

The Law



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June 2006

SAVE US ALL BOTHER - TURN YOURSELF IN

Blitz on blades brings results

IN the first week of the national knives amnesty, 664 weapons were handed in to Essex Police – 461 domestic knives, 116 non-domestic knives, 57 other weapons and 30 items of interest.

The other weapons and items of interest included a 4ft William Wallace-type sword, four Samurai swords, 12 ceremonial knives, a World War I bayonet, a Gurkha knife, a commando knife, CS spray, two sickles and a gas-powered starting pistol.

Chief Insp Dave King, of the Community Safety Department, is pleased with the response so far.

He said: "If just one knife is handed in it is one less opportunity for someone to be killed or injured with it. The whole purpose of the campaign is to take weapons out of circulation."

Police chiefs across the UK have been disappointed and mystified at the surge in serious attacks which coincided with the launch of the nationwide knife amnesty, but officers here in Essex have witnessed a sharp drop in such crime.

Following the stabbing of a boy playing football outside a Birmingham school just two days after the amnesty began, a man was killed on a train in Cumbria.

The five-week amnesty, the first of its kind since 1995, aims to rid the streets of as many knives and other weapons as possible. It concludes at the end of this month and police and residents in Essex hope the recent rise in knife-point attacks elsewhere is not replicated in this county.

Assistant Chief Constable John Broughton understands the long-term is where the battle must be



● Supt Glenn Caton and Insp Mark Rayner with two of the more unusual weapons handed in at Basildon Police Station

Picture by Nishan Wijeratne

won. "Tackling knife culture, especially among teenagers, is essential for the continued safety of our communities," said Mr Broughton.

"We don't tolerate knives on our streets and every weapon handed in is a weapon that can't be used in crime.

"This campaign really isn't aimed at the hardened criminal who's not going to be affected by

the advertising, but at people who could drift into knife crime or get into it because of peer pressure or some misguided feeling."

Specially-designed wheelie bins painted red have been placed at all police stations in Essex, with people urged to hand in offensive weapons, wrapped in cardboard, without fear of prosecution.

Last year, 439 people were arrested after being found wan-

dering the streets of Essex with a bladed item, with a further 22 children found to have knives on school premises. Nearly 300 people were prosecuted for knife-related crime after being involved in assaults or street robbery, with five people stabbed to death.

Police will continue to target knife possession after the amnesty ends and continue to support education-awareness projects.

by Nishan Wijeratne

POLICE have taken the unusual step of inviting members of the public in south-west Essex who know they are wanted by officers to contact them prior to having to be arrested.

Residents living in Aveley, Purfleet, Ockendon and West Thurrock have been offered this unique opportunity rather than face the embarrassment of being taken away by officers under a high-profile arrest operation following the recent bank holiday weekend.

Letters were sent out to 80 people in the area asking them to contact officers, with individuals being asked to make contact with police so as to avoid any unnecessary delays.

Sgt Anna Brennan said: "There are people out there who know that we are looking for them for a variety of reasons. It may be that they have just forgotten to meet a bail appointment or that they have arrest warrants against their names for a number of relatively minor offences.

"But we needed to speak to them in order to get them moving through the criminal justice system again. They did have the alternative of being woken up by us at any time of the day, causing embarrassment to not only themselves but to neighbours, friends and family too.

"So we were sure that many would prefer the easier option."

The idea seems to have paid off handsomely. As *The Law* went to press, a total of 32 people had made contact with the police – 25 warrants had been executed after people had either rung in or turned up at a police station, and a further seven were arrested.

And at lunchtime on Friday, June 2, officers had executed a total of 40 warrants and arrested a total of 16 people as a result of the campaign.

Said Sgt Brennan, whose idea it was to write to people who had warrants outstanding against them: "We found that people who called us didn't even know they had a warrant outstanding against them. The warrants office says this is the best operation it has experienced in relation to the number of warrants being executed."

A dedicated team of officers carried out any necessary arrests during the four-day operation.

After proving so successful, the 'turn yourself in' invitation has been extended. Anyone who believes they are still wanted by police can contact Sgt Brennan at South Ockendon Police Station on 01375 362163.



Ten years on, will 'no' vote still seem right?

Specials, PCSOs miss out on membership

I WRITE this having just returned from the Police Federation Conference in Bournemouth.

Essex Police Federation sent 24 delegates for three days of discussion, debate and decision.

One of the key issues debated this year was the extension to the membership of the Police Federation.

Delegates voted firmly against extending the Police Federation membership to other police staff, including Specials and PCSOs.

This vote could be a pivotal point for the Police Federation, the warranted police officer and the police service as a whole.

In ten years' time, I hope we can reflect on making the right decision.

Conference is often frowned

upon, usually by misinformed officers.

This year, I have attempted to redress this issue by commissioning a conference newsletter, which will be sent to members shortly.

Hopefully, you will find this publication to be informative and it will give you an insight into the key issues of conference.

We invited along Chief Constable Roger Baker, together with Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers and chief executive, Douglas Hayton.

They attended conference as our guests on the Wednesday, which was a particularly interesting day, covering Police Reform, Bravery Awards and a question and answer session with the new

Home Secretary, Dr John Reid.

I sincerely hope they found it as informative as we did.

Survey

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all of you who took the trouble of completing the Police Federation survey which assessed opinions on the levels of threat faced by police officers, attitudes on current methods of protection and whether a higher proportion of officers should be trained in the use of, and issued with, firearms.

Essex police officers returned 1,369 questionnaires. When calculated against a total of 3,208 officers in this force at the time, it

gave a response rate of 42.7 per cent for Essex, putting us in the top half compared to the rest of England and Wales.

Key issues to emerge from the survey, specific to Essex Police, are as follows:

- In the last two years, 42.3 per cent of Essex officers felt that their life was in serious danger
- but 47.7 per cent of you are not very satisfied with the training available to you to equip you for needs of modern policing
- 63.1 per cent of Essex officers thought that there should be mandatory wearing of body armour for all operational duties
- 42.3 per cent of Essex officers thought that, with appropriate training, electric stun guns (TASER) should be issued to all

front line officers.

● 48.4 per cent of Essex officers thought that firearms should not be issued to all police officers but that more officers should receive appropriate training and be issued with firearms as and when necessary.

The above figures are based upon percentages of Essex officers who completed the survey.

Feedback

Regarding our recent publications on amalgamations and this year's conference, please do not hesitate to send me feedback, whether it be good or bad.

Without our members' views, I don't know whether you find them informative, or am I wasting my time?

● Roy can be contacted by email or on ext 54562

Well done to all

GOOD work and bravery saw officers and police staff receive commendations from the Chief Constable in April.

Sgt Ian Carter, PEPYS Programme Manager, was given an ACPO commendation for his commitment, hard work and expertise in working with children and young people.

He has made a significant contribution to youth issues for the police service, doing major research and helping to draft ACPO papers.

Pc Aaron Connolly, of South Woodham Ferrers, Pc Matt Maunton, of Maldon, and Pc Matt Harkness, of Chelmsford, were commended for their courage and professionalism dealing with a serious assault.

The officers went to a flat in South Woodham Ferrers and found a wounded man, on whom they carried out cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

The man's self-inflicted injuries meant he was bleeding badly and, despite their best efforts, he was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital.

Pc Kier Stannard, now with Norfolk, Pc Robert Partridge, of Harwich, and Pc Kelly Hegley and Pc Teresa Oxley, both of Clacton, are commended for their excellent teamwork in January 2005.

The officers sealed off a premises, resulting in the quick arrest of a murder suspect. Sadly, despite trying to revive the victim at the scene, he died.

The defendant was found guilty of murder and robbery and given a life sentence.

Sgt Jon De-Vries and Pc Mick Bray, both of Wickford, and Pc Chris Layley, of Billericay,

were commended for their professionalism last August when they were called to a house in Wickford.

There they found a man suffering from a paranoid attack linked to drugs, threatening an ambulance crew – his partner and child were also at risk. One officer was attacked by the family dog.

The man was eventually taken to hospital where he was restrained for another two hours until staff could sedate him.

Former Det Supt Nobby Clarke, acting Det Insp Grahame Hadley, Sgt Andy Harvey, Sgt Mark Hall, Dc Martin Phillips, Dc Darren Sibley, Daniella Wiltshire, and Brendan O'Mahoney, all of Brentwood MIT, Sgt Claire Martinez, of Professional Standards, and Dc Tony McDonnell, of Stanway MIT, were all commended for their

tenacity, determination and professionalism during an investigation of rape and aggravated burglary.

Three men had forced their way into premises armed with knives and a gun and wearing 'Scream' masks.

Two women were tied up and subjected to serious sexual assaults and money and property was stolen. In June 2005 the defendants were sentenced to between six to eight years' imprisonment, two of which were increased on appeal.

And Pc Mark Pearce, of Chelmsford RPU, was commended for his courage and compassion when he attended an incident at Chelmsford Station after a woman was struck by a train.

He climbed on to the tracks and carried out first aid, assisting paramedics, but she died later.

Speedboat bird scarer has his wings clipped

ENGLISH Nature is improving its signs following an incident where a speedboat driver was reported under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Stansted Airport Pc Steve Cleaver, Essex Police Wildlife Co-ordinator, received a complaint from birdwatchers observing the arrival of wintering Brent geese at Two Tree Island, Leigh on Sea.

The area is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Around 7,000 Brent geese arrive on the mudflats each

year to feed on eel-grass after flying in from Siberia.

The birdwatchers were horrified to see two speedboats apparently being driven deliberately and repeatedly into the flock, terrifying and scattering the birds. They reported it to police.

Pc Cleaver said: "I traced one of the boat owners and reported him for an offence under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981."

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All you need to know about equality

AN easy-to-navigate Equality and Diversity site has been launched on the intranet to provide readily-accessible information relating to equal opportunities and diversity.

Every member of Essex Police has a legal duty to promote equality in the course of carrying out their duties.

The site includes operational information, forthcoming diversity events, advice on policies, including the grievance procedure, maternity and paternity leave and new legislation.

It also has advice on the six diversity strands of age, disability, race, gender, faith and sexual orientation plus contacts for internal support groups and outside agencies.

