

# The



# Law

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July 2006

Chief Constable vows our policing style will gain results

# SETTING THE

# CRIME AGENDA



**CHIEF Constable Roger Baker has set out the force's crime-fighting agenda for the coming year.**

On the first anniversary of his arrival in Essex, Mr Baker said he was proud of the way his staff had risen to the challenges put in front of them.

"It has been a very busy and successful year for Essex Police.

"We have made considerable progress in implementing a new policing style," he said.

"I have never worked with a better team. It is easy being Chief Constable when you have got this quality of people around you.

"Our performance over the past 12 months has been outstanding. A lot of work has been done, which was only possible through the dedication, enthusiasm and commitment of my staff and officers."

And he promised: "Our aim is to drive performance up even further for the benefit of the public."

The next 12 months are key, he said, with the force driving even more into crime, nuisance and disorder – quality of life issues which affect the entire community.

Now is the time to start to deliver, by dealing with the basics, said Mr Baker, as he predicted: "We will see the biggest reduction of crime in this county than anywhere else in England and Wales this year."

He has brought in several new policies over the past 12 months – which started immediately on his arrival with Days of Action.

Using all available resources, the campaign focused on maximising the fear of arrest among criminals, increasing public reassurance, providing high-visibility patrols and promoting crime prevention measures.

The campaign was so successful – officers made 1,717 arrests during that first week – that Days of Action became 'business as usual' and the force achieved 13,205 more arrests in 2005/06 than the previous year.

In the past year, since Mr Baker's arrival, crime has been reduced by 1.4 per cent – 1,843 fewer crimes – over the same period in 2004/05 and the trend is continuing: in the first

by **Kate Batson & Heather Turner**

quarter of this year, April-June 2006, it fell by a further 6.4 per cent. The force's number of detections also increased last year by 3,494 and continues to rise.

Collectively with its partners, the force exceeded its targets for bringing offenders to justice and Mr Baker said Essex would become the leader in this field.

Over the past year, his style has been about listening to what the public wants: the accessibility of police stations has been improved – increasing the opening hours by 250 and varying times when stations are open.

And the force will have rolled out 144 Neighbourhood Policing Teams across the county by July 17.

Mr Baker believes making local contacts will prove 'a real winner' in the fight against crime.

"Communities know who the criminals are. If you take a few people out of circulation, it has a big impact on crime, nuisance and disorder," he said.

And he promised that officers, PCSOs and police staff would not be moved around so relationships on a local level could become embedded.

More than 200 officers have also been returned to front-line duties. This will increase the 'feelgood factor' by having more people spending more time with the public.

Officers have been asked to attend every reported crime, putting victims and witnesses first.

Staff and officers are also being urged to improve their response to the public, both face-to-face and over the telephone, which also improves the chances of success in an investigation.

"We attend, reassure, help people put their lives back together and then arrest who's done it," Mr Baker said.

So, one year on, the message from the Chief is still the same: "If you've been committing crime in Essex, we will not leave a stone unturned to bring you to justice."

● **Turn to Page 3 to find out exactly how officers and staff have been returned to front-line duties**

● Essex Chief Constable Roger Baker has promised to get even tougher on criminals – officers across the force made 13,205 more arrests in 2005/06 than the previous year



# Forward planning to help us achieve our World Cup goals

**I WROTE this article soon after finding out England's destiny in the knock-out stages of the World Cup.**

Ecuador stood between England and a quarter-final place, with that match against either Holland or Portugal.

By the time you read this, individually we will either be celebrating or commiserating over our country's performance.

What about Essex Police's performance during the World Cup?

I have no doubt that our defensive walls will have withstood everything that has been kicked at them.

I must congratulate all the players – in this case, the officers and their families – who have suffered multiple duty changes and the cancellation, re-instatement and re-cancellation of rest days whilst still performing to the high professional standard which is expected of the Essex Police team.

What about the backroom staff, trainers and management?

They too have been under pressure, especially with the introduction of Neighbourhood Policing, which has been running parallel

with the World Cup.

I can imagine the sarcastic comments, comparing the World Cup to Christmas – we know it's coming but precisely when is always a mystery!

And you would be right. The World Cup did not creep up on us and if I had £1 for every inquiry, moan or complaint that the Federation Office received and is still receiving, I would be a very rich man.

Please don't take this the wrong way – please keep complaining, keep moaning, as we are elected to represent your views.

However, the overall opinion is that we – Essex Police – scored an own goal, not in the World Cup policing style but in the planning of officers' duties.

The lessons learnt need to be applied to future planning and a force-wide agreed interpretation of Police Regulations will be crucial to future good relations between the staff and senior managers.

Action towards this has already been taken and, at our meeting with Chief Officers on May 10, it was agreed to have the Federation, Unison and Jean Steele from the HR Business Team present at future planning meetings.

## Mergers delayed

Home Secretary John Reid has confirmed speculation that plans for force mergers would be delayed until September.

He also told MPs last month he believed mergers were still 'the right way' forward but promised further discussions and consultation before laying any orders to enforce them.

The Federation welcomes the greater thought and time given to the proposals and we hope this will provide the opportunity to work together with the Home Office, Essex Police Authority and ACPO to ensure a police service in Essex is fit for the future.

## Ill-health pensions

I have been receiving a lot of inquiries from retired police officers concerning the issue of ill-health pensions.

Having liaised with Stewart Rowe, our Employee Relations Officer, the following information is a resume of the situation so far.

Following legal advice, a Home Office revision of Police Pension Regulations resulted in a clarification of a passage in the Regulations which set out how injury awards are assessed. Home Office Circular 46/2004 Annex C

refers. An injury award is paid in addition to an ill-health pension and is intended to provide some compensation for potential loss of earnings for a police officer injured in the execution of duty.

The amount of the award is dependant upon the service attained by the pensioner at the time of ill-health retirement and, after taking account of the disability, their earnings capacity.

Police constables and sergeants face compulsory retirement at 55 – 60 for inspectors and above – and the legal advice obtained supported the opinion that, upon reaching the relevant retirement age, the loss of earnings was zero, attracting an injury award of 0 per cent – which falls within the 0-25 per cent lower band.

Ministers did not consider the Regulations intended this and the Home Office advised that upon attaining compulsory retirement age for their former rank and until 65, loss of earnings will now be calculated based on national average earnings (NAE), as opposed to the current police pay scales.

Further, from 65 it will be assumed the pensioner has retired, therefore the injury award will be

reduced to 0 per cent, ie 0-25 per cent, the lowest band.

If they continue in employment beyond 65, they will continue to be assessed against NAE until they actually retire from work.

Essex Police – in conjunction with the Essex Police Authority treasurer, and in line with all forces in England and Wales – is currently collating information in order to assess the impact such a change may have upon both individuals and police ill-health pensioners in general.

The final decision as to the most appropriate course of action to be taken will be made by the police authority.

All pensioners in receipt of an injury award will be advised when a decision has been reached.

It should be remembered that whilst a former officer is in receipt of an ill-health pension, the injury award cannot be withdrawn.

To date, Essex Police has not reduced the pension of any ill-health pensioner who has reached the age of 65 and the NAE has been applied to ill-health pension reviews for those over 55 since 2004 with minimal effect.

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## Advanced medics prove a life-saver for the force

TEN years after the force began training officers in specialist emergency medical skills, Essex Police remains the only UK force to have such fully-qualified life-savers.

Now the advanced-medical training programme has developed into a comprehensive course designed for firearms and marine officers, with three of the force's officers registered as paramedics.

In 1996, eight officers enrolled on the inaugural advanced police-medical course at Harlow's Princess Alexandra Hospital, which was pioneered by staff members Aaron Pennell and Keith Harvey.

They worked closely with the force to ensure that the development of a 'tactical' approach to providing emergency care was integrated into the training programme.

Mr Pennell said: "Training police officers to this level was, at one stage, thought to be quite maverick but over the years we have shown that we can create a highly-skilled group of advanced medic-trained police officers."

"People who suffer extremely severe traumas are dangerously ill and police medics can initiate appropriate intervention in order to relieve suffering, improve outcome and reduce mortality."

Advanced medics undergo an intensive, 12-month training programme, moni-



● Pcs Dawn Smith, Matt Clark and Richard Melton

Picture by John Higgitt, digital-pics.com

tored by outside assessors who include qualified anaesthetists, Accident and Emergency staff and paramedic instructors.

One of the first officers to be trained was Pc Matt Clark. The 41-year-old from the Force Support Unit is now a state-registered paramedic. He believes the scheme is 'excellent and a credit to our partners in the medical profession'.

"Some of the skills we can use include advanced airway management, drug administration to relieve pain and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation," said Pc Clark.

"We have access to the latest patient-monitoring systems, medical equipment and round-the-clock advice

from the medical profession." Essex is the only force with qualified, registered paramedics working within inner cordons during firearms incidents and on police-marine operations.

Police paramedic Sgt Andy Ford, of Mobile Support, said: "The programme is not just about training officers in clinical skill, it's about changing the way we make decisions about injured casualties and how we plan and deliver emergency care where NHS services are unable to operate due to the risks."

An ongoing training and development programme and a medical advisory committee bring together medical experts with the force to ensure accepted guidelines are practised.

# Beating the path to the front line

**FOLLOWING the successful provision of more than 200 extra police officers carrying out front-line duties last year, Essex Police is now working to identify 100 more.**

And it has already had positive results – April to June 2006 saw a 6.4 per cent reduction in all crime, compared to the same period in 2005.

And 2005/06 saw the crime rate drop 1.8 per cent over 2004/05. Violent crime fell 6.3 per cent in 2005/06 and criminal damage fell 6.9 per cent. Meanwhile, detections rose to 30.5 per cent.

Director of Finance and Administration Rick Tazzini said: "Essex remains one of the safest counties in which to live and we are returning even more officers and staff to front-line duties."

