



Quick-thinking actions prevent blaze becoming more serious

# OFFICERS SAVE FLAT FIRE THREE



● Pcs Gary Cable and Mark Potter from Stanway Road Policing Unit  
Picture by Heather Turner

**TWO officers from Stanway Road Policing Unit have been praised for their swift-thinking which rescued a woman and two children from a fire last month.**

Pcs Mark Potter and Gary Cable, from the Essex Police road policing unit, were on patrol at midnight when they spotted that the awning of a shop in St Osyth Road, Clacton, was on fire.

A crowd had already gathered and people were shouting at the flat above the shop to warn the occupants of the danger they were in.

However, this failed to rouse the residents from the flat so the quick-thinking officers

by **Tabitha Wilson**

forced their way in to lead the woman and her two children to safety.

The fire service also attended the incident and extinguished the flames within 15 minutes.

No-one was injured.

Pc Potter said: "While this was only a small fire, it was just below the family's living room window and could easily have turned into something more serious.

"The efforts of local people to try to wake the residents should be congratulated, and I'm glad that Pc Cable and I were passing and able to prevent this from turning into a more serious incident."



● Amy sees the inside of a police car, above  
● PCSO Lucy Smith and Billy the retired police dog, right, entertain visitors Adam and Katie  
Pictures by Becky Latchford

## A record day for museum during town's festival

**A RECORD 711 visitors passed through the Essex Police Museum in a single day last month.**

The museum held an open day on Saturday, May 12, in conjunction with the Celebrate Chelmsford festival.

And Curator Becky Latchford and volunteers saw 711 visitors pass through the doors – a record. The previous best was 500 over two days a couple of years ago.

Said Becky: "It was an amazing day and helped to publicise the museum to a wider audience.

"Many visitors said they were surprised at how much there was to learn."

Visitors were able to look round the exhibits, including a range of old police vehicles, and take part in creative activities.

They also had a rare opportunity to visit the Chief Constable's garden and take a guided tour of the Force Information Room.





# Demands are 'never greater'

**I WRITE this article having just returned from attending the Federation's annual conference in Blackpool.**

All members will be receiving a conference newsletter; our first edition last year proved to be extremely popular.

In a few weeks' time there will be a new Home Secretary and a new Prime Minister, one Mr Gordon Brown.

We have now had three Secretaries of State in six years, each serving less time than the last.

Mr Brown's views on policing are a mystery but the message to the Government, to Gordon Brown and to John Reid's successor – whoever that may be – was delivered loud and clear by our national chairman, Jan Berry.

“ They have a choice. Start listening.

Start changing the way you do business. Or get ready for a fight.

You can only push the police service and police officers so far.”

The critical thing for the Police Federation is to be able to articulate not just what is wrong with the service but, most important of all, workable solutions.

That is what this year's conference was all about; addressing the most important issues facing officers and the service.

The number one concern is the impact that sanctioned detections have, closely followed by performance targets, Penalty

Notices and how we can restore discretion.

Only last month, Tony Blair said that human capital is 'the nation's greatest asset'. I think police officers are the police service's greatest asset.

So why is it officers feel as if they're being treated like anything but assets? Demoralised, disillusioned and depressed. Demoralised at their lack of discretion and having to chase targets and not criminals. Disillusioned at the farce that is police reform and depressed at the prospect of yet another looming pay battle.

Demands on the police service and pressures on police officers have never been greater: from Neighbourhood Policing, response policing and roads policing to human trafficking, terrorism and community relations.

All present us with a massive challenge and were debated in some way or another during a very busy three days.

### Conference overview:

**Taser** – The Federation welcomed the extended roll-out of Taser in ten forces for 12 months from September.

**Custody Officers** – Conference was clear that the custody officer role should be a police sergeant.

The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act legislation has already been passed and just needs the Home Secretary to enact it.

The Police Federation needs to persuade the Home Secretary that

Sections 120 and 121 of this Act should not be enacted. Essex Police Federation will be lobbying MPs to write to the Home Secretary.

**Restoring Discretion** – This really touched a nerve and received wall-to-wall media coverage in the lead-up to and during conference.

Not surprisingly, 93 per cent of delegates believed police officers' discretion had been significantly reduced and again, not surprisingly, sanctioned detections were seen to be the main reason for this.

**24/7** – A huge majority of delegates expressed concerns that the public were not getting the police service that they deserved or required – things were getting worse not better.

**The Future of Policing** – The national Federation will be scoping a project to conduct its own inquiry into the future of policing if calls for a Royal Commission or independent inquiry continue to fall on deaf ears.

Conference was not fooled by the Home Secretary's assurance in respect of Sir Ronnie Flannagan's review into policing, welcomed Sir Ming Campbell's support and were confused by David Cameron's uncertainty.

On the Booth Report on Police Pay, the Federation welcomed David Cameron's support for the Federation's view on its lack of independence.

Finally, conference agreed that politicians should stick to politics, leaving policing to the professionals.

## Gender-based commutation in the Police Pension Scheme

The following may be of assistance in explaining why the Police Pension Scheme (PPS) has gender-based commutation factors.

- When an officer chooses to commute part of his/her pension for a tax-free cash lump sum, different rates are applicable according to gender and age

- The reason for the gender-based commutation tables is that women statistically live longer than men so their pensions are likely to be paid for longer

- The lump sum is the actuarial of the surrendered portion of the pension at the date of retirement. The lump sum paid is actuarially equal to the amount of the pension that is given up for the rest of the officers' life.

- As the life expectancy for a woman is longer, this is reflected in the commutation tables by a higher figure than a male counterpart of the same age.

- The commutation tables also vary according to age, as the younger an officer is at retirement, the more likely the pension will be paid for a longer period, so the cash value of the surrender of part of the pension is higher.

The Government Actuary's Department (GAD), in accordance with the Police Pension Regulations 1987, arrives at the commutation figures. GAD takes account of appropriate interest rates and the expected mortality rates of former police officers. The Federation's actuaries check GAD's assumptions.

In a 1994 judgment, the European Court of Justice ruled that it was not discriminatory to use actuarial factors that varied according to gender.

Since 1994, the Federation has, at appropriate intervals, sought advice on the legal basis for the gender differential. We last sought advice in 2006 when age discrimination became law.

So gender-based commutation factors are lawful, however the Federation will continue to monitor and review the situation.

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● The curious case of the dog in the day-time – a firefighter tries to persuade Daisy to go back from whence she came

Picture by John Hills



## 'Ruff' life for curious dog

CURIOSITY is supposed to kill the cat but on this occasion it was Daisy the dog's interest in the world outside that got her into a whole load of strife.

The Alsatian-cross belongs to Special Inspector Andy Wells and his wife Glenda, who live next to force HQ in Chelmsford. The couple rescued Daisy when she was just 12 months old but, clearly not content with being rescued only once, Daisy climbed out of the first-floor window of her home and on to a narrow window ledge – but then found herself unable to back up. Crowds quickly gathered, initially at a loss as to how to get the barking-mad pooch down and it was decided that there was no option but to call out the fire service. Meanwhile Daisy became rather vocal when a passing Scottish terrier sparked

her interest and it was decided a cordon was needed to prevent any other dogs coming into her view.

Fire crews then arrived and, as they prepared their hydraulic platform, there were gasps from the crowd as Daisy lost her footing before regaining her balance. She looked rather bemused when fire crews eventually came up to greet her but, after a few reassuring pats on the head, she was gently pushed back through the open window to safety and a round of 'appl-paws'.

Clearly, Daisy was not feeling too 'ruff' after her ordeal for the curtains suddenly twitched as she took one last look out at all the excitement she had caused before a firefighter pushed the window firmly shut.

Kim Perks

## Drugs day a resounding success

ESSEX Police celebrated the success of operations co-ordinated as part of National Tackling Drugs Day on May 23.

A number of raids were mounted across the county, under the Misuse of Drugs Act, which resulted in a number of arrests and charges for a range of drug offences involving cannabis, ecstasy and amphetamine.

Other activities included the use of mobile police stations to give out information to the public and for workshops within schools.

The day's activities supported ongoing substance misuse work carried out by Essex Police in partnership with the county's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) and Essex Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT).

And a campaign was launched to encourage landlords to be aware of the signs which could mean their property was being used for cannabis production.

Essex Police will be sending out letters to all registered landlords and letting agents to advise them of such indicators and asking for their help in combating this type of organised criminal.

## There's a new language on the Airwaves

DO you speak Airwave? Operators at the Force Information Room (FIR) are learning a new national language which reduces the amount of conversation used on a talk group using Airwave.

It's the equivalent of text talk and Airwave users will notice that operators will talk to units and control incidents by using a small number of key words.

Officers are encouraged to mirror this good practice and radio discipline, which will then be of benefit to everyone by freeing up more time on the talk groups.

Another problem frustrating Airwave users is not being able to get on to the Airwave talk group because someone else is talking.

Chief Insp Nick Lee, FIR Manager, said: "This is made worse at busy times in the morning and afternoon when lots of staff book on via Airwave."

He suggests a solution to the problem by using webStorm.

"All officers with a Storm account can now book themselves on duty thus helping to prevent the airwaves from becoming blocked," he explained.

## Quizzicality

SOUTHEND Police Golf Society ran a charity quiz Night, raising £342.

The 100 people attending the event raised the cash for the Strokebusters appeal at Southend Hospital.

The hospital's Charitable Foundation is bidding to raise £1million for a stroke unit.

## Giving up's not such a fag ... !

WITH many smokers dreading July 1 with the implementation of the smoking ban in public places, what better time to give up smoking?

And help is at hand in the form of former smoker Jacqui De La Salle, the Health Surveillance Nurse based at Essex Police College. Jacqui has recently qualified as a smoking cessation advisor with the Mid-Essex Stop Smoking Support Service and is keen to help others to quit the habit.

