

The Law



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December 2007

Media spotlight shines on the force as we find missing teenager **LONG SEARCH FOR DINAH IS AT AN END**

by Nishan Wijeratne

THE force was once again thrust into the media spotlight after the remains of two teenage girls were dug up in a Kent garden.

One of them was Tillingham teenager Dinah McNicol, who vanished 16 years ago.

The 18-year-old was last seen by a friend on the M25 in August 1991 after attending a music festival in Hampshire. She was hitching a lift to return to Essex.

Senior detectives and chief officers have praised officers and police staff who spent nearly two weeks at the house in Margate.

A cold-case review of the investigation earlier this year highlighted several new lines of enquiry, one of which focused on the seaside property.

After explaining their intentions to the occupants of the house – who were subsequently moved to a hotel – detectives from Stanway Major Investigation Team (MIT) and search team officers began their examination of the garden and the building structure.

Ten hours into their quest to find Dinah, and in front of the eyes of nearby journalists and cameramen, the first gruesome discovery was made.

Subsequent tests showed the human remains to be those of Vicky Hamilton – a 15-year-old girl from Falkirk in Scotland. Vicky, too, was reported missing in 1991.

Four days later, Dinah's body was discovered, just a few feet away from where Vicky was found.

A post-mortem examination has been unable to establish the cause of Dinah's death.

Assistant Chief Constable Peter Lowton



● **Ds Paul Clark, Essex Scenes of Crime, and a Kent PCSO lay flowers in the rear garden of the house where the bodies of Dinah McNicol and Vicky Hamilton were discovered**

Picture courtesy of Kent News & Pictures

recognised the significance and importance of the work undertaken so far.

"I can only praise the officers and police staff at the scene who worked under extremely difficult conditions, especially at the time of the discovery of the bodies," said Mr Lowton.

"Much of their work was carried out in cold, wet conditions and under the spotlight of the international media. They were exemplary,

showing the professional and caring face of Essex Police.

"The next stage of this challenging investigation is now underway here in Essex, with others having an opportunity to show the same degree of professionalism as they become involved in this enquiry."

Senior Investigating Officer Det Supt Tim Wills accompanied Head of Crime Division

Det Chief Supt Wil Kennedy to Scotland at the end of last month to liaise with their counterparts from Lothian and Borders Police and the Procurator Fiscal to determine the course of any subsequent prosecution.

Det Chief Supt Kennedy said the investigation "again shows the expertise and strength of our Investigative Review Team, who have yet again identified the opportunities to re-visit a serious case which has resulted in this fantastic result.

He added: "It doesn't lessen the loss but we have given some comfort to Vicky and Dinah's respective families by giving them the opportunity to eventually bury their children and bring some closure to their traumatic 16 years."

Det Chief Supt Kennedy also wanted to pay special recognition to former detective sergeant Derek Nickol, the original officer in the case.

"Derek was involved right from the outset when Dinah disappeared," he said.

"It was apparent that he maintained his professional interest right through to his retirement earlier this year. Such was his determination to get answers to the mystery of Dinah's disappearance, he wanted to help the team even beyond his retirement.

"I would like to give special thanks to his significant contribution to this investigation."

Partnership working with Kent Police has been acknowledged by our force as crucial to the case.

Mr Lowton said: "Our partnership with Kent was vital in ensuring the search operation was dealt with swiftly and efficiently.

"I must say that the residents of Irvine Drive and the local community in general were marvellous in their response to our invasion of their privacy.

"I would also like to thank the independent experts, especially the archaeologists who helped us at the scene," he added.

Diamond award for our disability work

THE force has been awarded the chief executive's Diamond Award for vision and commitment on disability by the Employers' Forum on Disability.

Richard Boyd, chief executive of Disability Essex, collected the award on behalf of Essex Police at HM Treasury in London, where organisations which took part in the forum's Disability Standard survey were honoured for excellence. More than 100 organisations took part in the nationwide survey earlier this year. Equality and diversity manager Jan

Woodhouse said: "So many people have worked really hard to help us improve policing services to disabled people, particularly disabled people in our communities, Disability Essex and our Disability Network for staff. "It's great to see that their support has been recognised."

Employers' Forum on Disability chief executive Susan Scott-Parker said she was extremely pleased that so many companies had taken part in the Disability Standard 2007 survey. She added: "These awards are a direct result of evidence submitted as part of the bench-marking process."

The Disability Standard required participating organisations to submit detailed evidence to support their policies and procedures. This evidence was then independently validated by the Employers' Forum on Disability.

- **Peter Hurst, of Disability Essex, equality and diversity manager**
- Jan Woodhouse, ACC Derek Benson, Clive Stobbs, of Essex Autistic Society, and Denise Chaplin, Disability Network co-ordinator, with the Diamond Award**





Channelling her energy

AFTER 18 days, the weather eased just enough to allow Dc Courtney Cowell and fellow team members from Halstead Swimming Club to enter the English Channel.

Their relay attempt to cross the Channel had involved over five months training in very cold lakes and the sea.

At 4am, with only the White Cliffs of Dover illuminating the darkness, an intrepid Courtney was the first of the team to enter the water.

The team battled against the tide and the jellyfish stings for three hours but, as daylight approached, the tide turned in their favour and they made good headway. However the sea had not finished with them and the tide turned in their faces as France came into sight.

The finish was tougher and slower than anticipated and sea sickness overcame some of the team.

The tide was so strong that one team member made no headway at all during their hour in the water.

Finally, France was reached exactly 11 hours after Courtney first entered the water. At the Annual Channel Swimming Association presentation the team were given awards for being the Youngest Team of 2007, the Fastest Team of 2007 and the Fastest Mixed Team of 2007.

Their magnificent achievement has raised over £3,000 for the Essex Charity, Travel Aid for Parents with Sick Children and Halstead Elderly Day Care Centre.

Kind-hearted staff raise vital cash for charities

DIVISIONS and departments once again got into the fund raising spirit, with a multitude of charities benefiting from many hundreds of pounds.