"The effect we have seen with a fall in the crime rate should now be boosted with the introduction of neighbourhood policing, which promises to provide us with valuable, local information which we can use in the fight against crime."

Last autumn, Chief Constable Roger Baker pledged to find more officers to carry out front-line duties – without spending any extra cash – by March 31, 2006. There followed three reviews of existing officer and staff roles to find out

whether any could be abolished – returning the officers to front-line duties – or carried out 'part-time', thus allowing the resulting freed-up money to be put into a 'pot' to be used to train new officers.

And by March 31, he had exceeded his target of 200.

Now under FLAG 4 (Frontline Action Group), the force is identifying more officers and posts through a review of HQ to ensure at least 100 more officers are carrying out front-line duties by March 31, 2007.

Front-line officers regularly attend and investigate incidents of crime, nuisance and disorder, patrol in uniform and deal with prisoners.

Chief Supt Ian Grüneberg said FLAG 4 would identify people and posts which could be used to provide front-line policing and also under-used budgets, which could be added to the 'pot' for new officers.

The review will develop HQ so that it is fit for purpose, supporting the drive to maximise the reduction in crime and disorder and the detection of offenders.

He stressed that, wherever possible, there would be no redundancies: "Essex Police has got a record of working to minimise redundancies and of redeploying staff at times of change and this principle will continue."

In seven weeks, FLAG 4 has already identified 28 roles and £1.2million

towards the FLAG 4 target.

The FLAG programme began last August with FLAG 1, identifying police officers – mainly in HQ roles – who could take up front-line duties on division.

As well as officers, some vacant posts were identified. The money and working hours were put into the 'pot'. At the end of FLAG 1, 23 officers had taken on front-line duties and one post went into the 'pot'.

Then attention turned to the divisions and in October, FLAG 2 was born.

Each division was urged to focus on support roles – such as licensing and file management – to identify whether the post was needed and, if so, whether the officer in it could combine their work with front-line duties.

As a result, 30 officers were moved back to the front line on division or took on front-line duties in tandem with their support roles.

Then, 19 Schools Liaison Officers and 14 Divisional Training Officers were given a change of job description, including more front-line duties. And four posts at HQ Corporate Support will pay for a further three Probationers.

Divisional restructuring saw FLAG 3 come into being. This also led to a restructuring of Human Resources and Command Team structures were streamlined. Thus, money from 44 posts has provided 68 new constables and seven chief inspector posts – a total of 75.

And cash budgeted for 25 Incident Managers (sergeants) turned into 31 officers plus an additional 24 posts which the Essex Police Authority agreed to fund.

Between April 2001 and March 2005, the force received Home Office Crime Fighting Fund cash for 207 extra officers.

So, by March 2007, the total number of new people deployed to the front line since April 2001 will reach almost 1,200 – 545 officers, 442 PCSOs and 206 members of police staff, such as scenes of crime officers, youth workers and custody detention officers. And 12 months later, the figure will reach almost 1,400.



● Professional Development Officer Pc Simon Halford – formerly a Divisional Training Officer – out on the beat with Probationer Alison O'Connor, who has been attached to South-Eastern Division  
Pictures by Heather Turner

## Back to the front line: where they went

Divisions	New posts	HQ FLAG	Divisional FLAG	Schools & training officers	PCSOs 2006/07	Grand total
South-E	20	3	6	8	45	82
South-W	20	7	9	6	59	101
Central	45	8	4	4	47	108
Western	25	3	3	8	37	76
Eastern	32	-	4	5	38	79
Totals	142	21	26	31	226	446

# Numbers on the ground are boosted by a special bunch

THE numbers of Police Community Support Officers and Special Constables are also set to increase over the next couple of years – boosting the force's operational capacity.

PCSOs have been dubbed the 'eyes and ears' of our communities – they are vital to the success of Neighbourhood Policing, providing high-visibility reassurance patrols and garnering local intelligence from the public, which often proves useful during investigations into crimes and antisocial behaviour.

As of June 26, Essex Police employed 247 PCSOs and was on course to have a total of 280 in place by November – well ahead of Home Office targets – and 431 by April 30, 2007.

The 17 who started training last month will be out on patrol from the start of their fifth week.

They are part of the 226 the force has set out to recruit between April 1 this year and April 30, 2007.

The force will have 627 PCSOs on the county's streets by March 31, 2008 – an investment of £17million a year.

Much of the money comes from Council Tax, via Essex Police Authority's precept – which will reach £10million by 2007/08 – but there is also match-funding from the Home Office, Essex County Council – which has contributed £250,000 each year since 2004/05 – and district and parish councils.

A growing number of additional parish councils and housing associations are recognising the benefits of having a PCSO on their 'patch' and contributing to the funding 'pot'.

In fact 74 PCSOs are currently match-funded by district, town and parish councils and housing associations.

And one PCSO is even part-funded 50/50 by services operator Welcome Break – Kelly Roberts provides high-visibility foot patrols at Birchanger Services on the

M11 near Stansted Airport.

PCSOs can carry out the same role in different environments – there are two PCSOs at the force's Marine Section in Burnham on Crouch and five are planned to join Stansted Airport's Neighbourhood Policing Team on July 24.

Plus a proposal is being considered to have PCSOs working alongside the force's Safer Schools Partnership Officers.

And special constables are also playing their part, with 427 officers currently working for Essex Police.

Special constables carry out exactly the same jobs and duties as regular police officers and they have the same powers of arrest.

But special constables are really 'special' because they carry out a minimum of 16 hours duty each month plus training outside their normal 'day' job – and they have the same powers as a regular officer.

Chief Officer George Cook hopes to recruit an extra 100-

150 special officers each year over the next four years – making a total of 1,000 Specials by 2010.

Between April 2005 and March 2006, the force recruited 153 special constables and, with 14 officers currently undergoing their training prior to being attested and another 14 who were due to start training on July 1, Mr Cook is well on the way to reaching this year's target.

And the cost benefits to the force are amazing. In 2004/05, an average of 350 special constables performed an average of 273 hours of duty.

This cost the force £333,065. The equivalent number of hours – 95,593 – would have to be carried out by 54 full-time police officers, at a value of £2.1 million.

So, the Essex Special Constabulary provides an annual benefit to the force of seven times its cost.

● Turn to Page 10 to see the future of Essex policing



● The number of special constables, like Sc Daniel Lennox-Foreman is set to reach 1,000 by 2010

# 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.

## Belated thanks to instructors who allowed us to join an 'exclusive club'

WHILE reading the May issue of *The Law*, I saw the name Harry Cook. He had once been at the Driving School and this brought back memories. I hope I am not 'barking up the wrong tree' but I'm sure I was a student on a standard driving course during Harry's reign. It will be 40 years this year since my course, during a time when, I think, an experiment was taking place where instructors were de-centralised and running courses

from divisional HQs instead of being based at Force HQ. I was actually part of the Harlow crew under the instruction of Sgt Peter Tomlinson. Courses were planned so that crews would link up at HQ Driving School for skid-pan and classroom work and swap instructors for random days for what was known as a check run. It was during one of these check-run days that our crew came under the guidance of Harry.



● HQ skid pan in the 1960s

Other instructors of that era were John Waddington, Ron Reece and Wally Hammond. I recall feeling in

awe of these men, including Peter and Harry. Their total expertise in car control, coupled with the ability to pass on some of their skills to us, was a real credit to them. I will remember our first demo drive by Pete Tomlinson. It was a bit like my first drill lesson at Eynsham Hall – feeling that I would never be able to get anywhere near that level of expertise. Somehow, as the weeks passed, we

did improve and I still recall a feeling of elation – and some relief – to be given a third-class grade. At that time, to become an area car driver was like being allowed to join a rather exclusive club and it was all due to the skills of people of the calibre of Peter, Harry and their colleagues at the Driving School. I am sure many of us owe them our sincere thanks, even if it is a little belated.

Dave Rose  
Linton

## Bike patrols taught us job

I AM writing re the story Rookies waste no time in going into front line, in last month's issue of *The Law*.

I joined Essex Police in August 1955. After my initial 13 weeks' training at Eynsham Hall, Oxfordshire, I spent the next two weeks at HQ on a local procedure course, learning how Essex Police dealt with matters.

Following this I was posted to Harold Hill, which was then in the Essex Police district.

For the next four weeks – other than when acting as an area car observer with an experienced driver – I patrolled on a bicycle with a senior constable. If that was not getting to know how to act what was?

A J Cooper  
Braintree

## Reunion date

AS usual, an ex-Romford Division reunion lunch is being held later this year.

It will take place in the HQ sports pavilion bar on Saturday, November 18, at 1pm – a fork buffet with wine and/or orange juice will be included in the £13.25 price. The bar will be open from 11.30am. Wives are welcome. Cheques, made payable to SP Mather (lunch account), should be forwarded to me at the address below.

Stu Mather  
Copper Leaves  
25 Queens Avenue  
Pooles Lane  
Hullbridge SS5 6PS

# National police force will provide the lead

**I AM writing in response to wide consultation currently taking place on the subject of merging police forces.**

Amalgamation has been taking place for years, both in the Army and with Borough Police Forces being swallowed up by their Constabulary neighbours.

Some have been dragged kicking and screaming but, in the end, it was only because of nostalgia and sentimentality – the police service has not deteriorated as a result.

In 1965, Regional Crime Squads were formed to combat major criminals and, within 30 years, they were nationalised, proving, I suppose, that they must have been successful.

I served in one such squad that had a Nottingham man in charge nationally, succeeded by a Metropolitan officer, while regionally it was commanded by a

Thames Valley detective chief superintendent.

All were of the highest calibre and with proven track records.

They commanded we few, we happy few, we band of brothers (and sisters).

I believe this argument can be applied to the current proposals for regionalisation.

They, first of all, would eradicate any nepotism and hypocrisy that may exist in small, mainly rural constabularies.

There will be less hierarchy and this, in theory, should save the taxpayer a good deal of money.

There should be huge savings on bulk buying of uniform and equipment.

