

The Law



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January 2007

Public to receive a Quality of Service, vows Carmel Napier

NEW ACC: WE MUST KEEP OUR PROMISES



ESSEX Police has appointed its first female Chief Officer – Assistant Chief Constable Carmel Napier.

Mrs Napier is responsible for the force's territorial policing capability and her aim is not only to make communities safer but to feel safer.

"I want to help make Essex a leading force and hope staff will get a glow when they take the lead in making Essex safer, too" said Mrs Napier, 46.

She believes the key to this is delivering a Quality of Service which is customer-focused.

Meanwhile, Chief Officers are looking at how best to deliver the twin and parallel requirements of both Neighbourhood Policing – rolled out across the county last year – and protective services, such as counter-terrorism, strategic roads policing and major crime.

"However, Neighbourhood Policing is the golden thread which will run through everything Essex Police delivers to its communities and stakeholders," Mrs Napier explained.

"The inspectors on Neighbourhood Policing Teams are the Chief Constables of their patch – working really closely with their communities and the extended police family to deliver what the community wants and to provide feedback.

"If we promise something, we do it unless there is an exceptional reason not to do it.

"Promises are a key core value and we have to understand the consequences to our communities and to our reputation if we don't meet them."

The force has made significant achievements in reducing crime – April to November 2006 saw a 6.8 per cent drop in recorded crime, more than 6,000 offences, compared to the same period the previous year; for the same periods the number of sanctioned detections was 3.7 per cent higher and the sanctioned detection rate was 2.9 percentage points higher at 28.4 per cent; and officers made 0.8 per cent more arrests.

by Heather Turner

And four out of the six territorial divisions have delivered some of their best performances this month.

However, there is still more to be done. Mrs Napier has promised to focus on putting the customer first and continue reducing crime and anti-social behaviour while improving crime detections still further.

"We can achieve this through everybody in the force taking forward the ACTION programme, being a leader and taking responsibility for their own and for colleagues' service," she said.

"Because policing is complex, we need to create a team ethos which delivers an improved service to our communities and which focuses on the individual."

Although complex, policing can also be somewhat predictable – regarding victims, offenders, location, seasonality and time of day – and Mrs Napier believes officers and staff should be able to match availability of resources with demands by planning ahead.

To address this, Business Intelligence Units will be established on each territorial division, providing detailed information on how we are running our business of policing – operational, crime management, financial, incident management, HR etc – an audit of a division's operational and support capacity.

This will assist officers and staff to provide a guaranteed standard of service delivery to all their 'customers' – both in the wider community and within the force itself.

"We have a culture which is supportive and which recognises and rewards good work while addressing those who are not meeting the requirements both we and the community have of them," she said.

"We must improve people's understanding of what Quality of Service and performance enhancement are.

"We need to clarify roles and responsibilities so people know what a good job looks like."

● Turn to Page 3

Helping Suffolk colleagues

WHEN a serial killer struck five times in Suffolk before Christmas, forces from around the region and beyond offered their assistance.

And Essex was no exception with 130 officers and police staff travelling to Suffolk and a further 30 tasked in Essex, clocking up the equivalent of more than 1,000 days of work.

Search assistance was provided, along with intelligence officers, house-to-house, technical support, cordon

officers, a HOLMES indexer, media support, call-takers and traffic patrols.

A major investigation team remains in Suffolk and is likely to do so until next month.

It wasn't just regular personnel who offered their support; the Special Constabulary yet again proved its value to the service.

Acting Assistant Chief Constable Peter Lowton said: "I am very proud of the way in which the staff and officers of

Essex supported our colleagues across the border and would like to express my personal thanks to everyone in the force for the role they played.

"It is not just the hard work and long hours of those who provided mutual aid to the Suffolk investigation that should be acknowledged; but those who remained in Essex ensuring that our own county's policing service and performance were maintained to their usual high standards."



Concerns about the use of 'on-call'

THE matter of 'on-call' needs to be addressed.

Essex Police Federation is against the principle of on-call and firmly believes that, when a member has finished their day's work, they should be free from any expectation to work or have restrictions placed on their private life.

However, we also understand that the many and varied operational requirements placed upon our members cannot be resolved by proper resourcing.

There is nothing in the Police Regulations which relates to 'on-call'.

The process of 'on-call' is utilised by Essex Police to call and recall officers at short notice, who are then required to deal with certain types of police activity. By its nature, this

will often involve specialist skills or knowledge.

The requirement is outside the core responsibilities and working hours of the individual role.

To date, 'on-call' arrangements seem to lack consistency – as some have been reached by local agreement whilst management has imposed others – but most are with the goodwill of our members.

Whilst we would not wish to restrict the options open to management in meeting our policing demands, the Police Federation has expressed concerns at Chief Officer-level that we believe there is broad abuse of 'on-call' by managers, placing even greater restrictions on the private lives of our members.

The time has come for us, the Police Federation, to work towards a joint agreement with the Federated

ranks and Essex Police regarding this issue.

At the present time, 'on-call' allowances are still subject to national negotiation (Police Negotiating Board) with the Police Federation.

However, this does not prevent us in Essex from taking a lead and negotiating a working policy, including appropriate remuneration.

If anything, it should focus our organisational needs as to how many officers, and what roles, need to be on call.

Work/life balance

The work/life balance of Essex Police officers could be threatened by what the Federation believes is the force's inadequate planning.

Some officers say their lives have been turned upside-down due to

poor planning by the force. Officers will do anything to accommodate an urgent need but they fail to understand what is urgent about policing events that have sometimes been planned for over a year.

And, when officers' lives are turned upside-down due to a lack of planning, goodwill will sometimes disappear.

When officers are told that rest days over Christmas and the New Year period have been cancelled in case something happens, they feel taken for granted. This should never happen – New Year's Eve is on December 31 every year.

We, as a force, need to get smarter. We need to plan ahead, risk-assess events and give adequate warning to officers who are required to work.

Quite often, the key to a proper work/life balance is the interpret-

ation of regulations and policies.

We, in Essex, have some excellent and robust policies but the Federation believes that managers sometimes make decisions without referring to them.

The work/life balance is a fine one, with some officers wanting to work longer hours and not being allowed to.

The Federation has been invited by acting ACC Derek Benson to work with him to review Essex Police's working practices and regulations in the hope of agreeing a common policy for the cancellation of rest days.

I welcome this work and believe that, for the efficiency of Essex Police, it is the only way forward. In the meantime, I will continue to monitor the cancellation of rest days.

Perseverance pays off for CAIU

A SEX offender has been brought to justice eight years after he assaulted an eight-year-old girl, thanks to the perseverance of Harlow Child Abuse Investigation Unit.

In 1998, the unit investigated an allegation of indecent assault on a then eight-year-old girl.

However, as there were no witnesses and no corroborative evidence, it was not possible to solve the crime.

But, last year, as a result of a combination of

factors, the inquiry was reinstigated and the case then went to trial. After the jury was unable to reach a verdict, a retrial was ordered and this time Lorenzo Serrano was convicted of indecent assault.

Last month, Serrano was sentenced to a combination order, where he was required to attend the Thames Valley programme, complete 100 hours of community service and be put on to the Sex Offenders' Register for five years and so be subject to monitoring.



● Pc Mark Jones celebrates his victory with colleagues Picture by Nishan Wijeratne

A dream win for Mark

OFFICERS and staff from Chelmsford raised nearly £50 for charity following their version of ITV1's successful reality show *Pop Idol*. Cop Idol was the brainchild of Chief Supt Win Bernard who teamed up with Dream 107.7FM to raise money from Hargrave House in Great Baddow – a residential home for children with severe learning disabilities. Four sets of officers battled it out last month, with listeners urged to call in following each lunchtime performance.

Pc Mark Jones's entry, *Angels* by Robbie Williams, was voted the best ahead of four other acts.

Of his win, he said: "I'm chuffed to bits. I wasn't in it to win, but I'm definitely pleased

to have raised some money for a worthwhile cause. My wife and brother-in-law have never laughed so much though as they went into hysterics when they heard me sing live on the radio.

"I did try to charge a performance fee at the Christmas party karaoke but, surprisingly, got short shrift!"

Chief Supt Bernard, Central Divisional Commander, said: "This concept was dreamt up nearly a year ago. It's a great, fun way to raise money for the local charity and will also help people see that officers and police staff are real people. I have full respect for the officers who have done this good piece of work for these children in their own time."

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We should be proud as our brand is 'high quality'

● From Page One

Mrs Napier terms the style as 'intrusive, supportive leadership and management', which enables officers and staff to focus on the issues which matter to our communities and so deliver safer communities.

Among her priorities are 'one-stop shops' – with the police and other agencies working from shared premises – which focus on local service delivery, and increasing the number of volunteers in policing or ViPs.

"The key is that we treat one-stop shops exactly like shops – accommodation that is friendly, welcoming and professional with the Essex Police brand of 'high quality'.

"It is a brand that we are all proud to be a part of and people will recognise we are there to provide reassurance and help if they require it," she said.

"The customer is the most important person and we need to be in positions where we meet and greet people, smile at and acknowledge them at all times, from the Chief Constable to Service Desk Assistants. It breaks down barriers."

Mrs Napier is proud to be Essex Police's first female Assistant Chief Constable. "It is always nice to be the first," she said.

However, being first is not new for her. She joined Hertfordshire Police 23 years ago, when being a woman in a force was still not common and often found herself the only woman performing investigative roles at different ranks.

She joined Essex in October as acting ACC from North Yorkshire Police, where she was chief superintendent in charge of Corporate Development.

Having watched the police service develop as more women join and progress, she says there is still a long way to go.

"However," said Mrs Napier, "I can achieve a lot. It is important to be seen as a role model for the force, both internally and externally. I can provide both mentoring and support to other women and actively participate in diversity issues for Essex Police.

"And being a woman will bring an additional perspective to the Chief Officer Team – we all have different skills and attributes and they become part of the toolkit."

● Visit the ACTION Leadership website under Information on the intranet front page

● Find out more about Quality of Service by visiting www.essex.police.uk/about/apb_45.php

Recruitment

THE force has now run out of application packs for new recruits after having successfully completed its winter campaign.

