

# The Law



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May 2007

Force vows to send officers to the scene within six hours

## WE WILL DEAL WITH TODAY'S CRIME TODAY

**IN its continuing commitment to customer service, Essex Police is pledging to attend all non-emergency crimes within six hours.**

And a variety of posters will be appearing around police stations in the county promoting the new challenge and reminding officers

by **Kim Perks**

of their responsibilities.

The move is aimed at ensuring that as much information about crimes and suspects is secured at the earliest opportunity.

This will significantly increase the chances of offenders being brought to justice and will provide an improved quality of service and support to the victim.

Over the last couple of years, the force has been focusing on putting the customer first by driving up its

performance both in terms of crime reduction and detection and with regard to face-to-face and prompt customer contact.

With crime falling, detections rising and officer numbers at an all-time high, the force is now raising the bar and its former pledge of attending crime within 24 hours became six hours on Monday, April 30.

Essex Police also evaluates feedback it receives from members of the public and is now incorporating some of that feedback in its service – particularly at the

first point of contact – to help victims feel supported and so they know what service to expect.

For instance, more details about the offence will be taken from the victim during the first telephone call they make reporting a non-emergency crime.

Their availability within the six hours of reporting the offence will be ascertained in an effort not to inconvenience them.

They will also be asked by officers what their preferred method of communication is for any updates – for instance, telephone, face-to-face,

email or fax. Assistant Chief Constable Carmel Napier said: "This is about putting the customer first and dealing with today's crimes today."

"It is how we want to be doing business and why we have been striving to put more officers on the front line so that we have the right resources in the right places to achieve what our communities expect and deserve."

"Every crime and every victim deserves, and *will* get, our attention."

Emergency calls will continue to receive an emergency response.

## Cadets save the day *and* the house

THE quick thinking of two Essex Police Cadets at a 2Smart 4drugs roadshow has averted disaster.

Aimee Puleston and Jessica Barham, both 18, were awaiting a coachload of students outside Tabor Science College in Braintree last month when they were approached by a member of the public.

She told them she could hear an alarm and smell smoke coming from a nearby house.

The two Cadets rushed over and, on finding no-one was in, looked round the back of the house, to see a frying pan smoking on the hob.

Jessica helped Aimee to get through an open window and Aimee removed the pan from the hob – luckily it had not caught alight – before the fire service arrived.

Substance Misuse and Youth Co-ordinator Pc Victoria Wilson, who helps to organise the roadshows, said: "The fire officers praised Aimee and Jessica's quick presence of mind."

"Although there was a risk involved, they reacted swiftly and appropriately."

"If they had not acted so promptly, the situation could have been a whole lot worse."

All the force's Cadets had turned out in uniform to help at the 2smart 4drugs roadshow – they help to seat the students, give directions and help with parking.

Cadet Manager Natalie Foster said she was proud of the pair.

"We have come to expect this level of maturity and quick thinking from our Cadets, who are great ambassadors for the force," she said.

• Cadets recruitment drive – see Back Page



● **Marjorie Dixon's 80th birthday was made that little bit extra special when Chief Supt Win Bernard popped round to drive her to her party**

Picture by Richard Ambury

## Divisional Commander makes Marjorie's day

MARJORIE Dixon was one of the first three women police officers in the Burnley Borough Force.

So, when planning her mother's 80th birthday celebrations last month, daughter Pc Kim Dixon thought it would be nice to organise them with a 'police' theme. And Kim, based at Witham Police Station, asked her Divisional Commander, Chief Supt Win Bernard, whether it was possible for a police car to drive her mother from her home in Witham round the corner to her daughter's house for the party. But Chief Supt Bernard had a better idea

and decided to drive Marjorie himself as it was his day off.

Not only that but he posed for pictures and stayed for a cup of tea, chatting to some of the 70 guests who had turned up to celebrate Policewoman Two's birthday. Lancashire Chief Constable Steve Finnigan also sent a personal DVD message for the celebration.

Kim said afterwards: "I was quite surprised to see Mr Bernard turn up but he has got a kind heart. Everyone had a good time and my mother keeps on talking about it – she was over the moon."

Kim said she had been so delighted that the day after the party, when she heard Essex Chief Constable Roger Baker speaking on local radio, she rang in to thank Mr Bernard publicly for his kind actions.

Marjorie joined the Burnley force in 1949 and stayed in for two and a half years. She met and married Gil, a traffic sergeant, but they had to move south because of his ill-health. Gil died in 1982, shortly before his daughter, Kim, 51, became a police officer herself.

Marjorie was a secretary for Bramston School in Witham and Essex County Council.



# Fight for fair pay continues

FOLLOWING the success at last year's Police Arbitration Tribunal hearing and the award of three per cent to all UK police officers, you are probably aware that Police Minister Tony McNulty announced a review of both police pay and negotiating machinery.

The Government tasked Sir Clive Booth to undertake this review and, earlier this year, Booth published his Part One report, which makes recommendations for the annual increase to police pay for 2007.

It further lays the ground for Part Two of the review into the negotiating machinery.

Regrettably, the Home Secretary, Dr John Reid, has accepted Booth's recommendations in full and has now directed the Police Negotiating Board to reach agreement on them by July 19.

Worse, he has done this without entering into any discussion with the Police Federation of England and Wales.

Jan Berry and John Francis, the National Chair and General Secretary of the Police Federation of England

and Wales, wrote a joint letter in the strongest possible terms to the Home Secretary expressing our disgust at this treatment.

### Booth's Part One main recommendations:

1. A form of indexation to 'up rate' or increase police pay should be retained for 2007 but moving away from our current index to a public sector-facing index
2. The index should produce a 'pot' of money to be applied differently, according to the needs of the service, including modernisation
3. The pay award for 2007 should not produce a uniform percentage increase for all ranks.

### What could this all mean?

1. Police officer pay this year will be linked to public sector pay, not private sector, as has previously been the case
2. Officers will receive different pay rises
3. An increase to the pay bill of no more than two per cent for 2007

### What is the view of the Police Federation of England and Wales?

The language in the Booth report shows bias towards the

Government, hardly an independent report.

Despite the title of Sir Clive's report – *Fair Pay for Police Officers* – we think it presents anything but a fair deal. It proposes an index which will erode police officer pay and which fails to keep pace with inflation.

The report contains veiled threats in relation to the future of the police negotiating machinery if we fail to reach agreement.

The proposed 'up rating' index undervalues the unique role of police officers who can't strike and are accountable for their actions and inactions 24/7.

Differential increases allow for the introduction of performance-related pay through the back door.

Our annual increase will be used to fund pay and workforce modernisation, whereas, in other parts of the public sector, significant additional monies have been made available to pay for this.

The Government intends to stage this year's pay award, cutting its value still further.

### What are we doing about this?

All police officer staff assoc-

iations throughout the UK are working together and are united in their opposition to these recommendations.

We have already conveyed to the Government and Official Side of the Police Negotiating Board the weakness and inherent unfairness of Booth's recommendations.

We are now working up alternative proposals.

We are against the proposed 'pot' and any differential application.

We want annual pay increases based on a fair index.

We want clear compensation for the unique status of the office of constable.

We want new money for any workforce modernisation.

### What happens next?

The best chance of success is through negotiation at the Police Negotiating Board.

We remain willing and ready to negotiate. The Official Side must demonstrate that it is also prepared to negotiate free of unwarranted interference.

We will continue to fight for fair pay for police.

We will keep members informed of developments.

We will listen to the views of our members.

## Group insurance scheme: introduction of new package

AS mentioned last month, a new insurance package will be introduced on June 1.

During this month, all members of the scheme will be receiving a letter and policy booklet, outlining all the benefits included in the new 'package' price.

All members of the scheme – including those officers who were only paying for life-cover without the additional half-pay cover – will be upgraded to the new package and pay the new premium of £15.50 with effect from their June salary.

For those members paying the spouse/partner premium, this will be automatically increased to £5.

If you wish to cancel your membership, notify Trish Morley in the Federation Office by May 31 to allow sufficient time for cancellations to be notified to the Payroll Department in time for the June payroll run.

For those officers who currently pay £2.55 for Legal Expenses cover, this payroll

deduction will now be cancelled as this cover is included in the package.

For members who currently do not pay the additional spouse/partner premium as their applications did not meet the insurer's criteria, a 'amnesty' period will run from June 1 to July 31, inclusive, for officers now wishing to take out this cover.

For our retired officers currently subscribing to the insurance scheme provided for them, their premiums will increase to £14.95 for the retired officer and £5.45 for the spouse/partner cover.

Details of their new scheme and the enhanced benefits will be included in a letter from me which was due to be sent out at the beginning of this month.

Again, if any retired officer wishes to cancel their membership, could they advise Trish Morley by May 18 so that any cancellations can be notified to the Payroll Department in time for the June 1 pension payroll run.

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INSURANCE

- Disability Network chairman Jeremy Craig addresses the audience at the launch of the Essex Police Disability Network



## Disability matters

THE force's Disability Network enjoyed a successful launch and members are now busy working on new projects.

ACC Peter Lowton opened the launch, held at Hylands House in Chelmsford. Mr Lowton, who is chairman of the National Diabetic Police Association, told the audience about the Disability Network's Action plan for 2007.

Then network chairman Jeremy Craig, HQ Gardener, spoke about the network's achievements – representatives already have an input on the Probationers' induction week and on the Core Leadership Development Programme.

"Disability shows no boundaries and can hit at any time of life, often being a great shock when it does," he said.

"One of our main aims this year is to form a database of people with disabilities, to offer support to others who may be having problems with a similar disability. We are going to call this the Buddy Scheme."

As well as disability awareness weeks, members of the network will visit each divisional HQ during the year to talk to people who want a chat or more information, said Jeremy, who has cerebral palsy.

Force Information Room Training Officer Jim Gibson and Insp Perry Funnell talked

about the recruitment of disabled staff in the Communications Division and DCI Adrian Tyson, South-Western's Crime Manager, told of his experience in retaining both his role and rank with Essex Police after losing the sight of an eye, while Sgt Tim Mariner talked about the role of the Dyslexia Liaison Group.

Attending the launch were representatives from Human Resources, other staff networks, Essex Police Federation, Unison and Essex Police Authority. External organisations, including Disability Essex, the Essex Coalition for Disabled People, Remploy, Essex Autistic Society and Chelmsford Borough and Essex County councils, were also present. Afterwards, they enjoyed a display from Dance 21, a local Down's Syndrome dance group.