Residents living in remote border areas should have an increased police presence, which will give reassurance.

The public only want to see a police officer when they require and don't care where he or she comes from, so long as they do and quickly.

Communities as we knew them are slowly disappearing and new estates are popping up all the time, with older, established villages being over-run with newcomers, most of whom don't know and don't want to know their neighbours.

Chief Officers don't stay anywhere too long nowadays, so the loyalty card cannot be played.

They are onwards and upwards in their progress to the top and many don't hang around to be 'discovered'.

Let us have good, practical police officers – with proven track records and chosen from the best there are from a much larger area – to lead the police service in a fast-changing society.

They should act as good role models to those around them and be accountable to the people of England and Wales.

Roll on a national police service, which is the next natural progressive step.

Robert Miller  
Chelmsford

## Keep up the good work – it's much appreciated

I THINK that the campaign being launched on the trains is excellent. The Fenchurch Street to Southend line has been particularly bad between Barking and Pitsea.

Pitsea station is very intimidating, with no staff on the platforms.

I have witnessed a lot of anti-social behaviour on the trains.

I would also like to comment on the

extra police officers I have seen in my area recently and the great work that they are doing.

The more they are on our streets, the more crime will be solved – the place is feeling much safer.

The undercover work and arrests on drug dealing and gun crime prove that Essex Police are doing the job.

Well done and please keep up the

fantastic work – your efforts really are being noticed.

Derek Gregory  
Thurrock  
submitted via the Essex Police website

● See Pages 6 & 7 for news about Operation Effective

● See also Names in the News on Page 8

## Gone . . . but not forgotten

**Walter Reeve – Essex County Constabulary.  
Served from September 22, 1890. Died February 16, 1911**

A SUFFOLK man, Pc Walter Reeve was a gamekeeper at Foxhall, near Woodbridge, prior to joining the police – his brother George was also in the force.

Pc Reeve's first posting was to Southend but he moved all over the county during the next few years. At the time of his death, Pc Reeve had been stationed at Coggeshall for 18 months.

Shortly before 6pm one winter evening, Pc Reeve left his house, on duty, to walk over to Kelvedon to serve some notices and make a point.

He should have been home by midnight.

When he failed to return the alarm was raised.

Pc Reeve's body was later found in full uniform in the River Blackwater at Little Coggeshall, near a point where there were no guard rails.

But there were no signs of violence and at the inquest, the coroner recorded an open verdict.



● Pc Walter Reeve

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

## Staff to scale the heights of college for young Joshua, 4

POLICE officers and staff will be abseiling the force college to raising money for the son of a colleague who suffers from an incurable disease.

Four-year-old Joshua, the son of Stansted Airport-based Sgt Andy Bartlett, has Tuberous Sclerosis – a rare genetic disorder that can affect the brain, kidneys, heart, eyes, lungs, and other organs – which has left him disabled and in need of 24-hour care.

The family now aim to raise a minimum of £2,000 to buy Joshua a specially-adapted bed and equipment for his new bedroom.

Andy's local council has already funded the conversion of the family's garage to into a purpose-



● Joshua Bartlett, four, has a rare genetic disorder

built bedroom and bathroom. The family will be at Essex Police College on the day, July 27, to meet everyone taking part and to offer support or courage as required!

Any extra money raised over the £2,000 target will go to a Tuberous Sclerosis charity. The event – which is now

fully subscribed – will be supervised and run by Essex Police Rope Access Team, the fifth charity event the team will have run.

● To sponsor an abseiler or to make a donation, contact Sgt Craig Pirie at Stansted Airport on 01279 680298 or 07875 547371 or via email

Aimee Smith

## Corner the chairman



● Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers

Together, we can achieve even more

“THE last year has seen significant change for Essex Police, as we continue to develop and deliver an improved service to the public.

Listening to what the public wants has been a top priority as the Police Authority, together with Chief Constable Roger Baker, introduces a new policing style.

This style has seen 220 additional officers put back on to front-line duties, with about 100 realised through restructuring the police service into five divisions. We have also rolled out 144 Neighbourhood Policing Teams across Essex, and extended opening hours at many police stations.

However, this is just the beginning and we have a lot more work to do.

There has been a period of adjustment, which can be unsettling at times, but this has been managed as quickly and efficiently as possible, so we can now build on this good work for the benefit of the public.

We have already improved our performance, our communication with the public is even better, we get a better response, which helps us to solve crimes, and in turn we provide feedback to the public, detailing exactly what we are doing to help them. The public will see vast improvements in local policing through our Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

There will be 304 officers and staff serving every ward in the county.

This will help to forge valuable links with communities as we continue positively in driving down crime, nuisance and disorder.

Mr Baker has vowed that Essex will see the biggest reduction in crime this year across the whole of England and Wales.

The police authority whole-heartedly supports this aim and has every confidence in the force that this will be achieved. I am very proud to be associated with and to work with Essex Police.

I commend all the staff and officers for their efforts over the last year and look forward to working with you in the future, to make Essex Police the best force in the country. ”

# Bright ideas to make the force even better

**BRIGHT ideas to help the force perform more effectively, to get its message across to the public or to improve efficiency have been recognised.**

Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark made presentations to 17 people at the Force Suggestion Scheme awards last month in the Chief Constable's lounge.

Many will remember the 'If you are coming to Essex to commit a crime, bring a toothbrush' campaign last year – created and developed by Essex Police Authority Press and PR Officer Kate Batson.

Her two-pronged message reassuring the community and telling criminals what to expect was emblazoned on the backs of buses across the county. Kate's then manager John Johnson submitted the campaign to the scheme.

Other media-related suggestions included designs for a neighbourhood policing leaflet by Western Comms Officer Denise Harvey and an anti-social behaviour poster by Fay Robson,

of FIR. Dc Karen Nicolaou, of Stansted, designed a leaflet enabling those unable to speak English to point out their own language so that the force can ensure they get the right assistance in their native tongue.

Proposals to improve efficiency included changing light fittings in station yards to energy/time efficient models, submitted by Pc Andy Dodd, of Eastern, improved waste disposal at divisional level, from David Thurgood, also of Eastern, and email improvements adopted by the ACTION campaign, from Terri Hicks, Michelle Bradley and Christine Bowden, of the Executive Secretariat, and Pc Rick Jones, of Eastern.

Ideas that improve the way the force operates also featured and awards made: a Rogues Gallery to identify wanted individuals easily, from Dc Mark Heard, of South-Western, standardising operational briefing templates, from DCI Tim Raymond, of IT Developments, ensuring that fingerprints/DNA have been acquired from all suspects post-conviction, from Pc Kieran Backhouse, of South-Western,

intelligence gathering during custody interviews – which has been adopted as force policy – from Sgt Paul Lamb, of South-Eastern, ensuring that that domestic CCTV systems are identified during the course of house-to-house inquiries for major incidents, from Roy Tyzack, of Crime Division, and street bail given to suspects identified for failing to appear in court or for non-payment of a fine, from Ds Stuart Jeans, of South-Eastern.

Other proposals were received from Dc Ed Russell, of Crime Division, Pc Tony Burton and Pc Justin Davis, of Eastern, Insp Andy Fusher, of Human Resources, Pc Simon Willsher, of Mobile Support, Insp Jim White, of Professional Standards, Laura Moore, Dc Clive Morris and Sgt Ben Hodder, all of South-Western, and Pc Mark Hawes, of Western.

Submissions to the Force Suggestion Scheme have increased, with 2005 showing a 54 per cent increase.

● Send your good ideas to the Force Suggestion Scheme via email or ring ext 51022

## Walkabout reaps results for new boss

A FAMILIARISATION visit to Hockley by new police boss Supt Maurice Mason led to the identification and arrests of youths who admitted damaging a play area.

Supt Mason, South-Eastern Deputy Divisional Commander, was shown the Plumberow Mount play area by Sector Inspector Andy Parkman, of Rochford.

They came across a group of youngsters waving part of the play area's metal fence.

On speaking to them, the pair were able to identify other youths responsible for the damage. Two 15-year-olds were subsequently arrested and reprimanded.

Insp Parkman said: "There have been a number of incidents of anti-social behaviour at the play area, and some criminal damage. The outcome here clearly demonstrates that we do direct our patrols to areas of local concern and do act upon issues raised through the community.

"We hope the outcome reassures local residents."

# Putting bikes through their paces

Neighbourhood Policing officers will get the chance to put cycles through their paces this summer, as they are rolled out across the divisions.

ACC Andy Bliss and Eastern Divisional Commander Dave Hudson have already been out on bike patrol in Clacton.

And several Neighbourhood Policing Teams have been involved in a pilot scheme to assess their benefits.

Mr Bliss said: "High levels of foot and cycle patrols must be at the heart of neighbourhood policing in Essex. The public see police on bikes as a winner – local officers, mobile and highly visible, able to tackle crime, nuisance and disorder in local communities.

"The idea is not new but the bikes and kit are definitely 'hi-tech'. Certainly, when I went out on patrol, just about everyone I met thought it was great to see officers out on bikes again," added Mr Bliss.

Each of the new territorial divisions will be receiving 20 specialised patrol bikes over



● ACC Andy Bliss, Sgt Phil Closs, of South Woodham Ferrers, Sgt Paul Fletcher, of the Metropolitan Police, and Insp Paul Eveleigh take a look at one of the new Smith and Wesson bicycles

the coming months. The high-quality Smith and Wesson cycles performed extremely well during the trials, and have proved highly successful in the Met. Sgt Dean Chapple, of St Anne's and St Andrew's NPT

in Colchester, has been using bikes since March. "Officers have commented on the positive aspect of having the ability to get around the neighbourhood quickly but also being able to speak with the commu-

ity whilst on patrol," he said. "And we have had some successful results. PCSO Jed Raven was recently on cycle patrol when he responded to reports of a house burglary and the theft of a moped. Being able to get to the scene

quickly and assist in the search of the suspects proved invaluable and resulted in the arrest of a suspect and the recovery of the stolen moped."

