



Horses well on the way to being seen on the streets of Essex by December

NEW HORSES ROMP THROUGH TRAINING

HORSES joining the reinstated Mounted Unit of Essex Police have faced the first challenge of their new career.

by **Morwenna Holland**

“After an eight-year absence, the return of the Essex Police Mounted Unit will be a real asset to the county,” he said.

“As they will be assisting with a wide range of policing situations, such as public order, crowd control and events, it is vital that the horses develop strong muscles and the control and grace that dressage demands.”

Standing at an impressive 17'1 hands and 16'3 hands tall, both the six-year-old horses were ridden at the competition by 18-year-old Oliver Walter, who is hoping to ride for Great Britain in the 2012 Olympics.

Oliver said that both horses had proved just how effective they will be when they take to the streets in December. One even won a competition in which it was entered.

Sgt Martin added: “We have been

working with the horses for two months now and have seen a marked improvement in their performance and strength.”

The new Mounted Unit expects to have horses on the streets across Essex by December.

Ultimately, the unit will consist of eight horses – by the second year – nine police officers, support staff, new vehicles and facilities at Writtle College, all with the aim of supporting the delivery of neighbourhood policing.

The horses and their riders will also help to reassure both urban and rural communities, because they are highly visible, and they can be used to tackle and reduce anti-social behaviour and town-centre crime – especially at night and at the weekends.

The unit will also be able to assist with keeping public order and will expand the force's existing policing capabilities.



● **Oliver Walter with two of the horses being trained for the force's new mounted section**
Picture by James Rose



Our intelligence training gets national recognition

THE work of intelligence analysts working for Essex Police has been praised at the final of the National Training Awards.

And the analyst development programme, designed by principal intelligence analyst Ted Hampson and used by intelligence analysts throughout the county won an East of England Training Award at the event in Cambridge last month.

The force has 38 analysts, whose job it is to help identify those offenders, crimes and incident types which present the greatest overall risk and help decision-makers prioritise resources and weigh competing demands.

The programme was specifically designed to meet new compliance requirements with the introduction of the National Intelligence Model (NIM).

Mr Hampson said: “Measuring success in the field of intelligence is difficult; on many occasions there is no direct link between the

output of analytical products and operational outcomes.

“This is because analytical products are decision support tools containing recommendations, predictions or conclusions. It is a matter for the decision-maker to act on the intelligence.

“There may be a number of reasons not to resource certain operations.”

Training was introduced to ensure that all analysts could create any NIM intelligence package to the required standard and disseminate it quickly and effectively. Mr Hampson said achieving the standards allowed the information produced to have a direct impact on the force's performance.

ACC Peter Lowton said: “I am very proud of Ted and his team for winning this award on behalf of Essex Police. It recognises their outstanding commitment to quality and our determination to provide an analytical support service second to none.

“Without doubt, the analyst development programme has contributed to increasing detection rates and reducing crime.” After collecting the award, Mr Hampson said: “I am proud to have received this award on behalf of Essex Police.”

● **Principal intelligence analyst Ted Hampson receives the training award from former sprinter Colin Jackson, left**



The police pay saga continues

IN last month's issue of *The Law*, you were informed that, for the second year running, our pay claim has been referred to the Independent Police Arbitration Tribunal.

The date of this hearing has now been set for November 2.

I wanted to remain optimistic about our claim for 'fair pay for police' but, sadly, the Home Office and the Treasury want to make us take a real-term pay cut.

In June, Prime Minister Gordon Brown stated: "There is no greater responsibility than that which you, as police officers, accept."

"And there is no greater obligation for us in government than to support you in discharging that duty."

Yet, despite this praise for the strength and courage shown by officers battling foot and mouth, floods and terrorism, the government's gratitude seems to be little more than lip service and we believe it has failed to award a fair pay settlement for the 140,000 police officers in England and Wales.

The strength of police officers' feelings was demonstrated by 2,000 Metropolitan Police officers at their recent open meeting.

The words 'right to strike' were not mentioned but there was a continuous reference to industrial action and you can bet our solicitors are burning the midnight oil as we speak.

As you know, police officers are prohibited by statute from the right to strike – it is a criminal offence to take strike action.

Personally, I don't think we want the right to strike. We joined the police to serve the

community. In doing so, we accepted we do not have the right to strike.

We are not employees, we are servants of the Crown and the government must recognise the 'office of constable'.

It was due to this that, in 1979, the Edmund-Davies Committee of Inquiry advocated special pay arrangements for police officers.

This was in recognition of the unique role they play in society as law enforcers, the statutory ban on police officers striking and the other considerable restrictions on officers' public and private lives.

It is indisputable that policing, and being a police officer, is still a unique role in society.

In the absence of the right to strike, indexation compensates for the lack of bargaining strength.

Since 1994, the indexation has been based on a representative sample of non-manual private-sector pay settlements and it is a fact that indexation has delivered nearly 30 years of harmonious industrial relations.

The index needs to be transparent to show fairness and it provides fair, not excessive, annual pay increases.

It is also trusted by police officers to be fair and enables police officers to undertake their duties with confidence of fair treatment.

The arbitration decision will only be on the amount our pay will rise this year and will not include negotiations on indexation.

Our national representatives will continue to negotiate on this issue until a fair agreement is reached.

Federation action:

The federation will be working hard to prepare a solid and fair case for the Police Arbitration

Tribunal on November 2.

We will continue the lobbying of MPs locally and nationally, raising the issue at all opportune events and meetings.

We will be pressing the government to agree the terms of reference of the arbitration to expedite resolution.

We will be consulting on all possible options for the future.

Last, but not least, locally we will be monitoring your strength of feelings regarding any possible action, if the up-rate in our pay is not fair.

The result of the arbitration on November 2 is not binding on the Home Secretary, Jacqui Smith, who must ultimately ratify any pay award that we receive.

At any time, the Home Secretary can impose a pay award on the police service.

All we are now asking of this government is that it interferes no further with police pay up-rating arrangements and honours any

award determined by the Police Arbitration Tribunal.

Injury award review concluded

IF you have followed my articles over the last couple of years, you would have known that Essex Police Authority was reviewing its policy regarding the payment of injury awards once retired officers reach the age of 65.

Home Office Guidance allows forces to reduce injury awards after this age.

The review was conducted and its recommendations were debated at the Essex Police Authority meeting on September 10.

The force, at present, does not reduce pensions and, after considering the review, the police authority has decided it will continue this status quo.

This is great news for retired officers in receipt of an injury pension and I have personally thanked the police authority on your behalf.



● Pat Ryan, from Payroll, drops in to Occupational Health for a blood-pressure check by health surveillance nurse Jacqui De La Salle during Know Your Numbers Week

Picture by Nishan Wijeratne

Putting the pressure on

HIGH blood-pressure is the silent killer but you may not have any symptoms and be at risk of a heart attack or stroke. However, while this information is unwelcome news, it is not too late to make changes now to help yourself. So in support of the national Know Your Numbers campaign, staff from Occupational Health spent a week travelling around the county offering free checks and advice.

Occupational health adviser Sharon Sharp said: "The response was brilliant – when we got there people were queuing to be checked."

"We saw about 30-40 people in every two-hour session and, sadly, had to turn some people away."

The importance of these checks was highlighted when one or two people at each location were referred to their doctors as their blood pressure was significantly higher than normal.

Sharon warned: "It is not necessarily the people who you might think may be at risk, although your age, being overweight and/or a smoker, and drinking excess alcohol can be contributory factors."

"We had some fit people in their 30s who

were very surprised at their readings and could not believe it.

"However, blood pressure is variable and will change during the day. Physical activity, excitement or stress can make your blood pressure go up temporarily. "High blood pressure can also be hereditary but you can still make changes in your lifestyle that can make a difference."

Sharon added that police officers working shifts did not always eat regularly and might grab unhealthy snacks instead.

"Processed foods can contain extraordinarily high amounts of salt, so we were trying to educate staff to think about what they are eating and to choose a healthier option," added Sharon.

People should get their blood pressure checked every two years if they are over 35, once a year if they have previously had a high reading.

● Occupational Health is now planning to hold these checks at least once a year but anyone with any concerns can contact Occupation Health advisers on division or at HQ. The advisers can arrange for a blood-pressure check, which will be strictly confidential – and could save your life

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Offering more help to take on 'vital role'

CONSTABLES wishing to take a step up and become sergeants will be getting more help from Staff Development and Essex Police College. With 45 extra sergeants' posts created this year – plus around 50 posts becoming available through promotions and normal wastage – there is plenty of opportunity for constables to advance their careers. And now a study support pack, spelling out what help potential sergeants can expect from them and what is expected in return, is being provided to every OSPRE candidate.

"A sergeant in the police service has always been recognised as pivotal to its performance and managing of people," said Insp Alyson Meacock, the college's leadership, development and performance manager.

"You might not immediately recognise yourself as a 'good leader' but if you have skills in communication, team working and personal responsibility, you might begin to realise you have more skills to become a sergeant than you thought. "It has never been more important for us to have good sergeants as there are more pressures on the police service and individuals than ever so, if your colleagues, supervisors and managers are telling you to think about promotion, then perhaps you should be – seriously," said Insp Meacock.

As well as the usual help – such as buying Blackstone's manuals at a reduced cost – the college and Staff Development will be putting on a mock exam and co-ordinating study groups. There will also be opportunities for supported and some free training from recognised and credible external sources – reasonable fees have been negotiated where applicable. And candidates will also now have access to Blackstone's Q and A online – both at home and at work.

- For more information about the OSPRE sergeants exam, contact Louise Linzell on ext 51556 or Insp Alyson Meacock on ext 56120
- Visit the OSPRE website – look at the intranet information menu and click on OSPRE

Drug arrests made in raid

SEVERAL arrests were made after a two-month covert operation into the organised supply of class A drugs in the Grays area. Four people were remanded in custody after the operation on September 27, having been charged with a total of 62 offences. Specialist officers from Crime and Mobile Support divisions joined the Thurrock Tactical Team, led by Sgt Ed Wells, on the operation.

