

The Law



www.essex.police.uk

February 2007



● Above, acting Supt Stuart Ashton and Constitutional Affairs Minister Harriet Harman discuss Respect with a member of the public in Harlow

● Far left, South-Eastern Divisional Commander Chief Supt Dave Folkard and Pc Mark Sawyer, of Southchurch Neighbourhood Policing Team, talk to Culture Secretary Tessa Jowell

Pictures by Denise Harvey and Ruth Wright

Anti-social behaviour campaign to improve our quality of life

WITH A LITTLE BIT

OF RESPECT ...

TO complement the Government's launch of its Respect Agenda, Essex Police has mounted a three-month campaign against anti-social behaviour.

The force was delighted that two of its districts – Southend and Harlow – were named as Respect Action Areas by the Government.

Both will receive extra funding to continue work they have already started under the Respect banner.

The Respect Agenda encourages and helps various agencies, including the police, to tackle bad behaviour with the aim of creating a modern culture of respect.

Central Government, local councils and other agencies, local communities and, ultimately, everyone working together will build a society in which everyone respects one another, where anti-social behaviour is rare and is tackled effectively and where communities can live in peace.

Government Ministers visited the county to launch the Respect Action Areas on January 22 to see the work that is already going on there.

Constitutional Affairs Minister Harriet Harman joined The Safer Harlow Partnership at the launch of its Respect 'shop'.

The partnership held a week-long campaign to raise awareness of the delivery of the Respect Agenda in Harlow and to highlight the work of the partnership in tackling crime, supporting families, building safer, stronger communities and promoting positive citizenship.

Residents were able to drop in at the 'shop' in the Harvey Centre and discuss aspects of anti-social behaviour with partnership members, including local police and councillors.

The shop displayed numerous messages highlighting the action that will and has already been taken to assist residents in combating anti-social behaviour within their communities.

And Ms Harman saw displays of mini-motorcycles seized during last summer's Operation Catch and Crush, hi-fi equipment confiscated from noisy neighbours and infor-

mation on Operation Bang Out Of Order, which targeted nuisance behaviour around Halloween and Bonfire Night.

Over in Southend, South-Eastern Divisional Commander Chief Supt Dave Folkard met Culture Secretary Tessa Jowell and told her all about the police response to anti-social behaviour in the borough.

He also explained how the force had launched Operation Respect and how it tied in with the Government's agenda.

Then students from South-East Essex College performed an ice-dance routine on a temporary ice rink in Southend High Street.

After launching balloons and chatting to students about Respect, Ms Jowell visited the new University of Essex Southend campus to meet representatives from local community groups, pupils from Cecil Jones College, councillors and police officers and PCSOs.

Later on, school bands took part in Respect Rocks at Chinnery's club on the seafront to mark the occasion, and the concert was attended by people of all ages.

Media Communications Co-ordinator Julia Pack, who helped organise the launch, said: "We wanted to mark the designation of Southend as a Respect Action Area in a fitting

way, involving young and old alike.

"Respect will be important in helping us and our partner agencies in combating anti-social behaviour and making our town a more pleasant and safer place in which to live."

The forerunner Operation Respect informs police officers and staff about the Respect Agenda and how to use various tools to combat anti-social behaviour.

As well as making better use of such things as Anti-Social Behaviour Contracts, cautions, warnings and fixed penalty notices, they are being made more aware of the benefits of partnership liaison.

Through the county's crime and disorder partnerships, the police can liaise with other agencies – such as housing authorities, local councils, health services, the fire service, social services and education authorities – in order to approach problems surrounding some families and individuals in a 'joined up' way.

This approach seeks to address the causes of anti-social behaviour rather than simply dealing with it when it becomes a criminal offence.

Operation Respect is running across the Essex force for three months and it is then expected to become 'business as usual'.



We want views on national 'response policing' survey

BETWEEN June 2005 and June 2006, the Police Federation of England and Wales commissioned a research project on 24/7 response policing.

Seven forces participated but were selected as representative of a much larger number of forces using the 'most similar force' groupings developed by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary for its Baseline Assessments.

Essex did not participate. However, I have listed below some of the findings.

Do they sound familiar? Are these findings true for Essex? If so, I want to hear from you, with supporting evidence if available.

By the time you read this, I will have already met Chief Constable Roger Baker to discuss the findings but I would still welcome your views.

Federation survey conclusions

Freedom from bureaucracy versus organisational control through bureaucracy

Officers were promised that bureaucracy would be considerably reduced, freeing up their time. Yet the system of control introduced to improve police effectiveness and

efficiency is based upon bureaucratic procedures and routines which officers are required to follow rigidly.

Trusting rank and file officers versus mechanistic organisational control

Officers referred constantly to the fact that they were not trusted by higher management; best illustrated, they believed, by the attempt to deny them their use of discretion.

Reassurance policing versus 'managing expectations'

The police service is committed to improving public reassurance by providing a quality service to victims and witnesses.

Yet, when citizens telephone the police seeking assistance, too often there is no patrol to send and the call is down-graded to the type of incident that may receive a response days later.

Tackling crime versus achieving target arrests and sanctioned detections

Police officers believe they should be concentrating on those offenders causing most harm to their communities but they are required to achieve sanctioned detections, leading to a skewing of their performance towards minor, more easily-detectable offences.

The insistence on strict, non-discretionary law enforcement

versus the aim of reducing time spent in the police station

Officers are required to use their power of arrest in situations where they would previously have used their discretion.

These additional arrests increase the time spent on station-based activities, particularly when the CPS become involved.

Cost-cutting versus freeing up of response officer time

The closing of custody suites as a cost-cutting measure has increased the travelling time spent by response officers after making an arrest.

Integrity versus achievement of results

Officers are uneasy about using practices which criminalise citizens for minor offences; yet these provide a means of achieving their quota of sanctioned detections.

The investment in front-line policing versus abstractions from the 24/7 response reliefs

The Home Office and police authorities have emphasised their commitment to invest in front-line policing and the protection of officers undertaking those duties. Yet the reduced complement of response reliefs comprises relatively inexperienced constables, many of them not yet out of their probation.

The commitment to the

development of staff versus the use of Probationary constables to compensate for shortages on response reliefs

Despite the fine rhetoric about training and human resource development, Probationers are treated as another response unit to be despatched to any call if they are available.

The commitment to 'joined-up' policing and partnership versus the 'not my remit' culture

'Partnership', 'inter-agency', 'mutual support' and 'flexibility' are buzz words 24/7 officers hear daily in their work lives.

Yet numerous examples were provided where police units have refused to assist each other. 'Not my remit' is now a commonly-used phrase in police jargon.

The Federation's analysis of 24/7 response policing calls for remedial measures to reduce the pressures on response officers at the earliest opportunity.

The official response has previously been that this has already been achieved to a significant extent by the introduction of police staff, increased numbers of police officers and the reduction of bureaucracy.

This project has exposed this to be a management myth which is having severe consequences for the quality of response policing received

by the public and for the welfare of 24/7 response officers.

No room for Home Office criticism

NOW on a slightly lighter side, this week the Home Office announced that it will be split into two departments.

The Home Secretary, Dr John Reid, admitted that the department is too big for one person to run.

How ironic is this when it was the Home Office which attempted to enforce amalgamations of smaller police forces into bigger super-forces.

This is the same Home Office which Dr Reid took over after Charles Clarke was sacked.

The same Home Office which has just admitted that 27,000 files on Britons jailed abroad – including murderers and rapists – were not on the Police National Computer.

The same Home Office that allowed a third terror suspect on a control order to flee in order to join a terror training camp.

And the same Home Office which admitted that the head of the Prison Service did not know how many prisoners were on the run!

Dr Reid, I have accused you of being hypocritical before. Get your own house in order before criticising others who are, in fact, performing very well.

What do youngsters think of it?

HAVE you got any project, plan or operation that affects young people?

Do you want to know what they think about it before it goes live?

Perhaps they've got a view which will make your good idea a *great* idea.

The Essex Police Youth Forum is a group of young people from across the county who give up their time to tell us what they think about what the force does.

The group has been running for a couple of years now and has gone from strength to strength.

Many teams, divisions and departments have used the group to 'road test' ideas or plans.

Forum members meet at Police HQ every six weeks or so on either a Saturday or a Sunday.

The meetings are informal and relaxed but there is an agenda to make sure members discuss all that's needed.

Meeting dates for the next few months are: February 25, March 24, April 28, June 10 and July 28.

So if any member of any division or department has an issue or project they would like to take along to one of the forum meetings, or if they would like to go along to find out more, please contact the PEPYS Youth Section in the Territorial Policing department on ext 52031 or ext 52030.

IT plans to serve the force through the 21st century



A ROOM at HQ is fuelling the future in its new capacity as a state-of-the-art server-hosting facility.

Recently opened by the Head of IT, Brian Jaggs, the new facility is capable of hosting more than 450 servers supporting more than 60 key applications.

Forming part of the IT Department's business continuity plans, the room was transformed into a server hosting facility after the Property Services Department converted the dark and gloomy room, which previously housed a diesel storage tank, into a light, fully air-conditioned room.

This new facility will be one of two sites and will offer resilience to host the force's application servers for many years to come.

● IT Systems Administrators Martin Asher and Paul Bunn check one of the servers

Keeping our roads safe from danger

ROAD policing officers were out in force in Basildon last month as they continued their drive to rid the county's roads of dangerous and poorly-driven lorries.

A number of officers were joined by staff from the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) and HM Revenue and Customs for the half-day operation at Gloucester Park – the first commercial vehicle check of the year under Operation Mermaid.

A total of 20 UK and non-UK-registered goods vehicles were checked for their condition while documents were also examined to ensure the drivers were meeting driving hours' criteria.

Just under half of the lorries were found to be in good condition but five were prevented from travelling any further due to their 'appalling standard of maintenance'.

Commercial Vehicle Investigator Pc Danny Morton, of Mobile Support Division, said afterwards: "Despite the high winds which were hampering our efforts, we still managed to improve the safety of the county's roads.

"We even located a stolen road-roller from a nearby travellers' site in Wickford after a Tracker activation."

Operation Mermaid is a nationwide campaign conducted by police forces across England & Wales which aims to improve road safety.

Town gets business-like in the fight against crime

A CRIME-fighting organisation is helping to rid a north Essex town of petty crime.

