

The Law



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December 2006

Promotion opportunities are to double over the next year

45 NEW SERGEANTS'

POSTS ARE CREATED

40 years of loyal public service

AFTER a police career spanning five decades, Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark is retiring from Essex Police. Mr Clark, 57, is set to retire on December 31, but his last working day is December 15. Chief Constable Roger Baker said Mr Clark had had a long and distinguished career with Essex Police.

"It is clear that he cares deeply about his job," said Mr Baker. "His contribution to policing and the communities of Essex has been outstanding.

"Mr Clark has been of immense help to me since I joined the force last year.

"His support, advice and friendship have been invaluable. "It is a shame that he is to retire but I am glad that his vast knowledge of policing will be put to good use in his future career and will not be lost to the service. "I wish him all the best."

Mr Clark led the work on compiling the Essex Police response to last year's Home Office proposal to merge forces. When the Government rejected the idea of forced mergers, Mr Clark started to co-ordinate discussions between the six eastern region forces as to how to improve the provision and supply of protective services in the future.

His work included identifying opportunities for co-operation and joint working and sharing examples of good practice. Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers said: "Deputy Chief Constable Clark has been an excellent servant to the tax-payers of Essex.

"His loyalty and love for local policing is well known to all the residents in the county. "He will be sorely missed but our best wishes go to him and his

family for a long and happy retirement."

And, although retiring from Essex Police, Mr Clark will still be involved in policing as he has been offered two jobs, one, co-ordinating the 'regional collaboration' and another working to help establish new counter-terrorist arrangements nationwide. Mr Clark became a police cadet in 1967 and joined the regular force in 1968.

He was first stationed at Clacton and went on to serve as acting inspector in Harlow, where once, he was taken hostage for over two hours by a man brandishing a shotgun.

Not long after joining to force, he married his wife Sue, who he met at Maldon Grammar School. They went on to have two daughters.

When Mr Clark was promoted to chief inspector in August 1984, he took charge of the Force Support Unit and his first day saw the tragic shooting of acting Sgt Brian 'Bill' Bishop as he tackled an armed robber at Frinton-on-Sea.

A further promotion saw Mr Clark become superintendent in charge of the force training school and, soon after, he became a chief superintendent and staff officer to Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary.

Mr Clark returned to Essex as Divisional Commander at Chelmsford in 1990 and was promoted to Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) in Leicestershire a year later.

In 1994 he again returned to Essex as ACC in charge of Finance and Administration, Community Safety and Development and IT, and in 1997 he became the county's Deputy Chief Constable. Mr Clark said: "Joining Essex



● Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark is retiring this month

Police, virtually straight from school has been one of the best decisions I have ever made. "The police have allowed me to have a wonderful career and to have known and befriended so many truly genuine and committed people and to allow me to have served the public of Essex in so many ways. "There have been tough times but they have enabled me and the force to grow stronger as we have pulled even closer together to face the challenges.

"Whatever I have achieved has been because of the people around me and the support I have had from my wonderful family.

"I have very few regrets as I move into the next phase of my

life and retire from an organisation that has been home to me for almost 40 years."

In 2001, Mr Clark was awarded the Queen's Police Medal for services to policing.

He was seconded to the Youth Justice Board for six months during 2001/02 and became chairman of the ACPO Youth Issues Group.

He represented ACPO on the Youth Justice Board, Youth Prevention Committee and was also the ACPO lead on issues related to young people, representing the Police Service on a number of Government working groups on young people.

● ASSISTANT Chief Constable Andy Bliss is stepping up to become acting DCC

by Heather Turner

FOLLOWING a review of resources, Chief Officers have decided to recruit an extra 45 sergeants to help with front-line policing.

The force is already up to its budgeted establishment level of sergeants, with 455 currently on duty across the county – 359 in uniform and 96 in CID.

However, Chief Constable Roger Baker believes there is a need for more sergeants on the ground to drive Neighbourhood Policing and the fight against crime.

"Sergeants are crucial to the delivery of front-line policing, helping to monitor and drive the performance of their teams," said Mr Baker.

"We have taken feedback from the divisions on board and it is expected that any extra money needed to fund these 45 new posts should come from HQ Review (FLAG 4)."

The move means more promotion opportunities for constables who have already passed parts 1 and 2 of the qualifying OSPRE exam – currently 106 officers have passed part 1 only and 71 have both.

Acting ACC Peter Lowton said: "Having an extra 45 sergeants before the end of the year is a huge opportunity for our officers and opens up new promotion possibilities.

"The promotion process has been timed to take place on December 19 to ensure that those officers sitting this year's OSPRE 2 can benefit, together with those officers who are already qualified for promotion," he said.

"Next year will be good as well as we will still need to promote around 50 more constables to sergeant as posts will become available during 2007/08 through natural wastage and promotions to inspector.

"This nearly doubles the number of sergeants we will promote in the coming year or so, which is great news for our officers."

Mr Lowton added: "The bottom line is that this means there are even more opportunities for constables to advance their careers in the coming months."



The battle is won but ...

YOU will all be aware now that the independent Police Arbitration agreed in favour of the Federated ranks pay increase.

The award has the effect of an agreement reached in the Police Negotiating Board (PNB), and means that from September 1, 2006, there will be a three per cent uplift in the following pay and allowances:

- The pay of Federated ranks
- Dog handler's allowance
- Competence-Related Threshold Payment

The award has been agreed by the Home Office and I am pleased to announce that, as a result of the hard work by Mick Leafe and his payroll staff, the increase will be in our December pay packets, in time for Christmas.

However, the Home Office is licking its wounds after losing this battle and has declared war on police officers' pay.

Police Minister Tony McNulty said that the Government would now be reviewing the way police pay is determined, including indexation.

We have grown accustomed to this Government's underhand dealing and it hasn't disappointed us on this

occasion. We, the Federation, were bitterly disappointed that, despite assurances from the Police Minister that we would be consulted on the 'terms of reference' of the review, we received them the same time as everyone else with no consultation.

The terms of reference for the review are, briefly:

- To consider the options for replacing the current arrangements for determining changes to police officer pay for 2007
- To review the effectiveness of the negotiating machinery for the police and make recommendations for how police pay and other conditions of service should be determined.

Part 1 should report no later than February 2007 and Part 2 in the autumn of 2007.

The Police Federation will continue to fight for fair pay that recognises the special role that police officers play, the dangers they face and the unique restrictions on their private lives.

With this in mind, the mechanism must reflect what other people are paid and the rise of inflation.

Season's Greetings

It's that time again when we reflect upon the last 12 months of what has been a very busy policing calendar.

The restructuring of Essex Police, the formation of the Neighbourhood

Policing Teams, the World Cup and Operation Volley, the terrorist attacks, the V Festival, and the Police Oracle, to name a few.

I personally would like to thank everyone who has supported me in my first year as the Joint Branch Board Secretary.

Please continue to use the Federation as the 'medium' for your support and for supporting your views and concerns.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all – on behalf of Sue Kelly, Tony Rayner, Ross Luke, Trish Morley, Jackie Card and Marian Godwin – a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Football scheme does the job

FOOTBALL has proven to be a top-of-the-league solution to anti-social behaviour in Harlow.

Officers were frequently called to Old Harlow and the Mark Hall area to reports of nuisance youths.

Each time, they were coming face-to-face with youngsters keen to channel their energies into more productive activities but who were pessimistic that the community would support them.

So, the officers decided to grab the ball and run with it – organising football coaching sessions with the help of the local council and

Mark Hall Community Sports Centre. The scheme has gone from strength to strength and not only have anti-social problems in the area plummeted but there has been positive feedback from parents.

Around 25 to 30 young people turn up for each session. An incentive to remain a part of the scheme is that any youngster who finds themselves in trouble with the authorities will be temporarily excluded.

Sgt Kevin Whipps, of Harlow North Neighbourhood Policing Team, said: "The youngsters have really embraced the challenge and some of them have exceptional football talent."



• SOCOs Dc Michelle Mauger, Dc Kerry Jennings and Ds Rennie Chivers are now more visible on the streets

Reassuring presence on the streets

SCENES of crime officers (SOCOs) in Essex are back in uniform as part of a public reassurance initiative.

The three-month trial will see victims of crime receive a confidence-boosting visit from detectives wearing the familiar clothing of police officers. The county's crime scene investigators traditionally wear plain clothes when attending crime scenes.

Ds Rennie Chivers heads up the team based in Clacton, which has been back in uniform since the start of last month.

He said: "My personal view is people seeing a SOCO in uniform will have a positive effect

in crime prevention by virtue of the appearance of police officers out and about on the streets.

"Seeing a SOCO in a marked vehicle will hopefully encourage people not to speed or commit other traffic offences, petty crime and nuisance behaviour."

SOCO teams in Essex are made up of about 80 per cent police officers and 20 per cent police staff.

The force is now looking to identify a uniform which would be individually tailored for SOCOs, much like dog handlers and firearms officers.

Force vows to fight to retain its SPPs

CHIEF Constable Roger Baker and Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers have vowed that the force will fight to retain Special Priority Payments (SPPs).

The Home Office has indicated that SPPs will be retained for 2007, Mr Baker and Mr Chambers announced, but it has not committed to pay them after next year.

Chief Constable Roger Baker said: "Essex Police is determined to fight to retain SPPs beyond next year to ensure we can continue to recognise and reward officers in some of our most challenging roles and geographical locations."

And Mr Chambers added: "I believe SPPs are vitally important in a county like Essex. We need to ensure the excellent quality of our officers is recognised and rewarded and that they are given the opportunity to stay in Essex."

SPPs are awarded to posts which carry a significantly higher responsibility than the norm for that rank, which present special difficulties in recruitment and retention or which lead to particularly demanding working conditions and environments.

Acting ACC Peter Lowton said: "We are in the process of entering into discussions with the Home Office in the hope of getting agreement for SPPs to be retained beyond next year."

Assessment for SPPs is made each October and a lump-sum payment made in December for the entire calendar year.

Posts which attract SPPs include undercover officers, Authorised Firearms Officers, officers working in the Child Abuse Investigation Unit, some district commanders and CID officers, Force Information Room inspectors and officers working for Youth Offending Teams.

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A special time for our Specials

TO mark the 175th anniversary of the Special Constabulary, our 450 Specials were set the challenge of working 175 hours over the celebration weekend and of making 175 more arrests than usual in the three months leading up to it.

Each and every one embraced these challenges, with many officers giving up more of their time to work over the weekend of October 13-15.

