

# The Law



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August 2007

Top NPIA officer believes that 'some of the best' are walking the beat in Tilbury

## TEAM'S METHOD IS 'POWERFUL STUFF'

**AN Essex neighbourhood policing team has been praised for its crime-reduction methods by a top officer at the National Policing Improvement Agency.**

Richard Earland, chief information officer at the NPIA, was so impressed by Tilbury NPT that he told them: "If you could bottle this team and spread it around it would be powerful stuff."

During a visit to the police station in South Western Division, Mr Earland said that his job with the newly-formed agency was to identify sparkling performance among police forces.

Then he had to "take the best and spread it to the rest. And I believe that some of the best is here".

He said: "There is something special going on here and it is a privilege to meet you."

Mr Earland revealed that he was training as a special constable and told the team: "To find out what this success story is all about, I would like to come out on patrol with you in Tilbury on a Saturday night."

by **Bill Stock**

The team of regular officers and PCSOs, led by Insp Mark Wheeler and Sgt Stuart Hooper, in close partnership with the community, has increased its detections from 19 per cent to 30 per cent in eight months and also cut crime by 12 per cent over the same period.

When Mr Earland asked team members why they had been so successful, the main reasons they gave were: "fantastic teamwork", "excellent leadership", "excellent intelligence-gathering by the PCSOs" and "plain hard work".

Divisional commander Chief Supt Simon Coxall praised the achievements of Tilbury NPT.

He said the area had initially been assessed as a priority one neighbourhood and was among the most deprived areas of the UK.

He added: "It is a challenging area. What you see is what you get but it is a very satisfying area in which to work and a place which is changing rapidly."

"It is an old dock town which had lost much of its heavy industry but now industry and the opportunity it provides is coming back."

Insp Wheeler said he was very proud of what the officers, PCSOs and police staff had done.

"It has been achieved with a great team spirit; an eye for opportunity, a willingness to act swiftly and a sense of ownership for their area are key ingredients," he said.

"The other neighbourhood teams and the response teams and the local CID have also achieved their own successes and continued to provide great support for each other."

"It must always be remembered that the whole team effort is greater than the sum of the parts in any successful team."

"This has demonstrated to me that it is possible to deliver community engagement and performance – the team and their individual roles must be looked at holistically in order for this to happen."

Insp Wheeler added that the Tilbury area was changing significantly with more investment being made.

"We are seeing a huge alteration in the demographics of Tilbury with new families arriving all the time," he said.

"It is important that they are made to feel safe in their neighbourhoods."

"The shortly-to-be-completed Gateway Academy and the construction of the giant Shellhaven container docks over the next few years, along with a greater mix of cultures, will continue the tide of change".

Later in the day, Mr Coxall and Mr Earland

went aboard an Essex Police patrol boat at Tilbury to tour some of the major Thames-side sites in the area such as the docks, power station, QE2 bridge, chemical storage depots and other industrial plants.

After returning to Tilbury, Mr Earland travelled to Essex Police HQ for talks with Chief Constable Roger Baker, and other senior officers.

Rick Tazzini, director of finance and administration, later told Chief Supt Coxall that the team at Tilbury had "left a massive and positive impression" on Mr Earland.

Mr Tazzini said: "He was really impressed by what he experienced at Tilbury with the officers and PCSOs."

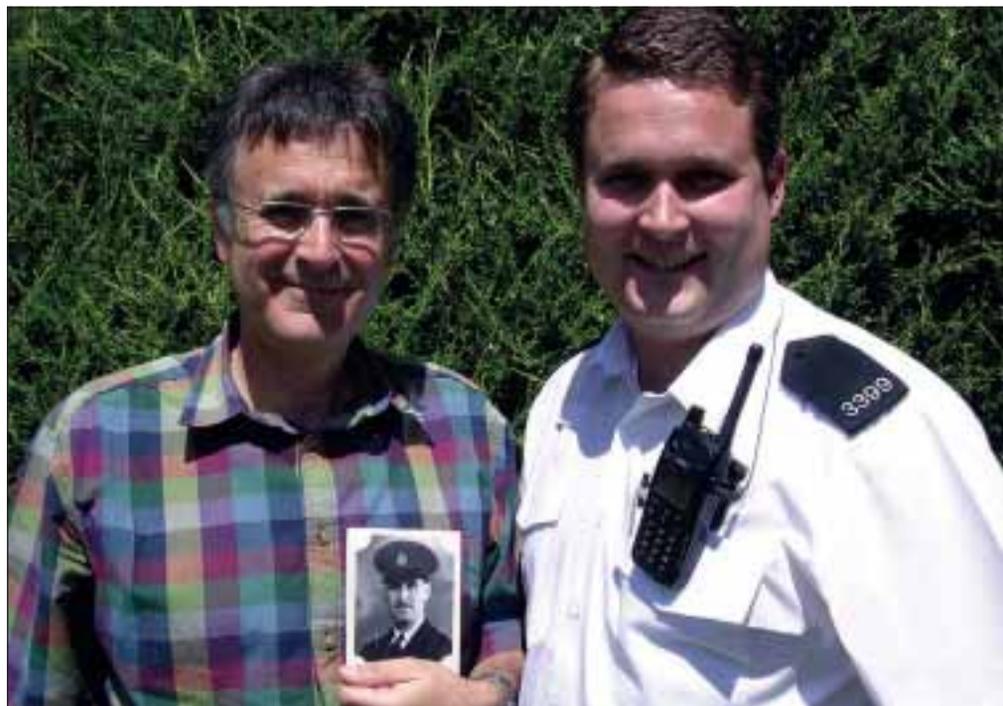
"He was taken aback by the can-do commitment, the sense of dealing with today's business today and the integration of PCSOs with police officer colleagues."

"This was his fourth or fifth force visit – no-one has taken him out to the front line before. He was very impressed from just 20 minutes with your team and he is keen to return for a Saturday shift in Tilbury."

"You can feel justly proud of the genuine comments that he passed on to the chief officers today."

"It gave us all a warm and reassuring glow."

## Paul keeps it in the family for fourth generation



● Pc Paul Wood, right, with his father, former sergeant Peter Wood, who is holding a picture of Paul's great grandfather Sidney Smy, an inspector at Clacton

A DEGREE in aeronautical engineering may seem an unusual qualification for a police officer but for Paul Wood it was a choice that ultimately led to him becoming the fourth generation of his family to serve with the police.

Paul's great grandfather Sidney Smy joined up in 1926 and was an inspector at Clacton during World War Two. He died, aged 93, after enjoying his retirement pension for over 40 years.

Sidney's daughter Ruby worked in the Women's Auxilliary Police Service (WAPS) for a couple of years towards the end of the war, also at Clacton.

However, it was not until 1975 that Ruby's son Peter took up the baton and joined the force. Peter served in the Eastern Division area and retired as a sergeant at Harwich in 2005.

His son Paul started work with the force in 2004, just six months before his father retired after 30 years' service.

Peter said: "I was glad to leave then as I was still enjoying the job but it is a job that seems now to be changing constantly."

While at school, Paul's love of flying saw him join the RAF volunteer reserve and gain his glider licence. University saw him studying for an aeronautical engineering degree and he was awarded a flying scholarship with the RAF.

Sadly for him he was unable to train to be a

pilot and, although he could have been a navigator, he says he "didn't want to sit in the back seat as it makes him travel sick".

Whilst at university, the horrors of the 9/11 plane crashes in New York had a devastating affect on the aeronautical industry so Paul found it very difficult even to get a job interview as no-one was recruiting.

Eventually, he turned his sights towards joining the police service and finally received a letter saying that he had been accepted by Essex Police.

Peter said: "For Paul, as he grew up, there was always the wider police family in the background and I am pleased for him that he made the choice to join up."

Paul, who describes himself as ambitious, has worked for the last year as part of the neighbourhood policing team working out of Walton police station and is now moving to the probationer tutor unit at Clacton to further his career.

He said: "I always wanted to work in an area where I grew up and my family lived and it is great working within half a mile of my Grandma Ruby's home."

"Being given this opportunity is such a privilege. People have told me that they think it is quiet down here in a retirement and seaside town, but it's not. I have got stuck in knowing the area's problems and I am trying to make a difference."



# 'Proud to be an Essex officer'

**I WAS privileged to represent our members in a debrief on how Essex Police coped during the recent terrorist threat.**

The debrief was chaired by Assistant Chief Constable Peter Lowton.

During any operational debrief, there are always things to be learned – it is the nature of policing in this ever-changing world in which we live and police today.

However, one message which was abundantly clear was that Essex Police reacted, coped and performed to a very high standard.

I personally wish Prime Minister Gordon Brown would acknowledge what a professional and dedicated police service we have, instead of attacking our pockets with below-inflation pay proposals and toying with the bedrock of policing.

During the debrief, Mr Lowton praised the performance of Essex Police and stated that he 'was proud to be an Essex officer'.

I personally haven't had much of an opportunity to work with Mr Lowton since his appointment but this was high praise indeed, especially from an ex-Met cop.

I will look forward to working with him in the future.

## Police pay negotiations

By the time you read this article, we may be in a period of conciliation and arbitration for the second year running.

The Government's formal offer for the police officer pay rise for 2007 is 2.325 per cent.

This offer was based purely on its interpretation of the new index as recommended by Booth and the Government proposes that this

figure should be applied in full to all ranks with effect from September 1, 2007.

It does not propose that the award be staged and has, for the time being, dropped proposals for a 'pot' of money to be divided out.

Having agreed to reject the Government's offer, the Police Federation went on to consider the basis of a claim for our pay rise with effect from September 1, 2007.

Consideration was given to submitting a claim in line with the non-manual pay survey, on which our pay rises have been based since 1994 and which, as informed in previous issues of *The Law*, was commissioned and funded by the federation this year.

However, in contradiction of the Government's portrayal, it was agreed that it is essential to demonstrate that the federation is not resistant to change but is prepared to accommodate change, provided that any change is reasonable, transparent, fair to our members and is seen to be fair by our members.

The federation, therefore, agreed to submit a claim calculated on an alternative index – based on a different 'basket' of public sector pay settlements to those proposed by the Government – and, essentially, also retaining a strong element of private sector pay settlements.

It does not include the four Government Department pay settlements proposed by Booth and the Government, which are both unfair and obscure.

The federation's 'basket' of pay settlements covers some 4.4million public sector workers and over a million private sector non-manual workers.

Included in the claim is an element to meet

the federation's requirement that, before the new index is applied, a 'level playing field' be established.

In order to calculate the appropriate element to establish a level playing field, the cumulative increases in basic pay for the basket of pay settlements from 2000 to 2006 have been calculated and measured against the cumulative increase in police basic pay for the same period.

This measurement was added to the average of the index to form the federation's claim to increase the basic rates of pay of all ranks by 3.94 per cent with effect from September 1.

At the Police Negotiating Board's annual meeting on July 19, the Official Side was reluctant to reach a failure to agree.

It has stated it needs more time to consider the federation's claim. The independent chairman has advised that he considers the sides to be closer, following the federation's 'constructive' response and that there would be merit in further negotiation.