Children in Need benefited from the £133 raised by Maldon detectives

Gary McNair and Andy Stott, who went head-to-head on the treadmill for 20 minutes. Gary, who styled himself 'the more senior detective' ran 4.5km – 0.2km more than his younger colleague.

As well as promising revenge for next year, Andy thanked all those who donated.

A sale of cakes, plus coffee and competitions, at Harlow police station raised a further £230 for Children in Need.

Nearly £500 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Support following three coffee mornings held by Moulsham Lodge, Harlow Criminal Justice Unit and Crime Division Administration in September.

Quiz gurus raised nearly £400 at

the Essex Police Sports Association (EPSA) Greene King quiz night in October, with the Breast Cancer Campaign charity the benefactor.

Victims and families of domestic violence in south Essex were the focus of support at a fund raising night in Benfleet's Tandoori Parlour. Basildon command team members contributed a host of raffle prizes which led to £770 being raised for the Domestic Violence Panel.

PNC Bureau's Jenny Grantham finally managed to complete her first-ever tandem skydive after the weather held up for her jump last month. The Sunshine Ward at Chelmsford's St John's Hospital and the Essex Police 4x4 Fun Day will benefit from the money – estimated at over £400 – raised.

And officers from Brentwood are taking part in a sponsored relay run next May in memory of former constable, Tom Lodemore, who died earlier this year.

Epilepsy Bereaved will benefit from the money raised.

• For further information, contact Leanne Strover via email



• **Children in Need: above, QA officer Emma Gibson, trainer Pc Cally Beale, PCSO trainer Jason Poole, community engagement manager Carly Tyrrell, PCSO probationer Chris Maynard, HR divisional administrator Rebecca Turner and PCSO probationer Laura Wiseman wear hats and wigs. They and fellow Essex Police College probationers and staff raised £338.18.**

• **Below, Essex Police College housekeeping staff Zona Goodey, Sue Mckean, Jane Clark, Jean Sawkins, Amanda Gregory and Jenny Fisher contributed to the college's total by taking collecting buckets around the site. HQ canteen raised £412.61 and the college canteen contributed a further £211 for the BBC charity.**

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HQ and Essex Police College receptions raised money from the sale of poppies for the Royal British Legion's annual Poppy Appeal.

Fund raising was neck and neck down to the last 15p. HQ reception raised £171.16 and EPC reception raised £171.01 – giving a grand total of £342.17.

EASTERN Division was back in the pink this year with its support of the Breast Cancer Campaign's 'wear it pink' day. Organiser Deborah Banks-Smith, of Clacton Domestic Abuse and Hate Crime Unit, was impressed with some colourful participants. She said: "I think it is fair to say that the usual effort was made by Carol Peck, who was sporting pink hair, and by licensing officer Dave Appleby, in a fabulous shirt and tie combo." Colchester and Tendring districts raised £414.

Helping child victims of crime

A SAFER schools officer is encouraging fellow officers to help children traumatised by a criminal offence.

Pc Di Murphy, from Basildon, is the new Essex representative for Child Victims of Crime – the only national police charity providing support to youngsters aged 16 and under.

Child Victims of Crime was established in 1993 in response to the aftermath of the terrorist bombing in Warrington and is a registered charity of the British Police Rugby Section.

Its aim is to provide support to any child up to and including the age of 16 who has been a victim of, or traumatised by, any criminal offence.

Di said: "Individual officers working with children are in a unique position to make referrals, often suggesting the best way to put a little bit of fun and 'normality' back into their lives.

"The charity tries to tailor support to the needs of each individual child, who can be referred via me."

Child Victims of Crime offers adventure/activity breaks, funding for counselling, High Street vouchers, bikes, days out at theme parks or sporting events. • TO raise funds, Child Victims of Crime has



commissioned Bobby Bear, a handmade, 28cm tall bear in Metropolitan Police uniform, available in caramel, blonde and brown for £29.99.

Each bear has been individually made from safe materials.

Bobby has a removable woollen jersey with elbow patches, embroidered epaulettes and the police badge and he arrives in an official embroidered collector's bag.

• For nomination forms, to find out more about Child Victims of Crime, or to buy a bear, contact Pc Di Murphy on ext 40825 or via email



Thank you all for your hard work

AS Christmas draws near, I would like to thank you all for your hard work and determination over the last 12 months.

It is through your contributions that Essex has become an even safer county in which to live, work, or socialise.

On behalf of my chief officer team, may I wish you and your families a merry and peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

ROGER BAKER
Chief Constable

'Standing still is going backwards'

TWO deputy chief constables were on hand to speak at the Senior Women Officers' Forum annual meeting.

Both DCC Andy Bliss and former Essex divisional commander Jacqui Cheer – now deputy chief constable of Suffolk Constabulary – spoke at last month's meeting.

It was the first time that SWOF had held its annual meeting with both members of the SWoPS (Senior Women Police Staff) group and with women sergeants.

Mr Bliss arrived on his folding bike with a painting and a trowel to give the group an insight into his hobbies, his career and how passionate he is about policing.

He said his love of archaeology meant that he was keen for Essex Police never to forget the past but to remember that the future is just as important. To stand still is to go backwards, he said.

When asked about having a woman on the chief officer team – ACC Carmel Napier – he replied that women had a different perspective on many topics but also brought emotional intelligence to the team. Mrs Napier had changed the team dynamics for the better.

Mrs Cheer provided an insight into Operation Sumac, the investigation into the death of five women in Ipswich last winter – for which Essex Police provided many officers and staff through mutual aid.

She spoke passionately about being only two months into the job as a (then) newly-promoted ACC and being faced with one of the country's biggest ever crimes.

It was an interesting and very personal account of the decisions she made, the problems she had and how she got through the investigation.

Why not ask Bill for help with your IT questions?

THE IT Department is really excited about a virtual new member of staff – Bill.

For it is anticipated Bill is going to help improve the department's service to the rest of the force.