Following consultation with the dyslexia liaison support group, the Human Resources diversity team developed the site to make sure it was dyslexia friendly, with coloured backgrounds to reduce glare, sans serif fonts and a high contrast between text and background.

• The site can be accessed on the Intranet home page – click on Information at the top and then on Equality/Diversity on the menu

Make savings on childcare

FANTASTIC savings can be made by joining the Childcare Voucher Scheme.

It is open to all personnel who are parents or legal guardians of children for childcare arrangements.

The salary sacrifice scheme allows a maximum contribution of £243 per month, giving savings on National Insurance and tax contributions. For a lower rate taxpayer this can mean a saving of up to £900 a year.

If both parents, or two legal guardians, work for Essex Police, they may each pay the maximum contribution, giving a double saving.

The e-voucher scheme is being run in conjunction with Childcare Pass and it is hoped it will be ready for the July payroll.

• Full details and application forms can be found on the HR intranet site via the maternity network pages, or by contacting your local HR department or Employee Relations at HQ

Specials walk is postponed

SADLY, the 12th annual Special Constabulary walk, due to be held last month, had to be postponed.

Chief Officer George Cook had hoped to lead a team of Specials, retired officers, colleagues and friends along the Essex Way to raise money for Essex Air Ambulance.

Ill-health forced the postponement and a new date has yet to be fixed.

However, Mr Cook is still seeking sponsorship and volunteers for the new date.

• Sponsorship forms and itineraries are available from the Special Constabulary support team on ext 58714 or via email from Sylvia Goodchild

Make your views on merger heard

ESSEX Police Authority wants to hear from you!

The police authority and Essex Police want to hear from local people about what they think about the Government's proposals for Essex to merge with Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire forces.

Former Home Secretary Charles Clarke announced in March that all three forces would be merged.

They were then given three weeks to volunteer to merge but none of the three forces decided to do this.

Instead, Essex Police Authority decided to take legal advice about the possibility of bringing a judicial review to challenge the proposals, a process

which is ongoing.

All forces across the country now have until August 11 to make any further formal objections to the proposals.

Essex Police Authority and Essex Police now want to hear from you – the communities we serve.

What do you think about the merger plans? Do you think policing would be improved if we were merged?

These are just some of the questions you will be asked in the next month. A questionnaire will be delivered through every door in the county, and it can also be found on the back page of our annual newspaper Policing Essex, which will be distributed this month.

All you need to do is fill it in and send it back to our Freepost address.

Essex Police Authority Chairman Robert Chambers said: "We will be sending out a questionnaire to every household in Essex – about 700,000 in total. We will be asking a series of questions about policing.

"We think it is vital that the public – the people who pay for policing in their area, have a say on the future of the service.

"We also expect that when we send our feedback to the Home Secretary he will pay attention to it."

• See Corner the Chairman on Page 5

Campaign will target World Cup drinkers

by Tina Starling

WITH the World Cup now upon us it was quite appropriate that this year's summer anti-drink-driving campaign was launched at Colchester United Football Club.

Eddie the Eagle, the Colchester United mascot – aka Senior Traffic Management Officer Adam Pipe – was breath-tested by Chief Insp Tom Diment and given the all-clear.

This year's campaign, run in partnership with Essex County Council, primarily targets 17 to 29-year-old men, and will be specifically aimed at those who may want to enjoy a drink during the soccer tournament and still drive home.

Statistics show that, on average, 3,000 people are killed or seriously injured each year in drink-drive collisions nationwide.

During festivals and events such as the World Cup, there is an increase in alcohol consumption which is likely to have a direct correlation with drink-driving incidents.

The campaign will be promoted on the backs of buses and by posters displayed in washrooms in clubs and pubs throughout the county.

Essex County Council road safety officers will be working closely with Stansted Airport to promote the campaign – not only is Stansted one of the airports being used by football supporters, they can also target holiday makers on their return home.

Licensing officers throughout Essex will also be working hard to promote the summer anti-drink-drive campaign as well.

Chief Insp Diment said: "We will not stop hammering home this message until we are convinced that the minority who flout the law have sat up and taken note."

And he added: "Throughout the summer months, we will be actively enforcing the drink-drive laws and will take action against anyone found to be over the legal limit."



• Chief Insp Tom Diment, Mobile Support Operations Manager, makes sure Eddie the Eagle is fit to drive at the launch of the force's summer anti-drink-driving campaign

Picture by Tina Starling

Vow to combat binge drinking 'head-on'

IN the run-up to the football World Cup and with a worrying trend of under-age drinking, the force will continue to support the Home Office Alcohol Misuse and Enforcement campaign (AMEC) this summer.

The campaign aims to set the tone of acceptable behaviour before the start of the World Cup.

It particularly focuses on the need for licensees to run responsible premises, to cut under-age alcohol sales and to work with the new powers given in the 2003 Licensing Act.

Sgt Nigel Dermott, the force's Licensing Project Manager and Alcohol Co-ordinator said: "Essex will continue to support this enforcement campaign as

we have in the past, but will continue to work in partnership with the trade to ensure long-term solutions.

"We need the support of parents and the community to see this as a problem within the whole of our society, not just within the licensing trade."

During previous AMEC campaigns, Essex Police has cracked down on the illegal and irresponsible consumption of alcohol by under-age youngsters and tackled retailers who sell alcohol to minors.

Led by Trading Standards officers and using young volunteers, supermarkets and shops suspected of selling alcohol to children have been targeted. People selling alcohol to minors are liable to an £80

on-the-spot fixed penalty notice or prosecution. Similar operations will be carried out during the current campaign.

Sgt Dermott added: "We want everyone to feel happy and relaxed when out during the evening, especially during the warmer summer weather and for them to enjoy the World Cup.

"We will continue to work in partnership with staff in pubs, clubs and supermarkets across the county to combat the issue of binge drinking head-on. We are determined to keep up the pressure to reduce violent crime, drunkenness and anti-social behaviour."

• See Revoked off-licence is a first for county on Page 5

Training takes inspectors' skills forward

FOLLOWING on from the success of the national Core Leadership Development Programme (CDLP), the force college recently undertook a two-week training course designed for inspectors.

Held at the Territorial Army HQ in Chelmsford, this training addresses the needs of those newly promoted to the role and those who may need refresher training.

It is specifically linked to identifying and equipping staff with the knowledge and skills needed which will then translate into greater performance in the work place.

Subjects covered include leadership, planning and performance, financial awareness, firearms, bronze commander, missing persons, child abuse investigations, licensing and the Professional Standards Department.

Insp Angelina Crook, of the Management and Development Team, said: "I am proud of the design and the training offered on this course and the feedback has been phenomenal.

"I am encouraged that the force will reap the rewards of this investment in staff, not only by increasing performance but also giving them the skills required to manage and develop staff."

Kitty getting full for Guide Dog fund

MEMBERS of the Dengie Hundred motorbike club are nearly halfway towards raising £5,000 to buy, name and train a Guide Dog.

The kitty was boosted by another £685 thanks to a rock show at the Bassment Club in Chelmsford last month.

Sharing top billing were local band Highway 61 and Canadian outfit Swank. The six-piece Highway 61 line-up featured drummer Dc Richard Camp, of the Volume Crime Unit at Brentwood, and Pc Teen Naiman, from Bocking Road Policing Unit, on keyboards and sax.

Pc Tracey Bishop, a road policing officer at Bocking, is the band's road manager.

• The Dengie Hundred motorcycle club is planning a fund-raising 'poker run' for cars and bikes on Sunday, July 23.

More details from Tracey Bishop on ext 63240

Secretary hands over

THE Southend branch of the National Association of Retired Police Officers (NARPO) has a new secretary.

David Jones stood down at the AGM in April and handed over to Peter Yorke-Wade, of Rochford.

Mr Jones thanked everyone for the help they had given him during his two years in office and said that he would not be severing his ties with NARPO.

Law Letters

HAVE YOUR SAY: Write to Heather Turner, Law Letters, Press Office, Police HQ, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DA.

Letters and emails must include full name and home town. We reserve the right to edit letters. Please be aware The Law is reproduced on the internet and circulated to the media.

Join us to make new friends at social events

AS a member of the committee of the Colchester and North-East Essex branch of NARPO, I held a garden party at my home on May 14.

Between 50 and 60 members and friends attended, including Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark and his wife.

It was a great day, with a happy and pleasant atmosphere and good food, prepared by a willing band of helpers. Proceeds from this event will be donated to the widows and families of RUC officers who have died on duty in Northern Ireland. I am most grateful to those who attended and to everyone involved in making this a special day.

If you are retired and living in the Eastern Division, why not come and join us?

Forthcoming events include a trip on the Norfolk Broads on August 27, a barbecue at Hamilton Lodge in Great Bromley, on September 10, the Big Quiz Night in November, and monthly meetings at either Colchester or Clacton. The annual dinner this year attracted over 100 members and guests included Chief Constable Roger Baker, Mr Clark and their wives.

Do contact chairman Frank Reed on 01255 429155 or secretary Richard Bird on 01206 211247 if you are interested.

Carole Hudson

Abbreviations hurt my eyes

I KNOW the subject of abbreviations has been raised before in The Law but in the April issue I think all records were broken.

Even though my eyesight is not as good as it used to be, I came across no fewer than 12 which I had not previously seen: CBT, EBPA, SOCD, SOCA, LGBT, NBT, DPS, SARA, CSAS, SSPO, CRA and PITO.

If any serving officer can remember what all of these stand for – without peeping – then I applaud you.

Dave Rose
Linton

Bring back swim now water's clean

WITH obesity filling miles of column inches in newspapers and magazines, I could have done with a bit of it when I was a guest breast-stroker – I am a poor crawler – in the last Essex Police Long-Distance Swim at Southend, around 30 years ago.

I wondered why some of the competitors were rubbing oily substances on their bodies.

I soon found out. Even though it was summer, the briny couldn't have been much more than 58F.

I hoped I would be able to complete the mile or so and was successful – but only just.

I could have done with a bit of blubber – halfway I felt myself

deteriorating with the cold and had to complete the last quarter of a mile on my back because it was easier to breathe. Such fun!

