

# The Law



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February 2006

## Colchester leads the way in introducing Neighbourhood policing **NEW TEAM IS RIGHT UP YOUR STREET ...**



by **Kate Batson and Heather Turner**

**THE first Neighbourhood policing team has gone 'live' in Colchester, with a plan to extend this style of policing across Essex.**

The team of 14 police officers and police community support officers will be seen walking the beat in St Andrew's and St Anne's wards in the town.

And they will be working more closely with local communities tackling crime, nuisance and disorder.

One of the team's two sergeants, Dean Chapple, said he was very proud to be at the forefront of the introduction of Neighbourhood policing in the county.

Sgt Chapple, who has served for 15 years, the last two with Colchester's Northern Community Policing Team, said the new, dedicated Neighbourhood team was responsible for all crime which occurred in St Andrew's and St Anne's.

"Before, anyone in the division could be called to respond to a crime. Now we have a dedicated team which will respond to all crime in the Neighbourhood.

"We will know about anything happening in this Neighbourhood and will be investigating everything.

"We will forge better links with the community, there is no doubt about that."

Sgt Chapple and Sgt Elliot Lloyd are heading the team, which comprises Pc Mark Hewer, Pc Rebecca Knight, Pc Mark Harrison, Pc Lee Wilkinson, Pc Neil Gibson, Pc Robert Hurrell, Pc Victoria Sanders, Pc Craig Wiggins, Pc Spencer Keeble, PCSO Jed Raven, PCSO Christopher Raynsford and PCSO Emma Silk.

Dc Gavin Watson is also to join the team, as are two more PCSOs and five Special constables.

The core principle of Neighbourhood policing is 'the right people, in the right places, in the right numbers, tackling crime nuisance and disorder to make Essex safer'.

St Andrew's and St Anne's is the first of about 140 of these dedicated Neighbourhood teams which will be set up all over the county by the end of July.

The first six teams will be introduced by the end of March – one on each of the five new territorial divisions across Essex and at Stansted Airport.

Neighbourhood policing will give the public:

- dedicated officers known to and contactable by residents
- a team leading the fight against crime and disorder
- high levels of officers and PCSOs on foot and cycle patrols
- officers who will not be routinely abstracted from their dedicated area
- a team working with local partners and local people to solve crime, nuisance and disorder
- a locally-led team which listens, acts and updates the public.

The official launch of the Neighbourhood policing team was on January 30 at Greenstead Community Centre in Hawthorn Avenue, Colchester, and members of the public were able to meet their local officers and speak to Chief Constable Roger Baker and Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers.

● **Introducing the new Neighbourhood policing team in Colchester – who will be policing St Andrew's and St Anne's**

Picture by Mary Cotter

## Businesses told our priorities

CHIEF Constable Roger Baker took more than 60 business people from across Essex for breakfast and a special briefing last month as he set out his policing priorities.

Mr Baker and Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers were questioned by the business community and encouraged feedback to find out how the police can work better with businesses and the public to improve services and cut crime levels in the county.

Mr Baker the meeting successful policing in the county would include: crime and anti-social behaviour reduction; improved detection rates; a reduction in the number of fatal and serious injury crashes; improved contact with the public; visibility and accessibility; critical incidents; public satisfaction levels; and,

above all, keeping our promises

The briefing also set out the draft budget and Council Tax for 2006/07 and planned investment in services.

The proposals – which have since been discussed by the police authority's finance and audit committee – recommend that the police portion of the Council Tax increases by 5.9 per cent – approximately 12p extra per week – and is subject to police authority approval this month.

If approved, the money will pay for increasing the numbers and visibility of uniformed police officers and PCSOs; increasing the force's capacity and capability in forensics, DNA, financial investigations and fingerprints; delivering a central Crime Bureau; ensuring that police officers are trained to the highest standards; and freeing up police officers'

time by using trained police staff where appropriate.

Mr Baker said afterwards: "This meeting has proved very useful and we are delighted that the business community wants to work with us now and in the future to improve our service for the benefit of the taxpayers in Essex. "We hope they continue to provide us with vital feedback to enable us to do business better."

And Mr Chambers added the high attendance 'shows that the business community is very keen to be involved with helping us make Essex an even better force. We will continue to work in partnership with businesses and the public to give them the kind of police service they want'.

● See Corner the Chairman on Page 5





# We are going back to basics, Chief tells board

**THE Joint Branch Board held a 'question and answer' session with Chief Constable Roger Baker and Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers at the end of October.**

Mr Baker began by thanking everyone for the support he had received since he took up office.

He expressed the view that policing had been over-complicated nationally – we should be trying to improve the first point of contact with the public and ask ourselves what that experience is like for them.

The force should be listening to the public more; they are the ones who know who is causing the problems in their local neighbourhood.

Mr Baker asked: "We all go to police stations where there are too few people. Where do you get more staff from to put to the front end?"

"The force is looking at putting another 200 police officers back to the front end by March 31. Re-structuring of divisions is being looked at, with only Stansted Airport remaining as it is."

Mr Baker said he needed the capability to re-shape the organisation and wanted to see each neighbourhood in Essex having its own policing team.

Mr Chambers also thanked the board for inviting him.

**Question:** The Serious Organised Crime Agency Act gave the Chief Constable the means to create Police Staff Custody Officers.

We are heading towards custody becoming a centralised part of this force in its own right. Does the custody officer role go with that or are we looking for it to be civilianised?

**Chief Constable:** There are things about sergeants which are precious. They have a big role in fighting crime. If we get that role right, then there will be big wins for us.

The person behind the custody suite wears three stripes on their sleeve and everybody understands what a sergeant is. It is a tough job. The suites have to be manned by someone who is impartial but a friend. As an arresting officer, you should be helped by your friends. I would like to see the role remain as a custody sergeant.

We have, however, got to put more than one person in a cell. I would like to see more custody suites open. The management will be centralised.

**Question:** We saw two large intakes of new recruits in

January and February 2005. Based on figures received in the office, it has been established that we have lost five from one intake and 12 from another.

If we are going to start to lose people like that, we have been pouring money down the drain. If 12 people leave a course, something is wrong, 12 is a considerable number.

**Chief Constable:** Looking at the exit interviews, you have to ask Is there a trend? There is nothing showing that at the moment.

If you read the application forms, some people can't even write properly. You do not need to be Hercule Poirot to know who to recruit and whose application goes in the bin.

The first stage of recruiting we can do some work on but some people have merely made the wrong career choice. When I started work you had a job which you would do for most of your life. Some people like to sample careers first.

**Continuation: When I joined, I joined as a vocation. We need to get this back.**

**Mr Chambers:** We are trying to change the policing style. We should be trying to get back to some of those old-fashioned police values.

We should be encouraging people to join for the right reasons, not the wrong ones. We need to look at that very carefully. And we should tell them what the police force is so that we can get the right people coming in who can deliver that type of policing.

**Chief Constable:** The Metropolitan Police is making it clear that it wants more officers and we sit on the border with the Met. We have, however, got a waiting list. We can do better on who we select but I'm not looking for everyone to be an Oxbridge graduate.

**Question:** I have got probationers who I am trying to convince not to leave. They are asking for help but it is not there. Some people feel they have been dumped on, with rules changing day by day.

**Chief Constable:** The bottom line is almost 6,000 people work for Essex Police, with over 3,200 sworn officers. We know the level of reported crime and if we can re-distribute our resources you are not tied up on other work.

I have been asking people how we re-shape this and get 200 people back to the front line. The line has got to be where we find this within our existing resources; how we put more people on the front line at the right time of day.

We have 350 reported crimes per day. Why can't 6,000 of

us sort this out? We are a disciplined organisation and serve the public.

In my early days, my sergeant protected me and made sure that if ten jobs came in, I didn't get them all. I would love more staff but we can meet the demand in Essex with what we have got. We just have not got the right people in the right places at the moment – we have got to be more flexible, like sending people out from HQ occasionally.

**Question:** My concern is that there have been a lot of rumours about possibly losing the 'six on, four off' shift pattern, which is universally loved. We are moving in the right direction and the fear is that we are going to lose it.

How do we think the situation could be improved? We have so many different shifts in this county. When you need someone at 11am it is fine but if you need someone at 7pm you cannot. We will lose people if you take the 'six on, four off' away from them.

**Chief Constable:** If I could avoid the 'six on, four off' I would. I will not look at it early in my tenure because there are other things I need to do. I accept there are some differentials in the south of the county. My biggest issue is How do the public get served by the way we operate? There are about 50 different shift systems operating, although you will tell me we have only agreed three. If we can work together and share some of the load, we will be giving the public what they want.

**Question:** The bulk of the pressure is on the young ones.

**Chief Constable:** There has to be a balance. Braintree has just gone back on to the Witham B shift system.

There are too many stations only opening from 9am to 5pm. Hazel Blears has said the shift systems are not right. I am not sure we can defend ourselves with the public by sticking to the 'six on, four off' system.

There has been a lot of focus on territorial divisions. We must look at ourselves and ask Are we doing it right? Departments must be asked whether they need to do a particular job 100 per cent of the time.

If we want to retain the 'six on, four off', the public will ask Why haven't you got enough people out on a Friday and Saturday night? What do we do? Ninety per cent of the organisation get into their cars at 4pm on a Friday and go home. What about the ten per cent who are left to do battle on behalf of the public? If I was in the private sector,

I would not have lasted five minutes if I ran my organisation like that.

**Question:** One of your predecessors every month put out a video saying what he wanted. Your message is getting diluted and distorted. I have been able to hear you give your message but it's very different to the one being delivered by my Divisional Commander. How can you deliver your message to the force straight from the horse's mouth?

**Chief Constable:** I am not a fan of the Intranet. It is needed but the more we can stop using it the better. I will use it to a limited degree. Videos or DVDs have been ridiculed. The message will not change.