A former 20-a-day smoker for ten years she finally quit and has been smoke free for many years. She said: "I know how hard it is to give up smoking - I was working in the health service, so I knew how bad it was for me to smoke."

Jacqui will be a point of contact for those who seriously want to kick the habit.

She will be at the end of the phone or you can make an appointment to see her to discuss the various options to quit.

Using nicotine patches and gum is currently thought to be the best way forward but Jacqui can advise on organisations which provide group counselling sessions and other courses.

Jacqui herself made several attempts to give up before she finally succeeded and said: "You have to be ready to change and motivated to believe that you can do it."

"When I smoked I felt that I would never be able to give up but I did and I am keen to help everyone who contacts me."

● Contact Jacqui in the Occupational Health and Welfare Department on ext 58614 or via email

“Smoking remains the largest single preventable cause of death and disability in the UK”



● Jacqui De La Salle will help smokers to crush their habit

Picture by Heather Turner

# New unit investigates serious road crashes

A NEW policing unit has been formed to handle high-profile road collision enquiries in line with major crime investigations.

The Road Crash Investigation Team (RCIT) was the brainchild of Road Policing Manager Chief Insp Tom Diment following a series of recent successful prosecutions.

One of these involved the case of Davina Smith who killed four children - two of whom were her own - through drug-driving last year.

The RCIT is based in the old court house behind Billericay Police Station.

by Nishan Wijeratne

The two sergeants, six constables and one caseworker already have three operations 'on their books' since their inception last month.

Sgt Dave Jones believes the Operation Ribbon enquiry into the Davina Smith case was a landmark investigation in force history.

"Following that enquiry, we identified the best practices as well as areas of improvement," said Sgt Jones.

"It was decided that having a dedicated team of experienced investigators would further improve the quality of service we offer to victims and to the Crown

Prosecution Service.

"The Major Investigation Teams have a pool of detectives to call upon, so it's only sensible for us to have a similar team to deal with the more complex, serious and fatal road crashes in order to reduce the burden on the road policing units, which can then concentrate on their day-to-day business."

The RCIT will investigate incidents that are managed by Senior Investigating Officer Chief Insp Diment, with the team available to offer resources and advice on all serious and fatal crashes.

● Contact the team on 01277 636635 or ext 45364

## Geoff is offering a one-stop service



● Geoff Whiter at Basildon's one-stop shop

Picture by Bill Stock

ESSEX Police and Basildon Council have launched a three-month pilot offering the public a one-stop shop facility in order to make policing services more accessible. And already the scheme has proved to be a success with Neighbourhood Policing Customer Advisor Geoff Whiter having dealt with and resolved several significant queries.

He has also noticed that some people have preferred to deal with him over police matters at his public service desk in the Basildon Centre, rather than visiting the town's police station.

This partnership arrangement is the first of its kind in the county but many more are planned. Bala Mahendran, chief executive of Basildon Council, said: "We are delighted that the police are now one of a whole range of community services residents can access under one roof."

"It means our customers are able to report a crime or get information and advice from the police at the same time as they use our services. By offering residents easier and more convenient ways to get the help they need, we are contributing to building a safer Basildon."

## New on-line prospectus will keep us all up to date

A NEW prospectus detailing force courses is set to go online at the end of this month following a decision 'to go green' and abandon a hard-copy version.

The Essex Police College (EPC) brochure will promote the range of courses available, from driver training and road policing to Probationer Training (Initial Police Learning Development Programme) and the Initial Crime Investigations Development Programme.

EPC Technician Dave Gibbs has designed the web-based brochure to be user-friendly and to ensure it is up to date.

"We identified the need to have our courses promoted to all officers and police staff last summer and initially proposed a printed version," said Mr Gibbs.

"However, we quickly recognised that our customers want to know what is currently on offer and how they can apply. A hard copy brochure could quickly become out of date and would be a waste of paper just sitting on someone's desk."

"The new e-brochure will be available around the clock, with staff able to print off the courses in which they are interested."

The intranet site will initially highlight course details and qualification opportunities.

The college will continue to improve its e-brochure so that it is able to help staff to prepare for Professional Development Reviews (PDRs) and in assessing their career paths.

● From July 1, visit the EPC intranet site and click on Courses to view the brochure

## Uninsured drivers face new threat

ESSEX has become the latest force to join a scheme which helps officers to verify the insurance details of drivers.

With nearly 50,000 uninsured vehicles on the county's roads, road policing officers are seizing more than 500 every month in a bid to improve road safety and cut crime.

Merseyside, South Yorkshire and the Metropolitan Police helped to pilot the Motor Insurance Bureau's (MIB) helpline, which will make the process of identifying uninsured drivers quick and accurate.

The information is taken from a live feed to insurers' databases.

Mobile Support Divisional Commander Chief Supt Mick Thwaites said: "MIB is hoping to extend its opening hours so that late-turn officers can also access the helpline. The Police National Computer does hold these records but they are not always 100 per cent up to date so the dedicated hotline comes into its own."

● The helpline is 0845 1652 999 and is available 9am-5pm, seven days a week

**HAVE YOUR SAY:** Write to Heather Turner, Law Letters, Publication Unit, Police HQ, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DA or via email to heather.turner@essex.pnn.police.uk  
Letters and emails must include your full name and home town. We reserve the right to edit letters. Please be aware The Law is reproduced on the internet and circulated to the media.

## Force opened up a whole new world to me

YOU join 'the job' for a 30-year career. Then life happens.

After a posting to Tilbury in 1985, progressing through CID and various busy Custody Suites to HQ Community Safety Department in 1997, I resigned earlier than expected from Essex Police on April 30, 2007. Here's why.

Promoted in 1991 and qualified to inspector, I had an eye on the ladder. So I took a full-time sociology BA degree at Goldsmiths College in London while working part-time.

Unfortunately, doing both work and study cost me my marriage. Yet in 1999, while taking an MA in urban studies, I met a researcher who later became my

second wife and mother of our two wonderful children. She was from Finland.

Exercising my right as a European to 'travel, reside and work' anywhere within the European Union (EU), I took a career break in 2002 to pursue a PhD in policing and live in her home country.

As I said, life happens. Our eldest starts school and a return would put unworkable strain on the family. So I am now a researcher with the Police College of Finland in Helsinki.

One of the strangest parts of this little odyssey was representing the Finnish Ministry of Interior in an EU-level

security project at UN HQ in New York last December. Anything to avoid early turns, eh?

To my dear colleagues and remainder of intake June 1985, it is with a little sadness but no regrets and only the fondest of memories that I resign prematurely from what is – despite its woes – the best job in the world.

I give my sincere thanks to Essex Police for a somewhat shorter than expected career and the opportunities it has given me to brave a new life in a pleasantly strange new world.

**Dr Jonathan Hadley**  
Finland



● Former sergeant, now Dr, Jonathan Hadley

## The former Basildon B-shifters are reunited

THE Chichester in Rawreth saw the recent gathering of former Basildon B-shifters from circa 1979-1986.

It was heartwarming to see the level of warmth and camaraderie still present between individuals, who, in some cases, had not seen each other for many years.

Indeed, it has to be said that the atmosphere of good feeling produced during that 'gathering', was priceless.

About 18 former B-shifters, shared much 'lamp swinging' of old times at Basildon, reminiscing about events such as the Miners' Strike, the Southend Raft Race and marathon-running for charity.

The evening saw confessions and the sharing of many 'funnies and quips', demonstrating that the passage of time, had not blunted either the sharpness of mind or a playful sense of fun.

Some interesting ideas were floated, such as, 'for one night only', a re-grouping of the former B-shift, dressing up in uniform garb and hitting the streets once more, like a Basildon version of *Life on Mars*.

I'm not sure who would be more shocked by that, the public, young bobbies or the former B-shifters –

having to cope with modern day PR and paperwork.

The retired former B-shifters have indulged in a diverse variety of new vocations since retiring from the service; from gamekeeper, judge's PA and physiotherapist to coroners' supervisor – with Essex Police – plus of course those who have simply chosen to adopt a more chilled way of life, following more restful, non-working pursuits.

In conclusion, it was terrific sharing time once again in the company of friends, who shared a common bond working the streets of Basildon all those years ago.

The friendship and warmth evident during the evening showed that time does neither diminish or alter the ties that police work can create between individuals and, for being part of that experience, I will certainly be forever grateful.

I thank *The Law* for supporting the aforementioned event and helping to bring former friends and colleagues together again, for a splendid and very pleasurable evening.

**Pc Paul Watson**  
Community Liaison Officer  
Shoeburyness

# Fond memories of motorcycling

**THE article in the May issue about the first anniversary of the Motorcycle Unit, titled Rapid reaction force, was very interesting and I wish them continued success – as Mick Green says, no force should be without motorcycles.**

However, at the risk of being boring, may I point out that the photograph accompanying the article does not show the 'original motorcycle unit'.

I know for a fact that some of those pictured were still at school when the first units of dedicated motorcyclists were introduced in 1966. Prior to that date, some traffic officers performed a dual role – driving and riding.

The HQ unit formed in 1966 included a (rather younger) Monty, John Copas, John Woods, Terry Peck, myself and a couple of others.

I think I must have been the last to join the unit because the others all

rode the Triumph Saint shown in the second photograph while I was given an old red Triumph T6 with a radio overhanging the back wheel which did nothing for the handling! They were great days and there are many tales that could be told as well as some that should not – Essex Show days and Beeleigh Races among them.

My best wishes to all my ex-motorcycling colleagues – may the flies have gone from between your teeth!

**Bernie Beesley**  
Chelmsford

● YOUR feature last month regarding the old motorcycle unit – titled Rapid reaction force – brought back happy memories as I served at the then Stanway Traffic from October 1967 until I retired in March 1993.

The photographs of Pcs Ray Finch and Mitch Martin – who died whilst serving, over 20 years ago – and the Vauxhall patrol car were taken at Spring Lane roundabout, Colchester. The main photograph I think, was taken, not at the launch of the original unit but at the opening of the A12 Chelmsford bypass. Of this

group, I remember Andy Butler, Harry Sexton, 'Monty' and last, but not least, Roger Clough with whom I joined in March, 1963.

