

The Law



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November 2006

Ground-breaking operation sought to reach young people

SUCCESS UNDER THE YOUTH SPOTLIGHT



by Ruth Collin

THE biggest ever youth operation carried out by Essex Police has been a huge success.

Youth Spotlight, codenamed Operation Cougar Cub, has enabled officers and staff from across the force to highlight their work with young people.

The operation has focused on four main areas: youth engagement; youth victimisation; identifying and supporting young people at risk of offending; and dealing effectively with young offenders.

Nearly 300 events or activities were held over the fortnight, reaching thousands of young people, and an average of 55 officers and staff were involved each day.

Activities included a Golden Ticket scheme in Brentwood where tickets were placed in strategic parts of the borough for young people to find and then exchange for activities or events, supported by local businesses and suppliers.

In Uttlesford, a Pool Night was held in association with local partners and, to the surprise of the young people, Essex Police laid on the food.

And in Clacton a Podcast giving young people advice on keeping their iPods safe was launched.

The initiative was managed as a



police operation with a Gold, Silver and Bronze command structure. Silver Commander, Insp Kate Sale, of Territorial Policing at HQ, said: "I am delighted with the very positive response Operation Cougar Cub received from colleagues and partners across the county. Before and during the operation, the plans really gained momentum thanks to the

enthusiasm of those involved. "And much more work is still going on – some areas have been extending their campaign and others are continuing with projects they've got off the ground as part of the operation.

The links and benefits to Neighbourhood Policing are clear and I hope this focus will bring founda-

tions that can be built on into the future."

Your thoughts

An evaluation of Operation Cougar Cub is now being carried out. A survey for staff is due to be running until Friday, November 10, accessed via the front page of the intranet.

● **Western Division mounted a campaign to educate young people about the dangers they face when playing with fireworks**

Essex hosts top conference

THE force is hosting this year's ACPO Youth Justice Conference this month. The event is the biggest annual police/youth conference, featuring delegates and presenters from forces and partner agencies across the country. Issues such as Neighbourhood Policing and the Youth Toolkit – written and being piloted by Essex Police – will be highlighted at the conference. A new activity programme for young people in partnership with Premiership football clubs is also to be launched. It is fitting that, in his last year as chairman of the ACPO Youth Issues Group, Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark hosts the conference in his home force area.

● **For more details about the Youth Toolkit and other Youth Spotlight activities, turn to Page 7**

Essex Police is also looking to include views from the public as part of the evaluation. A public survey is also due to be running until Friday, November 10.

● The survey can be found at www.essex.police.uk/survey/pu/index.php or by following the Youth Spotlight links from the Essex Police website homepage

Force welcomes our new Chief Officers

TWO new acting Assistant Chief Constables have joined the force on a temporary basis.

Both Carmel Napier, who joined on October 16, and Peter Lowton, who joined on November 6, are on three-month contracts.

The appointments were prompted by the retirement of ACC John Broughton, 52, at the end of last month – he has taken up the post of Senior Executive Development Officer with Royal St Lucia Police and the current ill-health of ACC Liam Briggingshaw.

Mrs Napier, 46, will lead on Territorial Policing – ACC Andy Bliss will take over Protective Services.

Mrs Napier said she was looking

forward to joining a strategic force with a strong customer focus.

She said: "I am looking forward to working with local communities and making Essex an even safer place in which to live, work and play."

Mrs Napier has worked in both uniform and CID roles throughout her 23-year career. Her first appointment was with Hertfordshire Police in 1983. She moved to North Yorkshire Police in 2000, rising to the rank of chief superintendent and becoming Head of Corporate Development.

Mr Lowton, 42, whose portfolio has yet to be decided, was a chief superintendent with the Metropolitan Police and Borough Commander for

Greenwich. He said he was looking forward to new challenges Essex Police will bring.

He said: "Essex is an exciting and dynamic county, both in terms of the police service and the communities that we police."

Mr Lowton is a career CID officer who has served in every rank within that department.

He was responsible for setting up the murder review team which investigated high-profile cases such as the murders of Jill Dando and Damilola Taylor. A permanent vacancy, to replace Mr Broughton's post, has been advertised and Essex Police Authority will select a candidate for the post.



● **Acting ACC Peter Lowton**



● **Acting ACC Carmel Napier**



'Full and frank discussion' covered a lot of our issues

THESE notes were made the day following the Essex Police Federation Open Meeting, which was an interesting evening well attended by approximately 200 of our members.

In addition to our Chief Constable, Roger Baker, we had five other Chief Officers attend the meeting including both our new recruits, acting Assistant Chief Constables Carmel Napier and Peter Lowton.

The meeting was also attended by Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers, and five other members of the authority.

Also present was Alan Gordon, vice-chairman of the Police Federation of England and Wales and two other National Federation Representatives for our region.

The format of the meeting was an 'old-fashioned' question and answer session lasting almost three hours, with our members able to air their concerns in a safe environment.

A lot of issues were discussed with a frank exchange of views.

The one thing that became evidently clear to me was that most of our members agreed with

what the Chief Constable was trying to achieve for Essex Police.

It seems to most that his message, as it cascades down to the rank and file, is not being correctly interpreted.

Policing must be retained by police officers and not given up to civilians or, indeed, the 'private sector' where there is a wealth of people waiting to take our jobs.

I detected there was some resistance to Mr Baker's style of policing but it was refreshing to hear that Mr Baker believed that front-line policing should be carried out by police officers, custody suites should be staffed by custody sergeants and it should be police officers who attend and deal with the victims of crime.

Neighbourhood Policing is not new and, although it is now Government-driven, no force in the country has found the ideal workforce model.

The Chief Constable was given examples where it was believed that the tolerance of our officers, and therefore the perception of officer safety, had been put into question.

It is understood that the ratio of the Neighbourhood Police Team to the Neighbourhood Support Team may now be modified to make it more effective and, of course, safer for our officers.

We must appreciate that this may still take some time to get an ideal model to suit Essex.

The Chief Constable stated that a small working group had been set up to review the current practice of taking statements from every aggrieved person.

Custody suites were also discussed, with officers indicating that they were poorly staffed, which had two effects – one being that custody sergeants were routinely not getting a refreshment break, with the other being it caused excessive queues, with the knock-on effect of keeping officers off the streets.

The Chief Constable responded by stating that the force had identified a shortfall of sergeant's posts and this was being addressed.

I take the point that the Chief Constable made about the morale issue and that when he joined the service almost 30 years ago, the first thing he was told was morale had never been lower.

It happened to me. However, I do believe there had been a particular tone to the meeting and, if I was part of the ACPO team or the police authority, I would certainly listen to that message and take it on board and I am sure Mr Baker will.

Legal Expenses scheme

CHANGING the subject completely, I am aware that some of our members have been dis-satisfied with the Legal Expenses scheme we provide.

As a direct result of this, I have negotiated with our main insurance broker, George Burrows, a far better scheme, which I am hoping to have up and running by December 1.

The new provider is ARC Legal Assistance and the cover is far more comprehensive for exactly the same monthly premium.

When making this decision, I took into consideration the range of benefits available.

Legal expenses cover under the new policy will match that offered by the current provider with the following enhancements:

- The maximum sum insured for each claim will increase from £50,000 to £60,000
- The age limit for cover for children living at home – currently cover ceases when a son or daughter reaches 21 – will be removed
- Cover for awards of up to £5,000 made against the member following allegations of discrimination by a fellow police officer.

A new policy document will be issued prior to the transfer date and you should study this for full details of the cover provided.

Drinkers told: 'Behave, or you'll be banned!'

THE knife-carrying culture has been dealt a blow with a ban on those caught carrying offensive weapons from entering pubs and clubs which have joined the Behave or be Banned scheme (BOBB).

'Behave or be banned' is the message to drinkers who get involved in fights, anti-social behaviour, damage and drugs and to those who carry knives.

The recent inclusion of people found to be in possession of knives or other sharp instruments on the list of those being banned from licensed premises has already aided a reduction in the number of offences in pubs and clubs.

The BOBB scheme sees licensees taking responsibility for working with police and local authorities to ban from all licensed premises in the area those troublemakers who have been arrested and charged with disorder.

Under the scheme, someone charged with a drink-related offence or issued with a court exclusion order will immediately receive a banning order and their details will be circulated to all pubs and clubs in the local BOBB Pubwatch area.

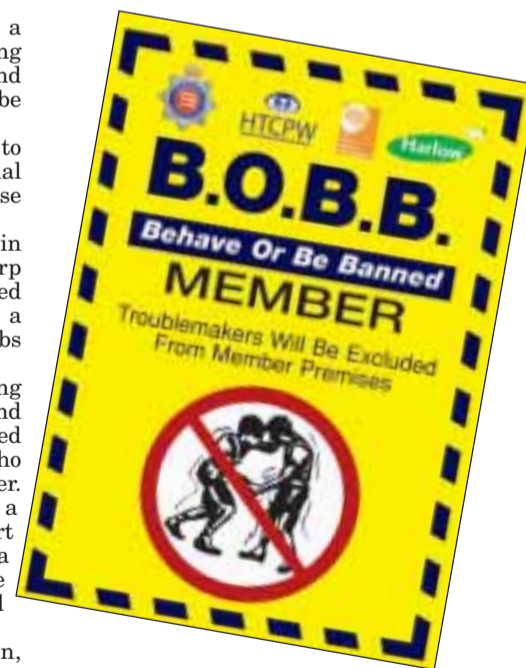
Currently these operate in Clacton, Colchester, Chelmsford and Harlow.

Licensing and Alcohol Co-ordinator Sgt Nigel Dermott said: "We want people to enjoy going into pubs and clubs and have a good time but we will not tolerate troublemakers."

"This scheme is designed to target serious

offences rather than to deal generally with drunkenness.

"Those people who carry knives or other weapons will find no watering hole when they are banned from all their 'locals'."



Neighbourhood officer takes to the streets

AFTER the success of Western Division's PCSO surgeries being held in 'unusual but accessible' places, a Southend police officer has gone one step further.

Pc Mark Sawyer, of Southchurch Neighbourhood Policing Team, has been asking residents to attend his 'street surgeries', which he will be holding in Cluny Square, Thorpe Bay Broadway and Waitrose in Southend until next month.