Last month, Sgt Paul Fletcher from the Met's Safer Neighbourhoods Team at Hainault met Essex Police frontline officers at HQ to talk about the success of cycle patrols in the Met and demonstrated the range of cycle equipment and clothing used by his team.

The meeting, chaired by Mr Bliss, enabled front-line officers to discuss ideas and suggestions for the introduction of cycle patrols in Essex with an officer who had had 'hands-on' experience.

Officers looked at and tested some of the equipment and uniform soon to be made available to them.

Insp Paul Eveleigh, of the Contact Management Programme, said work was ongoing to identify training requirements needed by all cycle-users, prior to the bikes being deployed on the front line.

# Fans and drivers 'behave themselves'

WITH England crashing out of the football World Cup quarter-finals, officers involved in Operation Volley have been stood down.

The operation was to stop football fans subject to bans from travelling to the tournament, and to apply for Football Banning Orders on those UK citizens with a violent history and a potential for causing trouble in Germany.

The operation was a complete success, with Essex Police leading the country in applying for 21 Banning Orders and having 18 being granted – one passenger was stopped at Harwich, the rest were detained at Stansted Airport.

At the conclusion of the operation, officers had arrested and detained over 100 people, with over 65,000 passengers being checked.

As well as those detained under the 1989 Football Spectators Act, 26 people were also arrested because they were wanted on warrant for various offences.

All those subject to a banning order have to hand in their passports to police during a designated period surrounding certain football matches, if relevant, and sign on at their local police station on match days.

Stansted Operations Manager Insp Rob Norcup said: "During the World Cup campaign, the behaviour across the county was good-natured, and has been little different to any other summer night.

"Officers were on standby but a combination of high-visibility policing, warnings of robust action and general good behaviour meant that only a few incidents occurred."

● POLICE are warning people that, even though the World Cup has now ended, they should continue to watch their behaviour when out drinking.

Officers have promised to clamp down on alcohol-fuelled anti-social behaviour throughout the summer.

The force has teamed up with the East of England Co-operative Society in a bid to also raise awareness of the dangers of alcohol misuse and officers are ready to issue £80 fixed penalty notices to those found in a 'drunken state.'

● THE summer anti-drink-drive campaign is continuing, too, targeting drivers who make the roads unsafe for other motorists.

During the first two weeks of last month only 59 of the 2,187 people breathalysed proved positive. And eight were arrested after either failing or refusing to give a breath test.

Chief Insp Tom Diment, Head of Road Policing, said: "Drinking and driving is a crime and one which often results in death and serious injury. We are taking steps to make the roads safer by making sure that those who drink drive are arrested and face the consequences of their actions. The campaign runs until September 1.

## Warning on staged road collisions

AN increase in staged road collisions was highlighted at the National Road Policing Intelligence Forum and the National Motor Vehicle Crime Conference.

Operational officers need to be aware as more of these collisions are happening in larger metropolitan areas in northern England although it does not yet appear to have happened in Essex.

There are two types of offender but they have the same aim of defrauding the insurance companies.

● For more, contact Jason Dearsley or Gavin Tuck at HQ Mobile Support

## Stepping out to raise cash for cancer charities

ACTIVE women across the force have been raising money for cancer charities. Sallyann Whay, of Harlow's Initial File Section took part in the town's 5km Race for Life on June 4 with colleagues Karis Fox and Avril Green, also from Harlow Criminal Justice Unit.

They raised approximately £600 between them for cancer research. Afterwards, Sallyann said: "We hope to compete in the race again next year with more staff and would hope you support us again."

And several members of staff also took part in Chelmsford's Race for Life at Hylands Park on June 25.

A team from the Procurement department raised just under £950. It comprised Head of Procurement Sandra Higgins, Procurement and Contracts Manager Karen King, Procurement Officer Valerie Fuller, Procurement Admin Officers Paula Fulwood and Karen Cansell, Jessica Mcleod, Kay Wills and Jan Norman, from Uniform Stores, and Contracts Officer Claire Turner. MICAS colleagues also took part.

Indexer/Researcher Debbie Taylor completed the course in 38mins 30secs and hopes to have raised around £55 while Rachel Rickett has so far raised £185.

And Assistant MICAS Manager Michelle McHugh, who raised about £400, summarised the day, saying: "We did it! A bit of a jog, brisk walking and a sprint to the end, which took 53 mins."

● CLACTON Domestic Violence Liaison Officer Deborah Smith completed the Playtex Moonwalk with her cousin Fiona, a breast cancer survivor.

The pair were raising money for breast cancer research and care. The walk lasted seven and a half hours and everyone who walked it was gridlocked to a standstill for at least an hour near Blackfriars Bridge. Deborah, who raised just under £800, said that doing the walk 'reminds me always of how precious life is, and how little we have to do with the life path we are given'.

Aimee Smith

## Tournament is just the job

POLICE in Basildon displayed their own special support for England during the World Cup when they showed off their skills in a football tournament and raised nearly £300 for charity. Officers hosted a five-a-side event in Canvey Island just hours before the big kick-off against Paraguay in Germany, with proceeds going to Cancer Research UK. Organiser Colin Ellis was delighted to see both uniformed officers and detectives squaring up against each other on the astroturf.

The tournament consisted of 12 teams, two comprising women, with Champagne and a cup on offer for the winners.



● Insp Keith Dobson shows off a hoard of stolen items recovered during Operation Honda – officers are still appealing for owners to come forward to identify stolen property Pictures courtesy of Evening Echo

# Officers conjure up ideas and take the fight to the criminals

SINCE its inception in April, officers in South-Western Division have been leading the way in Essex with numerous operations to capture criminals and reassure local residents.

Operation Honda was launched in Tilbury in April, with the aim of reuniting hundreds of items of stolen property with their rightful owners.

More than 30 people were arrested in a fortnight while £100,000 of items were recovered.

Divisional Commander Chief Supt Simon Coxall was delighted with the results as the operation illustrated the value of neighbourhood policing officers talking to local people who can offer information which can identify local criminals.

"It's this level of crime which has an adverse effect on everyday life," said Chief Supt Coxall.

"Honda lasted nearly eight months and had a core team of 10 people gathering intelligence and information. More than 100 officers were involved in the arrest stage."

Members of the media were invited to see the finale, with Insp Keith Dobson facilitating interviews and showing the assembled camera crews the numerous household items recovered by police. On a slightly less high-profile issue, one particular area of anti-social behaviour annoying residents and motorists in south-west Essex has been the problem of nuisance bikers.

Following consultation with the community, neighbourhood policing officers in Laindon instigated Operation Broadway in a bid to restore safety to housing estates as well as confiscating illegally-ridden motorcycles.

by Nishan Wijeratne

Working with Basildon District Council, Pc Steve Mersh and his colleagues set about installing signs and putting up anti-motorcycle gates around fields where bikers were digging up the turf.

"Hopefully, our work will dissuade anti-social riders from coming to the area. We will obviously continue to patrol the district to deter and arrest those responsible," said Pc Mersh.

While police in the Basildon district targeted nuisance bikers, their counterparts in the other half of the division continued to prosecute mini-moto users who veered off private land and on to public roads.

Legislation under the Police Reform Act 2002 gives police the power to seize vehicles which are being ridden or driven in a careless manner or which are being illegally operated.

Grays neighbourhood policing officer Pc Nick Luff said: "Local residents are understandably concerned for not only their own safety, but also youngsters' safety too."

"Our actions, hopefully, act as a warning and a reminder to all."

A recent large-scale and ongoing operation to tackle east London criminals from committing crime in Essex hit the headlines when officers took x-ray machines to railway stations throughout the division.

Operation Effective was a joint initiative with C2C Rail as officers looked to improve the quality of life for passengers and staff using the lines from Fenchurch Street and Liverpool Street.

Portable x-ray machines and metal detectors are being randomly placed throughout stations in Basildon and Thurrock in a bid to identify armed



● Pc Kelly Allen identifies a potential threat as a member of the public passes through the x-ray machine

offenders ahead of their prosecution and confiscation of their weapons.

Operations Manager Supt Steve Bottrill said: "This isn't just about catching people dodging fares, serious though that is."

"We're intent on denying thieves and other criminals the free use of trains in order to prey on Essex residents and commuters."

Meanwhile, officers in Pitsea

launched a campaign to catch petrol thieves following a spate of crimes involving motorists driving off from forecourts without paying for their fuel.

A series of posters, designed by the Media and Public Relations Department, were put up in the area to warn drivers that they would be arrested if they didn't pay for their fuel as their faces and vehicle details had been caught on CCTV.

Pc Paul Radley said: "The beauty of CCTV is that it captures clear images of not only the car but also the person responsible for the crime."

Neighbourhood policing officers devised the successful campaign, which nearly halved the number of offending motorists in Basildon.

This campaign was welcomed by petrol station staff, who had been caused misery by this sort of crime.

## Hospital gets cash from Kelly's ride

POLICE Community Support Officer Kelly Roberts has raised cash for the breast cancer charity Together by organising a charity bike ride. Kelly, 22, who works in Stansted Mountfitchet, organised the event, which attracted over 150 friends, family and local people, who cycled either a 20-mile or a 40-mile route around Sawbridgeworth in Hertfordshire on May 28.

Kelly said: "The day was a real success and the weather was good, attracting a lot of people to take part. London's Heart 106.2 FM even turned up on the day and helped to publicise the event."

It was the third, and most successful, annual bike ride organised to raise money used for testing drugs for cancer at Epping Hospital's breast unit. The Together charity is very close to Kelly's heart as a close friend of hers has been affected by breast cancer.

Kelly added: "I know that the money raised for this charity will go directly to the hospital unit for a worthwhile cause."

● KELLY and 20 of her friends and family are also carrying out a sponsored climb of Mount Kilimanjaro next month.

They need to raise £2,000 for the trip.