Afterwards, Disability Network Co-ordinator Denise Chaplin said the group aimed to act as a consultative forum for force decision-making and to put across its point at policy meetings.

"And we hope to promote and encourage training of officers and staff in differing fields of disability, which will help them to deal with vulnerable people" she added.

- Contact Denise on ext 54102. Both she and Jeremy can be contacted via email
- Or visit the Equality & Diversity intranet site and click on Disability

## Praise for Specials out on the town beat

THE District Commander of Maldon, Craig Robertson, has praised the outstanding support he gets from colleagues in Essex Special Constabulary.

Special Constables Tim Miles and Rob Beavis have received letters of thanks for their professionalism when attending the scene of a violent physical and sexual assault in the town.

They stayed on well into the following morning in order to protect the scene until relieved from duty.

Chief Insp Robertson explained: "The following evening they returned to duty early in order to provide high-visibility patrols in the area with other colleagues who had responded for a call to assist."

"Sas Miles and Beavis then stayed on to patrol with regular officers until 6am."

He said the dedication and professionalism of the Specials shone through again when they supported two regular officers at a disturbance in Tollesbury, which then led to a series of other incidents.

"The Specials remained at the scene for some time, taking statements and making further inquiries while two assisted in conveying prisoners to Bishop's Stortford custody suite."

"Their dedication and professionalism meant that only two regular officers were involved in the incident and ensured that a comprehensive handover package was prepared for the investigating officer."

Each week, a member of the Special Constabulary attends the district tasking meeting and plays a full role in taking responsibility for operational tasks identified through the process.

Chief Insp Robertson added: "In this way, Specials take ownership of policing issues in their neighbourhood within the Neighbourhood Policing Team and district structure."

"And they still continue to provide high-visibility patrols, help in the front office and police major events."

Following attestations next month, Maldon District will have 32 Specials.

## Dog handlers perform well

STANWAY-based dog handlers Pc Mick Gentile and Pc Terry Collinson have returned from the National Police Dog Trials, hosted by Surrey Police.

Terry, accompanied by his police dog Sire, came overall 14th, while Mick and Samson came 26th.

The officers and their dogs were selected for being among the best 27 handlers from across England, Scotland and Wales after performing successfully in regional trials.

Dave Buckley and Chaz, from Nottinghamshire, won.

# Head cameras prove their worth

CRIMINALS in Chelmsford will continue to have their actions captured on film as Central Division sings the praises of head cameras.

Officers based in Chelmsford have been using their two cameras since February this year, and have seen all the benefits that come with their combined £3,000 price tag.

Sgt Andy Sawyer, the lead on the project, said the cameras, which are mounted on an officer's helmet, have

been used for incidents of public disorder as well as for special operations and to record acts of anti-social behaviour.

Andy said: "They have been very effective in encouraging suspects to cooperate with police."

And the Chelmsford officers have been liaising with the Crown Prosecution Service, which has agreed that any footage captured on the cameras can be used as corroborating evidence in court.

Following a three-month trial of the cameras, Andy said they were now a permanent feature at the station in Chelmsford.

He said: "Chelmsford residents should be assured of their continued use as they have been given a big tick in the box. We are also continually looking to develop how we use them, as well as where."

Andy also said he was keen to 'plug' the devices to other divisions and would encourage them try out the cameras.

## Child voucher scheme will save us all cash

OFFICERS and staff are being encouraged to join the force's childcare voucher scheme and save money on nursery fees.

In the past year, employees have paid almost £150,000 into the childcare voucher scheme – Sodexo Pass – not only saving themselves money but the force as well because cash is deducted before tax and National Insurance is paid.

Jane Ship, of Employee Relations, said: "We want to encourage as many people as possible to join the scheme – both mums and dads."

Marketing Manager Tina Starling has been using the scheme since last August because she wanted to save money.

"Depending on your tax code and how much your monthly nursery fees are you could save £1,000 per year and that is a lot of money."

"Once your initial details have been set up, the system is very easy to use, plus it also saves you writing a cheque as everything is done online."

"Each month I have money deducted from my pay before tax and NI, which is paid to Sodexo Pass, I then receive an email at work saying that my account has been credited."

Childcare voucher schemes are a Government led initiative designed to support working parents with their childcare costs.

• Register on form PERS 109 (police officers) and PERS 109a (police staff). The amount of vouchers you can take is capped at £55 per week or £243 per calendar month

• For further information, visit the HR intranet site and click on Maternity Network or speak to your local HR business team



• Ewan Starling, son of Marketing Manager Tina Starling, does his bit to promote Sodexo Pass

# Put your energy into saving heat and light

THE force is mounting an energy-saving campaign in a bid to reduce one of its largest expenditures.

With energy costs jumping considerably last year and likely to continue rising in the long-term, it makes sound financial sense to try and reduce unnecessary usage.

Design Engineer Ian Mott is urging all officers and staff to switch off lights and equipment which are not being used.

And he has several schemes in the pipeline for a forcewide roll-out, which

by Heather Turner

should ensure a cut in the energy budget.

The first is the installation of PIR (passive infra-red detection) and photocell switches in toilets – these only switch on the light if someone is in the room – starting at HQ and Essex Police College and then moving on to divisions.

This will be followed by a similar installation process in corridors.

Then special solar-shield double-glazing will start to be fitted – not only does this prevent heat from escaping, in

the summer, it reflects heat and stops rooms from becoming over-warm.

Ian said: "The energy budget is one of the largest and it's an area where there is scope for savings to be made."

"It's in everybody's interest to think about our energy consumption – if we can reduce our energy bills, that money can be used to increase the number of front-line officers."

"Boreham alone costs about £100,000 a year to heat, light and cool."

Ian and his team will be monitoring energy use before and after the new switches are installed to ensure they are an effective way of saving energy.

# Drugs conference to 'share the vision'

ESSEX is leading the way by hosting the first national ACPO chemical diversion conference.

The conference at Stansted Airport on May 14 and 15 aims to provide increased awareness and understanding of the relevant key issues facing police forces in the world of precursor chemicals – every-

day chemicals which, when combined can create either illegal drugs or explosives.

The conference will also assist in developing a future vision for the policing of precursor chemicals, methamphetamine and illicit labs.

It lasts for two days and will cover subjects including the role of a chemical

liaison officer, the role of drugs courts, the work of the national methamphetamine working group and the effects of the drug on the community.

Insp Trevor Williamson, Substance Misuse Co-ordinator, said: "The conference is the first of its kind in the country and we hope it will set the pace for the future."

## Searching for open day interest

OFFICERS across the force are being urged to sign up to a new search team course this winter.

And those interested have the opportunity to attend an open day next month.

Experienced search team officers will be on hand to offer an insight into the challenging and varied life, at an open day at Mobile Support Division headquarters at Boreham on Friday, June 1.

The day will include presentations from the Royal Engineers High-Risk Search Team, demonstrations of specialist search equipment and disaster victim identification and body recovery.

Police Search Advisor (POLSA) Sgt Julian Hallam said: "We're looking for officers who have limited other specialist attributes to join us."

Officers must have completed their Probation by the start of the next four-day course, which begins at the end of November.

• Anyone interested in attending should email Sgt Hallam beforehand. There will be two, two-hour sessions, 10.30am-12.30pm and 1-3pm

## Tony supports cancer cash postcard bid

HALSTEAD inspector Tony Sale is supporting a campaign to raise money for the Royal Marsden Hospital in London.

Tony, a member of Halstead Rotary Club, is urging people to buy and complete special postcards for £1, which will then be entered in a draw for a Vauxhall Corsa, donated by County Motors, of Chelmsford, in July.

All the cash – it is hoped £30,000 will be raised – will go to The Royal Marsden's new Cancer Drug Development Unit.

"Cancer is an issue which is close to many people's hearts, many of us having lost friends or colleagues to this terrible disease," said Tony.

• To be entered in the draw, send cheques, made payable to The Rotary Club of Braintree and Bocking, to Insp Tony Sale at Halstead Police Station, and include your name, address and phone number. You will be allocated one ticket/postcard for every £1 you donate

## Not dodging charity gift

ENERGETIC but fun, Dodgeball is a game for all ages and teams from the emergency services showed their skills in aid of charity in Hawkwell.

A cheque for £580 was handed over to Essex Air Ambulance from monies raised by police, fire and ambulance crews across south Essex.

The competition was won by a fit team from Virgin Active but the police team came a respectable third.

**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](mailto: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.

## Proud to be a vet footballer

THANK you for publishing the photograph of the Essex Police Veterans' football team in the April issue. I was proud to be in the veterans' football squad at its inception in October 1991 in the first fixture – a friendly match versus Colchester United at Essex Police HQ – and thereafter for several seasons. I am, therefore, very pleased that the squad continues and wish them every success. During that first season, we hosted Studax Avelgem veterans' football team from Belgium in May 1992 and paid them a return visit in May 1993 with honours even.

I am still in touch with that team's secretary, should a return visit be considered by the current team.

I was also very proud to represent Essex Police as a pensioner in October 1995, having retired the previous month, playing against Shanklin Town, Isle of Wight. I wonder if the current veteran's goalkeeper can envisage playing for the Essex Police team after retirement? I also, of course, had the pleasure of playing in the team that included an Assistant Chief Constable, Charles Clark, and should like to include my best wishes to him for a very happy retirement.

When I joined 'the job' back in 1962, ACCs were elderly gentlemen sitting behind desks; how the world has changed.

**Bob Cordery**  
 Eymet  
 France

## Seeking former Royal Military Policemen

I AM looking for ex-members of the Royal Military Police who are currently serving with Essex Police, either as an officer or as staff, to come along and join our Royal Military Police Association (RMPA) meetings.

The Colchester and East

Anglia branch of the RMPA hold meetings on the first Thursday of every month at 7 for 7.45pm.

Currently the meetings are being held at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, Military Corrective Training Centre, Colchester,

until early next year when the branch will return to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, 156Pro Coy Royal Military Police, Goojerat Barracks, Colchester.

The next meeting is on June 7. Current membership fees are only £5 per year.