I have resided in Spain for almost three years and will always fondly remember my 25½ years at Stanway Traffic and pass my best wishes to anyone who remembers me.

I can be contacted via email at [chrismorgancol@terra.es](mailto:chrismorgancol@terra.es)

**Chris Morgan**  
Daya Nueva  
Alicante, Spain



**As the summer approaches and thoughts turn to holidays, *The Law* thought it would take up a fun idea from Insp Trevor Williamson. So, we will offer a small prize for the person who sends us a snap of themselves holding a copy of *The Law* in the most exotic location. Deadline for entries is September 20. Send your photos to the address at the top of this page.**

## Gone . . . but not forgotten

**Pc Gary Veal – Essex Police**  
Served from August 13, 1990. Died January 13, 2002

PC Gary John Veal joined Essex Police in 1990 and subsequently worked at Colchester, Mersea and Tiptree. In 1999 he transferred to Road Policing, serving at both Chelmsford and Stanway Road Policing Units (RPU's).

On the evening of January 12, 2002, Pc Veal, 36, was struck by a car while assisting at the scene of a broken-down vehicle on the A12 Colchester by-pass. He was taken to Colchester General Hospital, suffering from head and internal injuries, and subsequently died the following day. He left a wife, Tina, and two daughters, aged seven and two.

The February 2002 edition of *The Law* carried a report of Gary's funeral which was held at St Albright's Parish Church, Stanway, a fortnight later. An honour guard of 90 officers of all ranks, including Chief Constable



● Pc Gary Veal

David Stevens, stood outside the church, and Suffolk Police provided a motorcycle escort for the cortege, while six colleagues from the RPUs at Bocking, Chelmsford, and Stanway carried his coffin.

A congregation approaching 300 assembled in the church and tributes were paid during the service to a dedicated, popular officer and a beloved husband, father, brother and son. Pc Jules Lawrence recounted fond memories of his colleague, remembering him as a true gentleman and a dedicated, enthusiastic officer who thought of others before himself. In keeping with Gary's love of hill walking and his desire to help others, his family requested that donations in his memory should go to the Outward Bound Trust, to provide opportunities for deprived young people.

## Down Memory Lane . . .



CONTINUING the motorbike theme, Murray Coleman is trying to identify the people in the picture above.

He says: "I know one of them was Cons 132 Coleman my father, standing on the right. The bike was a Norton Commander? I also believe the photo was taken on the day of a parade where the entire division marched through the town. Any information would be appreciated."

Murray, who lives in Clermont, Florida, USA, can be contacted via [murray@mjcoleman.com](mailto:murray@mjcoleman.com) or by ringing +1 352 400 1511.

● If you have information about the photograph, please email *The Law* editor Heather Turner at [heather.turner@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:heather.turner@essex.pnn.police.uk) and she will share the information with readers

**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.**

## Corner the chairman



● **Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers**

## Welcome to our three new members

“THE Police Authority welcomes three new members this month, following May’s local elections. Councillor Bill Archibald rejoins the police authority after a short break – he previously served with the authority for more than ten years and we are delighted to have him back with us again. We also welcome councillors Ian Robertson and John Purkiss, from Southend and Thurrock authorities respectively. Mr Robertson has been a member of Southend-on-Sea Borough Council since 2004 and represents the Chalkwell ward. He is a logistics consultant. Mr Purkiss represents the East Tilbury ward and sits on the Performance and Improvement, Overview and Scrutiny committees for Thurrock Council. Their first police authority meeting was due to be on June 4 – a meeting of the full authority. I and the other authority members look forward to working with these councillor members who, with their varied backgrounds, skills and experience, will undoubtedly offer an important contribution to the authority and policing in the county of Essex.”

## Charity is the winner at golf day

BOTH the Essex Air Ambulance and Royal National Lifeboat Institution benefited from at least £1,500 each from an Essex Police Authority charity golf tournament. Authority chairman Robert Chambers had the idea of a match between police authority members and Chief Officers to raise cash for good causes. With sponsorship from BT and Northgate plc plus fees to play on the day, the authority has raised £3,000 so far with further cash still to be collected. A cheque was presented to the charities last month. And yes, the police authority team won.

# Your input is vital to help improve service

**OFFICERS and police staff are the key to helping the force improve its service to victims and witnesses of crime.**

by **Nishan Wijeratne**

And Head of Customer Services Claire Heath adds: “Your input is vital in helping us to achieve this.”

She chairs the Quality and Customer Service Group, which is dedicated to identifying and removing barriers to improving our service to both members of the public and colleagues in other divisions or departments across the force.

The main aim of the group, which was set up last year, is to ‘inform force policy and working practices to ensure a customer focus is kept at the heart of everything we do’.

Its members include representatives from each division and department whose role it is to champion and facilitate good practice.

And they are keen to hear from officers and police staff with ideas on how we can improve our service.

The Quality and Customer Service Group feeds into the Operational Support Policy Programme Board, to ensure Chief Officer approval and force support.

Projects currently being worked on are creating guaranteed customer service standards for the force, a customer service strategy covering all types of public contact – face-to-face, telephone, email and text – carrying out one-in-three crime quality checks and produc-

ing a computer-based training (CBT) package on call-handling.

Presentation is another area being studied – uniforms, police stations and offices – as this can have a huge impact on customer perception.

“We know victims and witnesses matter but we need to demonstrate that we know,” said Claire.

● If you have an idea which will help us to improve the service we give, you can contact Head of Customer Services Claire Heath or, on division, Supt Tim Stokes at Central, Supt Alison Newcomb at Eastern, Supt Michelle Husk at South-Eastern, Supt Graham Carey at South-Western, Supt Stuart Ashton at Western or Chief Insp Simon Williams at Stansted. Also contact them if you have a customer service issue which needs resolving.



● **Left, Pc Trevor Edhouse and Jet, Pc Mick Pickard with Clyde and Pc Tony Mayo with Keane**

● **Above, Pc Trevor Edhouse training Jet** Pictures by Gemma Whiting

## Jet’s success just five days in

JUST five days after his passing out parade, police dog Jet made an arrest on his first operational shift.

Pc Trevor Edhouse and Jet hit the streets of South-Eastern Division on May 15 – their first operational shift following the basic course and passing out parade and it proved to be a successful one.

The duo were called to Canvey Island following a report of a theft and assault of a police officer in the High Street.

Jet swiftly located a man hiding in thick undergrowth nearby and he was promptly arrested.

Trevor said: “Having such a successful job on our first operational day together is evidence of just how effective our training course is and just how useful police dogs are to the force.”

“I am really looking forward to

working with Jet more and hope that he will prove to us his capabilities even further.”

A 35-year-old man from Canvey Island was arrested in connection with this incident and is currently on police bail until early June pending further inquiries.

● JET was one of three male German shepherd puppies, which were the first Essex Police dogs to have been puppy-walked by members of the public prior to their 12-week training course.

The puppies, bred to work in policing environments, came to Essex Police from other forces through the Puppy Acquisition Scheme.

Keane, born in December, 2005, and Clyde, born in January 2006, both came from the Metropolitan Police, whilst Jet, born in March 2006, is from Greater Manchester Police’s dog

breeding programme.

The puppies joined their puppy walkers at seven weeks old, living with them for around ten months and taking part in structured police training days.

They have been with their police officer handlers since February. All three are now fully-fledged, general-purpose patrol dogs which can undertake such tasks as searching for suspects, intruders or missing people and dealing with instances of public disorder. And on May 10, their handlers were presented with certificates by Mobile Support Divisional Commander Chief Supt Mick Thwaites at a passing-out parade at Sandon Dog Unit, watched by a 100-strong audience, including the puppy walkers and their families.

Gemma Whiting

## Three die on motorway hard shoulder

ONE week apart, two crashes on the M11 last June demonstrated the dangers of stopping on the hard shoulder.

Desmond Blowers, 33, of Rainham, died when his stationary car was struck from behind by a lorry in the early hours of June 22.

At Harlow Magistrates’ Court last month, lorry driver Colin Forsyth, 62, admitted careless driving. He was banned from driving for one year and fined £750 with £70 costs.

Despite extensive investigation it is still a mystery as to why Mr Blowers stopped on the hard shoulder at 2am. His car had not broken down but no lights were on and he may have stopped

simply because he was tired. Pc Jason Howard, of Bocking Road Policing Unit, said: “Whatever the reason, it had tragic consequences. Sadly he was not far from the motorway services at J8.

“The lorry driver was on a route he knew well, he had not exceeded his hours and cannot remember the moment of the crash, however he will have to live with the consequences of his actions.”

Just a week later, István Guba, 26, collected his girlfriend Beata Papp, 25, from Stansted Airport, following a visit to see her family in Hungary. Driving home to London, the car overheated and they stopped on the hard shoulder, wait-

ing for a friend to bring them water. An HGV lorry driven by a Polish lorry driver crashed into the back of their car, which burst into flames, killing them instantly.

Last month, Stanislaw Baran, who had exceeded his hours and falsified his documents, was jailed for three years for causing death by dangerous driving and eight months for tachograph offences.

Senior Investigating Officer Insp Richard Phillibrown said: “Sadly two much-loved young people have died as a result of Stanislaw Baran ignoring the duty of care every driver has for road users.”

## Staff survey shows we take equal opportunities seriously

THE force equal opportunities staff survey is shaping the Equal Opportunity Committee’s action plans to address issues where the force can move from being a good employer to one of the best.

Although response to the 2006 survey was lower than that to previous surveys – with a quarter of employees responding – there was a general consensus that the force is truly committed to equality.

Equality and Diversity Manager Jan Woodhouse said: “It is important to an organisation that people contribute to change and that we are seen to take action.

