

# The Law



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March 2006

## RECORD NUMBERS

## JOINING THE FORCE

by Kate Batson & Heather Turner

**THE force has welcomed the highest probationer intake for several years with 258 officers joining since April 2005.**

The last three recruitment intakes at the end of 2005 resulted in 167 of these officers joining – one of the highest intakes of officers in Essex Police history over a three-month period.

Essex Chief Constable Roger Baker said he was delighted more people were coming forward to help fight crime and keep the county safe.

“We have pledged to return more officers to frontline duties and our move into neighbourhood policing means that we will have more officers, PCSOs and Special Constables out on the streets.

“Good local knowledge is the key to helping reduce the fear of crime in our communities, reducing the amount of crime which is committed and improving our detection rates.”

In two separate recruitment campaigns at the end of last year, 1,750 application packs were made available.

These applications have been processed and potential probationers will start to be appointed from April 3.

Induction courses for the new probationers will be conducted at one of Essex Police's Professional Development Units, located in Colchester, South Woodham Ferrers, Hatfield Heath and South Ockendon.

Recruitment Manager Karen Puttock said: “We are delighted to have recruited such a high number of officers. We are always looking to encourage new recruits to the force who will provide a real presence on the county's streets.

“Recruitment is particularly important at the moment because of our commitment to increasing visible policing, and we will continue to recruit more officers to meet this need and to reassure the public.”

A constable starting their training is paid £22,397, which includes a local allowance of £2,000. This rises to £24,770 on completion of initial training.

And it is not just the numbers of regular police officers which are being boosted across the county.

In November, 27 Special Constables were sworn in during an Attestation Ceremony – the largest number of recruits to the Special Constabulary to be attested for a number of years.

Chief Constable Roger Baker has stated he would like to increase the number of Special Constables from the current 430 or so to 1,000. And so Chief Officer George Cook has embarked on a campaign to recruit an extra 100-150 Specials each year until 2010.

Meanwhile, Insp Glenn Mayes is in charge of a project which looks to boost the number of Police Community Support Officers across Essex, too.

With 350 people attending a recent recruitment evening, the signs are good that force can reach its target of having 622 PCSOs on the streets by March 31, 2008.

Three years ago, Essex Police recruited its first ten PCSOs, who took part in a pilot project in Waltham Abbey and Loughton – the force now has 205 and is hoping to take on another ten or 11 each month for the next year, with even more being taken on in 2007/08.

● Turn to Page 5 for news of how your Council Tax payments are helping to pay for more police on our streets

● Turn to Pages 6 & 7 to discover more about the role of PCSOs

● Dc Nick Newbury, left, and Det Supt Kevin Macey hand over the £1,100 cheque to Frances Sharp, Witness Service Manager for Chelmsford Crown Court, watched by staff from South-West Major Investigation Team at Brentwood

Picture by Heather Turner



## Barbeque fun helps witnesses

FUN and games and generous support from local businesses helped South-West Major Investigation Team raise £1,100 for the Witness Service. They raised the money during a summer barbeque and a raffle at Brentwood Police Station – aided by extra money raised when their Senior

Investigating Officer, Det Supt Kevin Macey, stepped into the stocks for a good sponging. Receiving the cheque, Chelmsford Crown Court's Witness Service Manager Frances Sharp said it would be used to provide 'simple comforts' such as newspapers, magazines, china

cups and biscuits. Dc Nick Newbury came up with the idea of raising money to help witnesses and families of murder victims feel more comfortable during long trials. The money will be split between Chelmsford and Basildon Crown Courts.



# Terry has left the building

**WELL, here we are. The time has come for me to hang up my quill pen, put away the abacus and put myself out to pastures new.**

Over the many years I have had the privilege of working for you in the Federation Office, we have had many

issues to deal with – Sheehy, Son of Sheehy and Sheehy by another name, ie Police Reform.

We have had attack after attack on our pay and reviews of our conditions of service.

We have seen the abolition of rent allowance, followed by housing allowance. Then – surprise surprise – we had to have a south-

east allowance to assist in the recruitment and retention of officers.

Our pensions have been altered for new recruits from April this year and Special Priority Payments continue to be divisive.

We have problems with PCSOs, in that certain divisions think that they can use these instead of police officers to do jobs they were never intended to do.

I am aware, however, that Chief Officers are trying to address this issue.

We still have the problem of the selling of police houses and, as I write this, we have had two open meetings, with one more planned, before a report is given to Essex Police Authority.

I urge authority members to consider carefully the concerns of officers before making final decisions.

And we are still waiting to see if Essex will be forced to amalgamate with other areas.

So, in a nutshell, what goes around, comes around and will continue to do so.

Taking over from me will be Roy Scanes. He

has been assistant secretary now for just over a year and I have no concerns over his ability and commitment to the job. I wish him well for the future.

Taking Roy's position will be Tony Rayner, again, an experienced Federation member who, I am sure, will do a sterling job.

Sue Kelly continues in her role as chairman, with her vast experience.

Another new addition to our team has been Ross Luke, who took over the mantle of misconduct secretary late last year and whose workload, unfortunately, is not getting any lighter. Again, his commitment is faultless.

Finally, can I thank you, the members – past and present – for your support.

I would also like to thank the support members of staff in our office, namely Marian Godwin, Jackie Card and, particularly, Trish Morley, without whom my job would have been much harder.

Best wishes to you all both now and in the future ... Terry has left the building.

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## Cash coup as force sets up bike section



● Pc Steve Allum and Pc Ray Jeffery ride out on two of the force's new motorcycles

TRANSPORT Services mounted a cash coup for the force when it bought seven bikes from Jersey Police in order to re-establish an Essex Police Motorcycle Section.

Essex Police Authority had already agreed to purchase six new Honda Pan European bikes at a cost of at least £12,000 each.

But Transport Services Manager John Gorton found out, through contacts, that Jersey Police was disposing of its fleet of Honda ST1100s.

He said: "This deal will save Essex Police thousands of pounds that can be reinvested in frontline policing."

The Jersey bikes join two bikes already owned by Essex Police – and used for the Bikesafe motorbike safety campaign – plus a further three ST1300s demonstrators borrowed from Honda for this year, and are now fully operational.

The Jersey bikes are already police liveried and equipped and one of them has a camera mounted on it.

The oldest is a 1996 model, but four are 2001 and the mileages range from 10,000 to 45, 000,

which will allow Essex Police to stagger their replacement in the future.

The bikes will be used during public order operations and for ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) work.

Nine officers are currently being trained so they can ride the bikes. Three others have already taken an advanced refresher course and first took bikes out on patrol in January.

Insp Keith Whiting, of Chelmsford Road Policing Unit, said: "With the addition of these motorcycles and the training of another nine riders in March and April we will soon have a very highly visible and effective resource to help reduce the fear of crime, increase the detection of crime and target traffic offences which directly affect the number of people who are killed and seriously injured on our roads."

"We have already had very positive feedback from the public who like to see motorcycles back on the road. Police officers have also commented on how effective the current bikes have been over the past few weeks."

● See Corner the Chairman on Page 5

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INSURANCE

## Benevolent fund can be worth it

MORE officers are being encouraged to pay into the force's benevolent fund to gain access to some of the best convalescence services available.

Just over half of all officers now pay into the fund, compared to around 80 per cent ten years ago.

Flint House in Goring-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, is a police convalescence centre for those suffering from physical or mental health problems.

By paying into the benevolent fund at little more than 80p a week, officers can receive treatments such as physiotherapy and hydrotherapy at no extra cost in accommodation to a high-quality hotel.

Visitors not paying into the fund would have to pay several hundred pounds a week.

The centre is staffed by fully-qualified medical and care staff and contains a flat for those who need to take family.

• For more information on the fund contact the Welfare Office on ext 58601

## Help to give kids 4x as much fun

THE force's 4x4 Fun Day team is holding its biggest-ever event as it celebrates ten years of bringing happiness to the lives of disabled children.

Consisting of a number of officers and staff from across the force, as well as members of the Royal Military Police, the team is organising the day at Marsh Farm in South Woodham Ferrers on August 31. It is open to children from five to 16 with disabilities.

Co-ordinator Michele France said: "The day is a real family affair as the event is also open to siblings, if there are sufficient places."

"The day's success is all down to the continued help and support of those who volunteer, so if you have a 4x4 off-road driving permit or would just like to give up your time to help make this day special, then contact us."

• Anyone who knows of a child who would benefit must complete a Childs Registration Form, obtainable by email from Michele France. Closing date for applications is May 14



## FIR raises £6,000 for the Ellie May trust

THE strangest of sights occurred in the Force Information Room on February 5. The corridor was filled with a variety of characters, including Pooh, Piglet and Tigger, Bugs Bunny, Friar Tuck and Elvis along with a host of others. And they were all ready to walk ten miles in aid of The Ellie May Trust. After a fill of bacon and sausage rolls, cooked by, who else, Friar Tuck, there was time for a quick photo shoot before the walkers were waved off by Ellie May's grandparents.

The walk, organised by Communications Officer Keith Holland, was to raise funds to buy prosthetic limbs for Ellie May Challis, a 23-month-old girl who had to have her hands and feet amputated after she fell ill with

meningococcal septicaemia. Being encouraged by plenty of horn blowing from passing motorists, the walkers were soon in Chelmsford town centre and attracting attention, which helped fill the collection bucket. With the support vehicle in tow filled with refreshments ranging from wine/beer to juice/water they reached the outward half way mark at Admirals Park, where several youngsters stood and gasped as their favourite cartoon characters ripped their heads off and started drinking from cans and bottles. From there it was a trek through the countryside to the Pig and Whistle at Chignall Smealy, where everyone was made very welcome, with the locals again adding to the collection bucket.

After a fill of chips and sarnies and more photos it was off on the return journey, but not before Jean Hasler – who was wearing a mini-skirt and fishnets – and Keith Holland had decided to change costumes. With the continuous support of hooting cars the walkers all made it back to FIR by 4.30pm. Keith Holland has since added up all the pledges and, with the money collected en route, it looks as though the FIR walkers will raise around £6,000 for the fund. So, a big well done to the walkers and to those who sponsored and supported them.