ASK – answers, solutions, knowledge – BILL – Business Interactive Learning Library – is to be a key part of the IT Department's new intranet home page.

And it will be packed full of information, frequently-asked questions and hints and tips, to provide better support and knowledge of IT services, applications and news.

ASK BILL is due to be trialled this month with several groups and rolled out forcewide by the end of January.

IT incident manager Kim Karaçolak said the department had been working on ASK BILL when, coincidentally, Yvonne de Young, of Rayleigh MIT, had submitted a similar idea to the Force

Suggestion Scheme.

Essex County Council gave IT the structure of its own ASK BILL site, which saved the department a lot of time and money.

Kim said: "The IT team have got behind it and have worked very hard to adapt it to our needs. ASK BILL will help us to work smarter and better and to escalate more calls appropriately. We are very excited about it."

The focus will be on providing simple information about key applications, such as STORM, PNC, Livescan and Agresso – helping customers to solve some of the less complex problems as well as helping them to become more confident and to get the most out of their IT.

A traffic-light system will be incorporated to alert customers as to when an application is down – whether planned or not – with a message on the state of play.

"ASK BILL is a useful addition to the Service Desk and an added function which

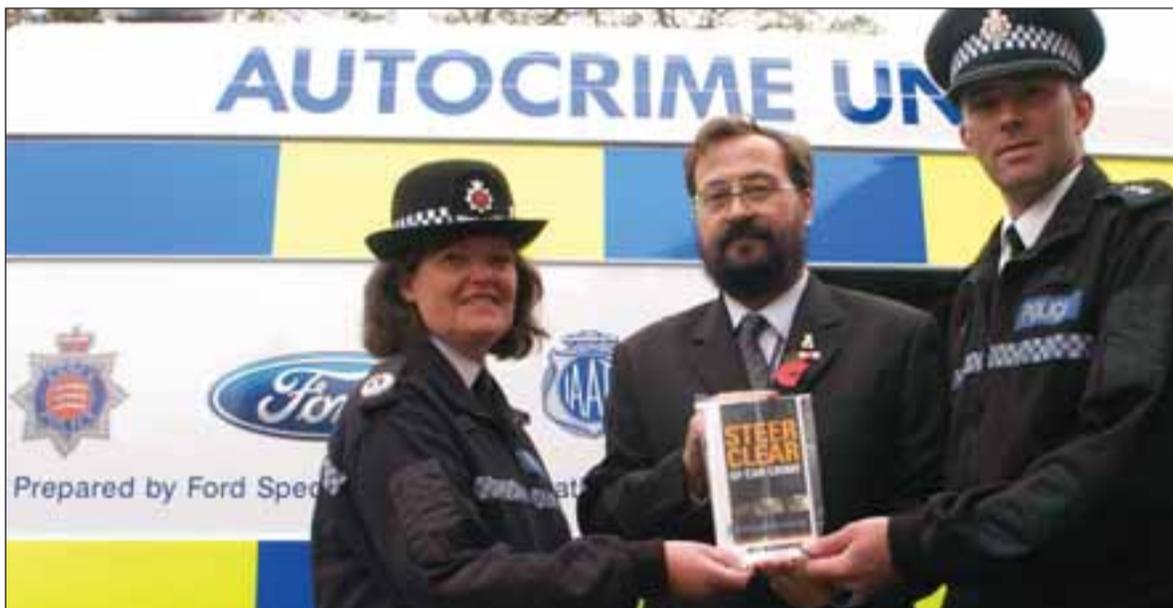
will enable our customers to track their request's progress through the HEAT Call Management system," said Kim.

All in all, it is expected "Bill" will reduce the calls to the IT Service Desk, allowing staff there to manage incidents more effectively, providing better monitoring and improving customer contact.

"The IT Service Desk should concentrate on incident management and we hope ASK BILL will take away some of the calls we get asking how to operate some programs, such as Microsoft Word," she said.

Topics will include how to cancel a mistakenly-created STORM incident, resetting passwords, 'managing' your hard disk, finding 'lost' documents, copying and deleting files, plus some 'green' hints and tips.

When ASK BILL has settled in, it will mature and grow – one of the first areas to concentrate on will be providing support for the Microsoft suite, said Kim.



● ACC Carmel Napier and Chief Insp Jonathan Baldwin, of HQ Territorial Policing, with Ford vehicle security engineer Pete Hyam

Helping to fight vehicle crime

FORD is working in partnership with Essex Police to help reduce vehicle crime.

The company's vehicle security team has put together a specially-equipped Ford Transit van, which is at the forefront of the campaign.

The auto-crime unit can support police officers in the identification of stolen vehicles and vehicle components and can also be used to investigate new methods of breaking into vehicles. Chief Insp Jonathan Baldwin, of HQ Territorial Policing, said the aim of the partnership was to reduce the impact of vehicle crime.

"We believe that working with

companies such as Ford within crime reduction partnership agreements will help to take these criminals off the road and reduce their ability to commit crime."

Most thieves break vehicle glass in order to steal items such as satellite-navigation systems.

Chief Insp Baldwin said: "We would like to explore the use of laminate on windows and to publicise the fact that you can have your satellite-navigation aid etched with an ultra-violet light-sensitive serial number."

The van is also a mobile security display unit, equipped with everything from window etching to a tracking

system.

And it can be used by officers and PCSOs at events where they have been asked to give out crime prevention advice.

Ford vehicle security engineer Pete Hyam said he believed it was the most secure Transit in the UK.

"It is equipped with a laminate on the glass which, when the glass is broken, holds the glass fragments together and reduces the possibility of entering the vehicle."

● To request the Ford Transit auto-crime unit's attendance at an event, contact crime reduction sergeant Nathalie Carr on ext 54449

Football fun to raise cash for Arron

FUND raising events for Pitsea's Arron Williams continue to abound, with a recent football club tour and a forthcoming football tournament set to add money to the trust fund.

Pc Williams broke his neck while playing rugby in September.