He, therefore, requested the Home Secretary to consider extending the deadline to reach agreement. The Home Secretary accordingly agreed to extend the deadline to Friday, July 27. Obviously, by the time you read this, you should be aware of the outcome of these negotiations.

## Request for discounted housing scheme rejected

Essex Police Federation challenged Essex Police Authority, saying the authority had failed to give proper consideration as to whether discounted purchase prices may be offered to officers resident in police houses.

A three-to-five-year housing disposal strategy was approved by members of the authority on March 13, 2006.

Legal advice obtained by the federation indicated that the authority would be permitted to dispose of accommodation on a discounted basis either to a sitting tenant or to a priority

purchaser. However, the authority did not build discounts into its scheme and, indeed, abandoned an earlier discount scheme on the erroneous basis that it would be unlawful to do so.

As a result of this, Essex Police Federation asked the authority to reconsider its decision not to offer a discount on the purchase price to those affected officers at its next meeting.

The issue was referred to a full meeting on June 4, 2007, at which the authority resolved to continue the existing house sales programme without the inclusion of a discount purchase scheme.

## Congratulations to ex-Essex cop

Essex Police Federation would like to congratulate Ian Learmonth on his appointment as the new Deputy Chief Constable of Norfolk Police.

Ian began his career with Essex as a cadet in 1974, before joining the regular force in 1975.

Following his probationary period, he joined the Dog Section before being promoted to sergeant. He was promoted to inspector in the Harlow Division in 1989. From there, Ian moved to HQ to oversee an IT project, before his promotion to chief inspector in 1995, when he returned to Harlow Division as operations manager.

Then it was back to HQ as temporary superintendent in charge of Operations Division, incorporating the Dog Section, Force Support Unit, Marine Unit, Air Support Unit and the Mounted Section.

In 1999, as superintendent, he was posted to Stansted Airport. The following year he became Harlow Divisional Commander and a chief superintendent, spending time as temporary Assistant Chief Constable (Crime) before moving on to the Strategic Command Course in March 2004.

He then joined Strathclyde Police in May 2005 as Assistant Chief Constable. Congratulations Ian!

# New Comms Division site

## COMMUNICATIONS Division has a new website.

The site encompasses the Force Information Room (FIR), Crime Bureau, Customer Services, HQ switchboard and others. Some pages for the sections remain under construction but the FIR, Crime Bureau, Road Collision and Civil Disclosure and Reception webpages are now available to view and will be further developed.

● To view, simply visit the information menu on the intranet home page and click on Communications Division



● The new Communications Division intranet site home page

# Teenagers killed man in his home

TWO teenagers have been found guilty of killing a man at his Basildon home in August last year.

Simon Goddard, 32, was found dead in his flat in Travers Way.

A post mortem examination showed that he died of multiple injuries.

Four men went on trial for Mr Goddard's murder in June and after nearly three days of deliberation the jury reached its verdict on July 26.

Justin Baker-Brown, 18, from Basildon was acquitted of the murder as was Brett Adams, also 18 and from Basildon.

Found guilty of murder was Andrew Mann,

18, from Basildon, while Liam Smith, 18, from Pitsea, was found guilty of manslaughter. Both were 17 when they killed Mr Goddard.

Senior Investigating Officer Det Supt Keith Garnish said: "No matter what the circumstances, murder is an unnecessary loss of life. It leaves great hurt in its wake with family and friends having to come to terms with the loss of someone they cared about. "It is those people who our thoughts should be with and I only hope that the court's verdict helps them to move on with their lives."

Mann and Smith will be sentenced later.

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- The originators of successful ideas proposed through the Force Suggestion Scheme with DCC Andy Bliss, who presented their awards.
- To submit an idea, simply email Force Suggestion Scheme

## Champions are here to help you in diversity

DIVISIONAL diversity champions are to assist in embedding the use of diversity awareness within front-line policing.

The aim is to give all staff the confidence to engage with their local communities.

The 2006 ACPO Confidence and Equality paper recognised that the better we know our communities, the better our service should be.

Each force is encouraged to use resources effectively to support local delivery of diversity and to evaluate local performance.

This way, barriers to engaging with local communities can be broken down and we can provide a more robust service to our communities, with the resultant improved trust and confidence in the police.

Divisional diversity champions will ensure greater local accountability and will ensure all aspects of diversity are promoted within local policing, encourage engagement with local community groups through local independent advisory groups and ensure effective use is made of local intelligence.

However, their role will not be to sort out all local problems relating to diversity issues, unless it is relevant to their line-management position.

Each champion will be a focal point of communication on diversity and equality issues.

- Divisional diversity champions are: Supt Tim Stokes, Central; Supt Alison Newcomb, Eastern; Supt Michelle Husk, South Eastern; Supt Glenn Caton, South Western; Supt Steve Graysmark, Western; Insp Mark Furneaux, Stansted; Supt Jed Stopher, Mobile Support; Det Supt Gareth Wilson, Crime; Supt Gwynn Williams, Communications; Chief Insp Al Gooden; Steve Powell, Criminal Justice.

- For information about a specific local diversity and equality issue, contact your diversity champion or ring Diversity Unit at HQ on exts 50019, 54101 or 58621

## Staff success with NVQs

POLICE staff have demonstrated their success by being awarded professional qualifications from Braintree College.

They completed courses, which took between nine and 12 weeks, in customer services, business administration and team-leading.

A dedicated presentation evening was held and certificates recognising their NVQs were handed out.

The certificates were presented by Braintree College principal Jacquie Watts to recognise the skills of police staff within the workplace.

- Information about NVQs available for police staff can be found on the Essex Police College intranet site

## Your idea could be our next success

DON'T just sit there moaning about something that you think should be improved ...

... send your idea to the Force Suggestion Scheme and you could receive a monetary reward.

Lots of you did and, last month, 24 officers and police staff were rewarded for their efforts when DCC Andy Bliss handed over cheques ranging from £25 to £180.

Some suggestions have already been adopted by the force, including revisions to police forms, new forms and leaflets, a database of officers with specialist knowledge or interests and a briefing sheet for scene guards.

Dc Clive McQuire, of Stansted, who worked on Operation Volley, tackling travelling football hooligans, suggested a 'scoring system' allocating points according to the severity of offences.

This becomes an excellent tool when

deciding who should be put before magistrates for a banning order and its adoption has helped Essex achieve the highest success rate nationally.

Pc Paul Logan, of Witham, suggested digital photographs be included on acceptable behaviour contracts, allowing officers to identify the individual concerned, so the individual would know all officers could identify them – an incentive not to break to contract.

Sarah Clayton, of Basildon, suggested each officer be given one warrant to execute in order to clear a backlog. This was adopted as Operation Niggle, subsequently Operation Cougar.

Pc Matt Noone, of Feering, suggested everyone entering custody had their details placed on the forensic allocation system so that those with outstanding notices would be flagged up. They can be removed from the

system once the person is arrested.

Other recipients of awards, where ideas have been put into practice were: Denise Harvey, of Harlow, two internal communications ideas; Ds Stuart Jeans, of Pitsea, proposals regarding sex offenders; Jill Denton, of Corporate Development, publicising our force objectives; Sgt Steve Smith, of Basildon, a STORM filter to identify outstanding missing people; Pc Justin Davis, of Stansted, a form amendment which saved time; DI Sean O'Callaghan, of Harlow, policy guidelines, 'greens', published on the intranet; Pc Greig Avery, of Pitsea, revisions to the premises search book; Ds Paul Lamb, of Rayleigh, a domestic abuse 'pack' – the DV1 – and a database of volunteers with special skills; Dc Mark Heard, of Pitsea, suggestions regarding sex offenders; Pc Rob Bray, of Chelmsford RPU, water conserva-

tion devices; Pc Alison Facey, of South Ockendon, ideas on crime reporting; Ds Paul Lopez, of Rayleigh MIT, briefing scene guards; Pc Suzanne Purkiss, of Stansted, database of staff with language skills; Pc Steve Clements, of MSD, a post-incident management form; Andy Begent, of Corporate Development, ideas on retention of PNC records; Dc Rob Staples, of Brentwood, pictures of cars reporting theft of index plates; Pc Neil Morgan, of Corringham, text-messaging to report non-emergency information; Dc Dave Bishop, of Clacton, a leaflet for households near targeted drugs raids; Ds Rob Coan, of Stansted, suggestions regarding a new form; Pc Elaine Fuller, of FIR, vehicle badges; Dc Tony Sharman, of Harwich, a health and safety poster; and Dc Pete Burns, of Colchester, a summary form for a video interview.

## Graduating to a force career

CADETS who have achieved a professional qualification with Chelmsford College are looking forward to their future as officers.

Eleven cadets have achieved a BTEC level 3 in public services and eight of them will start the Initial Police Learning and Development Programme (IPLDP) to become regular officers and three will become PCSOs.

A passing-out parade was held, attended by ACC Derek Benson and representatives from various public services.

Cadets Clara Hurrell Smith and Sam Harris received special awards for most improved student and best student respectively.

## Press Office can help you

OFFICERS made 14 arrests in June after appeals for information were placed on the Crimestoppers Most Wanted website.

Sarah Hayden-Case, of the Force Intelligence Bureau, wants to highlight efforts made by officers on divisions putting this information into the public domain.

It can be a very useful tool in getting suspects identified from CCTV stills.

HQ Press Office can help place information on the Crimestoppers Most Wanted website and press officers will also place appeals for individuals on the force website [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk)

# Intelligence changes will help us improve

**WIDESPREAD changes to the way intelligence is handled within Essex Police will be introduced from October 1.**

The package of measures includes the introduction of a 24-hour Intelligence Support Bureau (ISB), which will provide real-time support to front-line officers in major or critical incidents.

The ISB will also take over the role of qualifying all intelligence submissions.

Divisional Intelligence Units (DIUs) will be restructured and all staff in the intelligence community will receive standardised training.

The ISB will provide a 24/7 service, helping officers to plan operations more effectively – thus increasing the likelihood of arrests and detections.

Its officers and staff will check all intelligence reports (CID61s) for data quality – linking them where appropriate – and then passing them to DIUs. They will work out of Q-block at HQ.

ACC Peter Lowton said: "Through the

by Heather Turner

ISB, front-line officers and staff will get real-time support and access to intelligence when they most need it.

"The team has done a great job in helping to raise our intelligence standards. We all need accurate and timely intelligence to protect the public and continue to drive down crime."

Essex is one of the first forces to offer standardised training to intelligence officers and its training package was evaluated by Centrex, which based its national training package on ours.

The ISB – to be part of Communications Division, complementing the Force Information Room and Crime Bureau – will also provide support in the early stages of major and critical incidents by providing information on suspects, victims and witnesses.

DIUs will now have a standard number of staff funded from HQ – divisions can supplement this if they wish – and standardised training. Each will have a briefing and tasking (BAT) officer, a priority

## Water is on the menu for saving cash

SAVING money while conserving water is one item on the agenda to make Essex Police more cost-effective and an environmentally-friendly member of the community.

The force is working with Essex and Suffolk Water to cut out our water wastage.