'Smoking' work from young graffiti artists



• Youngsters show off their no smoking artwork

PARTNERSHIP working proved dividends in Maldon with a reduction in unsightly graffiti. Maldon District Council reported that graffiti was becoming a concern near Oak Tree Meadow, beneath a road bridge running over the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation. A river tour company had also complained about the graffiti.

District commander Chief Insp Craig Robertson explained that HC had been a common tag. Known Heybridge Crew members were approached by Safer Schools Partnership Officer Pc Judy Atkinson, neighbourhood specialist officer Pc Sonia Mirrington and the council's anti-social behaviour co-ordinator Claire Lawrence and they examined ways of working together.

A series of sessions were arranged to teach and practice graffiti techniques which could be used in a positive manner. And the history of graffiti, plus health and safety and criminal law, was discussed. The youngsters painted practice boards along a 'no smoking' theme and the council's non-smoking co-ordinator is using them to promote recent legislation.

The river tour company offered the group a free trip so they could see their work from the river.

In memory of Nick

DUNMOW Pc Alison Cohen and Fiona Reynolds completed the Lincoln to Boston rowing marathon to raise money for cancer research, in memory of Alison's late husband T/Dc Nick Cohen.

Of their 31-mile journey, Alison said: "We did it! It took us five hours and six minutes.

"Unfortunately we had a horrible head wind for most of the course, which slowed us down quite considerably. We had very sore hands and bottoms by the end of it but it was worth it."

The pair hope to have raised almost £2,000 for cancer research.

• Anyone who would still like to make a donation can visit www.justgiving.com/AliandFi

Getting the balance right

THE force has made great strides towards meeting its 2007/08 objectives.

Between April and August, the sanctioned detection rate has risen to 32.8 per cent – up from 27.7 per cent between April and August 2006.

And incidents of anti-social behaviour have dropped 10.6 per cent to 43,752, while the number of arrests rose to 8.4 per cent to 24,038, also compared with April to August last year.

ACC Carmel Napier thanked everyone in the force for helping to achieve these figures, saying she was proud of our achievements.

But there is more to be done.

"Policing is a balancing act," said Mrs Napier. "And it's a tough one. We can be proud that our sanctioned detection rate is rising and that we are eighth in the country but we must recognise that every crime has a victim and those victims would rather they hadn't suffered the crime in the first place."

Divisions and departments have been asked to look at the way they do business in order to re-focus our efforts on crime reduction, as well as



Illustration by graphic designer Tom Knight

on improving our sanctioned detection rates.

Mrs Napier stressed: "Our main aim remains the same – to provide high standards of service and public reassurance while driving down crime.

"This means reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and detecting

more of the crimes and incidents which are reported to us – this is the balancing act and we need to get it right.

"It is better not to have a crime at all than have to detect a crime, where there is always a victim."

Over the past two years, the force

has developed a robust and high-visibility policing style in a bid to deter offenders. This has led to large improvements in our sanctioned detection rates, arrest figures and recorded crime.

Now, said Mrs Napier, we must adapt this same style of policing to help to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour still further.

The force objectives for 2007/08 state that we will reduce both recorded crime and anti-social behaviour by five per cent between April 1, 2007, and March 31, 2008.

Together, using a problem-solving approach and by enforcing the law appropriately, we can do it.

Mrs Napier is chairing a Gold group to gather, co-ordinate and implement ideas from any officer or member of police staff on how to improve our service delivery, leading to more crime reduction.

She said: "We have already proved we are capable of meeting tough targets and now we must demonstrate that we can continue performing at this high level."

• Email your ideas on reducing crime to Sgt Caroline Venables, Mrs Napier's staff officer, in Executive Support

Unusual gift makes rural areas more accessible

WHEN Chelmer Housing Partnership (CHP) replaced two of its fleet vans, it decided to give something back to the local community. Rather than sell the vehicles, CHP instead gave them to Essex Police for use by PCSOs. CHP's estate rangers work alongside police officers and PCSOs and hold a Community Safety Accreditation.

The partnership realised that while PCSOs could easily carry out their foot patrols in urban areas, they were limited in their ability to reach more rural areas because of a lack of transport. Insp Cheryl Callow, of Chelmsford Rural, said: "This is a superb example of partnership working. CHP has supported Essex Police in delivering vehicles which the rural Chelmsford PCSOs can use to get to 'hard to reach' areas."



Force museum promises there is so much more to come

THE Essex Police Museum achieved accredited status last month in recognition that it is run according to national standards.

The Museum Library and Archives, (MLA) East of England invited the museum, which previously had registered status, to apply for accreditation.

Curator Becky Latchford said: "Although we are only a small museum it is important that we do things properly.

"We follow the same processes as the British Museum and maintain our collection to the same standards so this is a real achievement for us.

"We have been very busy documenting records and it is thanks to the hard work of volunteers that we have over half our records now on computer."

Becky said only a third of the museum's collection was on display and, with a number of repeat visitors, it was

important to maintain interest. "We will be changing our permanent display early next year," she said.

"We have recently acquired an item for the new display that we know will attract a great deal of interest and hope that visitor numbers will continue to rise."

Visitor numbers at the Essex Police Museum, based at HQ in Chelmsford, are up by 25 per cent on last year.

Stay away from shops, thieves told

AN operation has been mounted to drive professional thieves from Lakeside Shopping Centre in Thurrock.

As it is one of the UK's largest retail complexes, career criminals often think a day out at Lakeside is a profitable way of earning a living.

However, the force is warning them to stay away. Undercover officers were deployed throughout the complex on September 29 to assist store detectives and security staff, while a highly-visible police presence could be seen in the car parks and on surrounding roads, to deter car thieves.

Sgt Danny Torrance said he wanted a crime-free environment so shoppers could relax and enjoy the amenities on offer.



HAVE YOUR SAY: Write to Heather Turner, Law Letters, Publication Unit, Police HQ, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DA or via email to heather.turner@essex.pnn.police.uk
 Letters and emails must be no longer than 300 words and must include your full name and home town. We reserve the right to edit letters.
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We made an innovative print 'match' Getting together

READING the front page of last month's issue of *The Law* – Footprint match sees woman jailed – about the identification of who was driving by means of finding her shoe-print on the brake pedal of a car reminded me of an incident in the mid-1970s.

While attending a CID dinner, DI Ray Law, Dc Paddy Duffy and I – then a Det Chief Supt – were called out to a house in

Leigh on Sea where a baby's body had been found by the toilet.

We must have looked a strange sight attending in dinner suits and bow ties.

As Paddy searched for finger-prints, we were surprised to find a clear 'bottom-print' on the white, plastic toilet seat.

Armed with this, we were able to identify a young girl who had been too terrified to tell her parents she was pregnant.

Fortunately, our friendly and understanding pathologist discovered the child had been born a few weeks premature and had been still-born.

Thus no action was taken against the girl.

Maybe we did not have the technology of today but we were often innovative.

Peter Crust
 Winslow, Buckinghamshire

THE National Association of Retired Police Officers and Southend Borough's annual White Helmet reunion is to be held on Friday, December 18, from midday at Southend police station bar.

A ploughman's lunch will be provided.

Please notify bar manager Pam Johnson of your lunch requirements by ringing her on 01245 491491 ext 30915 or contact me on 01702 545934 or via email at peteryorke-wade@sky.com

Peter Yorke-Wade
 NARPO branch secretary
 Southend

Gone . . . but not forgotten

Pc David Roy Worsfold – Essex Police
 Served from August 30, 1977. Died March 5, 1987

PC David Worsfold spent his first three years of police service on D-shift at Tilbury before transferring to Rayleigh Traffic as a motorcyclist in January 1981.

In November of the following year, he moved to Laindon as a member of the first official motorcycle squad to be based there.

During this time he met and married his wife Jacqueline and their son Ashley was born. Pc Worsfold is remembered by



● Pc David Worsfold

his colleagues as a quiet and pleasant man, who carried out his job very professionally, and he had many friends.

On March 5, 1987, Pc Worsfold was a passenger in a police traffic car patrolling along the A127 at Basildon.

The car ran out of control and Pc Worsfold was killed in the crash.

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

Down . . . memory lane

WE were informed that Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, Commander W J A Willis CBE, MVO, RN (ret), was to give members of Epping Division the once-over on August 22, 1957. Our parade was squeezed into the small yard between the back of Epping police station and the court house. HMI was accompanied by our chief constable, Capt Jonathan Peel – he was knighted two years later. Our picture shows Capt Peel joking with Pc Clark, of Little Hallingbury, and Cmdr Willis is talking to Pc Geoff Licence, of Harlow.

Bill Borley
 Kirby Cross



PCSOs set the standard for training

A NEW PCSO foundation course has been completed and hailed a success. The programme lasts for five weeks and offers learning and development in all aspects of a PCSO's role. It now includes a full day of conflict management training, a community placement day, weekly tests and practical assessments. A final written test is also included, in which students must achieve at least 50 per cent or the test must be re-taken. The students have now set the benchmark for future PCSOs as the lowest mark achieved in the test was 71 per cent.

A chief officer best student award has been introduced – to bring the programme in line with training for police officers.

Nichola Hurley, learning and development manager for PCSOs and Specials at Essex Police College, said: "This award professionalises the course, embraces achievement and gives an added incentive to students to perform at their highest level.

"As the course manager, I am really proud of the students. They have been the guinea pigs for the new programme and have come out with excellent results." ACC Derek Benson presented the first chief officer award at last month's passing out parade to PCSO Cathy Burchell, of South Western Division.

More uses for Taser as new trial is authorised

Family thank officers for hard work

THE force has been praised by the family of a man who died in Colchester, despite the collapse of a second murder trial.

The jury was unable to reach a verdict in the second trial of Matthew Bourne, of St Osyth, last month.