The 25-year-old officer is receiving treatment at the Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Buckinghamshire.

Grays detectives Andy Smith and Tony Robinson completed a seven-day trip to all 92 Football League clubs in England and Wales.

The duo have secured sporting memorabilia from the clubs, including the top Premier League teams.

The signed photographs, footballs and other items will be auctioned in order to

raise money for Arron, who was paralysed by his accident.

Tony said: "Although it was an exhausting journey, it certainly was a joy and we have absolutely nothing but respect and gratitude for the warm welcomes we were given from all the clubs.

"They were marvellous and completely understanding. They have wished Arron all the best during his recovery and, like us, are confident he will bounce back from this personal and professional setback."

The duo clocked up over 3,000 miles during their seven-day trip.

Tony added: "We would like to thank everyone who has supported us and made this once-in-a-lifetime trip possible

for us and, ultimately, Arron."

Thirty-nine teams will compete in South Western Division's five-a-side Christmas indoor football tournament.

Police officers and staff, male and female, have pulled together to ensure the day is a success.

The tournament runs from noon at Southend Tennis and Leisure Club, Garon Park, Eastern Avenue, Southend, on Monday, December 17.

Mulled wine, mince pies and sausage rolls will be available to warm up any spectators. A raffle will also be held on the day.

● The website www.aronwilliams.trustfund.co.uk has updates on Arron's progress, personal messages and details of fund raising events

No, 39 years is not a record for police service

WE had a huge response to last month's feature on Rayleigh custody sergeant Ted Travers, who early next year will have served Essex Police for 40 years.

And former DCC Charles Clark also served almost 39 years before his retirement last December.

But no, you said, this was not a record.

The two main contenders in recent times are both former ACCs.

Geoffrey Markham joined the force on September 19, 1957, and retired on May 27, 1999 – a total of 41 years and 250 days.

William Petherwick, joined on January 3, 1939, retired on March 31, 1981 – a total of 42 years and 87 days.

However, Mr Petherwick, who was promoted to ACC in 1971, took three years out of his police career to serve his King and country in the RAF during World War Two, rejoining Essex Police in 1946.

In fact, the first Chief Constable of Essex, Commander (later Admiral) John McHardy served 41 years and 262 days – from February 11, 1840, to October 31, 1881.

From slightly less exalted ranks, Det Supt William Brown served 40 years and 37 days. He joined the Southend Borough force on February 22, 1941, retiring on April 1, 1981.

Then there are those officers who have served their time and then opted to stay on as members of police staff.

Force sports secretary John Stonehouse wrote to point out Mr Markham's length of service and added:

"There must also be quite a few like me, who retired as an officer and then continued in a support role.

"I'm coming up for 40 years, having joined in January 1968.

"I know that security systems officer Stu Bowman is several years ahead of me, probably nearer 45 years."

Mr Bowman joined Essex Police as a cadet in September 1962.

Southend Sports Club treasurer Les Seals enlisted with Southend Borough on November 29, 1951, and retired as an acting chief inspector on April 15, 1983.

As he had previously been appointed treasurer of the sports club, on retirement, he continued doing the same job, for a small remuneration.

"I make that just on 56 years' continuous service, with plenty of happy memories," says Les, 79.

Internal communications manager John Johnson will have clocked up a total of 48 years and 157 days in police service when he retires on February 20 next year.

He joined Lincolnshire Police as a cadet on September 16, 1959, becoming a constable in March 1962.

He transferred to Essex Police on October 16, 1967, retiring as chief inspector in charge of practical skills on August 2, 1992.



Federation news by Roy Scanes



Still waiting

AS you are all aware, months of talking, consultation and negotiation about police officers' pay ended with an arbitration hearing on November 2.

The Police Federation put forward a very strong and detailed case to the arbiters.

The arbiters, aware that police officers are already late in receiving any pay increment this year, indicated they would seek to deliver a written decision within weeks.

At the time of writing, I have no further information. However, by the time you read this, you should know the outcome.

Both nationally and locally, the Police Federation has continued to put pressure on the Home Secretary to honour the decision of the independent Police Arbitration Tribunal. We are bound by the decision, the government should be, too.

Detective staffing shortages

FRONT-line detective officers across England and Wales are being hampered by a nationwide staffing crisis, excessive caseloads and pressures to abandon serious investigations to meet government targets, according to a six-month-long review of police forces.

In the first review of its kind, Police Federation researchers interviewed CID detectives from nine forces – which did not include Essex – who deal with serious crimes such as rape, violence and armed robbery.

ITV's *Tonight with Trevor McDonald* on November 12 was given exclusive access to the preliminary findings.

These show:

- CID offices depleted of experienced detectives
- Recruitment and retention problems
- Inexperienced officers
- Trainee detectives covering a whole division on their own
- Target-driven detection, with figures being met by re-classifying offences or encouraging the public to drop complaints.

Deputy chair Alan Gordon said: "Officers are being very innovative in the way that offences

are recorded because so much pressure is being placed upon them by senior management, who are having pressure placed upon them by the Home Office in order to make the public appear that crime is in fact reducing."

The Police Federation's full report will be published in the next few months.

In the meantime, if any officers can evidence any of the above practices, please send details to me and I will address issues with the Chief Constable.

Season's greetings

THE day before the deadline for this article, I was contacted by Insp Rob Norcup, from Stansted Airport, enquiring whether I wanted to be involved in the planning for the policing implications of next year's European Football Championships – assuming England qualified.

As I was confident in the knowledge that England only needed a draw at Wembley, I agreed – this time last year we were reflecting upon 2006 and the challenges faced in a busy policing calendar, which included Operation Volley and the additional policing demand caused by the football World Cup.

Well like many things in this job, you have to expect the unexpected – England crashed out of the competition.

I am sure Finance Director Rick Tazzini will be writing a letter to Steve McClaren thanking him for his assistance in cutting Essex Police expenditure for 2008!

