



Sergeant's vital first aid for toddler after marine unit officers pull seven from water

LIFE-SAVERS

QUICK actions from officers in Maldon and Burnham have helped to save eight lives.

In the first incident, at the end of last month, two constables from the Marine Unit at Burnham pulled seven people to safety from the waters of the River Crouch.

Fewer than 24 hours later, a Maldon sergeant stepped in to give basic first aid to a toddler who had been hit by a car.

Sgt Martin Chapman's prompt and effective actions on August 29 saved the little girl's life, ambulance staff said.

The two-year-old from east London had chased a football into the road and was hit by a Vauxhall Zafira people carrier – the 31-year-old female driver was unhurt.

Sgt Chapman was first on the scene and found the injured toddler

by **Kim Perks & Heather Watts**

to be making no noise and with a weak pulse.

He said: "I opened the child's airways by tilting her head and pulling forward her tongue."

Although Sgt Chapman was quite modest about his actions, he said that it demonstrated how useful a few basic first aid skills can be.

"There was nothing medically complicated about what I did and it wasn't the result of any specialist police training," he explained.

"It was just the confidence of knowing a few basic techniques that are easily learned by any member of the public."

After being taken to Colchester General Hospital by ambulance, the little girl was later transferred to Great Ormond Street Hospital in London where, as *The Law* went to print, her condition was said to be 'improving'.

Sgt Chapman said he wanted to take the opportunity to issue a reminder about road safety.

"It is good for children to be playing out in the fresh air but we all

know how enthusiastic and fast-moving youngsters can be.

"It takes just a second for an accident like this to occur but we should remind our children of the dangers of the roads and ensure they choose suitable locations, such as public parks and playgrounds, in which to play."

Meanwhile, Pc Dawn Smith and Pc Shane Burke had had a nasty surprise less than 24 hours beforehand when setting out on patrol from Burnham Yacht Harbour, where their rigid inflatable is moored.

Windy conditions led to waves swamping an 18ft speedboat at Essex Marina on the opposite bank of the River Crouch.

Pc Smith said: "The boat started to fill up with water and washed up against the pontoon at Essex Marina.

"As the people were trying to get on to the pontoon, the boat flipped over and its seven occupants, plus a dog called Gismo, were tipped into the rough water – trapped between the pontoon and the boat."

Pc Smith was dropped off on to the pontoon – where she started hauling

people out of the water, five feet below – while Pc Burke moored the rigid inflatable on Wallasea Island before returning to the pontoon to help.

"There was no way they could have got out of their own accord," said Pc Smith.

One of the occupants of the speedboat was a 76-year-old woman, who was hypothermic and believed to be having an angina attack.

Pc Smith waited with her while Pc Burke returned to Burnham Yacht Harbour to meet acting Sgt Andy Barnes, who had travelled from the Marine Unit office with emergency medical equipment.

The two travelled back across the river to provide the pensioner with emergency medical treatment – Pc Smith and acting Sgt Barnes are police advanced medics.

After giving her an electro-cardiogram, they were able to confirm that she had not suffered a heart attack although her condition may well have deteriorated significantly if the police medics had not been on the scene to assist her.

The woman was handed over to ambulance staff, who confirmed that

she had made a full recovery and did not need hospitalisation.

None of the passengers in the speedboat had been wearing life-jackets.

Pc Burke said: "It was very surreal that the boat capsized in front of us. And it was very fortunate that we happened to be there when the incident occurred."

It is not the first time this year that Pc Burke and Pc Smith – who have worked together at the Marine Unit for 18 months – have helped to save a life.

Together with acting Sgt Jason Lane, they helped to rescue a teenager from a burning house in London – they had gone to the road to arrest a suspect at a nearby house.

● THE Marine Unit is currently seeking constables, who are out of their Probation, to work from the base in Burnham-on-Crouch.

They will be responsible for policing patrols along the rivers, coastline and waterways of Essex, helping to reduce marine crime and to improve water safety.

● Inquiries should be directed to acting Sgt Jason Lane at the Marine Unit on 01621 782121



● Sgt Martin Chapman, far left

Picture courtesy of the East Anglian Daily Times

● Pcs Shane Burke and Dawn Smith head out on patrol from Burnham Yacht Harbour, left

Picture by Heather Turner



'Halt the oracle postings'

I WAS driving to work after a relaxing two-week holiday when I first heard about the Police Oracle Forum, which was reported in a news item by Essex Radio.

I knew immediately that this was going to be a very long day.

By 11am, I had been briefed on the past two weeks' events and had given a television interview on the subject for Anglia News.

That same day, I visited the whole Forum – Essex Police: What a Mess – and read through all 201 pages.

My first impression was that Essex Police officers were using Police Oracle as a medium to raise issues anonymously with which they were unhappy.

I have 25 years' service and have always believed I work for a professional, disciplined organisation.

I am proud to be an Essex Police officer and am privileged to be Secretary of Essex Police Federation, representing the Federated rank and file.

Federation regularly represents members' issues in its meetings with Chief Officers

Obviously, not all the contributors are Essex Police officers of the Federated ranks.

I would guess that contributors also include members of the public, the press, retired officers, officers who have transferred, officers from other forces and members of ACPO.

However, I was disappointed at some of the postings on this 'public' internet site.

Certain references to our Chief Constable, Roger Baker, were, and still are, insulting to say the least.

Even though this is an anonymous site, any reference to Mr Baker as 'Rog' is disrespectful, unprofessional and undisciplined.

At the very least, officers should have respect for the rank! I am a great believer of transparency and honesty. It is only the weak, cowardly officers who continue to think this is funny.

My other disappointment is the

fact that our members don't, or won't, trust the Federation to represent these issues.

The Federation has been criticised for 'being in the Chief Constable's pocket', for not doing anything and for being a toothless tiger.

This is not the case. We regularly represent our members' issues in discussions with Chief Officers.

We have regular meetings with the Chief Constable and address issues of which, often, he is totally unaware.

We may not always agree with Mr Baker, or like what he says, but I can categorically state that every issue I have ever brought to his attention has been addressed one way or another.

The Chief Constable and his Deputy, Charles Clark, have personally offered to meet officers who have genuine issues regarding welfare or policing issues.

This is an unsolicited offer with the absolute guarantee of no repercussions.

To date, four officers have contacted me as a result of Police Oracle, three by email and one – with the Oracle pseudonym 'Chief Wiggams' – by telephone.

The Chief Constable has agreed to an open meeting with officers but will not meet us as a group until our scheduled yearly meeting at the end of next month.

Invitations to this meeting will be to the Federated ranks only, with entrance by warrant card.

Both the Chief Constable and the chairman of Essex Police Authority, Robert Chambers, will be in attendance.

I am, at present, negotiating a suitable venue and expect the meeting to be well attended.

This is your chance to raise any issues or concerns. The last open

meeting was poorly attended and, if that were to happen on this occasion, this whole matter would be dismissed as nothing to worry about.

Your strength of feeling can only be achieved by a good attendance.

Officers will be invited to pose their own questions/issues from the floor of the meeting.

If any officer wishes to remain anonymous, then I will be requesting questions to be forwarded to me prior to the meeting.

I will then raise them myself with either Mr Baker or Mr Chambers, keeping the officer's details totally anonymous.

In the meantime, I request that we put Police Oracle to bed.

For those of you who are calling for a wider media coverage, have you raised the issues with your supervisor/manager or divisional Federation representative?

Please give us a chance to represent you. Believe it or not, we are regularly successful in negotiations on your behalf.

Help us to help you.

• I can be contacted on ext 54562 or via email

Police praise good-natured festival-goers

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 Armlin Underwriting Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.

service|line
INSURANCE



• Thousands of people crowded into Hylands Park for the weekend of the 11th V-Festival but there were very few arrests. Picture courtesy of Essex Police Air Support Unit

OFFICERS praised music revellers at last month's V-Festival in Chelmsford despite a slight increase on the number arrested for drugs offences.

They seized a large quantity of illegal substances and recovered vast sums of cash from suspected drug-dealers at the annual two-day event held in Hylands Park.

In addition, looking to protect people and their belongings, officers arrested several people on suspicion of theft after they were spotted in tents and vehicles.

The total number of people arrested at the V-Festival – which drew 140,000 – came to just 72 over the weekend.

The force's new style of Neighbourhood Policing also led to people being arrested on suspicion of committing assaults and being in possession of illegal weapons.

Supt Tim Stokes, of Central Division, said afterwards: "We made a point this year of really ramming home the message that drug-dealers and substance misusers would feel the heavy hand of the law.

"They came, they ignored us and they paid the penalty. However, the main issue is that the majority of people enjoyed themselves

and will leave Essex having experienced a really good time."

It was the 11th year the event had been policed and preparations were made to ensure it was as safe and secure as previous years – thus maintaining its reputation. Sgt Andy Sawyer, of Chelmsford, said officers had worked hard in the run-up to the festival to make it as safe as possible for everyone attending.

Over the weekend, officers used a pro-active style of policing to ensure visitors were not affected by the minority who were intent on committing crime.

Regular police patrols were made around the site, some officers with specially-trained passive drugs dogs from Oxfordshire-based GIS – reinforcing the message to the 140,000 festival-goers that drugs would not be tolerated.