Western Division's PCSOs are encouraged to hold regular surgeries – 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 over in Hockley, PCSO Andrew Hill has adopted a novel approach by organising regular surgeries in the local library.

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Fund-raisers have a head for heights and figures!

ABSEILING the side of a police building may not be everyone's idea of fun, but 25 people took up the challenge last month to raise £2,500 for a local playgroup. The Essex Police Rope Access Team organised the event at the Essex Police College at HQ. Participants abseiled a 90ft tall building in aid of the Stepping Stones Special Needs Playgroup. Based in Colchester, the group works with children of a very young age who have a variety of different disabilities and special needs. The money raised will help the playgroup to buy specialist equipment to enable children to take part in outdoor activities and events.

Sgt Tim Johnstone, of the Practical Skills Wing, who organised the event, said; "We have held a number of charity abseils in the past and those who have taken part have raised in excess of £25,000 for local charities and good causes. "This latest event was no exception and I would like to thank everyone who took part or donated money. I'm delighted that we are able to present the Stepping Stones playgroup with £2,500 to help them continue the excellent work they do."

Cash supports county's young firefighters

A CHEQUE for £350 has been presented on behalf of Essex Police to the Young Firefighters Scheme being run at Waltham Abbey Fire Station.

The 17-week course is run by Essex County Fire and Rescue Service for students between 13 and 17, who have the opportunity to take part in this learning experience outside school hours. Team-building is a major part of the scheme, which also encourages the development of such personal skills as self-confidence, self-discipline and respect. Part of the programme qualifies students for the Skills and Service sections of the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award and also counts towards the Millennium Volunteers Award of Excellence.

Public concerns are dealt with

A TWO-month police operation to combat anti-social behaviour at Shoebury East Beach has proved a success. Operation Mirror was launched in August in response to concerns highlighted to police by local residents and traders about inconsiderate and dangerous driving. In two months, 16 warnings were issued and there were two arrests and four prosecutions for driving offences.

torial divisions: Eastern Supt Alison Newcomb; Central Supt Tim Stokes; South-Eastern Supt Michelle Husk; South-Western to be confirmed; Stansted Chief Insp Simon Williams; and Western Supt Jed Stopher.

• A full copy of the service commitment is available on the Essex Police website at www.essex.police.uk – click on About Us then Publications and Quality of Service. For a printed copy, contact Public Relations on 01245 452395

Head of the new Communications Division Chief Supt Sue Harrison said: "We always want to provide an excellent level of service, from the initial contact by the public to the successful conclusion of a problem.

"I want the publication of this Commitment to show clearly what the public should expect from their police service."

Claire Heath, Head of Customer Services, emphasised that 'every customer interaction matters and we continually strive to improve that experience'.

Through Neighbourhood Policing and other initiatives, the force has become far more accessible to local communities and better able to respond to people's concerns and requests for information.

However the force is not complacent and recognises there is more it can do to meet the needs of the residents it serves.

The following officers will ensure the standards set out in the Commitment are applied across each of their terri-

Every contact leaves an impression

ESSEX Police is committed to providing a professional, high-quality service to all its customers.

At the beginning of this year, a working group was set up in Essex to ensure that, by this month, the force is compliant with the Home Office Standards contained in the Quality of Service Commitment.

The Commitment sets out for the public the standards and services they can expect when they contact the police.

Pair are kings of the bunch at their third attempt

IT was third time lucky for Pc Terry Collinson and his German shepherd dog Sire who won this year's Force dog trials. Sire is Pc Collinson's first German shepherd and he has had him since he was five months old. Terry follows in his father's footsteps as dad Tony was a dog handler for 18 years before his retirement in the 1990s.

Based at Stanway, 40-year-old Terry, who lives in Braintree, is delighted with his first win. He said: "We finished second last year and it is nice to go one better.

"We have worked hard to reach this standard; he is a good street dog and is now starting to excel at trials."

Sire, six, received 835 points out of a possible 960 – which earned the pair an 'excellent' ranking.

In addition to the overall winners' trophy, the team also picked up the searching trophy.

Pc Collinson and Sire will be joined by runners-up Pc Neale Gleeson and Ben and third-placed Pc Colin Elsegood and Louis, both from the Southern dog section, in the regional trials in Suffolk in March 2007.

Holiday fund welcomes new members

NEW members are being sought for the Southend Police Club Holiday Fund.

The fund is open to all members of Essex Police and is a means of saving to assist with advanced payments for holidays, Christmas shopping or special days out, such as theatre trips, says club treasurer Les Seals.

Application forms for the 2007 fund, starting on January 1, will be circulated to all existing members shortly and should be returned to Les at Southend Police Station.

Les says members pay £5 or more per month, which is deducted directly from their salary.

Applications for the withdrawal of nine months' contributions from the fund may be made between April 1 and September 30, 2007, and the balance of contributions will automatically be paid to members in the first week of December 2007.

• Contact Les on ext 30160 for more details

Op drives home the road safety message

by Nishan Wijeratne

A SUCCESSFUL operation in Basildon drove home the message that motor-ing offences won't be tolerated.

Operation Steel Guard ran over 24 hours last month to illustrate the force's commitment to reducing the number of people killed and seriously injured on the roads.

As well as enforcement, the aim was to raise awareness of the factors contributing to crashes and loss of life, such as speed and defective vehicles.

Around 50 officers, along with police staff and members of the Special constabulary, joined forces with the DVLA, VOSA and the Essex Camera Enforcement Partnership.

Essex County Council staged a road safety awareness exhibition in the town centre. During the 24 hours, 66 people were caught not wearing seatbelts and issued with Fixed Penalty Notice fines; seven tickets were issued to drivers using mobile phones; four for excess speed; four for no insurance; and 53 for other endorsable motoring offences such as vehicle defects.

One driver was served a prohibition notice making them remove their vehicle from the road immediately.

The DVLA seized 13 unlicensed vehicles and Essex Police seized a further 29 uninsured vehicles.

And nine people were arrested for other offences, including disqualified driving and theft.

During the operation, a vehicle failed to stop for police and the occupants ran off. However, with assistance from Cambridgeshire Air Support Unit, two men were arrested.

Chief Insp Tom Diment, Mobile Support Operations Manager, said: "We are really pleased with the way the operation went. The figures show that in one town during one 24-hour period so many people are still willing to flout the law.

"Using a mobile phone or not wearing a seatbelt whilst driving may seem like petty issues to the motorist but the families of people killed as a result of these practices wouldn't agree."



• Pictured from left are: DVHCU investigator Pc Helen Pickering, Clerical Assistant Celia Emery, Warrants Officer Carole Thompson, Lynne Jarman, of the cleaning staff, Dc Dave Stevens, of the Investigative Support Unit, Ronnie Johnson, of the cleaning staff, Dc Dave Bishop and Liam Rigby, of the File Management Unit. In front are Scenes of Crime clerk Carole Peck and Ian Bingley, of the cleaning staff

Pretty in pink ...

DETECTIVES and police cleaners looked pretty in pink following a charity fund-raiser.

Staff in Eastern Division paid for the privilege of donning the colour as part of a Wear It Pink day in aid of breast cancer research.

Organisers managed to raise nearly £300 for the cause by charging people either to wear a pink garment or to sport the charity's distinctive ribbon.

Pc Deborah Smith, of Clacton's Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Unit,

co-ordinated the event.

She said: "I want to thank everyone in Eastern Division who has joined in with the fun.

"It is a cause very close to my heart and the support shown is incredible.

"It is a little bit of fun for a very serious cause, and I think it has given us all a smile for a few hours."

Police officers and support staff in police stations across north Essex looked the part in fluffy pink balls and pink umbrellas on October 27.

Experts work together to ease the pain

EXPERTS dealing with domestic violence put their heads together in an effort to ensure victims are given a faultless service.

Central Division hosted an all-day conference, titled

Domestic Violence – Somewhere Over the Rainbow, for 100 of them at Towerlands Equestrian Centre, Braintree, last month. Because of the large number of people working on

domestic violence in the area, which takes in Braintree, Chelmsford, Maldon and Uttlesford district councils, the conference will be repeated at Towerlands on December 5.

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.

Grays and Southend are holding reunions

I AM writing to invite all former Grays/Thurrock personnel – retired or otherwise – to attend a re-union evening.

I am secretary of the Grays Divisional Sports Club – as well as being a former constable, 2195, and service desk assistant, 8179 – and am trying to organise a re-union evening in the Grays bar.

The date has still to be arranged. I am currently aiming for the end of November or beginning of December, however, if people suggest otherwise, I will organise it early in the new year. Whenever it happens – and it will – a sumptuous buffet, courtesy of Grays Sports Club, will be supplied.

If you served in the former Grays Division at any time and would like further information or if you know a retired officer who may be interested, please contact me on 07909 985343 or email me at actionrewind47@blueyonder.co.uk

**Laurie Rampling
Stanford le Hope**

● ALL former and serving Southend Division officers are invited to attend an annual re-union.

The National Association of Retired Police Officers (NARPO) and Southend Borough's annual White Helmet reunion is on Friday, December 15, from midday at Southend Police Station bar.

A ploughman's lunch will be provided.

Please notify bar manager Pam Johnson of your lunch requirements on ext 30915 or 01702 341212 or contact me on 01702 545934 or via email at yorkepeter@tiscali.co.uk

**Peter Yorke-Wade
NARPO branch secretary
Southend**

Police officers still face death on duty

FORTY years ago, three Metropolitan Police officers, crewing Q-car Foxtrot One One, were brutally gunned down in broad daylight.

Sgt Christopher Head, Pc Geoffrey Fox and Pc David Wombwell had stopped a suspicious-looking Vauxhall estate in Braybrook Street, East Acton, at around 3.10pm on Friday, August 12, 1966.

The three occupants – John Witney, 36, John Duddy, 37, and Harry Roberts, 30 – were planning a robbery. When the officers discovered the vehicle was untaxed and its insurance had just run out, they were all shot.

