

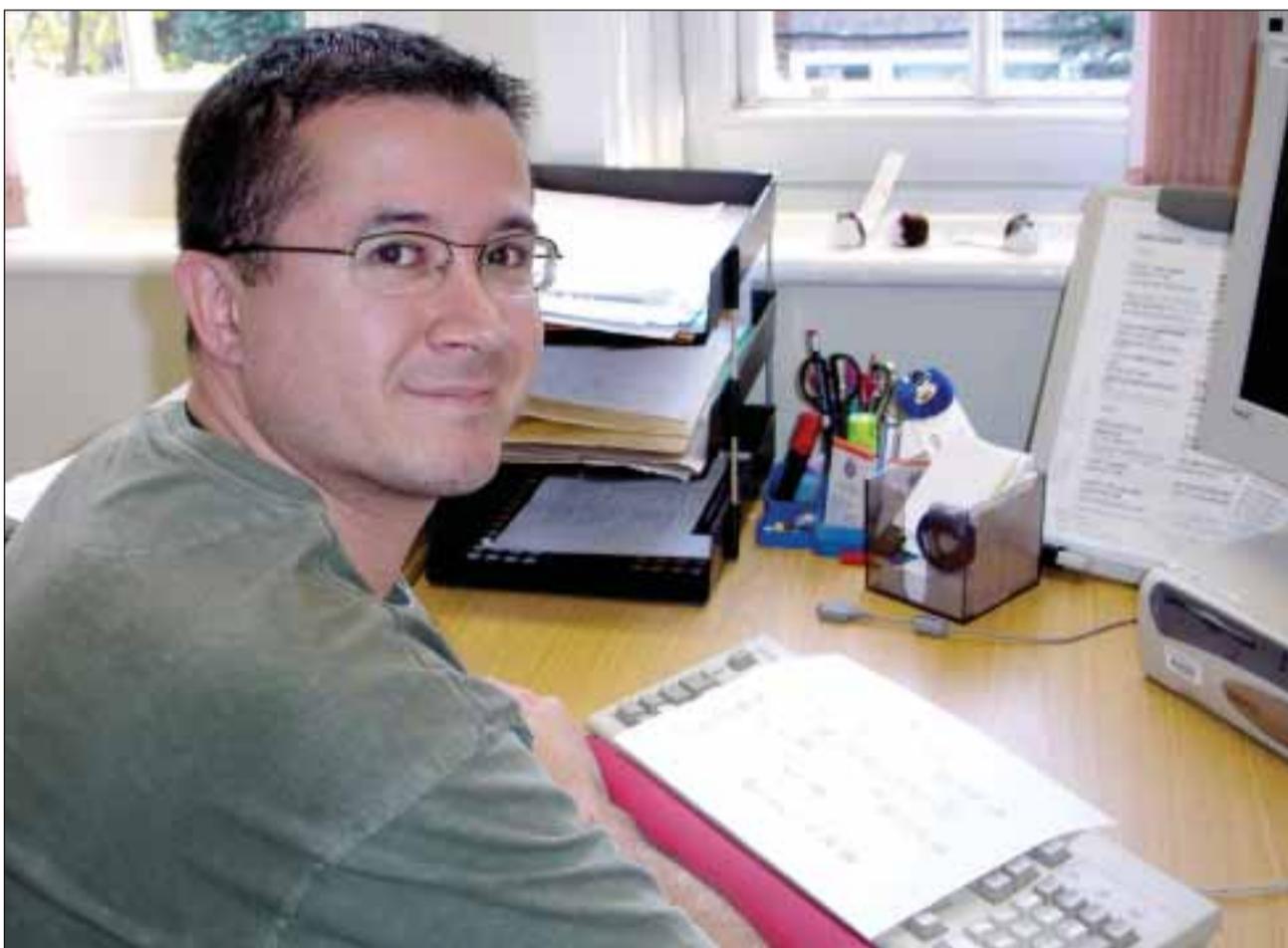
The Law



www.essex.police.uk

January 2006

NEW CONTRACTS COULD SAVE £0.6M



● Pc Mark Hodgson says life after the Boxing Day 2004 Tsunami will never be the same again

'Asian tsunami changed my life'

BEFORE the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami, Pc Mark Hodgson was working in Southend's Community Policing Team and, as an experienced Family Liaison Officer (FLO), thought he had seen it all. But a year after his secondment to the Metropolitan Police to deal with those affected by the tsunami, he knows his life will never be the same again. Mark was asked to be part of a team of FLOs from across the force set up to deal with the families of any Essex casualties, at a time when the size of the catastrophe was still unfolding. Along with another Southend FLO, Mark dealt with two Southend families affected by the disaster. Then he was seconded to the Metropolitan Police and immediately posted to Heathrow Airport, to work with FLOs from other forces. Mark lived out of a suitcase in a hotel

by Julia Pack

for over seven months and, as time went on, people were leaving the team without being replaced. Before long, just Mark and one other officer remained, working extremely long hours with very few days off, meeting all flights to and from tsunami-affected countries, mainly receiving UK citizens who were, to begin with, walking wounded. Later they had the grisly task of being in charge of exhibits and dealing with the repatriation of bodies. Mark said: "I had to sort through over 150 passports which had been recovered but where no body had been found. Seeing all the photos, including pictures of very young children, was really moving and it was that task that really brought home to me the scale of the disaster."

The FLOs also liaised with people searching for relatives and police officers deployed to help with the recovery operation. Mark said: "We were trouble-shooters really, liaising with the airlines and trying to ensure everyone going to and from affected countries did so without complications." The officers had been due to return to their forces but, when the London bombings took place on July 7, they remained at Heathrow as airport reception for families of foreign bombing victims for a further month. Looking back, Mark said: "It was the best and the worst experience of my career so far. It's difficult to put into words but I am humbled and privileged to have played my part in the tsunami rescue operation."

● Review of the Year – Pages 6 & 7

by Heather Turner

THE six-month review of a new, central contract for Force Medical Examiners (FMEs) has identified projected cost-efficiency savings of more than £600,000 over the first three years of operation.

Essex Police led a tender for FME services with Bedfordshire and Suffolk Police and the £6.1million contract was awarded in March last year.

Revealing the review results, a delighted Senior Contracts Officer Liana Hines said they were savings calculated from the freeing up of police officers and administration staff to perform other duties.

Before the contract was implemented, approximately 2,000 invoices relating to medical examiners were submitted annually to Essex Police.

This has now been reduced to approximately 100, which should therefore save the force £38,000 in processing and administration time after 12 months.

Custody officers have reported that it now takes an average of 29 minutes for an FME to attend, thus reducing the time prisoners spend in custody and increasing cell availability.

Transport costs between police stations and doctors' surgeries have also been reduced and improvements seen in both officer and prisoner safety because FMEs are often available more promptly than before.

Ms Hines won the Association of Police Procurement and Contract Managers (APPCM) inaugural award for outstanding contribution to police procurement for her work on the project.

Her approach included an external advertising strategy which expanded the recruitment drive, since she realised that new legislation meant that not only doctors but also nurses and paramedics could become FMEs.

Supporting Liana was the evaluation team of Sue Spratley, of Admin Services, Insp Jim Shaw and custody sergeants Chris Hennessy and Paul Jarvis.

A Best Value Review carried out towards the end of last year recommended that the same approach used for the FME contracts be used for all force strategic/critical contracts, which are high value or operationally critical.

Ms Hines said that key performance indicators were now in place and divisions, particularly custody officers, had provided plenty of positive feedback.

"It's fantastic," she said. "We are aware of a few minor problems but they are resolvable."

Changes in arrest powers

THE New Year has brought fundamental changes to the law around arrest and detention.

The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (SOCPA), sets out new criteria for arrest. The terms 'arrestable offence' and 'serious arrestable offence' are now obsolete and officers can arrest anyone for any offence.

However, the arrest must be justified on one of ten grounds, which must be recorded.

With a few exceptions, nearly all of the police powers which can be exercised on arrest – entry, search and

continued detention – can only be exercised for indictable-only offences.

Not all previously 'arrestable' offences are indictable, meaning some offences previously carrying power of entry no longer do.

Deputy Force Solicitor, Fiona Philpott, said: "Failure to adhere to the new law could mean arrests are deemed unlawful."

● Training School has prepared a workbook and the new guidelines can be found on the intranet on the green Policy Guidelines sheets, ref P142/05



Breath bated over national mergers

WELL, here we go again: 'Another year over, a new one just begun'.

As I write this, we still have the ongoing saga over police amalgamations with the Government saying one thing and then realising they have put their feet in their mouths and taking two steps back.

MPs from all parties are demonstrating and taking the view that we need more time before decisions are made (surprise, surprise).

Our police authority was quite forceful in its decision that it should recommend Essex Police stay as a standalone force.

The Chief Constable, Roger Baker, also supports this stance but feels that we should have a fall-back position if all else fails, ie Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk coming together.

We shall wait with bated breath for the next thrilling episode of the changing face of British policing.

Essex Police restructuring

WE have now decided on the size and names of the new territorial divisions within Essex Police.

It is interesting – looking at the wording of the 1994 force re-

structuring when we went to ten divisions – which said: "The change would improve the overall effectiveness of Essex Policing, allowing territorial divisions a greater self-sufficiency and so improving the focus on local delivery service."

Now we have the change which will improve the overall ... etc, etc. Yes, you've guessed it.

We have the welcome return of the Motorcycle Section, although on a reduced scale.

Again, the only reason they were done away with then was a cost-cutting exercise, with each division

required to save money and the Motorcycle Section was, at the time, considered a resource we did not need.

It's a shame when everything revolves around money and not the service.

You can argue that without money you cannot have the service but you keep cutting and cutting and when you get to the bone and there is no more, what then?

We now have a Housing Review document that is looking at the possibility of police housing stock going over a three to five-year period.

This work started in April last year but we were not involved in any of the work on this, although it was not for want of trying.

I sometimes wonder if people see us as a threat instead of allowing us to assist in the welfare and efficiency of the force.

We are talking about people here, not just bricks and mortar and, although we are now being assured that we will be in the consultation, I feel that if we had been able to put concerns across before now, the perceived bombshell could have been handled more effectively.

WITH the introduction of Neighbourhood policing across the county this year, the role of the Special Constable has never been so important.

