

# The Law



www.essex.police.uk

April 2006

## CAMERA SETS SCENE FOR MURDER JURY

**STATE-of-the-art camera technology was employed to help the jury during a case which resulted in the conviction of a man who strangled his partner in a holiday caravan.**

Head of Photography Norman Eastbrook is now preparing a business case for the purchase of the R2S Mobile Response Unit for the force.

Terry Game, 33, was convicted last month at Chelmsford Crown Court of murdering 41-year-old Lisa Sullivan.

He was given life, with the stipulation that he should serve a minimum of 15 years before he can apply for parole.

During the trial, a lot of time and expense was saved through the display of evidence using the R2S camera, said Norman.

The case was also remarkable for the fact that the judge permitted 'bad character' evidence to be heard, which highlighted Game's history of domestic violence against previous partners.

The jury was able to take a 'virtual trip' around the caravan site six months after Mrs

by Heather Turner

Sullivan's death last August without leaving the courtroom.

It was particularly helpful because the jury was able to see the caravan site in Walton on the Naze as it was at the time of the murder – caravans would not be in the same positions during the winter.

The camera can take a full 360° picture with a wide-angle capability while its high resolution means that small details in a street or crime scene can be enlarged, to good-quality display.

"It can depict what a dozen pictures would normally show," said Norman.

'Hotspots' can be indicated on a scene, which, when clicked on, can reveal further pictures or other scenes of crime and investigative evidence.

The camera comes with ten licences, which means that other users can access the system and add things to it, such as fingerprints, maps, CCTV footage, ID parades and taped interviews.

However, the Photographic Department would retain overall control of the master copy and make the additions 'live' on the system.

The camera would also be useful at the scene of road crashes, where evidence not only has to be recorded for possible criminal investigations but also for insurance and

personal injury claims, said Norman.

Senior Investigating Officer Det Supt Simon Dinsdale, of Rayleigh MIT, had asked the Photographic Department to video the caravan site shortly after Mrs Sullivan's murder and just as Norman went to see a demonstration of the new technology.

He was able to persuade the manufacturer, R2S Crime, to film the caravan site and use the case for the demo.

After Game's conviction, Det Supt Dinsdale said how proud he was of his team for a 'superb' piece of investigation.

And Dc Anna Earl was commended by Judge Clegg for her outstanding work on the case.

Det Supt Dinsdale said he wanted to thank all the witnesses in the case 'particularly Game's two former partners who bravely gave evidence about the violence they had suffered at his hands'.

"It was a good demonstration of the use of 'bad character' evidence in a trial," he said.

"Game is a bully and will always be a danger to women. Domestic violence never ends unless victims manage to get out of the relationship and it is a sad fact that it leads to many of the murders I have to investigate.

"I would encourage any person who is suffering domestic violence to come forward and report it to the police.

"Their reports will be investigated and, hopefully, will prevent another tragedy such as Lisa Sullivan losing her life."



● Lisa Sullivan was one of several women terrorised by Terry Game

● Chief Supt Dave Hudson and Pc Mark Harvey present a cheque to Lexden Springs School head teacher Jacky Wood

Picture courtesy of the Evening Gazette



## Banding together to raise £1,638

A CONCERT jointly organised by Essex Police and Colchester Borough Council raised £1,638 for a project which helps to keep young disabled people mobile. The Essex Police Band performance at the Christmas Cracker concert in Colchester went a long way to encourage concert-goers to dig deep into their pockets to raise the sum for the MOVE project at Lexden Springs School. The cash was raised from a raffle and a closing collection as people left Charter Hall afterwards.

The audience of more than 900 included residents, Neighbourhood Watch members and parents of children who were involved – choirs from The Gilbert School in Colchester and Thurstable School in Tiptree also entertained. A cheque was handed over to Lexden Springs head teacher Jacky Wood by Eastern Divisional Commander Chief Supt Dave Hudson and Pc Mark Harvey, secretary of the Essex Police Band, at an assembly in front of pupils and staff.



# New secretary, new challenge

I TAKE up my new post at a very challenging time for both the Police Federation and for Essex Police.

As I write, the force is fighting to be a 'strategic' stand-alone force following Government proposals to amalgamate the Essex, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire forces.

Essex Police Authority has fought to remain a stand-alone force and has the backing of our Chief Constable, Roger Baker, Essex County Council and 15 of the county's 17 MPs.

The police authority had until Friday, April 7, to agree with the Home Secretary's proposals but I anticipate this will not have been the case.

The process should, by now, therefore, have moved to a four-month consultation period from May 8.

I will, of course, keep you updated on this matter.

Another issue high on the agenda is the rise in gun-related crimes, brought to the fore by tragic events in Bradford and, more recently, Nottingham.

The Police Federation of England and Wales is conducting an Officer Safety/Arming Survey and intends to present the findings at the Federation Conference in Bournemouth next month.

You should by now have received the questionnaire, which can be returned by post or completed online.

The last survey took place in 2003. Although it was not that long ago, many changes have affected the police service, with many more to come under the Government's Workforce Modernisation and Reform plans.

Please have your say, complete the questionnaire and show that Essex Police officers care about their

future. I would also like to mention a full debate that is taking place at the conference which has the potential of changing the face and future of the Federation.

The main issue of the debate is the question of whether or not to extend the membership of the Police Federation.

Historically, the structure of the Police Federation of England and Wales has remained largely unchanged since it was established by an Act of Parliament in 1919.

The five options to be debated are:

- Option 1: To extend full membership of the Federation to 'all police staff', being employees of a police authority
- Option 2: To extend full membership to 'police-function staff' and 'police-empowered staff' – as defined in Option 3 below – being employees of a police authority

- Option 3: To extend full membership to 'police-empowered staff', being employees of a police authority who have been designated with powers, or who are eligible to be designated with powers, under the 2002 Police Reform Act

- Option 4: To extend full membership to sworn special constables

- Option 5: To extend associate membership of the Police Federation of England and Wales to retiring/retired subscribing members of the Federation, the Superintendents' Association of England and Wales and the Chief Police Officers' Staff Association.

Your divisional representatives will be receiving a copy of a full report that has considered all these options, with the advantages and disadvantages.

A special edition of *Federation*

*News* will also be circulated in the normal manner. I would like to know your views as delegates from the Essex Police Federation will be voting on these options.

If you do have a view, please inform your local representative prior to our Joint Branch Board meeting on Monday, April 24, when the matter will be discussed.

And, last but not least, may I take this opportunity of thanking my predecessor, Terry Spelman, for his unequivocal commitment and dedication throughout his policing career.

In his retiring role as secretary of the Essex Police Federation, he was held in high regard, both locally and nationally, for his skills in representation, negotiation and influence.

I hope you will join me in wishing him and his wife, Sue, a very long, happy and healthy retirement.

## Anti-drugs campaign is a success

A NO drugs day marked the end of a year-long anti-drug campaign by Brentwood Community Police Operations Group.

The March 24 initiative targeted premises believed to be used by people involved in the possession and supply of controlled drugs.

Four warrants were issued at addresses in Hutton and Warley. Three proved positive, resulting in five arrests.

Approximately £100 of drugs were recovered, along with three canisters of CS/pepper spray.

A 34-year-old woman was cautioned for possession of CS spray while a man and a woman were released on police bail awaiting forensic analysis of items recovered. Two men were released without charge.

Sgt Sean McDermid said: "Since April 2005, we have issued 16 warrants, made 17 arrests and recovered over £16,000 of drugs and cash. We hope to build on our results with the new neighbourhood structure of policing."

## Hate crime message gets to students

PUPILS at Billericay School spent a day finding out more about hate crime.

During the awareness day, the 300 children in Year 9 spent time in five workshops exploring racial, sexual and disability hate crime issues.

And a local theatre company performed a hate crime play.

The intention was to encourage the students to consider how victims of hate crime feel and to be more understanding in future situations surrounding hate crime issues.

The whole day was positively received by the school.

Although it was a police-arranged event, without the excellent support and participation of a number of local charities and voluntary groups the day would not have been as successful.

● Pete Taylor with his beloved Austin Healey Sprite

Picture by Ben Pennington



# Pete seems well on his way to racing success

**A CJU administrator at Laindon is living life in the fast lane as he races around the nation's racing circuits in his vintage car.**

Pete Taylor, 58, races in the Austin Healey Club Championship, which takes in the country's major race circuits over nine races throughout the summer.

Pete, of South Woodham Ferrers, has raced for the last three years, fitting in repairs and maintenance to his Austin Healey Sprite around his part-time work as an administrator at Laindon Criminal Justice Unit.

He joined the force five years ago after a long career in the city with the

NatWest Bank. "My dad was interested in cars, so I think that's where I got it from to start with," said Pete.

"I remember going to a pub near Epping and seeing an Austin Healey and thinking: 'That's what I want'."

Austin Healeys vary in engine size from 1,000cc to 3,000cc depending on the model. Pete's Sprite is powered by a 1,380cc engine, which made the Mini Cooper such a hit, and can reach speeds of up to 125mph.

"Each race is broken down into classes, so there are always exciting races within a race," he said. "I've won a few prizes but no first place yet."

The championship is regulated by the FIA – Federation Internationale de L'Automobile, the body which governs motor sport – with drivers having to

pass a series of tests before they can compete.

Pete is looking forward to the start of this year's competition at Brands Hatch on May 1, which he will follow by a return visit to the Kent racetrack on May 27 and 28, a weekend-long event which features an air show, motorcycles and trade stands.

The season culminates at Donington Park in October.

Pete said: "We always welcome support and, if you happen to be at any of these events, come into the Paddock and have a chat. If you want to know more about how to get a race licence and get started in motorsport then get in touch."

● Pete can be contacted by email at petewtaylor@yahoo.com

## Challenging behaviour with the aid of computers

WITH the introduction of the amended Disability Discrimination Act 2005, the Diversity Unit has purchased two new CBT packages for all members of Essex Police to undertake.

The Disability Confident CBT provides employees with the steer of how to be disability confident and how this knowledge can be filtered into their everyday lives, both in and out of the workplace.

And Challenging Behaviour looks at various scenarios where unacceptable behaviour is being portrayed, including any based on disability.

This CBT provides employees with the guidance of what is and what is not acceptable and also provides advice on how to challenge these situations should they arise – which also forms part of the ACTION promise of Essex Police.

These CBTs can also be found on the Essex Police Training Centre – soon to be Essex Police College – home page and also under Training, Manuals and Help on the intranet homepage.

In the near future, the CBTs will also feature on the new Equal Opportunities website.