Trials are being carried out at three

police stations: South Ockendon, Corringham and South Benfleet.

Data loggers have been installed to measure how much water we are using at present and will – as various water-saving measures are tried out – provide quantitative evidence.

The force will also be looking at flushing systems and taps as part of

these trials to see where we can make more cost-effective savings.

Design engineer Ian Mott, of Property Services, said: "The saving measures are not only applicable at work but can equally be applied at home too."

- For information about conserving water, visit the Essex and Suffolk Water website at [www.eswater.co.uk](http://www.eswater.co.uk)



**HAVE YOUR SAY:** Write to Heather Turner, Law Letters, Publication Unit, Police HQ, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DA or via email to [heather.turner@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:heather.turner@essex.pnn.police.uk)  
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## Reunions planned for Grays and Romford

CALLING all former serving officers of the Thurrock (formerly Grays) Division. Following the success of the re-union evening held at Grays bar in January here is a further 'call to arms' for all retired or otherwise, former personnel of the division.

You are all hereby summoned to attend Grays police bar at 7.30pm to meet all your pals from 'days of yore'.

On the agenda will be hugs for all those pals you thought you may never see again, top-quality food – as only Grays can provide – and maybe the odd ale or two to wash it down. I left the best until last – the date is Saturday, October 13, 2007.

I'm looking forward to greeting you as you arrive. Feel free to contact me on 07909 985343 or email me on [actionrewind47@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:actionrewind47@blueyonder.co.uk). Thanks for all your support – you're great bunch and I'm proud to have served with you.

**Laurie Rampling  
Stanford-le-Hope**

AN ex-Romford Division reunion luncheon is being held in HQ Sports Pavilion bar on Saturday, October 20, at 1pm.

Wives are also invited. The cost will be £12.25 each but drinks are not included. The bar will open at 11.30am. Please send your cheques, made payable to S P Mather (Lunch account) and send them to me at Copper Leaves, 25 Queen's Avenue, Pooles Lane, Hullbridge, SS5 6PS.

For further information, do ring me on 01702 231383.

**Stu Mather  
Hullbridge**

## There's nothing new in this world, says ex-investigator

I WAS interested to see that another 'unit' has been re-invented.

May's article on 'another original' motorcycle unit left me sure that quills would be scratching in reply to this most interesting feature and Bernie Beesley and co gave good account on behalf of the motorcyclists.

However, in June we read that a Road Crash Investigation Team had been invented.

What happened to the TIU (Traffic Investigation Unit)? It was a most dedicated and skillful team of officers formed from Accident Investigation Officers first trained in the 1970s.

I enclose a photograph of our training

course. Many will recognise course members as well our instructors Joe Bassett and Alan Pursey but note that we have a gentleman who is not a police officer.

Cecil Cheung, a solicitor from the CPS – County Prosecuting Solicitors in those days – took a full part as a student in order that he would have all the skills to prosecute complex road traffic matters.

Now that is an idea ...

I wish the new unit every success in its challenging duties.

**Ron Holloway  
Clevedon  
North Somerset**



## Value for money? Listen to answers

**AFTER reading Paul Collinson's letter – 'New pledge' is simply what we did 30 years ago – in The Law last month, I was prompted to write.**

"Things were vastly different 30 years ago," says The Law editor.

No-one could argue against that. Nor, when we old crumbles talk about the past do we imply criticism of the police of today.

The criticism is, or should be, of politicians who constantly interfere with and criticise their work.

Yes, there are more officers, money and resources, yet our elected representatives still complain that the public are not getting value for money.

The most recent criticism blames Chief Constables for what they see as failure to make good use of all the extra money they have given the police.

Will they never learn that the problems of society will not be solved by throwing money at them?

When Colchester was a borough force, it was able to put out 12 officers on the beat most nights.

When I was there from 1981 to 1983, the total complement of officers was far more than the borough had but we could only muster two or even three on a good night.

When comparing old with new it would be interesting to know how many Essex officers are off sick or on annual leave, extended secondments,

training courses, major incidents etc.

Some cases that were dealt with by a detective sergeant or inspector now warrant incident offices and hoards of personnel.

Are the results any better?

Government policies, police complaints and interference by the media have, inter alia, over the past few years made the police react to criticism in a way that was not so apparent 30 years ago.

Perhaps the politicians should listen to chief officers rather than criticise them, when considering why the public aren't getting value for their money.

**George P Raven  
Cabo De Palos  
Spain**

## Officer was 'the best'

THE term boss or governor, as readers know, is used to refer to officers of the rank of inspector and above.

My opinion is that the accolade of being so addressed is akin to being respected, it is something that is earned and not assumed as a natural course of events.

Throughout my service I had the privilege and pleasure of working for some truly superb bosses – hard-working leaders and motivators with many skills who knew how to conduct investigations, plan operations and prepare excellent case files whilst also caring for those under their command.

Amongst the best of my bosses was the late Roger Richardson, who possessed all the foregoing attributes whilst also being a totally calm leader who was 'always there', be it on an early-morning 'turnover', a late-night observation or giving support at 'difficult' court proceedings.

Having worked for Roger for eight years or so on the former No 5 Regional Crime Squad, and then in the force as a senior detective, I can say he was a man you respected, a detective's detective whose main endeavour it was to arrest and lock up as many criminals as possible for as long as possible.

I am sure all who worked for Roger held him in high esteem. For me, aside from all his professional attributes, it was the fact that he always acknowledged his staff for their efforts, be it with a handshake or a pat on the back when things went well or a comforting arm around the shoulder at the times of a professional disappointment or with regards to a domestic matter. He was simply one of the best.

**David Bright  
Westcliff**

## Victim Support hopes new service is more effective

THE member charities of Victim Support voted overwhelmingly at an EGM in London in favour of forming a single, national charity.

To achieve that, the individual charities – which include Victim Support Essex – will each have to dissolve and merge with the single, national body, which will happen in phases in the next year.

Our local area structure will remain in place to maintain continuous service delivery. The key change is that direction and management will be co-ordinated from the centre, rather than being the responsibility of a local trustee board.

Victim Support is hoping to secure a new project, in partnership with Government, for the delivery of enhanced services to victims of crime across England and Wales. Our plan is to begin delivering these during the transition to a single charity and to work more closely with a wide range of other organisations, both statutory and voluntary.

Work is advancing to restructure the national office and a new operations directorate is being created to manage service delivery. Other functions, including fundraising, communications, research and policy, are being brought together under a new development directorate. This will make us more effective and accountable – both nationally and locally – in meeting the needs of victims and witnesses.

Coming together will increase our ability to call for and achieve wider improvements for the people we exist to help. It should make us more responsive to opportunities and other changes in the environment in which we work.

We also believe it will help to simplify and streamline our partnerships with other agencies.

Once the final plans are agreed, we will happily share them with our partner agencies. We will want to work with you [the police] and other local agencies not only to maintain but to develop our working relationships during and beyond the changes.

**David Boyle  
Chairman  
Victim Support Essex**

## Gone . . . but not forgotten

**Pc Christopher Wiggins – Essex Police  
Served from March 8, 1982. Died October 13, 1992**

On October 13, 1992, Brentwood Traffic-based Pc Chris 'Wiggy' Wiggins was on duty patrolling the M25 with Pc Richard Raker.

That evening they responded to a report of a car on fire between junctions 27 (M11) and 28 (A12). On arrival, they found the car well alight on the hard shoulder and so implemented a lane closure, with Pc Wiggins placing the police vehicle in the fend-off position.

Cones were also placed out and the motorway matrix signs operated. While Chris was still in the police car, alone, it was struck by an HGV causing the police car to burst into flames. He was killed instantly.

It was suspected that the driver of the HGV had fallen asleep at the wheel. He was arrested and subsequently convicted of careless driving, receiving a two-year driving ban and an 18-month suspended sentence.

Chris was the son of a retired policeman and had only recently been married.



● Pc Chris Wiggins

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.

**David Clark  
Westcliff**

## Thank you for all your support

ON June 11, 2007, I was awarded damages against the Chief Constable for protracted bullying in the workplace, which took place up to 1999.

I would like to thank all the people who supported me and had the courage to stand by me throughout this ordeal.

I thank Colin McInnes, of the Criminal Trial CPS, and Barry Faber, of Unison, who supported me throughout.

My special thanks go to the person who stands out from the crowd – retired sergeant Mick Tarbin, my federation representative and welfare officer. He was a true gentleman, who gave me advice and encouragement throughout.



## Corner the chairman



● Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers

Collaborating brings benefits to all involved

“ESSEX Police Authority has agreed to work in partnership with Kent Police Authority to improve policing both sides of the water, for the benefit of the public.

This groundbreaking collaboration project is the only one of its kind in the country and has been backed by the Home Office in the form of substantial funding.

This funding will be used to bridge the gap in terms of our protective services. Other aims of the project are to use our resources more effectively and to put more officers on to the front line, something the public consistently tells us it wants.

We are delighted to be working with Kent; the force is as keen and enthusiastic as we are about taking this project forward.

Both forces are very similar in terms of population, officer numbers, geographical areas and core crime.

We also both want to give the public an improved standard of service and one which is good value for money – and these are things we believe we can achieve through this project.

We also remain committed to working with all forces in the eastern region. We are currently looking at various projects to help make our service more streamlined and cost-effective.

A lot of good work was done last year when the government announced its proposals to merge forces and we want to continue to build on it to improve the way we work with other forces, sharing information and best practice.

However, in Essex we are also determined to remain a stand-alone strategic force and we believe that, if we can get this collaboration work right, there will never be any need for forces to merge.

This is a golden opportunity to show that we can do some of our business differently in order to provide an even better service to the people of Essex and we are determined to make it work. ”

## Marathon motorbike ride ends in success for Laindon sergeant

LAINDON sergeant Chris Layley is on target to raise thousands of pounds for the Essex Air Ambulance after completing his epic, but sore, motorbike ride from Land's End to John O'Groats.

Chris faced some of the worst weather conditions he has seen as well as a numb backside to complete the sponsored 900-mile trip in just under 16 hours.

He completed the ride with biking buddy, Doug Prasser.

Chris said: “I've run in a couple of London marathons but the bike ride was much harder.

“We got absolutely soaked through when we ran into heavy rain on Bodmin Moor in Cornwall.

“We dried out a bit in the warmer weather up to Scotland then, in the Grampians, we went through the biggest storm I have ever seen.

“North of Inverness, the rain stopped and we were in freezing fog for 60 miles until we reached John

O'Groats. That cold, misty weather was like something from a different continent and it was a relief to reach our destination and get out of it.”

The 38-year-old neighbourhood policing officer noticed a distinct difference in driving standards in different parts of the country.

He said: “In the south, people tend to drive quite aggressively and the further north we went they were more considerate.

“The most courteous drivers were

in the south of Scotland where they did not seem to be in a rush. But they did seem to be more erratic the further north we went into the Highlands.”

Chris enjoyed his ride but, next time, he will use better waterproofs and take a cushion to sit on.

Chris and Doug have so far raised £2,000 from the ride and say more money is still coming in.