More than 60 trouble-makers and thieves have not reoffended since Colchester Business Against Crime (ColBAC) imposed tough sanctions last year.

The culprits were sent letters warning them they would be banned from using Colchester town centre facilities if they were caught committing crime on a ColBAC site.

Already, 100 retailers and businesses have joined ColBAC, the first initiative of its kind in Essex.

None of the recipients of the stern warnings have put a foot wrong since faced with the threat of an exclusion order or Anti-Social Behaviour Order.

ColBAC co-ordinator Shona Bryan said: "I have issued my 60th warning letter and I have not had one notification that any of the people have reoffended."

"It is really encouraging because it shows our system is working and that people who have been found to be causing trouble or committing crime are taking note."

Among recipients were 'prolific' offenders who have a long history of crime.

If any of them do reoffend, they will be excluded from all ColBAC outlets for 12 months.

The scheme is run by Colchester Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership on behalf of the police and the borough council.

Miss Bryan added: "There probably will be a time when somebody will not heed the warning and decide to carry on causing trouble but the first signs are very positive and we are all very pleased."

Let the force be with you

FOR those interested in a new career with Essex Police, the force is holding a series of open days where people can simply pop in for an informal chat.

The next two are on Monday, March 5, and Thursday, April 19, at Force HQ Sports Pavilion between 4 and 7pm.

• For more information, visit www.essex.police.uk and click on recruitment

Drive to reduce thefts of expensive cars

AN operation mounted to deal with thieves who steal expensive cars by breaking in to homes to get the keys has been hailed a resounding success.

Operation Phobia began after an arrest in the Metropolitan Police area following a burglary in Great Baddow in December last year.

Information was gathered which

named others responsible for similar offences and consequently Operation Phobia was launched in early January to reduce the number of offences being committed by catching those responsible.

In total 16 people were arrested in relation to burglaries, thefts, handling and conspiracy which were all connected to the car thefts.

This included garage staff who had provided false plates for some of the vehicles.

Insp Mick Pitcher, of Chelmsford CID, said: "This operation has caused significant disruption and has led to a marked decrease in dwelling burglaries where vehicles are stolen in Essex and north London."

Force is developing our future policing needs



• PCSO Esther Butcher, Sgt Steve Scott-Haynes, PCSO Lorraine Hughes and PCSO Andrew Powell, of the Harbour Neighbourhood Policing Team, chip in

Picture by James Burrows

A whopper of an event

AN evening for youths to have their say about what would make life better for them had great results. In less than two hours, more than 40 questionnaires were filled in, two people pledged to support youth future projects and one person wants to set up a residents' association. After answering questions about what they liked and disliked about the area, they swapped the forms for a grilled burger and a drink. The evening, in Colchester, gave them the chance to voice their

opinions with positive feedback. PCSOs Lorraine Hughes and Elayne Hepworth-Alaoui from the Harbour Neighbourhood Policing Team were present, along with Tim Gray and Sonia Fairweather, of the Guinness Trust, Sacha Tiller, from Colchester Borough Homes, and Bridget Tighe, from Colchester Borough Council. PCSO Hepworth-Alaoui said: "We thought it a huge success and we will evaluate the responses and the partnership agencies will work on some of the ideas suggested."

ESSEX Police is spearheading a campaign to get developers to pay for community, 'one-stop shop' police facilities on large, new housing developments.

In partnership with the other five Eastern Counties forces, we are hoping to be able to apply for funding under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act – known as 'planning gain' because developers pay for community infrastructure in return for planning permission.

In-force, John Meggison is project manager for the Strategic Regeneration Project, run jointly by the force and Essex Police Authority.

The project is examining how we will police the county over the next 15 to 20 years – when, it is expected, an extra 127,000 houses will be built around the county.

And it identified section 106 – used by planning authorities to gain new community centres and better roads etc – as an area from which police forces could benefit.

"In the past, when we have seen new development around the county, we have just reacted to it and got on with the policing, spreading our existing resources," John explained.

"We have now reached the stage where major housing development is planned for the county over the next 15 years and we can no longer maintain this stance without adversely affecting the policing of existing communities."

Our calculations have come up with a developer contribution figure of £410 per new house on developments over a certain size to go towards police infrastructure – based on projected population growth and on how many police officers and staff and buildings will be needed to police it.

Essex County Council has agreed in principle to adopt a document outlining the idea and, it is hoped, will soon formally agree to include it in a countywide 'developer contribution' document, which would then be taken up by all 14 district and borough councils – the planning authorities.

Meanwhile, John is already lobbying developers and English Partnerships has agreed to fund rooms in a new community centre on the Craylands Estate in Basildon, which will house a Neighbourhood Policing Team, when it is built in two to three years' time.

He has also got involved with town-centre master plans across the county, Colchester Garrison development, New Hall in Harlow and Chelmsford North – where 4,000 homes are planned.

A shining example to us all

TWO enterprising PCSOs have launched a Cycle Lights project in Southend. PCSOs Jackie Jones and Gary Jackets had been shocked by the number of young people riding around the town without proper safety lights on their bikes. So they approached local businesses – including Keymed, Wilkinsons, Waitrose and Cycles UK – to donate money to buy the lights.

Last month's event in Cluny Square also featured free security tagging, run by Southend Neighbourhood Watch's Cycle Watch, who fitted a record 90 tags to bikes.

Help to fit lights came from from Peartree Plus Resident's Association, Keymed and Southend Borough Council's road safety team.

And it was so successful – 150 sets of lights were fitted – they are running a second day, to give out the remaining cycle lights on a first-come, first-served basis, on February 17.

PCSO Jones said: "Cycling without proper safety lights in the winter months is very dangerous and young people should not take the risk. On a dark, rainy evening a motorist may not see you."

The pair, who are based at Temple Sutton Junior School in Southend, hope to secure funding for more sessions soon.

Community link boards

EVERY school in Essex is being offered a noticeboard which can be used by police officers and staff to communicate with the school community.

The move, by the force's PEPYS Youth Section, ties in with the introduction of our new Schools' Strategy, which will see every school allocated a named officer, who can then build links with students, staff, parents and visitors to the school. If anyone receives a request from a school for a noticeboard, contact PEPYS – the boards can then be ordered and it is aimed to get them in school by the end of term.

• Ring Ruth Collin on ext 52031 or Janet Bloomfield on ext 52030

New team aims to continue targeting conmen

A NEW and dedicated team has been set up to tackle distraction burglaries in Essex after incidents reached 20 per day.

The Distraction Burglary and Rogue Trader Unit (DBU) was launched following the constant targeting of the elderly by unscrupulous gangs of organised criminals.

Pensioners continue to fall victim to men posing as officials from water, gas and electric companies.

One set of conmen even duped a resident into letting them in by saying there had been an explosion nearby and the house had to be evacuated.

Operation Splash was launched in

autumn 2004 when 75 crimes were committed in one month alone.

The pilot, and forerunner, of the new DBU was supervised by Ds Richard Burgess, who now oversees the work of four detectives and one researcher.

He said: "The DBU was introduced to increase the level of detections and reduce the number of distraction burglaries and rogue trader offences."

"We aim to put an end to the misery caused by these heartless villains."

Through Operation Splash and the DBU, the force has reduced the number of such offences in the county over the past two years, from

497 in 2005 to 331 in 2006. Distraction burglaries and rogue trader incidents from the previous 24 hours are reviewed each morning and then allocated to an officer who will attempt to identify any links to other offences before visiting the victim and securing identification or forensic evidence.

One of the team will review intelligence reports received from divisions and plan surveillance work on suspects.

Dc Rob Coltman, 47, joined the DBU from Halstead CID. "This form of crime is something which everyone can relate to; it is a despicable

crime which can happen to anyone's parent or grandparent," said Dc Coltman.

"Like my colleagues, I have the drive and enthusiasm to rid the county of this low-level scum."

Ds Burgess is a fan of Chief Constable Roger Baker's ethos when it comes to tackling this offence, with 'Team Essex' at the forefront of his way of thinking.

"To echo the Chief's comments when he joined us: Criminals had better bring their toothbrushes when they come to Essex as they won't be leaving in a hurry," he said.

"The unit is a good example of

Roger Baker's approach to combating crime as what happens in Chelmsford is likely to have an impact in Southend or Basildon."

Essex is now a member of a national consortium of forces in England and Wales which has been set up to specifically tackle this form of crime, allowing for a more co-ordinated approach in identifying offenders and access to a national intelligence system.

Ds Burgess added: "These people don't tend to offend in their own back yard and they have perfected their trade through preparation and practice and are slick operators."

HAVE YOUR SAY: Write to Heather Turner, Law Letters, Press Office, Police HQ, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DA or via email to heather.turner@essex.pnn.police.uk
 Letters and emails must include your 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.

Tribute fund established in wife's memory

SADLY my wife Beverley lost her brave fight against Motor Neurone Disease (MND) on January 8.

Beverley was 56 and a much-loved mother to our three lovely daughters and grandmother to our only grandson Dylan Brian.

For over 30 years she was also part of the Essex Police family and many serving and retired personnel knew her.

We have established The Beverley Storey Tribute Fund in her memory to help us continue to raise funds to fight this terrible disease and to find a cure through research.

It has raised £2,000 so far. The money will also help to offer support and care to local MND sufferers and their carers.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to this worthwhile cause can do so by forwarding a cheque or postal order, made payable to the MND Association – to Willow Funeral Services, 61 High Road, Benfleet SS7 5LH. Please put your full name, address and postcode on the reverse and endorse it with the fund name.

I would of course be pleased to hear from anyone affected by this disease or from anyone wishing to help me with future fund-raising. My e-mail address is brianS50@aol.com

Our fight against MND continues.
Brian Storey
 South Benfleet

Thanks for your support

FOLLOWING the sad death of my husband Martin Maxim, aged 63, I would like to offer our sincere thanks to his friends and colleagues – past and present – in the police service for their overwhelming messages of sympathy and support.

We are sure that those who attended Martin's funeral will agree that it was a memorable occasion and a fitting tribute to a well-respected and dedicated officer.

Lynn Maxim and family
 Hockley

Thanks for the send-off after 40 glorious years in policing

I AM writing to say a big thank you to all in Essex Police for the wonderful support they have given me over almost 40 years of policing.

Although my last working day was December 15, 2006, and I actually retired on December 31, New Year's Eve, I had a wonderful retirement do on January 19 at HQ Sports Pavilion.