Many officers also took part in special operations which led to an increase in the number of people being arrested.

Around 300 arrests were made by members of the Special Constabulary in the run-up to the anniversary weekend, and a further 250 warrants were executed.

They also took part in a host of activities aimed at tackling anti-social behaviour and provided high-visibility patrols across the county.

As an anniversary gift, all 450 Specials in Essex were presented with engraved whistles.

Sylvia Goodchild, Essex Police's Special Constabulary Support Manager, said: "The dedication and professionalism shown by Special Constables makes them an invaluable part of the police family.

"It's encouraging that so many people are willing to give up their spare time to serve their local community.

"The additional policing service which Special Constables provide has a great impact on our community and the fact that they have been operating since 1831 is a testimony to the fantastic job they do."

Chief Officer George Cook, in paying tribute to the 450 Special Officers for their additional efforts in the three months said: "The impact on Essex Police performance through the commitment of the Special Constabulary in front-line policing duties on Friday and Saturday nights is significant.

"We owe our sincere thanks to all officers and their families and friends for their ongoing support."

Specials have the full powers of a police constable, including that of arrest.

The only difference to their regular colleagues is that they carry out their core role of high-visibility, front-line policing on a voluntary basis, usually in the evenings and at weekends.

● **ESSEX** Police is currently looking for more people to join the team of Specials working all over the county. If you are interested in becoming a Special Constable and can spare at least four hours a week plus training, call the recruitment hotline on 01245 452824

Fireworks raise £1,417

A LARGE crowd of police officers and staff turned out for the annual Essex Police HQ Sports and Social Club fireworks display on HQ sports field, organised by Phil Knight and Transport Services, which raised £1,417.54 for local charities.

● **PCSO Gary Brown and Cllr Tony Hall discuss planned sports facilities with a local resident**



Policing goes Back To The Future

RETIRED officer turned local councillor Tony Hall took the opportunity to get on his bike with Harlow PCSO Gary Brown and newly-appointed PCSO Tom Jeapes.

The three undertook a two-hour patrol around Tony's Church Langley ward in the town, swapping information and meeting residents.

Among topics discussed were the start of work on the Florence Nightingale Health Centre extension, anti-social behaviour around Tesco, dog fouling, parking and litter.

A resident stopped the trio near Tesco to report a breach of bail conditions affecting a family member, another asked about the sports and recreation centre planned for the playing fields behind the community centre and church.

By chance, they met up with Tesco's off-duty security officer and discussed

planned CCTV installations in the area. Several more people just wanted to chat and express their pleasure at seeing officers out on patrol.

Cllr Hall urged police officers and PCSOs to make more use of local councillors, who often knew a lot about problems on their wards.

He said: "PCSO Gary Brown took up the challenge when he called on me and found I was a cyclist. We agreed this would be an excellent way of seeing where the problems on the ward are and meeting residents at the same time. We plan to repeat this on a monthly basis."

For Cllr Hall, who spent 32 years as a local police officer, this was a Back To The Future experience, 11 years after his retirement.

"I had a reputation for getting officers out of the station on foot and cycle patrols and I used to lead by example

as often as I could," he said.

"It wasn't a very popular idea then but I have spent the last 15 years trying to get this sort of policing back on the agenda. I am delighted to see it is now happening.

"The officers who are doing it, like Gary Brown and Tom Jeapes, find it a rewarding and enlightening experience."

Harlow District Commander Chief Insp Stuart Ashton was delighted to hear Cllr Hall had had such a positive experience out on patrol in his neighbourhood.

"That's a fantastic example of both partnership working and how Neighbourhood Policing is really helping us to get back to the grass roots.

"Local knowledge and intelligence is vital to our success and the only way to obtain it is to get out and speak to local people."

Success in county's first web-rage case

A MAN has been convicted of Britain's first web-rage attack after an online exchange of insults led him to track down and beat a 43-year-old man from Clacton.

Paul Gibbons, 47, from east London was sentenced to two-and-a-half years' imprisonment at the Old Bailey last month after being found guilty of unlawful wounding.

Investigating officer Ds Jean-Marc Bazzoni, of Clacton, said: "This was a three-force investigation involving victims from Essex, London and Cheshire.

"This case highlights the dangers of internet chatrooms, particularly the giving of personal details that will allow other users to discover home addresses."

All the victims were targeted by Paul Gibbons following a disagreement in a chatroom and threats to kill were made on the website.

At the end of December last year, this

escalated to the home address of the Essex victim, a 43-year-old man from Clacton.

He was grabbed and beaten and had his neck cut. His three children aged 11, nine and four months were in the house at the time.

"This terrifying ordeal came about as a result of upsetting somebody he had never even met," said Ds Bazzoni.

"The dangers of giving personal information out in a chatroom environment must never be under-estimated."

Force welcomes new Chief Officer

A THIRD new acting Assistant Chief Constable has joined the force on a temporary basis.

Derek Benson, 43, who took up his new post on December 4 is on a three-month contract.

His appointment was prompted by the fact that ACC Andy Bliss will become acting Deputy Chief Constable when current Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark retires this month.

Mr Benson will lead on Operational Support. Acting

ACC Peter Lowton will take over Mr Bliss's portfolio of Protective Services.

And Acting ACC Carmel Napier will continue to lead on Territorial Policing.

Mr Benson, who has been Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Ian Blair's Staff Officer for the past year, said that, after spending his entire 21-year career in the Met, Essex would be a different working environment.

"I am looking forward to the challenge of working with all the other Chief Officers and building a team and of getting to know Essex and all officers and staff across the force," said Mr Benson.

He began his career in Southall and gradually moved eastwards across the capital, with spells in the Territorial Support Group, Specialist Operations, CID and as Hackney Borough Commander.



● **Acting ACC Derek Benson**

Teenager jailed for OAP attack

DETECTIVES from Rayleigh's Major Investigation Team (MIT) saw a teenager from south Essex sentenced to a minimum four years in jail after sexually assaulting an elderly woman in her home last Christmas.

The then 85-year-old was attacked in her home in Pitsea during the evening of December 24.

Kieran O'Reilly pleaded guilty to one count of sexual assault by penetration and one count of causing grievous bodily harm with intent and was sentenced at Basildon Crown Court to an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection, with a minimum four years' to be spent behind bars.

Senior Investigating Officer Det Supt Simon Dinsdale said: "Kieran O'Reilly is a dangerous young man who has committed a crime that shocked the victim, her family, the local community and the police officers who were involved in the investigation.

"It is only luck, coupled with the determination and bravery of the victim, that he was not facing a murder charge.

"The only redeeming feature about the whole episode is that he pleaded guilty, so sparing the victim and her family any further pain. My thoughts are with the victim and her family who will always be affected by this crime."

The victim's son said: "This man's callous and brutal action against our innocent, elderly mother, grandmother and all of the family has caused untold stress, anxiety and heartache to us.

"Words could not convey the way we have felt over the last year.

"My mother has shown great courage and dignity despite the pain it has caused her and our family.

"We would like to thank Essex Police for their great support, generosity and kindness throughout this dreadful ordeal.

"I would personally like to thank Mr Dinsdale and all of his team for their industrious hard work in catching this despicable criminal. Finally, with very much affection, I would like to thank the family liaison officers for their help, support and kindness they continually showed us in our time of need."

O'Reilly has been placed on the Sex Offenders Register for life.

Road 'drive' is a success

A ROAD policing campaign to clamp down on illegally-operating lorry drivers in north Essex has been hailed a success.

Officers from Bocking Road Policing Unit carried out the three-week operation, stopping nearly 200 large goods vehicles and drivers and checking for either mechanical defaults or documentation offences.

A total of 167 offences were detected, with 50 deemed so serious that the lorry was prevented from being driven further, either because of defects or excessive driver-hours.

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.

Police pension has done very well

I AM prompted by DI Brian Elkington's letter in the October issue – How many are left in 30/30 club? – to write in praise of the police pension fund. I was fortunate to join the Southend Borough Police in 1938, having served four years with the Grenadier Guards. I served with that force until 1968, during which time we were amalgamated with the Essex Constabulary, where I retired as an inspector.

I went away and won the war, walking back from actions with knocked-out Churchill tanks six times. Since 1968 I have enjoyed every minute of my retirement. During my service I was Federation Rep, secretary of the Constables' Branch Board and chairman of the Joint Branch Board. I had the pleasure of serving under various chief officers including Mr McCulloch. The joy of the job has to be measured with its responsibility and the main joy was survival and the pleasure of the company of wonderful men and women. I can recommend this job as good as any in the world and the fact that I have been drawing my pension since 1968 is proof of the value of the system (30 years-plus).

Archie Rickwood
Southend

sergeants Simon Jones and Geoff Standen, former Dc Cienwen Bridewell and former inspector Graham Pinder.

So, I ask those with whom I have not been in touch to contact me – even if they have little interest in getting together with past colleagues, then at least a telephone conversation or email exchange would be appreciated.

I can be contacted on 07793 816485, by email at paulwatson1@tiscali.co.uk or at Shoeburyness Police Station, where I am presently based.

Rest assured, all you ex-B-shifters out there, that respect for your privacy goes without saying.

However, contacting your old 'colleague in arms', with whom you rubbed shoulders on the 'battlefields' of Basildon in bygone days, would be a most appreciated and welcome act on your part.

Pc Paul Watson
Community Liaison Officer
Shoeburyness

Searching for former Basildon B-shifters

IN days of old, when knights were bold, there was Basildon police's B-shift!

They were strong, charismatic, and seemed invincible.

I joined this 'band of Merry Men (and Women)' in January 1979 and was baptised, by attending a 25-vehicle 'pile-up' on Pitsea flyover.

Recently, I wrote a composition using some of my recollections from those years, entitled One Year At Basildon Is Worth Three Anywhere Else – which was recognised, even up at the training school.

I sent that composition to as many ex-Basildon B-shifters – circa 1979-1986 – as I could locate and, as a result, I had some great responses.

Sadly however, some of those individuals who made up the 'merry band' have disappeared post-retirement into obscurity.

Those ex-B-shift members I have contacted are interested in meeting up and it is in that



● **Tony Spong digs away on the forecourt at Basildon Police Station in 1979, trying to free a Mark 3 Cortina area car from the snow**

respect that I am utilising the power of *The Law* to try to reach the remainder.

I compiled a list of about 40 individuals that the B-shift circa 1979-1986 would include and those who I have not yet managed to reach will know who

they are. Those who I have had particular difficulty in tracking down include former constables Ian East, Michael 'Mac' McSweeney, David Gilbranch, Tony Barton, Brian Keefe, Terry Doby, Alan 'Moose' White and Dave Proud plus former

Put the right people in jail to solve the crisis

FIRST of all, I would like to say there is still a need for the parole system and Probation Service.

