

The



Law

www.essex.police.uk

August 2006

Community Speed Watch will enable villagers to monitor motorists

GIVING THE PUBLIC

WHAT THEY WANT



● Langford villager Alan McCulloch targets anti-social, speeding drivers

Picture courtesy of Essex County Council/Paul Starr

ESSEX Police is putting the brakes on speeding drivers and encouraging them to respect speed limits.

Community Speed Watch has been launched to reduce speeding across the county by using volunteers from local communities to speed-check passing motorists.

The anti-social behaviour of some drivers in rural areas reduces the quality of life in villages and puts lives at risk.

But, by involving the community, the force aims to reduce drivers' speed, to reassure the public, to reduce the number of collisions and

by Tina Starling

casualties and to build a working relationship with communities.

Villagers in Langford and Ulting, near Maldon, were the first to take part in the scheme, which was launched in Langford on July 28.

Six volunteers have been trained to use speed cameras and about health and safety issues after parish councillor Roy Pipe approached Essex Police regarding problems with speeding drivers.

Now it is hoped the initiative will attract support from local employers, schools and the media. It reflects the ethos of Neighbourhood Policing by involving the community in solving its own problems.

To monitor the success of the Community Speed Watch initiative, participants and the police will

create local forums to create a focal point monitoring the campaign's success.

Volunteers will be trained by Essex Police to use the mobile camera equipment and then, out on the streets, once a speeding motorist's details have been recorded Essex Police will use them to send the offender a written warning.

Officers will also take the opportunity to check for uninsured vehicles and those who are regular offenders.

Senior Traffic Management Officer Adam Pipe said: "Local communities are always telling us that they don't feel safe with the levels of speeding traffic through their villages.

"By working with the community we can get to the root of the problem

and use their local knowledge to stop repeat offenders.

"We hope that by involving all aspects of a community, from their schools to local employers, we can raise everyone's awareness of the dangers of speeding, put a stop to inconsiderate drivers putting everyone at risk and make everyone feel safer."

The aim is that, 12 months into the scheme, areas involved will see a reduction in speed-related offences as a result of the initiative, and have successfully built a good network of communications between villagers and the force.

To complement the Community Speed Watch scheme, Essex County Council is launching its Make The Commitment campaign.

Make The Commitment is a community-focused anti-speeding

campaign which asks the motorist or passenger to make a personal written commitment to drive, or encourage others to drive, at an appropriate speed, with consideration for the environment and the road conditions and always within the legal speed limit.

Community Speed Watch has come about as a result of public demand – Essex Chief Constable Roger Baker and Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers have repeatedly stated that they will react to public priorities.

● For further information on Community Speed Watch, contact 01245 240 600 or write to Community Speed Watch, Mobile Support Division, Holts Lane, off Waltham Road, Boreham, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 3BG.



Our disgust over pay award

FOR the first time in my 25 years' service as a police officer, the Official Side of the Police Negotiating Board (PNB) has failed to honour the annual pay arrangements for police officers throughout the UK.

This decision, made at the PNB meeting on July 20, has angered the Police Federation.

We, the Federation, are bitterly disappointed and angry that, for the first time since 1979, the PNB has not been allowed to agree the usual indexation pay claim – which is three per cent this year – put forward by the Staff Side for police officers throughout the UK.

The Police Federation of England and Wales has immediately asked for this matter to go to conciliation and arbitration and we will fight to ensure police officers receive a just and fair deal.

We fail to understand why the

decision cannot be made now. It is always the July meeting of the PNB that agrees the pay award, to ensure that officers receive any increases in their September pay packets.

The main worry is that the delay is not merely the indecision of the Official Side but outside political forces actually pulling the strings.

If that is the case, then it makes a farce of the PNB and yet again demonstrates the eagerness by politicians to micro-manage the police service.

Police pay reflects the unique sacrifice police officers make, namely, their accountability and responsibility, both on and off duty, and their inability to take industrial action – a restriction not shared by any other workers.

We cannot, and will not, allow police officers' pay – their financial security – to be eroded. Indexation

for police pay is sacrosanct.

Notes on police pay:

- The anniversary date for police pay is September 1 each year. Police pay is linked to a survey commissioned by the Police Negotiating Board (PNB) entitled Pay Awards For Non-Manual Employees Outside Public Services Sector.

- The survey measures pay movements to June 7 each year and police pay is linked to the median increase in total pay. This showed a three per cent rise to June 7, 2006.

- In 1978, the Edmund-Davies Committee Of Inquiry On The Police, said in its report on Negotiating Pay And Machinery: "In common with all those who submitted evidence for our consideration, this committee is satisfied that the absence of the right to strike is a serious

deprivation for any worker.

"It is essential that the police should not suffer in pay because they are deprived of the right to strike, and that it should be put beyond doubt that they are being paid fairly."

Age discrimination: an introduction

AS from October 1, it will be unlawful to discriminate against age.

The Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 are being hailed by many as the most significant upheaval in employment law for 30 years.

This legislation does include the police but does not cover goods or provision of services.

'Age' means any age, whether it be old, young or in-between and includes apparent age and age

groups. The most likely issues to arise will be individual complaints concerning harassment, promotion or transfers and general day-to-day treatment.

One thing we are not sure about yet is how this may affect the compulsory age of retirement. Watch this space!

Federation website

I AM researching the benefits of having an Essex Police Federation Internet site.

This will be a stand-alone site, independent of the Essex Police site and will be managed by me for the benefit of all our members.

I would appreciate your thoughts about this venture, good or bad, and, of course, if any of our members have had experience in setting up a website then please give me a call on ext 54562 or email me.

Dyslexia group seeks members

THE Essex Police Dyslexia Support Group is looking for new members.

Co-ordinator Pc Tim Mariner, of Pitsea, pictured far right, is inviting people to contact him via email or to visit the group's intranet site.

The group was set up in 2003 by Sgt Mitch Goodchild after the police service lost its exemption to the 1995 Disability

Discrimination Act. It aims to help and support officers or staff with issues relating to dyslexia, to promote awareness and diversity within the force and to assist it in introducing new dyslexia-friendly electronic forms and computer-based applications and databases.

- Select HR under Divisions & Departments, Equal Opportunities, Disability and finally Dyslexia, to visit the site



• FIR Communications Officer Simon Phillips, Jeremy Craig, acting chair of the new disability support group, and Tim Mariner, of the Dyslexia Support Group, at the Disability Staff Open Day

Understand disability to give better service

WORKING to improve the force's service to people with disabilities was the topic of discussion at a Disability Staff Open Day held by the Diversity Unit. More than 50 disabled, non-disabled staff and staff who are carers attended the event at Towerlands near Braintree in June. Delegates heard an inspirational talk by Det Chief Insp Adrian Tyson, of South Western Division, outlining his own experiences after losing an eye in a hockey accident in 1999 and undergoing several operations as a result. "I have been very lucky," he said. "Essex Police has always treated me very well and applied the spirit of the

Disability Discrimination Act, although it didn't apply to me at that time. "It is good to be able to work to help improve access to policing services, both for people inside and outside the organisation." Equality and Diversity Manager Jan Woodhouse said the force wanted to increase its understanding of disability issues. "The event was held partly to encourage the development of a staff network for people with disabilities and also to debate what more can be done to improve our services to disabled people," she said. "We also need to ensure that our employment procedures don't present barriers, so we

don't lose or fail to recruit people because of their perceptions." Jan added that looking at issues surrounding staff who were carers was also important, so the force could better understand their needs, which would be translated into providing a better service. • Diversity is now a compulsory PDR objective and there are two Computer-Based Training packages (CBTs) available to assist staff develop their knowledge and awareness of issues – click on Equality & Diversity on the intranet home page, then on Training and then on Disability & Challenging Behaviour CBTs

CAR INSURANCE

35% Discount for Police Officers

- Interest free instalments (subject to status)
- Discounts for civilian staff, retired officers and families
- Police Business use included
- FREE 90 day foreign use cover
- FREE courtesy car (comprehensive cover only)
- Added security of a Lloyd's policy



www.serviceline.co.uk

Quote Ref. LAW

Call now for a FREE quote
0800 00 41 21

An appointed Representative of Amlyn Underwriting Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.

service|line
INSURANCE

Musicality gets an Encore after 40 years

SOARING temperatures did not detract from a spirited evening of music, dance and comedy to celebrate Essex Police Musical Society's 40th anniversary year.

Encore, which ran for five performances last month, also raised funds for local charities.

Vice-chairman Jenny Hillyard said afterwards: "Everyone in the society would like to give a huge thank you to those who supported our show, which completely sold out on two of the four nights with very good support for the remaining two.

"We will be making donations to the Essex Air Ambulance, the Broomfield Eye Clinic, Cruse Bereavement Care and the East London Cabbies' Outing for youngsters with physical and learning disabilities. "These donations would not be possible without the generous support of our audiences and on behalf of these worthy causes, we thank you."

Encore was a compilation of members' favourite songs from the past 40 years of shows. The audience was entertained by songs, comedy sketches and monologues, together with dance routines, culminating in the grand finale where the entire cast donned their tap shoes and performed a routine to 42nd Street and We're In the Money. The programme included songs from Guys and Dolls, South Pacific, and Calamity Jane.