However, potential applicants are still welcome to apply via the website www.policecouldyou.co.uk

All applications must be completed and submitted to reach Essex Police by the extended deadline of Wednesday, February 28, 2007, at 4.30pm at the latest.

No late applications will be accepted.

New programme should help officers get results

A NEW website, dedicated to professionalising the investigative process, has been set up. The Professionalising Investigation Programme (PIP) is being implemented in forces countrywide. Essex PIP Project Manager Insp Graham Perks said the aim was to ensure that officers investigating crime had the right skills to achieve success.

PIP equips officers with the right knowledge to put into practice at all stages of the investigation, from crime scenes to court appearances.

It also aims to ensure consistent standards both forcewide and countrywide.

Insp Perks said: "PIP ensures that all staff at all

levels who are involved in investigating crime – from frontline officers and staff through to Senior Investigating Officers (SIOs) – are trained to the correct standards as professional investigators." Crime Divisional Commander Chief Supt Wilson Kennedy said PIP complemented what Essex Police had been doing for some years.

"We are well positioned to deliver against all the investigative levels," he said.

"PIP underlines the need to ensure that investigative development continues throughout the career of all officers, from Probationers to investigating the most serious offences as an SIO.

"It is equally important that we extend this

development to all our staff working in the investigative arena."

PIP works at three levels – from patrol officers, to CID and SIOs, and includes specialist investigative roles.

Those new to their roles will automatically be PIP trained – Level 1 is already incorporated in the Initial Police Learning Development Programme (IPLDP) and Level 2 in the Initial Crime Investigators Development Programme (ICIDP) – while SIOs have become accredited at Level 3. However it has yet to be decided how those already in post, at Level 1 or Level 2, can qualify.

● Visit <http://web/info/proinvpgm> for more details

Justice for victims of seven major crimes



● The 5,000th vehicle is removed from a Southend Street

Driving crime away

POLICE removed the 5000th untaxed vehicle from the streets of Southend last month.

The joint, ongoing operation between the force, Southend Borough Council and the DVLA picked up the first untaxed vehicle in Southend on November 4, 2002.

Pc Simon Puttock, who helped to implement the scheme, said it had been highly effective in denying criminals use of the roads.

"This important work helps reduce the criminal's ability to commit crime and enhances the safety of the law-abiding majority using our roads," he said.

"Working together with Southend Borough Council and the DVLA we'll continue to make Southend a safer, more pleasant place in which to live and work."

And local councillor Ian Robertson added: "My message to those who might be thinking of driving an untaxed vehicle in Southend is 'don't'."

Police target untaxed vehicles because often they or their owners are involved in crime. Figures suggest that 80 per cent of drivers without a valid tax disc are likely to be involved in some form of criminal activity.

THERE was outrage when the homes of two police officers from Clacton were subject to arson attacks but two men are to be sentenced this month.

The case was just one of seven major crimes which saw justice done during December illustrating the skills and dedication of detectives, officers and staff from around the county.

Jason Eagles, 22, of Clacton, and Angelo Debono, 31, of Colchester, spent Christmas on remand awaiting their fate after a jury in Ipswich found them both guilty of two counts of arson with intent to endanger life on January 28 last year.

They were found not guilty of attempted murder and a third man was cleared of all charges.

At Chelmsford Crown Court, Beverley Boshell finally got justice for the execution of her son Dean Boshell, who was shot in the head on a Southend allotment in 2001.

His killer, Ricky Percival, 27, of Leigh-on-Sea, was handed a 26-year minimum life sentence for the shooting, plus nine-year prison terms for the attempted murders of two other men in 1999.

His associate, Kevin Walsh, 34, of Leigh-on-Sea, was sentenced to two-and-a-half years for perverting the course of justice in the Dean Boshell case.

Det Supt Tim Wills commented afterwards as to how the 'verdict is evidence of the fact that Essex Police will not allow people to get away with murder'.

A fatal stabbing in a Writtle pub saw Stephen Bishop, 57, handed a seven-year jail term. Bishop, of Manor Park, was

by Kim Perks

found guilty of the manslaughter on the grounds of provocation of Paul McKenna in the Chequers pub on April 16.

Another life sentence – with an 11-and-a-half-year minimum term – was given to Steven Bennett, 41, of Basildon, after he pleaded guilty to stabbing to death 29-year-old married father Trevor Moriarty.

His co-accused, Natasha Davies, 35, of Basildon, continue to deny her part in the murder but was found guilty at trial of attempting to pervert the course of justice and is being sentenced this month.

And a teenager who ran over and killed a man with his own vehicle is also beginning a lengthy prison sentence.

David Mascal, 18, pleaded guilty to manslaughter and aggravated vehicle taking causing the death of Vi-Phond To, 39, in Aveley in June. He was given an indeterminate sentence for the public's protection, to serve a minimum of three and a half years for the manslaughter charge.

Mascal, of Hornchurch, was also sentenced to three years in jail for the charge of aggravated taking a vehicle without consent, to run concurrently.

The deaths of four children in a car crash in Tilbury was one of the most tragic incidents of the year.

A jury decided that the 31-year-old mother of two of the children who were killed did cause their deaths by careless driving.

Davina Smith, of Tilbury, had already pleaded guilty to a count of aggravated taking a vehicle without consent, causing the death of four people. She is due to be sentenced next month.

Cyclops is just the job to save time and space

A ONE-eyed monster is lurking in some of the computers at Essex Police HQ.

But don't worry because our Cyclops comes in the form of a useful new scanning and filing system used by Firearms, Procurement and Professional Standards (PSD).

The new scanning solution allows the departments to do away with vast, paper-based records in favour of a computerised system stored on a server.

The system cost around £50,000 and has the potential to store an unlimited amount of files.

Staff have spent about two years scanning more than 30,000 documents to be added to Cyclops.

Mick Fidgeon, of Firearms, Shotguns and Explosive Licensing, said: "It gives us the space and gives us almost instant access to former paper records."

Paul Sugden, from PSD, said there were two main benefits with the Cyclops system – space savings and ease of retrieval.

Cyclops has led to new working practices which have made the storage and finding of information a much easier task.

And Cyclops also links through into the departments' own systems.

The force currently has 22 licences which are spread across the departments.

The programme allows users to magnify and rotate documents and to make notes on files.

And an upgrade of £20,000 has just been processed which will allow more detailed searches under personal details, making the speedy and space-saving programme even more effective.

Give your news to Heather Turner on ext 55819 or via email

Judge commends armed robbery inquiry team

SIX men have started prison sentences following a lengthy police investigation into a series of armed robberies, involving four forces.

Essex Police initially began looking into a number of offences of aggravated burglary in 2004, where offenders were ram-raiding commercial premises, removing cash machines, and committing armed robberies of an extremely violent nature.

It was believed that those responsible for the robberies were travelling across Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire to commit their

crimes, so early the following year, Essex joined the other three forces and Operation Arctic was born, led by DCI George Barr, of Cambridgeshire Police.

The operation – which involved the investigation of some 160 offences involving thousands of inquiries – culminated last September when seven men were arrested across Suffolk and Norfolk and charged with conspiracy to commit armed robberies with firearms, conspiracy to commit aggravated burglaries, conspiracy to steal vehicles, possession of class A

drugs and money laundering. All were remanded in custody pending court proceedings and so began the massive task of file preparation.

Six admitted the offences at the first opportunity and one, Rocky Buckley, was found guilty after a trial.

On December 13 at Ipswich Crown Court, trial judge David Goodin handed down the following jail sentences: Barry Street, 14 years; Thomas Curtis, 12 years; John Curtis, 11 years; Rocky Buckley, 16 years; Stacey Smith, ten years; and John Smith, 11 years. Rocky Curtis received 200 hours

community unpaid work having spent three months on remand.

In his closing statement, Judge Goodin said they were a well-organised and ruthless gang who had never been afraid to use violence in the course of their offending, which had realised around £500,000 in property and cash, while causing an equal amount of damage.

However, he added, they had met their match with an investigation of the very highest order and he commended the Operation Arctic inquiry team.

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.

Pam was one in a million – an officer with a soft centre

I WAS deeply saddened by the news of the sudden death of Pam Arnold at the age of 77 – she always looked much younger.

I first met her when I was on the beat in Chelmsford in the late 1960s and she a member of the Policewomen's Department, as it was then.

We were walking back, one lunchtime, to the old police station on the corner of Waterloo Lane and New Street. Pam was in uniform, looking immaculate and wearing the customary black leather gloves.

She was confronted by a drunk who tried to accost her and she delivered the best short straight right to the point of his chin that I have ever seen in my time in boxing.

He fell in a heap whilst she went into the police station in tears, thinking she had killed him. Whilst she was being comforted by the station sergeant I got the man up, gave him the decision of being arrested and having the opportunity of making a complaint against the police or getting on his way.

He chose the latter and staggered off, never to be seen again!

A few years later, Pam and I were in CID at Chelmsford together. I believe I am right in saying that she was the first woman detective to be appointed at Chelmsford, a rare occurrence in those days.

She was a great colleague, loyal, steadfast in the face of aggressiveness and cute enough to know when someone was pulling the wool over her eyes.

She knew the 'manor' and the people in it, better than anyone. She lived the best part of her life in Kings Road on the edge of the Melbourne estate in Chelmsford and, I believe, finished it on the edge of the nearby Chignall Estate. She had looked after her widowed mother for most of that time.

Who can ever forget those occasions, in the CID office or at a party, when moved by a joke how she tossed her head back in squeals of laughter. She was a larger than life character, with a strong exterior but a soft centre.

I had the opportunity, shortly after I retired, of meeting one of her sisters at the YMCA in Chelmsford and she too displayed those great Christian virtues of love and humility, so they must be Arnold family traits.

It was wonderful to hear that the church at Melbourne was packed to the rafters by a large contingent of ex-CID and uniformed officers among the mourners. The choir sang her favourite tunes and Peter Simpson delivered a well-researched eulogy.

I am only sorry I was unable to be there – rest in peace, Pam, you will be sorely missed by all who knew you.

Robert Miller
Chelmsford

'The answer is to build more prisons'

ONCE again we see in the columns of The Law a letter from Bob Miller, this time espousing the policies of this Government on prison reform.

This letter followed his earlier one on proposed police force amalgamations, and we all know what happened to that.

Now Mr Miller is advocating the reduction of the prison population by providing alternative palliative measures.