Beforehand, Sgt Sawyer said: "V-Festival is a highly-anticipated event with many top performers and we hope that by using a little commonsense everyone will have a great time. We just want everyone to have fun, enjoy the music and not miss out on the entertainment because they have been arrested."

Police tell youngsters: Easy rider!

THE importance of riding sensibly rather than in an anti-social manner has been driven home to young moped riders in a special police initiative to keep the youngsters safe on the road.

Hockley's Neighbourhood Policing Team, together with Rochford District Council's anti-social behaviour team, held an education programme for 20 young people at Clements Hall, Hawkwell, to alert the youngsters to the dangers they could face when using their mopeds.

The young riders heard from guest speakers Dan Carlin, of Essex County Council Road Safety, Pc Steve Holgate, an Essex Police motorcyclist, and Chris Reed, of the Essex Advanced Motorcycle Group.

There were also contributions from 'Dave', of the Rayleigh Riders, who recounted the accident which left him paralysed – although he is still riding – and from brave mum, Toni Tappin, who spoke about the pain of losing her son Neil in a motorcycle accident.

The riders later tested their skills on an obstacle course set up by Rayleigh Riders.

Jack aims high to win 'copter prize

A BOY from Braintree has won a competition to meet the crews of the Essex Police and air ambulance helicopters and spend a day at Essex FM HQ.

Jack Turner was one of hundreds to enter this year's 2Smart4Drugs competition.

The drugs education programme, in its tenth year, is organised by Essex Police.

Jack, 11, entered through the www.2smart.co.uk website by correctly answering two questions about the Essex Air Ambulance.

As part of his prize, Jack will also get to meet Essex FM DJ Dom Atkins, who competes the 2Smart4Drugs roadshows.

He was due to make his visit with his parents Jane and Michael and younger sister on September 1, when he was to meet the team of officers who navigate and pilot the Essex Police helicopter and their opposite numbers with Essex Air Ambulance.

• For more information about 2Smart4Drugs, visit www.2smart.co.uk

Safety is top of our list

ROAD policing officers have been working with Essex Air Ambulance to ensure safety of charity fund-raisers is the top priority.

The annual fund-raising motorcycle run is on September 10 and nine police motorbikes will be located at key points along the route.

Essex Police has also advised on the messages to use on the extra safety signage which will be put up.

And pre-registration packs will contain safety tips from event sponsor ProBike Training.

Simon and Harvey find out it's a dog's life

WHEN he joined the Dog Section at Sandon in January 2005, Pc Simon Newman was believed to have been one of the youngest, in terms of service, to have been selected to be a force dog-handler.

But Simon, 30, who had served just five years, has a good pedigree as, before joining Essex Police, he was a trainer with the Guide Dogs For The Blind Association and had been associated with working dogs since leaving school.

Simon was brought up with dogs at home and it was while talking to a friend of his mum's, who was visually-impaired and who had a Guide Dog, that the idea of working with Guide

by Ken Bailey

Dogs began to form. A vacancy for a mobility instructor, training dogs with their prospective owners, came up at the Guide Dog Centre in Chigwell but, aged just 18, Simon was considered too young to apply.

He was, however, offered a position as a Guide Dog trainer which he accepted.

However, Simon had always wanted to be a police dog-handler, so, after five years at Chigwell and a couple of 'gap' years, he joined Essex Police.

His father is ex-Det Chief Insp Ray Newman, now an investigative review officer with the force.

Simon began applying for the Dog

Section as soon as his Probation had been confirmed and, after two unsuccessful attempts, was finally selected.

It was third time lucky too for his current dog Harvey!

Simon's first two dogs failed to reach the stringent criteria set down by Essex Police but last October Harvey arrived at Sandon, having been successfully assessed by dog trainer Pc Phil Passfield.

Harvey qualified with Simon in April this year. He was supplied by the RSPCA's Danaher Animal Home for Essex, near Wethersfield. Nothing is known about his background although he is believed to be around 18 months old.

Police dog training is extremely rigorous and regular assessments are made in accordance with ACPO guidelines.

It is very much a 'hands-on' learning environment for both dog and handler and both Simon and Harvey have been undergoing an intensive, 14-week training course.

Harvey lives with the Newman family – much to delight of Simon's two children, Kyle, ten, and Kelsey, eight. Unlike family pets, however, Harvey lives outside in a kennel and Kyle and Kelsey are not allowed to do normal things that youngsters like to, such as taking him for a walk.

• Top dogs are wanted soon – Page 12

Force reassurance over terrorism challenges



• Pc Rob Gregory and Pc Chris Copsey on patrol outside Stansted Airport

'Keep vigilant and know your customer' warning

THE work of Counter-Terrorist Security Advisers (CTSAs) is becoming increasingly important.

Essex Police has two detectives in this role – Dave Puffett and Wayne Lagden – based in HQ Special Branch, providing protective security advice to businesses or premises potentially at risk from terrorist attack.

They are regularly updated with information by the National Counter-Terrorist Security Office so they can keep abreast of both conventional and non-conventional techniques used by terrorists worldwide today. "Our job is to provide security and reassurance and to respond to our 'customers' in the event of a terrorist incident anywhere in the country," said Dc Puffett.

"All the sites we monitor and manage have a response plan in place, developed with us. If the threat is raised, we liaise

with them and advise which parts of the plan need to be implemented.

"If a new threat emerges, we identify who or which industries may be affected and liaise with them."

Among firms Dcs Puffett and Lagden monitor across the county are those using radioactive sources, pathogens and toxins or chemicals which could be used to create ingredients for improvised explosive devices (known as precursor chemicals). And they encourage suppliers of such goods to be vigilant and get to know their customers.

"If someone makes a one-off order or orders an unusually large quantity of something, then we want to know about it," said Dc Puffett.

The CTSAs also work closely with the aviation and oil industries in the county plus seaports and airports – seeking to 'close the gaps'

which could let in a determined terrorist.

Risk assessments of sites, staff, information security and communications are carried out by the CTSAs and contingency plans created if necessary.

Currently our CTSAs are working on strategies to cover 'crowded places' – anything from shopping centres and sports stadia to religious buildings, hospitals and schools. Territorial divisions will soon become more involved in this sort of work for, as Dc Puffett says: "Local knowledge is crucial for us in identifying and managing the risk – our strategy is to make Essex as safe as possible from the risk and reassure all of our communities that we are best placed to protect them from and prevent a serious incident."

• Contact Dc Puffett on ext 54135 or Dc Lagden on ext 54133 for more information about the work they do

OFFICERS and staff throughout Essex Police responded quickly and professionally to last month's terrorist threat to airports and air travel.

Within a very short time-frame on August 10, Essex Police had reinforced its presence at Stansted Airport and the surrounding area by deploying more than 100 officers.

Dedicated command structures were put in place and effective multi-agency working was established to ensure public safety and to reassure the public.

The national security status was upgraded to its highest level after a series of arrests were made following allegations of a plot to blow up aeroplanes flying in the mid-Atlantic.

Assistant Chief Constable (Protective Services) John Broughton thanked all officers and police staff for their efforts during such a 'critical' time.

"Officers and police staff across the organisation have been, and continue to be, working extremely hard; often working 12-hour shifts in order to maintain appropriate security levels at Stansted Airport and to reassure holidaymakers and residents in Essex," said Mr Broughton.

"Chief Officers have recognised this and would like to express their gratitude. We would like to thank all those who have been involved in the operation, especially those who worked continuously over the weekend following the arrests."

The force continues to work with the British Airports Authority and Stansted Airport Ltd to make the experience for airline passengers as normal as possible. Mr Broughton added that officers were continuing to patrol vulnerable sites regularly and working with vulnerable communities to minimise the risk of any racially-aggravated criminal damage or disorder.

Head of Crime Division Det Chief Supt Wil Kennedy said he had not seen any noticeable increase in reported racial incidents specifically linked to August 10.

He said: "Generally, we have very few racist attacks in Essex, but when they occur, the specialist officers in the hate-crime units across the force are quick to respond, identifying any potential suspects. These incidents are just one indication of potential increased tension within communities."

At Stansted Airport, police have been looking at people who may fit a specific profile based on suspicious behaviour exhibited by individuals and whose actions may indicate that they are involved in any form of criminal activity, rather than concentrating on any particular sections of the community.

Det Chief Supt Kennedy moved to reassure people: "Anyone who is subject to a police stop-check does have their details taken down for both operational and monitoring reasons," he said.

"Officers use judgment and core policing skills before deciding on whether any further action is required."

Community members of the strategic Essex Independent Advisory Group (EIAG) are aware of the profiling carried out by Essex Police. They will continue to be involved in profiling issues and will monitor its use and impact at Stansted.

EIAG chair Neela Hibbert said: "We are pleased that Essex Police is keen to seek our advice and listen to the concerns of the diverse communities here in the county."

"The fact that there has been no noticeable increase in reported hate-crime is very positive for Essex. We look forward to continuing to work closely with Essex Police."

Det Chief Supt Kennedy added: "The advice received from the EIAG and communities across the county is vital to Essex Police as it helps us assess the impact of this incident and ensures our policing in these diverse communities meets local needs and provides reassurance."