“For example, these results show we particularly need to build the confidence of staff with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender (LGBT) staff.

“The survey has highlighted a number of issues for individuals and we shall work closely with our staff networks to make things better.”

The survey shows a continued lack of confidence by disabled respondents, particularly officers, across a number of areas.

Seminars are being run to help managers better understand disability issues and to manage attendance effectively.

This includes understanding the practical measures which reasonable adjustments can provide to address workplace factors which can cause disabled people disadvantage.

In addition, a computer-based training (CBT) package to raise awareness of disability conditions and legislation can be found on the Essex Police College intranet site.

A degree of learning over time has seen incidents of inappropriate banter on the decline and more staff, particularly lesbian, gay and bisexual respondents, feel they are treated with fairness and respect.

Since the 2002 Equal Opportunities survey, fewer women but more men felt they had been treated unfairly because of their caring responsibilities.

Half those surveyed felt that selection processes were fair and transparent but this dropped to about a quarter for people with disabilities, minority ethnic officers and inspectors and sergeants.

Despite a slight increase in perceptions of bullying and harassment, nearly three-quarters of respondents wanted to develop their careers with the force and a resounding majority said working relationships with colleagues was at an all-time high.

● The full survey report, including free-text responses, can be viewed on the Equality & Diversity intranet site, click on Latest News

## Website is useful in crime fight

WEBSITE advice is now available for anti-social behaviour and race/religious hate crimes.

RaceActionNet gives guidance, examples and legal advice on dealing with anti-social behaviour, racial harassment and racist and religious crime.

DCI Bob Chatterton, the Force Intelligence Manager, is keen to promote use of the website because he believes it is a useful tool in the fight against crime.

The website covers subjects such as:

- supporting victims and witnesses
- taking enforcement action against perpetrators
- improving practice on investigation, prosecution and sentencing
- working with racist offenders to prevent re-offending
- meeting the requirements of regulations and inspection for social landlords, local authorities and criminal justice agencies.

DCI Chatterton said: "RaceActionNet is the first place you can go to find real-life examples to deal with real situations and it offers practical advice on relevant legislation, case studies and case law."

"It has been approved by other forces and criminal justice services and I feel it will prove to be a useful tool in our fight to reduce anti-social behaviour and incidences of race and religious hate crime in our county."

He added that Probationers at Essex Police College would find the site particularly useful when they were being taught statement taking and interview techniques.

- The Diversity Unit has paid for a year's subscription to www.raceactionnet.org.uk

## Countrywide 'first' for park staff

HOLIDAY park staff have become the first in the country to join the extended police family under a community safety scheme.

The employees from Waldegraves Holiday Park in West Mersea were granted Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) status by Essex Police at a special ceremony last month.

Waldegraves staff were given the accreditation to help to improve the quality of life for holidaymakers and Mersea residents.

The police partners will share information and work in closer partnership with the Mersea Neighbourhood Policing Team headed by Sgt Jon Butcher.

CSAS status has been successfully achieved by several organisations in north Essex and police hope the first holiday and leisure industry accreditation will act as a springboard and example to others.

The Waldegraves staff will be able to confiscate alcohol and tobacco products and demand names and addresses of suspected troublemakers.



● Special Supt Leon Dias presents the cheque to Nezda Blyth, Essex Air Ambulance community fund-raising co-ordinator

## 'We never know when we might need help!'

MEMBERS of Essex Special Constabulary raised £240 for the Essex Air Ambulance at an Eastern Division awards evening.

The cheque was presented by Eastern's Special superintendent, Leon Dias, to Nezda Blyth, the air ambulance's community fund-raising co-ordinator. The awards ceremony was held in December in Colchester and the cash was raised from a raffle, to which the 80 guests contributed.

Special Supt Dias said: "We organised the awards night to recognise the good work that the Specials had done over the past year as we hadn't held an event like this before."

"Everyone thought it would be lovely to raise some money for a good cause at the same time and the Essex Air Ambulance seemed to be the most popular choice."

"In our line of work especially, we have contact with the Essex Air Ambulance, and we all appreciate that we never know when we might need the team to help us personally." The current Essex Air Ambulance costs more than £105,000 a month to run and receives no Government, National Lottery or NHS funding.

Gemma Whiting



● Sc Mel Harmer in her uniform

## 'My work benefits from volunteering'

A SCHOOLTEACHER is bringing the work of the police to life at her school, thanks to her work with the Essex Police Special Constabulary.

Mel Harmer is a Year 6 teacher at New Hall Preparatory School in Chelmsford but also works 15 hours a week as a Special in Witham.

She's been using her role with the police to enhance her pupils' learning.

"My class has been looking at the use of formal language in writing and communication," explained Mel. "So I decided to use my police experience, together with my uniform, to really add a spark to the lesson."

As part of their speaking and listening work, Mel asked her pupils to role play what a police officer might say at the scene of a road accident.

"By wearing parts of the uniform and using my own personal experiences it really helped them get a feel for the



● Mel Harmer in class at New Hall Preparatory School

formal use of language," she said. "And it not only made it more fun but it also really improved

the quality of their work." This activity formed part of the Literacy Framework but Mel has been able to use her

Special skills in other areas of teaching.

"I've been able to support project work looking at people who help us," she said.

"I've also used lamps and fluorescent clothing to help children learn about light and dark."

"For me, this is what teaching's all about – being able to create meaningful scenarios that will cover the learning objectives in a realistic way."

Mel also uses her skills as a teacher to enhance her role as a Special.

"While my school was on Easter holidays I was able to visit a school in my Witham patch," said Mel.

"It was a great opportunity for me to talk about policing and the work of the Specials in the classroom – familiar territory for me."

● Find out more about becoming a Special by calling 01245 452824 or visit the Essex Police website at www.essex.police.uk/special1

## Team's op to make their neighbours happier

AN operation set up and run by the Moulsham Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) over the May Day Bank Holiday in Chelmsford was a success.

Operation Mildsteel was set up as part of Essex Police's commitment to tackle anti-social behaviour and criminal damage offences reported in the area.

Residents had reported a high level of noise nuisance in the early hours, and instances of damage to vehicles and property on a regular basis, mostly on Friday and Saturday evenings.

The offences mostly occurred when pub and club-goers headed home out of Chelmsford town centre, up Moulsham Street and into the surrounding residential areas. Moulsham NPT officers mounted overt and covert patrols, both on foot and on bicycle.

And over the weekend, only one criminal damage was reported – a stone through a window.

The team plans to make this an ongoing operation, sending out the message that it is not acceptable to cause damage, wantonly litter and disturb residents on the way home after a night out drinking.

● Moulsham NPT was featured in last month's issue of The Law. Turn to Page 10 of this month's issue to see how Harlow Central NPT is also putting the partnership into Neighbourhood Policing

## Friends raise £554 for burns charity

OFFICERS and staff have helped the friends of a young Hullbridge man who died in a car crash to raise money for a burns charity in his memory.

PCSO Laura Merrell sought volunteers from the force to play in a charity football match in memory of her schoolfriend Chris Garrod, 21, who died earlier this year in a car crash.

And on April 30, the force team lost 4-2 to a team comprising friends of Chris.

However, the match raised £554 for the Burned Children's Club.

Laura said: "I would like to thank everyone who played and helped out with the night, it was unbelievable we raised this substantial amount."

"The Burned Children's Club helps to support young children and their families when they have been severely burned. Chris and his twin brother Nick were involved in an incident whereby they had a lot of scars from the burns they received."

"The help from The Burned Children's Club got them back on track with confidence and life in general."

"With this money lots of other burned children will have the same help they received."

Laura hopes the match will become an annual event.

# Get to know the Special ones

LAST year, volunteers with the Essex Special Constabulary provided 120,982 duty hours – equivalent to 63 full-time, regular police constables.

And this help was generally given at times of peak demand, such as on Friday and Saturday nights and at carnivals, parades and shows.

And this commitment is usually made outside normal working hours for no pay – although the rewards are great, says Chief Officer George Cook, himself a Special for more than 40 years.

"The dedication of most Special Constabulary officers 24/7 and at times of emergencies is valued, remarkable and really outstanding in terms of personal sacrifice," he said.

The commitment of all Essex Special Constabulary officers can be demonstrated in a number of ways, George explained.

"Some Special Constabulary officers go to extraordinary lengths to enable them to perform their Special Constabulary duties, for example, paying for 'carers' to look after close relatives, whilst others – including police staff – give up paid employment.

Chief Officer of the Essex Special Constabulary, George Cook, has been set a recruitment target of 1,000 operation special constables by 2010.

He is working closely with HQ Recruitment and all District Commanders to help achieve this target, which means recruiting an extra 100-150 Specials a year – on top of the current establishment of 450 officers.

Here, *The Law* takes a look at how the Special Constabulary supplements the work of regular officers and PCSOs out on the beat.

"Many officers with managerial or supervisory roles also undertake numerous unrecorded duties at home or work every week to fulfil their demanding Special Constabulary roles," added George. But it is not just the volunteers themselves who provide Essex Police with help and support.

Understanding employers allow flexible working for their staff to complete their duties as Specials. And this two-way relationship has a wealth of benefits for all concerned.

For the myriad training courses which Specials must undertake or which are available to them, involve transferable skills which can be used in the workplace, too.

George said: "I would like to pay tribute to the families, relatives and friends of our officers, whose support

is invaluable." The benefits to the force as whole from the Special Constabulary are enormous.

In 2006/07\*, the average annual hours worked per Special officer was 273 – and an average of 432 Special officers volunteered their services during the 12 months.

They notched up 120,982 hours of duty at a cost – duty allowance and travel – of £312,000, which was just 12 per cent of the total annual cost of the equivalent number of police constable posts, at £2,665,237.

In fact, each Special cost the force an average of just £2.55 an hour. \* All full-year figures are a forecast based on the first ten months' data.