The truth is that under this Government crime has continued to rise and, despite its determination to find 'other measures' – not to mention ASBOs – rather than use prison, the prison population has inevitably continued to rise.

Surely the answer is to build or find more prisons and not to find ways of prematurely releasing villains back into our society for, whilst I concede that prisons have a role in rehabilitating offenders, their primary function is to punish offenders and protect the public.

As to Mr Miller's suggestion that one person's life can be more or less valuable than another's when determining a murderer's sentence, this, in my view, is total nonsense.

No-one's life is more precious than another's regardless of their position in life. They all have the same right to live.

Finally, I fear *The Law* is in danger of

becoming politicised by continuing to publish Mr Miller's views.

B M Williams
Chelmsford

● *Editor's note:* Everyone is entitled to their opinion and should be allowed to express those opinions as long as they are not illegal and do not incite anyone to commit a crime.

Although employees of Essex Police are expected to keep their political views private, former employees are not subject to the same expectations.

There is a right of reply on these pages and a right to express opposing views.

Duo's hard work paid off for our footballers

I FEEL I must pay tribute to the magnificent evening arranged at the Chichester Hotel near Wickford in November on behalf of Charles Clark and John Rhymes. It was an evening that those who attended will never forget as it was a 'one-off' and never to be repeated.

It was the result of a tremendous effort put in by some of their footballing colleagues and friends to thank them for all the hard work and effort that they had both contributed towards running the force football team at certain periods over the last 25 years.

It goes without saying that the Essex Police football side would never have achieved so much success without their drive and enthusiasm.

To see so many ex-players and officials at this gathering was a great show of respect for them both and, as anyone who was there will tell you, they were 'slightly overwhelmed' as they had no idea something had been organised on their behalf until they arrived at the hotel.

We have to thank their 'better halves', Sue and Zena, for keeping the whole thing a secret. As probably one of the oldest footballers there to have played with both Charles and John in their prime, it was a pleasure for me to be among so many great players who have graced the ground at HQ and the likes of whom we may never see again.

This evening would not have been such a success without the likes of Graham Moore, Martin Oakley, John Stewart and Cliff Haines, whose combined efforts contributed to a wonderful evening. The meal and setting could not be faulted and to see so many wives, girlfriends and families attending made the tribute something special.

Both Charles and John had to endure a lot of teasing – all in good spirits – at the hands of Graham Moore, Martin Slade and, especially, Dave Murthwaite but they gave as good as they got.

And it is at times like these that you realise how special it is to be, or to have been, a member of the Essex Police force. Long may it continue ...

Ex Pc Alf Henry
North Weald

Feature brought back fond memories of band

HERE is a picture of the Essex Police Band circa 1969.

The one published in the November issue of *The Law* was taken in the old assembly hall, which is now covered by the 'concrete doughnut' [A-block].

The site was shared with HQ garage, before it moved to beside the old skid pan – now itself full of portable buildings.

The picture I have sent was probably taken at Christmas – 1968, 1969 and 1970. Close examination shows us all to have aged a bit.

In this photograph, taken on the assembly hall stage, we are wearing our original uniform – white shirt, black bow tie and light blue mess jackets. The conductor, Wilf Kennedy, appears to me to have dropped off to sleep.

The other band members are, to the best of my memory:

Back row, from left: Dick Malcolm, John Poston, ??, Terry Roberts, ??, Charlie Woods, ??, Danny Hair, ??, ??, John 'Jack' Ripley, Don Barrell, Mike Spalding, John Waddington.

Right of middle row, from left:



Dick Giggins, Dick Green, Bill Blake, ??.

Front, from left: ??, Byron Bastow, Gil White, ??, Tom Morrison, ??, ? White, George White, Harold Hull.

Several of the unnamed members

were from Chelmsford Silver Band, who played with both bands.

The rest were either serving police officers or civilian employees.

Dick Malcolm
Rayleigh

● **Members of the Essex Police Band ready to perform on the old assembly hall stage**

Gone . . . but not forgotten

**Stephen 'Steve' Taylor – Essex Police.
Served from July 30, 1979. Died June 1, 1989**

PC Steve Taylor was affectionately known to his friends and colleagues as 'Buck'. He had married, adopting two children in the process, just three years before his death.

Two years as a Special Constable in Wickford led him to join the force. He had a great sense of fun and made friends easily.

Pc Taylor began his service at Tilbury, where his interest in diving as a sport fostered a desire to qualify as a police diver.

After transferring to the Force Support Unit in August 1983, Pc Taylor achieved that ambition, and he also

became a firearms officer. After becoming a diving supervisor in August 1987, he set his ambitions even higher, studying for his sergeant's exam and possible service on police launches. On June 1, 1989, the divers were on a routine training exercise in some gravel pits near Dobbs Weir, close to Nazeing. While diving into the wreck of an old barge, Pc Taylor and his colleague Pc Andy Morrison got into severe difficulties while attempting to attach a hawser to a sunken barge. Sadly, this incident led to their deaths. Pc Taylor died at the scene and Pc Morrison died the following day in hospital.



● Pc Steve Taylor

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 which could be added to the website, email memorialtrust@essex.pnn.police.uk or write to the Memorial Trust at Essex Police HQ.

Just stating facts

SELECTED members of police staff have been trained to take statements in relation to criminal investigations.

All are currently employed in a wide variety of roles across the force and have agreed to assist with statement-taking as and when required outside of their normal working hours. The intention is that they will be part of a pool of staff to be called upon by divisions and departments as and when the need arises. Chief Supt Andy Adams said: "This is a real opportunity to use the skills of our police staff in support of operations and initiatives on division where there is a high demand and such skills are needed at short notice."

A policy is due to be presented to the Operational Support Policy Board this month and, once agreed, the details of those available for deployment will be held by Contingency Planning.

• Details of how divisions may use these resources will be supplied once the policy has been agreed

Would you credit it? A new way to save

ESSEX Police Federation is launching a new partnership with the Police Credit Union (PCU).

And it looks set to help hundreds of police officers and staff improve the fitness of their finances.

As levels of personal debt in the UK hit record heights, the PCU is now able to offer a dedicated financial service for members of the Essex police force.

It helps members to build up their savings – with easy access – and provides unsecured loans at fair and reasonable rates. Membership is available to officers and staff who open a Rewarder savings account – which requires a minimum regular commitment of just £10 per month.

Over 14,000 members in 12 other forces are already benefiting.

Unsecured loans are offered, based on a

member's level of savings, an annual dividend is paid on savings and monthly payments into both savings and loan accounts can be made straight from payroll, plus there is even life cover at no extra cost. Wholly owned and controlled by its members, the PCU is a 'not-for-profit' financial institution, set up by the police, exclusively for the whole police family – serving and retired police officers and staff and family members of their households.

It operates under the terms of the 1979 Credit Unions Act as well as being authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority, the same body which covers banks and building societies. PCU branch manager Ian Curley is responsible for Essex members. He said: "This is aimed at all officers and police staff who could benefit from financial services

specifically tailored to meet the needs of those in the police family."

Essex Police Federation Secretary Sgt Roy Scanes added: "The PCU is a highly respected and responsible business, which encourages sound financial activity, not the 'buy now, pay later' culture of the High Street banks and building societies. Essex Police Federation is committed to supporting our staff both professionally and privately. So, we're delighted to be a part of this important initiative."

• Visit www.policecu.co.uk for more information about the credit union, how it operates and what it offers or contact Ian Curley on 0845 241 7509 or via email at essex@policecu.co.uk

• A handy information leaflet will also be made available at all police stations and offices

Your community needs you

by Peter Laurie

CENTRAL Division is extending the concept of Volunteers in Policing (ViPs).

Under the scheme, volunteers are assigned to police station front office duties and other roles considered acceptable for voluntary work, such as providing support behind the scenes for Neighbourhood Policing Teams, community support officers and Special Constables.

Already 30 people have come forward in Burnham on Crouch and offered themselves as ViPs.

District Commander Chief Insp Craig Robertson called it a 'significant contribution towards policing'. Since last spring, they have opened the mobile police station in Station Road twice weekly, receiving callers and taking messages for patrol officers.

This year, a more permanent facility is planned and the force is developing a structured training package, which will enhance the range of services they can provide.

Not only will this help the community, but the people involved will also gain new skills.

Praising his ViPs, Chief Insp Robertson said: "The willingness and enthusiasm of our volunteers in Burnham is an impressive example of how the wider policing family is growing in Essex."

And now police in the Uttlesford district are taking on the idea.

They regard the move as an opportunity to engage with the people they serve, as well as partners such as Neighbourhood Watch, which will be provided with additional information and support.

Uttlesford District Commander Chief Insp Graham Stubbs said: "This is a unique and exciting opportunity to make a very positive contribution to policing and community safety in your town or village and throughout Uttlesford in general."

Police want to hear from interested people who would be prepared to work voluntarily, on hours to be agreed, as ViPs in Saffron Walden, Dunmow, Stansted Mountfitchet and Hatfield Heath police stations.

The role will involve disseminating information to Neighbourhood Watch groups and taking inquiries from the public at the front counter.

Special branches prove a winner

FESTIVE staff in Brightlingsea brought a new meaning to the term Special Branch. For they scooped the award for best-decorated tree in the town's annual festival the first time they entered, seeing off competition from 113 others. Decorations were based on the police colours of black and white with blue flashing lights to set them off. Small, high-visibility jackets served as baubles to add a splash of colour. The festival raised £6,750 for local charities and All Saints' and St James's churches.

Pc Jo Bennett said: "We all had a tremendous amount of fun in thinking of ideas and making the themed tree. "Christmas is a demanding time for the emergency services – participating in the tree festival was a pleasant distraction."

• Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers is away – read his column in The Law next month



• The young pupils during their visit to Boreham

Picture by Donna Veasey

Youngsters enjoy a VIP day out

PRIMARY school pupils from Braintree were VIP visitors to Essex Police in recognition of their poetry in support of public safety.

Children aged between eight and ten were invited to write a poem on fireworks and safety as part of Braintree's contribution to October's Operation Cougar Cub, which put young people in the spotlight.

PCSO Jo Ashford, who came up with the idea of the poetry competition with Safer Schools Officer Pc Sarah Frost, said: "We wanted to encourage junior pupils to be involved and something in support of safety seemed the right way to go about it."