Law Letters

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

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

Do join our anniversary celebration dinner dance

I AM writing on behalf of the Essex Police Musical Society as we are hoping to contact many of our past members to invite them to our 40th anniversary dinner dance.

This will take place on Friday, October 6, and the ticket price of £38 includes a four-course meal and a live band plus an additional comedy cabaret.

The venue for this very special event is Channels Golf Club, near Chelmsford.

If you were associated with the society at any time during the past 40 years and would like to attend, then please contact either George Lambeth on 01245 602083 or Paul Walker on 01245 466585.

We really would love to see as many past members as possible and can guarantee you a warm welcome.

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of the current members of the society, to thank all of you who supported our latest summer show, Encore, during its four-night run and helped us to raise money for local charities.

**Jenny Hillyard
Vice-chairman
Essex Police Musical Society**

• NOW members are turning their attention to their next show, Crazy For You –featuring music by George Gershwin including classics such as I've Got Rhythm, Nice Work If You Can Get It, They Can't Take That Away From Me and Someone to Watch Over Me – from Monday, February 12, to Saturday, February 17, 2007.

• Anyone interested in joining the musical society, either to tread the boards or to help behind the stage or front of house, should contact vice-chairman Jenny Hillyard on ext 50335 or 01245 452164.

New Chief is having more success than I did

I READ with interest the article in the July issue of The Law – Beating the path to the front line.

This brought back memories of my own efforts to suggest ways of 'finding' a few extra 'bodies' for that front line as long ago as 1986.

OK, I might not have been as diplomatic as I could have been but frustrations were 'boiling over' and normal conversations with the then Chief Officers seemed to be falling on deaf ears.

Crime was on the increase and experienced, uniformed officers were disappearing left, right and centre to feed the insatiable demand of alternate departments.

A memorandum appeared from a senior officer inviting suggestions for crime prevention.

I suppose that was just the ammunition I had been waiting for, so, on September 30, 1986, I submitted the following report:

To the duty sergeant

With reference to the recent memorandum of Chief Insp XX, requesting suggestions for crime prevention.

As crime figures are continuing to increase, it is obvious our present system is failing. The biggest deterrent to any criminal is the fear of being caught. With our present staffing levels, it is very unlikely that many criminals will be caught in the act of committing crime.

My suggestion is that the present Crime Prevention Department be immediately disbanded and officers returned to visible patrol duties.

Collators could supply details of high

crime areas to highlight where these patrols could be of most value.

Whilst our present efforts to 'con' the public appear to be working, I feel our luck cannot hold out. It is time we did something positive in a real effort to deter crime.

Pc D N Rose.

My sergeant submitted the report without comment. My then inspector almost had an arrest – of the cardiac variety – and, as expected, refused to put my report forward.

My conscience was clear – I had tried. I am pleased that the present Chief Constable, Roger Baker, is having a bit more success than I did but, then, he does have slightly more clout.

**Dave Rose
Linton
Cambridgeshire**

New stance achieves some positive results

FIRSTLY, let me say how delighted I am that the forces mergers are a non-runner.

Secondly, I would like to say how different in a positive way, Essex Police is under the control of Chief Constable Roger Baker.

I live in an area of Southend that has always had problems. Previously we felt we were fighting – sometimes in the literal sense – alone against a culture in which the yobs and criminals had the upper hand. Our motto always being to put the fear where it belonged.

Since Mr Baker took over, the mood has changed – I would say that the habitual yobs are scarcer.

We see police officers and PCSOs

regularly. In fact we launched a Neighbourhood Watch, which previously would have been laughed at, which has an uptake rate of 90 per cent. Given the nature of the area that is spectacular – it may also have much to do with the tenacity of our co-ordinators.

The momentum has carried us into surrounding streets and into taking over a local lapsed scheme. And this in an area that always felt it was ignored by the police.

I would just like to mark out for special praise Pc Wyn Sharp, who has worked with our group tirelessly and who supports us.

He has been reactive and pro-active in equal measure. I would also like to thank Mac, our local PCSO, who I believe is

soon to become a full-time officer. He is a great guy to have in the area, never shy to let people know he's around.

Mr Baker's policies of not letting things slip have had a massive impact on communities such as ours.

It has removed the 'I can get away with this' attitude!

On a personal level, it has also prompted me to look into becoming a Special, something which would not have crossed my mind a few years ago.

We really did wish to say, Mr Baker, your efforts are much appreciated and you are making a real difference to ordinary people every day.

**Simon Wright
Kilworth Avenue Residents' Association
Southend**

'Touching' compliments for driving school

I REFER to the kind letter, printed in the July issue of The Law, from Dave Rose, about the driving instruction received by him at the Essex Police Driving School during the 1960s.

The compliments paid, especially to my

friend Peter Tomlinson and myself, and in general to the driving school, I found very touching.

I'm in contact with Peter's wife and, sadly, now widow, June.

She informed me that she and her

family felt very proud to read Dave's letter.

**Harry Cook
Basildon**

• The Essex Police Driving School is featured on Page 6

Comrades lunch invite

THIS is a final reminder that the Essex Police Comrades Association's autumn lunch will be held on Friday, October 13, at Essex Police HQ.

The sports pavilion bar will be open from 11.30am and lunch will be served at 1pm.

A park and ride system will again be in operation from Chelmer Retail Park, opposite the end of Sandford Road. A minibus will operation between 11.15am and 1pm and again at the end of the lunch. Please note, there will be no parking facilities at HQ.

If you have any special dietary requirements or mobility problems, please let me or my secretary, Marian Godwin, know as soon as possible on 01245 452799/452797 respectively.

Please ensure that your booking form, together with a cheque for £17.50, is sent to me at the Police Federation Office at HQ to arrive no later than Monday, October 2.

Unfortunately, for administrative reasons, any bookings after this date can only be included in the final numbers in exceptional circumstances.

**Sue Kelly
Secretary
Essex Police Comrades Association**

Thank you

MAY I thank the many people who most generously contributed to the collection to mark my retirement on June 6.

I was truly amazed by the generosity of colleagues and am in the process of purchasing a satellite-navigation system with the monies.

May I also thank those friends who attended my retirement party.

I will always remember with fondness and pride the officers and police staff of Essex Police.

My 32 years and eight months of service were both a great experience and a privilege.

Former Dc Neil Evans

40th Anniversary Concert Essex Police Band

with friends

Aveley & Newham Brass Band

and

guest trombone soloist Chris Jeans

October 21, 2006 @ 7.30pm

Christchurch, London Road, Chelmsford

Tickets are free, on a first-come, first-served basis from Mark Harvey on 07789 117804 or via email

40th Anniversary CDs will be on sale

Gone . . . but not forgotten

**Brian Arthur Rippingale – Essex County Constabulary.
Served from September 17, 1959. Died September 2, 1968.**

PC Brian Rippingale was born in Chelmsford, joining the police Cadets on leaving school.

Once in the regular force he was based at Clacton and Harlow, becoming a first-class advanced driver and moving to HQ Traffic in March 1964.

On a Bank Holiday Monday night in 1968, Pc Rippingale and a colleague were patrolling the A12 in heavy traffic at Feering when they saw a motorcycle travelling with no lights in the outside lane towards London.

Pc Rippingale and his colleague followed the rider and challenged him to stop, using the public address system. They soon noticed that the tax disc on the motorcycle did not relate to that vehicle but, while details were being checked over the radio, the motorcyclist ran off.

Pc Rippingale chased the rider across the A12 and was killed by an estate car as he ran into the fast lane.

The motorcyclist was arrested two days later.

• Pc Brian Rippingale



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.

Corner the chairman



● Essex Police Authority chairman
Robert Chambers

Making a real difference to people's lives

“I AM sorry to say that several members of Essex Police Authority are about to come to the end of their term with us. However I do hope they will be encouraged to re-apply for a position on the authority, along with anyone else who is interested in joining. Four posts will be available and we will be advertising these in the next months. The interviews will be carried out in February and the successful candidates will start with us on April 1, 2007. We would welcome anyone who has the time to spare to apply as the role is certainly very unique, important, and fulfilling.

Roles on the authority are not full-time and many members carry out the work of the authority alongside their full or part-time jobs. I joined Essex Police Authority nine years ago and have been chairman for four – I love every minute of being involved in policing and those issues that affect the public's quality of life. I am dedicated to policing in Essex and I do passionately believe that Essex Police Authority makes a real difference to people's lives through its crucial decisions. The authority sets the policy with the Chief Constable, so we ultimately decide, alongside the force, on which areas we should be concentrating. Currently, these are to reduce anti-social behaviour, to improve contact with the public and to increase visible policing. We also monitor and scrutinise the work of the force to make sure we are providing an efficient and effective service for residents – our main role.

We also set the annual budget – we are currently the fifth lowest precepting authority countrywide – and we will continue to do all we can to improve our service for the taxpayers' benefit. My future aims are to try to give residents more of what they want. I will listen to the public's views, learn from them and work with them. If you are interested in working with us for a safer Essex, then please visit our website www.essex.police.uk/ authority where you can learn more about the work of the authority and that of our members.