They also presented other songs from Musicals, previously performed in summer shows, including numbers from Chess, Cabaret and Chicago, plus the films Sister Act and Easter Parade. The final selection in the varied programme was of songs from the pop charts which had been included in past summer shows, such as songs by Benny Hill, Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra and Sting.

With all of the above plus comedy sketches, songs and monologues, the audience saw a wide variety of entertainment with something for everyone.

● Turn to Page 11 for more sport & leisure news

● A computer image of how the new station could look from the B184



On the starting blocks

ESSEX Chief Constable Roger Baker and Essex Police Authority Chairman Robert Chambers have officially launched the construction of Great Dunmow's new police station

The station, which will take about a year to build, is on the B184 Chelmsford Road.

Essex Police Authority

agreed to fund the building of the new police station – at a cost of approximately £5million – and, to mark the start, Mr Chambers cut the first turf at the site during a special ceremony last month.

The existing police station in Stortford Road was built in 1842.

Penalty notice scheme a success

A PENALTY notice scheme for juveniles – piloted by Essex Police – is to be rolled out nationally.

Officers have been handing out Penalty Notice Disposals (PNDs) since July 1 last year to youngsters aged between ten and 15 for various offences, including public order, minor theft and damage and for anti-social behaviour.

And the pilot has been so successful, the Home Office has agreed to recommend that the scheme should be brought in across the country – a decision is expected soon.

In Essex, the scheme will simply continue as it is.

Since July 1, 2005, officers countywide have handed out £30 and £40 penalty notices, which are only issued in the presence of an appropriate adult, such as parent or guardian – they are then responsible for ensuring the penalty is paid.

Sgt Andy Bray, of Community Safety, said: "Penalty Notice Disposals are a successful alternative to sending young people to court, after they have been through the Reprimand and Warning scheme.

"If a penalty is not paid, it becomes a fine which is enforceable against the parent or guardian and a summons may be issued for them to appear in court."

In the past 13 months, 37 £40 PNDs have been handed out for theft, 34 for Section 5 public order offences, 19 for criminal damage, four for being drunk and disorderly and one for sending a false message.

And two £30 PNDs have been served for being drunk in the highway, giving an overall total of 97.

Sgt Bray said the low numbers were due to the fact that the vast majority of young offenders were caught by the Reprimand and Warning scheme – before any crime they committed could be considered suitable to be dealt with by way of a PND – and would not offend again.

"A Penalty Notice Disposal is a final warning for a small number of young people before they end up in court, facing a criminal conviction," he said.

Six other forces took part in the national pilot, including the Metropolitan Police and Suffolk Constabulary.

● Turn to Page 5 to find more about youth projects around the force

Crime Bureau takes standards up a step

● Pc Jenny Pirie, of Bocking Road Policing Unit, prepares to abseil Essex Police College – her husband Craig organised the fund raising event

Picture by Nishan Wijeratne



Braving the heights to raise money for young Joshua, 4

DAREDEVIL officers and staff have been raising money to help the son of a colleague who suffers from an incurable disease. Sgt Craig Pirie, of Stansted Airport, organised an abseil and 59 people got sponsored and turned out at Essex Police College last

month to have a go. Money raised from the event will help to buy Joshua Bartlett – son of Stansted Airport's Sgt Andy Bartlett – a specially-adapted bed and equipment for a new bedroom. Joshua, four, has the rare genetic disorder Tuberosus

Sclerosis. The Joshua Bartlett Trust Fund has been set up to collect the £2,000 needed.

● Anyone wishing to make a donation to the fund can sponsor Sgt Craig Pirie at Stansted Airport on 01279 680298 or 07875 547371 or via email

CENTRAL Division will be the first to see the benefits of having a new Crime Bureau.

The project will eventually be rolled out forcewide but Central Division gets the ball rolling on September 4.

The Crime Bureau will be based at HQ and provides a 24/7 centralised crime-recording, management and investigation-logging facility that meets the force's operational requirements.

Crime Bureau Project Manager Mick Jones said the bureau would take the task of recording initial crime complaints away from the territorial divisions.

Operators will ensure that crimes are logged according to the National Crime Recording Standard.

And they will make initial telephone and database investigations before handing the case over to an investigating officer.

Staff will also ensure that scenes of crime officers are notified if forensic evidence needs to be preserved.

Mr Jones said: "The Crime Bureau will take a healthy interest in the investigation as it progresses, checking that certain actions have been taken and that an acceptable standard of investigation has been carried out.

"The aim is to improve our service to victims of crime, drive up the accuracy of crime reports and provide proactive management of investigations by monitoring their progress and intervening where necessary."

Officers and staff will receive more information about the Crime Bureau over the coming weeks and months.

● Ring the Crime Bureau on ext 488888 with questions or feedback or visit the website by clicking on the blue button on the righthand side of the intranet front page

Home Office officially withdraws plans to merge forces

ESSEX Police and Essex Police Authority have been officially notified of the withdrawal of the force amalgamation plans.

The Home Office wrote to Chief Constable Roger Baker and Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers, on July 13 to notify them formally that Home Secretary John Reid had decided to withdraw the notice issued under section 33 of the Police Act 1996.

This notice had sought to amalgamate the Essex, Hertford-

shire and Bedfordshire forces.

The letter from the Acting Director of the Policing Policy Department within the Home Office stated that forces and police authorities would shortly be hearing about the next steps to take.

When the mergers were initially announced, Essex campaigned to remain a standalone force.

After last month's news, Mr Chambers said that Essex Police would continue focusing on an already improved standard of

service to the public.

"We will continue to work with Essex Police to embed Neighbourhood Policing and strengthen our investigations into serious crime.

"We will also look at ways that we can do business differently, both internally and by looking at opportunities with other forces – we can learn from the work already achieved during this process."

In the last couple of months, the police authority, together with Essex

County Council, had encouraged every resident in Essex to fill in a questionnaire so they had the opportunity to have their say on the proposed mergers.

Early indications are that more than 33,000 responses were received to the *Your Police, Your County, Your Say* campaign by the closing date of July 28 – the overwhelming majority were in favour of Essex remaining a standalone force.

We are awaiting the results of a separate telephone survey

conducted by MORI. More detailed analysis of the final results will be available shortly.

Mr Chambers added: "On behalf of the Essex Police Authority and Essex Police, I would like to thank the public for their support in recent weeks. We look forward to continuing to work closely with them to provide an even better policing service in the future."

The authority intends to forward all the feedback it has received to the Home Office.

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.

Gone . . . but not forgotten

Pc Edward Raven – Essex County Constabulary. Served from April 4, 1859. Died August 7, 1886

BORN at Steeple, near Bradwell on Sea, Edward Raven worked as a labourer prior to becoming a police officer when he was 23 – his brother Elijah joined the City of London Police. Pc Raven's first posting was to Chelmsford for three years but, for the next 20, he was one of the Essex police officers whose wages were paid by the Burnham Oyster Company to protect their fisheries.

It seems likely that he already had some previous knowledge of boats, from his upbringing in a riverside village.

In 1882 the Burnham Oyster Company reduced the number of its officers and Pc Raven worked in his birthplace before volunteering for the Foulness beat.

On August 7, 1886, having taken his mentally-handicapped son back to the Colchester asylum, he was returning to Foulness in a small boat when it capsized in the strong breeze and he was drowned. He was 51.

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

Argument did not mention huge costs

ROBERT Miller did not surprise me when I saw his letter on the proposed police force mergers last month. I would suggest he was trying to justify the unjustifiable. In my view, his argument is too simplistic and very selective, in that he chose not to mention the huge costs that would have been incurred, for one thing. He suggested nepotism and hypocrisy would be eliminated if the force merged with others. I do not know how he arrives at that conclusion. In any event, the current Home Secretary, John Reid, has now done a *volte-face* on this matter.

**Brian Williams
Springfield**

Why focus on minorities?

THROUGHOUT my service with Essex Police, I judged my fellow officers on their integrity and ability to do the job, not on the colour of their skin.

All officers are represented by the Federation, Superintendents' Association and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO).

With one of their number deservedly a chief superintendent, why do black officers need to form an exclusive association?

Were white officers to form an association excluding their black colleagues, they would, rightly, be labelled as racist.

Where lies the difference?

**Jim Kenneally
Earls Colne**

● *Chief Supt Win Bernard, chair of the Essex Black Police Association (BPA), replies:*

I know the author of this letter. He was an excellent officer and I know there is

no malice in his question – it is a question honestly asked and one which has been asked before.

Firstly, the Essex BPA is not an exclusive association.

Fifty per cent of its membership comprises white officers and staff and this may beg the question why does it exist then?

Well, I know Jim would not have judged his fellow officers by the colour of their skin but some do judge others by this measure and by many other inappropriate measures.

There have been pages written on why support networks need to exist and I shall try to do them justice in a few sentences.

When any person has a notable divergence – and it could be anything, not just colour – compared to the majority of people around them, they could either be singled out because of it, disadvantaged because of it or feel

disadvantaged because of it.

Associations such as the Essex BPA or Nexus or the Maternity Network exist to say to those individuals who feel isolated that we have members who have experienced your feelings and your position or people who understand and are prepared to listen.

Equally the support network could be saying 'wake up, smell the coffee, you're not being picked on' and this, coming from someone who has been where you've been, may be easier to take.

For these reasons the Police Federation and the Superintendents' Association, as well as ACPO, give the BPA and other networks their full support, because of the added value they can provide in situations which need an inside or objective view.