Any ex-member wishing to attend or who wishes further information, including a diary of events, can contact me on 07795 025758 or email [allan.adam1@btinternet.com](mailto:allan.adam1@btinternet.com)

**Allan Adam**  
 Secretary  
 Colchester and East Anglia RMPA

## Giving priority to anyone is wrong

SURELY the proposal to give priority to ethnic minority or women applicants to the police force is either racist or sexist?

Imagine the outcry there would be if it was announced that priority was to be given to white male applicants.

All applicants should be considered according to their suitability and ability to do the job.

This is just another example of pandering to this Government's obsession with political correctness, which is rapidly eating away at the very fabric of this country.

**Brian Corbu**  
 Hutton

*Editor's note:* As the law currently stands, it would be unlawful to give preferential treatment on the basis of race or sex etc.

The objective of increasing the diversity of our workforce is to raise public trust and confidence by reflecting the communities we serve.

However, it is academic as to whether the law is changed as Essex Police appoints all candidates who are successful at the selection process.

All our appointments are made on merit, there are no lowered standards for anyone.

## Thanks for your kind messages

FOLLOWING the very sad death of my husband Jack, aged 86, I and my family would like to offer our sincere thanks to all his friends and colleagues, both within and without Essex Police, for their overwhelming messages of sympathy and support during our difficult time. We are grateful to the great number attending the service and for the tributes paid to Jack – a loving husband, devoted father and grandfather, a well-respected police officer and a lovely man. He will be missed by so many for his cheerful smile and firm friendship but most of all by me, his wife.

**Meta Draper and family**  
 Clacton

# Respect is nothing but common sense

**THE theme of respect featured heavily in the last issue of The Law, firstly in the Force Objectives for 2007 and then in two of the letters.**

I served Essex Police from 1955 until 1970 and, in my view, one of the main reasons for a loss of respect for the police is that the constable's use of discretion and common sense are no longer applied in dealing with the public.

Because an offence is listed in the

Statute books as an 'arrestable offence', it doesn't mean that the power of arrest must be enforced – surely it is still at the constable's discretion whether or not to use those powers?

In coming to that decision, the officer needs to consider the common good and what action will best serve the course of justice.

In the early post-war years, Essex Police, its driving school and the high standards of its traffic officers were considered second to none and this was enhanced by the Chief Constable, Sir

Jonathan Peel, who pursued a policy of education not enforcement.

In the all-too-frequent cases of irate residents and jobs, it is the arrest of the resident with no apparent action being taken against those who instigated the incident that alienates the public from the police.

A return to common-sense policing and a better understanding of public sympathies could well help to restore the balance of respect.

**Mike Dray**  
 Talgarth  
 Powys

## Oh deer! What a palaver that was

WHILE looking through the April issue of The Law, I spotted an ex-shift colleague, Dc Paul Byrne – MIT hit the ground running in Suffolk.

Paul and I shared many humorous moments on shift together. I'll avoid the more embarrassing ones but could not resist just recalling one incident.

Paul and I were on mobile patrol together one early turn when a call came through from an elderly lady, reporting a baby deer in her back garden.

We attended and saw that the 'baby deer' was actually a fully-grown muntjac

with rather large tusks. Suddenly it bolted, running past us towards the front of the property and ran headfirst into metal railings.

After a few moments, it regained its composure and bolted again, this time towards a 6ft panel fence.

At the last moment, it took a gigantic leap and just managed to scramble over the top few inches, crashing into the road.

Paul and I got into our patrol car and, as we entered the main road, could see it running along the footpath, straight towards a woman walking a Jack Russell.

At the last moment, the deer did a quick body-swerve, missing them by inches.

As we passed her, the woman gave us a terrible glare, as though we were to blame. I think she thought we might be training a new breed of police dog or perhaps she was expecting one of us to be Jeremy Beadle.

Best wishes, Paul. I don't suppose you come across many muntjacs on a Major Investigation Team, even in Suffolk.

**Dave Rose**  
 Linton  
 Cambridgeshire

## Gone . . . but not forgotten

**Special Corporal Joseph Thomas – Essex County Constabulary**  
 Served until December 28, 1914

SPECIAL Corporal Joseph Thomas was the Curate of Radwinter.

Around 10.50pm on a stormy December 28, 1914, the Rev Thomas, 44, left village constable Pc Crickmore to go on patrol and meet L Drysdale, the Special Constable of Hempstead. When he failed to arrive and failed to return home, the alarm was raised. Supt Boyce, of Saffron Walden, was informed. A search was made, with the result that the Rev Thomas' body was found in three feet of



● **The Rev Joseph Thomas**

water in a brook near Sellands Farm, Radwinter.

An inquest concluded that the Rev Thomas had probably slipped whilst crossing a bridge over the swollen brook and that he was carried away by the flood. He left a widow and a daughter aged about seven.

On March 3, 1915, the Essex Joint Standing Committee recommended that a pension of £15 a year be granted to the widow, and £2 10s for their child – the highest amounts they could legally give.

## Grateful for your support and fund-raising of £2,600

I WOULD like, through The Law, to express my sincere thanks to everyone who contacted me to offer support and sympathy and gave donations to my wife's tribute fund.

Unfortunately I have not been able to answer everyone personally but I am really very grateful for their kindness. I am pleased to say that, following the funeral, overall donations reached £2,600 and I presented this amount to the South Essex Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association at its recent annual meeting.

If anyone is interested, we have a charity, sponsored walk on Saturday, June 2, at Southend seafront under the banner Walk to D'feet MND 2007. Last year, we raised over £7,000 on the walk and it would be great to

repeat it this year.

It is a maximum ten-mile walk to raise funds and awareness and just to have an enjoyable time whilst improving our fitness. The walk starts at 9.50am sharp at the seawall just behind Leigh Station and continues to the Halfway House pub and back – this distance is not obligatory and walkers can set their own targets.

Wheelchair-users and children are very welcome and a Ploughman's lunch can be booked.

Anyone wishing to register, sponsor people or seek more information can call organiser Sandy Lambert on 01702 712032 or email her at [sandyest@googlemail.com](mailto:sandyest@googlemail.com)

**Brian Storey**  
 South Benfleet

## Down Memory Lane . . .

LAST month, we published a picture of new recruits to Essex Police who joined the force on June 26, 1947, almost 60 years ago.

Bill Borley, of Kirby Cross, has asked people to contact him on 01255 677572 if they can put any of the names to the faces.

Bill retired on New Year's Eve 1973

after serving 26½ years with Essex Police, following four-and-a-half years of wartime service, believed everyone had been demobbed from the forces. He was standing third from left and remembered that the young man kneeling on the right of the picture resigned early on.

● We regret there is no space to reprint the photograph

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

**Turn to Page 10 to read more Letters of Appreciation sent in to thank officers and staff from our divisions and departments for a job well done. And keep on sending them in – we'll print a selection in each issue of The Law.**

## Database will improve the safety of our officers

ESSEX has joined the national database which lists all the licensed firearms and shotgun-holders in England and Wales.

This will enable our firearms staff and the Force Information Room to access the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS) and check people to identify if they are licensed to hold firearms, shotguns or explosives and whether they are a dealer or member of a gun club.

Currently, 24,500 people are licensed to hold 60,000 guns in Essex and Firearms Licensing Manager Mick Fidgeon says that this is a small increase on previous years.

He said: "Shooting is the new 'golf' – there is a national increase in licence-holders and the renewed popularity of clay-pigeon shooting has been partly responsible."

The benefits of the national database will increase when the information is available via the Police National Computer, which should be rolled out later this year.

The NFLMS means a consistent approach by all forces to licensing and the information held, plus it will improve the ability to trace recovered firearms, provide statistical analysis and ultimately improve officer safety.

In Essex, licensees are mainly farmers or members of gun clubs and can hold a certificate for five years before it is renewed.

Licences can be revoked if the holder has committed acts of violence or has a history of intemperance or mental health problems.

Details of all licence-holders in Essex are on intelligence systems and Mr Fidgeon was keen to stress the importance of contacting the Firearms Licensing teams when any officer deals with someone who has guns.

"There were very few incidents last year concerning the misuse of firearms and only 24 licences were revoked, however, we hear of stories from other forces where officers failed to inform them about arrests and they later find out that the licensee is in prison."

And Mr Fidgeon added: "We are here to help. Officers can contact us to clarify gun law, Home Office policy and the categorisation and classification of firearms. Alternatively they can use the firearms licensing website on the intranet."

• Contact Firearms, Shotguns and Explosives Licensing on ext 50667

## A 'peep' at the future

THE PEPYS Project and Youth Section has a new name.

The Children and Young People's Policing Team is part of Territorial Policing at HQ.

The team will develop the local youth agenda as well as support Chief Constable Roger Baker's role as the new ACPO youth portfolio lead.



• Hard at work in the Albanian Crime Scene laboratory

## Tom's hard work is paying off

A PRESENTATION ceremony in Albania proved to be a monumental occasion for the Albanian Police Force and the country, making the main television news channels and all their national newspapers. The laboratory presentation ceremony was attended by Fraser Wilson, the British Ambassador to Albania, and Gergi Lehze, the Albanian Deputy Minister of Public Order.

Also looking on proudly at the ceremony, donating the new 'DNA clean rooms', was our Head of Scientific Support DCI Tom Harper and Ds Haydn Oakey, of Scenes of Crime, along with personnel from the UK company Frimatec, who built them. The clean rooms provide a DNA-clean environment in which to examine crime-scene exhibits and prepare material for subsequent DNA profiling. DCI Harper said: "Over the next phase of the project, DNA-analytical machinery and in-depth training for existing biologists will give them a Forensic Science Service-accredited DNA capability that will ensure that the interpretation of DNA is provided to the court in a manner similar to the rest of Europe. I hope that Foreign Office funding will eventually enable us to build on this work and potentially create an Albanian national DNA database." It was the tenth visit DCI Harper has paid to the country to help the restructuring of the Albanian Police Force.

## Officers are praised in rape case

A MAN from west Essex is has begun a lengthy prison sentence after pleading guilty to the rape of a woman.

The assaults took place in Loughton over a seven-month period between autumn 2005 and spring 2006 on a 24-year-old woman who reported her ordeal to police in May 2006.

Kadir Ak was arrested and subsequently charged with rape, assault causing actual bodily harm and issuing threats to kill.

At Chelmsford Crown Court on April 12, the 37-year-old electronics engineer from Loughton admitted all charges.

