

The Law



www.essex.police.uk

May 2006

FIT POLICING IS HERE TO STAY!

Looking for special men and women to help us

THE force is actively encouraging police staff to join the Special Constabulary. Policy changes now mean that any police staff performing a minimum of 16 hours a month as a Special is allowed eight hours off per month in return for those duties.

And there are rewards waiting for police staff who sign for the Specials. Senior Traffic Management Officer Adam Pipe has been a member of the Special Constabulary for the past 13 years.

He has worked his way up the ranks and is currently Special Inspector at Maldon, putting in about 60 hours per month.

Mr Pipe said: "I feel as if I am putting something back into the community.

"I really enjoy nights when we have been very busy and wonder whether, if I hadn't been there in support of the regulars, what would have happened.

"We undertake every aspect of police work, including frontline policing – Specials now patrol without regular officers – to the execution of warrants.

"An operation carried out by the Specials earlier this year, targeting criminal damage in Maldon, resulted in an arrest and it was a good demonstration of the extra level of assistance that we can provide to regular officers.

"We feel fully integrated with our regular colleagues, many of whom started their police career with the Specials."

But Mr Pipe added that support for volunteers from family, friends and colleagues.

"I couldn't do the role without the support of my wife and two children," he added.

● For more information about joining Essex Special Constabulary, contact the support team on ext 58710, 01245 452824 or via email



● **Special Inspector Adam Pipe** arranges another operation for his volunteer Specials in Maldon

Picture by Heather Turner

ESSEX Police is getting FIT for purpose with the introduction of a new group which aims to reduce public disorder and anti-social behaviour.

And the new Forward Intelligence Teams (FITs) have already made a difference in Central Division – reducing reports of criminal damage by 50 per cent over a two-month period.

FITs see high-visibility police officers – in full uniform – using cameras and video footage to gather intelligence.

Sgt Gerry Parker, of Mobile Support Division's Special Operations, explained the tactics – to record people involved in committing anti-social behaviour or disorder in a bid to disrupt, prevent and deter such actions.

They were initially evolved to combat large-scale disorder, including football matches, protests and marches.

Now the force has developed the process to combat mainstream crime and disorder – with great success.

FITs were brought in last October and used to police demonstrations in Essex, London and Hertfordshire.

Then they were deployed in Eastern, Central and South-Eastern divisions earlier this year – with great success.

Now 26 officers have been trained so they can put the techniques to good use elsewhere in the county.

Sgt Parker said: "In the first three months of this year, we obtained 300 intelligence photographs, ranging from people involved in low-level anti-social behaviour, such as urinating in the street, to one which was used to apprehend a man who had absconded after being jailed for life by a court.

"It mainly acts as a deterrent – we make sure people see what we are doing and, once they notice the cameras, they tend to stop what they are up to.

"Basically, FIT policing is all about talking to people and letting them know that we are there, which reduces the likelihood of them committing a crime.

Supt Tim Stokes, Central Division Operations Manager, said he was delighted with the results FITs produced across the division in just two months. Between January 22 and March 26, reports of criminal damage fell from 160 in a week to just 80.

"The FITs made a major contribution towards reducing criminal damage," he said. "Although we focused on Chelmsford town on Friday and Saturday nights, they also operated in Braintree and Witham.

"FITs have proved a valuable crime reduction tool in Central," said Supt Stokes, who was himself instrumental in developing FITs in his previous role in Mobile Support Division.

"We intend to use them again, extensively during the World Cup and also during the V-festival in Chelmsford in August around the suppression of drug use," he added.

And Sgt Mick Sharp, of Colchester Neighbourhood Policing Team, said he was also impressed with the FITs work in the town during the first three months of this year.

"What impressed me most was their commitment to become involved, not simply to ride around in their vehicle filming," he said. "On many occasions I saw them out of their vehicle, challenging drunken, anti-social behaviour, which is the main cause and catalyst of violent crime.

"They quickly developed a reputation in the town centre for a no-nonsense approach and I, for one, would be pleased to see them return," he added.

● Any division wanting to task a FIT operation can contact Sgt Gerry Parker or any MSD Special Operations team member via email



New pension 'ins and outs'

THE new police pension scheme was introduced last month – so what does it mean for members of the 'old' scheme?

By the time you read this, all new recruits will be joining the New Police Pension Scheme.

The new scheme does not affect the pension rights of serving officers in the old scheme – the two will operate side by side for many years.

The new pension is still an attractive scheme which recognises the special nature of policing.

It will, no doubt, assist with the retention of experienced, trained officers, confident that they will be equitably provided for post-retirement.

But where does this leave officers who are in the old scheme?

The Federation is receiving many inquiries about this and I hope I have addressed some of the most popular issues in the questions and answers below.

Q ARE the current scheme regulations going to be changed so that pensions cannot be paid before the age of 55?

A NO. The earliest retirement ages in the old scheme will not change. Officers who were members of the old scheme on April 5, 2006, will continue to have the right to retire at the age of 50 if they have 25 years' service – or at 48½ if they have 30 years' service – and this will be the case as long as they remain in the current scheme.

Q IF I am a member of the current scheme and I take a career break, which pension scheme do I join when I return to work?

A IF you are taking an approved career break, you will continue in membership of the old scheme. However, if you were simply to leave the police service and then rejoin the force, you would have to join the new pension scheme. The period of your career break can't count as pensionable service.

Q WILL there be compulsory retirement ages based on rank in the new scheme? If there are changes, will the old scheme be amended in line?

A COMPULSORY retirement ages under the new scheme will, at least initially, be the same as in the old scheme. There is a need for a review in this area which results from age discrimination law, not from changes to pensions, and the details of any changes still have to be worked out and put to the PNB. The existing compulsory retirement ages by rank are subject to review and may change by the end of this year. Whatever is decided, the same compulsory retirement ages will apply both to the old and new schemes.

Q OFFICERS in the old scheme will have the opportunity to move across to the new scheme – will there be a time limit for making a decision?

A THE time limit, and the start and end dates for the 'transfer window', has not yet been finally decided but is likely to be a three-month period starting in the autumn.

It is planned to have detailed information about the new scheme available to all officers well in advance of the start of the transfer window.

The Home Office is also considering exactly what information each officer will receive at the start of the transfer window – in the form of individual personal projections of benefits in both schemes – so that all officers in the old scheme will be able to make an informed choice about whether or not to transfer across.

Q WHY would an officer want to move from the old to the new scheme?

A THE benefits in the new scheme may be attractive to some officers, depending on their individual circumstances, for example:

- A lower contribution rate
- Improved death-in-service lump sum death grant
- Lifelong benefits for surviving spouses and civil partners, regardless of remarriage or cohabitation
- Benefits for other partners, also payable for life – subject to the officer and partner satisfying certain conditions and completing the necessary documentation
- Even build-up of pension rights – uniform accrual – throughout one's service, instead of double accrual after 20 years of service which may be better for late joiners.

Q WHY won't all officers want to move to the new scheme?

A THE majority of officers will find most of the features of the new scheme less attractive than the old scheme, for example:

- The increase in the earliest retirement age to 55
- An increase in the time it takes to accrue a full pension, from 30 to 35 years of pensionable service
- A smaller lump sum for those who can commute a quarter of their pension under

the old scheme

- Smaller survivor benefits for spouses, civil partners and children.

Q I HAVE read that the Government is planning to reconsider its proposed changes to public sector pension schemes. Will this affect the new police pension scheme?

A THE new scheme will have a deferred pension age of 65, which is in line with the normal pension age in the new 40-year schemes being introduced elsewhere in the public sector.

Q IF I use the transfer window to move from the old scheme to the new scheme, how will my years of service in the old scheme be credited to the new scheme?

A THERE will be a conversion rate giving service credits for officers transferring from the old scheme to the new scheme. There will be a sliding scale of conversion rates based on the actual accrual rates of the two schemes and the age of entry. Full details will be available before the transfer window begins.

Q IF I opt out of the old scheme now, what happens if I wish to rejoin later on?

A YOU will only be able to join the new scheme. The terms on which you do so, and your ability to transfer any pensionable service from the old scheme to the new, will depend on your individual circumstances.

- Please note: Officers will need to consider their individual circumstances carefully before making any decision.

The Federation will be able to answer your questions and give information to help you to decide, but we are not allowed to give financial advice.

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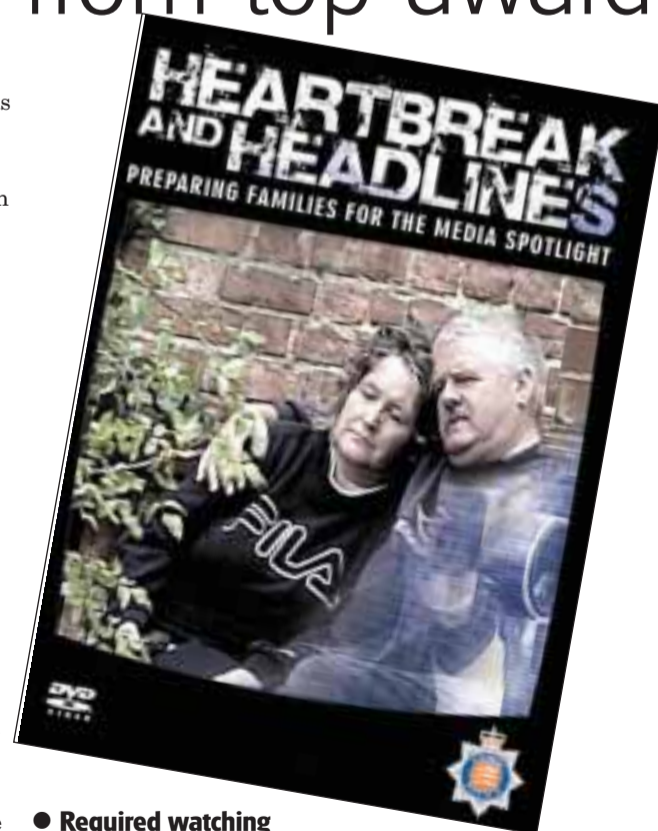
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INSURANCE

Groundbreaking DVD follows from top award

A GROUNDBREAKING interactive training DVD has been produced by the Media and Public Relations Department for Family Liaison Officers (FLOs), both locally and nationally. The idea for the video followed hot on the heels of an Association of Police Public Relations Officers (APPRO) Award for Excellence in recognition of the department's good work on Operation Spinnaker, which was launched following the disappearance of 15-year-old schoolgirl Danielle Jones. Press Officer Heather Watts said: "Danielle's parents, Linda and Tony Jones, were key to the success of the media-handling of the investigation and trial. Without their co-operation we may not have had such positive media coverage and we wanted to help families facing similar situations in the future."

