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

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 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.

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 Brampton School in Witham and Essex County Council.

May 2007

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We will deal with today’s crime today

Today’s Crime Today

We will deal with today’s crime today

The Law

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Fellowship of England and Wales.

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, 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 associations 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

All 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 the booklet, outlining all the benefits included in the new ‘package’.

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 additionally 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.

Members who currently do not pay the additional spouse/partner premium as their applications did not meet the insurer’s criteria, an ‘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 £8.45 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.

Any of any retired officer wishes to cancel their membership, could they please do so by advising 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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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 in the Probationers’ induction work and on the Core Leadership Development Programme.

"Disability shows no boundaries and can hit at any time of life, often being a great shock to the individual and their family," 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 Furnell 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, Rewploy, Essex Autistic Society and Chelmsford Borough and Essex County councils, were also present.

Afterwards, they enjoyed a display from Dance U2, a local Down’s Syndrome dance group.

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

As 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.
CRIMINALS in Chelmsford will continue to have their actions captured on film. The Special Constabulary sings the praises of head cameras.

Officers based in Chelmsford have been using two cameras since February this year, and have seen all the benefits that come with their combined £1,000 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 reduce acts of anti-social behaviour.

Andy said: “They have been very effective in encouraging suspects to co-operate 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 to 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 £50,000 into the childcare voucher scheme. Sodeho 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 Sodeho 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.

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 to do so this year, it makes sound financial sense to try and reduce unnecessary usage.

The force is urging all officers and staff to switch off lights and equipment which are not being used.

There’s a several week’s worth of a pipeline for a foreword 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 photo-cell 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.

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

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 – everyday

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 methamphet-

amine working group and the effects of the drug on the community.

Ian 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 month.

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

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

They will present an overview of the roles and responsibilities of officers within the search team, and demonstrations of specialist search equipment and disaster victim identification and body recovery.

Police Search Advisor (PSA) Sgt Julie Gallie said: “We’re looking for officers who have 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.

The course will take place over 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 Rugby Club, has organised a scheme to buy and complete special postcards for £1, which will then be entered into a draw for a Vauxhall Corsa, donated by County Motors, of Chelmsford, in July.

All the cash – it is hoped £300,000 will be raised – will go to The Royal Marsden’s new Cancer Drug Development Unit.

“If 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.

“If it can save one life, then it is worth it.”

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

No not dodging charity gift

ENERGETIC but fun, the open day will offer all ages and teams from the emergency services showed their skills in aid of the charity.

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.
Respect is nothing but common sense

WHILE looking through the April issue of The Law, I spotted an ex-shelf colleague, Dr 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 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 moose with rather large tusks. Suddenly it bolted, running past us towards the front of the property and ran headfirst into a 6ft 1-inch fence.

At the last moment, the deer did a quick body-swove, 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 perp.

With a lot of sympathy and support, we offered to move the animal from the main road, could see it running along the footpath, straight towards a woman walking a Jack Russell.

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Gone . . . but not forgotten

SPECIAL Corporal Joseph Thomas – Essex County Constabulary

Served until December 28, 1914

I was proud to be in the veterans’ football squad at 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 Sax Aylesworth veterans’ football team from Belgium in May 1992 and returned a visit in May 1993 with honours even.

I was still in touch with that team’s secretary, who a return visit was 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, Capt Clark, and one who would like to include my best wishes for him a very happy retirement.

When I joined the job, and was re-elected in 1992, ACCs were elderly gentlemen sitting behind desks; how the world has changed.

Bob Corder

Eymet

France

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 should 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 to model 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 yobs, is it 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 belief that understanding public sympathy could well help to restore the balance of respect.

Mike Dray

Talgarth

Powys

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?

Surely 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.

Budan 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 police workforce is for 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.

Mike Dray

Talgarth

Powys

Gleatful 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 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.

Learner drivers are essential, we have a charity, sponsored walk on Saturday, June 2, at Southend seafront under the theme MND 2007.

Last year, we raised over £7,000 and 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.

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Down Memory Lane . . .