The winners were guests of honour at HQ Mobile Support Division at Boreham last month, where they explored the force helicopter and met dog handler Pc Kieran Dale and his partner Regan.

Donating can be very easy

A CONSTABLE working in the Force Information Room (FIR) is asking fellow staff to save their stamps and donate them to a worthwhile cause.

Last year, Steve Radford collected two black bags full of used stamps and gave them to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association (GDBA).

Extra value can be gained from the used stamps which can be turned into money to help fund the training of dogs to assist blind and partially-sighted people lead as near-normal a life as possible.

The charity is run by donations only with no Government funding, and each working dog costs £28,000 to

train and keep working throughout its life as well keep it healthy once retired.

Pc Radford said: "I've been involved in puppy-walking and my first dog, Ron, is now working in Kent providing a lady as much a normal life as possible.

"My other dog, Orla, didn't make the grade for training and is now at home with me as a pet."

• All unwanted, used stamps should be sent to Steve in FIR, who will forward them on
• STAFF were also asked to consider giving money to two children's charities instead of sending Christmas cards to colleagues.

Grays' Steve Smith is urging

people to support Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) and the Starlight Children's Foundation.

Steve's son, Jack, is being treated at the London hospital after undergoing ten operations throughout his short life and Starlight recently granted his wish to be a firefighter for the day.

Steve said: "By supporting these simple ways you will be making a real difference to the lives of seriously-ill children."

• Donations can still be made online via the charities' websites or by cheque made payable to the charities themselves and sent to Steve at Grays Police Station. Steve is also selling tie-pin badges in aid of GOSH for £1

New website will help 'SOC' it to criminals

OPERATIONAL staff can now access a web version of the Scenes of Crime Department Socrates computer system, called SOCweb.

By interrogating SOCweb, operational staff will be able to find out whether Scenes of

Crime attended a particular crime or incident; any fingerprints, DNA or other forensic evidence were recovered; photographs have been taken of a scene or victim; and the results of fingerprint, DNA database and forensic submissions.

There is also a library of useful documents and forms and links to the web pages of the various departments within Scientific Support.

• SOCweb is listed under Applications on the intranet front page

New exhibition promotes our force diversity

THE Essex Police Museum is gearing up for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) month in February. A special exhibition has been put together which will be on display in the museum throughout the month.

Curator Becky Latchford said the display would include a timeline charting LGBT history in the force from the Victorian era to the present day, as well as information panels explaining about Nexus, Essex Police's LGBT support group. And there is also set to be information about the force's first same-sex civil marriage ceremony, last year.

The aim of the exhibition is to explore and promote diversity within Essex Police.

• Essex Police Museum is based at HQ off Sandford Road in Springfield. It is open every Wednesday from 1-4.30pm.
• Contact Becky Latchford on 01245 457150 for more

A year of change – a year of progress

January 2006

THE year began with the announcement that Neighbourhood Policing would be rolled out across Essex during 2006 and Chief Constable Roger Baker's desire to increase the number of Specials to 1,000.

Chief Officer George Cook was set the task of recruiting an extra 100-150 Specials every year until 2010 and believed that the target over the next four to five years was achievable.

The force was represented on the Queen's New Year's Honours List with three men picking up CBEs or MBEs.

Former Chief Constable David Stevens received a CBE in recognition of his services to policing while Head of Photography Norman Eastbrook was awarded an MBE for his services to music and the community of Essex, and Nigel Oldacre, chairman of the Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Association also got an MBE.

The five new divisions forming Essex Police were revealed, along with their respective Divisional Commanders.

The divisions were aptly named Eastern, Central, Western, South-Western and South Eastern and it was said the restructure would lead to a reduction in crime, an increase in detection rates and a positive impact on anti-social behaviour.

February 2006

A NEW warrants database went live to help police catch up with people who have failed to attend court or pay a fine.

SWARM, the System for Warrants Administration, Recording and Management has details of all warrants held throughout Essex.

It is being used by officers as a research tool prior to going out on patrol and as a reference after having stopped someone to carry out a PNC check.

A social evening was held at the Chicago Rock Café at Freeport Braintree to mark 2006's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) month.

It was the first time the force had taken part in LGBT month and also organised a display at the Essex Police museum.

Chigwell Road Policing Unit got star struck as it played a starring role in a new DVD informing officers and police staff about the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime.

The police station was chosen as the location to film scenes for Wake-Up Call: Why Victim Care Matters.

A cry for help was received from Death Scene Investigators (DSI) in the USA who needed advice from Essex Police as they looked to improve victim recovery training in the wake of any future terrorist attack.

And PCSOs in the Braintree area were provided with two Smart cars, thanks to a donation from Braintree District Council.

They were to enable the PCSOs to be more flexible and meant a car was available for each of the Braintree, Dunmow, Halstead, Saffron Walden and Witham sections.

Central Divisional Commander Chief Supt Win Bernard said at the time: "PCSOs will be more effective now that they have a fleet of five cars and will certainly not become remote.

"Walking the beat and providing a



● The county's first Neighbourhood Policing Team went live in St Andrew's and St Anne's, Colchester, with 14 police officers and PCSOs led by Sgt Dean Chapple and Sgt Elliot Lloyd – by July, they had been joined by another 143 Neighbourhood Policing Teams across the county

high-visibility uniformed presence will continue to be their primary function."

March 2006

STAFF from the Force Information Room dressed up as Winnie the Pooh, Piglet and Tigger, Bugs Bunny, Friar Tuck and Elvis.

They also walked 10 miles in aid of the Ellie May Trust to raise money to buy prosthetic limbs for Ellie May Challis, a little girl who had to have her hands and feet amputated after she contracted meningococcal septicaemia.

The walk was organised by Communications Officer Keith Holland and raised around £6,000. The force welcomed its highest Probationer intake for several years, with 258 officers joining since April 2005.

The 2Smart4Drugs roadshow was given a special award by substance misuse practitioners as it celebrated its tenth year and received the Essex Drug and Alcohol Team Recognising Achievement Awards.

A Government cash boost helped the force to acquire a Livescan machine – a bookcase-sized piece of equipment with a scanning and viewing screen which electronically captures fingerprints.

The machine eradicates the need for ink and paper and will not allow a sub-standard set of prints to be recorded.

The force had carried out a pilot at Harlow during the previous two years and Essex Police Authority now gave the green light for each of the county's ten main custody areas to have a Livescan installed.

April 2006

NEW technology used by the force for the first time demonstrated its usefulness in a court case.

The state-of-the-art camera technology was employed to help the jury during a case which resulted in the conviction of a man who had strangled his partner in a holiday caravan in Walton on the Naze.

The jury was able to take a 'virtual

trip' round the site to see it as it was at the time of the murder, as the camera can take a full 360-degree picture with a wide-angle capability while its high resolution means that small detail in a street or crime scene can be enlarged to a good quality display.

Head of Photography Norman Eastbrook has now presented a business case to Chief Officers for the purchase of the R2S mobile response unit for the force and is currently awaiting a decision.

Forensic officers also took up a new weapon in the fight against crime as extending the software of IDENT1 gave a search facility for palm prints.

Sgt Roy Scanes took up the reins as secretary of the Police Federation from Terry Spelman at a challenging time as we fought to remain a stand-alone force.

Essex Police Authority members decided that the force would not merge voluntarily with Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, as had been proposed by the Home Secretary.

The Essex Police Training Centre was renamed Essex Police College



● Force photographer Gary Kenton hopes to share the expertise he has gained

after the decision to bring Probationer training in-house.

Implementation of the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime became mandatory while Child Rescue Alert, a rapid-response initiative which aims to save the lives of abducted children, was adopted by Essex and neighbouring forces.

May 2006

FORCE photographer Gary Kenton attained his Fellowship qualification from the British Institute of Professional Photography making him only one of three photographers within the scientific/forensic field of specialisation to hold it.

DI Alan Cook was invested as an Officer in the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem in recognition of his 30-plus years of voluntary work for St John Ambulance Essex.

Pc John Meacock won the Essex Police Cup for his work as Safer Schools Partnership Officer at the Sir Charles Lucas Arts College.

Two officers scooped an award at the Nexus conference.

Ds Angie Garrard and DCI Gary Heard, from Professional Standards, were recognised for their work in the Special Cases Unit where they examine and investigate sensitive cases involving gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered officers and police staff.

Annual force trophies were presented by Essex Lord Lieutenant Lord Petre.

The Wilson Trophy went to Sgt Paul Howell of Rayleigh for rescuing a woman from the River Crouch.

Neighbourhood Policing officer Pc Hayley Jenner was awarded the Millard Trophy for providing reassurance to local residents and her visits to vulnerable groups in the Chelmsford area.

The Anthony Peel Trophy was received by Sgt Matt Bell for developing and implementing an alcohol licensing guide as a basis for all decisions made in relation to alcohol licensing in Southend, which has now been adopted as good practice.

June 2006

EDDIE the Eagle kicked off the summer anti-drink-driving campaign at Colchester United Football Club.

In the run-up to the soccer World Cup and with a worrying trend of under-age drinking, the force supported the Home Office Alcohol Misuse and Enforcement Campaign (AMEC).

Led by Trading Standard officers and using young volunteers, supermarkets and shops suspected of selling alcohol to children were targeted.

In addition, nine months of work involving Trading Standards, police officers, PCSOs and local residents led to the revocation of a shopkeeper's licence to sell alcohol in Braintree.

Essex Police Civil Claims Manager Adrian Williams said at the time: "Over the past year, this premises consistently sold alcohol to minors.

"So far as I am aware, this is the first revocation of a premises licence on application by the police or any other interested party in Essex since the introduction of the new licensing legislation."

The force took the unusual step of sending letters to 80 residents in the Thurrock area who were wanted by police.

The idea paid off handsomely and led to officers executing a total of 40 warrants and arresting a total of 16 people as a result of the campaign.

The first week of the national knife amnesty campaign saw 664 weapons being handed in at police stations across the county.

July 2006

CHIEF Constable Roger Baker celebrated his first anniversary as the man at the helm of Essex Police.

He has focused on maximising the fear of arrest among criminals, increasing public reassurance, providing high-visibility patrols and promoting crime prevention measures.