Keith Wooderson  
FIR Communications Officer

# Let your fingers do the talking in custody

**NEW technology to speed up crime scene hits and fingerprint quality will be rolled out this summer thanks to a Government cash injection.**

Livescan is a bookcase-sized piece of equipment with a scanning and viewing screen, and works by electronically capturing fingerprints.

As well as eradicating the need for ink and paper, the machines will not allow a sub-standard set of prints to be recorded, raising the quality of those held on the system.

Following a successful pilot at Harlow over the last two years, Essex Police Authority has given the green light for Livescan's installation at all ten main

by Ben Pennington

custody areas around the county.

The rollout will cost around £200,000 in its first year but, thanks to a joint-funding arrangement with the Home Office the force will pay just half of that.

The technology is just the latest in a long line of developments in recent years which have kept the force's Scientific Support team at the forefront of forensic work nationally.

Head of Scientific Support Det Chief Insp Tom Harper said: "Livescan allows officers to confirm a suspect's identity within eight minutes through the national fingerprint database, which now holds around six million records. "Police can also search outstanding

crimes anywhere in the country. Any hits from such searches are then confirmed by a fingerprint expert."

The system will indicate when a poor-quality set of suspect's prints are held, and officers will renew those sets on Livescan.

"Bobbies on the beat will have almost immediate access to a system offering 99.9 per cent accuracy," said Det Chief Insp Harper.

"Not only will this confirm a suspect's identity within a few minutes, but whether or not they are wanted for any other crimes while they are still in our custody."

Site visits by engineers at the custody blocks will take place this month with installation scheduled for mid-July.

## Campaign's tenth year is marked by a new award

AN anti-drugs roadshow has been given a special award by substance misuse practitioners as it celebrates its tenth year.

2 Smart 4 Drugs, which is supported by local radio station *Essex FM*, won the award at the Essex Drug and Alcohol Team Recognising Achievement Awards.

Project co-ordinators Pam Withrington and Pc Victoria Wilson were presented the award by Assistant Chief Constable Liam Briggingshaw.

The roadshow project has been promoting anti-drugs awareness and education in Essex since 1996.

This year's tour will start on Monday, March 27, at Clements Hall in Hawkwell and will take in nine venues, reaching more than 15,000 Year Seven pupils across the county.

Other dates are: April 20, Towngate Theatre, Basildon; April 26, Tabor College, Braintree; April 27, Civic Hall, Grays; May 2, Civic Theatre, Chelmsford; May 10, Playhouse Theatre, Harlow; May 19, Charter Hall, Colchester; June 19, Cliffs Pavilion, Southend; June 23, Brentwood Centre, Brentwood.

• AN outdoor event at Chelmsford is being held here at HQ sports field on July 16 from 11am-4pm, featuring three different half-hour performances from the 2S4D roadshow.

It is the first time since the 2S4D campaign started an event has been held outdoors and open to everyone and it will help to celebrate the tenth anniversary.

Substance Misuse Co-ordinator Pc Victoria Wilson said the event was being held so that friends and families of children who have been to the roadshow can see what they have seen.

"It is another opportunity to push the anti-drink/drugs message," she said.

Road Policing officers and staff from the other emergency services will be on hand to demonstrate, among other things, the results of drink and drug-driving.

• For further information ring Pc Victoria Wilson on 01245 452194

## Words are funny, words are neat ...

WE always enjoy a funny story at *The Law* and the IT Service Desk is always happy to help.

IT Application Administrator Ian Smith explained: "In the IT Department, we receive hundreds of calls for help a day, some for system passwords to be reset."

"This request was recorded at the IT Service Desk as: 'Customer requests password be reset for ViSOR as he was entered three times incorrectly'.

"Needless to say we successfully, and completely painlessly, got him out of his difficulty."

## Web can help if you're asked about internet crime

OFFICERS in the Hi-Tech Crime Unit have compiled a useful list of organisations and websites for staff to contact if they are asked about internet-based crime.

This information is also useful crime prevention advice for businesses, personal users and children.

The Hi-Tech Crime Unit itself deals with forensic data recovery to obtain evidence from seized media of crimes involving computer use.

Computer Network Investigator Dc Dave Nash said: "We also provide advice to officers on divisions about computer-based crimes. There are informative web sites available to

combat identity theft and online grooming, which are both high-profile news at this time," he said.

"We get a lot of inquiries from FIR and help desks about internet-based scams because they don't know who to refer these to. We thought we would alert people to a range of useful contacts which will help."

A downloadable scams leaflet is also available from the frequently asked questions (FAQs) section of the Hi-Tech Crime Unit's intranet site and the force's public website also includes similar information.

Staff may find the following internet website addresses useful:

**The Office of Fair Trading**  
[www.oft.gov.uk/Consumer/Scams/default.htm](http://www.oft.gov.uk/Consumer/Scams/default.htm)

A Stamp Out Scams campaign has been launched on this web site and covers most scams in circulation.

**Get Safe Online**  
[www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)

A free service to help you to protect yourself against internet threats. The site is sponsored by the Government and leading businesses.

**The Parent Centre**  
[www.parentcentre.gov.uk](http://www.parentcentre.gov.uk)

Children are likely to have internet access in more than one place. This website helps you to equip them with

the skills to handle the internet safely.

**Internet Watch Foundation**  
[www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk)

Deals with images of child porn and child abuse and criminally racist content. There is also an online reporting facility and details on how youngsters can use computers safely.

**The Virtual Global Taskforce**  
[www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com](http://www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com)

Wants to make the internet a safer place, help children at risk and hold perpetrators to account. There is also an online reporting facility for abuse.

• The Hi-Tech Crime Unit will be producing information leaflets and posters for distribution soon

# 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.

## Merging police forces is simply ridiculous *We have a national squad*

I FULLY agree with George Raven (Letters, January) that to reduce 43 police forces to 12 to make them more efficient, as claimed by the Government, is ridiculous.

We now read that Home Secretary Charles Clarke is threatened with legal action after bulldozing the fiercely-opposed plans for a 'super' police forces by the amalgamation of the regions of Cleveland, Durham and Northumberland into a sprawling north-east force, after being promised by Prime Minister Tony Blair to listen to the local views.

Christopher Booker, an eminent journalist, published last November that the proposal to merge 43 police forces into 12 was the most fundamental restructuring of British police in 170 years and the Home Secretary endorsed the proposals, which correspond to the 12 EU regions of the UK.

When Home Office Minister Fiona McTaggart was questioned on this by Conservative MPs, including Chelmsford MP Simon Burns, she could not explain why the absorption of locally-based police forces into an amorphous regional bureaucracy would

improve the police force. Is the answer because Brussels rules over us?

When Edward Heath joined the European Economic Community, he accepted VAT being imposed on us and the 1972 European Communities Act and he surrendered the sovereignty of Parliament so European law takes precedence over British law.

More than 105,000 items of EU legislation (according to House of Commons figures) have been imposed on us.

**Walter Ablett  
Chelmsford**

WITH the Home Secretary championing the amalgamation of our local police forces in order to investigate professional criminals and terrorists across borders and boundaries, one wonders if he is aware that there is already a national police force doing just that.

Since the early 1960s, officers from various police forces have been seconded to regional crime squads, now organised on a national basis.

These crime squad officers

provide the liaison in their day-to-day work between the individual police forces on these serious issues and any additional funding would be better spent to increase their numbers and improve the equipment at their disposal.

So are amalgamations really necessary for those purposes or is there, as many of us suspect, a more political issue in his motivation for regionalisation?

**Robert J Cordery  
Hatfield Peverel**

Your letters meant so much to me

THROUGH *The Law*, I would like to thank everyone who so kindly sent letters, cards and messages of sympathy to me on the death of my husband Eric Chambers last November.

It was through my daughter Alison Hewitt, who contacted those she knew and had met.

We spent many happy years at Clacton with Eric doing a job he loved and, although we moved to Devon after his retirement, he never lost interest in old friends and colleagues, especially the group he called 'his lads'.

He constantly talked about them and was very proud of their achievements. His weekly phone calls with the late Derrick Hughes enabled him to know all the news of Clacton.

We were lucky enough to have two celebrations last summer – his 90th birthday and our Diamond Wedding, which he enjoyed.

**Eisie Chambers  
Plympton, Devon**

● WE would like to thank all of you who helped to make my final 'do' the relaxed and enjoyable session it became.

To those who contributed to the entirely unexpected and very generous gift, my grateful thanks. I've spent so long in the art shop trying to work out how to spend it to the best advantage I fear they may charge me rent.

The farewell e-mails I received, the texts, even the risqué ones – you know who you are – the final gathering of friends and the evocative memories confirmed to me that I couldn't have spent the last 30 years with a finer group of people.

Whether you were there or not, thanks for your companionship and support down the years.

**Chris & Heather Macintosh  
Chelmsford**

● I WOULD just like to thank all who kindly came to the funeral of my husband Basil West, who passed away very suddenly on November 24 last year.

It was wonderful to see so many of his colleagues, albeit on a very sad occasion, and it was so bitterly cold.

I have now heard from Cancer Research, the chosen charity of donation in place of floral tributes, and the sum donated to date is £312, which is marvellous. I know Bas would be more than happy with this outcome.

**Margaret West  
Chelmsford**

# Neighbourhood policing again?

**I HAVEN'T stopped campaigning: Writing to newspapers and journals; lobbying our Chief Constable, the Essex Police Authority and Parliament; publishing leaflets and pamphlets; attending conferences, meetings and fighting elections – all on the subject of how we police our county and our nation.**

Readers of *The Law* may be familiar with the theme – a return to 'real' community policing which puts service to the public first.

In 1991 I was tasked with setting up 'real' community policing in Harlow. We were going great guns, but there were many obstacles, including a high level of 'abstractions'.

Ironically, the death knell for the project was sounded by the need to resource the Brightlingsea demonstrations, the last time I can think of that the police put the rule of law above political correctness.

We were rightly arresting middle-class women for throwing paint over officers, while preachers of hate have since been allowed to ferment terrorism with the acquiescence of police and prosecutors.

So, you can imagine the Cheshire Cat

grin last month's 'The Law' brought to my face by revealing 'new' neighbourhood policing going live across Essex.