We have a prison system that is full to overflowing and we are at the 'top end' anywhere in Europe for incarcerating people.

Among the inmates are a vast majority who shouldn't be there and perhaps could have been dealt with in another manner.

It is right for the Government to look at a Probation Service which may now be outdated and understaffed. They and other social services should be helping those day-to-day offenders to rehabilitate and take their place back in society.

These people should be considered for parole at appropriate intervals. Care in the

Community should be re-assessed, particularly in light of there being more offenders with mental health problems.

Secondly, I think convicted murderers should be sentenced with regard to a tariff. If it is a domestic murder – these account for most murders – ie against their own 'flesh and blood', parole should be considered in the normal way.

If it is against a partner or stepchildren – which is becoming more common – then the judge should make a recommendation and this term of imprisonment should be adhered to. If it is a murder committed 'off the street' then the sentence should be life and mean life.

Of course, all offenders should be afforded the appeal system if there are grounds to suggest that they have been wrongly convicted.

I am against capital punishment because

an innocent person could be hanged. Using the same principle, when the death penalty was replaced by life imprisonment it must mean life to prevent convicted murderers being released back into the community to murder again.

We should have behind bars those offenders from whom the public needs to be protected.

To think that prison has a rehabilitative effect is misguided. Prisons have neither the staff nor the time to have a long-term positive effect on offenders.

I believe that, by adopting policies such as these, the Government will reduce the prison population in this country and, by radically increasing Care in the Community, will help those in need much more effectively than is currently happening.

Robert Miller
Chelmsford

Things aren't like they used to be ...

WERE you born between 1930 and 1950? If you were, congratulations – you are a survivor. Born between 1930 and 1945, you lived through a war. You were probably born of a mother who smoked and drank alcohol during pregnancy. You would have been placed tummy down in your cot. Your cot and nursery would have been decorated with leaded paint. There would not have been any child-proof lids on medicine bottles. As you grew up you rode your bike without a helmet and travelled in a car without a child seat or seatbelt. You fell out of trees and off swings in a children's play area which had a tarmac surface. You ate real butter and cakes but never put on any weight as you were always out playing. You shared the same bottle of lemonade with four of your friends. You walked to school and if you broke your arm in the playground nobody looked for someone to sue. Misbehave and you got the slipper. Fall foul of the law and your parents sided with the police.

Jack Faulkner
Southend

Caterers boost charity

FORCE caterers Sodexo have added to the total raised by the BBC's Children in Need appeal. In addition to the £18,300,392 raised on the night, Sodexo have added a further £299 to help disadvantaged children and young people in the UK.

Users of Essex Police College canteen helped organiser Carol Olsen to raise £207, while those in HQ canteen helped organiser Elaine Thorogood to achieve a total of £92. Catering staff cooked special cakes and Pudsey bear biscuits for sale, while in the college canteen, two raffles were held.

Gone . . . but not forgotten

INSP Thomas Simmons joined Essex County Constabulary at 21, and was posted to Chelmsford.

He was 5ft 9ins tall and had previously been employed as a farm labourer in his home village of Weeley.

Twelve years later, in November 1877, he was promoted to sergeant, after periods of service at Epping, Romford and Brentwood; by then he had a wife and a four-year-old son, William.

In 1881, Sgt Simmons was made second-class inspector and moved back to Romford.

At about 3pm on January 20, 1885, he harnessed his white horse and trap and, accompanied by Pc Alfred Marden, set out to tour his section – Insp Simmons' last official journey had begun.

Out on the Rainham road he saw three men walking towards Hornchurch and recognised one as a well-known criminal, David Dredge, a 51-year-old general dealer. Insp Simmons dropped off Pc Marden to keep observation and unsuccessfully attempted to find the other constables in the section.

However, on his return, Pc Marden had lost sight of the three men so the pair set off back to Romford.

They saw someone jump into a ditch and

Thomas Simmons – Essex County Constabulary Served from September 11, 1865. Died January 24, 1885

Pc Marden leapt out of the trap in pursuit. Insp Simmons carried on and caught up with two of the men he believed he had seen earlier.

He pulled up and, as he walked towards them, the taller one turned quickly with a revolver in his hand and fired.

Insp Simmons staggered, clutching the left side of his stomach, but did not fall. The two men jumped over a hedge and ran off. Pc Marden heard the shout and found his colleague leaning against the trap, holding his stomach. He set off after the two men, followed by the injured inspector.

But Insp Simmons collapsed and, after the men had shot at Pc Marden, he gave up the chase. Insp Simmons was carried back to his home where two surgeons found they could do little. The Divisional Superintendent at Brentwood was telegraphed and arrived in Romford that night to ask the magistrates' clerk to obtain a dying declaration.

Insp Simmons hovered on the brink of death, while a public outcry deplored violence, led by the Essex Weekly News in its issue of January 23, 1885.

The following day, he died. A collection fund for his widow was later to total more than £1,500.

Inquiries led to Limehouse and David Dredge was arrested on February 6. The following month another man was arrested, attempting to pawn a revolver in Euston – James Lee, 45, alias Adams, alias Manson.

At the trial, it was claimed that Lee had fired the fatal shot but that Dredge was implicated because he had known Lee had a firearm.

The case against Lee was proved and he was sentenced to death by hanging but Dredge was found not guilty. However, he was promptly re-arrested and remanded for attempting to shoot Pc Marden.

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.

Cadets' history

THE force museum is searching for anyone with information on the history of the Cadets to put together a new display.

The display, designed and researched by Cadets Dale Beverton and Jack Etheridge, will look at the Cadets from 1951 to date.

● Ring Curator Becky Latchford on ext 50771 with information or offers of help

On track

TO stay on track with the British Transport Police, all crimes that are reported to or recorded by Essex Police staff or officers should be transferred to the BTP Crime Recording Centre by email only, to crime.recording@btp.pnn.police.uk

Corner the chairman



● **Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers**

Thank you all for your hard work

“FIRSTLY, I would like to thank all staff and officers at Essex Police for their hard work during the last year.

It has been a demanding and varied year for us all, and I have been very impressed and delighted with the way everyone has risen to the challenge.

I would like to thank John Broughton and Charles Clark for all their hard work as Essex Police officers – they will both be sorely missed and I wish them well in their new endeavours.

I would also like to pass on my very best wishes to Liam Briggins and his family. His illness came as a shock to us all and I'm sure you will join me in wishing him a speedy recovery and we hope to see him back here soon. I am very proud to be chairman of Essex Police Authority because, amongst all of this unrest and significant change, Essex has remained a high-performing force.

We are improving day by day while still raising our game and adapting to many new ways of working. The authority was thrilled when the Government removed force mergers from the agenda this year; this means that we can now concentrate on delivering an improved service to Essex residents.

There has been a further push in performance in 2006, so we can become the best force in the country.

We have successfully rolled out Neighbourhood Policing Teams across the county, serving every ward.

This will give the public a renewed reassurance through the high-visibility patrols and will also mean a reduction in crime and disorder through working with our many partner agencies.

This year has also seen us continue to put more officers on the front line.

Essex Police Authority and Chief Constable Roger Baker firmly believe that the police service should be what the public want and we have started to deliver it and will continue to do so. We will continue to focus on visible policing, attending all reported crimes and making police services even more accessible.

We will carry on working in partnership with Essex Police to provide the best service possible to the public.

I hope you all have a Happy Christmas and a prosperous 2007. ”

A Special time to remember

THE annual Remembrance Service at Billericay was extra-Special for one officer.

In many services held across the county, Special Constables stood alongside regular police officers to pay their respects to generations of war dead.

But, in Billericay, to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Special Constabulary, Special Sgt Tony Wagstaff was given the honour of laying the wreath, on behalf of Essex Police.

Special Sgt Wagstaff has served with Essex Police for 14 years and has had a long association with Billericay.

He said: “I was initially shocked to find out that I had been chosen to lay the Essex Police wreath, but I feel honoured to represent the Special Constabulary along with Essex Police to provide our support to this service.”

Watching him perform his unique task were his family, including his father, an ex-serviceman himself.



● **Special Sgt Tony Wagstaff honours the dead of two World Wars**

Picture courtesy of the Essex Chronicle Series

Police close case on war memorial damage

POLICE have closed the case on an incident which brought pain and anger to the picturesque village of Finchingfield, with all sides agreeing that justice has been done.

Villagers were outraged when in September someone climbed their war memorial and broke the stone cross.

Police inquiries revealed that, on the night of the damage, a man had been taken to hospital with injuries consistent with a fall.

The investigation led them to a 20-year-old man, who was arrested by Pc

Peter Carter, of the Three Fields Neighbourhood Policing Team, on suspicion of causing criminal damage.

He confessed, explaining that he climbed the memorial after drinking and the cross came away as he fell and broke his ankle.

He said his father, a stone mason, had agreed to repair the damage free of charge – in time for Remembrance Day – and that his sister and his friends had raised £300 from a sponsored silence as an act of atonement on his behalf.

The money is going to the equipment fund for the Freshwell Health Centre at Finchingfield, which houses the community doctors' practice.

Taking all the circumstances into account, the man was given a formal police caution.

Parish council clerk Kate Fox said: “The damage caused a great deal of distress but matters have been concluded in the best possible way and we are grateful to the police for their proactive handling of the case.”

Drugs and alcohol testing policy starts

A NEW drugs and alcohol testing policy for police officers is to be introduced by the force next month.

by Heather Turner

The Home Secretary has approved a recommendation made by the Police Advisory Board for England and Wales that a national policy be introduced for testing police officers and police recruits for substance misuse.

Essex Police launches its policy on January 1, 2007.

Head of Employee Relations Kevin Kirby said: “The testing policy is rigorously targeted and focused on areas of particular risk. It does not imply any lack of trust in the professionalism of the police.”

“The regulations allow for Essex Police to require police recruits and police officers to undertake tests for substance and alcohol misuse. They don't affect police staff.”

The policy affects police officers whose work puts them in a vulnerable position, because they have a specific responsibility for dealing with drugs, and those in safety-critical posts – as determined by the Home Office – plus new recruits, Probationers and officers

who give cause to suspect that they have been using a controlled drug.

All Probationers will be randomly tested for the first two years of their service.

Head of Employee Relations Kevin Kirby said: “Essex Police does not tolerate the use of any illegal drugs.”