**Question:** Our workload is 350 crimes a day but the crime side is the minimum part of our day. We are dealing with the problems society has, which always get passed back to us. Some of the other agencies should be told to do their jobs.

**Chief Constable:** Seventy per cent of our job is not related to crime. I will work with anyone as long as they are pulling their weight. If you look at the history of the police service, what have we done? We have withdrawn from some issues and we should be seeing other agencies address those matters. When we are not doing this right, then tell me. I will always act quickly.

I was invited to America to talk about community policing and went into the metropolitan police area of Washington, where they are doing basic, traditional policing the way we used to.

We were called out to a man trying to start his car – I was not impressed and told the officer I was with how I felt. He said the man probably could not afford to join a motoring organisation but he would go home and tell his family and friends how good the police were in coming out to help him. Therefore, if we help people we will win.

**Question:** We are still being asked to help people, which is putting us under pressure.

**Mr Chambers:** We need a national single non-emergency number so that the public can be directed to the people who can help them the most – not necessarily the police. Because we have a good police service, more and more has been put on us.

A single non-emergency number should eventually help us if this is put to the public in the appropriate way. The more quality of life things we do for the public, the more you will get the confidence of the public back. **Question:** Could we not use

PCSOs and Highways Agency Officers more?

**Chief Constable:** The success of PCSOs has been down to engaging with the public, walking round and talking to people.

I am a fan of PCSOs but am also a fan of the role of constable. Let's be clear, the public like PCSOs more and more. Collectively, we have to get our act together. The public like PCSOs because they do the basics of policing. We need to be offering our staff up to go to those jobs.

The trick is going to incidents. We have got to see ourselves as Essex Police. Some are willing to help. Others are not.

If we put our shoulders to the wheel, we can make a difference. There are private sector businesses out there who want to take our business. They are ready to do Neighbourhood policing if we get it wrong.

**Question:** There are very few people policing the streets of Essex on a 24-hour basis because they are not in the right place.

The message you are giving us is the message the constables want to hear. Often what you say is not what I hear. There has been a trend of increasing complaints in a small area where members of the public are complaining about wrongful arrest.

Your arrest policy should not be written in stone. You are giving our teams a problem in that they have to meet this daily figure. Policing is becoming secondary to that because people are under so much pressure – pressure to deliver to you.

**Chief Constable:** The emphasis on arrests is because there are too many people in this county who have not been arrested – we have 3,500 people on PNC and 3,000 warrants.

The quicker we arrest people and put the marker down that Essex Police is going to cause you grief, the better. Those people have got to fear that they will be caught.

In any force you will find a huge backlog of people who should be arrested and arresting people is one of the many aspects of policing. All I am saying is Do your job. If you arrest someone with no evidence you will not be a police officer for long. Fewer than two per cent of the people arrested in this country are done so based on suspicion. We have got to give our staff the evidence. Part of the policing role is that if you break the law you should be held to account.

**Question:** The way we police today is vastly different to how we used to do it. If we could get back there, it would

be so much better.

**Chief Constable:** There are not enough people out there at night. Never in Essex's history have we ever had over 3,200 officers. We have not got this right. We are under the microscope at the moment so we can use this to show the country what good policing is about.

The reason we have not got enough people on duty at 6.30pm is due to how we manage ourselves. There are about 1,050 officers who are not counted in front line activity I think if we can work more flexibly between ourselves, we will solve this. We have allowed people to draw up their own job specifications. Solutions must be found and police stations must be open longer.

**Question:** We have too many specialist squads which will eventually take the overall policing skills away from officers.

**Chief Constable:** Crimes are being committed by the same people who are spoiling life for the rest of us. The public are not interested in figures and crime rates, they want to feel safe.

When the public contact us, we have to get the basics right. They want to know they will speak to someone sensible who will then come and see them. There are some forces in the country where if you report your house as being broken into, you won't get a visit.

**Question:** Why are you not giving 24/7 officers special priority payments (SPPs)?

**Chief Constable:** We need to free ourselves up to focus on service delivery. If I had a blank piece of paper, I would give it to front line staff.

Working shifts is a tough job. I don't like SPPs, I think they are divisive and are probably on their way out but will probably be replaced by something just as bizarre. I have yet to see a PDR do anything useful. People should have a clear understanding of what is required of them.

We know the specialist nature of policing, some of the jobs we do are unpleasant and hopefully you do not have to deal with them every day of the week, although some people do. I do not make the rules and, hopefully in 12 months' time, we can start again at something more palatable. Neighbourhood policing is the core business.

**Question:** We want properly trained, properly recruited sworn officers and not the cheap alternative.

**Mr Chambers:** There is a place for PCSOs, Specials and police staff but they will never take the place of sworn police officers.



## Dc's 1,000 detections 'wins' bonus

MORE than 1000 'volume' crimes in Colchester have been detected over the last three years by just one officer.

Dc Robert Sloane, of Colchester CID, has made considerable inroads into detecting volume crime, achieving hundreds of detections a year, mainly for robbery, burglary and vehicle crime.

He has used his communication skills and thoroughly researched the offenders to maximise opportunities to charge offenders and have other offences taken into consideration.

Dc Sloane has also passed on these skills to other detectives and this successful targeting and conviction of active offenders has proven to be one of the best means of reducing crime.

● See Unpleasant work may be a bonus – Page 10

## Teamwork cracks town drug houses

TEAMWORK in Colchester certainly paid off for the residents of Maidenburgh Street Colchester with the closure of two crack houses last month.

Local officers had worked alongside the local authority and residents to gather sufficient evidence for adjoining houses in the street used by dealers to be closed.

Community Safety Inspector Jonathan Hayter said: "The activity at these two houses in Maidenburgh Street has been responsible for causing misery to local residents for many months."

And he added: "This case highlights the fact that residents have got the ability to help their local police reduce crime and disorder."

"Without their help we would not have been able to achieve this excellent result."

## Officer makes a splash in more ways than one

REPAIR work has just been completed at Laindon Road Policing Unit following an unfortunate incident in the toilet which left many gagging.

As a male officer went into the cubicle one morning, he deposited his utility belt on top of the cistern prior to disrobing.

However, just before he took his seat on the 'throne', a large bang was heard and water was left running around his legs – with porcelain bits, thankfully, being the only floating objects.

The cause? Well, the officer's asp had fallen off his utility belt and, on hitting the water below, had activated, causing the entire commode to fracture on impact!

## Two PCSOs win inaugural Neighbourhood Watch awards

FOLLOWING on from the inaugural Colchester Neighbourhood Watch Community Officer of the Year awards, the group has presented its PCSO of the Year Awards.

Borough Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Carole Dennis said the aim was to thank PCSOs for the hard

work they put into making the community a safer place.

Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and groups and members of the public voted and named PCSOs Alison Howe and Jackie Tyrrell as the joint winners.

Second was PCSO Brian White, who sadly died last year

just after being nominated.

His award was presented to his wife Helen, watched by their family.

PCSO Charlotte Knowler was named third. And Colchester Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator of the Year was presented to Mr and Mrs Moffatt, of West Mersea.

Carole said both ceremonies would be held annually as it was good for the community to give something back and show both community police officers and PCSOs that they were appreciated.

"Hopefully, other areas will take up the mantle and put on their own awards," she added.

## Noses to the ground in war against drugs

A SET of snooping noses joined officers on patrol in Harlow town centre in a bid to combat drug abuse among late-night revellers.

Working in partnership to tackle and deter drugs in clubs and pubs, sniffer dogs Jet, Jake and Gatsby found six suspected drugs wraps within the space of a few hours.

The move was set up by The Safer Harlow Partnership – which includes police, district council and licensees – and supported by the town's Pubwatch scheme.

Three GIS (Grosvenor International Services) specially-trained dogs, which can sniff out 12 different substances including cocaine, heroin and cannabis, visited seven clubs and pubs, sniffing queues, toilets and seating areas.

Police Licensing Officer, Jenny McCallum, said: "This is the first of a number of occasions that the dogs will be used in and around the town centre to deter drug misuse and ensure



● Pc Andrew Molyneux and GIS dog handler Shaw Leycock with Gatsby

Picture by Denise Harvey

people have a safe enjoyable time in Harlow. The dogs worked well and enjoyed the friendly attention of the customers."

Harlow council safety and licensing

manager Peter Bourn added: "This is just one of a number of initiatives being introduced to help support the night-time economy and to make the town centre a safer place to visit."

# Investment pays off for CID investigators

by Helen Cook

**THINKING of a move into CID? Help is out there to help you achieve your potential.**

And there has never been a better time with the current Essex pass rate in the National Investigators exam standing at 94 per cent, the second highest in the country.

Ds Nigel Cooper, from the Crime Training team, feels there are misconceptions about the Initial Crime Investigators Development Programme (ICIDP) and the help available to enable students succeed.

Candidates must register interest by attending a one-day induction course and then get 40 study time, including a free set of Blackstone's Investigators' manuals.

Ds Cooper said: "Since August 2004 we have called in a team of experts to

provide a study weekend and mock exam for our students. The trainers are superb and they are the people who are actually writing the Blackstone's manuals and exam papers.

"They provide a study plan which breaks down the course into the actual hours and minutes students should be studying each subject, making the process simpler so that if their advice is followed they really should not fail."

The second stage is the six-week course for 12 students and, 12 weeks after the induction course, students sit the national exam, which they have a maximum of two attempts to pass.

Since the study weekends were introduced the success rate has soared and the last two mock exams have seen a 100

per cent pass rate in the national exams.

The third stage is back at the workplace where students complete a personal development portfolio. Ds Cooper said: "The ICIDP has now become the second most important course with 6,000 officers registered and about 200 Essex officers successful in achieving the most up-to-date, nationally-recognised qualification of a Pip Level 2."