Although press officers have an important role to play in cases where we need families to speak to the media, it is the FLOs who have most opportunity to build up trust and to influence them. The training DVD includes a general overview of the media and interviews with



• Required watching

journalists to explain their likely demands and requirements. Families and FLOs from past high-profile cases talk about their experiences, good and bad, and a senior investigating officer explains how the media fit in with investigative demands.

Deborah dons bra for fundraising cancer walk

THE outfit has changed but the aim is the same for Pc Deborah Smith who is once again taking part in the 26.2-mile Playtex Moonwalk in aid of Walk the Walk, a charity raising funds for breast cancer.

Deborah will be joined by her cousin Fiona Crompton, 37, who, just before her 33rd birthday, was diagnosed with cancer. Thankfully, after major surgery she is in remission from the disease. Having completed the distance last year in just under 6 hrs 30 mins – wearing an outfit decorated with the Essex Police crest, – on a very hot and sticky night Deborah is hoping to better her time and raise more than last year's total of £600.

Deborah and Fiona will be joined by about 15,000 other like-minded women, all wearing bras and shorts, for the walk, which starts at Hyde Park at midnight and takes in the sights of London before finishing back in Hyde Park when, hopefully, the sun is shining. Deborah said: "It is a great event with a very serious aim. My cousin is very dear to me and I'm sure that anyone who has been touched by a friend or relative's breast cancer will know just how important events like this are in saving lives."

Walkers plan to hit three peaks

A CHALLENGING climb of 26 miles, up and down three mountains, in three counties, faces serving officers from Basildon, Laindon and Stansted Special Branch. Ten of the 14-strong group hope to complete the climbs this month within the maximum time of 24 hours, supported by four members who will take care of the driving and general welfare and safety of the team. The Three Peaks Challenge will start at the base of Ben Nevis in Scotland, continue on to Scafell Pike in the Lake District before going on to Snowdon in Wales where it will finish at base camp. Little Haven Children's Hospice and the Matthew Green Trust Fund will benefit from their efforts.

Success for operation

AN operation to combat anti-social behaviour and underage drinking in Chelmsford has been hailed a success by officers. Neighbourhood Policing Teams in the Moulsham Lodge, Great Baddow and Waterson Vale areas seized 20 bottles of alcohol from underage youths in an April weekend and a warning was given about nuisance use of a vehicle.

Proud of efforts to make Essex safer

I AM proud of the work police officers and staff have put into making Essex one of the safest counties in the country and this is why.

Arrests

In July 2005 Essex Police launched the 'Days of Action' campaign. The focus was to put fear into those who commit crime, and arrest a higher number of people per day across the county. It was supported by a high profile media campaign. This work became embedded in our policing style. As a result over 14,000 more arrests were made in 2005/06 compared to 2004/05.

Detections of crime are up

We have created:

- An increase in all detections from 27.5% to 30.5%.
- An increase in sanctioned detection from 21.8% to 25.6%.

Crime is down

When compared with 2004/05 we have seen:

- A reduction of 1.8% in all crime
- A reduction of 2.2% in certain types of crime which are of most concern to the public (according to the British Crime Survey)
- A reduction of 6.3% in violent crime
- A reduction of 6.9% in criminal damage (public place). This means many fewer victims who have to suffer the misery and trauma that crime brings.

Managing our business

We introduced a Daily Dashboard system providing crime and performance data every morning. Crime is analysed on a divisional level, as well as by crime type, giving us a clear steer on where operational activity should be focused and where the force as a whole can assist. And we are developing a Crime Bureau to

by **Essex Chief Constable Roger Baker**

provide an even higher level of expertise and timeliness in crime recording.

200 to front line

In July we started the process of deploying 200 police officer posts to front line activity. By the end of the year 220 had been achieved. These posts are a significant support to divisions in achieving performance and increasing visibility.

Special Constabulary numbers are up

Total numbers are up by 91 compared to the last year. This means we now have 423. We are striving for 1,000 quality members of Special Constabulary regularly working with communities by 2010.

Police officers

Due to turnover and investment growth in the year we recruited a phenomenal 274 officers (with a big spike in the summer) of which 91 were female and 11 (4.7%) black and minority ethnic people.

Police station opening hours

Opening hours have been reviewed, extended or altered to more effectively meet the needs of the communities they serve. This has a significant impact on the fear of crime by providing a visible police presence in communities.

Counter-terrorism

Essex has the regional lead for

counter terrorism. Essex also remains a major destination for aircraft hijack situations.

Firearms operations (MSD)

Essex Police has handled around 5,000 firearms incidents since last having to open fire in 1984. The force authorises approximately 300 to 400 firearms operations every year. Operations include counter terrorist, armed surveillance, close protection and spontaneous armed response vehicle operations. We are dedicated to driving down crime at all levels, ranging from major incidents – such as murders and rapes – to everyday instances of nuisance and disorder which can cause much misery to those experiencing it. Policing is a team effort and I want to reassure everyone that our force will be robust on crime and criminals. Now I think we are ready for more.

Being the best

I want Essex to have the best police force in the country and our people, officers and staff alike, will be an enormous part of that. I really believe that this force can do it. I

Crime figures fall in 2005

ACCORDING to the latest Home Office statistics, total recorded crime in Essex last year fell by 5,513 offences, compared to 2004. House burglaries fell by 191 offences and car crimes by 623.

And the news is even better

when it comes to offences against the person – 2,072 fewer such crimes, which include sex offences and robberies, committed in 2005 than the previous year. And there were 1,563 fewer offences of criminal damage in 2005 than in 2004.

Home Office says merger should still happen as authority gets legal advice

ESSEX Police Authority is continuing to seek legal advice over whether to challenge the Home Secretary's merger proposal.

Essex, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire police authorities declined to merge voluntarily by the April 7 deadline, with Essex submitting a revised business case.

Despite receiving very positive feedback with regard to the submission, the Home Office announced four days later that the case for the three police forces had been re-examined and it was still felt that a merger between them would be 'in the interests of efficiency and effectiveness of policing in the combined area'.

Essex Police Authority is continuing to seek legal advice about the prospect of successfully applying for a judicial review

of the whole merger process to challenge the Home Office's proposals.

Once the authority has received feedback from its legal advisers, it will make a final decision on its position.

The Home Office is due to make a final decision on the merger this autumn – which gives the authority and Chief Constable Roger Baker until August 11 to raise any formal objections.

Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers said: "We still believe we have options to consider the best way forward."

"There is still a four-month public consultation period before the deadline, which will give us the chance to listen to the views of the public. We also have those four months to make our views to the Home Office heard."



● Chief Constable Roger Baker

think we all want to be the best we can be, and we want to work for and with the very best.

The following questions will help us to focus on what we need to do:

- Do I know what I need to do the job?
- Do I know who I am arresting today?
- Do I know what crime hotspot I'm targeting and why?
- Which prolific offender will I disrupt today?
- Have I attended every crime allocated to me?
- Have I kept victims informed?
- Have I conducted house searches after arrests?
- Have I submitted intelligence?
- Have I supported front line colleagues to enable them to work more effectively?
- Have I done the best I can?

This is how we will take the force forward.

Road officers cause ripples with their presentation

SIXTH-formers in the north of the county are being given a hard-hitting presentation to warn them to drive safely. Drivers in the county aged between 17 and 24 make up less than five per cent of motorists – yet they are involved in 13 per cent of collisions.

The Ripple Effect tells them of the far-reaching effects of a serious road crash, from the heartache it can cause their own families and others involved in the crash to the legal consequences they may face.

Stanway Road Policing officers Insp Steve Brewer, Pc Alan Clothier and family liaison officer Pc Tina Clothier have teamed up with Essex Fire and Rescue Service and Essex Ambulance Service to tell youngsters what effect a crash has on those involved and on the emergency service personnel who deal with a collision.

Youngsters are taken through the entire process, from the collision to the extraction of the dead and injured from the vehicles, through to the legal implications and the likely jail term imposed on drivers found to be at fault, via a family liaison officer informing a family of the death of a loved one.

Pc Clothier said: "We have worked very hard with our colleagues from the other emergency services to get this initiative out to the most vulnerable group of drivers on our roads. "We can see for ourselves that the message is having an impact on the audience and hopefully we can help save lives and make roads in Essex safer."

'Don't leave us this way' staff told

SUPPORT staff are reminded that they can find the answers to questions on maternity, paternity, adoption and annual leave and many other entitlement issues on the HR website. Angela Jones, of the HR Business Team, said: "Some people are simply not aware of what help is available to them when, for example, they are going through stressful times in their lives with death or illness in the family, or the birth or adoption of a child."

"I would encourage staff to be aware of what information is contained within the PSC Handbook."

● The police staff handbook is available through a link on the HR department website on the intranet – click on PSC Handbook on the left hand list – it gives details of entitlement on a wide range of issues, including time off for dependents, compassionate leave, sick leave and many other subjects

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.

Victims need our support

I WRITE on behalf of the Board of Trustees of Child Victims of Crime, which is the only national police children's charity. Its aim is to support children up to 16 who have been victims of, or traumatised by, any crime committed within the UK. Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Policing, former RUC chief Sir Ronnie Flannagan, has just agreed to become a patron. The charity receives referrals only from UK police forces and it is usual that nominations come from individual officers who have been working with the children. The charity has never turned away a child which meets its criteria. Child Victims of Crime is now receiving at least 30 referrals and requests each month.

The support it is able to offer these vulnerable and traumatised children is limited only by the amount of funding it has available. Consequently, it remains deeply indebted to the police forces and officers who donate their time and effort in obtaining funds. Essex has already received 50 awards, totalling £29,025. The charity also supports initiatives designed to keep children safe and has spearheaded the only national tag rugby programme in primary schools.

Through this and the Tackle Safety publication for nine to 16-year-olds, it promotes safety, social inclusion, fitness and self-confidence in children.

Why not visit our website at www.cvoc.org.uk for more?

Dominic Chambers
Manager
Child Victims of Crime
British Police Rugby
Section
The Moat House
133 Newport Road
Stafford ST16 2EZ

• *Editor's note:* If anyone wants a copy of a nomination form, contact Heather Turner on ext 50620 after May 23.

Keeping me up to date

I WAS saddened to read the report of the death of Annie Williams in the April issue of The Law.

We were great friends in Chelmsford in 1936, where our husbands were both stationed. As Steve Williams said, what a different world. I have happy memories of us taking our babies out together most days – Steve must have been the other baby.

It's such a shame we lost touch over the years but how glad I am for The Law to keep us up with the news.

Gwen McEntee
West Mersea

Keep an eye on pension tax allowances

FOR most readers of The Law, retirement and pensions may seem light years away.

However, might I provide advice and a warning with regard to Income Tax in one's 65th year – within the tax year April to March, the personal allowance entitlement is increased and is applicable for the whole of that year.