Following on from his Days of Action campaign in his first week in Essex, officers made 1,717 arrests and this trend continued, with the force achieving 13,205 more arrests in 2005/6 than during the the previous year.

Since July 2005, more than 200 officers had been returned to front-line duties, 144 Neighbourhood Policing Teams had been established across the county and 1,843 fewer crimes were committed.

It was announced that the number of PCSOs was to increase over the coming years with a target of 226 set to be recruited by the end of March 2007. At the time, the force employed 247 PCSOs and 427 Specials.

Neighbourhood Policing officers got the chance to put new bikes through their paces over the summer after a pilot scheme was held to assess their benefits.

At the time, Assistant Chief Constable Andy Bliss said: "High levels of foot and cycle patrols must be at the heart of neighbourhood policing in Essex.

"The public see police on bikes as a winner – local officers, mobile and highly visible, able to tackle crime, nuisance and disorder in local communities.

"The idea is not new but the bikes and kit are definitely hi-tech.

"Certainly, when I went out on patrol, just about everyone I met



● Chief Constable Roger Baker joined 200 officers in one of the force's biggest operations in recent years. He is pictured with Pc Mick Doherty preparing to search a Harlow flat for drugs

thought it was great to see officers out on bikes again."

August 2006

THE idea of forced police force mergers was officially withdrawn by the Home Office.

If enforced, Essex would have amalgamated with Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

Mobile Support Division, the Force Support Unit, the Traffic Investigation Unit, Contingency Planning, Chelmsford Road Policing Unit and HQ Transport Services became neighbours to their colleagues from the Air Support Unit



● Staff from FIR before they set off for their sponsored walk, which raised £6,000 for the Ellie May Trust

at Boreham Airfield.

A 10-year lease was signed for the site, which comprises eight acres of land with 57,000sq ft of offices and workshops.

An illegal rave in Great Chesterford took place over the August Bank Holiday weekend, which has since been estimated to have cost the force in excess of £100,000.

This illegal activity distracted officers from policing communities but also increased the demand for police overtime.

A total of 25 Essex police officers were injured – thankfully the majority were minor injuries – and 35 arrests were made.

September 2006

QUICK actions from officers in Maldon and Burnham helped to save a total of eight lives.

Two constables from the Marine Unit at Burnham pulled seven people to safety from the waters of the River Crouch and, just 24 hours later, a Maldon sergeant saved the life of a toddler who had been hit by a car.

Chelmsford's V-Festival was hailed a success with just 72 people being arrested from the 140,000-strong crowd.

Officers seized a large quantity of illegal substances and recovered vast sums of cash from suspected drug-dealers.

Supt Tim Stokes, of Central Division, said: "We made a point this year of really ramming home the message that drug dealers and users would feel the heavy hand of the law. They came, they ignored us and they paid the penalty.

"However, the main issue is that the majority of people enjoyed themselves and will leave Essex having experienced a really good time."

October 2006

OPERATION Cougar Cub was the focus this month as the force swung into action to raise the profile of the work by officers and staff to reduce youth offending and to develop partnership working across the force.

Unusually, the youth initiative was run as a police operation with Assistant Chief Constable Andy Bliss designated Gold Commander.

There were special celebrations



● Inspectors Kate and Tony Sale, who met on their first day of training and married two years later, celebrate receiving their long service medals for 22 years of service

across the county as the Special Constabulary completed 175 years of dedicated voluntary service to the force.

The Special police force was formed in October 1831 and more than 400 officers support their regular colleagues.

They had vowed to make 175 extra arrests in the three months before the anniversary weekend and a specially-engraved whistle was handed out to all the Specials in recognition of their sterling work.

The Essex Police Museum also mounted an exhibition of photographs and memorabilia to celebrate the important work that our Specials have undertaken over the years.

The joint annual report of Essex Police Authority and Essex Police was made available for the first time on audio tape.

Mobile Support and Transport Services threw open their doors at Boreham to their new neighbours and the media.

It was a chance to showcase the new facilities and reassure local residents that vehicle movements would not disturb them unduly.

Black History Month was celebrated with a special exhibition highlighting the diversity of our workforce.

Assistant Chief Constable John Broughton retired after nine years with the force to take a top position with the Royal St Lucia Police Force.

November

ESSEX Police Authority heard it was to receive £100,000 from the Home Office as compensation for the cost of the work carried out during the merger proposals.

Operation Steelguard was run in Basildon over a 24-hour period with 50 officers, police staff, specials and

officers from the DVLA, VOSA and Essex Safety Camera Partnership taking part.

Tackling motoring offences such as speed and defective vehicles, the operation was run in conjunction with a road safety awareness exhibition in the town centre.

And 134 fixed penalty notices were issued to drivers for various offences, the DVLA seized 13 unlicensed vehicles and a further 29 uninsured vehicles were also seized by police. Nine people were arrested for other offences including disqualified driving and theft.

Three new acting Assistant Chief Constables were appointed on short-term contracts – Carmel Napier, Peter Lowton and Derek Benson – following the departure of John Broughton, Liam Briggshaw's diagnosis with stomach cancer and Andy Bliss's appointment as shadow Deputy Chief Constable.

December

OFFICERS at Stansted Airport celebrated after a woman from Cheshire was sentenced to three years' imprisonment for facilitating the unlawful entry of non-EU children into the UK.

Anna Puzova had been intercepted by Special Branch officers earlier in the year and it is thought she had brought 13 children into the country during this time.

Two young men pleaded guilty to killing two guinea pigs which they had used as makeshift footballs.

Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark waved goodbye to Essex Police after more than 38 years, with Andy Bliss taking over the reins as acting Deputy Chief Constable.

Carmel Napier was appointed a permanent Assistant Chief Constable.

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/five, close to gondola/old town. Gym, Jacuzzi, sauna. Police discount. Ring John on 07815 186944 or visit www.banskoskipad.co.uk

CARCASSONE, luxury B+B, ideal for summer and winter breaks. Visit www.domainestgeorge.com for ski special. Police staff discount. Contact John Taylor on +33 468 201 105.

COSTA Blanca, Almoradi, fully-fitted apartment, three double bedrooms, two bathrooms, sleeps six to eight. Sky TV, communal pool. From £200 a week. Contact Dave or Linda on 01702 201694/07790 035164 or email dashpole@hotmail.com

COSTA Blanca, La Marina, luxury two-bedroom, two-bathroom villa. Sleeps four to six, fully-fitted, air conditioning, heating. Communal pool. Beach five mins, golf ten mins, airport 25 mins. From £175 per week. Ring Mick Ager on 07775 676142 or +34 617 110 096 or email casadomi02@hotmail.com

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

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

FLORIDA, Sarasota villa, quiet village environment, communal pool, tennis, barbecue, clubhouse, hot-tub, beautiful beaches, recently renovated. Email Norma at norma@normagill.com

FRENCH holiday gites set in tranquil countryside close to Hesdin, just over an hour from Calais. Fully renovated and taste-

fully furnished. Short breaks available. Ring 01375 483045 or visit www.le-petit-hameau.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.

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

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

SCOTTISH Highlands. Associates to police are welcome at our beautiful home on a B&B basis, offering en-suite and a welcome. Now offering fishing in private trout loch, shooting, walking, bird-watching, or ski-ing in the Cairngorms National Park. Reductions for police. Ring Andy Nunn on 01479 841717 or email apf.nunn@btinternet.com

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

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

Miscellaneous

ROLLS Royce wedding car hire. Extra special service for your special day. Braintree, Colchester and Uttlesford districts. Uniformed chauffeur, full insurance. Contact Pete Caulfield on 01787 477537 or visit www.rroweddings.co.uk

WEDDING car hire. White Rolls Royce Silver Shadow II. Discounts for police employees. Visit www.specialdaycarhire.co.uk email info@specialdaycarhire.co.uk or contact Dave or Sally on 01277 364626.

Nigel retires on a high with bar scheme honour

LICENSING and alcohol co-ordinator **Sgt Nigel Dermott, 49, has retired after serving with Essex Police for almost 31 years.**

He developed the innovative Safer Bars scheme, which encourages pub, bar and club managers to actively make their businesses safer places.

And the scheme was itself recognised by the drinks industry when it was nominated for a Responsible Drinks Retailing Award last year.

Nigel had previously served at Chelmsford, with the Force Support Unit, at Stansted Airport and with Crime Division before joining Community Safety, which changed its name to Territorial Policing last year.

He is taking up a job in a 1,200-pupil secondary school.

Det Insp **Lorenzo Austin** retired in June – at the time, he was on secondment to ACPO but he had previously worked in Crime Division, for HR and Training, and at Colchester and Chelmsford.

Lorenzo, 50, joined the force in 1975 and served for almost 31 years.

Thurrock Crime Reduction Officer **John Wilks, 59**, is calling it a day after serving the force for almost 37 years.

He served as a police officer for 30 years until 2000, when he became a member of police staff and joined the then Community Safety department.

And Thurrock is losing another long-serving member of police staff this month.

Service Desk Assistant **Dave Bell, 64**, is retiring the day before his 65th birthday.

Names in the news

He joined Essex Police in 1986 and will have served just over 20 years.

Obituaries

Former sergeant **David Adams, 57**, died last month at his home in Spain. He leaves a widow, Thelma.

He joined the force in 1972, serving at Basildon and Chelmsford and in CID during this career and retiring in 2002 as a crown court liaison officer.

Mr Adams' funeral service was held at Southend Crematorium.

Donations may be made in his memory to the NSPCC or the RSPB and sent c/o A R Adams funeral directors, 117 High Street, Rayleigh SS6 7QA.

Former constable **Robert 'Freddie' Lench**, of Saffron Walden, has died aged 82. He leaves a widow, Emma.

Mr Lench served between 1953 and 1979 on Canvey Island and in Billericay and Saffron Walden.

Donations may be made to the Alzheimers Society in his memory and sent c/o Russell D Green funeral directors, 66b High Street, Saffron Walden CB10 1EE.

Ex-constable **Graham Lowes**, of Colchester, has died, aged 58. He leaves a widow, Angela.

Mr Lowes served from 1971 to 2001 at Grays, Laindon and Tilbury traffic units and the TIU.

Donations may be made in his memory to the Lymphoma Association, c/o W H Shepherd funeral directors, 93-4 High Street, Colchester CO1 1TH.

