

The Law



www.essex.police.uk

April 2007

WE'RE PUTTING CUSTOMERS FIRST

THE force achieved tremendous success during 2006/07.

We brought recorded crime down by around 4 per cent and increased sanctioned detections to around 30 per cent and Neighbourhood Policing has started to have a real impact on local communities.

Chief Constable Roger Baker said: "I am grateful to each and every one of Essex Police officers, staff and volunteers.

"Their work has generated this success for Essex. We all came into policing to serve the public and I know that, together, we can take this force to another level by reducing recorded crime a further five per cent by March 31, 2008, and achieve a 35 per cent sanctioned detection rate.

"Essex Police is rapidly gaining a reputation as a crime-fighting force and during this year we will also enhance our capability to deal with serious and organised crime and the threat from terrorism."

"The contribution of every officer, member of staff and volunteer is vital to the Essex team over the next year.

"If these targets are shared equally, they are achievable. We estimate that to achieve a 35 per cent sanctioned detection rate, each officer on division will need to secure only two more sanctioned detections a year for the force to hit its new target."

In order to achieve such improvements in performance, the force will have to do its business differently by taking a new approach to the way it supports and delivers

Our force objectives for 2007/08

- reduce recorded crime and anti-social behaviour by five per cent
- increase sanctioned detection rate to 35 per cent
- increase recorded offences brought to justice by 15 per cent
- increase recorded drug offences brought to justice to 440
- reassure the public
- improve our response to the public
- reduce serious road casualties to fewer than 940
- dismantle at least five organised crime enterprises
- develop plans to combat terrorism
- recruit more people from ethnic minority groups
- reduce average sickness to eight days per person

policing services. Mr Baker said: "The customer will be placed at the forefront of everything the force does this year – with a service tailored to individual needs wherever possible, and with an emphasis on face-to-face contact."

This year, the force aims to:

- be highly visible and accessible in the heart of our communities
- provide a timely and professional response to calls from the public
- address and resolve community concerns about anti-social behaviour and respect
- maximise the opening hours of our police stations and community policing facilities
- progress cutting-edge projects aimed at helping us to improve our capability to reduce crime, catch criminals and reassure our communities – schemes already underway include Project Lantern mobile fingerprint ID, Automatic Number Plate

Recognition (ANPR) technology, the use of Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) by officers on patrol and an improved missing persons database.

Essex Police Authority is one of only three which has funded a growth in police officer and staff numbers – around 180 police officers and 20 PCSOs during 2007/08.

Mr Baker added: "More people are part of the solution to improve performance but this is not the whole story.

"In some areas, we will need to be radical and work in different ways and even stop doing some things.

"The work that we are doing to explore options to collaborate with neighbouring forces is also part of that approach."

● Exact figures for recorded crime and sanctioned detections will not be available until official crime figures have been produced by the force



● Chief Constable Roger Baker is delighted at the way the force rose to last year's challenge to reduce recorded crime and to increase sanctioned detections

Change at the top



Chief Officers look ahead to 2007/08 – see **Page 6**



Getting off to a McFlying start

CHART-topping band McFly have recorded a special message for young people attending this year's 2Smart 4Drugs tour – the 11th.

The upbeat video message from Harry, Tom, Dougie and Danny will be played at all the shows.

Substance Misuse Co-ordinator Pc Victoria Wilson said: "We are delighted that McFly have added their weight to our anti-drugs programme – their support and personal message means a great deal to young people who are trying to make choices and decisions about drugs."

● Visit www.2smart.co.uk for more



Pension gremlins can't beat IT

I WOULD first like to apologise to all those officers who are patiently awaiting a pension calculation/forecast.

Every year, we receive a Federation Representatives' computer disc, which usually includes the pension calculator software.

However, this year, due to the police pay rise dispute, the pension software was delayed to incorporate our pay rise and the software written separately to the Reps disc.

It is usually a simple procedure to install the software on to a computer in the Federation Office. However, this is when our problems started.

The Essex Police computer system must be the most secure in the country as we were the only force out of the 43 in England and Wales to experience a problem.

At one stage, I considered a referral to the Professional Standards Department when I was informed I had a 'corrupt PC'!

However, Essex Police IT

Department accepted the challenge and the software is now up and running.

My thanks to them for their patience and understanding when dealing with a non-technical, sometimes irate, Federation Secretary who just wants to put the disc into the machine and get on with it.

I will now endeavour to address all those members waiting for forecasts.

If you haven't received your requested information by the time you read this article, please contact me again.

Injury award review

Remaining on the subject of pensions, the time is approaching for Essex Police Authority to review its policy regarding the payment of injury awards once retired officers reach 65.

This review has been expected for some time and is as a result of Home Office Circular 46/2004.

This circular gives police authorities guidance on the review of 'injury on duty' pensions at certain ages and the adoption of pay comparisons other than with police salaries and, in some cases, the reduction of the degree of disablement originally awarded.

Not all forces have adopted the guidance and Essex Police Federation's stance mirrors that of the National Association of Retired Police Officers (NARPO) and the Metropolitan Police.

We will continue to argue that these awards were made for life and our retired members have made financial commitments on that basis.

If Essex Police Authority decides to adopt the guidance, then it should not apply to reviewing any 'injury on duty' pensions prior to the date that a policy decision is taken to adopt.

Essex Police Federation will continue to support our retired members on an individual basis if and when the need arises.

Members' benefits

Following a full review of the Legal Expenses Scheme Insurance cover offered by Essex Police Federation, we moved to a new provider with effect from December 1, 2006.

When making this decision, we took into consideration the range of benefits available and the premiums payable by our members.

The new provider, Arc Legal Assistance, working with our broker, George Burrows, was

able to offer our members an enhanced package of benefits at no increase in the premium of £2.55 per month.

I am now reviewing our Group Insurance Scheme with our provider, George Burrows.

George Burrows has looked after the Group Insurance needs of the members of the Essex Police Federation since 1964.

A number of members have inquired about 'critical illness' cover which, at present, is not included in our scheme.

I have also been keen to explore a reduced 'entry-level' premium, obviously with reduced benefits, to make the scheme more attractive for the first 104 weeks of service.

The present scheme's main benefits for serving members are:

- life insurance of £109,000
- sickness insurance, which pays a tax-free amount for up to six months when reduced to half pay
- personal accident insurance.

The cost of this insurance for a constable is £10.67 per month.

I am now negotiating a package deal with George Burrows which would include both our Group Insurance and Legal Expenses schemes. The enhanced benefits of this package would be:

- an increase in life cover from £109,000 to £110,000,

with an entry level of £55,000 for the first 104 weeks of service

- an increase in spouse/partner life cover from £36,500 to £55,000, with an entry level of £27,500 for the first 104 weeks of service
- an increase in retired members' life cover from £48,000 to £55,000
- an increase in retired members' spouse/partner life cover from £16,000 to £27,500.

Group Critical Illness Cover

The following benefits will be payable if a member, member's partner or their child suffers from an insured illness and survives for more than 30 days from the date of diagnosis or surgery:

- member £12,000 – entry-level £8,000
- member's spouse/partner £7,500 – entry-level £5,000
- serving member's child £3,000 – entry-level £2,000.

Group Half Pay Cover

The existing cover to pay the sum insured in the event of an insured person being placed on half pay would be enhanced to also cover a period of 26 weeks on no pay, with double the benefits.

The weekly benefits are:

- Half pay – entry-level £110, constables £150, sergeants £185 and inspectors £225.
- No pay – constables £300, sergeants £370 and inspectors £450.

The package would also

include Care First, a confidential counselling service accessible via a freephone number.

All calls to this 24/7 service are directly answered by a professional counsellor.

It can be a one-off call, which typically lasts for up to an hour, or the caller can arrange to speak to the same counsellor at an agreed time for up to six further counselling sessions over six weeks, or more within a contractual structure.

The cost of the complete package, which includes the Group Insurance Scheme and all the enhanced benefits above, together with the Legal Expenses Scheme, is £15.50 per month, with an entry-level of £7.95 per month.

Consider that, currently, a constable subscribing to both schemes would be paying two monthly premiums of £10.67 and £2.55 – totalling £13.22 – so, for an additional £2.28 a month, members would get the additional and enhanced cover described above.

This matter will be discussed at our next Joint Branch Board meeting on Tuesday, April 24, and I would appreciate any views or comments, good or bad.

• Contact Roy at the Federation Office in Stable Lodge at HQ, email him or ring him on ext 54562

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



• Divisional Commander Chief Supt Dave Hudson and Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Carole Dennis hand over the cash to Homestart

Picture by James Burrows

Concert was a cracker

MORE than £1,000 raised from a special concert has been given to a charity which supports families with young children. Eastern Divisional Commander Chief Supt Dave Hudson and Colchester District Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator Carole Dennis handed over the cheque to Homestart last month. The cash was raised thanks to the tenth annual Christmas Cracker Concert at the town's Charter Hall, which involved the Essex Police Band.

The concert was organised by police in Colchester, Neighbourhood Watch and

Colchester Borough Council and is staged as a thank you to the community for its help in combating crime.

Chief Supt Hudson said: "It's always pleasing to be able to support worthwhile causes in Colchester. Insp Tony Dale, who runs the northern Colchester Neighbourhood Policing Teams, nominated the charity for the money." Homestart Colchester manager Toni VanRooyen said the money would go towards running costs and funding outdoor and indoor activities for children.

Ms Dennis added: "It is pleasing to see what can be achieved with the money raised."

Diversity comes full circle

by Nishan Wijeratne

AS the UK celebrates the 200th anniversary of The Slave Trade Act, the force, and one officer in particular, reflects on its historical links with the abolition of slavery in the British Empire.

Admiral John McHardy became the force's first Chief Constable in 1840.

Eleven years earlier, McHardy's ship, HMS Pickle, captured an infamous slave ship, the Boladora. It is 167 years since the appointment of Admiral McHardy and, in recent years, the face of the force has metamorphosed.

Chief Supt Win Bernard is the most senior African-Caribbean officer in the force and has been tracing his family's history back to the West Indies slave trade.

One of the slaves who made the journey from Africa to Jamaica was one of Win's forefathers. Win cannot imagine that his relatives from five generations back could have foreseen that he would be a senior police officer in England or conceive the complexities of his role.

He said: "While there is still a long way to go before we have a fully representative work-



● Lynne Bernard with her great-grandson, her daughter and her son Chief Supt Win Bernard

force or that all people believe they have equal opportunities, we must not forget how far we have come."

He only discovered he had Nigerian roots after inquiring about a relative when visiting his grandmother. As he continued to probe, she went on to reveal a family tree which stretched back to the time of slavery.