Mr Bourne was facing murder/manslaughter charges following the death of David Prosser, 36, from Diggle, near Oldham, in April 2006.

David's parents, Bob and Pat Prosser, and his sister Helen said: "We would like to thank the detectives from Essex Police who have conducted the investigation into David's death."

A jury had been unable to reach a verdict at Mr Bourne's first trial, held earlier this year.

The judge ordered that the defendant be discharged as the prosecution team could not offer further evidence. Senior investigating officer Det Supt Tim Wills said:

"This is obviously a huge disappointment to David Prosser's family, who were hoping for some closure with the second trial, and we extend our sympathy to them.

"Detectives undertook a lengthy investigation into the circumstances leading up to the assault and all available evidence was put before the court."

He said the case had demonstrated the role of a jury in a criminal investigation.

● Thorpe police station is officially re-opened this month



We're back in business

AN historic north Essex police station is officially re-opened this month, following a major restoration.

Thorpe-le-Soken police station is bathed in more than 150 years of crime-fighting history. Essex Police senior officers, local dignitaries and members of the media were due to attend the event on October 11.

The police station closed four years ago and was severely damaged by fire in April 2006. The interior of the Victorian Gothic Grade II-listed building has been restored to its former glory, while the exterior has

remained largely unaltered since it was built. For 150 years, it was the only fully operational station in the area and was home to the officer in charge.

Eastern Divisional Commander Chief Supt Dave Hudson said: "A lot of the old features – including the cells – have been retained and we are really hoping to get involved with the local residents and schools through museum displays and exhibits."

The police station was recently re-opened as a 24-hour functional base for neighbourhood policing teams, response units and PCSOs.

AUTHORISED Firearms Officers (AFOs) in Essex can now deploy TASER in a greater set of circumstances.

The Home Office has given permission for the extension of Taser deployments to include those incidents which would fall outside the remit of conventional firearms deployments.

Ten forces are trialling the training and deployment of non-AFOs in the use of Taser.

Other forces, including Essex, have been authorised to deploy Taser outside of firearms operations during the trial period, using trained AFOs.

So Essex AFOs can deploy TASER in operations or incidents where the use of firearms is not authorised but where officers may face violence or threats of violence so severe they would need to use force to protect the public or themselves.

ACC Peter Lowton has developed guidance for officers in Essex as to how this will support their normal policing operations.

Force Information Room (FIR) inspectors and other Silver Commanders will authorise Taser-only deployments.

Chief Insp Kevin Bailey said: "The deployment of Taser outside of firearms operations is a welcomed additional tool to protect officers and the public.

"Its deployment will be carefully managed by FIR inspectors and other Silver Commanders to ensure it is used effectively and only when the circumstances justify. It is not a replacement for existing policing equipment but a valuable addition."

Authorisation of Taser use will be considered where there is reason to suppose that officers may encounter an increased level of violence beyond that experienced during normal conflict resolution, eg if the person is suspected to have taken drugs.

There may also be information or intelligence regarding violence or access to weapons. Officers will be urged to view Taser as an additional tool, not a replacement for existing conflict management options and defensive skills.

● For details, visit the Taser briefing article at <http://web/departments/mediaandpr/tvunit/taser/>

Corner the chairman



● Pc Charlie Keith abseils from the top of Essex Police College

Picture by Kim Perks

● Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers

Giving the public what they want

“IS the police service match-fit for the 21st century?”

First of all, I must make it clear that I think our police service is the best in the world and that Essex is the best of all! But modern life has been changing rapidly and I can't help but wonder whether we are really keeping pace.

With people's lifestyles being focused on their work, mainly daytime Monday to Friday, and 'play' taking place in the evenings and at weekends this puts a lot of pressure on our service.

A great deal of our crime happens in the evenings and especially at weekends.

I am involved in regular consultation with the public about what they wish to see from Essex Police.

I think it is important to listen to the public and make sure their police service is giving them the best possible return on the money they contribute in taxes each year.

Members of the public are particularly keen on seeing more officers out on the beat in the evenings and at weekends.

I am pleased that the number of Essex Police officers is growing year by year and I think we need to ensure that they are on duty when the public need them most.

Officer numbers have risen from 3,200 in 2003/04 and are predicted to be 3,450 by March 2008, the number of police staff will have risen from 1,754 to 2,100 and PCSOs from 80 to 463. That's almost a thousand extra people. But still we do not always seem to have the right people in the right place at the right time to meet public demand.

I'd really like to hear from you about how you think we could address this.

Resources are limited, so we can't just keep on employing more and more but we are a large police force full of very capable and committed people who, I am, sure will have opinions and constructive ideas for the way forward.”



Volunteers roped in to help Isabella

THIRTY-three people jumped for Isabella at Essex Police College when they took part in a charity abseil.

With their ages ranging from 18 to 54, officers, police staff and friends of Pc Simon Cox and Pc Christine Bennett – parents of 18-month-old Isabella – abseiled off the college building at HQ last month. Sgt Tim Johnstone, of the Rope Access Team and one of the organisers, said: “It was a huge success and an excellent day. “We have raised £6,500 which will go towards paying for specialist private therapy for Isabella, who has severe developmental delay and needs sensory stimulation.”

Alex Cook

Judge praises pair for help with 12 arrests

A JUDGE has commended the work by two Essex officers which led to 12 people being jailed for a total of nearly 50 years.

Dc Justin Knowles and Sgt Michael Carrington were two of three officers commended for their part in a two-year investigation.

Judge Foster described the case as the largest criminal conspiracy of its kind to come before the British judicial system.

The 12 people jailed last month at Luton Crown Court were involved in an organised theft and exportation network which saw 92 high-value vehicles, valued at more than £4million, recovered by police at Felixstowe docks or being shipped to Africa.

The offenders had previously either been found guilty or had pleaded guilty to conspiracy to handle stolen goods.

by Donna Veasey

The vehicles had been stolen from all over the country in burglaries, robberies, 'car jackings' and thefts.

Upon sentencing, the judge praised the detailed police investigation and reminded the court that each car stolen had had a victim and its own story.

The conspiracy ran from May 2005 until mid-April 2006 when police arrested a number of the conspirators, who were loading stolen Mercedes vehicles into a sea container at a yard in London's East End.

During the trial, the prosecution estimated that the defendants were responsible for sending more than 200 stolen vehicles overseas.

Hertfordshire Constabulary initiated Operation Movement in November 2005 to investigate the export of vehicles which had been stolen from various

locations in the county in burglaries, where the car keys were stolen, and from other robberies and thefts.

In January 2006 this became a joint operation with the Kent and Essex forces.

Senior investigating officer DCI Jon Chapman, of Hertfordshire Constabulary, said: “The investigation and these hefty prison terms have significantly disrupted what is clearly a sophisticated criminal network.

“In addition, under proceeds of crime legislation, the courts will have the powers to strip substantial financial assets acquired through the defendants' criminality.

“Throughout the enquiry we have worked closely with colleagues from Kent and Essex Police and, by pooling resources, this has proven an excellent example of collaborative working with other forces.”

THE death of Stapleford Abbots village policeman Pc George Gutteridge on September 27, 1927, was commemorated at a memorial service in the village's St Mary's Church.

The memorial service and wreath-laying at the memorial stone in Gutteridge Lane, organised by Stapleford Abbots Parish Council, was attended by George's grandson Brian Alexander.

George's death mask and the bullets which killed him were on show at the village hall, along with a 1960s BBC documentary about the case.

Damning ballistics evidence led the jury to return a verdict of guilty against Leo Browne and William 'Pat' Kennedy who were both hanged for the murder 80 years ago.

Pc Gutteridge is buried in Warley Cemetery, near Brentwood, and a memorial indicates the spot where he was murdered.

● THE latest History Notebook, No. 50, is available free from the Essex Police Museum and features the story of Pc Gutteridge's murder.

For a copy, contact museum curator Becky Latchford by email at museum@essex.pnn.police.uk



● Brian Alexander, middle row, neighbourhood specialist officer Pc Ray Hull, front far left, DCC Andy Bliss, front second right, with villagers at the Gutteridge memorial stone

Investigators asked for their opinions

THE new professionalising investigation programme (PIP) is being implemented in-force and is seeking to canvass opinion. Constables and their supervisors are asked to fill in a questionnaire about investigative skills. PIP is a national programme which seeks to achieve professionalism in all investigative roles that will be demonstrated through the evidencing of competencies.

Head of Crime Det Chief Supt Wil Kennedy said: “PIP is about raising the standard of all crime investigation. It is important that we identify and fill those gaps that we are not so strong in.

“This information will be used to ensure that we properly equip everyone involved in investigation to ensure that we can arrest and bring to justice those who commit crime in Essex. “This is your opportunity to ensure we prioritise training to help you do your job.”

The questionnaires are anonymous, with separate ones for constables and supervisors. They aim to identify whether training is needed for investigators, and in turn what form that training should take.

Questionnaires are divided into two sections: PIP and investigative skills; and CID. The first section gathers opinions regarding aspects of investigation and determines whether training is required, while the second is for an input into the CID recruitment process.

● The questionnaires are available via the PIP site on the intranet – under the information menu – and should be completed by the end of this month

Remember your receipts for mileage

ALL claims for mileage reimbursement of expenses must now be accompanied by a fuel VAT receipt.

This will enable Essex Police to reclaim the VAT element within mileage payments, saving the force about £24,000 per year.

Catherine McPherson, of Executive Support, said:

“The force is currently making savings, through Operation Austin, to fund more officers and staff on the front line and every little helps.

“Your VAT receipt should be dated either before the journey or within the period claimed. For example, a claim for mileage on September 12 should be accompanied by a VAT receipt dated between September 1 and 30.

“Without a receipt the force is unable to reclaim VAT and make the necessary saving. The receipt can be for any amount of fuel which at least covers the mileage being claimed on the gold form.”