● Visit [www.justgiving.com/tiptotop](http://www.justgiving.com/tiptotop) to donate



● The Comms bike team, in their black and yellow outfits, get ready to ride

**MORE than £1,000 was raised by officers and staff following last month's London-Southend bike ride in aid of the British Heart Foundation.**

**Beginning in Hackney Wick, the 14 cyclists – 12 from Communications Division – weaved their way through town roads and field scenery before finishing 45 miles later in Southend's Priory Park.**

**Insp Martin Mueller was the first FIR finisher, pipping boss Chief Insp Nick Lee to the tape by just a few seconds.**

**Public order trainer Insp Glen Westley, a former incumbent of the hot seat in FIR, and dog handler Pc Steve Hutley, also ensured the finish was tight.**



● Assistant divisional administration manager Jo Harvey prepares herself for the trek

## Chance to give little Isabella special help

**THE force's rope access team is running a sponsored abseil to raise valuable funds for the treatment of a young child with special needs.**

Isabella Cox, 18 months, has severe developmental delay, which requires specialist treatment through sensory stimulation.

Her parents are Pc Simon Cox, of Southend, and Pc Christine Bennett, of Melbourne Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Isabella's full diagnosis has yet to be

completed and she must make frequent visits to Great Ormond Street Hospital in London.

But her specialist treatment has to be paid for privately.

Simon and Christine have already received support and assistance from the force but hope the sponsored abseil will help to fund this specialist treatment.

And, of course, it gives family, friends and colleagues a chance to give them a hand, too.

The abseil is due to take place on Saturday, September 29, at Essex Police College.

In order to raise the funds required,

weapons trainer and abseil organiser Sgt Tim Johnstone is asking that any officer or member of police staff wishing to take part raise a minimum of £50.

Donations may also be made to the fund.

It is not the first time the team have 'leapt' to the help of a child in need.

Last year, they organised a sponsored abseil to raise funds to help to buy a specially-adapted bed and kit out a special room for Joshua Bartlett, also the son of a serving police officer, who has the rare genetic disease tuberous sclerosis.

● For details of the abseil and for sponsor forms, email Sgt Tim Johnstone

## A cuppa and a foot rub raise funds for hospice

TEA at Three at Basildon police station has raised £300 for a local hospice. District commander Chief Insp Jan Harrison poured gallons of tea and coffee and served homemade scones and cakes during a special break for officers and police

staff. An added attraction – especially for officers on the beat – was holistic foot and hand massages given by Pc Mairhi Mowbray, who is a therapist in her spare time. The event was arranged after the town's St Luke's Hospice wrote to Jan asking

if she would be prepared to host a Tea at Three event to help raise funds. She said: “We were happy to help. Officers on the beat were able to pop in during their breaks and support staff at the station also took turns to join us. We also

invited our partners from Basildon council and the local press too. PCSO Amanda Moxon baked the cakes and homemade scones to go with the drinks and all customers were asked to pay a small charge which raised the cash.

## Babies benefit from Charity phones for help

**OFFICERS and staff from Harlow police station raised money for the neo-natal intensive care unit at the town's Princess Alexandra Hospital by holding an Easter egg raffle. The cheque for £60 was presented by PCSOs Louise Webb and Dean Coates to manager Caroline Wilson-McCann. Caroline said: “It will go towards an Axminster pad, which monitors babies' breathing. It is an essential part of their care as every baby needs one.”**

OLD mobile phones are helping the British Heart Foundation to continue its work.

Insp Paul Bartlett, of Braintree Neighbourhood Policing Team, has so far sent 104 old mobile phones.

The phones are collected by Greener Solutions, which processes them and pays the British Heart Foundation for each one. As he says: “Even if they do not function, they are worth something.”

HQ Crime Division has contributed out-of-date work phones and staff there have also donated old personal mobile phones to the charity.

Paul says he will sort out the paperwork for any out-of-date work phones sent to him.

“Don't leave the old one in the drawer, sent it to me at Braintree police station and, together, we can help this worthwhile charity,” he added.

## Rugby shirt pulls in cash

OFFICERS and staff in Communications Division raised nearly £500 for a children's charity after putting a signed England rugby shirt up as the star raffle prize.

And Jackie Smith, from the Force Information Room, was the lucky winner who revelled in her lucky win while Ali's Dream – a Little Havens Hospice charity – benefited.

## Runners raise £4,500 for good causes

MARATHON runners Supt Jed Stopher and Pc Karen Harwood have raised around £4,500 between them for their pet charities.

Karen, of Central Division, helped to raise more than £3,000 for the Honeypot House charity, which improves the quality of life for severely disadvantaged children by providing respite breaks.

The cash will provide care for nine children during the coming year.

Karen, who ran with a friend to raise the money, completed the London Marathon course in five hours and 34 minutes. “Not bad considering my youngest child was not quite one,” she said.

And Jed is splitting his £1,350 between the National Society for Epilepsy and Cancer Research.

He said: “Please accept my gratitude for once again digging deep and giving to these worthwhile causes.”

## Nina needs your help for Africa trek

BASILDON Resource Management Unit duties administrator Nina Dennis is seeking sponsors for her trek next year to raise funds for St Luke's Hospice, Basildon.

Nina will be taking part in Trek Africa 2008, trekking over 100 miles across the northern cape of South Africa.

● To sponsor Nina, email her with your donation or alternatively visit her webpage at [www.justgiving.com/ninadennis](http://www.justgiving.com/ninadennis)



● Sgt Elliott Lloyd, above, answers probing questions from SGR Colchester broadcast journalist Susie Broderick



# 'Oh yes, we know him'

### THE moment of truth ...

"Has neighbourhood policing made a difference to your lives?" The microphone was shoved in the face of an elderly couple enjoying a pot of tea in the bustle of Greenstead Community Centre in Colchester.

by James Burrows

The man stared – clearly uncomfortable at suddenly being the focus of attention for the whole room. His partner looked thoughtful and narrowed her eyes: "Erm ..."

The radio broadcaster continued probing while officers from the St Andrew's Neighbourhood Policing Team looked on with bated breath. "Are you on first-name terms with your local police officer?" Journalists poised pens over their notepads, a local councillor waited patiently for her moment in the limelight and even fellow diners in the café turned their heads and listened intently. This was it. The next thing to come out of Hawthorn Avenue resident Maureen Brooks' mouth would be the people's verdict on the police performance on Greenstead estate for the last 15 months. Never mind all the hard work and commitment ploughed into neighbourhood policing by the officers to make it work. Forget about the crime statistics and other Home Office performance indicators. Everything hinged on what this woman had to say. She grinned: "Oh yes. We know Jed the Police Community Support Officer, we often see him walking the beat. "I feel safer now because we always see police around and we know them to say hello to. I feel like there is less crime now than there used to be."

Wow. What a ringing endorsement. Sgt Elliott Lloyd and Pc Spencer Keeble relaxed and actually began to enjoy taking part in the media event organised to raise the profile on the new style of policing. Officers working within the St Andrew's ward of Colchester were the trailblazers for neighbourhood policing in Essex when it was first introduced in January 2006. Greenstead and St Anne's were the first communities to experience Essex Police's refocused aim of putting what the public wants first. The aspiration was to see more bobbies on the beat, better community contact and easier access to local officers with knowledge of local issues. The rest of the county followed suit in May last year. Members the media were invited to attend a

publicity event in May this year aimed at assessing the success of the county's first dedicated team within the hubbub of community life – Greenstead Community Centre. The St Andrew's Neighbourhood Policing Team has achieved an impressive 53 per cent detection rate since April and averaged a 33 per cent detection rate between April 2006 and March 2007. Recorded crime in Greenstead and St Anne's has fallen from 2,100 offences in 2002/03 to 1,968 in 2006/07. This performance is good considering Greenstead is currently listed as being among the top ten per cent most deprived areas of Britain. Elliott leads the Greenstead team. He said his officers have battled hard with the paperwork to achieve 18 acceptable behaviour contracts and seven anti-social behaviour orders. Meanwhile, his PCSOs are always providing a visible reassurance to residents by pounding the streets while simultaneously bringing back intelligence. "They are our eyes and ears and they get in to the community and gather intelligence, which is then passed on to us and can be acted on," said Elliott.

"Before we just had community teams which would respond to incidents and now, by having a dedicated team, we get to know the community and, as a result, can act on intelligence quickly," he added. Spencer is the neighbourhood specialist officer and has been working on getting to grips with anti-social behaviour at the Hunwicke Road shopping centre. A three-month dispersal order from December 2006 to March 2007 slashed problems. Spencer has now been successful in applying for a new order, which will cover a broader area, following a slight rise in incidents. Eastern Division, which covers the districts of Colchester and Tendring, has 36 neighbourhood policing teams – 17 in Colchester and 19 in Tendring. Hopefully residents within those areas feel the same way as Mrs Brooks and her husband.

## Database is working wonders

AN anti-social behaviour-busting scheme on the coast is helping to put young trouble-makers on the straight and narrow. Police in Clacton say the Nuisance Youth Database has won the support of parents in the area with its positive approach to dealing with problems. The details of children and young people caught causing problems in neighbourhoods are input on to a computer database. Letters are sent to the homes of problem youths and there are invitations for meetings at the police station for those who persist in making the lives of residents a misery – involving other agencies if necessary. Sgt Sharon Wyatt, of East Clacton Neighbourhood Policing Team, said: "The reports of nuisance youths mainly include under-age drinking, trespassing and generally intimidating members of the community. "We don't want children to get criminal convictions and ruin opportunities in later life." Since April, 227 first letters have been sent out, 48 second letters and ten third letters.