Former constable **John Child**, of Maldon, has died, aged 55. He leaves a widow, Rita.

Mr Child served with the force between 1970 and 2000 at Southend,

Wickford and Maldon. His funeral service was held at All Saints' Church, Maldon, followed by cremation at Chelmsford.

Donations may be made in his memory to Helen Rollason – the cancer charity – and sent c/o Co-op funeral directors, 13/15 Market Hill, Maldon.

Awards

Crime Division's **Caroline Miller** and **Jeni Windsor**, both of the Essex Intelligence Model Project, have successfully completed their City and Guilds 7302 qualification in delivering adult learning, and are now qualified trainers.

Catherine McPherson, of Executive Support, has been awarded a Masters' degree (LLM) in criminal litigation by the Inns of Court School of Law in London.

The following members of staff have been awarded post-graduate certificates in Business Excellence from Leeds University:

Distinction: Chief Insp **Gordon Ashford**, of Corporate Support; DI **Lee Davies**, of Stansted Airport; DI **Andrew Hooke**, of Professional Standards; and Insp **Jim Shaw**, of Central Division.

Merit: Divisional Administration Manager **James Cook**, of Mobile Support; Insp **Andrew Fusher**, of Colchester; Insp **Jonathan Hayter**, of Colchester; Supt **Michelle Husk**, of South-Eastern Division; Insp **David Miller**, of Basildon; Insp **Neil Murray**, of Central Division; Insp **Glen Westley**, of the Practical Skills Wing; DI **Mark Wheeler**, of South-Western Division; DI **Jim White**, of the Practical Skills Wing; and Chief Insp **Steve Worrton**, of Southend.

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE - ONE WORD PER BOX

Name and rank

Station Home tel.

Date Signed

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

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



• Chief Constable Roger Baker, front centre, presents cheques to charity representatives, watched by Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers and Staff Officer Insp Rachel Wood, both far right. The presentation took place last month and the 25 charities received money from the Police Property Act fund – including, for the first time, the Essex Prince's Trust. A total of £22,368 was distributed, plus £800 of shopping vouchers – for such stores as Marks and Spencer and Argos – which had been seized from properties in Eastern Division. It was the first time vouchers had been handed out, they are usually destroyed.

Picture by Tina Starling

When dealing with a potential meth lab:

- don't pick up unlabelled containers or jars and shake or sniff the contents
 - if you suspect you have found an active meth lab, it is crucial not to touch anything
 - don't turn lights on or off
 - don't turn off a stove or any other heat source
 - avoid using mobile phones and radios as they can trigger an explosion
 - remember suspects are likely to be unpredictable, paranoid and suffering from hallucinations
- Tell-tale signs of meth use and manufacture:
- discarded packaging or containers of known meth ingredients
 - an over-abundance of coffee filters (often stained red/brown), aluminium foil, evidence of pyrex dishes
 - jars containing milky white, yellow or brown substances
 - smells such as ammonia/bleach, cat urine, strong solvent or burnt rubber.

**The effects of using crystal meth may include:**

- extreme elation
- wakefulness
- alertness
- enhanced self-confidence
- aggression
- talkativeness
- loss of appetite
- increased initiative
- increased physical activity

Withdrawal symptoms may include:

- severe cravings
- deep depression
- fatigue
- inertia
- paranoia
- psychosis

Cracking the meth problem



● A crystal meth 'lab'

METHAMPHETAMINE appears to be increasingly popular among clubbers and the concern is that it costs very little to make.

And all the core ingredients can be bought easily, either via the internet or over the counter of DIY shops and pharmacies etc.

The makeshift labs used to produce methamphetamine can make a police officer and other first responders' lives very dangerous.

The growth in the labs puts people at risk of death or injury from explosions and toxic fumes.

Most recently a meth lab was discovered in Derbyshire but others have also been discovered in London, Wales and the Isle of Wight.

Meth is already a big problem in the US, Australia and New Zealand and Essex officers are leading the way nationally to try and prevent a UK epidemic.

Methamphetamine, currently a class B drug, is due to be reclassified to class A on January 18.

Chemicals used to make the drug include iodine, cold remedies and drain

Methamphetamine, also known as crystal meth, or on the street as 'tina', 'crank' and 'ice', is a highly addictive, synthetic drug which has the potential to rival crack cocaine as the country's most dangerous drug.

But Essex Police is helping to lead the national development of a strategy to prevent this happening, says Press Officer Donna Veasey.

cleaner, which, when mixed together during the production process, can result in explosions and toxic waste. Crystal can be produced by various means, one of which involves taking over-the-counter medicine and various other chemicals – including lithium from batteries and red phosphorous from matchboxes – and converting it into methamphetamine through a chemical reaction.

Our Substance Misuse Co-ordinator, Insp Trevor Williamson, has been assisting acting Deputy Chief Constable Andy Bliss, who chairs the ACPO Precursor Working Group – precursor chemicals are those which can be combined to create other materials,

such as drugs and explosives.

The aim of this national group is to develop the capability of UK law enforcement, and other relevant agencies, to address precursor chemical criminality and associated issues. Trevor said: "The police service in general, and Essex Police in particular, is concerned not to sound alarmist over the potential threat that meth poses. "However, we would be neglectful if we did not take seriously the harm caused to other countries by the drug and manufacturing process used to produce it, and thus we are taking action now to try to prevent the problem escalating in this country.

"Experience elsewhere in the world indicates that harm can be reduced by early preventative action, which is what we are determined to do."

Essex is leading the planning of a national conference in May 2007 to address issues around the policing of precursor chemicals – supported by ACPO (the Association of Chief Police Officers) and SOCA (the Serious Organised Crime Agency).

● ACPO guidance prefers using the term *methamphetamine* rather than methylamphetamine

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Team working to provide an 'unattractive environment'

Airport staff are prepared for their new challenges

THE face of terrorism has changed and with this have come some significant challenges for those officers and staff who police Stansted Airport.

After all, Essex Police has gained a reputation second to none with its history of policing hijacks and is keen to ensure that reputation is maintained.

Supt Michelle Dunn, who commands the specialist division, tells Kim Perks how keeping pace with the changing threat has involved constant reflection and a lot of hard work.

“Our awareness around terrorist issues couldn't be greater, partly because the nature of the beast has changed,” says Supt Michelle Dunn, Stansted Airport's Divisional Commander.

“We have witnessed horrific London bombings and a major focus on aviation.

“Whereas before it was about negotiating the release of passengers and crew, terrorists are now prepared to use aircraft as weapons and commit suicide generating mass casualties.

“This presents us with major policing challenges as we try to stay one step ahead of these changes in tactics.”

Although there is recognition by Government that there is a need for all airports to cope equally with such scenarios, Stansted's proven track record will mean that for some scenarios it is a logical choice. Experience has shown that the airport can get as little as 15 minutes' notice that an aeroplane is being diverted to the county and so the division needs to be in a position 24-hours a day to receive and deal with the initial stages of a situation with existing airport resources, requiring the Stansted team to be match-

fit at all times.

This is achieved through a robust and highly-mapped out training programme, which tests not only aspects of the hijack plan but all other scenarios, ranging from contagious illness, such as avian flu, to suspect packages and air crashes.

Supt Dunn said: “All of these scenarios have to be continually trained for so we have put together a new programme which supplements all the normal police training with tests specific to the airport. “Some of that training, of course, has to be jointly delivered with partners such as the fire service and Stansted Airport Ltd (STAL) employees.”

The airport is currently operating at maximum capacity with 25 million passengers passing through the terminal each year. Although plans by STAL to increase that to 35 million passengers a year within the current structure were recently rejected, this is subject to appeal and an application for a second runway is proposed for next year.

Supt Dunn said: “This would turn Stansted into the size of Heathrow with 65 million passengers, so demand for growth is significant.

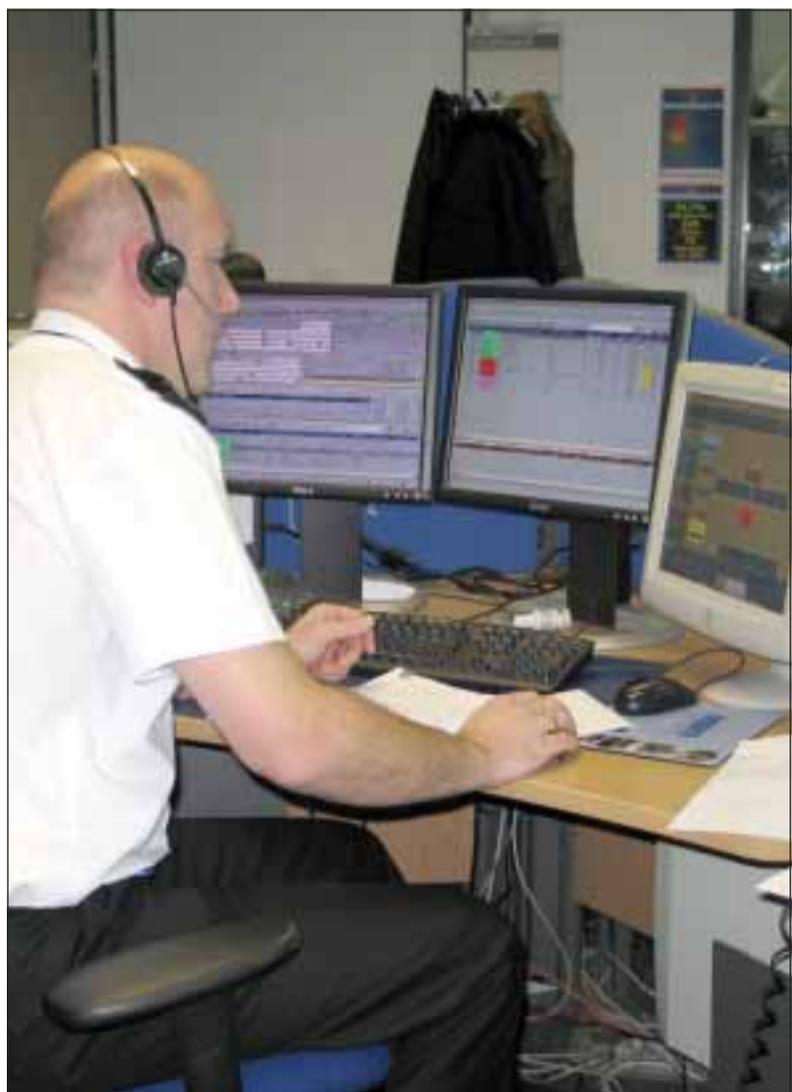
“The airport is a thriving and lively place to work, we are attracting new officers all the time and, although we don't know what the future holds, it is bound to be a fascinating challenge.”