Catherine added that providing a VAT receipt was now a statutory requirement of HM Revenue and Customs in order to recover VAT on mileage.

More intelligent than ever, thanks to ISB

QUALIFIED intelligence is being put on the system more quickly than ever now the new Intelligence Support Bureau (ISB) is up and running.

The ISB went live on October 1 and part of its job is to qualify all submitted intelligence reports, CID61s, and make them available to officers and police staff on the intelligence system.

Force Intelligence Bureau head DCI Bob Chatterton said that, three days, after the ISB opened, the daily number of unqualified intelligence reports had fallen to the lowest he had ever known.

“Intelligence is getting on to the sys-

tem faster, so officers having to make key decisions are better informed and get the information to make that decision even more quickly,” he said.

“This will aid our intelligence-led approach to policing because we are relying on up-to-the-minute information about people, places and events.”

As part of the changes to how the force handles its intelligence, there has been a major re-organisation of the divisional intelligence units (DIUs).

All territorial divisions, plus Stansted Airport, now have one DIU each, with a standardised structure, and each

territorial DIU has a minimum of five field intelligence officers (FIOs).

The force is investing heavily in standardised training for all intelligence staff, to ensure common working practices.

The new structure means that the divisional FIOs can now concentrate on becoming more proactive in the gathering and handling of intelligence because the ISB is taking on the administration of CID61s and stop slips.

EIM project manager Insp Kevan Griggs said: “We want Essex to be among the top intelligence-led forces in the country.”



PCSO Andrew Hill, left, helped to launch South Eastern Division's successful purse security chain initiative

THINKING 'outside of the box' was a feature of South Eastern's approach to neighbourhood policing, as the following examples illustrate: Rayleigh: Chains a link to the community

PCSO Andy Hill, from Hockley, was named a police staff ACTION Achievement award-winner in last month's Action Awards (see opposite page), not least for his part in the division's very successful purse security chain initiative.

Andy was involved from the outset of the scheme two years ago, locally sourcing hundreds of chains.

Since then thousands have been distributed to elderly and vulnerable shoppers across Rochford district and, more recently, other parts of South Eastern Division.

The chains allow people to attach their purse to their bag and are designed to alert shoppers to any attempt to lift their purse. They are also a deterrent to pickpockets.

Andy's ACTION award also recognised his work in revitalising the Retail Against Crime group in Rayleigh. Through additional funding from the Rochford Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership he was able to re-launch the scheme and introduce a radio system for local businesses to immediately alert each other of the presence of known shoplifters in their stores.

Shoebury: Mouse mat promotes child safety

A novel mouse mat is providing a lesson in safety to scores of young schoolchildren across Shoebury.

The brightly-illustrated mat is the brainchild of Pc Paul Watson, of the Shoebury Neighbourhood Policing Team, and carries important advice to youngsters about online safety, stranger danger and dealing with bullying.

It also includes the contact number for the charity Childline, and a reminder of the 999 number should they need help in an emergency. More than 2,000 of the mats are being distributed to six infants and primary schools in Shoebury as part of Paul's regular talks to pupils. He came up with the idea of the mat following a trip to America where he saw similar initiative, though there the content focused solely on online safety.

"I thought there was scope to include other important safety messages and also, by personalising the mat with my photograph and name, I could reinforce the points I make to the children in my talks," he said.

"The mat acts as a constant reminder to them and it's almost as if I am giving the talk again."

Southend: Wristbands a handy solution

Southend Seafront NSOs Pc Karl Help and Pc Ian Harlow came up with an imaginative way of quickly reuniting missing youngsters with anxious parents - The Child Wristband Safety Scheme.

In peak season as many as six or seven youngsters a day are brought to the officers' seafront office after having become separated from their parents.

Karl and Ian devised special wristbands for children that allow Mum or Dad to add details of their mobile number.

"The wristband means that we can now re-unite them with one quick phone call, rather than a prolonged search," said Karl. "It saves us time but also means less anxiety for the child and parents."

The free wristbands are available to parents, who must fit them to their child themselves, from several seafront outlets.

Getting to know the neighbourhood pays off



Pc Paul Watson and youngsters from Hinguar school in Shoebury with his mousemat

Picture courtesy of Echo Newspapers

Little ideas can make such a huge difference

by Alan Jones

SGT Paul Saunders may have been taken aback to find himself among the contenders for an ACTION Award this year but his nomination came as no surprise to colleagues across South Eastern Division.

From his achievement-focused attitude through to the high standards he inspires in others, Paul has come to epitomise all that ACTION is about.

It is this commitment to established policing virtues that he brings to his current role as NSO manager, directing the Castle Point neighbourhood specialist officers (NSOs) and Castle Point PCSOs.

Community policing, in its various guises, has been the recurring theme throughout his 24-year career, starting with his time as a bobby on the beat in Rayleigh.

Subsequent postings to Leigh, Southend, Brentwood, Rochford, Rayleigh and, significantly, 12 years spent as a neighbourhood beat officer in Hockley, have given him a unique perspective.

"I have been involved in community policing for the majority of my career and firmly believe that if we are to do our job properly, we have to be 'friends' with the community," said Paul.

"Of course our role is to tackle crime and arrest offenders but we must never lose sight of the fact that we police with the consent of the public and winning the hearts and minds of people is fundamental to our operating effectively.

"I welcome the introduction of neighbourhood policing but have to say that it is not entirely new and in many respects we are applying the principles of the past, albeit in a faster-moving environment.

"Meeting the demands of today requires us to be far more flexible and versatile in delivering a quality service."

Paul and his colleagues have demonstrated this versatility in efforts that take them into the very heart of the community.

Eschewing the safe option of holding beat surgeries in local libraries, the NSOs are now taking these sessions to where the people are; to church coffee mornings, colleges and community centres, even to a local farmers' market where the officers have their own stall.



Sgt Paul Saunders is a regular contributor to Link Radio, part of his approach to keeping the community in touch with neighbourhood policing

Paul said: "I see these sessions as conduits for gathering information, not simply about crime but also other issues affecting an area. All intelligence can then be shared with officers to build a broader picture of what's going on in the area.

"Also many of the people we meet, who, while not having previously engaged with the police, are nevertheless very community minded, know their area in detail and can make a relevant contribution as members of our neighbourhood action panels."

Paul encourages his NSOs and, in turn, their PCSOs to continually develop links and communication with all sectors of the community, to keep the channels of information open.

He has also fostered closer working relationships between his NSOs and the district's schools liaison officers, believing that an integrated approach is the best route to dealing with youth misbehaviour.

"I don't see that you can separate what goes on in school with what the youngsters get up to outside; rather than dealing with them as separate entities I believe we should look at them as one thing and that needs closer liaison



between the NSOs and the schools officer," he said.

In his current role, Paul represents the police voice on a number of local partnership bodies and multi-agency groupings dealing with community issues across Castle Point, including the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) which he helped set up, and the Children and Young Persons Strategic Partnership (CYPSP).

He was most recently involved in the drafting and implementation of a 21-point action plan drawn up by a problem-oriented team of police, council officials and agency representatives to tackle an area plagued with crime and anti-social behaviour.

The location has subsequently seen significant improvements and the police were not only able to provide support on the ground, in the shape of increased patrols, but also by coming up with improvements to the neighbourhood and street scene to 'design out crime'.

Similarly, another area notorious for vandalism and anti-social behaviour has seen a remarkable turnaround as the result of a neighbourhood policing team presence in the heart of the community - literally.

The local council was persuaded to give officers the use of a vacant flat in the centre of the troubled area for three months, not as an office or surgery but simply as a base from which to work when necessary.

Paul said: "Word of our presence in the area quickly got around but, because the youngsters did not know when we were likely to turn up - it could be at any time - they couldn't risk getting up to mischief.

"Our irregular appearance has really brought about a change in their behaviour and we have seen a considerable fall in offences as a result."



Pc Carl Booth



Chief Insp Adrian Coombs picked up Barry Blackman's award



Sgt Phil Morley



Cadet Dale Beverton



Insp Scott Egerton

Top performance recognised

by Claire Schnitzer

OFFICERS and police staff from across the county have been recognised for their policing efforts at the Essex Police Annual Awards and ACTION Awards ceremony.

The eight received their individual accolades - Student Officer of the Year, Community Officer of the Year, the Lifetime Achievement Award and Cadet of the Year, as well as ACTION Achievement Awards for one police officer, a PCSO, a Special Constabulary officer and a member of police staff - at the gala event held at Stock Brook Country Club on September 19.

Their awards were presented by Chief Constable Roger Baker.

Since joining the force almost two years ago, Pc Carl Booth's positive attitude has contributed enormously towards his excellent arrest and detection rates, making him this year's Student Officer of the Year. In his first ten weeks alone, Pc Booth arrested 36 prisoners.

His drive and motivation made him a real asset to the Clacton Town Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT). He has cemented relations with local businesses and residents, helping people to feel secure in the area in which they live and work.

During one patrol, Pc Booth noticed a man who was crawling away from the rear of a shop. It was not long before he had successfully arrested and charged the man, who had stolen more than £50,000 of goods. This year's Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Barry Blackman.

He began his police career at 19 and spent his service on the front line. His first post was at Harwich. From there, he moved to Colchester and then on to Clacton, continuing as a response officer.

Mr Blackman returned to Colchester to work in CID and remained there for 12 years. In 1998, he became a sergeant before returning to Harwich as a response officer. He finished his career in July at Clacton CID.

Throughout his 30-year service, Mr Blackman was awarded three commendations and four letters of appreciation.

Community Officer of the Year was Sgt Phil Morley, of Burnham NPT. He has managed to increase detections by 31 per cent and reduce reported crimes by five per cent, while implementing a number of initiatives, namely ShopWatch and PubWatch, to target anti-social behaviour.

Sgt Morley has actively taken time to get to know the local residents and businesses, all of which has resulted in a community which feels safer and has seen its quality of life improve.