Witney was arrested that evening and

Duddy and Roberts arrested after a national hunt and all were subsequently found guilty at the Old Bailey of murder and of possessing firearms and each was sentenced to life imprisonment with a recommendation that they serve a minimum of 30 years.

On the day of the shooting, with Pc John Simpson and others, I was based at Tilbury Police Station on Sgt Fred Dyson's relief.

In those days, there were no police personal radios and very few area cars in Grays Division or in any other division.

Communications took place by working your beat and keeping your

points at designated public telephone kiosks, working to constantly, random-changing beat patterns.

I remember switchboards across the country were jammed with so many reported sightings of Harry Roberts, who was Army-trained in jungle survival in living off the land.

The whole country was extremely shocked and virtually brought to its knees when news of the shootings was broadcast.

Sadly, 40 years on, police officers are still being killed while carrying out their duty.

**Mike Hughes
Goring-on-Thames**

Tom had his individual policing style

I WAS interested to read the letter from Tom Morrison in last month's issue of The Law: Doggone it – Karl was embarrassing!

I well remember working with Tom at Brentwood during my early days in the Special Constabulary.

He always had his own individual style of policing, which caused him to be a thorn in the side of the gov'nors on many an occasion.

I recall one night when a job was wandering about in the middle of the High Street, deliberately holding up the traffic.

He failed to see the area car, second back in the queue of vehicles, and was most surprised when Tom leapt out and promptly arrested him for jay-walking!

Needless to say, the charge was refused but, as Tom said, it took him off the streets for half an hour and made him walk back from the police station. It was his form of instant justice. Happy days. I am pleased to know he is still going strong.

**Brian Corbu
Hutton**

Tom Morrison

TOM Morrison (Doggone it – Karl was embarrassing! Letters, October 2006) has asked us to point out that he did not join the Metropolitan Police on discharge from the RAF. He joined Essex Police, training at the Metropolitan Police dog school after finishing his Probation with Essex.

He was then posted to Brentwood in 1961.

Phylis will be missed

I AM writing to inform those of you who might still remember me, John O'Brien, and my wife Phylis, that she passed away on October 4, aged 78.

I was police constable 705 based at Southend on Sea and have been retired for 30 years.

Phylis will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

**John O'Brien
Newquay
Cornwall**

Does anyone know Pete?

I AM trying to trace a former Essex officer who was crewed with me when I served at Laidon Traffic Garage in the early 1980s.

If anyone knows the whereabouts of ex-Pc 1673 Pete Saunders, please be good enough to give him my regards and ask him to contact me via email at beaumont671@btinternet.com or phone me on 07799 032853.

Tony Beaumont

Many rescued by 'unofficial' launch

I WAS most interested to read about the exploits of the Marine Unit operating from Burnham Yacht Harbour (The Law, September 2006).

With the blessing of the Chief Constable, an 'unofficial' river and sea rescue launch operated from the slipway at Bradwell on Sea as early as 1956 – the year work commenced building the nuclear power station.

Around 7,000 men were employed to build the station, of which some 200 worked on the construction of the barrier wall, which is still there today.

A tunnel 120ft deep and approximately 200 yards long was dug into the River Blackwater to supply water for the cooling plant of the reactors. This was extremely dangerous, hazardous work with a strong possibility of a serious accident occurring.

An ex-Thames Port of London Authority launch was



● **Pc Tony Suttlng and Sgt Eric Hitchcock on duty**

purchased to be used in the vicinity by the scientists employed to test the water when the station became operational.

During my monthly meeting with the management of the main contractor – McAlpine – I was asked whether, as the launch was not in constant use, I would like it in cases of emergency.

This offer I passed to Sgt

Eric Hitchcock who, in turn, obtained permission to use the boat and, as we were both experienced seamen – Sgt Hitchcock ex-Royal Navy and I ex-Royal Marine Commando Special Boat Squadron – I accepted the offer and, together, we were the crew.

We were called upon many times in a variety of rescues, from towing in disabled yachts to rescuing people

stranded on the mudflats. At one time, diving under an overturned yacht, we were responsible for saving many lives.

Sgt Hitchcock and I received no recognition for our work but it made people more aware of the dangers around these waters.

**Tony Suttlng
Heybridge
Maldon**

Gone . . . but not forgotten

PC Alexander 'Alex' Scott was born in Chigwell and was posted to Grays when he joined the force in 1934. The following year, Pc Scott became a motor patrol driver at HQ, qualifying as a first-class driver and wireless operator.

When war began, traffic officers were armed with revolvers and given the extra job of guarding HQ – teams of three men worked a 24-hour shift, taking it in turns to watch for fires and to guard the front and back of the main buildings.

During a night raid on London, one German aeroplane turned back towards Chelmsford and dropped its shrapnel bombs on HQ.

Pc Scott was one of two officers

killed – the other was Dc Maurice 'Dixie' Lee.

Pc Scott had only been married 18 months and lived with his wife Myrtle in Springfield Park Road, Chelmsford. Myrtle joined the WAAF after his death.

Pc Scott is commemorated in the Civilian War Dead Register in Westminster Abbey, London.

In January 1994, a few weeks before her own death, Myrtle wrote:

"At 24 I married Alex Scott and we were to have 18 months of wedded bliss. He was an all-round sportsman who was loved by all – a policeman based at HQ where he was a wireless operator on the cars. "The war was on and for a holiday we went to Chigwell to stay with his

mother and father. After that we went on to Grays to a pal of Alex's. "When we returned to Chelmsford he had to go on duty. That was the last I saw of him.

"That afternoon I went to the pictures to see a film but, instead, I slept through it. Going home, I felt something was wrong.

"During the evening a policeman came and told me that Alex had been killed. He took me to my mother who lived nearby. I went to bed and did not wish to get up. My brother came in and kept worrying me to go downstairs and eventually I did. I had such a caring family.

"The only thing to do when you lose someone is get out again as soon as possible. It helps. "A few months later I joined the WAAF and left Chelmsford. I was a wireless operator, as I had learned Morse code in the Guides. "I was so pleased when Alex was remembered at the Memorial

**Pc Alexander Scott – Essex County Constabulary.
Served from June 1, 1934. Died November 16, 1940**



● **Pc Alexander Scott**

Service at police HQ and I've shed a few tears writing this. I still feel his presence sometimes, watching over me."

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

Merger refund will be spent improving our standards

“ THIS week, all forces and authorities across the country were told they would receive compensation for the amount of money spent during the merger proposals process. Essex, along with many other authorities countrywide, will receive a £100,000 refund from the Home Office. We initially put in a bid of £169,000 following the announcement in July that the forced mergers would be put on hold. The majority of authorities, who applied for more than £100,000, will receive that amount of compensation back. I am disappointed we didn't receive the full amount required; however I am pleased we have some money that we can now put to better use. This money, as well as the information gathered through the ten-month merger process, can now be used to build on the good and established work in Essex to further improve our service to the public by meeting our priorities. We are committed to our priorities, which are to reduce anti-social behaviour, to increase visible policing, and to improve our contact with the public. The police authority, together with Chief Constable Roger Baker, is working very hard in these areas and is determined to achieve a much better standard of service. We will continue to work with our partners and look at ways of doing business differently. We are currently working with neighbouring forces in the eastern region with a commitment to looking at efficiency savings and the way some functions could possibly be shared across the region. This would make forces more effective, thus increasing the amount of time officers could spend on the front-line. We want to continue to drive up performance even further for the benefit of the people in Essex. The public are, and will continue to be, our main concern. ”

Analysis is vital to maximise use of resources

THE force is undertaking its 2006/07 Activity Analysis this month. This yearly study is used to calculate our Front Line Policing Measure – a percentage rate which demonstrates how much time each force spends on front-line duties. The 2005/06 measure has recently been confirmed. In recent years there has been much scepticism surrounding Activity Analysis. However with increasing understanding and co-operation amongst

the AA participants, the quality of the data continues to improve. AA Officer Nicola Piper said “Activity Analysis has the potential to be an indispensable tool to Essex Police. “Data could be used to maximise the use of existing resources.” AA participants are the key to its success. Accurate and useable data can have a positive impact on policing capabilities. Mobile Support Division has utilised elements of the 2005/06 AA

data in its recent work. Adam Pipe, Senior Traffic Management Officer, said: “The data has worked particularly well around identification of incidents and demands on the motorway network, together with peak demand analysis of Force Dog and Force Support Unit capability.” Last year's 99 per cent return rate was a great success. To maintain that and to improve continuously, the quality of the data can only be of benefit to Essex Police. Can your division reach a 100 per

cent return rate this year? The AA study starts on November 13 at 6am and ends on November 27 at 5.59am. Forms and Guidance notes are currently being distributed and divisional Liaison Officers have been appointed who will be contacting participants soon. ● For more information about the 2006/07 study, to find out who is your divisional liaison officer or for the 2005/06 results, visit the Activity Analysis pages under Information on the intranet home page

Hitting the criminals' cash in their pockets

by Tabitha Wilson



● Inspectors Kate and Tony Sale with their Long Service and Good Conduct Medals Picture by Heather Turner

A lifetime of service

TWO inspectors from Essex Police, who met on their first day of training, have received their Long Service awards. Kate and Tony Sale, who live in Gosfield with their two sons, both joined the police service on June 4, 1984. Tony joined Surrey Constabulary and Kate Essex Police – they met at Ashford Police Training Centre in Kent. Tony transferred to Essex after his two-year Probation period was complete, in August 1986 and the couple married a month later. The two officers have both served across the county in various roles – Tony is currently the section inspector at Halstead while Kate is the Youth Section Inspector for Territorial Policing at HQ. Kate said: “We can't believe where the 22 years have gone. We have both really enjoyed the variety that working for Essex Police has given us over the years.” Kate and Tony joined 29 other police officers and members of the Special

Constabulary in receiving their Long Service and Good Conduct Medals – for 22 years of meritorious service – at Shire Hall in Chelmsford on October 11 by Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Lord Petre and Chief Constable Roger Baker. ● AND Sgt Matthew Bell, of Southend, was awarded the Anthony Peel Trophy for meritorious achievement in the field of crime reduction. Matthew has been the driving force behind many alcohol reduction schemes which directly impact on crime reduction, especially violent crime. The SOS Bus – run in partnership with the YMCA – is a prime example of his hard work. He secured funding of £40,000 for the refuge for young clubbers which aims to reduce the fear of crime and give guidance on alcohol misuse. Matthew has represented Essex Police at numerous events and with many partner agencies, including Trading Standards, in relation to the Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaign.