“The correct use of prescription and over-the-counter drugs and medication is acceptable, provided that these are not misused and that your GP or pharmacist has taken account of your occupation and job description when prescribing or selling you the medication.”

“The force has always supported police officers and members of police staff who believe they have a problem with alcohol, drugs or other addiction. This policy does not seek to change that.”

The new powers provide for testing where there is intelligence or information to suggest that an officer is under the influence of, or misusing, controlled drugs or alcohol and they may be required to undergo a test without notice.

The alcohol limit under this new

policy for police officers occupying safety-critical and vulnerable posts is 13 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath.

Independent medical screening company Mediscreen will undertake both drugs and alcohol testing in confidential circumstances on division.

● All officers will receive a leaflet about the Substance Misuse Policy by the end of December. If you have not received one by then, contact your Human Resources (HR) manager for a copy.

● Find details of the new Policy Guideline issued (P89/06) by visiting the ‘greens’ at the top of the intranet home page. A full list of posts which will be affected by the new policy can be found in Section 3.6 on Page 9 of Annex B of the Policy Guideline.

● For advice and guidance about the new Substance Misuse Policy, contact your Federation representative, your divisional or departmental HR manager, Head of Employee Relations Kevin Kirby or any member of Occupational Health.

● If you think you have a problem and want help, contact your Federation or Unison representative or a member of Occupational Health and the matter will be treated in confidence

Quality of Gender is day's focus

THE force held a Gender Quality Day as part of its long-term commitment in promoting gender equality throughout the force both internally and externally. It also fell in line with last month's re-launch of the National Gender Agenda Programme, aimed at promoting best practice to enable all women police officers to make a full contribution to policing. The main aim of the Gender Quality Day was to focus upon ways in which Essex Police could improve its operational and employment services in respect of gender, while supporting the new National Quality of Service Commitment which was launched a week earlier on November 1.

Chief Constable Roger Baker closed the day by acknowledging that the workforce and customer demands were continually changing and that the force must continue to reflect this change through its policies and procedures and the service it provides to its customers.

Around 50 people attended the day, representing the various divisions and departments of Essex Police, to hear from key speakers such as Liz Owsley, co-ordinator of the British Association of Women in Police, Chief Supt Andy Adams on Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Units, Supt Gwynn Williams, chair of the Senior Women Officers' Forum and Sue Kelly, chair of Essex Police Federation.

● For further information on the Gender Equality Duty, visit the Equality & Diversity website or ring the Diversity Unit on ext 54101

Disability equality plan is launched

A REVISED Force Equality Scheme is launched this month to include the Disability Equality Scheme. Our scheme goes beyond the legal requirements and aims to address all aspects of equality and promote good relations for everyone – this includes the way we make policies, provide services and employ people, showing how we take into account how the things we do impact on different people.

The new legislation has particular regard to improving services for disabled people along with improved employment prospects for disabled staff. Equality and Diversity Manager Jan Woodhouse, said: “Consultation with public and community representatives, involvement with our staff through staff networks, internal equality groups plus open days for staff with disabilities, have all informed the new Equality Scheme which links in with the new National Quality of Service commitment.”

● Denise Chaplin is the new co-ordinator for the Staff Disability Network, ring her on ext 54102.

● The new Equality Scheme is on the intranet. A training package – Disability Confidential is available on the Essex Police College website

Safer Schools Partnerships help to beat the bullies

A CALL for more Safer Schools Partnerships (SSP) and wider use of restorative practices as a means of reducing bullying, improving attendance and boosting attainment has been made.

It came from the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) at the start of last month's Anti-Bullying Week.

Essex Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark, who chairs the ACPO Youth Issues Group, and YJB member Graham Robb believe that effective Safer Schools Partnerships make children feel safer, improve school environments and can help to reduce repeat bullying while giving victims satisfaction.

Mr Clark said: "ACPO has been involved in the development of Safer Schools Partnerships from the start and we believe their expansion would bring many benefits, particularly with the rollout of Neighbourhood Policing.

"Police officers working in schools and local communities have an important role in ensuring children and young people are not victimised and bullied.

"The police service is a strong supporter of Anti-Bullying Week and we will play an active part through schools officers and neighbourhood policing."

More than 500 schools throughout England operate a Safer Schools Partnership of some kind, from having a police officer attached full-time with support from neighbourhood teams and partner agencies, to less intensive models with occasional police contact.

Research shows that nearly 60 per cent of pupils and staff and, over 80 per cent of parents felt safer as a result of an SSP at their school – grades also improved and exclusions and truancy decreased.

Report crime at the flick of a finger

THE force has launched its text messaging service.

Chief Supt Sue Harrison, head of Essex Police's new Communications Division, said: "This is an alternative method of contacting Essex Police.

"We are offering this service to those who regularly use text messaging and may prefer to use that rather than make a voice call.

"It does not replace the 999 emergency number, which should still be used for urgent calls."

Text messaging offers an alternative method of contacting the police to make routine inquiries, to seek or give information or to get advice.

The service is particularly aimed at those who have speech or hearing difficulties and who may find voice communication problematical. It is also aimed at young people who are avid text communicators and adept at its use.

● The number to be used to contact Essex Police by text is 07624 800 101



● A rare picture of Central Divisional Commander Chief Supt Win Bernard behind his desk – he prefers to get out and about in his division
Picture by Dong Ch'ng



● Chief Supt Win Bernard presents £500 to Robbie Robinson, of Essex Air Ambulance

We're having a ball

The Essex Police Central Division Ball was held at the Down Hall Hotel in Hatfield Heath on November 3.

A raffle was held – thanks to donations from shops and businesses from around the division – and £1,000 was raised for two charities – the Essex Air Ambulance and the Make A Wish Foundation.

Robbie Robinson, from the Essex Air Ambulance, and Nick Adshad, of the Make A Wish Foundation were each presented on the night with a cheque for £500 by Divisional Commander Chief Supt Win Bernard.

The evening was a huge success, thanks to all the hard work put in by police staff Lorraine Thompson and Judith Bridges.

Safer Bars is a roaring success

THE first award to be made under the new Essex Police Safer Bars Accreditation Scheme has gone to the Bull Hotel in Halstead.

Premises applying voluntarily for accreditation are inspected by police and council licensing officers to assess the efforts they have made to keep their customers safe.

If the required standard is met, the licensee is presented with a plaque for display in the bar – sending a message to customers that they are in a welcoming environment.

Braintree district police licensing officer Stephen Sparrow, who judged the hotel, said: "It is good to see the Bull leading the way in Essex and showing a strong commitment to comfort and safety. We are keen to work with the licensed trade to maintain the district's reputation as a safe place to go out for a drink."

Insp Tony Sale, of Halstead, added:

"From a local policing perspective, it's reassuring that the premises have a high level of measures and training in place to promote safety and prevent unwanted incidents."

● THE Essex Police Safer Bars accreditation scheme was itself put up for an award.

It was among the nominations for an honour in the Responsible Drinks Retailing Awards staged by food and drinks industry publisher William Reed last month.

Although it did not win, the scheme's architect, Sgt Nigel Dermott, of Territorial Policing, said he was delighted Safer Bars was a finalist as the scheme had only been running for two months at the time of nomination.

And there is more good news – six other forces are interested in adopting the scheme as they believe its principles are a better alternative to other schemes

already in operation. "Safer Bars is attractive mainly because it is inclusive, rather than exclusive. It involves all types of premises, from small rural pubs to large, town centre nightclubs," explained Sgt Dermott.

● A PUBWATCH crime prevention scheme for Braintree is on the launch pad.

Representatives from 16 of the town's licensed premises have taken first step in forming the group.

A formation meeting is now due to be held at the Chicago Rock Café, Freeport, on January 22, when it is planned to elect officials and discuss aims and objectives.

Six similar schemes are already running in Essex, including those in Chelmsford, Colchester and Clacton.

Once Braintree's Pubwatch is established, it is hoped to take the initiative to other parts of the district.

GEOGRAPHICALLY, Central Division is the size of a small county. Essex has a population of just over 1.6million and Central has half a million of them.

It takes in the four local authority areas of Chelmsford, Maldon, Braintree and Uttlesford, stretching from Burnham in the south-east to Saffron Walden in the north-west.

To supplement the permanent police stations in the division there are two mobile offices which visit the smaller communities in the rural areas – one for the northern villages and one in the south. Central Division is a low-crime area and officers and staff are committed to keeping it that way, with a strong accent on Neighbourhood Policing.



● Bidding to become the Cop Idols of Central Division are, from left, Pc Mark Jones, of Chelmsford, Sgt Jo Byrne, of Melbourne, Freda Willingham, of Chelmsford, PCSO Catherine Marsh, of South Woodham Ferrers, and acting Sgt Al Davey, of Writtle
Picture courtesy of the Evening Gazette

Community is our Central theme

by Peter Laurie & Karen Keen

The post is funded under a 50/50 partnership between Essex Police and services operator Welcome Break.

At Birchanger, her radio link enables her to call on officers on patrol on the nearby M11 and A120 in the event of an incident requiring back-up.

Kelly says: "The job presents an interesting challenge. I have always wanted to do something to help the community and police work interested me for a long time."

A 30-year career of community service resulted in now-retired Insp Kevin Jacobs, of Maldon, not only being given a Lifetime Achievement Award in September's annual Essex Police Awards but also being nominated for a similar award by Jane's Police Review.

The Jane's award recognises officers who, throughout their career, have made noteworthy contributions to their respective forces, communities and the service and who are or were role models for new recruits.

During his career with Essex Police, Kevin won the Millard Trophy twice – for his contribution to social service and in relations with the community – a unique achievement. He was also nominated twice for the national Community Officer of the Year Award, winning it in 2004.



● Dunmow, to the north-west of Central Division, currently has the force's oldest police station, dating back to the 19th century. But this artist's impression shows what the force's newest police station, currently being built on the outskirts of the town, will look like when it opens next year as a sub-divisional HQ

Kevin finished his career as section inspector at Maldon.

Jane's notes that Insp Jacobs' work in Maldon was singled out for praise by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary. "Kevin has, for more than a decade, been ahead of his time," the force told Police Review.

Continuing the community theme, Insp Jacobs' former colleague, Pc Hayley

Jenner, of Chelmsford – also an Essex Police award-winner – was a candidate for Jane's Police Review Community Officer of the Year, which focuses on local initiatives to combat crime and officers' relationships with their community.

Still in Chelmsford, Moulsham Neighbourhood Policing Team have advised of their no-nonsense policy on

nuisance youths.