I was overwhelmed by all those who turned up and the warmth and generosity in what was said about my career and my contribution to policing

was truly humbling. I also received some wonderful gifts that I will treasure for years to come: Waterford crystal glasses for all occasions; IT kit which will set me up for my new career as a consultant; and memorabilia from Arsenal, who I have supported since I was 11 – a signed letter from Arsene Wenger, an autographed Arsenal shirt, and an autographed team photograph from when Arsenal won the Premiership without losing a game.

I also had many other gifts of Champagne,

brandy, books and a pen – with a red refill.

Sadly, some who gave gifts did not leave a name on the bottle or box so, if I have not written to say a personal thank you, I am sorry. Please accept this letter as my thank you.

Sue, my wife, was also presented with wonderful flowers for putting up with me and my job for so many years.

With all best wishes for the future.

Charles and Sue Clark

Remembering how things used to be

I TOOK this photograph in 1956 of the procession of the Assize Court Judges on their way to Shire Hall in Chelmsford to begin their morning courts.

On this occasion, the police escort was provided by, from left, Pcs China, Marshall, Robinson and Green, with Sgt Felton at the rear.

The ancient Rolls Royce, which can just be seen to the right of the picture, followed the procession from the front door of the judges' lodgings, along New Street to the front of Shire Hall – about 150 yards.

In case, perhaps, there may have been a change in the weather.

These same officers, from the Chelmsford rural sections, provided the police presence within the courts. All traffic would be stopped for the procession.

The prisoners for trial would arrive by coach up to the back door of Chelmsford Police Station in Waterloo Lane.

These prisoners were



• Judges process along New Street in Chelmsford to Shire Hall for the Assizes

entirely the responsibility of the escorting prison officers.

Their supervision and arrival did not interfere with the day-to-day operation of the police station.

Once inside the police station, they would be taken along a passageway, down a steep flight of steps, and

along a tunnel under New Street, to arrive at a small complex of cells, rooms and a kitchen.

From this area, the accused would climb a staircase and directly into the dock of either No 1 or No 2 Assize Court.

This collection of rooms

would, in fact, be under the entrance lobby of Shire Hall.

I understand that this part of the old police station is now a wine bar and the tunnel under the road has been bricked up.

J F Woolnough
 Purleigh

Join the comrades

THE annual meeting of the Essex Police Comrades' Association will be held in the Essex Police Federation Office, Stable Lodge at Essex Police HQ on Thursday, February 15 at 10.30am. All members are welcome to attend. We would like to remind readers of The Law that membership of this association is open not only to all retired officers but also to serving officers with ten or more years' service. For further information or details of membership, please contact me at the Federation Office at Essex Police HQ on ext 54501 or on 01245 452799.

Sue Kelly
 Secretary

Museum treat

WHILE in Adelaide, South Australia, recently, I had the privilege of visiting the museum of the South Australian Police Historical Society and enjoyed a conducted tour.

They have a history preceding UK forces and have managed to gather a vast collection, including many vehicles.

While they are not touting for business, I am sure that visitors from the UK would receive a warm welcome, as I did.

The society may be found by visiting www.sapolicehistory.org or you can email historical@police.sa.gov.au

R E Bracey
 Chelmsford

Gone . . . but not forgotten

John Smith – Essex County Constabulary
 Served from July 1, 1842. Died December 28, 1858

PC John Smith seems to have been an Irishman, as he gave his place of birth as Kells, County Meath, in 1810. We don't know how he came to join the Essex Constabulary in 1842, but he was already married with four children; he gave his previous occupation as labourer, which could have meant many things. Little is known of John Smith's career in the force, but he spent at least two years at Coggeshall from June 1848, and from May 1853 was working at Great Wakering.

Just after Christmas in 1858 John met his death by drowning, whilst on duty, but it has not been possible to ascertain the circumstances which led to his death.

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

Bringing scenes of crime 'alive'

WORK this one out. Neither a break-in nor apparently arson. No electrical appliances involved.

Yet bed linen is afloat and, had the house owner not popped upstairs and put it out, the blaze could have been far worse. A real mystery.

Just another case for Vincent 'Paddy' Duffy, scenes of crime boss.

It wasn't spontaneous combustion either. The long serving Paddy was stumped.

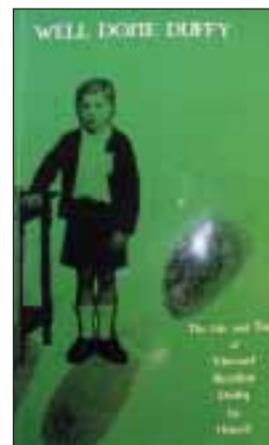
So down to Cobham Road, Westcliff, came Shirley Butcher, senior scientist with the Metropolitan Police.

She suggested that she and Paddy visit the house at the same time as the fire had started the day before.

After a look round, Shirley pointed to a house across the road. Rays from the setting sun had settled on a mirror in that house, then through a window and finally on to the bed, causing the fire.

In his book, *Well Done Duffy*, Paddy writes that it was one of the strangest cases with which he had to deal – even his boss, Supt Minshall, found it hard to believe until he received the scientist's

• Former Essex officer Vincent 'Paddy' Duffy has put pen to paper with great results



report. Paddy, now 81, a former Southend Borough officer and then divisional scenes of crime detective with Essex Police, was involved in the investigations of major crimes in the 1960s and 1970s as well as mysterious cases like that in Cobham Road.

Dublin-born, Paddy is now enjoying retirement with his wife Pat, a Golden

Wedding behind them. He has woven his early family life in Ireland around his police service, remembering many cases that hit the headlines over 30 years ago.

On of them involved market trader 'gentleman' Eric Willmont, who was found murdered near Leigh tip. Although Paddy doesn't mention it, I covered the inquiries and I believe the 'hit' cost around £100!

Eric's widow, Phoebe, her daughter and two London men were all jailed for life.

And Paddy remembers an astonishing lapse of security at the height of the IRA Troubles when he and another Irish police colleague in an old car were waved through at Ministry of Defence premises in Shoebury, without showing identification.

The scenes of crime author brings alive police work 30 and 40 years ago and many police colleagues are mentioned.

• Well Done Duffy, at £10.99 may be obtained from Angela Blaydon Publishing, 2 Elm Close, Ripley, GU23 6LE or visit www.abpublishing.com

Fred Hammerton

Corner the chairman



● Essex Police Authority chairman
Robert Chambers

Doing our business differently

“THE police authority was delighted to host a business breakfast for the second year running last month. And we were pleased that approximately 60 business representatives attended the event at the County Hotel in Chelmsford.

The police authority and Chief Constable Roger Baker believe it is vitally important to continue to work in partnership with the business community in reducing crime and the fear of crime.

This year, the business breakfast gave us an opportunity to engage with businesses and, more importantly, invite debate around any policing issues and look at ways of improving our service to businesses and the wider community. This proved very successful and we were given a lot of positive feedback, as well as ideas for future progression, which is always welcome. Mr Baker talked about our policing priorities, with examples of how we have set out to achieve them, and the success Essex has had to date on continued performance and crime reduction.

A presentation was also given by Director of Finance and Administration Rick Tazzini on the force's plans for the Council Tax precept and the budget for the next financial year, something we are duty-bound to consult businesses on.

The budget proposals will be discussed at the full meeting of the authority on Monday, February 12. The proposal is for a 4.95 per cent increase in the police precept – which equates to an average 11p per week rise.

If this is agreed, then the extra money will be spent on putting more officers on the front line, something the public have repeatedly told us they want.

The meeting proved very useful and we are delighted that the business community wants to work with us, now and in the future, to improve our service for the benefit of Essex tax-payers.

We would encourage them to continue to provide us with vital feedback to enable us to do business differently, for the benefit of the public. ”

College sets itself up to be a breeding ground for success



● Pc Alan Clothier, of Stanway RPU, tests the new Lantern fingerprint device on Press Officer Nishan Wijeratne at its media launch last month

Picture courtesy of the Evening Gazette

Lantern sheds light on ID

TRIALS of a new handheld fingerprint-reading device are going well just a couple of weeks in. Last month, Essex became the first force in East Anglia to trial Lantern and it was launched at Stanway Road Policing Unit with a specially-planned media launch to achieve maximum local coverage. Lantern has been developed to increase the time officers spend out on the streets, with roadside disputes over offenders' details set to become consigned to the history books.

Our road policing officers are taking part in a £2.6million, 12-month pilot scheme to gauge the value of the device as developer PITO (the Police Information Technology Organisation) has forecast savings across England and Wales of over

£2 million a year should the system be approved. Acting Insp Justin Smith, of the ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) Intercept team, said that after just a couple of weeks Lantern was proving its worth. “There have been several good arrests throughout the county where officers have not been happy about the details they have been given at the roadside and then discovered the people were lying. “I know of at least three arrests because of this.”

Justin said Lantern had the potential to save officers time and improve their safety. As well as cutting down the time it takes to establish someone's identity, once that identity is established, police officers are then able to know what, if any, risks

that person poses, either to the officer or to themselves. In one week, Essex officers put 86 fingerprints through Lantern – 30 more than any of the other nine pilot forces.

Justin said: “The checks represent only a small percentage of people we stop – those with whom we are not happy and who we think are lying.”

Lantern enables officers to scan a person's index finger in an operational environment – instead of having to arrest them and take them to a police station.

The electronic scan is encrypted and sent to the National Automated Fingerprint System where it is compared to 6.5million fingerprints – matches are returned to officers within five minutes

AS Essex Police College (EPC) prepares to celebrate its first birthday, training managers are already boasting of success stories in Cadet and supervisor development.

Head of Training Pankajni Trivedi said “The college has experienced significant change recently.

“I am very proud of how the staff have risen to the challenge in addition to improving our delivery.”

The Leadership Faculty has experienced a whirlwind time with PCSO, Cadet, sergeant and supervisor training reaching record figures and National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) pass rates on the increase.

The success of the Core Leadership Development Programme (CLDP) has been described by the vast majority of those who have completed it as one of the ‘finest and most-tailored’ in the country.

And several other forces have visited the college to see it delivered first-hand.

Media Manager Kim Perks was a recent student. “It really was an eye-opening experience and I could see the enthusiasm shown by everyone around me,” she said.

Acting Chief Insp John Ross believes it to be a valuable product. “It adds value to our ability to deliver policing,” he said.