The judge passed an indeterminate prison sentence and Ak must serve a minimum of five years.

The judge commended the investigating officers and said he was sickened by Ak's brutality.

Investigating Officer, Ds Ed Mayo, of Epping CID, said: "This woman was subjected to one of the most horrendous, harrowing traumas I can recall during my police career.

"It took immense bravery for her to come forward and report the ongoing abuse.

"She can now begin the arduous task of trying to rebuild her life. She is an extremely strong woman."

# Collaboration work moves on with Kent

by Kate Batson

## ESSEX and Kent police forces and police authorities have agreed to work in partnership for the benefit of the public.

Following a meeting on April 18, both forces and authorities agreed to set up a joint collaboration team to progress work to provide more efficient specialist and support services.

Last year the Home Office introduced legislation asking for police authorities to collaborate with other forces.

Both Essex and Kent forces and authorities believe working together will provide a tremendous opportunity to do business differently.

They believe working in partnership will: deliver the highest possible service to the community; maximise potential cost-benefits which working together may provide; use resources more effectively and efficiently; and increase visible policing.

Essex and Kent will now rapidly progress three key areas to test the process and benefits of collaborative working: by sharing specialist vehicle to encourage better utilisation; offering employees from both forces wider training opportunities; and formalising assistance between forces in supporting critical incidents.

There is no proposal to merge Essex and Kent forces and authorities. They will remain standalone, maintain operational independence and continue to provide effective local policing.

In addition, Essex Police and Essex Police Authority are continuing their work with the other forces in the Eastern Region to take forward potential collaboration opportunities.

The other forces which form the Eastern Region – namely Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Norfolk – are fully aware of work being undertaken between Essex and Kent and, in principle, are supportive of this partnership.

Supt Colin Steele is now leading the collaboration project work in Essex.

## Fun day date set

THE date for this year's Essex Police Fun Day has been set – Thursday, August 30.

And organisers are now looking for volunteers to help make the day at Marsh Farm, South Woodham Ferrers, even more special for the youngsters who attend.

They also want to hear from you if you know of a child who would benefit from attending the day – which is a real family day out. The day is aimed at children aged between five and 16 who attend special schools and organisations around Essex, and their siblings too.

Chairman Michele France, an IT trainer at Essex Police College, said: "Our aim this year is to carry on the success of previous years, to make this event one that people want to keep coming back to and carry on Making Smiles."

• Contact Michele via email or on ext 56322



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## Crime-fight website is launched

ONE of the most comprehensive community safety websites in the country has been launched for the people of Colchester.

Tips on avoiding scams, fraud and identity theft are now no more than just the click of a mouse button away.

The pages of helpful information also feature advice on dealing with domestic violence, hate and race crimes and sexual assault.

www.colchester-community-safety.org.uk is co-ordinated by Colchester Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CCDRP) and supported by police in Colchester.

CCDRP co-ordinator Peter Carrington said: "Colchester CDRP website is thought to have the most comprehensive range of crime reduction and community safety information of any CDRP website in England."

The website will also detail CCDRP news and successes, information on how to bid for funding and help for community and crime-fighting projects and it will promote the role and function of the district's 15 Neighbourhood Action Panels.

Eastern Division commander Chief Supt Dave Hudson said: "Reducing crime is not just about enforcement but also about giving residents, students, pupils and visitors to Colchester the information to increase their sense of safety and reduce crime."

"The police are at the core of providing crime reduction advice and the CCDRP website extends the opportunity to reach out to as many people and their families as possible in Colchester."

## Gas is illegal

COUNTRYWIDE, some night-clubs have supplied, or allowed the supply of, Nitrous Oxide, or laughing gas.

When prepared for inhalation, Nitrous Oxide may only be supplied by a registered pharmacist in a registered pharmacy.

If officers suspect that premises are being used to supply, or permit the supply of, Nitrous Oxide, they should inform their local Licensing Officer.

## Purse aware

SENIOR shoppers were able to bag a bargain in Rayleigh thanks to a couple of PCSOs.

PCSOs Andrew Hill and Zoe Nuth gave away and fitted more than 120 purse chains outside the Somerfield store in Eastwood Road.

The chains are fitted with a clip at each end allowing shoppers to secure their purse to their bag.

The pair also raised local awareness about purse-dipping.

## Missing words

WE apologise to Firearms, Shotguns and Explosives Licensing and to Road Collisions and Civil Disclosure for inadvertently missing them off the list of ACC (Operational Support) Derek Benson's responsibilities, published in last month's issue.

No offence was intended and we apologise for any upset caused.



● Accredited Persons are active in the Braintree District



● PCSO Karen Garwood speaks to local resident Richard Dodd out on her beat. Karen has been a PCSO since last August and enjoys speaking to different people and 'trying to get them to view us as people who care rather than people who are looking to see if people are causing trouble'.

# Meet our partners in crime-fighting

by Heather Watts

AN extra 170 pairs of eyes and ears are working overtime for Essex Police while they are employed by other organisations.

For more than 170 people have trained for their Essex Police five-digit collar numbers with the prefix AP.

All APs must be employed, wear a uniform and be performing a community safety role.

Carrie Sawkins, of the Community Safety Accreditation (CSAS) team, said: "We are seeing some very good results from the close working with APs. With Park Rangers as APs in Maldon, graffiti is down 90 per cent and anti-social behaviour has been reduced by 75 per cent."

"While Colchester Street wardens have been directly responsible for a number of arrests, helping with sanctioned detections within the district. And Park Guard Security is aiding local Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) with drug-related problems, which have shown a marked reduction in the area."

"In fact, APs have been directly responsible for over 30 arrests in Essex, within the last year."



An Accredited Person (AP) under the CSAS will have been vetted to a very high standard, along with any siblings over the age of ten and anyone with whom they live. They will also have passed an exam and been interviewed by Essex Police in order to assess their suitability for the post.

APs have been trained to feed in intelligence via CID61a intelligence reports into their local Divisional Intelligence Unit for inputting. Information is also shared when APs patrol with police officers and PCSOs and they have a direct line into the

Force Information Room (FIR). Although APs work for different employers, those employers themselves have been audited to a high standard and those who have been successful will join the Extended Policing Family.

CSAS Manager Jay Smith said: "Within each NPT area there are potential APs – people who are 'pounding the streets' for up to eight hours a day, seeing and hearing the things we need to see and hear."

"These people are working in the communities, people will speak freely to them, giving them vital intelligence – they know exactly who causes the problems."

"By having these people working with us, we can 'clean up our streets' more quickly and easily."

"If you work with the APs, not only will they pass on valuable intelligence, but they will find you sanctioned detections."

APs are an additional uniformed presence in the community and, if they are given information about who and what to look for at any particular time, their intelligence can be invaluable.

Jay said: "We have a number of organisations who are joining the

scheme this month and the private sector is now being targeted. "Accredited firms and APs are constantly monitored and evaluated to professionalism."

The uniforms and roles APs perform are all different but they all have an Essex Police-approved identification badge, which, on the back, states their powers, and they wear a Home Office-approved CSAS badge on their uniform.

They can be given similar powers to a PCSO, although the powers do vary depending on their role and take into account the remit of the organisations for which they work.

However, said Jay, it was not the use of their powers that was giving us results, it was the intelligence-sharing which was paying dividends. Some APs attend divisional 'daily prayers' and weekly NPT briefings and, if it is relevant to their role, they are able to access the Police National Computer via the Force Information Room.

● A list of APs can be found on NSPIS-HR and in the Public Folders in Microsoft Outlook.

● Contact Jay Smith on ext 50675 if you know of a company in your district which could be included in the scheme



● Estate ranger Ken Boomsma, from Chelmer Housing Partnership, on a joint patrol at Galleywood shops with Chelmsford PCSO Marion Keenan

# Knowing their neighbours

“DON'T forget to mention Every Child Matters”, “What about the Neighbourhood Action Panels?”, “And our work with Chelmsford College ...”

The enthusiasm bubbles out of Moulsham and Central Neighbourhood Policing Team and it is hard to keep up.

But this enthusiasm has led to a 44 per cent detection rate for all crime during 2006/07.

Insp Cheryl Callow is in charge of Chelmsford Rural and at Moulsham she is backed up by a sergeant, five constables, including a dedicated Neighbourhood Specialist Officer (NSO), two PCSOs and police staff, including a Station Office Assistant, a Crime Reduction Officer and an Anti-Social Behaviour Crime Reduction Officer.

They also work closely with their partners, including Chelmer Housing Partnership, the local housing association which owns 7,000 homes, mainly in the Chelmsford Borough.

Indeed, so close is the relationship that some of the association's estate rangers have become Accredited Persons under Essex Police's Community Safety Accreditation Scheme.

They work closely with the police team to identify 'problems' before they occur – this problem-solving approach helps to reduce the anti-social behaviour and nuisance that can make everyone's life a misery.

Neighbourhood Action Panels (NAPs) are a focus at the moment and the team is busy setting one up at Chelmsford College and one for the wider community.

Having identified the college and its students and staff as an important part of the community, the team is now heavily involved with setting up a NAP.

The purpose is for NAP members – which include the principal, Students' Union reps and the premises manager – to identify problems on the campuses and which relate to students and staff, such as personal safety. They then look for solutions and ways to help.

And the Moulsham and Central NAP is now getting underway, too – for residents, schools, businesses and religious venues, to name but a few.

The team is busy identifying key individuals within the community to take part.

Pc Tim Neate, Moulsham and Central's NSO, said: "I expect anti-social behaviour to be a key issue and that criminal damage will be high on the agenda, too."

"We have identified crime trends and will be feeding these into partnership working in a bid to deal with them."

And solutions may be simple. Insp Callow recalled a case where people were calling for an Anti-Social Behaviour Order to be placed on a ten-year-old boy who was causing a lot of criminal damage in his neighbourhood and running the risk of getting run over.

"It was more of a mental health issue," she said. "Once

Neighbourhood Policing has become the lifeblood of the force – knowing our communities means getting to know our criminals, identifying problems and gathering intelligence.

Heather Turner visits Moulsham and Central Neighbourhood Policing Team to find out what it's like on the ground.

we had assessed the situation it was easy to sort out. The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership paid for screening to be put up in his garden and the gate made more secure, so he couldn't get out so easily.

"He was also placed with an early intervention centre and we got the borough council involved in helping the father to find a job."