POLICE have the power to ensure criminals do not get to keep their ill-gotten gains.

And a dedicated team of police staff and officers is on hand to help hit criminals where it hurts – in the pocket.

The full effect of the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) came into force in 2003, and the Financial Investigation Section of the Serious and Organised Crime Directorate is reminding officers of the benefits this act has, both as a crime reduction tool and as a method of removing the financial gains made through a life of crime.

Essex's very own 'POCA Cops' – a 20-strong team of Financial Investigators – secured almost £750,000 of proceeds of crime money last year. Around £200,000 was awarded back to the force.

As Phillip Bridge, Financial Investigator Supervisor, said: “The law-abiding citizens of Essex fully support the removal of a criminal's proceeds from crime. Essex Police and the Crown Prosecution Service have a duty to make it happen.

“Why should criminals be allowed to hang on to the assets and cash they accrue through crime? The extra money in the Essex Police budget is much better used in either front-line policing or crime-fighting initiatives. This really does put ACTION into policing.”

The Proceeds of Crime Act also gives police officers a power to seize any amount of cash over £1,000, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that it has been obtained through crime or intended for use in unlawful conduct.

It also means that the courts can make financial orders which confiscate assets belonging to a convicted criminal as a result of their crimes.

To assist with identifying suitable cases for confiscation, officers are reminded to complete the newly-introduced MG3(b) which addresses POCA at the time of arrest. When completed, the form is examined and endorsed by the pre-charge CPS lawyer so that opportunities to proceed under POCA are not missed.

The effect of this power can be far-reaching. A confiscation order could lead to a longer jail sentence and a lifetime of debt if it remains unpaid.

The Financial Investigation Section is keen to encourage officers to make the most of this important new power and is always on hand to offer advice and investigate proceeds of crime.

It's always worth contacting the team in advance about pre-planned operations, but evidence of financial dealings should always be seized and passed on to the team as soon as possible so that they can investigate what assets could be confiscated under POCA.

● Stop Press: The Financial Investigation Section will shortly be advertising for another detective constable to join the team.

● For further information and advice about POCA, contact Philip Bridge on 01277 266838

New agenda supports women in reaching their full potential

THE Gender Agenda has taken great strides forward in Essex since the first national Gender Agenda report, aimed to raise the status of female officers, was published in 2001.

Gender Agenda 2, being launched this month after a series of workshops across the country, recognises progress within the service which focuses on both the needs of the 22 per cent of women officers and the women working in police staff roles.

The new agenda aims to encourage best practice, including mentoring schemes, which help women to apply for specialist roles, and the creation of a dynamic network to support women in these roles.

The long-term aims are:

- for the service to demonstrate that it values all women working in policing
- for women to have a proportionate role across rank, grade and specialist roles
- for women to have a voice in policy-making
- to develop an understanding of the competing demands women have for a work/life balance and a successful police career
- and to have the working environment and equipment which women need in order to do their jobs professionally.

Chair of the Senior Women Officers' Forum Supt Gwynneth Williams said: “Essex is seen as one of the leading lights by other forces in the way in which the force allows policewomen to reach their full potential.

“We have moved on considerably in some key areas with a higher proportion of women superintendents than most other forces but we still have some way to go in some ranks.

“With the advent of PCSOs and a higher number of senior women police staff, we have seen the introduction of two more support groups within Essex, SWoPS (Senior Women Police Staff) and Women Sergeants, in addition to the Senior Women Officers' Forum. These collectively assist in decision and policy-making.

“Women are being encouraged to reach their full potential and Essex Police is assisting via such groups as the Maternity Network as well as the introduction of the nursery voucher scheme plus flexible working all helping to enable a good work/life balance.”

Coffee and cakes is a treat for fund-raisers

KIND-hearted officers and staff around the force put their money where their mouths were to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Relief. For they ate cakes, drank tea and coffee and bought raffle tickets while taking part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning at the end of September.

The Criminal Justice Division at HQ, together with the Criminal Justice Units at Colchester, Southend, Laindon and Harlow and the Central Summons Unit at Billericay held coffee mornings and raffles and raised a total of £1,632.66.

Meanwhile, a coffee morning in Crime Division administration at HQ raised £209.50. Organiser Sylvia Burton said: "Thank you to everyone who made or bought cakes you made it a success, yet again."

Police liaison officers Karen Elsegood and Gerry Milbank held a coffee morning at Basildon Crown Court.

And they raised £235.50 from the event, serving the judges coffee and a selection of cakes and scones and jam in chambers. They also stole wigs and gowns and made the barristers pay money to get them back.

At the Essex Police College, caterer Sodexho donated cakes to the cause and a total of £166 was raised.

In Central Division, Training and Development Officer Nikki Folkard didn't hold with convention.

She filled a snack basket with cakes, biscuits, fruit and crisps and took it to various stations asking for donations in exchange for snacks and raised £96.91, which her mum rounded up to £100.

And a coffee morning held at the offices of the Crown Prosecution Service in Chelmsford raised £372.50.

Adam treks 120km a day for charity

FORENSIC Vehicle Examiner Adam Delf cycled 490km in four days across Poland to help raise almost £1million for Marie Curie Cancer Nurses.

He was one of 68 people making the trek between the port of Gdansk and the capital Warsaw. He was aiming to raise £1,800 individually.

Adam said afterwards: "It went really well, I had a fantastic time and I'm no longer saddle sore."

"We cycled more than was intended due to route changes and being taken the wrong way a couple of times and having to double-back."

Former Conservative Minister Edwina Currie took part and was able to announce at the finish in Warsaw that the participants had raised just under £1million.

Adam, of Southend Scenes of Crime, added: "Thanks to everyone who sponsored me, especially the very generous collection from the Criminal Justice Department at HQ."

Court to specialise in domestic violence cases

MORE victims of domestic violence are to receive better support and care following the announcement that the Government is more than doubling the number of specialist courts in England and Wales.

Essex Criminal Justice Board successfully bid for part of the £2million funding for Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) to help set up the first Specialist Domestic Violence Court in the county.

The new court will be based at Grays Magistrates' Court, serving the local justice areas of South-West Essex and Mid-South Essex – Brentwood, Basildon and Thurrock – and will begin operating in April 2007.

The force will be providing a project manager to ensure the scheme is successfully implemented – Insp Kevin Griggs, who led the project on Statutory Charging.

The first seven specialist courts in West London, Cardiff, Derby, Wolverhampton, Caerphilly, Croydon, and Leeds were independently evaluated, and benefits have shown to include:

- enhanced effectiveness of court and support services for victims
- better information sharing
- increased public confidence and victim participation
- victims placed at the heart of the process.

Welcoming the new funding to allow

Essex to establish its first Specialist Domestic Violence Court next year, Mary Archer, chairman of the Criminal Justice Board, said: "This is good news for the victims of domestic violence in Essex."

"It will send a clear signal to those who commit such offences that the criminal justice agencies in Essex are dedicated to bringing more perpetrators to justice."

"Having Independent Domestic Violence Advisors at the heart of the multi-agency approach to the Specialist Domestic Violence Court programme has already been shown to increase the number of successful outcomes, as they are able to provide victims with the

professional support they need throughout the criminal justice process."

Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Units have already been established in each of the Essex Police divisions.

These are staffed by officers specially trained to support victims who report such crimes.

All the criminal justice agencies in the county have domestic violence leads, working with Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships to develop an integrated community response to tackle domestic violence.

● For more details, contact Vulnerable Victims Co-ordinator Insp Nick Burston on ext 54235 or via email

Home Office pays force £100,000 for mergers



● Sgt Phil Closs on patrol with one of the new Smith and Wesson bikes

Another link in the chain

MOUNTAIN bikes have now been rolled out to Neighbourhood Policing Teams across the force to help them keep in touch with their communities.

Earlier this year, the Smith and Wesson bikes were given the thumbs up when they were trialed on division.

Now, each division has taken delivery of an average of 20 bikes each and cycling uniform has been issued to 200 officers and PCSOs.

This equipment includes a helmet, a high-visibility, light-weight jacket and trousers, gloves, a drinking

bottle and sunglasses.

The bikes have proved particularly useful for Neighbourhood Policing Teams because police officers and PCSOs are still easily approachable and they can get round their beat areas quickly and efficiently.

At the V-Festival in Hylands Park, Chelmsford, this summer, nine officers policed the huge site by bike, allowing them to engage with festival-goers and provide highly-visible policing.

And, also in Chelmsford, officers on bicycles were able

to catch up with a motorcyclist causing a nuisance on a playing field and warn him that his bike would be confiscated if it was seen again in similar circumstances.

ACC Andy Bliss said he was delighted that bikes were reaching all parts of the county.

"I look forward to seeing Neighbourhood officers and PCSOs out and about on them, talking to members of the public. I firmly believe that the bikes will prove to be a vital cog in our Neighbourhood Policing Programme."

Former Home Secretary Charles Clarke announced in March this year that Essex would be merged with Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire forces – all three declined to merge voluntarily.

Then Essex Police Authority, together with Essex County Council, launched a questionnaire giving every resident in the county the opportunity to have their say on the proposed mergers; about 33,000 responses were received.

However, Police Minister Tony McNulty announced at the Local Government Association Conference in July that forcing police forces and authorities to merge was a last resort.

The Home Office later confirmed it was putting the mergers on hold.

ESSEX Police Authority to receive £100,000 from the Home Office after the proposed mergers of police forces were put on hold.

The money is compensation for the cost to the force of the work it carried out during the merger proposals.

After the Home Office announced in the summer that the scheme was to be put on hold, the police authority put in a bid to the Home Office for a refund of £169,000 to cover costs spent during the process.

Following the news that Essex was to receive three-fifths of its bid, Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers said: "We are disappointed that we haven't received the full amount but we are pleased the Home Office will be refunding us £100,000."

"We will be looking at using this money to further improve policing in the eastern region and beyond."