“We are reviewing CLDP to ensure its relevance and we're now looking at the possibility of delivering development modules to inspectors and equivalent police staff.

“We want to introduce a training package aimed at district commanders in light of their growing responsibility – the college really can assist in delivering Neighbourhood Policing.”

Another achievement has seen the recently-appointed Diversity Community Engagement Officers identifying community placements for more than 200 student officers since last April.

And this April, a new standard of diversity training for all police officers and staff will be rolled out across the force, following changes made by the Home Office.

NVQ provision has been introduced, supported by funding from the Learning Skills Council.

Braintree College provides assessment and accreditation for students who are learning subjects such as business administration and team-leading.

And collaboration with Colchester Institute has added management qualifications to the portfolio of awards delivered – the force is one of only a handful offering Chartered Management Institute qualifications.

Meanwhile, Cadet Manager Natalie Foster is proud of her programme which is helping to ‘nurture’ the force's future. Weekly two-day placements complement students' BTEC Public Services course at Chelmsford College.

Natalie said: “The course was revamped so that the youngsters had community placements entwined with their learning, enabling them to experience life in our diverse communities. It gives them development and life experience beyond their years.”

With 28 PCSOs being recruited each month and the force looking to recruit 500 Special constables in the next three years, the college is expecting to get a lot busier.

Crime-scene evidence gets into digital

CRIME-scene investigation has been taken to a whole new level now Scenes of Crime Officers (SOCOs) have entered the digital age. During the past 12 months, SOCOs across the county have undergone training with the new photographic equipment, with one-to-one familiarisation completed at a minimal cost to the force.

South-West and Eastern divisions kick-started the process to ensure the force adhered to ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) guidelines regarding the capture, reproduction and storage of images.

Head of Photography Norman Eastbrook said: “We took one division at a time in order to

ensure any problems or hitches were addressed and ironed out immediately.

“It has been a challenging, yet enjoyable process and all the officers are pleased with their new kits.”

Western Division's crime-scene investigators were the last to receive the £1,200 Nikon camera kits.

Neighbourhood team look after pensioners on their patch

NEIGHBOURHOOD policing officers serving villages around Braintree are taking elderly and vulnerable people under their wing in a goodwill operation to protect them from harm. Shalford Neighbourhood Policing Team came up with the idea before Christmas and PCSOs fronted a two-month campaign, liaising with Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and parish councils to identify residents who would benefit

from police advice or help from another source, such as Age Concern. And, after several successes, the idea has become business as usual.

Pc Harry Callaghan said: “We identified several elderly people who needed advice about aspects of security and passed on concerns about some pensioners' health to family members and other agencies, such as Age Concern.

“And one old lady claimed she had been assaulted

by carers but, because we knew about her dementia, we were able to put a camera system in place which negated the complaint,” he said.

“Personally, it was a great way to do something different for the community and demonstrate our commitment to Neighbourhood Policing.”

The team's patch takes in Great and Little Bardfield, Finchingfield, Wethersfield, Great Saling, Panfield, Great Notley, Rayne, Cressing and Stisted.

Unlocking phone secret

INVESTIGATORS now have easy and ready access to a database which holds the details of all mobile telephones which have been reported stolen or blocked.

The National Mobile Phone Crime Unit Database (NMPUCU) is a 24-hour service which allows officers to access records held by the telephone companies.

Ds Stuart Jeans, from South-West Division, said: "Officers just require the phone's IMEI number and it acts like a key to a wealth of information."

Each division has a trainer should there be any queries."

- Registration can be completed in minutes – visit www.menduk.org/nmpcu and follow the Essex Police links

Donna wins her Spurs

A TOTTENHAM Hotspur football shirt was auctioned by the Harlow North Neighbourhood Policing Team on the force intranet. The winning bid was received from Press Officer Donna Veasey.

Insp Scott Egerton said: "The money raised will be used to help fund our football training scheme with young people which is reducing anti-social behaviour in Old Harlow."

Villagers thank their PCSO for a good job, well done

A RURAL PCSO has been awarded for her work in the community of Great Yeldham.

Deb Green, who covers various villages in the Halstead district, received the Peter Garlick Award from Halstead Area Crime Prevention Panel from chairman Jackie Pell.

Deb has been a PCSO with Essex for two years, originally being posted to cover The Heddinghams, Yeldham and Gosfield. Deb said: "I am honoured and very proud to have received the award.

"It is a really nice community." She was nominated for the award by Great Yeldham Parish Council. An engraved plaque as well as a cheque for £50 was presented to

Deb by Jackie Pell at a meeting of the panel. Deb donated the money to the Heddingham and Yeldham First Responders for them to buy essential training equipment.

• PCSO Deb Green receives her award from Jackie Pell, chairman of Halstead Area Crime Prevention Panel

Picture courtesy of Halstead and District Neighbourhood News



World War Two experience on offer through museum's DVD

MUSEUM Curator Becky Latchford's World War Two educational DVD has proved a real hit with primary schools across the county.

Two educational DVDs aimed at primary schoolchildren charting one woman's World War Two experiences have been produced by the museum in conjunction with the TV and New Media Unit.

The DVDs will be offered free to Essex schools to borrow as well as being a fundamental part of educational visits to the museum.

Through Anthony Peel's recollections of living in the Chief Constable's House at Police Headquarters as a child, Becky made contact with Judy Illife, whose father Insp Harold Tomalin worked at the Force Driving School.

Judy now retired, was a former primary school teacher in Chelmsford and proved to be the perfect person to guiding children through policing during the war and her own war-time experiences.

The first DVD – called Judy's House – is aimed at young children and sees Judy taking the viewer around her home and explaining

by Helen Cook

what it was like during the war.

The second DVD – aimed at Key Stage Two children – looks at Judy's life during the war when she lived in Kingston Crescent, Chelmsford in a police house with her father.

It explains what it was like during an air raid and looks at rationing and VE day. The DVDs use interviews with Judy and photos from her family album, along with war footage from the Imperial War Museum archives.

Becky is now working with TV Unit producer Tracey Sable to put together a compilation DVD for adults, about 20 minutes in duration, to be shown during open days and museum visits.

Becky said: "We started publicising the education sessions to all schools in Essex last month and the response has been tremendous. "Schools can visit police headquarters' museum as part of the educational session and actually see the surviving air-raid shelter which Judy talks about in the DVD, or they can borrow the DVDs separately."

• The sessions are free and people can call the Museum on 01245 457150 to book a session, or for more information

Volunteering chances for you

ARE you interesting in lending a helping hand to local organisations in your spare time?

If so, then the Volunteer Centre Chelmsford (VCC) is keen to hear from you.

Formed in 1997 to promote, develop and co-ordinate volunteering in Chelmsford, the VCC is a charitable company which helps to put those willing to give up their time on a voluntary basis in touch with those who need it.

The Essex Police Museum at HQ used the VCC to boost its volunteer numbers. Curator Becky Latchford said when the museum reopened in September 2005 after a re-fit, there were only four regular volunteers.

"Since joining up with the VCC, we have welcomed six new volunteers from the centre, along with five police staff and three public volunteers," she said.

"The centre provides a friendly and informative service and has helped us to devise a Volunteers' Policy to look after our volunteers."

The VCC service is free of charge and, to date,

the centre has had enquiries from around 6,500 potential volunteers for positions at more than 260 local voluntary organisations.

The centre is keen to promote volunteering across the borough of Chelmsford and wants to hear from groups who need volunteers, or from people who want to give up their time to help local good causes.

Volunteer Promotions Co-ordinator Stuart Reeve said: "Volunteering is seen by many people to be an enhancement to their lives. It can be an escape from the stresses of normal employment and gives an excellent opportunity to learn news skills and meet new people.

"Being a volunteer can also provide good career development as it looks good on your CV. That's a lot of benefits while doing something worthwhile."

• Anyone interested in helping local organisations in their spare time can contact the Volunteer Centre Chelmsford on 01245 283606 or visit www.chelmsfordvolunteers.co.uk

Albania can point the finger at officers drafted in to help

by Heather Watts

IN 1997 Head of Scientific Support DCI Tom Harper paid his first visit to Albania to assist in the restructuring of the Albanian Police Force, specifically the Scientific Support Department.

Not surprisingly, considering not only the state of the country at the time but in particular the state of the Albanian Scientific Support Department, the project is still ongoing and celebrating its tenth anniversary.

Following a two-week initial assessment and a report submitted to the Foreign Office, it was recognised that this was going to be a large project.

DCI Harper said: "Although scientific support staff were in post, they were not trained, had no equipment and had no means of getting to a scene of crime as they had no vehicles.

"They had been given computers by Germany but could not use them as there was no electricity in police buildings at the time.

"We decided that things would only improve if we got them to do the work themselves and we have employed a carrot and stick method to achieve our aims.

"We started them off on the basics – a pot of fingerprint powder and a brush. However we recognised that getting them and their basic fingerprint

equipment to a scene of crime was almost impossible." With a country the size of Wales and a network of potholes that took 24 hours to get from top to bottom the Foreign Office purchased 12 Land Rover Defenders to get them to crime scenes.

DCI Harper explained: "We started by identifying one expert who had the potential to develop fingerprinting and who had the pride and commitment to devote to the project.

"Their collection of fingerprint forms of prisoners were poorly structured and did not allow for easy identification.

"We brought the fingerprint expert over here for a year to study in the Essex bureau and attend the nationally-accredited fingerprint expert course. On his return to Albania the entire fingerprint collection was centralised and reconfigured to enable cold-search idents to be made.

"With the introduction of a computerised AFIS system, the Albanians now have a fingerprint identification rate equal to the rest of Europe."

Computerisation has also identified hundreds of old murders and these are now being reviewed while a chemical lab has been built to further enhance the fingerprint capability.

DCI Harper said: "Gun crime in the country was

and still is very high and we followed the same process as with fingerprints. Key Albanian experts were identified and came to the UK and were seconded to the Forensic Science Service (FSS) to learn how to identify guns and match bullets to weapons.

"With Albania now a good route through to the rest of Europe, drugs are also a problem and the supply of a gas chromatograph and mass spectrometer has enabled the identification of drugs and their purity."

The final part of the project, started in 2004, was to develop a biologist in DNA techniques as any exhibits were sent to Italy and the Albanians had to rely on good will.

A biologist in Tirana was trained to recover body fluids for DNA by the UK FSS but the final part of developing the DNA profile still had to be taken to Italy for process.