GONE . . . but not forgotten

SPECIAL Corporal Joseph Thomas – Essex County Constabulary

Served until December 28, 1914

The Rev Joseph Thomas was the Curate of Radwinter, around 10.50pm on a stormy December 29, 1914, the Rev Thomas, 44, left his home in Radwinter. When he failed to arrive and failed to return home, the alarm was raised.

Supt Boyce, of Saffron Walden, was informed.

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.

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

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

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A ‘peep’ at the future

The PEPPY Project and Youth Section has a new name.

The Essex 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.

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 ‘gold’ – there is a national trend 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, licencees 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 emphasise 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 licencee 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.

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The Essex and Young People’s Policing Team is part of Territorial Policing at HQ.

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Toms 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 Lezhe, 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 Oakley, 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.

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.

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 benefits which working together may provide; use resources more effectively and efficiently; and increase visible policing.

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

The benefits which working together may provide; use resources differently.

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 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 56222.

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 commented 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.”
Knowing our neighbours

Featuring on our crime-fighting website is an article by Heather Watts, "Don’t forget to mention Every Child Matters," which highlights the Neighbourhood Action Panels’ (NAPs) work with Chelmsford College.

NAPs are a focus at the Chelmer Housing Partnership, the local housing association, which has seen a crime drop by 75 per cent in six weeks.

Involving our partners can lead to more effective outcomes, as stressed by Insp Cheryl Callow.

"We have a number of potential APs – people who are interested in becoming potential APs, and who have a degree of intelligence. If you are interested, you can contact the Community Safety Team.

"Then, when we put the mobile station out in hotspot areas, the children will come and engage with our officers.

"If we can prevent and deter then fewer will turn to crime."
Sad loss of two who died in forse service

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

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

‘Richie’ Nick is a constable in Dunmow. The pair were walking in Hampshire on April 29 when Pe called for assistance.

He leaves two daughters, a son and a grandson.

The 350-bed Saffron Walden Police Station was flown at half-mast as a mark of respect.

Colleague Sgt Ashley Seymour said: “Richard’s sudden and untimely passing comes as an enormous shock to all of us.

“His capability as an officer and public face of the Police force will be missed by many.

“Richard served with Essex Police for many years and, over that time, he formed numerous friendships in a wide sphere 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.”

Richard’s funeral is due to take place on Monday, May 14, at 11.30am at Parndon Wood Crematorium, Harlow.

Donations may be made in his memory to Wards Broomfield 10, Rowan Ward at St Peter’s Hospital, Maldon, c/o funeral directors T Pennock, 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 Bastow, who retired from Essex Police in 1986, has died, aged 85. She leaves a partner, Marian.

She worked in uniform stores at Crecot Road, Colchester and South-Eastern Operations which provided a SureStart Chaplaincy scheme.

Now Steve will devote his time to his directorship of Southend Turf 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.

He has also 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 Labournes, The Street, St James South Elmstead 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 who won Gold there. Ring her on 01986 782413 for further details.

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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 popular, with problems were found with the Honda ST1100 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 notability, 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 fingers’ acceleration makes it foolish for any motorists 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 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 motorizing 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 Chipping Barnet Police Unit.

Despitelimited 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 stopped 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 Bridgman’s funeral, police riders escorted the cortège 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-fen 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 restate 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 Twist is this year’s dedicated initiative to cut the number of biker casualties, with training and deployment at Central Division 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 motorcycle 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.”
Letters of appreciation

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 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 custody office procedures.

The offender was escorted to custody office and accompanied GMP officers to film and broadcast arrests, especially interested as it was trying to show the assistance.

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.

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.

Major Investigation Team 8

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

He said they had caught the perpetrators in the act as, after the evening, they had received a call from someone on the estate advising that 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.

TO Holly Bird

THANK you for your assistance and swift action in the early hours – I hear that the arrest of the passenger air-side 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.

TO Sgt Lawrence Horn

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

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 never remember for a long time.

Thank you for your assistance.

TO Sgt Lawrence Horn

I AM writing to give you our heartfelt thanks for the efforts of your staff.

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Thank you for your assistance.
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.

It will be leaving Essex Police HQ in Chelmsford.

THE Essex Police Choir has launched its new website. Just visit 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.