● **Firearms officer Pc Kat Major, above, is just one of a number of officers enjoying the thriving environment at Stansted Airport**



● **Divisional Commander Supt Michelle Dunn, right, on her 'patch'**



● **Pc Rene Matthews at the hub of policing operations at Stansted Airport in the control room**

Proud of its reputation keeping our county and its skies safe

IT is not just in the major incident arena that Stansted has a proud reputation; its work on crime reduction, human trafficking and football intelligence have also received worthy recognition.

Despite more than 15 million cars using the airport each year, 2006 saw the theft of only one car.

A clear deterrent is an innovative, if controversial, crime reduction scheme whereby all hire car customers provide a thumbprint to the hire company. The one car stolen last year was recovered and the suspect convicted. There is now talk among some companies of rolling the scheme out nationally.

Football championships see scores of people using the airport to attend matches hosted in Europe and Stansted was the top-performing airport in the country during the soccer World Cup Finals.

Over 27 days, officers carried out 80,000 PNC checks and detained 102 people – 79 under football legislation – and 21 were ultimately taken to court, resulting in 16 football banning orders being issued, totalling more than 45 years.

A further 23 people were arrested because they were breaching their bail by travelling.

During this year's national operation against human trafficking, led by the Metropolitan Police, Stansted supplied more intelligence to the operation than any other airport.

Forces around the country are also monitoring with interest the airport's Interdiction work, which is proving a successful tactic for identifying those criminals either targeting or travelling through the airport.

In January 2006 Stansted officers hosted the first Interdiction course in the UK. The work was developed from 1976 by US enforcement agencies and is now used worldwide in 42 countries.

It includes the profiling of the travelling public by using a number of techniques for both crime and terrorist-related suspects. This has been described by some as 'the first line of defence'.

To date, Interdiction has proved a very useful tactical option for a variety of purposes and many arrests have resulted. More work and resources are required to progress this area of policing, which is ideal for this environment.

In a recent operation, nine men were arrested in a crackdown on baggage thefts and a host of property including mobile phones, cameras, iPods, MP3-players and cigarettes were recovered, reflecting the excellent relations built up between the police, airport management and companies working on the site.

The investigation is ongoing and other deterrents are being put in place to prevent further offences.

So what is the key to Stansted's success?

“It is most definitely teamwork,” says Supt Dunn, “and our ability to balance our terrorism responsibilities with crime prevention and detection.

“It gives officers a nice blend of activity; they get the major incident and firearms focus but also the satisfaction of identifying a crime trend or problem, putting an operation in place and getting a successful result and conviction.

“As a smaller division, we work very hard on internal communication and sharing information.

“We make sure the command team gets involved in day-to-day work, we involve everyone in the decision-making process, we aren't afraid to try new things, such as interdiction, we never write a crime off and, most importantly, we make sure we say thanks for a job well done.

“This type of teamwork pays dividends as we have staff who are highly-motivated and enthusiastic, people from other forces who are interested in what we are doing and persistent criminals who are either jailed or have come to realise there is no point coming to the airport to commit crime.

“Our aim is to make the division an unattractive environment for terrorists and criminals by providing a highly visible and capable deterrent, using innovative crime reduction initiatives and a determined and effective approach to criminal investigation.”

Sport & Social

'Total domination' extends league lead



● Kerrie Barkway
ext 58883



Force sports Association has many benefits

KERRIE Barkway would like to invite you to join the Essex Police Sports Association (EPSA). If you work for, or have retired from, Essex Police you are entitled to become an EPSA member – membership costs just £2 per month, which can be taken directly from your wages or by standing order if you prefer.

Membership benefits

1. You can participate in the Force Lottery, with monthly prizes in excess of £6,600 plus a new car in the July and December draws.

2. You may make use of the Clubhouse function room at the HQ Sports Pavilion at extremely low rates.

It is currently used for all manner of social events including weddings and adult birthday parties, as well as conferences.

A smaller bar upstairs can also be booked.

3. You may use the Force Sports and Leisure Shop, where you can easily save your annual subscription in one visit.

The well-stocked shop sells most leading brands, including Adidas, Reebok, Lacoste and Hi-Tec.

4. Retired members receive a monthly circular covering any new member benefits as well as news regarding sporting achievements by Essex Police personnel.

Discounted benefits

1. Free entry into the Duxford Imperial War Museum.

2. Discounted tickets for Colchester Zoo.

3. Discounts of up to 25 per cent at various restaurants, such as La Tasca and Aroma.

4. Discounted holidays from the likes of Haven (up to 60 per cent) and Warner's (minimum 25 per cent).

5. Discounted membership of various state-of-the-art health clubs across Essex, such as Virgin, Cannons and Esporta.

6. Discounted rates at many golf courses across Essex and the UK.

7. Fleet discount with Hyundai, good discounts with Vauxhall and Volvo and discounts of up to 30 per cent off some makes of car through Lloyds TSB's Car Select

● To join the EPSA, contact Kerrie Barkway via email at kerrie.barkway@essex.pnn.police.uk or by ringing 01245 491491 ext 58883 on weekday mornings

FSU keep the Darren Pike Cup

OFFICERS from the Force Support Unit thrashed their arch-rivals from the City 5-0 in the annual Darren Pike Memorial Cup match, raising £450 for charity in the process.

Hosted by the City at the Honourable Artillery Company Ground near Liverpool Street Station, Essex strolled to victory to level the series score to 3-1.

Team captain, and man-of-the-match, John Higgitt led the team to victory ahead of a £450 cheque presentation in aid of the Premature Baby Unit at Basildon University Hospital where Darren's daughter, Hannah, was born.

Darren, who transferred to the City of London Police from Essex, was tragically killed in a motorcycle crash in Cambridgeshire while on a firearms course.

Stansted men are Tough Guys

OFFICERS from Stansted Airport are embarking on a physical challenge to raise money for charity.

Chris Oliver, Andy Watkin and Andy Bartlett, of D-shift, and Chris Henley, of E-shift, will be participating in this month's Tough Guy competition in Wolverhampton where they hope to raise more several hundred pounds for the Tuberous Sclerosis Association.

Andy Bartlett's son Joshua suffers from the genetic disorder which causes the body's organs to fail.

● To sponsor the officers, contact them via email

Cricket nets

THE Essex Police cricket team will begin pre-season net practice at Essex CCC in Chelmsford next month.

The dates are Tuesdays February 27, March 6, March 13, March 20 and March 27, between 2pm and 4pm.

● Any new players interested in playing during 2007 should contact Ady Garnham at Colchester Police Station by email or by calling ext 10108.

● Include details of when you last played, the standard and for which club side you played

ESSEX totally dominated the men's PSUK league cross-country field in Sussex last month with four home in the first ten places – their third win out of three races.

Rivals Kent managed just one top-ten position – seventh.

Meanwhile the men's veterans maintained their overall second place in the Eastern/South-East league.

Captain Mick Bond was delighted with the results at Horsham, calling them 'vital'.

He came in ninth in the men's race – and was first home in the men's over-50 race (v50) – having run five other races in the previous four weeks.

Starting with another PSUK league race, he won gold medals in county 10-mile and 10km road races and added a cross-country bronze before he and Russ Welch – who took third at Horsham – represented the PSUK national team at Birmingham in their win over the fire and prison services.

Andy Jopson took second place at Horsham and Bond described his 'all too rare outing over the country' as a 'revelation'.

Once again improving on his highest finish in tenth, Dan Sorrell secured the win for the men and the Essex lead over Kent was extended to over 50 points with two league fixtures left.

Returning to his best form, John Mackenzie (v50) got the better of Tony Benjamin (v40) as they again ensured

the veterans (three finishes to score) maintained second overall.

Also ensuring that the women's team keep in touch of a medal place, Kirsty Potterton came in tenth on her team debut followed by Jane Davis and Pauline Bowers – leaving the team fourth overall.

● Results were: Men (first four from each team count) 1 Essex, 83 points; 2 Kent, 141. Veteran men (three to count) 1 Kent, 38pts; 2 Essex 84. Women (three to count) 1 Cambridgeshire, 57pts; 2 City of London, 87; 3 Sussex, 111; 4 Hertfordshire, 118; 5 Essex, 124.

● The Bedfordshire fixture has been postponed from January 10 into February so the next PSUK league race will take place on January 31 in Kent

Veterans get a second point

THE veterans season is still in the doldrums but a 2-2 draw in the Greene King Veterans' Premier League was seen as a fair result.

However they got a result early last month when Writtle called the game off, citing a water-logged pitch. The draw against Beacon Hill Rovers gave the vets only their second point of the season. Ray O'Hare praised goalkeeper Matt Clark – saying: "Some of those saves defied the laws of physics" – and the defence for their sterling work during the match.

"It was a fantastic performance and everyone worked hard on the pitch in their passing, tackling and commitment," he said afterwards.

Joe Wrigley enabled Essex Police to take an early lead from a free kick but Rovers soon equalised against the run of play and then took the lead before Sean James' terrific shot from 15 yards out went in off one of the Rovers defenders.

● The PSUK league match against Hertfordshire on December 12 was postponed as has the January 9 game against Suffolk.

The next matches are away to City of London on January 17 and home to the Metropolitan Police on February 7.

● The first Greene King Veterans' league match of the new year was due to be played at home to Old Parmitarians on January 6

Training is a must

ESSEX Police veterans football team need new players to strengthen their squad.

Anyone over 35 who can kick a ball, put in a challenge every once in a while and socialise after the match is welcome.

Simply send your email address and a contact phone number to Ray O'Hare at Old Harlow Major Investigations Team or to Matthew Clark in the Force Support Unit. Although the Essex Police senior team has a big squad, they are always on the lookout for new players, too – if you are under 35, email your details to Steve Crane at Stansted Airport.