● Anyone who wishes to sponsor them or to make donations can contact Kelly at Stansted Mountfitchet Police Station on 01279 812211

Louise Blackwell

## We want to hear your war tales

THE Essex Police Museum is looking for stories, photographs and objects from police officers who served with the force during World War Two.

The information will help to make up displays and new education sessions for Key Stage Two schoolchildren. During the war, thousands of men were sent off to war, many from the police force leaving Essex County Constabulary to seek officers who could help out with air raid precautions, as well as dealing with every day crimes.

It was a time when women were first able to join the force to help out while men were at war – a significant step towards the later introduction of WPCs. Curator Becky Latchford said: "We are trying to create a session with real objects from the period, which we can also put on display."

● Contact Curator Becky Latchford on 01245 457150

## A family bar

THE bar at Essex Police HQ is now opening for a family evening every Thursday, from 5.30pm, with games available for all.

There will be free refills from the soft drinks dispenser for children, too.

● For details, or to book functions and corporate meetings, contact Sam or Jo on ext 58884 between 9am and noon on weekdays

## Stamping out crime!

OFFICERS in Essex will be leaving a footprint in homes across the county in a bid to stamp out burglaries.

The force has launched a campaign to remind home-owners to lock their windows and doors.

The initiative began on Monday, July 10, when officers started to post footprint-shaped leaflets through letter boxes. The leaflet provides advice on how to protect your home and a simple message saying: "Next time this could be a burglar".

In 2005/06, more than 6,000 people across the county were victims of burglary. In a bid to reduce this type of crime, the Essex Police footprint is a graphic way of highlighting to householders how easy they could be making life for the opportunist burglar.

Community Safety Inspector Andy Bray said: "We hope that when people see the footprints inside their home, they will be reminded that the next footprint could be that of a burglar."

"With the warmer days, people are more likely to leave their windows and doors open without realising the consequences that can follow. It only takes a second for someone to get in and out of your house, grabbing your possessions on the way."

He added: "Burglaries are one of the worst crimes that affect people's quality of life and we are always looking for new ways to get our message across. Getting people to take a few seconds to secure their property could save the hassle and misery that follows."

In support of the footprint initiative, Chelmsford Town Crier Tony Appleton will be patrolling the town during the week to raise awareness and reinforce the importance of home security. Robert Needham, town crier for Colchester, was also spreading the message on July 10.



● Chelmsford Town Crier Tony Appleton and Community Safety Inspector Andy Bray deliver the message that 'This could have been a burglar' to an Essex householder Picture by Gary Kenton

## Securing the lead in designing out crime

SOUTHEND Airport is flying high after being awarded the 50th certificate for designing out crime.

Essex Police's Secured by Design team has presented the airport with this award for making improvements to its car park.

The airport followed guidelines set out by the initiative in conjunction with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and re-modelled its surface car park so that it helps to reduce crime through good planning and lighting.

The Secured by Design project has been running since 1999 in partnership with ACPO.

The idea behind the scheme is that, through good planning of homes, car parks and open spaces, such as children's play areas, crime can be reduced.

With the use of good lighting, locks and modern technology, the scheme wants to highlight the crime prevention measures available.

During the week beginning Monday, July 10, Secured by Design is hoping to raise its profile with a seminar for local companies.

Force Architectural Liaison Officers John Hills and Heather Alston have invited various people from the building trade, including architects,

by Claire Elliott

planners and the local authorities.

Also attending will be companies which have already met the police-preferred specification and will be promoting their products. The aim is to educate those in the industry to help consumers make an informed choice.

John said: "I consider this seminar a must for professionals involved in providing safe and secure housing both private and affordable, within Essex. "Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, aided by our Neighbourhood Policing Teams, recognise that crime can have a negative impact on the environment."

"But a badly-designed environment will encourage crime and anti-social behaviour to occur, increasing the fear of crime in the community."

By increasing awareness of Secured by Design, Essex Police plans to reduce the fear of crime by providing the public with set guidelines that give the community confidence in what they are buying.

● For more information, visit www.securedbydesign.com or www.essex.police.uk



# Law Classifieds

## Holiday lets

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

**LANZAROTE**, Costa Teguisse. Twin-bed apartment. Kitchen, large dining room/lounge. Ring the McAulays on 01625 431373 or 07881 614045 or visit [www.lanzarotesun.net](http://www.lanzarotesun.net)

**SCOTTISH Highlands**. Associates to police are welcome on a B&B basis, with en-suite. Countryside pursuits in the Cairngorms National Park. Reductions for police. Ring Andy Nunn on 01479 841717 or e-mail [apf.nunn@btinternet.com](mailto:apf.nunn@btinternet.com)

**SOUTH of France**, three-bedroom villa, Mediterranean coast, secure complex, quiet location. Discounts for police employees, Oct to May. Contact Kevin Harman on 01702 470926 or email [Kevin.harman@freeuk.com](mailto:Kevin.harman@freeuk.com)

**TUSCANY**, Italy. Medieval village retreat in the foothills of northern Tuscany. One hour to Florence, Pisa and Italian Riviera. Ring 07919 057437 or visit [www.tuscanlife.co.uk](http://www.tuscanlife.co.uk)

**WELLS-next-the-Sea**, Norfolk, traditional cottage, two bedrooms, walk to quayside, shops and restaurant. Private parking, beach and walks. Ring 07919 057437.

**COSTA Blanca**, La Marina, luxury two-bed, two-bath villa. Sleeps four to six. Near airport. From £150 per week. Ring Mick Ager on 07775 676142 or +34 617 110 096 or email [casadomi02@hotmail.com](mailto:casadomi02@hotmail.com)

**FLORIDA**, Gulf coast villa, four/five-bed, pool spa, four bath, pool table, games, bikes, discounts for staff. Visit [www.lemonbayvillas.com](http://www.lemonbayvillas.com) or Kerry Auger on 01268 786170.

**FLORIDA**, 15 minutes from Disney, luxury three-bed, two-bath villa on residential estate. Own heated pool, overlooking woodlands. Visit [www.hardysfloridavilla.co.uk](http://www.hardysfloridavilla.co.uk)

**FLORIDA**, Orlando, four-bedroom pool home overlooking water. Quiet location. £450-£550 per week. Near golf, Disney and airport. Contact Pete or Linda on 01245 321378 or email [petewtaylor@yahoo.com](mailto:petewtaylor@yahoo.com)

**FRANCE**, 20 minutes from Bergerac, Dordogne. Country gite sleeps four, with swimming pool. Visit [www.french-gite-holidays.com](http://www.french-gite-holidays.com) Call Claire on +33 553 893 508 or Bob Cordery on 07952 193944.

**FRANCE**, three self-catering gites in peaceful village one hour from Calais in idyllic countryside near Hesdin and Arras. Ring 01375

483045 or email [lepetithameau@btinternet.com](mailto:lepetithameau@btinternet.com)

**FRANCE**, stone cottage. Quiet location. Calais five hours, Caen two hours. £150-£175 per week. Contact Emma on 07711 421579 or email [em.bowditch1975@btinternet.com](mailto:em.bowditch1975@btinternet.com)

**GRANADA**, Spain. Two-bedroomed flat in quiet, scenic town of Castilljar. Away from tourist trail. £120 per week, inclusive. Contact Arthur Emmett on 01376 515445.

**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.

**NORFOLK**, two cottages, sleep four and two, in wonderful countryside. Central Broads. Abundant wildlife.

## Property for sale & rent

Weekly or short breaks. Ring Gwen on 01508 489754.

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

**BEACH** hut for hire, Holland-on-Sea near Clacton. Ideal location, close to café and toilets. £10 per day. Ring 07867 676342/5.

## Cars for sale

**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.

**LANDROVER** Discovery TDIS XS 2-5cc, diesel silver, recently serviced, MoT, taxed until May 2007. Air conditioning, sunroof, CD plus extras. Reluctant, genuine sale. £10,500 ono. Ring 01245 460031.

## Miscellaneous

**NISSAN** Primera SRI, pearl blue, 1.6l, N-reg, MoT until April 2007. Power-assisted-steering, reliable, rust-free. Bargain £700 ono. Ring Matt on 07801 929438.

**RENAULT** Clio, 1.2RN, blue, 93,000 miles, 1996 N-reg, one previous owner, sunroof, remote central locking. £700 ono. Contact Nishan Wijeratne on ext 50635.

**WEDDING** dress, size 14/16, ivory dupion silk, full skirt, decorated with diamante. Also veil and size 7 shoes. £200. Contact 07971 052441.

# Ex-commander off to become Assistant Chief

## FORMER Southend Divisional Commander Jacqui Cheer has been appointed Assistant Chief Constable of Suffolk.

Jacqui, 44, had been on secondment to the Home Office's Reform Unit, as a temporary Assistant Chief Constable, helping to reduce the bureaucratic burden for frontline staff.

She spent time with a number of police forces throughout England and Wales to find ways to improve processes, reduce paperwork and spread good practice.

Mrs Cheer has served 22 years with Essex Police and, prior to her post in Southend, she led the policing at Stansted Airport and managed the Professional Standards Department.

She also has an MBA and a first-class degree in English Literature and Fine Art.

**Barbara Holmes**, of Laindon Criminal Justice Unit was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours after being recognised for her services to the criminal justice system.

Now Barbara, 58, a loyal supporter of the royal family, is bursting with pride and looking forward to the special day at Buckingham Palace.

She said: "I was totally shocked, but thrilled and honoured at the same time. I really love my work and have enjoyed working with very supportive teams during my 27 years with the force, which have all been in the criminal justice department."

"I really do think we make a difference to people out there who have to face the trauma of going to court to give evidence."

Criminal Justice Department head Chief Supt Graeme Bull said: "Barbara represents everything good about Essex Police, devoting herself to providing the best possible service to everyone she deals with."

"Her employment file is full of letters from the Courts Service, the Crown Prosecution Service and other agencies, praising the quality of her work, her personality and her energy to get things right for people."