However, the duty hours stated are the actual figures completed for 2006/07



● The latest batch of Specials were attested on May 15

Picture by Gary Kenton

## Meet the Essex Special Constabulary Command Team



● Chief Officer George Cook MBE

Responsible for:  
 ● Vision  
 ● Forming strategic relationships with all Chief Officers, Essex Police Authority members & Home Office officials  
 ● National / regional issues  
 ● Line management of Special Constabulary Support Manager  
 ● Compliance & inspection  
 ● Finances  
 ● Full member of pertinent Policy Groups

In Essex there are five Special Superintendents, one per division, each one having management responsibility for the Special Constables within their own respective divisions. Special Superintendents fulfil a dual role – they are an integral part of the Divisional Command Team and Management Structure whilst also reporting to the Special Constabulary Command Team at Strategic Level.



● Deputy Chief Officer Derek Hopkins

Responsible for:  
 Operational management  
 Performance  
 Discipline  
 Compliance & inspection  
 Full member of pertinent Policy Groups



● S Supt Leon Dias Eastern



● S Supt Howard Rayner Central



● Assistant Chief Officer Lynette Flint

Responsible for:  
 Neighbourhood Policing  
 Welfare  
 Uniforms & equipment  
 IT  
 Full member of pertinent Policy Groups



● S Supt Mandy Parsons South-Eastern



● S Supt Scott McCabe South-Western



● Assistant Chief Officer Simon Wootton

Responsible for:  
 Human resources  
 Recruitment  
 Retention  
 Training  
 Employer support  
 Full member of pertinent Policy Groups



● S Supt Debi Rudd Western

## History ...

The Special Constabulary has been in existence for over 175 years. And it can trace its history back even further to the volunteers who provided help and security before paid police forces existed.

It wasn't until the mid-1700s that London's Bow Street Runners formed the first paid police force. The Runners were incorporated into the new Metropolitan Police Force introduced by Sir Robert Peel in the early 19th Century.

In 1831, the Special Constables Act gave Justices of the Peace the power to conscript men as Special Constables to combat riots and social unrest.

By the early 1860s, the regular paid police force had been formed throughout England and Wales, lessening the need for the volunteer constabulary.

With the outbreak of World War One, the need for the Special Constabulary was reinforced – resulting in the Special Constables Act of 1914.

This proved so successful that it led to another act in 1923, continuing the need for the Special Constabulary. And the Police Act of 1964 established a permanent Special Constabulary in its present form.

The transition from 'hobby bobby' to an integral resource in partnership with regular colleagues

Then, the decision was taken to modernise and increase the professionalism and performance of the Special Constabulary

As a consequence, the strength reduced by approximately 50 per cent with a resultant increase in performance.

Today's Special Constabulary comprises 450 volunteers who provide a professional service in partnership with their regular colleagues.

They are fully equipped and well trained to deliver the front-line policing demanded by today's police service.



# Christian Police Association has a new leader

## THE Essex Branch of the Christian Police Association has a new leader.

Chief Supt **Ian Grüneberg** was selected at the annual meeting after the previous leader, former Supt Steve Currell retired from the force.

Ian said: "Steve has provided an extraordinary service to colleagues throughout his service with Essex Police.

"And he was instrumental in the recent reintroduction of Police Chaplains and the very effective Adopt a Cop, as found in South-Eastern Division."

The CPA is an association of Christian members of the police service.

Ian said: "Many have found that it is possible to be a committed Christian in the police service.

"However, with the rigours of shift work and other commitments, it is often difficult for staff to be fully involved in the life of their church.

"The association believes that fellowship with other believers is important and especially with those who understand the problems associated with police work.

Ian said: "My faith provides a foundation to my life and assists me to make sense of the problems we, as police, have to deal."

His aims as branch leader are to assist fellow Christian colleagues, whether officers or police staff, to network and gain support from each other; to inform the Christian community outside Essex Police to understand and support the force in its service; and to play a full part in the Essex Police Support Network.

● Contact Ian Grüneberg via email or on ext 54003 for more details or visit the website, which can be found under the intranet's information menu

### Awards and degrees

Recognition and praise from the High Sheriff has been heaped upon an administrator from MAPP.

**Merrilyn Fitch** was appointed in May 2003 to provide administrative support to the Multi-Agency Public Protection Panel – a role jointly set up by Essex Police and Essex Probation Service. She has since been instrumental in assisting MAPP Manager Allan Taplin in developing the quality of meetings and setting up systems and databases.

The 54-year-old was nominated by Probation colleagues for the High Sheriff's Award in the category Best Supporting Practice.

Merrilyn said: "I'm delighted to have been nominated for such a prestigious award and it's gratifying to know that Essex Police and Essex Probation Service are so appreciative of my work."

In 2005, Merrilyn devised a MAPP administration workshop and she is currently working with Probation assistant chief officer Eric Aryee to help streamline the MAPP directories.

A former inspector has been awarded a PhD in policing, 13 years after retiring from the force.

**Maureen Scollan** studied for the Open University qualification by examining the subject Parish Constables to Police Constables: Policing Early 19th Century Essex.

She served the force for 25 years, retiring in 1994 as the district inspector in Halstead.

Maureen is currently the secretary of the Essex Journal and a volunteer for witness services.

### Retirements

South-Western's Operational Support Inspector, **Andy Norton**, 53, is retiring this month after almost 34 years with the force.

On joining in 1973, he was posted to Basildon and Brentwood Division and then moved between Laindon and Rayleigh Traffic, being promoted to sergeant.

He then served time in both Southend and Grays divisions, being promoted to inspector, before moving to Brentwood Traffic, back to Laindon and Rayleigh and then on to Tilbury and Corringham before his current posting in September 2003.

**Keith Marsh** has retired after serving the force for 33 years – joining as a Cadet.

He served in Chelmsford and Basildon divisions in uniform and CID before being posted to HQ Computer Development in 1986. There followed secondments to SO11 at New Scotland Yard, the National Criminal Intelligence Service and the National Crime Squad, inter-

persed with a short spell at the end of the 1990s at Rayleigh and the Force Intelligence Bureau.

Keith transferred from Essex two years ago and joined the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

He is planning to work as Facilities, Events Manager and Beadle of a leading City of London livery company – The Worshipful Company of Saddlers – established in the 12th Century.

### Obituaries

Former sergeant **George Mence**, of Hadleigh, has died, aged 82. He leaves a widow, Josephine.

Mr Mence served the force between 1952 and 1981 in Romford, Maldon, Chelmsford and Basildon.

His funeral took place at Basildon Crematorium. Donations to Fairhaven Hospice may be made in his memory and sent c/o F E Green and Sons funeral directors, Timberlog Lane, Basildon, Essex.

A former Essex officer who rose to become acting Assistant Chief Constable of Suffolk has died.

**Kenneth Baker**, who was born in 1919, served in the Army Service Corps during World War Two.

At the end of the war, he joined Essex Constabulary and spent most of his 20 years' Essex service in Chelmsford, with spells in Saffron Walden and Hornchurch, as an inspector.

During the 1960s he commanded the Essex Police Driving School and also served as chief inspector in command of motor patrols throughout the county.

In 1966, he became Superintendent in charge of the Traffic and Communications Department of Suffolk Constabulary, being promoted to chief superintendent the following year and being awarded the Queen's Police Medal in 1978, ending his career as Acting Assistant Chief Constable of Suffolk.

Mr Baker was involved in founding the Essex Police Band and the Suffolk Constabulary Male Voice Choir.

## Holiday lets

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**CENTRAL** Brittany, France beautiful stone cottage near lake. Sleeps 4 plus cot (one double/one twin). From £150 per week. Photographs at [www.caurelgrange.com](http://www.caurelgrange.com) or email: [campbell.amanda@wanadoo.fr](mailto:campbell.amanda@wanadoo.fr)

**COSTA** Blanca, La Marina, luxury two-bedroom, two-bathroom villa. Sleeps four to six, air conditioning, heating. Community pool, small estate. Beach/shops five mins, golf ten mins, airport 25 mins. From £150-£300 per week. Four weeks for price of three. Ring Mick Ager on 07775 676142 or (034) 617 110 096 or email [casadomi02@hotmail.com](mailto:casadomi02@hotmail.com)

**COSTA** Brava, Empuriabrava, two-bed, waterfront apartment near beach. Fly to Girona and Perpignan airports. From £35 per night. Call Fiona on 07817 821316 or visit [www.jemideas.co.uk](http://www.jemideas.co.uk)

**COSTA** Tropical, two bedroom apartment, on the beach with swimming pools. Sleeps 4. Air conditioning, private parking. August dates available. Contact Michelle on 07768 067063 or [castellplaya@aol.com](mailto:castellplaya@aol.com)

**FLORIDA**, four bedroom home, pool, quiet location but close to Disney and Airport. 10% discount from £450 per week. Free DVD. Contact Pete or Lin at [petewtaylor@yahoo.com](mailto:petewtaylor@yahoo.com) or 01245 321378.

**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](http://www.my-florida-villa.net)

**FLORIDA** Sarasota villa recently renovated. Quiet village environment. Communal pool, tennis, BBQ, clubhouse, hot-tub. Beautiful beaches. Email Norma at [norma@normagill.com](mailto:norma@normagill.com)

**LAKESIDE** chalet, Cotswold Water Parks. Exclusive, fully-equipped, two bedrooms, one bathroom, kitchen, lounge and terrace. Leisure centre on site. From £150 to £300 per week. Ring Stuart on 07973 639342.

**NORTHERN** France, 3 comfortably furnished gites/cottages with original beams and modern comforts. Peaceful rural countryside. Situated between Hesdin and Arras. An hour from Calais. Ring 01375 483045 or

visit [www.le-petit-hameau.com](http://www.le-petit-hameau.com)  
**ORLANDO**, luxury villa, four bedrooms, three bathrooms, sleeps up to ten. Private, screened pool near Disney and other central Florida attractions. Contact Alison and Michael on 01245 266949 or 01376 573406.