● Contact the Diversity Unit on ext 58635 or ext 54101 for more help and information

## Band hits the Highway 61

MUSICAL road policing officers are lending their support to pay for the purchase and training of a Guide Dog.

Pcs Richard Camp, of Chelmsford, and Tina Naiman, of Bocking, play with blues/rock cover band Highway 61, which is performing at a charity gig in The Basement, Well Street, Chelmsford, on Tuesday, May 16, from 8pm.

Up and coming Canadian band Swank will also perform.

● Tickets, which cost £5 and are limited, are obtainable via email from Richard, Tina or Pc Tracey Bishop

## Neighbourly officers are not pushed around

THE good old-fashioned pushbike is proving its worth to police officers patrolling their Essex neighbourhoods.

Essex Police announced last month that it would be looking to provide 100 bikes to Neighbourhood Policing Teams around the county and some officers are already trying out the trusty steeds.

Already in Waltham Abbey a man suspected of drink driving has been arrested and charged after a car drove off from police officers, who pursued it using pedal power.

And on March 28 a mini-moto was seized by neighbourhood officers in Grays after its rider rode off from police who were warning him about the anti-social manner in which he was driving.

Insp Paul Eveleigh, of the Neighbourhood Policing Project, said: "The main aim of the bikes is high visibility as they are a great environmentally-friendly way of reaching the public providing community reassurance."

"The cycles are not there with the aim of pursuing criminals but these incidents show that when such situations arise they are an effective way for officers to reach areas within neighbourhoods that can't always be accessed by cars."

## Chance to remember September 11

SPECIAL trips are on offer for police officers and staff who wish to travel to New York later this year in order to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the terrorist strikes on the city's twin towers.

Nearly 1,000 people from forces across England and Wales have attended 9/11 memorials in previous years. This year there is an opportunity to join American officers on duty as well as attend a gala dinner.

Exceptional deals are available for the week-long trip at the beginning of September.

• For details, visit [www.protecttheprotectors.com](http://www.protecttheprotectors.com) or contact Claire Richmond on 0870 842 8467

## 'Let's retreat to the AGM'

BLACK and Asian officers and staff are invited to attend the Essex Black Police Association's (EBPA) AGM.

This year's is at Greenwood Hotel Spa and Retreat in Stock on Tuesday, May 2, at 6.30pm. Chairman Win Bernard will review the past year's achievements and focus on the 12 months ahead.

Chief Constable Roger Baker will attend, as will representatives from the National BPA and the Commission for Racial Equality.

• Anyone who wants to attend can contact Allison Campbell on ext 55234 or via email

# Chief keeps pledge on front line policing

## CHIEF Constable Roger Baker has kept his promise and has returned 220 officers to front-line duties.

The first 25 officers were back pounding the beat last August – just a month after Mr Baker started work with Essex Police.

And a total of 220 officers had returned to the county's streets by March 31 – South-Eastern Division received 37, South-Western 42, Central 61, Western 39 and Eastern 41. All of them have been found from existing resources.

Returning officers to front-line duties was one of Mr Baker's first pledges to the people of Essex as increasing visible policing is one of the main priorities of both Essex Police and Essex Police Authority.

Earlier this year, the authority set its Council Tax precept for 2006/07 – an average rise of 5.9 per cent or just 12p a week – and the extra cash will primarily be used to recruit more police officers and Police Community Support Officers.

Mr Baker said: "We want to adopt a new policing style in Essex, where everyone can expect the same high standard of service. This style means an increased

by Kate Batson

presence of sworn officers, special constables and PCSOs on our streets providing reassurance to the communities we serve.

"We are committed to reducing crime, nuisance and disorder. We will bring down the fear of crime; increase detection and arrest rates and we believe that increasing officers on the streets is the best way of achieving this."

Police authority chairman Robert Chambers said: "The police authority is committed to ensuring visible policing is increased in Essex, and I am delighted we have been able to release these officers on to the front line."

"This is just the beginning; we will continually look at ways to introduce even more officers on the streets. This is what the public have told us they want and we will deliver it."

Other promises Mr Baker has carried out are:

- Restructuring the police service in Essex to five territorial divisions – Eastern, Central, South-Eastern, South-Western and Western plus Stansted Airport – has enabled Mr Baker to deliver more officers to the front line

- Work is continually being carried out to identify those police stations which need to be opened longer

- Police officers are to attend every reported crime. This drive started in summer 2005 and will be a permanent way of doing business

- Mr Baker has encouraged staff to communicate face-to-face and to reduce the amount of internal emails

- Operation Days of Action was launched the day Mr Baker started last July, with a target for officers to make hundreds of additional arrests. This is now seen as business as usual

- 140-or so Neighbourhood Policing Teams will be introduced by July – making local contacts and using local knowledge to combat crime, nuisance and disorder and the people who commit them

- Extending the police family – since July 2005, Essex Police has recruited an additional 120 special constables and Mr Baker has ensured that we will recruit an additional 133 PCSOs in 2006

- And our motorcycle unit has been re-established to provide visible patrols across the county.



• The Colbayns party meet Pc Melanie Wilcox and Mull, of Strathclyde Police's Mounted Branch

## 'Speeding baby has ticket waived'

JACK Mealing thought readers of The Law might be interested in the following excerpts from an appeal against a speeding ticket received by New Zealand Police.

The motorist starts with an inquiry as to how officers thought he might have been able to crawl out of a maternity ward and travel at 1,000kmph to be at the scene of the alleged offence 90 minutes after being born.

He admits that it appears that the following offences could have been committed:

- grand theft auto – as the car listed on the ticket was not the same as that registered to the index plate
- driving without a licence
- driving at ludicrous speed using a motor vehicle
- and evading the law using an automated number plate mechanism

Unsurprisingly, the ticket was waived.

## School's Scotland trip could forge new force links

AN old friendship enabled Safer Schools Officer Phil Suarez and a party of staff and students from Colbayns High School in Clacton to visit Strathclyde Police. Strathclyde's ACC Ian Learmonth used to be Phil's shift inspector at Harlow.

"I thought it was about time I put my connections to good use," he said. "So with his assistance and that of Strathclyde Community Safety Department we arranged this visit." The eight Year 11 students all take part in the Prince's Trust education programme, which aims to expose them to new every day situations and help them develop life skills. Phil said: "Most of the students had never flown before, been away from home or visited Scotland."

During a busy two days, the group visited the Dog Section, Mounted Branch, Police HQ and Loch Lomond, staying overnight at the new Strathclyde Police Training Centre.

Police community involvement in Strathclyde schools is growing rapidly and it is hoped that as a result of the trip, Essex Police will be able to share good practice and the Safer Schools programme.

## Widows take pensions protest to Hazel Blears

THE widow of an Essex policeman murdered on duty was part of a delegation to Parliament calling for police widows and widowers to keep their pension if they start a life with someone new.

Sue Bishop – widow of A/Sgt Brian Bishop who was murdered following post office raids in Frinton in 1984 – joined fellow widows from across England and Wales who visited the House of Commons and the Home Office.

Clacton MP Douglas Carswell organised the visit, which also included three members of Essex National Association of Retired Police Officers.

The widows handed letters of protest to representatives of Police

Minister Hazel Blears. Until April 6, this year, police widows and widowers lost their police pension should they cohabit with or marry a new partner.

From April 6, new widows and widowers will retain their pension should they move in with someone new, of either sex, but the legislation is not retrospective.

The protesters were told that the Home Office is now looking at extending the legislation to include current widows and widowers.

Sue said a two-tier pension service was a real risk. She pointed out that those whose partners had been killed on duty faced becoming victims again if they found love for a second time and didn't want to give up their pensions.

## New name new college pack drill

ESSEX Police Training Centre is to be renamed Essex Police College after the decision to bring probationer training in-house from the end of last month.

The Learning and Development Service has been reorganised into four faculties to reflect the needs of all its customers – crime and operations, leadership, learning and development performance and the new probationer arm.

The new probationer programme does not require probationers to undertake the residential training which all new recruits previously underwent at the National Police Training Centres.

Head of Training Pankajni Trivedi said: "The value of Learning and Development cannot be underestimated and we are very excited to be training our own probationers at the college."

"The content of the programme is tailored specifically to Essex Police needs rather than national ones and will also include a National Quality of Service standard."

"We believe this is of great benefit to the force and Essex citizens."

The launch of Essex Police College is on April 19 and new signage will soon be in place on the HQ building and in surrounding streets.

## ACTION gets a wider audience

THE force's ACTION programme received another accolade when it was the subject of an article in a police magazine.

The article – in issue 47 of Police Professional Magazine dated March 9, 2006 – outlined the aims and achievements of the programme and the huge contribution from our staff in improving force performance.

The article also highlights the significant recognition ACTION has received from the policing arena.

Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark said: "The recognition of ACTION within Police Professional Magazine is a testimony to the support that the staff of Essex Police has given to the ACTION Programme and to all their hard work in continually improving our performance and our service to the public of Essex."

• The article can be found on the intranet – click on archive at the bottom of the home page and look for 'ACTION Highlighted In Police Professional Magazine', then click on the link on the right hand side

## Secure award

THE county's first park and ride – at Sandon, just off the A12/A414 – was opened last month and received an Essex Police Secured by Design award recognising the fact that crime had been 'designed out' of the car park.

# 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.

## Tax-payers never used to complain

I READ the reaction by some of your correspondents to the news that Essex was to have neighbourhood policing with head nodding and was glad I had been able to resist the temptation to respond in like manner.

However, my service goes back even further than theirs, to 1954 when they were called Detached Beat Officers.

The Law is the only contact many of us 'oldies' now have with the service we loved and we read with interest and, sometimes, amazement, of the 'new' innovations and reorganisation that goes on.

Of course, we admire, too, the young men of today's police and watch their activities, that are carried out in far more difficult circumstances that we had to bear.

The statement by Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers about neighbourhood policing that 'this is another step towards delivering visible policing across the county' prompts me to ask 'whatever happened to the police force I knew to make all this restructuring necessary?'

In my day, the public always had a visible presence and I never heard anyone complain that they were not getting the service they paid their taxes for.

George Raven  
Cartagena  
Spain

## Last call for Comrades spring buffet

THIS is a final reminder that the spring buffet of the Essex Police Comrades Association will be held on Saturday, May 13, at Essex Police College – the former Essex Police Training Centre – at HQ. The sports pavilion bar will be open from 11.30am and lunch will be served at 1pm.

This year, we have arranged for the Essex Police Museum to be open between 10.30am and 12.30pm on May 13 for Comrades and their guests only and we hope that members will take advantage of this private viewing of the refurbished museum.