Cadet of the Year was Dale Beverton. Since joining Essex Police as a cadet, Dale has worked on a number of community programmes. He has been involved in the 2Smart4Drugs roadshows, setting up drama and dance lessons and working closely with the community.

The effort Dale has put into his studies has been exemplary, as he has strived to achieve high standards and inspire those around him. Pc Booth, Mr Blackman, Sgt Morley and Dale have all been nominated for the national Jane's Police Review 2007 Gala Awards.

The ACTION Awards form part of the force's leadership programme.



SSupt Leon Dias



Crime Registrar Jackie Hammond



PCSO Andrew Hill

Harlow's Insp Scott Egerton has won this year's police officer ACTION Achievement Award.

Insp Egerton's conscientious approach to work within the community has made him an instantly-recognised figure with whom locals often have a chat. The partnership work he and colleagues have established has resulted in a reduction of youth-related crimes.

Harlow North had started to see a rise in the number of anti-social behaviour caused by a small group of youths.

Insp Egerton worked with local companies to set up a BusinessWatch scheme and instigated a football project, inviting youths to meet twice a week for practice lessons and a game. There was a significant drop in anti-social activity.

It is one of many examples of his outstanding work to improve life in the community. Our second ACTION Achievement Award for an officer was given to SSupt Leon Dias, who is based in Colchester.

SSupt Dias has always taken a proactive approach to any task. Last autumn, he worked with other special officers to put together a community initiative which allowed them to take delivery of a new Ford Transit van, which has proven invaluable as part of the general fleet.

The first police staff ACTION Achievement Award was presented to Jackie Hammond, the force crime registrar, who is based in Corporate Development at HQ.

Her main responsibility is to ensure that the force's crime recording information is ethical and accurate.

She carried out impromptu audits and identified areas where she could positively improve the way information was recorded and then created a best-practice guide.

Her dedication and commitment has seen her work recognised nationally by the National Audit Commission, which shared her guide with other forces in England and Wales.

PCSO Andrew Hill, of Hockley, is this year's second police staff ACTION Achievement Award-winner.

Dedication to his police patrols has seen his work recognised on a number of occasions. He resurrected the Retail Against Crime group, attracting funding from the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, and introduced purse chains after identifying a problem with purse-dipping.

To see pictures of all those nominated for this year's force awards, visit the ACTION Leadership intranet site - click on the intranet information menu, ACTION Leadership and then on latest news

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It's all change in the districts

Holiday lets

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FLORIDA, new, luxury five-bed villa, sleeps 12, three bedrooms en suite, fully air-conditioned, games room, private pool with Jacuzzi. Disney ten mins. Ten per cent discount for police staff. Contact Paul Howard on 01268 244011 or visit www.floridianretreat.com

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FORD Fiesta, R-reg, 1250cc. New clutch, radiator and two tyres. Radio/CD player. Taxed and MOT until February 2008. Excellent condition. £1,400 ono. Contact 07759 320374 or 01376 347446.

Room/parking for rent

DOUBLE room plus parking space – available to rent together or separately. Five minutes walk from force HQ. Ring Mrs Price on 07789 643021 for more details.

IT'S all change on divisions with more movements among district commanders.

Chief Insp **Joe Wrigley** will now head up the Uttlesford district in Central Division.

He takes over from Chief Insp **Graham Stubbs**, who swaps into Chief Insp Wrigley's former role as deputy head of learning and development at Essex Police College.

Other movements in Central Division include Chief Insp **Alan Gooden**, formerly of Professional Standards (PSD), heading things up at Braintree in place of Chief Insp **Mark Schofield**, who moves to Stansted Airport.

He replaces Chief Insp **Simon Williams**, who is now working on a temporary project in crime and contingency planning at the airport.

Replacing Chief Insp Gooden in PSD is former Basildon district commander Chief Insp **Jan Harrison**, who will be succeeded by Chief Insp **Mark Wheeler**.

And Chief Insp **Paul Eveleigh** – who was Harlow district commander – replaces DCI **Tracey Hawkings** as Castle Point district commander.

DCI Hawkings is currently crime manager for Central Division.

Over in Western Division, newcomer Chief Insp **Michael Martin**, who joins the force from Devon and Cornwall Police – he also spent five years with the Metropolitan Police – replaces Chief Insp Eveleigh in Harlow.

Brentwood MIT senior investigating officer (SIO) Det Chief Supt **Phil Tucker** moves to HQ Crime Division to take over as director of intel-

ligence, a post temporarily held by DCI Terry Haines.

And, completing the jigsaw, the new SIO at Brentwood is Det Supt **John Quinton**, who has transferred to the force after 27 years with Suffolk Constabulary.

Kevin Macey is now heading up the force's Serious Crime Review Team.

The former director of investigations is responsible for a team of four staff who review both live and historical cases.

The bulk of the work relates to unsolved murders, unexplained deaths and sex offences, although they also regularly assist divisions with long-term and high-risk missing persons enquiries.

The serious crime review team was initially introduced in 2003 and has gradually expanded.

One of its reviews was implicit in the identification and conviction in November 2005 of a man for the murder of Rochford businesswoman **Norah Trott**, 27 years after the crime was committed.

Retirements

Insp **Steve Shoemith**, 48, has retired as strategy and planning manager in Corporate Development after 30 years with the force.

However, the role has now been civilianised and so Steve is still doing the same job, as a member of police staff.

As an officer, he served at Chelmsford, Witham, Stanway Traffic and Brentwood before moving to Corporate Development.

Insp **Peter Gardner**, 48, retired at the beginning of the month, also having served the force for 30 years. He previously served in

Chelmsford and Harlow and completed his service based in Eastern Division.

Colchester-based **Pc Brian O'Neill**, 55, has retired after completing almost 35 years' service. During his time with the force, he also served at Harlow, Danbury and Tiptree.

Stanway Road Policing Unit's **Pc Alan Clothier**, 55, bids farewell early next month after completing his 30 years' service.

He has also served at Rayleigh, Clacton and Colchester.

Anne Gear has retired from South Western Division's Resource Management Unit (RMU) in Basildon having completed more than 22 years' service with the force.

She started work at Essex Police as an audio typist at Basildon, before becoming a clerical assistant and finally duties administrator in the RMU.

And **Brian Cooper**, the chief officers' chauffeur, has retired aged 66 after completing almost 15 years of service with the force.

Obituaries

Former Chief Supt **Howard Hutchens** has died, aged 87. He leaves a widow Catherine.

Mr Hutchens served from November 1950 to November 1980.

His funeral took place at Garston Crematorium in Watford last month.

A funeral has also taken place for ex **Pc Alan Bain**, who has died, aged 60, having lost his fight against cancer.

Mr Bain served from April 1975 to January 2002 at Southend and Canvey Island.

His funeral took place last month at Pitsea Crematorium.

Gift celebrates 70 years of driver-training

ESSEX Police Museum has been presented with a first-edition book written by the pioneer of police driver-training, the **Earl of Cottenham**.

Retired Metropolitan Police officer **Harry Rossiter**, who is in his 80s, handed over the book, *Motoring Without Fears*, to Practical Skills inspector **Jim White** and museum curator **Becky Latchford** at the pensioners' garden party in the summer.

The Earl of Cottenham wrote the book *Roadcraft*, upon which all police driver-training is based, and *Motoring Without Fears* was his second book, published in the late 1920s.

Insp White said the gift had been very timely.

"It was rather fitting as this year is the 70th anniversary of the formation of the Essex Police Driving School – one of the first to be set up in the country," he explained.



● Curator **Becky Latchford** and Insp **Jim White** receive the book from **Harry Rossiter**

The IPA welcomes new members

A RECRUITMENT drive has been launched for the International Police Association (IPA).

Founded in 1950, the IPA exists to promote social and professional relationships between police officers worldwide and stands by its motto Service Through Friendship.

Whether your interests are in travel or study, the IPA provides the opportunity to create friendships around the globe that can last a lifetime.

Essex Police and the Metropolitan Police's K Division form Region 10. Region 10 vice-chairman **Pete Culligan** said: "Without a doubt, the



IPA provides benefit to any serving or retired officer, whether they want

to be actively involved or not. "Within Region 10's four branches, we are developing new strategies both to raise the profile of the IPA and to make it even more relevant and compatible with the busy work and social lifestyles of today's officers."

● To find out more, including the benefits of membership, visit www.ipa-uk.org for more details or to join. Or email Region 10 secretary **Steve Hunt** at steve.hunt@essex.pnn.police.uk or vice-chairman **Pete Culligan** at peterculligan@ipa-uk.org

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Trapping online sex offenders

One man's arrest in New Zealand triggered a chain reaction of events which astonished detectives.

Press officer Nishan Wijeratne unravels the investigation which led to a child sex offender being jailed.

TODAY's computer-literate generation blossomed after the introduction of the worldwide web.

Most are information-hungry and communicate with friends and strangers across the globe – while others grab the opportunity to gratify their sexual needs with innocent children.

Garry Davies was one such individual – a 'monster' who ruined a girl's life.

Police believe Rebecca* was just four when Davies began sexually abusing her – ten years on, he is behind bars and his victim is in rehabilitation.

In December 2006, officers from the London-based Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Victim Identification Unit contacted DI Gary Glassfield, of the force's Child Abuse Investigation Unit (CAIU), advising him of a series of images they had intercepted which showed a young girl being raped in a house in Essex.

Eagle-eyed CEOP investigators had been examining

photographs and noticed a number of items which were traced by Essex detectives to the county.

Detectives needed to identify the girl immediately. She was wearing a school uniform so her image, minus her face, was distributed to head teachers throughout the county.

One month later, and after the Christmas holiday, a headmistress contacted DI Glassfield with a positive match on the uniform. The long, arduous journey to rescue Rebecca's life had started.

On January 12 this year, Rayleigh CAIU detectives executed a search warrant at the house in Basildon.