"It is all about working with our partners to open doors to help people. You look at the bigger picture and dig a bit deeper below the surface and then go the extra mile."

Pc Neate quotes an example where neighbours of Oaklands Park, off Moulsham Street, identified problems with youths, alcohol and drugs and anti-social behaviour, which caused criminal damage and quality of life issues. After a bit of problem-solving and help from Chelmsford Borough Council parks department saw crime drop by 75 per cent in six weeks.

As well as undertaking high-visibility patrols and installing CCTV, taking out a park bench backing on to residents' homes had a significant effect.

The team's plan is to reduce volume crime by half in eight years and Insp Callow believes this can be achieved by working with children from an early age.

"If we have got children to accept and respect the police and they know they can come to us if they need help that is half the battle," she said.

"If we can prevent and deter then fewer will turn to anti-social behaviour and crime."

So the mobile police station will be visiting the area's schools between May and July.

"Then, when we put the mobile station out in hotspot areas, the children will come and engage with our officers – the school visits having broken down the barriers – rather than just running away."

This is part of the Government's new Every Child Matters strategy – a new approach to the well-being of children and young people up to 19.

The aim is for every child to have the support they need to be healthy, stay safe, be able to enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and to achieve economic well-being.

So the police will be teaming up in new ways with organisations providing services to children – such as schools, hospitals and voluntary groups – to share

information and work together to protect young people from harm and help them to achieve. As Sgt Glen Pavelin points out, it is a case of encouraging officers and PCSOs to embrace partnership working.

"And we will pick up strands relating to Every Child Matters by talking to health workers, for example. Involving our partners can lead to more effective intelligence-gathering," he said.

The team has already run three workshops for health workers to introduce themselves and discuss Every Child Matters, partnership working and problem-solving.

In fact, to carry out Neighbourhood Policing successfully takes a lot of different skills and now involves dealing with issues which never used to be a matter for the police but, said Sgt Pavelin: "By dealing with them they don't become a police matter."

Insp Callow sums up: "I would like to thank my whole team. They have worked so hard, with endless enthusiasm, and given up lots of hours. I am very proud of them because they have embraced Neighbourhood Policing, Every Child Matters and performance."



● Moulsham and Central Neighbourhood Policing Team. Back, from left, Pc Tim Neate, Station Office Assistant Brenda Cross, Insp Cheryl Callow. Centre, from left, Sgt Glen Pavelin, PCSO Karen Garwood, PCSO Jo Harcourt. Front, from left, Chelmer Housing ranger and Accredited Person Ken Boomsma, Anti-Social Behaviour Crime Reduction Officer Julie Payne, PCSO Karen Lucas and Pc Caroline Wescomb. Not pictured are Pcs Nick Riley, Pat Snape, Verity Lunn and Sarah Paterson.

## Specialists can help us to fight health service crime

NHS trusts in Essex now have Local Security Management Specialists (LSMSs) who can help officers investigating crimes in the health service.

Chief Insp Piers Quinnell, of HQ Territorial Policing, believes it is an excellent opportunity for districts to work with their partners and for both to benefit.

"The result of this closer working relationship will lead to more offences being brought to justice and a better level of service for victims of crime," he said.

North Essex Mental Health Partnership Trust, which operates from 60 sites, housing over 80 mental health teams, has appointed two LSMSs – Ryan Taylor and Lois Jackson.

They and colleagues from the other NHS trusts in Essex can assist the force with a range of issues which have historically resulted in delays or undesirable outcomes in investigations involving mental health establishments.

They can ensure that:

- NHS staff are available to co-operate with the police for the taking of statements etc
- the appropriate clinical person undertakes a mental health capacity assessment of suspects with mental health issues.

Ryan and Lois – or their fellow LSMSs in the other Essex NHS trusts – will work very closely with investigating officers to resolve quickly any issues relating to the NHS trust.

And they can assist with taking MG11 witness statements and, if appropriate, be part of the interview process.

● For more information about LSMSs in North Essex Mental Health Partnership Trust, contact Ryan Taylor on 01245 546497 or Lois Jackson on 01206 228657

● For contacts in other NHS trusts, download the PowerPoint presentation – visit the Neighbourhood Policing intranet site and click on the District Commanders tab

## Tilly was the match winner

ESSEX Police scored an overwhelming 10-0 victory against Debenhams Lakeside in a charity football match.

The family of eight-year-old Tilly Bailey are raising money for their daughter, who suffers from a series of rare conditions, so she can be treated by doctors in the United States.

PCSO David Newman, of Wickford Castledon Neighbourhood Policing Team, organised a charity football match in Thurrock against his former employers.

The match raised more than £850 and now David is hoping to organise another fund-raising event in the summer.

## Cracking down

POLICE are teaming up with local businesses in Cluney Square in Southend in order to crack down on truants from local secondary schools.

Bakeries and newsagents have agreed not to serve pupils in school hours unless they are accompanied by an adult.



## Holiday lets

**COSTA Blanca**, Almoradi, three double-bedrooms, two-bathroom apartment. Fully fitted, communal swimming pool. Sleeps six to eight. From £200 per week. Contact 01702 201694 07790 035164 or email dashpole@hotmail.com

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**FLORIDA**, four bedroom pool home overlooking water, quiet location. Close to Disney and airport. Ten per cent discount to police staff. From £450 per week. Contact Pete or Lin at petewtaylor@yahoo.com or on 01245 321378.

**FLORIDA** Gulf Coast villa, sleeps ten, pool, spa, games, bikes, great location, golf nearby, beaches, discount for Essex Police staff. Visit www.lemonbayvillas.co.uk or ring Kerry Auger on 01268 786170.

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

**FRANCE**, cottage with woodburner, sleeps two to four. Quiet location, lots nearby. Two hours from Caen, five hours from Calais. Contact Emma on 07711 421579 or at em.bowditch1975@btinternet.com

**FRANCE**, free advice for accommodation/car hire in the Dordogne/Lot et Garonne, near Bergerac (Ryanair from Stansted). Contact Bob Cordery (ex-Essex Police) on +33 553 275 541 or email cordery@mac.com

**LANZAROTE** Costa Tegui, two twin-bedroom, one bathroom apartment. Private, gated development, El Palmeral. Contact Karen or Chris McAulay on 07881 614045 or visit www.lanzarotesun.net

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Arras. An hour from Calais. Ring 01375 483045 or visit www.le-petit-hameau.com

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**SOUTHERN** France, luxury B+B, en suite rooms, heated pool, police family special prices, rural location near town. Contact John Taylor on +33 468 201 105 or visit www.domainestgeorge.com

**TUSCANY**, Italy. Medieval village retreat 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, renovated cottage. 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

**FORD** Escort 1996 diesel, new clutch, brakes, battery, serviced. Ideal runabout 50mpg, towbar, good interior. Tax May 2007, MoT Nov 2007. Five-door hatchback, sunroof. Contact Chris Heaffey on 07986 426722 or 01279 666117.

**FORD** Fusion 3, 1.6cc, Blue. 53 Reg, MoT November 2007, air-conditioning, alloys, central remote locking. Many extras. £5,600 ono. Contact Graham Lumley on 01787 227732 or 07810 357461.

**TRIUMPH** TR6, 1975, 2,498cc, red. Fully-restored, wire wheels, new fuel injection system, very good condition, full service history and photos, £8,500. Contact Cheryl on 07828 539144 or 07703 108831 or email cheryl.mg@btinternet.com

**VAUXHALL** Zafira, 1.6 Comfort. W-reg, 90,000 miles, blue. Tax October 2007, MoT March 2008, remote central locking, air-conditioning, power-assisted steering, electric windows. £3,400. Call Nikki on 07961 133420.

**SOLID** oak refectory table and eight chairs. 8ft long, recently re-polished, £400. Delivery available in Essex. Ring 01206 579355.

# Sad loss of two who died in force service

## THAXTED policeman Richard O'Mahony has died, while out walking with his wife in Hampshire.

Pc O'Mahony, 45, joined the force in 1986 and was a member of Thaxted Neighbourhood Policing Team.

His wife Niki is a constable in Dunmow. The pair were walking in Hampshire on April 29 when Pc O'Mahony died.

He leaves two daughters, a son and a grandson.

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

Colleague Sgt Ashley Seymour said: "Richard's sudden and unexpected death has come as an enormous shock to all of us."

"His capability as an officer and wonderful sense of humour will be missed by many."

"Richard served with Essex Police for many years and, over that time, he formed numerous friendships in a wide range of areas of our work, both within and outside Essex Police," said Sgt Seymour.

"He was highly trained in many different skills and was extremely popular and well thought of."

Pc O'Mahony's funeral is due to take place on Monday, May 14, at 11.30am at Parndon Wood Crematorium, Harlow.

**Angela Pemberton**, 59, administration assistant for the process section of the Camera Enforcement Office, died suddenly on April 27.

She first joined Essex Police as a temp in September 2001 before becoming a permanent member of admin staff in December 2003.

Jayne Cavanagh, Temporary Process Supervisor, said: "Angela was a very popular, well-respected and well-liked lady."

"Her death was a very big shock to us all."

Former sergeant **Frederick Bailey**, of Rochester in Kent, has died, aged 85. He leaves a widow, Sheila.

Mr Bailey served between 1950 and 1975 with Southend Borough Police and then in Rayleigh.

His funeral took place at Medway Crematorium. Donations to MacMillan nurses in Mr Bailey's memory may be sent c/o Paul Hawden Funeral Directors, 43 Knights Road, Hoo, Rochester, Kent ME3 9DT.

Ex-sergeant **Arthur Elkington** has died at home in Leigh on Sea, aged

84, following a long illness. He leaves a widow, Doreen.

He retired in 1976 having served the force for 28 years at Canvey Island, Laindon, Basildon, Clacton on Sea and Romford.

Mr Elkington's funeral was held at Southend Crematorium. Donations may be made in his memory to Hospice at Home c/o S Stibbards and Son, 1032 London Road, Leigh on Sea SS9 3ND.

Former sergeant **Kenneth Ross**, of Chelmsford, has died, aged 74. He leaves a partner, Marian.

Mr Ross served between 1953 and 1984 with Southend Borough Police and then Traffic and HQ Traffic Management.

His funeral was due to take place on May 8 at Chelmsford Crematorium.