And those associations recognise that on their own they best represent the majority, not necessarily the minority.

The personal touch makes a difference

HAVING retired from Essex Police six years ago as a young 51-year-old, I decided to start my own business – a burglar alarm company – we now have four employees and 1,600 customers.

Most of our customers are in the Eastern Division and are all very pro-police, which, as about 150 are police officers and civilian staff, is not a surprise.

However that still leaves more than 1,400 members of the public with whom we have continuous annual contact.

Before Chief Constable Roger Baker arrived, I continuously used to hear comments such as 'where are all the police, we never see anyone' etc etc.

I am now beginning to hear comments

such as 'I saw a police officer walking recently'.

I also had one customer who was highly delighted that a police officer had posted a note through his door, informing him of a recent crime in the area.

Having been a crime prevention officer for years, I had contact with the public and attended many local 'meet the public' meetings.

One comment I will make is that the people we used to meet continuously were always the same people – most of them continuous moaners or compulsive meeting attenders.

It is when you reach the *real* quiet majority of the public who never have and probably never will attend your meetings that you begin to make progress.

And now, for the first time in the six years since my retirement, I can begin to

see the early signs of contact being made with the real supporters of the police – the quiet majority.

I know for a fact that, for at least the past six years, forces have been judged by their performance, as read about in national newspapers ie shootings, police crashes etc.

It is only when the beat team makes contact with the public that the personal view will be seen and heard and it is then the public begin to believe that all police are not the same as they read about in the national papers.

Please keep it up and make those 'personal touches' more common – you are beginning to make progress.

It might be painful to some members of the Essex Police Team but there really is no alternative to 'policing by consent'.

**Gordon Sinclair
Thundersley**

New history notebook takes off

THE relatively short history of the Essex Police Air Support Unit is the latest Essex Police History Notebook.

Highest Level Of Service by Cliff Collings is the 47th in the notebook series.

It focuses on the use of aircraft in policing Essex from 1967 to present. History Notebook 47 is now available free of charge – just send a stamped addressed envelope to Curator Becky Latchford, Essex Police Museum, Essex Police HQ, Springfield, Essex, CM2 6DA.

● The museum has a number of back issues from the History Notebook series. To find out more, visit www.essex.police.uk/museum



● Sgt Dan Elford and Cllr Roger Walters watch as sniffer dog Reg investigates the contents of a suitcase as part of his training

Crime doesn't pay – but it does help train our dogs!

A HOARD of counterfeit goods has been donated to the Dog Training Unit by Essex County Council Trading Standards officers, to help train dogs to sniff out criminals who smuggle illegal goods.

Over a thousand items, which had been destined for the bin, will now go to the dog training team at Sandon.

Counterfeit items such as suitcases, clothing, jewellery and DVD cases, seized by Trading Standards Officers, have been donated to help with dog training.

Training units have always needed items to use to help train the dogs – now they have a lot more stock and don't have to rely on members of the public or other people donating items.

Drugs and cigarettes are hidden amongst the counterfeit clothes and DVD cases placed in the suitcases so that dogs can practice hunting out illegal goods and substances.

The aim is to recycle items seized by Trading Standards and help police dogs become more efficient in sniffing out illegal substances in 'real-life' situations.

The more items the Dog Training Unit gets, the more animals it can train, which results in the dogs becoming more developed and helps them to better assist officers trying to find illegal goods.

Sgt Dan Elford, who is based at Sandon, said: "Throwing the counterfeit item away is such a waste. Giving them to dog

training units saves Trading Standards from trying to dispose of the items.

"Also, helping develop the dogs, helps to develop the community in the future."

County councillor Roger Walters, Executive Member for Trading Standards, said: "This scheme not only helps the work of the dog training unit for Essex Police, but it also prevents items like clothing and plastic DVD cases simply being destroyed.

"Counterfeits are no benefit to anyone as consumers are buying sub-standard goods whilst lining the pockets of criminals.

"By donating the proceeds of crime to Essex Police, we are helping combat crime in the future."

Aimee Smith

Corner the chairman



● Essex Police Authority chairman
Robert Chambers

We must build on the good work carried out

“ESSEX Police Authority and Essex Police are committed to working with all forces in the eastern region to improve the standard of policing for residents. Even though the Government’s proposals to merge Essex with the Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire forces have been put on hold, we must still look at collaborative working with other police forces and authorities.

I want personally to thank all the staff and officers for their work during this time of uncertainty. However, we do not want to waste the work we have done but instead build on it to improve the way in which we work with other forces with regards to sharing information and tackling high-level crime, such as terrorism.

Representatives from Essex Police Authority and Essex Police have already met our counterparts in the region – all six forces – which proved very successful, and we will continue to work together.

This is a golden opportunity to show that we can do some of our business differently in order to provide an even better service to the people of Essex. We have already proved to the Government, through our business case, that Essex is a great strategic force in its own right and we will continue to strive to have the lowest crime rates and the best detection rates.

We also want to thank everyone who completed their surveys; we got an overwhelming response of more than 30,000, a tremendous amount of which supported Essex Police to remain as it is. We will not let you down and we will continue to work together internally, with the public and with other forces to make Essex Police the best force in the country. ”

A new wave of crime prevention hits our shores



● PCSOs Dorian Atkins and Ben Mearing with posters showing the cover of the Marine Crime Prevention booklet and a special security sticker which boat owners can affix to their craft

Picture by Tina Starling

TWO Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) who work at the force Marine Unit have re-launched Marine Watch – dedicated to the prevention of marine crime across the county. The Marine Crime Prevention booklet outlines many preventative measures to beat the criminal, as well as other safety at sea advice. It is issued free when boat owners join Marine Watch. PCSO Ben Mearing said: “The involvement and support from local communities is central to the success of Marine Watch. “We want as many boat owners to be aware of it and take the precautions necessary to protect not only their pride and joy but the often very expensive equipment that goes alongside.” During the summer, coastal and inland waterways become much busier, which can cause an increase in criminal activity.

Ben and his colleague Dorian Atkins hope that community involvement will help to

reduce crime levels.

Ben and Dorian are based at the Marine Unit in Burnham-On-Crouch.

They target criminals by involving the community, giving talks to school pupils, Scouts and yacht clubs about water safety and crime prevention techniques to show them the role they can play in fighting crime.

Coastal areas are often the first stop for drug traffickers and illegal immigrants and the unit provides front-line support to protect local communities against this type of crime.

Sgt Jason Lane said: “With the exceptionally warm summer months upon us it is important for the whole community to be aware of what they can do to help us prevent crime at a time when there is often an influx of people to the beach and marine areas.”

● To join Marine Watch and to obtain your copy of the Marine Crime Prevention booklet, ring PCSOs Dorian Atkins or Ben Mearing on 01621 785961

‘A young scheme with lots of merit’

A SCHEME devised by Essex Police has been presented with a special merit award by The Howard League for Penal Reform.

The RAP (Rapid Action Plan) scheme was developed in partnership with Rainer – the national charity for under-supported young people – Essex Children’s Fund and Essex Youth Offending Teams (YOTs).

Launched in September 2004, Rainer RAP aims to divert young people from future offending.

Rainer RAP youth outreach workers are based at Basildon, Harlow and Raleigh police stations.

In their first year, they dealt with nearly 500 referrals of young people aged five to 13. Referrals are made directly from police officers on site and other professionals, such as those working in education, social services and charities such as

by Aimee Smith & Heather Watts

Women’s Aid. Rainer RAP targets youngsters who may not have come into contact with the youth justice system but who have problems at home or at school, as well as those who receive a Reprimand – but who are not supported by a YOT – and those who commit offences while under the age of criminal responsibility ie ten.

Workers help youngsters to manage their anger and build self-esteem and confidence, integrating them back into school and preventing them from entering the youth justice system.

And now it has been recognised by The Howard League’s Community Programmes Award Scheme.

It was one of just three Special Merit Awards given this year across the UK to highlight projects of particular credit.

Rainer RAP worker Marsia Charman, based at Basildon Police Station, explained: “The scheme

was devised in response to concerns about the level of risk in the lives of some children and young people. It is truly young person-led and early intervention is the focus of this project.

RAP was the idea of Sgt Ian Carter, PEPYS Programme Manager. He said: “As a police officer, I’d often come across children and young people in ‘risky’ situations and it was obvious that if they didn’t get any help I’d be dealing with them over and over again.

“This project aims to bridge the gap for those who might otherwise not fall within the requirements of statutory support.

“The support they need might involve other agencies or it might be something quick and simple – but it’s worthwhile if it’s helping those young people to become happy and healthy adults by avoiding criminal or anti-social behaviour.”

RAP has been recognised through other awards and is attracting interest from other police forces.

Ideas welcome for action plan

TWO weeks of Youth Action involving Essex Police and its partners is being planned. The operation will focus on various aspects of youth activity, including youth engagement, victimisation, dealing with offenders and identifying young people at risk of becoming involved in criminality. Youth Action will run from October 14 to 27, including half-term.

The plan is to concentrate on quality front-line activity, which can then be incorporated into strategic developments.

This month local SPOCs (Single Points of Contact) are being appointed in each district and will look at what sort of activities are already taking place in their area. And they need to hear from you if you are involved in youth activity.