The marine unit were standing by although, I believe, amazingly they were not needed.

All the ladies beat me home. I think I took about 45 minutes. The knowledgeable ones 'crawled' out and then came back, helped by the tide.

I was unable to walk up the steps of the Leigh Sailing Club vessel and was literally on my hands and knees – I couldn't speak properly for three hours. But it was a wonderful social occasion.

I think I am correct in saying that the late Chief Constable Sir John Nightingale loved competing in the event.

The swim was stopped as the water allegedly became unsafe and organisers were worried that some-

one might catch a disease.

Now the water around Southend is apparently much cleaner, what about starting it again?

Keen sportsman and Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark might like to have a go.

Best regards to all who know me. After several years as crime reporter on the Evening Echo at Southend and then doing a similar job on the Essex Chronicle, I am now a freelance, mainly for the Chronicle. In fact my 50th year as a newspaper reporter is next year.

I wrote a piece on former Chief Supt Julia Jeapes recently and she told me that she loved her years at Southend. So did I – such characters, such fun – but many of those who helped me along the way are, alas, now no longer with us.

Fred Hammerton
Blackmore End

Force democracy springs from independence

I RECALL as a recruit that the late Capt Peel addressed us in no uncertain terms that the independence of police forces responsible to the local authority was a guarantee of democracy.

The nationalisation of the service, as the latest proposals seem to me to be, puts a very powerful tool in the hands of central Government and, in the wrong hands, I believe it could lead to dictatorship.

Having said that, it is obvious the cost will be tremendous. Simply calling in consultants to design a common logo which is agreed by all parties will no doubt cost tens of thousands, let alone repainting buildings and vehicles.

And that's before the serious stuff of personnel dispersal and a common computer system.

The Council Tax-payer will, no doubt, pick up the tab whilst waiting for a scenes of crime officer from Luton to arrive at Salcott cum Virley.

Stephen Williams
Coggeshall

Charity needs help

I AM a retired officer from Suffolk Police now living in Essex and I would like to promote a charity with which I am involved and which now needs a little help.

When I retired in 1996 after 30 years' service, I offered my services to Cruse Bereavement Care. Most people will know of us but may not realise we are the largest bereavement support organisation in the world.

I had to wait over a year for a course, but the Suffolk branch persuaded me to join the committee. I soon found myself branch chairman!

On moving to Colchester, I became involved with the local branch, which is now in need of some help.

Cruse branches don't close because of too few counsellors or from lack of money, although that is always tight – they close for lack of management and administrative

support, which is what happened to the Chelmsford branch.

If we in Colchester have to close, there will be no cover from Suffolk until you reach Southend, Basildon or Uttlesford.

We therefore need help from a few people with a little time to offer. I can certainly recommend the voluntary sector for anyone retiring, especially if they are not going on to full-time work.

At the time of writing we need a vice-chairman, committee members, a fund raiser, a branch administrator, a minutes secretary and help two hours a week in the office.

Can you help or do you know someone who can? Feel free to call me to discuss on 01206 368275, or contact Cruse on 01206 363008, which is always an answering machine.

Jack Allen
Colchester

A swinging read for our local historians

MICK Holland retired from Essex Police in 1991 and turned his attention to teaching and researching local history.

His interest in the agricultural riots of 1830 to 1832 saw him appointed academic adviser to a national research project into what are commonly known as the Captain Swing Riots.

And Mick has edited a book about swing-riot offences, the first to be published by The Family and Community Historical Research Society. *Swing Unmasked* is a collection of 11 essays based on incidents in Surrey, Shropshire, Essex, Derby, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Norfolk and includes details of over 3,300 offences, including the names of



● **Swing Unmasked**

both the offenders and victims, the location of the offence and the sentence given to the offender by the courts.

The book reveals that a much larger geographical area was affected by the social unrest in the pre-trade union countryside of England and Wales than was previously thought.

● The book costs £16.50, plus £3.50 p+p.

● A CD-Rom containing databases of law breakers and protesters with 3,521 names and 3,318 recorded events that complements the book is also available at £10 plus £1.50 p+p.

● Both are available from FACHRS Publications, West Hill, Aspley Guise, Milton Keynes MK1 8DP or order from www.fachrs.com

Gone . . . but not forgotten

Pc Andrew Morrison – Essex Police. Served from February 2, 1976. Died June 2, 1989



PC Andrew 'Andy' Morrison was first stationed at Billericay. He then worked at Rowhedge and Colchester before transferring to the Force Support Unit in April 1982.

Pc Morrison soon qualified in firearms, and was highly regarded for his skills.

His colleagues considered him to be a hard-working officer and something of a perfectionist, especially after he became a police diver in October 1983 and a diving supervisor in May 1986.

On June 1, 1989, the divers were following a routine training exercise in some gravel pits close to Dobbs Weir near Nazeing. Pc Morrison and Pc Steve Taylor got into difficulties while attempting to attach a hawser to a sunken barge. Pc Taylor died at the scene and Pc Morrison died the following day in hospital.

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.



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

Corner the chairman



● Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers

Tell us what you think about merger proposals

“ESSEX Police Authority is still intent on fighting the Government’s proposals to merge with Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire forces. We have until August 11 to make any further formal objections to the plans. We are now urging the public to voice their opinion on the amalgamation procedure, and we intend to feed back our findings to the Government. Within the next two weeks everyone in Essex will receive a questionnaire through their door – it can be found on the back of our annual newspaper *Policing Essex* and it will also be delivered separately. All we are asking is that you take a few minutes to answer the questions and return the survey to the Freepost address provided. The police authority has decided not to merge voluntarily with Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire because we want to provide the best policing services to Essex residents.

We feel that the best way we can do this is by staying as a stand-alone force and continuing to introduce our new policing style. This style has seen more officers put on the front line, new Neighbourhood Policing Teams set up, arrest rates rise and crime fall. We want to continue to build on this work and feel the only way we can do this is to stay as we are and improve services for the public. All of us who live and work in Essex deserve a first-class service. It is vital that those who pay for their policing have a say on the future of our force. Within the questionnaire you will be asked a whole series of questions about policing – this is *your* chance to have *your* say. We would really value your feedback. ”

Quiz helps cancer appeal

SOUTHEND Police Golf Society (SPGS) held a charity quiz Night at the Southend clubroom on May 20. Members raised £184 towards the Southend Hospital Pinpoint Cancer Appeal.

Divisional champions for mobile phones

WITH the rise in thefts of mobile phones across the country, Essex Police has decided to nominate ‘mobile phone champions’ in each division.

These lead officers will drive forward training which will eventually ensure that everyone will know what to do when a mobile phone is handed in, discovered on a prisoner in a custody suite or found during a stop and search.

The first target is to ensure officers and staff in custody, on front desks, service desks and crime desks and in the divisional intelligence units are trained. This training will then be rolled out to all relevant officers and staff on division.

The National Mobile Phone Crime Unit (NMPCU) – which runs the website www.immobilise.com – is staffed by Metropolitan Police intelligence officers,

inputters and inquiry teams, which help police officers across the country to investigate mobile phone thefts and robberies.

In order for investigating officers to get the most from the unit and its database, it is important that a mobile phone’s IMEI number is put on the initial crime report.

Crime reports including IMEI numbers – a special code unique to the mobile phone – are downloaded monthly by an analyst and sent to the NMPCU. Phones can then be returned to their owners and crimes identified through the use of the database.

Mobile phones can also be disabled by phone providers if they are supplied with the IMEI number – thus rendering the handset useless to thieves and robbers.

Acting Det Insp Trevor Garrard, of the Force Intelligence Bureau, said: “People who are brought into custody or stop-checked on the street will have to account for mobile phones in their possession which, after checking with this system, turn out to be stolen – it may assist in either a charge of robbery or of handling – so this will start to act as a deterrent to the theft of mobile phones.

“Checking IMEI numbers can also be used as investigative and intelligence tools as, if the phone turns out to be stolen, it gives us another reason to question the person who has it in their possession,” he added.

● To find your mobile phone’s IMEI no. key in *#06# which will cause a unique, 14 to 17-digit code to appear on your mobile phone screen. Register IMEI no.s at www.immobilise.com

Public order training call for women

FOLLOWING the success of last year’s two-day MAT Under-Representation Training session, another has been arranged.

The force Mutual Aid Trained (MAT) capability still lacks female officers so the session – on Friday, September 22, and Saturday, September 23 – is solely for them to attend.

They will have the opportunity to train to full MAT level at the public order site at Lydd in Kent. Afterwards, it will still be the decision of the officer’s division as to when they can go on the divisional MAT list, taking into account the current divisional vacancies and the officer’s service – this is particularly the case with probationers. Since the last session, the force has significantly increased the number of female officers on the MAT list.

● Female sergeants and constables should forward a request to go only via their RMU, marked for the attention of Pc John Eagles

Nominate our life-savers

DO you know a genuine hero?

There’s still time – just – to nominate them for a Vodafone Life-Savers Award. The awards acknowledge acts of courage and bravery by the emergency services – individuals or crews – as well as ordinary members of the public during the last two years.

Prime Minister Tony Blair has given the scheme his personal backing and will host a winners’ reception at Number 10.

Last year’s winners included two Merseyside officers who saved three boys from drowning and two Met officers who risked their lives to free two men from a burning car seconds before it exploded.

● Entries must be received no later than June 16.

For nomination forms, visit www.vodafone.co.uk/lifesavers or call the awards hotline on 0870 902 3333

Fun to raise awareness

THE Essex Police sports pavilion is hosting a fund raising and awareness day for Down’s Syndrome Extra 21.

The group supports children with Down’s syndrome and their families in Essex and north-east London.

The AGAM/fun day on Sunday, June 11, starts at noon and finishes about 4.30pm.

There will be dance displays from Dance 21 – a local dance group for children with Down’s syndrome and their siblings – and the Mencap Gateway Club. Also, the Essex Steam Railways Association will be running one of its trains along a 200ft track and rides will be available. Subject to operational availability, Essex Police dogs and response cars will make an appearance, too.