DCI Harper said: "Although the project was due to finish at this stage, the Foreign Office thought that it had been so successful they are going to provide funds to fully develop DNA technology in Albania this year and next year.

"Joint working with the Albanian Government has led to this projects success and is giving the Albanian Police detections."

• Tom was due to be spending a week in Albania at the start of February and we hope to publish a report of his latest visit in the March issue of *The Law*.



• Pc Marc Arnold

Marc takes honours in first month

WESTERN Division has introduced an Employee of the Month scheme.

The new scheme recognises good performance by both police officers and police staff. Command Team members will nominate relevant staff within their team and then select a winner.

Pc Marc Arnold, of of Loughton Neighbourhood Support Team, was the recipient of the first award, which reflects his high workload, arrest rate, sanctioned detection rate and general attitude.

He was presented with a framed certificate to recognise his achievement by Divisional Commander Chief Supt Andy Adams and a copy will be placed on his personal file.

Charity night proves a top success

A BIG thank you is extended to all those who attended the charity night at Southend Police Club last month.

As a result of everyone's generosity a total of £1,010 was raised for two young boys suffering from cancer.

A great night was had by all, with Filthy Clean supplying the entertainment.

Pc Ian Harlow said: "My thanks to Insp Jeff Appleby, Emma Hewitt, Pam Johnson and her daughter for helping to organise everything and to all those who attended and supported us."

Band hopes to lift the roof

AN action-packed celebration of music is in store at the Barbican Centre in London on Monday, March 12, at 7.30pm. The Essex Police Band will be joining forces with the Metropolitan Police Male Voice Choir, Diddly Squat and other artistes to lift the roof with a varied programme of music and song.

• Tickets are available priced at £12 from the MPPA Office tel: 020 7230 7109.

• Visit www.barbican.org.uk which offers a reduced booking fee and also accepts credit cards

Breeding future plans for the dog section

INSTRUCTORS and handlers at the Dog Section have notched up a clutch of firsts on their latest course.

Two of the dogs who graduated on February 1 are just a little more special than usual.

For they are the first to be sourced by Essex Police from other force's breeding programmes or from dog breeders.

Boots, trained by Sgt Neil Phimister, came from the Metropolitan Police, and Sid, trained by Pc Graham Lant, came from a private breeder, and Buddy, trained by Pc Mark Hall, was imported from the Czech Republic by a dog breeder.

Instructor Pc Dave Frost sees it as the way forward.

"We hope to have a higher success rate with dogs specially-bred for policing," he said.

"Ultimately this will save us both time and money with fewer dogs dropping out along the course – we are also finding it hard to get enough gift dogs for each course."

Previously, the Dog Section has relied on – and been extremely grateful for – gift dogs donated for

training by the public or rescue dogs. And two of the handlers on the latest course, Pc Frank Pallett and Pc Belinda Frakes, have trained gift dogs this time – Sam and Amber Boots and Sid have notched up another couple of firsts, being the first two dogs to have gone through the force's puppy-walking programme.

And Stansted Administration Clerk Sue Lucas was the first member of police staff to walk a puppy for the programme – a job she did brilliantly, according to Pc Lant.

Ultimately, Pc Frost wants to see Essex introduce its own breeding programme – as other forces have done.

"Then we'll get no nasty surprises because we will know exactly how the puppies have been brought up, they will have no 'baggage' and a police staff puppy-walker will have taken them on the puppy-walking programme," he said.

"We would have enough puppies for each course and, if there were no drop-outs, we could sell the spare dogs on."



• Dog handlers Pc Belinda Frakes, Sgt Neil Phimister, Pc Graham Lant, Pc Mark Hall and Pc Frank Pallett with instructor Pc Dave Frost

Picture by Heather Turner

Authority takes to the road An encouraging start

THE first of a series of roadshows, where the public will have the chance to quiz Essex Police Authority members, kicks off in Chelmsford this month.

Members of the authority will be out and about in Essex town centres during the coming months, in a bid to discover what the public want and expect of their police service.

One of the main functions of a police authority is to act as the link between the public and the police, so the force is fully aware of any concerns the community may have.

These road shows will allow members of the authority to be more accessible to the public and to answer any questions.

Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers said: "Essex Police and the police authority are working hard to deliver what the public tell us they want. This includes

putting more officers on the beat and sending officers to attend all crime.

"We are looking forward to meeting members of the public through these roadshows. We want to continue to gain feedback from the community, so they can help us to shape our policing priorities and have a say in the service they pay for."

The first roadshow was due to take place in the Meadows Shopping Centre, Chelmsford, on January 30.

• Future road shows will be held in the following areas:

Tuesday, February 6, 9am-3.30pm, Eastgate Shopping Centre, Basildon

Thursday, February 15, 10am-7pm, Freeport, Braintree

Friday, February 16, 9am-5.30pm, Harvey Centre, Harlow

Tuesday, February 20, 9am-6pm, The Royals, Southend

A CAMPAIGN to recruit voluntary support for police in the Uttlesford district has achieved an encouraging initial response with 11 people registering an interest in taking part in the Volunteers in Policing scheme.

Volunteers will be attached to police stations in the district, providing support such as dealing with enquiries at front desks and passing information to and from Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators. There are openings at Saffron Walden, Dunmow, Stansted Mountfitchet and Hatfield Heath.

Uttlesford district police commander Chief Insp Graham Stubbs said: "It is encouraging that in such a short time so many people have shown an interest in putting something back into the well-being of the community."

Volunteers will be subject to security vetting and successful applicants will be trained before starting work on mutually-agreed hours. The recruitment campaign is still running and police are keen to hear from anyone who wants to join in.

• Contact Crime Reduction Officer Pc Peter Caulfield in writing at The Police Station, East Street, Saffron Walden CB10 1LX.

• Interest can also be registered by e-mail to peter.caulfield@essex.pnn.police.uk or by telephone on 01376 556233

CAR INSURANCE

35% Discount for Police Officers

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



www.serviceline.co.uk

Quote Ref. LAW

Call now for a FREE quote

0800 00 41 21

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

service line

INSURANCE



Holiday lets

BULGARIA, Bansko – great ski-ing, 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

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 £150-£300 per week. Four weeks for price of three. Ring Mick Ager on 07775 676142 or +34 617 110 096 or email casadomi02@hotmail.com

FLORIDA, four-bedroom pool home overlooking water, quiet location, close to Disney and airport. Ten per cent discount, free DVD. Call Pete or Lin on 01245 321378.

FLORIDA, Gulf Coast villa, sleeps up to ten, private pool, spa, games, bikes, discount given. Nice area. Visit www.lemonbayvillas.com or ring Kerry Auger on 01268 786170.

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

FRANCE, beamed stone cottage with woodburner, sleeps two to four. Quiet location, lots nearby. Two hours from Caen. £150-£175 a week. Contact Emma on 07711 421579 or at em.bowditch1975@btinternet.com

FRANCE, luxury B+B near Carcassonne, own pool, restful location. Flights from Stansted. Evening meals available. Police staff discounts. Visit www.domainestgeorge.com or contact John Taylor on +33 468 201 105.

LA Manga, two-bed, two-bath apartment, pool, sea view, seconds from sea and restaurants. Low-cost flights. For brochure, contact Bernie on 07986 098422 or email Bernie99-9tompsett@yahoo.co.uk

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

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 for further details.

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.

Houses for rent & sale

COLCHESTER, two double-bedroomed new house to let, unfurnished. North Station 10 minutes. Kitchen, bathroom with shower, cloakroom, double glazing, gas central heating, fitted wardrobes. £665 per month. Ring Jaci on 01621 816597.

HOUSE for sale in the beautiful Swiss Normandy area of France. Visit <http://homepage.nflworld.com/michael.stubbs4/france.htm> for details, map and pictures.

For sale

BMW 318iSE, October 1999, midnight blue, CD multi-changer, usual extras. £5,750. Contact Michael Dunion on 07971 687219.

HONDA CRV 2l, 2000, blue, five doors, good condition. MoT due October. Call Fiona or Will on 01621 785949.

KOI carp, various markings and sizes up to 18ins. Must sell because of house move. Viewing in Chelmsford. Contact Michael Dunion on 01245 474584 or 07971 687219.

Miscellaneous

MOBILE hairdresser, home visits and special rates to serving and retired Essex Police officers and staff in south-east Essex. Ring 07739 318097 for details or to book.

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.rweddings.co.uk

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

Young officer 'always had a smile for you'



● Pc Tom Lodemore was popular and well-liked

THE sudden death of a Brentwood Probationer has shocked officers and staff across the force.

Pc Tom Lodemore joined the force a year ago and was posted to Brentwood Rural North, working from Kelvedon Hatch Police Station.

Immediately settling in, he gave the impression that he had served with Essex Police for many years.

Tom quickly became a popular and well-respected officer and was affectionately known as Sgt Lodemore.

He was a keen sportsman, having completed the New York marathon and Great North run, raising money for charity along the way. He also supported West Ham and loved to talk about football.

Sgt Shirley Cole said: "Tom's enthusiasm and passionate approach to policing encouraged other officers to follow his lead and he will be sorely missed by all that knew him."

"He will always be fondly remembered as the officer who never stopped smiling"

And Insp Sam Jarvis, of Kelvedon Hatch Neighbourhood Policing Team, added: "Tom had achieved his long-term ambition to join the police. He was a very competent and professional officer."

"I have been overwhelmed by the responses I have received from officers since the announcement of Tom's tragic death. There are few people who you can say never moaned, were always happy and were liked by all, but this is exactly what Tom was."

"He is sorely missed by his team and all the officers who have been fortunate enough to know him. I would describe him as 'a genuinely nice guy and naturally good copper'."

The flag at Brentwood Police Station was flown at half-mast as a mark of respect.

Retirements

After 30 years of service with the force, DI **Gary Heard**, 48, has retired. He latterly worked in Professional Standards but, before that, worked in the then Tendring and Chelmsford Divisions.

Dc **Pauline Foreman**, 51, has retired after serving with the force for 28 years. She served in Colchester and then Crime Division.

And Dc **Stephen Card**, 54, has retired after serving 26 years with the force. He started at Colchester and moved on to Chelmsford and Braintree before transferring into Crime Division where, before his retirement this month, he worked in



● AROUND 140 people turned out to bid farewell to former Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark at a party last month, including Chief Constable Roger Baker. Mr Clark retired on December 31 after almost 40 years in the police service. But he has not gone far – he is now Director of Regional Collaboration and based in the old Force Support Unit offices at HQ.