The scheme mirrors precisely what was abandoned here 12 years ago and reiterates what all with experience know: the basic 'job' does not change, only fashions. Stay around long enough and everything comes full circle. Shift patterns, police motorcycles, beat policing. I'm just waiting for police horses to re-appear!

One phrase from the Chief Constable gives me particular delight – 'Neighbourhood policing is the core business'. Spot on Mr Baker but, although implied, one essential word is missing – status.

Until the role of beat officers is viewed within the service as having the same status as any other 'specialist', it will be difficult for local commanders to 'sell' to constables without a carrot. In the past this been the offer of a transfer in return for a year or two running a beat.

But a year or two is not enough to achieve the level of community engagement, trust and knowledge required. After 7/7 former Essex man Andy Hayman, now Met Assistant Commissioner for Specialist Operations, said the police need to have good enough links with local communities to discover when people are engaged in the activities those young bombers were.

## There's nothing new *Are we going back in time to the early 1970s?*

I WAS very pleased to read on the Front Page of the February issue about the 'new' neighbourhood policing team in Colchester and a very fine looking team of officers they are!

But might I point out that 'first' and 'new' are inappropriate adjectives with regard to this style of policing.

Back in 1962 I served as a beat officer in the original Laindon Police Station together with eight other officers under the supervision of two sergeants, working with a CID officer.

We achieved all of the objectives given as bullet points in your

report, so what is 'new'? And we were just continuing a long history of this traditional policing.

It was also very interesting to read in the Federation News of quotes from Chief Constable Roger Baker – 'basic, traditional policing the way we used to' – and Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers 'We should be trying to get back to some of those old-fashioned police values'.

Mr Baker wants to see each neighbourhood in Essex having its own policing team and we should all wish him well in that ambition.

**Robert Cordery  
Hatfield Peverel**

HAVING just read last month's copy of *The Law*, I thought I must have gone back in time, just like the BBC TV

programme *Life On Mars*. There must be many retired police officers who, like me, were neighbourhood beat officers (NBOs) at some stage in their service. The system of NBOs was up and running in the 1970s and 1980s in Southend and, although a good idea on paper, it

never seemed to work because NBOs were used for other duties, because of shortages elsewhere in the division.

With the return of traffic motorcycles, how long will it be before we see horses patrolling the seafront or, perhaps, this summer, I might even see Southend Division's inflatable 'marine rescue' there, too.

**Alan Longhurst  
Great Wakering**

## Best wishes to our dear friend Norman on his MBE

RE the story It's An Honour (*The Law*, January 2006), I was reminded of how the years pass on seeing the picture of Head of Photography Norman

Eastbrook. In the early months of World War Two, I was evacuated to Tiptree.

Then, by coincidence, my late husband – at that time

Pc 785 – was posted to Tiptree in the early 1950s.

My daughter and son – now in their late 50s – have known Norman a long time

and join me in sending our sincere congratulations on the award of an MBE to him.

**Doreen Ranson  
Westgate-on-Sea, Kent**

Come on and join our happy throng

POLICE Car UK is a new organisation for those who love police cars.

Whether you like cars or motorcycles, contemporary or classic, you will find many like-minded police officers and staff from other forces share your passion – you are not alone.

PC-UK exists to bring those people who have a genuine interest together to share their knowledge, views and experiences.

The organisation produces a good-quality magazine four times a year and looks at what is new in terms of vehicles and equipment up and down the country.

Its aims are to be both informative and entertaining.

The magazine also looks back at the classics of police motoring with in-depth coverage on legendary patrol cars from the likes of Wolseley, Riley, Austin and Morris. Motorcycle icons such as Triumph, Norton and Velocette are remembered with affection.

Archive photographs guaranteed to bring a smile to your face accompany every article.

The organisation currently holds an estimated quarter of a million photographs.

Some members own beautifully-restored classic police vehicles from the likes of Jaguar and MG, Triumph and BMW, Rover and Volvo. Many of these are displayed at various police open days throughout the summer months.

PC-UK is run by police officers for police officers and staff, both serving and retired, who hold a wealth of knowledge and experience and is not open to anyone else.

Membership, at £18 per year, includes the magazine. For details visit the website [www.policecaruk.com](http://www.policecaruk.com) or write to PC-UK PO Box 753, Portsmouth PO1 9BQ.

**Steve Woodward  
Chairman, PC-UK**

## Thank you

MAY I thank my ex-colleagues and friends from Essex Police who attended my wife's funeral at Basildon Crematorium on January 20. Just the fact that they were there meant so much to me and my family.

**David Jones  
Stanford le Hope**

## Corner the chairman



● Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers

## Motorbikes will help us in the fight against crime

“I AM delighted that we have acquired seven motorcycles and I am looking forward to seeing them out on the roads of Essex.

We really do need motorised patrols to attend incidents more efficiently as well as providing a visible presence to reassure the communities we serve.

We have always used motorcycles for education and training purposes but to increase our fleet is a big bonus for us and the public. As well as providing a great presence on the roads we can also look to reduce accidents and fatalities. We have been very fortunate to acquire these bikes from Jersey Police.

By purchasing these motorcycles, we have saved thousand of pounds which can now be invested into frontline policing. Not only are we reintroducing our motorcycle section but the other aspects of our Mobile Support Division are vital to the success of Essex Police. I believe we can continue to be proactive in reducing crime and the fear of crime with the motorcycles, dog unit, boats and helicopter – we have recently purchased new boats; we have refurbished the dog unit; and we have introduced special new FIDO head cameras for dogs.

And the force helicopter will have an even bigger part to play if congestion on the roads continues to increase in the way that it has. We are a progressive force and we are continuing to expand our capability. When the public starts to tell us that they feel safer here and we have significantly reduced crime we know we are making real progress. We are already successful but we will be the best force in the country. ”

● Is there something you want to know about Essex Police Authority? To ask Mr Chambers a question, write to Kate Batson, Press and PR Officer, Essex Police Authority, at HQ Press Office. Mr Chambers will select some to reply to.

Wouldn't it be luvverly? Eliza (Justina Bartley) with the costermongers (Michael Pearce, Mark Edmondson, John Snell and Bob Drake)

Picture by Mary Cotter



## Faint heart never won a fair lady

MY Fair Lady was a fitting production with which to grace Essex Police Musical Society's 40th anniversary year.

It was last performed in 1990 with the same lead man – George Lambeth as Prof Henry Higgins – and the only thing that appeared to have changed was a little more grey in the hair. Or was that a wig? For a week in February, HQ's assembly hall was draped with well-painted and colourful vistas and bright costumes ready for the nightly show. No-one can fail to know the story of

how Cockney 'sparra' Eliza Doolittle is turned into a 'laidee' by language expert Prof Higgins but given no credit for her efforts.

So, suffice to say, a rollicking tale was told in a rollicking way, with marvellous performances from both main characters and chorus, with barely a note out of place.

And, for this reviewer, a great, tuneful production was topped off by the fact that the musical ended at exactly the right spot – Eliza returns to Prof Higgins. The End.

Even better the performances were

sold out on a nightly basis – with programme and refreshment sales and donations making enough to cover the production costs.

It was obvious by the applause that the huge effort put in by both cast and backstage was much appreciated by the audience – many of whom left, vowing to return for the next production.

EPMS vice-chairman Jenny Hillyard thanked everyone who supported the production. “We were all tickled pink at the response,” she said.

Heather Turner

# New database is set to IMPACT on crime

**A POWERFUL new crime-fighting tool has been set up across the country to help officers track and trace individuals being investigated.**

The IMPACT Nominal Index (INI) is a list of names and corresponding dates of birth of individuals named in certain police records nationally – these include domestic violence, intelligence, crime, custody, firearms and child protection.

For the first time, Essex Police officers can establish whether another force holds information on a person they are investigating.

Until now, if an officer wanted to know whether any other police force in England and Wales held such information they would have to make 42 phone calls.

Now this information is available at the click of a button, providing a much

faster and more efficient service – particularly vital in time-critical situations such as a kidnap.

For the time being officers will still have to contact the 'holding' force to establish the nature of the information.

The computer terminals and staff trained to use this technology are based in the Force Intelligence Bureau.

Supt Tim Newcomb, of Crime Division, said: “This is new technology and is only the first step along the road to true fast-time intelligence sharing.

“In order to control the volume of enquiries, use of the INI is currently restricted to child protection investigations or other very serious crime. It does, however, represent a significant development in fighting crime and protecting children and other vulnerable members of the community”.

The index was developed by the Home Office IMPACT programme in response to the Richard Report, which made a

number of recommendations following the murders of Soham schoolgirls Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman, including the establishment of a national IT system to support police intelligence.

As well as saving time, the index will also help to track criminals across force boundaries, reducing the likelihood that they will evade detection.

Chief Constable Roger Baker said: “Information-sharing among forces is a major step forward in tackling crime. INI will make investigations more efficient and help reduce criminal activity in Essex and, indeed, the country.

“We look forward to giving offenders nowhere to hide by working closely with other police forces.”

Child Abuse Investigation Units (CAIU) have access to the INI database, which is now undergoing evaluation before being rolled out more widely, for use in child protection work and other criminal enquiries.

## Policing costs rise by just 12p a week

ESSEX Police Authority has agreed a budget of £232million for 2006/07.

This means council tax payers will pay an average of an extra 12p a week towards police funding in the county.

The 5.9 per cent increase means that Essex Police still has one of the lowest policing costs in the country.

The rise will be used to invest in essential services and in returning more police officers to frontline duties.

Among other things the extra cash will help to pay for recruiting an additional 38 police officer and 133 PCSOs, investing in forensic services – DNA and fingerprinting – financial investigations and training, delivering a central Crime Bureau, ensuring that

police officers are trained to the highest standards and freeing up valuable police officer time by using trained police staff to take on some duties.

Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers said: “Our main aim with this rise is to increase visible policing.

“By the end of March we will have returned 200 police officers to the front line from existing resources and we can now add an additional 38 sworn police officers.

“By the end of the year we will have 340 PCSOs and our aim is to have up to 1,000 Special Constables in the next two years.”