Former chief inspector **Tony Belford** has become the new mayor of Castle Point.

He said: "It is something I would never have thought years ago I would do but the achievement is something I will value for the rest of my life."

Tony worked on Canvey for most of his 30 years' service.

In the district council elections, Tony was the only one of six Conservative councillors to hold their seat on Canvey.

And former Colchester inspector **Jo Dudley** was due to be ordained a deacon this month.

Miss Dudley, 53, who served the force for nearly 30 years until her retirement four years ago, was due to be ordained at Chelmsford Cathedral by the Bishop of Chelmsford earlier this month.

Then she will be serving parishioners in Tiptree and Great Braxted, as a self-financing assistant curate. After a year or so, she hopes to be

## Names in the news



● ACC Jacqui Cheer



● Barbara Holmes MBE



● Alan Batchelor



● Cllr Tony Belford

ordained a priest. During her time with Essex Police, Miss Dudley was involved in setting up the Colchester Inter-Agency Domestic Violence Forum and trained hundreds of police officers.

## Retirements

South-Eastern Division Operations Manager Supt **Steve Currell** is leaving after serving Essex Police for almost 29 years.

Prior to that, Steve, who is currently based at Southend, served with the Metropolitan Police for almost four years.

During his time with Essex, he served in the former Basildon and Southend divisions.

Insp **Grahame Pinder**, 51, is leaving the helm at Rayleigh Road Policing Unit after 30 years with the force, during which he has served at a variety of places, including Chelmsford and Thurrock divisions, HQ, Force Support Unit and Air Support and he spent two years with the City of London force.

**Brian 'Knocker' White**, 49, has left the building. A total of 30 years' service, including two years with Dorset and a secondment to NCIS, saw him leave Brentwood MIT as an acting DI.

Ds **Vic Murphy** is retiring but then takes the reins back up at Stansted Airport CID, as he returns on the 30-plus scheme this month.

And Sgt **Dale Brown**, 48, has bade farewell to Harlow custody. During his 30 years with the force, he has served at Brentwood, Harlow, Stansted, Chelmsford and Braintree.

Over 31 years service will be left behind as Pc **Ray Carpenter**, 54, leaves Brentwood Beat Team. He also spent time serving with the West Midlands.

Another leaver is Pc **Trevor Brand**, 54 with exactly 30 years' service, mostly in the Tendring and Colchester areas.

Leaving Saffron Walden, after service at Colchester, Braintree and Chelmsford divisions, Pc **Richard Buckland**, 54, finishes his police career this month.

Also leaving this month is **Michael Davies** who has worked for 10 years with the force and leaves the Criminal Justice Evidential Media Unit at Colchester.

**Ann Whitmore**, 64, has worked for over 17 years with the force and

leaves her last post with Firearms Licensing this month.

## Obituaries

Colleagues at Basildon were shocked by the sudden death of Pc **Alan Batchelor** who died of a heart attack following surgery in hospital on June 11, aged 52. He leaves a son and daughter.

He was working at the divisional intelligence unit and Ds Stuart Jeans said: "Alan was known to most as a 'larger than life' character who spoke his mind and told it like it was, warts an all."

"You knew where you stood with Al. He was passionate about his role as a police officer and despite having reached retirement age, he had no intention of doing so," said Stuart.

"He was happy to help anyone who needed it, with Probationers and senior police officers alike. Alan was a true grafter and he was a pleasure to have on the team. He will be sadly missed."

Alan's funeral took place at St Barnabas' Church, Mayland. Donations may be made in his memory for CLIC Sargent, the child cancer care charity, and Essex Wildlife Trust. Send cheques to funeral directors Paul J King, 10 Station Road, Burnham on Crouch, CMO 8BG.

Former chief inspector **Wilfred Newnham**, has died, aged 83. He served for 32 years, firstly with the City of Bath before joining Essex and serving at Harlow and Epping.

His funeral took place at Parndon Wood Crematorium, Harlow with donations to the Essex Police Benevolent Fund in his memory.

Ex-inspector **Alan Smith** has also died, aged 71, in his home town of Colchester.

He served from 1955 to 1983 at Harold Hill, Romford, Emerson Park, Hornchurch, Halstead, Rayleigh, Basildon and HQ. He leaves a widow Judith.

Former inspector **Ernest Dunn**, of Canvey Island, has died, aged 90.

Mr Dunn served the force between 1937 and 1967 at Pitsea, Hornchurch, Emerson Park, Collier Row, Romford and Chelmsford.

His funeral was due to take place at Piesea New Cemetery.

And ex-constable **Michael Savage**, of Attleborough, Norfolk, has died, aged 58. He served in the force from 1972 to 1996, in Basildon and Billericay.

### BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE - ONE WORD PER BOX


Name and rank .....

Station ..... Home tel. ....

Date ..... Signed .....

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● Advertisers should be aware that The Law is now published on the internet and any telephone numbers given will be in the public domain.

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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## Well worth the exercise

AS smoke filled the Dartford River tunnels and cries for help came from blood-soaked people trapped in their vehicles, an observer could be forgiven for thinking a major incident was occurring on the Essex-Kent border.

In reality it was a major, 'live' exercise, months in the planning by Le Crossing and the Highways Agency, which involved emergency services from both counties.

The tunnels were closed for several hours overnight last month to test the emergency response to a fire resulting from a crash inside.

Kent, which has jurisdiction over the tunnels, took the lead, with Essex support.

A live 'feed' allowed over 90 observers and journalists the opportunity to watch the activity in detail.

The exercise has been deemed a success and a full debrief will now identify specific learning points.

## Website aid

SIMPLE first aid advice is just a click away.

Click on the link on the rolling button at the bottom right of the intranet home page, marked First Aid Guidance, and get advice on first aid boxes, first aiders' responsibilities and incident management, plus treatment information.

● Contact Derek George on ext 53622 for more



● Chelmsford College principal David Law, Chief Constable Roger Baker with the first Cadets to pass out from the Chelmsford College BTEC Level 3 in Public Services course

Picture by Mary Cotter

# The future is Essex blue

A NEW collaboration between Essex Police College and Chelmsford College has seen the first fruits of its labours. The first 17 Cadets to undertake the one-year BTEC Level 3 in Public Services have just passed out – at Essex Police HQ. Altogether, 80 teenagers passed out as the public services courses also attract students from other services, such as the Army, Navy and fire. The police Cadets have spent three days a week at college and two days a week on

division for the past year. Now some will become regular officers, others PCSOs and some will stay on as Cadets until they reach the age of 19. The Police College is now evaluating the benefits of the course, run by Chelmsford College tutor Maxine Gillespie. NVQ Manager Natalie Foster said: "The partnership between the college and the force has been very successful. The Cadets and organisation have reaped the benefits of an accredited course, which they can take forward after their Cadet scheme."

On the course, students learn about leadership skills, communication, diversity and team-building and get an insight into the ethos of the public services. At the passing out ceremony, attended by Essex Chief Constable Roger Baker and Assistant Chief Constable Liam Briggins, Cadet Tom Olley was named Best Student and received his award from Mr Baker. Sgt Cathy Calder presented the award for Most Improved Student to Cadet Matthew Ladkin.

## An amazing recruitment campaign

THE response to the force's latest officer-recruitment campaign started in 1,200 application packs being requested in four hours. Sally Farrow, of Personnel and Training, said it had been 'amazing'. Although the campaign is now closed – with the deadline for completed applications August 4 – Sally said details of our next campaign would be released on the force website [www.essex.police.uk/recruits](http://www.essex.police.uk/recruits) shortly.

The *Love What You Do* campaign started at 8.30am on Monday, July 3 and closed at 12.30pm. Force Recruitment Manager Karen Puttock said: "We want to encourage as many people as possible who are interested in a career in policing to apply to Essex. "We are always looking for anyone who is keen and enthusiastic and who wants to help serve their community." Disappointed people who were unable to obtain an application pack are encouraged to look on the force website for details about the Special Constabulary, Police Community Support Officers or police staff vacancies.

# We welcome your opinion

On March 20, 2006 the Home Office announced plans to merge Essex, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire police forces. Essex Police Authority is keen to assess the implications of these planned changes to our policing structure

for the communities of Essex. Please send your completed questionnaire to the Strategic Force Review Team, FREEPOST, Essex Police, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 6DA

or alternatively you are invited to browse our website and fill in the survey on-line at [www.essex.police.uk/survey](http://www.essex.police.uk/survey). The closing date for your feedback is Friday, July 28, 2006.

1) In determining what is important to you, please respond to the following statements:

(a) It is important to have a rapid and responsive local policing service.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't mind
- Don't know

(b) It is important to have locally accessible, neighbourhood Police Constables and staff

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't mind
- Don't know

(c) It is important to have a senior police officer responsible for policing services in your local area.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't mind
- Don't know

(d) It is important to have a Chief Constable (the person in charge of the police force) who is solely responsible for Essex.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't mind
- Don't know

(e) I support the proposal to merge Essex, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire police forces.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't mind
- Don't know

(f) It is important to have robust and independent accountability through a local Police Authority (locally elected officials and appointed members of the public).

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't mind
- Don't know

2) Prior to the Home Office concluding that Essex should merge with Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, a number of options were discussed. Which of these options do you think would best deliver the sort of police service you want?

Please mark your first and second choice with the number 1 and 2 respectively.

- Essex, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire
- Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk
- Essex standalone
- A regional force (merging Essex, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk)

3) If Essex, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire police forces were merged do you think it would:

- Cost less
- Cost more
- Cost about the same
- Don't know

4) If Essex, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire police forces were merged do you think the local policing service (neighbourhood policing) would be improved?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't mind
- Don't know

5) If Essex, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire police forces were merged do you think the protective services (those that deal with large-scale emergencies, counter-terrorism, serious crime investigation and major road policing) would be improved?