Revoked off-licence is a first for county

● Essex Black Police Association chairman Chief Supt Win Bernard discusses topical issues with Chief Constable Roger Baker at the association’s annual meeting

Picture by Nishan Wijeratne



New day dawns for the Black Police Association

BETTER times lie ahead for the Essex Black Police Association (EPBA), members have been told.

“It’s no secret that for a good two years there was some instability within the association,” said chairman Chief Supt Win Bernard.

“Now all of those past issues have been resolved and we welcome a new dawn. I’m especially grateful to all of those members who stuck it out through the tough times and are still with us, and to the new executive committee.

“They have put their heads above the parapet in order to drive the association forward and to make everyone aware of its objectives and achievements.”

He added: “We all look to a more positive future and, in particular, to working closely with our new chief constable.”

Chief Supt Bernard’s comments followed the EPBA’s AGM at Greenwood’s Hotel in Stock.

The event attracted an audience of more than 50.

Chief Supt Bernard and Chief Constable Roger Baker shared the platform with guest speakers Clive Mardner, of the Essex Racial Equality Council, and Gary Chapman, from the Centrex Leadership Programme.

“It was a hugely successful evening,” said

EBPA executive member Nishan Wijeratne. “We were extremely pleased and encouraged by the turn-out for an event where people had the chance to speak frankly and openly about the issues, and could also be totally at ease and mix with colleagues and counterparts from other forces.

“As Win stated, it’s very important for those in need of support today to know that there are others just like them who have trod similar paths in the past.

“Today, these members are still around, ready and willing to pull them through.”

Mr Baker revealed some of his experiences and attitudes towards the challenge of policing diverse communities.

A secondment to India in the early 1990s, he declared, proved to be ‘a life-changing experience’.

Essex Police needs to recruit more black and ethnic minority officers and staff to genuinely reflect the communities it serves. This will become even more important as the county prepares for a projected 123,000 extra homes over the next 15 years.

Mr Baker thanked the association and others for his welcome on coming to Essex, and pledged full co-operation and dialogue with EBPA in defending people and property and helping to make the county a safe place for all.

by Heather Turner

ESSEX Police has welcomed what is believed to be the first case of a revocation of a store’s off-licence in the county.

Sivasubramanian Thayalan, 35, of Stubbs Lane Stores in Stubbs Lane, Braintree, had appeared before Braintree District Council’s licensing committee on May 25.

At the end of the hearing, he was told that the premises’ licence – which allowed him to sell alcoholic drinks – had been revoked under the terms of the 2003 Licensing Act.

Braintree and Uttlesford licensing officer Stephen Sparrow said the move resulted from nine months of work involving Trading Standards, police officers, PCSOs and local residents.

As well as carrying out two positive test-purchase operations in conjunction with Trading Standards, officers and PCSOs helped to compile a dossier of evidence detailing the anti-social behaviour resulting from under-age customers being able to buy alcohol.

Police then applied for the revocation order on the grounds of preventing disorder and public nuisance and of protecting children from harm.

Essex Police Civil Claims Manager Adrian Williams said afterwards: “Over the past year, this premises consistently sold alcohol to minors. So far as I am aware, this is the first revocation of a premises licence on application by the police or any other interested party in Essex, since the introduction of the new licensing legislation.”

Mr Sparrow said the anti-social behaviour in the area had been ‘deeply unpleasant and distressing’ for residents. It included car aerials being broken, cars being scratched, bottles and cans being thrown into gardens, litter and people urinating.

Mr Thayalan has 21 days from the date of the hearing to appeal against the decision. If he does not, at the end of those 21 days, he must clear his store’s shelves of alcohol.

Rookies waste no time going into front line

ROOKIE officers in south-west Essex are at the forefront of a new police training scheme designed to enable them to hit the ground running.

by Nishan Wijeratne

The South Ockendon Professional Development Unit (PDU), which opened its doors in March, is one of four police training centres to open in Essex and has become a finishing school for the county's latest probationers.

The centre's second intake of trainees is currently progressing through the system and many can be seen patrolling Thurrock's streets – not that residents, retailers or motorists would realise they are not yet fully qualified.

Sgt Mandy Copleston, who along with Sgt Emma Reel supervises the training, believes that the new centre is a key part of the force's quest to improve the

standard of its officers.

"Previously, student officers spent 15 weeks at Ashford and then returned to the force where they were assigned to a shift and expected to deal with whatever came up," said Sgt Copleston. "Their feet never really got the chance to touch the ground and, with the heavy workload, emphasis was placed on getting the work done."

"Now the training is split into modules and is based at Essex Police Training College. The probationers get law training there and then return to the PDU where they have the opportunities to apply what they have learnt in real situations."

"We pick and choose what incidents we feel they will benefit from, resulting in better-qualified officers who have the chance to get out into the community and meet the people they are eventually going to serve."

Probationers who go through South Ockendon PDU will end up posted to a station in South-West Division. Each intake comprises 16 recruits who spend 10 weeks at the PDU before being sent to a station.

Pc Chris Burch, one of the probationers, said: "We can do everything that a normal officer can do, but we just need to feel our way. We get sent to incidents with fully-qualified patrol officers so that we get an idea of what it's like, but we do have all the powers they have."

Another trainee, Pc Jo Perry, said: "On our first week here, we were deployed to an armed robbery in Grays and since then we have attended road crashes, car-cruising operations and most things really. It's great. The weeks have just flown by and they have given me the opportunity to know the area I'm going to be based in."

The force's three other PDUs are located at Colchester, South Woodham Ferrers and Hatfield Heath.



Some of the latest student officers training and working at South Ockendon PDU

Smart way to travel

POLICE Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in Epping Forest will now be able to make better use of their time and ensure that rural and isolated parts of the district are served, thanks to a donation of £14,000.

The gift, from the Epping Forest Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP), has made the purchase of two Smart cars possible. This means that PCSOs can be more flexible in moving from place to place, critical in a district like Epping Forest.

The two cars will mostly cover the north of the district, including villages near Ongar, North Weald, Sheering, Nazeing and Roydon.

The two-seater cars, coloured black and white, will be of real benefit in rural areas as a more cost-effective and reliable way of getting PCSOs out and about.

The PCSOs serving the Epping Forest part of the division will continue with their primary role, walking the beat and talking to the public. The cars will enable them to move

between beats more effectively and to provide support in other places as and when needed.

Chief Superintendent Andy Adams said: "Our Epping District PCSOs cover a vast area. The CDRP's donation will allow the PCSOs to get to their areas quickly enabling them to carry out their foot patrols effectively in the more rural areas of Epping Forest."

The Smart cars were presented in Epping on May 12. Simon Ford, Crime Reduction Co-ordinator on behalf of the CDRP, handed over the keys.

Into a Californian cauldron - but Dennis takes it all in his stride

Some like it hot



Determined ... Dennis striding across the sand dunes in Death Valley

IF you can't stand the heat then stay out of Death Valley, one of the hottest and harshest places on the planet.

But adventurer Dennis Rensch has taken all the hazards in his stride – literally – and come through smiling.

Dennis is back home following his intrepid three-day charity walk across some of the toughest terrain known to Man.

With temperatures well into the hundreds Death Valley, remote and dangerous, is not the place for a leisurely stroll. But meticulous planning and correct equipment kept Dennis safe throughout.

"It all went exactly to plan but it was pretty hard going," said the 59-year-old former chief inspector. "When I got back I slept the whole weekend."

Readers of *The Law* (see March edition) will recall how Dennis planned the challenge to raise up to £20,000 for Brentwood Foyer, a charity which helps young adults gain life skills ahead of moving on to independent living.

Dennis was joined on his US trip by Ian Nicholls, a member of Brentwood ABecket Rotary Club, who drove the support vehicle.

The pair flew into Las Vegas, about 2-3 hours east of Death Valley, to pick up their purpose-equipped four-wheel drive before moving on to their base at Stovepipe Wells, at the northern end of the valley.

Dennis warmed up for his 30-mile trek with training walks across sand dunes at Stovepipe Wells and across a rugged area known as the Devil's Golf Course.

Then, on each of the next three days, he set out to cover 10 miles, starting at dawn and finishing before midday as temperatures started to soar into three figures.

Dennis plodded on across the crusty, muddy surface – the valley is a submerged lakebed – avoiding razor-sharp salt pinnacles and all the

time keeping a wary eye open for snakes and coyotes.

"At its hottest it was like standing in front of an oven and opening the door," he recalled.

Each day presented its challenges. On day one Dennis came to grips with the tremendous isolation as he reached halfway across the valley floor. Heat was the problem on Day Two – by 8am the temperature reached 116.

Day Three was probably the most harrowing, with mud all the way and a nasty tumble crossing a gully. Dennis and Ian also spent an anxious time before the pair managed to locate each other as the sun climbed higher in the sky.

While Dennis crossed the valley on foot by the more direct route, Ian would cover 60-70 miles in a detour to await his friend's arrival.

Alongside all the modern navigational and other aids, Ian relied on a simple compact mirror to flash signals across the desert for Dennis to home in on as he neared the end of each 10-mile stage.

Dennis and Ian bumped into only two other walkers out in the wilderness. Ironically, one was from Chelmsford and the other from Harlow!

Sponsorship money is now arriving from family, friends and local organisations. Brentwood Council and the Lord Lieutenant of Essex are among other supporters.

Dennis is no stranger to taking on the environment and the elements in the name of good causes. His previous fund-raising exploits include climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, with other adventures from Hong Kong to the North Pole and from the Amazon to the Australian outback.