Mr Chambers added: “Arrest rates in

Essex are up and crime rates are falling. Essex is becoming an even safer place to live and all with a Council Tax rise which is affordable for everyone.”

Chief Constable Roger Baker said: “For just an extra 12p per week, residents in Essex will see more officers on the beat forming more localised policing in their area.

“We made a commitment to the public to introduce 200 officers back to frontline duties by the end of March, and this shows our commitment with the police authority to deliver it.

“I am delighted that this budget allows us to deliver what the public wants and meets the operational need of Essex Police.”

## The second emergency number ...

ESSEX is keen to become one of the second wave of forces to implement a Single Non-Emergency Number for the public to contact.

The Government aims to have a Single Non-Emergency Number (SNEN) in place by 2008, enabling police forces and local authorities to accept and deal with calls from the public.

A team from Essex and the police authority travelled to Newcastle to examine Northumbria Police's planning processes.

Chief Supt Sue Harrison said: “If we are selected for Wave 2 then our residents will dial one three-digit number; their call will either be dealt with by that call-taker or referred to another service delivery partner.

“This is a very exciting new initiative which will ensure that we and our partners provide a high-quality service to our customers – the public.

“Our visit to Northumbria showed us what can be achieved by working smarter with our partners to deliver a fully joined-up service to the community.”

## Help sought to solve air raid mystery

WERE you living in a police house in Chelmsford during World War Two and do you hold memories that could unravel the mystery of an air raid shelter?

Essex Police Museum Curator Becky Latchford is keen to hear from anyone who may know about an air raid shelter found in the garden of 31 Kingston Crescent.

The shelter – about the size of an Anderson shelter but with a concrete entrance – was discovered some time ago but it is full of rubble so no one has been able to explore its depths.

Inquiries are in hand with Chelmsford museums to find out any further information as there may not be many such shelters left in situ in the area.

Becky said: “I would like to hear from anyone who remembers the shelter, who lived in the road during the war or who has memories or photographs from around that time. It would be really interesting to find its history before it becomes a lost treasure.”

## Getting away from it all ...

A WEEKEND trip to Disneyland Paris and to a selection of London shows are just some of the trips on offer from the Essex Police Sports Association.

The trip to EuroDisney is from May 27 to 29. There are dates for several top shows, too. ● Visit the intranet website under Divisions and Departments, click on EPSA and then on HQ Sports and Social or email Shirley Turner at HQ for details

## Force museum hosts LGBT history display

ESSEX Police Museum hosted an exhibition on the history of the relationship between the law and lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered people as part of LGBT History Month. The display dated back to 1810 – when there were severe penalties for lesbians and homosexuals who refused to conceal their activities – and ran through to the present day, and featured quotes from LGBT Essex Police officers and staff. In the past, the silencing of LGBT people was often re-inforced by legislation. The most recent example was the now infamous ‘Section 28’ – passed in 1988 and repealed in 2003 – which was intended to restrict debate on homosexuality, particularly in schools.

LGBT History Month ran last month and was a chance for police officers and staff to learn more about the histories of LGBT people in the UK. A separate exhibition could also be seen in Essex Police Training Centre.

## Teenage driver is banned

AN 18-year-old man from Halstead was on the receiving end of the force’s intolerance towards people who drive dangerously. The teenager was fined £1,000 and disqualified last month after officers caught him weaving through traffic on the A12 at speeds of up to 105mph.

His Mini was spotted by officers from Stanway Road Policing Unit as it wove across all three lanes of the road near Marks Tey. The teenager was also charged with driving while his vision was obscured after his tinted windows failed a light test. He was hit with a court bill of £320 and ordered to take a re-test. Sgt Nick Edwards, of Stanway RPU, said it was ‘only by luck’ the driving did not cause a serious collision. “The court recognised the severity of the offences and awarded a suitable punishment,” he added.

## Conference places fill up

PLACES for the 2006 Essex Police Youth Conference next month are filling up fast. The conference will be held on April 11 and 12 at the University of Essex near Colchester. The programme includes speeches and seminar sessions, which include neighbourhood policing, information sharing, drink, drugs and crime, parenting, dealing with young victims and the police response in schools. The conference is free and open to Essex Police officers and staff, partner professionals and young people. Essex Police nominations are being made via divisions. However, if you have any contacts with partner agencies or young people aged between 13 and 18 who you think may wish to attend, contact the PEPYS office on 01245 457245 or ext 52031or email Ruth Collin.



● PCSOs Mark Roddy and Frazer Loveman on patrol in South Ockendon

# Local knowledge gets results for PCSO pair

HELPING to apprehend five suspected armed robbers must be close to the top of the list of triumphs for South Ockendon PCSOs Mark Roddy, 44, and Frazer Loveman, 22. As a result of their initial actions, two men were jailed late last year for four years and two years, respectively. Mark has been a PCSO for two and a half years. Before that he was a warrant officer at Grays for 18 years, when he also had a hand in an armed robbery case when he recovered £25,000 after the robbers dropped it. He became a PCSO because he ‘fancied a change’.

“A warrant officer is not tied to a desk and neither is a PCSO,” he explained. “It is about meeting the public and getting more involved than you would if you were inside.

“We deal with incidents and identify problems in the area we patrol. We can make a difference by what we can do for them and solve things, too.” Mark and Frazer were out on patrol in Purfleet last June, a couple of days after the robbery, when they spotted a vehicle which had been posted on ‘intel’ and for which they had been asked to keep an eye out. “It went past us and we followed it, while calling for assistance,” recalled Mark.

“The occupants of the vehicle went into a house and it was surrounded by officers from Grays. “They arrested five people.” However, that is not the end of it. Mark and Frazer have helped to recover around 100 stolen vehicles in their time on the beat. If they notice a vehicle which they don’t recognise, they call it in for a PNC check – the stolen ones are often recovered less than 24 hours after the theft.

“We know which vehicles should be in the area,” Mark explained. They also know who the disqualified drivers are and can usually identify people from CCTV if they are from their patch. Once they helped to apprehend two men involved in an arson attack on a caravan. “We noticed two men running away from the caravan, with a light on. We caught them and waited for back-up so they could be arrested. “Then the caravan went up in flames.” For Mark and Frazer, being a PCSO is about getting results. “If we are not, then we don’t consider we are doing the job,” said Mark. “Our high visibility makes a difference because people are aware of us being around. “They stop and chat or phone us about problems because they know who we are. “Our results are down to local knowledge.”



Sgt Dean Chapple, of the St Andrew’s and St Anne’s Neighbourhood Policing Team in Colchester, uses a bike to catch up with PCSO Emma Silk, 26, out on patrol

# Pioneers in the neighbourhood

**JUST think what we could achieve by tripling the number of PCSOs in Essex – so says Rick Tazzini after carrying out research into the role PCSOs play in the fight against crime, nuisance and disorder in the county.**

“I think the angle is what a cracking job these people do,” says Rick, the force’s Director of Finance and Administration, after carrying out 26 hours of patrols with PCSOs and nine hours of interviews, combined with a questionnaire completed by 60 PCSOs and 47 police officer supervisors. Having completed the research for his Masters degree in Business Administration, Rick is now full of admiration for the work PCSOs do and how it links in with the force’s drive towards neighbourhood policing.

### What people want

“PCSOs are doing what the people want to see and they work in an integrated way with neighbourhood officers,” says Rick. “They are definitely not ‘plastic police’ or ‘kiddie crime cops’ as some try to portray them.” The main conclusion Rick comes to is that PCSOs in Essex are providing significant positive public reassurance



**When undertaking a Masters degree, Director of Finance and Administration Rick Tazzini, left, decided to look at Police Community Support Officers – particularly relevant with the advent of neighbourhood policing. His dissertation *Plastic Police Or Pioneers Of Genuine Community Policing?* looked at the role PCSOs play in Essex**

in those areas which they patrol regularly – spending an average of 60 to 70 per cent of their time on visible patrol. And much of this reassurance is achieved by simply ‘walking, talking and being a friendly face to young and old alike’.

“Instead of being slaves to the police radio they can deal with matters in slow time, affording time and attention to deal with the public.” Having gained the confidence and trust of the communities within which they work, PCSOs can play an essential role in picking up ‘low-level’ community intelligence, he believes. “PCSOs recognise that quality of life issues are what really count to the public. As a first responder to low-level issues, the successful PCSO acts as radar, sensing the feel and mood of a community.”

### Highly motivated

Rick found the PCSOs he talked to to be highly motivated and many aspired to become police officers later on but there was a drawback – police officers’ lack of knowledge of the PCSO role, despite ‘overwhelming positive support’ for them from their police officer supervisors. He warns against ‘mission creep’ where PCSOs seek to step outside their role, starting to respond to

incidents and picking up work which should be carried out by police officers. “Instead of the flashing blue light, the PCSO role should reflect more of a soft, warm, reassuring glow.” Rick notes that PCSOs have proved successful at carrying out their duties and make a unique contribution to building safer communities.

### Eyes and ears

“Used effectively ... PCSOs are the eyes and ears, deep in the community,” he says. “Being intelligence-led and intelligence gatherers will enhance their effectiveness.”

Essex Police is looking to increase the number of PCSOs across the county – 650,000 households – from a current 205 to 622 by March 2008. This is a far cry from the initial ten PCSOs who took part in a pilot in Waltham Abbey and Loughton in early 2003, under the supervision of Insp Glenn Mayes – who is now PCSO project manager for the force. With 133 PCSOs being recruited this financial year, at a rate of around 11 a month, and 289 in 2007/08, Glenn has got a huge job on his hands. But a recruitment evening in December revealed how much interest there is in becoming a PCSO – more than 200 recruitment packs were handed out.