However, this is not automatic and, when I queried this, I was asked to fill in a form. I received a fresh PAYE code showing the personal allowance of £7,090 with a deduction of State Pension/Benefits of £6,562, being my full year's State Pension entitlement.

As my birthday is in September, I

would not receive a full year's pension but was told my new tax code included the annual rate of my new State Pension 'but this does not mean you will pay tax on a full year's pension. The new code will operate in a special way which automatically takes into account the right proportion of the full annual figure'.

They added: "Our estimate of the underpayment for the earlier part of the year is £446.95. We will normally collect any underpayment by making an adjustment to your tax code for the next tax year'. Sure enough, my PAYE code for 2006/07 shows the reduction to collect unpaid tax!

I have now recalculated my tax

liability for the past year from my police pension and another employer only to find that I have over-paid £256.51.

Clearly the 'special way' has failed but had I accepted that assurance, I doubt I would have received that money back.

I am having to provide P60s to substantiate my claim for a refund and have had to write to ensure that my tax code for this year is corrected as I do not owe the amount they claim.

So, on reaching 65, be sure to claim the additional personal allowance and check your Coding Notices, otherwise you, too, could pay over £700 too much tax in a year.

Robert J Cordery
Hatfield Peverel

Merger plans with a history of their own

I REFER to the letter **Merging police forces is ridiculous (Letters, March 2006)**.

The writer suggests that this is a) the most fundamental restructuring of the British police in 170 years and b) is controlled from Brussels.

I am unfamiliar with the writer's quoted authority, Christopher Booker, or the origin of the quote but I think it is reasonable to point out that the amalgamation – or consolidation, as it was once called – of English police forces has been steadily progressing since about 1840.

A summary of this process, as far as Essex is concerned, can be found in

Maureen Scollen's excellent history of Essex Police.

In the Suffolk Record Office there is documentary evidence of the 'consolidation' of the Bury St Edmunds Police Force with the then Suffolk Constabulary in 1857.

Bury St Edmunds had had a Watch Committee and its own police force since 1836 and this amalgamation took place as a result of the County Police Act of 1857.

In the records is a fairly positive letter from the then Home Secretary, Sir Charles Grey, pointing out that in order to receive the Home Office grant of one-quarter of the cost of a force, that force must be found 'efficient' by the new HMI. Does that ring any modern bells? I

think it fair to suggest that, in 1857, Sir Charles was not greatly influenced by European opinion.

Apart from locally-motivated amalgamations during the rest of the 19th century and the early 20th century, there were considerable amalgamations in 1940, when Colchester lost its force, and in 1974, with the reorganisation of local government, when Southend lost its force.

Whether either of these were based on European influence is open to some doubt – particularly in 1940!

Roy Clark
Horringer
Suffolk

Join me at a party

I WILL retire on June 5, completing 32 years and eight months' service with Essex Police. I wish to invite past and current colleagues – and anyone else who would care to come along – to join me for a drink at the sports pavilion bar, at Essex Police HQ, from 4.30pm 'til late on Tuesday, June 6. Partners are most welcome.

For catering arrangements, kindly confirm your attendance by phoning Dave Puffett on 01245 457159 or on ext 54135 or e-mail

dave.puffett@essex.pnn.police.uk

Neil Evans
HQ

Biking bobbies got fitter

I APPLAUD the Chief Constable's decision to provide 100 bicycles for his officers to patrol their areas.

May I remind him however, that in his very early days in the Derbyshire Constabulary, in 1979, the Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) of that force decided to replace some 'panda' cars with 60 bicycles.

The public were delighted that they could once again speak to a police officer but one of the

unforeseen consequences was that the officers concerned became much fitter and therefore much slimmer. This played havoc with the budget for police uniforms, especially as the old-fashioned cape came back into use.

I am sure the budget came out on the right side and certainly the advantages outweighed the disadvantages.

A R Mitchell
South Woodham Ferrers

Gone . . . but not forgotten

Chief Insp George Albert Manning – Essex County Constabulary
Served from August 23, 1946. Died December 26, 1976

BORN in Glamorgan, George Manning was educated at the London Choir School. He served with the 6th Airborne Division throughout World War Two and was wounded. Joining the force after demobilisation, he worked in Hornchurch, Rainham, Purfleet and Grays before moving to Stansted on promotion to sergeant. He was subsequently posted to Clacton and South Benfleet, where he was promoted to inspector. He served at Romford for three years and in 1960 moved to

Billericay as chief inspector and sub-Divisional Commander.

Chief Insp Manning received the Queen's Commendation for Bravery on two occasions. According to the Romford Express in September 1970, he had twice 'talked unbalanced gunmen into laying down their arms and coming along quietly'.

He also worked on police helicopters at a time when they were hired from the Army.

He loved sport and, during his time in the force, he

played football, cricket, bowls and golf for police teams, and also for the police college at Ryton-on-Dunsmore.

Locally, he worked tirelessly for charities, was a past president of the Billericay Rotary Club, and Honorary Life Vice-President of the Billericay Motor Club. On one of the last days of his 30 years' service, Chief Insp Manning was on mobile patrol with a young officer when their vehicle was sent to a suspected burglary in progress at Hutton. They were involved



• **Chief Insp George Manning**

in a crash en route and both were badly injured. Chief Insp Manning tried to release the trapped driver but collapsed in the process. Six weeks later, on Boxing Day 1976, he died from his injuries. He was buried in Bramford, near Ipswich.

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

My fond memories of a dedicated policeman

I WAS one of three cadets at Clacton in the mid-1960s when Eric Caley was posted there from Copford and I can confirm that he was a very dedicated officer.

My father was a well-known businessman in the town and on nodding acquaintance with all the beat officers. Some had bought houses through his agency and some he knew from his cricket connections – including Colin Ball, Derrick Hughes and Mick Curtis.

He would regularly park his car in the 'no waiting' area just outside Barclays Bank so he could pop in to deposit clients' money. Because his car was known and it was also known that he carried reasonable amounts of cash and would not be long, he never got a ticket – until dedicated Eric arrived!

My father had to pay it and from then on he walked to the bank from his office further up Station Road. He had a sweet tooth and would regularly buy toffees. Whenever he opened a Caley toffee, he would always recall the issuer of his one and only ticket.

If I remember correctly, not many officers wore their issue cape but Eric seemed to use his more than most – more than Rocky Knight, Paul Clough or even Sgt Eric Chambers.

Eric taught me how to fold the cape correctly so that it stayed virtually glued to my shoulder on foot patrol, ready to be put to use as the temperature dropped or a shower started.

The folded cape also had an additional pocket with a section of its lining left available for storing all sorts of goodies, which I found very useful.

I was good at remembering collar numbers. Can anyone remind me of Eric's? Was it 301?

Paul Tedder
Terrington St Clement
Norfolk

• I REMEMBER Eric Caley from when serving with the 6th Airborne Division in Palestine in 1947/48.

The latter part of our service there was in the Mount Carmel and Haifa areas. I'm not sure if Eric was in the Airborne Signals – as I was – or a member of the Defence Platoon, Parachute Regiment.

My next memory was when my brother Ron met Eric by chance in a Chelmsford pub. Eric said he had joined, or was joining, Essex Police. I joined Essex Police somewhat later, serving mostly in the traffic department and driving school. Isn't it amazing that I never met Eric in all those years in the same force. I wish him well on his 80th birthday.

Harry Cook
Basildon

• *Editor's note:* All letters have been passed on to Eric.

Corner the chairman



● **Essex Police Authority chairman**
Robert Chambers

Giving Essex people what they want

“ESSEX Police Authority is committed to working with Essex Police to improve the standard of policing across the county.

In the eight months since the authority appointed Chief Constable Roger Baker, we have introduced a new style of policing. This style is all about people policing and giving the public the kind of service they want and expect from their local police.

Essex Police officers have made hundreds of additional arrests Essex-wide, which is now considered to be ‘business as usual’.

Essex is one of the safest counties in the country and already had positive performance ratings. But we are now pushing the boundaries even further to drive down crime and the fear of crime while increasing our arrest and detection rates.

This has been reflected in Home Office crime statistics issued for October to December 2005.

These figures are very encouraging – especially in areas such as car crime and offences against the person – which have seen vast reductions in offences as well as increases in detection rates. And for the year 2005 as a whole, we have reductions in many crime categories.

We know we still have work to do and we will not be complacent.

Crime significantly affects people’s quality of life and we are committed to further reducing the small element of people committing offences.

Our priorities are to reduce anti-social behaviour, to improve communication between the police and the public and to increase our visibility, which we intend our new Neighbourhood Policing Teams will achieve. We have already put 220 police officers back on front line duties to provide the reassurance the public needs.

If we can continue to achieve these, we can give the public the service they deserve.”

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

Disability day for staff ideas

THE Essex Police Equal Opportunities Committee is hosting a Disability Staff Open Day.

The amended Disability Discrimination Act 2005 places a duty to promote disability equality throughout the force and the services it provides.

The committee, chaired by Assistant Chief Constable Liam Briggingshaw, wants to get staff ideas on improving the way the force provides operational policing and services to people with disabilities.

● Staff interested in attending the event in Braintree from 9am-1.30pm can book by contacting Claire Haslett on ext 54101 or Katherine Holloway on ext 58635

Gary is a top fellow at the institute

FORCE photographer Gary Kenton has been awarded one of the highest qualifications from the British Institute of Professional Photography.

His Fellowship qualification is the highest level attainable within the institute, denoting ‘distinguished individual ability and exceptional standards of excellence’.

Gary is one of only three photographers within the scientific/forensic field of specialisation in Essex to hold it.

He achieved his accreditation after submitting a panel of 20 photographs and a fully-documented ‘working profile’ in Police And Crime Photography.

He also had to attend an interview with the Qualifications And Admission Board – of which he now hopes to become a member next year to help judge and mentor other members within the scientific field who are at various stages of their qualifications.

Gary said: “I am delighted to achieve this distinction. Fellows are expected to play a full and meaningful role in enhancing the profession and have specific responsibility for the institute’s guidance and welfare and I hope to play my part, too.”

The British Institute of Professional Photography is the oldest photographic governing body in the world, established in 1901, with a highly-regarded qualification system which is recognised worldwide.

● The proud winners ... more good news on Page 10

Standard intelligence

IN order to make full use of intelligence received by the force after its restructuring into five territorial divisions, it is essential that all divisions now operate in a standard manner.

And the Essex Intelligence Model (EIM) details how each division must operate in relation to future intelligence briefing and tasking.

Det Chief Insp Tim Raymond, of the National Intelligence Model Project, said: “The EIM is central to the way that we will be working with intelligence from now on and applies to all staff in all divisions.

“It is very important that identical practices and terminology are used in all locations.

“Please take the time to read the EIM, know where you fit into the bigger intelligence picture and help us to use intelligence to drive high performance throughout the force.”

The EIM has now been adopted as force policy and will be subject to regular compliance checks.