Chief Constable Roger Baker has stated that he would like to increase the number of Special Constables to 1,000 and so Commandant George Cook is embarking on a campaign to recruit an extra 100-150 Specials each year until 2010.

"That target in the next four to five years is achievable," said Mr Cook.

"The current strength of the Special Constabulary is 426 and numbers nationally are increasing, but we must ensure a strategy and the groundwork is in place – which includes sufficient experienced supervisory staff – before we embark on a major recruitment programme."

He explained that such a recruitment campaign would only be achievable with support from other departments for taking on such numbers of Specials each year would have a big impact, especially on recruitment, HR and training.

"We need to look at equipment and the effects on divisions, so we need to address this first before we go out actively recruiting," he said.

A perennial problem for the Special Constabulary is that new constables are recruited and trained – and then sign up as regular officers.

This means there is a constant need for the Special Constabulary to recruit and train new supervisory officers.

Mr Cook – a Special for 42 years – said: "Hopefully we will always be one of the major recruiting grounds for the regular service. Although it has an impact on us, it is a positive indication that we have done a good job in promoting the police service and the role of our regular colleagues."

And, ironically, one source of potential new recruits is now in-house.

Previously police staff were restricted from joining up but Essex Police passed two policies last year, which mean they are now eligible to undertake the role of Special constable alongside their work for the force.

The second policy is also a big incentive for potential recruits as it allows eight hours off per month for staff who perform a minimum of 16 hours per month, plus training, with the Special Constabulary.

Mr Cook says he has other ideas for boosting recruitment.

Is there a special New Year in store for you?



There is no doubting the passion Chief Officer George Cook has for the Special Constabulary, it has been a driving force for more years than he cares to remember. He is now into his second year as Commandant and Helen Cook spoke to him about current plans and his hopes for the future.

"We are looking at local garrisons where we maybe able to encourage Army wives and partners to consider giving a little of their free time to support Essex Police.

"Schools are another potential recruitment area for us.

"Where mums and dads take their children to school at 9am and pick them at 3pm, not all of them are working and maybe they could work for us in the time in between.

"If we could get a Special constable into each junior school, just think of the ramifications of that over years in terms of relationship between the police, children their families and the wider community," said Mr Cook.

The Special Constabulary is actively working to encourage

employers to give their staff the opportunity to become Specials and promoting what the benefits are to the firm.

Mr Cook said that, prior to joining Essex Police, he had a varied career, spending time as assistant director of a merchant bank, director of a charity and manager of a shipping company and his experience at work had benefited his job as a Special.

Mr Cook said: "We can give firms free training – their staff can be trained by us in leadership, management and other business skills, which will be of great benefit to their company.

"All we ask them to do is consider giving their staff eight hours off per month to perform Special

duties." Mr Cook is justifiably proud that, following the July bombings in London, more than 100 Specials made themselves available for duty and he is keen to ensure that the force's divisions are aware of what a valuable resource they have and that this asset is used to its full potential. He said: "In 2004/05, Special officers undertook 95,593 hours of duties – the equivalent of 50 full-time regular officers – and is an enormous benefit to the police and community.

"We now need to ensure that the impact on the Special Constabulary is also assessed before new rules or policies are introduced.

"For example, if training comes in that requires a regular officer to have two days training, does it automatically mean that a Special officer also needs two days training? They may only need a half or one day's input.

"Our officers volunteer to help and are very enthusiastic but sometimes I feel that the best use is not always made of this free resource."

Mr Cook said Specials were the best connection between regular police officers and the communities

which they served. "Some of us are full-time and paid, some of us are part-time and are not paid but we are all striving to achieve the same objective, which is to provide the best service to the people of Essex," he stressed.

One of the great strengths of the Special Constabulary is the support that the officers get from their families.

Mr Cook said he wished to give a big thank you to all serving officers, their families and their employers for their support over the past year.

And he added: "I would also like to thank Sylvia Goodchild and her team and all the police staff who have assisted the Special officers within Essex Police – I am genuinely grateful for their support.

"Whilst 2006 will provide many challenges it will also provide many opportunities and I am sure the Special Constabulary will continue to fulfil its vital role in assisting our regular colleagues to provide the people of Essex with a safe environment."

● The Special Constabulary recruitment hotline number is 01245 452824



● In November, 27 Specials were sworn in during an Attestation Ceremony at the start of their service with Essex Police – the largest number of recruits to the Special Constabulary to be attested for a number of years

Picture by Gary Kenton

County can stand alone, Home Office is advised

ESSEX Police Authority has told the Home Secretary that it wishes Essex to remain as a standalone force.

Members met last month to discuss the issue of strategic forces and how they would respond to the Home Office.

Following a debate, they voted to put forward a case to the Home Secretary that Essex should remain as a standalone force.

But Essex would seek to look further into a legally-binding federation of East Anglian forces and – in agreement with the other five authorities and forces in the region – any savings from such a federation would be ring-fenced and put towards the provision of improved protective services.

The authority also agreed to support the continuation of the Eastern Region Co-ordination Group.

At the end of the meeting, Chief Constable Roger Baker said separate submissions to the Home Office would be made by both the authority and Essex Police.

The Chief Constable's submission was that Essex is capable of continuing as a stand-alone strategic force, but he has also put in place a fall-back option for Essex to merge with Suffolk and Norfolk, should the Home Secretary disagree.

Commended for 'baby death' case

ROAD policing officers have been commended by Chief Constable Roger Baker for their actions and investigational skills following a road crash in which a seven-week-old baby was killed.

A 12-month investigation began in March 2004 into the death of Tara Bradshaw, of Sawbridgeworth, who died following the collision in Harlow.

David Waterman, 25, of Bury Road in Harlow, was found guilty in April 2005 of causing her death by dangerous driving and sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment – the longest term Essex Police has seen handed down for such an offence in recent history.

Chief Insp Tom Diment and Insp Simon Morgan, both of HQ Mobile Support Division, Sgt Paul Fincham, Pc Mark White, Pc Paul Fisk and Pc Mike Ashman, all of Chigwell Road Policing Unit, Pc Tony Wilmot, of Stanway RPU, Pc Danny Waller, of Rayleigh RPU and Pc Pete Harris and Pc Paul Barber, of Laindon RPU, were all commended for their professionalism in investigating Tara's death.

Relate link

A NEW secure website link is available via the Occupational Health and Welfare website to Relate.

• The website details RELATE services and how to access five paid sessions of relationship counselling



● Pc Heather Alston and John Hills receive their awards from Richard Childs for winning a national Secured by Design competition

Heather and John are building on success

ARCHITECTURAL Liaison Officers John Hills and Pc Heather Alston have won £5,000 for Essex Police in a national Secured By Design competition.

The pair were presented with the cash, to use on promoting Secured By Design (SBD), and a wall plaque each by ACPO Crime Prevention Initiatives Ltd managing director Richard Childs, the former Chief Constable of Lincolnshire, at the National Training and Conference Event.

Their project involved a partnership with Cygnet Housing, Essex Women's Refuges Association, a security firm and a developer and resulted in a number of SBD certificates being awarded to new women's refuges in the county.

John said the work had increased the number of bed spaces available to victims of domestic violence within a safe and secure environment. "We will continue to work on other developments as funding becomes available," he said.

They will get a pop-up display board to promote SBD and the Safer Parking Award, which they can also use during national SBD Week in the summer. Community Safety Inspector Kate Sale said: "This is an excellent achievement."

● THE then Braintree Divisional Commander, Chief Supt Peter Coltman, presented an SBD certificate to Estuary Housing Association last month for its work on the Woodlands development in Dunmow.

It's an honour!

THE former Chief Constable of Essex, David Stevens, has been awarded a CBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours List, in recognition of his services to policing.

And Norman Eastbrook, Head of Photography, has been awarded the MBE for services to music and to the community in Essex.

While Nigel Oldacre, chairman of both the Essex County Neighbourhood Watch (NW) Association and of the Braintree town NW Steering Group, was awarded the MBE.

Mr Stevens was appointed Chief Constable of Essex Police in July 1998, after 20 years serving with Surrey Police and four as ACC and Deputy Chief Constable of Bedfordshire.

During his seven years at the helm of Essex Police – he left to chair the Home Office IMPACT board in July 2005 – Mr Stevens, 54, launched Community Policing Teams in 1999, the same year as he



● Former Chief Constable David Stevens

was awarded the Queen's Police Medal.

The force tackled some of the biggest operations it has known during his tenure, including the Afghan airliner hijack at Stansted in 2000, and saw an improvement in detections and a better standard of communication with the public – which contributed to a low fear of crime across the county.

"It was a nice surprise," said Mr Stevens. "I'm delighted to be recognised in this way but it is as much a comment on the high-quality people with whom I was privileged to work with in Essex."



● Head of Photography Norman Eastbrook

Mr Eastbrook, 51, has spent 35 years working for the force and is Director of the Essex Police Choir, which he founded in 1989.

He is also Director of St Luke's Parish Church Choir in Tiptree, having taken over as Choirmaster in 1975 at the age of just 21.

Having joined Essex Police as a trainee photographer in 1970, Mr Eastbrook gained qualifications in scientific and technical photography.

He became a constable at Clacton in 1976 but joined scenes of crime support staff two and a half years later and returned to the photographic

department in 1981, working his way up to become head of the department in 2002.

He said: "I was completely surprised but very honoured and humbled. I am pleased to receive my MBE on behalf of Essex Police and all my years of service. Both my job and the music mean I have got pleasure out of helping other people.

"It is a team effort – everyone is involved and the community benefits."

Being burgled 18 years ago saw the start of Mr Oldacre's involvement with NW – he was prompted to form a group in Broad Road, Bocking.

He took over as chairman of Braintree NW Steering Group three years ago and, in October 2005 after the appointment of a NW Co-ordinator, became chairman of the Essex County NW Association.

He said: "I was speechless and delighted. I was pleased for the Braintree NW Steering Group as it is also a reflection on them and it raises the profile of Neighbourhood Watch."

No let-up against drink-drive menace

POLICE will not be resting on their laurels and will keep the pressure on motorists to abide by drink-drive laws despite being pleasantly surprised by the results of the Christmas drink-drive campaign.

A total of 8,416 tests were carried out, with 255 drivers providing positive roadside breath specimens, refusing or failing to provide specimens or driving while under the influence of drugs.

On average, 271 motorists were stopped and breathalysed every day in

December with eight arrested for putting people's lives in danger.