Donations may be made in his memory to wards Broomfield 10 or Rowan Ward at St Peter's Hospital, Maldon, c/o funeral directors T Pennack, 1-3 Maldon Road, Great Baddow CM2 7DW.

Former constable **Arthur Reast**, of Saffron Walden, has died, aged 79.

Mr Reast served with Essex Police from 1952 to March 1978 at Harlow and Newport.

Former storekeeper **Winifred Weeks** has died, aged 79.

She worked in uniform stores at HQ for ten years until 1979.

Her husband, former Laindon Traffic Sgt Alec Weeks, served the force for 25 years.

The couple moved to Wellington in Somerset after retirement.

**Lilian Samuel**, the widow of former Essex Police sergeant Charles Samuel, has died, aged 90.

Sgt Samuel served across Essex for about 30 years, retiring to Stowmarket in Suffolk in 1970. He died in 1984.

## Retirement

**Steve Currell**, 52, is leaving Essex Police to devote more time to his charity work.

He was an officer for 33 years – 29 in Essex and four with the Metropolitan Police – during which time he rose to become a superintendent and South-Eastern Operations Manager, he has spent six months working on the force's Neighbourhood Policing Review.

Since January he has been Programme Manager for the Regional Collaboration Team.

He was leader of the Essex branch of the Christian Police Association and has overseen the implementation of the force Chaplaincy scheme.

Now Steve will devote his time to his directorship of Southend Utd Community Education Trust – which sees sport as a way of reducing anti-social behaviour by young people – and LRBC Community Ltd – which provides a SureStart children's community centre in Leigh on Sea.

And he has been asked to become a trustee of Southend's SOS Bus, which provides a safe haven for vulnerable people on Friday and Saturday nights in Southend.

## Former officer's golden garden

Chelsea Gold Medal winner **Jane Bastow**, who retired from Essex Police in 1991, is opening her garden to raise money for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Jane served as a constable in Chelmsford – when she was Jane Willcock.

She is opening her garden at Laburnums, The Street, St James South Elmham near Halesworth in Suffolk from 10am to 5pm on Saturday, May 12.

Jane has exhibited at Chelsea Flower Show and was part of a team which won Gold there. Ring her on 01986 782413 for further details.

## 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.

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● Above, former constables Ray Finch and Mitch Martin flank landowner Spats Cornwall at the opening of the A12 at Stanway in 1969. Spats had previously owned the land on which the dual carriageway was built

● Right, Pc Steve Cleaver, Kev Moore (now with Northamptonshire Police), Pc Andy Butler, former sergeant John Bull, Pc Harry Sexton, Pc Rick Longden (now with City of London Police), former inspector Monty Montgomery and former sergeant Roger Clough at the launch of the original motorcycle unit on the A12 near Danbury

# Rapid reaction force

**The Motorcycle Unit in Mobile Support Division celebrates its first year 'back in business', with road policing officers delighted at its performance. Press officer Nishan Wijeratne visited officers at their base in Boreham to find out what makes them tick.**

**THE ethos of Motorcycle Unit officers is to reduce road crash casualties while offering a compassionate viewpoint to those families whose loved ones do become part of the statistics.**

The unit was disbanded in 1998 for financial reasons.

However, when Chief Constable Roger Baker arrived in force, he asked Essex Police Authority to examine the financial position around its possible reinstatement – and the unit was reborn in January 2006 with two motorcycles, achieving full working capacity three months later.

Last year, the force purchased second-hand Honda ST1100s from States of Jersey Police – which proved prudent after problems were found with the Honda ST1300 police bike.

Now, with an establishment of 12 fully-trained operational motorcyclists, Essex Police, once again, has a 'rapid reaction force' to help in its ongoing bid to reduce the county's road death figures.

Between them, the road policing officers have several hundred years of motorcycling experience and are led by Insp Keith Whiting and Sgt Mick Green, at Boreham.

To these officers, the bikes add an extra dimension to their every day roles.

They undertake the same functions as the cars and 4x4s, but offer different capabilities; most notably, manoeuvrability and speed.

With Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology leading the way in taking career criminals off the county's roads, the unit has demonstrated its reliability in stopping target vehicles; the bikes' 'click of the fenders' acceleration makes it foolish for any motorist to think twice about outrunning the police.

Stanway Road Policing Unit's Pc Mick Wills was riding to a Bikesafe event last summer when he attended an alarm call at a commercial business property in Colchester.

He saw several youngsters running down a nearby alley and followed them on his bike, which was able to squeeze through the concrete bollards. All the teenagers were subsequently arrested.

And Sgt Green is not slow to highlight the impact his officers have had in the reduction and detection of motoring crime.

"The motorcyclists are there to educate all



● Rayleigh Road Policing Unit's Pc Ray Jefferies hands out valuable advice to a motorist

Picture by Nishan Wijeratne

motorists about road safety and to arrest criminals," said Sgt Green.

"They are fundamentally no different to any other road policing officer, except they have a different weapon of choice to carry out their work.

"They are positioned higher up and so have a good view ahead of them, making it easier to identify motoring offenders."

In the 12 months since the unit's reinstatement, its officers have arrested nearly 100 people, seized more than 250 vehicles for having no insurance and spoken to 2,500 motorists.

And their value in west Essex will be felt following the call for trained motorcycling officers to apply for a newly-created position at Chigwell Road Policing Unit.

Despite limited opportunities to take to the two motorways, they will have the chance to 'stretch their legs' in towns such as Brentwood, Loughton and Harlow.

The disadvantage of not being able to operate in the same way as road policing cars on motorways and dual carriageways, and in extremely poor weather conditions is not lost

on Sgt Green, but it doesn't prevent motorcycle officers from dealing with incidents.

Sgt Green said: "They're not really designed to deal with fast-road scenarios as they can't be used to implement a rolling road block or deal with any crash on a 'live' lane; well, not as good as a Mondeo or Volvo for example.

"However, as long as the crash has been 'moved' to the hard shoulder, then there is nothing stopping the officer from continuing with his work in a safe environment just as any other road policing officer would.

"When compared to other road policing officers, their work rate is well above average; and, as a road policing section, we could get even better productivity out of a bigger fleet.

"However, we need to have more fully-trained, competent officers on the team, which will allow for the bikes to be deployed more often on the roads. At the moment, we aim to get at least two-thirds of the bikes out on the roads each day."

Chelmsford RPU's Pc Steve Allum recently stopped the driver of a Ford Escort Cabriolet in Southend after he drove off from a road

check. Pc Allum was able to follow him through heavy traffic, where it would have been very difficult for a car to follow. He arrested the motorist and found a quantity of cannabis in his possession.

The resulting house search unearthed a hydroponics factory.

Earlier this year, at Assistant Chief Constable Liam Briggins' funeral, police riders escorted the cortege procession from Halstead to Essex Police HQ and then on to Brentwood for the church service; a successful deployment which was recognised by chief officers.

Motorcyclists are now also regularly deployed to high-category football matches in Southend with away-fan coaches escorted to and from the grounds to ensure public order is maintained.

Sgt Green said: "All forces should have a motorcycle unit. In fact, it's quite ironic that Jersey are planning to reinstate theirs, just months after selling their machines to us!"

Essex Police is involved in a swathe of multi-agency operations and the Motorcycle Unit is no different – working with local partners to reduce casualties.

Operation Twister is this year's dedicated initiative to cut the number of bikers killed and seriously injured in Central Division, with officers visiting crash scenes and working with local councils to 'design out' any faults in the road's make-up which may contribute to collisions.

Sgt Green added: "We're working with Hertfordshire Constabulary at the moment in a joint approach in educating young riders about the dangers of taking to the roads in a machine that is not suitable for them and possibly even illegal."

With the force seeing a rise in fatal crashes involving motorcycles last year, Sgt Green said: "There are many more motorbikes on the roads now than at any time previously and this partly can be put down to the introduction of the capital's Congestion Zone charges.

"More people are taking to the roads of Essex for leisurely ride-outs to get away from the pressures of work and home so, tragically some of them will be involved in a collision.

"Our priority is to keep targeting the causes of these crashes to try and reduce them in the future."

Investigations from recent fatal crashes show a proportion were caused by rider error but they also show a significant minority have been caused by the poor driving of others involved in the collision.

Sgt Green added: "It's an Essex Police Authority objective for us to reduce casualties and it's a fact that motorcyclists respond to advice better from motorcycling road policing officers than they do from other officers.

"There is a lot of work that needs to be done by us and our partners to ensure Essex is considered a safe place to ride and drive."





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

I WOULD like to praise a high standard of service which I and my colleagues have received from your staff, particularly Pc Matt Brooking and Sgt Steven May.

In April 2005, a Section 18 Wounding occurred in Bolton. The offender fled.

In December 2006, following a BBC Crimewatch broadcast, someone in the Southend area approached Pc Brooking and said she thought she knew of the offender's whereabouts.

Pc Brooking and the officer in the case from Bolton established the details and an arrest was made by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) officers, with Pc Brooking's assistance.

The BBC was particularly interested as it was trying to film and broadcast arrests, where possible. The BBC accompanied GMP officers to Southend, filming the arrest and subsequent booking in procedure in the Essex custody office.

The offender was escorted back to Bolton, made a full and frank admission in interview and pleaded guilty on his first appearance.

This allowed the BBC to broadcast the arrest in February.

It allowed the BBC to show how effective calls to the programme could be. They

also stated it allowed them to show the police being professional, from inter-force liaison to custody office procedures.

The victim was left severely visually impaired but the offender's arrest and detention has given her considerable emotional relief, allowing her to re-build her life.

The arrest of the offender, the projecting of a professional image of the police and closure for the victim would not have been possible without the assistance and co-operation of Pc Brooking and Pc May.

**Ds Ray Sherlock  
Greater Manchester Police**

TO Holly Bird

THANK you for your assistance and swift action in the early hours – I hear that the arrest of the passenger airside at Stansted Airport went to plan and went smoothly.

We have unfortunately had to hand over the job to another murder team, however, without your assistance in contacting the airline so promptly, it would have been a long and protracted inquiry to locate the suspect.

**Major Investigation Team 8  
Metropolitan Police**

I AM a bailiff at Basildon County Court and during an eviction in Grays, I encountered problems with the occupiers and called Grays police.

The constables who attended, Pc Angela Singleton and Pc Ian Tappen were fantastic. They arrived within five minutes of being called and were extremely professional in their manner. They managed to conclude the situation with

no further problems in a very short time.