Pc Alison Cotter, of Chelmsford DVHCU and a successful candidate, said: "I met new colleagues and we all worked well as a group. This was helped by the enthusiastic trainers. The knowledge learnt has already been put into practice in dealing with a serious rape. I have developed personally and feel that the course was beneficial."

● For more information, ring Ds Nigel Cooper or the crime training team on ext 57416.

## Why are we Special? Because we are here for you!

THE idea of this article was born during a very merry Christmas meal for about 40 Specials and their partners from the Southend Division.

Someone had invited along a very senior officer (George Cook) and I had the honour of sitting next to him!

During the course of the evening, I had to explain to him who various people were, – as you do with senior officers.

He became increasingly incredulous as I pointed out ex-Specials who had remained in close touch.

Many had joined the



● Chief Officer George Cook

regular force and had not only remained professional mates but social mates too.

Some were now skippers in the Metropolitan Police or were Force Information Room operators, others were working on shift or as Diplomatic Protection Officers.

The thing that amazed our VIP was the fact that we all met up for socials, weddings, BBQs, Christmas bashes and even holidays.

He sensed the strength of the bond we all shared. I hadn't really thought about it before: we walked the streets, trusted each other with our lives, and took it for granted.

It was only when someone outside the loop said 'hang on,

what you have here is wonderful', that I realised we had something special.

We worked out that, at that dinner, we had over 250 years of police experience, which I thought was pretty spectacular for one division's volunteer force!

I know a number of people who read this will be ex-Specials, I also realise that a number will not know exactly what Specials are, to them I say: "We are members of the public, who happen to be sworn officers. Use us, teach us, rely on us: we are here for you."

S Insp John Laurie

## Holiday pair praise the 'kindness of strangers'

TWO road policing officers from Bocking have been praised by a father and daughter from Norfolk who helped them on the M11 when their car broke down, enabling them to catch their flight to the USA.

As part of a Christmas present, Peter Adams was taking his 15-year-old daughter Elektra to New York for a short New Year break. They left their home in Diss but broke down near Stansted, en route to Heathrow Airport.

Constables Shaun Gurney and Tony Wilmot spotted the Volvo on the hard shoulder while they were on patrol. They immediately discovered that the alternator had broken and that the car was going nowhere.

The officers contacted a local taxi firm to take Mr Adams and Elektra to Heathrow and towed his car to nearby Birchanger Services, where it was later repaired and picked up by Mrs Adams.

Mr Adams, a tour guide by profession, said: "The flight to New York was a dream holiday gift for my daughter. She is a big fan of the American programme *Friends* and had been wanting to visit the Big Apple for a long time."

"It was about to be ruined by this breakdown. However, thanks to the help and assistance of the two officers, the day was saved."

"I cannot thank them enough for their help and advice. As you can see, they don't just give out tickets for speeding; they are in fact caring, sharing individuals who do their best to help motorists like me out."

"My daughter said they were like knights in shining armour."

Mr Adams and Elektra arrived at the Heathrow check-in desk with minutes to spare and found their day improving by the minute as they were upgraded to Business Class on their flight to JFK International Airport as there was no room in Economy Class.

## Man jailed for 300kgs of cannabis

A MERSEYSIDE man has started a jail term after he was convicted of possessing 300kgs of cannabis with intent to supply.

Paul Saunderson, of Tower Hill in Kirkby, was arrested on October 29, 2004, by Essex Crime Squad officers.

They had discovered the 39-year-old in the back of a van with the drugs in Leigh-on-Sea.

The cannabis discovered in his possession had a street value of £500,000.

At Southend Crown Court last month, Saunderson was sentenced to three years and nine months in prison after pleading guilty to possession with intent to supply.



# 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.

Join us for a grand MetPol get-together

MAY 16, 2006, at Peelers Restaurant, New Scotland Yard, marks the second annual reunion of MetPol J and K divisions and Essex Police officers who policed Romford Division until it was taken over by the Metropolitan Police in 1965.

For details or if you want to attend, contact me on 01491 874171 or via email at hughesmike@supanet.com

**Mike Hughes**  
Goring-on-Thames

Thanks for your support

I WOULD just like to say thank you to friends and colleagues of my husband, Ron Wheeler, who supported him during his career and us as a family at his passing.

Thank you also for the donations to Southbourne Ward Trust Fund at Southend Hospital.

**Sheila, David, Kevin & Steven Wheeler**  
Southend

# Our Bill was a great character

**I WAS very sorry to hear of the death of ex-Chief Supt Bill Docker, a very much-loved Divisional Commander at Clacton in the past.**

Might I recall one incident from some 30 years ago which, I think, sums him up and one which I will never forget.

One Boxing Night, I was station officer at Clacton on nights, with only a half-shift on duty.

I received a call from the local hospital about a man with a gun causing trouble.

I sent the shift sergeant and only three Pcs – one of whom is now Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark – round there and soon the area car had had its radio shot out and the driver ‘abandoned ship’.

It was time to alert senior officers and soon they arrived.

There was no station sergeant in those days and Mr Docker saw that I had more than enough to do with personal radio control and manning the switchboard.

He quietly sat down in the telephone booth and answered the phone for most of the night, only asking for a cup of tea.

Someone had leaked the information to the national press and reporters would ring, asking for the ‘officer in charge’, to be told quietly that he was same and to go away.

Eventually an urgent ‘agony message’ came in and I rushed around on my bike to deliver it.

On my return, Mr Docker said we could use more officers – members of the HQ firearms unit were still on their way.

I had an unofficial list of phone numbers of the many Clacton officers in their own houses and he told me to ring them all, asking them to come on duty.

This I did: uniform, CID and administration alike – no-one said they were on leave or pointed out it was Christmas, such was the respect all felt for Mr Docker.

When they arrived, he thanked them, made sure they were signed on and then sent off to assist.

Eventually the man was arrested, the early turn arrived and I was allowed to go home.

The next night when I paraded for duty, the Chief Inspector said he would take over the office for a while as the Chief Superintendent wanted to see me ‘up the bar’.

Mr Docker bought us all a drink and thanked us for what we did.

To me, this incident showed what a gentleman and a great character he was.

**Tony Chadd**  
Clacton

Support your local school and become involved in a community

STAFF across the force are being encouraged to sign up as school governors and support their local community.

The School Governors’ One-Stop Shop (SGOSS) is keen to recruit enthusiastic and committed police officers and staff, with volunteers not necessarily having to be parents themselves.

SGOSS spokeswoman Lois Jolley said: “We feel that many skills used in the police service can be utilised in the role of school governor. Governor shortage can put even the best-run school at a disadvantage, so becoming a governor is a real, tangible way of helping local children get a better education.”

Miss Jolley added: “Community governors are ideally not parents or teachers but local people who can add so much to a school by simply bringing an outside perspective.”

Road policing constable Mick Wills is a governor at St Peter’s School in Boxted. He said: “I’ve been on the board now for two years. The normal term for serving as a governor is four years and the work averages around six hours a month. It’s important that you attend the majority of meetings which normally take place on weekday evenings.”

● Contact the School Governors’ One-Stop Shop on 0870 241 3883 or email info@sgoss.org.uk

An application form will be sent for you to complete and you will be matched to a school with a vacancy. Alternatively, SGOSS can arrange a presentation at your local police station.

● A team from SGOSS is due to make a two-day visit to HQ on February 14 and 15.

Further details will be posted on the intranet homepage nearer the time.

## Gone . . . but not forgotten

**Sgt David Evan Bowen Lewis – Essex County Constabulary**  
Served from March 19, 1926. Died July 14, 1946

AFTER spending some of his childhood in Hong Kong where his father worked in the naval dockyard, David Lewis eventually became a policeman, and was stationed for ten years at Coggeshall.

Pc Lewis and his family were the first occupants of what was then one of the county’s newest police houses in The Gravel.

He is still remembered in the town today for helping to re-hang

Coggeshall’s church bells so they could be rung on VE Day in May 1945.

After World War Two, Pc Lewis was promoted to sergeant and posted to Ingatestone.

Three months later, on a Sunday evening in July, he was called from his house to deal with passengers refusing to leave an overcrowded bus – two young men had to be forcibly ejected.

Within a few minutes of the unexpected exertion, Sgt Lewis collapsed and died.



● Sgt David Lewis

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

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## An interest incorporates fiction

A SECOND book by Brian Croasdell, a Service Desk Supervisor at Harlow, is now in a bookstore near you.

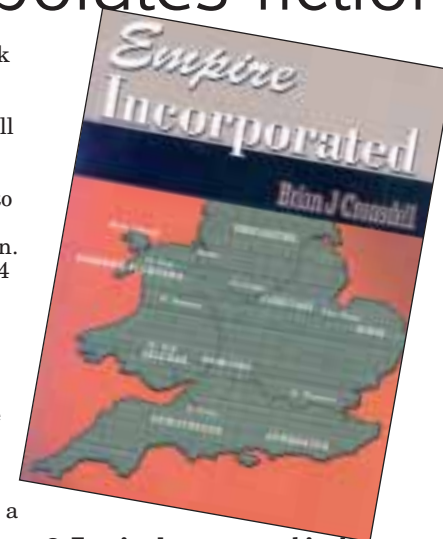
Brian is due to retire from the force in April and will then have more time to dedicate to his creative writing.

A life-long interest in Roman history inspired him to turn his research into historically-accurate but fictional stories about the Roman invasion of Britain. His first book, *Wool and Iron*, was published in 2004 and his second, *Empire Incorporated*, continues the story with Britain now eight years into the reign of Emperor Claudius in the year 51AD.

The story weaves together different characters as the Roman army struggles to suppress the British rebellion in the west of the country and capture the British High King.