Details of the upcoming vacancies will be posted there shortly. ”

Bars get into the spirit of safer drinking

A NEW scheme aims to promote safe drinking by sharing best practice across the licensing industry.

Longer drinking hours have led to a perception that there has been an increase in drink and drug-related anti-social behaviour.

But the recent legislation has also enabled the force to seize the opportunity to introduce an accreditation scheme – much like the AA stars awarded to hotels.

Safer Bars will allow customers to make informed choices about where to drink in a safe environment.

And it will allow participants to

share best practice.

“Essex Police and its partners have consulted widely with the licensing trade to introduce the scheme, which aims to improve safety and reduce crime, disorder and nuisance, while at the same time promoting responsible management

Sgt Nigel Dermott, licensing project and alcohol co-ordinator, said: “Many problems are seen to be linked with clubs, bars and pubs.

“Spreading best practice – by giving staff proper training and creating a safe working environment through having policies that are visibly being

operated – can make all the difference.

“Having the involvement and support of the trade is vital to the success of the scheme, which will drive up the standards that licensed premises should strive towards.”

And he added: “It gives everyone in the community the chance to make better decisions about where they spend their free time and hard-earned money.

“Once an establishment has achieved the award, the visual display will be a measure of the safety standard that the public might

expect and help to promote the more responsible operators, of which we know there are many.”

Safer Bars was launched at Sam's Nightclub in Brentwood last month.

Manager Kevin Springham said: “These guidelines will improve the safety of everyone – owners, clubbers and the local community – and clearly outline the preventative measures that can be taken.

“At Sam's Nightclub we feel that safety is paramount to having an enjoyable night out and we will take every step possible to ensure that this happens.”

Extra Special occasions

SPECIAL officers and staff in Essex are celebrating 175 years of voluntarily serving the public next month.

It was in October 1831 that the Special Constabulary came into being and since then its members have become an important part of the community.

And to highlight the excellent work volunteer Specials perform, they have been asked to work even harder.

For they have been asked to execute an extra 175 arrests during August, September and October.

There will also be a push to increase the number of Special volunteers during this time.

Essex Chief Constable Roger Baker hopes that, by 2010, Essex Police will have 1,000 Special Constables working alongside regular officers

by Claire Elliott

and PCSOs. He said: “This will not only raise the police presence within communities and add to the Neighbourhood Policing Teams, but will also provide an invaluable link between the community and the police that ensures local problems are dealt with.”

Specials are a vital part of the police service, providing an important link between the force and the public.

Those who take on this important role give up their free time to make a difference in the community, allowing them to experience a job that is both exciting and very rewarding.

George Cook, Chief Officer of the Essex Police Special Constabulary, said: “A Special Constable will work alongside a regular constable and receive excellent training to ensure that they are prepared for the problems that may be

encountered whilst out on patrol. Working as a Special is a brilliant way to learn new skills and work in an exciting environment.”

● To find out more about becoming a Special, ring the recruitment line on 01245 452824 or visit www.essex.police.uk/recruitment/r_spe_01.php

● IN recognition of the sterling service Specials provide their communities, all staff will receive a specially-engraved whistle to commemorate 175 years of the Special Constabulary.

And all Essex Police franking machines will frank mail with the 175th anniversary logo.

Plus the Essex Police Museum will mount an exhibition in November with photographs and memorabilia going back over the past decades celebrating the work of the Specials.

It includes badges, posters leaflets and stories from World War Two.

● Anyone with memories or memorabilia to loan for the display can contact Curator Becky Latchford on 01245 457150 or ext 50771



● Chief Officer George Cook, left, and Special Supt Howard Rayner present the cheque to Nick Adshed, of the Make A Wish Foundation
Picture by Mary Cotter

Walkers wishing to cheer young lives

OFFICERS and staff from the Special Constabulary, plus friends and family, have raised £2,000 for the Make a Wish Foundation.

It came from last year's annual Epping to Harwich charity walk, organised by George Cook, Chief Officer of the Special Constabulary. And George presented the cash to the foundation last month, together with Special Supt Howard Rayner. George said: “The police service aims to improve people's quality of life, so raising money for this excellent charity makes sense. The work that they do makes a real difference to children's lives in difficult times.

“The positive response that we had from those who took part and those who

sponsored them made it a real success and we hope to repeat this in the future.”

It was the 12th year of the Special Constabulary Charity Walk, which has proved to be an excellent way of raising money for schemes which support the community. The Make a Wish Foundation is a charity which grants the wishes of children and youngsters aged from three to 17 who are living with life-threatening illnesses. It aims to give hope to those going through the hardship of a serious illness by granting their wish and giving them a day that they will never forget.

● This year's charity walk was cancelled because of illness but George says he hopes to organise another next year

New show date is an emergency

THE Emergency Services Show is a new event aimed at all emergency service personnel.

The show, at the Royal Horticultural Halls, London, on October 19 and 20 will champion information-sharing between all emergency responders.

It offers operational officers, buyers and decision-makers access to emergency services, suppliers and voluntary organisations at one venue.

More than 100 exhibitors will be promoting the very latest in communications and IT equipment, training and education resources, technical rescue and medical equipment, personal protective equipment, vehicles and vehicle equipment.

A conference on Improving Emergency Response is being held in conjunction with the exhibition.

● Pre-register by visiting www.theemergency-servicesshow.info and completing the relevant form

Bright ideas may win you an award

A NEW awards scheme which recognises the innovative partnerships between police forces and private firms is looking for nominations.

The Association of Police and Public Security Suppliers (APPSS) has launched the 2007 Equipment and Technology Awards, in association with the Home Office Scientific Development Branch (HOSDB).

Police officers and/or staff who have conceived an innovative piece of equipment or technology or a system and worked together with a UK firm to develop the idea and bring it to the market within the last two years are eligible to enter. Applications should be submitted through departmental heads by December 16, 2006.

● Entry forms can be obtained by contacting the APPSS office on 01428 602627 or email awards2007@appss.org.uk

Cups of coffee to make a difference

LAST year Essex Police joined forces with Macmillan Cancer Support and took part in the Worlds Biggest Coffee Morning.

Across the county more than 1,500 people registered to take part and in total raised £238,000.

The Essex Fund-raising Team hopes to beat last year's total and aims to reach £270,000 to help even more people affected by cancer.

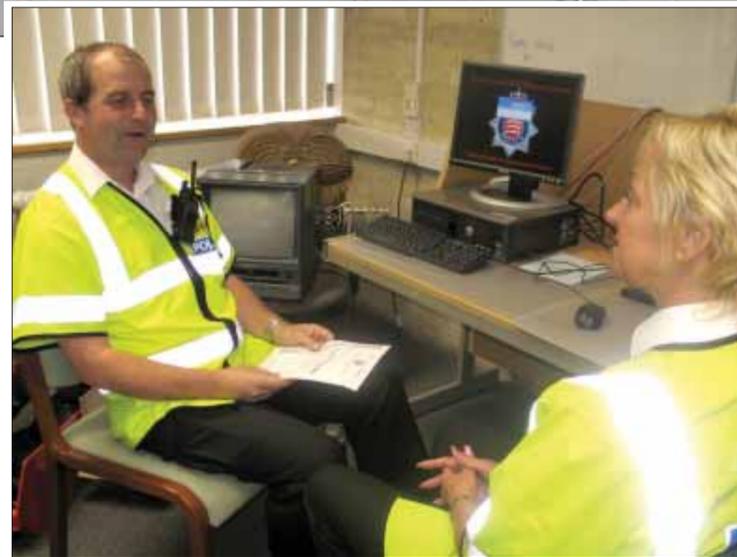
So if your shift or section, division or department feels like making a cuppa to help on Friday, September 29, please do.

Whether you raise £10, £20 or £200, every cup really counts. We can all make coffee.

● To register for your free fund-raising pack, call your local Macmillan office on 01245 345280 or visit www.macmillan.org.uk to register online

● Let The Law editor Heather Turner know how much you raise on ext 55819

'Students drive us all crazy when they don't succeed'



● Far left and above: Officers box in and successfully arrest a car thief on the M25.

● Left: Stanway Road Policing Unit's Sgt Iain Masheder receives feedback from his instructor, Pc Lesley Rosenwoud

“WE are here to promote safety and professionalism behind the wheel. Making an arrest is a bonus.

“You pursue a criminal with the intention of catching them but we must think about personal safety, the safety of colleagues and that of the general public too – the people we serve.”

This is the unofficial mission statement of the Essex Police Driving School, according to instructor Pc Steph Hoskins.

She has not needed her 32 years' service with the force to state the obvious, but can road policing students adhere to this way of thinking?

Pursuit management courses last a full week and are an emotional time for both instructor and student.

Pc Paul Gridley has seen some 'wonderful' highs and 'crushing' lows in his five years at the school.

“We make a bond with the students immediately,” explained Pc Gridley. “We want to feel what they're going through and ensure they are confident and secure enough to talk to us to demonstrate their understanding of what we're teaching them.”

“We are training these officers to be the best at pursuing criminals in an effective, yet controlled manner; to the level set by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and so to be the best in the land.

With police-related road crashes hitting the news headlines more often these days, forces have had to further tighten up on driver-training.