"We can build on the work and the information gathered as part of the merger process to meet the public's priorities and boost visible policing."

And Essex Chief Constable Roger Baker added: "We are pleased to receive £100,000 from the Government. We can now focus on our continued commitment to doing business differently and to drive performance even further."

"We have already started work with our neighbouring forces and we will continue to do so for the benefit of the people of Essex."

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Nishan Wijeratne

Officers show the Army how exercise is not a stretch

FOUR of the force's staff were at the mercy of the British Army as they took on the challenge of completing an Army camp weekend in Cambridgeshire.

Executive Stretch is an annual adventure training weekend bringing together personnel from the emergency services and business communities in east Anglia.

Nearly 90 people took part – among them Central Division's Sgt Emma Brookes, South-Western Division's Insp Simon Dobinson, Executive Support's Insp John Ross and Press Officer Nishan Wijeratne – tackling a series of physical and mental agility obstacles during the two days.

Activities ranging from driving a Land Rover blind-fold and building a raft from planks of wood, rope and barrels to planning an escape route through militia-controlled territory were just some of the hurdles faced by the foursome.

Insp Dobinson, who was a member of the winning team, said he found the weekend enjoyable, yet challenging.

"We all had a great deal of fun with the Army's soldiers," said Insp Dobinson.

"The weekend gave us the opportunity to represent the force and work with individuals from other organisations."

"We were able to successfully complete the course by exchanging knowledge and experience from our own fields."

The teams also tackled the Army assault course at the Territorial Army centre, with Mr Wijeratne's team finishing second out of eight as they climbed the 12ft wall.

He said: "The whole weekend was extremely demanding on both the mind and body. Being woken at 5am by a series of explosions and gunfire and then having to complete a series of physical challenges before a two-hour planning exercise at nine at night is not everyone's idea of fun."

"But we all gelled brilliantly and teamwork, enthusiasm and high spirits enabled us all to successfully complete the exercise."

Insp Ross's team finished second overall, with Sgt Brookes' team close behind in third, showing the force in an excellent light.

Nishan Wijeratne

Bully advice is on the web

YOUNG people suffering at the hands of bullies, in or out of school, now have two new allies.

Essex Police and Uttlesford Neighbourhood Watch have joined forces to launch a special anti-bullying website aimed at youngsters from eight to 16.

It offers information and sound advice and also a forum enabling young people to share their experiences and seek further advice from their peers.

The site can be accessed at www.uttlesfordnhw.org.uk/bullying Uttlesford crime reduction advisor Pc Peter Caulfield, who designed the site, said that, on average, 15 people a year kill themselves as a direct result of bullying. "This cannot continue," he said. "Sadly the bullying issue only emerges once it is too late."

The website encourages youngsters to talk about the problem and 2,000 cards advertising the website are to be distributed to young people in the Uttlesford district. The site will remain online indefinitely.



Puppets provide us with a helping hand

HELPING children and young people to cope with problems is the aim of a new programme being launched in Essex schools.

The project, devised by Victim Support Essex and supported by Essex Police, delivers workshops using professional actors and hand puppets.

Lynda Ketteridge, Manager of the Young Victims of Crime Service, part of Victim Support Essex said: "Many of the young people we support suffer not so much from what has happened to them, but more by the way it has made them feel."

"This programme has enabled us to design and develop a method of reaching these children who might otherwise not come to our attention and who consequently may have become the victims of tomorrow."

The workshop uses hand puppets to address situations such as bullying, peer pressure or living with domestic violence.

Use of the puppets makes the message less intimidating and enables children to engage with it more easily.

The workshop is interactive and enables children to talk to the puppets and ask them questions and it de-personalises the situation.

● Schools can book workshops through Victim Support Essex on 0845 4565 995

● Teenagers played teams of police officers, paramedics and journalists from the Evening Gazette in the inaugural Colchester Police Five-a-side football tournament, won by Thomas Lord Audley School

Operation putting in place the right tools for the job



A ground-breaking, two-week operation to reach young people across the county was mounted by Essex Police last month. Possibly the largest operation the force has ever carried out, Youth Spotlight focused on the needs of children and teenagers. Public Relations Officer Ruth Collin looks at a few of the highlights



DEALING effectively with young people is at the heart of Neighbourhood Policing.

In many areas a significant amount of non-emergency calls will be to deal with nuisance youths and, for some, identifying young people at risk of offending would significantly improve crime reduction.

To enable this process to be effective, Essex Police is piloting a new resource – the Neighbourhood Policing Youth Toolkit, designed to

raise awareness of the broad range of services and programmes available, within the police and partner agencies.

It has been developed in consultation with Essex police officers and staff, the ACPQ (Association of Chief Police Officers) Youth Issues Group and the Youth Justice Board.

Copies of the Toolkit were circulated to officers and staff across the force during Operation Cougar Cub.

It incorporates an easy-to-read booklet highlighting issues such as

engaging with young people, information sharing, dealing with youth nuisance and anti-social behaviour and Youth Offending Teams.

The Toolkit also includes a series of reference cards for officers and staff to carry with them as step-by-step guides to action that can and should be taken, and a far more comprehensive web-based resource.

The cards cover topics such as the arrest process, dealing with anti-social behaviour hotspots and identifying and diverting young people at risk of becoming offenders.

Charles Clark, Deputy Chief

Constable of Essex Police and the ACPQ lead on Youth Issues said: "The Toolkit is a ground-breaking resource which underpins all the outstanding activity which has taken place as part of Youth Spotlight

"This is the first time such a resource has been pulled together and, in my position as chairman of the ACPQ Youth Issues Group, I'm delighted that Essex Police has taken on this exciting challenge."

"The impact on the delivery of Neighbourhood Policing both in Essex and potentially across the country can be significant."

"Following an initial pilot in Essex Police, we expect the Toolkit to be adopted as a national resource with the full support of ACPQ, the Home Office and the Youth Justice Board."

The Toolkit pilot is due to be evaluated this month and officers will be asked to give their views through focus groups which are being planned across the force.

Helping young people stay safe online is the aim of a new training programme being rolled out.

The CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) agency has developed a training programme to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks they may encounter while using the internet.

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Young people take a break as they discuss creative ideas, right, for the Spray Can Project, run in South-Eastern Division

Nishan Wijeratne

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.

CARCASSONNE, luxury B+B, ideal for summer and winter breaks. Visit website www.domainestgeorge.com for ski special. All with police staff discount. Contact John Taylor on +33 468 202 105.

COSTA Blanca, La Marina, luxury two-bedroom, two-bathroom villa. Sleeps four to six, fully-fitted. Air conditioning, heating. Beach five mins, golf ten mins, airport 25 mins. From £150 per week. Four weeks for price of three November/December 2006. 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, Orlando, four-bedroom pool home overlooking water. Quiet location close to Disney and airport. From £450 per week. Phone for free DVD on 01245 321378 or email petewtaylor@yahoo.com

GULF coast, Florida villa, sleeps up to ten, pool, spa, bikes, barbecue. Available for Easter 2007. Visit www.lemonbayvillas.com or contact Kerry Auger on 01268 786170.

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 on 07973 639342.

LANZAROTE, Costa Teguse. 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. Trout fishing, 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

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.

Short breaks

CHRISTMAS shopping in France – or just visit the amazing Christmas Markets of Amiens and Arras. Short breaks available. Ring 01375 483045 or visit www.le-petit-hameau.com

House to let

WICKHAM Bishops, house to let. Three-bedroom, unfurnished semi, fully refurbished, oil central heating, double-glazing, secluded garden, parking. Available immediately. £775 pcm. Ring 01621 893646 for details.

For sale

GOLF clubs – ladies' left-handed. Nine irons, three woods, putter and bag with stand. Ideal for a beginner. £40 ono. Contact 07870 788134.

NEARLY new baby items: pine crib with mattress, bumper bedding set, £20; travel stroller £5; Mothercare high chair £20. Ring Tracey Mortley on ext 54121 or 07771 598436.

Miscellaneous

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

Simon scores a European marine first

Names in the news

MARINE detective Simon Lofting has scored a first in Europe.

He has qualified as a certified marine investigator – the first and only police officer in Europe with this qualification and only the second European.

Simon, 32, of Colchester, has seven years' experience with the Marine Unit at Burnham. His work ranges from investigating basic theft and damage to extensive arson, insurance fraud and boat riving.

He also has qualifications gained as a marine engineer prior to joining the force, which earned him the credits necessary to sit the complex marine investigation exam in Sweden, which he passed with flying colours.

The exam covers areas such as arson and insurance fraud investigation, boat/craft identification, US and UK coastguard regulations, trailer identification and lifesaving equipment regulations.

Simon also represents Essex Police on the International Association of Marine Investigators and attended a recent training seminar in Sweden.

He said: "The contacts I have built up over the years have helped solve international crime as I can talk immediately to colleagues in many countries who can assist with our investigation."

"This is very useful as marine crime is booming internationally."

Retirements

FIR Communications Officer **Christopher John Willcock**, 52, has retired after serving Essex Police for almost 32 years.

Ongar Station Office Assistant **Jacky Brown**, who staffs the front desk, is bidding farewell to the force after more than 27 years of service.

As she said her goodbyes to all the officers and staff she has worked with and met over that time she said that she will miss Essex Police as she has enjoyed her time immensely.

Plans include a bit of travelling around England and spending time with her new grandson.

Obituaries

Former Western Division Pc **Graham Button** died unexpectedly last month.

Graham, 36, had been a member of Western Division until his transfer to the Metropolitan Police in September.

Family, friends and colleagues packed St Martin's Church, Ongar, and the Metropolitan Police Sports and Social Club late last month to pay their respects.

Mr Button, of Ongar, leaves his wife Alison, son Daniel and daughter Lauren. He spent five years with Essex Police, mostly at Loughton with brief spells at Brentwood and Harlow.

Pc Paul Richards paid the following tribute: "All who knew or met Graham were in no doubt about the calibre of this man. He was completely devoted to Alison, Daniel and Lauren."

"He was very proud of his profes-



● **Dc Simon Lofting is the only police officer in Europe to qualify as a certified marine investigator**

sion and was hard-working and reliable. He possessed in abundance all the qualities traditionally expected of a police officer.