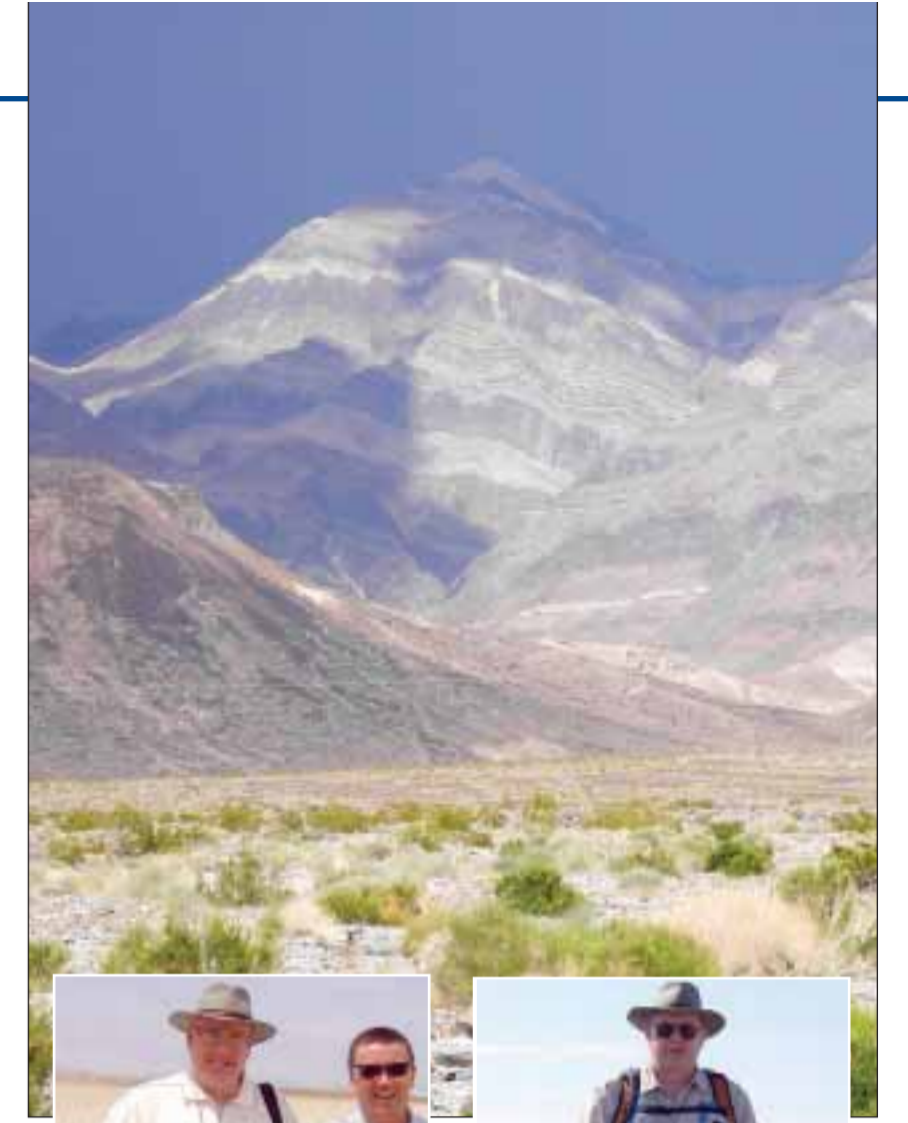
Dennis and Ian funded their Death Valley trip themselves, with all proceeds destined for charity.

Next year, while his contemporaries will be out collecting their bus passes, Dennis may well be setting off again for distant parts. A trip to the Antarctic has already been pencilled in.

To sponsor Dennis call 01277 202725.

Factfile:

- Death Valley is about 150 miles long and straddles the California-Nevada border.
- The area was named during the 1849 California gold rush by prospectors on their way to the goldfields.
- The hottest temperature recorded in the US, and the second hottest in the world, was 134 deg F (56.7 deg C) at Greenland Ranch (now Furnace Creek Ranch) on 10 July, 1913.
- Less than two inches of rain falls there every year. Despite this, the valley is prone to flooding during heavy rains as the soil cannot absorb the bulk of the water. The run-off can produce dangerous flash floods. In August 2004, such flooding caused two deaths and shut down the national park.
- Badwater in Death Valley is the lowest point in North America, at 282 feet below sea level.
- Death Valley was proclaimed a national monument by President Hoover on 11 February, 1933.
- Today Death Valley National Park is made up of 3,336,000 acres, mostly wilderness.
- Rhyolite, Skidoo and Chloride City are among the ghost towns in and around the valley.
- The Shoshone tribe have lived in Death Valley for at least the past 1,000 years.
- Despite the extreme heat Death Valley is home to a variety of animals, from bats and mice to the desert bighorn sheep.



Desolate ... a view across some of the rugged terrain across Death Valley; (inset, left) Dennis and Ian get the lowdown at Badwater Basin, and (inset, right) more tough country to cross, but all in a worthy cause

... and some like it cold

Gemma and Matt really hit the heights in Nepal



High society: a village Gemma and Matt visited in the Himalayas

HIGH in the Himalayas, sweet-hearts Gemma Rand and Matt Oldfield have discovered their own personal Shangri-La.

They spent 17 days walking and climbing amid some of the most spectacular sights, sounds and other sensations on 'The Roof of the World'.

"We had an amazing time," said Gemma, "fantastic scenery ranging from lush green terraced fields to dusty river basins, barren deserts and high snowy mountain passes and glaciers."

"We saw plenty of wildlife, from vultures and a kingfisher to big furry yaks."

"It was pretty tough going at times, too, especially battling with the nausea brought on by the altitude. But it was all certainly worthwhile, and one day we'd love to go back there."

The couple completed a 200-mile circular trek around the Annapurna Massif in Nepal after taking Foreign Office advice not to travel to Pakistan. Gemma, a PC at Grays, and Matt, who serves in the Met, flew into Kathmandu.



Those earrings look like icicles!

Accompanied by guides and Sherpas, their travels on leaving the Nepalese capital took them through sub-tropical vegetation, wooded alpine and barren high desert, at

one point reaching nearly 18,000ft.

Weather along the way ranged from warm and sunny to snow at minus 10C, with the start of the main monsoon rains as their journey drew to a close. Matt in fact suffered a touch of frostbite.

As well as the enjoyment and exhilaration, the couple's once-in-a-lifetime trip had a serious purpose. Friends, family and colleagues sponsored them on the adventure to raise funds for the Breast Care Unit at Basildon Hospital.

Gemma said: "This cause is close to our hearts. Matt's mum was diagnosed with breast cancer last year, and the hard work and support of this unit helped her during the treatment of and recovery from this hideous illness."

With money still coming in, the total – appropriately – has reached a mountainous £2,150.

Further donations will be warmly welcomed. Cheques big or small made payable to 'Breast Unit Trust Fund charity no. 07740' and sent to Gemma via Grays Police Station, Brooke Road, Grays, Essex RM17 5BX.



Gemma, Matt and others in the party celebrate reaching the highest point (5,416m) on their epic trek

Law Classifieds

Holiday lets

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

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

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

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

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

CARCASSONE, southern France. Luxury chambre d'hote (B+B), well-appointed suites, private pool. Ideal base for walking, canoeing, skiing. Police discount. Contact John Taylor on +33 468 201 105 or visit www.domainestgeorge.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, Orlando, four-bedroom pool home overlooking water. Quiet location. £450-£550 per week. Close to golf, Disney and airport. Video available. Contact Pete or Linda on 01245 321378 or email petewtaylor@yahoo.com

FRANCE, stone, beamed cottage with woodburner. Quiet location with lots nearby. Calais five hours, Caen two hours. £150-£175 per week. Contact Emma on 07711 421579 or email em.bowditch1975@btinternet.com

FRANCE, three self-catering gites in peaceful village one hour from Calais in idyllic countryside near Hesdin and Arras. Ring 01375 483045 or email lepethameau@btinternet.com

IDEAL fishing. Grade II cottage in the Braintree area. Two-bed, two reception. Dining galley and kitchen. Details from 01376 564845.

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

ORLANDO, four-bed villa, 15 minutes from Disney. Solar-heated, screened pool, close to golf. From £350 per week. Ring Jan on 07771 538585.

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

Houses for sale and rent

BENFLEET, two-bed bungalow to rent in Thundersley in a quiet close. Part-furnished. £695pcm. References and deposit required. Contact Paul on 07980 065879.

RETIRING on pension and require extra income? B+B and granny? Grade II-listed period house for sale in sought-after village on World Heritage Jurassic Coast in Dorset. £425,000. Contact 01308 897922.

Cars and bikes

NISSAN Micra Inspiration, red, 1.3l, W-reg, five-door, air-conditioning, 18,000 miles. Just serviced. Full service history. One year's MoT. £2,500. Contact Hugh Conroy on 01702 473312.

PIAGGIO NRG 50cc red scooter, 2003, very good condition, mature owner. 10,000 miles, data-tagged. £750 ono. Phone Ken Briggs on 01206 212182.

Miscellaneous

DOG trailer, customised for two dogs with additional partition. Brenderup base with mesh cage and wood floor, fitted rain cover. As new £995. Contact Steve Youngman on 01206 210492.

HOUSE clearance. Lounge, dining room and bedroom furniture for sale – mostly pine – including three and two-seater sofas. Offers invited. Ring 07968 810635.

PALM – a majestic, mature, single-specimen 8ft tall Kentia palm requires good home with space. Graceful arching leaves spread 8ft. £30, buyer collects from Great Notley. Contact Colin on 07968 848511.

ROOF box Auto Maxi 580 litre capacity, silver, 6ft x 3ft plus roof rail bars. Very good condition, £195. Contact Steve Youngman on 01206 210492.

Top recognition for Transport Services team

Names in the news

TRANSPORT Services and Head of Transport John Gorton are celebrating after being shortlisted for three national awards.

They were up against blue-chip companies, such as IBM and Avis, in the Fleet News 2006 Awards – the industry's top awards scheme.

And John was the first person to be shortlisted in three categories.

First up was the Fleet Risk Management Award, for those with responsibility for the safety of their organisation's drivers. Judges were looking for evidence of reduced accident rates or those kept low using innovation.

He was also nominated as Fleet Manager of the Year in the 401-plus category and for UK Fleet of the Year, where judges were looking for best practice and key initiatives in all areas of fleet management.

"The awards are the Oscars of the fleet industry nationwide," said John. "To be on the shortlist is very good news. It's all about team working, from the management team to the workshop technicians. I was delighted that we were nominated, although we did not win."

Awards

High standards achieved by the **Procurement Department** have been recognised by the British Standards Institute following a recent comprehensive three-day audit. The department, which is responsible for managing the supply arrangements for a wide range of goods and services required by the force, has achieved certification to the ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management System.

This is believed to be the second ever awarded to a police procurement department and reflects the team ethos of continuous improvement and development.