They have focussed on the fact that 'every child matters' is at the heart of community policing.

And the teams covering Great Baddow and Galleywood have called for parents' help.

A team of five dedicated police officers and three PCSOs, all of whom understand community issues and expectations are available to give help and advice either in person or over the phone if they are contacted on the dedicated number 07855 781137.

The team was formed because it was recognised that the force cannot solve crime and disorder on its own – the community has a responsibility to work with the police to solve problems.

During the first month, 30 letters were sent home to the parents of young people found congregating in nuisance youth 'hotspot' areas and three Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) were issued.

Over in Sible Hedingham, a two-month dispersal order over the summer brought a dramatic decrease in anti-social behaviour and youth nuisance.

In fact, the order was so successful, police did not apply for it to be extended when it expired in mid-September. Although they did warn that it would be re-introduced should the need arise.

Entertaining idea

A TEAM of officers and staff are putting their talents to good use, thanks to an idea by Central Divisional Commander Chief Supt Win Bernard.

He linked up with Dream 107.7fm to run a Cop Idol competition. Listeners in early December will be encouraged to phone in and vote for their favourite act. All money raised will go to Hargrave House in Great Baddow, a residential home for children with severe learning disabilities.

Chief Supt Bernard said: "Programme editor Nick Hull and I came up with the idea of Cop Idol almost a year ago. We think it will be a great way to raise money for a local charity and it will also help the public see that police officers and staff are real people.

"The good thing is that all those taking part have done this in their own time – not work time.

"None are professional singers either but they've all had great fun – hopefully Dream 107.7 listeners will too!"

Between 1pm and 1.15pm during the week December 4-8, you will be able to hear one of the following:

- Act 1, Pc Mark Jones, singing *Angels* by Robbie Williams
- Act 2, Freda Willingham and Sgt Glen Pavelin, singing *Things* by Robbie Williams and Jane Horrocks
- Act 3, acting Sgt Alan Davey and Sgt Jo Byrne, singing *Something Stupid* by Frank and Nancy Sinatra
- Act 4, PCSO Catherine Marsh singing *Hello* by Lionel Ritchie
- Act 5, PCSO Stephen Butler, singing *She's The One* by Robbie Williams.

● A special voteline – 0901 293 0135 – will be opened on Friday, December 8, the last day of the competition, from 1.30pm and listeners will have until 1.30pm on Monday, December 12, to vote for their favourite act and raise money at the same time. There will be five options, press 1 for Act 1 etc.

Braintree District Commander Chief Insp Mark Schofield said: "The positive response, including that from young people and parents, has been pleasing and we hope the improvement in behaviour will be permanent, for the benefit of everyone in the village.

Sible Hedingham was the first rural community in Essex to adopt the measure.

Following on from this, as a form of thanks and a bridge-building initiative, Sible Hedingham Youth Council said it would arrange two events for young villagers, in conjunction with the parish council – a Hallowe'en barbecue on the recreation ground and a Christmas event.

Crime reduction initiatives include Taxi Watch schemes in Braintree and Saffron Walden, where drivers act as extra eyes and ears for the police, and Industrial Watch groups at Dunmow and Witham.

And Central Division has seen a few county firsts in recent months – a court order for the destruction of a mini-motorcycle seized in Witham and action under the Licencing Act, which resulted in a ban on the sale of alcohol at a Braintree shop following problems with under-age drinking and anti-social behaviour.

Good work proves murder

TOM Baker never denied that he was responsible for killing his former partner's new partner, Bryan Spenner.

But the problem for detectives from the Major Investigation Team at Brentwood was proving that this was a cold, premeditated assault.

In the evening of June 16, 2005, when Bryan Spenner was in the lounge with Debbie Torry, Baker burst into the room, carrying a pick-axe handle.

He struck Debbie but she managed to escape the house and call police. However, Baker then turned his attentions to Bryan, knocking him unconscious to the ground.

After taking a carving knife from the kitchen, Baker stabbed Bryan 20 times. He was arrested at the house still holding the knife and pickaxe handle.

Baker's defence was that he had gone to the house after receiving a text message from his son saying that he needed his father's help.

But, following a six-week trial, the prosecution was able to persuade the jury that Baker had planned the attack by getting a key to the house cut and forcing his son to help by making him send the same text message on two successive days and that he had lied to the court.

Baker was found guilty of GBH on his former partner and found guilty of murder by a majority verdict. He is still awaiting sentence.

Senior Investigating Officer Det Supt Kevin Macey said: "We are grateful for all the assistance we have received from members of the public and, in particular, the two families at the centre of this tragedy.

"While Thomas Baker's identity was never in doubt, establishing the facts behind a brutal, cold, calculated murder was a difficult task not least because of the fact that the defendant was a cunning, manipulative, determined, violent and control-obsessed man."

Facing up to problems of drink-fuelled criminals

QUALITY of life can be drastically reduced by alcohol-fuelled crime and disorder.

So Essex Police has launched a month-long campaign to tackle the issues head-on.

The main aim of Operation FACE – Fighting Alcohol Crime in Essex – is to increase the presence of the police to deter crime in the first place, to speed up the response to reports of incidents and to improve performance when dealing with complaints.

Alcohol can often be the fuel behind anti-social behaviour and street crime – in fact, at peak times of the day, drink can be the cause of around 70 per cent of complaints.

Licensing and alcohol co-ordinator Sgt Nigel Dermott said: "A lot of the crime and disorder that is inflicted on to a community is alcohol-related.

"We hope that FACE will be a great opportunity to reassure the public that we are constantly working to fight this problem and we are making it a priority in the run-up to Christmas."

Essex Police will be working with its partners in Essex Trading Standards to tackle the sale of alcohol and other age-restricted goods, such as knives, to youngsters during this period.

Cracking down on motorists who drink

ESSEX Casualty Reduction Board is renewing its call for people to avoid drink-driving and to report drink-drivers.

Nationally, more than 3,000 people are killed or seriously injured each year in drink-drive collisions.

Drinking and driving occurs across a wide range of age groups, but young men aged 17 to 29 are particularly prone to both casualties and positive breath tests.

During the summer campaign in Essex, more than 13,000 people were stopped and breath-tested – 335 people had positive tests, of whom 38.8 per cent had previous criminal convictions.

Essex Police is taking a particularly heavy stance on detecting drink-drivers during the forthcoming festive period but the force emphasises that officers continue to enforce this type of activity throughout the entire year.

A spokesman said: "Alcohol can have deadly consequences for those who combine it with driving at any time of the year but particularly in winter conditions.

"Individuals who decide to drink and drive put not just themselves but everyone at risk, and their actions can dramatically affect many lives.

"This is why it is essential that they are caught and brought to justice."

● If you see someone drink-driving call 999.

● If you know someone who regularly drinks and drives, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

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 – great skiing, cheap prices. New one-bed apartment, sleeps four, close to gondola/old town. Gym, Jacuzzi, sauna. Police discount. Ring John on 07815 186944 or visit www.banskoskipad.co.uk

COSTA Blanca, La Marina, luxury two-bedroom, two-bathroom villa. Sleeps four to six, fully-fitted, air conditioning, heating. Communal pool. From £150 per week. Four weeks for price of three, December 2006. Ring Mick Ager on 07775 676142 or +34 617 110 096 or email casadomi02@hotmail.com

FLORIDA, four-bedroom, three-bathroom villa, sleeps eight to ten, private, screened pool and spa. Relaxed surroundings, 15 mins from Disney, attractions and golf. Police staff discount. Visit www.casonaflorida.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, Sarasota villa, quiet village environment, communal pool, tennis, barbecue, clubhouse, hot-tub, beautiful beaches, recently renovated. Email Norma at norma@normagill.com

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

LA Manga, two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartment, pool, sea view, seconds from sea and restaurants. Low-cost flights. Contact Bernie on 07986 098422 or email bernie999tompsett@yahoo.co.uk

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. Traditional country pursuits. Reductions for police. Ring Andy

Nunn on 01479 841717 or e-mail apf.nunn@btinternet.com

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 for sale

SPACIOUS bungalow, Alicante 30 mins, beach 10 mins. Two-bed, two-bathroom, large lounge, separate kitchen, glazed terrace, garden, air conditioning, communal pool. 155,000 Euro ono. Ring +34 966 716 066.

For sale

CITROEN C5, exclusive 2.2 HDI, Sept 2002, 41,000 miles, automatic, leather, sat-nav, rev/sensors, metallic silver, all electric sunroof, air conditioning, 6-star CD. One owner, history, new tyres, £4,500. Contact K D Herring on 01245 261562

COMPUTER desk – beech and silver with top shelf and keyboard pull-out shelf. £10 for collection in Chelmsford area. Phone 07917 340462.

FORD Cougar 2.5i, v6, 1999, ABS, power steering, air conditioning, climate control, service history, tax and MoT, good condition, above average mileage hence £1,950 ono. Ring Paul on 01206 272707

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

JAGUAR Mk II 240 automatic, 1968, Warwick grey, excellent condition. 'Agreed valuation' from Jaguar Drivers' Club of £10,000. Ring 07949 686438.

MGF 1.8i, 2001 convertible, red, 62,000 miles, full service history, cambelt at 56,000 miles, just serviced. Lovely example. Bargain £4,250 ono. Ring 07947 370342.

RENAULT Clio, 182 cup, 2004, silver, 19,000 miles, excellent condition, ABS, stem-controlled audio CD-player, full service history, extras, air conditioning. £1,000 ono, contact Laura on 07787 117575.

Miscellaneous

CARPENTER, bespoke joiner, fits kitchens, wardrobes etc. Free estimates, excellent daily rates. Contact Barry on 01376 324376.

Former officer named Deputy Lieutenant

Names in the news

A FORMER chief inspector has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Essex.

Dennis Rensch, 59, was appointed by the Lord-Lieutenant of Essex, Lord Petre, by leave of the Queen.

Mr Rensch believes he was nominated because of his community work and, fittingly, the day the news came through, he was swimming with sharks for a charity based near his home.

A Deputy Lieutenancy carries certain obligations, such as assisting the Lord-Lieutenant with ceremonial duties and Royal visits, upholding the dignity of the crown and assisting the reserve forces and Cadets in pre-service organisations.

Mr Rensch, who can remain Deputy Lieutenant until he is 75, revealed he was delighted by the news.

"I am very proud and very honoured. I did not expect this at all," he said.

Mr Rensch retired in June 2000 after 30 years with Essex Police.