In 2004, a total of 8,815 tests were carried out, with 311 drivers arrested for drink-drive offences – a rate of 3.5 per cent.

Road Policing Inspector Alan Jelley said there were still some persistent offenders who were stopped and prosecuted each and every year – a fact which his officers are attempting to change.

"This campaign's hit rate of three per

cent does give us concern and should give the general motoring public concern too," he said.

"Each campaign is launched in order to tackle this deadly menace but I would stress and highlight that the drink-drive message applies 365 days of the year and not just throughout December.

"Having said this, these results are definitely pleasing due to the percentage drop and, to some extent, they do fill me with hope for the future but I'm still concerned that 255 people were arrested."

Stretch the executive in you ...

VOLUNTEERS are required for the next Executive Stretch weekend.

Linda Garner, of the HR Business Team, said Executive Stretch was an annual event organised by the voluntary reserve forces.

The weekend is open to officers of Inspector rank and SO/PO-graded police staff.

"This is an opportunity for people to build on skills they didn't know they had before.

"It can be physically demanding but

very rewarding," she said.

Force Information Room Divisional Administration Manager Mick Barry's weekend included a night-time ambush exercise.

He said: "It was a great weekend – mentally and physically challenging and huge fun. Being in the company of people from other organisations, public and private sector, is always interesting."

● The next weekend is due to be held in September 2006. Look out for details on the intranet shortly

Lifesaving honours

NOMINATIONS are being sought for the Police National Life Saving Recognition Scheme.

Officers who have been involved in a water-based rescue between January 1, 2005, and January 2006 are eligible.

Supervisors of any police officer involved in a water-based life-saving rescue during 2005 should forward their nominations – including a summary of information about the nominee and the incident – to Sgt Liz Roberts or Pc Sarah Pike via email by Sunday, January 22.

Staff step forward to raise cash for charities

WELL done to former Pc Hayley Fusher who raised £2,000 and completed a 60km walk in aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

Hayley, who was injured in a road crash when she was working in Southend, spend almost a year training for the walk.

Her husband Andrew, an inspector in the Professional Development Unit, said: "It was a very moving experience as the whole event raised £5.1million." Meanwhile, Pc Tanya Bailey raised £842 for Cancer Research UK after spending a sleepless night at Holloway Prison.

She was inspired to fund raise by the death of a family member and because her sister, Gemma Bailey, was diagnosed with cervical cancer. Not only did Tanya far-surpass her target of £200, she said her sister was recovering well after an operation.

Other cancer charities to benefit from fund raising by officers and staff include Macmillan Cancer Relief, which received £125 from a coffee and cake morning at Harlow, and the Helen Rollason Cancer Care Charity, which was given £85.20 following a Christmas sale at the Training Centre (EPTC).

The annual Children In Need quiz at EPTC canteen raised £1,450, to be divided between children's wards at Southend, St John's and Broomfield hospitals and The Little Haven Children's Hospice.

Generous staff at the Force Information Room raised £251.15 for Jeans for Genes day.

And officers and staff in Crime and Mobile Support divisions raised £213.77 for the same cause.

Finally, a raffle to win Barnaby Bear, run by Public Relations, raised £18 for the Barnardo's Christmas appeal – Giving Children Back Their Christmas.

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.

Thanks for giving me fantastic memories

I WOULD like to use The Law to say thanks to all my friends and colleagues who came along to my retirement party and also thanks to those who couldn't come but who sent their good wishes.

Thanks also to Insp Keith Whiting for his kind word and humorous comments.

It was great to see so many with whom I have worked over the past 20 years. I was thrilled with the i-pod which you very kindly gave me; it was a fantastic gift and is already being put to good use.

Thank you also for the beautiful flowers that you bought my wife Kay and also to those who brought along retirement gifts.

Those of you who know me were no doubt surprised that, when I went to make my thank-you speech, for once I was 'lost for words'.

Over the years I have worked with some fantastic people and some very amusing characters and I must say that I will miss the camaraderie. Having joined the job quite late in years I am pleased I did, for I got to carry out a life-long ambition.

There are not many jobs where you find that, when you arrive at an incident, your traffic coat has most of the contents of the parade room desk in its various pockets - thanks C-shift!

The serious side is that it's the only job in which I have worked where everybody pulls together. At all incidents there is a dedicated and very professional approach and there are so many genuine and dedicated officers. Please keep that sense of humour and dedication.

Thanks again to all of you, please take care of yourselves.

Derek Wheddon
Chelmsford File
Management Unit

Comrades meeting

THE annual general meeting of the Essex Police Comrades' Association will be held at the Federation Office, Stable Lodge at Essex Police HQ on Thursday, January 26, at 10am.

All members are welcome to attend

We would like to remind readers of The Law that membership of this association is open not only to all retired officers but also to serving officers with ten or more years' service.

Anyone who would like further information or details of membership can contact me at the Federation Office at Essex Police HQ on ext 54501.

Sue Kelly
Secretary
Essex Police Comrades
Association



● **Floral tributes to Denise Purkiss, of the Performance and Analysis Team in Corporate Support, who died in November**

We really appreciated your kindness after Denise's death

I FEEL I must write to express my gratitude to all concerned, following the unexpected death of my daughter Denise Purkiss.

The kind messages, support and attendance at Denise's funeral were overwhelming. Donations made in Denise's memory for the National Society for Epilepsy totalled £832.35.

I had no idea that she was so popular and touched so many lives but I do know that Denise was very happy with her job and I appreciate the understanding and

caring attitude of Essex Police, as Denise's medical condition caused many days' absence from her work.

The floral tribute from Essex Police is, at the time of writing, still looking fantastic and many photographs have been taken.

I am sorry that not everyone was able to attend the graveside, due to the sheer number of attendees, but I am enclosing a photograph of the beautiful flowers.

Diane Whitelaw and family
Chelmsford

Leave forces to deal with local policing

THE idea that reducing 43 police forces to only 12 or even eight would make them more efficient or better able to deal with terrorism - the Government's claim - is ridiculous in the extreme, I believe.

Who says they are inefficient? Certainly not Her Majesty's Inspectorate!

Surely the true, and more sinister, motive behind this latest suggestion of the Government is to try to take one more step towards realising the politicians' dream of a national police force and having total control of the country's police.

Things have, by stealth, been progressing in this direction for many years, from the time, in fact, when constables became policemen (now police officers) and constabularies became police forces.

Police is a word defined in the dictionary as a 'department of Government concerned with public order etc.'

When I joined the Essex Constabulary there were some 87 police forces in the UK.

Two things that distinguish the British police from all others is their independence from political interference and control (well, almost) and being unarmed (well, almost).

It is true that the police have had to move with the times - perhaps not fast enough, some may say - but, in my view, the Government has failed to distinguish between things of national importance and matters of a local nature, equally important to the population.

It is true that the world is a different and more dangerous place than it was, but local communities still have the same problems for which they need their constables, so many of whom are now far too busy on 'other duties', for which the Government claims a responsibility, to

attend to the everyday needs of the public.

Some countries, such as Spain, have found that for them it has worked the other way round. They started with a national police force but found that a local force was absolutely essential and now they have both, plus the Guardia Civil.

Surely the time has come in the UK to stop tinkering with local police forces but to establish a third force, such as exists in most other civilised countries. Call it the National Guard, the Civil Guard, the Riot Squad; call it what you will.

Let the Government control this force and let them deal with natural and manmade disasters, terrorism, riots, civil unrest etc.

Leave the local police forces alone to deal with the things they are very good at and best suited for; local policing.

George Raven
Cartagena
Spain

'Self-defence plea could let robbers off'

RE the latest proposal that robbers and muggers should not be charged with murder: I can foresee the defence lawyers having a hey-day - "My client only carried the gun/knife to use as a threat. He had no intention of harming or killing anyone."

"However, the victim resisted him and started to fight back. My client was under attack and in fear for his life. He only used the weapon in self-defence."

Jack Faulkner
Southend

● I HAVE, over the past few years, noticed a number of coincidences that in some way have had some bearing on myself.

I think that one of the best was when I was posted to Thaxted on promotion in the late 1960s. At that time there were two police houses with an office in the middle. Oddly enough, my neighbour and I had the same surname and the same birthday!

Tony Cooper
Baintree

Congratulations on arrests - what about the cash?

CHIEF Constable Roger Baker deserves congratulations in getting swiftly to grips with operational matters and arrest numbers.

Perhaps he could now get a grip of the financial side of matters, particularly expenditure. Why does the force need £12,000 each for motorcycles when 180mph superbikes retail at around £9,000, before discounts available to police forces?

However, I believe this is but a small matter in comparison with the proposal to move departments to Boreham, demolish the HQ garage facility and build yet more offices, together with much car parking.

I suggest that firstly, Mr Baker should look at reducing the number of office workers at HQ. If there is still insufficient office space, a two-shift system should easily resolve this.

So far as the heavy lorries at HQ are concerned, the big question is are they really necessary? Whatever, locating them to hired premises would be simple.

Lack of car parks? Ask the front-end constables serving at police stations countywide for their views. No-one provides them with free parking at places like Chelmsford Town.

The general public sees the police budget soaring annually and, whatever the arrest statistics, they perceive few improvements in policing, so it would at least be good to see that needless expenditure was being held back.

Roy Bracey
Chelmsford

● *Reply from Head of Transport John Gorton:* Machines for police use are very different to sports bikes. Very few bikes are determined suitable for police use and undergo protracted testing and evaluation by manufacturers and police forces.

Motorcycle officers carry a significant amount of additional equipment both fitted to the bike and carried by the officer, including radio systems, first aid, fire extinguishing and warning equipment. Considerable work is undertaken by the manufacturers to ensure the stability and handling of the machines under police riding conditions. There can be no compromise when it comes to officer safety and it is imperative that we take great care in ensuring the right tools for the job.

The types of machines suitable for police use are not cheap and the domestic specification Honda Pan, retails at about £12,000. The moving of Mobile Support Division and Transport Services will free up some 200 parking spaces and the flow of traffic to and from HQ.

We have reduced the number of heavy lorries significantly but have kept those which are used regularly and save the force a fortune in hire charges.

● *And from Director of Finance and Administration Rick Tazzini:* Essex Police's spending per head of population continues to be the second lowest in England and Wales.

Motorbikes could combat nuisance

I BELIEVE Chief Constable Roger Baker is only half right in his decision to have motorcycles back.