Perhaps in your police role you are involved in a local youth club or community group or in local schemes which deal with particular problems?

Maybe you’ve got an idea which you’ve always wanted to try ... By August 31 you should know who your local SPOC will be. Contact them with any details of your activity or your idea.

Officers go above and beyond call of duty

THREE Essex police officers have received bonuses for action above and beyond the call of duty.

Dog handler Pc Garry Talbot and his dog Buster joined a road and helicopter pursuit of a car thought to contain suspects from an armed robbery in Benfleet.

The runaway VW Golf was eventually found empty in Laindon.

With other officers, Garry began searching local gardens and Buster led them to a garden shed.

Two men were spotted hiding in

the shed. Despite the risk of weapons being present, the door was forced and the men arrested.

Insp Martin Parkin, of Sandon Dog Section, said: “A very quick decision was needed, taking into account officer safety, danger to the public and those officers present.”

And Pcs Daniel Reid and Paul Ballard combined to stop a woman jumping from a bridge over the A13 at Aveley.

The two officers ran from their car and grabbed her arms, then

talked to her as she struggled to break free.

Eventually a passing motorist helped the officers to pull the woman back over the railings to safety and into the police car.

She made several further attempts to escape and also tried to injure herself with a broken pair of glasses.

South-Western Divisional Commander Simon Coxall said: “Both officers behaved in a resolute and commendable fashion.”

Exciting way to keep kids from crime

AN exciting new change of focus means that police officers in Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) can now concentrate on ‘high risk’ youngsters to try to prevent them descending into a life of crime.

Since 2000, all young people between 10 and 17 who come into contact with the justice system are notified to a YOT.

Previously if they received a Warning – a ‘youth caution’ – they went on to an ‘early intervention’ rehabilitation programme. But Insp Kate Sale, of Community Safety, explained that 70 per cent of young people given Warnings never re-offend.

“Now we are using the police officers to work with the force and offenders who are deemed to be at a high risk of re-offending. Other YOT officers will now deal with ‘low-risk’ offenders, although they can still consult with the police.

“It is a ground-breaking and exciting scheme because it will make a positive difference. Officers will be using their policing skills in a more targeted approach.

“The advantage is that we can forge intelligence links with the divisions and find out more about those young people who cause most of the crime and nuisance in a neighbourhood.

“And youngsters who are already involved in the court system can be made the subject of supervision orders and an Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme – which should give them the life skills to prevent them from re-offending,” said Insp Sale.

Weekly case management meetings are held with all agencies involved with the offender – they can be helped to get back into education, given help with drug and/or alcohol problems or mental health issues etc.

Since 1999, six officers have been seconded from Essex Police to the YOTs, which include representatives from partner agencies.

● A 14-YEAR-old working with Chelmsford YOT on a six-month referral order for theft said the experience had changed his life.

“From the second I went there, they were kind to me and basically understood where I was coming from.

“Stuff I was doing before I went to court has changed – I don’t do any of that any more. I haven’t done any alcohol since then, my behaviour and my attitudes towards people have got better.

“I think I’m more assertive now, I know what I want from my future now, it’s gonna be brighter.”

Exchange to share our experiences

TWO officers are visiting southern Africa on a voluntary vocational group study exchange to gain experience of the local police force and culture.

The Rotary Club Foundation is sponsoring Sgt Rachel Wood, 29, a Neighbourhood Policing Co-ordinator, and Sgt Dan Barber, 26, of Hatfield Heath Professional Development Unit, on their four-week trip at the end of this month.

Rachel answered an advertisement placed on the Essex Police intranet for young professionals interested in exchanging vocations on a study trip.

The pair will be travelling with other members of Burnham on Crouch Rotary Club to 12 different areas of the small southern African country of Lesotho. They will work with the local police force to gain a valuable understanding of its structure and way of life.

They will be working in their own individual areas of interest to see what is like and how it differs to the English police force.

And they will specialise in good practice, sport and fitness, as well as focusing on the role women play in Lesotho. They will also teach youngsters about the police in England and our way of life.

Exchange trainees from Lesotho stayed in Essex last summer, spending time with organisations which reflected their occupational interests.

The Rotary Club is the world's largest service organisation for the growth of business, encouraging people to develop professionally and teaching youths about their profession.

Louise Blackwell

Nikki's raffle raises £1,600

AN officer from the Serious and Organised Crime Directorate has successfully raised £1,200 for the Royal Marsden Cancer Campaign by organising a charity raffle.

Pc Nikki Osborne said that with other fund raising, she had so far raised a total of £1,600 for the Royal Marsden Hospital in London, which treats terminally-ill children and adults with cancer.

She still needs to raise the rest of the £2,500 necessary to complete a charity trek in Iceland this month for the charity.

The top prize in the raffle – drawn at Braintree Police Station on July 20 – was a night for two at the London Marriot Hotel.

Louise Blackwell

A MEMBER of police staff from Southend is looking to boost the coffers of his charity fund ahead of a 500km cycle trek in Poland.

Forensic Vehicle Examiner Adam Delf is set to embark on next month's four-day cycle challenge in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Nurses with 100 other riders as they complete the 473km from Gdansk to Warsaw.

He said: "I've been asked to raise £1,800, but would like to give as much money as possible to this worthwhile cause."

● To sponsor Adam, visit www.justgiving.com/adamdelf or email him at Southend Police Station

● More charity news on Page 10

● Before and after pictures at Hockley Cricket Club at Clements Hall.

The graffiti project on June 16 transformed an ugly wall, right, into an object of beauty, below.

Pc Steve Joynes, of Rochford Neighbourhood Policing Team said: "I have spoken to a member of the Hockley Cricket Club who was very pleased with the art.

"Members of the public have already commented on the improvement.

"Feedback from the local youths was positive with many wanting to be involved in future projects."

And Steve hopes to set up another project before the end of the summer



Protective services get a boost as Boreham gets up and running

THE force's protective and transport services are now housed on the same site – at Boreham.

Most departments and divisions made the move to the site at Boreham Airfield last month.

Mobile Support Division (MSD), the Force Support Unit (FSU), the Traffic Investigation Unit, Contingency Planning, Chelmsford Road Policing Unit and HQ Transport Services have joined their colleagues from the Air Support Unit at Boreham Airfield.

And the benefits are enormous – more space, quick access to the A12 and better facilities.

Acting Supt Kevin Bailey, Operational Firearms Manager for MSD and head of FSU, said the move may also help to recruit under-represented officers to the division.

"For the first time in a number of years, we have got the accommodation and work-

ing environment our officers deserve.

"We have proper storage for expensive equipment – specialist entry and surveillance equipment and specialist firearms and vehicles," he said.

"But most important is the working environment for the officers. They have proper changing facilities and locker rooms, with showers.

"Previously, female officers have wanted to come and work with us but the working environment was not conducive to that.

"Now we are hoping to attract more under-represented officers to MSD."

Previously, Mobile Support was based next to the Essex Police College and Chelmsford Road Policing Unit while FSU was housed in a century-old building at HQ – which accommodated more than 50 officers in space better suited to 20.

There were no proper briefing facilities or report-writing room.

Now a new corporate conference room

should be ready by the autumn, which will reduce expenditure on external venue hire.

A/Supt Bailey said: "The move to Boreham has transformed our working environment.

"It also gives us quick access to fast roads, and so should improve our response times."

Transport Services, which moved in at the end of last month, has transferred its HQ workshop, the new vehicle build section and the bodyshop.

Essex Police has signed a ten-year lease for the site of the old Ford Rallysport Complex. The site comprises eight acres of land with 57,000sq ft of offices and workshops.

Buildings have been refurbished to provide temporary accommodation for a maximum of ten years, said Head of Property Services Andy Sheppard.

And there are knock-on benefits at HQ,

too. Mr Sheppard added: "The Boreham move has facilitated the refurbishment of K-Block – ex-Mobile Support Division premises – at HQ, which forms part of the 2006-07 capital programme.

"Once completed, this refurbishment will provide open-plan accommodation for between 110 and 130 staff."

His department is now due to move into the vacated Transport Services Administration building, M-Block.

The Crime Intelligence Bureau is then due to move to Q-Block, former home of Property Services.

And now, the HQ Car Parking Review, which has been on hold, will go before Chief Officers again, to see if the terms remain the same, before being introduced, possibly later this year.

The review is based on allocated parking spaces for operational staff or for those who need their vehicles for business use.

by Helen Cook & Julia Pack

INNOVATIVE ideas and leading the county in piloting a Priority Crime Unit makes South-Eastern Division a challenging place in which to work.

Like the other divisions which have merged this year, it has not always been an easy process but the hard work is starting to pay off.

Divisional Commander Chief Supt Dave Folkard said: "There have been huge challenges over-seeing the merger of Rayleigh and Southend and the introduction of Neighbourhood Policing in the new South-Eastern Division.

"I have been extremely impressed with the skill, commitment, professionalism and enthusiasm of the police staff and officers who have ensured that the division has improved its performance in all key areas despite all the difficulties that rapid change has brought."

One of the new challenges faced by the division is Operation Diplomat – the Priority Crime Unit is a pilot scheme for the rest of the force.

It consists of a team of five, led by Ds Simon Dovaston, working with criminals deemed to be a priority and prolific offenders to increase detections and the number of offences taken into consideration by the courts.

Results to date have been impressive, with more than 50 offenders questioned and 220 offences detected.