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 HS 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 Graves; PC Paul Sutcliffe, of Southend; De Steven Wilson, of Billericay; PC Steven Clay, of Shrub End; De Caroline Parke, of HQ Crime Division; Trish Meeley, of the Police Federation; Lorna Rahman, of HQ Crime Bureau; PCSCO Marie Knowles, of Pitsea; and PC Peter Brown, of Southend.

Winners of £50 prizes were: PC Diane Murphy, of Pitsea; PC John Hallworth, of Purfleet; PC Mick West, of Rayleigh; Mark Berners, Media & PR TV Unit; PC Daniel Cox, of Harlow; Nicki 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 Sunner, of the Road Collision and Civil Dissections Unit; David Bell, of Corringham; and Sarah Morgan, of Graves.

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

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, who are 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 2019.

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

We are the champions

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

Cochestor Service Desk Assistant Derek Walker finished in 3hrs30mins, raising money for cancer research in his fifth charity marathon.

Also on his fifth was Pete Smith, 36, of Clacton, who finished in 4hrs38mins and, together with his wife Deborah, of Clacton DVHCU – who took part in the Playtex Moonwalk – has raised £500 for breast cancer research so far.

Greg Potter, of Witham CID, finishing in 3hrs52mins, raising £16.00 for St Helen’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 £40.

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 Tollesshunt 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 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 61140 via email, or you can download one from www.policesportuk.com

SADLY, a 1-1 draw in the semi-final against Heringate on April 21 was an excellent one – but the luck just simply wasn’t with the home side.

Bay 6 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 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 promotions we were relegated out of the Premier Division.”

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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 in Essex between two defendants, Van Doong effectively ‘hand’ Essex Police the £35,240 seized during raids on this property in October 2005.

Financial Investigator Tracy Pollington worked closely with Civil Claims Officer Richard Brookes in preparing the case for court.

Magistrates on April 10 were handed an evidence bundle which linked the money to the production of cannabis.

Deputy Force Solicitor Fiona Pollington worked closely with Civil Claims Officer Richard Brookes in preparing the case for court.

Philpott, Duong’s legal team conceded the case.

Deputy Force Solicitor Fiona Pollington worked closely with Civil Claims Officer Richard Brookes in preparing the case for court.

The fines were ordered to be forfeited.

Deputy Force Solicitor Fiona Pollington worked closely with Civil Claims Officer Richard Brookes in preparing the case for court.

If you have found more of completed applications is of interest, the deadline for the return of completed applications is Friday, June 1.

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 best practice examples 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.

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

Phil 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 do it, we had to do 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.

Martin remembered his 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 living British war veteran in the force but would like to hear from anyone else in the force who served there, via email.

Leading the way in linking up with CPS

ESSEX is leading the way in information technology 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 improve its performance.

Mr 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

Alas, we will be unable to do so with the CPS.”

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 exhibits, witness information and additional information.

Les, who chairs the NSPIS southern regional users’ group, said: “It’s a really great move and it’s good news for our officers.”

He said: “These figures demonstrate a strong practice in making further inroads into crime.

Residents in Essex should feel assured of making a decision.

Although other forces were involved in pilot projects, Essex was chosen to 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 best practice examples 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.

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 dip- pers’, who have giant straight to exclusion without the normal ‘three hits and you’re out’ policy as their offences were deemed too serious.

ColBAC members complete a point register, who 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 that person from every member of ColBAC for 12 months.

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 helped save the life of another in remarkable circumstances in the last two years.

Entries for the 2007 Vodafone National Lifesaver Awards close on Friday, May 18.

More information from www.vodafone.co.uk/lifesavers.

Businesses win safe award for crime fight

Harlow firms have won a Suffolk business award for their outstanding contribution to effectively managing crime and reducing anti-social behaviour in the town.

Harlow’s Durham (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.

Inspe Steve Pearson, who has been key in creating the HarBAC scheme, said: This is a fantastic recognition of the great work by police, Harlow community and business partners in the private sec-

The Harlow business crime reduction partnership has enhanced firms’ security systems and manage crime and anti-social behaviour through the sharing of information with the police and partners, using information technology and the issuing of exclusion notices.

Corrally, more than 90 people are banned from particular areas, contributing to a significant fall in violent crime and thefts from Harlow retail outlets.

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