I speak with 15 years' experience as a traffic motorcyclist and nearly 22 months as a dispatcher in the Force Information Room.

Essex has and will always suffer from the plague of nuisance motorcyclists, now with the added dimension of mini-motos. I suggest that we do not invest in conventional patrol bikes but go for road-legal, off-road motorcycles.

By choosing this option, road policing officers can deal with the ever-increasing problem of nuisance motorcyclists, the bikes can still be used as patrol bikes and, if there is really a role for them in ANPR, they can be deployed as and when.

There is certainly a demand for off-road bikes rather than patrol bikes - judging by the numbers of the public who call in expecting the police to deal with nuisance motorcyclists, this is a problem that

affects many. Economically it also makes sense. These machines are so much cheaper.

Pc Del Brander
FIR, HQ

● *Reply from Chief Insp Tom Diment:* There is a presumption that police motorcyclists would be permitted to 'pursue' people on off-road bikes on ground other than roads. We have very strict pursuit policies for on-road activity, anything off-road could be more dangerous, particularly when a lot of these bikes are ill-kept and ridden by young, inexperienced riders. We would not want to push them into a position whereby they crash.

There are other ways of interacting with such riders. Not all will be successful but there is no evidence to suggest that they would be successful with normal motorcyclists either. It is subjective to suggest that off-road police bikes would resolve such situations.

Corner the chairman



● **Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers**

Delivering the policing in your neighbourhood

“In the next few months we will see the initial phase of introducing the new Neighbourhood policing teams to the county. Neighbourhood policing is a Government drive but, even though it is happening on a national level, it is the next step in the new policing style in Essex.

This new style of policing, introduced by Chief Constable Roger Baker with the police authority, has already seen increased detection rates and low crime levels, as well as 100 officers moved to frontline duties. With Neighbourhood policing this can only continue, as additional officers will be introduced to the front line.

These officers are vital to our new way of visible policing and giving the public what they want. The team of officers, with a District Commander, will be the first point of contact for the communities we serve and will be more equipped to deal with problems at the heart of the community. District Commanders, which have never been seen before in Essex, are responsible for their own teams and will work with local people and encourage their input and feedback.

Not only will residents see more dedicated police officers in their area, they will also have dedicated PCSOs, Specials and Accredited Volunteers. We will also strive to work with our partner agencies and set up problem solving teams, rather than each agency tackling problems in isolation. We will also provide feedback to the community by opening new avenues of communication. We have already started to reorganise our own divisional structure within Essex Police, meaning we are now best placed to introduce Neighbourhood policing and improve services. We want to find out what the communities want from their police service and we will strive to deliver it.”

● **To ask Mr Chambers a question, write to Kate Batson, Press and PR Officer, Essex Police Authority, at HQ Press Office. Mr Chambers will select some to reply to next month.**

‘Analysis will help us to re-target our resources’

IT will soon be time for the force’s annual Activity Analysis and it is hoped the returns will prove as fruitful as last year.

The force achieved a 99 per cent response out of 22,000 forms.

The annual Activity Analysis (AA) survey is conducted on behalf of the Home Office every year and is vital for calculating the force’s Frontline Policing Measure (FLP) – which states how much time police officers spend on frontline duties.

The FLP target is 72 per cent by 2008 – the 2005 survey showed Essex Police officers spent about 64 per cent of their time carrying out frontline duties.

Director of Finance and Administration Rick Tazzini said: “It is vital

that the information recorded through the Activity Analysis survey is accurate.

“We need to ensure that what we are doing is in line with what we have told the public we will be doing, through our policing plan – ie, getting more officers in frontline roles and doing frontline tasks.

“I am determined that we help officers reduce the burdens of unnecessary paperwork and downtime – but I need the evidence from AA to prove this.”

Senior Accounting Technician Cathy Mansfield explained that several new codes would help the force to see how much time was spent carrying out certain duties and examine its procedures if there is a problem.

For example, Waiting Time In Custody now has a booking in section, which can be used to examine how long an officer has to spend booking in prisoners.

“Throughout the force, as a whole, it will help officers to make better use of their time,” she explained.

AA starts on January 30 for a fortnight and, running concurrently, will be a survey of staff in dedicated custody roles to help them avoid delays and reduce waiting times in custody suites.

Mrs Mansfield stressed that a liaison officer would monitor each division and non-compliance and erroneous would be chased up.

Everyone taking part will receive a pack containing forms for completion

and a full instruction pack. She added that although the sheets mentioned the old nine divisions, staff should not worry as the figures would fit in with the new divisional structure.

This year’s figures will be put through new computer software in order to identify the amount of time spent on frontline duties by unit type – such as Community Policing – rank and location, across all incident, incident-related activity and non-incident-related activity codes.

Shift patterns and resource deployment can then be analysed to see if changes are necessary.

● Visit the Activity Analysis pages on the staff intranet, under the Information menu towards the end of this month for more details

Rennie: ‘There’s no smoke without fire’

A CLACTON Scenes of Crime Officer is one of the first people in the UK to be registered with the Council for Registered Forensic Practitioners in Fire Scene Examination.

Ds Rennie Chivers, 48, became a SOCO two years ago and has a particular interest in fire scene examination.

He undertook personal study before taking two courses in order to gain the qualification.

And his interest has already paid dividends for the force.

He was involved in a case in which the defendant had claimed that his victim’s cigarette had ignited petrol which had accidentally been splashed over the victim.

Having spent two weeks on an ‘origin and cause’ course in Georgia, USA, with the Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms and Explosives, Ds Chivers knew that heat from a cigarette could not ignite petrol and set out to prove this for the court.

The victim and witness accounts said



● **Ds Rennie Chivers**

that the victim had been doused in petrol and that the defendant had set it alight with a cigarette lighter.

However, the defendant, John Barry Graney, 36, of Carnarvon Road, Clacton, claimed that his victim had been

holding a petrol can and smoking a cigarette when he visited.

Fearing that he was going to be doused in petrol, Graney said he had kicked the petrol can, which splashed petrol over Mr Burke, which was then ignited by the cigarette.

But, said Ds Chivers, having originally denied causing GBH with intent, Graney pleaded guilty after evidence proving his claim was impossible was given to his defence team. He was jailed for six years at Chelmsford Crown Court on December 21.

Ds Chivers constructed a special ‘smoking machine’ which could keep a cigarette alight – while he stood at a safe distance – and then conducted experiments to see whether, indeed, petrol would not be ignited with a lit cigarette.

He also conducted experiments with a T-shirt doused in petrol to see if that could be set alight with a lit cigarette – it couldn’t. But it did ignite when set alight with a cigarette lighter.

Ds Chivers said after the case: “We have saved a full-length trial and a lot of police hours in court and proved that it was intentional.”

Marking system to protect your information

THE New Year saw new practices for all members of Essex Police with the implementation of the Government Protective Marking Scheme.

This places a requirement upon members of the force to ensure that all information assets are protectively

marked in accordance with the information’s sensitivity and that appropriate security controls are put in place.

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

Preparations for the

scheme’s introduction have been thorough, with road-show presentations to command and divisional management teams and a handy aide memoire has been issued.

The Protective Marking Policy has been published and a Protective Marking

website including a FAQs page and computer-based training can be found on the Intranet under Training Manuals and Help for details.

● Contact Information Security on ext 52314 with relevant questions or to organise a presentation

Gone . . . but not forgotten

Pc Rod Leake

Served from July 6, 1972. Died June 20, 1996

PC Rodney ‘Rod’ Leake was born on July 1, 1946. He joined Essex and Southend-on-Sea Joint Constabulary in 1972, aged 26, and was initially stationed at Basildon.

His aptitude for motor transport and driving brought him to the

attention of the Traffic Division and he was subsequently posted to Chelmsford Traffic, where Pc Leake’s particular specialisation was motorcycles.

At 11.08am on Thursday, June 20, 1996, he was on routine motorcycle patrol on the B1019 near Ulting,

at a place known as Doe’s Corner, when he was involved in a collision with a lorry. Pc Leake subsequently died from his injuries at Broomfield Hospital in Chelmsford. He left a widow, Joan, and two children, Susan and Michael.



● **Pc Rod Leake**

For details of all those featured in the Essex Police Roll of Honour, visit the Memorial Trust website at www.essex.police.uk/memorial If you have any information you feel could be added to the website, email memorialtrust@essex.pnn.police.uk or write to the Memorial Trust at police HQ

New roles for ACCs

THE force’s three Assistant Chief Constables have taken on new portfolios this year. Andy Bliss has taken on responsibility for territorial policing and the Community Safety Department as the ACC for Territorial Policing (TP).

Liam Briggins is to be the ACC for Operational Support (OS), responsible for Human Resources, the Criminal Justice Department and the Force Information Room.

And John Broughton takes over responsibility for Crime and Mobile Support divisions as ACC for Protective Services (PS).

There are no changes to the portfolios of Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark or Director of Finance and Administration Rick Tazzini.

Youngsters enjoy visit

A CHRISTMAS party in Grays’ newly-refurbished social club bar attracted 75 children, aged up to ten.

After enjoying a visit by the entertainer Jolly Jenny and a McDonald’s Happy Meal, the youngsters – all children of members were given gifts by Father Christmas (Mike Clements) and Mrs Christmas (Marilyn Jordan). Mrs Jordan, 45, has worked in the bar since it opened more than 25 years ago and was organising the Christmas party for the third year.

She said it was particularly nice as the third-floor bar had just been refurbished with new sofas, carpets and curtains.

She and her daughters Kerry and Rebecca spent several nights wrapping all the presents for the youngsters – all children of members of the Grays Sports Club.

Festive present for Ellie May

CRIME Reduction Inspector Basil Thornton, of Rayleigh, helped to raise more than £1,000 for the Ellie May Trust.

The trust was set up to raise cash to buy prosthetic limbs for a Romford girl who lost her arms and legs as a result of meningitis.

Insp Thornton was asked to draw the winning ticket in a raffle organised by a local businessman.

What a difference a year makes ...!



● Pc Clive Fry, left, and Pc Dave Williams promote the Essex Police Bikesafe education and training scheme in the summer. Last month, Essex Police Authority agreed to reintroduce motorcycles to Essex roads. Six new ones will work alongside the two Bikesafe machines.