Picture by nsimages

the Scenes of Crime Laboratory.

Obituaries

Former sergeant **Arthur Emmett** died on Christmas Day, aged 86.

Mr Emmett served from 1946 to 1975 within the Southend Borough force, then at Rainham, Hornchurch, Purfleet, Aveley, Canvey and Maldon.

His funeral was held at Bobbing in Kent and a memorial service was held in Witham, his home town, a few days later.

James Brennan, who retired as a sergeant in 1986 after 24 years' service, died at the end of November. He served at Harlow, Colchester and Clacton. Mr Brennan leaves a widow, Patricia, who lives in County Kilkenny, Ireland.

Ex-constable **Peter Ballard**, of Colchester, has died, aged 68. He leaves a widow, Rose.

Mr Ballard served between 1965 and 1995 at Canvey Island, South Benfleet, Southend, HQ and Colchester.

His funeral is due to take place on Friday, February 9, at St Andrew's Church in Fingringhoe at 11am.

Awards

Senior Fingerprint Expert **Louise Pugs** was nominated for the British Association for Women in Policing, Police Staff Achievement Award.

Louise has assisted the force in some of the most major investigations in its history and contributed to the expertise of fingerprint-related activity both nationally and internationally.

Although she did not win, her boss, Head of Scientific Support DCI Tom Harper, said she had been 'worthy of serious consideration'.

"Her skill, determination and outstanding performance have assisted Essex Police and her outstanding contribution to the furtherance of fingerprint-related activity both

nationally and internationally are a credit to her as an individual."

Transferring from Suffolk Police to Essex in 1993 as a Fingerprint Officer, Louise was promoted to Team Leader in 2001. Since then, her team's performance has been exceptional and this year is on course to achieve 800 identifications.

Instrumental in testing new systems, Louise played a lead role in utilising the latest fingerprint technology, 'Livescan Lite', working at the V concert site in Chelmsford, processing prisoners for immediate identification.

In addition, Louise has furthered the expertise of the fingerprint community both nationally and internationally with secondments to PITO (the Police Information Technology Organisation), America, Thailand and Northern Ireland.

In support of the police initiative following the Asian Tsunami on Boxing Day 2004, Louise spent three weeks at the front line, processing a large amount of bodies to aid identification. And, as a member of one of only five forces which offered to help the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), Louise has also provided assistance searching outstanding marks in cold-case murder reviews.

Territorial Policing inspector, **Kate Sale**, has been awarded – via the Bramshill Fellowship Award – an MA, with a distinction, in child studies by King's College, University of London.

Stansted Crime Reduction Officer **James Wyatt** has completed a post-graduate diploma in security and risk management.

Sgt **Richard Miller**, of Maldon, has graduated with a Licentiate in Youth Training and Leadership through City & Guilds Institute and is now a member of the Institute of Leadership and Management (MIInst LM).

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.

Specialists wanted

ESSEX Police is calling for volunteers to join a national Faith, Language and Culture (FLAC) initiative.

The National Community Tension Team (NCTT) is developing a database of police officers and staff across all 43 forces in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, with specialist knowledge of a particular language, faith or culture.

The team has launched Project FLAC to make use of these specialist skills.

No formal qualifications are needed but people who put themselves forward for the database could be called to assist with incident within any of the 43 police forces as well as Essex.

• Contact Insp Ian Carter in the Diversity Unit or visit www.acpo.police.uk/nctt/flac

Vets' badge

DID you serve in the Armed Forces before December 31, 1969?

If the answer is yes then you are entitled to apply for a Veterans' Badge.

The badges are being issued by the Veterans' Agency and they are available for men and women who served before the end of 1969.

• Contact Phil Parker, MIT Investigating Officer at Brentwood, by email at phil.parker@essex.pnn.police.uk for an application form

New spray 'better suited' to policing

by Denise Harvey

WESTERN Division is to trial a new incapacitant spray before it is to be issued to officers across the county later this year.

PAVA spray contains pelargonic acid vanillylamide, the synthetic form of capsaicin, the chemical which produces the heat effect in a natural chilli pepper.

The main advantage of the new spray over its predecessor, CS spray, is that it does not present cross-contamination issues, so those nearby should not be affected when PAVA is sprayed. Unlike CS spray, there is also no need to decontaminate enclosed areas once PAVA has been used, so it can be used in a wider variety of confrontational scenarios; such as at football grounds, in police vehicles or in police custody units.

Western's pilot is being overseen by Supt (Operations) Jed Stopher, who said: "All operational officers within Western Division will be trained in the use of PAVA with a view to rolling it out to the remainder of the force during 2007."

"As with CS spray, it provides an option for use only when resolving violent, confrontational situations that pose a potential threat to officers, innocent members of the public or, indeed, the person causing that threat."

Acting Deputy Chief Constable Andy Bliss chairs the Staff Safety Working Group, which is always looking for opportunities to give officers and staff better protection, especially in the most challenging policing situations.

He said: "This is a top priority for chief officers. A number of forces have adopted this type of incapacitant spray and, having sought advice from the Home Office Scientific Development Branch, we believe that this may be better suited to the needs of our front-line officers. "I look forward to hearing feedback from officers on Western Division in the next few weeks."

The new spray has been proven to be effective in a greater number of cases than CS during trials in other forces, mainly because it is an inflammatory agent that does not rely on pain alone to cause incapacitation.

This is significant as, in the vast majority of instances where officers need to use an incapacitant, the person being sprayed is under the influence of drink or drugs and therefore has an artificially high tolerance to pain.

To ensure that it is the safest incapacitant available, PAVA has undergone rigorous testing and has



no known long-term medical effects while, in most cases, full recovery is achieved within 30 to 45 minutes of being sprayed.

• Pc Mark Webster, from Harlow, prepares to use PAVA spray on an attacker Picture by Denise Harvey

Major routes targeted to reduce crashes

IT is the families of the 101 who died on Essex's roads last year who have to pick up their lives and recover from the trauma.

Whilst the number of fatalities was an increase on the previous year, it was lower than 2004 – however, any life lost on the road is one too many.

Operation Calypso targets the Essex roads with the highest number of crashes resulting in death or serious injuries.

These include the A12, which saw five fatal and 40 serious-injury crashes last year; the A13 with three fatal and 43 serious-injury crashes; the A127, six fatal and 33 serious-injury crashes; and the A130, four fatal and 18 serious-injury crashes.

Officers at Stanway Road Policing Unit will be increasing their patrols on the A12 with both marked and unmarked cars, to target drivers who risk lives. They will be looking out

for poor driving – including speeding, tailgating and undertaking – as well as those not wearing seatbelts or using mobile phones.

Patrols will be focused between 7am to 7pm when, statistically, most collisions happen.

Insp Steve Brewer, of Stanway, said: "Despite the hard work of both the police and other agencies, we have not seen the level of reduction in crashes that we hoped for."

"I want drivers who use the A12 to feel safe. The majority of drivers are law-abiding and have nothing to fear from our increased activity but those who take chances and create danger for others will run the risk of being caught and dealt with."

Insp Mark Harman, of Mobile Support Division, is leading the operation. He said: "The last few years have seen a steady reduction in deaths and serious-injury crashes."

"However every crash is life-changing for those involved so we are doing everything we can to maintain this reduction and call upon the drivers of Essex to help us by driving safely."

Fun day committee needs cash

THE 4 x 4 fun day committee says it will have to raise funds to help pay for this year's event.

At its annual meeting, committee members were tasked with fund-raising for this year's fun day, the 11th, as there is only a little over £1,300 in the kitty.

After purchases made and expenses on the day, last year's event cost £1,663.83 so some more money needs to be found.

The committee also has a new structure and is now headed up by Michele France, an IT trainer at Essex Police College, who was formally elected chairman.

Darren Worsey, of Chelmsford Neighbourhood Support Team, is the new deputy chairman. Former chairman James Grant thanked everyone who made last year's event such a success and wished everyone good luck for this year.

Michele proposed that James – a sergeant based at Rayleigh RPU – be made honorary vice-president of the committee in recognition

for all his hard work over the years.

Michele said afterwards: "The committee this year sees many new faces who bring with them different experiences and expertise, and I look forward to working with them to carry on the good work of last year's committee."

"Now that it's had time to sink in it's a real honour and I must admit a little scary being elected chairman."

"Both Darren and I have a hard act to follow, Jim and Jenny Grantham have both put a lot of hard work and dedication into this event to help make it the success that it has become." She said the committee will be doing some fund raising events because, although they are lucky enough to receive donations and help from businesses and organisations around Essex, there are still costs to meet due to the increasing success of the event.

• The date for this year's 4 x 4 fun day is August 30 and an article will be placed on the force intranet soon



**EASY ACCESS SAVINGS.
UNSECURED FIXED RATE LOANS.
JOIN POLICE CU!**

You can now benefit from membership of Police CU, a Credit Union set up by the police for the police, serving 13 forces.

We offer safe, simple, competitive products, with savings and loan repayments taken from pay.

For more information contact Ian Curley, your force Police CU representative
Tel: 0845 241 7509
Email: essex@policecu.co.uk
 or visit our website
www.policecu.co.uk

Branches in Birmingham, Bristol, Chelmsford, Exeter, Liverpool, Maidstone, Middlesbrough, Newcastle and Welwyn Garden City.

**POLICE CREDIT UNION BRANCH OFFICE
POLICE FEDERATION OFFICE, STABLE LODGE, POLICE HEADQUARTERS,
PO BOX 2, CHELMSFORD, ESSEX CM2 6DA**

Loans subject to status, conditions and credit checks to persons aged 18 or over. The Police Credit Union is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.

Police Credit Union
Because there's strength in unity



International flavour to the association

THE local region of the International Police Association is looking for more members.

Last year, ongoing work saw an increase in the association's (IPA) activity in the area and plans are well under way for increasing the number of events this year. Region 10 ended 2006 with a successful Christmas dinner and disco at the Essex Police HQ Sports Pavilion, which also raised £100 for charity. Provisional dates for this year's diary are as follows:

March 20, Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London

April 19, Inter-branch Ten- Pin Bowling Competition at Madison Heights, Maldon

May 16, Golf day at Hintlesham Hall, Suffolk

August 5, Region 10 barbecue at Essex Police HQ

December 14, Region 10 Christmas dinner-dance at HQ.

