NEW HORSES ROMP THROUGH TRAINING

HORSES joining the reinstated Mounted Unit of Essex Police have faced the first challenge of their new career. They took part in the Barnsby Dressage competition at the Longwood Equestrian Centre, Laindon. Two of the horses currently being trained for a future with Essex Police made their first public appearance, demonstrating the precise movements and essential skills they need for both dressage and policing.

Sgt Dave Martin, who will be working with the unit, said he was delighted to see the expertise the horses have already displayed after only a short amount of police training. “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.

by Morwenna Holland

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.”

Our intelligence training gets national recognition

by Morwenna Holland
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. 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 opportunities and 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.

The Law, October 2007

The police pay saga continues

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 blood-pressure 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
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 management of people,” said Insp Alyson Meacock, the college’s leadership, development and performance manager.

“You might not immediately recognise yourself as a ‘fulfilment 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 an extra 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 Lanzell 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

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 Climer 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 Pte Judy Atkinson, neighbourhood specialist officer Pte Sonia Murrington 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 by the council, 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

DUNMOV Pe 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/Dr Nick Cohen.

Of their 41 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 but we kept to the road as we didn’t have the wind behind us down quite considerably. We had very sore hands and backs from the end of it but it was worth it.”

The pair hope to raise £6,000 for cancer research.

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

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 24,018, 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 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 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 so.

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.

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 target store detectives and security staff, while a highly-visible police and security presence could be seen in the car parks and on surrounding roads, to deter car thieves.

Sgt Danny Torrance said he wasn’t short of crime-free environment so shoppers could relax and enjoy the amenities on offer.

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 PCOs 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 Chelmer PCSOs can use to get to ‘hard to reach’ areas.”

UK News

Force museum promises there is so much more to come

THE Essex Police Museum achieved registered status, to apply for accreditation.

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.
We made an innovative print ‘match’

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

PC David Worsfold

more uses for laser as new trial is authorised

pc david roy worsfold – Essex Police
Served from August 30, 1977. Died March 5, 1987

We're back in business

AN historic north Essex police station is officially re-opened this month, following a major £2 million restoration.

Thorpe-le-Soken police station is now fully operational in the area and was home to the Essex Soviet.

The decoration and local dignitaries and officers of the media were due to attend the event on October 11.

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

Due to a positive response from local residents, Essex Police have now decided to extend the number of new Taser units to the rest of the force.

The deployment of Taser is not a replacement for existing conflict management equipment but a valuable addition to Essex Police’s equipment.

The deployment will be carefully managed by FIR Force Information Room (FIR) inspectors and FORCE Patrols.

Up to 10 additional officers will be trained in the use of Taser in the next few weeks and officers are due to begin using the new units in the coming weeks.

Det Supt Tim Wills said: “The deployment of Taser is not a replacement for existing conflict management equipment but a valuable addition. It is not a replacement for existing conflict management equipment but a valuable addition.”

The deployment will be carefully managed by FIR Force Information Room (FIR) inspectors and FORCE Patrols.

The Home Office has given permission for the extension of Taser deployments to include those circumstances 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.

We were informed that Her Majesty’s Inspector of Constabulary, Commander W J A Willis CBE, MVO, RN (ret), was to give members of Essex Division the once-over on August 22, 1987. Our parade was squeezed into the small yard within the back of the 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 Pte Clark.

Devon and Cornwall’s Capt Willis is talking to PC Geoff Licence.

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Corner the chairman

Robert Chambers

Giving the public what they want

“I am sure will have force full of very capable employing more and more we could address this.”

But still we do not always thousand extra people. to 463. That’s almost a number of police staff will have risen from 1,754 to 3,200 in 2003/04 and from 3,200 in 2003/04 and I think we need to make sure their police

Judging 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.

De 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 £4 million, recovered by police at Felitowe docks or being shipped to Africa.

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

“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 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 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.”

by Donna Veasey

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 Custod and Pc Christine Bennett – parents of 18-month-old Isabella – abseiled off the college building at 8am last Saturday.

Sgt Tim Johnstone, of the Rope Access Team and one of the organisers, said: “It was a huge success and an excellent day.”

“Have raised funds which will go towards paying for specialist private therapy for Isabella, who has severe developmental delay and needs sensory stimulation.”

by Kim Perks

Investigators asked for their opinions

THE new professional investigation programme (PIP) is being implemented in-force and is seeking to canvas opinion.

Constabiles 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 following of competencies:

- The Death 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 those training needs for investigators, and in turn form that training should take.

“Your VAT receipt should be kept for 4 years in order to recover any amount of fuel VAT charged on journeys to work. The receipt can be for any amount of fuel and is claimed on the gold information menu – and it is not contravening the law by a fuel VAT receipt.”