The lack of success leads the Emperor’s enemies to plot against him. With dramatic action sequences and colourful descriptions the story rattles along at a fast pace.

● Published by iUniverse Inc, Empire Incorporated is available from booksellers or through [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)



● Empire Incorporated is the second offering from Harlow Service Desk Supervisor Brian Croasdell



## Corner the chairman



● Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers

## Just 12p/week Council Tax rise proposed

“THIS month the police authority will determine the cost of policing for Essex as we set the Council Tax precept and budget. The finance committee has recommended to the full police authority that the cost of policing should rise by just 12p per week. This is, of course, subject to formal approval. This proposed 5.9 per cent increase means that in Essex we could see 38 additional police officers and 133 Police Community Support Officers on the beat. This is great news for the people of Essex; tax-payers will actually see where their money is being spent. The public have continuously told us they want to see more officers. We have already delivered many officers back to the front line and this shows our commitment, with that of the Chief Constable, to continue to do just that. The rise will also mean service investment in several areas. The money will enable us to:

- increase numbers and visibility of uniformed police officers and PCSOs
- increase capacity and capability in forensics, DNA, financial investigations and fingerprints;
- deliver a central Crime Bureau;
- ensure that police officers are trained to the highest standards;
- free up valuable police officer time by using trained police staff.

I believe tax-payers will be getting good value for their money. For just an extra 12p per week, residents in Essex will see more officers on the beat among these other vital services. It is always difficult to set the Council Tax precept for policing but we always strive to invest in services that will improve the police service, while trying to keep the rise to a minimum for the benefit of tax-payers in the county. ”

● To ask Mr Chambers a question on this or any other topic, 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.

# Independent group will 'advise and assist'

A NEW group has been set up in Thurrock to advise and assist police in their dealings with people from all sections of the community. The Thurrock Independent Advisory Group (IAG) has members from a cross-section of society representing different faiths, ethnic backgrounds, disabilities, ages, youth and sexual orientations. South-Western Divisional Commander Chief Supt Simon Coxall believes the IAG will benefit residents and help police take a lead in making the

Thurrock area a safer place. “Thurrock has a diverse and growing community,” said Chief Supt Coxall. “It’s important that everyone feels part of the community and that situations which have the potential to create tension within the community are resolved through agencies, such as the police, and the wider community working together.” The group will work to improve the trust and confidence which the diverse communities of the area have in their

police service and improve the handling and resolution of critical incidents. It will advise local police on policies and practice to ensure that no group is excluded or discriminated against. Thurrock IAG chairman Steve Hudson said: “I see the formation of the advisory group as a really positive move. “We hope to influence the policing of Thurrock to ensure that a strong sense of community is developed and that all sections of the local community have a voice in how their police service is delivered.”

# 'Come and join us' urge top women



● Community Safety Sgt Andy Bray advises Moulsham High School pupils to stay safe from crime. Picture by Sarah Gale

## Pupils can become SAFE

PUPILS in Chelmsford have taken part in the SAFE anti-robbery week. The Home Office and Crimestoppers SAFE anti-robbery initiative, designed to help young people avoid being victims of robbery and deter potential offenders, is being supported by Essex Police. Around 40 per cent of all robberies involve a victim and offender under the age of 21. SAFE 2006 provides a pack to schools,

available from the Crimestoppers website, and builds on the strength of last year’s campaign. Worksheets were completed by pupils at Moulsham High School during a visit by Community Safety Sgt Andy Bray and a PCSO last month. Sgt Bray said: “It is important to raise the issues with youngsters so that robberies can be prevented, especially with the number of expensive gadgets, such as iPods, in circulation.”

## Officers on patrol are swarming over new database

A NEW warrants database is up and running, helping police to catch up with people who have failed to attend court or to pay a fine. Known fondly as SWARM, the System for Warrants Administration, Recording and Management contains details of all warrants held throughout the county.

So, said Evidential Media Unit Manager Tim Crux, the days of not being sure if someone is wanted on warrant should be a thing of the past. “Don’t forget that, like the intelligence system, this application relies on good, accurate and timely information to make it work effectively,” he added.

SWARM can either be used as a research tool, prior to officers going out on patrol, or as a reference, having stopped someone to carry out a PNC check. Warrants, backed with or without bail, are issued for the arrest of people who have skipped court bail or failed to pay a fine.

# In the neighbourhood of intelligence-sharing

AS part of the force’s drive towards Neighbourhood policing, officers in south-west Essex are looking for community-minded people to help with the fight against crime and anti-social behaviour. Police in South Ockendon want to establish a number of information-sharing schemes where real-time intelligence can be shared between local communities and police. Insp Nick Morris believes such

people are in ‘ideal positions to distribute pertinent knowledge to fellow residents’. “I’m looking for key individuals who are in a position to receive such information about crime and anti-social behaviour in their local community,” said Insp Morris. “They are in an ideal position to distribute this knowledge to fellow residents.” It is hoped that such a system can

help reduce crime in residential areas, especially distraction burglaries, where criminals pose as utility engineers but instead steal money and belongings from people’s houses. Insp Morris added: “I’m hoping to reach a wide cross-section of this Thurrock community as well as attracting representatives from various age groups and ethnic backgrounds. “Those who work away or who work

## Ringmaster comes into 21st century

A CRIME-fighting computer warning system linking different sections of the community is now being used daily in the Braintree and Uttlesford districts.

And it has been developed to use email. Ringmaster, which was first used in the Brentwood area in 1995, enables police to send out warnings quickly about suspects operating in the area and to seek information about crimes.

Selected groups of recipients can be contacted in the Braintree, Dunmow, Halstead, Saffron Walden and Witham areas, with various forms of communication, depending on their preferences – as well as email, fax, mobile phone messages and recorded audio messages are used. There are now 994 contacts on the receiving list and up to three messages a day are now being transmitted.

## Volunteers wanted for museum

THE Essex Police Museum is looking for evening volunteers to help out with group visits.

Curator Becky Latchford said the museum’s evening visits were proving very popular and so help was needed in order to keep up with demand.

“The museum’s visitor numbers have risen since its first ‘public’ opening in September last year, after receiving a £43,000 Heritage Lottery Grant,” she said.

“However, to cope with this rise in numbers, the museum is looking for volunteers who are happy to give a small amount of their time to help. ● To offer help – you don’t need any experience in working in museums or knowledge of force history, contact Becky Latchford on ext 50771 or 01245 457150.

## Bobby helps on the oche

A 24-HOUR darts marathon saw officers from Stanway MIT stepping up to the oche along with members of the Colchester Special Investigations Branch and Royal Military Police.

The marathon, opened by darts player Bobby George, raised over £3,000 for Dreams Come True, a charity which raises funds to enable severely-ill children to translate their dreams into a real experience.



## Victims are asked for their views

ESSEX Criminal Justice Board is actively encouraging residents to respond to a major new Government consultation on support for victims of crime.

A Green Paper – Rebuilding Lives: Supporting Victims of Crime – published by the Home Office, recommends a range of changes to the way crime victims are compensated and supported.

Among the proposed changes is the creation of Victim Care Units to deliver support services to victims of less serious crime that are immediate, local and tailored to victims' needs.

Other changes include the simplification of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, increasing the amount of support provided to victims of the most serious crimes.

Victims and Witness Champion for Essex Criminal Justice Board, Paula Abrahams, said: "We support the Government's view that the help we offer to victims should be tailored to their needs. To provide this support effectively we must listen to what victims say, that they need to get their lives back on track as soon as possible.

"We would therefore encourage both the public and those working in the Criminal Justice System to make their voice heard and respond to this consultation. Providing effective support for victims of crime in Essex continues to be one of the top priorities for Essex Criminal Justice Board."

● A copy of the Green Paper is available from [www.cjsonline.gov.uk](http://www.cjsonline.gov.uk). The Home Office invites comments on the proposals by March 1. Responses should be sent to: [rebuildinglives@cjsgsi.gov.uk](mailto:rebuildinglives@cjsgsi.gov.uk) or to: Victims and Confidence Unit, Office for Criminal Justice Reform, 1st Floor, Fry Building, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF.  
● For details about the CJB, visit [www.lcjb.cjsonline.gov.uk/essex](http://www.lcjb.cjsonline.gov.uk/essex)

## Encourage safe parking

THE Safer Parking Scheme achieved its 2006th Park Mark Award in January 2006.

The scheme, managed by the British Parking Association on behalf of ACPO, is growing rapidly and currently 38 parking facilities in Essex hold the Park Mark Award.

Force Community Safety Department Architectural Liaison Officer John Hills, who assesses the scheme, said: "I would ask that police officers and police staff support the scheme and encourage local authorities, shopping centres and the owners of any parking facility to apply for the award."

## Help for misusers

IN a bid to reduce alcohol-induced crime, Southend's crime and disorder partnership has funded an alcohol arrest referral worker.

Lee Player will offer help to any alcohol misuser taken into Southend custody, if they ask for it.

The scheme gives people the opportunity to address alcohol misuse problems with Lee, who can refer them, if necessary, to the specialist alcohol treatment provider at the town's Community Drug and Alcohol Service.

Lee shares an office in Southend custody with drug arrest referral worker Neil Watkins.



● Left and right, only the nippiest cars make the Intercept Team's fleet and, above, the Back Office system which handles millions of data hits a month for the force



From cars which do 0-60 in six seconds to built-in tracker systems, Essex Police is stepping up the war against the bad guys

# Not playing nicely



● ANPR Spectrum vans, above, are fully kitted out for roadside operations



● The latest addition to the ANPR stable, right, one of two Mitsubishi Evo Vllls

**As criminals get quicker, officers have to act fast to keep up and Essex Police has been in the vanguard of using sophisticated technology to locate the bad guys. Automatic Number Plate Recognition is increasingly used to identify those vehicles and their drivers wanted by police. Ben Pennington catches up with the latest developments.**

**IMAGINE** a crime-fighting kit that can tell you where you are anywhere in the world – and how to get to anywhere else. A touch-screen gadget that will film and record to hard disk exactly what you're seeing and even what happened 20 seconds before you knew you wanted to video it.