The buffet gives members the opportunity to bring partners and guests in order that members can renew old friendships and, hopefully, make some new ones in convivial surroundings. Please let me have your booking forms and cheques as soon as possible.

The cost is £17.50 per head, inclusive of mineral water, fruit juice and table wine.

If, for any reason, you have not received the 2006 membership information, please contact Marian Godwin in the Federation office on 01245 452799.

Sue Kelly  
Secretary  
Essex Police Comrades  
Association

## Your kindness is appreciated

I WRITE further to my letter (*The Law*, December 2005) whereby I sought to bring to the attention of readers the plight of Ellie May Challis, a victim of meningococcal septicaemia meningitis whilst at the same time seeking financial donations to the trust fund set up for her.

In appealing for money I did so in the knowledge that so many serving and retired officers, members of the special constabulary and civilian staff members already support financially or undertake voluntary work for a variety of worthy causes.

The response to help Ellie has been truly outstanding and I wish to acknowledge

the efforts of those of whom I am currently aware who have raised money for her.

Grateful thanks go to:

- Lis Campbell, Keith Holland and their merry band of 'well-dressed' walkers who raised £6,000
- Phil Knight and the committee members of the Sports and Social Club for £600 from the annual HQ Bonfire Night firework display
- Retired Dc Ted Churn and his daughter Kim who raised £300 from a raffle at the Dr Johnson pub in Ilford
- Retired Insp David Howard and parishioners of the Belfairs Methodist Church, Leigh-on-Sea, for their donation of £200

● Retired Ds Roy Clark and members of the Brownswood Masonic Lodge for a donation of £620

● Serving and retired force personnel, family members and friends who bought tickets or made donations to my Christmas raffle, which raised £3,260

● John Reynolds, who, from his 'in-shop' raffle, raised £768.

The £11,748 raised to date does not reflect the true figure collected because some have made private personal donations and there is the promise of further monies to be raised by Mick and Lesley Benning at a forthcoming quiz night and a donation to

be made by Alan Barley and his London Marathon running colleagues – so the financial support to Ellie's Trust Fund via Essex Police will continue to rise.

Thank you to all who have contributed in some way or other to helping Ellie.

Such appreciation is endorsed many times by Ellie's parents Paul and Lisa and other members of the family who have been overwhelmed by the kindness afforded to them by so many people from all walks of life but in particular from the good and very kind people of Essex Police.

David Bright  
Westcliff

# Can ID cards combat fraud and criminals?

**AS the legislation for ID cards has now been passed – presumably saying they will assist in the prevention and detection of crime and terrorism – can anybody explain, in plain English, how ID cards will achieve such noble objectives?**

I would suggest that most identity fraud, the obtaining of money from loans and goods, occurs by mail order or telephone, so the claims made that these cards will prevent such fraud, or any other crime for that matter, are spurious in the extreme.

How long will it be before the public who declare their support for ID cards realise that they cannot be obtained by post. Every one of us will have to attend one of 70 issuing centres to provide the biometrics – iris and finger prints – to be used on the cards.

Who pays for the family to attend? Will attendance be by appointment? Will the

bread winner have to lose time at work or children at schools?

How many ID cards will each centre be able to process per day? Say 1,000 which may be very optimistic. If each centre is open for 333 days per year, it will take three years to process almost one million applications at each centre which should cover our 60 million population – without taking into account, births, deaths and marriages and changes of residence during those three years.

As neither the system nor the centres are yet open for business, can those wishing to renew their passports in 2008 be assured that an ID card will be available in order to obtain their passport?

How, on arriving at the centre, does one prove one's identity? Presumably by documentary evidence such as utility bills, driving licence or passport – all of which can be forged by a criminal applicant.

Will the system be able to identify amongst 60 million entries or so that the same iris and finger prints have previously been allocated to an ID card? I

very much doubt it. Thus the determined criminal may be able to obtain more than one genuine ID card using forged documents presented at different issuing centres.

However, such deceit may not be necessary as most people who need to be reassured of an identification – eg a policeman on the beat – might be presented with a forged ID card, the authenticity of which cannot be determined without a biometric reader. And if it is not compulsory to produce one's ID card upon demand, where does that leave the same beat officer?

Frankly, I am sure that I am not the only person who now considers that the terrorist has already won, with the drain on our economy which the introduction of the legislation will create and which imposes upon the British citizen the requirement to possess a card which will fail in its primary tasks of preventing crime or assisting in its detection.

I should be very pleased to be contradicted by an advocate of ID cards.

Robert J Cordery  
Hatfield Peveler

## Gone . . . but not forgotten

**Maurice George 'Dixie' Lee, Essex County Constabulary. Served from November 6, 1935. Died November 16, 1940.**

MAURICE 'Dixie' Lee was the son of Henry and Isabel Lee, of Small Shoes, Good Easter. His ability to teach himself foreign languages while he was unemployed served him in good stead during his career.

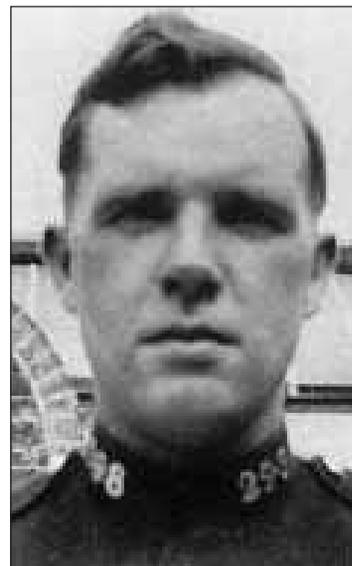
Joining the Essex Regiment in 1928, he became an Army interpreter before buying himself out to join the police in 1935. Posted initially to Grays and then to Hatfield Heath, Pc Lee married Florence, from his home village of Good Easter. With World War Two imminent, Pc Lee's linguistic abilities in German and Dutch were needed at HQ, and he was posted to CID to deal with aliens and translation work.

He was working at HQ one evening in November 1940 when a German bomber returning from a raid on London dropped a number of shrapnel bombs.

One fell under the clock tower, one in the Chief Constable's garden and the others in nearby fields. Dc Lee and Pc Alex Scott were two of the officers on guard duty that night and both were fatally injured. Dc Lee died later in the day at Chelmsford Hospital, aged 29, and was buried in the churchyard at St Andrew's Church, Good Easter.

His wife Florence died on March 21, 1985, aged 75 and was buried with her husband. The inscription on the gravestone reads: In Loving Memory of my dear husband Maurice George Lee, who died by enemy action on November 18\*, 1940, aged 29, and his dear wife Florence Rachel Lee, who died on March 21, 1985, aged 75. Dc Lee is also commemorated in the Civilian War Dead Register in Westminster Abbey.

\* Date as given on the gravestone



● Dc Maurice 'Dixie' Lee

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

## Thanks for brightening a grey day

I AM hoping by this means to thank the many people who attended the funeral of my aunt, Sgt Gwen Charles – known to many as Charlie – which was held in Southend on February 17.

Although for the main part, their names and faces were unknown to me, their happy memories of their association with my aunt certainly went a long way to dispelling the greyness of the day.

I have managed to trace the addresses of a number of people – thanks chiefly to the efforts of my aunt's good friend Dorothy Morgan – but by no means all.

I do feel that many of the elusive names may be readers of *The Law* and so would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who showed such kind concern and support during her long period of illness, who telephoned and visited her and who sent donations to medical research and such beautiful floral tributes. It was greatly appreciated.

Janice Collins  
Populierenweg 40  
Hengelo (Ov)  
The Netherlands

## Those were the days of Annie, 99

ANNIE Williams, the widow of Sgt Jack Williams, has died aged 99.

She was born in the Drill Sergeant's House at HQ, where her father, the late Supt John Wood, was the instructor.

She recalled that her mother used to wash and cook for the recruits while they were required to keep their dormitory clean, lay the fires and clean shoes etc.

The assistant chief constable next door kept pet monkeys in his garden and the Salvation Army used to play on the lawn.

What a different world!  
Steve Williams  
Coggeshall

## Injury pay challenge

I WOULD like to hear from any retired officer over the age of 65 who is in receipt of an injury pension.

Home Office Circular 46/2004 alters the way that injury pensions are paid, specifically at 65.

I am mounting a legal challenge to this and would like to hear from any retired officer, especially those aged 65 or over, who have been affected by this change.

I can be contacted either by e-mail at [johnndavidwoollard@hotmail.com](mailto:johnndavidwoollard@hotmail.com) or by phone on 01702 466159.

John Woollard  
Southend

## Corner the chairman



● Essex Police Authority chairman  
Robert Chambers

No thanks, we want to go our own way

ESSEX Police Authority has decided not to merge voluntarily with the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire forces.

We want to provide the best policing services to Essex residents and feel that the best way we can do this is by staying as a stand alone force and continuing to introduce our new policing style.

This style has meant returning more officers to the front line, rising arrest rates and falling crime. We want to continue to build on this work and feel the only way we can do this is to stay as we are and improve services for people in Essex. The police authority, with Essex Police, will now submit a revised business case to the Home Secretary, which we believe will add considerable weight to the Essex case for standing alone.

I and the other members of the authority are confident that we will more than meet the requirements set by the Home Office for a stand-alone strategic force with this second bid.

To remain as a stand-alone force is to ensure we maintains our local links with the people of Essex and continue to give residents the very high standards of policing service that they want.

Therefore, the authority has resolved that: "Whatever the outcome of the present Parliamentary debate, authorities and forces within the Eastern Region need to do business differently for the benefit of the communities we serve.

"We acknowledge and support the continuing need for Essex Police to continue its dialogue and work with respective colleagues in Beds and Herts.

"However, we remain of the view that Essex Police can stand alone as a strategic police force and we are asking our chief executive to seek Counsel's opinion on the prospect of successfully bringing judicial review proceedings to challenge the Home Secretary's proposals.

"Certainly there are a number of outstanding issues on which assurances are still sought from the Home Secretary; therefore this authority cannot support a voluntary amalgamation of Essex, Beds and Herts."

● Turn to Page 12 for more

# Crime Division takes on the SOCA challenge

WITH the introduction of the new Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) this month, Crime Division has taken the opportunity to re-organise.

Certain sections within Crime Division are to be re-named and will come under the heading of the Serious and Organised Crime Directorate (SOCD).

Det Chief Supt Wil Kennedy remains as Head of Crime Division with Det Supt Kevin Macey as Director of Specialist Investigations. The set-up of the Major Investigation Section, the Child Abuse Investigation Units, Scenes of Crime and the Review Team will stay the

same, with DCI Paul Everett as Head of Special Branch.