# An almanac vital to policing success

POLICE Community Support Officers are a vital part of neighbourhood policing, according to Sgt Dean Chapple, a man in the know in Colchester. He is one of two sergeants – the other is Elliot Lloyd – responsible for St Andrew’s and St Anne’s, the first neighbourhood to go ‘live’ in Essex, at the end of January. With five PCSOs among his team of police officers, PCSOs and Special Constables, Dean knows what he is talking about. “Officers are dealing with prisoners and paperwork generated by crimes. “That takes them away from the frontline,” said Dean, 37. “We have ensured the PCSOs do high-visibility reassurance patrols and provide community contact. “Eighty per cent of their shift is out on the ground.” PCSOs such as Emma Silk, 26, visit victims of crime and neighbourhood dispute and give general advice. Willowbrook Primary School is on their patch in the heart of St Anne’s and Emma

spends time chatting to the children there. She has been a PCSO since November. Before joining Essex Police she worked at Colchester Magistrates’ Court, as a builder and in a bank. She is committed to dealing with crime, criminals and providing intelligence. As Dean says, Emma and her colleagues are ‘essential to the success of neighbourhood policing’. “With the PCSOs, the intelligence they bring in to us is phenomenal. “They are the almanac of an estate. They know the finite detail of an area. “If you give them a brief description of someone, they will know who that is if that person is on their estate.” Dean said of the PCSOs in the Colchester neighbourhood policing team: “They do a fantastic job. “And the more PCSOs I have, the better it reassures the public, who love them. “There are no barriers if they are on foot patrol, people immediately start talking to them.”



● PCSO Dave Brown and PCSO Stuart Burt chat to a youngster in Harlow about his mini-motorbike

## ‘Doing something about problems’

OVER in the Harlow area, PCSOs are playing their part in solving problems involving nuisance youths. Late last year, Dave Brown and Stuart Burt carried out action days to target mini-motorcycle riders, resulting in five youths being warned about their conduct. PCSO Burt also went on to local radio station Ten17, asking residents to report the nuisance and stating what they were doing to tackle the problem. Meanwhile, PCSO Daniel Maylin was allocated an incident about fireworks being sold to underage youths in Harlow. Daniel looked up the offences that had been committed and then liaised with Trading Standards at Essex County Council, requesting they carry out a test purchase at the shop concerned. The test purchase was

carried out by a 13-year-old, who was able to buy the fireworks and the shop owner was subsequently reported for prosecution. Sgt Craig Carrington, of Harlow Community Policing Team, said: “PCSO Maylin adopted a problem-solving approach to this incident and thought of various ways to deal with it. “He researched the incident to improve his knowledge and liaised with outside agencies. “He has ‘owned’ it and supplied an excellent service.” Daniel enjoyed his work so much he is now training as a probationary constable. All the 41 PCSOs in the new Western Division are also branching out and holding their own community ‘surgeries’ where residents can raise concerns about problems which affect them.

## Drug dealers told to hand over cash

FOLLOWING investigations carried out by the Serious and Organised Crime Directorate’s Financial Investigations section, crown courts have made Confiscation Orders against two convicted drug dealers. These cases highlight the campaign Taking The Profit Out Of Crime. An Essex drugs dealer who had been convicted of supplying £180 of Class A drugs appeared before Ipswich Crown Court and was ordered to pay a Confiscation Order of £19,084. He faces a further 12 months in prison if the money is not paid by the end of this month. In the second case, a man who had been arrested by the Essex Crime Squad and subsequently sentenced to four years’ jail for possessing Class A drugs with intent to supply them appeared before Southend Crown Court February 9.

A Confiscation Order for £51,000 was made against him, too, and he faces an extra 18 months in prison if he fails to pay. Financial Investigator Supervisor Philip Bridge, of the directorate’s Financial Investigations section – formerly the Economic Crime Unit – said the section would be increasing its staff to ‘maximise our ability to tackle money laundering and deprive more criminals of their profits’.

## Do dogs have a nose for the job?

ESSEX Police’s Dog Section will be taking on the next generation of drugs dogs in the next few weeks and is looking for springer and cocker spaniels. The Dog Section is part of the force’s Mobile Support Division based at Sandon near Chelmsford.

The next training course for drugs dogs begins on April 17 and will run for four weeks. The team wants to hear from anyone with a Springer or Cocker Spaniel which they think would be suitable to donate to the dog section, although other breeds will be considered.

The dogs needs need to be aged between 10 and 18 months old, lively, confident and of good temperament. Pc Philip Passfield, from the Dog Section training team, said: “By the end of their training the dogs will be able to indicate where a controlled substance is, as well as firearms, ammunition and cash.”

● If you have a suitable dog to donate, contact Pc Passfield at Sandon Dog Section on 01245 226585

## Safer biking days

BIKESAFE Essex starts again on April 21. Riders pay £60 and spend a day with Essex Police riders and local instructors. They have their riding assessed and are shown how to reduce the likelihood of being involved in a crash. Last year, 108 riders completed Bikesafe. ● Visit [www.bikesafe.co.uk](http://www.bikesafe.co.uk) and click on Essex Police for more details

## 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.

**COSTA Blanca, La Marina,** luxury villa, two bed, two bath, sleeps four to six, heating, air conditioning, communal pool. Beach five mins, golf ten mins, airport 25 mins. From £150 per week. Ring Mick Ager on 07775 676142 or 00 34 617 110 096 or email casadomi02@hotmail.com

**FLORIDA,** luxury four-bed villa, private pool near Disney and golf. Police discount. For free brochure, contact Jill on 01702 586092 or visit www.my-florida-villa.net

**FLORIDA,** new, luxury five-bed villa, sleeps 12, three beds en suite, fully air-conditioned, games room, private pool, Jacuzzi, spa. Disney and golf, ten mins. Ten per cent discount for police staff. Visit www.floridianretreat.com

**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

**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.

**FRANCE,** Pays de la Loire, stone cottage sleeps two to four. Beams, woodburner, quiet location with lots nearby. Calais five hours, Caen two hours. Contact Emma Bowditch on 07711 421579.

**LA MANGA,** southern Spain, two-bedroom/two bathroom apartment. Pool, panoramic sea views, seconds from beaches. Well-reported in 2005. For 2006 availability, ring Bernie on 01787 370317 or on 07986 098422.

**ORLANDO,** luxury villa, four bedrooms, three bathrooms, sleeps up to ten, near Disney and other central Florida attractions. Contact Alison and Michael on 01245 266949 and 01376 573406.

**SOUTHERN Spain,** Torre del Mar, airport 30 mins, three double-bedroomed apartment, two bathrooms. Sky TV, terrace, pool and parking. Golf, beach and shops five mins. Booking for spring and summer on 01621 838179 or 00 34 650 124 382.

**TUSCANY,** Italy. Romantic, rustic, Medieval romantic village retreat

nestling in the foothills of the mountains of Tuscany. Breathtaking views. Perfect base – one hour to Florence, Pisa and Riviera. Ring 07919 057437 or visit www.tuscanlife.co.uk

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

**BLUEBIRD** holiday caravan for sale, St Leonard's, Hants. 36x12ft, **Flats and caravans**

two bedrooms en suite, fully-fitted/equipped, incl bedding, mains Calor. Two parking spaces. 11 months access, pools/fitness/leisure, rental potential. £14,950 ovno. Ring Mike Hughes on 01491 874171.

**FURNISHED** studio flat, Danbury, for single person, non-smoker, with parking. £350 per calendar month. Ring 01245 222234 or 07712 535101.

**SHENFIELD** High Street, flat for rent, within a minute of mainline station. Fully furnished, two double bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen and lounge-diner. Available now, £750pcm. Contact Sally Norris via email or on ext 30444.

**HONDA** CBR 600FS motorcycle, Sept 2001, winning red, MoT, taxed

**Cars and bikes**  
to November 2006, fully serviced. £3,000 ono. View at Hatfield Peverel. Ring 01245 380780.

**VOLVO** 940 Wentworth Estate, 1993, auto white, MoT to February 2007, luxury motoring. £575 ono. Ring 01245 380780.

**42-in** Thomson TV and DVD player bought 18 months ago for £1,100.

**Miscellaneous**  
Quick sale required. A real bargain at £400 ono. Contact Paul Woodcock on 07838 199680.

**ALL-in-one** CD-mixer system. Used twice since bought in November, includes speakers, headphones and microphone. Bought brand new for £175. £75 ono. Contact Paul Woodcock on 07838 199680.

**GOOD** homes wanted for cats and kittens. Ring Miss Parsonson on 01206 864284.

**TECTIC** all-leather duty shoes, women's size 5, C/D fitting. Worn twice. £20. Ring 01245 468495.

**THREE-piece** suite in navy blue leather, three-seater and two chairs, £350 ono. Contact Wayne Veal on 07723 374013 or via email.

# Kevin leaves Brentwood after six years

## Names in the news

### AFTER six years at South-West Major Investigation Team in Brentwood, Senior Investigating Officer Det Supt Kevin Macey is moving on.

He has taken over as Director of Specialist Investigations at HQ.

Kevin started out life as a Pc in Grays-Thurrock in 1979, working his way up through the ranks to become an SIO seven years ago.

"It's time for a change and a wonderful opportunity to stay within major investigations and share some of my experience while, hopefully, adding value through reviews and working in the overall team.

"I'm also looking forward to working with the expertise in child abuse investigations and scientific support," added Kevin.

Taking over at Brentwood is Det Supt **Keith Garnish**, 43, who has transferred after 23 years in the Metropolitan Police.

After duty as a constable in Leyton and West End Central, Keith became a detective in 1989, spending all his time since in east London.

He was an SIO specialising in murder cases but says that coming to Essex will allow him to 'bring some of those skills and learn further by dealing with other types of crime and looking at strategic perspectives'.

Leaving the force last month after 30 years was Ds **Dave Hudson**, 55, who is moving to Suffolk with his family.

The 55-year-old began his policing career in Grays, moving to Basildon and Brentwood, before returning to his roots to finish in the Investigation Support Unit. He has also completed a stint with the Regional Crime Squad.

Dave cites his work in CID has being the highlight, with particular emphasis on the inquiry into the fatal stabbing of Glen Sharpe in a Grays pub in January 2002, which subsequently led to two brothers being sentenced to life in jail for murder.

Pc **Paul Hughes**, 49, has left Maldon Community Policing Team (CPT) after serving for 30 years and seven months.

He started out at Colchester before moving to the Force Support Unit where he became one of the first members of the new firearms shifts.

Paul spent 13 years at Stanway Traffic, training as a defensive driver. He has driven Princess Anne three times as well as the then Duchess of York and Duchess of Kent.

Following three years in Kent, Paul returned to Maldon, where he spent a happy time with the CPT.