# A unique neighbourhood

**Stansted Airport has a thriving community, unlike any other in the county. But, all the same, it is a neighbourhood and its policing needs are the same**

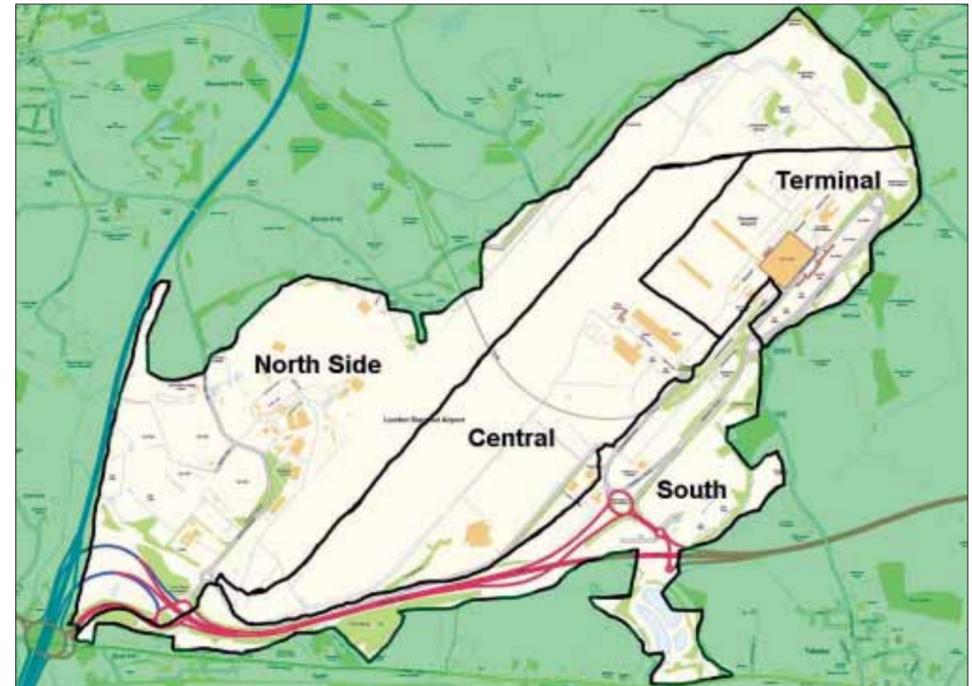
Day-to-day work of the airport's NSOs

differs from the rest of the force, largely because Stansted has no residential community. However, it has substantially more foot-fall – numbers of people passing – through the terminal building on a daily basis than most town centres. Different parts of the division deal with the retail industry in the terminal building, the cargo industry and the surrounding community – where some of the larger carriers, such as Royal Mail and TNT, operate. And the many hotels and car parks all present different challenges. The majority of the team's time is spent dealing with thefts, which take place throughout the terminal, and there are

sometimes instances of drunken, anti-social behaviour, which are also dealt with proactively. Every three months, retail meetings see the officers and the crime reduction officer meet representatives of the retail and business sector. Here, a large amount of intelligence is exchanged, which results in targeted policing activity around known individuals. The airport's neighbourhood action panels are slightly different from other districts in Essex as they don't involve the public but they do address priorities which arise from BAA (the British Airports Authority) as well as incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour.



**Stansted North Side Pc John Jackson**  
I joined Essex Police in 1999 from the ambulance service and, so far, have served at Harlow, Brentwood and Epping. I joined Stansted Division in 2003, initially working on shift, then joining the neighbourhood policing team in 2005, before taking up the post of NSO in April this year. I am also the licensing officer for the division which involves various meetings with licence steering groups throughout the Essex area.  
● Mobile : 07815 186409  
Landline : 01279 666133



**Stansted Terminal Pc Justin Davis**  
I joined Essex Police in 2003 and worked in Clacton and Harwich on response shifts. With neighbourhood policing I became the schools/problem solving officer for Harwich. I moved to Stansted Neighbourhood Policing Team in January and am now the terminal's neighbourhood specialist officer. I will use the experience from my previous roles to help reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.  
● Mobile : 07977 573169  
Landline : 01279 666133

**Stansted South – Pc Garry Munoz**  
I have been with Essex Police now for nearly nine years and have worked in a variety of places in different roles. I spent my first two years at Witham, and then had one year at Stansted village before moving to Chelmsford for four years. I moved to Stansted Airport in January 2005 and can say that I have not worked in a better place. I am the neighbourhood specialist officer for the south ward. This beat includes a petrol station, which services the A120 as well as airport traffic, a hotel, business offices in Endeavour House and car parks. I will also become involved in the north and central beat in the absence of the other nominated officers.  
● Mobile : 07779 143059  
Landline : 01279 666133



**Stansted Central – Pc Fiona Clements**  
I have been a serving officer in Essex for 14 years, spending 13 of those in Basildon Division. The first four years of my service were on a response shift. I spent eight months on a major incident before moving on to a small tactical team for three years, where the majority of my time was spent executing drugs warrants. I then joined one of the original neighbourhood policing teams for a year before becoming the community liaison officer for Laindon, where I spent the majority of my time problem-solving. I was heavily involved with local authorities, sharing data, attending public meetings and issuing juvenile reprimands and warnings. I was also involved with a number of initiatives such as Essex Retailers Against Crime and Shop Watch. I came to Stansted a year ago and spent eight months on shift before joining the neighbourhood policing team.  
● Mobile : 07890 898664  
Landline : 01279 666133



## Concerns translated into community action

YOUNG people in Southchurch have helped clean up their local park following concerns from residents. It was part of a number of events which have taken place to tackle youth-related problems in the Thorpe Ward of South-Eastern Division. It is hoped the clean-up will give the young people some form of ownership and pride in the park and encourage them to keep it tidy. The concerns were raised through a community-based neighbourhood action panel (NAP) meeting. The clean-up involved the removal of all

graffiti, where possible, using chemical treatments or by renewing the paintwork. New signage was installed to promote the fact that CCTV is used across the park and to offer crime prevention advice. In addition, the park and surrounding area have seen, and will continue to see, an increase in police presence. Monthly surgeries are planned at the Southend Parks Office, giving the community access to the Thorpe policing team's neighbourhood specialist officer (NSO). Pc Warren Lamb, Thorpe Ward NSO, said: "It has been both a challenging and

rewarding experience to get everyone together and everything required to make the event work. "I have been overwhelmed by the offers of support and involvement by the local young people. Their enthusiasm has been a real encouragement. My only regret was that it was not possible to involve all who expressed an interest but I thank all of them." He added: "I am very grateful to all the multi-agency departments for their assistance – the results of the clean-up were fantastic and I look forward to seeing them left intact."



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# Investigators in a reshuffle

**A SHUFFLING of Senior Investigating Officers (SIOs) has seen a new face joining the Major Investigation Section and the transfer of two familiar ones.**

**Dave Peplow** joins Harlow's Major Investigation Team (MIT) as its new temporary detective superintendent after spending three years as the detective chief inspector in charge of child protection.

The previous incumbent of this hot chair, Det Supt **Tim Wills**, crosses to the other side of the county and becomes the SIO at Stanway while Det Supt **Phil Tucker** joins Brentwood MIT.

Det Supt **Simon Dinsdale** remains at the helm at Rayleigh. Det Supt **Colin Steele** has now been promoted to detective chief superintendent and moved to the Kent collaboration project.

Pc **Heather Sheldon**, of Thurrock Incident Support Unit, has been appointed chaplain to the Mayor of Castle Point, Cllr Beverley Egan, through her work with the Salvation Army.

Heather has worked at the army's Hadleigh training centre for the past four years, having previously been responsible for the corps on Canvey Island.

She also plays the cornet in the Salvation Army band and is a former member of the Essex Police band.

**Retirements**

Insp **Tony Sale** has retired after 30 years service with the force.

He has previously worked in Basildon, Grays, Corringham, and, latterly, Braintree and Halstead.

Ds **Derek Nickol** has retired from Chelmsford DIU after 33 years of service. He had previously served in the public protection unit and at various CIDs.

Also retired is Pc **Simon Halford**, who worked as a professional development officer in South Woodham Ferrers.

He was part of a small group involved in the development of the pilot professional development unit at the station.

Over the years he was involved in the development of probationers, a traffic officer at Chelmsford Road Policing Unit and a beat officer in Boreham.

His last day was July 19, following 30 years of service.

Dc **Christopher Whiddon** is not calling it a day after 30 years with the force. He retires this month from Stansted Airport CID but rejoins the same department next month on the 30-plus scheme.

Dc Whiddon, 53, has served at Harlow, Chelmsford, HQ and the Fraud Squad.

**Marion Harding**, 59, from Thurrock DIU, will retire this month after 22 years service. She joined Essex Police on March 23, 1985.

**Obituaries**

Former Insp **Graham Harvey**, of Southend, has died, aged 63. He

leaves a widow, Pat. Mr Harvey served from 1963 to 1992 with Southend Borough Police and then at Chelmsford, with firearms and at Basildon and Leigh.

His funeral was held at Southend Crematorium last month. Donations may be made in his memory to Clifton Lodge - cheques made payable to South Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust - and sent c/o S P Guivers funeral directors, 641 Southchurch Road, Southend SS1 2PN.

Ex-sergeant **Frederick Dyson**, of Chelmsford, has died, aged 82. He leaves a widow, Lilian, known as Lynne.

Mr Dyson served for force from 1947 to 1977 at Upminster, Tilbury HQ and Chelmsford.

His funeral was due to be held on Tuesday, August 7, at Chelmsford Crematorium.

Donations may be made in his memory to Rowan Ward at St Peter's Hospital, Maldon - cheques made payable to NE Essex PCT Charitable Fund 99219 - and sent c/o T Pennack and Sons funeral directors, 1-3 Maldon Road, Great Baddow CM2 7DW.

Former civilian driver **Eric Lowen**, 84, has died in Boston, Lincolnshire.

He served in the garage and as a driver at Southend from 1977 to 1987.

The week before his death, Mr Lowen and his wife Joan, who also worked at Southend, had celebrated their Diamond Wedding and renewed their marriage vows.

## Fund is here to help in need

STAFF are being asked to consider whether they could deal with sudden financial hardship if they were faced with a critical situation.

The Essex Police Support Staff Benevolent Fund (SSBF) was set up to help people who had difficulties in bridging monetary shortfalls following unexpected events.

Nearly half our workforce are members of the SSBF, making the 85p per month contribution through a deduction from their salary.

SSBF secretary Gill Costello believes all staff should think of the fund as insurance, which they hope never to use but which is there should "something go wrong in life".

"We're not here to pay bills or write off debts but instead to help with costs of illness or disability or with money towards funeral expenses," said Mrs Costello.

"The fund can help with out-of-pocket expenses such as hospital parking when visiting loved ones and is open to all current and ex-employees of Essex Police."

The fund is run by an executive committee which assesses each case, looking after the interests of the individual as well as protecting its

assets. Since 1975, the registered charity has helped over 800 people with grants and interest-free loans.

Mrs Costello added: "In one case, a couple were able to apply for a grant to help with costs after their son was born prematurely at 30 weeks and was in hospital for several months. He suffered serious haemorrhaging and developed hydrocephalus.

"The cost of travelling and hospital parking expenses was nearing £130 per month and so the fund was able to offer a grant to help with their costs.

"They thanked us for our emotional and financial help, saying it was 'wonderful to have such back-up when the chips were down'."

Most divisions and departments have SSBF representatives who staff can contact. Alternatively, contact the Welfare Department at HQ.

• The SSBF AGM is to be held in the small dining room at HQ on Monday, August 13, at 9.30am and is open to all police staff.

• Any member of police staff can join the fund. Contact Jan Pyner in Occupational Health on ext 58601

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# Letters of appreciation



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

I WISH to commend the conduct and performance of the Rayleigh Major Investigation Team in Operation Parasol [the case of Faruk Farik, who murdered his partner Inga Losiene in Southend on May 25, 2005].

In particular, Dc Paul Gould and Ds Paul Lopez were a credit to Essex Police.

Both officers went to extraordinary lengths to ensure that the case proceeded on time and matters of disclosure were attended to.

Without their co-operation, I have little doubt that the trial date would have been ineffective.

I wanted you to know how much I valued the work of your officers, which was of the highest quality.

**BTMK Solicitors LLP**  
Southend

I WRITE to thank you for the assistance given by Essex officers while our force was investigating a high-risk missing person/potential kidnap.