Whilst on the subject, I would like to take the opportunity of thanking firstly, the elected Federation representatives for their commitment to the role and the support they have given to me and our members over the past year.

Secondly, I would like to thank you, our members, for the confidence you have given us in representing you, your views and concerns.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all – on behalf of myself, Sue Kelly, Tony Rayner, Ross Luke, Trish Morley, Jackie Card and Marian Godwin – a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Unison news by Chris Willcock



Pay claim

THE Police Staff Council Employers' Side made an offer of 2.25 per cent at pay talks held on October 30.

The Trade Union Side rejected the offer as insufficient, both in terms of inflation and members' aspirations.

We agreed to defer pay talks until December 3 to allow further reflection by the Employers' Side.

Members in local government have recently accepted a pay offer of 2.475 per cent.

And, in Scotland, Unison police staff members have accepted a 2.45 per cent offer from their employers.

PCSOs

ONE day sunshine – the next day rain! One of the few certainties in life is that there are a lot of uncertainties!

You never know just what is round the next corner, which is true for everyone but it's particularly true if you are a PCSO!

It used to be that the community soul of the police service was the mustachioed, red-faced, round-of-belly police constable patrolling his beat, helmet on head and cape rolled over his shoulder.

No Airwave radios for him – just red telephone boxes every couple of miles or so where, once an hour, he would wait for ten minutes at his 'point' in case the sergeant called.

Otherwise life was pretty uneventful – a cheery word for Mrs Smith, a clip round the ear for young Johnny caught scrumping apples and a cup of tea at the baker's shop or a surreptitious pint behind the local.

All in the cause of neighbourhood policing of course.

Well, no – it never was quite like that and it certainly is not like that today for the modern equivalent of the cartoon 'bobby'; the keen, fit and ambitious PCSOs who perform such a very worthwhile function in the turbulent communities which we all now serve.

Out in all weathers, supporting their over paper-worked and statistics-burdened warranted colleagues, at the beck and call of

an ever more demanding public, who do not distinguish between them.

Not that they complain. Many PCSOs are keen to be fully-fledged police officers and, 'to a man', each and every one is a public-spirited individual, who will launch, wholeheartedly, into whatever 'the job' throws at them.

In fact, given the chance, there is nothing a PCSO won't tackle, even though he or she knows full well that it is outside the terms of reference so clearly and rightly set out by Chief Constable Roger Baker.

Who gives a damn for a Contract Of Employment when the adrenaline is flowing and there is a 'job' going down?

Who would 'back-off', just because he or she is facing a 'confrontational situation'?

Not many, my friends, not many! Unfortunately, though, all too often, there comes a time of reckoning.

PCSOs do get hurt. The public do complain about them. They do get it wrong sometimes and they overstep the mark occasionally.

And, when those things happen, who stands alongside them?

Who provides them with the experienced, independent advice and counselling that we all need in times of trouble?

Who pays for the legal help when they need it – either to defend themselves or to help them get the redress they so often deserve?

Unison, that's who – but we can only help our members!

Unlike their warranted colleagues who belong to an association like the Police Federation by default, police staff employees, including PCSOs, must 'elect' to join Unison.

So, whilst PCSOs are subject to exactly the same rigours and dangers as any police officer walking the beat, if they are not members of Unison, they have none of the personal safeguards that their warranted colleagues enjoy.

It's like any insurance policy – you hope you'll never need it but, when you do, regrettably it's too late if you haven't paid the premiums.

And that's another one of life's little certainties!

Christian Police Association

by Simon Werrett



THE Christian Police Association (CPA) celebrates its 125th birthday next year and is the oldest support organisation within the police service.



and currently chair the International CPA Board. I recently returned from Burundi, where I spoke at the Pan-Africa Christian Police

Associations Conference.

Christmas is probably one of the busiest times of the year: there is food and alcohol to buy – £1.6billion worth, including ten million turkeys, 25 million Christmas puddings, 250 million pints of beer and presents for our partners and children (around £20billion although only 40 per cent will make it to March).

As the police, we will be busy working to protect the public, dealing with those who drink too much and those intent on not buying their own Christmas presents but on stealing from others. But perhaps not as busy as Father Christmas, who will need to work 31 hours in a 24-hour day to deliver all those presents!

Have you ever thought about that first Christmas? What was it like then? Is it really relevant in a technologically-advanced 21st Century?

Actually, nothing has really changed; the 1st Century was a time of conflict and civil war. Jewish rebels were trying to overthrow Roman rule and the 'puppet' kings who followed the will of the world leaders of the time.

The Romans called a census and so Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem. It was a busy time, no room in the inn, so God's son, Jesus, was born in a stable.

There were some visitors – no MRSA or health and safety rules then – a few shepherds turned up and some wise men, had a look and went on their way, some believing in Jesus, others not.

So things haven't changed, we still live in a world full of conflict and poverty, a busy technological world, a world where Christmas is just another event on the calendar and then we move on to the skiing holiday or St Valentine's Day.

So this Christmas, stand still for a few minutes and think about the greatest gift of all – Jesus, the baby in the manger who grew up to be the Saviour of the World.

• Visit the Christian Police Association website at www.cpauk.net

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● Essex Police Authority chairman
Robert Chambers

'We should bottle our festive cheer'

“WOULDN'T it be nice if Christmas was here every week? People's attitudes seem to be somewhat different during the festive season. We should all recognise our differences, whatever they are – whether race, creed or colour – and think about treating all people in the way we would wish to be treated. Essex is a very diverse county and becoming more so day by day. Perhaps all those who are relatively well-off should give a short thought to those who, though no fault of their own, find themselves in difficult situations, maybe for monetary, health or family reasons. I want everyone to be able to have a very happy Christmas and believe that the attitudes of the people around them can have a huge impact. And there's always some good cheer in the air at Christmas-time. Wouldn't it be nice if we could find a way to bottle it and share it out during the less exciting months of the year? I would like to finish by saying I hope everyone within the force has a very happy and healthy Christmas. The police authority looks forward to working ever more closely with all of you, whatever your position within our force.”