"Graham flourished doing one of the most difficult jobs in the organisation. As a uniformed response officer, he was very capable of dealing with situations as they arose and could relate to anyone."

"He frequently said that his best years were while on B-shift at Loughton and would often talk of fond memories and laugh aloud about some of the many lighter moments he had with his team. We have all been very lucky to have shared in a part of Graham's life – We miss him like a brother."

Donations may be made to The Fleming Ward Trust, medical and heart research, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow.

Former inspector **Arthur Whitehead**, of Colchester, has died, aged 91.

Mr Whitehead retired in 1965 after serving for 30 years in the force, at Romford, Chelmsford, Braintree, Driving School, Grays and Basildon. He leaves a widow, Dorothy.

Donations to Cancer Research may be sent c/o Hunnaball of Colchester Funeral Directors, York House, 41 Mersea Road, Colchester CO2 7QT.

Former sergeant **John 'Trevor' Edwards**, has died, aged 55. He leaves a widow, Susan.

Mr Edwards, of Colchester, served from 1978 to 1994 at Witham and Braintree.

Donations may be made to Helena Hospice, c/o Co-op Funeral Service, 89 Wimpole Road, Colchester CO1 2DB.

Former sergeant **Edward Digby**, of Chelmsford, has died aged 91 years.

Mr Digby retired in 1967 after serving for 32 years in the force, at Harwich, Manningtree, Mistley, HQ Traffic, as driver for the Chief Constable and in Communications.

Donations may be made to

MacMillan Nurses, c/o T Pennack & Sons Funeral Service, 1-3 Maldon Road, Great Baddow CM2 7DW.

Ex-sergeant **Bernard Camp** has died, aged 94, in Milton Keynes.

He was born in Holton, Suffolk – one of a family of 14 children. He joined the Suffolk Regiment in 1929 and then the Scots Guards, before joining Essex Police in 1934 and being stationed at Harwich.

He was re-enlisted into the Army for World War Two but re-joined Essex Police in 1946 and serving for another 19 years at Kelvedon Hatch, Hadleigh, Stansted, Laindon and, finally, at Rayleigh as a sergeant.

Mr Camp moved to Buckinghamshire nine years ago. He leaves his daughter, Margaret Peck, and partner, Joan Whitehead.

Former detective **Roy Smith**, of Westcliff, died last month aged 75.

Mr Smith served from 1954 to 1980 with Southend Borough and then Scenes of Crime at Southend. He leaves a widow Diana.

Any donations in his memory should be sent to Fairhavens Hospice, c/o Stibbards and Sons Funeral Directors, 1032 London Road, Leigh-on-Sea.

Ex-inspector **Daniel Ryan**, of Canvey Island, has died aged 72. He retired from the force having served from 1955 to 1986 with Southend Borough, Grays and Rayleigh. He leaves a widow, June.

Donations to Fairhavens Hospice, may be made c/o S Stibbards and Sons Funeral Directors, 211 Long Road, Canvey Island SS8 0JE.

Awards

Dc **Simon Almond**, of Financial Investigations in the Serious and Organised Crime Directorate, has been awarded a post-graduate diploma in Fraud Management by the University of Teesside.

And Insp **Patrick White**, of Colchester, has been awarded a Certificate in Management by the Institute of Leadership and Management.

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE - ONE WORD PER BOX

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

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101 project is put on hold

THE force has been informed by the Home Office that it is not implementing Wave Two of its Single Non-Emergency Number project.

The Home Office wants to spend more time fully assessing and learning from its experience of Wave One.

Wave One of the SNEN project involved five police areas trialling a new telephone-based service which enables the public to report issues such as anti-social behaviour, vandalism and noisy neighbours by using the number 101.

Essex Police supports the 101 project and has been working in partnership with all local authorities to be part of Wave Two.

This service would further assist us to respond and resolve most non-emergencies at the first point of telephone contact, therefore providing the residents of Essex with a more efficient service.

Chief Supt Sue Harrison, the force's Programme Manager for 101, said: "I am disappointed this programme has been put on hold."

"The concept of 101 is a strong one, which would have seen the police and local authority partners working closely together to deliver a more effective service to our community. All our partners have put lots of work into this project."

"Essex Police will build upon the strong relationships it has already established with its partners and will strive to continue to improve the quality of its service to the residents of Essex."

Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers said he agreed that the Home Office should properly evaluate Wave One.

"However, I believe a Single Non-Emergency Number is still and has been needed for years and I am disappointed that the Home Office is putting the project on hold for the foreseeable future," he said.

"This service would have been extremely useful to the public of Essex as it would have given them another line of communication to the police and I think they would have been better off for it."

Fuel thieves are warned

SHOPLIFTERS and fuel thieves in Castle Point are being warned: "Your number's up!"

Castle Point Neighbourhood Policing Team has set up a team to deal exclusively with shoplifting and incidents of making off without payment from service stations. Previously offences would have been allocated to any officer.

Now shops and garages have been given a special telephone number to contact the team so that, in the event of an incident, time and vital evidence is not lost.

And police can alert other premises, either by a call or text, to warn them of the presence of thieves in the vicinity, together with details of the suspects and any vehicle they may be using.



● Above: The 1979 League Cup Final at Wembley Stadium, March 1979 – Nottingham Forest 3 Southampton 2 – picture taken from The Law

● Top right: The first ever picture of Essex Police Band

● Below right: The band plays at Brighton Pavilion for the International Police Federation Conference in October 1980



After 40 years of making music, members of Essex Police Band are ...

Still in tune together

Guess the year – Rick Astley and Lisa Stansfield were born. So were Chris Evans, Roger Black, Mike Tyson and Cindy Crawford. Walt Disney, Buster Keaton Evelyn Waugh and Alma Cogan all died. The Beatles played their last concert. Harold Wilson was elected Prime Minister and Zimbabwe was called Rhodesia. The Moors Murderers, Ian Brady and Myra Hindley, were sentenced to life imprisonment, gangster Ronnie Kray shot rival George Cornell and the Hovercraft started its service across the Channel. Oh, and England won the World Cup! Press Officer Ken Bailey recalls another milestone from our 'mystery year' – the formation of the Essex Police Band.



● Members of the Essex Police Band proudly pose for a 'team' photograph in 2003

A group of around 20 people comprising serving officers and what were then known as 'civilians' decided to start a band to play for charity events.

Today, with well over 1,000 engagements behind them, the band is still going strong and represents Essex Police at venues both in Essex and further afield. (More of that later ...)

One of the most significant changes over the years has been the number of police officers who play in the band.

In the early days, right up to the beginning of the 1990s, serving officers formed the mainstay of the band but, as they have retired, new members have not come forward from within the service but from outside, bringing with them a wealth of musical talent and experience.

Of the 40 or so current members, only five are serving officers, one of whom was previously a PCSO, and two are police staff members.

There are currently, however, ten band members who have served as officers and have now retired. Three of these – ex-Stanway traffic chief inspector John Poston, ex-driving school instructor John Waddington and ex-traffic motorcyclist Mick Spalding, have all been members continually since the band's first year.

The band completed their first tour in 1979 when they played for the five-day International Police Federation conference in Brighton but it was in the early 1980s that their expertise became in demand in Europe.

The first 'Eurotour' was to Bavaria with the late

Pc Wilf Kennedy as secretary and welfare officer (now retired) Bob Coxon as bandmaster. Since then the band has been back to Germany on numerous occasions, twice topping the bill at the prestigious Backnang street festival where the audience can number somewhere in the region of 20,000.

They have visited Northern Ireland twice as guests of the former Royal Ulster Constabulary, performed in L'aguillon sur Mer and Dijon in France, Bruges in Belgium, Maastricht and Eindhoven in Holland, the Czech Republic, twice in Graz and once in Linz in Austria.

In fact, it was during an outdoor performance on the second visit to Graz that a media frenzy ensued following the arrival of Graz' most famous son, Arnold Schwarzenegger, who conducted the band during a rousing rendition of 'Colonel Bogey' – much to the delight of the considerable audience. 'Arnie' then led the band as they marched through the city.

Performances nearer to home are far too numerous to list but some of the more prestigious ones during the band's history include the Metropolitan Police's 150th anniversary tattoo at Wembley Arena, when they had the honour of playing before the Queen, and several visits to the Royal Sandringham Flower Show – which is always attended by the Prince of Wales, at first in company with the Queen Mother and latterly with the Duchess of Cornwall.

The band's biggest audience was 100,000 – plus millions world-wide – when they formed part of massed police bands at a League Cup Final at Wembley Stadium.

Another celebrated venue is The Barbican in the City of London, where the band has joined forces

with the Metropolitan Police Choir for a charity concert each March for the past eight years.

But one of the most respected venues is much closer to home – the lawn at the Essex Police College where entertainment is provided each July for the Pensioners' Garden Party.

Whether it was good planning or just plain good luck, nobody seems to know, but when the band started, it was set up as a trust and did not receive direct funding from Essex Police.

The band charges a fee for its performances and this, coupled with advertising revenue and proceeds from the sale of their recordings – first it was vinyl, then cassettes and now CDs – ensures a healthy bank balance.

The band was particularly pleased to be selected for a National Lottery grant ten years ago when it received funding from the then Millennium Fund to the tune of some £67,000 to replace all its instruments.

There seems no doubt that, had the band not been funded in this way, it would have gone the way of most other police bands and been disbanded (no pun intended) as being financially untenable.

Band secretary Mark Harvey said: "The band is as strong now as it was all those years ago and, with the nucleus of talented players we now have, there is every reason to suppose it can go on for much longer. We're now looking forward to planning our Golden anniversary."

The highlight of the 40th anniversary celebrations will take place this month when the band holds a 'black tie' dinner dance for all past and present members and their guests at Channels Golf Club in Chelmsford.

175 – Specials – 175

A very Special anniversary!



● Chief Officer George Cook and Assistant Chief Officer Lynette Flint join other Specials for their defensive skills training at Boreham

By George! If he can do it

OFFICERS from Essex Police Special Constabulary got down to some basic training – and were joined by Chief Officer George Cook.