Imagine remote access to dozens of the most up-to-date databases which can tell you all about the owner of that car in front of you. All the intelligence you need to know and whether they could do with seeing the custody block's back door.

A built-in tracker system which directs you straight to the bad-guys. Now, squeeze all of that into a rather nippy little roadster, from the manufacturers of one of the fastest-accelerating production cars available in the UK. You'd be looking at the latest addition to Essex Police's automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) equipment, in the form of a Mitsubishi Evo VIII.

Well, no-one said we had to play fair, did they?

**More than £500,000 spent**

In the last year alone, the force has spent more than £500,000 on ANPR systems. ANPR works through cameras which log car registration numbers, matching

them up with systems such as the Police National Computer to establish if the vehicle is of interest to police. The financial outlay on equipment for patrol cars, integrated CCTV systems and the IT to support them is indicative of the edge that ANPR is giving today's policing.

Essex Police's ANPR project manager, Insp Paul Moor, is surrounded in his office by the kind of equipment that's making the county's roads a distinctly rocky ride for criminals. Hearing him list the various systems and bits of equipment now available and in use, you'd be forgiven for thinking the whole of Essex was covered by the cameras.

"We've now have 11 portable ANPR sets, Mobile Support Division has six installed in Road Policing cars and there are 13 cars on division with the same touch-screen, global positioning system, remote access set-up. We also have two large Spectrum vans, two of the armed response vehicles will be fully kitted-up very soon, and the ANPR Intercept Team is about to take delivery of two fully-equipped Mitsubishi Evo Vllls."

**0-60 in six seconds**  
These last two vehicles may seem like an extravagance, with a 0-60 time of around six seconds and a top speed of about 140mph. The idea however is to have the kind of overt show of force that means there's less chance you'll need to use it.

"The new cars are an extension of how police deal with a lot of potential confrontations," says Insp Moor. "The fact we have vehicles that are obviously fast

and well-equipped will hopefully deter a lot of people who might otherwise think it's worth making a run for it."

The cars are equipped with the kind of equipment which is capable of receiving messages from the force's command and control system, as well as a digital hard disk video system which is 'water-marked' for integrity, so that it can be used in court without fear that the evidence has been altered. Not bad, but the dizzying technology isn't just confined to the vehicle fleet. Across the county, fixed camera systems are beginning to make the roads a no-go for criminals. At Stansted Airport, both the short-stay car parks and cargo areas are covered by systems which are continuously monitored. That system has already yielded results. In December alone, five people were arrested at the airport as a result of ANPR hits. Along with three people wanted for vehicle crime, officers also spotted a man wanted for an assault in Colchester and a disqualified driver.

**Cameras used to great effect**

In Tendring, cameras have now been installed on the main A133 route in and out of Clacton. They were used to great effect during the recent Operation Dawn, and have yielded two well-known distraction burglars from another part of the country who were coming to Essex in order to commit crime.

"Southend's existing cameras will also be upgraded to Infra Red ones very soon," says Insp Moor. "We'll then have both the two main roads into the town covered, as well as the seafont. We've built on Southend's 60-camera CCTV system, so that we can now run ANPR through it, using anything up to 16 lanes [of traffic]." Chelmsford, Colchester, Thurrock, Harlow, the Festival Leisure Centre at Basildon and Tesco Pitsea are all set to get new fixed-site ANPR systems, along with the

● In-car touchscreen technology gives officers instant database access



Birchanger Services on the M11. But all that data needs managing. The force currently has its own Back Office 2 system which will be linked up to a National ANPR Data Centre later this year. The Essex system alone handles five million inputs a month; the national centre will eventually take 50 million vehicle reads every day.

**Information is stored**  
"There has to be a limit on how much information we can store," says Insp Moor. "Vehicles which aren't of any interest are going to be stored for two years, while those of interest to us will be in the system for seven years. Each 'hit' has global positioning co-ordinates, so we can put the data into a mapping program to

produce a profile of where a vehicle's been and when. "That's very useful, and a number of departments now have access to the Back Office 2 system, including FIB, Special Branch, Major Investigations and DIOs." From his office, Insp Moor can monitor all of the Essex systems through his computer. In the few minutes it takes to demonstrate the kit, hits are received on the screen for cars wanted by police in Lancashire, Surrey and north Wales, to name but a few.

**Forefront of ANPR**  
Since Essex started using ANPR in 1999, the force has been at the forefront of pushing the boundaries within which the technology can be used. "Essex Police has definitely been a

pioneering force in their use of this equipment," says Insp Moor. "For instance, we fitted ANPR to the force helicopter, which has proved extremely useful during operations to view things and places we wouldn't otherwise be able to. "While carrying out its patrols, the Air Support Unit has already identified stolen vehicles and co-ordinated arrests while over 1,000ft in the air. "ANPR is here to stay and it's only going to get more and more widespread until there's nowhere left for criminals to hide. We are truly making inroads in to the ACPO vision of 'denying the criminals the use of the roads.'" So all in all, no, we're not playing nicely with the bad guys. Poor little lambs ...

## Social event tops history month bill

A SOCIAL evening at Chicago Rock Cafe is the highlight of LGBT History Month.

Last year saw the first Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) History Month but this is the first time the Gay Police Association and Essex Police have taken part.

Throughout February, there will be a display in Essex Police Training Centre detailing the history of LGBT people, with an Essex slant.

Essex Police Museum at HQ will also be putting on a special display on Wednesday, February 22, from 11am to 7pm.

It will focus on the contribution that LGBT members of staff have made to Essex Police.

And Nexus – the LGBT network set up in 2000 by Essex Police – is holding a social evening at Chicago Rock Cafe at Freeport shopping village near Braintree, on Wednesday, February 15, from 7pm until 1am. Entry is free before 9pm.

Jack Coles, the Gay Police Association's force co-ordinator, said: "It is important to learn more about the history of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people, especially if we can localise it to people in Essex."

"This is a chance for people to learn and understand – there was a time when people wanted to hide their sexual orientation but now it is more acceptable for people to say who they are."

● For more information about LGBT History Month, contact Jack Coles by email

## New group in ACTION

THE ACTION Leadership programmes have grown in strength with the formation of a programme of work group under the chair of ACC Liam Brigginsshaw.

The group will be responsible for continuing to develop ACTION with the help of the ever increasing amount of ideas coming in from across the county.

These either come direct from staff or are ideas fed into the ACTION Champions Network, which has staff representatives at all levels across the force, or through the ACTION Senior User Group, a network of managers from all divisions and departments.

Mr Brigginsshaw said he was delighted to be able to chair the new group as it demonstrated quite clearly Chief Officers' continuing commitment to the ACTION Programme and would ensure all the excellent ideas generated by staff were captured and taken forward.

## Probationers get skilled

PROBATIONERS have gained the skills to assist Central and South-East divisions with prisoner-processing following Operation ZEBU last month.

The probationers at South Woodham Ferrers Professional Development Unit carried out their first interviews and submitted case papers.

They processed 11 prisoners and gained up to 50 entries for their professional development portfolio. The operation is due to be repeated every five weeks.



## Law Classifieds

### Holiday lets

**ALANYA**, Turkey. Two-bedroomed apartment in tranquil setting, sleeps six, air-conditioned, 150 yards from Med beach, shared pool. Two hours from ski slopes. £200 per week. Ring Roy on 07803 522737.

**ALGARVE**, three-bedroom villa and own pool in a rural setting. Contact Helen Knightley on 01992 560934 or email [twicelknightley2002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:twicelknightley2002@yahoo.co.uk)

**ANDALUCIA**, Spain, two-bedroom apartment in quiet rural village. Ideal walking, cycling and fishing. Away from tourist trail. Scenic area. £120 per week. Ring Arthur Emmett on 01376 515445.

**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](http://www.mcaulayvilla.com) or email [mcaulay60@hotmail.com](mailto:mcaulay60@hotmail.com)

**FLORIDA**, luxury four-bed villa, private pool, near Disney and golf. Police discount. Free brochure. Ring Jill on 01702 586092 or [www.my-florida-villa.net](http://www.my-florida-villa.net)

**FLORIDA**, Orlando. Four-bedroom, pool home overlooking water in quiet location. £450-£550 per week. Close to golf, Disney and airport. Video available. Contact Pete or Linda on 01245 321378 or email [petewtaylor@yahoo.com](mailto:petewtaylor@yahoo.com)

**FLORIDA**, Orlando, luxury three-bed villa, private pool, sleeps six-eight. Close to Disney. From £350 a 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](mailto:norma@desgill.com)

**FRANCE**. Three gites in private grounds, all with original beams and modern comforts. Separate bedrooms and kitchen. For availability, visit [www.cheznous.com](http://www.cheznous.com) property ref 14516.

**HALESWORTH**, Suffolk, two-bed Victorian cottage in town centre, lovingly restored, beamed. Pets accepted. Holiday let. Close to coast, Broads, Norwich and Southwold. Ring R Taylor on 01379 741883.

**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.

**LANZAROTE**, Costa Teguse. New two twin-bed, one-bath apartment. Kitchen, large dining room/lounge, large terrace for sunbathing and al fresco dining. Ring Karen or Chris McAulay on 01625 431373 or 07881 614045 or visit [www.lanzarotesun.net](http://www.lanzarotesun.net)

**NORFOLK**, two high-quality cottages, sleep two-four, in lovely countryside. Central for Norwich and Broads. Weekly or short breaks. Ring Gwen on 01508 489754.