Christmas is in the air for police band

THE Essex Police Band holds its annual Christmas concert this month. The concert will be held on Monday, December 17, at the Marconi Club in Beehive Lane, Great Baddow, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £5 each and can be obtained by sending a cheque for the full amount, made payable to Essex Police Band, plus your name, address and a contact phone number, to Essex Police Band, Essex Police HQ, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DA.

Richard's your sex crime contact

A NEW face has taken up post in the Force Intelligence Bureau (FIB).

Richard Donaghy is the single point of contact for the Serious Crime Analysis Section (SCAS).

As the SCAS contact officer, his role is to identify links and potential suspects for sex offences within Essex.

He also liaises with the SCAS at the National Police Improvement Agency in Hampshire, which maintains a database of sex offences from all UK forces.

This database increases the scope of forces to link similar sex offences committed by offenders who travel across the country.

Richard started his new role in August, having previously worked as a researcher with Central Division.

He said: "The role of SCAS was highlighted when they suggested the name of Peter Voisey as a suspect for the case where a six-year-old girl was abducted from her bath in northern England last year. Voisey was arrested and convicted. "We have also had local success from

information which led to the arrest of a man for a number of indecent exposures in the south-east of the county and that man is now facing charges."

Head of Special Branch Det Chief Insp Bob Chatterton explained: "Since the introduction of the new post, compliance levels have improved and the force has further opportunities to catch progressive offenders by establishing links between offences."

However, as Richard points out, his work does depend greatly on the information provided in crime reports (CID61s) and he says there is a greater need for police officers to include as much information as possible on the suspect's description and modus operandi (MO) to improve the possibilities for detections.

● An information pack is available. Request it from Richard Donaghy at FIB, HQ, via email or contact him on ext 52448

Helen Cook



● SCAS contact officer Richard Donaghy works in the Force Intelligence Bureau

Diversity is important for operational policing

THE links between operational policing and diversity issues were emphasised at last month's Strategy and Performance Day.

Hosted by Chief Constable Roger Baker, the conference was attended by chief officers, police officers and staff and community representatives, including members of the Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs).

South Western deputy divisional commander Supt Glenn Caton spoke about his work with gypsy and traveller communities in Basildon, sharing some good practice around community engagement in partnership with other agencies.

His presentation was supported by John Day, of the Strategic IAG.

Other presentations included the forthcoming challenges posed by the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games and by Operation Heriot – the investigation into the deaths of two

illegal immigrants on the A12 near Witham in June 2006 – as well as general organisational challenges relating to diversity.

ACC Derek Benson said: "The day was well attended by Essex Police officers and staff, as well as partners from the Independent Advisory Group.

"A number of thought-provoking presentations emphasised the direct link between diversity issues and operational policing."

Attendees were given the opportunity to discuss what they had heard, and to feed ideas back.

The following themes emerged from the conference: understanding our changing communities, developing internal resources regarding community liaison, positive leadership and publicity, and maximising opportunities for engagement.

The new Confidence and Equality Strategy, which sets out how we will increase community confidence in the police through promoting diversity, equality and inclusion, was also presented.

Equality of service manager Insp Ian Carter said afterwards: "Essex Police will continue to identify opportunities to maximise engagement with our customers via neighbourhood policing, through neighbourhood action panels, joint action groups, IAGs and other consultative mechanisms with communities and partner agencies.

"This will allow us to take services outside traditional parameters of police stations, in support of citizen-focused policing.

"And it will allow us to ensure that all force members understand the importance of their contribution to the Confidence and Equality Strategy, and both internal and external engagement."

● Copies of the Confidence and Equality Strategy have been sent to all divisions and departments for all police officers and staff to see. View it by visiting the Equality & Diversity intranet site, under the information menu on the intranet home page, and clicking on Corporate Equality

Veterans praise Remembrance 'museum'



● Pc Bret Mercer, second from right, with war veterans outside the mini-museum, which he organised on Remembrance Day

Picture by Ron Poulter

WAR veterans praised a police officer who set up a mini-museum at a Remembrance Day service.

And afterwards they asked Pc Bret Mercer, of Lee Chapel North Neighbourhood Policing Team, to make it an annual event.

More than 60 people visited Pc Mercer's display of 1940s memorabilia – borrowed from the Essex Police Museum at HQ – which he set up in a mobile police station parked near Laindon war memorial on Sunday, November 11.

The mobile police station was open before and after the service and provided tea, coffee and mince pies plus tots of rum and homemade cakes, donated by Roy and Jan Hudson, who run a local off-licence.

Pc Mercer, who manned the police station with PCSOs Jenny O'Doherty and Dawn Wells, said: "It was an excellent afternoon and everyone enjoyed their visit to the mobile police station to see the exhibits.

"We also sounded a real hand-powered air raid siren, which brought the memories flooding back.

"Everyone hoped that it would become an annual event and I hope that can be arranged. It was a perfect way to support the ceremony and have a chat with local residents over tea and cakes."

Brennan is praised for 'hanging on'

POLICE dog Brennan is back in the news again.

This time he has been commended by Chief Constable Roger Baker for his actions in June.

Brennan was signed off sick by the vet in October after he was assaulted by a man who was being arrested by his handler Pc Mick Finch and Pc Tony Mayo, both of Chigwell Dog Section.

In that incident, Brennan was punched and kicked in the head, body and legs.

He is now back at work, having initially been signed off by the vet.

Pc Finch said he'd had many text messages enquiring after Brennan's health.

"People don't understand the bond between a dog and his handler," he said.

"They will put their lives on the line for us."

Brennan was commended for his "bravery and tenacity" in tracing and apprehending two men suspected of having stolen a vehicle on June 15.

He tracked them round the back of Basildon College and was then attacked by one of them, who grabbed his ears and seriously assaulted him.

The commendation reads: "Despite being violently attacked and in obvious pain, Brennan maintained a bite-hold on the suspect's arm."