The receipt must be kept for 4 years in order to recover any amount of fuel VAT charged on journeys to work. The receipt can be for any amount of fuel and is claimed on the gold information menu – and it is not contravening the law. Receipts are not usually required by 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 a statutory requirement.

The ISB went live on October 1 and part of its job is to qualify all submitted intelligence reports, CIDs, 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 went live, the statutory requirement of unqualified intelligence reports had fallen to the lowest he had ever known.

“Intelligence is getting on to the system 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.”

by Alex Cook

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 claim back the VAT on income from 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 can lose the opportunity to claim for mileage on the journey.”

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

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“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.”

by Alex Cook

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 claim back the VAT on income from 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 can lose the opportunity to claim for mileage on the journey.”

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

by Alex Cook
Getting to know the neighbourhood payoffs off

by Alan Jones

Sgt Paul Saunders may have been taken shock to find himself among the contenders for an ACTION Award this year but his long years of service have paid off to colleagues across South Eastern Division.

From his achievement-focused attitude through to his high standards he represents in others, Paul has come to epitomise all that ACTION stands for. It is this commitment to established policing principles that has led to his being shortlisted as one of the five candidates from the national award-winning South Eastern Division.

Community policing, in its various guises, has been a feature of his career and in several different roles. He started his service with the local police force in Southend in 1989, moving on to the Essex Police Force at the beginning of the 21st century. Now as a neighbourhood specialist officer (NSO) and area command specialist officer, he has gone from a simple perspective: ‘I just love being in community policing’ to a more sophisticated view that he believes ‘we need to go far and smartly prepare ourselves to have an impact with the community’.

As part of our role in tackling crime and disorder, and as a significant contributor to the way that we police the community and engage the public and rising the benefits and reach of people is fundamental to our service operating effectively.

One of the key benefits that the introduction of neighbourhood policing has brought is to say that it is not actually about the crime but more about engaging the principles of the job, what it is about and how you can help within the community.

There is a lot of public service work that he does which he is very passionate about and very much enjoys and has a great respect for. It is the whole idea of being able to help people and that he is able to do that.

Another of the many roles that he has taken up to date is the role of schools liaison officer, believing that an approach to policing in schools is vitally important.

He was most recently involved in the department and implementation of a 13-week action plan drawn up by a professional team of police, armed forces officials and agencies alternative education and youth offending.

The location has subsequently seen significant improvements and the police were out and about in the community.

The future needs to be bright and also about ensuring that the communities are involved and that the police are involved and that they are working closely together.

He has a strong message about the need to focus on the future and that it is the role of the police to ensure that they are involved in the communities and that they are involved in the future and that they are involved in the policing of the future.

The police force is currently looking to put together a new plan which will be about the future and will be about the community and will be about the police force and the community working together.

The force has also been involved in the introduction of neighbourhood policing teams in the police service which has paid off in terms of increased detections and a reduction in crime.

Paul encourages his NSOs, and in turn, their staff and those who engage with all our communities to make sure that they are as well informed as they possibly can and that they are as well informed as possible about what we do and what we achieve.
**It’s all change in the districts**

**FLORIDA,** Disney, four-bedroom villa, three bathrooms. Private pool, air conditioning, cable TV, DVD, CD, PlayStation, games room. Golf five mins. Disney 15 mins. Contact Paul Howard on 01268 244011 or visit www.florida-villas.net.

**FLORIDA,** 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. Contact Paul Howard on 01268 244011 or visit www.florida-villas.net.

**FLORIDA** Sarasota villa recently renovated. Quiet village environment. Communal pool, tennis, BBQ, Clubhouse, hot-tub. Beautiful beaches. Email Norma at normagill.com or call 07976 720022.

**LAKESIDE**, chalet, Cotswold Water Parks. Exclusive, fully-equipped, two Twin-bed, one bath apartment. Kitchen, large dining room/lounge, balcony, toilet/shower. Two twin-bed, one bath apartments, sleeps six, one ensuite. Own pool, fantastic views. Coast and Malaga 25 minutes away, everything else close by. Contact www.ownersdirect.co.uk (ref 56811) for full details or email tailor@villasapallamar.com.


**NORTHERN** France, three comfortably furnished gites/cottages with original beams and modern comfort. Located near the Somme in a peaceful rural countryside. An hour drive to Calais. Ring 01375 480304 or visit www.le-petit-hameau.com.


**WELLS,** next-the-Sea. Warm, stylish, traditional cottage Close to Quayside, shops and beaches. Christmas and winter breaks available. Visit www.nofoldreams.com or ring 07976 720022 for details.