Director of Intelligence Det Supt Tim Newcomb will continue to head up the proactive side of the division but some units are being re-named, in line with the set-up at SOCA.

Essex Crime Squad will now be known as SOCD Investigations, the Special Operations and Witness Protection units will become SOCD Special Operations and the Economic Crime Unit will be SOCD Financial Investigations.

The whole SOCD will be run by DCI Terry Haines, Director of Proactive Operations. Det Supt Newcomb said: "As SOCA has come into being now,

we took the opportunity to realign ourselves and mirror how SOCA is doing things. It should also make it clearer to officers and staff on division the type and level of crimes with which each section deals."

Essex Police's SOCD is aimed at Level 2 serious crime, ie that which is cross-divisional and force borders, while SOCA targets crime at national and international level ie Level 3.

Det Supt Newcomb explained: "Essex is affected by organised criminal groups committing major fraud, exporting stolen high-value vehicles and dealing in multi-kilo quantities of class A drugs coming out of London and elsewhere to be distributed.

"This is the sort of crime which the SOCD will investigate. This approach is supported by HMIC, which has indicated that we should be prioritising serious crime and criminals and tackling them in a 'joined-up' way."

DI Keith Davies and DI Brian Elkington are in charge of SOCD Investigations, DI Gary Murray is head of SOCD Special Operations and DI Alan Stevens runs SOCD Financial Investigations.

The Force Intelligence Bureau, Authorities Bureau, Dedicated Source Units and the Telephone Enquiries Unit will keep their names and remain under Det Supt Newcomb's direction.

# Road Collision turns round in 12 months



● Essex Police captain Darren Pitt receives the award from Darren Pike's daughter Hannah  
Picture by Nishan Wijeratne

## Darren's memory rekindled

THE Force Support Unit took the honours in the third annual football match against The City of London in memory of Darren Pike. Darren served with FSU before transferring to the City's firearms team, where he was killed in a crash while on a motorbike course. Now both firearms departments keep in contact and play a football game annually to raise money for charity.

This year, Basildon Hospital's premature baby unit received £505. And the links were continued after the match, which finished 2-1, with some evening entertainment from the band The Most, which has members from both the Essex and City forces. Darren's daughter Hannah presented the winning memorial shield to Essex Police and FSU Chief Insp Kevin Bailey said a few words.

## Drug courier is jailed

A DRUG courier found with half a kilo of cocaine, valued at £25,000, has been jailed for eight years.

Nelson Parra Guerrero, 34, was spotted by police officers in a car in Pitsea on November 8 last year but he sped off when they approached him.

He later crashed on the A13 near Hadleigh and both the defendant and the driver ran from the scene.

Parra Guerrero, formerly of London, was arrested shortly afterwards. Police recovered a bag containing

490g of cocaine and 65 amphetamine tablets.

Parra Guerrero, pleaded guilty at Basildon Crown Court on March 29 to possessing cocaine and amphetamines with intent to supply.

DI Joel Henderson, of Basildon CID, said: "This was a good example of police officers simply doing their job and checking on a car that eventually led to a good arrest and a substantial quantity of drugs seized."

by Heather Turner

**JUST a year ago, the force's Road Collision Administration Section was short-staffed and labouring under a 21-week backlog with letters and correspondence.**

But now that has been reduced to approximately two weeks.

Not only is this within the current 20-day target, it more than meets the National Quality of Service Commitment – which is not due to be introduced until November.

The section – under Road Collision Administration Officers Debbie Merry and Fiona Simpson, and acting Road Collision Administration Officer Amanda Stock – deals with 20,000 road collision reports, or T28s, a year.

They also cope with 13,000 phone calls and send 17,000 letters a year as well as dealing with all aspects of civil litigation, authorising interviews with officers, providing copies of T28s and photographs of crash scenes, keeping people involved in criminal proceedings up to date via a court computer link and chasing up the information for that.

Staff members also need to be clued up on the Data Protection Act so they know what can and cannot be disclosed to the public – it can mean the difference between success and failure in a case.

In 12 months, the Road Collision Administration Section has expanded from seven members of staff to 12 and has more than caught up with its work. It was also given a dedicated manager, Civil Court Disclosure Manager Sue Spratley.

Debbie emphasised that the 21-week backlog had not extended to computer and records inputting, which was always kept up to date.

"Due to unexpected staff shortages, we got behind on correspondence, with solicitors, insurance companies and members of the public, although we made sure that letters to members of the public were treated as a priority," she said.

"I am really chuffed with everybody and the fact that they wanted to get rid of the backlog and worked so hard to do so."

Director of Finance and Administration Rick Tazzini said: "This is a fantastic achievement which is all down to the efforts of the team taking responsibility for their performance and inspiring high standards in line with the ethos of ACTION.

"Not only should the team feel proud of themselves but their hard work means a better service to the public."

Many people call it the 'accident stats section' but the Road Collision Administration Section has not dealt with those for years – keeping information on injury-accident statistics has been outsourced to Essex County Council and is dealt with by a firm called Mouchel, which provides information to the Department of Transport.

## Nexus invite to inaugural open day

LESBIAN, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) staff from across the force held their inaugural open day as part of an ongoing commitment to enhancing their relationship with both the force and minority communities.

A support group for LGBT personnel – Nexus – was set up by officers and police staff in July 2000 and provides Essex Police with a resource to draw upon for operational duties as well as being a welfare support group for members. It numbers more than 130 members.

Nearly 150 people attended the event at the Three Rivers Golf Club in Purleigh on April 5 when officers and police staff set out Nexus' aims to improve the working environment for all LGBT staff.

Nexus chair Sgt Tracy Martinez hopes that the LGBT communities in Essex will benefit from the association.

Keynote speakers included members from the national Gay Police Association, senior officers within the force and Stephen Frost from Stonewall. Chief Constable Roger Baker was due to launch the event.

## Do you want your details on the web?

A WARNING to all staff that a website provides information from the electoral roll, even if police officers and staff have opted out of having such details published by their local council.

Information on [www.b4u.com](http://www.b4u.com) is collated from the current electoral register and from pre-opting lists, so it is worth checking to see if your details are included.

The Information Commissioner has received a number of complaints about this service and it is being investigated.

● In the meantime, to get your personal details removed, email [UK@B4u.co.uk](mailto:UK@B4u.co.uk) or write to B4U at 90 Broad Street, Birmingham B15 1AU. There is a similar information service at [www.192.com](http://www.192.com) Log on and download a form to have your details removed and fax this back to the firm

## Getting on good terms with the Neighbourhood Policing Teams

FOLLOWING the introduction of the five divisional pilot Neighbourhood Policing Teams in Colchester, Waltham Abbey, Shoebury, Tilbury and Braintree, there are some new terms to get used to.

A **neighbourhood** is the collection of one or more council wards and a **neighbourhood area** is the collection of one or more neighbourhoods policed by a **Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT)**, which will be managed by a **neighbourhood inspector**.

Each team has a **named point of contact**, who is the person the public is told to contact.

Every neighbourhood will be **prioritised** 1, 2 or 3, based upon both a divisional rating and a force rating based on crime, incident, employment, deprivation and education data.

All priority 1 Neighbourhood Police Teams will include a **neighbourhood detective**, an accredited police investigator from CID.

And one member of every Neighbourhood Policing Team will be a **dedicated problem-solver (DPS)**, responsible for ensuring the four stages of problem-solving (Scanning, Analysis, Response and Assessment – or SARA) are considered.

They will also co-ordinate meetings with **partnership agencies** and are overseen by a **problem-solving co-ordinator**, an area inspector.

The force **Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS)** allows Chief Constable Roger Baker to accredit staff of other organisations, such as council street wardens and shopping centre security staff who also make the neighbourhood a nicer and safer place in which to live.

**Accredited persons** have powers to tackle graffiti, litter, abandoned cars and anti-social behaviour.

● AND the introduction of neighbourhood policing will have the spin-off benefit of helping to make the county's schools safer.

The force has 11 full-time **Safer Schools Partnership Officers (SSPOs)** working in 13 schools.

As neighbourhood policing is rolled out, all educational establishments may experience a degree of police involvement, depending on the priority.

SSPOs will provide a visible and accessible policing presence, both within a school and in the surrounding community.

This should reduce anti-social behaviour, crime and victimisation among young people both in and out of school.

Those schools without a full-time SSPO may still receive police involvement from the local Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark, the ACPO lead on youth issues, welcomed a multi-agency – the DfES, Home Office and Youth Justice Board, among others – recommendation to expand the Safer Schools Partnership across the country.

"I view working within schools as being fundamental to the Essex Police style of neighbourhood policing," he said.

"Some of the good things that can come from Safer Schools Partnerships are improved attendance, improved exam results and staff and pupils feeling safer."

# A colourful legal section fights over the grey areas



● The Civil Claims team of manager Adrian Williams, Civil Claims Officer Rashid Begum and Assistant Civil Claims Handler Jenny Hillyard

## “WHAT’S the difference between an accountant and a lawyer? Accountants know they’re boring.”

Deputy force solicitor Fiona Philpott delivers this joke with her customary broad grin. It's one of many she's told me which mock her profession and is part of a wider conspiracy by the force's Legal Services team to convince anyone who shows an interest in them that their world is dull. It isn't. Consider the facts. In the last few years, Legal Services has gone head-to-head with some of the county's most persistent courtroom visitors. Sex offenders, football hooligans and dubious licensees have all been taken on by the team, as well as hardened career criminals who've been stripped of their ill-gotten gains via the Proceeds of Crime Act.

Civil Claims Manager Adrian Williams successfully defended three-quarters of all claims against the force in 2005 – and he thinks that wasn't a great year. So it's difficult to accept that this is a department dealing in the mundane. And that's before you consider that their leader, 38-year-old Force Solicitor Adam Hunt, has sustained injuries in the line of showing his children how to ride that coolest of kiddie contraptions, the skateboard.

## The solicitor

ADAM Hunt became Essex Police's first Force Solicitor in 1999, taking on a portfolio that has become ever wider. The Mersea-born lawyer takes responsibility for a dizzying amount of legal issues, from Essex Police's implementation of new laws to human resources and disciplinary advice. In addition, it's to him that the force's top brass turn first when, for instance, gangland killers mount an appeal against their convictions.

With a background in criminal law, civil litigation and employment law, Adam has worked in private practice as well as in-house during his 14-year career. "The job wasn't what I expected it to be," he admits.