The senior investigating officer, Det Chief Insp Rob Donaghy dispatched officers to the Stanford-le-Hope area.

The assistance provided was exemplary and was even more impressive given the short notice and the incident occurring on a weekend.

A co-ordinated surveillance operation took place and thankfully the subject was found safe and well.

There were a number of officers involved who we are grateful to, in particular, Det Supt Simon Dinsdale, acting Insp Danny Parsons and Insp Mark Wheeler.

Their professionalism and dedication ensured a satisfactory conclusion.

**ACC Derek Bonnard**  
Cleveland Police

I WAS driving north on the A12 Brentwood bypass when I was unfortunate enough to be involved in a collision.

I had just joined the end of a queue of traffic when a truck ran into the back of my car. I did not suffer any serious injuries but my vehicle was written off.

Fortunately, the incident was witnessed by Special Sgt Jon Nutkins, of Clacton.

He stopped and helped with the exchange of details between the parties involved, contacted the police and provided his particulars to enable him to be contacted should a witness to the collision be required.

Thanks to SSgt Nutkins for his valuable assistance.

**PC**

**Purleigh**

IN the early hours of a Saturday, my son was

attacked. My husband and I would like to thank all of your officers and I know my son would like to thank them too.

The following officers attended: Sgt Christopher Bramhill, Pc Robert Gifford, Pc Carl Habbershaw, Pc Gary Jackson, Pc Ian Harlow and especially Dc Paul Bird, who has been so concerned about us and our son.

Please thank all the officers concerned.

**RA**  
Southend

I CALLED 999 to say that my god son, who has learning difficulties, had got lost in the woods.

I was so worried. He had out-run me – I am 73 and fit. This was so out of character as I have looked after him many times and he had not left me. Sgt Sian Parry was in charge of the search and she organised your force so well, searching the woods.

I thank her and her colleagues for all they did to help find him. I am so grateful.

**SS**  
Hockley

WE are a child escort agency which carries out secure escorts of children/young persons on behalf of various Social Services departments.

Our escorts attended Southend Youth Court to take a youth to a placement in Stockport from where he had absconded.

However, he had been allowed to leave court prior to our arrival.

A Recovery Order was in existence to detain him and was transmitted to police in Southend for action.

Two police units were deployed to go with the escorts and the youth was found. He was duly detained and then taken by the escorts to Stockport.

The escorts – who are ex-police officers – were highly impressed by the assistance and prompt action shown by your officers. Please pass on our appreciation to those concerned.

**Transcare (UK) Ltd**  
Chelmsford

I WOULD like to thank all the officers concerned, especially Pc Adam Westall, for the help they gave me when I shut myself out of the house.

It was very much appreciated. I know you get a lot of criticism so I thought a word of praise would not go amiss.

**KS**  
Clacton

I THOUGHT my husband had suffered a heart attack and was lying in a field when our puppy came home without him – he is under much stress and that is why I panicked.

I rang Essex Police and from the start you were wonderful. Alison persuaded me to stay in the house rather than go out searching and the police came so quickly.

Leaving one Pc with me, two officers went out to search. They said the helicopter was on its way and sniffer dogs if necessary.

After some minutes, the call came that my husband was found, absolutely fine apart from bramble scratches and nettle stings.

He had taken his eyes off our puppy for a second, she had run away and he was searching for her. I cannot thank you enough for your kindness and speedy response. I am so grateful.

**SW**  
Blackmore

TO Pc Victoria Wilson: THANKS for allowing our staff and students the opportunity to attend the 2smart 4drugs roadshow in Brentwood. We all thoroughly enjoyed the roadshow, finding it very interesting and informative, with a clear message we are sure the students will remember.

The show was very visual and full of audience interaction, which made it very easy for out students to access.

After the show, we met Denny, who was an inspiration to our hearing impaired students.

Thanks to him for spending time with us and thank you for organising this event for us.

**Resource Base for Hearing Impaired Students**  
The Philip Morant School and College  
Colchester

TO PCSO Paula Knowles: OUR extreme thanks to you for putting us in touch with the Probation Service, which, along with their community service workers, have completely overhauled our HQ.

We were so pleased with the work that we have recommended the service to Stanford District Scouts.

**East Tilbury Scout Group and Guide Company**  
East Tilbury

THANKS very much for the support given to us at our Warrior Square Park spring clean.

Pc Dan Brand was with us all day and he not only kept the undesirables out but was willing to get his hands dirty and help with the cleaning.

Two female PCSOs also helped out for a couple of hours until being called away.

We only expected your team to be there to oversee the event. It was great that they were prepared to muck in and help us.

Please also pass on our thanks to Pc Wyn Sharp, who, I know, made sure that all went well in his absence.

**Residents of Warrior Square Association**  
Southend

JUST 48 hours after we reported an incident with our neighbour, we received a telephone call from Pc George Rodway, from Eastwood police station, detailing what happened and the outcome.

The recipients were: Pc Mark Fraser, of Mobile Support (MSD); Pc Roy Keyes, of MSD; Sgt Robert Beckwith, of MSD; David Callow, of IT; Jenny Evans, of IT; April Fells, of IT; and Antony Bugg, of IT.

Application forms for ACTION awards can be found on the intranet – visit the HR Department intranet site and click on Police Payment Award Schemes

When we first reported the incident at Southend Police Station, we indicated that we were OK and not affected by what had happened. However, this was not the case. We just had to get out of our house and were scared to pass our neighbour's door.

Luckily we have had plenty of support from family and other neighbours, who had suffered strong verbal abuse in the past from the same source.

On reflection, I now wish we had reported the previous incidents at the time.

Many thanks for your prompt action in this matter. Maybe we can now continue to live peacefully.

**A & JT**  
Southend

I AM writing concerning outstanding work by Dc Lindsey Cox.

Craig Lee Haden, 27, stood trial before Judge Gratwicke and a jury at Chelmsford Crown Court on a seven-count indictment – two of rape and five of indecency with a child under the age over 14.

The single victim of these offences was a boy, the period spanned nearly three years.

Haden was arrested and in a series of outstanding interviews by Dc Cox and Dc Beverley Bannerman, denied any wrong-doing.

There followed a most hotly-contested trial in which I was prosecuting counsel. Haden was ultimately convicted of three counts of indecency with a child. I had asked Dc Cox to make further enquiries and she worked

tirelessly to cover all the issues I had raised.

Throughout the trial she was on hand to deal with the numerous further matters which arose on a daily basis. She was focused, attentive and a pleasure to be with.

She gave 100 per cent to the investigation and to the boy and his family through difficulties which most of us cannot begin to comprehend.

**Holborn Chambers**  
Lincoln's Inn Fields  
London

I AM writing in praise of the police officers who dealt most professionally with a two-vehicle collision at the Southway junction with Butt Road, Colchester.

Pc Chris Allwood was very prompt and thorough pending the arrival of the traffic officers. He also was kind enough to take my daughter to the hospital to be with me.

I also want to thank the beat officer who was deployed to preserve the scene and prevent further injuries.

I would particularly like to thank Sgt Nick Edwards and Pc Ian Whitfield, who attended very promptly and dealt with the accident most expeditiously and professionally, and also Pc Dave Bent.

**DJ**  
Colchester

AND finally, a couple of the many letters received which praise the Firearms, Explosives and Shotguns Licensing (FSEL) section for prompt and efficient action:

● I WOULD like to commend staff for the excellent and

efficient service you have provided me with over the years in Essex.

On a number of occasions, I have had urgent requests, all of which have been dealt with in a friendly and efficient manner, each deadline having been met.

I want to mention Peter Lamb, our firearms enquiry officer, who is always extremely courteous and sympathetic to my collecting requests but rigorous in his application of the rules. He always offers good and helpful advice.

Also the women in the office are always very helpful, often going out of their way to resolve requests and help meet deadlines.

All this reflects a well-run, efficient and, above all, customer-friendly department, which clearly has the best service possible as its target.

**HW**  
Harwich

● THANKS to John Hopes for joining us at the Herts and Essex Shooting Association Open Day at Great Leighs.

I hope he found of use and value – I know a couple of members who spoke to him found it most helpful.

It was nice to be able to tell likely visitors that Essex Police would be in attendance. It provided a bit of a comfort zone to us since we were not at all sure about take up or, indeed, who might show interest.

A number of members have suggested that we run another open day.

**Herts and Essex Shooting Association**  
Coggeshall

## Recently retired police driving instructors and advanced drivers required.

**St John Ambulance**



We are setting up a 'St John Ambulance High Speed Driving School' and welcome applications from recently retired officers who wish to be part of this exciting new venture. Hours are part-time and flexible. Remuneration by agreement. We are working closely with the Dept. for Transport for full compliance with the new Road Safety Act 2006.

*"A new Challenge – moving onward and upward"*



Please contact me for further information. All discussions are of course confidential. Initial contact by email preferred.

Tony Guinness – CEO  
St. John Ambulance  
1 Fox Crescent  
Chelmsford CM1 2BN  
Email: CEO@essex.sja.org.uk  
Mobile: 07768 405851

SEVEN £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.





# Seeing a different perspective on life

**COMMUNITY engagement has begun early for probationers on placements with external organisations and is proving a resounding success.**

Over 13,000 hours of interaction between probationers and the community has taken place since the placement scheme started just over a year ago.

Probationers have two placements at different locations during their 31-week training period.

With almost 150 organisations involved, their diversity and that of their service-users embraces disability, race, gender, age, religion and sexual orientation.

The force's diversity and community engagement officer, Jonathan Stuart, said: "We want to increase the amount of hours we devote to community involvement and community placements in particular, because of the extremely positive effect they have for all parties concerned.

"We are considering bringing the first placement forward from the current six-week mark to help raise awareness, appreciation and understanding towards diversity within communities from the earliest stage.

"We are also able to make probationers aware of what is expected of them and the importance in valuing the community they will serve."

Probationers are placed in accordance with their own life experiences in an area previously unknown to them so they can gain an insight into groups of people or individuals of whom they may not have experienced before.

Following a 31-week placement at Action 4 Men, a male probationer said: "It has made me have a better understanding of the gay, lesbian and bisexual community and their views on Essex Police.

"I have been able to discuss issues with them relating to cruising, sexual health and cross-dressing."

by Heather Watts

Multi-agency networking is enhanced by this process and so the force can provide a more efficient service because not all problems reported will be dealt by us.

One probationer placed at St Andrew's Hospital in Billericay said: "I now feel better equipped to section a person under the Mental Health Act and have gained some vital life experience."

These feelings are echoed by The Harlow Homeless Centre supervisor who said: "Having police placements at the project has enabled my perceptions of the police to be far more confident and hopeful for the future."

Although the placements – which probationers attend out of uniform – only give them a brief glimpse into another world, many of them enjoy the experience so much they return as volunteers.

Martin McGrath and Stuart Cleverley, currently part-way through their probationer training, are maintaining the links they forged with young people at Chelmsford College on their six-week placement.

They returned to help with student achievement awards at a ceremony at Chelmsford City FC in June.

Martin said he was very proud to be invited to celebrate the students' achievements and wanted to return later this year to continue to develop relationships with students and the college.