**SCOTTISH** Highlands. Associates to police are welcome, B&B basis, with en-suite. Fishing, shooting, walking, bird-watching, ski-ing or general 'chilling out' in the Cairngorms. Reductions for police. Ring Andy Nunn on 01479 841717 or e-mail [apf.nunn@btinternet.com](mailto:apf.nunn@btinternet.com)

**SOUTH** of France, three-bedroom villa, 150m from Med on quiet complex, golf five minutes. Contact Kevin Harman on 01702 470926 or visit [www.la-cypriette.com](http://www.la-cypriette.com)

**TUSCANY**, Italy. Romantic, rustic, Medieval retreat nestling in the foothills of the mountains of Tuscany. Breathtaking views. One hour to Florence, Pisa and Riviera. Ring 07919 057437 or visit [www.tuscanlife.co.uk](http://www.tuscanlife.co.uk)

**WELLS**-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, charming, traditional cottage, sleeps four + two, walk to quayside and shops. Parking. Lovely beach and walks. Ring 07919 057437.

### Car for sale

**AUDI** Coupe 2l, 16v, immobiliser, trip computer, 128,000 miles, service history, metallic paint, CD-player, electric sunroof, windows and mirrors, L-reg. Very good condition. £1,600. Ring 07830 122026.

### 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 07971 459963.

# Grahame bids farewell to his police family

**A STRONG family connection between Essex Police and the Bird family saw the loss of one generation when Braintree Division's crime manager went off on pre-retirement leave at the end of last month.**

Det Chief Insp Grahame Bird, who has headed CID operations in the division since 2001, joined Essex Police in 1976 and was crime manager at Rayleigh before moving to Braintree. Most of his service has been as a detective.

In 1991, he gained a philosophy degree at Essex University after a three-year police-sponsored development course.

He met his wife, Anne, when she was a constable in Thurrock Division, his son, Vincent, is an officer with the force's Crime Division and daughter Holly is a member of staff at HQ. Anne retired in December as a part-time administration assistant for Braintree Division.

Grahame, 48, said: "I have enjoyed every minute of it and I shall leave with many fond memories." His immediate plan is to spend some time travelling with his wife.

A permanent crime manager for the new, amalgamated Central Division, covering Braintree and Chelmsford, has still to be appointed.

DI Ewen Wilson, formerly of Chelmsford, has now been appointed DCI and crime manager for the whole Central Division.

Last month saw the departure of Chris Macintosh who retired after serving 30 years with the force.

The 50-year-old former chief inspector began life as a constable in Grays, before moving to the Force Support Unit, Colchester, EPTC and Chelmsford, finishing in the Criminal Justice Department where he oversaw custody procedures. He was also a trained negotiator in the latter half of his police career.

Chris said: "I've had an enjoyable and hilarious time with Essex Police. I have absolutely loved it to death here. I've had several highlights, including a drugs raid in Mersea in



● Michelle Wall



● Grahame Bird



● Chris Macintosh

the 1980s where we began with Plan A and moved swiftly to Plan T in a short matter of minutes!

"On reflection, there are three Cs that do stand out for me: The courage of individuals to make arrests and police dangerous places in the middle of the night; the comradeship of officers to come to the assistance of others when required; and, finally, the cock-ups we have all been involved in!"

Chris, who lives with his wife in Chelmsford and who has two grown-up children, will be 'chilling out' before embarking on a Masters degree in conflict management.

Also retiring, after more 31 years of service, was Dave Foskew. The former constable, also known as the Grumpy Old Man of Stanway Road Policing Unit, spent his career with the force in the north-east of the county, beginning at Clacton before moving into the road policing worlds of Thorpe and Stanway.

The 55-year-old grandfather of two remembers the highlight of his career being when he gained his motorcycle permit in 1982, with the low point being when the motorcycle unit was disbanded.

He said: "I plan to relax more often and play more golf. The golf will offset the relaxing part, creating a nice vicious circle!"

Dave lives with his wife in Clacton. His niece, Hayley, is a constable at Epping.

### New face

The new Head of Personnel and Training, Michelle Wall, is new to the force but she is no stranger to policing.

Michelle's father was in the Metropolitan Police and she was

brought up in Hornchurch in the same house which she now owns and lives in with her husband and two children.

Although Michelle has worked mainly in retail businesses which pride themselves with exceptional levels of customer service, she was motivated to join an organisation that profits the community rather than just making a profit.

Michelle sees her greatest challenge as understanding the complexities of the police culture and history and, for her and the team, organisational change.

When she is not at work Michelle likes to pursue her hobbies of Tai chi, yoga and running.

A month into the job Michelle said: "There is so much happening the times are really exciting and challenging."

"Everyone I have met so far is passionate about the business and what we are trying to achieve. That's a breath of fresh air!"

### Obituaries

Ex Chief Supt William Docker, of Gosport, Hampshire, has died, aged 92. Mr Docker served from 1937 to 1973 at Chelmsford, Romford and Clacton.

Former constable Jeffrey Lawrence, of Hutton, has died, aged 78. Mr Lawrence served from 1954 to 1979 in Chelmsford and as a dog handler in Brentwood.

### Award

Pc John Walkinton, who works on the Airwave Project at Essex Police Training Centre, has been awarded a Certificate in Management Studies by Chelmsford College.

### BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE - ONE WORD PER BOX


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

## Chigwell is the star in victims DVD



CHIGWELL Road Policing Unit played a starring role in a new DVD which informs officers and police staff about the statutory Code of Practice for Victims of Crime.

A Central Office of Information film crew descended on the police station for a day to film scenes for *Wake-Up Call: Why Victim Care Matters*.

From April 2006, crime victims will be entitled to receive the minimum services set out in the code and the DVD shows how to provide these.

Insp Nick Burston got involved through her role with the No Witness No Justice project and

suggested Chigwell as a venue because it had several big rooms to accommodate filming and relatively few officers on duty at any one time, who could continue working without interfering with the recording.

Insp Burston said the DVD would be given to divisional training officers so they could hold training and discussion sessions and fully inform officers and staff what is expected of them under the code. It contains examples of good and bad practice including a scene where a young Pc at Chigwell is 'reprimanded' by their supervisor for not having complied with the code and the consequences of this 'inaction'.

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# Unpleasant work may be a bonus

THE Essex Police Bonus Scheme principles have been extended to cover Honorary payments for Police Staff.

The Bonus Payment/Honorarium Scheme will be made at the discretion of the Chief Constable or his nominated representative(s). Eligible members of Essex Police will be awarded between £50 and £500 per head – not pensionable.

The scheme will enable the force to reward individual members of Essex Police 'for occasional work of an outstandingly demanding, unpleasant or important nature'.

It will complement the force commitment and strategies to recognise, reward and motivate good performers.

The panel will be arranged by the HR Department and consist of a representative of the Superintendents' Association and the Head of Employee Relations.

Federation/Unison representatives will attend in an observer capacity.

The Determination Panel will consider the recommendation and any supporting information from the division/department and determine whether or not to recommend to the Chief Constable, or his nominated representative, an award bonus – and level of payment – to the individual officer or member of staff.



● As a result of the Lockerbie plane crash, search officers have to carry out a variety of specialist training in victim recovery, left  
● Above, placing a 'body' in a bag

# Force gives USA advice on recovery of disaster victims

## DEATH Scene Investigators (DSI) in the USA have turned to Essex for advice as they look to improve victim recovery training in the wake of future terrorist attacks.

The request for help came in the aftermath of last summer's London bombings when Washington DC's Director of Forensic Investigations, Michelle Mack, contacted Kazi Quinton, assistant investigator with the Major Investigation Section (MIS).

by Nishan Wijeratne

Mrs Mack's initial contact with the force began three years ago when DCI Adrian Tyson – travelled to the USA in order to study medical-related deaths.

During his six-month trip, he was joined by Mrs Quinton – a former coroner's officer – who examined the role of the Medical Examiner's Office, and, together, they compared the role of DSIs in the USA and coroner's officers in the UK.

The trip coincided with the death of Tony Clowes, nine, at Broomfield Hospital in Chelmsford and a major review of the British Coronial system headed by Lord Tom Luce.

A report was written and sent to Mrs Mack and Lord Luce who, subsequently, invited both DCI Tyson and Mrs Quinton to discuss their findings. A copy was also sent to the Coroner's Officers Association of which several members were involved in the Harold Shipman Review.

DCI Tyson identified a 'knowledge gap' in the area of medical-related death investigations and his final report was viewed by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and subsequently admitted into the Murder Investigations Manual.

Several days after the July 7 bombings, Mrs Mack contacted Mrs Quinton, to offer her condolences as well as exploring possible collaborative work.

"She asked for a breakdown of my personal experiences and wondered how we in the UK dealt with such cruel and senseless attacks," said Mrs Quinton. "She was keen to understand our procedures for victim recovery in relation to a mass fatality event."

She added: "I was quite honoured to be asked. Spending several years working alongside families of victims, I feel strongly about the need to understand their pain and how

best we can carry out a criminal investigation while communicating with people who are enduring such incredible emotional suffering.

"It is important that we understand the needs of the family members left behind, that we deal with such an event in a professional, yet compassionate and empathetic manner.

"However, we only get one chance to get things right when communicating with families who have lost a mother, father, daughter, son or any other relative in such a tragedy.

Sgt Steve Powell is a Police Search Advisor (POLSA) based in Contingency Planning. He had just returned from his first stint in Thailand where he had spent several weeks helping colleagues in victim recovery following the 2004 tsunami. Mrs Quinton asked Sgt Powell for his assistance in producing a comprehensive report about Victim Recovery.