Nishan Wijeratne spent a day on Essex Police's Pursuit Management course in order to understand the principles behind controlled, tactical driving.

“It's a stressful time for all and is instructor-intensive. There must be one instructor to each road policing officer, for health and safety reasons, and with six students per course, this takes up our capabilities for the week.”

Over recent years, ACPO and the Independent Police Complaints Commission (and its predecessor, the Police Complaints Authority) have published a series of reports reviewing fatal police pursuits and have recommended several changes to training procedures.

In 2004, ACPO subsequently published the National Pursuit Management Guidance, which Essex Police adopted and adapted to meet its own needs.

In essence, all road policing officers, and a select few in other divisions, are trained to an 'advanced' level of driving, with only suitable officers from the former allowed to prove themselves on the pursuit management course.

This provides them with the knowledge to use the wide spectrum of

tactical containment techniques which are sometimes needed to apprehend criminals.

Pc Gridley added: “It's a process that takes time, with only ten or so courses each year. We are restricted to the county's roads and so are somewhat at the mercy of the weather, incidents on the roads and the Highways Agency – which regularly has to resurface long stretches of road – and these force us to change our schedule at relatively short notice.”

Because of the strains on driving instructors, they have annual appointments with Occupational Health and neither are the students are not forgotten – Health Surveillance Nurse Jacqui Delasalle said they are also urged to contact the department.

“All the officers and training staff are put into an emotion-fuelled bubble during their week together and each one can return home devoid of energy but high on stress,” explained Mrs Delasalle.

“The students may be there for just a week but they are under pressure to

perform in an adrenaline-fuelled activity which is unnatural for humans.

“The instructors may get used to it but everyone is on our radar. We are quick to refer any individual to our welfare advisors if we see problems beginning to develop.”

During their course, officers are expected to learn a variety of skills and understand how, when, where and why they should be used.

On his last day of service, Pc Mick O'Sullivan played the role of the criminal during a course and explained just some of the issues which need to be considered.

“There's a number of aspects for the students to consider and it must be demanding on them,” said Mick, who spent almost all of his career in the specialised field of road policing. “Manoeuvres such as keep-ons – keeping a car on the main carriageway by closing slip roads – and boxing-in are quick to teach but take time to perfect.

“As well as thinking about these, they have to drive the car correctly and safely, provide a running commentary on their route, look out for other road-users and potential significant witnesses, liaise with colleagues who may be either feet or miles away and think about where to execute the best-possible stop.

“These practice runs are just the same as if they were on live, routine patrol except that they've got the

added pressure of having an instructor in the back with them,” said Mick.

Another instructor, Pc Sue Powl – who still remembers the day when I nearly ran her and her colleagues over on the A12 after losing control of my car – said: “There are many people who don't realise how dangerous it is to be behind the wheel of a car.

“Somebody running away from officers is far less dangerous than someone driving at 100mph. A safe conclusion is the aim of any police pursuit and an arrest is just the icing on the cake.”

During the week-long course, weaknesses and frailties are quickly identified and addressed, with some students departing having failed to complete the course.

But Pc Powl revealed: “We agonise over under-performing students. We want them all to succeed and when they don't, it affects us all. We often go home and think about it while watching EastEnders.

“However, we don't just leave them to it. We help implement an action plan to correct their mistakes, which may be their driving habits, thought procedures or decision-making.

“We often find it's officers who have been seconded to long-running investigations where they're confined to an office or statement-taking who don't do well; but we don't want people to fail and we don't just say goodbye – we want people to come back and succeed.”



● PCSO Louise Webb, above, with the haul of confiscated mini-motos which were due to be crushed in front of an audience in Harlow's Market Square and, right, the subsequent results

Pictures by Denise Harvey



Working together to make the West more pleasant

by Denise Harvey

NUISANCE and disorder can affect the quality of people's lives every day whereas crime may just touch a person once in a lifetime.

So officers and staff across Western Division are working to ensure that not only is it a safe place in which to live – but a pleasant one too.

Not only are they targeting such criminals as drug-dealers (for news of success on that front, turn to Page 9) but also people who show no consideration for others.

Nuisance bike owners in Harlow faced bad news, for example, when the local police and Harlow council – as the Safer Harlow Partnership – mounted Operation Catch and Crush.

And it culminated with a 'public crushing' of illegal mini-motorbikes – mini-motos – in the town's Market Square last month, as part of a national clampdown on nuisance bikes.

Home Office Minister Joan Ryan witnessed the crushing when she visited Harlow to see the work taking place to tackle this menace.

Both the police and the council were reacting to public concerns raised about the annoyance, alarm and distress caused to them by those who ride not only mini-motos but also quad-bikes and scramblers illegally, either on public land or on the road.

The advent of Neighbourhood Policing in May has reinforced the message that the force is listening to public concerns and acting upon them.

Stage one of the Catch and Crush campaign was to inform residents, retailers and schools of the laws governing the illegal use of motorcycles and the seizure powers under S59 of the Police Reform Act 2002 affecting unlicensed and uninsured riders.

Residents were encouraged to give information on where and when motorcycle nuisance was occurring and informed how simple it was for officers to issue a warning to the motorcycle-owner, parent or guardian, which could eventually result in the bike being seized.

The police then worked closely with council officers and environmental protection officers on the issue of noise nuisance, which led to various motorcycles being seized.



● An officer uses a search 'wand' to determine whether his suspect is carrying a knife

And on August 2, the 'offending' motorbikes were crushed in Market Square, watched by a crowd of onlookers.

Pc Phil O'Connell said: “The public crushing of these bikes will reinforce our message that these illegal nuisance bikes will not be tolerated within our neighbourhoods. We will continue to work with residents to make a difference, ensuring our communities are a safe place to live, work and visit.”

And the good work has continued in the Epping Forest district with a team of officers targeting Loughton and Buckhurst Hill on the August Bank Holiday weekend. They seized two motorbikes and two cars after

their riders and drivers were found not to be insured, one person was warned and one arrested for driving while disqualified.

Sgt Kevin May leading the operation said, “Our message regarding the law on mini-motos appears to be getting through and residents in these areas were pleased to see us.”

Back in Harlow, officers from the town's central Neighbourhood Policing Team have been kind of magic recently. They are now equipped with special metal-detecting search 'wands' which can find knives and other weapons hidden on suspects' bodies. And they hope the threat of detection will deter people from carrying weapons in the first place.

The search 'wands' are just another tool being used to ensure the safety and wellbeing of residents around the town. Insp Stephen Pearce said: “Our message is clear. Carrying weapons will not be tolerated and if we suspect you are carrying one you will be stopped, you will be searched and, if we find a weapon, you will be arrested and brought to justice.”

Earlier this year, in response to reports of people entering Western Division with knives and drugs, a two-day operation in the Loughton and Debden areas resulted in more than 200 people being searched and four arrested. Several weapons were recovered including rice flails, a large spanner and a small quantity of drugs.

Officers had been using two specially-trained GIS (Grosvenor International Services) drugs dogs, which can sniff out 12 different substances including cocaine, heroin and cannabis. And they used a mobile x-ray body scanner – lent by the Home Office – too.

Again the community said it had been reassured by the police presence. High visibility policing is another aspect of this, and this is where the division's PCSOs play a part.

All of them are encouraged to hold regular surgeries – some in unlikely places. PCSO Gary Brown meets the public fortnightly in Potter Street Baptist Church, Harlow, Princess Alexandra Hospital and at Church Langley's Tesco store while PCSO Louise Webb holds hers in Sumner's Leisure Centre and PCSO Stuart Burt visits Harlow College.

The idea is to make policing services more accessible to the public.

To this end dedicated 24-hour mobile phones have been issued to Neighbourhood Policing officers.

And PCSO Mike Janes visits rural communities in the mobile police office. He says: “It's great to be out and about meeting people. Every fortnight I drive around the rural villages of Epping District. Some areas are quite isolated and some people who live there cannot drive, some weeks I am the only face they see.”

While Louise Webb is reaching out in a different direction, writing monthly articles for the Harlow Herald. She simply talks about her work in the community and issues advice to residents living there.

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. Close to gondola and town. Discounts for police officers and staff. Ring John on 07815 186944.

COSTA Blanca, La Marina, luxury two-bedroom, two-bathroom villa. Sleeps four to six. Air conditioning, beach five mins, golf ten 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, DVD, CD, PlayStation, games room. Golf five mins, Disney 15 mins. Ring Karen or Chris McAulay on 01625 431373 or 07881 614045, visit www.mcaulayvilla.com or email mcaulay60@hotmail.com

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, new, luxury five-bed villa, sleeps 12, three bedrooms en suite, fully air-conditioned, games room, private pool with Jacuzzi. Disney ten mins. Ten per cent discount for police staff. Contact Paul Howard on 01268 244011 or visit www.floridianretreat.com

FLORIDA, Sarasota villa, quiet village environment, communal pool, tennis, bbq, clubhouse, hot tub. Beautiful beaches, recently renovated. Contact Norma Gill via email at 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, large dining room/lounge, large terrace for sunbathing and al fresco dining. Ring Karen or Chris McAulay on 01625 431373 or 07881 614045 or visit www.lanzarotesun.net

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.