● Training for all is 6pm Thursdays at HQ

Road officer scoops lottery's car prize

THE winner of a new car – a Hyundai sports coupe – in the December force lottery draw was, appropriately, Laindon Road Policing officer Pc David Mayo. Retired members scooped the top three cash prizes – Raymond How won £3,000, Geoffrey Markham received £1,000 and John Hobrough won £500.

The winners of £100 prizes were: Dc Nikki Osborne, of the Serious and Organised Crime Directorate (SOC) Investigations, Victoria Butler, of Crime Division HR; Heather Ashman, of Braintree; Dc Lee Taylor, of Stansted Airport; Dc Mark Harvey, of Colchester Youth Offending Team; Dc Michael

Hammond, of the Force Intelligence Bureau; Caroline Miller, of the Essex Intelligence Model Project; Pc Steve Wood, of Harlow; Rosie Park, of Clacton; Pc Percy Persad, of Laindon Road Policing Unit; and Dc Ian Bloomfield, of SOCD Investigations.

And £50 winners were: Chief Supt Wilson Kennedy, of Crime Division; Dc Derek Gargan, of Old Harlow Major Investigation Team; Pc Chris Gibson, of Clacton Dog Section; Pc Mark Hawes., of Harlow; Pc Ian Howlett, of Rayleigh; Dc David Crane, of Epping; Sgt Simon Norris, of Stansted Airport; Pc Dean Yarnall, of Southend; Pc Paul

Screech, of Chigwell Dog Section; Pc Tony Kent, of South Woodham Ferrers Professional Development Unit (PDU); Sonia Duckling, of Colchester; Les Theobald, of HQ IT; Chris Baker, of the Force Information Room; and Insp Simon Dobinson, of Laindon and Basildon Town. Winners of Benenden Healthcare bears were:

Peter Hamilton, of the Investigations Review Team; Pc Zoe Insull, of Witham PDU; Pc Kevin Hemsworth, of Westcliff; Jenny Pealling, of Financial Services; Pc Georgette Beckett, of Harlow; and Andrea Fryatt, of Southend.

Wat-er way to serve the public



ROAD policing officers were in the right spot at the right moment following flash floods in west Essex which left motorists trapped in their cars. The sudden heavy downpours at the end of November required road closures in North Weald, Ongar and Loughton as police assisted the fire service in rescuing the stranded.

● Chigwell Road Policing Unit's 4x4 comes to the aid of motorists and residents in Loughton, right and left

Pictures by Steve Huntley/essex-pix.com



Fewer motorists are caught drinking and driving during festivities

THE force's It's No Joke winter drink-drive campaign has been dubbed a success. Traffic officers across the county targeted drivers suspected of drink-driving between December 1 and 31. A total of 8,737 breath tests were taken throughout the 2006 campaign, with 178 proving positive at the roadside and 27 motorists failing or refusing to

take a test – a reduction of 53 over the previous year. In 2005, fewer tests – 8,416 – were carried out with 255 motorists testing positive at the roadside, refusing to take or failing the breath test or being found to be under the influence of drugs. Senior Traffic Management Officer Adam Pipe said: "I think the results from this year's campaign show a definite improve-

ment on previous years. "However there is still some concern that 178 people were arrested, showing how important the message of not drinking and driving is." Of the 178 motorists testing positive, around a third were found to have previous criminal convictions, so Essex Police will be working hard throughout 2007 to stop repeat offenders.

Mr Pipe urged people to think about their safety when getting into a car at any time of the year. Mistakes often happened when someone tried to gauge how much alcohol was safe to drink, he explained. "The only safe way to drink is not to drive. When people drink and drive they are risking not only their life, but the lives of others around them," he added.

Number of breath tests:

Bocking RPU	1,203	17 positive
Chelmsford RPU	2,395	25 positive
Chigwell RPU	1,467	26 positive
Laindon RPU	842	11 positive
Rayleigh RPU	877	16 positive
Stanway RPU	1,055	37 positive
Divisions	897	46 positive
TOTAL	8,737	

Custody suite share is first in country

ESSEX Police has joined forces with Hertfordshire Police to share the use of a custody suite in Bishop's Stortford – the first such example of its kind in the country.

Retiring Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark is to continue co-ordinating work in the eastern region to improve the provision and supply of protective services.

Collaboration between the six forces has taken on greater significance since last summer when the Government rejected the idea of forcing police forces to merge.

Essex is co-ordinating or involved with several other projects, including transport services, major crime, serious and organised crime, counter-terrorism, procurement, HR and training, call handling, IT and legal and scientific services.

And it will continue working with Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire to look at ways of doing business more effectively and sharing good practice.

Mr Clark said: "There are many opportunities for moving forward and improving policing services for the future.

"I strongly believe that by working together with our regional colleagues we can identify opportunities for co-operation and joint working and share examples of good practice, helping to combat crime in all its forms.

"Essex is taking the lead in many of the projects, proof that the expertise and dedication of police officers and staff within our force will be recognised as well as shared with our colleagues across the region."

The business cases on the first phase of projects should be completed by March 2007.

Chairman of Essex Police Authority Robert Chambers said: "This is a golden opportunity to show that we can do some of our business differently in order to provide an even better service for our residents – low crime rates and high detection rates."

● THE custody suite in Bishop's Stortford opened as the joint custody suite on December 22 and will be staffed by officers from both forces.

It will be open for four days a week, including Friday and Saturday, 16 hours a day, covering the peak period.

Special car won't take prisoners



● Rennie Chivers shows off his pride and joy

A FORMER custody sergeant from north-east Essex will be celebrating a very special prisoner in his own inimitable way later this year.

Rennie Chivers owns one of only 47 special-edition Caterham 7 cars made in honour of the 1960s hit TV series *The Prisoner*.

Starring Patrick McGoochan, the drama series chronicled the trials and tribulations of a former secret agent who was abducted by the Government and held captive in a secret village in Wales.

All the episodes feature *The Prisoner*

driving his green Lotus 7, which is tipped with a yellow nose-cone.

In 1989, Caterham, who had bought the sole rights to make the '7' from Lotus, made a limited number of replicas to commemorate the series – each with a dashboard plaque and a certificate signed by Patrick McGoochan himself.

Rennie, now a Scenes of Crime Officer at Clacton, said: "Since first seeing the series, I have been intrigued by the char-

acter and have always wished for a '7' of my own.

"My car was originally made for the company's managing director and was in a private collection until October when I discovered it was for sale – and I jumped at the opportunity to buy it.

"It's a triple celebration this year as not only is it the programme's 40th anniversary, but it's also my 50th and I will be showing the car at a special 50th anniversary event of the original Lotus 7 in September."

Denying criminals the use of county's roads

THE Force Information Room's (FIR) three-week ANPR campaign – Operation Arctic Fox – has proved its worth.

In the past four years, the force has created one of the largest Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems in the UK and are now reading 250,000-plus vehicle indexes a day.

While the majority of motorists who use the roads of Essex are law-abiding and their cars pass ANPR cameras without note, there is a small minority who consistently drive when they should not – disqualified or drunk drivers and other prolific criminals – and it is these vehicles and drivers who are of interest to police.

These are the same people who do not register their cars, tax or insure them.

Acting Insp Justin Smith, who heads Essex's ANPR Intercept Team, said that if officers used information and intelligence from various databases then the chances of finding a driver who is known

to police was greatly improved. "So, if you stop enough of those types of person than some will arrestable," he said.

"An additional benefit is that ANPR is indiscriminate – it does not take note of the look or age of the car or the driver, it simply uses intelligence related to an index to its best possible means."

The force's ANPR Intercept Team has generated over 300 arrests in the last 12 months. But acting Insp Smith said alarms were triggered daily by such vehicles on the central ANPR database but they were not being monitored – until he pulled together Operation Arctic Fox. He said: "The aim was to increase the number of arrests by territorial divisions by immediately despatching available resources to 'hits' being monitored in FIR."

It and involved an ANPR-trained officer and a FIR dispatcher working together to generate the arrests.

The pair would evaluate the information and the availability of resources

and, where appropriate, despatch officers to intercept the vehicle and stop-check its occupants.

The aim was to show frontline officers and FIR staff how to maximise the potential of the ANPR system.

Acting Insp Smith said officers had reported back that they had felt proud to be able to make arrests as a result of the information.

"If we can do that then we will make life in Essex even harder for criminals and this will help to reduce crime and to detect it," he said.

If ANPR leads to only one extra arrest a day, that is 365 a year and the potential for even more detections.

A report is now due to be put before Chief Officers to discover whether permanent resourcing can be made available to carry out the ANPR Alarm monitoring.

● Figures from Operation Arctic Fox were still being compiled as *The Law* went to print

Pets 'were used as footballs'

TWO men have admitted killing two guinea-pigs which they had used as makeshift footballs.

Christopher Handley, a 19-year-old from Ford End, and 18-year-old Stuart Mansell, of Chelmsford, went on a spree of destruction on the evening of February 8 last year, beginning in Bicknacre and finishing at two schools in Rettendon.

They caused almost £10,000 damage to Rettendon Primary School.

While the Small Wonders Nursery School at Rettendon Common was broken into and the day nursery's two pet guinea-pigs were assaulted before being dumped in the swimming pool of the next-door primary school. A third guinea-pig was also stolen but has never been found.

Last month, Handley and Mansell appeared at Chelmsford Crown Court and pleaded guilty to charges of theft and the resultant death of the rodents and admitted causing criminal damage.

They were remanded in custody until sentencing on January 12 at the crown court.

Daniel is Prouder of his work

THE force's public relations campaign for Neighbourhood Policing has won a coveted Chartered Institute of Public Relations PRide award.

The communications programme included a major public research initiative involving 5,000 residents, 20 public launch events county-wide, a print and broadcast media relations programme, DVD production, newsletters, and promotional merchandise.

Communications Manager Daniel Lennox-Foreman picked up a Gold award for Best Public Sector Campaign.

Essex Police worked with Focus Advertising Communications on the generation of the Neighbourhood brand, which is built around a strap line of 'right up your street'.

Daniel said: "The success is largely down to the joint working between the Neighbourhood Policing Team and the front-line officers and staff, who have pulled out all the stops to ensure that the residents of Essex really understand what Neighbourhood Policing is all about."