Mr Cook, 61, took the opportunity to update his defensive skills when Mobile Support put on a class at Boreham, led by Pc Rob Bray. Mr Cook joined his Assistant Chief Officer, Lynette Flint, and 11 other Specials of all ranks, including a newly-appointed constable.

“It is a mandatory Essex Police policy that all officers – including Chief Officers – have an annual refresher in defensive skills,” said Mr Cook, a Special for 42 years.

“I may not be as fast as some of my younger colleagues but successfully completed the training. I reckon that, as I am the oldest and longest-serving officer in the force, there is no excuse for colleagues not to undergo this essential training.

Mr Cook and his colleagues were given refresher training in holds and pressure points, given training in the use of batons and incapacitant spray and shown how to defend oneself, using the correct amount of appropriate force.

Defensive skills courses are usually held on division but MSD agreed to assist with the training for the Special Constabulary.

A VERY special anniversary was celebrated by the county's volunteer police officers last month.

For October 1831 saw the formation of the Special Constabulary and they are still vital members of the police family – 175 years on.

More than 400 people currently serve as Special officers in Essex, although Chief Officer George Cook is hoping to boost the numbers to 1,000 by 2010.

The Specials set themselves a target of making an extra 175 arrests in three months – finishing as *The Law* went to print.

During their special weekend, the volunteer officers performed a variety of uniformed roles to highlight the work they carry out across the county every day of the week.

Chief Officer Cook said: “Last year, Specials completed over 120,000 hours alongside our regular counterparts. “We provide key support in all sorts of roles across the county.

“Most Specials have full-time jobs as well and I am proud of the extra effort they put in to keep Essex safe from criminals.”

In September, 74 Specials provided the majority of the policing presence at Europe's second largest torchlight procession at Burnham on Crouch, attended by over 12,000.

And last month, Specials helped with a major operation – Steel Guard – in Basildon to drive home the message that motoring offences will not be tolerated because they can lead to serious injuries and loss of life.

Chief Constable Roger Baker praised the Specials for raising the police presence within communities and adding to the Neighbourhood Policing teams.

He added: “They provide an invaluable link between the community and the police which ensures local problems are dealt with.”

Mr Cook is keen to encourage police staff to enlist as Special Constables. Any member of police staff who undertakes the minimum 16 hours of duty per month – roughly four hours a week – is entitled to an additional eight hours of paid leave a month in order to enable them to fulfil their Special commitments.

● On the intranet, click on Divisions & Departments, Special Constabulary and then Police Staff Supporting The Special Constabulary to see how two police staff members of the Essex Special Constabulary combine life in the office with life on the beat

● To find out more about becoming a Special, ring the recruitment line on 01245 452824

● ESSEX Police Museum is mounting an exhibition to highlight the dedication Specials have given to the community.

It consists of photographs and memorabilia and celebrates the important work that the Specials have undertaken over the years, including stories from World War Two.

Museum Curator Becky Latchford said: “It's important for the museum to mount exhibitions at significant milestones and 175 years for any organisation is a great achievement especially as the Special Constabulary is just as important today as it was in 1831.”

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Sport & Leisure

Crimestoppers lines up starts in next year's London run

HOT-footed officers and staff are being sought by Crimestoppers to run and raise money for the charity in next year's Flora London Marathon.

The race is due to take place on Sunday, April 22, 2007, but Crimestoppers is looking to get in early.

This year, some 36 people, including police officers and staff, helped to raise more than £25,000 for the independent charity, which runs the 0800 555 111 number where people can anonymously give information about crime.

Crimestoppers has a small number of Golden Bond places, which guarantee runners a place on the start line and, to make it even easier to support the charity, it has cut its individual fund-raising target for each runner from £1,500 to £1,200.

Crimestoppers' fund-raising is always on hand to offer money-making ideas, support and advice so people can go way beyond that.

Applications must be made by December 8 for inclusion in the ballot for Golden Bond places.

- For more details on how to secure your place, call the Crimestoppers Events team on 020 8254 3200 or email events@crimestoppers-uk.org
- If you do decide to run the London Marathon, let The Law editor Heather Turner know on ext 55819

Netballers are progressing

AN Essex Police netball team which took bronze in the PSUK two-day competition is now progressing in two different knock-out competitions.

Essex North have beaten Norfolk 36-28 in round one of the PSUK Knock-out Cup and is soon to meet Wiltshire in the second round.

And although the Essex South team – comprising mainly new recruits to the force – lost to Bedfordshire 45-22 in the first round, now face Gwent in the first round of the knock-out plate competition.

Fancy football next year?

IT is only a few years since most divisions had a football team in their local league.

Numbers have dwindled but Gary Heard in Professional Standards believes there is enough interest within the force to look into whether it is feasible to run a county Sunday football team in 2007/08.

The team would be run and managed separately to any existing Essex Police side.

- Anyone interested should email Gary with their name, contact details, preferred playing position and any clubs for which they have played or are currently playing

Vets knock in three against Hertfordshire

THE Essex Police veterans football team has been competing in a mix of competitions – league and cup, local and national – over the past month. They performed particularly well in the PSUK vets league match against Hertfordshire, winning 3-0, with two goals from Neil Offord and one from Nigel Cockrell. The next match is at home on HQ sports field against City of London at 2pm on November 15. In the Greene King Essex Vets league match on October 7 against Thundersley, the visitors looked strong throughout and punished the veterans with some crisp passing and good

football. They scored two goals in the first half, making use of their 3-5-2 formation, which, for some reason, Essex Police weren't able to defend against with their 4-4-2 formation. But Essex adjusted to 3-5-2 in the second half and defended much better although Thundersley scored again, making the final score 3-0. Sadly, the vets were stripped down to a bare 11 for the first-round cup match away to Herongate Athletic on October 14 – having 14 players out of action for various reasons. Despite a shaky start, when they conceded two quick goals, the team –

complete with five debutants – then began to gel.

There were patches in the second half where they played some good football and dominated play. Joe Wrigley scored a peach of a goal and gave the team hope that they could recover from their 2-0 deficit but it was not to be. The vets then lost 6-1 to a well-organised Benfleet side, having started defensively and remaining so for most of the game.

- Any players aged over 35 who want to play regular vets football can contact Matt Clark (FSU) or Ray O'Hare via email

Memories of three-year clean sweep



• Essex were the Police Athletic Association tug-of-war champions for three years in the mid-1950s

RAY Sillin, of Colchester, was so pleased to see news of the force tug-of-war team that he sent The Law this photograph. Said Ray: "It brings back so many happy memories of the force team in the 1950s, of which I was a member, winning the PAA championship in 1955 and being presented with the trophy by the Liverpool MP, Bessie Braddock.

"We held the championship for a further two years before eventually losing it to the Royal Ulster Constabulary. "I enclose a force photograph of the team with some of our trophies. I hope the current team can do the same and wish them well.

"We won so many trophies from all over the country, such as the Heart of England Championship, No. 5 District Police Championship and many more. To be honest, we were pot hunting, but it was hard work and a good, most enjoyable sport."

Keiran is just the tops in European table tennis

CHELMSFORD detective Keiran Lally was named man of the match for Great Britain when he competed in the European Police Table Tennis

by Heather Turner

Championships.

"I played my socks off for Great Britain and won over 85 per cent of my games," said Keiran.

"Now I have my place

booked for when the top three players from 25 nations come together and play each other in the UK next year."

Keiran beat Belgium's top player and last year's tournament winner during his matches.

Sadly the GB team did not

win the tournament, held in Belgium at the end of September.

Keiran was Essex junior champion three times and also played for Essex county before joining the force.

He is currently the PSUK men's table tennis champion.

Shoot hoops with Jonathan

JONATHAN Straight at Clacton is looking to get a group of people together to play basketball.

It is a national police activity, so could be eligible for some funding, says Jonathan.

- Anyone interested can contact Jonathan on ext 16146 or on 07917 105337

Competition seems a bit fishy

THE Croker Cup sea angling (boat) competition is due to take place on Tuesday, November 14.

Dave Clark has organised three boats for the six divisions, costing £150 per four-person team.

Set-off time is 7am sharp at Bell Wharf, Old Town, Leigh.

- Contact Dave on 07775 775823 for more details

The car's the star in next month's lottery

DECEMBER'S lottery winner will get to choose one of three new Hyundai models, valued at around £17,000. Essex Police Sports Association members can hold up to 25 lottery tickets at £1 each.

Contact EPSA Finance Officer John Mackenzie on ext 58885 or via email. Top prize-winner in the October draw was Dc Rick Atkins, of Saffron Walden, who wins £3,000.

Pc Ian Howlett, of Rayleigh, took the £1,000 prize and Ds Peter English, of Crime Division, won £500.

Winners of £100 prizes were:

Pc Rob Hance, of Harlow; Pc Adam

Jarvis, of Halstead; Dennis Kitteridge, of Airwave Administration; Sgt Philip Rowberry, of Corringham; Rod Howell, of Hatfield Heath Professional Development Unit (PDU); Sally Fester, of Braintree; Pc Justin Hainsworth, of Brentwood; Jenny Pealling, of Financial Services; Pc Paul Arthey, of Colchester; Ray Stannard, of Maldon; and Dc Derek Gargan, of Old Harlow MIT; And winners of £50 prizes were: Pc Joanne Kerly, of Loughton; Claire Orr, of Chelmsford; DI Peter Orpe, of Stansted Airport; Chief Insp Gary Heard, of Professional Standards; Dc Andrew Thacker, of Basildon Scenes of

Crime; Sgt Dan Barber, of Hatfield Heath PDU; Dc Steven Wilson, of Billericay CID; Lesley Coltham, of the PNC Bureau; Amy Dean, of the Forensic Intelligence Unit; Michelle Green, of Southend; Ds Eve Curtis, of Crime Division; Sam Barkway, of EPSA bar; Pc Ashley Sandford, of Braintree; and Sgt Dan Barber, of Hatfield Heath PDU. And winners of Benenden Bears were: PSCO Peter Manning, of South Ockendon; of Colin Turner, Transport Services; John Kreyling, retired; Pc Lucy Watson, of Laindon; Insp Martin Mueller, of the Force Information Room; and Enid Turner, of Crime Bureau.