Pc Finch said: "Brennan hung on for dear life and prevented him from escaping."

Two men were arrested and subsequently convicted for causing undue suffering to an animal.

They received a sentence of community service and a fine.

Life for man who stabbed wife at home

A HUSBAND has received a life sentence for murdering his wife in their Colchester home.

Anthony Sweeney, 37, stabbed his wife Lisa, 34, at their home on February 21.

At Chelmsford Crown Court, Judge Christopher Ball sentenced Anthony Sweeney to a minimum of 18 years in prison after the jury took just an hour to find him guilty of murder.

Senior Investigating Officer Det Supt Phil Tucker said the force took domestic violence in any form very seriously.

"My thoughts are with the family of Lisa Sweeney, a devoted and loving mother of eight children," he said.

Det Supt Tucker also paid tribute to the actions of the first officers at the scene of the murder and to everyone involved in the investigation.

He said: "The loss of any life in a violent manner is tragic and unnecessary and it is the family and friends left behind who suffer the most."

"I hope that the justice that has been served in court will help Lisa Sweeney's family to move on with their lives."

Terry follows in dad's pawsteps with his 'secret assassin'

by Helen Cook

WHEN Terry Collinson collected his first police dog, Sire, it was not love at first sight.

He was greeted by an emaciated, snarling, drooling dog who hurled himself at the kennel door.

And no-one could have predicted that five years later they would become the top Essex police dog and handler and receive national recognition.

Terry always wanted to be a police dog handler. His father Tony was one of the first dog handlers in the force, joining in 1965 when the unit was in its infancy.

He had the first explosives search dog, rather inappropriately named Sparky, and worked with dogs for 17 years.

Terry's first job, however, was with the Royal Navy. He served for seven years sailing on frigates and destroyers, including HMS Nottingham, working on anti-submarine warfare and travelled the globe.

Terry said: "It was important for me to experience life before joining the police and the Navy is a great life for a single person."

He enrolled in the police service in 1990, just six months before his father retired. He served initially at Ongar, and then as beat officer for the villages around Fyfield.

He applied regularly for the dog section but it was only after tuition from his wife Lisa, a former officer, that he succeeded and joined the dog section in 2001.

Sire, a German shepherd dog, then five months old, was from a rescue home. Former owners had mistreated and neglected him, his coat was greasy and matted and he was full of worms.

Terry gained his trust and worked hard with him during the 13-week training course, but he was never sure the dog would pass. But he did and the pair have never looked back.

Terry describes Sire as an ideal police dog, whom he calls affectionately the 'silent assassin'.

He explained: "Sire belies his cuddly, fluffy image - he does not bark a lot - but he can switch his aggression on and off. He loves to play with my children, especially my young daughter, but, when required, he can turn into a snarling, growling beast who will happily sink his teeth into villains."

Sire is an excellent tracker and Terry remembers an occasion when four men decamped from a stolen car into the countryside.

Terry arrived an hour later but Sire immediately picked up a scent and they were off across the fields.

Two miles on they entered a copse, supported by a traffic officer, who was by now a little weary.

Sire got excited and found the men, who quickly gave themselves up rather than risk Sire's teeth.

In 2005, the pair entered the force dog trials, representing Stanway, and finished second overall but winning the search trophy.

Last year, they went one better and were champions, going on to represent Essex and the regional heats. Success there saw them qualify for the national finals in Surrey.

Terry was so proud of Sire when they finished 14th overall with the second highest tracking score.

He said: "I never expected to go to the nationals and, whilst tracking is Sire's bread and butter stuff, it was fantastic to finish second in the country."

Terry also has Casper, a drugs, money and weapons recovery dog. This springer spaniel is a bundle of constant energy, who, Terry says, will run after a ball all day if given the chance.

They have successfully identified a suitcase full of illicit money and found money hidden in a plastic box under floorboards.

Terry wants to carry on at the Dog Unit and hopes to finish his career as a trainer, so he can pass on his experience and knowledge.

He acknowledges that his hard work with Sire has been rewarded way beyond his expectations and added: "Many people did not give him a chance and Sire has had his moments but we have overcome the hurdles



● Tony Collinson and his police dog

and achieved what seemed the impossible at national level. "I owe him - he certainly set me up for what I wanted to achieve."



● Terry Collinson and Sire, top, and, inset, Sire with his trials trophies

Nipping problems in the bud

by Donna Veasey

POLICE in Harwich are proving that partnership working pays dividends.

Since April this year, a problem-solving team has been established under the neighbourhood policing umbrella to tackle the root cause of offending behaviour.

At the heart of that team is Pc Matt Leach, who, fresh out of his probation, was set the task of reducing anti-social behaviour in the town.

The last six months have shown an average drop of ten per cent in the number of incidents reported and, if this trend continues, police in Harwich are looking at almost a 25 per cent drop in incidents of all types compared with last year.

But Pc Leach insists he cannot take all the credit.

He works very closely with colleague Pc Jude Currie as well as with Tendring Council housing officer Matthew Wicks, particularly with regards to evicting troublesome residents.

The benefit of this partnership working is that, as soon as anyone sees a problem arising, they set out to nip it in the bud.

Pc Leach said: "From April 1 onwards it was looking horrendous. Crime and the number of incidents

were much higher than last year. But now it has gone the other way.

"I am lucky that my inspector, Adrian Dearsley, trusts me to get on and do my job."

He added: "If you resolve a lot of the anti-social behaviour you will remove other incidents, such as criminal damage."

Pc Leach is the neighbourhood specialist officer (NSO) for Harwich, a role which he has held since mid-May.

And it is a role which is very important to him.

He said: "I have lived here for five years. My children go to school here, and I think you tend to take things more personally when things happen on your doorstep."

"I also think you tend to put a bit more in to it if it means something to you."

"This is what I joined the job for. I feel as though I am making a difference," said the 33-year-old.

Pc Leach used to work in customer services; a job he feels has benefited him "massively" in his new career, particularly in dealing with youngsters.