**TUSCANY**, Italy. Romantic, rustic, Medieval romantic village retreat nestling in the foothills of northern Tuscany. Breathtaking views. Perfect base – one hour to Florence, Pisa and Italian Riviera. Ring 07919 057437 for further details.

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

## Flat for rent

**FLAT** to let in Witham. Double bedroom. £475 per month plus Council Tax and utilities. Contact Chris on 07876 542535. Available June 2007.

## For sale

**230 AMERICAN** and 10 Australian police patches for sale. All different. £350 ovno. Call Derek on 01268 776572. Delivery by post or collection in Essex.

**MOUNTAIN** bike, men's, 21 inch frame, 15 grip-shift gears, Wild Thing universal make, hardly used. £25. Ring 07773 285477.

**PIAGGIO** 50cc scooter, 2003. Clean, used by adult. 10,000 km. MoT May 2008. £650.

**TRIUMPH** TR6, 1975, 2,498cc, red. Fully-restored, wire wheels, new fuel injection system, excellent condition, full service history and photos, £8,000-ish. Contact Cheryl on 07828 539144 or 07986 426722 or email [cherylmg@btinternet.com](mailto:cherylmg@btinternet.com)

## Wedding car hire

**ROLLS** Royce wedding car hire. Extra special service for your special day. Braintree, Colchester and Uttlesford districts. Uniformed chauffeur, full insurance. Contact Pete Caulfield on 01787 477537 or visit [www.rweddings.co.uk](http://www.rweddings.co.uk)

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

TO Pc Victoria Wilson  
THANK you for a really great day at Basildon 2smart 4drugs roadshow – it was an education for me as well as the kids – and I recruited 38 new members for the trust.

One young girl, aged 11 or 12, hovered around the table, then asked me how to pronounce 'schizophrenia' before continuing to hover.

She returned again and asked if she could have a schizophrenia fact sheet. She then told me her brother had schizophrenia and she hated him because of the things he did.

We had a chat about the problems he may experience, and then, with a smile on her face, I believe she went into the show.

Later she returned, her eyes tear-stained, and told me she loved her brother now because she realised he was not well and she would try to help him in future.

On leaving the theatre, the same girl showed me a CD she had bought for her brother and a really nice 'love you' card to go with it – she had used that week's pocket money to treat him!

I was quite choked up. It is really nice to think a one-day event could change the attitude of a young lady towards her very obviously sick brother and, hopefully, her attitude

towards mental illness.

Thanks for making that happen. It would be nice for a repeat event like this at each show.

**South Essex Partnership NHS Trust  
Wickford**

TO Insp Trevor Williamson  
I THOUGHT the Chemical Diversion Conference hosted by Essex Police was put together with much thought and professionalism and was well presented over the two days.

It kept my interest up and to do that is not easy.

**Robin Pivett  
Controlled Drug Inspection/Drug  
Reduction  
& Prevention Officer  
Suffolk Police**

TO Insp Trevor Williamson  
THE Chemical Diversion Conference was brilliant – one of the best we have been to for getting out of it what is relevant to the position.

**Gill Matthews  
Cleveland Police**

TO Claire Heath  
REGARDING Essex Police's announcement that it is dealing with today's crimes today by vowing to attend all non-emergency crimes within six hours.

I am very satisfied with today's Essex Constabulary policing methods – as a monthly columnist for Professional Security Journal I will be writing re same.

**Ken Rogers  
via email**

I WOULD like to thank the kind policeman (name

unknown) who stopped to help my elderly mother when she had fallen on the pavement in Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

She was unable to get up on her own when her knight in shining armour appeared in his patrol car.

I am pleased to report that she suffered no permanent ill-effects except a week of looking as if she had just survived three rounds with Muhammad Ali. Thank you.

**VW  
Springfield**

TO DI Alan Stevens  
THANK you for your presentation on Operation Snow Tiger and identity fraud to members of the business community.

The feedback was excellent. One woman who works in the retail sector travelled especially from London and said she appreciated your openness and honesty.

Thanks for a very interesting and comprehensive presentation. Perhaps we could run another meeting?

**Essex Chambers of Commerce  
Westcliff on Sea**

TO SSupt Scott McCabe & Insp Simon Dobinson

I WOULD like to bring to your attention two Special Constables who have not only been self-motivated, but committed and extremely professional over the past two weeks.

Scs Ross Evins and Fraser Macleod have been what I would only call 'Godsends' and a credit to the Essex Special Constabulary, in giving up a large amount of their own time to come in and

work alongside A-shift Neighbourhood Support Team (NST), sometimes without request, to support us during a time of staff sickness.

This includes the mundane jobs of constants, scene preservation and making the tea!

They have fulfilled these jobs without complaining and have even offered up without prompting.

These two officers have exceeded all my expectation by mucking in and, on some occasions, working over the allotted shift time to assist offers in completing incidents.

They have been a great pleasure to work with and I know that should I or others on shift ever need them when in a tight spot, both would only be a call away and only too pleased to come in and help us out. They are a real asset to Essex Police.

**Acting Sgt Simon Newman  
Laindon**

I WOULD like to thank the police officers, especially Pc Kevin Flinn, and ambulance crew who attended a call-out to my mother recently in west Clacton and for all they did for her.

**C P  
Hockley**

I HAVE been asked by the Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) who visited Clacton recently to pass on the fact that they were very impressed by the way in which Custody Sgt Sue Bryett responded to their visit.

She was helpful and courteous and introduced them by

name to the detainees, which encouraged them to agree to speak to them.

We also had a good reception in Colchester. I am hoping that this trend is at least in part due to the fact that ICVs have established themselves as reliable and trustworthy.

**Northern group of Independent  
Custody Visitors  
via email**

ON behalf of Stanford-Le-Hope and District Scout Council, I am writing to thank your officers for their help in policing of our annual St George's Day parade.

Their help in controlling the traffic made it a safe parade for all involved.

The youngsters in the movement certainly enjoyed the parade, and appreciate the support that Essex Police give them to enable them safe Scouting.

**Stanford-Le-Hope and District  
Scout Council  
Stanford le Hope**

I MUST thank a constable who was on duty in our road and noticed our door was wide open – he could see my husband's wallet and car keys on a table and went in to investigate.

He found my husband upstairs having a lie-down as he was a bit under the weather. It was my fault, I had gone for a short walk, leaving the door on the catch. The door had blown open.

The constable advised my husband to tell me to shut the door and take my keys, which I now do.

So thank you so much for sending a friendly policeman to our patch, I hope you will be able to trace him, and thank him for us.

**D P  
Shoeburyness**

AT school there was an incident which had the potential to be quite nasty.

Pcs Frazer Chapman and Tony Whitsey attended within ten minutes, and they quickly and efficiently diffused the situation.

I am sure that you, from time to time, get complaints from the public – I am equally sure, therefore, that you welcome a letter such as this commending two highly-professional officers who are a great credit to the police service as a whole, and Essex Police in particular.

**The Grays School Media Arts College  
Grays**

I RECENTLY had my beach hut at Clacton broken into.

From then on the police in the area have done a really good job for the hut-owners involved. Certainly the man who called the police was very impressed by the response.

One of the two other owners affected spoke to my daughter at the hut area and felt the police had done very well.

Pc Alan Williams, of Clacton East Neighbourhood Policing Team, has looked after us very well and for that I am very grateful as he has taken a lot of the 'sting' out of the situation.

**SK  
Great Glemham, Suffolk**

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● Pc Martin Plummer, Pc Graham Thomas, acting Chief Insp Ian Cummings and Sgt Andy Sawyer prepare to set off on their charity bike ride



Picture by Phil Beecham

## Putting cycle skills to good use

FOUR Chelmsford officers took to the roads for a 25-mile bike ride in aid of Little Havens Children's Hospice.

Pc Graham Thomas, of Writtle Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT), Pc Martin Plummer, of Chelmsford Prisoner Process Unit, Sgt Andy Sawyer and acting Chief Insp Ian Cummings, both of Chelmsford, wore full uniform – showing great foresight as it drizzled on the day. Starting and finishing at Anglia Ruskin University's Chelmsford Campus, the ride took them round the Chignalls, the Easters and Pleshey.

And it was not without incident. They had to deal with a ten-year-old boy, who fell off his bike. Graham said: "He had cycled off from his dad and sister so was on his own. We

cleaned up his cut, calmed him down, cheered him up and cycled with him to the next check-point where he waited to be reunited with his dad."

And Martin and Andy came to the rescue of a teenager who also came off his bike. Andy fetched the Red Cross ambulance while Martin waited with the youngster.

The foursome were inspired to take part after seeing a leaflet advertising the ride during their NPT cycle training and knowing that a colleague's child was at Little Havens. The quartet have so far raised £250 between them for the hospice.

● To make a donation in recognition of their efforts, send a cheque to Little Havens Children's Hospice, Stuart House, 47 Second Avenue, Westcliff on Sea, Essex SSO 8HX

TWO £100 ACTION awards were made at the meeting of the Bonus and Honoraria Panel last month.



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.

The recipients were: Pc Andrew Young, of South-Eastern; and Tom Knight, of Media & PR.

# Dealing with a problem before it's an issue



Neighbourhood Policing Week last month generated awareness of our style of policing. Neighbourhood Policing Teams are working across the county to provide a visible presence in local communities, and a dedicated point of contact for local people so they can have their say about issues affecting them. Work experience student Clodagh Garavan, 15, of The Mountfitchet Mathematics and Computing College, pictured left, visited the team covering Harlow Central.

**JUST one example of the good work Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) are carrying out across Essex by working with local people, is shown by the team covering central Harlow.**

Like other NPTs, they have created local 'surgeries' to provide residents with a regular time to talk to their local officers.

In Harlow, these are held at the Salvation Army at Bishopsfield, County Thames Housing Association Office. Check out who your local neighbourhood team is and their individual surgery dates on the Essex Police website at [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk) David Smith, the Salvation Army event co-ordinator in Harlow, has welcomed our policing style.