Annual meetings are being held over the next few months and members, particularly service police officers, are urged to attend:

South-East Essex branch, **February 13**, 7.30pm, Rayleigh Police Station bar

North-East Essex branch, **March 6**, 7.30pm, Colchester Police Station bar

Mid-Essex branch, **March 15**, 7.30pm, at HQ Sports Pavilion

Region 10, **March 22**, 7.30pm, HQ Sports Pavilion.

Membership of the IPA is open to both serving and non-serving police officers.

• Details of benefits can be found through the IPA web site at www.ipa-uk.org or email Ds Tom O'Brien, Dc Steve Hunt or Pc Helen Culligan for more details.



• Essex Police College Housekeeping Assistants, back from left, **Joan Sawkins, Amanda Gregory, Jenny Fisher, Jane Clark and, front, Maureen Gilvray and Sue McKean with a few of the bottles they have collected**

Picture by Heather Turner

Housekeepers have got some bottle!

DOING their bit for the environment, the seven-strong housekeeping team based at Essex Police College has been collecting plastic bottles for recycling.

With the hot weather last summer there was a big increase in the number of people drinking water from bottles and the housekeepers decided to remove the bottles from the rubbish and put them out for collection by the local authority recycling

team. They also asked for a recycling bin to be placed in the canteen and this has proved to be very successful.

Karen Wheelhouse, the college's Administration Manager said: "This was totally their initiative and staff at the college now leave their empty water bottles next to the bins to help them. Essex Police is currently looking at environmental issues and this is a great way of going 'greener'."

Success in rare hare case

TWO teenagers and a man from mid-Essex have been successfully prosecuted by one Maldon officer for the rare offence of hare coursing.

Officers were contacted last August by the owner of a farm in Ulting after he had observed the trio through a pair of binoculars throughout the day.

Two 15-year-old boys from Witham and Thomas Sage, 20, from Hatfield Peverel, were reported for the offences of daytime trespass in pursuit of game and hunting wild mammals with dogs.

Investigating officer Pc Sam Pateman said: "It was quite bizarre as my skipper had put some hare coursing posters up in the station only a couple of days before the farmer contacted us.

"The three had actually filmed themselves committing the crime and you can hear them boasting on film about their exploits. The video evidence I had seized gave them very little alternative but to enter a guilty plea."

The trio appeared at Witham Magistrates' Court last month and pleaded guilty to the charges, with fines of between £50-75 handed to each, along with similar court costs.

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

Worried about your pension? Talk to Gorvins, the police divorce specialists.

Every divorce is painful: both mentally and financially. If you are a Police Officer that means multiplying the pressures you have to cope with at work to the point that they become unbearable. The Gorvins matrimonial team are specifically trained to deal with police officers that are facing marital breakdown and family disputes. Each solicitor's caseload consists of purely police and civilian staff matters.

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

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

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



GORVINS
solicitors



Vets PSUK success continues

Suffolk Police 1 Essex Police 3

THE force's veterans' side continues to play well in the PSUK regional league while suffering a mixed bag of results in the local Greene King Premier Division, where they remain bottom. Passing, running off the ball, teamwork and general hustling won Essex the points in a floodlight game against Suffolk Police.

Scorers were Graham Rendell, Danny Fallows and Neill Offord. Suffolk got one back in the dying minutes, but Essex had all the pressure and possession.

Essex Police 1 Old Parmiterians 4

THE result gives the lie to a closely-contested match as Essex Police veterans put out their strongest team this season.

The veterans took the lead with a well-taken shot by Sean James and remained in control, looking good for another couple of goals. Sadly, the acrobatics and luck of the opposition goalkeeper denied any more. Suddenly, three goals and a penalty were scored by the away team to give a distorted view of the possession.

Essex Police 3 Woodham Town 1

THIS time Essex Police went a goal down early on and this inspired their first win of the season.

However, thanks to crisp passing and first-class running and work rates, Joe Wrigley scored two goals in quick succession before half-time.

The team soaked up the pressure in the second half and Sean James scored to make it 3-1.

● Essex Police are at home on HQ sportsfield against the Metropolitan Police on Wednesday, February 7, kick-off 2pm

Hockey recognition

FOUR officers have been selected to represent the National PSUK men's hockey team in two inter-services tournaments, one this month and one next.

Essex Police captain Gaz Ingram, of Basildon, is already a regular with the PSUK team.

His team-mates are Essex sweeper Matt Brown, of Harlow, Lee Ward, of Colchester, and Lewis Smith, of Loughton.

Golf starts in earnest

MEMBERSHIP forms for 2007 are now on the Police of Essex Golf Society (PEGS) website.

New members, of any standard, are welcome. The society plays many friendly matches and guests are welcome, too.

Players can enter PSUK and other national competitions.

● For more information, visit www.pegs-golf.co.uk

Get your musical tickets before it all goes crazy

TICKETS are now available for the Essex Police Musical Society's production of George and Ira Gershwin's musical comedy *Crazy for You*.

The show is a wonderful combination of toe-tapping Gershwin music and lyrics coupled with a lively and witty script. The score includes classics such as *I Got Rhythm*, *Someone To Watch*

Over Me and *Nice Work If You Can Get It*.

The show will be performed in the Assembly Hall at Essex Police HQ in Springfield, Chelmsford, from Monday February 12, to Saturday, February 17, at 7.30pm with a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.

There's no charge for admission but the society does ask for donations on the

door to cover costs

● To book tickets for *Crazy for You*, ring the Box Office on 01245 478439.

● For more information on the society or to join, contact Jenny Hillyard on 01245 452164 or ext 50335. The society is always glad to welcome new members, either treading the boards or helping backstage or front of house

Al proves he's up with the tough guys

PROVING to himself and the rest of the force that he truly is a Tough Guy is PCSO Al Barley.

The former constable who is now a PCSO in Chelmsford Town Centre, has competed in his 13th bi-annual Tough Guy competition.

Competing with the entry number 999, 59-year-old Al defied the elements and the obstacles to beat his personal best by 50mins in a time of 3hrs 12 mins.

He came in equal 2,9993 – in a field of around 6,000 competitors, of which around 900 dropped out suffering from injuries or hypothermia.

Describing the conditions afterwards, Al said: "Either I've become immune to the extreme cross-country of which a mountain goat would be proud, freezing water, the scaling of the 40ft A-frames with half the world's population treading on every limb that you dare stick out

to avoid plummeting to your instant death – or worse, if the electric fences get you on the way down – crawling through slithering mud under ridiculously-low barbed wire, making my way through numerous sewerage pipes of the size used for domestic central heating or all the walking I am now doing as a PCSO is doing the trick."

He faced competitors from all over the world for the competition which takes the art of the obstacle course to extremes – competitors are advised to train by tackling steep hills covered in brambles and stinging nettles.

However, the day afterwards, Al was back at work in Chelmsford, claiming to be getting rid of the last of the mud.

The Tough Guy Challenge is held on the last weekend in January and on the last weekend in July on a farm near Wolverhampton.

● For details, visit www.toughguy.co.uk



● PCSO Al Barley competed in Tough Guy wearing a PCSO uniform

Gentlemen, it must soon be time for cricket

SERVING, retired and former CID officers are invited to play cricket for the Gentlemen of the CID team.

The fixtures list for the 2007 season is as follows, play starts at 2pm unless otherwise stated:

May 6 v The Clergy, Sandon CC; May 17 v Billericay, May 30 v Cricketers Club of London, East Hanningfield CC; July 6 v

Audley End CC, 2.30pm; July 27 v Essex County Cricket Club and Ground, East Hanningfield CC, 11am; August 3 v May and Baker CC, Dagenham; August 22 v Galleywood CC; September 5 v Galleywood CC.

● Contact club captain Phil Mellon via email at phil.mellon@essex.pnn.police.uk or 01245 452519

Central consolidates top-of-table position

CENTRAL Division took the honours in the force swimming gala at Gloucester Park in Basildon last month – consolidating their lead.

Despite a disappointing attendance, five of the six divisions were represented in this Croker Cup event. The Essex Police swimming team is selected from this event and those chosen will

be asked to represent Essex in the Nationals in April.

Results were: 1 Central 10points; 2 Eastern 7pts; 3 HQ 5pts, 4 South-Western 3pts; 5 South-Eastern 2pts. After eight Croker Cup events, the table is as follows: 1 Central 59points; 2 South-Eastern 48pts; 3 HQ 44pts; 4 Eastern 30pts; 5 Western 17pts;

6 South-Western 14pts.

● THE Croker Cup badminton tournament will be held at Clements Hall Leisure Centre in Hawkwell on Monday, March 12, from 10am, with all the PSUK-recognised categories – ladies' and mens' singles and doubles, mixed doubles and veterans' mixed doubles, men's doubles and ladies' doubles.

Challenging times ahead

THE Three Peaks Challenge this year runs over the weekend of July 7 and 8.

And organisers are looking for teams with a minimum four people to climb the highest mountains in England, Scotland and Wales – Scafell Pike, Ben Nevis and Snowdonia.

Or, if you're really keen, the Race in the Sun, on September 1 is the ultimate team challenge.

Climb Helvellyn and canoe Thirlmere. Teams of four start out at sunrise and aim to finish by sunset

● For details of both events, ring 0845 408 2698 or visit www.actionforcharity.co.uk

Harlow staff do well in January lottery

TOP prize winner in the January force lottery was Pc Daniel Corr, of Harlow, who receives £3,000.

Second prize of £1,000 went to Pc Sian Crocker, of Southend, while Harlow's Pc Mark Hawes scooped the £500 prize. Winners of £100 prizes were: T Davies, retired; Pc Richard Melton, of Laindon Road Policing Unit; Pc Ian Pibworth, of Basildon; Ds Grahame Hadley, of Brentwood Major Investigation Team (MIT); Heather Gill, of Essex Police College; Paul Hand, retired; Stuart Ridley, of Colchester;

John Wright, of Stanway MIT; Pc Chris Sculfor, of Basildon; Pc Katy Major, of Southend; and Pc Glen Carter, of Stansted Airport.