January

AS the world began to come to terms with the tragic aftermath of the Boxing Day 2004 tsunami in south-east Asia, Essex was one of the first forces to offer and supply police officers and staff to the Foreign and Commonwealth Casualty Bureau.

And fully-trained police officers and staff travelled to the region to assist with victim identification while family liaison officers were deployed in Essex to help relatives of people killed by the giant tidal wave.

It was a worrying time for those officers and staff who either had relatives living in areas affected or who were holidaying there at the time.

Locally, the Essex Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) was introduced, with the Chief Constable being able to accredit local authority and private-sector staff – street wardens, park rangers and shopping centre security staff – with powers to tackle low-level disorder and nuisance, such as graffiti, fly-posting, litter and anti-social behaviour.

A group of police cadets joined the Proactive Essex Police Youth Strategy (PEPYS) youth forum, set up to help develop the way the force deals with young people involved in anti-social behaviour.

And Pc Peter Caulfield – who had submitted cartoons to *The Law* for 18 years – called it a day after 25 years with Essex Police.

February

CHIEF Constable David Stevens declared that new licensing laws – due to come into force in November – were unlikely to lead to 24-hour drinking in Essex.

Revealing that the force and its partners in licensing were prepared for the changes, Mr Stevens also said he did not envisage a significant change in drinking patterns.

And, at the time of writing, so it has proved.

The Transport Services Department announced that it had taken on an

external contract to transport papers for the county's magistrates' courts.

A national case management scheme piloted in Essex was hailed a success and brought into play county-wide later in the year. CPS and other associated agencies are now working together to ensure trial dates are only set once everything is in place.

This has resulted in the amount of time an officer spends in court and court listings for 'case-progressed' prosecutions falling by half.

The UK's first freephone number for people wanting to report hate crime confidentially was launched by the Safer Thurrock Partnership, on 0800 138 0519.

Officers in Braintree Division were piloting the use of Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), which give direct, speedy access to a host of information and allow operators to access email and send messages while out on patrol.

It was envisaged that officers would be able to spend more time out on patrol because they had remote access – based on secure, mobile phone technology – to important data.

The eyes of the media turned to hunting and how the Hunting Act would be policed.

Special Operations Chief Insp Tim Stokes told how the force had prepared for the implementation of



● Essex became the first police force in the country to have PCSOs attached to a marine unit when Ben Mearing and Dorian Atkins arrived at the base in Burnham on Crouch. They help to police 300 miles of coastline and inland waterways in Essex, liaising between the force and the county's marine community

the new act although he believed little would change in how Essex Police handled hunts.

Local officers would continue to deal with local issues, backed up with a reserve of public order-trained officers, in case of any problems.

The first weekend of the ban presented no real problems in Essex, which hosted one foot and five mounted hunts, and no allegations were made about illegal hunting.

March

AS the media turned the spotlight on a reduction in successful rape convictions, the force revealed it had been taking a fresh look at how Sexual Offences Trained Officers (SOTOs) supported victims and gathered early evidence.

A pilot unit offering investigation advice and support to officers showed clear signs of success.

The Harlow Investigative Support Unit (ISU) used existing, experienced staff and resources from Crime Division and Corporate Support.

Coupled with excellent work in other divisions, it led to an increase in sanctioned detections – where the person responsible for a crime has been identified and called to account for the crime by way of court appearance, caution, reprimand or penalty ticket – from 20.3 per cent in October 2004 to 25.3 per cent.

The sanctioned detection rate for violent crime in the 12 months to January 2005 was 40 per cent.

An apparent disregard for the law saw another countywide campaign to encourage motorists and passengers to 'belt-up' in their vehicles.

A water firm was successfully prosecuted after a motorcyclist died when he crashed at temporary road works.

At the point where the man came off his bike, police investigators found a three-inch drop in the surface where an excavation had been filled in badly.

April

THE 800-year-old double jeopardy rule which prevented anyone being tried twice for the same crime, was largely abolished for serious cases

under amendments to the 2003 Criminal Justice Act.

The Court of Appeal could now quash an acquittal and order a retrial if new and compelling evidence came to light for certain crimes, including war crimes and hi-jacking.

Off-duty Pc Shelley Wildish won the Wilson Trophy for performing the most meritorious act after she chased a suspected armed burglar.

The Home Office gave £300,000 for the force's Automatic Number Plate Recognition initiatives to help officers target criminals driving around the county.

The force's kennels at Sandon were re-opened following refurbishment.

The first police vehicles to be fitted with Vehicle Incident Data Recorders (VIDR) went out on the county's roads.

The 'black boxes' monitor speed, lighting, braking and other essential data, which is stored after a collision.

And the worldwide ACTION scheme's first anniversary was celebrated with a special cake-cutting ceremony.

May

RELATIVES of Essex officers killed while on duty welcomed the Queen's dedication of the National Police Memorial in London.

The names of 14 Essex officers were among the 1,600 names listed in a book of remembrance at the memorial in The Mall.

Sue Bishop, widow of Acting Sgt Brian Bishop, shot in 1984, and Pc Wayne Veal, brother of Pc Gary Veal, killed in 2001 while dealing with a broken-down vehicle, attended.

A motorist jailed after causing a crash which led to the death of a seven-week-old baby received the longest sentence in recent force history for an offence of his kind.

David Waterman was jailed for 10 years after being found guilty of causing the death, by dangerous driving, of Tara Bradshaw in a road-rage incident on the A414 in Harlow in March 2004.

Dean Crowley, from Southend, was the first Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) to receive a Chief Constable's Commendation – he had saved the lives of three young girls who had got into difficulties while

Essex Police started out 2005 with nine territorial divisions and the county was ranked as one of the safest in England and Wales – by December the force had a new Chief Constable, Roger Baker, had decided to reorganise into five divisions and faced the prospect of being amalgamated with other forces in the eastern region, although the police authority vowed to 'stand alone' in its submission to the Home Secretary. The Law editor Heather Turner takes a look at the year that was 2005.

● Basildon crime reduction officer Steven Greener with one of the 'talking signs' for the town centre – little black boxes attached to lamp-post which, when activated by a passer-by, give out messages such as 'Beware of pickpockets' – which were installed in July

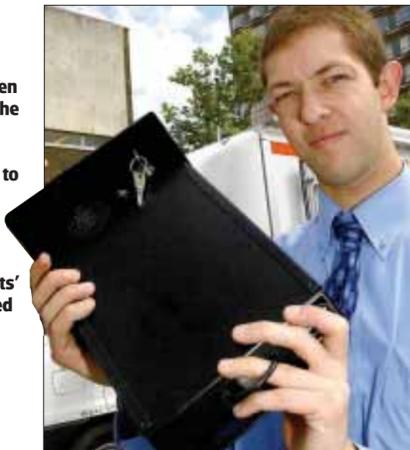


Photo courtesy of Echo Newspapers

playing in the sea.

The 2Smart4Drugs campaign entered its ninth year with a radical revamp and as a finalist in the community category of the Essex Countywide Business Awards 2005.

And Pc Victoria Wilson, Substance Misuse and Youth Co-ordinator, was invited to give a presentation on 2S4D for the Drugscope agency as part of consultation in compiling the Association of Chief Police Officers' drugs education guidance for schools.

Meanwhile, the force's successful Crack Under Pressure campaign against Class A drugs was relaunched – with the news that a crack house in Basildon had been closed for three months, using anti-social behaviour legislation.

Maldon Special constable Adam Pipe, who is also the force's Senior Traffic Management Officer, was recognised by the town's mayor for services to the community.

Braintree Division romped to Croker Cup success for the fourth year in a row, helped by team members from Stansted Airport, too, with Harlow coming second, again for the fourth year in a row.

June

ESSEX Police said farewell to Chief Constable David Stevens after seven years at the helm.

During his time with the force, it tackled some of the biggest operations it had known, including the Stansted Afghan airliner hi-jack in 2000 and the murder of teenager Danielle Jones. "What better way to finish than being able to say everything is really positive?" he said.

More than 10,000 copies of a special

More than 150 Essex officers travelled to Perthshire to assist with the policing of the G8 Summit, which involved the heads of state or government from the UK, France, Germany, Japan, Italy, Canada, the USA and Russia.

And police staff and officers worked hard in responding to the consequences of the July 7 and 21 bombings in London – with family liaison officers deployed to help victims' relatives.

Chelmsford Divisional Commander Chief Supt Win Bernard was awarded the Queen's Police Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

New Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Units were launched across the divisions in a bid to increase the level of service given to victims of such crimes, increase detection rates and reduce repeat offending.

George Cook stepped down as Southend's Divisional Administration Manager in order to concentrate fully on his job as Commandant of the Special Constabulary, which he had taken on in October 2004.

The force started a national pilot scheme for issuing Penalty Notices for Disorder to children aged ten to 15.

Pcs Geoff Poyser and Lorraine Lambert were nominated for the National Bravery Awards – organised by the Police Federation and sponsored by the *Sun* newspaper – following an incident on the M11 near Stansted Airport, where one was dragged along the motorway for a mile while the other was assaulted and left at the roadside.

August

REDUCING crime and anti-social behaviour, putting more officers on the beat and improving communication with the public were top of Chief Constable Roger Baker's agenda, as he sought to turn Days of Action into 'business as usual'.

Essex Black Police Association was celebrating its fifth anniversary, helping with recruitment and setting up a forward pool of mentors.

The new Professional Development Unit at South Woodham Ferrers Police Station was set up in the light of changes to probationer training.

Tutors will attend policing incidents



● Insp Simon Morgan and Chief Insp Tom Diment launched Essex Police's Christmas anti-drink-drive campaign last month, which also focused on drug-driving

Picture by Julia Goward

which reflect a probationer's learning needs and means probationers can follow incidents through, from start to finish, seeing how various departments, skills and partners work together.

Staff at the Chigwell motorway control room helped to prevent around £250,000 of contraband cigarettes from reaching the streets when they stopped a lorry, following a tip-off from HM Customs and Excise.

And staff at Harlow, Southend and Chelmsford bade a fond farewell to canteen food, following a cost review.

People policing took on a whole new meaning this month as almost 130,000 visited Hylands Park in Chelmsford for the annual V-Festival, arresting 46 people over the weekend.

Then volunteers took part in keeping 10,000 Scouts and Guides safe at the same site during the European Scout Jamboree.

September

THE Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Intercept Team was celebrating a year in existence, having been responsible for 159 arrests and the recovery of 69 stolen vehicles.