"I feel it would be beneficial to do this to show less of a divide between the youth community and Essex Police," he said.

And Stuart added he had been proud to represent the force at the ceremony.

"My communication skills with young adults have been improved and I gained an insight into the behaviour of youths who have a different background to mine," he said.



● Pc Ben Olive, left, and Sgt Danny Torrance, of Lakeside Neighbourhood Policing Team, with Supt Makoto Matsuzawa, centre, other Japanese officers and Lakeside operations manager Mike Redfearn, second right

## Japanese officers drop in

**A GROUP of Japanese police officers dropped in at Lakeside shopping centre last month.**

**Led by Supt Makoto Matsuzawa, of the Tokyo Metropolitan police, the officers are visiting the UK to look at CCTV systems in public areas and how they are set up to work in conjunction with the police.**

**Supt Matsuzawa has been tasked with researching this before setting up similar systems in Tokyo.**

## Unit works inland, too

WATER, water, everywhere but not an expert in sight? Then call the Marine Unit for specialist advice.

Any officer attending the scene of a body in water should cordon the area and call CID, which will assess the scene and call a Senior Investigating Officer, if required.

The Marine Unit at Burnham has the only officers trained to recover bodies from the water. They will attend and risk-assess the scene before entering the water with specialist equipment. No other officer should enter water or mud to recover a body.

Specialist underwater cameras can

be deployed to determine whether there are wounds or implements still in the body or it has been secured in any way.

The Marine Unit can search the body and move it into a recovery net to preserve possible forensic evidence.

The Marine Unit can also be called upon in times of flooding and for casualty recovery and rescue in fast-flowing or still water.

Dc Simon Lofting said: "The team can turn out with specialist equipment to assist you, so remember to call us. Waters pose various risks that cannot always be seen by untrained eyes."

## Romeo, Juliet, Over?

In your line of work we think you have enough to worry about, without the added stress that a divorce can create. At Gorvins Solicitors our family team is specially trained to deal with police officers facing marital breakdown or family disputes. We understand the pressures you are under and do everything we can to give you peace of mind and ease the emotional burden.

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## Staffordshire knocked for six in PSUK

THE Essex Police cricket team caused a huge upset by beating Staffordshire away in the second round of the PSUK knockout competition. Staffordshire dominated the competition in the late 1990s and won last year's Plate competition.

Missing PSUK star Vince Bird and Paul Gamman, Essex's batting line-up looked slightly fragile, although debutants Dave Newman, Martin Kendrick, Mat Mehen and Jason Hill were looking to make themselves permanent fixtures in the side.

The Staffs innings began slowly due to tight bowling from Garnham and Hill and change bowlers Miles, Kendrick and Atkinson bowled accurately, giving little away.

They were supported brilliantly in the field and, after 35 overs, the hosts had made a competitive 170-8. Essex required a rate of five runs an over. Mehen and Butcher began building the foundations for the Essex run chase but Butcher went when he top-edged a sweep to the keeper and number four Bolton was dismissed shortly afterwards, leaving Essex in slight trouble.

Staffs began to pile on the pressure but were met with resistance from Mehen and Newman, who raced to 50 but was stumped after misjudging a flighted delivery.

With Essex needing more than 50 to win at eight runs an over, Garnham and Mehen began to turn singles into twos.

With three overs to go, Mehen got to 50 by smashing the ball on to the adjacent road and, as a result of that one shot, the run-rate went from eight an over to six. Unfortunately, he was out, LBW, next ball. With 12 balls remaining, Essex required 12 runs. Remarkably, Garnham hit 11 runs in the over and Kendrick a single to take Essex to victory with one over remaining.

Essex are now planning their quarter-final trip to Durham.

● THE Colchester police cricket team have won Division One of the Colchester and District Evening League. They won the second division four years ago. Consistent batting from the top order of Kevin Cooper, skipper Ady Garnham, ex-British Police's Vince Bird and Jim Couchman has been backed up by superb bowling from the pacey opening pair of Mark Potter and Steve Berry and the deceptive slow bowling of Jack Walczak. Keith Sargeant and Mark Harrison have played their part alongside Matt Garratt, support bowler and middle-order batsman, and wicket-keeper Neil Everett plus Dave Moon, who has fielding qualities.

The side now face the Division Two winners in the league cup final.

● ADRIAN Garnham was selected to represent the PSUK cricket team in their annual cricket week.

## In two days, Gary gets a little bit extreme

ANOTHER member of the force is into extreme sports. This time it's PCSO Gary Jackets, 42, from Temple Sutton Neighbourhood Policing Team in South Eastern.

He finished fourth in the 200-mile Seni-Extreme Ultra-marathon – the UK's longest and toughest foot race. Gary managed to run, jog and walk 165 miles in 54 hours – the race stops when the winner reaches the finish line. And it is not just about how far you can walk. Gary would have been disqualified if he had stopped to rest for more than an hour at a time. The race, which involved 12 athletes from five countries, started in Dudley

and followed canals, footpaths and national trails to finish at the ExCeL arena in London's Docklands. When the race stopped, Gary was somewhere between Oxford and London. And he was delighted with his performance, his target having been 'only' 100 miles. Gary wants to enter the Badwater race – 130 miles across America's Death Valley, where it can reach 120F in the shade – and must have completed 100 miles non-stop in order to do so. Gary said afterwards: "I ran with two others for the first 26 hours, then it was a mixture of running and walking. "My only sleep was half an hour in a

bus stop in Stratford upon Avon. I was alright until, running through the night on my own, I started to suffer sleep deprivation. I was fine when I finished but I had no heels left so it was very painful.

"However, I far exceeded my expectations, considering I had hardly done any training as I had just joined the force as a PCSO."

Gary is an Ironman triathlete and has also competed in the Marathon des Sables – running 150 miles in stages across the Sahara desert – plus 60 other marathons. A little closer to home, Gary has also completed the 145-mile Grand Union Canal race.

## Alan takes sailing second

**FORMER champion Alan Husk put up a brave fight on the water during the PSUK sailing dinghy championships.**

And his efforts paid off as he came second overall in his Phantom at the competition in Poole Harbour – 32 monohull boats, representing 13 forces took part in the five races.

The conditions – a shifting south-easterly Force 2 wind – in race one

obviously suited race-winner Husk, formerly of Laindon Road Policing Unit.

The wind steadied for the second race, back-to-back, which was a larger course and Husk came second. Immediately following was race three, affected by a building ebb tide, and Husk came in third.

So Husk went in to day two at the top of the leaderboard. But the stronger wind meant he was unplaced in the first race.

However, in the final race of the championships, the wind shifted to the

south-west and Husk gained a second.

With all results in and one discard allowed, Rob Jones and John Woodfield in the RS400, from Hampshire, were adjudged winners, with Husk second overall.

Husk, who has now transferred, has been sailing for 25 years and is a member of Creeksea Sailing Club in Burnham.

His wife Michelle, superintendent operations at Southend, also competed this year in a Lazer – previously she has sailed Picos in the competition.



● The Exiles volleyball team need new squad members

THE Essex Police volleyball team, The Exiles, have completed a successful season.

In May, they were runners-up in Division Two of the county league and victors in a knock-out competition for teams in divisions one and two.

Team chairman Steve Greener said: "We have a variety of abilities within the team, from beginners to those who play to a very high standard.

"One of our players, Amanda Pollard, has played for the PSUK national team."

The Exiles have a mixed team for Essex league matches and separate male and female teams for police volleyball tournaments.

The playing seasons runs from September to May and this year the Exiles will start competing by playing in the annual PSUK tournament in Glasgow.

Steve said the volleyball club was always on the lookout for new members to ensure the squad could cope with such things as operational commitments and shifts.

"It is a great sport and an excellent way to keep fit. It's the ideal way to de-stress because you can leap about the court and hit the ball as hard as possible," he said.

The Exiles train every Tuesday from 7.30 to 9pm at Essex Police College gym and play home matches at the Riverside Ice and Leisure Centre, Chelmsford.

● For details, contact Steve on ext 40520

● AMANDA Pollard, of Chigwell Dog Section, was selected for the winning women's PSUK volleyball team in the Crown Services Tournament.

## Our triathlon season was a tour de force

THE triathlon season is at an end for the force triathlon club which organised and hosted a record three events this year, drawing nearly 500 athletes. In May, the Basildon off-road event doubled as the Croker Cup competition – which saw 15 officers and staff geared up for a 400m swim, a 10km bike course and a 4km run. Tony Benjamin, of Central, won both the men's competition and the men's vets award in 46mins, 40secs. Gary Lane, of South-Eastern, was second in 48:50 and Mark Schofield, of Central, was third in 50:12. Police women's race winner was South-Eastern's Sue Clark in 55:50 with Rachel Wood, of HQ, hot on her heels in

56:14. It was Rachel's first triathlon as it was for HQ's Sue Harrison, who took the veteran's trophy in 58:18.

Other times were: David Willis 54:10, Matthew Hearn 54:30, Nick Raczowskiak 55:09, Terry Balding 57:30, Russ Mason 1:01:41, Al Barley 1:03:40 and Dave Hiscock 1:11:47.

Croker results were: 1 Central 10pts; 2 Eastern 7pts; 3 South-Eastern 5pts; 4 Western 3pts; 5 HQ 2pts; 6 South-Western 1pt. Also, £146 was raised for Little Haven's Hospice in Basildon. The Braintree District Spring Triathlon doubles as the PSUK championships. The event was a sell-out and, as usual, Matt Rees, of City of London, took the

men's police title in 56:26. Andrew Jopson, of Essex Police, was second in 57:14.

Other Essex times were Mark Schofield 1:09:10, Steve Casey 1:10:10, David Browning 1:10:28, Gary Lane 1:12:32, Donald English 1:17:30, Elizabeth Hall 1:23:24 and Al Barley 1:29:33.

Gosfield Lake was a new event and the club's first standard distance event – 1500m open water swim, 40km bike and a 10km run. Over 100 athletes took part. Billy Parker-Brown, of Tri Sport Epping, took the title in 2:06:26. The female winner was Sarah Benjamin, from Triathlon Essex, in her first race over that distance, in 2:34:33. Both events raised over £300 for Farleigh Hospice.

## Edward takes top prize in July's lottery draw

EDWARD Hampson, of HQ Crime, is the winner of July's lottery top prize, £3,000. Helen Knightley, of Loughton, wins £1,000 and Pc Sarah Trevers, of Chelmsford, takes third prize of £500.

The winners of the £100 prizes were: Sgt Paul Davey, of Great Dunmow; Lizal Scott, of Epping; Pc Alan Lewis, of Braintree; Dc Nick Franklin, of HQ Crime; Insp Steve Kilcoyne, of Canvey Island; Dc Paul Dean, of Harlow; Rosa Davies, of Grays; Pc Christos Ryan, of Rochford; Christine French, of Loughton; Pc Gareth

Williams, of the Force Information Room (FIR); and Sandra Dickson, of Stansted Airport.