Win's heritage is a mixture of British, Scots and Nigerian as it was common at that time

for slaves to fall pregnant to their owners, which is how many African-Caribbeans received very Western-sounding surnames.

Chief Supt Bernard's mother, Lynne, was unaware of her ancestry and her mother had never previously spoken about it. She explained that in Jamaica her generation was interested in looking forward, not backward. The past was something they didn't want to dwell on.

Lynne's cousin came over to England on the Windrush, which docked at Tilbury in 1947 and, soon after, Lynne, her husband Len and mother followed.

At the time, Jamaica was still a colony with schoolchildren being taught that England was the motherland and, for Lynne, it seemed like this country existed on another planet.

When they arrived, the Bernards, like many of the black immigrants of the time, found it difficult to find accommodation. Typical signs in houses to let read 'No blacks, no Irish and no dogs'.

The Bernard family tree had taken the long route from Nigeria to Basildon via Jamaica and, several generations later, blacks still did not find themselves on an equal pegging with their white counterparts.

Essex Police has implemented a number of initiatives to encourage variegation within the

organisation. For example, the Essex Black Police Association is the support group for the force's black and Asian police staff and officers.

Chief Constable Roger Baker said: "There are many people in the force who go out of their way to share information about their lifestyles and experiences, who put themselves forward as role models to promote diversity, or who take time out to support others. We are very grateful for them because they are helping us make a difference in policing."

Over the last two years, the force has established Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs) at a corporate and local level. Equality and Diversity Manager Jan Woodhouse believes the increased public trust and confidence will lead to a more diverse landscape within the force.

She said: "Open evenings and recruitment drives have targeted ethnic minorities and other diverse communities in order that we may have a police service that mirrors the communities we serve."

"Policing Essex today is about working with our communities and staff networks who play an important role in developing and nurturing links with groups who help us understand the different needs of the people we serve."

The legacy of Admiral McHardy lives on.

Embracing PCSOs and their visible policing

ESSEX Police employs the fifth largest number of PCSOs in the country.

The force follows the much larger metropolitan forces and will have 464 PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers) by next month.

PCSOs do not have powers of arrest but can demand people's names and addresses, issue fixed penalty notices and confiscate alcohol or tobacco.

They do have the power of entry to save life or to prevent damage and can order the removal of abandoned vehicles.

PCSOs have increased high-visibility policing in Essex because they only patrol on foot or on bicycles, although they can use Smart cars to travel to rural locations.

The force works with other agencies in this area and, as a consequence, 87 of our PCSOs are match-funded to provide specific resources at district, town and parish council level in areas where the community has identified a particular need.

And Essex Police met its Home Office recruitment target of having 382 PCSOs in January – despite only having started recruiting PCSOs four years ago.

PCSOs complement and support our 3,406 regular police officers, a number which has grown by nearly 300 since Chief Constable Roger Baker arrived in July 2005.

Insp Glenn Mayes, the PCSO Programme Manager since its inception, said: "It's been a real challenge implementing a new concept like PCSOs across the force. "There have been a number of hurdles to overcome. "I'm pleased and proud of their success in providing high visibility reassurance to the communities they serve."



Driving safely

TEENAGERS from Harlow and Epping Forest experienced six hard-hitting and powerful scenarios including drinking, drug-taking, driving and speeding in a bid to help them avoid becoming a statistic.

The Road Runner scheme took place at the Greyhound Stadium in Harlow. It aims to reduce the incidents of road collisions and traffic offences involving young drivers by developing responsible attitudes towards safe driving.

And it tries to develop the confidence and skills of young people to help divert them from criminal activity and, especially, car crime.

The Driving Standards Agency, Essex Trading Standards, driving schools, Essex Fire and Rescue and Essex Young People's Drug Advisory Service joined Essex Police in putting on workshops.

Road Policing's Sgt Paul Fincham said: "Each year, many young motorists are needlessly killed because of inexperience and a lack of knowledge of road safety skills.

"This course will ensure they are on the right track to an enjoyable and long-lasting motoring career."

Room for prayer and 'quiet moments'

THE force now has four multi-faith prayer rooms for its staff following the completion of the latest building work at Brentwood Police Station.

The Essex Black Police Association (EBPA) has been working with senior officers in Western Division as it was recognised that the division needed a place for police staff and officers to pray during working hours.

The force provided the funds, location and soft furnishings for the room, which is available to all for quiet periods of reflection.

EBPA Co-ordinator Jennifer Dore said: "The creation of the multi-faith room is one way in which we can ensure the needs of all our staff are met. We are delighted we have been able to provide

this facility and greatly appreciate the hard work put in by all those whose vision and determination turned the initial proposal for the room into reality."

The force's multi-faith prayer rooms – there are also rooms at Stansted Airport, Basildon Police Station and Essex Police College – are open to all officers, police staff and visitors.

They provide a comfortable place for worship and contemplation away from the busy work environment.

● RESPECTING other people's faiths and beliefs and knowing, for example, when it is appropriate to remove shoes before entering a home, will become clearer with a set of eight guides from the Diversity Unit.

The guides consist of A4-sized posters

detailing the etiquette and actions that should be undertaken when speaking with people from different faith groups.

Information is given on visiting homes, dietary requirements, dress, contact – such as shaking hands – and customs following death.

Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, Rastafarian, Wicca (Paganism) and Sikhism are all covered and these will be useful for staff in the divisional DVHCUs and custody suites and those who visit homes or have regular interaction with the public.

● To find the posters, click on the blue button Equality and Diversity on the right-hand side of the intranet home page and then on Operational Guidance, Faith And Culture Guide

Benevolent fund subscriptions rise to help more

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the Police Staff Benevolent Fund have been raised to 85p a month from April 1.

They have not been raised for many years and there are more demands on funds.

Welfare Assistant Jan Pyner said it was hoped the increase would enable the fund to help more members in need.

The fund is a registered charity, set up in 1975. It helps to alleviate hardship and distress by, for example, providing

assistance with hospital travelling expenses.

All claims are handled in confidence.

● Contact the Welfare Department on ext 58601 for an application form to join the fund or for more information

Support now becomes development

THE Corporate Development Department is the new name for Corporate Support.

The change follows a review of what the department delivers for the force.

The aim of Corporate Development is to help the force continuously to improve its performance by providing support in five key areas: developing plans and managing Chief Officers' Programmes of Work; project management; Business and IT Developments teams; performance management; and inspection.

Chief Supt Andy Adams remains head of the department.

● More information can be found on the Corporate Development intranet site, under Divisions & Departments

HAVE YOUR SAY: Write to Heather Turner, Law Letters, Publication Unit, 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.

Police are criticised for enforcing law

I READ how a group of yobs pelted houses with snowballs – residents were besieged in their homes for seven hours.

A disabled woman was hit in the face and the snowball broke her spectacles. Her husband went out and clipped one of the yobs around the ear.

He was arrested, cautioned for common assault and released.

The press print this kind of incident, giving the impression that the police are the villains.

They must know – but never explain – that the police have no alternative: they must uphold the law.

However, certain sections of the public are all too ready to blame the police when society is to blame.

Through lack of discipline, yobs run riot and create mayhem and, if anyone retaliates, they run the risk of being arrested and prosecuted.

Has anyone considered applying for a bind over in a magistrates' court after laying information about a possible breach of the peace?

Jack Faulkner
Southend

Thank you

I WOULD like to thank all those who attended my husband Leslie's funeral on February 9 at Weeley Parish Church.

Leslie, who was 78, retired from Chelmsford, having served 30 years with Essex Police. I and my children, David and Susan, and my grandson, Grood, cannot thank you enough. May God bless you all.

June Brewer
Weeley

Former B-shifters are invited to the party

THE Law assisted me greatly by printing my letter in December, entitled Searching for former Basildon B-shifters.

It caused a number of individuals, for whom I did not have addresses, to make contact with me – and for that assistance I am grateful.

With the 'phone lines now closed', the reunion of former Basildon B-shifters – circa 1979-86 – will take place on April 24

at The Chichester in Old London Road, Rawreth, near Wickford, from 8pm.

With ex B-shifters found to be living as far afield as Cornwall, Nottingham, Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Australia, it's likely to be a bit of a mystery, as to how many will turn up on the night.

It's been fun for me, discovering the whereabouts of old colleagues in these past few months, hearing their voices,

and, in some cases, seeing images. Should anybody have any questions about this event, I can be reached on 01702 511929 or 07793 816485 or via email at paulwatson1@tiscali.co.uk

I look forward to seeing as many ex B-shifters on the April 24 as can make it.

Pc Paul Watson
Community Liaison Officer
Shoeburyness

Restoring 'respect' is an uphill struggle

GOOD luck to the current Essex Police campaign Operation Respect but I think it will take more than these efforts to restore respect to this nation.

My book quotes 'respect': to feel or show esteem for; honour. To show consideration, treat with deference etc.

A lack of respect for other people or property is probably endemic in many of our citizens of all ages, from many walks of life, rich or poor ... ad infinitum.

Sadly, it appears to have become a

national disease. What was that lovely song – Are You Looking At Me, Mate?

The Government – of whatever colour – and the police are up there at the top of those to whom disrespect is regularly shown, more often than not, unjustly.

It is commonplace to disrespect laws, especially those applicable to the 'motoring fraternity', who which many of us belong.

I live next to a 30mph speed-restricted road, where speeds travelled range from 30mph to the upper-60s.

Because of that fact, I also disrespect the police – for not enforcing the speed limit.

I live in north Essex and the nearby town, Haverhill in Suffolk, has only one shopping street and there is lots of swearing – gangs of teenage louts barge their way up and down, using bad language.

I fear it can only get worse.

Years ago, as one left the 'old' Essex Police Training School, there was a sign above the door, quoting something to the effect of 'courtesy is infectious – it breeds respect and kindness'. Where has it all gone?

James Allen
Sturmer

Register to vote before you lose the right

KNOWING that *The Law* reaches parts of the world other papers don't, may I ask whether all those past members of Essex Police and their families now living abroad are aware that they retain their right to vote in UK elections?

British citizens over 18 years old who were last on an electoral register in the UK less than 15 years ago can still vote, either by proxy or by post.

This even applies to those who were under 18 when they left the UK, as long as their parents were last on an electoral register within the last 15 years.

The www.dontleaveyourvoteathome.com website gives details of how to go about the somewhat complex but worthwhile registration process.

In case readers wonder whether this makes a difference, there are now

5.5million British people living permanently abroad – almost ten per cent of our population. Between 1995 and 2004, over 1.6 million people left to live abroad.

This means 2.5 million could still register to vote. Unfortunately, at the last General Election, only 17,000 did so.