"Essex Police had advertised for an employment lawyer; what they actually needed was someone to develop a legal function from scratch." And that's what he did. The civil claims team now consists of Adrian Williams, Rashid Begum and Jenny Hillyard, with Adam and Fiona on solicitor duties. As with any good team, holding it all together is an experienced secretary, Lynda May.

"Anyone from a constable to the Chief Constable can come and seek my advice," says Adam.

"We've worked long and hard to build up officers' confidence in us. There's an inbuilt suspicion of lawyers and I think that's only natural given the work that police do. We deal in grey areas, because Chief Officers are more than qualified to deal with 99.9 per cent of the issues that come their way, because those issues are black and white."

This theme of 'grey' is one to which Adam returns again and again. In fact, he rather seems to warm to the theme. "Grey's no bad thing," he said. "Legal departments aren't meant to be all fireworks. Mostly you don't notice our existence if everything's going right and

## by Ben Pennington

smoothly. If we're seen as grey it's because nothing falls out. Steadiness is exactly the reputation we should have." Ask him about the most challenging cases the team has dealt with, however, and out comes a very competitive lawyer.

"We've had our share of high-profile cases, from the Rettendon murders to naming and shaming. "The more challenging cases have been those like the offender-naming campaign a few years ago, which went to the High Court, and the beginning of ASBOs.

"I've been involved in advising on protective witness situations and preventing media output which would have cut across that."

Adam has very clear views on the reputation that many people attach to the legal profession.

"Lawyers, particularly defence lawyers, are seen as devious," he said. "But the problem isn't the lawyers. All that they are doing is exposing a weak case. It's up to us to raise our game and come up to scratch so that can't happen."

## The deputy

SEX offenders, football hooligans and teenaged louts. These make up the average working day of Deputy Force Solicitor Fiona Philpott. Fiona started working in the Magistrates Court Service straight from school, spending 15 years working her way up from clerk to court manager. Having earned her law degree at night school, she now represents the force in seeking orders from the courts against individuals and businesses who have stepped out of line.

That includes Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs), Sexual Offence Prevention Orders (SOPOs) and Football Banning Orders (FBOs), as well as cash seizures under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

In addition, cases involving liquor licensing and appeals against revocation of firearms licences are thrashed out by the 36-year-old. There are no shortage of characters involved in the cases that come the way of the Upminster woman.

"Just take ASBOs, for example," she says. "There's such a wide array of reasons why we've needed to take out ASBOs against people. We've got orders against flashers. We've been able to get ASBOs for flashers and nudists, as well as habitual drunks and couples who row. And that's before you start thinking about nuisance youths."

Since Fiona joined Essex Police, the force has successfully applied for 29 ASBOs. The majority of these are against problem youths.

Fiona said: "Those cases can be very satisfying cases, especially when the youth involved is part of a group who've made people's lives a misery – putting burning stuff through letterboxes or slashing car tyres, for example. "In one case, a family had been suffering from job behaviour for three years. Those cases are a lot of work but well worth it when we make it happen for the people who've had to suffer from anti-social behaviour."

Fiona also found a full in-tray with the advent of last year's new licensing laws, fighting cases where to have more licensed premises open for longer would



● Force Solicitor Adam Hunt and his deputy, Fiona Philpott, discuss legal issues surrounding one of their cases with secretary Lynda May

have been detrimental. She said: "I find my job interesting because of the things that people will do. For instance, some licensees up the price on alcoholic drinks because they're selling it to underage drinkers. There's not much that could surprise me any more about human behaviour."

## Civil claims

ADRIAN Williams has a bee in his bonnet.

The usually affable 36-year-old Civil Claims Manager has been asked what really ticks him off – a question which takes little consideration on his part.

"The worst thing is the cases where a convicted criminal has the audacity to try to make money out of Essex Police," he says. "That they can put people through their crimes and then have the gall to try and claim money from us is a bit much."

"And those cases where we're clearly not at fault annoy me because it's just people trying to stiff the force and the public's pocket – that's time and effort that is being taken away from meritorious cases."

Chelmsford man Adrian joined the force in 2000, after working for Essex County Council, where he was responsible for

trading standards prosecutions. He now manages the force's civil claims team, which is responsible for protecting the interests of the Chief Constable in civil claims against him. Adrian investigates those claims with former West Midlands cop Rashid Begum and, if appropriate, will defend the claim.

"If Essex Police is in the wrong then we'll try to agree a reasonable settlement as soon as possible," says Adrian. "But if we think the actions taken by the force's officers and employees are defensible, then we will fight it all the way."

The most common claim received from the public is for unlawful arrest and false imprisonment. Most claims take around three months to investigate, and correspondence between the force and claimants can go on for a year or more. The team has recently put to bed a claim from 1998, arising from the period of time a suspect was kept in custody after his 'victim' withdrew the complaint she had made.

"We've saved hundreds of thousands of pounds through successful defence of claims," said Adrian. "But you have to appreciate that claimants usually have between three and six years to bring a claim against us."

"Some will wait, tactically, until the last minute to take advantage of the fact that memories fade, notebooks are thrown away and documents are destroyed."

"If I could say one thing to our officers it would be this: if you're dealing with a job where you think a claim could arise, either hang on to everything associated with it or notify us straight away."

"We'll never complain about being too prepared."

There were 98 claims against the force in 2004/05, 71 of which were successfully defended. Adrian considers this a bad year.

Civil claims officer Rashid Begum was an officer until she had to take medical retirement in 1998 after five years in the job. After retraining as a legal executive, Rashid joined the legal department in March 2003. She sums up their work: "We're here to back up our officers and staff."

"If officers think we just pay up on these things they couldn't be more mistaken."

"Of course we'll own up and pay out when we're in the wrong. But if we think an officer did the right thing and we can show it, then we will defend them 100 per cent, whatever it costs."

## Driving down car crime with awareness bid

THIS month saw Essex's first car crime awareness day which looked to switch on more people to the effects of slack security.

With nearly 40 vehicles broken into each day in the county, Community Safety and Public Relations embarked on a major publicity campaign to remind family members, neighbours and work colleagues to lock their vehicles and leave nothing on view.

Visible patrols were stepped up on Thursday, April 6, as the force reinforced the message that thieves will break in to vehicles for anything – be it sat-nav systems or even small change left on dashboards.

Head of Community Safety Supt Steve Graysmark is keen to highlight the crime which affects a significant section of the community.

"While this crime is not a massive problem when you consider the number of vehicles in the county, we do need to drive it down," said Supt Graysmark.

"It only takes a moment for thieves to strike and be off with whatever is on show in less than 30 seconds. The damage they cause and the items they steal cause a lot of distress to the owners."

"Thieves often don't even have to break in as some people are foolish enough to leave their vehicles unlocked for what they think is just a short period of time."

## Paul posts new cost savings

OFFICERS and staff are being asked to do their bit in saving postage costs.

Royal Mail postage charges will be based on the size, as well as the weight, of letters and parcels from August.

So any mail larger than a C5 envelope – which takes folded A4 paper – will cost significantly more.

Administration Officer Paul Sugden said: "Across the force we currently spend about £190,000 a year on postage. This could rise by as much as 20 per cent."

"But you can help keep costs to a minimum – think A5."

He urged officers and staff to consider whether what they were sending via Royal Mail could be sent in a C5 envelope and/or produced in A5 format.

"Please bear this in mind when planning mail shots, surveys and publicity campaigns," he said.

"We could all do our bit by using less paper, saving more money and, at the same time, use fewer natural resources."

## Fishing officers raise £580

A DAY Centre providing services for elderly people has reeled in £580, thanks to the efforts of angling police officers.

The money was raised for Halstead Day Centre from a draw at the Police Sport UK freshwater angling championship, held last September in Cambridgeshire.

Braintree-based Pc Alan Diver, who helped organise the event, said: "We wanted to make one meaningful donation in Essex."

"The day centre is the local mayor's charity and it provides a good service."

Elderly people have lunch at the centre, where services also include activities and shopping.

## 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.

**FLORIDA**, Sarasota villa, quiet village environment, communal pool, tennis, bbq, clubhouse, hot tub. Beautiful beaches, recently renovated. Contact Norma Gill via email at norma@normagill.com

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

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

**SOUTH** of France, three-bedroom villa, 150m from Med. Discounts for police officers and staff in June, Sept and Oct. Contact Tracey Harman on 01702 470926 or visit www.la-cypriette.com

**TENERIFE** villa, two-bed, two-bath bungalow with sea view in quiet location. Communal TV. Can sleep six. From £320 per week. Contact David Britton on 01702 201701.

**TUSCANY**, Italy. Romantic, rustic, Medieval romantic village retreat nestling in the foothills of the mountains of northern Tuscany. Breathtaking views. Perfect base - one hour to Florence, Pisa and Italian Riviera. Ring 07976 720022 or visit www.tuscanlife.co.uk

**WELLS**-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, charming, traditional cottage, two bedrooms, walk to quayside, shops and restaurant. Private parking, lovely beach and walks. Ring 07976 720022.

**COSTA** Blanca, La Marina, luxury villa, two bed, two bath, sleeps four to six, communal pool. Beach five mins, golf ten mins, airport 25 mins. From £150-£400 per week. Ring Mick Ager on 07775 676142 or 00 34 617 110 096 or email casado-mi02@hotmail.com

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

**FLORIDA**, Orlando. Four-bedroom, pool home overlooking water in

quiet location. £450-£550 per week. Close to golf, Disney and airport. Video available. Contact Pete or Linda on 01245 321378 or email petewtaylor@yahoo.com

**FRANCE**, stone cottage sleeps two to four. Beams, woodburner, quiet location with lots nearby. Calais five hours, Caen two hours. £150-£175 a week. Contact Emma Bowditch on 07711 421579 or email em.bowditch1975@btinternet.com

**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.

**MALAGA** 30 mins. Three-bedroom villa close to golf and sea, spectacular views. Visit www.mijasvillasdirect.com or ring 00 34 9525 90715.

**NORFOLK**, two high-quality cottages, sleeping four and two, set in wonderful countryside. Central Norfolk Broads. Abundant wildlife. Weekly or short breaks. Contact Gwen on 01508 489754.

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

**SPAIN**, La-Sella, near Denia. Four-bed house with pools, golf and tennis. Three-bed apartment, three mins from Javea beach. From £250 per week for all facilities. Ring Paul Marrison on 01245 494043.

### Rooms to rent

**TWO**-bedroomed flat in Southend, views over estuary, fitted kitchen, close to town centre, £650 per month. Contact Ian Shead on ext 56148 or on 07889 135354.