He said: "Neighbourhood Policing has really worked for us and is very good. "It has helped a great deal having the surgeries here as it gives our residents a chance to talk to their local officer."

"It has cut down on anti-social behaviour and nuisance youths in the area."

And Moira Jones, chairman of the residents' society at Bishopsfield, said of PCSO Louise Webb – who attends regularly because of reported problems with youths in the area: "Louise was excellent at getting a gang, which was causing trouble, to behave. As a result, life is a lot quieter."

Another satisfied customer is Barbara Coster, the housing association officer for East Thames Homes.

Together, she and local officers tackle any anti-social behaviour.

Ms Coster wrote: "I would like to say that the partnership working with the police is a great success. "I know by speaking with other residents that they feel protected in the knowledge that they have a hard-working and conscientious officer – who is always willing to go the extra mile for them."

"On a mixed-tenure estate, it is so important to be able to show that the police, the council and East Homes are working collectively for the same aim – customer satisfaction and a reduced level of anti-social behaviour. "I look forward to our continuing partnership working."

Neighbourhood Policing officers deal with all sorts of issues such as under-age drinking, where drink is confiscated, and the youths

are sometimes taken home to discuss with their parents issues that cause distress to residents.

PCSO Webb said she chats to young people to make them aware that they are being anti-social, as they often don't know that they are. Local schools are also visited as often as possible to discuss different topics, which can range from bullying to drugs.

Many teachers see this as a valuable lesson for children which helps prepare them for life outside of school.

PCSO Webb said: "I love my job because I am able to talk to people and help them."

"I believe that since Neighbourhood Policing was introduced, particularly in my area, the interaction between residents, police and partners has become even better."

"Problems are quickly identified and highlighted to us by our residents, allowing us to get on and deal with them before it becomes a real issue."



● Clodagh Garavan interviews PCSO Louise Webb about Neighbourhood Policing in central Harlow

Pictures by Denise Harvey

## 'Come and enjoy a glass of IPA with us'

SUCCESSFUL events in Region 10 of the International Police Association just keep on happening!

The first annual golf day attracted 26 competitors. Henry Roblin, director of Hintlesham Hall and a golf-professional, presented the prize to a team of officers from Mobile Support Division and the Practical Skills Centre – Matt Clarke, Andy Kemp, John Storie and Shaun Frost. And April saw the second annual ten-pin bowling competition at Madison Heights in Maldon. South-East Essex branch –

Tom O'Brien and Pete Culligan – managed to retain the cup for the winning team with Bill Fancourt, of Mid-Essex branch, getting the award for the highest individual score.

And at the IPA National Council Meeting in Leeds, Pete Culligan, vice-chairman of Region 10 and chairman of South-East Essex branch, received the annual Certificate of Merit from the National President Bill Petherick, reflecting the work by the Regional Executive in reviving IPA in the Essex area.



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## Doreen joins a happy throng

A NEW deputy musical director has joined Essex Police Choir.

Doreen Potter was well known by many members as she had supported the choir as a member of Musicality over a number of years.

She began piano lessons at an early age, followed by three years of singing studies.

More recently, Doreen was a freelance accompanist in schools for examination sessions in tap, ballet and modern stage dancing.

Since moving to Billericay in 1989 she has become known throughout Essex as a soloist, accompanist, conductor and entertainer.

● CLIVE Eastbrook, who accompanied the choir for more than 12 years, has retired.

## Yacht a great sailing event

THE Police Credit Union was the Grand Final sponsor of this year's PSUK Offshore Sailing Championship 2007, held on the Solent at the end of May. The credit union, which provides financial services for police officers, police staff and their families, supported more than 250 competitors on 25 yachts from forces across the UK. The annual event is a tough endurance passage race around the Isle of Wight via Poole.

A Nottinghamshire boat won and will go on to represent the British Police Service internationally.

## Making her splash

FIR Communications Officer Gemma Pearson warmed up for national and European events by coming highly placed in her latest diving competition.

Gemma attended the National Spring Masters Diving Championships in Southampton and came second in the 1m springboard and third in both the 3m springboard and the platform competitions. Now she is heading for Sheffield on June 30 for a two-day event with both springboard and platform competitions.

Then she is off to the European Masters in Slovenia at the end of August.

## Kirste's run

ESSEX Police College Trainer Kirste Snellgrove ran the London Marathon, her 14th, in 5hrs 17 mins and raised £1,500 for the Breast Cancer Campaign. Afterwards she said of the race, one of the warmest ever: "It was hell on earth."

## Game on ...?

COLCHESTER's soccer side are seeking 11-a-side teams to play against.

● Give Tim Coe a ring on ext 10128 or email him if you fancy a game



● Lucy Robinson, front row, far left, and the rest of the British Police hockey team

# Lucy helps British Police to win over the Services

## LUCY Robinson played her part in the annual British Police women's hockey team's tournament last month.

Currently on secondment, Lucy is still a member of the Essex Police women's hockey team.

Proceedings started with a tough training session on May 18, followed by a training game against Havant to prepare for the weekend. The team started well, but took time to settle as a unit, narrowly losing out 2-1 to a well organised team.

However, the main event was the match against the Combined Services.

Lucy said: "The game has been a long-standing fixture for the British Police team and is always competitive. This

year was no different, with a strong military side being fielded."

In the first half, the police side had plenty of opportunities to score but failed to find the back of the net.

With Lucy leading a steady defence from sweeper, the team kept out several break-away attacks from the Services, but one eventually got through for Services to lead 1-0 at half time.

After the break, the police team came out hard and, following a superb strike from the centre forward, pulled it back to 1-1.

Again, the police dominated play but were continually denied by a quality performance from the Services goalkeeper.

The police defence then conceded a short corner, against the run of play, resulting in another Services goal.

However the police team didn't give up and came back fighting.

In an unusual turn of events, the police striker ran through on goal, where she was met by the Services keeper who missed the ball but got the player, sending the police striker flying through the air.

The keeper was given a red card and a penalty flick was awarded, which was duly slotted away, levelling the score at 2-2.

With five minutes remaining, the police dug in and won a final short corner, which was converted to win the game 3-2 and return the trophy to police possession.

After some well-deserved celebrations, the Sunday saw the British Police play the Civil Service.

In a fine display of hockey, the police won the game 7-0 in a fitting finish to an excellent weekend.

## Football galore for all ages and skills

ESSEX Police Vets' football team are already looking forward to the new season and renewed dreams of silverware.

Although they played attractive, passing football, remaining committed and enthusiastic during every match, this was not enough to keep them in the top echelons of the Greene King Saturday League.

They will be plying their trade in Division One in the new season, hoping to bounce back to the Premier Division at their first attempt.

And the squad, which, under the guidance of Matt Clarke, has grown in size, also intend to improve on this year's

quarter-final exit in the PSUK league.

However, there is always room for more players, who are over 35. Manager Ray O'Hare appealed: "Get off your mobility trolleys and throw down your walking aids, sticks and Zimmer frames and get back on that pitch. Players do not need to be police officers and do not even need to be employed by the police."

● Contact Matt Clarke on 07946 455102 or email matthew.clarke@essex.pnn.police.uk

or ring Ray O'Hare on 07980 892511 or email ray.ohare@essex.pnn.police.uk

● FOR those with youth on their side –

## Southchurch lottery success

PC Mark Sawyer, of Southchurch Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT), took the honours in the force lottery last month, winning £3,000.

Second-prize winner was Pc Jane Wright, of Harlow Domestic Abuse and Hate Crime Unit (DAHCU), who wins £1,000.

And winner of the third prize of £500 was Pc Judy Parry, of Southend Central NPT.

Winners of £100 prizes were: Graeme Rainbird, of the Force Information Room (FIR); Sylvia Gibson, of Sylvia Gibson, Southchurch NPT; Sue Coley, of FIR; Jim Davies, of the

Technical Support Unit; Sarah Hayden-Case, of HQ Crime Division; Sgt Ashley Stearn, of Waltham Abbey; Helen Knightley, of Loughton NPT; Dc Kevin Collett, of Witham CID; Norma Blamey, of Property Services; Dc Dave Nash, of HQ Crime Division; and Alison Meacock, of Colchester.

And £50 prizewinners were: Dc Rachel Slade, of Grays DAHCU; Derek Wheddon, of Chelmsford; Pc Paul Gridley, of Essex Police College Practical Skills Centre; Sgt Kevin Taylor, of Clacton; Thomas Sanderson, retired; Pc Dylan Barry, of Rayleigh; Bonnie Pearce, of HQ Photographic;

Ernest Dark, retired; Insp Mark Furneaux, of Stansted Airport; Pc Nicholas May, of Corringham West NPT; Pc Alison Worrton, of Harlow DAHCU; Pc Jonathan Osborne, of South Ockendon; Pc Natalie Hammond, of Chelmsford; and Pc Ian James, of Clacton.

Winners of Benenden Healthcare bears were: Dc Simon Willett, of Colchester, Paula Skidmore, Essex Police College Trainer; Pc Tim Thoday, of Bocking Road Policing Unit (RPU); Alisdair Hunter, of the IT Service Desk; Pc Ray Jeffery, of Rayleigh RPU; and Derek Wheddon, of Chelmsford.

## Choir sings out for new members

DO you enjoy singing? Essex Police Choir are looking to recruit new members – particularly men.

The choir has raised in excess of £160,000 for charities across the county over the past 18 years, performing concerts at venues across Essex and further afield.

They join up with other choirs, orchestras and bands to put on concerts.

The choir sing a variety of music, including songs from the Shows, chart hits, popular religious pieces and classical music.

So whether you are the next 'Maria' or 'Joseph', or you just enjoy singing in the shower, why not go along and give them a try – you will be guaranteed a warm welcome.