Inside and alone, was 13-year-old Rebecca. Detectives scoured the house, seizing every item that they had seen in the sexually-explicit pictures.

As they bagged and tagged each item, Garry Davies walked through the front door with some grocery shopping. He was arrested and taken to Basildon police station.

There, the former delivery



● **The computer which was the portal into online offending**

driver proved to be unco-operative.

He offered no comments during a weekend of police interviews but was charged on the Sunday night with a variety of sex offences.

Ten miles away, Rebecca was being video-interviewed by Dc Jan Reynolds and a social worker as they looked to piece together the events and trauma from the teenager's life.

DI Glassfield outlines the sickening facts which were drawn out from her.

"She was quite hesitant and reluctant to admit to anything at first," said DI Glassfield, who is in his last year with the force before retirement.

"We had seen some horrific acts and scenarios in the images and videos we had downloaded from the internet so all the evidence was there, but she was very reticent with any confirmation.

"As it transpired, Rebecca was petrified of this monster. It was only after his subsequent guilty plea that she opened up, released her emotions and admitted that she had known nothing else but this form of life since the age of four.

"She told us that she thought the police officers who raided the house were Davies' mates; a clear indication that other men were and probably still are involved – undetected by us as yet – in

child sex offences on the web."

While viewing videos seized from the Basildon house, another child victim was identified – one who had also been raped by Davies.

Investigating officer Dc Claire Talbot, recalls the day Davies was sentenced.

She said: "Rebecca had told me that she wanted him dead and would gladly shoot him in front of the judge.

"We changed her life, not necessarily for the better in the short term but certainly for the long term. It will be a long rehabilitation, but one which she has welcomed, eventually, with open arms."

Dc Claire Talbot went on to describe Davies' demeanour in court.

"He was and is an arrogant individual who can't see what he has done is wrong," said Dc Talbot, who has been with the unit for two years – she joined the force in 1999.

"He was brought up by his parents in South Africa and attributed his actions to this – 'What have I done wrong?' was his attitude.

"Garry Davies is a sick, predatory paedophile who systematically abused this child for a sustained period of time.

"He continues to show no remorse whatsoever, purely arguing over semantics in the way that he groomed her."

Rebecca is now on the slow and long road to recovery with the help of social services outside Essex, where she is receiving the necessary treatment which will attempt to repair the child who never was.

DI Glassfield said: "Rebecca is just one of many victims out there.

"We often hear suspects in police interviews say they were purely viewing the images and so how can they be tarred with the same brush as evil, child abusers.

"Well, behind every picture is an abused, broken boy or girl and that abuse is perpetuated every time others view it online."

In August, 38-year-old Davies was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment after pleading guilty to rape and to taking, possessing and distributing indecent photographs of children.

He was given a public protection sentence as he poses a danger to boys and girls. He was also placed on the Sex Offenders Register for life.

Davies' arrest also led to two other men living in Europe being arrested for similar offences.

So, despite the net closing in on some, the web's thread just grows bigger...

* The name of the victim has been changed for legal reasons

A Touch of Frost?



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

I WOULD like to thank detention officer Cathy Renew for all the hard work she has put in with me.

Two years ago, I was 17 and was arrested. While in Grays custody, Cathy took the time to make sure I was OK and well looked after, as I was in a mess.

She also talked to me about how I felt and what had actually happened – understanding my view of things and helping me to see the officers' side, too.

Because of my upbringing and being in care, I've never done as well as I could have and took the wrong turn, to crime.

No-one took the time to help me work through the mistakes I made and why I had made them.

Cathy always believed in me when many did not, never judged me and had a lot of trust in me.

Through these last two years, Cathy has worked with me and I feel I have come a long way.

I now work with young people who have experienced some of my difficulties.

Cathy has taught me that not all police officers are bad. In the last two years, I have made better relationships with a few of your officers and wish to gain more.

I do wish to work with the

police force in any way I can in the future.

SF
South Ockendon

I WOULD like to thank Pc Alex King and his 'forensic' colleague who came to my rescue when my house was broken into.

I was very frightened and they were so kind and caring to me.

I realise I am only one of several who have to contend with burglary but they made me feel better and able to cope.

GB
Southend

TO Insp John French:

We recently held the Governors' annual meeting with parents, where we reviewed the results of the annual parental survey.

The matter of children travelling safely to school was scored unacceptably low.

During debate, the most productive ideas came from Pc Nick Luff and PCSO Sam Harrington.

Nick and Sam's presence was enormously helpful to everyone and future initiatives were suggested which can really make a difference.

Thank you so much for supporting the concept of neighbourhood/community policing.

It is so valuable for the community to really get to know the police and for them to know the villages, the people and the local area.

The Governors
Bulphan Primary School

THE forum committee would

like to thank your staff for all the assistance they gave us at the forum fun day.

I saw PCSO Kelly Roberts, Pc Chris Adam and PCSO Ben Freeman there and several others I did not know.

They all worked very hard and kept everything running smoothly when the police helicopter arrived.

Chadwell Forum Committee

TO Sgt Darren Deex:

Thank you and to your officers for the support and help in managing the Harwich Triathlon – I have received very favourable feedback.

All commented how well the marshalling was undertaken and how policing made it safer and easier than it otherwise would have been.

Harwich Running Club & Harwich, Dovercourt and Parkeston Swimming Club

WHAT a great asset PCSOs are to Essex Police and particularly to Colchester Central Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) and our Neighbourhood Watch (NW) membership.

I continually receive favourable comments about how much they are valued.

PCSO Jackie Tyrrell, of Central NPT, is such a dedicated PCSO and has been taken into the confidence of many members of the public. She is trusted and committed to improving the lives of the community.

She has been instrumental, along with her colleagues, in monitoring and recording graffiti in the town centre and also in collecting information which has resulted in the closure of drugs dens.

Partnership working is high on her agenda and she strongly supports Colchester Borough NW and encourages new NW groups.

In December, Colchester Borough NW presented a joint Community Support Officer of the Year Award to Jackie and her colleague Alison Howe. Since then, Jackie has gone from strength to strength.

Colchester Borough NW

TO Insp Jonathan Hayter:

We are very grateful for your diligence in finally obtaining the closure of premises in Maidenburgh Street, Colchester, for drug-related offences.

For many years, residents have been frightened by disturbances and crime associated with this house.

The police action has made a marked improvement to our quality of life.

Our local NW and Dutch Quarter Association, supported by Castle Ward PCSOs, have persistently encouraged residents to provide the police with details of any suspicious activities.

It is gratifying to realise that their vigilance and courage have brought this problem to a successful conclusion.

The people who live in the Dutch Quarter have had a growing belief in the ability of the police to successfully tackle the crime and disorder that has blighted them in the recent past.

Your efforts in this instance can only help reinforce our new-found confidence in the police.

Dutch Quarter Association
Colchester

I HAD to call police about my children as my ex-partner was drunk and my children were terrified.

I feared for my own safety and could not attend the address alone. A local unit attended my ex-partner's address and brought the children home.

The officers who picked them up were excellent. They were kind, made my children feel at ease and that they could trust them. The officers made a real effort to engage them in conversation and they arrived calm and unafraid.

Pc Matt Clark and Pc Victoria Parsall deserve recognition for their handling of the situation.

JLP
Stanford-le-Hope

TO PCSO Kyli Nice and everyone at Basildon police station:

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping to try to find my husband. Please also thank the Air Support Unit, too.

My daughter and I found him just a couple of streets away – he is diabetic and he was working in the heat without stopping to eat or drink, so he had parked up.

After half-an-hour with the ambulance crew his blood sugar went back up.

I can't thank you enough and don't know what we would have done without you.

SW
Basildon

I WAS impressed by the help given to me by SInsp Andrew Brown after losing my car at Lakeside.

I was aware of the pitying

looks being given to the 70-year-old until I met SInsp Brown.

He searched with me and eventually we found it. What a gallant man – he was magnificent.

WG
Elstree, Hertfordshire

I TEACH courses related to the uniformed public services and arranged two self-defence workshops.

The instructor, Pc David Dunn, of Pitsea, was very well received.

He was very professional and gave my students a good deal of sensible information to 'keep them safe'.

The instruction fits well into the government's Every Child Matters scheme.

I thought Pc Dunn was an excellent representative of Essex Police working in the community.

Thurrock and Basildon College

THANK you for the terrific job you did in getting my stolen car back in approximately 21 minutes.

My car was fitted with a tracker and I was most impressed.

I was also lucky that PCSOs Teresa Martin and Paul Challis were walking past as my car was taken. They acted swiftly in radioing the information over and stayed with me until my vehicle was found.

I was very impressed with the way they dealt with the situation.

JA
Stanford-le-Hope

I WAS very impressed by the service I received after being burgled while in the house.

Pc Simon Page and Pc Warren Lamb, from Shoeburyness police station were very helpful and caring.

PH
Thorpe Bay

ALTHOUGH off-duty, I was called to attend a report of a train on fire at Wickford railway station.

I attended with my force radio but the quickest response time I could expect from British Transport Police colleagues was over 20 minutes.

Accounts from six men who admitted to being in the fire-damaged carriage contradicted one from a fire expert at the scene. I was isolated and needed to arrest six men.

Pcs Matt Hillier, Nick Schneider, Dave Allen and David Griffiths attended and quickly identified at least two men had given false details and one was on bail for robbery. With their assistance I was able to make the arrests safely.

I would also like to thank Sgt Kevin Parker and Insp Tony Rustman.

As an officer who served with Essex Police for 30 years and who lives in the area, it is gratifying to know from a 'customer's' perspective that Essex Police continues to deliver an excellent level of service to those in genuine need.

Area Inspector
British Transport Police

I WRITE in my capacity as a former Metropolitan Police detective constable to express my gratitude and praise for the professionalism of Pcs Terry Saint and Paul Ballard following an incident with which they dealt.