They are a credit to the constabulary.

**Basildon Combined Court  
Basildon**

TO Sgt Lawrence Horn

I AM writing to thank you and your officers for your support and understanding in managing a missing persons incident.

My colleagues and I were very impressed by the way the police responded to our call and the manner in which the person was found and transferred to a place of safety was dealt with very professionally.

I believe it is an excellent example of the police and mental health services working together for the benefit of an extremely vulnerable adult.

**Assertive Outreach Team,  
South Essex Partnership NHS Trust  
Southend**

I WAS woken at 7am on Sunday by Pc Neil Everett with the news that my vehicle had been stolen in the early hours.

He said they had caught the perpetrators in the act as, earlier in the evening, they had received a call from someone on the estate advising they had witnessed someone trying car door looks.

Although initial investigation had found nothing, he decided to return and saw the suspects, called additional support and was able to catch the thieves.

I cannot thank your team enough for the effort they put in and the foresight to revisit

the area later on, even though I'm sure that at 3am on a Sunday they were coming to the end of a shift and no doubt had the usual Saturday night workload.

I constantly hear there is insufficient resource to react to these types of situations and thank you for ensuring that suitable resource is available for this type of instance.

In addition, the attitude and service I received from Sgt Matthew Garrett and his team in Colchester when I arrived at Colchester to give a statement was impeccable.

**SG  
Marks Tey**

I NEEDED to call at Grays Police Station after being robbed of my purse.

I was very nervous but they were really kind and couldn't have been more helpful.

After all the bad news the police get nowadays, it proves there are some good ones.

**AW  
Grays**

I AM writing to congratulate you and your men on a job well done regarding the Southend v Leeds United game.

We had a group of about 120 Leeds supporters in the pub and, I think, largely due to the well co-ordinated police operation outside, we didn't have to speak to anyone about their behaviour – it all went very smoothly.

I would like to thank Ian Harlow and Karl Help who, in the weeks leading up to the match, kept us up to date on things and advised us on

various steps to take to minimise any problems that may have arisen.

**Papillon Leisure  
Southend**

I AM writing to you following a 'whole school' assembly taken by Sgt Andy Hastings.

The children enjoyed hearing about his job and were fascinated to see all the different types of uniform there are.

The children who were able to try on pieces of the uniform are still talking about it – it was an experience they will remember for a long time.

The assembly was pitched at exactly the right level. All children and staff were interested in what Sgt Hastings had to say.

**Great Bentley Primary School  
Great Bentley**

I WRITE to praise the care and compassion portrayed by Thurrock Service Desk Assistant Margaret Lyus.

She was extremely helpful and caring to me about my concerns regarding a close friend of mine.

Her understanding, attitude and time spent with me were invaluable and I was extremely grateful for this. I want her superiors to know what a wonderful member of staff they have.

**EC  
Rochdale**

I WOULD like to thank community police officers Dan Brand, Chris Martin, Michelle Emson and Michaela Barker for the tremendous work they did, helping with our Health

Living and Life Styles event.

They challenged the youngsters to a football match and fitness tests, took an interest in the many activities on offer and generally went that extra mile to make sure everyone had a good time.

People on the estate are getting to know the officers and it is having a positive impact on the young people, so much so, that the youth have asked if the police can come and visit again during the holidays.

**Estuary Housing Association  
Southend**



THE first ACTION awards of the new year have been noted by the Bonus and Honoraria Panel.

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.

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

Pc Suzanne Purkiss, Stansted; Dc Simon Lofting, Mobile Support Division (MSD); Pc Martin Kendrick, MSD; Rachel Ferris, IT Department; Michelle Adams, South-Eastern; Tina Starling, Media & PR (M&PR); Charlotte Fowler, M&PR; Heather Turner, M&PR; Tracy Ashford, M&PR.

# Romeo, Juliet, Over?

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## Golfers urged to compete in third tourney

THE third PSUK women's national golf competition is being held in Scotland. Essex Police hosted the inaugural tournament in 2005 at Five Lakes, near Tolleshunt Knights.

This year, the two-day event will take place at Moray Golf Club, Lossiemouth, on August 30 and 31.

Toni Hodge, of Maldon, is treasurer of the PSUK women's golf committee. She said: "The committee's intention is to promote golf for all women police officers and staff throughout the UK and to encourage maximum participation in the national competition."

- For more details about PSUK women's golf, visit [www.policesportuk.com](http://www.policesportuk.com) – click on Sporting Sections and choose Golf Ladies from the drop-down menu, then Dates and Venues of Championship Events
- To obtain an entry form for this year's event, either contact Toni Hodge on ext 62146 or via email, or you can download one from [www.policesportuk.com](http://www.policesportuk.com)

## Vets promise to bounce back

SADLY, a 1-1 draw in the Greene King Essex Veterans League was not enough to prevent Essex Police from relegation out of the Premier Division.

The home match against Herongate on April 21 was an excellent one – but the luck just simply wasn't with the home side.

Ray O'Hare said afterwards: "On our day with our scoring boots on our right feet we would have trounced them by 10-1. We had 14 players turn up and all of the possession during both halves." On behalf of himself and captain Matt Clark, Ray said: "Thank you to those who played throughout the season and also gave their all. Next season we will be playing for promotion back to the premiership were we belong."

## Marathon fund-raisers

THE heat at this year's Flora London Marathon didn't deter runners from the force.

Colchester Service Desk Assistant Derek Walker finished in 3hrs:30secs, raising money for cancer research in his fifth marathon.

Also on his fifth was Pete Smith, 56, of Clacton, who finished in 4hrs:38mins and, together with his wife Deborah, of Clacton DVHCU – who took part in the Playtex Moonwalk – has raised £1,500 for breast cancer research so far. Greg Potter, of Witham CID, finished in 5hrs:37mins, raising £16,00 for St Helena's Hospice, Colchester. Harlow Station Office Assistant Deb Butler dressed up as a St Trinian's schoolgirl taking seven hours to get round and raising £400.



• Steve Gibbs (now of City of London Police), Steve Tyrrell, Alan 'Skelly' Lambert, and Stuart Byrne (now also of City of London Police) with their World Police and Fire Service Games tug of war medals

# We are the champions

**TWO Essex Police officers have returned from Australia as World Champions.**

Steve Tyrrell and Alan 'Skelly' Lambert competed in the World Police and Fire Service Games tug of war competition.

More than 8,500 competitors turned out for the games in Adelaide, South Australia.

Skelly and Steve were also joined by former Essex officers Stuart Byrne and Steve Gibbs – now both with City of London Police.

They were competing in lightweight (teams of six, 490kg weight limit), heavyweight (teams of six, 680kg) and catchweight (teams of six, no

weight limit) against squads ranging from novice to extremely experienced.

Skelly and Steve Tyrrell were part of the British Police team which won gold in the lightweight category and Skelly won gold with the British Police team in the heavyweight category – beating the Metropolitan Police, also representing the British Police, in the final.

Skelly also won bronze as coach of the the British Police catchweight team, for which Steve Tyrrell was pulling.

That competition was won by the Metropolitan Police, for whom Stuart and Steve Gibbs were competing.

Steve Tyrrell said afterwards: "The whole trip was a great experience, with fantastic hospitality from the host country.

"The games were very well organised and the support given to sport from the local community was an example of the positive effect that participating in, and watching, live sports can have."

The next World Police and Fire Service Games will be held in British Columbia, Canada, in 2009.

- Anyone, male or female, interested in competing in tug of war, can contact Steve Tyrrell on ext 13140 or via email

# 'Tri-ing' the distance

**Essex Police Triathlon Club is organising three triathlons this year.**

The club is also looking for new members to join and experience the sport of triathlon – which consists of a swim, bike ride and run.

Entrants in the club's 2007 races can either take part as an individual – attempting the three disciplines alone – or as part of a relay team, with competitors completing one discipline each.

Club secretary Kim Perks said: "What is really rewarding is that every year we welcome nervous new-comers to their first triathlon and, year after year, watch them come back, bitten by the bug and

overwhelmed by the support that they receive."

As *The Law* went to print, competitors were gearing up for the Basildon Off-Road Triathlon, on Sunday, May 6, at Gloucester Park – also incorporating the Croker Cup Triathlon.

Little Havens Hospice will benefit from a £1 donation for every entry.

Then the Braintree Sprint Triathlon kicks off early on June 3 – incorporating the PSUK National Triathlon Sprint Championships. This event is a 400m pool swim, 21km road race by bike and then a 5km run.

Farleigh Hospice, which provides care and support to individuals and families touched by cancer and other life-limiting

illnesses, will benefit from entries to this race.

New to this year's calendar is the Gosfield Olympic-Distance Triathlon, at picturesque Gosfield Lake, near Braintree, on July 14.

The distances are a 1500m lake swim, a 40km cycle on local country roads and a 10km run on footpaths and trails. Again Farleigh Hospice will be the beneficiary of £1 per entry.

- For more information on these events and details of how to enter go to the [www.essex.police.uk/triathlon](http://www.essex.police.uk/triathlon)

- To find out more about triathlon or to become a member of the Essex Police Triathlon Club, contact Graham Perks on ext 56112 or via email

# Chris scoops top lottery prize

WINNER of the £3,000 fop force lottery prize in April was Sgt Christopher Sculfor, of Laindon.

Runner-up with £1,000 was Susan White, of Harlow HR Business Team, and retired member Harold Cook takes home the £500 prize.

Winners of £100 prizes were: PCSO Alex Courts, of Canvey Island; David Bright, retired; Cathy Renew, of Grays; Pc Paul Sutcliffe, of Southend; Dc Steven Wilson, of Billericay; Pc Steven Clay, of Shrub End; Dc Caroline

Parke, of HQ Crime Division; Trish Morley, of the Police Federation; Luna Rahman, of HQ Crime Bureau; PCSO Marie Knowlden, of Pitsea; and Pc Vincent Brown, of Southend.

Winners of £50 prizes were: Pc Diane Murphy, of Pitsea; Pc John Hallworth, of Purleigh; Pc Mick West, of Rayleigh; Marc Berners, Media & PR TV Unit; Pc Daniel Corr, of Harlow; Nikki Godfrey-Shaw, of HQ IT Service Desk; Det Sgt Deirdre Nowell, of Stanway Major Investigation Team;

Chief Insp Jan Harrison, of Basildon; Rodney Booth, retired; Pc Ben Griffiths, of Harlow; Christine Stevens-Meredith, of Southend Criminal Justice Unit; Anne Sumner, of the Road Collision and Civil Disclosures Unit; David Bell, of Corringham; and Sarah Morgan, of Grays.