Concerns about crime levels and public safety were so low in Essex that the county topped three out of six categories in the annual British Crime Survey.

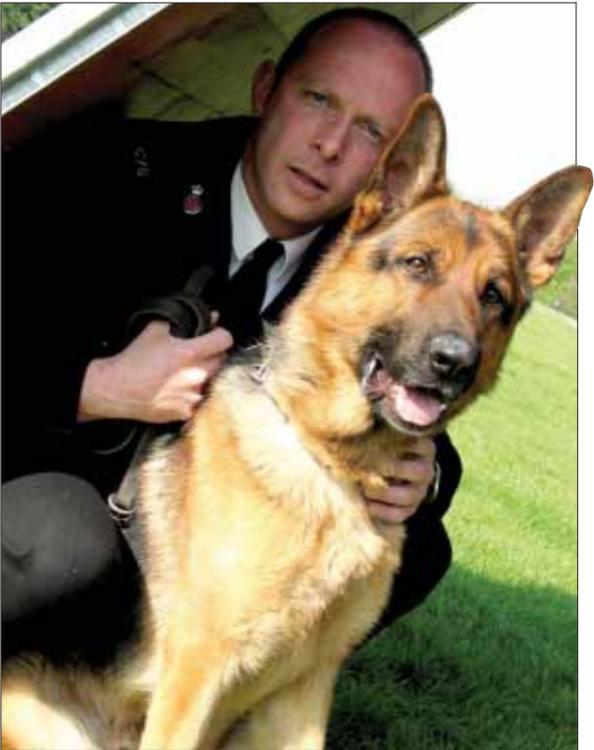
Essex Police Authority announced a Best Value Review of the force's 'structure and policing style', looking at the 2001 structure review and at how Neighbourhood Policing would need to fit in.

Three Colchester constables, Trevor Clark, Jim Finnigan and Ryan Whitear, were recognised at the town's inaugural Neighbourhood Watch Community Officer of the Year Awards – the first initiative of its kind in England and Wales.

The TASER X26 was authorised for deployment as part of armed operations in Essex as a less-lethal weapon, joining negotiators, CS spray, baton guns, dogs and conventional firearms.

The Essex Police Museum reopened after a £43,000 Heritage Lottery Fund grant was spent on it.

Basildon's Persistent and Prolific



● Anglia TV documented the training of new police dogs and their handlers. Presenter Tim Evans followed them through from Day One to their 'passing out' parade in April. Pc Dave Hawtin and his new colleague Obee are pictured during training

Picture by Nishan Wijeratne

October

UNSOLVED rape cases were set to be reviewed as the force's 'cold case' team increased in size, with funding for an additional, temporary post.

Chief Constable Roger Baker said Home Office plans to review the structure of police forces across the UK were an opportunity to examine 'how we can do business better'.

Essex Police Authority and Essex Police had just 12 weeks to discuss and submit their proposals for either 'standing alone' or merging with neighbouring forces.

The ACTION Awards dinner recognised four police officers, a PCSO and a cadet for putting in 'that little bit extra': Pc Kelly Allen, Sgt Stuart Hooper, Pc Henry Garrod, Pc Paul Ballard, PCSO Ella Hearn and Cadet Hannah Gilchrist.

Ben Jeakins, of Transport Services, was named Best Apprentice of the Year by the regional Institute of the Motor Industry, while colleague Chris Grant was Apprentice Technician of the Year at Basildon College.

Chief Supt Jacqui Cheer, Southend Divisional Commander, was promoted to temporary Assistant Chief Constable and seconded to the Home Office's Bureaucracy Task Force.

While the force's athletes brought home 14 medals from the National Athletics Championship.

And 2Smart4Drugs won the public community category at the Mid Essex Business Awards.

November

OPENING hours were extended at police stations across the county as part of Chief Constable Roger Baker's plans to give the public the service it wants.

He vowed to make police stations more accessible to members of the public at relevant times of the day or night.

Rayleigh and Chelmsford Divisions introduced No Cold-Calling Zones in a bid to deter bogus callers and rogue

traders. Four proposals for merging Essex Police with neighbouring forces were put forward to the Home Secretary:

Essex to standalone, amalgamating Essex with Suffolk and Norfolk, amalgamating the force with Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire and amalgamating with all forces above, plus Cambridgeshire.

New licensing laws came into force with very little trouble.

A new system of exchanging STORM data across borders was developed with the help of the force's IT Department.

The first Essex Justice Awards recognised Louise Simpson, of Colchester Criminal Justice Unit, PEPYS project leader Sgt Ian Carter, Insp Kevan Griggs, of the Criminal Justice Command Team, and Colchester PCSOs Jacqueline Tyrrell, Gaynor Forster, Alison Howe and Charlotte Knowler for 'going the extra mile'.

And Witham Special constable Melanie Harmer was awarded the Norman Dooley Trophy as the Sc performing the most meritorious act of the year.

Essex Police Sports Association marked the tenth anniversary of the building of the sports pavilion at HQ.

December

IT was decided to restructure Essex Police's territorial divisions into five, plus Stansted Airport and Mobile Support, and rename them – for details, see Page 2 of this issue.

Essex Police Authority decided to tell the Home Secretary that Essex should remain a standalone force – for details, see Page 3 of this issue.

And the lease was finally signed for a site at Boreham Airfield, signalling the start of a re-organisation at HQ.

Mobile Support, Force Support and Chelmsford Road Policing Unit are all due to move there by March, followed by Transport Services in May.

And 27 years after the brutal rape and murder of a Rochford business-woman shocked the local community, builder Wayne Doherty was jailed for life.

The case of Norah Trott was the first successful 'cold case' prosecution in Essex and advances in forensic science played a vital part.

Law Classifieds

Holiday lets

COSTA BLANCA, La Marina. Luxury villa, sleeps four to six. Two bedrooms, two bathrooms, heating, air conditioning, communal pool. Five minutes from beach, 10 from golf course, 25 from airport. From £150 pw. Contact Mick Ager on 00 34 617 110 096 or 07775 676142 or email casdomi02@hotmail.com

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

FLORIDA, luxury four-bed villa, private screened pool, close to Disney and golf. For free brochure contact Jill on 01702 586092 or www.my-florida-villa.net

FLORIDA, Orlando. Four-bed, pool home overlooking water in quiet location. £450-£550 per week. Close to golf and airport. Contact Pete or Linda on 01245 321378 or email petewtaylor@yahoo.com

FLORIDA, Orlando. Luxury villa, three bedrooms, private pool, sleeps six to eight. Close to Disney and other parks, from £350 per week. Contact John De'ath on 01245 493800.

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

FRANCE, Pays de la Loire, stone cottage, sleeps two to four. Beams, woodburner, quiet location with activities nearby. Calais five hours, Caen two hours. £150-£175 per week. Contact Emma Bowditch on 07711 421579.

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.

LA MANGA, southern Spain, two-

bed/bath apartment. Pool, panoramic sea views, seconds from beaches. Well-reported in 2005. For 2006 availability, ring Bernie on 01787 370317 or on 07986 098422.

NEAR Ringwood. Bluebird caravan, 36ft x 12ft, sleeps up to six, en suite, shower room, toilet, mains Calor gas, parking, leisure facilities on site. Near New Forest/Bournemouth. Booking now for March/Easter. £250 per week. Ring Mike Hughes on 01491 874171.

ORLANDO. Luxury villa, four bedrooms, three bathrooms, sleeps up to ten. Private, screened pool near Disney and other central Florida attractions. Contact Alison or Michael on 01245 266949.

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

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

WELLS-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, charming, traditional cottage, sleeps four, walk to quayside, shops and beach. Parking. Now booking for 2006. Ring 07919 057437.

Miscellaneous

GUITAR amplifier, 1970s Peavey Deuce, 120-watt, valve amp, mint condition, including foot switch and original documentation. £85. Buyer collects. Ring Catherin McPherson on 07971 459963.

KING Snake golf clubs, 3-iron to sand wedge, 3 and 5-wood, graphite shafts, good condition, ideal starter set. £165 ono. Ring Catherine McPherson on 07971 459963.

All change as commanders move around

Names in the news

AFTER working on the East of England Regeneration and Thames Gateway projects, Chief Supt Terry Sheern has retired after 30 years with Essex Police.

Terry, 52, joined Southend Division as a constable in March 1976 and rose through the ranks to be come Thurrock Divisional Commander four years ago.

In the autumn he transferred to Corporate Support and worked with Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark, representing Mr Clark as chairman of the East of England Forces Regeneration Group.

Terry said he was proud to have been the only person in the force to have served in Thurrock Division at every rank except Pc and to have achieved his ambition of becoming Divisional Commander.

Chief Supt **Peter Coltman**, 47, is the new Head of the Professional Standards Department.

Latterly Braintree Divisional Commander, Peter said he was very pleased to get the job.

"I am looking forward to the challenges ahead. There is a real need to operate on a regional basis in Professional Standards so we can achieve common standards and approaches to instances of corruption," he said.

"It is vital to maintain public confidence in our ability to root out corruption and corruptible practice and protect the public and Essex Police from them - although I would stress that they are at very low levels."

An officer with the force for 26 years, Peter started his varied career as a Pc at Clacton and then served in various roles in both uniform and CID, plus spells in Special Branch.

Insp **Dennis Bessent** put away his pips for the last time last month after completing 30 years' service.

The 53-year-old served at Chelmsford, Thurrock, Harlow, Traffic and then finally in the Force Information Room (FIR).

He said: "My time at FIR has been very thoroughly rewarding, seeing it grow from the embryonic, single-tier to what it is today. And I'm proud to have introduced an NVQ programme for communication officers.

Dennis was involved in a drugs operation in involving Kent County Constabulary - Op Lager - in the late 1970s, which was the biggest of its kind at the time and culminated in a six-month trial at Chelmsford Crown Court involving 20 defendants from London.

Another to retire was Pc **Derek**

Wheddon who left Essex Police after 21 years' service, the first seven of which were spent as a Station Office Assistant and Special at Chelmsford.

The 59-year-old started his policing days at Tilbury before moving on to life as a road policing officer, serving at Harlow, Brentwood and Chigwell before finishing at Chelmsford.

He remains one of the oldest people to have joined the force after it abandoned the age-limit policy, joining at the tender age of 44.