However, if it is felt any changes are necessary to the model on a force-wide basis, a submission should be made to Director of Intelligence Det Supt Tim Newcomb via the Strategic Intelligence Group.

● For more information on the EIM, visit <http://web/info/eim> then click on About EIM on the lefthand side and then click on The EIM – Essex Police Policy

Officers’ actions prove a bonus

FOUR officers from South-West Division, three of whom are first-year probationers, have been awarded bonus payments after saving the life of a young woman who was threatening to hang herself.

Constables Laura Simmons, Rachel West, Steve Cunningham and Duncan Bell found a woman threatening to jump from a first-floor balcony at a house in Purfleet. She had one end of a scarf around her neck and the other attached to the railing.

After building a rapport with the woman, who was wielding a knife, the four officers were able to pull her to safety.

● ANOTHER divisional officer, Pc Matthew Geldart, also received a bonus after assisting a lone Metropolitan Police officer arrest a man in the early hours.

Pc Geldart was returning home from South Ockendon along the A127 when he came across the Met officer, who had stopped a car with four occupants. The driver ran off and Pc Geldart chased him across fields, eventually arresting the man on suspicion of aggravated taking a vehicle without consent and driving while disqualified.

● YET another officer from South-West Division received a bonus payment after processing a prisoner – who was on time-release from prison and who wished to admit to 81 offences – in record time.

Dc Derek Patten, of Basildon, was up against the clock when the prisoner said he desired to admit to a number of crimes.

After five interviews and negotiations with the prison governor, Dc Patten was able to complete the necessary paperwork, which then accompanied the prisoner back to jail and subsequently to court where all offences were admitted.

● MOVING to the opposite end of the county, Colchester Service Desk Assistant Graham Keeble was also awarded a bonus payment for administering first aid to a pregnant woman following a road-rage incident. He then identified a suspect.

A man was subsequently charged with causing grievous bodily harm with intent.

Ruff justice at dog trials

STANDARDS were very high at the regional dog trials last month.

Essex Police entrants were Pc Terry Collinson, of Stanway Dog Section, and Sgt Russ Abbott, of Laindon and Rochford Dog Sections.

Terry came sixth and Russ tenth overall.

The competition was won by national champion Pc Nick Self, of Suffolk, for the third year in a row.

Afterwards, Russ said: “Terry did excellently on the track, coming second by half a mark to Pc Self.”



● **Gary Kenton hopes to share the expertise he has gained in the Essex Police Photographic Department**

Picture by Rob Coley

Accuracy is key to sharing information

AS information sharing between police forces gathers apace, central to this is a national project called MoPI – the management of police information.

And it is something in which everyone in Essex Police can play a part, says MoPI Programme Manager Chief Insp Gordon Ashford.

The first phase of MoPI concentrates on intelligence, crime recording, child abuse investigations, domestic violence, custody records and firearms licensing.

All the information is already recorded and accessible but not necessarily linked, even within forces.

But, as Chief Insp Ashford says: “Any system will only be as good as the information which is put in.”

It is essential that the information collated and stored is accurate, relevant and up to date and that all databases/records are linked so that a computer search could reveal, for

example, that a burglar also has a history of domestic violence, has a shotgun licence and is known to commit fraud.

This is where MoPI comes in – setting out for the first time detailed guidance for the collection, recording, sharing, review, retention and disposal of information which supports policing and which is compliant with the law.

Eventually, databases will be able to be linked with those of other police forces and partner agencies, eg social services, health and education authorities and the Probation Service.

Therefore, it is also essential that Essex Police is confident that all the information it provides is accurate, as well as ensuring it is shared only with the right people.

“We all collect information,” said Chief Insp Ashford. “However, it is not about recording everything, just that which is judged to be useful.

“Then we must only keep the information for as long as we need to and it must be disposed of properly.

“Old information can simply be wrong and dispensing with it will save us all

time, too. Put simply, MoPI is what we should be doing as a matter of course, every day. We can all make a contribution,” he added.

Already as a result of the Bichard inquiry into the 2002 Soham murders, the IMPACT Nominal Index has been introduced countrywide. Ultimately, that should lead to IMPACT – where all such information and intelligence will be stored on computer and shared between all UK forces.

Assistant Chief Constable John Broughton, who is overseeing the implementation of MoPI within the force, said: “The national IMPACT programme has delivered a national intelligence-sharing capability.

“If we are to reap all its benefits, we must make sure that the right information gets recorded in the right way: then we can use it, and share it, with confidence – this is why the implementation of MoPI across the force has such a high priority.”

● For more information, click on the MoPI button on the righthand side of the intranet front page

Fostering relations across the community

GAY and lesbian staff from across the force held their inaugural open day last month to enhance their relationship both with the force and the minority communities in Essex. Nearly 100 people attended the event at the Three Rivers Golf Club in Cold Norton where officers and police staff set out Nexus's aims to improve the working environment for all gay and lesbian staff employed by the force. Tracy Martinez – chair of Nexus – the support group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) officers and staff – hopes that the LGBT communities in Essex will benefit from the association as it aims to foster good relationships between organisations and the force.

“Over 130 officers and police staff have already joined Nexus and, with the full support of the Chief Constable and all senior staff within the force, we hope to assist the established representative bodies in understanding and resolving issues which concern the Essex community and our staff,” said Ds Martinez. “It is a fact that gay, lesbian and transgendered staff have a unique experience of policing in Essex. We hope to influence the direction of internal policies and procedures so they are in line with equality issues.”

Keynote speakers included members from the Gay Police Association, officers within the force and Stephen Frost from Stonewall – a justice group for lesbians, gay and bisexuals. Launching the event was Chief Constable Roger Baker. He said: “This is a very important step by Essex Police not only to address the needs of LGBT staff, but also the community that the force serves. “Recognition and support for minority groups is an essential part of providing such fair and equitable treatment. As we move forward and improve the community and race relations of Essex Police, the views and experiences of our own staff will be essential.”

Choir singing for supper

THE Essex Police Choir will perform at Lawford on May 20.

The choir will perform a varied programme for all tastes at a concert to be held at St Mary's Church, Lawford, at 7.30pm. Included in the ticket price is a buffet. A licensed bar will also be available.

● Tickets, priced at £10, are obtainable from Brian Rolfe on 01206 393665

Hospice quiz

A CHARITY quiz evening for Little Haven Children's Hospice is being held at HQ sports pavilion on Friday, May 12, at 8pm.

● Contact Jo Baker or Sam Barkway on ext 58884

weekday mornings to register

Improving the safety in our communities

ALTHOUGH it is never possible to eliminate the risks posed by dangerous offenders in our communities, it is possible to reduce them.

And that is where Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPAs) come in.

They were formally introduced four years ago – in the wake of the name and shame campaign arising out of the 2000 murder of schoolgirl Sarah Payne. “The Sarah Payne case was the catalyst,” said MAPPA Manager Allan Taplin. “The police had had to monitor sex offenders in the community since 1997, when sex offender registration was introduced but Sarah's murder proved that information-sharing was imperative in order to improve its effectiveness.”

Although jointly funded by the police and Probation Services, MAPPA also involves other agencies, such as social services, housing and education authorities, youth offending teams and health and mental health trusts, as well as GPs and the victim contact unit.

Regular meetings are held around the county and each case is dealt with on an

Violence and sexual abuse are not tolerated by today's society but when the sentence is served, what safeguards are in place to ensure that offenders do not commit further crimes in the community? Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPAs) have been in place since 2002 – sharing information about and monitoring violent and sexual offenders in the community.

Heather Turner talks to MAPP Manager Allan Taplin to find out more.

individual basis. As MAPPA Manager, Allan's role is to ensure an action plan is identified and each agency does its job.

“There is nothing that the police and Probation Service do that should not be shared when it comes to managing high-risk offenders in the community,” he explained. “It is about having the confidence to share that information.

“Through the MAPPA process we get people recalled to prison.”

Out of 431 cases referred for MAPPA in Essex between April 2004 and March 2005, only six were classed at the top ‘critical’ level – two have since moved out of the county and their cases transferred, two have been returned to jail for breaching licence conditions and two are being successfully managed under MAPPA.

In the year to March 31, 2005, 50 registered sex offenders, 26 convicted violent and sexual offenders and 14 other offenders who pose a significant risk to the community were managed through MAPPAs – 23 were returned to custody for breach of licence but only one was charged with a serious sexual or violent offence.

And nine Sex Offender Prevention Orders (SOPOs) – similar to ASBOs – were applied for, thus preventing convicted sex offenders from ever having unsupervised access with children. Breaching a SOPO is a criminal offence which can lead to up to five years in prison.

And they can be tailor-made to take into account individual circumstances. The MAPPA 2004/05 annual report

states that only 3.4 per cent of registered sex offenders living in Essex have had to be dealt with for failing to comply with legal requirements.

“Very few people falling into the categories of registered sex offender or violent and other sexual offender pose a substantial risk of harm,” said Allan. “People who have committed less serious offences are given a level of scrutiny and intervention proportional to the risk they may pose.”

But he pointed out that breaches of arrangements were dealt with promptly and although having offenders recalled to prison for minor things could be deemed harsh ‘it sends out a clear message’.

Domestic abusers are now monitored under the MAPPA system – many of them pose a substantial risk of re-offending but the Probation Service has introduced a special programme for offenders under supervision who have a conviction for violence against a partner.

Under the MAPP process, the victim is paramount.

Licence conditions state that no contact is to be made with the victim, exclusion zones can be placed around their house and there must be no

contact with the victim's family. Appropriate child protection measures may also be taken, with orders not to live, work or associate with people under 18.

And Allan stressed: “We don't have high-risk offenders going back into the community – they live in premises approved by the Probation Service.

“If there are child protection issues, the case is referred to social services for a risk assessment.

“And police take care of the tactical options and the monitoring while probation carries out dynamic, ongoing risk assessments and liaise with the relevant partner agencies.

“It is all about reducing the risk to the lowest possible level but accepting that some people need a high level of input to manage this.”

Allan said local communities were not usually notified that an offender was living in their midst – unless there were special circumstances – because it would pose a problem to the risk management.

“We would end up managing the risk to them and that would divert resources from the real issues and police would have to manage any resultant public order problems,” explained Allan.



● MAPP Manager Allan Taplin discusses cases with, from left, assessment and offender managers Savita Proothi, Rosan Linehan and Jane Dewitt

College ‘at the forefront of training’

THE new Essex Police College should be a beacon of excellence for the force, says Head of Training Pankajne Trivedi.

“We are professionalising Essex Police by developing people who work for us. That will have an impact on and improve our performance on the front line,” said Miss Trivedi.

She was speaking after the launch of the newly-named college (EPC) – the former Essex Police Training Centre at HQ.

But she explained that becoming a college was more than just a change of name, it was a change of attitude, too.