Benenden Healthcare bear winners were: Rosie Palmer, retired; Cathy Renew, of Grays; Steven Baker, of the Force Information Room; and Alan Rees, of Stansted Airport.

## Choir gets ready for a tuneful time

ESSEX Police Choir is moving into its concert season.

On Saturday, June 2, members have been invited by Hertfordshire Constabulary Choir, supported by the Hitchin Brass band, to sing at a concert in All Saints' Church in Hertford.

The concert, in aid of Macmillan Cancer support, starts at 7.30pm.

Coaches will be leaving Essex Police HQ in Chelmsford.

- Anyone interested in reserving travel or tickets – which cost £7.50, concessions £5 – for this concert, can contact Mark Lawrence on 07802 414793

- THE Essex Police Choir has launched its new website.

Just visit [www.essexpolicechoir.co.uk](http://www.essexpolicechoir.co.uk) and you will be able to find out concert dates, news, photos and information on the charities which choir members support through their activities.



• Kerrie Barkway ext 58883

THE Essex Police Sports Association has negotiated discount at a number of restaurant chains. Here are some of the best:

**La Tasca:** Spanish tapas – 25 per cent discount at four branches across Essex.

**Little Chef:** when on the road – 25 per cent nationwide.

**Frankie & Bennie's:** NY diner style, great for the kids – 20 per cent discount at seven branches across Essex and in Ipswich, Suffolk.

**Strada:** fantastic Italian that I can highly recommend – 20 per cent discount at branches in Chelmsford and Colchester.

**Nando's:** try the piri piri chicken – 20 per cent discount at four branches in Essex and at Bluewater, Dartford.

**Pizza Express:** pizza and pasta – ten per cent discount at four branches in Essex, more to follow.

**Aroma:** Oriental cuisine – ten per cent discount at Basildon and Braintree Freeport.

There are also a number of independent restaurants across the county offering good discounts. For more information, visit the EPSA website and click on Member Benefits, Restaurants for more information.

And don't forget to take along your EPSA membership card when dining.

## More cash diverted from a life of crime

MAGISTRATES confiscated a total of £37,545 cash in one day last month under the Proceeds of Crime Act. A cash forfeiture civil hearing at Harwich Magistrates' Court saw businessman Phi Van Duong effectively 'hand' Essex Police the £35,240 seized during raids on his property in October 2005. Financial Investigator Tracy Pollington worked closely with Civil Claims Officer Rashid Begum in preparing the case for court. Magistrates on April 10 were handed an evidence bundle which linked the money to the production of cannabis. Duong runs nail bars in the Southend area. After reading the information, presented by Deputy Force Solicitor Fiona Philpott, Duong's legal team conceded the case. At a separate civil forfeiture hearing the same day, before magistrates sitting at Basildon, a total of £2,305 was ordered to be forfeited. The cash was seized from a Benfleet man after his arrest in January for possession of cocaine with intent to supply. The man is still on police bail and has not been charged with any offence.

- If you have found more than £1,000 cash during a raid, which you think may be linked to criminality, contact the Serious and Organised Crime Directorate's Financial Investigations section on ext 76550

## Cadets are the future of our force

DO you have a teenage son or daughter or grandchild who is thinking about a career in the police? Maybe they would benefit from becoming a Police Cadet to find out what life is like in the force before making a decision. Essex Police is recruiting for its new intake of Cadets, who are due to start on September 24. Applicants must be in Year 11 at school, having been born between September 1, 1990, and August 31, 1991. Recruitment Officer John Goodman said: "Becoming a Cadet is a stepping stone to becoming a police officer. Cadets are offered a BTEC course in public services at Chelmsford College as part of their training and they undertake community placements as well."

- Phone the recruitment hotline - 01245 452277 - from Tuesday, May 8, for an application pack. The deadline for the return of completed applications is Friday, June 1

## IT makes missing people inquiries more compact

OFFICERS in Chelmsford will be the first in the force to use a new database which has been developed to improve the handling of investigations into missing people.

COMPACT is a recording management and investigation database which presents officers and supervisors self-initiating tasks during the course of an

inquiry. People will be placed on the system as and when they are reported missing by friends or loved ones, with investigators able to tap into a wealth of information on traits, characteristics and patterns on missing people throughout the county.

Project Leader Sgt Emma Brookes said: "A recent HMIC inspection identified

several areas that Essex Police needed to improve upon so we looked at several examples of best practice used by other forces. COMPACT has been specifically tailored to meet our aims and needs."

The new policy will be launched in Chelmsford at the end of this month, with all districts due to be utilising the system by the end of the year.

## Martin marches to remember

AN officer from Waltham Abbey will be joining fellow Falklands war veterans in London next month as part of the 25th anniversary commemorations.

Pc Martin Carroll served as a Communications Petty Officer on board HMS Avenger in the Atlantic for three months during 1982, carrying out the duties of a radio operator.

Martin and fellow veterans will meet at Horse Guards Parade on June 17, where they will be greeted by Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, who will take the salute.

Afterwards, the veterans will march to Buckingham Palace, where a fly-past of aircraft used during the war will precede a reception at St James' Park.

Martin, who was only 17 at the time of the war, said: "I was really scared going out there but we had to as we had signed up to it. We underwent a bombing attack by the Argentine air force in St Carlos Water and saw HMS Glamorgan get hit, resulting in the death of nine crewmen. We were part of the naval gun support during the final push to Port Stanley."

"I will always remember my captain, Sir Hugo White's, words to me: 'I'll get you home son'. He was a fine man who later became the Admiral of the Fleet."

Martin, a Neighbourhood Support Team officer, believes he is the only Falklands war veteran in the force but would like to hear from anyone else in the force who served there, via email.



● Pc Martin Carroll, above, with his Falklands medals and, right, on board HMS Avenger on his way to the Falklands as a 17-year-old in 1982

# Leading the way in linking up with CPS

**ESSEX is leading the way in information technology by being the first force in the country to link in directly with the CPS.**

Since April 18, officers have been able to register a case with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) through NSPIS Case Prep, which has replaced the need for submitting a paper file.

Information is automatically sent to the CPS via a link from NSPIS and is then stored on the CPS's Compass system. No extra work is created for officers.

Insp Les Weller, NSPIS Manager, said: "We will be doing everything we can to

by Donna Veasey

assist the CPS but not to the detriment of Essex Police staff."

He said the process by which the information was communicated was one which was already being carried out by officers.

Among other things which can be sent are exhibits, witness information and additional information.

Les, who chairs the NSPIS southern regional users' group, said that the only thing the force would not be doing was communicating witness statements.

Essex has been using the NSPIS system for the past two years and Les has been managing the improvement project

with the CPS since October.

Eventually, every force in the country will use the same system, under direction from the Home Office Criminal Justice IT department.

Although other forces were involved in pilot projects, Essex was chosen to be the first to go 'live' because the force was already fully operational with NSPIS and also has very good communication links with the local CPS.

The NSPIS system was funded by PITO (the Police Information Technology Organisation), which became part of the NPIA (National Policing Improvement Agency) last month.

Since its introduction to Essex Police, it has saved the force the equivalent of more than £500,000 of man hours.

## Crime levels drop in one of the safest counties

ESSEX residents are living in one of the safest counties, according to recent Government figures which show overall crime has fallen by more than the national average.

The statistics compare crime in October-December 2005 with October-December 2006.

Crime dropped by three per cent in the county with the chances of becoming a victim of car crime or criminal damage reduced.

Vehicle crime is down by eight per cent

in Essex compared to the national reduction of just three per cent while criminal damage has been reduced by two per cent, it rose by two per cent nationally.

Head of Crime Det Chief Supt will Kennedy believes the Government figures show Essex Police is continuing to improve its performance.

He said: "These figures demonstrate Essex is leading the way in many areas of crime-fighting work and so it's pleasing to see that the county remains

one of the very safest in England. Residents in Essex should feel assured and reassured that we are committed to making further inroads into crime."

"The Neighbourhood Policing Teams are continuing to offer residents the opportunity to help us take more criminals off the streets and this is reflected in these latest figures."

The force will continue its drive to improve performance in all areas of crime reduction, prevention and detection.

## Businesses win 'safe' award for crime fight

HARLOW firms have won a Safer Business Award for their outstanding contribution to effectively managing crime and reducing anti-social behaviour in the town.

Members of HarBAC (Harlow Business Against Crime) were delighted to receive the award, which recognises towns, cities and shopping centres which demonstrate a strong practical commitment to reducing retail and business crime such as shop theft and anti-social behaviour.

Insp Steve Pearce, who has been key in creating the HarBAC scheme, said: "This is a fantastic recognition of the great work by police, Harlow council and policing partners in the private sector. We are delighted to have received this award."

The Harlow business crime reduction partnership has enabled firms to join forces and manage crime and anti-social behaviour effectively through the sharing of information with the police and partners, using radios, information technology and the issuing of exclusion notices.

Currently, more than 90 people are banned from participating premises, contributing to a significant fall in violent crime and thefts from Harlow retail outlets.

• AN exclusion scheme has started to target offenders in Colchester town centre.

So far, five offenders have received exclusion notices under the Colchester Business Against Crime (ColBAC) scheme - including a number of 'purse dipper', who have gone straight to exclusion without the normal 'three hits and you're out' policy as their offences were deemed too serious.

ColBAC members complete incident reports if they suffer criminal or anti-social behaviour on their premises and pass them to the ColBAC co-ordinator who places it on a specialised database.

Once three reports have been received regarding a certain individual, the ColBAC Board of Management will look to exclude this person from every member of ColBAC for 12 months.

## Hero search

DO you know someone who has saved a life in exceptional circumstances?

The search is underway for inspiring stories about men and women working in the emergency services and Armed Forces or members of the public who have saved the life of another in remarkable circumstances in the past two years.

Entries for the 2007 Vodafone Life Savers Awards close on Friday, May 18.

• More information from 0870 902 3333 or by visiting [www.vodafone.co.uk/lifesavers](http://www.vodafone.co.uk/lifesavers)