As a road policing officer, he became the county's first road policing officer to contribute to the county's Roadrunner road safety initiative.

Derek was commended for helping to save the life of a man who jumped off a bridge on to the A12 at Witham.

He is now a part-time caseworker in the file management unit at Chelmsford Police Station.

Chief Insp **Peter Anderson**, 48, of Tending Division, has retired after 30 years with the force.

David Holland has retired after spending 13 years with Essex Police. The 65-year-old served in the Criminal Justice Division.

Obituaries

The sudden death of **Edward Mansfield**, aged 55, has shocked colleagues in the Force Intelligence Bureau, with whom he worked for nearly two years as the Chemist Inspection Officer.

Mr Mansfield joined Essex Police in September 1998 and became a senior force analyst.

In June 2004, he became the first civilian Chemist Inspection Officer in the UK and a year later he reached a milestone by having visited every pharmacy in Essex and disposed of large quantities of unused pharmaceutical drugs.

Acting Det Chief Insp Bob Chatterton, of Crime Division, said: "Ed was a kind and intelligent man who always supported his colleagues at work and made friends everywhere."

Former Sgt **Eric Chambers**, who celebrated his 90th birthday and

Diamond Wedding in the summer of 2005, has died.

Mr Chambers, who lived in Plympton in Devon, joined the force in 1940, and served at Chelmsford, Romford and Dovercourt, finishing his career at Clacton.

Retired Det Insp **Cyril Jeffrey**, of Chelmsford, has died, aged 88.

Mr Jeffrey served from 1938 to 1970 at Clacton, Rochford, Romford, Epping and HQ Fingerprints department - he became one of the force's first fingerprints officers in 1947.

He spent many years as a Scene of Crime Examiner and was later a fingerprint expert and in charge of the force Bureau.

One of his former colleagues, Frank Reed, said: "Jeff was an officer of the truly highest integrity, honour, honesty and dedication. His fairness and wisdom were an example to all. The force should also acknowledge his invaluable contribution in placing Essex at the top of effective and successful fingerprint bureaux in the UK," added Mr Reed.

Former Pc **Terence Owen**, of Penzance, Cornwall, has died, aged 61. He leaves a widow, Dawn.

Mr Owen served from 1963 to 1992 in Basildon and Laindon and at Rayleigh Traffic.

Retired Pc **Ronald Wheeler**, of Leigh on Sea, has died, aged 70. He leaves a widow, Sheila.

Mr Wheeler served from 1964 to 1994 with the Southend Borough Police and Rayleigh Traffic and as a Coroner's officer.

Retired constable **Peter Murray**, of Ashingdon, has died suddenly, aged 63. He was clerk to both Ashingdon and Ramsden Crays parish councils.

Mr Murray served at Rochford, Rayleigh, Clacton and Billericay.

He leaves a widow, Gwen, daughter Anita, son Paul and three grandchildren.

● For details of the Divisional Commanders of the new Essex Police territorial divisions, see Page 10

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● Supt Michelle Dunn



● Chief Supt Win Bernard

Central: Formerly the Chelmsford and Braintree divisions. Chief Supt Win Bernard took up command at Chelmsford Division in July 2004 and has been a policeman for 27 years. Last year he was awarded the Queen's Police Medal. The 50-year-old father of three has enjoyed a varied career – former postings include the Drugs Squad, Fraud Squad and Special Branch as well as serving in CID upto Det Chief Insp level. Win also spent time as head of one of the force's major investigation teams.



● Chief Supt Dave Hudson

Eastern: Formerly the Colchester and Tendring divisions. Chief Supt Dave Hudson, 49, has served four years with Essex Police, following 22 years with the Metropolitan Police. He has been Tendring Divisional Commander for two years and Head of Corporate Support before that. In the Met, the father of three was Head of Operations at Stoke Newington and Divisional Commander at Shoreditch and Hackney. He also served 3½ years as an HMIC Staff Officer.



● Chief Supt Dave Folkard

Stansted Airport: Due to the specialised nature of policing required, it was decided to keep Stansted Airport separate from the territorial divisions. Supt Michelle Dunn, 40, took command last April.

The mother of two joined Essex Police in 1992 after a career in teaching. She served in Braintree, Chelmsford, Harlow and Basildon divisions before taking over as Support and Operations Manager as a Chief Inspector. As a Superintendent, she worked at HQ on the Contact Management Programme.



● Chief Supt Andy Adams

Western: Formerly the Harlow division. Chief Supt Andy Adams, 40, took up the reins as Harlow Divisional Commander in July 2005. He has 20 years' experience with Essex Police and has had a variety of postings including Tendring, Colchester and Chelmsford, carrying out a mixture of CID and uniform roles. He spent the previous two and a half years as Commander of the Criminal Justice Department at HQ, where he was involved in a number of projects aimed at improving the criminal justice system. Andy is married with three children.



South-Eastern: Formerly the Southend and Rayleigh divisions.

Chief Supt Dave Folkard moved from the post of Head of HR to take temporary command of Southend Division a couple of months ago. Having spent most of his 24-year career in mid and west Essex, this will be new territory for the father of two. Prior to becoming a divisional commander, Dave was temporary Head of Human Resources at Essex Police HQ.

South-Western: Formerly the Thurrock and Basildon divisions.

Chief Supt Simon Coxall, 46, has 21 years' service with Essex Police and was previously Director of Investigations in Crime Division, responsible for setting up the 'cold case' review team. Simon, a father of two, has previously served in Thurrock as both a uniform sergeant and inspector, and has been the Senior Investigating Officer in a number of murders and other major crime inquiries.



● Chief Supt Simon Coxall

The magic of five

ESSEX Police Authority agreed last month to restructure the police service to five divisions.

Options put to the full Police Authority meeting, held on December 5, were to re-organise into four, five or six divisions or to remain as nine.

The decision was to restructure into five divisions, plus Stansted Airport and Mobile Support divisions.

The aim of the restructure is to improve face-to-face contact with the public and improve the police service in the county.

The restructure will also help to prevent and reduce crime, increase detection rates, and make a positive impact on anti-social behaviour in the county by increasing police officers on frontline duties by the end of March, using existing resources.

These options also make the best use of the force's skills and capabilities to deal with all incidents in the county around the clock.

Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers said: "The police authority has supported the move to five divisions following extensive consultation with all partners and the public because there was strong support to put 100 additional police officers on the front line."

"Both the public and the police authority want more police officers on the beat and reducing the divisions to five will enable this to happen."

The decision means the merging of Basildon and Thurrock, Colchester and Tendring, Southend and Rayleigh and Braintree and Chelmsford. The fifth division is Harlow.

The changes will put an additional 100 officers on to the beat. These officers are to be added to the 95 officers who have already been returned to frontline duties since Chief Constable Roger Baker started in July.

Mr Baker said: "I have made it clear that my aim was to put an additional 200 police officers on the front line by March 31, 2006."

"The move to five divisions will enable 100 of these officers to be found, removing duplication and other efficiencies."

"These additional officers will help to impact on crime and anti-social behaviour. And these changes will lead to improved policing services for the public."

As part of the restructuring, the five new



● Robert Chambers and Roger Baker – ringing in the changes for 2006

divisions will have new names:

- Eastern – formerly Colchester and Tendring divisions
- South-Eastern – formerly Southend and Rayleigh divisions
- Central – formerly Chelmsford and Braintree divisions
- Western – formerly Harlow division
- South-Western – formerly Thurrock and Basildon divisions.

Divisional HQs will be in, respectively: Colchester, Southend, Braintree, Harlow and Thurrock.

Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark said: "The divisional commanders will be visible across their whole division, using their headquarters as administrative bases."

"These changes take place with immediate effect. We are now in the process of bringing together the original teams to create one unified structure by April 1. Any other changes to the new Basic Command Units [divisions] will be announced in due course."

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Sport & Leisure

Colchester take the lead in gruelling cross-country as Russ retains his title

A TOTAL of 98 runners completed this season's Essex Police cross-country race, which included both the Croker Cup and the third fixture of the South-East/Eastern Police League.

With the 'welcome' addition of an extra hill to the usual course, the women completed one lap – approximately 4.25km – and were led home by Kate Swanson, of City of London, in 19mins 52secs.

The first Essex finisher was

Rachel Crosby, of HQ, in 10th place overall (22:50), followed by Stacy Cocks, of Colchester, in 16th and Amanda Pollard, of Harlow, in 17th.

The Essex team came third in the league match. Claiming the F35 award was Sue Clark, of Southend, who finished 19th, while Alison Quinn, of Thurrock, won the F40 trophy.

Running over two laps in the men's event proved no obstacle to Hampshire's Steve Rees-Jones

(30mins 25secs), who finished inside the old course record and four minutes ahead of the second-place runner, despite twice having to navigate the new hill.

Russ Welch, of HQ, retained his Croker Cup title, finishing fourth overall in a time of 35:08.

Derek Walker, of Colchester, in tenth place was joined by the first Essex veteran, V45 Don English, also of Colchester, in 20th place, Dan Sorrell, of Harlow, in 21st and Will

Cubbins, of HQ, to place the Essex men third in the league result – a position matched by the veterans with English joined by V45 Jim Ling, of Southend, in 27th and the first Essex V40 Chris Lacey, of Colchester, in 29th.

After a close three-way battle in the V55 age category, the final award went to Laurie Rampling, of Thurrock.

Croker Cup team placings: 1 Colchester 494 points; 2 Southend 737; 3 HQ

739; 4 Harlow 760; 5 Thurrock 835; 6 Basildon 859; 7 Braintree 890; 8 Rayleigh 922.

There were no entrants from Tendring or Chelmsford divisions.

• The next Police League cross-country fixture was due to take place on Wednesday, January 11, and hosted by City of London. Anyone interested in representing Essex Police in this event should contact section captain Mick Bond via email or on ext 61714.

It has been an entertaining 40 years of songs

CAN it really be that members of the Essex Police Musical Society have been merrily warbling away for 40 years, entertaining thousands of audience members at the Assembly Hall at HQ?

Well it is, and next month sees the society's second production of the much-loved *My Fair Lady* – their first production of this evergreen classic was performed in 1990.

Society secretary Jenny Hillyard said: "A few of the current cast remember the earlier production but would explain this away by claiming to have been child performers!"

"We would not be so cruel as to name names – although we might put something in the programme!"

And she added: "Members of the musical society would love to see you in the audience and very much hope you will support us in what is a very special year for us."