Benefits to the force will be a more efficient service provision with greater consistency and traceability of service and increased customer satisfaction.

Head of Procurement Sandra Higgins said: "All our processes were scrutinised, mapped and challenged with a number of improvements implemented with immediate effect and others recorded for future review and development. We are delighted with this success."

Chief Insp **John Walker**, of Rayleigh, has become a member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) having successfully completed a course at Anglia Ruskin University in Chelmsford.

Retirements

Insp **Simon Morgan**, Operational Support Manager with Mobile Support Division (MSD), has retired after more than 30 years with Essex Police.

After stints at Chelmsford and Colchester, the 49-year-old moved to road policing and served at Stanway Traffic and HQ Traffic before moving back to the re-named Stanway Road Policing Unit. From



● Some of the HQ Transport Services team. From left, Steve Wortley, Nigel Potter, Chris Skippen, Daniel Palmer, Val Doggett, Phil Knight, Sylvia Deacon, John Gorton and Sally Summers

there he moved back to MSD at HQ. Best-known for his final role as Crime Reduction Inspector in the Community Safety Department, Insp **Dave Northcott** has retired from Crime Division after 30 years' service. He also served in Basildon and Thurrock divisions.

However Dave has returned to the force in a police staff role, as Community Safety Manager for Thurrock.

Pc **Anthony Ames**, 58, is leaving Rochford Dog Section after 30½ years' service. Prior to the dog section he also served with Mobile Support Division at Laindon. He has also spent time at Grays, Southend and HQ CID.

The Force Information Room (FIR) is losing three constables to retirement. Pc **Robert Boyle** is moving to Victoria in Australia after 25 years' service with the force. Robert, 52, has also served at Basildon and Chelmsford.

Pc **Stephen Farmer**, 55, has already left FIR. He also spent time at Chelmsford and with MSD during more than 29 years as a police officer. And, after 30 years, serving at Basildon, with MSD and latterly in FIR, Pc **Martin Potter**, 49, has also retired from the force.

A career which started in South-Eastern Division and then progressed via MSD, FIR, Chelmsford and Harlow, has ended in the IT Department for Pc **John Walkinton**. John, 52, is retiring later this month after 30 years' service.

Crime Division is losing Dc **Neil Evans**, 55, who spent almost 30 years serving Essex Police. Prior to Crime Division, he was based in the former Harlow Division.

Laindon Criminal Justice Unit bids farewell this month to clerk **Iris Collins**, 60, who has completed more than 19 years' service with the force.

Susan Cooper, 64, retires from Crime Division's Resource Management Unit a day before her 65th birthday after 17 years with Essex Police.

And **Brian Davis**, 65, a performance analysis officer in Corporate Support at HQ, has left the force after 11 years' service.

Obituaries

Former Chief Supt **John Challis**, of Chelmsford, has died, aged 82. He leaves a widow, Blanche.

Mr Challis served the force for 37 years, from 1946 to 1983, at South Ockendon, Braintree, Chelmsford, Basildon and Colchester as well as at HQ Force Command.

His funeral took place at Chelmsford Crematorium. Donations can be made to Farleigh Hospice in Mr Challis's memory and sent c/o M Lucking and Son, Funeral Directors, 195 New London Road, Chelmsford.

Ex-sergeant **John Hughes**, of Chelmsford, has died aged 83. He leaves a widow, Dorothy.

Mr Hughes served from 1952 to 1977 at Brentwood and at Grays. A private cremation was followed by a Remembrance service at St Margaret's Church in Margaretting. Donations can be made to the Parkinson's Disease Society in Mr Hughes's memory and sent c/o T Pennack and Sons, 1-3 Maldon Road, Great Baddow.

Ex-constable **Stanley Day** died earlier this month at the age of 73. Mr Day, of Colchester, leaves a widow Pamela. He served 26 years until 1983 at Colchester, South Ockendon, Laindon and Stanway Traffic. After retiring from the force, Mr Day worked as a civilian employee at Colchester Criminal Justice Unit. His funeral took place at Colchester Crematorium.

And former constable **John Hagen**, of Old Harlow, has died, aged 82. He leaves a widow, Ena.

He served between 1950 and 1974 at Colchester, Grays and Harlow. His funeral took place at Parndonwood Chapel, Great Parndon. Donations can be made in Mr Hagen's memory to Cats Protection and sent c/o Co-op Funeralcare, 20 High Street, Old Harlow, CM17 0DW.

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE - ONE WORD PER BOX

Name and rank

Station Home tel.

Date Signed

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

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

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Force faces £2m cash shortfall for policing Stansted

ESSEX Police is facing a potential £2million shortfall in its budget due the refusal of operator Stansted Airport Ltd (STAL) to pay the full costs of policing the airport.

It has refused to reimburse last year's £6.7million cost of airport policing – instead paying just £5.7million – and has also refused to settle up the estimated costs for the current financial year.

Reduced overheads

For the current financial year, Chief Constable Roger Baker has reduced overheads and overtime and added five extra police officers, which will result in an improved service for the same charge.

But STAL has again offered to pay just £5.7million – less than what it was paying three years ago.

In December, Mr Baker applied to the Department for Transport (DfT) to determine the amount the airport should pay and the force is awaiting the DfT decision. The Government is currently carrying out a national review of airport policing.

Essex Police has been in talks with STAL for two years, seeking to recover payment.

Committed

However, the force will not remove essential protective services from Stansted because it is committed to safeguarding the 22 million passengers and the 10,000 staff who work there.

If STAL continues to refuse to pay policing bills in full, Mr Baker may have to ask Essex Police Authority to consider increasing its Council Tax precept by 1.4 per cent to cover the balance or cutting 25 front line police officer posts from Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

Third busiest

Stansted is the third busiest passenger airport in the UK and, in the past two years, passenger numbers have increased by 14 per cent to 22.2 million passengers per annum.

The force's Director of Finance, Rick Tazzini, said: "The financial negotiations have sadly broken down.

"STAL would appear to have an expectation that we will either reduce police officer numbers or ask the tax-payer to meet the unpaid bills.

"I am really disappointed because Essex Police has proven that it provides a very cost effective service to the airport.

Commercial operator

"The Chief Constable will not reduce the numbers of police officers to suit the profit targets of an already profitable commercial operator.

"At the operational level we enjoy very good relations with STAL. Our performance on tackling crime and providing reassurance is first class.

"The airport commander will continue to work with the airport management to provide a dedicated, high-class service which is fundamental to protecting passengers and workers."



● Thiepval Memorial to the Missing on the Somme, left, records the names of 73,367 people who died and who have no known grave – such as constables Frederick Boyce, Charles Gillings, Sydney Crabb and George Shipgood

● The fields of France are covered with graves of soldiers who fell in the battles of World War One

We will remember them – 90 years on

The Essex Police Memorial Committee has researched the circumstances in which police officers from Colchester Borough Constabulary, Essex County Constabulary and Southend Borough Constabulary were killed in action during World War One.

Chief Constable Roger Baker has approved the laying of a wreath in their honour and remembrance at a commemoration service due to be held on the Somme on July 1. Pc Trevor Thompson will represent the Chief Constable and past and present members of the three forces at a service commencing at 7.28am at Lochnagar Crater near La Boisselle.

Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark, who is chairman of the Essex Police Memorial Committee, said: "I am very pleased that, on the 90th anniversary of this tragic event, we in Essex Police are able to pay our respects to our former colleagues by laying a wreath on the battlefield where they gave their lives. We will remember them."

by Jim Dickinson

AT 7.28am on July 1, 1916, a series of mines were exploded under the German line along a 14-mile front on the Somme.

Two minutes later, soldiers clambered from their trenches with orders to walk forward, side by side at a steady walk, across No Man's Land to take the German trenches. They had been told that the artillery barrage of the preceding days would have destroyed any German opposition but that was not the case. As the British Tommies walked forward, the Germans set up their machine guns and cut down what was primarily a volunteer army of British youth. On that first day almost 60,000 British casualties fell and this figure rose, over the next four months, to 400,000.

Five Essex officers

Amongst those who were killed in action during the Battle of the Somme were five police officers from Essex who, together with 28 police colleagues, paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country in the Great War.

Some of the other policemen who later died on the Western Front also fought during the Somme offensive, as did a number of their colleagues who lived through the war and returned to police the streets of Essex.

Pc Frederick Boyce

Fred Boyce followed in his father's footsteps, joining Essex Police on April 1, 1914, enlisting with the 23rd Battalion Royal Fusiliers in May 1915. On July 27, 1916, in their first action, Fred, 24, a Lewis machine-gunner, was hit in the stomach by a bullet.

As his wound was being dressed he was further injured by a bursting shell and died as result of his injuries.

Pc Charles Gillings

The son of a Suffolk police officer, Charles Gillings joined Southend Police, also on April 1, 1914, having transferred from Grantham Borough Police. In the October, he joined 8th Battalion Black Watch Royal Highlanders and went to France.

Charles, 26, took part in a counter attack on July 18, 1916, during the struggle to take Delville Wood. He was administering first aid to a colleague when he was struck by a shell and killed.

Pc Sidney Crabb

Sidney Crabb joined Essex Police on August 24, 1914, volunteering to serve with the 8th Battalion Royal Fusiliers at Chelmsford the following year. They formed part of the 12th Eastern Brigade but the battalion was held in reserve on July 1, 1916.

It was engaged in the determined attack to take Ovillers which involved an advance up an incline over open farmland during which the soldiers were exposed to German machine guns and heavy artillery. Sidney was killed during the action on July 7.

Pc George Shipgood

George Shipgood joined Southend Police in November 1914. He married Lydia Naish in September 1915 before volunteering for military service with



● Pvt Charles Gillings

his friend Pc Alfred Wilson. He served with the 9th Battalion Essex Regiment and moved to the Somme. On July 3, the battalion advanced across open land and George, 25, was one of many who lost his life. He left behind his widow, Lydia, and a daughter he had never seen.

Pc James Stone

James Stone joined Essex County Constabulary in December 1914 and volunteered for Army five months later with 'B' Battery, 15th Brigade Royal Horse Artillery.