Tony Hall
Harlow

Comrades want to see their friends

THIS is a final reminder that the spring buffet of the Essex Police Comrades Association will be held on Saturday, May 12, in the Essex Police College canteen at HQ.

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

The spring buffet gives members the opportunity to bring along partners and guests in order that they can renew old friendships and, hopefully, make some new ones in convivial surroundings.

The cost is £18 a head, inclusive of mineral water, fruit juice and table wine.

Please send your booking forms and cheques to me as soon as possible at the following address: Federation Office, Stable Lodge, PO Box 2, Essex Police HQ, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DA.

If, for any reason, you have not received the 2007 membership information, please contact my secretary, Marian Godwin, in the Federation Office on ext 54502.

Sue Kelly
Secretary
Essex Police Comrades Association

Searching for classic police cars

I AM the editor of the 'local' Jaguar Enthusiasts Club Thameside Region magazine here in Essex and I have arranged a Picnic In The Park at HQ Sports and Social Club on Sunday, June 17.

Members will be bringing their classic and not-so-classic Jaguars to the event and I thought it might be appropriate if we had some classic police vehicles attend as well.

If any officer or member of staff, serving or retired, has or knows someone who has a 'classic' or 'old' marked police car, which could be made available on that day from noon to 5pm, please contact me on 07815 874090.

Anyone interested in old cars, especially Jaguars, is welcome to go along on the day and talk to the car owners.

Doug Warren
Mail Supervisor
Transport Services
Boreham

Gone . . . but not forgotten

Thomas Wake – Essex County Constabulary
Served from August 22, 1921. Died February 8, 1927

PC Thomas Wake had served in the Norfolk Regiment during World War One and was wounded during the Battle of Mons. After leaving the Army, he married in 1919 and worked as a clerk before joining the force in 1921.

He spent four years at Brentwood before moving to Hutton.

On the evening of October 31, 1926, Pc Wake was walking along the Billericay to Brentwood road, talking to a man, when they saw a motorbike coming towards them, showing a very dim light.

The officer warned the man to get on the verge but, before he could do so himself, the motorbike knocked him over.

Pc Wake was off duty for a month suffering from bad headaches and epileptic fits, but returned to work.

However, on February 5, 1927, he suffered similar symptoms and died three days later.



● Pc Thomas Wake

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 memorial-trust@essex.pnn.police.uk or write to the Memorial Trust at Essex Police HQ.

Down Memory Lane . . .



THIS is a picture of new recruits to Essex Police who joined the force on June 26, 1947, so our 60th anniversary of joining is fast approaching.

I think we had all been demobbed from the forces after World War Two.

The faces I remember but not the names. I am standing third from left and I remember that the young man kneeling on the right of me resigned early on. I retired on New Year's Eve 1973, with

28½ years' pension – 26½ years' service plus two years for my four-and-a-half years of war service.

Bill Borley
Kirby Cross

● Last month, we featured a picture of the police vessel MV Alert III at her Bradwell Marina moorings in around 1989. You helped us to identify the officers on board as Pc Mick Brunning, Pc Geoff Cousins and Pc Steve Buscall.

We opened the floodgates when we asked divisions and departments to send in Letters of Appreciation they had received, thanking them for a job well done. Turn to Page 10 to read a selection and keep on sending them in!

Corner the chairman



● **Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers**

Welcome to our two new members

“ESSEX Police Authority has welcomed two new independent members this month. Following a selection process, the authority appointed four members who will each serve a four-year term of office, from April 1. I am delighted that vice-chairman Neil Macdonald and member Charles Cochrane will return for another term as members of the authority. Their dedication and commitment to policing in Essex is second to none and I look forward to further achievements in the next four years. I am also looking forward to working with our newest members, Susan Hughes and Charles Obukofe. Mrs Hughes is from Braintree and is currently head of the Department of Human Resource Management and Marketing of the Ashcroft International Business School at Anglia Ruskin University, in Chelmsford. Mr Obukofe is a sales account manager with British Telecom and has business development experience. He has undertaken work with the Home Office and the police and possesses overseas experience. Mr Obukofe is a member of the NHS Foundation and was recently appointed a ‘befriender’ for Thurrock MIND. I and the other authority members look forward to working with these members who, with their varied backgrounds, will undoubtedly offer a valuable contribution to the authority and to policing in the county.”

Father is jailed

AN east Essex man has been sentenced to life imprisonment for murdering his baby son. Matthew Ansell was found guilty at Chelmsford Crown Court of killing five-month-old Harry on a boat at Tollesbury Yacht Harbour in October 2004. Harry suffered fatal head injuries. The 40-year-old builder must serve a minimum of 15 years before being considered for parole.



● **Det Supt Stewart Gull, of Suffolk Police, presents a plaque to Det Supt Simon Dinsdale, watched by Det Supt Andy Henwood, of Suffolk Police, Dc Chris Arnold, Ds Nick Stoneman, Dc Paul Byrne, Dc Pat Ring, Ds Paul Lopez, Dc Darren Paterson, and Dc Paul Gould**

MIT hit the ground running in Suffolk

A MAJOR Investigation Team (MIT) seconded to Suffolk to help investigate the Ipswich murders has returned to the force – four months later. Det Supt Simon Dinsdale was Senior Investigating Officer (SIO) for the last two murders – of Annette Nichols and Paula Clennell, whose bodies were found on December 12, just 45 minutes after the team arrived in Suffolk. However, just two hours after the bodies were discovered, Det Supt Dinsdale and the team were

interviewing a significant witness. He said: “It was an incredible experience for everyone involved. They all left their families and did a sterling and outstanding job – which is not easy when you are living in a hotel for four months. We learnt a lot. “The concept of taking an SIO and an MIT to another force is not unheard of but the numbers we provided in the time we did was unprecedented – it was a brave decision by our force and Suffolk were very pleased to get the

help,” he added. As well as a full MIT, the force provided around 150 officers to help Suffolk with the murders, mostly in the immediate aftermath to help with public reassurance and searching scenes.

● Not pictured above but also members of the MIT in Suffolk were: Dc Debbie Lincoln, Dc Danny Ford, Dc Ray Turner, Dc Mark Giles, Dc Dave Ashpole, Investigating Officer Martin Oakley and Family Liaison Co-ordinator Dc Julie Gowen.

Recognition for a chilly job in the east

OFFICERS and staff from Essex who worked on the Operation Arctic investigation have been recognised for their work. Dcs Kevin Ford and Mark Finbow, together with analyst Dawn Wallis and data intelligence officers Claire Hopkins and Nichola Johnson received their commendations from Suffolk Chief Constable Alastair McWhirter. Operation Arctic was set up by eastern regional forces – and based in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk – to apprehend an organised group of travelling criminals who committed a series of armed robberies, cashpoint thefts and burglaries across the eastern region in 2004 and 2005.



● **Nichola Johnson, Dc Mark Finbow, Claire Hopkins, Dc Kevin Ford and Dawn Wallis**

It resulted in seven offenders being jailed in December for a total of 74 years.

Mr McWhirter commended the five for ‘the painstaking investigative methods adopted, the high professional standards maintained throughout the investigation, detailed case building and presentation of evidence’. Afterwards, Dc Ford said: “It was a wonderful opportunity for us in which to be involved. “Working with other forces was very interesting, we all shared best practice and we achieved a great result.” ● CHIEF Supt Wil Kennedy, Head of Crime Division, has been invited to lunch with Cambridgeshire Chief Constable Julie Spence next month as a debrief to senior officers of lessons learnt from the joint Operation Arctic taskforce.

Neighbourhood beats are a special priority

SPECIAL Priority Payments are on offer for constables who would like become Neighbourhood Specialist Officers (NSOs) in a Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT).

by Heather Watts

And this isn’t the only reward for constables who really want to make a difference to their neighbourhood. Sgt Kevin Whipps, of the Neighbourhood Policing Project Team, said: “To fulfil our commitment to ‘dedicated and accountable neighbourhood resources’ there is a necessity to ‘ring-fence’ officers in particular roles and protect them from abstractions.” To this end, the force has introduced a Neighbourhood Policing Abstraction Policy and Continuity Policy. In addition to the Special Priority Payment of £500 per annum, NSOs should not be abstracted unless

absolutely necessary and there is an 18-month tenure policy. This applies from the point of appointment to the post after April 1, 2006, which is retrospective to officers already in the role. The only permitted abstractions will be assistance calls and major incidents, which must be authorised by the Divisional Duty Inspector or taken as a last resort when there is an urgent task and no other resource is available. Still, abstractions must amount to no more than five per cent of their total working time. The new Neighbourhood Policing Abstraction Policy also applies to PCSOs unless they are match-funded, in which case they cannot be abstracted for any reason other than an emergency requiring divisional PCSO resources. NPT constables must be abstracted for no more than 35 per cent of their

time, NPT sergeants for no more than ten per cent and NPT inspectors for no more than 20 per cent. Under the policy, abstractions are support calls; providing service or specialist support to a neighbourhood other than the one to which you are attached; performing duties in custody or front office; training other than for your NPT role; and dealing with a prisoner relating to offences outside your neighbourhood or giving evidence in court for same. Attending meetings in or about your neighbourhood, training relevant to Neighbourhood Policing, dealing with prisoners or giving evidence at court for offences in your own neighbourhood do not count as an abstraction. Future recruitment will include a career path for all new recruits to serve a minimum of two years within a Neighbourhood Policing Team. ● Full details of the new policies can be found on the Intranet under Policy Guidelines

Community panels will decide issues which matter

ENGAGEMENT with the community is a must for the success of Neighbourhood Action Panels (NAPs), which are being introduced into every neighbourhood. Methods of engagement depend on the neighbourhood profile, which is based on a number of issues. These may be as diverse as areas of deprivation, age of population, religious groups, licensed premises, unofficial youth meeting places, large numbers of commuters, new development and community resources and venues. Included in the profile will be a key individual network (KIN) of people who are able to reach a wider section of the community than is possible for the force to reach alone. Each member of the KIN – which may include local religious leaders, the head of a travellers group or youth leaders – have to agree to become a KIN member and will be contacted at least once a month. The intelligence and information shared will act as a barometer for the feelings of the wider community. Networks built will be held together by the newly-introduced Neighbourhood Specialist Officers (NSOs), whose role is to provide continuity and stability. Engagement may mean attending the local supermarket after 7pm to reach a commuter population or holding street briefings with youths, along with more conventional methods such as monthly beat surgeries. Issues identified by engaging the neighbourhood will be taken to the NAPs by the NSOs. NAPs comprise co-opted community representatives, who match the diversities of the neighbourhood’s population profile. Sgt Kevin Whipps, of the Neighbourhood Policing Project Team, said: “The NAP will identify three priorities from the issues presented to them from the engagement that has taken place previously. “Some of the issues will be low level but, most importantly they will be quality-of-life issues that affect the way we police the neighbourhood. “These matters may be referred to the Joint Action Groups – set up with our other partner agencies so we can examine all aspects of a problem – and then be tasked to the relevant police division to deal with or, if it is solely a police matter, it may be referred to divisional tasking straight from the panel,” explained Sgt Whipps. ● The Neighbourhood Policing Project Team is available to provide guidance and training on community engagement and problem-solving for Neighbourhood Specialist Officers. Contact members at HQ on ext 51914/5

New provider of drug help for prisoners

A NEW service provider has taken over the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP). Westminster Drug Project will be taking over the service provided to 'new Essex' and will provide a visible presence within custody suites. Two other DIPs cover the unitary authorities of the South and Thurrock. The DIP is a crime reduction initiative which aims to get drug misusing offenders 'out of crime and into treatment'. It prioritises Class A drug users but is able to offer support and advice to anyone within the Criminal Justice System with a drugs problem. The drug workers have access to housing, benefits advice, educational support and other 'wrap around' services.