My Fair Lady is a delightful and ever-popular show packed with classic songs, including *I Could Have Danced All Night*, *With A Little Bit Of Luck*, *Wouldn't It Be Lovely?*, *The Rain In Spain* and *Get Me To The Church On Time*.

The show runs from Monday, February 13, to Saturday, February 18, at the Assembly Hall at HQ, with



• Secretary Jenny Hillyard puts the finishing touches to one of the backdrops she is painting for *My Fair Lady*

performances at 7.30pm, plus a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.

As in previous years, there is no charge for tickets but donations are requested on the door to cover costs – those familiar with the show will know just how marvellous the sets and costumes are.

Jenny added: "Without wishing to distress our treasurer too much, I can reveal that performers will be

decked out for the Ascot Gavotte in magnificent hats and frocks – and that's just the men!"

"We look forward to entertaining you in February and thank all of you who have kindly supported us over the years."

• For details about *My Fair Lady*, to reserve tickets, or for information about the society, contact Jenny Hillyard on ext 50335 or 01245 452164

Alan bags car in force lottery

INSP Alan King, of Tendring, won a car in the December Essex Police lottery draw. Pc Richard Everitt, of Tendring, won the top cash prize of £3,000, Mrs Denise Chivers, of Colchester, won £1,000 and Alan Humphreys, of HQ Facilities Management, won the £500 prize.

The winners of the £100 prizes were:

Pc Paul Mead, of Brightlingsea; Pc Andrew Howard, of Colchester Dog

Unit; Stuart Ridley, of Colchester; Pc Mandy Davies, of Harlow; David Keenan, of Corporate Support; Jennifer Davies, of HQ Traffic Management; and Brian Jones, retired. The winners of the £50 prizes were: Sgt Philip Barrett, of Southend; Sgt Russell Abbott, of Landon Dog Section; Pc Henry Garrod, of Basildon; Alison Bennett, of the PEPYS Project; Linda Gilmour, of Professional

Standards; Pc Dale Copley, of Pitsea; Pc Darren Griffin, of Basildon; and Dc Ian Box, of Southend. And the following won teddy bears donated by Benenden Healthcare: Sgt Tracey Butt, of Shoebury; Maxine Magner, of Basildon; Dc Vincent Bird, of Stansted Airport; Pc Karen Bowditch, of HQ Personnel and Training; Pc James Symington-Pape, of Rayleigh; and Mary Thomson, of Harlow.

Opportunity missed Bob and John represent us

Essex Police 2 Witham CML 3

ESSEX Police missed a great opportunity to jump up the Essex Ridley's Veterans League Premier Division table, losing to Witham CML 3-2 last month.

It was a great match – and Essex Police didn't deserve to lose. The pitch was in a lovely condition and the force played some very good passing football, despite a poor start. They let in a soft goal, but then woke up and played total football.

Two terrific goals, from a Dick Woodhouse volley and a Neil Offord header, put the police in a commanding position after the first half, being 2-1 up. They had had the lion's share of the ball throughout the half and had been dominant and strong in all three areas – attack, midfield and defence.

In the second half, the team

played much the same, although Witham CML did lift their game and put the home side under pressure more.

But yet again, the police let them get back in, despite piling on the pressure for long periods of the second half and particularly towards the end of the match.

Witham CML's goalie did play well and made some outstanding saves, which prevented the home side winning the match.

Man of the match: Barry O'Hare.

• Essex Police lost touch with the table-toppers as a result of their defeat to Witham CML and lost 4-0 to Old Parmitarians shortly afterwards, so a lot of effort will be needed in the New Year to make up the ground. The team was also credited with three points after South Woodham failed to show.

BOB Sandford, of Southend CID, has been selected to represent the national PSUK sea angling squad in a match against the Combined Services.

The match is due to be fished off Slapton Sands in Devon on January 26.

• And John Stewart, of the Force Intelligence Bureau at HQ, has again been selected to represent the English Police Bowls team in an Indoor Home International Series being played in Belfast on March 3 and 4.

Croker news

HALFWAY through the Croker Cup season, HQ leads with 53 points, closely followed by Braintree with 50 and Colchester with 48.

Next up is the swimming gala, on February 5, with billiards, snooker, darts, squash, badminton and tennis to follow.

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New scheme reduces cases failing through lack of evidence

STATUTORY Charging came into effect last month, bringing substantial benefits for justice in Essex.

The main aim of the new scheme is to see a reduction in the number of cases failing in court because of problems with evidence.

It is expected that, faced with stronger evidence, more defendants will plead guilty, saving witnesses the often traumatic experience of a trial and saving taxpayers' money.

Cases which are deemed not

strong enough to proceed will be weeded out much earlier.

Officers will now have direct contact with Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) lawyers in custody centres and can get advice from a prosecutor or a decision on the appropriate charge during normal office hours. A national telephone-based service, CPS Direct, is available to police officers out of hours.

This enables prosecutors to ensure suspects are correctly charged, or to

advise officers on what further evidence is needed to secure a successful hearing.

Prosecutors will make the decision as to what offence, if any, the defendant will be charged with in all but the most minor or straightforward cases.

Chief Crown Prosecutor for Essex Paula Abrahams said: "I am delighted that Essex has now moved on to the Statutory Charging Scheme, particularly as we were a

pilot area for the scheme in 2002 and thereby helped to shape the introduction of these very significant changes.

"We have always been proud of our joint working arrangements with Essex Police and I am confident we will continue to build upon these foundations to ensure that, together, we deliver the benefits that the scheme can bring to the criminal justice system at a local level."

Assistant Chief Constable (Crime)

Liam Briggins said: "Essex Police was one of the original pilot forces to develop a strong partnership with the CPS working in police stations to a common goal – bringing more offenders to justice.

"The new arrangements build on that relationship and complement our drive to detect more offences and reduce crime, disorder and nuisance. This, together with Investigative Support Units, will help us meet that challenge."



● Chris Grant

Chris tops apprentice mechanics

A TECHNICIAN from Transport Services has earned a place among the best in the country after being named the top student vehicle mechanic in the UK. Chris Grant, an apprentice technician for the force's vehicle fleet, picked up the Institute of Motor Industry (IMI) Student of the Year award last month.

Chris, 19, studies one day a week at Thurrock and Basildon College and undertakes his hands-on training at the HQ vehicle workshop, where he makes sure the force's vehicles are ready to hit the streets. Earlier this year the South Woodham Ferrers lad was named his college's apprentice of the year, and is studying for the IMI's certificate of management of motor vehicles.

Now Chris has capped his year off by being named IMI's Student of the Year, one of just 110 students from 35,000 to be recognised for their achievement. Chris said: "The great thing about learning the job with Essex Police is the variety that's on offer. I've spent time on the new-build section as well as servicing at the HQ workshop and Laindon."

Head of Transport Services, John Gorton, said: "This award is deserved recognition for Chris' excellent efforts. He is yet another award-winner from our apprentices and he does Transport Services proud."

New guidelines for resuscitation

NEW guidelines for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) have been released by the Resuscitation Council UK.

● Visit www.resus.org.uk click on what's new, then on Resuscitation Guidelines 2005

Pressure increases on drug suppliers

Motorbikes return to police our roads

by Ben Pennington

MORE than 100 people saw the back door of the county's police stations last month as the force got drug supply in its sights.

Operations in Southend and Tendring were backed up with raids around Essex as the county's dealers got early wake-up calls.

In Southend, Operation Harvest saw more than 300 officers arrest 44 people on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of drugs.

And in Tendring officers spread some Christmas cheer among residents by arresting 26 people for drug offences.

That day's work – Operation Dawn – also resulted in the seizure of around £250,000 of class A drugs, as well as a number of stolen vehicles.

Meanwhile, the entire force spent a concerted seven days disrupting the supply of class A and other drugs, arresting 39 people as part of Operation Pressure, Essex Police's ongoing offensive against drugs.

Drugs seized in those raids included cocaine, heroin, ecstasy, cannabis plants and resin and amphetamine.

Director of Intelligence Det Supt Tim Newcomb said: "Operation Pressure continues our fight against class A drugs in Essex and is evidence that Essex Police will not ignore this as an issue.

"We are determined to clamp down on drug suppliers and the consequent crime they cause and we will continue to put them under pressure in 2006."

Drug dealer told to pay up or face more time in jail

A DRUG dealer has been ordered to pay back £122,770 made through selling drugs or have two years added to his jail term.

Mark Hardwicke, 40, of Hoddesdon in Hertfordshire, was arrested by officers from the Crime Squad on June 3, 2004, on suspicion of possessing nine kilos of amphetamine with intent to supply.

He later pleaded guilty at Chelmsford Crown Court and was jailed for four years.

Officers from Essex Police's Economic Crime Unit (ECU) instigated proceedings to confiscate money he had gained through dealing in drugs, and a final hearing took place at Chelmsford Crown Court on December 20 last year.

The judge determined that Hardwicke had benefited from his criminal activity to the tune of £240,317, and that £122,770 of that sum would still be available to him.

He will now have six months to repay that amount. Failure to do so within that period will see an extra two years added to his sentence, and Hardwicke will still have to pay up.

Dc Caroline Williams, of the ECU, welcomed the result of the hearing.



● Sgt Neil Phimister, of Sandon Dog Unit, with Boots the puppy

Picture by David McMillan

Dog days are here

ESSEX Police Dog Section is acquiring German shepherd puppies, aged eight to ten weeks, and needs volunteer puppy walkers to care for them until they are nine months to a year old. Volunteers will be needed from the middle of next month and should be aware that they should not work full-time – the puppy can't be left alone initially for more than three hours – and must have access to a car and secure garden and attend structured puppy training days.

● Anyone interested can contact Pc Dave Frost, by email only.

● Criminals taking to the streets of north Essex could now be sniffed out by two new recruits –

Ace and Taz. The two German shepherds have been training hard with their handlers to become fully-fledged police dogs and have now been granted an operational licence after an independent assessment. Ace, 19 months, arrived as a gift puppy aged seven months and is partnered with experienced handler Pc Chris Gibson, at Clacton. Taz is 30 months old and will be stationed at Colchester with Pc Elaine Michaels. He came to Essex Police from K9 PDS, a company which supplies training equipment to the police service. His younger brother Obee is based in Chelmsford. The duo's 'passing out' saw a special presentation at HQ.