The winners of the £50 prizes were: Nigel Somerville, of Southend; Sgt Ted Travers, of Rayleigh; Kerrie Barkway, of Essex Police Sports Association; Pc Mickey Turton, of Moulsham Lodge; Dc Andrew Eves, of Harlow; Pc Dave Frost, of Sandon Dog Section; Sandy Baars, of FIR; Sgt Wayne Porter, of Witham; Lynn Saggars, of Harlow; Ray Newman, of HQ Crime Investigation Review Team; Pc Chris

Turner, of FIR; Dc Carey Power, of Grays; Pc Simon Cormack, of Clacton; and Pc Aidan Brick, of Essex Police College.

Complimentary meals for four at Izumi: PC Graham Garnham, of Colchester Dog Section; and Ds Sam Deer, of Billericay. Winners of Benenden Healthcare bears were:

Nick Milbank, of FIR; Nicola Bowman, of Harlow; James Storey, of Stansted Airport; Rufaro Kapfunde, of Shoeburyness; Paula Broadley, of Colchester; and John Kreyling, retired.

## Hosts take the honours

HOSTS Essex were the winners of the PSUK regional freshwater angling championships.

Six teams took part in the competition at Coleman's Farm, Witham, last month. Team captain Graham Garnham said: "The weather leading up to the event had not been kind and the fishing was adversely affected, but Essex again led the way with an outstanding team effort, winning the event with a total of only 12 points."

Garnham, Daryl Flint and Dave Crichton-Smith won their sections, Gary Derrick and Paul Bird gained seconds and Steve Adams got a fifth.

Essex also had the top two individual placings: Garnham with 99lb 8oz and Crichton-Smith with 96lb.



● Kerrie Barkway ext 58883

ESSEX Police Sports Association has three healthcare options for its members.

### BUPA

BUPA is introducing a new scheme, No 1 Police HealthCare – replacing LocalCare.

The winners will be probationers who will have reduced rates for their first three years service.

Rates can be found on the EPSA website.

The major losses from the old scheme are psychiatric treatment and the NHS cash benefit.

BUPA has three options: BUPACare, with a 39 per cent discount from standard subscriptions; BUPA HeartBeat options, which are individually priced and may cover some pre-existing conditions at a price weighting; and No 1 Police HealthCare.

### Benenden

Healthcare for £1.10 a week. Before you try anything else, get a quote from this reputable firm. There is no medical and no extra charges because of medical history or age, but you must be under 65 to join.

Healthcare can be boosted by joining Best Health. Add family and friends to membership also at £1.10 per person per week.

### Berwick Devoil

Products include health insurance, dental care, cash plans and sports cover. View the website for details but ensure you call to establish what discount they can negotiate for you. Speak to Guy or Max for a free consultancy over the phone.

● For more information on these and more companies offering benefits to EPSA members visit our website, listed under Divisions & Departments on the intranet

## Doctor turns out for an unusual rescue at sea

MARINE Unit officers and an on-call doctor have been praised for their quick thinking after a rather unusual rescue in Essex waters.

Police received a call from the Indian crew of an oil tanker which was positioned in deep water anchorages off the Southend coast, waiting to dock at Coryton refinery.

The crew were concerned about the mental health of one of their colleagues, who had become uncontrollable and aggressive.

He had also assaulted a fellow crew member.

Marine Unit officers immediately contacted an on-call police-registered doctor and picked him up from Tilbury Landing Stage to rendezvous with the ship – 20 miles out to sea.

Marine officer Sgt Simon Lofting said he was full of admiration for the doctor's efforts and support at just a moment's notice.

"We have to give respect to him as he had no experience on the water and certainly none of having to climb a 30ft ships pilot ladder," he said.

"The waters were extremely rough and our boat was moving up and down in the choppy waters."

The crew member was transported back to Tilbury where the Port of London Police conveyed the 40-year-old to Basildon University Hospital, where he was sectioned under the Mental Health Act.

Sgt Lofting added: "This man needs to return to India, but it may be up to six months before he is allowed to do so due to his condition."

## Man guilty of killing own grandmother

A MAN accused of killing his grandmother eight years ago was last month put under an unlimited hospital order by a judge.

Violet Dunderdale, 77, was killed at her home in Archers Way, Chelmsford, in July 1999. She had suffered severe head injuries.

Her grandson Edward, then 35, was arrested but then released and sectioned under the Mental Health Act. The investigation continued but there was insufficient evidence to charge.

In 2005, the Investigative Review Team re-examined the case. Edward Dunderdale was arrested and charged with murder.

Having pleaded not guilty at the start of his trial, he later changed his plea to guilty of manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

The court was told he suffered from paranoid schizophrenia. The judge thanked Essex Police for its "tenacity" in bringing the case to a close.

# We're still a safe county and crime is falling

ESSEX is still among one of the safest counties in the country with total recorded crime down four per cent.

This compares favourably with other forces in the East of England region, which showed an overall drop in total recorded crime of three per cent.

In 2006/07, the total recorded crime rate in the East of England, at 83 offences per 1,000 population, was the lowest regional total in England and Wales.

Essex has seen a reduction in violence against the person, burglary, vehicle offences, 'other' theft offences and

criminal damage – the only force in the region to show a reduction in all these categories.

Assistant Chief Constable Territorial Policing Carmel Napier said: "The introduction of neighbourhood policing teams and neighbourhood action panels has given us a closer working partnership with the community and is giving us results."

"Our commitment to improve the quality of life for people in Essex has seen a marked reduction in recorded crime, anti-social behaviour and disorder and we continue to raise our performance

in detecting crime," said Mrs Napier.

"We acknowledge that even a good performance can be improved upon and we remain committed to make further inroads into crime on behalf of the people we serve."

Essex figures:

- Violence against the person down four per cent
- Burglary down six per cent
- Offences against vehicles down eight per cent
- 'Other' theft offences down nine per cent
- Criminal damage down two per cent.

# Bodie gets his men on his first day out

by Nishan Wijeratne

**A MAN from Tilbury has been jailed for a host of car crime offences following excellent work by a police dog on his first operational day at work.**

Laindon Dog Unit's Pc Rob Wickins and Police Dog Bodie were on their first operational shift together when a crash occurred in Orsett on June 30.

A Nissan Primera was found insecure and unattended in the middle of the road. It has been stolen in a burglary from Bulphan the previous day.

Pc Wickins and Bodie attended the crash scene and the dog tracked a scent for approximately one mile across fields and into a farm building.

There, Pc Wickins discovered two people hiding underneath plastic sheeting. They were both arrested.

A 16-year-old boy pleaded guilty to aggravated vehicle-taking and was given a community order and a 12-month driving ban at Grays Youth Court.

James Mitchell pleaded guilty to aggravated vehicle-taking, driving while disqualified and driving without insurance.

The 38-year-old from Tilbury is currently waiting to be sentenced at Basildon Crown Court.

Pc Wickins said: "Bodie is the result of the new puppy scheme which was set up by my colleague Pc Dave Frost."

"This is just another fine example of the hard work that he has put in to produce some quality police dogs."

"Bodie did a wonderful job, considering his task was made very difficult by the good intentions of my colleagues who were trying to find these two criminals."

"The track had been contaminated by their scent but my dog still managed to trace them to the barn."

Bodie was one of the new puppies bought by Essex Police for its new scheme and he graduated from 'training school' at Sandon earlier this year.

**Harlow neighbourhood policing inspector for Bob Adam and Pc Peter Cran examine the remains of some crushed mini motos**

Picture by Denise Harvey



## Can we crush it? Yes we can!

SEIZED mini-motos were again smashed to smithereens as part of The Safer Harlow Partnership's zero tolerance on mini-motorcycle nuisance. Nuisance bikes owners in Harlow faced crushing news for the second year running on August 1 as Harlow District Council and the police held another 'public crushing' of illegal mini motos in the town's market square. Publicly crushing bikes reinforces the

message that they won't be tolerated. Operation Catch and Crush was held last month and involved the seizure of mini motos, quad bikes, scramblers and motor vehicles, which had been ridden illegally on public land or roads, causing annoyance, alarm and distress to nearby residents.

Pc Peter Cran, of Harlow South Neighbourhood Policing Team, spearheaded the campaign.

# Can you give mobile support to force?

CASH in transit robbery. Vulnerable missing person. Suspect package at a Post Office. Hit and run fatal. Boarding a cargo vessel in the Thames estuary. Pre-operational aerial reconnaissance. Carrying out ANPR operations ... plus providing support to territorial divisions.

All in a day's work ... interested? Then go along to the Mobile Support (MSD) open day on Wednesday, September 12, at Boreham Airfield.

Then you can see for yourself what MSD is all about and whether it's the

right career move for you. HR manager Sue Adkins said: "It's an opportunity for officers to find out more about MSD."

"And I would challenge people who make assumptions that MSD is not for them to come along, have a chat with our staff, see the demonstrations and find out for themselves if this could be the career move they are looking for."

The open day is supported by Nexus, Essex Black Police Association, the Senior Women Officers' Forum (SWOF) and the Disability Support Group.

MSD welcomes enquiries from people in groups which are currently under-represented within the division.

However, Sue stresses that MSD is looking to recruit the right people for the right job.

The open day runs from 9am to noon and spaces are limited, so apply early.

There will be plenty of demonstrations and lots of opportunities to ask questions.

● To book, email MSD – HR Business Unit, confirming your attendance

## New activity study used to direct our priorities

ANOTHER excellent response rate of 99 per cent for the 2006/07 Activity Analysis (AA) study is proving to be a valuable tool for divisions.

The AA study calculates how much time police officers spend on various duties and provides statistical information.

Now, with 25 divisional staff trained to access its database, APRAIS, this will allow the divisions to use the raw data to extract information and link this to performance.

An example from the AA study highlighted that some divisions were putting in lower levels of activity surrounding vehicle crime, yet the performance data indicated more resources were required.

APRAIS gives divisional commanders to ability to direct their officers and staff according to local policing priorities.

Activity Analysis officer Nicola Piper said the Home Office would publishing each force's Front Line Policing Measure (FLP) – the percentage of time officers spend carrying out front-line duties – later this year.

"Currently, our analysis predicts that we are averaging around 65 per cent," she said.

"Front-line policing is a priority for Essex and only by completing the AA study can we provide these results."

The force has been told it must meet an FLP target of 70 per cent by the end of 2007/08 – the figure we submit will be dictated by the results of this year's forthcoming AA study.

Nicola asked staff to view the new and improved AA website which gives all staff access to results, guidance and contact information.

● Find it by visiting the intranet home page, click on the information menu and then on Activity Analysis

## Operation Pict results in 18 arrests

OFFICERS executed search warrants under the Misuse of Drugs Act at 13 addresses in north Essex last month.

The raids were the latest in a series carried out under Operation Pict, in a bid to stamp out the use and supply of Class A drugs. Drugs dogs and up to 80 police officers wearing protective gear were involved.

A quantity of suspected Class A drugs and stolen property was recovered from properties in Clacton, Point Clear, Thorpe, Tiptree, Holland on Sea and Jaywick.

Eighteen people were arrested on suspicion of various drug-related offences, which resulted in 71 charges.