On retirement he will concentrate on his domestic oven-cleaning business.

A career spanning 30 years is being left behind for the joys of sailing and racing by Pc **John Summerfield** who retired last month.

He started at Chelmsford then the remainder of his career was spent in north-east Essex.

One of the highlights was his time spent as local beat officer at St Osyth

where the parish council gave him a certificate of appreciation when he left. He leaves the DIU Crime Desk at Clacton to enjoy the summer aboard his yacht and racing dinghy sailing off the east coast and the Netherlands.

**Roger Mallett** retired earlier this month after serving one day short of 32 years.

The former sergeant had served at Harlow and Colchester, before finishing his policing career at Tendring and as the longest-serving officer in the division.

**Paul Gamman**, 49, retired as a police officer but then promptly returned to become a coroner's officer at Hadleigh.

The former sergeant had served just under 31 years' across all four divisions in the south of the county.

**Trevor Hall** has called it a day with the force after just over 30 years.

The 49-year-old constable had been serving his last few years the Camera Enforcement Office in Billericay after several years at Colchester and as a traffic officer.

The force said goodbye to **Graham Banks**, 48, after he retired following 30 years' service.

The former detective constable had served at Colchester, Tendring and Mobile Support divisions, before ending his police career at Chelmsford.

Basildon waved goodbye to one of its more high-profile officers when 55-year-old **Henry Garrod** retired after nearly 26 years' service.

The former constable had served in Rayleigh before joining Basildon where he finished his career as the community policing officer on the Craylands Estate.

**Jacqueline McBurney** became of the few member of police staff to have retired from the force after completing nearly 25 years' service.

The 59-year-old concluded her Essex Police career in the intelligence office at Southend.

### Obituaries

Pc **Caroline Houlding**, 48, lost her year-long battle with cancer and died at the end of January. She worked for 27 years in the Chelmsford and Rayleigh divisions.

Her funeral was held in her home town of Tolleshunt D'Arcy and the church was filled by senior officers, friends and colleagues who also formed a guard of honour.

A collection in aid of the Jefferson Ward at the Essex County Hospital in her memory is being co-ordinated through the Admin department at Rayleigh.

Sgt Keith Harvey said: "Caroline was a pleasure to work with. She was popular and respected by her colleagues and provided the level of service to the public that we should all aspire to. She will be greatly missed."

**Carol Lucking** lost her fight against cancer last month. The 60-year-old former housekeeping assistant had been a member of the training centre team for almost 30 years.

Former inspector **Harold Holliday** has died aged 91. He served from 1935 to 1965 at Chelmsford, Brentwood and Harlow. His funeral took place at his home town of Beccles in Suffolk.

Southend Borough officer **Gwendoline Charles** from Southend, who retired as a sergeant after serving 25 years, has died, aged 80.

**Brenda Turtell**, widow of former Det Chief Insp Edward Turtell, has died aged 101. Mrs Turtell received flowers and cards, including a letter from the Chief Constable, on reaching her century in 2004.

### Searching for friends

The daughter of retired officer **Eric Caley** is looking for former friends and colleagues of her father as he approaches his 80th birthday next month.

Jean Thomas has memories of many happy years living at Copford police station with her father before he was transferred to Clacton. She says he was a very dedicated officer who served with the 6th Brigade of Paras before joining the force in 1948 and she is arranging a small celebration for his birthday.

She would like to contact Chris Jacobs who was stationed at Colchester as her father worked with and was best friend to his father Dennis Jacobs fondly known as Jake.

Anyone with information is asked to contact *The Law* editor Heather Turner. We also pass on our best wishes to Eric Caley on reaching his ninth decade.

### Awards

A community constable has been awarded a prestigious award for his work in frontline policing in Colchester.

Pc **Colin Bishop**, of Colchester's Southern Community Policing Team, was given the police prize at the annual dinner of the Association of the Protection of Property and Prosecution of Thieves – known as the Thieves.

Colin was nominated for the quantity and quality of his arrests and detections, as well as his work in cutting anti-social behaviour.

Thieves Secretary Jim Wellerd said: "He is judged to have been the best constable of the year in his frontline work, judged by his peers to have carried out his duties most professionally."

Colin said: "I'm really pleased to have been given this award. My colleagues and I will continue working hard for the community, and it's nice to be acknowledged."

Insp Keith Jones said: "This is the second award for Colin in the past 12 months, and well deserved. He works hard and gets exceptional results."

Firearms Office Manager **Mick Fidgeon** has been awarded the Territorial Army Regimental Green Tie for actions above and beyond duty.

He joins a select band of his colleagues as only a handful of these ties have been awarded by the Territorial Army Colonel since the first one was awarded to a private in 1933.

### BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE - ONE WORD PER BOX


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**Central Division**  
 Crime Manager  
 DCI Ewen Wilson, 34  
 Served for 13 years, previously  
 Operations Manager in the  
 former Chelmsford Division



**Central Division**  
 Braintree District Commander  
 Chief Insp Mark Schofield, 43  
 Served for 19 years,  
 previously Support Manager in  
 the former Braintree Division



**Central Division**  
 Uttlesford District Commander  
 Chief Insp Graham Stubbs, 41  
 Served for 20 years,  
 previously worked on the  
 Regional Restructuring Project  
 and for HQ Executive Support



**Central Division**  
 Chelmsford District Commander  
 Chief Insp Craig McGarrigle, 47  
 Served for 28 years, previously  
 Operations Manager in the  
 former Chelmsford Division



**Central Division**  
 Maldon District Commander  
 Chief Insp Craig Robertson, 49  
 Served for 27 years, previously  
 Support Manager in the former  
 Chelmsford Division



**Eastern Division**  
 Crime Manager  
 DCI Iain Logan, 44  
 Served for 27 years, previously  
 Operations Manager in the  
 former Colchester Division



**Western Division**  
 Crime Manager  
 DCI Ivor Harvey,  
 45  
 Served for 23  
 years, previously  
 DCI for the former  
 Harlow Division



**Western Division**  
 Harlow District  
 Commander  
 Chief Insp Stuart  
 Ashton, 41  
 Served for 9 years  
 with Essex Police  
 and with the Met for  
 13 years, previously  
 Operations Manager  
 for the former  
 Braintree Division



**Western Division**  
 Epping District  
 Commander  
 Chief Insp Jon  
 Hill, 47  
 Served for 26  
 years, previously  
 Support Manager  
 for the former  
 Harlow Division



**Eastern Division**  
 Colchester District  
 Commander  
 Chief Insp Steve  
 Johnson, 34  
 Served for 15  
 years, previously  
 DI with  
 Colchester CID



**Eastern Division**  
 Tendring District  
 Commander  
 Chief Insp Steve  
 Robinson, 39  
 Served for 18  
 years, previously  
 worked for staff  
 development at  
 Essex Police  
 Training Centre



**South-Eastern  
 Division**  
 Crime Manager  
 DCI Michelle  
 Farrant, 39  
 Served for 16  
 years, previously  
 DCI at Rayleigh  
 ● Rochford District  
 Commander TBA



**Western Division**  
 Brentwood District Commander  
 A/Chief Insp Piers Quinnell, 33  
 Served for ten years,  
 previously acting Operations  
 Manager at Harlow



**South-Western Division**  
 Crime Manager  
 DCI Adrian Tyson, 43  
 Served for 23 years, previously  
 crime manager for Thurrock  
 district



**South-Western Division**  
 Thurrock District Commander  
 Supt Steve Tutton, 49  
 Served for 26 years, previously  
 Head of Community Safety at  
 HQ



**South-Western Division**  
 Basildon District Commander  
 Supt Glenn Caton, 43  
 Served for 26 years, previously  
 Deputy Divisional Commander  
 of the former Basildon Division



**South-Eastern Division**  
 Southend District Commander  
 Chief Insp Steve Worrton, 34  
 Served for 11 years, previously  
 programme co-ordinator within  
 HQ Corporate Support



**South-Eastern Division**  
 Castle Point District Commander  
 Chief Insp Tracy Hawkings, 44  
 Served for 18 years, previously  
 DI on Rayleigh Major  
 Investigation Team

Going live across the county

# What the public wants

ST Andrew's and St Anne's in Colchester and Waltham Abbey are the first two neighbourhoods to go live. Each of the new five divisions will have one 'pilot' neighbourhood, with the others coming on stream by the summer. Braintree's neighbourhood policing team was due to have its media launch on Thursday, March 9, with Tilbury five days later and Shoebury finishing off the pathfinders on April 7.

- Information about neighbourhood policing can be found on the intranet under Divisions and Departments

**OFFICERS in Eastern Division believe the Neighbourhood Policing model will continue to make 'good progress' following a review of the first three weeks' work since its implementation in Colchester.**

Neighbourhood Policing was introduced to the town's St Andrew's and St Anne's wards at the end of January, with initial results hailed as 'promising and looking like a success'.

Since the team started, Neighbourhood Policing Team officers

have made 19 arrests, are applying for an Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) and are in the process of producing seven Anti-Social Behaviour Contracts (ABCs).

A number of police operations are in progress, with officers combating criminal damage and vehicle crime.

Sgt Dean Chapple said: "Operation Milton will continue until the end of March as we aim to reduce the number of criminal damage incidents. We have stop-checked 82 people so far and arrested one. We are also looking to target vehicle crime, including untaxed cars and vans, using the ANPR Intercept team as well as working closely with Colchester Borough Council.

"One early indication of this new

policing style success is our aim to deal with all incidents in the neighbourhood. In three weeks, we received over 300 calls from the community and the team was able to attend 91 per cent of these incidents. This is real proof that the community we serve are having their issues dealt with by their dedicated Neighbourhood Team."

- ESSEX Police has appointed its District Commanders as part of the ongoing force restructure.

They will lead the new neighbourhood policing teams – in conjunction with their CID colleagues, the new Crime Managers – at a district or borough council level.

Chief Constable Roger Baker said: "This is a significant phase of force

restructuring. Appointing these vital roles is integral to the neighbourhood policing work we are rolling out at the moment, with an emphasis on community-focused and visible policing.

"We want to continue to work successfully with communities and local partners to significantly reduce crime, nuisance and disorder."

Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers said: "I am delighted that we have now appointed these new officers. The District Commanders play an essential role in building links with the community; they will become the main point of contact for each district or borough.

"This is another step towards delivering visible policing across the county, which is what the public wants."

# Sport & Leisure

## Triathletes urged to start their training

THE two triathlons hosted by the Essex Police Tri Club are fast-approaching and anyone interested in a place needs to apply quickly. The Basildon off-road event is in Gloucester Park on Sunday, May 14. It is part of the Croker Cup so entry is free. A 400m pool swim is followed by a 10km off-road cycle and a 4km run. Relay teams are welcome. The Braintree event is at Riverside Leisure Centre in Braintree on Sunday, June 4, incorporating the PSUK National Sprint Triathlon Championships. A 400m pool swim is followed by a 20km road cycle and a 5km run. Again relay teams are welcome. There is an entry fee but Essex officers and staff who supply a helper/race marshal on the day are given free entry. Both events attract elite athletes plus novices and first-timers so why not take the plunge? Or maybe you could help to marshal the event. ● For details or entry forms contact Kim Perks on ext 50606 or visit [www.essex.police.uk/triathlon](http://www.essex.police.uk/triathlon)

## The fish don't bite for Bob

THEY came last but Bob Sandford said the police sea anglers put up a spirited fight in the Combined Services match held at Slapton Sands in Devon at the end of January. Despite the good weather, the fish proved elusive and not many were caught on either day. Bob, from Southend, fished against the British teams for the fire service, Army, Navy and the RAF plus the British Sea Angling Match Federation team. It was the first time Bob had been eligible to fish in the competition having won a match earlier last year. BSAMF won for the seventh year running. ● THIS year's Croker Cup Beach Competition is an open match on May 15 from 11.30am-5pm on the Thames at Tilbury Fort, open to retired officers and fished in teams of two. Contact Dave Clark on 01702 332315 for more details

## Family cheers on Louise

THE proud grandmother and parents of Louise Gamman, 22, will be cheering her on as she has been selected for the English Basketball squad to compete in the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. Marie Benjamin, who retired 12 years ago as a domestic supervisor at Rayleigh, said she would be watching TV avidly during the English games v Mozambique, Australia and India. Louise's parents are Julie Gamman, 47, who served at Basildon and Benfleet as a Pc and Sgt Paul Gamman, who has just retired from the force.

## Runners up among the prizewinners

THE 2005-2006 Police Regional Cross-Country Running League reached its conclusion in Norwich with Essex teams coming highly-placed.

Essex, the defending men's champions have had a far from easy season with a number of leading runners missing for all or most of the winter due to injuries.

So it was pleasing to see a number of new faces battling away to ensure the team finished second overall behind the usually strong Kent.

Regulars Russ Welch and Derek Walker received vital support from Will Cubbin, Dan Sorrell, Tony Benjamin,

Dave Willis, Gary Lane and Mark Finbow, among others.

Similarly, in the Masters category, persistence paid off to keep the team in third place behind Kent and Sussex.

The battles between Chris Lacey, John Mackenzie, Jim Ling and Paul Fieldsend were a regular feature, whilst the indefatigable Laurie Rampling returned for another season.

Not to be outdone, the women's team also captured third place in one of the more competitive seasons for many years.

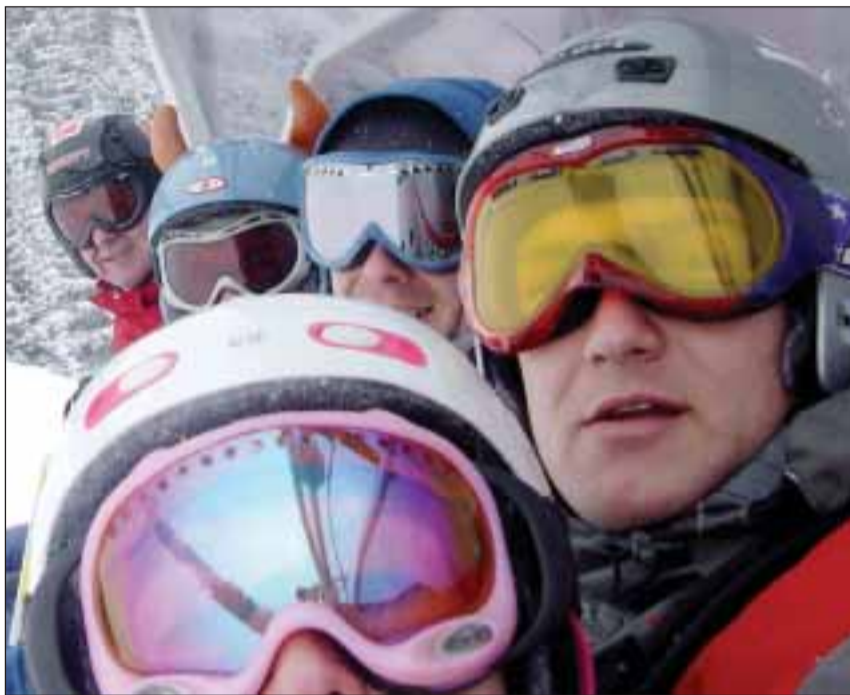
Again it was down to persistence by

regulars Rachel Crosby, Lisa Bolton, Stacey Cockes, Pauline Bowers and Diane Frew.

Individually, Essex were also amongst the prizewinners. After a slow start to the season, Russ Welch found his best form – it was too late for the defending champion to hold on to his title but enough to snatch the runners-up spot.

And, completing his first full season for Essex, John Mackenzie demonstrated his class by claiming the M50 title.

● The regional championship was due to take place at Moat Park, Maidstone, Kent, on Wednesday, March 8.



● Pat White, Marina Ericson, Duncan Livingstone, from Hertfordshire Police, Justin Davis and, foreground, Melanie Warren

## Golden landing is snow joke

FOR a pair who don't seem to train that much, Melanie Warren and Marina Ericson's medal haul from the PSUK snow sports contest is fantastic.

Snowboarder Melanie finished in fine style – being airlifted to hospital after going so fast in the boarder-cross race that she landed past the finish line in gold position on her backside after 'taking-off' at the last jump.

Thanks to her moto-cross padding she suffered bad bruising rather than breaking her back. Melanie also won gold and silver in the dual slalom and slalom. She took up snowboarding in 1999 but doesn't train much although she used to compete professionally on the dry slope.

Marina, 35, got two ski-ing bronzes – third in the giant slalom, fourth in the slalom and third overall. "I don't train at all," confessed Maria, who skied when she was younger but now only skies on family holidays and in the PSUK indoor championships.

The Essex Police team was: Justin Davis, Marina Ericson, Steve Milbourne, Pat White, Trevor Hall and Melanie Warren. They also won a memorial shield as the 'best of the rest'.

## A convincing win into the cup quarter-finals

**A CONVINCING win against Thames Valley saw Essex Police qualify for the quarter-finals of the National Police Cup.**

They won the regional final 7-2 – including a hat-trick from Nicky Simpson – at the AFC Newbury ground in Berkshire.

Now the team is looking forward to playing Devon and Cornwall in the last eight on Wednesday, March 15, at HQ sports field with a 2pm kick-off.

Essex fielded one of their better sides against Thames Valley, with a couple of new players joining – including Nicky Smith, assistant manager and captain of the England and the British Police teams, who has transferred from Suffolk Police.

In fact the side now looks very well balanced with strength in depth, with good

players on the bench, too. The game started at a fast rate and the intentions were clear within minutes – that Thames Valley were going to challenge hard and close Essex down quickly.

The challenges were intimidating but Essex rode all the tackles and settled well, getting on top of their game within five minutes and talking and supporting each other.

The pitch was uneven but Essex still managed to pass the ball well. They had already hit the post and then centre forward Nicky Simpson finished off a good move to put Essex one up.

Within ten minutes he again got the better of Thames Valley back four to put Essex two up.

But Thames Valley pressed hard and forced goalie Nathan Munson to pull off a very good save.

Shortly afterwards, from a corner at the opposite end, Nicky Smith played in and Kev Hughes got in front of their

keeper to make it 3-0 at half time.

Essex started the second half as they had finished the first and were soon four up when Paul Haylock went one on one with the opposing keeper to score.

He got his second minutes later, then Simpson got his hat-trick and finally midfielder Matt Noone scored the team's seventh.

But Thames Valley never gave up and scored two consolation goals near the end of the game.

● A COUPLE of Essex Police players have been selected for national honours on the football pitch.

Nicky Smith, of Chelmsford, and Nicky Simpson, of Harlow, were selected to represent the British Police team in a match against France. Sadly, they lost 5-1 on a very wet pitch.

Smith has also been selected for the National PSUK football team in a match against the Prison Service this month.

## Geoff wins £3,000 in February lottery

THE winner of the £3,000 prize in the February lottery draw, was Sgt Geoffrey Knight, of Stansted Airport.

The £1,000 prize was one by Robert Rogers, of Southend, and the £500 prize went to Pc Barry Edwards, of Stanway Road Policing Unit.

Winners of £100 prizes were: Pc Cally Beale, of Basildon; Dc Terence Haines, of HQ Crime Division; Dc Anita Taylor, of Brentwood CAIU; Det Insp Brian Elkington, of Crime Division; Insp Stephen Shoemsmith, of HQ Corporate Support; Rosa Davies, of the Force Information Room; John Wright, of

Stanway Major Investigation Team; Dc Peter Wood, of Stansted Airport; Ray Stannard, of Maldon; Chief Insp Mark Schofield, of Braintree; and Steve Terry, retired.

The winners of the £50 prizes were: Pc Jonathan Davies-Brewin, of the Force Support Unit; Tracey Tremain, of the Force Information Room; David King, of HQ Corporate Support; Pc David Graham, of Leigh on Sea; Albert Horne, retired; Dawn Flanagan, of Rayleigh; Peter Bridge, of the Force Information Room; Sgt Graham Rendell, of Harlow;

Det Insp Philip Mellon, of Crime Division; Pc Daniel Taylor, of Harlow; Ray Stannard, of Maldon; Pc Alison Finch, of Professional Standards; Pc Andrea Ford, of Braintree; and Sgt Andrew Spink, of the HR Department.