- Any member of staff or detainees themselves can obtain details of their local DIP worker from the 24/7 helpline on 0808 1000 110 or by visiting the website www.essexdip.co.uk or they can contact Substance Misuse Co-ordinator Insp Trevor Williamson on ext 54420

Dyslexia group to support you

IF you have dyslexia, do you know there is a support group especially for you? Essex Police's Dyslexia Liaison group was established in 2003 by Sgt Mitch Goodchild. Sgt Tim Mariner became the group's co-ordinator later that year and there are several local representatives. The group aims to help and support any officers or staff with issues relating to dyslexia, to promote awareness and diversity within Essex Police and to assist the force in introducing new dyslexia-friendly electronic forms and computer-based applications. Dyslexia is a recognised disability and staff will be supported by Essex Police. Essex and all other police forces are no longer exempted from the 1995 Disability Discrimination Act 1995. This means your disability will be supported and those individuals who don't support you can be open to grievance and disciplinary action.

Take a look at equal ops

RESULTS of the Equal Opportunities survey carried out in September 2006 are now available online. It is the fifth survey carried out by Essex Police since 1993, and had 1,421 respondents – 24 per cent of all staff. The survey concludes with eight recommendations based on promoting equality and diversity.

- Find the results on the intranet under Equality and Diversity on the Information menu and then click on Latest News



● **Anti-social behaviour caseworker Lou Cook, centre, and Harlow resident Jane Forshaw, with Prime Minister Tony Blair**

Earning Respect

AN anti-social behaviour case-worker from Harlow was the first in the country to receive a Respect Award For Taking Action. And Lou Cook travelled to London to receive her award from Prime Minister Tony Blair. Harlow was named one of the county's two Respect Areas in January and the Safer Harlow Partnership – which involves the police and the district council as well as other health, education and emergency services – received Government money to help combat anti-social behaviour in the area. Everyone works together, to deal with both the effects and the causes of anti-social behaviour on the community. Supt Stuart Ashton, of Western Division, said: "To have Lou's

work and that of the partnership recognised at such a high level was a fantastic achievement for which we are all proud." Lou, who works for Harlow Council, had been called in to help town resident Jane Forshaw, who had been having problems with a neighbour. Lou gave Jane advice, visited every day and was always ready to help. On assessing the problem, Lou asked local police to help prepare statements to back up a court application. The court granted an Anti-Social Behaviour Injunction against the neighbour within two weeks. Jane, a council tenant, was moved and the injunction has had the effect of calming anti-social behaviour in the street where she lived.

New specialist domestic violence court

VICTIMS of domestic violence in the Basildon, Brentwood and Thurrock areas now have greater specialist support in getting their cases to court. Each Wednesday from April 4, one court at Grays will be set aside as a specialist domestic violence court, dealing with pre-trial hearings, pre-sentencing reports and sentencing for guilty pleas. This will help to fast-track domestic violence cases through the judicial system. And the first of two Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) has been recruited and trained to provide dedicated support for victims of domestic violence. Sophie Bartlett is based at Basildon Police Station in the Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Unit.

- Contact her on ext 40525

Clampdown on car crime

THE force has launched an operation in a bid to reduce car crime significantly. Operation Lynx was to cover the Easter period, which usually sees an increase in thefts from and of vehicles. The phased operation will utilise various aspects of the force's armoury, including Automatic Number Plate Recognition, police dogs and traffic officers. Crime prevention advice will be given to motorists and officers will provide public reassurance. Ongoing work is identifying local hot spot areas and the force is working on long-term solutions. Chief Insp Piers Quinnell said: "We will target specific local problems and resolve issues now and in the long term."

Force tops the list for women police officers

WITH women now representing just over a quarter of all its officers, Essex comes out top on a Home Office list.

The Home Office monitors the number of female police officers employed across the country and last month Essex had the highest percentage – 26.7 – with 910 women officers employed, out of a total of 3,407. The first women were appointed as constables in Essex in 1946, although Colchester had appointed its first full-time woman constable in 1925. Jan Woodhouse, Equality and Diversity Manager, said: "We also have a good return to work by woman from maternity leave, so this and other positive factors seem to show that women enjoy working in Essex." Supt Gwynn Williams, chair of the Senior Women Officers' Forum, added: "Essex Police is not complacent about retaining its female officers and fully participates and supports the concepts and contents of the Gender Agenda so that it can strive to continue to be the best of class in this area." Gender Agenda 2, launched in November, recognises progress within the

service in raising the status of women officers and focuses on both the needs of women officers and the women working in police staff roles. It aims to encourage best practice, including mentoring schemes, which help women to apply for specialist roles, and the creation of a dynamic network to support women in these roles. Supt Williams said at the time that Essex was seen as one of the 'leading lights' by other forces in the way in which it allowed policewomen to reach their full potential. In addition to the Senior Women Officers' Forum, the force has two other support groups – SWoPS (Senior Women Police Staff) and Women Sergeants – which collectively assist in decision and policy-making.

ments and the fact that Probationary training now takes place 'in house' rather than on a residential course are contributing to the force's success in attracting women. Supt Williams said at the time that Essex was seen as one of the 'leading lights' by other forces in the way in which it allowed policewomen to reach their full potential. In addition to the Senior Women Officers' Forum, the force has two other support groups – SWoPS (Senior Women Police Staff) and Women Sergeants – which collectively assist in decision and policy-making.

Stanway's top dogs are off to nationals

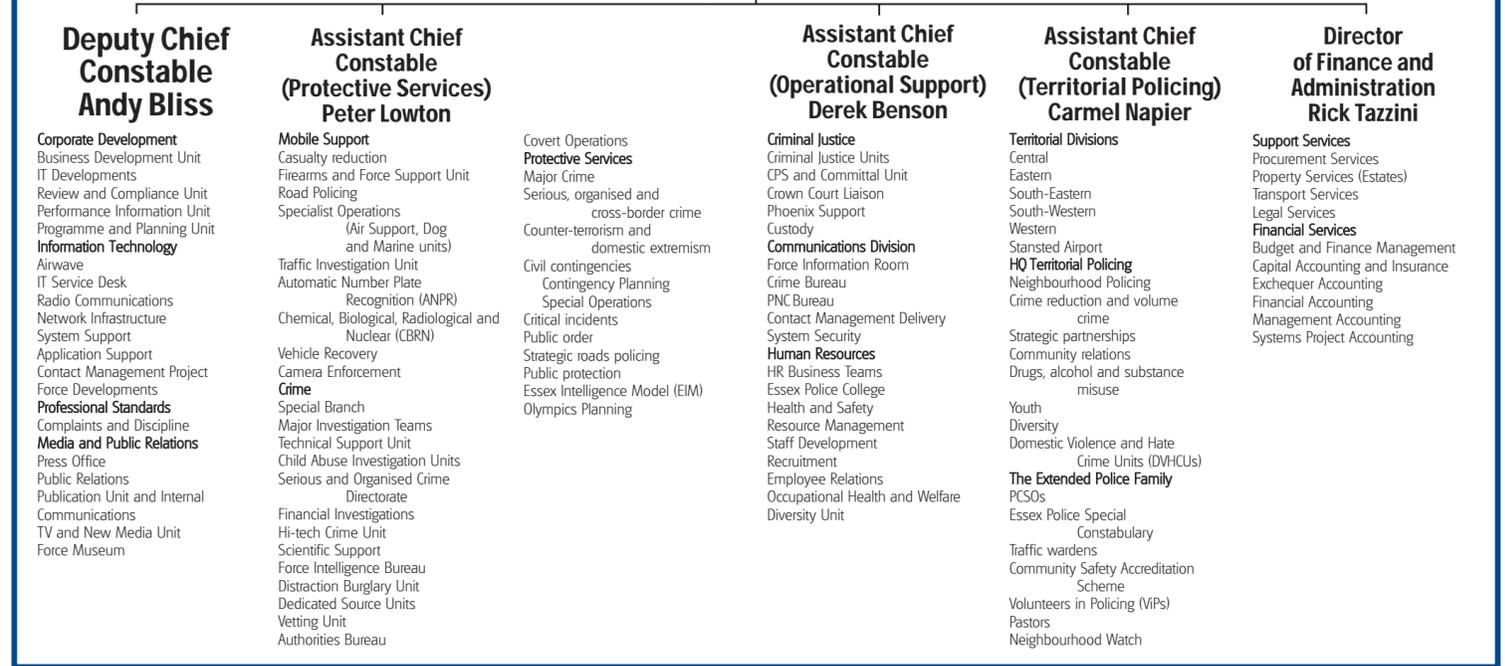


● **Pcs Terry Collinson, Mick Gentile and Steve Hutley, with Sire, Samson and Gus, are all competing in the National Police Dog Trials in Surrey at the end of this month**

IN a force first, three dog handlers are to compete in the national trials.

And, taking it one step further, Pcs Mike Gentile, Terry Collinson and Steve Hutley all hail from the same Dog Section – Stanway. The trio took three of the top six places in last month's regional dog trials, held in Suffolk and all qualified for the nationals by achieving more than 700 points each. But they faced an anxious wait to see if they would compete in the national competition – to be held in Surrey later this month – because only the top 20 ranked from all the regional competitions secure a place. However, they have just found out that they are all going to Surrey – which is an unprecedented result for the force. It will be a swansong for Mick's dog, Samson, six, as he is soon due to retire from competition. Terry's dog Sire, four, is the reigning force champion and came second in 2005. And Steve will be competing with four-year-old Gus. In the regional trials, Mick and Samson came third overall with 817 marks out of 1,000, an 'excellent' rating. Samson was the only dog to compete the long jump. Terry and Sire came fifth with 802 marks, also qualifying as 'excellent' and Sire was the only dog to obtain full marks in the chase and detain exercise. While Steve and Gus came sixth, in their first regional trials, with 754 marks, qualifying as 'very good'. Mick said: "It is possibly the first time two dogs have qualified from Essex with 'excellent' scores and the first time three from the force have qualified for the nationals."