Previously, the training centre had focussed on the training of police officers but now it was time to focus on the whole workforce and bring the training of police staff up to the same high standards.

And, with the demise of the five national centres for probationer training, run by Centrex, training of new recruits has been brought in-house too.

The college has been split into four faculties. The Learning and Development Performance Faculty will focus on such courses as customer care, finance, leading teams and business administration, giving people the chance to obtain NVQs.

The Crime and Operations Faculty has simply brought all the old operational courses – such as firearms, public order, driving, CID (crime) and IT – under one umbrella and streamlined them.

And the college is currently in the top five of police forces nationally for its crime and firearms training courses.

The Probationers' Learning and Development Faculty provides a tailor-made course for the force's new police recruits.

After a period learning at college, they are then posted to their divisional Professional Development Unit where they gain practical, on-the-job experience to develop the knowledge they have recently gained.

After completing their 34-week course, which involves four sections and four spells at the PDU, the probationers will have compiled a portfolio of competence, which is then assessed for an NVQ.

Miss Trivedi is hoping to work with local colleges to get Learning Skills Council (LSC) funding and, ultimately, gain recognised college status so the force can liaise directly with the LSC to gain all the benefits and funding that will bring.

Recently EPC became a top accredited NVQ



● Assistant Chief Constable Liam Briginshaw presents an £800 cheque, on behalf of the Essex Police Band, from its Christmas Concert to Ellie May and her family

Band hands over £800 cheque

EASTER is a time when most parents have to rein in the amount of chocolate that their youngsters consume – scrambled eggs for breakfast usually takes on a different meaning!

But for some, especially those in care, Easter eggs are a rare commodity.

So, with this in mind, for the past 15 years, Essex Police Band has waived the normal admission charge to its Easter Egg concert at Chelmsford's Marconi Club and granted

access only on production of an Easter egg. Afterwards, the eggs are handed over to social services for distribution to less

fortunate youngsters throughout the county.

The event proves very popular with the public – many of whom also attend the Christmas concerts at the same venue.

The band always has a door collection at Christmas and, at the Easter egg concert, presents a cheque for the amount raised.

This year, the band was able to make an £800 donation to the Ellie May Challis fund.

Readers of *The Law* may recall an item about Ellie May in December's issue when an appeal for financial assistance was launched to provide Ellie May with prosthetic limbs after she lost both her arms

and both her legs following an attack of meningitis.

Assistant Chief Constable Liam Briginshaw presented the cheque to Ellie May, who attended the concert with her parents Paul and Lisa, her twin sister Sophie and her grandmother Joan.

A spokesman for the Essex Police Band said afterwards: “It is not known exactly how many children have benefited from the band's endeavours but, once again, the generosity of our audiences has been outstanding.”

Ken Bailey



● Senior Essex Police officers and staff, with Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers, fourth from left, celebrate the launch of the new Essex Police College

Picture by Gary Kenton

awarding centre, recognising the fact that not only are its students well-trained – its staff are, too.

Miss Trivedi is now hoping to get the probationers' course curriculum accredited to NVQ Level 3 or 4. “Not only do they become police officers but we professionalise their career from Day One,” she said.

The Leadership Faculty provides the Core Leadership Development Programme (CLDP) for sergeants and equivalent police staff and manager Angelina Crook has just written a CLDP for inspectors – the first in the eastern region – which could soon be open to police staff equivalents too.

“We have a lot to feel proud of in the force,” said Miss Trivedi.

“We want to be at the forefront of helping our officers and staff to achieve their maximum potential, which can only have a positive effect on the way we police our county.”

Chief talks to county Watch meet

CHIEF Constable Roger Baker delivered a speech on crime-fighting when he addressed the first Essex County Neighbourhood Watch (NW) Association to be held in seven years.

Burnham NW Co-ordinator Alex Jennings said afterwards: “As would be expected, a multitude of issues were covered about fighting crime.

“This bodes well for Essex with so many public-spirited people gathered together with the police and their ancillaries to ensure crime is kept to a minimum.”

The conference at Writtle College on April 8 looked at how local NW groups could help to address crime and disorder in their communities.

One hot topic was how NW could contribute to neighbourhood policing.

NW area co-ordinators heard a variety of speakers including Ian Elkins, of the Crown Prosecution Service, Braintree District Council community safety and development manager Helena Goodwin, Architectural Liaison Officers constables Heather Alston and John Hills and Sgt Rachel Wood of the Neighbourhood Policing Implementation Team.

Specials

raise cash for charities

SOME of the most beautiful countryside in the county will be the reward for walkers taking part in the 12th annual Special Constabulary sponsored walk.

Led by the Special Constabulary's Chief Officer George Cook, the team of Specials, retired officers, colleagues and friends will be walking the Essex Way – from Epping in the south to Harwich in the north-east.

The walk takes place from May 19-24, and Mr Cook is looking for staff to join him for the whole distance or part of the route to help to raise money for local Essex charities.

He said: “Please come and join me and the stalwarts, even if it is only for a day or half a day, for an enjoyable stroll through some of the finest Essex countryside.”

● Sponsorship forms and itineraries from the Special Constabulary support team on ext 58714 or from George Cook on ext 53324

Flint House eligibility

ELIGIBILITY criteria for officers wanting to stay at the police convalescent home in Berkshire have changed. Officers will be required to have contributed to the Police Benevolent Fund for the previous 12 months before becoming eligible to attend Flint House in Goring and will be required to provide their latest pay slip, plus two others, as proof.

However, probationers in their first six months of service will be able to attend the convalescent home without having contributed.

Law Classifieds

Holiday lets

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

COSTA Blanca, La Marina, luxury villa, two bed, two bath, sleeps four to six, communal pool. £150-£400 per week. Special rates for long lets. Ring Mick Ager on 07775 676142 or 00 34 617 110 096 or email casadomi02@hotmail.com

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

FLORIDA, new, luxury five-bed villa, sleeps 12, fully air-conditioned, games room, private pool with Jacuzzi. Disney ten mins. Discount for police staff. Contact Paul Howard on 01268 244011 or www.floridianretreat.com

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

LA MANGA, southern Spain, two-bedroom/two bathroom apartment. Pool, panoramic sea views, seconds from beaches. Ring Bernie on 01787 370317 or on 07986 098422.

NORTHERN France. Three lovely gites in a quiet village an hour from Calais, near Mesdin and Arras. Ring Keith Dobson on 07989 477624 or email kjdbobson@btinternet.com

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

PAPHOS, Cyprus, one-bedroom apartment, pool, sea views, 20 minutes from airport. Quiet area, close to shops and restaurants. Would suit couple. Call Ann on 07779 683286.

SCOTTISH Highlands. Associates to police welcome at our beautiful home on a B&B basis. Now offering fishing, shooting, walking and bird-watching in the Cairngorms. Reductions for police. Ring Andy Nunn on 01479 841717 or e-mail apf.nunn@btinternet.com

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

SOUTHERN Spain, Baviera golf. Three

double-bedroom apartment, two bathrooms, fully-equipped kitchen, Sky TV. Large private terrace. Ring Sue or Mike on 01621 838179 or 00 34 650 124 382.

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 in northern Tuscany. Perfect base – one hour to Florence, Pisa and Italian Riviera. Ring 07976 720022 or visit www.tuscanlife.co.uk

BISHOP'S Stortford, part-furnished, two-bed house with parking, walking distance to station. £650pcm, references and deposit required. Available soon. Ring 07919 057437.

SITTINGBOURNE, Kent, near M2, M20 and countryside. Person required to share three-bedroom house. £300pcm, incl gas and electricity but not phone. Ring Sandra Fowler on 01795 430027 or 07968 085445 or email sandrawalford@aol.com

THREE-bed, detached house, large corner plot – great potential for enlargement. Office, conservatory. Close to Essex Police HQ. £325,000. Contact John on 07789 695459 or 01245 494854.

PIAGGIO NRG 50cc red scooter, 2003, very good condition, mature owner. Taxed, 10,000 miles, data-tagged. £900. Phone Ken Briggs on 01206 212182.

RENAULT Clio, 1.2 Club Med, 1996 N-reg, 94,000 miles, blue, five-door, petrol, manual. Two owners since new. £1,000. Contact Nishan Wijerata on ext 50635 or via e-mail.

CARLSBRO PA mixer amp with speakers, stands and leads. Ideal for band use. Excellent condition. Bargain at £300 ono. Call John on 01255 551764.

CARLSBRO powered stage monitor and slave monitor, with leads. Excellent condition. Strong construction and good sound. Bargain, £100 ono for the pair. Call John on 01255 551764.

FLY-fishing, two carbon rods, four reels, lines, landing net, line tray and misc gear. £50. Ring 01702 610949.

MARTIN HD28 acoustic 'flat-top' guitar in custom case. As-new condition, only three years old. Beautiful, top-quality instrument. Bargain £1,300. Call John on 01255 551764.

SPYDER paintball marker, 68 calibre, in hard carry case with full kit and service equipment, £60 ono. Call John on 01255 551764.

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Returning to county after a spell abroad

BACK in Essex as the new Senior Investigating Officer at Stanway Major Investigation Team is Det Supt Phil Tucker

Phil is former head of the UK Liaison Bureau at Europol and returns to the force after three and a half years in The Hague. During that time he was promoted to his current rank.

Phil, 44, joined Essex Police as a Pc at Harlow in May 1980 and has been a detective for most of his career.

This includes spells as a DI at Harlow and with the South-East Regional Crime Squad, and two secondments to NCIS (the National Criminal Intelligence Service). His stint at Europol was also an NCIS posting.

At Stanway, Phil's in-tray contains two unsolved category B murders – one from March this year and the other dating back to last summer – together with other murders and serious offences at various stages of prosecution.

He said: "In some ways it's been surprisingly difficult getting used to the British way of life again but it's good to be back."

Retirements

The force waved goodbye to one of its most experienced and longest-serving officers last month when Supt Steve Golding handed in his warrant card and headed for warmer climes.

The 51-year-old is looking forward to his new career in the United Arab Emirates following 35 years with Essex Police – he joined in September 1971 as a cadet.

Steve has served in Basildon, Chelmsford and Southend divisions, with spells in the Force Support Unit (FSU), Mobile Support and Force Information Room.

He also managed to fit in a one-year secondment in Albania.

"I have totally enjoyed my time with Essex and feel I'm leaving at the right time for me personally," said Steve. "I had just as much enthusiasm in my role as superintendent on my last day as I had when I joined as a cadet. It's quite poignant that I should finish at Southend – the place where it all began."

Citing just a few highlights from his career, Steve added: "Being involved in all three hijacks at Stansted and at three different ranks gave me such invaluable insight into the role of policing."

"I also thoroughly enjoyed my years with the FSU and even the 21 weeks spent in Nottinghamshire during the miners' strike was an exhilarating time."