**TWO**-bed house in Billericay for rent, £620 pcm plus Council Tax and utility bills. New kitchen and central heating system. Close to shops and station. Contact Jenny Hillyard on 07790 427987.

### Cars and bikes

**BMW** R1150R motorcycle, 2004 reg, maroon, 2,500 miles, dry use only. Ill-health forces sale. £4,600, ring Peter on 07795 203988.

**HONDA** CBR 600FS motorcycle, Sept 2001, winning red, MoT, taxed, fully serviced, new tyres, 24,000 miles. £3,000 ono. Ring Bob on 01245 380780 or 07952 193944.

# We shall miss the laughs, say retiring officers

## Names in the news

**TWO** superintendents have been appointed to key roles in the new **Essex Police Central Division, which includes Braintree, Chelmsford, Maldon and Uttlesford.**

**Supt Colin Steele**, 41, will take special responsibility for neighbourhood policing and work with partner agencies while **Supt Tim Stokes** will provide operational support.

Since 2004, Colin headed Stanway MIT. He was previously a detective chief inspector, in charge of criminal investigation at Tendring and later Thurrock. He has 15 years' police service.

Tim, 48, was a chief inspector with Mobile Support Division, heading special operations. He was previously head of training at HQ.

### Retirements

As mentioned in last month's **Law Terry Spelman** has retired after 30 years' service. He joined Essex Police in December 1975 and was posted to Chelmsford, working at Melbourne Park.

Following a move to FSU as a tactical firearms officer, he also became the Operations representative on the Constable Branch Board, latterly becoming chairman in 1988. That same year, he joined the Federation office as full-time deputy secretary and treasurer.

Nine years later, he took over as secretary and treasurer, the post he held until his retirement.

So what does retirement hold? Terry's plans include a year off from work - his wife surprised him with a retirement present of a holiday to Las Vegas, and they have another holiday booked for the Canaries.

Terry is still involved with the police as honorary secretary of the Catherine Gurney fund for police orphans, which is linked to Flint House, the police convalescence centre at Goring.

He said: "What I will miss is the people. I hope that through my work I have helped people and that makes the job worthwhile."

**Chris Godbold** says goodbye to the force after 42 years, as probably the longest-serving member of support staff. He has worked at the marine unit at Burnham for most of that time, having started at HQ garage. He intends to spend more time on caravan holidays abroad and sailing but says his wife also has plans for his retirement and he will spend more time with his grandchildren.

He added: "I will miss the comradeship, working with a good bunch of guys and having a good laugh. I am

THE Southend branch of NARPO is holding its AGM on Friday, April 28, at Southend Police Station bar. The meeting starts at 7.30pm and a light buffet will be served afterwards.

To assist with catering, contact branch secretary David Jones if you are planning to attend on 01702 523214 or email david.jones385@btinternet.com

still enjoying the job but it is time to go as it is really a young man's game."

The Force Information Room lost a few staff to retirement last month. **Pc Del Brander**, 49, was one of several leavers who had clocked up 30 years. He previously served at Basildon, Rayleigh, Laindon and with Mobile Support.

**Pc Bryan Keefe**, 49, served at Clacton, Basildon, Chelmsford and Braintree before moving to FIR.

And **Pc Mike Keogh**, 50, has also gone. He previously served at Southend and Rayleigh and with Mobile Support.

Meanwhile, **Stephen Mann** (?? **RANK**) has left FIR after just over 25 years with the force, previously serving in the former Harlow and Chelmsford divisions.

He also spent almost five years with the RAF before joining Essex Police.

After 30 years serving in the Basildon Division, **Pc Nigel Brace**, 49, has called it a day, having seen it merge with Thurrock to become the new South-Western Division.

**Dc Dave Fincham**, 49, is leaving too, and moving to Norfolk. After serving at the Force Information Room and with the Force Support Unit, Dave ended his career in Harlow, in the divisional intelligence unit.

Another constable moving to Norfolk on his retirement is **Pc Bob Taylor**, 48. His 30 years with the force were spent in a variety of roles within Tendring and Basildon divisions before he transferred to the Criminal Justice Department.

Bob has just retired from the Committal Unit as the crown court's police liaison officer.

**Pc Paul Dines**, 49, is leaving the new Central Division having spent most of the last 30 years serving at Chelmsford.

And Basildon waves goodbye to **Pc Alexander Draycott**, 53, who served 26 years with the force at Chelmsford and Basildon. He also spent almost four years with Essex County Council before that.

### Obituaries

Former inspector **Ian Barclay** died last month at his home in Gwent, south Wales. The 82-year-old had completed 28 years' service with the force, serving across the southern half of the county as well as at Brentwood and Chelmsford between 1954 and 1982.

Donations were made in his memory to the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Ex-sergeant **Ian Mummery** has died, aged 92. Mr Mummery, of Writtle, served Essex Police for 30 years from 1935.

Former sergeant **Brian Denton**, of Chelmsford, died last month, aged 85. He served from 1946 to 1976 at Colchester, Braintree and at HQ as a road safety officer. Donations were made in his memory to the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

T/Dc **Nick Cohen**, of Harlow CID, died early this month after a battle against cancer.

### Awards

**Pc Steve Joynes** has been named runner-up in Rochford District Council's Citizen of the Year Awards, which recognise and acknowledge local individuals for their valuable work and outstanding achievements in the community.

The judging panel commended Steve for his work with young people in the area, promoting a positive image and role model for them.

In his role as a member of the Community Policing Team at Rochford, Steve has been instrumental in organising a number of events aimed at engaging local youngsters and diverting them from falling into nuisance and anti-social behaviour.

And **Insp Kevin Jacobs** has been recognised for the 'gold standard of service' that officers covering Maldon district have provided to the public.

He received a bonus award for the significant achievements he has made in developing an excellent relationship with the crime and disorder partnership, 20 parish and town councils and other statutory and voluntary groups, whilst continuing his normal operational policing duties.

Kevin is responsible for the overall management of 44 police officers, six PCSOs and six support staff, plus a team of special constables who he has actively encouraged.

His section was praised in a review when its work with the community was described as being of the highest standard with a very efficient problem-solving network with partners that has paid real dividends.

Kevin's commitment, hard work and flexibility to work unsocial and long hours were also recognised.

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# Sport & Leisure

## Harlow make their point High team numbers lead to success

DEFENDING champions Harlow narrowly retained their Croker Cup darts title by one leg. Teams from Rayleigh, Harlow and Braintree took part in the competition at Southend Police Station.

Harlow, comprising captain Graham Shaw, Paul Mills, Tony Lewis, Alex Spurr and Lee Heaton, suffered an early setback after an 8-7 loss against Rayleigh, but then gave themselves a very good chance after hitting back and soundly beating Braintree 10-5.

In the final match, Rayleigh beat Braintree 8-7 which left Harlow as overall winners by one leg, retaining their title.

Results were: Harlow 17, Rayleigh 16 and Braintree 12.

● Squash winners Southend, front, celebrate, watched by runners-up Braintree, back



A SUCCESSFUL Croker Cup squash competition was held at Clements Hall sports club in Hockley last month.

Eight divisions took part, with more than 30 competitors.

Southend and Braintree contested the final and, although neither had the strongest teams in the competition, both had full teams. This proved decisive in the earlier round-robin matches with both winning their respective boxes.

Southend won the final, four ties to one, although with several close matches in the final Braintree can count themselves unlucky being runners up for the second year.

The winning Southend team was Andy Blunt, Kevin Bailey, Matt Buck, Steve Gash and Gavin Wiseman.

Results were: 1 Southend, 2 Braintree, 3 Basildon, 4 Harlow, 5 HQ, 6 Tendring, 7 Thurrock, 8 Rayleigh.

# The Usual Suspects are ...

FOR those of you who don't already know, Braintree have taken the Croker Cup honours for the fifth consecutive year, romping home more than 20 points ahead of the nearest contenders.

Runners up were Harlow, also for the fifth consecutive year, with a respectable 79 points. HQ came third with 70 points.

Fourth were Southend with 64 points, with Rayleigh one point behind in fifth place.

Basildon and Colchester shared sixth place with 61 points each and, one point behind in seventh, was Chelmsford. Tendring's 24 points

got them eighth place and Thurrock were ninth with 19.

The 2006/7 competition will be aligned to the new divisional boundaries, with Stansted Airport included within Central Division.

For the interim, it is proposed that all divisions be invited to enter two teams where appropriate; this will hopefully allow all amalgamated divisions to retain participation as previously.

All sporting section secretaries have been asked to consider their competitions in the light of the new format.

### Basildon bag the tennis

The new David Lloyd Centre in Southend hosted the Croker Cup Lawn Tennis

Tournament last month. There was an excellent turnout with all but Harlow represented by one doubles pair.

Five other players also attended and took part in an unofficial event as courts became available, making it the best-attended tournament in memory.

The pairings were well matched, resulting in a number of highly-competitive games with tennis to a good standard.

The tournament was played as a round-robin event and the winners being the first pair to win five matches with a tie break at four-all.

Basildon, in the form of Mark Wheeler and recently-retired Alec Draycott, won – seven matches and 35 games.

Runners up were Clacton, represented by Tony Sharman and another retired officer, Len Jarman – six matches and 32 games won.

Chelmsford's Terry Bragg and Kieran Lally were third with five matches and 27 games won.

Other results were: 4 Southend, Dave Murray and Nick Treadway, 5 Rayleigh, Ali Enver and Keith Draycott, 6 Braintree, Rob Coltman and Patrick Dunne, 7 HQ Bob Chatterton and Keith Fitzjohn, 8 Colchester

Sarah Newark and Mick Sharpe.

### Harlow do the 'double'

Harlow got off to a flying start by winning this season's Croker Cup Billiards title and, by the end of the afternoon, the team had completed an elusive 'double', adding the snooker title.

This was one of the most closely-fought contests for some time with every player from each division worthy of their place in their team, judging by the skills and efforts displayed.

Afterwards, Lee Heaton, of Brentwood, said: "This was an excellent team performance whose efforts made it possible to bring not one but two pieces of silverware back to Harlow Division and earn valuable Croker Cup points."

Southend withdrew on the morning of the event, leaving only three teams to the compete. However, the Essex Police Sports Association has agreed that the results should stand.

Chelmsford came second and Braintree third in both competitions.

The winning team was Lee Heaton, Mark Jones, Chris Corlett, Mick Orr and Sam Bailey.

## Lucky seven gets women into final

A THUMPING 7-1 victory over Leicestershire saw the force women's hockey team win through to the PSUK Plate final.

This came on top of a 3-0 defeat of Dyfed-Powys in the February quarter-final.