He saw action with the brigade in Gallipoli before its move to the Somme. James, 22, took part in the initial bombardment and was seriously wounded on July 6. Despite treatment he died in a field hospital on August 2. He is buried in St Sever Cemetery at Rouen.

Find out more with Tug's Dad's help...

ESSEX Police Memorial Committee last year published a book – *In Search Of Tug's Dad* – which details the circumstances of the death of the police officers from Southend who gave their lives in World War One.

Copies, costing £5, are available from the Essex Police Library on 01245 457150 or from author Jim Dickinson on 01702 585657.

All proceeds from sales of the book are donated to the Essex Police Memorial Trust.

Research on the Colchester and Essex police officers who died in World War One is near completion and will be published when completed.

Criminals denied the use of railways

AIRPORT-style X-ray machines will soon be regular sights at most stations in Essex this summer as police bid to deter armed criminals from entering the county.

London felons who intend to travel illegally into Essex in order to commit crime or cause rioting, disruption and fear are being warned they face 'deportation from whence they came'.

The reality shock-warning from police comes as the World Cup football tournament gets underway and follows on from a successful operation carried out last month in south-west Essex in which over 200 people were prosecuted for fare-dodging and criminal offences.

The new, summer-long operation is a joint bid by Essex Police, British Transport Police and C2C Rail to improve the quality of life for fee-paying passengers and staff using the railway lines from Liverpool Street and Fenchurch Street into Essex as well as combating anti-social behaviour and intimidation on trains.

Operations Manager Supt Steve Bottrill is determined to secure the safety of rail commuters throughout the next few months, especially if the action denies hooligans the chance of watching football in pubs and homes in Essex.

"Enough is enough," he said. "Thieves and other criminals who are intent on carrying knives in order to prey on Essex residents will face the wrath of the authorities here before being sent back to their homes or even to prison.

"The overground and underground lines running into Essex will be flooded with both uniformed officers and plain-clothed staff to reduce crime and the fear of crime. We will not tolerate anti-social or intimidating behaviour anywhere in this county."

Following trials at various London Underground stations, portable X-ray machines will be randomly placed at rail stations in the county in a bid to identify armed offenders.

Supt Bottrill added: "This isn't just about catching fare-dodgers, serious though that is. We will deter career criminals from illegally using the rail system to enter Essex."

Now you can be Dr Who

THE Essex Police Museum has Tardises for sale.

The handpainted Police Boxes are great as decorative pieces or alternative paperweights.

They are approx 9cm high, made from a heavy resin, come boxed and are a bargain at only £5 each.

● To order, email museum curator Becky Latchford at becky.latchford@essex.pnn.police.uk with the quantity you would like. Don't send a payment – you will be asked for this when the boxes arrive

Sport & Leisure

Golfers get through to third round

ESSEX golfers tasted success in the British Team Knockout in Berkshire. The team received a bye in the morning round, leaving the Metropolitan Police and Hertfordshire Police to battle it out to play against Essex in the afternoon.

Essex played Hertfordshire in the second round – a tight match. At 2-2, Kevin Nason and Andy Blunt had to go down extra holes to decide it. Andy sank the winning putt on the second extra hole to put the team through to the next round.

The team was: Michael Janes, Stuart Stranger, Dave Britton, Peter English, Paul Whittingham, Kevin Nason, Andy Blunt, Gary Macswan, John Mackman and Miguel Diaz-Rios.

● The following day saw the start of the PSUK regionals at Welwyn Garden Golf Club and continued success. Essex made a clean sweep of the prizes for the best AM net scores with Kevin Nason winning, Mick Bennett second and Dave Britton third.

The competition was marred by an incident which cost the Essex team second place overall.

Paul Whittingham also came fourth in the afternoon round out of 60 players.

Gave it their best shot

SNOOKER player Lee Heaton has returned from the PSUK snooker singles vowing to practise for next year's competition. Heaton, of Brentwood, was competing in the singles for the first time. Fellow player Colin Hill, of Maldon, also enjoyed the experience, winning one out of his five singles matches. Lee had one match against someone who used to be ranked 12th in the world.

Ironman on his mettle

TRAFFIC Inspector Mark Harman is now officially an Ironman after a gruelling 15hr 27min of racing in 80-deg heat and vicious winds.

It was the worst wind conditions Lanzarote had seen at this annual competition for elite athletes. After a 2.4 mile swim, 112-mile bike ride and marathon run, Mark crossed the line to earn a well-deserved medal.

Cricket duo go on tour

VINCE Bird, of Stansted Airport, and Adrian Garnham, of Colchester, have both been selected for the British Police Cricket tour at the end of this month.

Vince is a seam bowler and Adrian also bowls. They will be playing fixtures against the Essex Academy, the Army, the Navy Club Cricket Conference and the RAF.

Clergy get the better of the Gents

THE opening match of the season was blessed with good weather when the Gentlemen of Essex CID played the Clergy of Chelmsford Diocese. The vicars elected to bat at Sandon Cricket Club but soon the scoreboard was showing CID at 5-55, with Griffiths, Miles and Miller sharing the haul. Opposition skipper the Rev Beals steadied the ship with 63 runs, including three fours and three sixes, before being dispatched by Miles's bowling and a catch from Bird. The clergy were bowled out for 143.



● Keiran Lally gets in some table tennis practice during a break
Picture by Heather Turner

CID had a number of new players, including Vincent Bird – a British Police representative – who treated the crowd to some textbook shots to all parts of the ground. Despite his unbeaten 71, the rest of the team could not put together the runs needed and were bowled out for 113 – 31 runs short of victory. Overall, the game ebbed and flowed and was interesting to watch. Bird was named man of the match and presented with a signed copy of the book *Along Hope Road*, written by the late Bishop of Liverpool, Dr David Sheppard, who played for the clergy team in 1957.

That's champion, Keiran!

ESSEX Police has another sporting champion – this time in table tennis. Keiran Lally, 20, of Chelmsford, has been playing the game for eight years and regularly plays in the Chelmsford, Southend and Colchester leagues. Now all that experience has paid off as he returned from the PSUK national indoor games championships at Hopton, Norfolk, last month as the men's table tennis

singles champion. Keiran has won a place in the PSUK team, who are due to compete in the European Police Championships in Belgium in September. Keiran was Essex junior champion three times and has also played for Essex county. Since joining the force, however, he has had to limit himself to playing just twice a week.

Put life back into the cup

EFFORTS should be made to re-energise the inter-force sports competition, the Croker Cup, the Essex Police Sports Association management committee has declared.

With the re-organisation of the territorial divisions, the Croker Cup will encompass the same structure, comprising the five new divisions plus HQ. Stansted Airport will be included within Central Division.

EPSA secretary John Stonehouse has drawn up a provisional calendar of events and is now liaising with sporting section secretaries to agree dates and venues. He said any alternative system was considered to be an administrative nightmare and at odds with the force's new structure.

Mr Stonehouse aims to help re-establish the Croker Cup as the most prestigious police competition within Police Sport UK. And EPSA chairman Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark feels that having such a sporting tournament can only be good for the force.

'Ed's league' should go on in his memory

FANS of five-a-side football want the Ed Mansfield league to carry on next season.

They hope that the league's first campaign just ended will not be its last.

Subject to backing from the Essex Police Sports Association (EPSA), organisers hope to run it again from next autumn and expand membership beyond the current nine teams.

"The league has had a great first season," said Bob Chatterton.

"It's brought many people within HQ into friendly contact with each other and certainly created a lot of interest and camaraderie.

"Matches have been competitive and

by **Graham Clark**

fun, a good opportunity to get some exercise and to meet colleagues from other parts of the force. If we get the go-ahead for next season, we'd like to have all the divisions represented in some way."

The league's success would have delighted the man after whom it is named. Ed Mansfield, formerly the force's chemist inspection officer, died last December. Ed loved the game. Outside work, he was a keen footballer/manager/referee/coach and, at one time, managed Broomfield Town FC.

Said Bob: "Ed was very much liked and respected by his peers and colleagues and never refused to support others when they needed it.

"He always demonstrated a high level of integrity and sense of fairness, so we could not have chosen a more fitting person after whom to name our league."

All matches are played at the Melbourne Athletics Sport Centre – now known as the Chelmsford Athletic Centre – in Chelmsford.

For the record, Force Intelligence Bureau have been crowned inaugural league champions, dropping only five points on their way to the title.

League officials hope that members of Ed's family will be able to present the trophy to the winners soon.

● Anyone interested in entering a team should contact Darren Thomas on ext 51824, Clive Wells on ext 51999 or Bob Chatterton on ext 52464

Now you can buy more lottery tickets

THE force lottery is growing as more members enrol and existing participants increase their ticket allocation.

And now a car is top prize in the summer draw – adding to the already popular car draw at Christmas.

The winner of the draw on June 20 will receive a Hyundai 1.4l CDX Getz, valued at £9,340.

And the number of tickets any member of the Essex Police Sports Association can hold has increased from 16 to 25.

Contact John Mackenzie by email if you want to join the lottery or increase your ticket holding.

The top prize of £3,000 in the May draw went to Pc Lisa Workman, of Chelmsford,

second prize of £1,000 went to Peter Buckley, of HQ Financial Services, and the £500 prize was won by Pc Ian Banks, of Brentwood.

And it was a lucky month for HQ Financial Services all round, as Maureen Harrison and Leslie Miller were £100 winners. Other winners of £100 were: Sgt Adam Field, of Great Dunmow; James Panting, retired; Ds Ian Clark, of Southend; Michael Haig, retired; Pc Greig Avery, of Pitsea; Don English, of Stanway Transport Services; Det Supt Kevin Macey, of Crime Division; Kay Smith, of Stanway RPU; and Clive Butler, of Colchester File Management Unit. Winners of £50 prizes were:

Pc Robert Dines, of Clacton; Pc Rachel McCormick, of Southend; Pc Steve Woods, of Stanway RPU; Pc Graham Morris, of Harlow; Sue Groves, of Clacton; Emma Daines, of Walton; Verna Mackie, of Mistley; Pc Martyn Wells, of Bocking RPU; Pc Jon Meggison, of Clacton; Linda Hyams, of Brightlingsea; Insp Susan Heaton, of Grays; Sgt Chris Mullin, of Corringham; Pc Rod Gaskin, of Maldon; and Pc James Holmes, of Loughton. And winners of Benenden Healthcare bears were: Ian Hilton, of Writtle; Anne Sheppard, of FIR; Marion Bailey, of FIR; Dc Karen Harwood, of Crime Division; Denise Field, of Contact Management; and Nick Galpin, of Braintree.