Steve begins his new career for the police service in Abu Dhabi as a special adviser on public order, firearms and diplomatic protection issues – initially for a year.

Two of the force's longest-serving road policing officers have retired with more than 60 years' service between them.

Sgt John Blyde and Pc Dave Groom finally laid their white caps

Names in the news



● Det Supt Phil Tucker



● Supt Steve Golding

to rest at Chigwell and Rayleigh road policing units respectively.

Dave joined Essex Police in April 1975 while John joined a year later, working in Harlow and Epping and at Stansted Airport.

But John will not be leaving the roads for too long as he takes up his new role as a Highways Agency traffic officer in Cambridgeshire.

And other officers who have worked with Mobile Support have also retired recently.

Insp John Meggison spent exactly 30 years with the force. He also served in the Force Information Room, Thurrock, Basildon, Southend, Professional Standards and Corporate Support.

After 30 years with Mobile Support Division, Pc Graham White, 57, has retired from Laindon Road Policing Unit.

And Pc Rick Jones, 55, called it a day last month after completing just over 27 years' service.

He spent his entire career in the west of the county, with stints at Stansted Airport and at the Coroner's Office in Harlow. He finished his career at Harlow Police Station.

Paul Hand, 49, retired from the force at the end of last month after completing 29 years' service.

The inspector completed his service with the Police Information Technology Organisation (PITO), following stints with Basildon and in IT.

Pc Neville Deal retired from Essex Police last month.

He completed 30 years' service and concluded his career in the Force Information Room.

FIR also lost former colleague Barry Reynolds to retirement.

The 49-year-old constable finished his career at Centrex after 30 years' service with the force.

Tendring Division will miss Pc Robin White, 56, who has retired. He had spent almost 26 years with the force, all in that division.

Meanwhile, detectives in Southend bid a fond farewell to colleague Pc Yvonne Taylor last month when the 49-year-old retired from the force.

Yvonne left after 30 years' service, of which 18 were with Essex.

And Southend has also saluted more than 30 years' service from two of its longest-serving staff – Christine Brown and Jean Miller.

Christine completed nearly 17 years' service after joining the force in August 1989, finishing her career in Southend's Divisional Intelligence Unit, while Jean clocked up more than 15 years, finishing her days on the service desk.

Diana English has retired after serving nearly 25 years with the force.

Diana joined in July 1981 and finished her last day in the administration section within Crime Division.

After 30 years with Essex Police, Paula Fells, 51, is retiring.

She joined in May 1976 and has spent time working in Southend, Mobile Support, Chelmsford, Personnel and Crime Division.

And Michael Smith has retired after completing just over 11 years' service.

He joined the force in October 1994 and finished his career in the administration section at Rayleigh Police Station.

● APOLOGIES to Sgt Stephen Mann, who retired from the Force Information Room two months ago after almost 25½ years' service.

Unfortunately a proofing error by the editor led to his rank being omitted. No offence was intended but we apologise for any distress caused.

Stephen also served in the former Harlow and Chelmsford divisions after having spent seven years with the RAF.

Obituaries

Chris Caten died last month aged 59. The former constable joined the force in May 1976 and had worked in Harlow Division all his career, with postings at Epping, Ongar and North Weald.

He retired in 2001 but his love of the force continued as he became the Station Office Assistant for the division's mobile police office.

Stansted Airport Communications Officer Kim Shepherd, 46, passed away last month following her battle against cancer. She had served for just over four years with the force, starting out as a communications officer at FIR before moving to Stansted.

And Trainee Investigator Nick Cohen also lost his fight against cancer last month.

The 40-year-old had served 19 years with the force, with spells in the Force Support Unit and Harlow. Nick had been working within Harlow CID when he passed away.

Former constable Ronald Wall, of Chadwell St Mary, has died, aged 81.

Mr Wall served from 1953 to 1978 at Ockendon, Canvey Island, Tilbury and Grays.

Qualifications

DI Paul Spooner, of Scientific Support, has been awarded a BSc from the Open University (OU).

Meanwhile, Criminal Intelligence Analyst Colin Robinson, who is based at Clacton, has been awarded an NVQ Level 3 in Intelligence Analysis, also from the OU.

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE – ONE WORD PER BOX

Name and rank

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Send to The Editor, The Law, Press Office, Essex Police HQ.

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Reward for their sensitive investigations

PROFESSIONAL Standards was honoured for its work in diversity when two officers scooped an award at the NEXUS conference. Ds Angie Garrard and DCI Gary Heard were recognised for their work in the Special Cases Unit where they examine and investigate sensitive cases involving gay, lesbian, bisexual or

transgendered officers and police staff. Receiving the award, on behalf of herself and DCI Heard – who was unable to attend – Ds Garrard said: “It came as a complete shock. “I nearly didn’t make the conference as one of our trials at crown court was nearing a verdict.” The Special Cases Unit was

set up in 2004 by the then head of department Chief Supt Jacqui Cheer. After the ceremony, DCI Heard added: “The unit has evolved over this period of time and has built up expertise in areas which have in the past not always been handled in the most appropriate manner. “Work within the Special

Cases Unit also received favourable comment from the HMIC. “It’s very pleasing and rewarding to be recognised in this way by NEXUS and makes the role very worthwhile.”

● Ds Angie Garrard receives the diversity award at the NEXUS conference



Forensics receive award for work on Norah case

THE Forensic Science Service (FSS) has received an inaugural forensic science award in recognition for its work on the Norah Trott murder case. Norah Trott was 63 when her near-naked and beaten body was discovered at her lock-up garage in Rochford on November 6, 1978.

Her case was re-opened in 2003 by the major investigations review team, set up by the force in August of that year. Advances in forensic science allowed original DNA from the crime scene to be turned into an identifiable profile, which was loaded on to the National DNA Database, although it did not produce a hit at that time.

But Essex Police arranged for the FSS to run it through the database regularly. Just a few months later builder Wayne Doherty was arrested for drink-driving in Cambridgeshire. His DNA profile was loaded to the National DNA Database – this produced a hit and he was arrested and subsequently found guilty of murder. He was jailed for life in December 2005.

The Cambridgeshire High Sheriff’s Award for Forensic Excellence was launched at the FSS laboratory in Huntingdon. Team members received certificates at the ceremony by the High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire, Simon Leatham, and FSS general manager David Reardon. Also present was DCI Tom Harper, Head of Essex Police Scientific Support. He said: “All forces in the eastern region were asked to submit cases for consideration of this award and it is particularly pleasing that the Norah Trott case was finally chosen. I believe it reflects well on the hard work and diligence that went on both in-force and at the FSS to secure this conviction.”

FSS scientist Judith Cunnison, who worked on the case, added: “Norah Trott was a pillar of the community who was subjected to an horrific attack. It was years ago but people still remember. “What’s striking about this case is that new technology could be used to solve a case from all that time ago. “It’s nice that the hard work of the team is recognised. Successes like this send out an important message: unsolved cases never go away, they are never forgotten.” Submitted cases were shortlisted by a scientific group from the FSS. Each case was judged on its quality, communication and Criminal Justice System impact.

Karim Khalil QC, who was on the judging panel, said: “The winning two teams demonstrated outstanding qualities of tenacity, co-operation and co-ordination in cases with very different challenges.”

The proud winners ...

LONG-service medals and annual force trophies have been presented to members of Essex Police by Essex Lord Lieutenant Lord Petre.

The Wilson Trophy – for the police officer who performs the most meritorious act during the year – was presented to Sgt Paul Howell, of Rayleigh.

Sgt Howell saw an intoxicated woman in the River Crouch at Hullbridge in January 2005. She was also suffering from mental health issues.

Despite the freezing, fast-flowing water, the fact the woman was 60ft from the bank and that she was struggling, Sgt Howell managed to rescue her.

Other officers received certificates for their courage.

Pc Michael Burrill and Pc Ian Newling saw a man acting suspiciously in Western Esplanade, Southend. During a chase, the man revealed a knife and headed towards a restaurant; but the two constables managed to disarm him outside.

Thurrock constable Gary Rogers’s vehicle was rammed by another during an incident at Lakeside Retail Park.

While attempting to stop that vehicle, he received serious leg injuries. The driver was later sentenced at Southend Crown Court and disqualified from driving for ten years.

Without the aid of the police helicopter or dog unit, Pc Mel McPherson, of Chigwell RPU, waded through a flooded field to arrest a man who had run off from a lorry and swum across a river after being stopped for traffic offences.

The Millard Trophy, for the greatest contribution to social services in the community in the furtherance of police public relations, was awarded to neighbourhood policing officer Pc Hayley Jenner, of Chelmsford.



● Central Division’s Pc Hayley Jenner with Lord Petre and the Millard Trophy

Picture by Gary Kenton

She has helped to reassure local residents with regular patrols and visits to vulnerable groups.

Pc Jenner was also Chelmsford district’s staff member of the month for March. She dealt with 124 offences in 2005 and achieved a personal detection rate of 42 per cent.

Another Chelmsford officer, Sgt Richie Miller, was recognised for his outstanding work with youth, especially with primary schools.

He has a positive approach to policing and has successfully helped to create planned operations to reduce anti-social behaviour, alcohol and drugs misuse and criminal damage.

Meanwhile, Sgt John Scott, of Walton-on-the-Naze, was awarded a certificate for his skills and commitment to his local community. His strong relationship with the local council and his officers has led to improved detection rates and improve

life for local residents. Winner of the Sir Jonathan Peel Trophy, for the highest-placed Essex officer in the police promotion exam to sergeant in 2005, was jointly presented to Sgt Anna Clarke, of Southend, and Sgt Paul Redgewell, of Tendring.

The Anthony Peel Trophy for meritorious achievement in the field of crime reduction was received by Sgt Matt Bell, of Southend.

Sgt Bell developed and implemented an alcohol licensing guide which is the basis for all decisions made by the police in relation to alcohol licensing in the Southend area. This guide has also been adopted as good practice and is been taken forward by other districts.

A Billericay officer was recognised for his professional approach in investigating a series of anti-social behaviour incidents.

Local youths had committed 70 criminal offences against residents but Pc Alan Ratnage investigated the offences and identified four youths. They were dealt with and incidents in the area have stopped.

Dc Neal Miller, of HQ Crime Division, received a certificate for his professionalism, commitment and dedication while playing a significant role in Operation Ore – an international investigation into internet-based child pornography. One investigation led to over 50 charges and two defendants receiving prison sentences totalling 11 years.

While Sgt Danny Torrance, who heads up Lakeside Shopping Centre’s policing team, was commended for his strengths in leading a team.

As well as motivating his team, during a partnership operation with the shopping centre security team there was a significant reduction in thefts of motor vehicles.

● Long-service medals were given to officers who have served 22 years with good conduct and character.

And police staff long-service awards, also for 22 years’ service, were presented too.