I had to call them to a

friend's address and during the course of their dealings with my friend, they displayed the utmost tact and diplomacy, which resulted in him being sectioned under the Mental Health Act in very difficult circumstances.

I am pleased to say my friend is making a remarkable recovery at home and I feel this is largely due to the way in which your officers dealt with the incident from the outset.

Pcs Saint and Ballard are a credit to Essex Police and should be commended for their tact and mediation skills in what was a very difficult situation.

NW
Hornchurch

WE want to thank you and your officers in helping to make the carnival successful, with no reported problems.

I hope they enjoyed the day as we did and we hope the people of Thurrock will appreciate all the hard work put in by you all in keeping law and order.

Thurrock Carnival Association

MY daughter was taken to Basildon A&E – it was suspected her drink was tampered with.

We would like to thank Pc Emma Holmes and Pc Charlotte Morgan, who attended and sat with her until I arrived.

They dealt with a very delicate situation in a very calm, professional way.

ML
Basildon

TO John Gardiner, Civil Disclosure:

We would like to thank you for your continued support. Your team's input can really make a difference to the quality of our clients' lives and is something we value very highly here.

Thurrock Citizens Advice Bureau

CONTROL supervisor Simon Gibson was very efficient when I made a complaint – not about the police, I hasten to add.

I rang Braintree police station, was efficiently dealt with there and then, after speaking to control, Mr Gibson rang me back.

FH
Blackmore End

I WANT to praise the ability of Pcs Sarah Jefferies and Anna Brinkley to calm down a stressful situation and deal with the information they received with tact and thoughtfulness.

Both listened carefully and made us all feel we were being dealt with professionally and fairly.

I am sure the public will appreciate them for a long time to come.

LG
Basildon

THANKS to Dc Adam Dovaston, Pc Mike Burrell and PCSO Stuart Edney for their efforts in obtaining 29 detections for graffiti, mainly in the Southend area.

Since the arrest of a man, the graffiti at Shoebury on railway property has ceased.

We have also arrested an associate of that man, who was bailed for offences on the line between Southend Victoria and Billericay.

Area Inspector
British Transport Police

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



Freshwater anglers show their class

DESPITE a lack of practice, the force freshwater angling team gained good results in the PSUK competition.

It was held at Woodlands and Sessay at Thirsk, North Yorkshire.

With the event split between two venues, practice was difficult and, with 33 teams, the fishing was always going to favour the local teams. A strong and gusting crosswind made conditions difficult, too.

Daryl Flint and Paul Bird fished The Oaks at Sessay, while Steve Adams, Martin Woollard, Gary Derrick and Graham Garnham, fished at Woodlands.

Adams had a convincing section win and second overall individual placing with 74lb 4oz.

Garnham was third in his section – beaten by an ounce from second place – and Flint came fourth in his. With backing section points of 15, 21 and 24 the team managed a very creditable fifth place overall.

Phil Brochen kept the Essex flag flying as runner-up in the reserve match, which was fished on three separate waters.

Garnham said afterwards: "Once again, the team showed its ability to mix it with the best teams in the country."

Tug-of-war successes

THREE Essex officers and two former Essex officers put up a great performance in a Tri-Services tug-of-war contest.

They competed for the British Police team against the Combined Services (Army, Navy and RAF) and the Civil Service at Chigwell Police sports ground last month.

Alan 'Skelly' Lambert and Jim Finnigan, of Eastern, and Steve Tyrrell, of Stanway Road Policing Unit, together with Steve Gibbs, now of City of London, won a silver medal pulling in the British Police 680kg A team.

Lambert also picked up a silver medal when he helped out the Civil Service in the 600kg contest.

And Stuart Byrne, also now of City of London, won gold pulling in the British Police catchweight A team, which weighed in at 867kg – more than 17½ stone a man.

While Lambert, Tyrrell and Finnigan – a PSUK debutant – gained fourth in the catchweight competition, pulling for the British Police B team.

Vets get five

THE force veterans' football team crushed neighbours Suffolk 5-1 away to get their PSUK challenge off to a great start, with two goals each from Nick Smith and Danny Fallows and one from sub Jed Stopher – on his first touch of the ball.

Swimming

STANSTED'S Brett Lummis is to represent the British Police swimming team in the Short-Course Masters Championships in Sheffield later this month.

More honours for our victorious cricket team

ESSEX cricketers took the regional PSUK cricket final by storm – beating a stronger than usual Norfolk side by nine wickets.

Winning the toss, Norfolk posted a score of 260-8 on a hard batting surface, which Essex chased down for only one wicket in the 35th over.

Debutant David Jackson, ex of Hampshire II and now of Central Division, scored an unbeaten 108.

Notable bowling figures were Ady Garnham's 33-3 and another debutant, Dave Roberts, who took 42-3.

The final was held at Copford, near Colchester, on September 13.

Norfolk scored freely against some wayward Essex bowling and lethargic fielding, which was also made difficult by a hard, bobbly outfield.

The Norfolk innings was held together by B Gates, with an impressive 80, and M English, who finished on 57 not out.

The total of 260-8 looked competitive but Essex were confident in the knowl-

edge that they had a long batting lineup.

The Essex reply started well with Jon Butcher striking the ball to all parts of the field. He made a quick-fire 51 before being dismissed in the 12th over.

It was then left to Jackson and Paul Gamman to play with flair and freedom and take Essex toward their victory target.

Jackson, making his debut, made a magnificent 108 not out and Gamman a fluent 87 not out as Essex reached their victory target.

A show with some pzazz

SONGS from the Musicals was a fantastic production by the Essex Police Musical Society last month.

The cast were full of charisma and energy and brought together a show full of old and modern solos, duets and ensembles.

Maybe the best performances, however, were those where the whole group came together singing old favourites like *There's No Business Like Show Business*, which really got the audience going as the opening number.

The show was very varied and appealed to people of all ages and of all tastes, with hits from children's Disney movies, such as *The Jungle Book*, to modern movies such as *Titanic*.

Old classics like *Mr Cellophane* from the West End musical *Chicago* by Simon Brett was a

particular favourite of mine and it was sung in the old American-style accent, which sounded absolutely brilliant.

The effort and enthusiasm shown by the cast was outstanding, the choice of songs was spot on and the atmosphere in the venue was great.

It was a truly enjoyable evening! The society will donate proceeds from the show to a charity which has yet to be decided upon.

● The next Essex Police Musical Society production is *South Pacific* from Tuesday, April 22, to Saturday, April 26, 2008. Rehearsals are now starting and there are plenty of male roles. If you are interested, contact Jenny Hillyard on ext 50335 or 01245 452164.

Pru Kingham



● Chairman Lynda Barkway and president Peter Simpson sing *Goodness, Gracious Me!*

Picture by Mary Cotter

Eastern take points Gentlemen score

EASTERN took the honours in the Croker Cup cricket tournament staged last month at Elmstead Market.

Five divisions took part, with South Western the runners up, followed by South Eastern, Central and Western.

Afterwards, Ady Garnham, of Eastern Division, said: "The competition went down really well and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it."

Medals were presented by Eastern Divisional Commander Chief Supt Dave Hudson.

Results were:

Group stage: Eastern 97-4 v Central 75-6, Eastern won by 22 runs. South Western 103-1 v Western 75-6, South Western won by 28 runs. South Eastern 93-5 v Central 46-7, South Eastern won by 47 runs. Western 69-7 v Eastern 71-2, Eastern won by 8 wickets. South Western 98-3 v South Eastern 93-3, South Western won by 5 runs.

Third/fourth place play-off: South Eastern 79-6, Lucas 26 retired, Mallett 2-7 v Central 74-4, Parish 19: South Eastern won by five runs.

Final: South Western 80-4, D Newman 25 retired, Cattall 27 retired, Moon 2-13 v Eastern 84-3, Garnham 25 retired, Cooper 26 retired, Roberts 2-16: Eastern won by six wickets.

Croker Cup points table after four events:

Central 30 points; South Eastern 25; Eastern 19; HQ 14; South Western 8; Western 8.

Stuart walks off with September's top prize

THE winner of the September force lottery was security systems advisor Stuart Bowman, of the Force Information Room, who takes home £3,000.

Second prize of £1,000 went to Pc Kirsty Morse, of Chelmsford, and DI Paul Spooner, of Scientific Support, won the £500 third prize.

The winners of the £100 prizes are: Angela Pugh, of Colchester Criminal Justice Department; Pc Mick Gentile, of Stanway Dog Unit; Pc Robert Bates, of Loughton Professional Development Unit (PDU); Sue Yeoman, of Grays; Pc Judy Parry, of

Southend; Richard Elborn, of Transport Services; Dc Paul Cakebread, of SOCD Investigations, Brentwood; Pc Mark Laurie, of the Intelligence Support Bureau; Ds Kevin Conerney, of Crime Division; Dc Antony Boughey, of Crime Division; and Sgt Kevin Diable-White, of Southend.

The winners of the £50 prizes were: Ds Robert Sandford, of Southend; Pc Wendy Brown, of Purleigh; Dc Eileen Carroll, of Grays; Dc Colin Egleton, of Rayleigh Major Investigation Team (MIT); Sandra Soanes, of Clacton; Ray

Newman, of the Investigative Review Team; Pc Harry Ryan, of Basildon PDU; Lisa Crow, of Harwich; Pc Dave Hiscock, of Braintree; Roy Tyzack, of Old Harlow MIT; Ds Hugh Conerney, of Stansted Airport; Simon Crane, of Crime Division; Pc Leisa King, of Clacton PDU; and Martyn Lockwood, of Contingency Planning. And Benenden Healthcare teddy bears were won by: Dennis Prior, of Clacton; Peter MacClinton, of Property Services; David Godard, of Crime Division; Pc Sarah Jefferies, of Pitsea; Sue Ding, retired; and Pc Catherine Slade, of Southend.