- Strongly agree
- Agree

- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't mind
- Don't know

6) Do you believe there should be a referendum before a decision is made about the possible restructuring of Essex Police?

- Yes
- No

We would appreciate your answers to the following questions, however they are not compulsory.

7) Please state your age

- 21 or under
- 22 - 35
- 36 - 50
- 51 - 75
- Over 75

8) Are you male or female?

- Male
- Female

9) What is your ethnicity?

- Asian or Asian British
- Black or Black British
- Chinese
- Mixed ethnicity
- White
- Other (please state)



## Sport & Leisure

### An encore for songsters

BUILDING on the success of their February production of *My Fair Lady*, Essex Police Musical Society invite you to their summer show *Encore* – a compilation of members' favourite numbers from shows they have produced since 1966.

It's a packed programme of show tunes – Guys and Dolls, South Pacific, Oliver, High Society and Show Boat – popular classics, dance routines and comedy monologues, plus songs made famous by Frank Sinatra, Benny Hill and Judy Garland.

The audience can take along food and drink as they will be seated at tables.

● *Encore* is in the Assembly Hall at HQ from July 19 to 22 at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £6.50 from 01245 602083 or 01277 623324

### Doubles pairs clean up

FRINTON on Sea Lawn Tennis Club was the venue for the Eastern Region PSUK Lawn Tennis Tournament last month. Essex swept the board in the ladies' and mixed doubles. Ladies' doubles winners were Alison Oddy and Debbie Lincoln, with Frances Harrison and Jeanette Poston runners up. And Alison won the mixed doubles with Tony Sharman, while Debbie came second, partnered by Keith Draycott. Other Essex results were: Ladies' singles – 2 Frances Harrison; Men's singles – 2 Tony Sharman; Men's doubles – 2 Kieran Lally and Keith Draycott; Men's Veteran doubles – 2 Terry Bragg and Len Jarman; and Ladies' Veteran doubles – 1 Frances Harrison and Jeanette Poston.

### Sport coming up

SKELLY Lambert, of Brightlingsea, and Steve Tyrrell, of Stanway Road Policing Unit, have been selected to represent the British Police Tug of War team, in a Tri-services event against the Combined Services and the Civil Service at Newcastle on July 27.

● THE second PSUK National Golf Championships is being held at Five Lakes Resort at Tolleshunt Knights on August 31 and September 1.

● Further details and entry forms are on the Essex Police Sports Association website – find it under Divisions & Departments on the intranet home page. Closing date for entries is July 27

## Airport man takes the car in our summer lottery

THE winner of the top prize in the lottery – a 1.4i Hyundai Getz CDX, valued at £9,340 – was Pc Neil Course, of Stansted Airport. The winner of the £3,000 cash prize was Sue White, of Harlow, the £1,000 prize went to Pc Aidan Brick, of Stansted Airport, and Carol Masters, of Colchester Criminal Justice Unit, won £500.

The £100 prizes went to Ds Hugh Conerney, of Stansted Airport, Judith Bailey, of Southend, Pc John Weeks, of Bocking Road Policing Unit, Dc Colin Shead, of Braintree,

Pc Leslie Durling, of Witham, Dc Rosie Holloway, of Pitsea, Pc Paul Gridley, of Essex Police College, Carole Smith, of Colchester, Pc Joanne Woraker, of Harlow, Phil Simmonds, of the Force Information Room, and Sue Bishop, retired.

And £50 prizes went to William Cobbold, retired, Alisdair Hunter, of IT Service Desk, HQ, Pc Scott Threadgold, of Grays, Dc Ed Green, of Stansted Airport, Pc Frazer Low, of Brentwood, Dc Barry Johnson, of Great Dunmow, Pc Colin Cox, of Great Dunmow,

Lucy Bearman, of Chelmsford, Pc David Flynn, of Braintree, DI Lee Davies, of Crime Division, Ds Gary Washbrook, of Harlow Major Investigation Team, Pc Judy Parry, of Southend, Lisa Crow, of Harwich, and Pc Danielle Markoutsis, of Epping.

Winners of Benenden Healthcare bears were: Lynda May, of HQ Legal Services, Pc Lee Palmer, of Braintree, Dc Anita Taylor, of Brentwood Child Abuse Investigation Unit, Dc Richie Adams, of Crime Division, Brian Williams, retired, and Sue Rees, of HQ FIR.

## Choirs' warm welcome gives two hot concerts

ESSEX was able to offer a very warm welcome to the visiting choirs taking part in the *Three Police Choirs in Concert* last month.

Temperatures in Chelmsford Cathedral and Colchester's Charter Hall soared as the choirs performed on two of the hottest nights of the year.

The mixed voice Essex Police Choir was joined by the Ladies' Choir of the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Avon and Somerset Constabulary Male Voice Choir for both concerts.

Each choir sang a choice of their own items before all 130 voices joined together for the second half of each concert.

The choirs were supported by guest soloist Fiona Whittaker at the Cathedral, and by the Essex Police Band at the Charter Hall. Both concerts were compered by Liz Mullen, of BBC Essex.

Whilst the choirs performed to a full house in the Cathedral, they were competing with England's first match in the World Cup for the Charter Hall and audiences suffered accordingly.

A substantial sum should still have been raised for the two charities involved, *HEAL*, the Helen Rollason Cancer Appeal, and *Headway*, the charity for people with head injuries.

The fine weather meant that the barbecue held for the visitors on Saturday, at HQ Sports Pavilion, was a great success with everyone congregating outside in the sunshine. The need to sustain body fluid levels also meant that the bar did a roaring trade.

Choir chairman Peter Simpson, said: "The weekend was a tremendous success. It was good to renew contacts with both visiting choirs and offer them our hospitality. We look forward to the opportunity to sing with them in the future."

## A tough second-round draw awaits cricketers

The Essex Police cricket team travelled to the tiny village of Horton to take on Northamptonshire in the first round of the PSUK cricket competition.

Bright sunshine and scorching heat greeted the players in a match which, on paper, looked to be an even contest. The home side included ex-Glamorgan professional David Iniff while Essex fielded British Police duo Vince Bird, of Stansted Airport, and Adrian Garnham, of Colchester, in theirs.

Northants won the toss and elected to bat on what looked to be a good batting surface although there was evidence in the wicket to suggest there may be some uneven bounce.

Essex opening bowlers Vince Atkinson (HQ), making a comeback after a number of years out of the side, and debutant Dan Calver

(Harlow) bowled with pace and guile to restrict the hosts to 44-3 after 18 overs. Atkinson returned impressive figures of 3-2.

Change bowlers David Miles (Stansted Airport), Bird and Garnham continued where the openers had left off and bowled accurately at speed to dismiss Northants for 108. Bird ended with 4 wickets for 22 runs and Garnham 3 for 14 runs.

In chasing, Essex made easy work of the challenge and won inside 15 overs without losing a wicket. Jon Butcher (Colchester) made 41 not out in 43 balls while Paul Gammiss (Southend) bludgeoned 38 not out also off 43 balls, including one huge six.

This comprehensive victory has now given Essex a tough away draw against the Met in the second round.

# Storming to victory



● Dave Willis leads Mick Bond through the water jump at the Croker Cup athletics meet

## Triathlons attract top competition

PERFECT race conditions blessed both the annual triathlons hosted by Essex Police with the biggest turn-out at both events since their inception.

At Basildon where Essex personnel vie for Croker Cup points there was the usual battle of the relays with Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark (bike) and his team of Paddy O'Toole (swim) and Paddy Rice (run) determined not to be beaten by the Eastern newcomers – Alan King (swim), Dave Hudson (bike) and Steve Johnson (run) – and leaving them trailing by 10 mins and 1 sec. Overall times were 51:43 and 1:01:54.

Winner of the police individual event was

David Browning, from Southend (47:44), with Mark Schofield, from Braintree, picking up second place and the veteran winner's trophy (52:54). Third home and the first police female, was Sue Clark from Southend (57:06).

● THE Braintree event incorporates the PSUK National Sprint Championships and attracts around 70 officers from as far afield as Strathclyde, competing alongside 180 'open' entries.

The Metropolitan Police women's team took all three trophies. Mathew Rees (City of London) swept the board in all three men's disciplines. Andrew Jopson (Essex Police) was third in the swim and fourth in the run (57:39).

COLCHESTER-based athletes from Eastern division did themselves proud, and showed that determination & belief gets results.

Their final placing in the Croker Cup athletics meet on May 31 saw them way ahead of the competition with 223 points, thus securing the Charrington Cup for the second time in recent years.

Fittingly, Eastern's Julie Bolingbroke was outright Victor Ludourum with the highest individual points total on the day.

Runners-up overall were Western with 127 points and last year's winners HQ took third with 110.

The event included track and field events for the children of police staff on their half-term break.

Colchester and Tendring Athletics Club members helped and acted as officials.

There were wins for Eastern's Julie Bolingbroke and Derek Walker in the 100, 200 and 400m.

Multi-talented Russ Mason, of Eastern, was third in the 100 metres and pivotal in the men's relay, as was team mate Alun Morgan whose lead-off leg was impressive.

In the 200m HQ's Will Cubbin came off the curb to claim second, and, in the vets' race, Clive Hansen, South-Eastern, had a lightning start to win in sub-30 secs.

Western's Mick Bacon snatched first by 100ths of a second in the men's 100m vets race.

Western's Sarah Purdy won the 800m, sprinting into the last 50 metres, and successfully repeated her tactics in 1,500m.

HQ's Russ Welch won the men's and vets 1,500m in style and navigated the barriers and water jump in the 3,000m steeplechase to win.

The cross-country trio of Derek Walker, Welch and Mick Bond finished first, second and third, respectively, in the men's 800m.

Strong from triathlon training, Eastern's Dave Willis followed Welch over the steeplechase 'barriers' to finish second with Central's

Terry Balding also fresh from the Croker tri, third.

Al Barley, South-Eastern, won the Super Vets steeplechase and his category in the race walking.