Recognition for volunteer

A SCENES of Crime officer has been invested as an Officer (Brother) in The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem.

DI Alan Cook, of HQ Scenes of Crime, right, was recognised for his 30-plus years of voluntary work for St John Ambulance Essex at the investiture in March at The Priory Church, Clerkenwell, London, by Prior Sir Brian Jenkins.

DI Cook, 39, started his association with St John, aged nine, as a cadet in Epping. At 16, he became an adult member and his enthusiasm and dedication for the organisation carried him through the ranks over the years to become County Commissioner for Operations.

He said: “Of all the things I have ever done, it was a most dignified ceremony. I feel a great sense of pride to represent my county and all the hard work done by all our members, in putting in 210,000 volunteer hours last year serving their communities.”



Cup for officer’s work with schools

A COLCHESTER police officer has been recognised by the High Sheriff of Essex for outstanding work in the town.

Pc John Meacock won the Essex Police Cup for his work as a Safer Schools Partnership Officer at the Sir Charles Lucas Arts College.

He works alongside staff to identify and focus on young people who are at risk of offending, victimisation or social exclusion and also with the students to raise awareness of the adverse effects of alcohol and how young people can become vulnerable to serious crime.

Pc Meacock joined 59 other people and organisations from across the county, who received certificates and grants from High Sheriff Jennifer Tolhurst in recognition of their work or to fund projects to make their communities safer from crime. The ceremony was also attended by Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark.

Since the High Sheriffs’ Fund – which is managed by the Essex Community Foundation – was



● Pc John Meacock with DCC Charles Clark and Essex High Sheriff Jennifer Tolhurst

established in 1997 it has distributed over £100,000 to 152 charities.

BBC Essex’s Dave Monk compered the event and talked to winners about their work, helping the audience to gain a greater understanding of the varied activities taking place across Essex to make our communities safe from crime and

the fear of crime. The event ended on a fun note with guests entertained by a video of Year 3 pupils from St Joseph’s Roman Catholic Primary School singing a song – ASBO, to the tune of YMCA by Village People – they had written as part of the Rhyme Against Crime project in Harwich.

Sport & Leisure

Runners raise thousands for charities dear to them

AFTER an average of four to five hours of running over 26.2 miles, Essex Police officers and staff crossed the finishing line at the 2006 Flora London Marathon. Most were running for charities close to their hearts and they have raised thousands of pounds between them for various good causes. The Essex Police uniform team consisted of regulars Al Barley, Pete Bryan, Kirste Snellgrove, marathon newcomer Vince Bird plus Taff from the Met. Al said: "By the time we finished, the timekeepers had put their watches away and started reaching for a calendar – we took five hours 40 minutes but that included interviews, dancing to the

bands, a cup of tea and a cake. The obvious charity for us to support was Cancer Research." Lucy Robinson, of Grays CID, said she 'hung on for dear life' to finish just within her four-hour target – 3hrs:57 mins – a particularly good time considering just a few days before she had hurt her ankle in the PSUK Hockey Plate final. She raised over £1,700 for Little Haven Children's Hospice. Running her second marathon, Michelle Berkovitch, 31, of Brentwood Prisoner Process Unit, completed the course in 4:17. She said: "I had quite a tough time as I was recovering from flu, had a stitch for five miles and then hit

the dreaded wall at 20 miles." She ran for Victa Children, which supports blind and partially-sighted children and hopes, with her partner Jason Brown, to have raised over £1,500. And Nichola Gunn, of Laindon, ran 5:38, raising £1,000 for the Stroke Association despite a serious injury six weeks before the marathon. She said: "Thank you to all those people who supported and sponsored me." Peter Smith, of Clacton, crossed the line dead on 4:27. He raised about £1,000 for Children with Leukaemia. His wife Debbie said: "We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has sponsored him, and donated

money to the cause." Mike Smith, 49, of Harlow MIT, completed his first marathon in 4:38 and raised about £600 for the Marrillac Nursing Home in Brentwood. He said: "The experience was fantastic – hard work – but the crowds were great and gave you a huge lift." Also raising about £1,000 for Little Haven was Doug Rawden, 37, from Rayleigh CAIU, who finished in 4:46 in his first marathon. Jed Stopher, 43, of Western Division, finished in 4:50, shoulder to shoulder with Andy Hooke, of PSD. Between them they raised over £4,000 for Children with Leukaemia. Jed said: "The day

itself was an absolute blast. The crowd were fantastic and my family managed to cheer me on at four different points along the route. I was passed by a few animals, a bear, lion and bright yellow elephant – but I was not overtaken by a telephone kiosk this year." Debbie Wood said about husband Dave, 38, from Rayleigh Prisoner Process Unit: "Dave looked strong on the course but he didn't turn up in the repatriation area. A frantic call revealed he had collected his medal but was busy throwing up a sports drink that disagreed with him." However, placed on a drip, he made a speedy recovery.

Six-goal win gets team into semis

ESSEX Police played Wiltshire in the South Midlands football cup at HQ. This was a must-win match to progress to the semis. Essex were forced to use the depth of their squad. However, the team put on an impressive performance to win 6-0. The players were up for this game from the start, putting the disappointment of losing in the National Cup to one side.

Keeper Phil Molloy was lucky to stay on the field when he handled outside the penalty area after 90 seconds! However, he was excellent for the rest of the game. Darren Pitt scored three, and the midfield controlled the game.

● Essex now face Metropolitan Police Northern in the semi at Chigwell on a date to be arranged

Fourth squash title for Andy

SQUASH players Andy Hynes, pictured, secured his fourth national Police Sport UK squash title with a powerful display.

Hynes, of Maldon CID, came up against some tough opposition but held on to win again. The final lived up to all expectations with both Hynes and Nick Freer, of Leicestershire, playing at their best. Hynes' virtually error-free game led to him taking the match, and title, 3-1 (9/5 5/9 9/3 9/7).



● The Essex Police men's hockey squad prepare to host the PSUK hockey finals tournament at Chelmsford Hockey Club

Hockey teams give it their all in finals

THE PSUK men's hockey competition reached its climax when Essex hosted the Cup and Plate semi-finals and finals.

And the hosts were represented, having beaten Staffordshire 6-5 in a thriller away from home.

The first day at Chelmsford Hockey Club saw all the semis played with Essex v West Midlands (WM) in the Cup. The game was tough but evenly-matched with glimpses of brilliance.

Essex scored first from a converted penalty corner which Gaz Ingram slipped past the keeper but WM were resolute and at the end of normal time it was 1-1.

Extra time was not easy but Essex seemed to want the result slightly more and, in the first period of extra time, scored again. The second period was frantic with WM piling on pressure and making Essex work for every ball but they managed to hold on and gain a final

place for the first time in more than 20 years.

The second Cup semi saw PSNI beat Avon and Somerset 2-1.

Day two saw PSNI and Essex going hammer and tongs in the Cup final. Essex scored first, with Gaz Ingram scoring from a short corner, and, for a while, PSNI were unsteady. The fast-paced game continued and at half-time PSNI were ahead 3-2.

Not long into the second half, the extra time played by Essex in the semi took its toll. Substitutions were made and, whilst the team shape was disrupted, PSNI snatched another goal.

They were then awarded a penalty flick for a save by Kevin Harvey that was adjudged to be a foul and PSNI were suddenly 5-2 up.

At this point PSNI showed the qualities which have helped them to win this competition for so many years. Skilful possession of the ball and quick counter-attacks against a weakening Essex side delivered two more goals, allowing them to win 7-2

– a score that did not wholly reflect the game. The presentation dinner at the Five Lakes Hotel in Salcott was attended by Lisa Wooding, the Chelmsford Ladies' captain, who won a Commonwealth bronze.

● ESSEX Police women's hockey team narrowly missed out in the Plate final in a fierce match against West Midlands.

Both sides started slowly and Essex lacked sharpness, which showed when Merseyside broke in the first half to take a 1-0 lead.

Essex goalie Kate Mead – just returned from major surgery – made several fine saves and kept the game within reach.

The second half saw Merseyside scoring with an unstoppable shot. Then Lucy Robinson, a crucial player, was fouled and had to leave the field with an injured ankle. After several changes, the formation settled and Alison Riley broke from the right, scoring from just inside the area.

With 10 minutes to go, Riley scored her second to level the scores at full-time. Mead kept Essex in the game until Merseyside scored the crucial winner in extra time.

Runners are hampered by poor choice of date

THE regional cross-country championships finally took place at Maidstone in Kent last month after being postponed from March. Essex were the defending title holders in both the men's and the women's races but the new date, in the Easter holidays, had a severe effect on the turn-out – Essex had just seven runners.

Despite the low numbers there was still significant success for the Essex team, which finished second in the men's and joint second in the veterans' categories. Disappointingly, Essex only had Rachel Wood competing in the women's race but she did the team proud by coming fifth in 23mins 12secs. The team was sixth overall.

Determined to make amends for failing to defend his league title, Russ Welch was locked in a battle with Angus Crosby (Herts), before pulling away to record his first win in this event.

Derek Walker (9th) was followed home by Essex captain Mick Bond (11th), who was competing for the first time since injuring his Achilles tendon more than eight months ago.

Phil McCulloch (18th) and John Mackenzie (23rd) completed the required four to score and received vital support from Gary Lane (26th). They came second to Kent.

Laurie Rampling (33rd) joined Bond and Mackenzie in completing the veterans' team, which tied with Sussex, again beaten by Kent.

Mark takes top lottery prize

THE winner of the top £3,000 prize in the force's April lottery was Pc Mark Morgan-Jones, of Lakeside. Jason Stephen, who is seconded to the IPCC, won £1,000 and the £500 prize went to Nigel Robinson, who is retired.

The winners of £100 prizes were: Pc Martin Owers, of Stansted Airport; Dc Philip Smith, of Rayleigh MIT; PCSO Peter Manning, of South Ockendon; Reginald Shelley, retired; Dc Janet Bloomfield, of Colchester; Julie Swan, of MSD; Susan Yeoman, of

Grays Service Desk; Pc Lee Palmer, of Chelmsford; Kathryn Bethell, of FIR; Dc Rosemarie Holloway, of Pitsea CID; and Pc Lee Ward, of Colchester.

The winners of the £50 prizes were: Robert Johnson, of Camera Enforcement, MSD; Pc Claire Talbot, of Grays; Pc David Griffiths, of Pitsea; Sgt Jon DeVries, of Wickford; Pc Derek Brown, of Corringham; Josephine Dudley, retired; Pc Charlotte Keith, of Basildon; Shirley Muir, of Brentwood Crime Administration;

Pc Jonathan Holden, of the Air Support Unit; Pc Tracey Bishop, of Bocking RPU; Kim Kjolsen, of Harlow Service Desk; Dc Benjamin Hall, of Stansted Airport CID; Pc Roger Watson, of Laindon RPU; and Peter Woodcock, retired. Winners of 12-in teddy bears, from Benenden Healthcare, were: David Bright, retired; Sgt Stephen Kilcoyne, of Southend; Lisa Treece, of Basildon Service Desk; Philippa Stokes, of FIR; Pc Kevin Parker, of Basildon; and Insp Samantha Jarvis, of Brentwood.