Derek takes eighth after a windy, uphill struggle

EIGHT officers from around the county competed in the Annual Tiptree 10-mile road race on October 15 – a windy day.

The course was flat until the eighth mile, when it was uphill for the remainder of the course. There were 342 runners taking part.

Essex Police results were: 8 Derek Walker, Colchester & Tendring AC, 1hr 1min 3secs; 51 Dave Wood, Little Baddow Ridge Runners, 1:09:00; 158 Grahame Hadley, Essex Police, 1:21:02; 172 Mark Finbow, Essex Police, 1:22:33; 194 Nigel Weall, Essex Police, 1:25:02; 304 Allan Barley, Essex Police, 1:38:00; 331 Andy Hooke, Essex Police, 1:46:52; 332 Jed Stopher, Essex Police, 1:46:52.

- THE Croker Cup cross-country event was due to be held on November 8 at Gloucester Park in Basildon.

It was also due to include the second fixture of the Eastern/South-East Regional Police League.

Officers, police staff and retired officers from all divisions were competing – the men running approximately five miles (two laps) and the women three (one lap).

- THE Essex Team will once again be competing throughout the winter in the Eastern/South-East Police Cross-Country League.

As well as the 'home' fixture at Gloucester Park, they will be running in Sussex on December 6, Bedfordshire on January 10, Kent on January 31, the Thames Valley on February 21 and Norfolk on March 14.

- Anyone interested in representing Essex Police in these events can contact team captain Mick Bond for further information on ext 63777 or via email

Gruelling event for Tony raises £140 for charity

A BRAINTREE officer has raised over £140 for a children's charity after competing in the UK Ironman contest.

Tony Benjamin swam 2.4 miles, cycled 112 and completed a marathon in aid of Children with Leukaemia.

The 40-year-old said: "Despite it being a gruelling event, I managed to finish the course in 12 hours 26 minutes. I chose this charity because I have a friend whose child is suffering from this disease."

The event took place in Sherborne in Dorset, with weather conditions ideal for this type of endurance event – cool and dry.

Tony added: "I wanted to do something having reached 40 but I said immediately after the event 'never again'. However, I'm planning my next one and will, hopefully, come in within 12 hours.

"My goal is to represent Team GB in the age group triathlon events but I know I have a bit of work to do."

Justice opens its doors to the people

ESSEX Criminal Justice Board is visiting Harlow and Colchester during Inside Justice Week.

An Inside Justice Open Day will be held at the Magistrates' Court in The High, Harlow, on Monday, November 20, and on Friday, November 24, a similar event is being staged at the County Court in Falklands House, Southway, Colchester. Valerie Goodchild, communications manager for the Essex Criminal Justice Board, who is leading the preparation for this year's campaign, said: "We're encouraging schools in both areas to visit so students can discover more about which agencies make up the criminal justice system. "We can show the criminal justice system is an interesting and varied environment in which to work and we can also talk openly about the consequences of crime for both offenders and victims." At both events, which run from 11am to 4pm, all the criminal justice agencies and partner organisations such as Victim Support, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and the Drug Intervention Programme will be taking part. Chelmsford Prison will be providing a mock-up full-size prison cell and prison drug dogs; Essex Police will provide information about Police Community Support Officers; and the Courts, Crown Prosecution and Probation services will be involved in mock trials.

• For more information, visit www.cjsonline.gov.uk/insidejustice

Band rides again for a good cause

TCP the band has been resurrected.

Two years ago they raised £2,000 for an adapted van – the Mattmobile – to enable Matthew Green to get around.

Matthew, the son of Dc Ed Green, of Stansted Airport, was paralysed in a car crash in 2002.

TCP comprises former Pc John Green, who now lives in France, Scenes of Crime Officer Pc Steve Card and former Pc John Pheby, now a coroner's officer.

And they will be in concert at Bulmer Village Hall, near Sudbury, on December 15 and 16, from 7.30pm, performing a bewildering array of songs, sketches and other bits by Ben Elton, John Cleese and 1950s duo Flanders and Swann.

Plus there will be magic, Origami (paper-folding) demonstrations and remarkable impressions. All money again will go to the Mattmobile fund.

• Contact Steve Card on ext 52232 or 07791 226924 or John Pheby on ext 52144 for tickets, which cost £9, including food

Residents are to highlight rural issues for panels

NUISANCE youths on rural playing fields will be the first focus of a new crime-fighting group.

Police in Tendring have pledged to step up efforts to tackle anti-social headaches in Thorpe, Little Clacton, Brightlingsea and Alresford.

The move comes after the problems

were identified as the first community initiative by the Neighbourhood Action Panel (NAP).

The panel is made up of representatives from the community, voluntary and statutory groups, who will work with police to solve problems identified by residents.

Insp Peter Gardner said: "The aim of the group is to work positively and effectively to identify and resolve community-identified neighbourhood priorities or problems that impact on crime, anti-social behaviour and quality of life issues.

"It will take time to understand all

the issues, involve all the parties concerned and seek solutions."

The first meeting open to the public is on January 11, 2007, at 7.30pm in Weeley Council Chambers.

Residents will be able to suggest issues for the NAP to consider for action afterwards.

Art brightens up the communications room



• Communications Supervisor George Campbell admires one of the pieces of artwork created by schools and youth groups across the county which have been installed in the Force Information Room

STUNNING artwork created by schools across the county is now installed at the Essex Police Force Information Room (FIR).

When the FIR building became operational in 1997, the main control room was decorated using large panels which run along the perimeter of the hexagonal room.

Now, to update them, these panels were given to schools across Essex to decorate themselves.

And the results are amazing! There are 19 panels in total, measuring up to 2.5 metres long.

The schools were able to choose any subject they liked and their work includes local scenes, seaside images, insects, words, handprints, an underwater scene, a footballer and a police theme.

The local scenes include images of Colchester, Southend, Clacton, Harlow and the word 'Thurrock'.

Schools which contributed include: Notley High School, Braintree; Tabor Science College, Braintree; Braintree College; Great Bradfords Infant School, Braintree; Sir Charles Lucas School, Colchester; 'St Peter's College, Chelmsford; Trinity Road School, Chelmsford; Cold Norton Junior School; Grays School Media Arts College; Brays Grove School, Harlow; St Martin's School; and Thorpe Bay School.

Boards were also completed by Thundersley Brownies and the PEPYS (Proactive Essex Police Youth Strategy) Youth Forum.

Supt Gwynneth Williams, Head of FIR, said: "I'd like to thank all the schools and young people who took part in the artwork. The results are a welcome addition to the Information Room and have met with a positive result from all the staff."

County is still a safe place in which to live

Three are nominated for awards

THREE Essex officers have been shortlisted for national awards. They have been nominated for Jane's Police Review annual gala awards, which will be presented later this month.

Pc Craig Wiggins, Pc Hayley Jenner and Insp Kevin Jacobs – who has now retired from the force – were also award-winners at the Essex Police Annual Awards ceremony.

Craig has been nominated for Police Review's Student Officer of the Year, which highlights the work of officers who have been authorised to start independent patrol. Criteria include practical policing skills, including crime investigation, making an arrest and dealing with incidents.

Hayley has been put up for Community Officer of the Year, which focuses on local initiatives to combat crime and officers' relationships with their community. And Kevin has been nominated for the Lifetime Achievement Award, which recognises those officers who have made an outstanding contribution to the service throughout their career, making noteworthy contributions to their respective forces and communities.

THE latest HMIC baseline assessment of police performance shows that Essex is among one of the safest counties in the country.

Essex has been judged as providing a 'good' service in the majority of the categories listed in the latest HMIC baseline assessment.

These include, delivering a 'good' and 'stable' performance for reducing crime. This is also shown in the latest crime figures for April to September 2006, where crime continues to fall.

Essex Police recorded 5,609 fewer crimes – an 8.1 per cent reduction – compared to the same period in 2005.

The assessment shows that for investigating crime overall we are judged to be delivering 'good' and 'improved' performance, compared with 'fair' and 'improved' in 2004/05.

Specific performance indicators under

the main heading of Investigating Crime show that the percentage of offences brought to justice has also improved from 'fair' and 'improved' in 2004/05 to 'excellent' and 'improved' in 2005/06.

The percentage of sanctioned detections has also improved from 'good' and 'improved' in 2004/05 to 'excellent' and 'improved' in 2005/06.

Other results include:

- our levels of fear of being victims of various crimes are amongst the lowest in the country

- Providing assistance overall we are judged to be 'good' and 'improved'

- Specialist operational support has improved to 'good' and 'improved'

- for Local Policing overall we have improved to 'fair' and 'improved'

- residents' perception of police performance has improved to 'fair' and 'improving'

- and Neighbourhood Policing has also improved to 'fair' and 'improving'.

The one area graded 'poor' was

Protecting Vulnerable People, an area already identified by the force, and additional resourcing was approved prior to the finalisation of the baseline assessment.

Further significant work is already underway in order to rapidly move the assessment in this area towards a future grading of 'excellent'.

Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark said: "We are extremely pleased with the outcome of this assessment.

"Solid foundations have been built in Essex and we are determined to improve the standards of policing even further.

"We will continue to work towards keeping the fear of crime to a minimum, increase visible policing and increase public satisfaction with our service.

"We are aware that there is still work to do in some areas and we will not be complacent. We want to improve performance even further and we have clear plans in place to improve performance during the next year and beyond."

Could you become a police officer? If so, read on ...

ESSEX Police opens a new recruitment campaign for police officers at the end of this month.

Potential applicants will be able to apply for a pack and application form via the Police Recruitment hotline on 01245 452277 or by visiting www.essex.police.uk/recruits

There is a limit of 2,000 application packs, available on a first come, first served basis.

Alternatively, potential applicants can begin an online application via www.policecouldyou.co.uk between Monday, November 27 at 8.30am to Friday, December 1, at 4.30pm.

All applications must be completed and submitted to reach Essex Police by Friday, January 12, 2007 at 4.30pm at the latest.

No late applications will be accepted and no requests for application packs will be actioned prior to the start date of November 27.