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 are welcome at our beautiful home on a B&B basis, offering en-suite and a welcome. Now offering fishing in private trout loch, shooting, walking, bird-watching, ski-ing or general 'chilling out' in stunning scenery 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. Perfect base - one hour to Florence, Pisa and Italian Riviera. Ring 07919 057437 or visit www.tuscanlife.co.uk

WELLS-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, delightful cottage, renovated to high standard. Two bedrooms, walk to quayside, shops and beach. Private parking and courtyard garden. Ring 07919 057437 for details.

Cars and bikes

VW Golf gti, 1996, air-conditioning, electric mirrors, power-assisted steering, full service history, 123,000 miles - hence a bargain at £1,500. Contact Paul Eveleigh on 07970 935741.

Highlights for top student on SOCO course

A SCENES of crime officer has won a top award as part of a diploma course.

Det Sgt **Rennie Chivers**, 49, was presented with the Ustinov Award for being the most meritorious student, by Michael Craik, Chief Constable of Northumbria and ACPO portfolio holder on workforce modernisation.

Rennie, who is based at Clacton, had spent two years studying for the Diploma in Crime Scene Examination, which is run by the National Training Centre for Scientific Support to Crime Investigation at Harperley Hall, County Durham, and accredited by Durham University.

He funded his own studies for the diploma after having first undertaken the initial scenes of crime course.

Then came two years of written assignments, plus a dissertation and a development course.

But Rennie said all the hard work had been well worth it for the results.

"I feel a sense of achievement because I put a lot of hours into it and am delighted that I came out top."

His diploma dissertation comprised a forensic review of a cold-case murder investigation in Essex which has highlighted areas of potential of

Names in the news

which advancements in forensic science may be able to take advantage.

During health and safety work on asbestos awareness at crime scenes, Rennie produced a workbook on hazards and precautions for scenes of crime officers to complete - it is being introduced across Essex and other forces have shown an interest.

He also reviewed a fire investigation case, brought a new perspective to crime-scene photography by looking at the development of manual and digital cameras and produced an annotated bibliography of the history of finger-printing.

Rennie received both his diploma and the Ustinov at a special ceremony held at Durham Castle in July.

Retirements

In fact, Rennie is one of two detectives due to retire who are staying on with the force under the 30+ scheme this month.

Both Rennie and **De Stephen Rawlinson** returned to work under the scheme from September 4, having both served 30 years with the force.

Rennie will remain at Tendring working within the Scenes of Crime Department in Crime Division. During his service, Rennie has

served at Harwich and Colchester as well.

Stephen, also 49, will remain with the Investigation Unit within the Serious and Organised Crime Directorate of Crime Division. He has also served in Southend.

South-Western Division, and Basildon in particular, bid farewell to Service Desk Assistant **Valerie Poole** at the end of this month. Valerie, 64, has spent almost 19 years with the force.

Degrees and post-graduate awards

HQ Statistics Section Manager **John Stanbrook** has been awarded an Open University BSc (Hons) in Geosciences.

And his colleague **Shirley Toplu** has also been awarded an Open University degree, a BA (Hons) in Humanities with Classical and Religious Studies.

Meanwhile, **David Flude**, of HQ Transport Services, has been awarded a Master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) by the University of East Anglia.

And ASBO Support Officer **Tina Hall**, of Braintree, has been awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Management of Anti-Social Behaviour by Anglia Ruskin University.

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.



Memories of cricket and cups

THE victorious Essex Police Cricket team of 1957, pictured above, were the proud winners of the Webber Bowl.

The photograph shows the calm after the storm of a fiercely contested match with Cambridge City, for the trophy, in the final. The competition involved about 18 constabularies, at a time when counties were split between borough forces and geographical areas, such as Suffolk East and West. All-day matches of 50 overs soon

sorted the men from the boys. James Woolnough was one of the babies of the winning side, along with Arthur Pickett, as they had only been in the force for about five years.

James wonders if any of his team mates are still around. The men pictured either side of the players are believed to be members of the Force Sports Association Committee - George Ambrose on the left and Ron Payne on the right.

• **Team members, back row, from left: Duggie Andrews, Derek Cant, Pete Brown, Les Brown, George Leslie, Gerry Wilmott and James Woolnough**

• **Front row, from left: George French, Steve Stevenson, captain Charlie Waller, Sir Jonathon Peel, vice-captain Ron Canham, Phil Wheal and Arthur Pickett**

Advisors are there to help you in workplace

FULLY trained and ready to help, an additional ten people have been added to the list of police staff and officers who are willing to assist their colleagues by talking through workplace problems.

Formerly known as volunteer grievance advisors, the Fairplay advisors are available on the numbers listed below.

Equality and Diversity Manager Jan Woodhouse said: "It was over 12 years ago that we set up the original network of advisors but with so much new legislation and a workforce growing in numbers as well as diversity, we have decided to re-launch our team.

"National and European equality bodies advocate this approach as 'good practice' because it means people can get local support quickly that is appropriate to their needs and this helps resolve workplace issues at the lowest levels."

The ten new advisors have been on a two-day training course which identifies their role and helps them with listening, analytical and problem-solving skills. They join the established team, which includes Wendy Welham, who has been on the list since its inception. Wendy said: "I would like to think that we have been a helpful addition to both individuals and the organisation over the last 12 years and that, with the new, trained staff, we will continue to remain objective and supportive to those approaching us for advice and guidance."

The role of the advisors is to facilitate discussion and suggest options for resolution but *not* to resolve a problem or grievance, which is the responsibility of the line manager.

They will undertake to research the problem, look at the relevant policy and generally give support to individuals.

Jan added: "Someone with a problem can talk to anyone on the list, it does not have to be their local advisor.

"They may wish to speak to someone in their division but then again they may want to use someone outside their environment to talk to.

"All our advisors will respect confidentially and may be contacted by police staff who are not a member of Unison or by officers who may not wish to contact the Federation in the first instance."

● Click on Information on the intranet front page and then on Fairplay Advisors Network and follow the links to find a list of Fairplay Advisors and their contact details

Seat law info

THIS month sees the introduction of changes to the child seat laws.

● Useful information can be found at www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_rdsafety/documents/page/dft_rdsafety_611257.hcsp

Drugs seizures make our county a safer place to live

by Denise Harvey

CHIEF Constable Roger Baker joined more than 200 officers on a series of dawn drugs raids in one of the force's biggest operations in recent years.

The raids, made by Essex Police early on August 30, on addresses in Harlow, Hertfordshire and east London, led to a number of arrests and the seizure of large quantities of drugs and cash.

More than 200 officers from across the force executed over 20 search warrants during the raids.

Afterwards, Mr Baker said: "The success of the raids was down to the excellent quality of intelligence gathered over a number of months, supported by the outstanding teamwork of officers and police staff from across the force on the day.

"This hard work produced some excellent results and has served to protect the public by taking suspected drug dealers off the streets of Essex."

Operation Salcombe was the culmination of months of intelligence-gathering by officers on individuals who were thought to be involved in the supply of heroin and crack cocaine in Harlow.

With at least 25 people arrested as *The Law* went to print, officers hope the operation will crush the level of crack cocaine and heroin available on the streets, making Harlow an even safer place to live.

Det Insp Simon Parkes said he hoped the arrests sent a chilling message to drug dealers in Essex. "The operation will, hopefully, stifle the amount of drugs coming into Harlow town," he said.

"We want to send a message of warning to criminals and a message of reassurance to local residents that we will not tolerate drugs. We will use whatever we can to keep Harlow drug-free."

Specialist search teams, using sniffer dogs, scoured the homes and premises subjected to the raids in a bid to recover evidence. Det Insp Parkes added: "Crack cocaine and heroin are highly addictive. They bring misery to the families of those who use them and many are caught in the spiral of substance misuse and crime. These arrests provide an ideal opportunity for those using drugs to break out of their spiral."

● Anyone who has information on possible drug-dealing should contact officers at Harlow Police Station on 01279 641212 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111

Drugs money is forfeited by court

ESSEX Police will benefit following a court order for the forfeiture of cash seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

The case followed the seizure of £51,280 on August 24 by officers from the Serious and Organised Crime Department (SOCD) Investigations from a man suspected of possessing ecstasy and cocaine, with a street value of £5million.

Financial Investigators from the SOCD, successfully applied to Chelmsford Magistrates' Court for the forfeiture of this money under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

And this means the force will benefit from 50 per cent of this money – it will be put into the Drugs Fund, which is administered by Crime Division and used for schemes which help in the fight against drugs.

During the financial year 2005/06, the Financial Investigations asset recovery team were responsible for securing more than £652,000 proceeds of crime from criminals, either through the crown court confiscation process or forfeiture of cash seizures granted by magistrates' courts.

And they took a further £83,000 from criminals involved in drugs trafficking through small amounts of money forfeited during crown court proceedings.

Financial Investigator Supervisor Philip Bridge said: "The Proceeds of Crime Act is a real way of hitting criminals where it hurts and can be used by all officers engaged in front line policing.

"But," he asked, "do you *know* your powers and how to deal with cash seizures?"