Essex Police Choir Ladies' Choir of PSNI
Avon & Somerset Male Voice Choir

Three police choirs in concert

Friday, June 9
Chelmsford Cathedral
8pm
Tickets £8 from Julie Brown
on 01245 494811

Saturday, June 10
Charter Hall, Colchester
8pm
Tickets £8 from Charter Hall
on 01206 282020
PLUS the Essex Police Band

both concerts are supporting
Headway – the brain injury association
Helen Rollason Heal Cancer Charity



Net safety message is taken into schools

ESSEX Police is working together with local schools in the Billericay area in order to promote the internet safety message among young people.

Police at Stansted have designed a presentation which was delivered to pupils at Billericay School during assemblies last month.

The assemblies were followed up by a parents' evening on May 2, where a presentation was made to parents by police officers involved in the project. Billericay Community Liaison Officer Pc Julie Dawes said: "Young people and their parents need to be aware of the possible dangers of the internet, particularly chatrooms and websites.

"It is imperative that no personal information is released on to these sites. Research has shown that young people can be very trusting and naïve and willingly provide personal details, such as home telephone numbers and family details, without really knowing with whom they are communicating.

"They can be easily fooled into thinking that they are communicating with other young people of their own age when it may be possible that they are, in fact, adults who prey on young people." Computer Network Investigator Dave Nash, of Essex Police Hi-Tech Crime Unit, added: "There are informative websites available to combat online grooming."

● On the Essex Police website – www.essex.police.uk – click on 'young people' and then again on 'chatroom safety' under the 'wise up' heading for more information

The word of ACTION is spreading

THE force's ACTION programme has been presented to other public sector organisations. A group of local authority, NHS and other Government department staff have been given the opportunity to judge for themselves the value of Essex Police's ACTION Leadership Programme.

The presentation at a Cabinet Office-run Quality Network meeting spelt out the key values and philosophies of ACTION. The audience applauded the Essex approach of having a clear set of values and a philosophy that included every member of staff.

ACTION Project Director Dick Madden said: "ACTION is being seen by the public sector as a market winner in terms of a leadership programme that engages with every member of staff."

Thumbprint security takes off at airport

AN innovative initiative aimed at preventing credit card and vehicle theft has been launched by Essex Police at Stansted Airport.

Police at the airport are working in partnership with all the major car hire companies at the airport for a three-month trial.

The Thumbprint Signature Scheme has already been successfully trialled in the

USA, at Bluewater shopping complex in Kent and in shops in Brentwood.

Vehicle hirers will be required to provide their thumbprint before they are able to drive the vehicle away.

The print is taken using a specially-developed inkless gel and will not be used for any other purpose unless the car is not returned or there has been some form of

dishonest activity in the hiring of the vehicle.

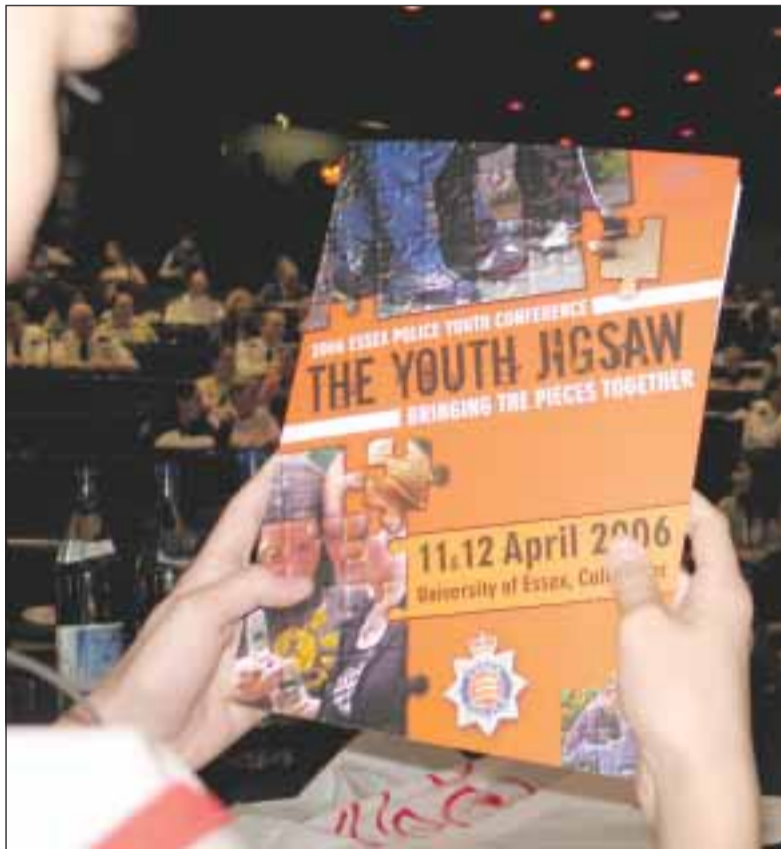
If the hirer refuses to leave their thumbprint then the hire company will refuse to rent them the vehicle.

To prevent the hirer simply going to a different company, all the hire companies at the airport have joined up to the scheme.

Ds Vic Murphy, of Stansted Airport CID, said: "This crime

prevention measure is inexpensive to administer, has a proven track record as a deterrent and provides an excellent source of evidence in the detection of crime, especially in relation to credit card and identity fraud."

The initiative was launched last month by Stansted's Divisional Commander, Supt Michelle Dunn.



● The Essex Police Youth Conference was a chance for young people to get across their views about policing across the county

Picture by Nishan Wijeratne

Ben, 14, takes the youth chair

TEENAGER Ben Ryder, from Braintree, became the first youth chair of the Essex Police Youth Conference.

Sharing the stage with Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark at the event last month, 14-year-old Ben represented young people as key partners in the development of policing services.

Ben is a member of the PEPYS (Proactive Essex Police Youth Strategy) Youth Forum and gives up his time to contribute to the development of the strategy.

This year's Youth Conference looked at the role Essex Police and its partners can play in delivering the requirements of Every Child Matters.

It was also an opportunity to discuss the involvement of young people in the development of Neighbourhood Policing. Young delegates at the event said they were keen to get involved with their Neighbourhood Policing team and were particularly looking forward to building working relationships with officers and staff. Ben said: "This is a great opportunity for us as young people to have our say on what the police do in our area."

This month the Neighbourhood Policing Project Team is meeting with the PEPYS Youth Forum to get members' input into the development of a youth engagement strategy.

'Evil man abused a position of trust'

A FORMER Essex officer who conned an elderly woman out of £273,000 has been branded an evil man who abused his position of trust.

John Morgan was jailed for four years at Chelmsford Crown Court on April 11.

Ds Angie Garrard, of Professional Standards, faced the media on behalf of the force following the court case.

She said: "We will investigate criminal allegations made against officers and take robust action where necessary.

"John Morgan was a particularly unpleasant man who targeted a very vulnerable, elderly member of the community.

"He was a serving police officer and so was in a position of trust; the onus on him was to protect her.

"During our investigation the true extent of his dishonesty became apparent.

"Our thoughts are with the victim, who has been supported throughout her ordeal by Social Services, staff at her residential home and Essex Police."

Morgan was a Metropolitan police officer when he met the 89-year-old widow during routine inquiries in north London.

He befriended her and, over the next three years, stole money and sold her home in Palmers Green to fund his own lavish lifestyle.

He later transferred to

Essex Police but when allegations of his dishonesty came to light he was suspended by the force and later resigned.

Following a lengthy trial at Basildon Crown Court last month, jurors found 48-year-old Morgan, from Frinton, guilty of eight charges of obtaining money by deception and four forgery charges.

He was found not guilty of four counts of obtaining money transfers and the judge ordered three counts to lie on file.

Staff are putting their best feet forward

STAFF from across the force are being encouraged to join two colleagues in putting their best feet forward in aid of charity later this summer.

Karen Nicolaou and Dilys Ware are set to walk 50 miles across the Cotswolds in mid-August in the hope of raising over £2,000 for the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

The Stansted Airport detective and Service Desk Supervisor from Braintree

have been cross-country trekking for the charity for three years and are hoping others will join them this year.

"We thought it might be fun to put together a team from Essex and so far we've recruited nearly 20 officers and staff to call ourselves 'Useful Numbers'," said Karen.

"We start at Cheltenham Racecourse and on the last night we have a pub quiz

in the marquee involving all the teams. It's really good fun for a worthwhile cause and hopefully we won't finish last in the quiz this time round."

Although individual entries cost £35 with an additional minimum £350 sponsorship, team entry rules differ.

● For further information on the two-day walk, contact Karen on ext 22431 or via e-mail

Months of work pay off in the fight against 'every day' crime

A LONG-term operation to tackle persistent 'every day' crime in Thurrock has produced results.

It aimed to ensure that homes, cars, garages, garden sheds and personal possessions did not become the target of persistent thieves who chose criminality as their way of life.

And April 26 saw the arrest stage of the operation after more than seven months of investigation, with a core team gathering intelligence and information.

More than £100,000 of suspected stolen property has been recovered, including vehicles, offensive weapons, power and garden tools and credit cards.

Around 100 officers were involved in the arrests, which will continue.

The operation demonstrated the value of locals talking to their Neighbourhood Policing Team – the officers were able to build on small items of information received to identify suspects.

ACC John Broughton said: "Neighbourhood policing is about tackling those issues that have a direct impact on community life.

"We hope to disrupt those in Thurrock who have chosen to follow a life of crime and prey upon the law-abiding members of society.

"I urge anyone with information about those people responsible for crime in their community to talk to members of their Neighbourhood Policing Team and help us to improve the quality of life for all."

Following the raids, 17 people were charged with a number of offences including conspiracy, theft and drug offences and some have appeared before Grays magistrates. Five people were bailed for further inquiries.

● A LONG-term operation to combat drug trading in the Basildon area came to fruition last month.

Police executed a number of warrants at dawn on April 11 and throughout the morning, arresting 25 people on suspicion of committing drug-related offences.

Warrants were executed at addresses in Basildon, Wickford, Laindon and Vange.

The following day, six people from Basildon and Laindon appeared before Basildon Magistrates' Court accused of various drugs offences, including the supply and possession of heroin and cocaine. All were remanded in custody.

Three men and a woman were released on police bail for further inquiries and a Basildon man was cautioned for possessing a class A drug.

The day after that, seven more people – from Basildon, London and Maidstone in Kent – appeared in court accused of similar drugs offences, plus some relating to crack cocaine.