In the late 1990s he spent a year with the Albanian Police and was chief of personnel for the Western European Mission to Albania, becoming special adviser to the Albanian Minister of Public Order.

He has been appointed an MBE for outstanding service to the community – he has raised more than £1million for charity since 1977 with some extremely arduous challenges, including a trek to the North Pole and another through Death Valley.

His latest adventure involved diving with sand tiger sharks at the Blue Planet Aquarium in Ellesmere Port.

The experience helped to raise money for a branch of the Pseudo-Obstruction Research Trust (PORT) which has just been set up in Brentwood.

PORT aims to fund research into the disorder, where the brain sends the wrong signals to the stomach.

Retirements

Dc **David Stevens**, 54, of Eastern Division, has decided to call it a day after 30 years' service with the force.

He has previously served in Rayleigh, Basildon, Southend and Tendring, finishing his career in Colchester.

HQ's Assistant MICAS Manager (Training and Administration) **Debbie Roblin** has bid farewell to the force after serving for 18 years.

She and her husband Henry have bought Hintlesham Golf Club in Suffolk to run together, with Debbie managing the restaurant, wedding and function side of things.

Obituaries

Ex-chief inspector **Joseph Gazzard** has died, aged 80. Mr Gazzard, of Benfleet, served from 1949 to 1981 with Southend Borough Police, CID and the Regional Crime Squad. He was also seconded to work at New Scotland Yard.

Former inspector **Jeffrey Crowther**, of Colchester, has died,



● Former Chief Insp Dennis Rensch, inset, was swimming with sharks for charity, above, the day he was told he had been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Essex

aged 61. He leaves a widow, Margaret.

He served from 1967 to 1994 at Maldon, Harlow, Colchester, Clacton and the TSU at Chelmsford.

His funeral took place at Colchester Crematorium. Donations in his memory for the British Heart Foundation may be sent c/o the Co-operative Funeral Service.

Ex-constable **Frederick Williams**, of Hedge End, Southampton, has died, aged 84. He leaves a widow, Margaret.

Mr Williams served from 1947 to 1972 at Kirby Cross and Walton.

Former detective constable **Pam Arnold** has died, aged 77. Miss Arnold, of Chelmsford, served with Essex Police between 1955 and 1985 at Colchester and Chelmsford.

Her funeral was due to be held at St Andrew's Church, Chelmsford, on December 5. Donations may be made in her memory to Farleigh Hospice and sent c/o T Pennack and Sons Funeral Service, 1-3 Maldon Road, Great Baddow.

Ex-constable **Martin Maxim**, of Hockley, has died, aged 63. He leaves a widow, Lynne.

Mr Maxim served from 1962 to 1998 with Southend Borough Police and then in Rayleigh and Rochford.

His funeral is due to take place on Thursday, December 7, at 1.20pm at Southend Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations may be made in his memory to Fairhavens

Hospice, c/o J W Tate and Son Funeral Directors, 20 North Street, Rochford SS4 1AB.

Awards

Head of Training Pankajni Trivedi has been awarded a post-graduate MA in human resource management by the London Metropolitan University Moorgate.

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 Pat White, of Colchester, has been awarded a Certificate in Management by the Institute of Leadership and Management.

Meanwhile, force photographer Gary Kenton received one of the highest qualifications from the British Institute of Professional Photography at a gala dinner.

Gary was presented with a certificate and medallion for his Fellowship qualification in Government Services Photography from the institute.

The presentation took place at the British Photographic Awards gala dinner, held at the Hilton Hotel in Coventry.

Gary achieved the Fellowship qualification – the highest level attainable within the institute – earlier this year and is one of only three photographers within the scientific/forensic field of specialisation in Essex to hold it.

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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. No internal or direct-dial work phone numbers should be given as contacts in the adverts. Only adverts from those directly connected to Essex Police (either serving or retired) will be accepted. Adverts should be restricted to a maximum of 24 words and repeat ads should be re-submitted on a monthly basis. The Law team reserves the right to edit or omit any advert which doesn't meet these criteria.

Victims need our support

WE may all have a picture in our minds of a typical victim of crime but very few of us will visualise a police officer as our victim, writes Press Officer Heather Watts.

However, ex-inspector Bob Craven did become a victim of crime and was forced to retire on ill-health grounds in 1994 after he was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Bob started his career with Essex Police in July 1967 and, like most officers, had his share of dealing with incidents that left him with battle wounds.

However, Bob experienced some terrifying moments, which included being carried along on the bonnet of a stolen car and being shot at by officers from another force. A passing lorry broke his leg during another incident and, when he was working undercover on a drugs operation, he had a rope placed around his neck and was hung from a fifth-floor balustrade.

Bob said: "At the time it was a very macho culture and the attitude was to keep your chin up and carry on working."

Little was known about PTSD and after a year off sick Bob's ill-health left him with no option and he retired.

Despite his physical and mental condition growing steadily worse since his retirement, Bob has written a book about his experiences during his 27 years with Essex Police and how he is coping with PTSD.

Tiptoe Through The Snowdrops will be available to purchase at the CIAO Gallery Coffee Shop at The Broadway, Leigh on Sea, and Bob will be signing the book at various times throughout Friday, December 15, and Saturday, December 16.

Signed copies of the book will be available from Monday, December 11, at the Victim Support display stand, which will be in the shop all week, staffed by Victim Support. All proceeds from the book sales, along with future internet sales, will be going to the charity.



Lynda Ketteridge, of Victim Support, said: "Only a certain percentage of our referrals come from the police and we want to raise awareness about our work both within and outside the police service."

● THE Essex Police response to the needs of its officers and staff is the Trauma Risk Management project (TRiM) for those officers who may be directly or indirectly involved with incidents or events which may have some lasting effects emotionally or psychologically.

A system of peer support continues to be developed. Further details on TRiM can be obtained from Occupational Health and Welfare Manager Jeanette Poston or Welfare Advisers Vickie Bond or Gill Costello. They can be reached at weekends via the Force Information Room.

● You can also visit the Occupational Health and Welfare pages on the intranet under the HR Department or visit the following link: http://web/departments/eptc/personnel/navigation/occupational_health_frame.htm

● **Lynda Ketteridge, of Victim Support, Pc Mark Sawyer, Dorothy Craven and CIAO owner Paul Watson watch Bob Craven, centre, signing his book**

Picture by Heather Watts

● **HEAD of Crime, Det Chief Supt Wil Kennedy and guest speaker at Victim Support Essex's annual meeting looked back at his contact with the Victim Support Scheme.** His contact has been as a uniformed officer and as a detective and spans all ranks.

But it was in his role as a DCI at Basildon that he recalled fondly the particular style of Marge Warren, the local Victim Support Scheme co-ordinator, who constantly browbeat him to get the best possible service for victims of crime. Looking back over his 30 years of policing Mr Kennedy told his audience at Colchester Town Hall: "We tried our best for victims of crime in the early days of the scheme. In court the victim, witnesses, defendant and often their family all sat together, with sometimes only a chair to separate them.

"At the time we thought nothing of it but changes over time have made it look like the Dark Ages. Now when I talk to officers, especially those starting their detective careers, I ask them to remember victim trauma and to ensure the first contact is the best we can make it. But I do realise our limitations. "Whether it be serious or volume crime the impact can be just as great. Victim Support Essex takes the time with victims we would like to be able to take. It is important to continue to work together to give the best possible support to victims of crime."

Mr Kennedy finished with a thanks to Victim Support Essex staff and volunteers.

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

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Numbers of PCSOs go from strength to strength

HAVING successfully recruited 350 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) over the last three and a half years, Essex Police is now looking to recruit a further 180 over the next financial year. Recruiting will begin Countywide, on Friday, December 8, and an open evening will be held on Wednesday, December 13, from 5-9pm at the Essex Police College at HQ in Chelmsford.

Bev Watkinson, HR Officer for PCSO Recruitment, said: "This will be the third open evening we have held at the college and we hope it will be as successful as the last two which saw over 250 people attending."

Members of the force's HR team will be available at the open evening to give advice on completing the application pack.

And serving PCSOs will attend to give those interested an insight into their role.

- Application packs can be downloaded via the force website at www.essex.police.uk – click on Recruitment and then on Community Support – or by phoning the PCSO Recruitment hotline on 01245 452633.

- Completed applications must be received by Friday January 12, 2007. Interviews will take place during the week beginning January 29

Police officer recruitment campaign

ESSEX Police has opened a new recruitment campaign for police officers.

Potential applicants can 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.

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 the rest is history ...

A SAMURAI sword handed in during June's knives amnesty has been collected by the British Museum. Officers received 150 weapons from people in Southend, Rochford and Castle Point during the first week alone.

One item which caught the eye was a Samurai sword, handed to the front counter at Southend Police Station by Osmond Horner, a member of the Burma Star Association, who had kept the sword as a war memento.

Service Desk Assistant Tannia Holmes was curious about its origins so, instead of disposing of it, she contacted the British Museum.



Inspector looks after the greyhounds

A ROAD policing officer has raised more than £250 for a dog charity after competing two triathlons – both at home and abroad.

Insp Mark Harman completed the London Marathon and the Ironman

Triathlon in Lanzarote earlier this year, clocking up £257 for The Retired Greyhound Trust.

The charity is the only one in the UK that looks to improve lives of retired racing dogs of which nearly 9,000 retired from competition each year.

Mark's endeavours have been publicised far and wide, with one former Romford resident and Essex Police officer, Bob Cordery, who now lives in France, reading about his endeavours on the internet and adding to the charity's coffers.

Anti-social residents are not messing about in Ockendon

NEIGHBOURHOOD Policing officers in South Ockendon have been working with their local council to try to eradicate anti-social behaviour.

They have linked up with Thurrock Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team in identifying known troublemakers and holding them to account.

Over two days in August, the teams targeted the Garrison Estate in Purfleet – those identified were called to a Final Intervention Panel, made up of police and council officers, in October.

There, evidence of their behaviour was put to them before a decision was made on the action to be taken – ranging from Warnings and Acceptable Behaviour

Contracts (ABCs) to the application for Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) or repossession proceedings.

On the day, panel members agreed three formal Warnings; five ABCs, three ASBO applications, three possession proceedings; one referral to the council's environmental health

department; and two referrals to the borough's Youth Inclusion and Support Panel. People who failed to attend will still be given their punishment in their absence but won't have had the opportunity to discuss their behaviour.