**Miscellaneous**

**ROLLS** Royce wedding car hire. Extra special service for your special day. Braintree, Colchester and Uttlesford districts. Contact Peter Caufield on 01787 477537 or visit www.mweddings.co.uk.

**WEEKENDS,** Whitby White Rolls Royce Silver Shadow II. Discounted rate for police employees. Visit www.specialdaycarhire.co.uk or contact Dave or Sally Swann on 01277 364626.

**FORD** Fiesta, R-reg, 1250cc. New, luxury five-bed villa, four twin-bed, one-bath apartment. Kitchen, large dining room/lounge, balcony, toilet/shower. Two bedroom, waterfront apartment with kitchen, lounge and terrace. Leisure facilities. Five minutes walk from force Quayside. £1,400 ono. Contact 07759 639342 or 07881 614045, or email info@specialdaycarhire.co.uk or phone 01277 364626.

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

**IT’S all change on divisions with more moves – 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 moves 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 Stansted Airport. Replacing Chief Insp Gooden in PSD is former Basildon district commander Chief Insp Ian Harrison, who will be succeeded by Chief Insp Mark Wheeler.

And Chief Insp Eveleigh – who was Harlow district commander – replaces DCI Tracy Hawkins as Castle Point district commander. DCI Hawkins is currently crime manager for Harlow, which he joined in November 2006.

Over in Western Division, newcomer Chief Insp Michael Martin, who joined the force as a constable in Devon and Cornwall Police – he also spent five years with the Metropolitan Police – replaces Chief Insp Eveleigh.

Lesser known MIT senior investigating officer (SIO) Det Chief Supt Phil Tucker moves to HQ Crime Division to take over as director of intelligence, a post temporarily held by DCI Terry Haines.

And, completing the jig saw, 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, inexplicable 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 Nora Trott, 27 years after the crime was committed.

**Retirements**

Insp Steve Shoesmith, 48, has retired after 30 years with the force, having served the force for 30 years. 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 a three-year 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 a audio typist at Basildon, before becoming a clerical assistant and finally duties administrator in the RMU.

And Brian Cooper, the chief traffic officer on detachment, has retired aged 66 after completing almost 15 years of service with the force.

**Obituaries**

Former Chief Supt Howard Fears, 70, has died, aged 87. He leaves a widow Catherine.

Mr Hutchens served from November 1950 to December 1989. His funeral took place at Garston Crematorium in Watford last month. A funeral service 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 2000 at Southend and Canvey Island.

His funeral took place last month at Pitsea Crematorium.

**Gift celebrates 70 years of driver-training**

The IPA welcomes new members

**ESSEX Police Museum has been presented with a first edition book written by the pioneer of police driver training – ex Chief Insp Gordon Hutchens.**

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

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

Insp White said: ‘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.

**The IPA provides help to any served 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 police officer.

**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 peteculligan@ipa-uk.org**
Trapping online sex offenders

One man’s arrest in New Zealand triggered a chain reaction of events which astonished detectives.
Press officer Nick Wijardine 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 CRIP 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 searched the house, seizing every item that they had seen in the sexually-explicit pictures.

“Alas, as it transpired, Rebecca was petrified of this monster,” said DI Glassfield. “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 indicator 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 De Claire Talbot, recalls the day Davies was arrested.
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 lifelong rehabilitation, but one which she has welcomed, eventually, with open arms.”

De Claire Talbot went on to describe Davies’ demeanor in court.

“He was and is an arrogant individual who can’t see what he has done is wrong,” said De 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.”

“Today’s sex predator is a 12-year-old, a 13-year-old, a 14-year-old,” said De Claire Talbot.

Davies was sentenced to 12 years on, he is behind bars and his victim is in rehabilitation.

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

So, despite the net closing on some, the web’s thread just grows bigger…

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

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

A Touch of Frost?

GORMINS - The Police Divorce & Pension Specialists
For more information call 0800 056 27 87 or visit www.policedivorce.co.uk

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Recently retired police driving instructors and advanced drivers required.

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

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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 3-3 and another debutant, Dave Roberts, who took 4-2.

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 strong winds.

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 knowledge that they had a long batting line-up.

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.

Tug-of-war successes

THREE Essex officers and two former Essex officers put up a great performance in a Tug-of-war tugs-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 ‘Ski’ Lambert and John Joy, both of St Albans, and Steve Tyrrell, of Station Road Policing Unit, together with Nick Gibbs, now of the Central Division, won a silver medal pulling in the British Police 60kg A team.

Lambert also picked up a silver medal when he won the over 50s Batting in the Civil Service in the 60kg contest.

And Stuart Byrne, also now of City of London, won gold pulling in the British Police overweight A team, which weighed in at 187kg – more than 170 stone a man.