Chief Constable Roger Baker



It's been a busy few months for the Chief Officer team with many changes being made. **Joining Chief Constable Roger Baker at the top are Assistant Chief Constables Derek Benson, Peter Lowton and Carmel Napier. Maintaining the continuity, Andy Bliss has been promoted to Deputy Chief Constable and Rick Tazzini remains as Director of Finance and Administration. Here, those new in post tell us what they have in store.**



● **Deputy Chief Constable Andy Bliss**



● **Assistant Chief Constable Derek Benson**



● **Assistant Chief Constable Peter Lowton**



● **Assistant Chief Constable Carmel Napier**

Changes at the top ...

ANDY Bliss took over from Charles Clark as acting Deputy Chief Constable in December 2006 and was appointed to the substantive rank following interview at the end of February. He served 21 years in Sussex Police, including three years as Divisional Commander at Brighton and Hove, and joined Essex Police as Assistant Chief Constable in 2004. In the last three years he has undertaken all three ACC roles. His current portfolio includes Professional Standards, Corporate Development, IT and Media and PR. "I am really enjoying my new role which is to support Roger Baker, the Chief Constable, to run the business of the force. That means I lead on areas like planning, projects and, most importantly, performance monitoring and inspection – ensuring that the public get the best possible policing. It is vital to ensure that our staff get the maximum support to deliver a top-quality service and part of my role is to co-ordinate the delivery and development of that support with the Chief Officer team. The next year looks set to be a very exciting one for us as a force and very positive for the people we serve. Our performance is improving strongly and, under Roger Baker's leadership, we'll be looking to do business differently in order to improve further. With more staff on the front line, a strong focus on tackling crime and anti-social behaviour and maximum exploitation of science and technology, we are well placed to achieve even more next year. A key part of my job is getting out round the force on visits and meeting our staff and the public. I look forward to continuing that in the next year; it's absolutely essential to keep in touch with what's happening at a local level. It's always invaluable to meet staff in the workplace or get out on patrol."

ACC Derek Benson, 43, has now been permanently appointed and is responsible for the force's Operational Support. He arrived as acting ACC last year, from his job as Staff Officer to Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Ian Blair. Prior to that he was detective chief superintendent in charge of the Security, Protection and Counter-Terrorism Bureau in Special Operations. He has been in the service for 21 years. The divisions and departments under Mr Benson's command are the 'fulcrum which achieves balance' between Territorial Policing and Protective Services. "We are there to provide them with the people and the professional advice and guidance they need to do the job, whether it be employee relations or other HR matters. The Criminal Justice Department makes sure that the systems are in place to ensure that the person who officers on the street have arrested and charged is then put before the courts. And when training needs are properly identified, we, as the practitioners, deliver and meet those requirements, be it recruits, detectives or supervisors or any other specialist training required by our officer and police staff colleagues." The Communications Division fulfils a vital role in answering calls for policing services from the public, assigning appropriate resources to meet those needs and acting as a vital link for officers and staff out on patrol. Whilst many of the functions in Operational Support may not be immediately visible, they are critical to the success of Team Essex and play a vital role in the ongoing provision of high-quality services."

ACC Peter Lowton, 43, is responsible for Protective Services. He has been in the police service for 21 years. A career detective, he has served at every rank in CID and has also held a number of challenging roles in Territorial Policing. Before joining Essex Police last year, Mr Lowton was Borough Commander of Greenwich, a large inner-London basic command unit (BCU) – and the capital's only BCU with a permanent, armed security team. The officers and staff under his remit of Protective Services provide a high-quality and professional response across a wide remit, ranging from murder investigation and child abuse to roads policing and firearms support. Protective Services is an exciting, demanding and very rewarding area which plays a key role in providing direct support to territorial divisions on a daily basis, from delivering targeted intelligence-led ANPR operations to providing Senior Investigating Officer support to high-risk missing persons inquires and undertaking major crime investigations. "I am proud to have been given the opportunity to lead Protective Services. Protective Services has a crucial role to play in protecting the public as well as delivering crime reduction and detections across the force. I therefore want to capitalise on the skills, experience and professionalism of the officers and staff working in Mobile Support and Crime divisions to ensure that we seize every opportunity to reduce harm and target the offender. Improving our ability to protect vulnerable people in Essex and reducing harm have to be priorities. But Protective Services cannot work alone. It is, therefore, important that we maintain and build upon our excellent day-to-day working relationships with our colleagues in Territorial Policing and Operational Support, as we can only succeed together. The year ahead will undoubtedly bring many challenges for Protective Services and the substantial growth – £1.7million – that Chief Constable Roger Baker has secured for us will enable us to rise to and meet them."

ACC Carmel Napier arrived in force last October and was appointed permanently two months later, responsible for Territorial Policing. Mrs Napier, 46, was previously the chief superintendent in charge of Corporate Development for North Yorkshire Police and, prior to that, Head of Crime and Operations as a detective chief superintendent. She began her policing career in Hertfordshire in 1983. Mrs Napier believes that the police service should put the 'Customer First' in all that we do. "Giving a quality performance will enable us to meet our promises and commitments to communities. This will be delivered through Neighbourhood Policing. Our main aims are to reduce incidents of crime, anti-social behaviour, nuisance and disorder and increase the number of offenders brought to justice. This means effective problem-solving with our communities and partners, focussing on matters which are of concern to them and addressing the key issues of policing, which are based around seasonality, time, victim, offender and location. So, we will be managing our demand, planning and using our people and assets to meet these demands effectively and efficient manner. We will provide high-visibility reassurance and engage with people, primarily focussing on foot and bicycle patrols in the heart of our communities, speaking to them and hearing their concerns. And HQ Territorial Policing will provide supportive and intrusive leadership at all levels, focussing on getting it right first time, sharing best practice and looking at areas for development."



Chief takes on ACPO lead for youth issues

CHIEF Constable Roger Baker has taken over as national lead for youth issues with ACPO (the Association of Chief Police Officers).

He becomes chairman of ACPO's Youth Justice Issues Group, which is part of the ACPO criminal justice business area. Essex Police is already one of the leading forces in the development of youth policy and practice.

Mr Baker said: "I am delighted to be taking on the national portfolio for youth issues.

"I am committed to reducing crime, nuisance and disorder in Essex and I am sure that effective working with young people will significantly contribute to this.

"Last year, Youth Spotlight concentrated on youth issues and saw crime drop by eight per cent and detections rise by five per cent compared to the previous year.

"Enabling young people to give and receive respect for themselves, their communities and the areas they live will make our neighbourhoods stronger and safer."

The Proactive Essex Police Youth Strategy (PEPYS) identifies the six key areas in which police must work.

The force has Rainer RAP youth workers based in some of its stations, to work with young people identified by the police as being at risk of offending.

And we developed the Neighbourhood Policing Youth Toolkit to raise awareness of the broad range of services and programmes available – it is expected that the toolkit will be adopted as a national resource.

And former Deputy Chief Constable **Charles Clark** has been appointed to the Youth Justice Board (YJB).

Mr Clark had led work on young people for the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) for the past ten years until his retirement from the force in December.

He said: "I look forward to being able to provide a strong practical insight to the work of the board.

"I am to remain a member of the ACPO Youth Issues Group so I will also retain the well-established links with policing. I am delighted to be taking up what I see as an extremely important role and hope to be able to make a real impact during my time of the Youth Justice Board."

During his time with Essex Police, he was seconded to the YJB and led the work to develop its Youth Prevention Strategy.

A top detective has scooped a prestigious award for his crime-fighting exploits in Colchester.

Det Con **Steve King** has been presented with a silver shield and signed citation by the Colchester Association for the Protection of Property and Prosecution of Thieves.

Every year the organisation, popularly known as Thieves and set up in 1783 to beat crime in the borough, rewards one officer for their



● District Commander Chief Insp Steve Johnson, the Thieves' outgoing chairman Adrian Amos and secretary Richard Jarvis attended Colchester police station to present the award to Det Con Steve King

Picture by James Burrows

outstanding contribution to keeping the area safe.

Det Con King was nominated for this year's award by District Commander Chief Insp Steve Johnson.

He was praised for achieving a high number of detections of serious crimes and using his expertise in examining CCTV to aid high-profile investigations.

His work also led to a serial fraudster, drug dealer, three robbers and a burglar being given lengthy jail terms.

The Thieves' outgoing chairman Adrian Amos and secretary Richard Jarvis attended Colchester police station to present the award.

Det Con King said: "All of the officers do sterling work and this is in recognition of what they do. Even so, I appreciate being named as it is a real honour.

"It could have been any one of the officers I work with as we all work extremely hard and there is good morale. That is reflected, I think in Colchester's reputation for being one of the safest places in the country to live and work."

Retired inspector **Bob Miller** and the founder of the T S Eliot Society spent seven weeks travelling the USA and was invited to address the T S Eliot Conference in St Louis, Missouri.

The former Witham inspector who started his police career in 1964, travelled to the USA and visited St Louis, New York, Vermont, and New Jersey.

Bob, 59, was awarded a scholarship for the expedition from the Winston Churchill Fellowship.

He said: "The scholarship is one of 100 awarded annually to British citizens, of any age, to travel and broaden their horizons.

"It must also bring something back to the English way of life."

As a result, he founded the T S Eliot Society, with Eliot's widow Valerie as patron at Little Gidding near Huntingdon – Eliot visited in 1936 and wrote a poem of the same name in *The Four Quartets*.

The society now has 70 members and future plans include an Eliot weekend, on May 19 and 20, which

will feature a lecture called *Never Cease From Exploration*, delivered by the Succentor – responsible for worship and music – of St Paul's Cathedral in London.

Lyndall Gordon will be the keynote speaker, a symphonic play will be performed at Great Gidding Church and, it is hoped, the installation of a stained glass window will take place in the chapel on Sunday.

● For further information, contact Ferrar House, Little Gidding, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, or email info@ferrarhouse.co.uk

Retiring

After serving the force for 30 years, DI **Joe Roche**, 48, has retired.

He served at Southend, Basildon, Rayleigh, Harlow, Southend and HQ before becoming DI in South-Eastern CID, based at Southend.

Insp **Basil Thornton**, 52, has also retired, from Southend Central.

He spent two spells with the force, from 1979 to 2001, before a brief transfer to Hertfordshire.

Basil returned in July 2007. He spent most of his career at Rayleigh and Southend.