Sgt Powell said: "The majority of specialist search team officers in this county are trained in victim recovery and some were deployed to London as part of mutual aid. The procedures we use have continually evolved.

"It is only right and proper that other agencies learn from our experiences and mistakes and provide a quality service to surviving members."

Mrs Quinton also turned to others in the force, including DCI Tom Harper and DI Nick Hale from Scenes of Crime, for advice and guidance in the step-by-step structure of victim recovery.

And Dick Madden, of Corporate Support and a former Senior Investigating Officer, put her in touch with DCI Nick Bracken, who had been seconded to the Metropolitan Police from the British Transport Police in order to co-ordinate the identification of British victims of the Asian tsunami."

Mr Bracken previously worked on such specialist work following the Paddington and Selby rail tragedies.

# Kelly steps out on M11

A POLICE community support officer has been appointed to cover the M11 Birchanger services area.

PCSO Kelly Roberts provides a high-visibility, uniformed police presence, working full-time on different shifts during the day and into the night.

The post is funded under a 50/50 partnership between Essex Police and services operator Welcome Break.

Insp Jim Shaw, head of Dunmow police section, said: "The officer's presence offers the public important benefits in countering thefts, anti-social behaviour and other problems. "I am appreciative of the



● Kelly Roberts

strong support shown by Welcome Break."

PCSO Roberts, 22, is from Sawbridgeworth and was previously a restaurant manager.

At Birchanger, her radio link will enable her to call on officers on patrol on the nearby M11 and A120 in the event of an incident requiring back-up.

She said: "The job presents an interesting challenge. I have always wanted to do something to help the community and police work has interested me for a long time."

The partnership between Essex Police and Welcome Break was forged earlier this year but, until now, patrols at the service area have been carried out on a part-time, temporary basis by visiting PCSOs, pending the appointment of a full-time, designated officer.

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# Sport & Leisure

## PEGS and cricketers call to members

WITH the new golf season looming, golfers are being invited to join the Police of Essex Golf Society – which welcomes new members and old.

PEGS welcomes golfers at all levels of play. Secretary Nigel Ginn said: "It is not true that you have to be a good golfer to join, all we ask is that you can hit the ball. We have numerous fixtures throughout the season – which runs between April and October – as well as three society days where members are more than welcome to bring along guests."

A fixture list can be found on the PEGS website. Matches against other clubs generally involve 18 holes of golf and an evening meal, normally costing about £15. Nigel said: "That takes a lot of beating, a round of golf would normally cost you more than that." Society days this year will be held at Saffron Walden, Stockbrook Manor in Stock and at Bentley. There are prizes for both members and guests and the cost is generally around £60. And clubs have been asked to cater for those who do not wish to play the full 36 holes, which will work out slightly cheaper – those playing just 18 holes can join for the afternoon round and meal.

As long as they are members of the Essex Police Sports Association, anyone who works for Essex Police can join. They don't need to be a member of a club or have a handicap as PEGS have their own handicap system, the same used by golf clubs. Nigel said: "We look forward to welcoming back any ex-members, especially retired members who have fallen away over the last year or so and, of course, any new members who wish to give us a try."

● Details of PEGS and the joining form can be found at [www.pegs-golf.co.uk](http://www.pegs-golf.co.uk) or contact secretary Nigel Ginn on 07738 007229 or email [nmginn@btinternet.com](mailto:nmginn@btinternet.com) or phone treasurer Greg Potter on 07850 037013 or email [greg.potter@ntlworld.com](mailto:greg.potter@ntlworld.com)

● THE start of the cricket season is around the corner, with summer to follow. Practice nets at the County Ground, off New London Road in Chelmsford are from 2-4pm on Tuesday, February 28 and Tuesdays, March 7, 14, 21 and 28

● Any cricketers interested in playing for the force can contact Dc Adrian Garnham at Colchester DVHCU on ext 10934 or via email

## Croker darts

CROKER Cup Darts is on Sunday, February 26, at Southend Police Station games room.

All divisions wishing to participate should email Graham Shaw at Brentwood as soon as possible.

Participants – teams of five – must be at the event and register by 11am, with the start at 11.30pm. Late entries will not be permitted.

# Russ completes a great comeback with a win

RUSS Welch made a great comeback at West Wickham last month after missing the summer season.

His win gave a big boost to the men's cross-country team, who finished second to this season's runaway leaders Kent. Good runs by Derek Walker (8th), Will Cubbin (14th) and Dave Browning (16th) completed the results.

The veteran men slipped to fourth, despite a best-ever run by Chris Lacey (17th) and the return from

injury of John Mackenzie (22nd). Pete Bryan (27th) made an all too rare appearance to complete the over-40s results.

The remainder of the male squad followed, closely packed together: Paul Arthey (28th), Gary Lane (32nd), Courtney Cowell (33rd), Mark Finbow (34th) and Lyndon Holt (36th).

The Essex women's team also finished third, led by Lisa Bolton (7th) and well-supported by Stacey Cocks (13th), Diane Frew (16th) and Pauline

Bowers (18th). The final league running fixture was due to take place on February 1 at Norwich – the first home race hosted by Norfolk.

The fixture was also to decide the final placings for both teams and individuals.

Essex were in with a shout for a number of prizes in all categories.

And the South-East/Eastern Police Regional Cross-Country Championship is to take place on March 8 in Kent.



● Essex Police football team before their 3-0 win against Witham in the , back from left, Gary Barfoot, Dick Woodhouse, Barry O'Hare, Joe Wrigley, Matt Clark, Neil Offord, Paul Keaney; front from left, Bill Potter, Andy Jackson, Ron Borland, Paul Nicholls, Steve Shoemsmith, Ray O'Hare

# Turning it around

**A SECOND-half spurt saw Essex Police dish out a 3-0 drubbing at Witham CML to keep them mid-table in the Premier Division of the Greene King Essex Veterans' League.**

The match on January 21 started with pace on an uneven, but soft pitch.

The glare of the sun hampered Essex defenders in the first half but the team played good passing football at times and defended well, whilst Witham, with their three forwards, forced and probed but couldn't find a way through the solid back line. Essex made a number of attacks on the Witham goal, clearly worrying the Witham defence with their movement and support.

A number of tactical changes at half time prompted Essex to go on the attack immediately in the second half, pushing Witham back and creating many chances.

A good move down the left resulted in a low, firm cross from Paul Keaney to Dick Woodhouse in the six-yard box, who powered the ball into the net.

And it wasn't long before Ron Borland crossed from the right and Dick again beat the goalie with a fantastic header.

To put the icing on the cake Paul Keaney had taken his gloves off, the Witham players stopped to look at his

little pinkies and he took advantage, hitting a ferocious shot from 25 yards out to beat the despairing Witham keeper.

Afterwards, Ray O'Hare said: "Make no mistake, Witham are a good side and were not short of any of their regular players.

"Our second half performance was unbelievable. We showed desire, commitment and the strength to take this well-deserved and overdue victory and the work rate was phenomenal."

● Essex Police had been beaten 1-0 by then league leaders Writtle the week before.

Regular strikers were missing but stand-ins Paul Nicholls, Shane Burke, and Gary Barfoot performed excellently.

The midfield combined well in the middle of the park and the defence did a great job to contain Writtle's young, pacy forwards.

Writtle's goal came early in the first half, through good interplay and, although they had the lion's share of the chances, Essex had a couple of half chances, which they could have made more of. But they didn't lose heart and looked fitter than Writtle towards the end of the match.

● On January 7, the New Year failed to start as planned as Essex Police went down 2-0 at Kelvedon Hatch.

A number of major incidents, and the

highly-contagious and debilitating M5N1 (man flu) took its toll too, so the team was reduced to 11 players.

Essex Police played good passing football with 90 per cent of the play and dominated the game but numerous chances went begging and, as players have learned to their cost this season, total, sexy football just doesn't cut the mustard when you don't score goals.

Kelvedon Hatch latched onto a couple of defensive errors to score two goals.

● THE Vets took time out of their busy league schedule on January 11 to visit Hertfordshire Police, losing 3-2.

Essex dominated this PSUK match and scored a great goal, which was whipped in from the left and knocked in by Nigel Cockrill, but then let Hertfordshire back into the match by giving away a soft goal.

Again, Essex kept possession of the ball and attacked and dominated. After some good pressure, Paul Keaney whipped in a blistering corner and Ray O'Hare rose like the proverbial salmon to head it into the net.

The team maintained the pressure and continued playing attacking football but Herts equalised quickly from a cross which Essex didn't clear and, again, in the last second of the game Essex let in a similar goal to let them take a 3-2 lead.

# Alan takes the Mazda in larger lottery prize give-out

THE lucky recipient of a Mazda car in the January force lottery draw was Insp Alan King, of Tendring.

The top cash prize of £3,000 goes to Robert Rowlingson, who is retired. The £1,000 prize goes to Les Elkington, of HQ Driving School, and Chelmsford SOCO Chris Prewer won £500.

Ten additional cash prizes have been added to the lottery this month.

Winners of £100 prizes were: Pc Matt Slade, of Southend; Sgt Matt Bell, of Westcliff; Pc Lewis Kearney, of Southend; Sue Spratley, of Road Collision and Civil Disclosure;

Gary Franklin, retired; Andrew Gibson Boa, retired; Gregory Moss, retired; Katherine Holloway, of Employee Relations; Dc Cherie Hilton, of the Economic Crime Unit; Pc Harry Sexton, of MSD Traffic Investigation; and Douglas Adams, retired.

And £50 winners were: Terence Lunn, of Southend Coroner's Office; Pc Helen Bazzoni, of Harwich; Jan Durr, of Personnel and Training; Pc Michael Rogers, of Colchester; Fran Cook, of MICAS; Dc Sara Maunton, seconded to National Crime Squad; Dc Paul Restarick, of

Chelmsford; Chris Stevens-Meredith, of Southend CJU; John Hobrough, retired; Pc Paul Watson, of Southend; Sgt Sally Davies, of Epping; David Bright, retired; Sgt Mick Green, of Chelmsford RPU; and Pc Steve Robson, of Grays.

