alcohol can be prevented by a constable although an inspector or above is needed to close licensed

premises where disorder is imminent.

Specific objectives are written into the new act and police and residents may request the review of a licence where the objectives are undermined.

● To access the training package, click on Training, Manuals and Help on the intranet home page, and then click on Licensing Act 2003.