The winners of the Benenden Healthcare teddy bears were: Pc Victoria Pratt, of Southend; Pc Gary Jackson, of Westcliff; Chief Insp Craig Robertson, of Chelmsford; Insp Paul Bartlett, of Dunmow; Pc Fiona Harrington, of Colchester; and Sgt Mark Lonergan, of Southend.

## Hockey team wins a place in the finals

ESSEX Police Men's Hockey team travelled to Staffordshire and, despite only having ten men, beat Staffordshire 6-5 to win a place in the national PSUK finals.

The result was an even greater achievement, said team member Geordie Tyson, considering two players had just worked a full night shift, A great team effort during the February 22 match was led by Gaz Ingram, who scored five of the goals, with a sixth coming from Mark Shaw to seal the win. Geordie said afterwards: "This was a real success by the whole team who deserved the result, having to make up for the missing player through sheer physical effort. "I would like to thank those managers who did allow people time off. It was worthwhile."

The national PSUK finals are due to be held in Essex later this year.

● THREE of the force's hockey players are due to represent the national PSUK team at a tournament at RN Portsmouth this month.

Pc Gaz Ingram, Pc Lee Ward and Pc Lewis Smith were also all in the national squad for a competition at RAF Halton last month.

## Braintree top

BRAINTREE won the Croker Cup Swimming Gala and has taken over the top of the table from HQ.

Colchester came second in the swimming, followed by Basildon, HQ, Southend and Rayleigh, respectively.

The Croker Cup table now reads: Braintree 62; HQ 59; Colchester 58; Southend 45; Rayleigh 44; Basildon 41; Harlow 36; Chelmsford 32; Thurrock 15; and Tendring 9. So, with at least six more events to go – including darts, squash, tennis, snooker, billiards and badminton – it's anybody's guess who will finish on top.

## Indoor success

FIVE officers qualified for the national Indoor Games Championships after either winning or being given a bye in their discipline at the regional championships.

Colin Hill, of Maldon, got through in the pool singles Peter Orpe, of Braintree, in the billiards singles and Lee Heaton, of Brentwood, in the snooker singles.

While Kieran Lally, of Chelmsford, won through in the table tennis singles and again in the men's doubles, this time with Craig McGarrigle, also of Chelmsford.

## Poor tackling

WOODHAM TOWN 3-0 Essex Police ESSEX Police Vets went down 3-0 to Woodham Town in the Greene King Essex Veterans' league premier division.

Essex let their opposition control the game and pass the ball without tackling in return.

# Thank you for the music, charities tell Essex Police choir

CHARITABLE organisations across Essex are saying 'Thank you for the Music' for £15,000 raised by the Essex Police Choir last year.

Each year, the choir performs around the county, raising funds for a variety of local charities. During 2005, the total raised for these organisations amounted to £7,000.

In addition, members hold an annual concert and a Christmas concert for their own chosen charity.

Last year, they chose two, The J's,

a hospice for 18 to 40-year-olds and Essex Air Ambulance, which each received £2,000.

And a one-off concert for The Mayor's Charity raised £3,000 – a total of £7,000 from just three concerts.

And the final total was topped off by £1,000 of donations which the choir had been given during the year.

Publicity officer Elaine Beckett said: "Choir members nominate their chosen charities and, at our annual general meeting, we

announce whom we will support for the forthcoming year.

"As you can see, our love of singing is benefiting the general public of Essex and raising the profile of Essex Police."

Essex Police Choir was formed 16 years ago and is currently having a recruitment drive.

Elaine said: "We need new members. The original members are 16 years older and some have become associated members and do

not perform at concerts, leaving gaps in some areas of the choir.

"These need to be filled by younger members if the choir is to continue and build on its already-established reputation.

"Please join the choir and continue the good work," she said.

Rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings in Essex Police Training School's canteen at HQ, starting at 7.45pm and finishing at 9.45pm, with a ten-minute break for a drink

and a chat. The choir tackles a variety of music and, in a new departure, for the second half of 2006 concerts will be dedicated to music from the musicals.

● For more information, ring Sylvia Bray on 01245 265144

● ESSEX Police Choir's first concert of the year is on Saturday, March 18, at St Mary's Church, Kelvedon, at 7.30pm, raising money for church funds. Tickets cost £5 and are available on the door.

## Housing sale to help our crime fight

POLICE houses are to be sold off in the next three to five years in order to release capital, which can then be invested in crime-fighting measures.

Officers who currently live in these properties are being given an opportunity by Essex Police Authority to buy them.

Three information evenings have already been held, which included a presentation from Moat Housing association on the options available to those officers.

Moat Housing offered one-to-one advice on a variety of packages available for key workers, including access to interest-free loans up to £50,000 and subsidised rent.

A paper is due to be presented to Essex Police Authority on Monday, March 13, when the members will consider all proposals and also what other financial support, if any, can be made available towards expenses for those officers who wish to buy a police house.

## Driver safety improving say officers

OFFICERS are beginning to witness a change in attitude among lorry drivers and firms following the latest operation to improve safety on the county's roads.

A total of 39 checks were carried out on light goods' vehicles in Basildon last month, as part of Operation Mermaid.

Seventeen were found to comply with regulations but others were found to have defects and to contravene operating licences – 13 drivers had either no driving licence or valid tax for their vehicle.

Four were served with notices to improve the condition of their vehicles and five had been on the road for too many hours without a break.

## Robbery campaign proves an X-ray-ting success

OFFICERS in Loughton responded to a spate of knife robberies by running a three-day operation using the latest mobile X-ray technology to identify those carrying weapons into Western Division.

The successful operation, run by Ds Simon Werrett and a team of 30 officers, resulted in 17 people being arrested for various offences such as robbery, carrying offensive weapons,

drugs, drink-driving and stealing a motor vehicle.

The Home Office portable body scanner was mainly used outside tube stations. It is so effective it could also detect concealed packages such as cannabis.

During the operation, officers carried out high-visibility patrols and stopped and searched people suspected of carrying offensive weapons.

The automatic number plate reader (ANPR) was deployed, too.

Ds Werrett said: "The aim was to address the concerns of the community, to prevent, deter and detect anyone carrying weapons or drugs and to reduce the levels of crime."

They mounted a second, two-day operation in the Loughton and Debden areas, targeting knives and drugs, again using the scanner and

two specially-trained drugs dogs to sniff out substances.

More than 200 people were searched, four were arrested and several weapons and some drugs were recovered.

● Officers in other divisions who wish to know more about the Home Office portable body scanner can ring Western comms officer Denise Harvey on ext 20882

## Dennis is just no stranger to danger



● Former chief inspector Dennis Rensch and Rotary Club member Ian Nicholls confront one of the dangers they may face during their Death Valley Challenge

Picture courtesy of The Essex Chronicle Series

A RETIRED police officer is set to embark on a 30-mile trek across an American desert in aid of charity later this year.

Former chief inspector Dennis Rensch, 58, is preparing for yet another daredevil challenge, with the latest taking him across Death Valley in temperatures of near 50C.

The three-day walk in May will see him beginning at dawn and finishing at midday before the temperature soars to over 80C. His route will take him through salt flats, which are described as 'difficult walking conditions' due to the mud and water.

Mr Rensch is in training for this life-changing expedition, with regular visits to a health club where he has enrolled in a specialist programme which includes cycling fully-clothed in a sauna.

"This trek won't be easy, especially when you consider that nearly 30 people die in the area each year," said Mr Rensch. "However, I will be backed up by Ian Nicholls, a member of Brentwood A'Becket Rotary Club and he will carry all the equipment in the support vehicle." Mr Rensch retired in June 2000 after 30 years' service, spending his final years as a chief inspector at Thurrock and Chelmsford.

He now lives in Brentwood and is hoping to raise £20,000 for Brentwood Foyer – a charity which helps young adults gain life skills ahead of moving on to independent living.

He is no stranger to danger, with previous feats including a Mount Kilimanjaro climb and an expedition to the North Pole.

● Mr Rensch will feature in live broadcasts on BBC Essex's Drivetime during his trek

## Rettendon three have their appeal dismissed

**LAST month Michael Steele, Jack Whomes and Peter Corry had their appeals against conviction dismissed at the Court of Appeal.**

Steele and Whomes are serving life sentences for the murders in 1995 of Pat Tate, Anthony Tucker and Craig Rolfe, whose bodies were discovered in a Range Rover on a farm track off the A130 at Rettendon.

During the original trial in January 1998 at the Central Criminal Court Steele and Whomes, along with Corry, were also found guilty of conspiracy to

by Heather Watts

import cannabis. The case was referred to the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) in 2002 after an unsuccessful appeal by all three in the Court of Appeal against their convictions.

Following a direction by the CCRC, made under the Criminal Appeals Act 1995, Essex Police appointed Hertfordshire Constabulary to conduct inquiries into certain aspects of the case.

The murders and subsequent appeal process attracted considerable media interest and Det Supt Kevin Macey spoke to the media outside the court last

month after the judgement was handed down.

He said: "The trial and subsequent appeals have shown that the original investigation was sound and robust.

"The evidence was placed before the courts and subject to a rigorous process and the report following the Hertfordshire inquiry provided no evidence to show that the original investigation was flawed.

"We carried out our own investigation of the points of appeal. The jury heard all of the evidence and unanimously concluded that these men were guilty and the Court of Appeal has now reached the same conclusion."

## Jail terms for rapists are increased

TWO men have had their jail terms increased after an aggravated burglary and sex attack in Saffron Walden after Essex Police and the CPS appealed against 'unduly lenient' sentences.

The men were tried at Chelmsford Crown Court last June following a Brentwood MIT investigation into an incident at a home in Saffron Walden in 2004. Three men had forced their way into premises armed with knives and a firearm and wearing 'Scream' masks. Two women were tied up and subjected to serious sexual assaults and rape, and money and property was stolen.

But at the Royal Courts of Justice last month, 21-year-old Van Dong Vu had his nine-year concurrent sentence for aggravated burglary and rape increased to 12 years while 19-year-old Hoang Le had his seven-year concurrent sentence for aggravated burglary, indecent assault and theft increased to nine.