Winners of £50 prizes were: Pc Lucy Murray, of Corringham; Diane Pallett, of Southend; Dawn Wallis, of Crime Division; Janice Murphy, of Property Services, HQ; Dc Sandy Greenway, of Basildon; Dc Angie Brown, of Chelmsford; Dc Sally Goldfinch, of Old Harlow MIT; Dc Sally Goldfinch, of Old Harlow MIT; Jeni Windsor, of Crime Division;

Pc Harry Sexton, of Mobile Support Division, HQ; Pc Kevin Thomas, of the Force Support Unit; John Watts, of Chelmsford; Pc Paul Wood, of Clacton; Sgt Steve Smith, of Billericay; and Pc Steve Simmans, of Chelmsford. Winners of Benenden Healthcare bears were:

Janet Mackin, of Harlow; Michael Thorp, retired; Colin Matthews, of Clacton, Dc Kevin Ford, of Clacton, Russ Mann, of the Force Information Room; and Sue Ding, retired.

Are you a SuperCop?

PSUK is giving early notice to the force's sporting superstars that it is to repeat its SuperCop competition.

The sporting contest has been tweaked a little this year but will again take place alongside the national indoor games competition in Hopton, Norfolk, from May 8 to 11.

One man and one woman from each force compete at around 15 different sporting disciplines.

Depending on the amount of interest in-force, we may have to stage a qualifier to select our contestants – entry is open to all members of the Essex Police Sports Association

● Anyone interested should notify Force Sports Secretary John Stonehouse by email or by ringing 01245 452926 or ext 58888



● Kerrie Barkway ext 58883

Come to us if you are planning a holiday

EVERY month in this column, the Essex Police Sports Association will give details of a particular benefit or scheme.

This month we look at travel and accommodation.

Warners Breaks offers short breaks designed for grown-ups.

The firm will offer EPSA members a minimum 25 per cent discount off brochure prices on most breaks throughout the year.

Hoseasons regularly gives discount on all holidays and EPSA is guaranteed an additional ten per cent discount on top.

Center Parcs offers up to 25 per cent discount on selected mid-week and weekend breaks.

And Haven Holidays offers up to 50 per cent discount on selected holidays.

By checking the EPSA website – under Divisions and Departments on the force intranet – you'll also find listed a number of travel consultants and agencies which can tailor holidays to suit your particular requirements.

We also advertise a number of private villas, which are available for weekly hire in Florida, France, Spain and Bulgaria.

● For further details and contact numbers, please visit the EPSA website and look at Member Benefits, Travel and Accommodation

Up for the challenge of 'exciting' budget

JOB satisfaction is motivating the priority crime team at South East division, which has completed six months of tackling volume crime offenders.

Pc Adam Dovaston has just finished charging a man brought from Belmarsh Prison in London for interview.

He had previously been sentenced to 32 months in jail for car crimes but officers believed he was responsible for other jobs.

Now charged with five further offences, he will be going before the courts.

Pc Dovaston says: "I love this job, it is a mission to detect offences and look more deeply at every criminal as it is highly likely that they have committed more than one job."

During the Priority Crime Unit's first six months, its members have detected 1,134 offences, making a dramatic reduction in the division's crime rate and putting them top of the pile in the county.

The unit was set up as a pilot for the force and, due to its success, it has now been rolled out in other divisions.

The unit is headed by Adam's brother Ds Simon Dovaston with Dcs Phil Butt and Pete Rawlings and the team is completed by trainee investigators Pcs Kathy Barnes and James Rafiq.

The unit is now looking to spread the ethos of detections by taking officers from the divisions Neighbourhood Policing Teams on weekly attachments.

Jobs which have given the team the satisfaction of a good day's work include a man arrested for shoplifting who was interviewed and investigated and now faces more than four year's jail for aggravated burglary, burglary and other offences.

The team also investigated a man who had committed offences in surrounding divisions and he has been charged with them, too.

Local officers are now aware of the Priority Crime Unit's capabilities and are looking at the person they arrest in more detail rather than just looking at the one offence.

The team also look at forensic allocations – when fingerprint and DNA evidence suggests a name – check prisoners being produced from jail for interview about offences and review outstanding jobs in colleagues' trays.

DI Joe Roche, of Southend CID, said: "The success of the team is very much due to the motivation and commitment of the six officers in the role."

"These officers put themselves out on a daily basis to produce excellent results."

"Their contribution to the division in respect of sanctioned detections and crime reduction has been truly outstanding."

Neighbourhood Policing is on a roll ...



● Sgt Andy Sawyer and Insp Ian Cummings on the Bikeability course

CYCLE training is now on the menu for all 200 of the force's Neighbourhood officers and PCSOs who have access to bikes.

Each division has an average of 20 Smith and Wesson bikes and cycling uniform is currently being issued to those who will be riding them.

Now Sgt Kevin Whipps, of the Neighbourhood Policing Project, has arranged for a day's training for everyone with Cycle Training East.

They will receive training at all three levels of the Bikeability National Standard – which has updated and replaced the old Cycling Proficiency Test – plus advice on safety and maintenance. Among the first officers and PCSOs to be trained was Insp Ian Cummings, of Chelmsford Town and Melbourne Neighbourhood Policing Team.

He believes the bikes will make his officers and PCSOs more mobile and more visible in the community. "The public likes to see us on bikes and credible research shows we are just as accessible on bikes as on foot and we can get to incidents very quickly."

In parks and other places not easily accessible by car and too big to be effectively policed on foot, Insp Cummings said bikes were the answer.

"I want to see PCSOs using them

more and more as they are the people who are out and about every day and they will be a godsend to those officers who need to travel to their beat," he added. Insp Cummings said he attended the course so he could encourage his team to use the bikes and understand any issues they might face.

Chelmsford Town sergeant Andy Sawyer said he hoped to use a bike as it was the best way to get about and the best use of his time, while enabling him to reduce his carbon emissions, too.

Sgt Whipps – who intends to have cycle stands at every district police station – added that the training would give police cyclists confidence on the roads and enable them to get closer to the public. "The bikes are ideal for officers who cannot drive and there will be additional health benefits too – cycling is the only form of transport which increases your life-expectancy."

● Sgt Kevin Whipps is looking for feedback from everyone who is using their bikes and who has received the new cycling uniform. He wants to know about the equipment's comfort and its suitability for the job, examples of good practice and any instances of equipment failure.

Contact him with comments, both good and bad, via email

Up for the challenge of 'exciting' budget

A BOLD and exciting budget is how Director of Finance and Administration Rick Tazzini describes the 2007/08 proposal for the police authority.

Essex Police Authority members meet on February 12 to discuss and approve the force's planned budget of £242.2million – up from the current financial year's budget of £232million.

Mr Tazzini said that Chief Officers had adopted a bold strategy in order to invest sizeably in the force in 2007/08.

Although the force will find £7.9million savings, it will increase investment in front-line services by £10.1million.

Savings will be found from the 'FLAG 4' HQ Review – which identifies savings from budgets and the re-allocation of officers and posts – civilianisation, a 20 per cent reduction in the overtime budget and other efficiencies.

Part of that cash will be used to offset such unavoidable costs as energy price rises and the remaining £4million will be invested in additional front-line officers and staff.

by Heather Turner

With £2million of the investment coming from the budget rise, the rest will come from the force's financial reserves.

Mr Tazzini explained: "By 2010, the force must have found £6million of recurrent savings to fund the new investment we make in 2007/08."

"It is a bold budget because the people of Essex deserve to have the best force in the country."

"Essex Police wants to do business differently and has responded positively to a recent, critical report by HM Treasury which challenged the productivity of the police service nationally."

"We are seeking to address this, hence this exciting budget proposal."

The main plank of the force's proposal is an increase of between 200 and 220 in the front-line – police officers, PCSOs and police staff – the final totals will depend on the ratio of officers and staff and what rank the officers are.

The force currently employs approximately 3,350 officers and will have 441 PCSOs by the end of April 2007.

The extra 200/220 officers and PCSOs will predominantly be targeted at Neighbourhood Policing and Protective

Services, such as the Major Investigation Teams, Child Abuse Investigation Units and ANPR (Automatic Number-Plate Recognition).

Other posts will be created in the new Mounted Section – if final approval is given by the police authority – and in other areas of policing, such as intelligence, Essex Police College and victim care.

Some of the extra posts have already been identified as FLAG 4 savings will fund 73 police officer posts – including the extra 45 sergeants already recruited.

Sadly, the Government has reduced its grant for funding Essex PCSOs by £2.6million and so the force's plans to recruit an extra 185 PCSOs by March 2008 have been dropped.

The planned increase in overall force spending is 4.3 per cent but the Government grant has only risen by 3.6 per cent and the Council Tax contribution has been restricted to 4.95 per cent – equivalent to 11p a week for a Band D Council Tax-payer.

Mr Tazzini presented the force's budget proposal to a meeting of Essex Police Authority on January 22 and it will now go before a full meeting of the authority on February 12.

Town offers place to spend a penny in peace

MEN caught short out on the street in Southend in the wee small hours can now visit a fleet of handily-placed official urinals, for urgent penny-spending. The four-bay urinals in six key town centre locations, are the brainchild of the Night-Time Economy Group, in a bid to stop men polluting shop doorways

or other 'corners'. The group includes representatives from nightclubs, door staff, Essex Police, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, voluntary groups and the local Primary Care Trust and was formed by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to concentrate on the

town's evening and night-time issues. Chairman Insp Darren Wiles said: "The idea is to prevent the damage and smell caused by men urinating on to buildings and other vulnerable surfaces. "We are hoping this hygienic solution will make the streets much more welcoming for shoppers the morning after."

Force makes the top 100 in Stonewall chart

ESSEX Police has been recognised as one of the top 100 gay-friendly employers in the country.

At its first attempt, the force has entered the Stonewall Top 100 Workplace Equality Index in 88th place.

Stonewall, the organisation championing lesbian, gay and bisexual people (LGB), provides a national guide to gay-friendly employers in Britain.

In an annual assessment, organisations have to evidence their performance and commitment to supporting LGB staff in a range of employment areas such as policy-making, support networks, monitoring and dealing with workplace problems.

The force's Equality and Diversity Manager, Jan Woodhouse, said: "Having a review by an external organisation gives us an objective assessment of our performance."

"As members of Stonewall we can network with other employers, identify good practice and be informed of new legislation."

NARPO meet

THE annual meeting of the Southend Branch of the National Association of Retired Police Officers (NARPO) is at 7.30pm on Friday, April 21, at Southend Police Club.

● Contact branch secretary Peter Yorke-Wade on 01702 545934 or email yorkepeter@tiscali.co.uk for more details