Dc **Michael Dunion**, 48, calls it a day this month after 30 years with Essex Police.

He has served in both the now Central and Western divisions during his career, latterly at Harlow CID.

One day short of his 55th birthday, Pc **Ken Miller** retired from the Force Information Room – also one day short of serving 30 years.

Pc Miller had also spent time in Chelmsford and Braintree divisions.

And Pc **Steve Woods** is retiring this month from Stanway Road Policing Unit after 30 years. He has also served at Colchester and HQ.

Obituary

Former constable **Dick Wardle**, of Walton-on-the-Naze, has died, aged 83. He leaves a daughter, Patricia Walsh.

Mr Wardle served the force between 1951 and 1976 at Basildon and Elmstead Market.

His funeral was held at the Church of St Anne and St Lawrence in Elmstead Market.

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, three double-bedrooms, two-bathrooms apartment. Fully fitted communal swimming pool, Sky TV. Sleeps six to eight. From £200 per week. Contact 01702 201694, mobile 07790035164 or email dashpole@hotmail.com (Dave or Linda).

COSTA Blanca, La Marina, luxury two-bedroom, two-bathroom villa. Sleeps four to six, fully-fitted. air conditioning. 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

COSTA Brava, Empuriabrava, two-bed, waterfront apartment, 300m from long, sandy beach. Close to Girona and Perpignan airports. From £35 per night. Call Fiona on 07817 821316 or visit www.jemideas.co.uk

FLORIDA, four bedroom, pool, overlooking water, quiet location. Close to Disney and Airport. 10% discount to police staff. Free DVD. Contact Pete/Lin petewtaylor@yahoo.com or 01245 321378.

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

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@www.yahoo.co.uk

NORTHERN France, rural setting, modern, comfortably furnished gites, original beams. Just over one hour to Calais, near Arras and Amiens. Ring 01375 483045 or visit www.le-petit-hameau.com

SCOTTISH Highlands. Associates to police are welcome at our beautiful home on a B&B basis, offering en-suite and a welcome. Now offering fishing in private trout loch, shooting, walking, bird-watching, ski-ing or general 'chilling out' in stunning scenery in the Cairngorms

National Park. Reductions for police. Ring Andy Nunn on 01479 841717 or e-mail apf.nunn@btinternet.com

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

Flat for rent

FLAT for rent. Stanford-Le-Hope, modern two bedroom, built-in wardrobes, fitted kitchen, open plan to lounge. Railway and amenities 0.2 miles away. £625 per calendar month. Ring 01375 644072.

For sale

ANTIQU pine, glass-fronted display cabinet, 6ft tall by 3ft wide. £75. Ring 07711 095454.

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

DANSK (two) floor-standing, dark wood units with drawers, cupboards and shelves, 6ft tall by 3ft wide. £40 each. Ring 07711 095454.

DARK wood Regency extending table and four high, ladder back-style chairs with tapestry seats, £120. Ring Kim Perks on 01245 363629.

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

MX5 new chrome/wooden boot rack – boxed £20 (fit most roadsters). Ring 07711 095454.

ROADSTER sports car external cover in bag (zipped access to doors). £50. Ring 07711 095454.

Miscellaneous

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.

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 deadline is the 20th of each month. The Law team reserves the right to edit or omit any advert which doesn't meet these criteria.

Catching life-savers of the future

A CAREER in the police force is certainly on the cards for many of the hundreds of children who descended on a fun day held by Laindon's Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT). The team teamed up with their counterparts in the fire and ambulance services as they looked to divert youngsters away from a life of crime and instead towards a possible career in uniform. The force helicopter and a police motorcyclist were on hand to show them the more dynamic ways the force enforces the law and captures criminals. Event co-ordinator Pc Steve Mersh believed the event highlighted the effective partnership the three emergency services have with each other. "We wanted to educate the kids so that they don't become our future customers but we wanted to do

it in a fun way that wasn't boring and which invoked some form of positive reaction," he said. "It was full of wholesome family fun." The event was held at the All About Centre, with children from the nearby James Hornsby School helping out with a variety of activities, including face-painting and live music sessions. Local NPT inspector, Simon Dobinson, was accompanied by his son Thomas. He said: "It was a great day for all the family, with all the kids, including mine, really taking to the more exciting side of policing, firefighting and saving lives."

● Insp Simon Dobinson and his son Thomas
Picture by Nishan Wijeratne



Taking ACTION brings its own reward, staff are finding

SINCE ACTION awards were launched last year, divisions and departments have handed out a total of £4,750 to officers and staff to say thank you for going that little bit further.

The £100 awards have supplemented those applications already considered by the Bonus and Honoraria panel for police officers and staff.

Each division and department was allocated cash for the awards.

The work of officers and staff put forward for the awards demonstrated at least one of ACTION's six strands: Achievement focus; Customer first; Taking responsibility for performance; Inspiring high standards; Overcoming hurdles; Never accepting second-best.

Many of the ACTION awards were given to people who went the extra mile to provide excellent service to our customers – this



includes both external and internal customers. Head of Customer Services Claire Heath said: "External customers are easy to define, so the textbooks say: they are the eventual users of our service outside the force.

However, internal customers are members of police support staff who have affected the service that we are able to offer to the public.

We should not treat either internal or external customers differently.

Excellent internal customer service will improve the service we give to the public."

ACTION Award winners are listed – they each received £100 unless stated otherwise:

August 2006

Dc Gary McNair, South-Western (SW); Sgt Stewart Gason, Mobile Support Division (MSD); Pc Clare Scott, Eastern (E); Lyn Tolhurst, Communications Division (CD); Judith Bailey, South-Eastern (SE); Gemma Smith, Criminal Justice Department; Elaine Fisher, Stansted (S); Anne Ellis, SW.

September and October 2006

Pc Clare Marsden (nee Scott), E; Dc Simon Lofting, MSD; Pc Arron Williams, SW; Pc David Smith, S; Insp Steve Shoesmith, Corporate Support (CS); Pc Colin Keeble, SW; Ds Kerry Bennion, Crime Division; Sue Neil, SE; Elaine Crow, MSD; Sarah Holland, CS; Mary Brassett, CD.

November 2006

Pc Gary Barrett, SW; Tina Enser, IT, £50.

December 2006

Pc Ian Wakefield, S; Pc Terry Collinson, MSD; Sgt Mick Green, MSD; Dc Alan Randall, S; Keith Morris, Transport Services; Martin Asher, IT; Laurence Shipman, IT; Julie Sentance, SE; Jo Traynor, CD; Jennifer Territt, CD; Tina Osborne, CD.

January 2007

Alisdair Hunter, IT, £50; Julian Plummer, MSD; Clive Skingley, MSD; Ian Smith, IT, £50.

February 2007

Pc Phillip McCulloch, E; Pc Ronnie Stewart, E; Chris Evans, CD; Darren Boddy, Finance (F); Susan Harman, F; Mara Webb, F; Aaron Smith, F; Ian Rayner, F; Nicola Piper, F.

March 2007

Insp Jeff Appleby, SE; Pc Barrie Snaith, S; Pc Alan Marks, MSD; Pc Dave Frost, MSD.

Romeo, Juliet, Over?



GORVINS - The Police Divorce & Pension Specialists

For more information call **0800 056 27 87**
or visit www.policedivorce.co.uk

enough to worry about, without the added stress that a divorce can create.

At Gorvins Solicitors our family team is specially trained to deal with police officers facing marital breakdown or family disputes. We understand the pressures you are under and do everything we can to give you peace of mind and ease the emotional burden.

COMPLETE CONFIDENTIALITY

- 1ST APPOINTMENT FREE
- 24 HOUR HELPLINE
- DISCOUNTED RATES FOR POLICE OFFICERS
- SPECIALISTS IN POLICE PENSIONS
- OVER 7 YEARS REPRESENTING THE POLICE IN FAMILY MATTERS
- LOCAL ADVICE SURGERIES



GORVINS
solicitors



Letters of appreciation

A selection of letters sent to our divisions and departments, thanking us for a job well done.

IN this present climate, the police seem to be under constant scrutiny, with every negative issue being relayed to the public via the media.

To compound this, the very nature of human beings is to complain vastly more than to compliment.

Therefore, although the happy/unhappy balance is not as bad as it appears, it must seem this way to officers on the receiving end.

To restore some of the happy balance, I want to thank the five officers with whom I have dealt after a burglary at my home – two control room officers (sadly, no names obtained), Pc Richard Mallett, Ds Philip Wignall and Pc Claire Rawlins.

From the moment we reported the burglary to the most recent contact, the support, help, information flow and concern has been second to none.

We have felt very much looked after during this time.

The police must deal with some very disturbing and dark events. Over time, this must have an effect on an officer's mind.

When you are 'the thin blue line', you are at the forefront of trouble, disaster or distress.

Anyone exposed to this over

a long period of time could not be blamed for losing 'sensitivity' in such matters.

However, the five officers with whom we have come into contact obviously have the ability to rise above this and made us feel helped and protected.

I and my family cannot thank you all enough for this.

**BP
Ingatestone**

I WOULD like to bring to your attention some excellent work carried out by Pc Dave Hirst while he was in Merseyside attending a conference.

Whilst stationary at traffic lights, Pc Hirst witnessed an assault. He followed the offender who was getting away, detained and cautioned him until local officers arrived.

He then attended to the victim, who was suffering from a head wound, put him in the recovery position and searched him for weapons. He found and removed four used syringes.

His actions are highly commendable, given that he acted entirely with public safety in mind and in a very professional manner.

Pc Hirst is clearly a very dedicated individual and a credit to both the profession and your force.

**ACC Simon Byrne
Merseyside Police**

I WOULD like to praise the excellent work delivered by Insp Steve Kilcoyne.

Steve was the Unit Commander, working to me, the Public Order Bronze

Commander, for the Southend v Leicester football match on March 4.

I presented Steve with a number of tasks, including a spontaneous contained march of risk supporters to the ground and, at the same time, a mass arrest of 17 for being drunk on a bus en route to a designated sporting event.

Steve achieved all the objectives, to a high standard.

Steve's enthusiasm, motivation and dedication to the task was infectious to his team.

This clearly impacted on the day by the positive policing response by him and his staff, which enabled the vast majority who visited Southend for the football to have a safe and enjoyable day.

**Chief Insp Simon Williams
Stansted**

I WOULD like to say how well Chief Insp Simon Williams performed while performing the Public Order Bronze role at the Southend v Leicester football match.

He was presented with significant challenges throughout the day and performed well, delivering a highly-successful policing response.

**Supt Tim Stokes
Silver Commander**

TO Chief Supt Dave Folkard.