Winners of Benenden Healthcare teddy bears were: Frank Holden, retired; Jenny Grantham, of HQ PNC Bureau; Ds Kevin Conerney, of HQ, Crime; Pc Stephen Allum, of Chelmsford RPU; Pc Simon Early, of Harlow; and Pc James Barnacle, of Chelmsford RPU.

## Pantomime and music to entertain you

ESSEX Police Music Society members are putting the final touches to their new performance of *My Fair Lady*, which hits the stage later this month.

It's the society's 40th anniversary this year and members are hoping for bumper audiences to help them celebrate.

Vice-chairman Jenny Hillyard said: "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." The show runs from Monday, February 13, to Saturday, February 18, at the Assembly Hall at HQ, at 7.30pm, plus a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm. There is no charge for tickets but donations are requested on the door to cover costs.

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

● FORMER Southend constable Lisa Bolton now works as a fund-raiser for Little Haven Children's Hospice and is due to star in *Jack And The Beanstalk*, which is raising cash for the hospice, Southend Hospital's Pinpoint Cancer Appeal and the Scouting Association. Shows in The Eastwood Theatre at Eastwood School, Rayleigh Road, Eastwood, are on Wednesday, February 15, at 7.30pm, Thursday, 16, and Friday, 17, at 3pm and 7.30pm, and on Saturday, February 18, at 2pm and 6pm. ● Call the box office on 0870 7744302 for ticket details.





● Insp Tony Rustman

## Tony gets a major boost with praise from ACPO

AN inspector from South-Western Division has been recognised for his 'commitment and effort' during major operations at the end of a secondment to ACPO.

Insp Tony Rustman returned to the force last autumn following an almost three-year secondment with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) where he was involved in various operations, including the police response to the Boxing Day 2004 Tsunami and last July's G8 conference in Scotland.

The 47-year-old received a commendation from ACPO President Chris Fox, for his 'unstinting commitment to the Police National Information Co-ordination Centre (PNICC) ... as his work was a pivotal to the success of the logistics phase during the tsunami, G8 Conference and London bombings ... earning the respect of all'.

Insp Rustman said: "I was originally asked to co-ordinate PNICC for the war in Iraq, which resulted in the deployment of 10,000 officers to Fairford Air Force Base in Gloucestershire to deal with protester groups around the protection of B52 aircraft.

"Thereafter, was a busy year of developing contingency plans in partnership with the Cabinet Office, Home Office and Government departments.

"It then tested our capability to the limit for planning Operation Bracknell planning following the tsunami, moving on to Hawthorn for the conference in Gleneagles and other EU/G8 meetings nationally, then finally Thesus which was the operation in response to the 7/7 bombings in London.

"There have been quieter periods where I have been fortunate to work on less high-profile work such as the operational plans and policing response for a SARS outbreak and a bird flu pandemic, together with reviewing our response to a fuel crisis, major flooding and prison strike plans."

Insp Rustman, who has nearly 28 years' police service, returned to Essex in October when he took up his current post at Wickford Police Station, with responsibilities also for Billericay. He served at Southend, Basildon and Grays before his secondment.

# Three arrested in joint operation at waste site

THREE men were arrested and 16 stolen vehicles recovered during a joint operation between the Environment Agency and Essex Police.

A warrant was executed last month to search and enter the site at Temple Farm, West Hanningfield, near Chelmsford.

The new Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 increased the penalties for certain waste offences, making the arrests possible.

One of the arrested men was later charged with burglary and making off

without payment and appeared before Chelmsford magistrates the next day. Two others were bailed pending further inquiries about suspected firearms offences.

During the search, the Moulsham Community Policing Team, assisted by Mobile Support, located 16 stolen vehicles, including a high-powered Lexus, a motorcycle and a mini-digger. Two illegal firearms were also found.

At the same time, the Automatic Number Plate Recognition Intercept Team read more than 3,000 number

plates – around 20 motoring offences were detected and four vehicles were seized.

Environment Agency Special Enforcement team leader Chris Window said: "We have been concerned about operations at the site for some time and have been conducting investigations for some months.

"The raid was assisted by the provisions of the new act, which increases the power given to Crown Courts to impose prison sentences of up to five years for certain waste offences. That

makes them arrestable offences. We have been working closely with Chelmsford Borough Council during our investigations as well as liaising with Essex Police."

Local residents had made complaints about alleged burning operations at Temple Farm and the Bakers Lane Action Group (BLAG) was formed.

The Environment Agency is the leading organisation for protecting and improving the environment – air, land and water – in England and Wales.

## PCSOs get smarter with council's £15,000 donation



POLICE community support officers in the Braintree area have been provided with two more cars, thanks to a donation of £15,000 from Braintree District Council.

The cash paid for two Smart cars, which will enable the PCSOs to be more flexible and means one is now available for each of the Braintree, Dunmow, Halstead, Saffron Walden and Witham sections, which have 24 PCSOs between them.

Two of the existing cars were bought by Essex Police and the other was provided by Uttlesford District Council.

The two-seater cars are of particular benefit in rural areas, where public transport is sparse, and are more cost-effective and reliable than asking staff to use their own vehicles.

The Smart cars enable PCSOs to

● Cllr Wendy Schmitt and Chief Supt Win Bernard present the new cars to PCSOs Stuart Stranger and Graham Heseltine

move between beats more effectively and to provide support in other places when the need arises. They do not respond to 'blue light' emergency calls.

Chief Supt Win Bernard, commander of the new Central Division – the old Braintree and Chelmsford divisions – said: "We are extremely grateful to Braintree District Council for its support as a community partner. "PCSOs will be more effective now that they have a fleet of five cars and will certainly not become remote.

"Walking the beat and providing a high-visibility uniformed presence will continue to be their primary function."

Cllr Wendy Schmitt, who holds the public protection portfolio on Braintree council, said: "The council is delighted to provide the funding for the Smart cars as this will enhance the excellent work being done by PCSOs in rural areas. It sends a clear message that the reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour is high on the agenda."

# Conference proves to be a testing time

**ESSEX Police hosted the first conference of its kind in the country when more than 100 people signed up for Testing Times: Drug Testing In The Criminal Justice System and Work Place.**

Assistant Chief Constable John Broughton opened the conference at Stock Brook Manor last month.

He was joined by representatives from Essex and Kent forces, the Home Office's Scientific Development Branch, the MoD Police, local councils, a number of private businesses – including major hotel and licensing chains – a wide range of treatment providers and the prison and probation services.

The conference allowed delegates to compare and contrast different drug-testing equipment.

Mr Broughton said: "We decided to set up the conference as issues surrounding

by Heather Turner

drug-testing are high on the agenda for criminal justice and healthcare agencies in Essex.

"As one of the Drug And Alcohol Action Teams commissioner of services, we felt it was also an appropriate time to highlight the issues to a wider audience, particularly as the subject of workplace drugs policy and testing has obtained coverage in the media of late.

"Introducing a drug policy into the workplace is not always easy – but those difficulties may be considered to be relatively minor when compared to the hurdles that introducing testing may present."

Substance Misuse Co-ordinator Insp Trevor Williamson wanted the conference to raise people's awareness and knowledge of drug testing. Particular reference was made to how drug testing could be used as a crime reduction tool in the criminal justice system and how it

could be implemented as part of a wider drugs policy in the workplace.

Emma Thomas, of Birkett Long solicitors, told delegates about the legal implications of introducing a drug-testing policy at work.

Essex Police and the Prison Service also demonstrated how drug dogs can be used to detect illegal substances.

The providers of drug-testing equipment sponsored the event and ran a series of workshops throughout the day for interested employers.

Insp Williamson, who organised the conference with Eleanor Nunn, of Community Safety, said: "Essex Police is a commissioner of drug treatment services and we took this opportunity to raise awareness and knowledge of what is currently available within the drug-testing field."

Drug testing within the police service is on the national agenda and Essex Police has reached consultation stage on the matter.

## Football is the game, even on a dismal Monday night

THE offer of football on a dismal Monday night in January would not normally entice youths off the streets.

But members of Rochford Community Policing Team know which buttons to press – they fixed up a PlayStation

2 Pro Evo 5 evening at Hockley Community Centre and 18 youths, aged from ten to 16, turned up.

And PCSOs Tom Boulter and Laura Merrell also gave up their evening to attend.

The youngsters played three

hours of football on four separate screens in a bid to win prizes donated by local firms.

Pc Steve Joynes, of the community policing team, said: "With the run-up to the World Cup, football fever is helping us to reduce crime

and anti-social behaviour in the area. Further nights are now planned, maybe with other games to appeal to more people.

"We hope to get to most of our towns and end with a Champion of Champions finale."

## Help prevent youngsters re-offending

VOLUNTEERS are wanted to help prevent youngsters who have committed their first crime from re-offending. Changes in the law mean that police officers and support staff are now eligible to sit on Young Offender Referral Order panels to help direct and supervise the youngster's future.

A ten to 17-year-old who pleads guilty to a first offence can be given a referral order. This order is indirectly supervised by volunteers from the community who make up the Referral Order panel. They will meet with the offender their parents or guardian and, where possible, the victim.

Background history, circumstances of offence and issues concerning the youngster are all heard. Following consultation, a contract of work is drawn up to help prevent re-offending and hopefully repair some of the harm done.

Full training and support is given to the volunteers.

● Anyone interested in this community work, which provides reimbursement of travel expenses, should contact Jackie Horlock, at Essex Youth Offending Service HQ on 01245 265151