Western's Vic Faccini won the 3,000m men's walk.

And Mark Schofield, Central, looked impressive at the end of the men's 5,000m.

Eastern's women's relay – Alison Baker, Jaime Scrivener, Becky Knight and Julie Bolingbroke – finished in style alongside their male teammates who took control of their race, finishing in 52.8 secs.

The field events were a show of talent too, with the return of HQ's talented club thrower Shirley Quinn who was first, second and third in the discus, shot putt and javelin, respectively.

Eastern's Trevor Clark secured first place in the men's shot.

Back after maternity leave, Eastern's Karen Wilson took the javelin honours. In the men's event Clive Hansen sent the javelin sailing out to a respectable 39.86m.

Cubbin popped up again in the men's high jump to win as did Eastern's Jaime Scrivener in the women's event.

The men's triple and long jumps were a treat to watch.

Central's Dave Hiscock seemed to hang in the air for an eternity, finally securing first in both events.

Good technique was on display in the women's triple jump with Western's Sarah Purdy taking honours after some tough competition from Eastern's Julie Bolingbroke.

● ESSEX is sending a squad to the PSUK Track and Field Nationals at Newport from July 18-20.

● THE force is to host next year's PSUK National 10-Mile Road Race Championships.

It is currently in the early stages of planning and a venue is being sought for the September 2007 event.

● To offer help with marshalling and staffing drink stations on the day or sponsorship contact Mick Bond, Rachel Wood or Derek Walker by email

# Officers' bravery is recognised by award nomination

TWO Essex officers have been nominated for the national Police Bravery Awards after wrestling with an armed man who had cut another man's throat. Pc Leigh Norris, 30, now of the Force Support Unit, and Pc Robert Hebden, 39, now at South Woodham Ferrers, both received Commendations from the Chief Constable for their 'professionalism, initiative and courage' during the incident in August 2002. Then based at Leigh, they were called to the scene of an attempted murder, where a man had been slashed across his neck with a knife. Pc Norris said: "The events of that day are clearly etched in my memory. It was one of those jobs when you don't have time to think, you just act instinctively and, thankfully, no-one was hurt." Officers at the scene became suspicious of a man asking questions about the attack. A violent struggle broke out as Pc Norris and Pc Hebden were talking to him - he pushed a 9mm, reactivated, blank-firing, loaded handgun into their faces and threatened to kill them both. Pc Hebden was a Probationer at the time and it was his second arrest. He said: "Our actions were on the spur of the moment and I'm just happy that things turned out the way that they did. Obviously, the outcome had the potential to be much worse." After his arrest, the man was found to be carrying seven rounds of live ammunition and the knife used against the victim. He was jailed for life in May 2005 - for causing grievous bodily harm with intent, possession of a firearm, resisting arrest and threats to kill - and ordered to serve a minimum of 11 years. After the hearing, Judge John Clegg praised the officers, saying: "They should be commended publicly and it should be brought to the attention of the Chief Constable." The annual Police Bravery Awards are run by the Police Federation, sponsored by *The Sun* newspaper. Both Pc Hebden and Pc Norris will meet Chief Constable Roger Baker before the event and will also attend a reception at 11 Downing Street. Pc Hebden added: "It will be a great experience to meet the Prime Minister and represent Essex Police at such a prestigious event." Federation chairman Sue Kelly, said: "The actions of Pc Hebden and Pc Norris are only a sample of the many meritorious acts our officers face on a day-to-day basis. "We appreciate the support of the national Federation and *The Sun* newspaper in constantly highlighting this."

**Louise Blackwell**

# Have your say about the future of policing

ESSEX Police and Police Authority received more than 25,000 responses to their merger questionnaires in the first two-and-a-half weeks of the campaign *Your Police, Your County, Your Say*. The police authority launched this joint campaign with Essex County Council in mid-June to encourage the public to express their views on the Government's proposals to merge forces - Essex could be merged with Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire forces. More than 700,000 questionnaires are being delivered to every household in the county and it is also available online. The *Your Police, Your County, Your Say* campaign is urging people to fill out the questionnaire and express their opinion. Essex Police Authority wants to know what you think of the plans and intends to share the feedback with new Home



Secretary John Reid, regardless of the Government's recent announcement to delay the mergers. Authority chairman Robert Chambers said: "We are delighted that we have received so many responses

from the public so far during this consultation programme. "We hope many more members of the public use this opportunity to have their say. "This is genuine consultation with

communities and we will report our findings back to the Government, whatever the outcome." Chief Constable Roger Baker added: "I am very pleased that we have so many people in Essex who are interested in their

police service and are keen to have their say on its future. "It is very important that the public have this opportunity because it is their service - they are our biggest partner and it is their views that count."

● Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers and Chief Constable Roger Baker launch the questionnaire, which can be found on Page 10 of *The Law*.  
● Please fill it in and return it to us if you have not already done so

# Team 'takes' £3/4m from crime proceeds

**A SMALL team dedicated to targeting the cash pocketed by criminals in Essex has reaped rewards.**

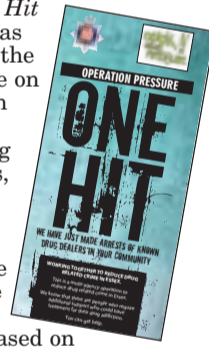
During the financial year 2005/06, they were responsible for securing almost £750,000 proceeds of crime from criminals. Just five full-time officers and one part-timer, led by DI Alan Stevens, work on asset recovery in the Financial Investigations section of the Serious and Organised Crime Directorate. Through the crown court confiscation process and forfeiture of cash seizures, the team recovered £652,297 from people involved in both drugs-related activities and acquisitive crimes. And they also took a further £83,000 from criminals involved in drugs trafficking, through small amounts of money forfeited during crown court proceedings. The asset recovery team had another success when they applied to the crown court for a confiscation order relating to £70,000 and the judge decided to grant it in favour of Essex Police.

**by Heather Turner**  
This cash has been put into the force's Drugs Fund, which is administered by Crime Division and is used for schemes which help in the fight against drugs - such as the *One Hit* leaflet, which informs local residents that a drugs raid has taken place in their area and how they can obtain help for drug addiction, if necessary. Of the £652,297, the force will receive £148,333 back from the Home Office's incentivisation scheme, which will be used in the frontline fight against crime. In the first year of the scheme, 2004/05, the force received £34,000. DI Stevens said that the leap in asset recovery was mainly as a result of increasing awareness, ensuring officers were aware that they could apply to courts for the confiscation of proceeds of crime and for the forfeiture of cash seized during investigations. "It is a fantastic achievement by such a small team and a testament to their commitment and dedication," he said. Last year, Essex Police met its Home Office target for the volume of cash forfeitures, with four, and was ranked

joint 14th out of the 43 English and Welsh forces and the former National Crime Squad (now part of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency). The force exceeded its target for the value of cash forfeitures by 41.4%, obtaining £128,225.42 through the courts - compared to the Home Office target of £90,669 - and was ranked 16th in England and Wales. And the force exceeded its Home Office target for the volume of confiscation orders gained by 72.4 per cent, gaining 50 as opposed to the target of 29, ranked 10th in England and Wales. And the force obtained £524,071.84 from confiscation orders, compared to a Home Office target of £388,660, beating the target by 34.8 per cent and being ranked 12th. Det Chief Supt Wil Kennedy, Crime Divisional Commander, said: "These are extremely pleasing results and demonstrate the force's determination to ensure that criminals are not allowed to keep their ill-gotten gains obtained through crime. "Not only are we locking them up but we are taking their criminal financial nest eggs away before they leave prison."

# Help offered to public after raids

LEAFLETS have been drawn up detailing how residents living near the scene of a drugs raid in Essex can get help for drug-related problems. The *One Hit* leaflet was used for the first time on June 7 in Harlow. Following the raids, two Harlow men in their late 30s were arrested and released on police bail until early next month. *One Hit* leaflets were then distributed to nearby homes, informing residents the police had just made arrests and encouraging them to seek help if they are drug-users themselves. The leaflet tells how to access support from the Community Drug and Alcohol Service, the Drug Interventions Programme and other voluntary agencies and is produced with money seized from drug dealers. Substance Misuse Inspector Trevor Williamson said: "The *One Hit* leaflets bring to the public's attention the fact that we have undertaken a drugs raid in their area - something of which they are not always aware - gives them additional information, and tells them where they can seek help if they need. "If you are on the verge of getting into drugs or your supply has dried up as a result of police action, this leaflet could prompt you to change your life." ● Email Trevor Williamson for copies of the *One Hit* leaflet



# Boost as knives are taken off the streets

RESULTS at the end of the countywide knives amnesty have been positive as 3,016 knives and other weapons are handed into local police stations. With the current knife culture seen most prevalently among teenage boys, Essex Police has made it a priority to tackle the fashion of knife crime and endeavour to take such weapons off our streets. Across the force, 535 knives and similar weapons were handed into police stations in Western Division, 630 in South-West Division, 676 in Eastern Division, 696 in Central Division and 498 in South-Eastern. The end of the knives amnesty marks a

renewed focus in fighting this type of crime, with the Home Office reviewing current laws in order to ascertain whether it is possible to increase current sentences for knife possession and thus making it comparable to being caught with a firearm. The main aim of the amnesty was to invite the community to play their part in reducing crime in their area and encourage a sense of responsibility. Chief Insp David King, of Community Safety, said: "We were extremely encouraged by the response that we have had from the community throughout the knives amnesty. The message during the campaign was

that carrying knives will not be tolerated. "This highlights the zero tolerance stance taken by Essex Police when dealing with knife crime and this will continue now the amnesty has ended." Reported levels of knife crime in Essex are low but the force will continue to rid the streets of such weapons, which can be used to torment the community and cause misery to victims and their families. ● Essex Police wants to encourage the community to continue playing their part in preventing knife crime and report anything suspicious either to a local police station or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111.