I would like personally to thank you and your staff for the support you provided for last night's protests, here at the Civic Centre.

The invaluable support of your staff is always of much comfort to us and, in particular, at last night's protests, which was a very difficult

situation. Please pass on my personal thanks to Insp Jeff Appleby and all of the team who were involved.

**Southend-on-Sea Borough
Council**

I WOULD like to thank Insp Trevor Williamson and Pc Victoria Wilson for bringing the 2Smart4Drugs display to the Essex Drug and Alcohol Action Team annual event.

As always, their support on the day helped make the event memorable for all the right reasons.

I am sure that you will be delighted to know, that we had some really excellent feedback from our guests.

**EDAAT Communication
County Hall
Chelmsford**

PLEASE pass on our grateful thanks to Pc John Martin of Southend Central Neighbourhood Policing Team for the sympathetic and helpful way he dealt with the death of my uncle.

Even under difficult conditions he did not hesitate to help my husband and the doctor in gaining access to the body.

**J N
Shoeburyness**

TO Sarah Symkiss.

It is with deep regret, again, that I have to inform you I will be unable to take up the position as Communications Officer in the Force Information Room, due to personal circumstances.

I would like to apologise for constantly mucking you about over this position and would like to thank you, Karen Cocksedge and Insp Perry Funnell for all the help, advice and patience you have given me over the last few months.

You have all been wonderful.

**LP
Boreham**

TO Pc Tim Davis.

It was with great regret that I learned you would no longer be our School Liaison Officer.

We at West Leigh Junior School will miss you greatly – whether it is for the whole year group and class talks or the attention for individual pupils which you so willingly gave.

Children and staff alike both respected and enjoyed your input. I have never worked with such an effective and personable liaison officer.

**West Leigh Junior School
Leigh on Sea**

I FOUND Sgt Gus Morrison and Sgt Andy Bartlett refreshingly professional, capable and very well

informed when dealing with a case of ours.

They are a credit to UK police officers and especially to Essex Police.

**JCA Associates
Isleworth
Middlesex**

OVER the last few years, we have had numerous incidents of graffiti to our building and severe damage to the greens, which have always been reported to you.

The committee feels that this could have been even worse if it were not for the excellent support and commitment of your local community officers.

They make themselves known to us when we are using the pavilion throughout the year, keep us informed and, in general, reassure us that you are doing your best when we know you have other more urgent matters to address.

Please convey our thanks and appreciation to your young officers, some of whom, I believe, have now moved into mainstream policing and are undergoing their training. We wish them well.

**Prittlewell Bowls Club
Prittlewell**

TO Dc Alan Randall

I just wanted to say how impressed I was with your professionalism, policing skills and contribution while in your role with us here at Stansted.

You are a very able officer who quickly established very positive relationships with your colleagues and with our partners.

Your efforts on Operation Bruno significantly contributed to its success and the reduction of crime we have now seen in that area.

You are highly regarded at Stansted, thank you for all your hard work.

**Supt Michelle Dunn
Stansted Divisional Commander**

I JUST want to say thank you to Pc Louise Martin for the speedy and effective help she gave when I reported my mobility scooter was being tampered with every night.

Since she has called on all the houses here, there have been no further problems.

I was beginning to feel vulnerable as the scooter is my main source of mobility.

**DW
Grays**

I AND other shop-owners wish to thank officers at Southend Central Police Station for using their valuable time for working hard in making this corner safe for all law-abiding citizens, including shop-owners and customers.

After the police operation in the area, BT has also removed the phone box – it had been here for years but lately had been used for drugs business and other immoral purposes.

The locals, especially elderly people, have really appreciated its removal.

**CB
Southend**

TO Dc Kevin Collett.

I have been in regular contact with my field investigator in relation to the fraud investigation.

I was delighted with the detention of the individual as this type of activity is one of the key threats that our business faces at the current time.

My field investigator informs me that he has received superb assistance from you over the past week.

It is pleasing when the police and industry work well together and I hear that swift and decisive action by your team has improved the chances of a successful prosecution.

You were extremely courteous and professional in your dealings with him and he enjoyed helping with the evidence preparation.

**Security and Investigations
Phones 4u Ltd**

To Insp Darren Wiles.

We want to say how much we appreciate you and your fellow officers and the work you do daily on our behalf, keeping us safe.

We know that you get regular criticism – as a national police force – often in a no-win situation.

If you arrest, it's wrong, and if you don't, it's often perceived as being the fault of the police.

Today, as Christians representing different churches and prayer groups, we want to say 'thank you for the work you do' and we want to say we are proud of our Southend force.

We look forward to working more actively with you in the coming months.

May God continually watch your going out and coming in and keep you safe.

Southend Prayer Wall

AND a nice PS, too.

Officers from a specialist unit in Crime Division were recently gifted three bottles of whisky by a grateful client.

The bottles, along with a report, were submitted through line management and the bottles were donated to the raffle at the Tilly Appeal charity football match last month.

Chief Supt Wilson Kennedy, Crime Divisional Commander, said appreciation could be shown in a number of ways.

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



Officers saved toddler's life

BONUS payments have been paid to two Epping officers for their actions in saving a young child who had turned blue and stopped breathing.

Pc Jonathan Brandman and Pc Ruth Coe, of Loughton, were on another inquiry at the Limes Farm Estate in Chigwell when a group of people became hysterical, screaming for help for a child.

A couples' three-year-old son had turned blue and stopped breathing. So, while Pc Coe rang for an ambulance and calmed the distraught parents, Pc Brandman took the boy and began administering first aid.

Pc Brandman thought the toddler might be choking and slapped his back but, when this did not have any effect, he started mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Moments later the child began to breathe. The two officers stayed with the family offering support until the ambulance crew arrived.

Insp Denise Morrissey told the bonus panel that, in her opinion, Pc Brandman had saved the life of the boy by acting quickly and taking control of the situation while Pc Coe managed to deal with the hysterical parents, thus allowing the child to receive his help.



Runners are ready for the marathon

TRAINERS at the ready ... officers and staff have got their running shoes and are in training to take part in this month's London Marathon.

And they are running for a variety of deserving causes. Essex Police College trainer Kirste Snellgrove is running the 26.5 mile race for the 14th time.

She is raising money in aid of Breast Cancer Campaign and has set up a website where people can donate – www.justgiving.com/kirstesnellgrove

This year the marathon takes place on Sunday, April 22, and Derek Walker, a Colchester Service Desk Assistant, will be running his fifth marathon.

He concedes it will be his last one for a while, and he means it this time!

Derek has also set up a website at www.justgiving.com/derekwalker

He is running in aid of Cancer Research UK.

And as seen in last month's Law, Deb Butler, Service Desk Assistant Harlow is also running, for the third time.

She also has a website at www.justgiving.com/gingerloon_fm and is also inviting donations to the Breast Cancer Campaign.

And Ds Greg Potter is planning to run in aid of St Helena Hospice in Colchester.

He can be contacted on ext 66421 with offers of sponsorship.

Pair came back in black

THE force's snooker doubles team took it to the wire at the PSUK Regional finals. Alan Gooden and Stephen Oakes lost in the final three games to two and every match they lost was on the black ball.

Lee Heaton, Peter Orpe and Tracey Stevenson also qualified for the regionals in snooker, billiards and pool, respectively.

The results of the force cue championships – held as a qualifier for the regionals – were:

snooker singles, Lee Heaton; snooker doubles Alan Gooden and Stephen Oakes; billiards singles, Peter Orpe; pool men's singles, Colin Hill; pool women's singles, Tracey Stevenson; pool doubles, Nick Brunton and Christian Robinson.

Ready for the summer

MEMBERS of Essex Police Musical Society are preparing for their September Show.

This will be an informal evening of songs and sketches with the theme Songs from the Movies, to be performed from September 12 to 15.

It is a cabaret-style performance with the audience sitting at tables, able to drink and join in.



● Essex Police veterans football squad before their tough game against Staffs Police

It's time to think about cricket tour

IT'S the cricket season again and time to think about the Gentlemen of CID's tour next year to Barbados.

Seven games are planned, including one against an All Stars XI, for whom former West Indies stars Gordon Greenidge and Wes Hall will be playing.

The departure date is Monday March 3, 2008, returning two weeks later on March 17.

Anyone who wants to reserve a place should contact DI Phil Mellon as places may be limited due to accommodation limits. Accommodation this time will be in a hotel, with prices starting from around £25 per person a night.

The entire tour package should cost in the region of £850.

● For more information about the tour, contact Phil Mellon on ext 52117

Vets knocked out of PSUK

SADLY, after a great run in the PSUK veterans football competition, the Essex juggernaut ran out of steam, losing 3-1 to Staffordshire in the first round of the knock-out stage.

Hertfordshire and the City of London had given Essex their points and the team had finished second in the group stage, getting through to the knock-out stages because they were the best overall runners-up in the competition to

date. But they finally met their match on a damp day last month.

The team was hampered because five were unable to play due to last-minute commitments on the day.

However, the 13 who did turn up acquitted themselves well.

All goals were scored in the first half and, although Essex tightened up defensively and didn't leak any goals in the second half, they never managed to

recover the situation.

In the Greene King Essex Veterans' League Premier Division, the vets went down 7-0 to a weak Writtle side – two players were carrying injuries, which didn't help.

However, the vets now have one team between them and the bottom-placed club with third-placed Benfleet still to play away on April 14 and fifth-placed Herongate at home on April 21.

Another fine running performance by teams

THE cross-country season reached its conclusion with a good performance from both men and women at the PSUK National championships.

With every police force in the UK represented, the Essex team did outstandingly well to finish sixth in the men's competition and ninth in the women's.

A total of 220 competitors completed the men's 11.5k race, with Essex led home by Russ Welch (23rd), followed by

Derek Walker (33), Andy Jopson (35), Dan Sorrell (71), Phillip McCulloch (122) and Dave Browning (133) to complete the scoring team.

John Mackenzie (147) was eighth in the 50-54 age group.

Next in were Dave Willis (190), Pete Bryan (197) and finally, after a race long battle, John Jackson (213) and Mark Finbow (215).

And 82 completed the women's 8k race, with an excellent performance from Rachel Wood (21st) – the highest placing from an Essex competitor for many years.

Angling for some competitors

THE Croker Cup Open Beach Championship will be held on Southend Pier on June 15.

It should fish well for Flounder, Bass, Garfish and Mackerel.

Booking in time will be from 9 to 10am. The cost is £15 for each member in teams of two.

● Contact Clive Harding on 01621 773649 or Dave Clark on 01702 332315

Athletes are ready for the off

THE national PSUK Track and Field Championships are July 18 in Blackpool. In previous years, Essex Police has returned with a number of medals for the various disciplines.