One was a prolific offender, who was arrested in a stolen car and then admitted to carrying out a further 80 car crime offences in the Southend,

Rayleigh and Basildon areas. He was subsequently jailed.

Ds Dovaston said: "Results show that we can maximise detections by obtaining the best available evidence – be it forensic, CCTV or witnesses – and, faced with this 'ammunition', the suspects start talking."

Michelle Lyons is the division's Prolific and Persistent Offender Co-ordinator and her role is funded by the crime and disorder reduction partnership. She is targeting the 60 most prolific criminals in the division and offering them two choices:

● either continue your life of crime and be closely monitored by the police, who will put you before the courts at the earliest opportunity

● or accept as much help as possible to rehabilitate and turn your life around.

Michelle is part of a multi-agency panel which meets monthly to discuss action plans for the criminals and how the agencies can best help divert them from a life of crime.

Ten men who were being monitored by the panel recently received substantial sentences but another three who had not offended for a year have now been taken off the list.

Another ground-breaking project for the county is Southend's SOS Bus.

Licensing Officer Matt Bell took an idea he saw in Nottingham and brought it to the Essex town with great success.

The SOS bus is staffed by volunteers from a variety of agencies, including the YMCA and St John Ambulance, and parks up on Friday and Saturday nights in Southend High Street, providing a safe environment, simple medical help, advice and guidance to



● John Bastin, of the YMCA, who runs the SOS Bus in Southend, helping late-night revellers

people who need it.

The project is largely paid for and supported by local pubs and clubs – the service is available to everyone but is mainly intended for those who misuse alcohol.

As part of the Government's Respect agenda, a bid was made to tackle the problem of criminal damage within South-Eastern Division's main hotspot wards of Shoeburyness and West Shoebury.

Funding of £30,000 has been promised, which will be used for projects to help combat criminal damage, many of which are

focused on the growing graffiti problem throughout the Shoebury area.

One of the ideas is a supervised art wall, on which young people are offered the opportunity to paint, in return for them admitting to and pointing out the areas which they have 'tagged' and agreeing to an Anti-social Behaviour Contract (ABC).

The division is also planning a graffiti amnesty – similar to a paraphernalia – where graffiti paraphernalia can be handed in with no questions asked, plus a

clean-up around the town and a poster campaign.

Insp Jeff Appleby, who heads the Shoebury Neighbourhood Policing Teams, said: "We are asking local residents to get involved as this is all about putting pride back into the town."

Chief Supt Folkard added: "South-Eastern Division has a unique policing challenge ahead of it but, with the current performance of policing and the current rate of crime reduction, it has a bright future ahead of it."

'The future is bright as we meet our challenge'

Taking action about your personal information

INFORMATION Commissioner Richard Thomas has responded to a number of concerns raised by Essex Police personnel with regard to personal details being carried by certain websites.

Mr Thomas received a large number of complaints about these. He is also concerned about the use of old Electoral Registers, which are available for sale.

Any police personnel who want to be removed from the version of the Electoral Register which can be sold should contact the relevant section of their local council.

Formal action against websites containing personal details was being considered by Mr Thomas – although it is felt that the use of premium-rate telephone numbers and the imposition of subscription charges and search fees would be a deterrent to inappropriate use.

The commissioner has already ordered the website b4usearch.com to stop using personal information from Electoral Registers published before 2002, after finding the site breached the Data Protection Act.

And he will now investigate other companies using pre-2002 Electoral Register information in similar circumstances.

● ANYONE who wants to prevent unwanted telemarketing calls – except those originating from overseas – can contact the Telephone Preference Service via www.tpsonline.org.uk/tps/

Within this site is a link to the Mail Preference Service which does the same for spam-like post.

Force museum gets children fully involved

THIS month, the Essex Police Museum is inviting families to join in the fun and take part in its craft activities throughout the holidays.

Children will have the chance to make their 'own' Victorian police hat and Essex Police helicopter.

The craft sessions are free and will be taking place at the Essex Police Museum at HQ on Wednesdays throughout August, from 11.30am to 3pm.

August 9 Make your own warrant card
August 16 Make your own police gas mask
August 23 Make your own Essex Police helicopter

Youngsters will also be able to have their fingerprints taken, dress up in police uniform and try the museum quiz.

Booking is not required. Just drop in on the above dates at any time from 11.30am to 3pm. Activities are suitable for children aged five and over. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

● For more information, contact Curator Becky Latchford on 01245 457150 or email museum@essex.pnn.police.uk



● The new site at Boreham brings protective services, such as HQ Mobile Support, the Force Support Unit, Contingency Planning and Chelmsford Road Policing Unit, together with the Air Support Unit – plus HQ Transport Services – and within easy reach of the A12

Picture courtesy of Essex Police Air Support Unit

We've got your new numbers

NO it's not a misprint – telephone callers to departments at Boreham will notice that they are now required to dial six-figure numbers. It's all part of the new IP Telephony system, which combines data (computer) and voice networks.

IT Network Administrator Ian Anderson explained that only one link would be needed to each site – mostly, the existing data link – however, the system will be fully integrated with the existing network and users should see no difference.

This type of technology offers significant advantages – the system can be centrally maintained and easily deployed, it is expandable, resilient, and unaffected by geographic location. The force has had to move to six-digit phone numbers because of a shortage of five-digit ones. The combination of IP Telephony and six-digit numbers will allow the phone system to expand on to sites not currently connected and opens up the possibility of collar-number dialling. IP Telephony users will have new Cisco 7940 handsets which can provide them with information about the caller and caller display.

● Look out for numbers between 480000 and 499999

Law Classifieds

Holiday lets

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

BULGARIA, Bansko, premier ski resort. New, one-bed apartment, sleeps four. Gym, Jacuzzi, sauna, great ski-ing, cheap prices. Discounts for police officers and staff. Ring John on 07815 186944.

COSTA Blanca, La Marina, luxury two-bed, two-bath villa. Sleeps four to six. Air conditioning, beach five mins, airport 25 mins. From £150 per week. Ring Mick Ager on 07775 676142 or +34 617 110 096 or email casadomi02@hotmail.com

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

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

FLORIDA, Orlando, four-bedroom pool home overlooking water. Quiet location. £450-£550 per week. Close to golf, Disney and airport. Video available. Contact Pete or Linda on 01245 321378 or email petewtaylor@yahoo.com

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

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

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

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

NORFOLK, two high-quality

cottages, sleep four and two, set in wonderful countryside. Central Broads. Abundant wildlife. Weekly or short breaks. Ring Gwen on 01508 489754.

NORTHERN France, three self-catering gites in peaceful village, one hour from Calais near Hesdin and Arras. Ring 01375 483045 or email info@le-petit-hameau.com

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

SCOTTISH Highlands. Associates to police welcome. B+B with en suite. Fishing in private trout loch, shooting, walking, bird-watching etc in the Cairngorms National Park. Reductions for police. Ring Andy Nunn on 01479 841717 or e-mail apf.nunn@btinternet.com

TUSCANY, Italy. Romantic, rustic, Medieval romantic village retreat nestling in the foothills of northern Tuscany. Breathtaking views. One hour to Florence, Pisa and Italian Riviera. Ring 07919 057437 or visit www.tuscanlife.co.uk

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

House & beach hut to rent

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

CORRINGHAM, three-bed house for rent. Close to all amenities. £850 per month. Ring 07944 490725.

Car for sale

STREET Ka, black luxury convertible, cream leather interior, six-CD multi-changer. Full Ford service history. One woman owner. £8,850 ono. Ring 07738 495588 or 01245 452647.

Miscellaneous

FREE piano to a good home as owners moving. Danemann, light oak, good condition, ex-school. Ring 07917 793382 or email linseyfrost@hotmail.com

GOOD homes wanted for cats and kittens. Contact Miss S Parsonson on 01206 864284.



Friends catching up

THE annual Pensioners' Garden Party was once again a great success. The party in the grounds of Essex Police College on July 14 was opened by Chief Constable Roger Baker. People came from far and wide – some even travelling all the way from Scotland – to attend. Occupational Health Clerical Assistant Jan Pyner, one of the main organisers of the party said: "A good time was had by all. The band played, there were trips to the Essex Police Museum and the weather was better than usual."

Claire Kennedy



● Catching up with old friends at the annual pensioners' garden party

Pictures by Rob Coley

Heading off as a Commander with The City

ANOTHER high-ranking Essex Police officer has found a top job in a nearby force.

T/Assistant Chief Constable **Paddy Rice**, 47, has taken up the post of Commander with City of London Police.

He joined Essex Police as a Cadet in 1976 and became a constable in 1978. Paddy then worked his way up through the ranks, spending time at Tendring as a chief inspector, and divisional commander.

He was also a superintendent in the Community Safety Department.

From 2002 to 2004, he was seconded to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary before returning to Essex to head up Personnel and Training. When he left the force, last month, he had been serving on the Force Command Team at HQ.

The force, and Mobile Support Division in particular, waved goodbye to a staunch servant last month when Chief Insp **Pete Culligan** retired after more than 30 years' service.

He joined Essex Police in March 1976 and began his career in Braintree before moving to Colchester and then on to Special Branch. Time was also spent at Southend, Basildon and Thurrock.

As an inspector, he joined Mobile Support, working in the specialist operations section and central dog unit before becoming chief inspector in charge of operational support.