For further information or an informal chat, contact Norman Eastbrook on 01245 452580 or Sylvia Bray on 01245 265144.

Alternatively, rehearsals are on Tuesdays, from 7.30pm at Essex Police College in St Margaret's Road, Springfield.

● For further details, visit the choir's new website at [www.essexpolicechoir.co.uk](http://www.essexpolicechoir.co.uk)



● Kerrie Barkway ext 58883

THE Essex Police Sports Association has recently set up a fantastic deal with Adventure Island and Sea Life Adventure on Southend sea front. Adventure Island has over 60 rides and attractions and there's something for the whole family to enjoy.

The Big Adventure Wristband, which entitles adults and kids over the height of 1.2 metres to unlimited use of the park for the day, is usually priced at £20. EPSA members can purchase these for £8.

And the junior band for children up to 1.2 metres tall is normally priced at £15. EPSA members can purchase these for £6. Tickets are valid every day, whether it be a weekday, weekend or bank holiday.

Sea Life Adventure hosts a wide range of marine life and is a fun and informative visit for the family.

EPSA has purchased a bulk order of discount vouchers which entitle EPSA members and their family to admission for just £2.50 each.

Please note that under-fours get in free.

● To order some pre-paid vouchers, contact Kerrie Barkway at EPSA, preferably by e mail or on ext 58883

## Force hosts conference on impact of chemicals

A GROUND-breaking conference examining the potential impact of precursor chemicals in today's drug markets was hosted by the force last month.

Organised on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) the conference also looked at the impact of such chemicals on policing and society.

So-called pre-cursor chemicals are often everyday chemicals – such as sodium bicarbonate, acetone, iodine, kerosene, sulphuric acid and hydrogen peroxide – which can be used to create illegal substances such as drugs and explosives.

The Road Ahead was introduced by Deputy Chief Constable Andy Bliss, also the ACPO lead for the policing of precursor chemicals and it was attended by representatives from forces across the country.

Afterwards, Mr Bliss said: "We are very pleased with how the conference went and the outcomes that it achieved."

"A number of Essex Police staff were instrumental in the organisation and running of the event and without their hard work it would not have been the success that it was."

"Key players from across the UK attended and feedback from the delegates so far has been very positive."

Mr Bliss added that such feedback provided an opportunity to build upon the success of the conference and push the issue of pre-cursor chemical diversion and the threat of methamphetamine up the national agenda.

He added: "There is still some work to be done in certain areas, for instance ensuring that all police forces have the capability to respond to suspicious activity involving chemicals, but we have already received reports from across the country that the conference has facilitated this process."

Talks covered subjects such as the role of the police chemical liaison officer, lessons learnt from police operations across the country and internationally, the threat of methamphetamine, and the role of drugs courts.

## A 'staggering' £2,500 cash

CLACTON constable Debbie Smith and her husband Insp Pete Smith have now raised over £2,500 for breast cancer research this year.

Debbie took part in the Moonwalk in London earlier this year and Pete completed the London Marathon.

The couple were inspired by Debbie's cousin, Fiona, who has been diagnosed with terminal cancer, after having had breast cancer five years ago.

## Warning as drink-driver gets five years in jail

A SENIOR crash investigator has warned of the 'horrific consequences' of drinking and driving as a motorist is jailed for the offence.

Senior Investigating Officer Inspector Richard Phillibrown made his comments as Darren Floyd, of Chigwell, was given a five-year sentence following the death of a motorist in Abridge last year.

Floyd's Ford Iveco crossed the centre line on the A113 London Road in April 2006 and struck a Citroen Berlingo travelling in the opposite direction. Citroen driver Keith Sargent, 42, of

Willingale, was certified dead at the scene.

Floyd, a 28-year-old builder, was treated in hospital for an arm injury before being arrested and subsequently charged with one count of causing death by careless driving while under the influence of alcohol.

On May 9, he admitted the offence at Chelmsford Crown Court and was sentenced the following day. He was also disqualified from driving for five years.

Judge Peter Fenn said Floyd had driven after consuming eight pints of strong

lager and had been warned not to drive by a friend.

Insp Phillibrown said afterwards: "My heart goes out to Keith's family at this time. Despite the sentence they will never have him back. This crash was caused by Darren Floyd's total disregard for the dangers of drinking and driving and, as a result, a family has needlessly lost a loving person. "I hope this tragedy illustrates to all drivers the horrific consequences of drinking and driving. Essex Police will continue to deal with this serious offence in a robust manner."

# Bright idea prompts new DV1 toolkit help

**AN idea by Sgt Paul Lamb to improve the service given to victims of domestic abuse has led to the development of a new Domestic Abuse Toolkit.**

The toolkit (DV1) will help officers in recording evidence and investigations relating to domestic abuse.

The move is in line with the force's policy of giving a quality of service to domestic abuse victims and of dealing with such reports positively.

ACC Carmel Napier said: "The new toolkits are another step in our continuing aim to improve our services to victims and survivors of domestic abuse."

"Victims rightly expect the highest standards of professionalism and support from our staff – the toolkit will help to ensure this is achieved on a consistent basis."

Vulnerable Victims' Co-ordinator Insp Nick Burston said the force had taken on board lessons learned by other forces in domestic abuse cases and had reviewed its processes to ensure that all incidents were recorded, any offences identified and positive action taken.

She said: "Officers will be expected to carry out a risk assessment at the scene of a domestic abuse report to reduce the likelihood of a repeat incident and to ensure appropriate support is given to the victim."

She stressed that force policy was to take positive action when dealing with reports of domestic abuse. And amending the DV1 should help officers to do this.

Filling in the booklet allows risk assessment of the victim, monitors the level of abuse and the number of calls made to police – enabling strategies to be developed to deal with the case – and helps us to inform partner agencies about risk levels and risk management.

Insp Burston said: "If we don't deal



● Ds Lydia George, Insp Nick Burston, Sgt Paul Lamb and Ds Tracy Martinez with Insp Pauline Bowers, of the Force Information Room, and the new DV1 booklet. FIR will command and control domestic abuse incidents

Picture by Heather Turner

with domestic abuse incidents at the scene within the 'golden hour', it may be difficult to recover it later – evidence may be cleared away, the victim and/or witnesses may refuse to co-operate or injuries may have healed.

"Now, if officers don't fill in a DV1 booklet at the scene, they must be able to justify this."

**Force policy is to:** protect the lives of adults and/or children at risk; investigate all reports of domestic abuse and improve customer satisfaction; facilitate effective action against offenders so that they can be held accountable through the

criminal justice system; liaise with partner agencies to prevent and reduce incidents; and improve detection rates and reduce repeat victimisation.

● SGT Paul Lamb put his idea to the Force Suggestion Scheme and is one of this year's award-winners. Deputy Chief Constable Andy Bliss will make the presentations at a special ceremony on July 20.

● If you have an idea to save time or money or to improve efficiency, email Force Suggestion Scheme in your Outlook Address Book

● DVHCU's are now DAHCU's – Domestic Abuse and Hate Crime Units.

## Turn on and tune in to Neighbourhood Policing



● Sgt Paul Saunders takes to the airwaves Picture by Paul Saunders

A BENFLEET sergeant has taken to the airwaves in an unusual move to develop closer contact with the community. To the already successful Neighbourhood Policing Teams and the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme, can now be added ... local radio.

Sgt Paul Saunders presents a regular show on Link Radio dealing with community issues which concern listeners. The programme also gives residents an opportunity to ask Paul questions. He said: "There is a real drive for the police to engage more with the public. Our aim is to increase our relations with community groups and bring them into the spectrum of community partnerships we are developing. "That's going well and the positive

feedback we are receiving is helping us as community police officers

"We want to hear from residents about their expectations of community policing and the areas in which they are concerned. "The radio programme is one of the many ways we can achieve this.

"I deal with subjects that may help put minds at rest and also give advice on ways we can all protect ourselves against the risks to which we are all exposed."

So far Paul has covered many topics, ranging from the dangers of cold callers to the need for security out in the street.

Link Radio chairman John Brennan said: "It makes good sense for us to be able to share air-time with the police to assist them with their aims of reaching as many people in the community as possible."

## 'Very violent' man gets life in jail for knife murder

A MAN described as 'very violent' is beginning a life sentence following his conviction for a vicious knife murder.

Harpul Sumon, 26, from Maidenhead in Berkshire, was on a night out in Southend last July with his brother and a friend when they got caught up in an altercation outside a Wimpy restaurant.

Harpul was stabbed to death by Bardhyl Haziri, 27, of west London. Harpul's brother was also injured but not seriously.

Haziri had been bailed by a court pending sentencing for grievous bodily harm after another knife attack but, eight days later, committed the murder.

His associate, Shpetim Malka, 19, was co-accused but failed to appear and was convicted in his absence for both murder and the unrelated GBH.

Haziri received a life sentence with a recommendation that he serve a minimum of 19 years before being eligible for parole.

He was ordered to be deported to his home country of Albania at the end of his sentence.

Malka was sentenced in his absence to five years in a youth detention centre for the unrelated GBH. He remains unlawfully at large and is believed to be in Albania.

Senior Investigating Officer Det Supt Simon Dinsdale said: "The tragic and brutal death of Harpul Sumon is another example of the damage that can be caused by carrying knives.

"It is not just about the unnecessary loss of life but the devastating effects on the families and friends who are left to cope with their loss."

## Nominate for good justice awards 2007

NOMINATIONS for the Justice Awards 2007 can be made until Friday, August 3. Police officers and staff are urged to nominate colleagues and teams, recognising the breadth of service in the criminal justice system.

There is a new Volunteer of the Year Award, celebrating the best volunteer working with victims, witnesses, defendants or offenders plus seven other individual awards and seven team awards: caring for victims and witnesses; tackling youth crime; working with offenders; engaging with local communities; commitment to diversity; long-service award for continued dedication; and joint working.

● Visit <http://justiceawards.cjsonline.gov.uk> for more information