Poor fitness tells in the Europeans

THE reigning British Police five-a-side champions went to Poland for the European championships and made it to the quarter-finals.

The Essex Police team were put into a strong group of eight, which included last year's winners.

On the first day in Katowice, Essex won three games but lost the fourth 2-1 to the current champions, after leading until two minutes from time.

On the second day, Essex won two but again lost their final game, having already secured second place and progression to the knockout stages.

On the final day of competition, at the quarter-final stage, Essex Police faced a Polish team, who were among the fancied favourites.

Within five minutes Essex went one goal up but, again, with only a couple of minutes remaining, squandered the lead and lost the game. The victors went on to finish third in the tournament. A Ukrainian team won.

A spokesman for the Essex Police team said afterwards: "Only a lack of fitness and a heavy social schedule prevented Essex from going further."

● AN Essex Police team has been accepted into Division One of the Mid-Essex Saturday League.

Steve Crane, of Leigh, said response from players had been very positive and he hoped to organise training sessions and games in the next couple of months. Home games will be played at HQ.

Currently the team only plays in two police competitions so the league now offers more players the chance to break into the side as the squad will need to rotate from week to week due to work commitments.

● Anyone interested in playing or helping with administration or physio can contact Steve on ext 31725 or via email.

● ESSEX veterans football side achieved fourth position in the Greene King Essex Veterans' League Premier Division.

● AS part of the build-up to the new season the force's 'youth' – under-35s – and veterans – over-35s – teams will play each other on Sunday, July 2.

The game kicks off at HQ at 1pm. Afterwards there will be a bar and a barbecue.

Volley volley good, Amanda

THE British Police women's volleyball team narrowly won a services tournament with the help of Amanda Pollard, from Chigwell Dog Section.

Having played against teams from the RAF, Army, Australian RAF, Fire Service, Prison Service and Navy, the team met the RAF in the final.

At one set apiece, the score was 24-all in the third but the police edged ahead to win 26-24.

Crimewatch joins hunt for mystery man's killer

DETECTIVES investigating the murder of Joe Shipton in Sheering in March have turned to the BBC *Crimewatch* programme to appeal for information to help solve this crime.

Crimewatch, broadcast on May 23, showed a reconstruction of what are thought to be Joe's most recent actions in the days leading up to his death.

Fewer than 10 calls were received following the TV appeal, a disappointing response for investigators. However one caller did provide significant information about Joe's lifestyle.

This will help detectives to piece together his movements in his final days.

Joe Shipton (real name Michael), 61, lived alone in Sheering Village, near Harlow. On Saturday March 25 he was found dead at the bottom of his stairs.

He died from head injuries caused by a heavy implement similar to a baseball bat.

Joe was a private man but well known in the village and worked odd jobs for many years. Police are trying to build up a picture of Joe's life as well as his last moments.

His ex-wife and daughter live abroad and he was not close to his family.

The main points of the appeal were:

- Joe would regularly go to his local pub then disappear from his normal social circle of friends for weeks on end. Where did Joe go? What was he doing during this time?
- Did Joe live another life - were you part of it?

Joe is believed to have had several relationships, possibly with married women. So any information given will be treated sensitively and in confidence.

Detectives would also like to know who Joe bought cigarettes for. Shortly before his death he bought a pack of 10 Super King Blue, but he himself only smoked roll-ups.

The afternoon before his body was found (March 24), Joe was seen in his garden and he appeared uncharacteristically angry. Does anybody know why?

Det Supt Simon Dinsdale, who is leading the enquiry, said: "Joe was an enigma. Everyone in the village knew him but nobody really knows anything about his life.

"We have knocked on every door in the village and spoken to over 400 households but we feel that the answer lies within the village and need someone to come forward and tell us what they know.

"We are determined to find Joe's killer."

- Anyone with information is asked to contact detectives at the major investigation team on 01268 775588.

Send us the facts by fax

ESSEX Police has stepped up its efforts to root out corruption and unethical behaviour within the force.

Officers and staff can now use the intranet to report their suspicions about colleagues. Every contact will be fully investigated to check whether the allegations have any substance or instead are inaccurate, misguided or even malicious.

The new link sits alongside the telephone reporting hotline, established 18 months ago as part of the 'Rotten Apple' campaign in the county. The link can be accessed via the Professional Standards website or the e-bulletin found on the front page of the intranet and clicking on 'confidential reporting'.

Both phone and intranet reporting lines are completely confidential, though callers are encouraged to leave their details to assist in furthering any investigation.

All messages are monitored and acted upon by the Anti-Corruption Intelligence Department within the Professional Standards Department, headed by DCI Alan Gooden and managed by DI Luke Collison.

"We see our confidential reporting lines as something of an internal Crime-stoppers," said Alan. "They are there for any of our people to pass on anything that concerns them, maybe comments they overhear or suspect behaviour they come across; in fact anything they believe may be corrupt or unethical or other behaviour that falls below that expected of our staff, or something that might damage the integrity of the force or service and bring it into disrepute.

"Establishing the new contact point builds upon the work we have already done in this respect. It's about giving our people more options, a choice of ways to contact us. Anyone who feels apprehensive at ringing the hotline and talking to our unit might feel more at ease about sending an anonymous email. when it arrives with us, we only get the content and the date it was sent."

The main areas of concern are likely to include staff who are leaking or disclosing information to people outside the organisation, staff who are misusing drugs, and those who appear to have an unhealthy association with known criminals.

Staff involved either wittingly or unwittingly in such actions can have a serious and damaging impact on public confidence in the police service. This type of behaviour, said Alan Gooden, casts a shadow over the vast majority of hard-working, loyal and ethical officers and staff in the police service.



Mike's outwardly mobile

BATMAN had his Batmobile and Mike Janes is just as proud of his beatmobile.

Mike, a Police Community Support Officer, pictured above, is forging links with rural communities in Epping. The mobile office was rolled out to the rural villages in August 2001. Mike has taken on the role from Chris Caten, who died earlier this year.

Mike said: "It's great to be out and about meeting people. Some areas are quite isolated and some who live there cannot drive, so some weeks I am the only face they see."

The beatmobile divides its time between Epping and Brentwood, spending between 20 minutes to two hours in each place offering a range of help and advice.

Essex Police Integrity Strategy:

To engender confidence in the integrity of Essex Police by preventing, detecting and effectively tackling corruption, dishonesty and unethical behaviour.

He went on: "If there are people out there who really are doing wrong, then they must be reported. It's misguided of friends or colleagues to try to defend them or turn a blind eye. It is therefore imperative that we all take personal responsibility for identifying these few people and enabling my team to flush them out in order to protect the integrity and reputation of Essex Police."

Problems such as these are not unique to Essex by any means, Alan Gooden said. "Any police force that thinks it's completely clean of this type of thing is kidding itself. It's through introducing and using reporting lines such as these that a force is able to minimise levels of such behaviour."

This latest initiative reflects best practice around the country as more and more forces seek to improve their own confidential reporting ability.

Once the link is well established, Essex plans to benchmark itself against other forces with similar arrangements.

Alan Gooden added: "This idea of making contact via intranet is proving successful in other forces and I think it will also work well here. Time will tell."

- The confidential telephone hotline is 01245 452106

Speechless! Anti-drugs roadshow is too good for words

HUNDREDS of secondary school children were left speechless with admiration at the 2Smart4Drugs roadshow in Colchester.

Topping the bill were the twice MOBO award-winning Big Brovaz who had previously sacked fellow member Flawless from the group after being caught with cannabis.

Their live set was the climax of the 90-minute show.

Other highlights included comedy sketches from the London Theatre Bus Company, with two hard-hitting and highly entertaining scenes alerting people to the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

This was followed by their version of the Eminem song 8 Mile which many children related to.

Comedian Mike Gunn, regarded as one of the ten leading stand-ups in Britain, brought moments that were uproariously funny but lined with a hard-hitting message.

'Uncut' delved into his own experiences as a drug addict portraying the terrible truth of drug addiction and how it destroyed his life.

It was informative and enlightening with unforgettable images.

Bringing a message of inspiration by achieving his dream of representing the United Kingdom at basketball was the bald MC, Nav Oojageer.

At 22 he achieved his dream through dedication and discipline, and not giving in to the temptations of drugs that are rife in sport.

Also singing and co-hosting the event with Essex FM's Dom Atkins was Tina Cousins, who recently reached number one in the dance chart with Wonderful Life.

All of those involved with the 2Smart4Drugs roadshow are top quality entertainers in their own right.

Joining forces, they presented a professional and highly entertaining show certain to stay in young people's memories for a long time.

Claire Elliott

How to save yourself a shedload of trouble

GREEN-fingered residents must be on the alert for light-fingered intruders, says Essex Police. Sunnier days and longer evenings are encouraging more people into their gardens ... including thieves. Police have seen a steady rise in reports of shed break-ins over recent weeks and have issued a few handy tips for gardeners and householders

to combat the problem. These include strengthening the frame and door of your shed. Secure outside hinges with coach bolts or non-return screws. Invest in strong padbars and close shackle padlocks. Repair cracked or broken shed windows. Use Perspex or polycarbonate sheet instead of glass. Fit a lock to all opening windows.

Install a battery-operated alarm. Secure items within the shed such as bikes, mowers, ladders with chains. Store tools and other valuable implements in a strong lockable box or cage fitted to the floor. Keep contents insurance up to date and make sure the policy covers equipment kept in the shed. Postcode items by etching, branding,

paint stencilling or ultra-violet pen. Note any serial numbers and photograph valuable items. Always lock things away after use, and make sure that the shed is kept locked. "Thieves look upon garden sheds as soft targets," said Crime Reduction Officer Paul Dean. "They are notoriously easy to break into unless you take proper precautions."