He said: "I've enjoyed just about everything I've done and been fortunate enough to have worked with some really good people."

"One of my career highlights was obviously working during the Ariana hijacking in 1999 as the night tactical advisor; it was hard work, but extremely good fun."

Now Pete intends to take it easy as

Names in the news

he comes to terms with a quieter lifestyle, but he has already taken up riding and golfing and is continuing his passion for diving.

The 51-year-old has two grown-up daughters and his wife Helen works at Grays Incident Management Unit.

Pc **Mick O'Sullivan**, 48, is leaving the force after 30 years of service. Currently based at Essex Police College in Practical Skills he has also served at Southend, Laindon and Rayleigh.

After serving 30 years with Essex Police, Dc **Mark Spellman**, 48, of Professional Standards, is re-joining the department on the 30-plus scheme. He has also spent time at Harlow and Braintree during his career.

Epping Police Station has bade farewell to Dc **Paul Gardener**, 49. The vast majority of Paul's 30 years of service – 28 years – has been with the former Harlow Division, prior to that he spent two years serving in what is now Western Division.

And **Carol Hardy** is retiring from the Camera Enforcement Office at Billericay on August 30 – the day before her 60th birthday – after serving almost 15 years with the force.

Obituary

CRIMINAL Justice lost a long-serving member of their department last month when **Christine Hamer** died at her home in Eastwood following a long battle against cancer.

The 58-year-old had served 19 years with the force in Southend Criminal Justice Unit.

She leaves her husband Alan and daughter Catherine.

Her manager Sharon Walker said: "Words fail to express the loss felt by all her friends at Southend CJU and Division. Our thoughts are with her family at this emotional time."

"As per Christine's wishes, we have so far collected more than £180 for Fairhaven Hospice in her memory."

And Criminal Justice Department Head Chief Supt Graeme Bull added: "Christine's tragic death has deprived us of a loyal and hard-working colleague and friend."

Award

BEST Value Officer **Niall Campbell** has been presented with a global award in Rational Process Achievement, putting Essex Police alongside industrial giants such as Siemens and FedEx Express.

Niall, 41, attended Kepner Tregoe International's problem-solving and decision-making course to develop skills to make him more effective in his job in Corporate Support.

"The training forces logic into the process so you identify the right problems and get the right answers," explained Niall.

"The process enables you to track back and identify the point of change so that you can introduce the right measures to take control."

Shortly after the course, Niall was diagnosed with diabetes and was able to apply the problem-solving skills he learned to take control of his health.

It was this success that earned him international recognition whilst opening up the new area of health management to Kepner Tregoe.

Niall is now sharing his skills within Corporate Support. "I've been asked to prepare a presentation to the Best Value Team about how the Kepner Tregoe processes can be applied to solve issues within our core activities," he said.

Beacon forces have piloted the use of the Kepner-Tregoe process, which is recommended by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants.

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE - ONE WORD PER BOX

Name and rank

Station Home tel.

Date Signed

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

● 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.

TYPICAL

6.9% APR

FIXED

For our best ever rate, click here.

As a Police Federation member, there's now an easier way to get a loan with a great rate. Just go to **www.hdb.co.uk/police**

As well as a competitive rate, applying online means:

- fixed and affordable repayments
- no administration charges
- no penalty for lump sum repayments
- quick and easy application
- you can use the online loan calculator to see how much you want to borrow and decide the most suitable payment option for your needs
- all this from a provider you can trust

If you'd prefer to call us to apply, that's no problem. Just call 0800 71 65 66, quoting reference 97056 and your Force. Unfortunately, we won't be able to give you our exclusive online rate over the phone.

Apply now at
www.hdb.co.uk/police

Hamilton Direct Bank



Charity news

Basildon is the new Vogue

OFFICERS and police staff past and present from Basildon donned a variety of costumes to make their dreams come true last month.

Modern-day pop moguls, ranging from Kylie Minogue to Ronan Keating touched shoulders with classic artists such as Elvis Presley and Dolly Parton, during a *Stars In Their Eyes* evening at the town's Towngate Theatre in aid of the charity event London Weekend To Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

Dave Dunn became his namesake Bowie for the night as he sang *Ashes To Ashes*, while Darren Griffin fitted into his size eight, thigh-length boots as he transformed into Cher for *I Believe*.

Staff at one town centre shop were greatly amused when the community

safety liaison officer asked to try on the boots in one of their changing cubicles.

The evening, which was organised by Laindon's Sandra Reeves, raised £1,860 for the breast cancer research charity. Her sister died from the disease, aged just 32.

"There was a host of former officers and retired staff who returned for one night only and who supported such a fantastic and successful event," said Sandra, who donned a Madonna outfit for a rendition of the Queen of Pop's *Vogue*. "I can't thank those who attended enough; it was good to see some familiar faces who will never be forgotten here at Basildon."

Former Craylands beat officer Henry Garrod turned into Dolly Parton for

the hit *Blanket on the Ground*, while Community Safety Assistant Sian Stanton performed Joss Stone's *Superduper Love* and switchboard operator Sandra Shipwright turned into Sid Vicious and sang *My Way*.

Then Licensing Officer Roger Lowe teamed up with Human Resources Manager Julie Miller and former command team staff Jan Slatford and Tracey Sullivan to perform *Timewarp* from *The Rocky Horror Show*.

The night's finale was the Queen classic *I Want To Break Free* sung by Darren, Henry and Sandra's brother Mick.

Sandra added: "Donations to my website have now reached £2,560, enabling me to complete a 30-mile walk around the capital next month."



● From left: James Mihill, Karen Mihill, Pete Bryan, Gary Myers, Jenny Shearman and Andy Gladman

MICAS thinks pink

BREAST Cancer is the most common kind of cancer there is and, despite research teams working round the clock to find a cure, it is still a killer.

When a member of the MICAS team discovered that she had the disease, she wanted to help the research charities carry on their wonderful work.

So her colleagues put their brains together and came up with not one but three fund raising schemes – two on the same day!

Saturday, September 16, has been designated Charity Fund Raising Day at HQ sports pavilion with all money

by **Claire Kennedy**

raised going to Breast Cancer Care and the Helen Rollason Heal Cancer Charity.

From 1pm to 5pm, all sorts of activities are open to all employees of Essex Police and their families, from 1pm to 5pm and entry is free.

Attractions include a five-a-side football tournament, stalls, a hogroast, a treasure hunt, face painting, and a bouncy castle.

And, as if they haven't kept themselves busy enough, MICAS staff are also hosting a quiz that night in the pavilion from 7pm.

Teams of six to eight are asked to pay £5 per head, which includes a buffet – but no mobile phones unless you want to pay! Although the team has no

target amount they are hoping to make lots of money. So don't be shy, dive deep into your pockets.

● To enter a team in the five-a-side tournament, contact Darren Sibley on ext 75243 or via email

● To enter a team in the quiz or to offer to help on September 16 in any way, contact Ian Black or Diane Hitchings on ext 52277/88 or via email

● MICAS is also organising a raffle – the top prize of a holiday to Spain has been generously donated by a member of the MICAS team – with lots of prizes.

Tickets will be available from September 9 to September 18 – when it will be drawn in MICAS at HQ.

● To buy tickets or to offer to sell some, again contact Ian Black or Diane Hitchings

Hospital feels the benefit from the 'pain' of staff

A TEAM of Essex officers and police staff raised nearly £3,000 for Southend Hospital following a 10km run around the capital last month.

Laindon's Pete Bryan, Andy Gladman and Jenny Shearman hooked up with Gary Myers from the Traffic Investigation Unit and Stansted's Karen Mihill – along with her husband James – as they looked to help buy a specialist piece of equipment to assist in cancer treatment.

Mobile Support's Divisional Commander Chief Supt Mick Thwaites is vice-chairman of the

Southend Hospital Foundation. The Pinpoint Cancer Appeal is hoping to purchase a scanner which is unique in that there are only a handful of these machines in the world," said Mick.

"This police team did extremely well in raising the amount they did, as well as completing the circuit in a fairly quick time."

In sweltering conditions, the team joined 30,000 runners at Hyde Park Corner before taking in the sights of London ahead of the finishing line at Downing Street an hour later.

Police divorce representation, it's an open and shut case.

Worried about your pension?

Talk to Gorvins, the police divorce specialists.

Every divorce is painful: both mentally and financially. If you are a Police Officer that means multiplying the pressures you have to cope with at work to the point that they become unbearable.

The Gorvins matrimonial team are specifically trained to deal with police officers that are facing marital breakdown and family disputes. Each solicitor's caseload consists of purely police and civilian staff matters.

TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT OR DISCUSS YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES CONTACT AMANDA MCALISTER 0800 056 2787

OR VISIT WWW.POLICEDIVORCE.CO.UK FOR MORE INFORMATION

- COMPLETE CONFIDENTIALITY GUARANTEED
- FIRST APPOINTMENT FREE
- 24 HOUR HELPLINE
- DISCOUNTED RATES FOR POLICE PERSONNEL
- REGULAR SURGERIES IN YOUR AREA

GORVINS
solicitors

Going for gold in degrees

From rivers to sea – anglers get stuck in to the contest

THE force's freshwater angling team has won the regional PSUK championship.