As *The Law* went to print, the team was due to face Merseyside in the Plate final, to be played in Birmingham – a report will feature next month.

The team last reached the finals in 2004.

Sharn Taylor, of Clacton DVHCU, who plays centre midfield, said the team had a good chance, having beaten Merseyside in previous seasons, but Merseyside had a strong team 'so it will be a keenly-contested match'.

Although Essex has had quite

a change of personnel this year, two faces in particular were available for the semis and were due to play in the final – British Police manager Di Reynolds, of Leigh, who is a defender, and British Police midfielder Lucy Robinson, of Grays.

"They are two very experienced players and the team will be relying on them in Birmingham," said Sharn, who has played for the Essex team for nine years.

She was one of the goalscorers in the win against Leicestershire, scoring two, as did Teresa Oxley, of Clacton, and Di Reynolds.

The fourth scorer was Rachel Jeffery, of Shoebury, whose goal was her first for the Essex team in her first season playing for them.

## Survival of the fittest

THE force has found two fit and versatile officers to compete in the national SuperCop contest next month.

Sarah Purdy, of Loughton, and Dave Browning, of Southend, will compete in compulsory gym, netball, golf and running events and then picking eight others from a list of nine, from archery to tennis.

## Andy's not squashed

MALDON's Andy Hynes has retained the men's singles title at the PSUK National Squash Championships in Carlisle.

## Have a go if you think you're hard

CALLING all those 'hard men' out there – the summer Tough Guy aka Nettle Warrior is on July 30. The eight-mile 'extreme' cross-country challenge starts at 11am at the Mr Mouse Farm For

Unfortunates in Perton, near Wolverhampton. The course runs through 150 acres of fertile woodland, concluding with the now infamous 'killing fields'. It includes an abundance of mud, climbing numerous

A-frames, crawling through pipes, tyres and barbed wire, dodging the occasional electric fence and then more mud.

● If you think you are tough, enter via [www.toughguy.co.uk](http://www.toughguy.co.uk)

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# Sport & Leisure

Snow sport team won't freeze you out

THE force has a very successful snow sports team, who take part in a PSUK Alpine Sports competition in Austria every year. This year Melanie Warren, of Laindon, won two golds and a silver in snow boarding events while fellow team member Marina Ericson, of Epping CID, won two bronze medals and came fourth in her ski-ing events. Both confess to doing very little training but say that its more about being keen and having fun. The force has been represented by up to ten officers for the past four years. Standards are very good and courses have been used by the international ski-racing scene in previous years.

The National Police Ski and Snowboard Championships in Milton Keynes on Friday, June 23, are used to select the Essex Police team to compete in the February 2007 PSUK Alpine Sports competition in Hintertglen. • Contact Chris Mathlin, of Southend CID, via email for more details and an entry form. The cost of the day is £30, which includes ski or board hire.

Players will be bowled over

BOWLING a maiden over takes on a new meaning with a ladies' cricket team in need of new members. Colchester police ladies' cricket team play in the Beaumont Seymour cricket league but, with recent withdrawals, they do not have enough players to enter a team this season. They play matches on Friday evenings at various grounds, including their home pitch at Elmstead Market. They also train one night a week with professional coaching, so all standards of players would be welcome, even complete beginners. The game is not taken too seriously and there is a keen social after-match atmosphere, offering food and drink, so why not join them for summer evenings from next month until August?

• Anyone who is interested in playing should contact Michelle Mauger at Clacton by email

Volleyball success

AMANDA Pollard, of Chigwell Dog Section, was selected to play volleyball for England Police in a match against Scotland, which England lost 2-1.

Amanda, 33, is now waiting to hear whether she has been selected for the Great Britain team to play in a tournament against the Crown Services on May 19 and 20. She has been playing the sport since college and, as well as playing in National League Division Two for Brentwood, she is also team secretary for the Exiles.

## Tour sets the Gents up for summer

THE Gents of Essex CID Cricket Club tour saw them visit Trinidad and Tobago.

The party of 43 comprised 18 players.

With six scheduled matches in Tobago and two during a three-day stay in Trinidad – as guests of Trinidad Police – this was set to be a challenging itinerary, with temperatures around the 90F mark.

Of the eight games, one was lost to a tropical downpour whilst the remainder went to the hosts, whose batting and bowling were of the highest standard.

Nonetheless much was learnt from playing cricket in the West Indies and this adventure will last long in the memory of the tourists.

Highlights – apart from the weather and the beauty of the

Caribbean islands – were a hat-trick of wickets taken by the Gents captain Phil Mellon in the inaugural game against an impressive Tobago Masters XI and the ever-consistent batting display by veteran John Stonehouse, who top-scored on tour with a fine 53, batting in conditions on one occasion when temperatures inside the stadium topped 119F.

Afterwards, Dave Griffiths, of Chigwell RPU, said: "This venture was a true success with the hospitality shown by the hosts second to none.

"With many new friends being made along the way, thanks in the main go to tour captain Phil Mellon, who made this trip a reality.

"Now back home, the Gents are looking forward to the forthcoming cricket season."

# High expectations are dashed in Cup

**ESSEX Police met Devon and Cornwall in the quarter-finals of the National Police Cup with high expectations after demolishing Thames Valley 7-1 in the previous round.**

And the side knew that this would be a tough game, especially knowing that D&C had had three days preparing for the game.

The Essex preparation was thrown into disarray after a good warm-up – with everyone looking sharp and up for the match – when the referee and linesman arrived 20 minutes late.

It was clear from the offset that D&C were a big physical side who also had ability – they had two good chances to score in the first ten minutes. Essex appeared sluggish and immediately had problems coping with D&C's 3-5-2 formation.

D&C scored after about 20 minutes, the centre-forward racing on to a through-ball and slotting it home.

After a good half-time team talk, Essex took to the pitch in a positive frame of mind but this was dashed after two minutes when D&C scored again.

After ten minutes, Matt Noone

snapped a hamstring after being tackled.

From the resulting free kick, Kev Hughes won a header and Lee Crane got in front of his marker and planted his header into the back of the net to make the score 2-1.

Essex then had a good passage of play for ten minutes before D&C scored a third against the run of play, before wrapping the game up with ten minutes left, with a fourth goal.

After the match, Steve Crane said: "Devon and Cornwall were a good side and we wish them all the best in the semi final, but Essex could and should have beaten them, player for player."

The team was Nathan Munson; Danny Fallows; Matt Maunton; Kev Hughes; Bill Potter; Matt Noone; Nick Smith; Simon Gray; Lee Crane; Paul Haylock; and Nicky Simpson. Subs Phil Molloy; Paul Keaney; Darren Pitt; and Mark Gridley.

• Essex Police now have to concentrate on the defence of their South Midlands Cup, with forthcoming games against Wiltshire and Hertfordshire police

• **Danny Fallows in action for Essex Police**

Picture by Darren Pitt



## League drop-out proves fortuitous

**Essex Police 0 Thundersley 3**

THIS was a disappointing scoreline on March 11 against the league leaders. Essex Police Vets football team fought well in the first half but came off the pace in the second half.

The team's last match of the season was due to be held against Benfleet away on March 25.

With Kelvedon Hatch having appeared to have dropped out of the league, this has

improved Essex Police's position – they are currently fourth in the Premier Division of the Greene King Essex Vets League.

**South Woodham Ferrers 2 Essex Police 6**

DESPITE starting with ten men, Essex Police held their own against a squad of 14 on March 4.

However, help arrived within 20 minutes and the force began to attack with speed of pace and scored three goals in

quick succession. SWF clawed one back before the break but Essex Police were by this time comfortable on the ball and were in control.

Hard work and commitment throughout the second half led to a further three goals – including one resulting from a tackle 35 yards out and three from Dick Woodhouse.

**Chipping Ongar 1 Essex Police 2**

HAVING not played for some time, Essex Police's passing was initially rusty in places

when they played Ongar away on February 25.

It may possibly have been the strong wind, but players were getting into good positions to shoot, and their movement off the ball and supporting play was good.

The team showed strength and provided options for the player on the ball to pass to, which resulted in goals from Neil Offord and Ray O'Hare and a narrow win for the police.

## Former constable takes top lottery prize

WINNER of the top force lottery prize last month was former constable Bryan Keefe.

Dc Lee Noakes, of Stansted Airport, took the £1,000 prize and £500 went to Geoffrey Markham, retired.

Winners of £100 prizes were: Keith Gurney, of Chelmsford; Dc Jonathan Williams, of Brentwood Financial Investigations Unit; Pc Charlie Keith, of Pitsea; Doug Collins, of Harlow; Pc Ken Miller, of FIR; Christine Thomerson, retired; Pc Ben Bailey, of Corringham; Philip Dawes, of Colchester; Pc Andy Thomas, of Harlow; David Brew, retired; and Gary Skull, retired.

Winners of £50 prizes were: David Wicks, of the Fingerprint Bureau; Neil

Dibell, of the PNC Bureau; Pc Chris Turner, of FIR; Pc Nick Williamson, of Bocking RPU; Dc Kevin Ford, of Clacton CID; Colin Cheeseworth, of FIR; Alan Brierley, retired; Michael Beale, of Chelmsford; Janet Lanceman, of the Fingerprint Bureau; Terry Edwards, of FIR; Sara Whitehead, of Southend; Rhys Roberts, of IT Systems Admin; Dc Gary Walczak, of Stanway MIT; and Sgt Philip Barrett, of Southend. Winners of the Benenden Healthcare bears were: Pc Brandon Savage, of Colchester; Pc James Graham, of Harlow; Pc Darren Griffin, of Basildon; Victoria Delf, of Southend CJD; Insp David Britton, of Basildon; and Mick Fidgeon, of the Firearms, Shotguns and

Explosives Licensing Section.

Theatre tickets were won by: Kerri Phillips, of Rayleigh; Pc Paul Fisk, of the ANPR Intercept Team; Peter Hamilton, of the Investigations Review Team; Pc Philip Cook, of South Woodham Ferrers; Insp Paul Bartlett, of Great Dunmow; Ron Gentry, of Clacton; Dc John Vickers, of Chelmsford CID; Caroline Dunn, of Rayleigh; Michelle Jeffery, of Rayleigh; Sue Ding, retired; Sgt Nick Edwards, of Stanway RPU; Raymond Short, of Rayleigh; Pc Duncan Horner, of Corringham; Michael Benning, of Corporate Support; David Ware retired; and Sgt Vic Murphy, of Stansted Airport.

Beach course was testing for force's runners

ARRIVING at Surfer's Paradise' in Perranporth, Cornwall, the force's cross-country team were greeted by a chilly sea breeze.