Sgt Anna Brennan, of South Ockendon Neighbourhood Policing Team, believes the new initiative is working to help educate those who

cause a nuisance to others and shows the effect their actions have on the victims. "We've teamed up with our colleagues at the local council to help stamp out anti-social behaviour in this town and make it an even

nicer, safer place for residents to live," she said. "We will continue to hold these successful, productive sessions until all the issues have been dealt with.

"We've found that, by working with our partners, we can help to make a difference, not only to law-abiding residents, but

also to the offenders who sometimes don't realise the nuisance they cause." Andrew Meyer, of Thurrock Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team, said:

"This operation is an excellent example of working together.

"Perpetrators need to understand that we share information and take a tough stance on anti-social behaviour.

"Thurrock is a place where anti-social behaviour will never be accepted."

The next Intervention Panel was due to meet on November 30.

- Anyone concerned about anti-social behaviour in Thurrock can visit the boroughs dedicated website www.unwelcome.co.uk

- Residents in the Ockendon area are invited to contact Sgt Anna Brennan at South Ockendon Police Station on 01375 391212

Closing the net on internet drug threat

by Tabitha Wilson

ACTING Deputy Chief Constable, Andy Bliss, was among the worldwide experts addressing the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Drugs conference last month.

Mr Bliss, who has been the chairman of ACPO's Precursor Working Group for the past 18 months, explained how the use of everyday chemicals to make drugs is a growing threat posing a serious challenge to law enforcers throughout the world.

Precursor chemicals are used in the production of synthetic drugs such as ecstasy and crystal meth, which can be made using everyday ingredients bought legally from commercial outlets or the internet.

Only when the ingredients are combined do they become illegal substances.

This makes detecting criminality at source even more difficult.

Mr Bliss explained: "The fact that the internet allows people to purchase chemicals from across the world and from a variety of sources represents a huge challenge for the war on drugs.

"Just typing in the name of a drug into an internet search engine brings back a host of recipes on how to make them.

"Not only is the resulting substance illegal, but sometimes the recipes are wrong and can lead to explosive substances being produced, or illegal drugs that are even more harmful to health than usual."

The ACPO group chaired by Mr Bliss aims to work with the chemical industry to identify suspicious transactions and track the culprits.

The group is calling on the Home Office to fund a secure, internet-based system which will enable legitimate chemical companies to report suspicious activity – such as a large order of precursor chemicals – directly to the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA).

"While the internet is a source of our problem, we hope also to be able to use it as part of the solution via an internet-based reporting system for the chemical industry," said Mr Bliss.

"Criminals looking to make money from synthetic drugs or the creation of chemical explosives need to know that the police service, together with SOCA and the Home Office, are working to close the net and bring more of them to justice in the future."



● Nick and Judy Burston cross the finish line after five days and 100 miles

A marathon challenge

'TRULY awesome' is how Insp Nick Burston describes her trip to India. The scenery was stunning, there was a fascinating mix of cultures and, oh yes, she did climb over 6,000ft up the Himalayas, covering 100 miles in five days, accompanied by her 69-year-old mother, Judy.

Nick was drawn to the Himalayan 100-mile Challenge as she loves the country and thought 'I could do that'. Her mother, an experienced marathon-runner, decided that not only would she support her daughter she was going to do the full distance too.

Nine days acclimatising in Darjeeling before the challenge allowed Nick and Judy to try the famous tea, taken with hot milk or salt, before joining the 58 people from Europe and the Americas who had signed up for the challenge.

Day one involved over 10,000ft of climbing – and 3,000ft downhill – over steep mountain tracks of cobbled stones, covering 24 miles and taking over eight hours to complete.

It left Nick and her mum physically and mentally exhausted – overnight accommodation in Sherpa huts with no showers, no electricity and so no heating, plus night temperatures of -10C, requiring them to wear layers of clothing, hats and gloves to go to bed, did not help morale.

The next morning, however, the sun rose over the Himalayas giving an unforgettable vista of four of the five highest summits in the world and one reason why they had gone.

The following days varied in difficulty but none could be described as easy. The paths sometimes had sheer drops on shingle type surfaces or they met heavily-laden pack teams.

The final two days included the joy of a proper road, or at least a road with some tarmac – a rarity when most are simply dirt tracks.

Crossing the finish Nick and Judy were greeted by a local band, with bagpipers and school children. There was definitely a feeling of relief that they had finished.

Everyone finished, with the joint winners taking 15 hours but Nick and Judy were very pleased with times of 30 hours. Nick said: "It was an incredible experience with so many memories. I won't forget the awesome scenery, the comradeship between the participants and the faces of the local children who were so happy when we gave them new exercise books, pens and crayons.

"I have raised about £700 for the British Heart Foundation and would like to thank everyone who has contributed so willingly and generously."

Helen Cook

Sports & Social

Nick skittles the regional opposition

REGION 10 of the International Police Association has re-launched its inter-branch ten-pin bowling competition. Five teams competed at Madison Heights in Maldon, with Nick Stoneman, of Rayleigh MIT, scoring the individual highest tally and South-East Essex branch winning the team trophy. Tickets for the region's Christmas dinner have sold out but further events are planned for 2007. Branch and the region's annual meetings will be held on the following dates – venues to be confirmed: South-East Essex, February 13; K, February 22; North Essex, March 6; Mid-Essex, March 15; Region 10; March 22.

• Anyone wishing to join the International Police Association can contact Region 10 secretary Steve Hunt at Stanway MIT via email or visit www.ipa-uk.org

Central are ahead by a whisker

CENTRAL Division took the honours in the Croker Cup cross-country competition at Gloucester Park, Basildon. HQ took second place, South-Western were third, Eastern fourth, South-Eastern fifth and Western were sixth.

HQ won the sea angling competition, with South-Eastern second, Central third and Western bringing up the rear in fourth. So, the updated table, after seven events, reads: Central 49 points; South-Eastern 46; HQ 39; Eastern 23; Western 17; South-Western 11.

• THE only future Croker Cup event to be confirmed is the swimming gala, which will take place at Gloucester Park in Basildon on Sunday, January 14.

• Contact Chris Mathlin at Pitsea CID via email for more details.

• All other event organisers are asked to notify Force Sports Secretary John Stonehouse on ext 58888 or via email with dates and venues

Snow joke for Marina

MARINA Ericson, of Epping, has been selected to represent the British Police Snow Sports squad in the European Championships being staged in Deggendorf, Germany, in March 2007.

Sports news?

Don't wait for *The Law* to catch up with you. Ring editor Heather Turner on ext 55819 or email her your report

Cross-country team needs to work hard

THE force men's cross-country team was, at the time *The Law* went to print, 30 points ahead of defending champions Kent.

But with two races down and three to go and Derek Walker on holiday for the next fixture at Horsham in Sussex on

Wednesday, December 6, and team captain Mick Bond doubtful, there was a possibility the team could drop more than 60 points.

The veteran men were in second place and, after their performance at Basildon, when they finished third, the

women's team have given themselves the chance to move into a medal position if they can repeat this in the remaining races.

• Cross-country league fixtures take place next month on 10 and 31, with the regional championships on February 21

Hockey men beat Scottish champions Di and Lucy fly the force flag in PSUK



• Left: Di Reynolds, back row, third from left, and Lucy Robinson, front row, third from right. Above: Lucy Robinson in action

TWO Essex officers, Di Reynolds and Lucy Robinson have spent three days with the PSUK hockey squad.

Di, of Rayleigh Neighbourhood Support Team, and Lucy, of Grays CID, were selected for the team in September and this was their first squad get-together.

After a two-hour training session for the 16 squad members to get know each other, the team faced National League side Liverpool and forced a 0-0 draw.

Another training session the next day was followed by another match against a

National League side – Bradford, which PSUK team won 4-2.

The final day saw more training and a game against local side Nelson.

Lucy was hit time after time by the opposition and had to go off for treatment but it didn't stop her getting back on the pitch and giving it her all. The final score was 2-2.

The PSUK hockey team next meet in June to play a tournament against the Combined Services and the Civil Servants.

• Anyone interested in playing for the PSUK hockey team can contact Di Reynolds, the team manager, via email.

National form doesn't become local

DESPITE the doom and gloom in their local league, Essex Police's veterans' football team made it three wins out of three in the PSUK league with a 3-1 win over City of London.

Guy Harward scored two and Neil Offord one in a game which saw solid defence and strong attack.

Many early chances went begging but Essex Police were still 2-0 up at half-time.

A slow start in the second half saw Essex come under pressure and City took their chance well.

However, the home side soon recovered for Guy Harward to score his second and record an emphatic victory.

Team member Ray O'Hare said afterwards: "All in all it was a very good performance – probably our best this season. That's three wins out of

three in this competition so far, which, according to my maths is 100 per cent!"

The teams next PSUK league fixtures are: December 12, at home to Hertfordshire, January 9, away to Suffolk, January 17, away to City of London and February 7, at home to the Metropolitan Police.

Sadly this performance has not carried over to local competitions.

The side lost 4-1 to Thundersley in the County Cup.

And in the Greene King Essex Veterans League Premier Division, they are nestling at the foot of the table with one point from six games.

Last month they lost 4-0 to Beacon Hill Rovers, 2-0 to Old Parmerians (with 10 men) and 2-0 to Dunmow and have yet to win a match in the league.

There's justice in this month's lottery wins

THE winner of the top £3,000 November lottery prize was Insp Alan Bromley, of the Criminal Justice Department.

Second prize of £1,000 went to Yvonne Stannard, of Essex Police Authority, and £500 went to Judi Taylor, of Southend Criminal Justice Department.

Winners of £100 prizes were: Sgt David Rudd, of Corringham Dog Unit; Dc Sam Green, of Crime Division; Mick Hewitt, of Grays Administration; Ds Barry Blackman, of Clacton CID; Dc Nicholas Treadway, of Pitsea Public Protection Unit; Ray Stannard, of

Maldon Crime Reduction; Dc Christopher Downes, of Harlow Investigations Team; Dc Stephen Rawlings, seconded; Dc Steven Lee, of South Ockendon CID; Louise Pugh, of the Fingerprint Bureau; and Sgt David Martin, of Harlow.