And the Croker Cup Track and Field Athletics will be held on May 31 at Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium.

● Contact Derek Walker on ext 10320 for details

David scoops £,3000 top prize

THE top prize-winner of the force's March lottery was Dc David Nash, of the Hi-tech Crime Unit, who scoops £3,000. Second prize of £1,000 went to Lisa Hammond, of the Forensic Intelligence Unit, and John Flory, who is retired, took the third prize of £500.

Winners of £100 prizes were: Dc Mark Bloxham, of Southend; Pc David Morgan, of Chigwell Dog Unit; Dc Paul Cakebread, of Brentwood; Pc Adam Bowden, of Grays; Lisa Crow, of Harwich; Sgt Mark Galbraith, of Essex Police College; Pc Andrew Kemp, of the

Force Support Unit (FSU); Pc Ben Andrewartha, of Colchester; Brian Simpson, retired; Robert Johnson, of Colchester; and Sgt Ashley Stearn, of Hatfield Heath Professional Development Unit.

Winners of £50 prizes were: Pc Kay Doe, of Shrub End; Pc John Field, of Southminster; Dc Sam Hutchinson, of Chelmsford; Dc Chris Winstone, of HQ Crime Operational Support; Pc George Rodway, of Eastwood; Pc Alison Worrton, of Harlow; Pc Lee Heaton, of Brentwood; Ds Kevin

Conerney, of HQ Crime Division; Pc Steven Wiggitt, of Grays; Pc Steve Simmans, of Chelmsford; Duncan McDowall, of Harlow; Sgt Rob Trigg, of FSU; Dc Clayton Ford, of Canvey Island; and Trevor Gernon, of FSU; And winners of Benenden Healthcare bears were:

Carol Jones, of Shoebury; Pc Sarah Groves, of Colchester; Pc Trevor Thompson, of Chelmsford; Pc Nadine Harrington, of Shalford; Pc Roy Linton, of Bocking Road Policing Unit; and Pc Paul Watson, of Shoebury.



● Kerrie Barkway ext 58883

Why not take up one of our deals

THE Essex Police Sports Association has many deals with various car dealerships, offering great savings.

Hyundai: fleet discount applies, with over £4,000 off some models. These cars are good value for money with a five-year warranty.

Vauxhall: discounts given across the entire range, on average between a ten and 15 per cent discount applies.

Volvo: we have a national deal set up with Volvo, with discounts of 15 per cent on some models.

BMW: savings on new models will generally be between three and eight per cent but special deals and promotions are updated on a monthly basis, depending on the model you are looking to buy.

Mercedes: a nine per cent discount is given on all new models, with high residual values; this means you can drive a Mercedes!

Car Select: the Lloyds TSB car purchasing scheme is now available to EPSA members, with over 25 per cent discount on some models.

● For further details, visit the EPSA intranet site, under Divisions & Departments, then click on Member Benefits and Motoring

Changing face of road safety

THREE new safety camera vehicles are beginning traffic law enforcement, as part of the Essex Casualty Reduction Partnership's ongoing strategy to reduce the number of road casualties.

The new, highly-visible vehicles will be decked out in full Essex Police livery with Battenberg markings, the Essex Police logo and the Casualty Reduction Board website address www.drivingcasualtiesdown.org. The vans will not only be used to deter and detect speeding but also to enforce seatbelt, mobile phone and other traffic law legislation. Chief Insp Tom Diment said: "Increasing police presence on the road network is a top priority for Essex Police and we hope these vehicles will help to prevent and reduce casualties on our roads."

Know your neighbour and officers

A FREQUENTLY asked question from members of the public is 'Can you tell me the name of my local officer?'

Police officers, staff and members of the public can easily find out. Neighbourhood Policing webpages can be found on the force website at www.essex.police.uk where, on the righthand side of the home page under Local Information, can be found a drop-down menu providing useful information on each of our 144 Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs). Police station opening hours information, officer's names and telephone numbers etc are all provided on this site and the pages are updated regularly.

Recently added is a postcode search facility, which provides exact details of that postcode's NPT.

And district information leaflets have been produced, which can be found by clicking on Your Area on the Essex Police website home page.

Officers and staff can visit the internal website by looking up Neighbourhood Policing under Divisions & Departments on the intranet home page.

Museum

THE Essex Police Museum now opens its doors on the first Saturday of each month. The museum at HQ in Springfield was re-opened in September 2005 after receiving £43,000 Heritage Lottery Funding and visitor numbers have almost doubled in the last year.

The museum will open from 10.30am to 3pm and admission is free.

Government chief hails police and partners

A HOME Office Minister has hailed Colchester officers and their partners for being at the forefront of Neighbourhood Policing.

The Minister for Policing, Community Safety and Security, Vernon Coaker, held up Eastern Division as a leading light for others to follow during a visit to north Essex.

His tour was set up by Colchester MP Bob Russell and Colchester Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator Carole Dennis.

Mr Coaker met senior officers and members of partner agencies such as Neighbourhood Watch and Colchester

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP).

He also witnessed a Speed Watch demonstration given by Dedham's Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator.

St Andrew's and St Anne's in Colchester was the first ward in the county to launch Neighbourhood Policing.

Mr Coaker told members of the media while at Colchester Police Station: "The Government is committed to Neighbourhood Policing and we know Colchester is in front in many areas in the country in this area. It is good to come here and see it being done so well.

"The key is partnership and getting everybody working in partnership."

Mr Coaker was also full of praise for the new Neighbourhood Action Panels (NAPs) which underpin Neighbourhood Policing by acting as a link between communities and the police.

Colchester CDRP co-ordinator Peter Carrington said: "I think it is really good the Minister has visited Colchester and witnessed the partnership working between the CDRP, Neighbourhood Watch and police officers. Our method is successful."

● Turn to Page 5 for more on NAPs



● Sgt Gary Corsham with Donor Care Supervisor Jackie Lynn
Picture courtesy of the National Blood Service

A different way to save lives

A SERGEANT working in the Force Information Room has become the donor of the 2000th pint of blood to the National Blood Service since sessions were set up at HQ.

FIR supervisor Sgt Gary Corsham has been giving blood since he joined the force 26 years ago and has made more than 50 donations.

Initially he went along to a session at the suggestion of a colleague 'but it was brought home to me when my son Alex was born with a heart defect and needed heart surgery'.

Sessions were set up at HQ in Chelmsford in 1992 and since then he and many other staff have been attending sessions two or three times a year at work.

Each blood donation has the potential to save the life of up to three hospital patients in need of a transfusion.

So officers and staff at Essex Police who have been rolling up their sleeves in the past 15 years have played their part in saving 6,000 lives to date.

Chief Constable Roger Baker, said: "I was staggered to find out how many lives staff here have saved simply by giving blood – 2,000 donations is a great collective achievement and I'm sure sessions will keep going from strength to strength."

"We all just expect blood to be readily available in the event of a loved one requiring it but it is only thanks to donors that is the case."

NBS communications officer Gareth Bell said: "Police officers are accustomed to dealing with situations where lives are at risk on a daily basis and I'm sure giving blood is one of the easiest things they do that has life-saving consequences."

● If you are between 17 and 59 and in good health, you are likely to be eligible to become a blood donor. Call the National Donor Helpline on 0845 7 711 711 or log on to the NBS website at www.blood.co.uk

And now we're going 'live' to Southend ...

'BRILLIANT' is how controllers in the Force Information Room (FIR) describe the new monitor that gives them instant pictures from the CCTV cameras in Southend.

Now the successful trial looks set to become permanent, paving the way for pictures from CCTV cameras in other main towns to be beamed into FIR.

A special arrangement with British Telecom and a lot of work by our IT department, under the direction of Tim Thomas, has seen a live link installed to the network of cameras in Southend town centre.

FIR has a radio link with the council operators who will immediately switch to the nearest available camera when an incident appears to be in progress.

by Helen Cook

This allows the police staff to direct the response crew to the exact location, give them a running update and provide descriptions of suspects and where they have gone.

Chief Insp Nick Lee said: "We had an incident where a man had been caught on camera smashing up a bus shelter. When the crew arrived he had fled the scene but, because operators had been able to track his movements, they then led the crew directly to the front door and the suspect was arrested inside."

This new tool has been decisive in making arrests because the controllers can see exactly what is going on themselves – they can speak to the crews, slow them down where necessary or mobilise more crews if the situation warrants extra resources.

"The recent high-profile football match

between Southend and Leeds United was closely monitored by the Silver Commander in the Special Operations room at HQ, with instant, clear pictures and a recording facility for evidential purposes."

It is hoped that the green light will now be given for CCTV pictures from Chelmsford, Colchester, Harlow and other towns to be sent directly to FIR controllers on each of the divisional desks.

In the event of a major incident, the pictures can then be switched into the central control room for immediate access by commanders.

Chief Insp Lee added: "Allowing controllers to see exactly what is happening and where suspects are going is having a great impact on arrests in the Southend area. If this was rolled out across the force, it would have significant benefits and an impact on force performance."

Ex-Essex officer in spotlight over cricket murder

A FORMER Essex officer is currently leading the investigation into the murder of Bob Woolmer, the Pakistan cricket coach, at the ICC World Cup in Jamaica.

Mark Shields was a detective chief inspector at HQ when he left the force in 2001 to join the Metropolitan Police's Serious and Organised Crime Directorate.

He was then posted to Jamaica on a long-term secondment as the country's Deputy Commissioner with the hope of being able to stop London's problem with so-called 'Yardie' gangsters at source, as well as being a useful weapon in the fight against police corruption on the Caribbean island.

A former colleague said: "He was well-respected and I enjoyed working with him. If he does ever return to the Met, it will probably be at Commander level."

The murder inquiry has thrust Mr Shields into the spotlight and all his skills are being called upon to tackle a murder that has stunned the world of sport.

Mounting the latest challenge

HORSES should be back on the streets of Essex within six months following an Essex Police Authority move to reinstate the mounted section. The new unit will comprise eight horses – by the second year – seven police officers, support staff, new vehicles and a modern, leased facility at Writtle College.

Chief Constable Roger Baker said he was delighted with the decision.

"Having seen the benefit police horses bring and the reassurance they have on communities, this is a real winner for the public," he said.

"We intend to use horses in a wide range of policing situations so, not only do they help provide highly-visible policing but they also contribute to reducing crime, nuisance and disorder." Essex Police closed down its mounted section in 1999 due to a cost-cutting exercise as a result of very challenging budget settlements from the Government.

Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers said: "Horses will have a huge impact, providing a visible presence on the county's streets and help us to further reduce crime. "The horses will also be used in both rural and urban areas and will help to ease the fear of crime, providing valuable reassurance to the community."