Graham Garnham, of the Dog Section, came second in the individual contest with 116lbs 10ozs and Dave Crichton-Smith, of Stansted Airport, won the reserve match with 92lbs.

The rest of the team comprised Daryl Flint, of Chelmsford, Martin Woolard, of Basildon, Gary Derrick, of Braintree, Steve Adams, of Southend, Paul Bird, of Crime Division, Alan Diver, of Braintree Resource Management Unit, and Paul Chesney, of the Force Information Room.

● FOLLOWING his win in the regional PSUK Flyfishing match, Vaughn High, of Stansted Airport, has qualified for the International Police Championships in Wales on September 6 and 7.

● THE Croker Cup Beach Angling match was held at East Tilbury with Southend sweeping the board in the individual honours and thus winning overall.

Phil Baxter won, followed by Bob Sandford and Dave Clark. Central took second in the Croker Cup and HQ were third.

And the Open Invitation competition saw 38 competitors from Kent, Suffolk, Norfolk and Hampshire. Catches of flounder, eel, bass and sole were taken by more than half the field.

Essex's Dave Clark and Phil Baxter won with 246 points after fellow competitors stepped in to supply them with much-needed bait.

Essex placings in the Individual Open were: 1 Phil Baxter, retired, 138 points; 3 Bob Sandford, of Southend, 121; 5 Dave Clark, retired, 106; 9 Rod Barrett, retired; 12 Ian Shead, of HQ; 14 Tony Short, of Southend; 19 Roger Cockett, retired; 21 Alan Diver, of Central.

● THE Croker Cup freshwater angling contest is on September 21, at Coleman's Farm Fishery, Witham.

Each division can have up to four pairs of anglers. The draw will be made at 8.15am and fishing is from 10am to 4pm.

● Entries must be submitted to Alan Diver on ext 63307 or 07711 840799 by September 15

Footballers in 7-1 thrashing

RIGHT wing Nicky Simpson, of Waltham Abbey, scored in the PSUK soccer team's 7-1 drubbing of Gloucestershire.

The pre-season friendly match was arranged by defender Nick Smith, of Chelmsford, who is also the England Police team's assistant manager.

The match acted as trials for players across the country.

The England Police will play Scotland in October as part of the Home Nations series.



● The Essex Police team braved temperatures of more than 30C during the 5,000m race at the PSUK Athletics Championships in Newport, Gwent

Sarah and Rob are just Super

SPORTING fiances Rob Foster and Sarah Purdey took up the cudgels on behalf of the force in the Sporting Supercop competition. Sarah, based at Harlow, likes a variety of sports, including mountain-biking and power-kiting, while Rob, based at Epping, plays rugby for Chelmsford.

Sarah came fifth overall – coming second in the archery, football, biathlon and basketball and third in the sprint. And Rob came midway in the men's events – his top event was archery, where he scored four bullseyes from four arrows. He also did well in the rugby, basketball and football events.

The event, which was being held for the first time, took place at Potters Leisure resort in Norfolk.

PCSO scoops top lottery prize of £3,000

THE winner of the £3,000 top prize in last month's EPSA lottery draw was PCSO Mark Roddy, of South Ockendon. Dc Derek Lee, of Clacton, won the second prize of £1,000 and Deb Butler, of Harlow, won £500.

Winners of £100 prizes were: Geoffrey Markham, retired; F Dyson, retired; Pc Fraser Macrae, of Brightlingsea; Dc Jane Gladding, of Clacton; Kathy Steward, of the Force Information Room (FIR); Pc Kirsty Morse, of South Woodham Ferrers; Pc

Karen Elliston, of Harlow; Pc Julie McDavitt, of Rayleigh; Chief Insp Jan Harrison, of Basildon; Pc Lee Abrahall, of Halstead; Rosemary Dabbs, of Laindon Road Policing Unit; and Pc Trevor Thompson, of Chelmsford. And £50 winners were: Tony Bugg, of HQ IT; Pc Graham Pipe, of FIR; Pc Mark Cadd, of Witham; Tony Johnson, of HQ IT; PCSO Emma Hewitt, of Shoebury; Pc John Newling, of South Woodham Ferrers Professional Development Unit; James Noakes, of

ESSEX athletes endured record-breaking temperatures at this year's PSUK Athletics Championships in Newport, Gwent, last month.

They had to dig deep into their reserves to perform their best.

And their efforts were not in vain, with a scattering of medals and personal bests.

With some key players missing, Sarah Newark, Lorraine Hughes, Alison Baker, Shirley Quinn, Phil Davies, Phil McCulloch, Dave Willis, Chris Lacey, Russ Welch, Steve King, Alan King and Derek Walker put on a great team effort.

Colchester's Newark ran the anchor leg in the women's relay on her debut.

Finishing fourth, the team were promoted to silver after technicalities and disqualifications.

Sarah also gained gold in the mixed team in the tug of war.

Alison Baker and Lorraine Hughes finishing in 7mins 31secs and 8:19 respectively in the 1,500m and teamed up again for the relay.

Chelmsford AC athlete Shirley Quinn had great performances in the javelin, discus, hammer and shot. Throwing in a heavier than normal weight category in the shot she gained a season's best throw of 7m 29cm.

Phil Davies, also debuting, performed well in the hammer, discus and shot.

The first track event involving the Essex team was the men's 3,000m walk. Colchester's Steve

King and Alan King, displayed good technique in this difficult event, with Steve coming third in a time of 17:18.

Alan returned to race-walking at the Croker Championships in May, and raced well in Newport finishing in 19:39

The most demanding event was the men's 5,000 metres in temperatures of 30C-plus – Phil McCulloch, Dave Willis, Chris Lacey and Russ Welch set off on their twelve-and-a-half-lap ordeal.

Welch took an early break, picking it up in the last few laps to finish third in a time of 17:47. Dave Willis finished in 21:10, closely followed by Chris Lacey in 21:25 and Phil McCulloch in 21:42.

Willis and Welch recovered enough to race again in the 3,000m steeplechase and 1,500m respectively.

Colchester and Tendring AC's Derek Walker decided to compete in the 200m and pole vault.

With only two weeks' training for the pole vault, he managed a bronze medal, and then finished joint fourth in the 200m, equalling his eight-year-old personal best of 24.7 secs

Minutes later he prepared to start the Essex medley relay (800m, 200m, 200m and 400m) team, passing the baton safely to McCulloch, before it was passed to Lacey and then Welch. The team finished just outside the awards.

The Essex team gave their all on the day, and it is hoped that their successes from this year and last year will continue to improve as they head to Blackpool for next year's PSUK Athletics Championships on July 18.

A summer of cricket just the ticket for CID

THE Gentlemen of CID have had a packed summer of fixtures.

In their latest, against Audley End, just when the Gents were getting comfortable and believing they would dismiss the opposition for about 150 runs, they came across the tail-ender, Metson, who put on 98 with Bower for the final wicket.

The total of 251 proved too much for the detectives, who wilted away for 102 in reply.

● NEW president Barry Hearn and vice-presidents Brian Taylor, a former Essex skipper, and Robin Hobbs and John Childs, former Essex and England spin bowlers, watched the Gents play Essex County Cricket Club and Ground.

Club and Ground's Australian opener Cossentino was dropped a couple of times

before succumbing for 78 runs in an opening partnership of 100.

Wickets fell steadily until Club and Ground declared at 237 for six.

CID were ahead of the opposition's run rate, with 122 for one and 20 overs still to go when wickets started to tumble.

But tail-enders Mellon and Miller batted through to the last over, allowing the detectives an honourable draw with 212 for nine.

● IN June, a club record for an opening partnership was created when Bird and Couchman put on 156 without loss against Roger Buxton's XI.

Bird scored 121 off 67 balls, which included 14 fours and three sixes. CID made 233 for the loss of six wickets in 39

overs. The Buxton XI started to build an innings before wickets fell at regular intervals, thanks to the bowling of Long.

However, they finished with 186 for six for a draw.

● ANOTHER draw was earned in the match against the Cricketers' Club of London, played at East Hanningfield.

Sinton opened for the London club and, despite initial caution, made 66 before Long, Unger and Garner toppled the rest of his teammates for 143.

The Gents responded nervously and, at one point, were 51 for five – compared to the Cricketers' score of 114 for five at a similar stage – but Mellon and Orpe saved the day, allowing the game to finish at 90 for eight.

Clean sweep in tug of war

THIS year's PSUK Tug Of War competition saw the Metropolitan Police team's three-year reign as catch-weight champions come to an end.

A combination team of Essex, Staffordshire and one Bedfordshire officer dominated all four weight classes without losing a single pull and won four gold medals.

Despite being outweighed by over 100kgs, the catch weight side – which included Skelly Lambert, of Brightlingsea, Steve Tyrell, of Stanway RPU, and Stuart Byrne – not only beat the holders but pulled over a colossal Gloucestershire side.

The 680 and 720kg classes were won in similar style and Essex athlete Sarah Newark was persuaded to borrow some kit and don a pair of boots to help win the 640kg class – she last picked up a rope for the Army four years ago.

Golf contest

THE annual Mick Frost Memorial Golf Day is being held on Wednesday, August 23, at Braintree Golf Club in Stisted.

Mick was a young detective constable at Witham CID when he was diagnosed with cancer. The keen golfer died in 2001.

The cost of a 27 holes of golf plus lunch is £38.50. Mick's daughters Emily and Alice and mum Donna will present the prizes.