While Lambert, Tyrrell and Byrne – a PSUK A team – gained fourth in the catchweight competition, pulling for the British Police II team.

Vets get five

THE force veterans’ football team thrashed neighbours Sufkall 5-1 to get their PSUK challenge off to a great start.

With two goals each from Nick Smith and Danny Fellowes and one from sub John Watts, it was a perfect start – on his first touch of the ball.

Swimming

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

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

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

Plus Gemma, a FIH competitions officer, had to dive in an outdoor pool in the cold.

However, she brought home two bronze medals for the Essex and high jump.

And she was fifth in the 1m competition.

She is training for the World Masters in Perth, Australia, next April, where she hopes to be recognised at diving events with a team-mate.

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FRESHWATER ANGLERS SHOW THEIR CLASS

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

It was held at Woodlands and was hosted at Thirr in North Yorkshire.

The event split between two venues, prawn was difficult and, with 33 teams fishing, they were 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 White and Mary Darcy of Graham Garnham, fished at Woodlands.

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

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

Garnham said afterwards: “One thing, the team showed its ability to mix it with the best teams in the country.”

A SHOW WITH SOME PZAZZ

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

The show was very varied and of all tastes, with hits from the West End musical "The King and I" and of all tastes, with hits from the Musicals, such as "The Jungle Book," to modern songs as "All of Me." Old classics like Mr Cellophane from the West End musical "Chicago" by Simon Breet was a particular favourite of mine and it was sung in the old American-style accent, which sounded absolutely brilliant.

The cast were full of charisma and of all tastes, with hits from the West End musical "The King and I," to modern songs as "All of Me." Old classics like Mr Cellophane from the West End musical "Chicago" by Simon Breet 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 on point 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 Paul Hillyard on ext 50335 or 01245 452164.

Picture by Mary Cotter

Chairman Lynda Barkway and president Peter Simpson singing Goodness, Gracious Me! A SHOW WITH SOME PZAZZ

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Picture by Mary Cotter

Chairman Lynda Barkway and president Peter Simpson singing Goodness, Gracious Me!
**Celegations 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 stands at 522 but there is a constant need to recruit to be done to achieve the Chief Constable’s target.

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 ofрошечиноров in 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 stages of the recruiting 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 is 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 officers who are constantly engaged with people by talking to them to promote the Special Constabulary and encourage them to join. So we need to talk to friends and family and tell them to get in touch.”

The aim of the ‘fast-track’ process is only applicable where 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 ‘officer development’.

Departments, or visit the force’s internet site www.essexpolice.gov.uk or ring the recruitment hotline on 01245 452824

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**The Law, people on each intake and**

01245 452824 to become a Special, visit the officers.

* Entry on to the ‘fast-track’ and encourage them to join.

the Special Constabulary constantly engage people by new recruitment stands for leaflets and there will be “We have lots of posters and word.

Sylvia admits it will be a ‘day job’ a month if they give success in the assessment centre.

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 percent, respectively.

Overall, Essex achieved 76 percent – against an average of 57 percent – 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 performance and how the force has done regarding recruitment.

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**Dramatic results from extra road policing**

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

Essex Police seized 148 vehicles of motorists who were issued with fines during Operation Calypso, where daily enforcements 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, which also informs the public about the additional road policing patrols.

Officers detected excess speed in the summer included speeding, driving without insurance 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.

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**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 the 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 mouth-to-mouth phone test.

Senior traffic management officer Adam Pipe said the reduction only half of motorists testers positive at the roadside and the summer already had a previous criminal conviction.

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

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**Saving energy can save us £££s**

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

Legislation which set the heating regulations for workplaces at 19°C dates back more than 20 years. But this does not mean that the temperature of your office is limited to 19°C – office temperatures will rise through such incidental gains as heat from our bodies, lighting and all the electrical equipment which we use in our building.

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

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

“We are asking for staff to work on this on our 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 £10 million 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.

The heating bill is a high proportion of our expenditure and the force can save thousands of pounds with just a 1°C 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-le-Soken police station.

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

Mr Mott is keen to stress that he wants to improve our working environment. Everyone who has an energy-related problem should email the Property Services Help Desk. Complaints will be investigated by the engineers, who will try to do something to improve the situation.

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

The survey also identified areas for improvement, including appraisals, promotion and training to ensure everyone under whose auspice the force’s commitment to disability equality.

Work is under way to address the areas identified in 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 business and Case business for disability equality for more information.

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HUNDREDS of pounds-worth of alcohol has been seized from under-age drinkers across the Braintree district.

Operation Marple looks 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.

Pt 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 we educate them.”

Apt Sgt Tom 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 understand 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.

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

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