● The Serious and Organised Crime Directorate Financial Investigations team can advise police officers and staff on Proceeds of Crime matters. Contact Philip Bridge via email or on ext 76544

Boosting your confidence

ESSEX Police College has added NVQs to its portfolio of learning and development provision.

So now officers and staff, forcewide, can gain an externally-recognised qualification while at work. NVQs are work-based qualifications which are designed to prove an individual's competency and allow them to gain recognition for the skills and knowledge they need to carry out their job effectively.

● For more information, visit the NVQ website, using the link from the Essex Police College homepage, under Divisions & Departments on the intranet



● Chief Constable Roger Baker and Pc Mick Doherty help to search a flat during Operation Salcombe in Harlow last month

Picture by Denise Harvey

Cashpoint stabber gets life sentence for murder

● Andrew Fredericks got a life sentence and his brother Mark, centre, seven years, for the fatal stabbing of Westley Odger, far right



WESTLEY Odger was 27 years old when he lost his life in a matter of seconds over a very minor disagreement at a Colchester cashpoint in September, 2005.

The shocking waste of a young life and the impact of a generation of knife-carrying youngsters was graphically illustrated in a moment's madness.

Westley paid the ultimate price when he became involved in an argument with Mark Fredericks, whose brother Andrew then arrived on the scene and fatally stabbed Westley in the neck.

Last month, Andrew Fredericks was found guilty of murder and was sentenced to life imprisonment with a recommendation that he serves 15 years before he becomes eligible for parole.

His brother Mark was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment.

Senior Investigating Officer Det Supt Tim Wills said after the trial at Chelmsford Crown Court: "The brothers who killed Westley Odger clearly had no respect for life and are a menace to society so I am pleased to see that justice has been served.

"My thoughts are with Westley's family, who

staunchly supported the police investigation throughout and have had to endure listening to detailed testimony about the way Westley died."

He added: "This case demonstrates the tragic consequences that can be caused by knives and I hope that the life sentence serves as a harsh lesson to anyone who carries one."

Westley's mother, Ann Oakes Odger, thanked the investigating team for their empathy and support and the important part they played in making the justice process possible.

She said: "We have been to hell and back since Westley's murder but now justice has been seen to be done we can try to rebuild our lives.

"Westley will never be forgotten and I hope, in honour of his memory, that I will be able in some way to help other families who might tragically find themselves walking the road we've been forced to travel."

Det Supt Wills added: "I would like to pass on my thanks to all those officers involved in this investigation, and in particular to those officers who attended and did all they could to try and save Westley's life."



● Museum volunteer Bryan Turner excavates the entrance to the World War Two air raid shelter
Picture by Becky Latchford

Raiding the annals of history

A WORLD War Two air raid shelter in the garden of 31 Kingston Crescent, Chelmsford, has been excavated by Essex Police Museum volunteers. The shelter had lain undisturbed for more than 60 years in the garden of the house just round the corner from HQ. Museum Curator Becky Latchford said: "It was very exciting to discover more about the shelter, which is a valuable part of the force's history. "We confirmed it was an underground

concrete shelter – not an Anderson shelter – which is unusual, and it is in very good condition. "The highlight was tracking down the woman who lived in the house during the war when she was a young girl. "We had a lovely chat, which we filmed for our archives, and she told me all about her wartime experiences and memories of having to use the shelter. "She even remembered the night HQ was bombed in 1940 when she was five."

Hoax caller traced by diligent work

A DEDICATED team effort from officers at Stanway Road Policing Unit has resulted in a man being sentenced on a number of charges relating to making hoax and malicious phone calls to Essex County Fire and Rescue Service.

Following a trial, Aaron Taylor, of Clacton, was found guilty of five charges under the Communications Act.

Last month, Colchester magistrates sentenced him to a 240-hour community punishment order and ordered him to pay £2,000 costs in 14 days – telling him he had escaped prison by 'a whisker'.

After the case, Insp Steve Brewer, said he was very pleased with the verdict.

A fire appliance attending one of the hoax calls made by Taylor in June 2004 was involved in a serious collision with a moped rider.

Insp Brewer said it had been discovered that

that hoax call and a number of others had been made from the same mobile phone.

After finding out the phone had been stolen months earlier, officers then discovered it had been used in Clacton custody suite.

Having identified Taylor and arresting him in possession of the SIM card, they then consulted a voice expert in Edinburgh.

The expert compared Taylor's voice to that in the recordings of the hoax 999 calls made to the fire service.

Insp Brewer said: "This sentence is the result of a great team effort which has taken two years.

"Taylor made a number of hoax calls to the fire service over a period of several months using the emergency 999 system.

"This led to several fire appliances being unnecessarily sent to various destinations in the Clacton area. The dangers are obvious.

"Unfortunately, all the emergency services suffer hoax calls, but it's the fire service that bears the brunt of the majority."

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

New season, why not try a new sport?

HAVE you ever tried your hand at volleyball? If not, why not go and try out for the Essex Police volleyball team?

They play in Essex League Division 2 – a combined men's and women's team – and also put a team into the PSUK competitions every year.

Organisers would love new players to join them. The atmosphere is very informal and the standard is mixed. The majority of the team are only novices, with some experienced players and a few complete beginners. So all abilities would be welcome. The squad trains every Tuesday evening in the gym at HQ from 7.30-9pm.

• For further information, contact Steven Greener on ext 40520, Amanda Pollard on ext 21701 or Gemma Gunn on ext 30115 and they would be happy to answer any questions

Trumpeting their special anniversary

ESSEX Police Band was formed in 1966 and to celebrate their ruby anniversary, they are putting on a special concert. Band members will be joined by friends from Aveley and Newham Brass Band and by one of the country's top trombone soloists, Chris Jeans. They will be performing at Christchurch in London Road, Chelmsford, on Saturday, October 21, from 7.30pm.

Tickets are available free, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Last December, the band's Christmas Cracker concert in Colchester raised £1,638 for Lexden Springs school.

• To obtain these tickets contact band secretary Mark Harvey via email or on 07789 117804

Golf is evens

KEITH Davies, of the Serious and Organised Crime Directorate, was selected to represent the PSUK Golf section in a match against the Civil Service, following a top-12 finish in the championships. The Civil Service beat the Police in a close match at Walton Heath in Surrey on July 31 and August 1. And Keith came out evens, winning one of his games and losing the other.

European bid

CHELMSFORD'S Keiran Lally is travelling to Belgium this month to take on the Six Nations. Keiran has been selected to represent the PSUK table tennis team in the tournament, which runs from September 25 to 29. He is the current national men's table tennis singles champion – a title he won earlier this summer.

Skelly and Steve aim down under



• Skelly Lambert, third left, and Sarah Newark, second right, in action at the PSUK Tug of War 640kg competition at Newport in July

FRESH from their clean sweep in the PSUK Tug of War, Skelly Lambert and Steve Tyrell pulled for the British Police in a tri-services tournament. And the pair have both been named in the British Police Squad travelling down under to Adelaide next March to take part in the World Police and Fire Service Games – together with former Essex officers Steve Gibbs and Stuart Byrne.

At the tri-services match in Newcastle at the end of July, against the Civil Service and the Combined Services, Skelly, of Brightlingsea, took a gold in the 600kg class and silver in the Catchweight. And Steve, of Stanway Road Policing Unit, brought back silvers in the 680kg and Catchweight classes. He said afterwards: "It was a tough competition all round. Now there's lots of training to be done prior to next spring, when we will be looking to retain the gold in the 490kg six-man team event."

CID gentlemen take victory in their stride

THE Gentlemen of Essex CID recorded a decisive victory when they hosted May and Baker early last month.

The detectives and their guests won the toss and elected to bat in fine weather conditions.

They got off to a shaky start when openers Pritchard and Ness were both bowled by Handscombe and Lagden, respectively, when the score stood at only 14 runs.

Hiscock then arrived at the crease and steadied the ship with an imperious 96, covering most shots in the book. He, together with good assistance from Green – 25 – and guest player McGarry – 54 – took the police side to a comfortable 237 for seven at the conclusion of their 40 overs.

May and Baker opener and first-team captain Sattar was pinned back by the bowling of Miller and Miles before being clean-bowled by the latter for four runs.

Only Sharma – 39 – Lagden – 26 – and Crossley Snr – 23 – made any

impression on the bowling attack but Crossley Jnr was still there at the end – not out with 19 runs.

With good bowling by guests Davidson – three for eight – and Southwell – three for 32 – and some brilliant fielding by Pritchard and Livesey, who claimed three and two catches respectively, the home side were dismissed for 149 with five overs remaining.

So the day saw a decisive win for the CID by 88 runs and a good time was had by all in the pavilion afterwards.

Joanna walks away with a cool £3,000

ESSEX Police College's Joanna Campbell took top prize in the August lottery draw, run by the Essex Police Sports Association.

Pc Campbell, of the Professional Development Unit, walked away with £3,000.

Second prize went to retired officer Barry Bright, who won £1,000, and Jim Webster, of Laindon, won third prize of £500.