● To register, contact Peter Orpe via email by August 14

Arresting officers brave fire to rescue boy

THREE officers from the Marine Unit got a shock when they turned up to arrest a suspect in Croydon, – and were faced by a teenage boy trapped by fire in a nearby house.

Acting Sgt Jason Lane, 36, Pc Shane Burke, 39, and Pc Dawn Smith, 30, had gone to South Norwood to arrest a man suspected of committing a crime in Essex.

But they were greeted by the 14-year-old boy, in a house opposite, who calmly asked: "Excuse me, can you help?"

A room in his house had caught fire and he was trapped.

Pc Burke said: "The boy was speaking so calmly we didn't think he was serious at first!"

However, they then saw smoke and Pc Smith quickly dialled 999 for the fire brigade as his two colleagues grabbed a ladder from the suspect's house and hurried to the rescue.

They managed to haul the teenager to safety from the top window and then the fire brigade arrived.

Pc Burke said modestly: "We did what anyone else would have done. We were glad to be there and be able to help."

The teenager, who was alone in was house, had been woken by the smell of smoke – it turned out his sister had left the iron on.

Fellow Marine Unit officer Pc Andrew Barnes added afterwards: "Luckily nobody was hurt. They were very brave and got the boy out very quickly, saving his life. It was incredibly fortunate they happened to be there."

It subsequently emerged that the suspect – who was wanted on suspicion of theft and damaging a boat – wasn't home at the time.

Louise Blackwell

Ring with your reminiscences

ORGANISERS of a special exhibition to celebrate Black History Month in October are appealing for stories, special objects and photographs.

Essex Police Museum Curator Becky Latchford wants to hear from police officers and staff, both serving and retired, who could contribute.

"This is the first time we will take part in Black History Month," she said.

"The exhibition is important, both for the force and the wider community, because it is an opportunity for us to educate people about the need to recruit officers and staff from all sections of the community."

Becky also wants to show how attitudes have changed since 1968, when the force recruited its first black officer – one of the first in the country.

• Contact Becky with offers of help, reminiscences and inquiries on 01245 457150

Life sentence for man who had no remorse

by Kim Perks

WORDS fail to describe Faruk Farik, a man who not only brutally murdered his partner but, within 24 hours of her death, showed so little remorse that he raped a child.

At least the determination and dedication of a team of detectives and police staff have ensured that Farik will not see the light of day for at least 20 years.

That in itself was no easy task as two officers found themselves braving bombs in a war zone as they travelled to Iraq to interview a key witness to the murder.

Farik murdered devoted mother-of-two Inga Losiene in May 2005, strangling her with a dressing gown cord.

He then hid her body in a cupboard under the stairs while he calmly picked up her children from school.

With no concern for the children he drove to Suffolk to borrow his cousin's



● Inga Losiene



● Faruk Farik

car on the pretext of taking his father to the airport.

But back in Southend he revealed the truth – he wanted to use the car to dispose of Inga's body and threatened to kill his cousin if he did not comply.

And finally, as Inga's body lay decomposing in the car, Farik sexually attacked a child, aged under 13.

Farik showed no emotion as the jury last month delivered guilty verdicts and the judge handed down a life sentence with a recommendation that he serve 20 years.

Justice David Penry-Davy made particular reference to the 'wicked' and 'gross'

sexual abuse of the young girl.

He said: "These offences could scarcely be more horrific. I consider you a significant risk of serious harm to the public."

Det Supt Simon Dinsdale, who led the inquiry with Rayleigh Major Investigation Team, said: "The judge delivered a sentence which gives justice and, I hope, some closure to Inga Losiene's family, who showed great dignity throughout the investigation and the trial.

"Inga was murdered and disposed of in the most cold and calculating way imaginable and Farik has never shown an ounce of remorse.

"He compounded this by forcing the victim of his disgusting sexual offences to relive her ordeal at trial. The young girl gave her evidence with courage and poise beyond her years and I pay tribute to her."

Farik arrived in the country as an illegal immigrant and, in 2004, was accused of providing false information to claim asylum. However, the case was dropped as a result of lack of evidence from the Immigration Service.

Farik faces deportation when he completes his life sentence.

Life-changing trips for investigators

DETECTIVES investigating the murder of Inga Losiene travelled to Iraq twice.

Despite being at war, the Iraqi authorities had managed to locate and detain two men with whom Essex Police wanted to speak in connection with the murder.

A letter of request from the Crown Prosecution Service to the Foreign Office paved the way for Senior Investigating Officer Det Supt Simon Dinsdale and Dc Paul Gould to travel to the country to carry out interviews – but not before they had undergone specialist survivor training in Herefordshire.

The pair have described the trip as a 'life-changing experience' and even Simon's previous history as a serving soldier in Northern Ireland in the Troubles of the 1970s didn't prepare him for the war-torn landscape of Iraq.

The C130 Hercules being flown by the US Air Force suffered engine failure, forcing an emergency landing in Kuwait and when they landed in Baghdad car bombs were going off around them.

Under 24-hour, close-armed protection, the pair were taken to the city of Sulaymaniyah where they met the Interior Minister who gave them permission to operate in the country.

The officers were then transferred to Chamchamal to question the two men under conditions as close to those specified by the Police and Criminal Evidence



● Chief Supt Simon Dinsdale presents the Chief of Police for the city of Chamchamal with an Essex Police plaque to put on the wall of his office – the country's Interior Minister received one too

Act as possible. "The Iraq Police were very welcoming but I think they thought we were from another planet", said Det Supt Dinsdale.

"They were particularly intrigued by the British policing rules and the techniques and procedures we apply to interviews."

Following the initial trip, a decision

was made that the two men had no case to answer but that one – Farik's cousin – should be treated as a prosecution witness, leading to a return trip to secure a statement.

An arrangement was then put in place by the Home Office to allow Essex Police to transport him from Jordan to Chelmsford to give evidence.

Town's award proves it means business

COLCHESTER is the first town in Essex to receive a Safer Business Award in recognition in the great strides being made to combat business crime and anti-social behaviour there.

The key to achieving the award has been the establishment of COLBAC – Colchester Business Against Crime – whose members share information and intelligence with local police.

From next month, COLBAC is to employ a business crime co-ordinator who will liaise with the police daily. It will also organise ring-rounds – on a similar basis as PubWatch schemes – on members when it is necessary to share information quickly.

Town Neighbourhood Policing Inspector Jon Hayter said: "This is the

way forward. We have many members of the business community on board but, in order to present a united front against retail crime and anti-social behaviour in Colchester, we need everybody to play their part. I would urge local business managers to sign up to it now and make the town safer.

"I am delighted we have received the award – it is a reflection on the hard work put in by us and our partners, especially COLBAC.

"When fully operational, COLBAC should help us to reduce business crime and instances of anti-social behaviour, making the town centre a much more pleasant place in which to live and work."

Colchester District Commander Chief

Insp Steve Johnson added: "The award helps us to send the message that we are making the town much safer.

"The recent introduction of Neighbourhood Policing has had a particularly positive impact as we are consistently seeing crime levels on target and are arresting large numbers of suspects.

"I have been to several public meetings where we have had positive comments about this."

The Safer Business Award is a Home Office initiative and awards are made to given areas which meet many targets, particularly regarding crime prevention.

The Colchester award has seen Essex Police working with local businesses – COLBAC – and the crime and disorder reduction partnership to achieve them.

Katharine and Ally are tickled pink

A GROUP of airport staff have ditched their work uniforms in favour of pink bras for a charity calendar.

Katharine Harrison and Ally Bright, who both work for Essex Police at Stansted Airport, stripped off for a charity calendar to raise money for the breast cancer research charity, Together.

The girls were all snapped showing off their assets in a number of shots, including working hard on a building site and making bubbles in a hot tub!

Sandra Thompson, a systems administrator at the airport, who helped to put the calendar together said: "The photo shoot was a real laugh and everybody had a great time.

"The girls who took part are just normal women, not supermodels and, like most of us, are all pretty self-conscious about their bodies. In many ways, that is why I am so proud that they have all been brave enough to take part."

Sandra said the Together charity was close to many hearts – it was set up by her friends Karen Thompson and Symone White with breast surgeon Ashraf Patel, of Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow.

Since it was set up, it has raised more than £100,000 for local cancer services.

Sandra added that last year a similar calendar raised nearly £3,000 for charity and so it is hoped that this year it will be just as much of a success.

● The calendar will be on sale for £5 at various locations around Stansted

Claire Kennedy

Airport cash row is settled

AN outstanding debt owed to Essex Police for policing Stansted Airport has been settled.

Stansted Airport Ltd (STAL) agreed to settle the outstanding debt for the 2005/06 financial year.

The force was facing a £1million debt after a dispute over the costs of airport policing.

But, the settlement, paid by STAL last month means that the force has now recovered all of its direct costs, an appropriate sum for overheads plus a small sum for lost interest as a result of the delayed payments.

Chief Constable Roger Baker and the airport operator have now agreed to work together on producing a binding Police Services Agreement for 2006/07.

Force Finance Director Rick Tazzini said: "I am delighted that we have been able to secure the reimbursement of a substantial sum of public money for last year.

"We now look forward to negotiating an appropriate level of resource, in accordance with national guidelines, to ensure that Stansted continues to remain a very safe airport."