Gemma is aiming high

DIVER Gemma Pearson faced tough competition at the European Masters Diving Championships in Slovenia.

And her age group – 25-29 – was the toughest and closest of all.

Plus Gemma, a FIR communications officer, had to dive in an outdoor pool in the cold and rain.

However, she brought home two bronze medals for the 3m and high boards.

And she was fifth in the 1m competition.

Now she is training for the World Masters in Perth, Australia, next April, where she will enter the synchronised diving events with a team-mate.

Hosts fourth in 10-miler

HOSTS Essex finished fourth overall in the PSUK ten-mile race, held at the University of Essex last month.

Individually, Russ Welch, of Crime Division, was the first Essex man home, closely followed by Derek Walker, of Eastern, and Mick Bond, of Central, who was also first over-50 home.

Rachel Wood, of Executive Support, was the first Essex woman with Sue Harrison, of Communications Division, a creditable eighth in the over-40 race.



● Kerrie Barkway ext 58883

Countdown to Christmas

BELIEVE it or not, the Christmas season is fast approaching and, if you need to organise your office party, we have a number of restaurant deals worth considering.

Frankie & Benny's has seven branches across Essex. The Christmas menu is £17.95 per person.

Outback Steakhouse has six participating branches with Christmas menus from £15.95.

Pizza Express offers a ten per cent discount at four Essex branches while Nando's offers a 20 per cent discount at six.

Chicago Rock Café has five branches across the region and a four-course party menu is available on the website, from £19.95.

Muddy Waters in Chelmsford is offering an exclusive package for between six and 16 people.

Not only do you get a meal with wine starting from £30 per person but also you can book a party bus to collect and drop you off afterwards.

● For further details on any of these deals, or to see other examples, visit the EPSA intranet site and click on Member Benefits, Restaurants

Celebrations as Specials break the 500 barrier

THE number of special officers in Essex has broken the 500 barrier for the first time in recent years thanks to the hard work of divisions and departments.

The number of Specials now totals 522 but there is more recruitment to be done to achieve Chief Constable Roger Baker's pledge of having 1,000 by the end of 2010.

Essex Police Special Constabulary support manager Sylvia Goodchild said: "We have been working very hard to recruit and train more officers – we have doubled the number of people on each intake and even included two extra training courses this year." Recruitment campaigns – which include advertising on buses and the internet and promotions in every district with leaflets and stands in supermarkets – have attracted more people to enrol. But a turn-over of staff means that 1,000 is proving to be a tough target.

A third of Specials who leave move on to other jobs within the police family, which is excellent news for the force, and another third leave because of their 'day job' commitments.

So the Special Constabulary has recently introduced a 'fast-track' programme for its officers. *

Those with a minimum of 12 months' operational experience and who have successfully completed the professional development portfolio can bypass the first stage of the recruitment process for the regulars and go straight to the assessment centre.

Police staff who decide to become Specials get eight hours time off from their 'day job' a month if they give a minimum of four hours duty each week to serve their local area.

Sylvia admits it will be a challenge to meet the target and she is keen to get the support of everyone on division and at HQ to spread the word.

"We have lots of posters and leaflets and there will be new recruitment stands for every division," she said. "However, we need staff to constantly engage people by talking to them to promote the Special Constabulary and encourage them to join. So please talk to family and friends and tell them to get in touch."

* Entry on to the 'fast-track' process is only applicable when there is a recruitment campaign for regular officers.

• For details of how to apply to become a Special, visit the Specials intranet site, listed under Divisions & Departments, or visit the force's internet site at www.essex.police.uk or ring the recruitment hotline on 01245 452824

Force shines in first disability survey

THE force has been recognised for its work in achieving disability equality in a national survey.

Essex Police was ranked third out of 32 police forces and 19th from 116 organisations which took part in the national benchmark survey, part of the Employers Forum on Disability 2007 in May.

It was the first time the force had entered the survey, which considered how organisations, including police forces, were achieving disability equality in respect of both employment and customer service.

Jan Woodhouse, the force's equality and diversity manager, thanked everyone who helped for their support and assistance.

She added: "We recognise there is still much more to do to ensure our services to disabled people consistently reach then highest standards and we look forward to

by **Donna Veasey**

continuing our work but, clearly, strong foundations are in place from which to build even better standards."

The survey was broken down in to three areas: building strong foundations; employees; and customers.

The force's individual scores for each of the assessment area were 81, 76 and 82 per cent, respectively.

Overall, Essex achieved 76 per cent – against an average of 57 per cent – after providing evidence of its performance against specific criteria.

These scores mean Essex Police was awarded Silver status in the survey.

Particularly noted as good practice were the staff equality survey, which identifies responses from disabled/non-disabled staff, a vision statement and business case documents, reasonable adjustment pro-forma and the work the force has done regarding recruitment.

The survey also identified areas for improvement, including appraisals, promotion and training to ensure everyone understands the force's commitment to disability equality.

Work is under way to address the areas identified by the benchmark survey – a new programme is being introduced to assess every staff member's competence in race and diversity – as is a review of our PDR process.

A review of police station front offices and service standards has been started by head of customer services Claire Heath and the district commanders.

And the Disability Staff Network will continue to raise staff awareness of disability issues and build links with community partners.

• Visit the Equality and Diversity intranet site – look on the information menu – then click on disability and then on Essex Police vision for disability or Business case for disability equality for more information



• PCSOs Teresa Johnson and Edward McKinley with some of the alcohol seized during Operation Marple

HUNDREDS of pounds-worth of alcohol has been seized from under-age drinkers across the Braintree district. Operation Marple looked at youth engagement as well as enforcement was run by the police in partnership with Youth Services, Braintree District Council and NACRO. PCSOs mounted patrols with Safer Schools Partnership Officers and Street Youth Pastors and handed out crime reduction advice to schools. Pc Tina Smith, Braintree youth co-ordinator, said: "We are not trying to criminalise our young people. When we are on patrol and youngsters are drinking, we explain the problems that alcohol can cause and try to educate them."

And Supt Tim Newcomb branded the operation a success. "We are aware that there is a clear link between anti-social behaviour, alcohol and crime and disorder," he said.

"We are trying to make the young people in Braintree district aware that we are going to stop them and try to get to the route of the problem."

The next stage is a joint initiative to address the causes of under-age drinking.

Saving energy can save us £££s

AS the colder months are approaching it is time to talk heating.

Legislation which set the heating regulations for workplaces at 19C dates back more than 20 years.

But this does not mean that the temperature of your office is limited to 19C – office temperatures will rise through such incidental gains as heat from our bodies, lighting and all the electrical equipment which we use in our work.

The legal requirement is that we should not be putting heat into the building when the internal temperature exceeds 19C.

Engineering services team leader Ian Mott said: "The heating in many of our 150 police buildings runs at temperatures in excess of 21C – this will be reduced in the coming months on a division by division basis.

"We are asking for staff to work with us on this but please contact us directly if there is a problem."

All savings from cutting down unnecessary energy usage will be put into the 'pot' for Operation Austin – which is seeking to find £6million of recurrent savings by 2010 to help fund improvements in front-line policing.

Current legislation also requires the force to look at its carbon footprint and to reduce its energy use.

Mr Mott said businesses were charged for energy in a different way from domestic users and a separate levy was raised for carbon emissions.

The way the force is charged will change in 2009, when it will be required to buy an 'allowance' for carbon emissions.

Next year, we will be required to publish data on the energy efficiency of all our buildings and set targets for each building.

The heating bill is a high proportion of our expenditure and the force can save thousands of pounds with just a 1C reduction, which amounts to ten per cent

of our energy budget – for gas alone this saving would amount to about £74,000.

New buildings, such as Dunmow police station, will have low-energy lighting, double-glazing, high thermal insulation and fully-controlled heating to minimise energy usage.

Two blocks at HQ will shortly be double-glazed, helping to reduce energy loss, and double-glazing was used in the refurbishment of the Victorian Thorpe-Soken police station.

However, the latter project attracted some dispensation because of the listed building's age – there's no cavity wall insulation but engineers installed a new high-efficiency boiler and loft insulation.

Mr Mott is keen to stress that he wants to improve our working environment. • Anyone who experiences a heating problem should email the Property Services Help Desk – their complaints will be investigated by the engineers, who will try to do something to improve the situation

Dramatic results from extra road policing

A BUS-back advertising campaign was launched this month, highlighting the number of motorists fined and vehicles seized during the summer.

Essex Police seized 148 vehicles and 1,782 motorists were issued with fines during Operation Calypso, which saw daily patrols increased along routes and in areas with a history of serious and fatal crashes.

And the bus-back advertisements are the second phase of an ongoing campaign to encourage motorists to drive and ride safely and within the law, whilst also informing the public about the additional road policing patrols.

Offences detected by officers during the summer included speeding, driving without insurance, mobile phone use while driving, not wearing seat belts and drink-driving. Head of road policing Chief Insp Tom Diment said: "These advertisements are being used to let motorists know about our additional road policing patrols.

"We are using all enforcement methods at our disposal, including covert operations, and are concentrating on the routes that have a history of killed and serious injury crashes." The operation is part of an ongoing campaign by the Essex Casualty Reduction Board (ECRB) to reduce casualties on the roads. It has set a challenging target of having fewer than 842 serious injuries and fatalities in Essex by the end of this year.

Drink-driving falls during crackdown

DRINK-driving offences across Essex fell following a force crackdown.

A total of 4,809 breath tests were carried out in August with just over two per cent – 127 – proving positive at the roadside and only eight people failing or refusing to take a test.

During the same period last year, three per cent of the 5,353 tests taken proved positive at the roadside and 15 people failed or refused to take a breath test.

Senior traffic management officer Adam Pipe said that nearly half of those motorists testing positive at the roadside this summer already had a previous criminal conviction.

Now, with the festive season approaching the force will be working hard to stop repeat offenders and it is warning motorists that all driving offences will be taken extremely seriously, no matter how petty they may seem.