Winners of £100 prizes were:

Sgt Justin Smith, of Mobile Support's HQ ANPR Team; Pc Steve Simmans, of Chelmsford; Pc Ben Bailey, of Corringham; Pc Paul Watson, of

Shoebury; Sgt Pat O'Riordan, of Loughton; Pc Lewis Smith, of Waltham Abbey; Sgt Graeme Dowsett, of Basildon; Pc Ryan Burgess, of Waltham Abbey; Pc Gavin Timms, of Southend; Pc Matt Noone, of Feering; and Pc Kristan Reddick, of the Air Support Unit. And £50 winners were: Sgt Nick Edwards, of Stanway Road Policing Unit (RPU); Clive Butler, of Colchester File Management; Chief Insp Tina Noble, of Essex Police College, PCSO Jackie Tyrrell, of Colchester; Pc Steven Burch, of Basildon; Ian Boon, of Stansted Airport; Sara Whitehead, of Southend; Sgt Stewart Gason, of

Chelmsford RPU; Pc Carole Pitchers, of the Force Information Room; Pc Julian Lawrence, of Stanway RPU; Pc Mark McQuade, of Leigh; Pc Dave Hiscock, of Braintree; Pc Jim Gibson, of FIR; and Mick Wade, of FIR. And finally, winners of 12in bears courtesy of Benenden Healthcare were: Marie Hall, of Financial Investigations at Old Harlow; Sgt Jim Hayter, of Colchester; Paula Broadley, of Colchester; Mick Fidgeon, of HQ Firearms, Shotguns and Explosives Licensing Section, Ds Gavin Price, of Harwich; and Pc Mark Jones, of Chelmsford.

Footballers bid for first round KO

BY the time you read this, the force's senior soccer team will have passed a couple of key dates.

Firstly, they were due to play a team of Southend colleagues in a friendly. But this was just a warm-up for the big one – the first round of the Police National Cup against the Metropolitan Police.

Last season, the team had a great run in the competition before they exited in the quarter-finals, courtesy of a 4-1 defeat by Devon and Cornwall Police.

But Steve Crane said before the match, due to be played on August 31: "We fancy our chances against the Mets, who are always very strong. "Our squad is in good shape and we believe a victory is on the cards."

Trophy win

WINNER of the Mick Frost Memorial Trophy with 45 points was Toni Brockwell. Dick Argles was runner-up with 40 points at the memorial golf day held last month at Braintree Golf Club, Stisted. The morning team competition was won by Stanway MIT, comprising John Wright, Steve Jennings and Barney Mckenzie.

Award was a bonus after saving a life

TWO Stansted officers did not hesitate when they were called to the aid of a man who had collapsed in the airport's departure lounge.

They quickly realised the man was neither breathing, nor did he have a pulse.

But the actions of Pcs John Jackson and Neil Turrell saved his life on April 27 and also earned them an Essex Police bonus award.

They were nominated by Chief Insp Simon Williams, who said: "To work on a stranger who is unconscious whilst under the scrutiny of members of the public is unpleasant and challenging – there is no room to be squeamish."

"Their actions, quick assessment and decision-making without a doubt saved this man's life."

Divisional Commander Supt Michelle Dunn supported the bonus application, explaining: "Both officers were calm, professional and undoubtedly saved the man's life. Performing cardio-pulmonary resuscitation is stressful and potentially unpleasant."

John and Neil had not hesitated to give their 'patient' cardio-pulmonary resuscitation in the middle of the departure lounge under public scrutiny.

They then requested a defibrillator and gave him two shock cycles, which brought him back to life. John and Neil monitored the man's condition until an ambulance crew arrived 15 minutes later.

Claire Kennedy

Top dogs are wanted soon

ESSEX Police's Dog Section, part of the force's Mobile Support Division, is currently looking to sniff out two German shepherd dogs for a basic course.

The dogs need to be between ten and 13 months old in early November.

They should be confident, playful and vocal but with a sound, open temperament.

Although officers are in touch with many rescue centres across Essex, they are hoping other centres and Essex residents with German shepherds will offer their dogs.

Pc Pete Beauchamp, of Sandon Dog Section, said: "We require two German shepherd dogs, preferably male, although I am prepared to consider bitches. The pups can be long or short-haired but must be pedigree. Pedigree papers are not required but are desirable."

Pete will be happy to talk to anyone who may be interested in donating dogs, and will arrange an appointment to meet the dogs and evaluate their potential.

He stressed that owners must be prepared to receive the dogs back should they later be found to be unsuitable for Essex Police's needs.

• Contact Pc Pete Beauchamp on 01245 226585
Gemma Whiting

Here's locking at our new custody suite



● Supt Glenn Caton and Chief Insp Keith Dobson check out the new cells in Basildon's custody suite for size
Picture courtesy of Evening Echo

BASILDON's custody suite has finally opened, following 18 months of endless travelling with prisoners to neighbouring police stations.

Renovations have brought the wing into line with Home Office recommendations, making it the biggest in the east of England.

Divisional Commander Chief Supt Simon Coxall and his District Commander for Basildon, Supt Glenn Caton, heralded the new era of welcoming criminals to Basildon.

Chief Supt Coxall said: "It seems ages since we had our own custody block so this will definitely please all the officers in my district who will no longer have to travel to nearby stations – unless of course we flood our cells with felons!"

At a cost of just over £1.9million, the new custody wing has 20 cells, which can house both male and female prisoners, including those with disabilities. The previous custody block could house 12 individuals.

Supt Caton added: "This is a landmark day not only for officers but for the force too.

"Custody suites play an extremely important role in effective policing. With more and more vulnerable people in the police cells these days, it's important to have a high-quality building with custody staff who enjoy their work."

John goes cross-country to save force vehicle cash

HEAD of Transport John Gorton has a secret – as one of the executive members of the National Association of Police Fleet Managers he helps UK forces to save around £30 million a year and to manage their fleets more effectively.

by Heather Turner

oil and fuel. The NAPFM works closely with PITO, the Police Information Technology Organisation, which acts as the procurement expert for the process of offering contracts out to tender across Europe.

Although national procurement started 15 years ago, recently the savings identified have jumped from around £20million to £30million.

And this can only be good news for all the forces, including Essex, who have better vehicles and can spend such savings on other vital projects. For Essex this has meant getting rid of the unpopular Fiestas in exchange for the response Ford Focus – for very little additional cost.

John also chairs the National Best Value Committee, which, through the national fleet benchmarking initiative, compares the different fleet operations

and identifies best practice. "This means there is an ongoing, continual improvement through benchmarking and sharing of information," explained John.

"We analyse a huge amount of information, looking at which are the best-value vehicles for the job, including pence per mile and reliability.

"This is important when you consider there are around 37,500 vehicles being used by forces across the country and nationally police transport is a £200million operation. That is a very powerful bargaining chip when you start talking to manufacturers."

But the best vehicles are not necessarily the cheapest to buy – most important is matching the right vehicle to the role and then understanding those which are the most cost-effective to own, run, repair and re-sell.

John has been involved with the National Association of Police Fleet Managers for nearly 15 years.

Now, Transport Services' move to Boreham is offering up a whole host of new challenges.

John is now working on the Anglia Police Transport Programme, which aims to develop a consolidated fleet management operation for those forces with which we are developing partnerships – potentially Suffolk, Norfolk, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire.

He said considerable economies of scale could be made in such areas as procurement, administration and accident management.

But local knowledge and expertise will be key to delivering the service on the ground.

John puts his success down to the support he gets from his team.

"The only reason I am able to drive these initiatives is that I have an excellent team who keep the wheels turning and provide such an excellent service to Essex Police," he said.

New fingerprint technology is 99% accurate

LIVESCAN is the latest in fingerprinting technology and it's coming to a police station near you.

It enables fingerprint identification to be more accurate than ever – for Livescan is 99 per cent accurate.

This new technology can match fingerprints to the Fingerprint Bureau database and confirm a positive ID within minutes instead of days.

It will also bring up any previous or outstanding convictions relating to the owner of the prints.

And Essex is one of the first forces to 'go live' with this new technology in ten stations around the county.

Livescan has been operating in Harlow for the past three years with huge success but now – thanks to Government part-funding – it has been installed at Basildon, Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Clacton, Colchester, Harlow, Rayleigh, Southend and Thurrock. The system costs £210,000

but the Government is paying half the cost for the first 18 months.

Head of Scientific Support Det Chief Insp Tom Harper spoke about the developments in technology and how they and Livescan would help in the fight against crime.

"Among its benefits are the immediate access to the Fingerprint Bureau Database, its 99 per cent accuracy rate and with the ability to request fingerprints. This will lead to more detections of criminals, which in turn will reduce crime," he said.

The Livescan machine is about the size of Det Chief Insp Harper's filing cabinet and takes fingerprints individually in much the same way as with ink except it is a little less messy.

However, if the computer does not like the print it takes, it will ask the officer to repeat the process,

making the prints – and therefore the database – more accurate than ever.

If a second set of prints taken on a later occasion are found to be better than those already on the database, the second set will automatically replace the first, thus continually strengthening the database.

Eight officers in each of the police stations in which Livescan is being installed are being trained in how to use the system.

Then internal training will continue in order to get more officers to use the system.

And with developments in technology progressing apace, it may not be too long before police officers walking the neighbourhood beat will be able to use a smaller, portable version of Livescan and identify the owners of fingerprints on the spot!

Claire Kennedy