As they attempted to warm up for the National PSUK Cross-Country Championship, the competitors looked at the course ahead of them.

It started with a two-mile saunter on a dead flat, damp sandy beach followed by a climb to the cliff-top dunes. A two-mile roller coaster loop – twice for the men – then ensued, before the return run along the beach, with just the stream, steps and low wall to navigate before the finish.

With a number of regulars unavailable, the Essex runners were left to worry about their own personal performances rather than team placings; in fact, survival seemed to be the main concern by the finish. HQ's Russ Welch (38th) led the way, closely followed by Colchester's Derek Walker (46th).

There was a surprisingly strong run by Colchester's Phil McCullough (128th) ahead of Southend veteran Jim Ling (139th) and Colchester's Dave Willis (154th).

Thurrock's Laurie Rampling (228th) finished sixth in the Over-55 category.

Rachel Wood (53rd), from HQ, was the first of the Essex women, with Lisa Bolton coming 73rd and Pauline Bowers 87th – which was good enough to see her finish eighth in the F45 age-group.

With the hard work done, it was time to enjoy a quick Cornish pasty, a few beers and the Beach Bar disco.

• Forthcoming running events include: the regional cross-country championships on Wednesday, April 12, in Maidstone, Kent – both Essex men and women are defending champions; and the PSUK 10-mile road race is in Hampshire on September 14.

• The national athletics championships are in Gwent on July 19 – contact Derek Walker via email for details

Men in PSUK hockey finals

AS The Law went to print, the Essex Police men's hockey team were hosting and competing in the finals of the PSUK Cup. Sadly they lost 7-2 to PSNI. There will be a full report next month. Members of the team selected to play for the PSUK side helped to beat the RAF 4-2 but then lost to the Civil Service 3-2. They then beat the Army 3-0, with left back Lewis Smith, 24, of Waltham Abbey, scoring a goal, then lost to the Navy 4-0. Goalkeeper Lee Ward, 35, of Colchester, and Gaz Ingram, of Basildon, also played.

## More savings to be spent on frontline police officers

THREEFOLD benefits will result from a new vehicle recovery scheme launched by the force this month.

Following a year-long consultation by Mobile Support Division to identify how the force can improve its service to the public, reduce bureaucracy and save public money, six fully-accredited companies now provide a new, high level of service.

This will result in substantial savings – estimated to be over £1.6 million over five years – which will be reinvested in frontline policing.

The new contracts replace historic arrangements which involved more than 30 garages. Each had given good service over a number of years but the entire system needed rationalisation to deliver more consistency and to support the increasing operational demands of Essex Police.

The six companies all meet the highest industry standards and can deal with cars and lorries of all sizes and weights and difficult situations. They will respond within set timescales, take care of uninjured drivers and passengers involved in crashes and deal directly with insurance companies to recover their costs.

They will provide the force with facilities to remove and store stolen vehicles at no cost and will also be used to recover abandoned cars and the seizure of uninsured vehicles and helping to deny criminals the use of the county's roads.

Director of Finance and Administration Rick Tazzini said: "The newly-appointed vehicle recovery operators will provide improvements in quality and efficiency, ensuring our roads become a safe and clear route for the people of Essex."

In January, *The Law* revealed how the new central contract for Force Medical Examiners had identified projected cost-efficiency savings of more than £600,000 in the first three years of its operation.

## A marathon task for pair

BRAINTREE detective Mark Finbow will be pounding a different beat when he takes part in the London Marathon to raise funds for bowel cancer research.

Mark, who ran the 2002 race in 4hrs 35mins, is raising cash for the Bobby Moore Fund. He chose the charity for family reasons.

● Sponsor Mark at [www.justgiving.com/markfinbow](http://www.justgiving.com/markfinbow)  
● MARK will be joined in his endeavours by Insp Pete Smith, of Harwich, who is running the marathon for the fourth time – but for the first time in 15 years.

Pete, 55, is hoping will help him to raise £1,000 for the charity Children With Leukaemia.

● To sponsor Mark, contact him or Pc Deborah Smith via email

# Men detained for child sex assaults

TWO men were sentenced to indefinite periods behind bars last month thanks to work by detectives from Rayleigh's Child Abuse Investigation Unit.

A 21-year-old Basildon man was jailed indefinitely, with the judge ordering a minimum of four years.

He had earlier pleaded guilty to the rape of a five-year-old girl he had been

babysitting in her home last summer.

On the same day, another man from Basildon was found guilty of a series of serious sexual assaults on his children over the course of a decade.

The 54-year-old was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment

DI Dawn Enstone said: "These complicated and difficult allegations of histor-

ical sexual abuse were investigated by Sharon Glister, who is currently on maternity leave following the birth of her first child, and Sarah Pye, for whom this was the first investigation to come to court since joining our office a year ago.

"She looks forward to following this with other successful cases currently making their way through the court system."

# We will continue our fight to stand alone

by Kate Batson

**ESSEX Police Authority has vowed to continue the fight to enable Essex Police to stand alone as a strategic force.**

At a meeting on April 3, members decided that the force would not merge voluntarily with Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire – as proposed by Home Secretary Charles Clarke last month.

And they resolved to take legal advice about the possibility of bringing a judicial review to challenge the Home Secretary's merger proposal.

They made their decision after considering a report from Chief Constable Roger Baker and police authority chief executive Doug Hayton, which included a revised business case to be submitted to the Home Secretary.

This included additional evidence to strengthen the two areas – civil contingencies and counter-terrorism – which Home Office analysis had identified as failing to meet the required level.

And it compared the first Essex submission with those of two forces which have been allowed to stand alone.

Mr Baker and the police authority are confident that the revised business case will exceed the Home Office standard for a stand-alone strategic force.

However, the Home Office analysis clarified that although the original Essex submission was strong, letting the force stand alone 'denudes the opportunity to maximise the potential service delivery improvements in the region'.

Mr Baker said after the meeting: "It is clear to me that Essex can stand alone and meet the Home Office requirements."

"I have also made it clear to the authority that, should the Home Secretary force the merger, Essex needs to have a major role bringing the amalgamation into being to ensure the highest levels of performance are maintained and improved upon."

And he vowed: "We will not be distracted from providing a high-quality policing service in Essex, regardless of what takes place over the coming months."

Authority members examined the revised business case, Mr Baker's comments and the Home Office analysis.

● Essex Police Authority resolved that: "Whatever the outcome of the present Parliamentary debate, authorities and forces within the Eastern Region need to do business differently for the benefit of the communities we serve."

"We acknowledge and support the continuing need for Essex Police to continue its dialogue and work with respective colleagues in Beds and Herts."

"However, we remain of the view that Essex Police can stand alone as a strategic police force and we are asking our chief executive to seek Counsel's opinion on the prospect of successfully bringing judicial review proceedings to challenge the Home Secretary's proposals."

"Certainly there are a number of outstanding issues on which assurances are still sought from the Home Secretary; therefore this authority cannot support a voluntary amalgamation of Essex, Beds and Herts."



● Det Supt Tim Wills does the media round at the Child Rescue Alert launch

Picture by Nishan Wijeratne

# Rapid response plan for children in danger

A RAPID response initiative which aims to save the life of abducted children has been adopted by Essex and neighbouring forces.

Child Rescue Alert (CRA) seeks the assistance of the public when a boy or girl is abducted and police fear that they will be seriously harmed.

The intention is to notify the public immediately so that they can look out for the child, the offender(s) and for any vehicle used in the abduction.

At its launch at Norfolk Constabulary headquarters, Det Supt Tim Wills, Harlow MIT's Senior Investigating Officer, and Press Officer Nishan Wijeratne joined their eastern region force counterparts to explain how the system works and how the media play an integral part in the early stages of the investigation.

CRA is based on an agreement between the force and regional broadcast media organisations, with radio and television programmes interrupted to issue news flashes and ticker-tape messages at the bottom of television screens.

Det Supt Wills said he hoped there was

'never the need to use this system as child abductions are extremely rare'.

"However, having this mechanism and agreement will mean that we are able to send urgent messages and appeals out very quickly if we need to," said Det Supt Wills. "This could make the difference between a child living or dying."

Four key criteria must be met before an alert is activated. They are:

- The child is aged 17 or under and is missing
- The child has been abducted
- Sufficient descriptive details of the vehicle or offender(s) are available
- A senior police officer feels the child could face serious danger.

If the four criteria are met, the Press Office will contact all regional media outlets, which will broadcast a description of the child, offender(s), any vehicle used and the location.

The CRA scheme was introduced in the UK by Sussex Police in 2002, with police forces in Hampshire, Surrey, Leicestershire and Gloucestershire following suit. The scheme is based on the American Amber Alert system.

## New code will update crime victims

IMPLEMENTATION of the Code of Practice for victims of crime becomes mandatory for police and criminal justice partners this month.

The Codes stem indirectly from the Home Office's Victim's Charter, putting on a formal footing the obligations that law enforcement agencies have to keep victims of crime updated with the progress of investigations.

The Codes will be widely available to members of the public at police stations, libraries, Citizens Advice Bureaux and the internet.

If you don't keep a victim up to speed with developments in their case, they have the right to lodge a formal complaint.

Chief Supt Graeme Bull, of the force's Criminal Justice Department, said: "The Codes outline mandatory time-limits for updating victims about particular events, such as the arrest, charge and bailing of suspects connected with the offence."

"In most circumstances, officers need to update all vulnerable or intimidated victims within one working day and other victims within five working days."

"Much of the Codes will be things that most officers would do as a matter of course but you need to make yourself aware of your responsibilities."

Policy containing full details and guidance on how to ensure officers comply with the Codes is being drawn up.

## Prints will no longer be palmed off

FORENSIC officers have a new weapon in their crime-detecting repertoire.

Palm prints can now be searched on a UK database as the Police Information Technology Organisation (PITO) is rolling out palm-searching technology.

The search facility is a software extension of IDENT1, the biometric system which has superseded NAFIS, the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System.

Palm prints can account for up to one-fifth of all marks found at a crime scene.

DCI Tom Harper, Head of Scientific Support, welcomed the addition to the force's fingerprint-searching capability.

"It has been frustrating to have had the technology to search fingerprints recovered at crime scenes on the system in a matter of minutes but still had to manually search palms," he said.

"This now gives us a full capability to identify marks with minimum delay and will enhance our service."

Forensic officers have been logging palm prints for the past couple of years and will continue to build up the national database.

PITO is also looking at extending IDENT1 with other biometric data, including facial imaging, and introducing mobile fingerprint checking and video identification.