Winners of £50 were: Clive Skingley, retired; Pc Christopher Smith, of Brentwood; Pc Paul Chambers, of Stansted Airport; Susan White, of Harlow HR Business Team; Dc Sukina Turner, of Harlow CID; Pc Chris Phillips, of Mistley; Sara Whitehead, of Southend; Natalie Foster, of Personnel

and Training; Pc James O'Connell, of Laindon; Fran Felix, of Chelmsford Committal Unit; DCI Tom Harper, of Scientific Support; Pc Lisa Workman, of Chelmsford; Dc Ian Bloomfield, of HQ Crime Squad; and Pc Steven Bolingbroke, of Waltham Abbey. Winners of Benenden Healthcare bears were:

Pc Andrew Bain, of Harlow; Sgt Richard Ambrose, of Harlow; Supt Graham Carey, of Harlow; Kim Karacolak, of HQ IT; Valerie Fuller, of Procurement; and Dc Colin Egleton, of Rayleigh Major Investigation Team.

Sarah earns her place in rugby squad

COLCHESTER'S Sarah Jay has been selected for the PSUK women's rugby squad after her performance at the annual trials in Milton Keynes.

Sarah was one of 30 female police rugby players who attended the two-day event. After sessions training and teaching girls from local schools about non-contact tag rugby they played against the Army team, which were also using the match as a trial.

The Army lost both games and are due to meet the PSUK women's rugby team on December 13 at Aldershot.

Then Sarah, an open-side flanker, faces games against England Students and Scotland A next year. She plays for Ipswich Rugby Club in the RFWU's London and South East 1 league. She began playing 14 years ago – playing for a team in National Division 1 and in the Midlands representative side – but then took a break before starting to play again last year.

Cowboys wanted for musical

REHEARSALS are under way for Essex Police Musical Society's next production of George Gershwin's *Crazy For You* but, at the time of going to print, were three cowboys short.

The society was searching for three men to take chorus parts of cowboys, although there would be a few solo lines of dialogue for each character.

Any enthusiastic man who can put on an American accent is welcome to apply for the part – they can be of any age and do not have to be an employee of Essex Police.

• Rehearsals take place on Monday and Thursday evenings at 7.30pm at HQ Assembly Hall. The show will be performed from Monday, February 12, to Saturday, February 18. Contact either Jenny Hillyard on ext 50335 or Lynda Barkway on ext 50739

Trio go in the right direction

THREE officers were selected to represent the PSUK orienteering team.

Wendy Welham, of Stansted Airport, Nicola McNally, of Witham, and Steven King, of Colchester, were due to compete in an inter-services match at Cranleigh at the end of last month.

Out of the cup

THE force's 'youth' football team lost to Latchingdon in a cup match 5-4 on penalties after extra time.

Steve Crane scored two goals and is the side's top scorer.

Seatbelt stop turns into a large drugs discovery

A SIMPLE but necessary vehicle stop-check for a driver not wearing his seatbelt turned into a nightmare for the driver and a good day all round for Essex Police.

Pc Mark Hewitt, of Rayleigh Road Policing Unit, spotted Matthew Watson, 21, driving through Eastwood without wearing his seatbelt back in May.

This simple omission on Watson's part opened the floodgates and proved that positive, proactive police work can turn up no end of things.

Pc Hewitt smelt cannabis in Watson's car and then found a large quantity of the Class C drug.

Watson, of Southend, was arrested and a house search turned up another large quantity of cannabis and also £6,000 in cash.

With assistance from his colleagues at Southend, particularly Dc Karen Laycock, Pc Hewitt began the process of seizing and retaining this money.

His next action was to call in Financial Investigations, who offered advice and undertook inquiries which led to more assets being located.

After the case was heard by Southend magistrates, Watson was referred to Southend Crown Court for sentence last month.

As a result, he now has to pay £12,000 within six months or he faces a year in prison and still has to pay the debt.

Another £16,000 was seized and will be a life-long debt until he has the assets to pay it off.

Plus he was sentenced to 51 weeks' imprisonment, suspended for two years, and received a two-year supervision order, a 250-hour community penalty and a three-month curfew from 7pm to 6am daily.

Dc Toby Larkin, of Financial Investigations in Brentwood said afterwards: "The Proceeds of Crime Act is a great bit of kit. This stop-check gave us another chance to use it and, hopefully, Pc Hewitt's actions go to show others how effective the legislation is."

"Advice should be sought from Financial Investigations by any officer finding £1,000 plus, which should be done as soon as possible and in any case within 48 hours, so a court detention for the money can be obtained."

● For help and advice on how to use the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) ring Financial Investigations on ext 76544

Challenge cash

ANOTHER winning idea from Pc Steve Joynes at Rochford saw him organise a charity dodgeball challenge and raise £85 for the NSPCC Full Stop campaign.

Competing teams included local youngsters, the district council, rugby players, PC World and the police.

Force pilots system to target paedophiles

THE battle against internet child abuse is set to become easier.

And it's all thanks to a new computer system that will allow police officers across the country to share information on suspected online paedophiles.

The Child Exploitation Tracking System (CETS) has been created by computer giant Microsoft in response to a plea for help from Canadian police officers.

Essex is now one of four police services piloting the system in the UK, in conjunction with the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre.

CETS is a secure, web-base database application which enables information to be shared across national and international boundaries.

Until now, paedophiles have taken advantage of the borderless nature of the Internet to avoid being caught.

But this system is designed to close those gaps by creating a worldwide network of enforcement teams who can

by **Tabitha Wilson**

share information to combat child exploitation.

At the click of a button, investigators will be able to instantly cross-check key pieces of information on suspected offenders, including email addresses and online aliases.

Officers will also be able to see if colleagues elsewhere in the country have already been able to match a suspect's online address with the postal address.

DCI Dave Peplow, Head of Essex Police's Child Abuse Investigation Unit, said: "We are delighted to be taking part in this pilot scheme and are looking forward to seeing how this system can help us to detect and arrest online paedophiles."

"Child exploitation investigations often span more than one police service area, so a system that enables intelligence to be shared quickly and easily and reduces the duplication of effort by officers across the country will be invaluable."

Alongside working to catch people who

intend to exploit youngsters, Essex Police also advises young people and parents to take care when they are online.

Computer Network Investigator Dave Nash, of Essex Police Hi-Tech Crime Unit, said: "Children can be easily tricked into believing that they are communicating with someone of their own age when in fact their online 'friend' could be an adult looking to prey on them."

"It's important that personal details are never shared across the internet unless you are completely sure the person you are communicating with is trustworthy."

● More information on internet safety can be found on the Essex Police website.

Log on to www.essex.police.uk click on Young People and then Chatroom Safety or visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk – an interactive website created by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre – which contains information on how to have fun on the internet, how to stay in control and how to report any issues

Strong case gives rapist no option but to admit guilt

A STRONG case submission by Trainee Investigator Donna Costelloe left defendant Richard Ivers no opportunity but to plead guilty to two counts of rape and one count of the sexual penetration of a young man.

Ivers, a high-ranking Home Office official and magistrate, was sentenced last month at Chelmsford Crown Court for an indeterminate period of imprisonment, serving a minimum of three years.

The judge said Ivers would remain in prison until he was safe to be released.

The 39-year-old former civil servant from Chigwell was arrested following an incident at a house in the town on April 12 when a then 18-year-old man was sexually assaulted.

Ivers was also placed on the Sex Offenders Register for life.

DI Sean O'Callaghan, of Harlow CID, said after the hearing: "The investigation showed that Richard Ivers committed this degrading attack in a calculated manner – disguising his identity, cleaning the crime scene and then assisting the police as a witness."

"I am pleased that the court has acknowledged that he poses a significant risk of causing serious harm to members of the public and imprisoned him with an indeterminate sentence."

Section 225 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 provides for a new sentence of 'imprisonment for public protection' which is an indeterminate sentence.

Vehicle-users warned not to destroy site

THE inner Thames Estuary has a beauty all of its own.

And now motorcyclists, quad-bikers and off-road vehicle-users are being asked not to damage or disturb West Thurrock Lagoon and Marshes, an area of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The area is one of the most important sites for wintering waders and wildfowl on the estuary.

Force Wildlife Crime Co-ordinator Andrew Long said: "Essex Police is working with Natural England and the landowners and will consider any damage or disturbance to this site a serious matter."

"Working with our partners, we will deal strongly with anyone found committing an offence. Where there is sufficient evidence of an offence being committed we will pass files onto the Crown Prosecution Service for possible prosecution."

"We would, however, like to avoid this and encourage those responsible to stop the activity and allow the site to remain undisturbed."

Safer parking makes its mark in county



● Operations manager Darren Laing, acting Insp Kevin Diable-White, The Royals Shopping Centre manager Dawn Jenkins and Senior Architectural Liaison Officer John Hills admire the ParkMark

A SOUTHEND shopping centre is the latest recipient of a ParkMark – helping to make the town just that little bit safer for vehicle-owners.

Southend Central Neighbourhood Policing Team's acting Insp Kevin Diable-White and the force's Senior Architectural Liaison Officer John Hills handed over the county's 61st Safer Parking Award last month. Acting Insp Diable-White said that making the ParkMark award was an important step in reducing vehicle-related crime in Southend.

The Safer Parking Scheme, which is managed by the British Parking Association on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers, has grown rapidly since its re-launch in October 2004 and the 2006th ParkMark award was issued earlier this year.

Mr Hills said he was delighted with the success of the scheme in Essex – it has been particularly popular at Lakeside Shopping Centre in Thurrock and in Southend with car parks in Basildon, Canvey, Tendring and Chelmsford, among others, also boasting awards.

He said of the latest ParkMark: "This is another major parking facility in Essex that will contribute to the reduction in auto crime within car parks."

"Essex is a safe place in which to live, work and play and visit and this contributes to making Essex, and Southend in particular, a safer place."

● For more information about the ParkMark visit either www.britishparking.co.uk or www.securedbydesign.com

Mobile criminals under the thumb

ROADSIDE fingerprint recognition machines will be trialled by Essex Police in January.

The force has been chosen to help to pilot the new Project Lantern.

The force will have 10 traffic cars equipped with the hand-held electronic machines, which will be used to try and identify people at the roadside to confirm the details given to police.

The machines will take a reading of the person's forefinger, and will then search the national fingerprint database

to confirm their identity.

Initially the scheme will be implemented on a voluntary basis.

Wendy Palmer, Head of the Fingerprint Bureau, explained: "It is not about targeting the average man on the street but the scheme is being piloted to target those who are looking to evade being identified by the police."

Lantern is managed by PITO (the Police Information Technology Organisation) and effectively allows the identification of individuals in an

operational environment for the first time.

Currently, officers would have to arrest a person and take them to a suitably-equipped custody suite in order to be able to establish a person's identity.

Annual savings of more than £2.2million nationally have been forecast, through time saved in pursuing false identities.

The pilot is scheduled for completion in December 2007 and results will be analysed prior to a national roll-out.