"If you sit down and talk to them and remain calm they get on all right with you, instead of having to scream and shout."

One of the crime 'areas' the team have almost eradicated is a spate of criminal damage being committed by a number of ten to 12-year-olds.

The group were smashing fences and car windows.

Pc Leach visited each child's family and had long chats about what they were doing and the effect their behaviour was having on the victims of their crimes.

He said: "Since then criminal damage is not one of our primary concerns."

But he is keen to say that it is a minority of youngsters who cause all that is tarred with the same brush.

Pc Leach said: "I think the youth of today get a bad press."

"I don't think it is any different from when I was younger."

Insp Dearsley said: "The work of Pcs Matt Leach and Jude Currie has achieved some excellent results as a result of the co-ordination by Sgt Darren Deex, who also ensures that the Harwich PCSOs are correctly briefed and tasked as part of the local problem-solving team."

He said: "The best approach with youngsters is that you need to be a lot less bolshy with young kids. "However it is the work of all of the Harwich police officers and police



● Pc Matt Leach is the Harwich neighbourhood specialist officer

staff which has contributed to improving the quality of life for the residents of Harwich and Dovercourt.

"The job of implementing neighbourhood policing is not easy but the results in Tendring North show the effort to be very worthwhile."



● Pc Steve Cleaver and Pc Dawn Smith 'rescue' a plastic dolphin during a Marine Medics Course



● Pc Jason Lane and Pc Shane Burke patrol the River Crouch in a rigid-hulled inflatable boat

Watching over the longest coastline

ESSEX Police Marine Unit is currently engaging in collaboration partnership working with the Kent Marine Unit.

Currently, the main emphasis is drawing up a list of strategic objectives to ensure that both units are working as one and both maintain their ability to support divisional officers in the specialist area of marine policing.

Essex Marine unit is proud of the support it gives to divisional officers and says the collaboration work will not have an impact on the level of service it provides to.

Unit commander Sgt Andy Ford said: "Collaboration presents us with a unique opportunity to enhance the provision of marine cover and maximise our ability to support."

"The Marine Unit's objectives are cemented in the neighbourhood policing model and we will continue to deal with all marine crime reported to us and maximise intelligence opportunities by further reinforcing our links into partner agencies and established intelligence structures."

"We welcome the opportunity to work with Kent, especially in the joint operating area of the Thames. This area will see huge growth in business in the next few years as the Olympic preparations start and the Thames Gateway project is completed."

Each of these areas will bring increased demand for marine police activity and the combined unit will be well placed to meet those demands.

Marine Watch

Marine Watch has taken another step forward in the prevention of marine crime.

PCSOs Ben Mearing and Dorian Atkins co-ordinate the scheme from the Marine Unit.

In the winter months, many of the waterways around Essex see boats lifted out from their moorings for servicing, storage or repair, increasing the opportunity for shore-based criminal activity.

Now entering its third year of operation, Marine Watch aims to prevent and detect marine-related crime and develop an awareness of the work the

ESSEX Police Marine Unit, based at Burnham-on-Crouch, is currently responsible for the policing of all tidal waters around Essex - some 300 miles of coastline, from Harwich in the north down to the Kent border and along the River Thames to Crayford Ness, west of the QEII bridge.

Senior PR officer Morwenna Holland takes a look at the unit, which polices estuaries, inland waterways, rivers, lakes, canals, reservoirs and disused sandpits and deals with seasonal flooding.

Targeting maritime crime, public safety issues, speed, dangerous navigation and local byelaws, the unit patrols the county's rivers and coastline throughout the year. Its patrols enable officers to keep a check of who is moving in and out of the country and general marine activity. Although the unit's first priority is to maintain law and order, members will always assist in any difficulty, including marine mammals.

Marine Unit carries out, as well as establishing various Marine Watch areas in Essex as marine leisure activity becomes more popular.

International recognition

Marine detective Dc Simon Lofting was the first police officer in Europe to qualify as a certified marine investigator.

And now he has been recognised at the International Association of Marine Investigators (IAMI) awards, having been nominated in the Marine Investigator of the Year category.

With nearly eight years' experience at the Marine Unit, Dc Lofting has been involved in a number of operations including investigating theft, damage, arson, insurance fraud and boat ringing.

Dc Lofting was nominated for the prestigious award after he completed an exceptionally high number of investigations, detectives and recoveries.

Life in the water

As well as being specialists on the water, members of the Marine Unit have become experts on life in the water.

With a large population of grey and common seals, Essex is starting to see more unusual visitors, such as the Thames whale, entering the county's waterways.

Pcs Dawn Smith and Steve Cleaver are now qualified to assist any injured or stranded marine mammals, such as dolphins, whales and seals, after completing the interna-

tionally-recognised Marine Medics course run by British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMRLR). Pc Smith said the new skills had given the unit the ability to respond quickly and correctly to any future events involving 'unusual visitors'.

"The Marine Unit often gets called to incidents involving marine mammals which may be in difficulty, to deal with public order and wildlife crime issues as well as any maritime laws which may need to be enforced," she said.

"The Marine Mammal Medic course has now provided us with the essential knowledge and techniques to help save the life of such marine mammals if we are first on the scene."

Both officers had to learn about the biology, physiology, first aid and handling of marine mammals, using life-sized models which allowed them to practice their new skills at the water's edge.

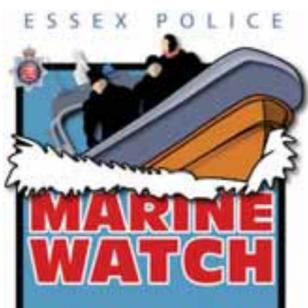
Granting a wish

The Marine Unit recently answered a plea for help from the Starlight Children's Foundation.

The national charity wanted the unit to give a seriously-ill teenager a taste of life in the force.

Stuart, 16, from Southminster, has a brain tumour and hopes one day to be a police officer - he is also a keen sailor.

Stuart and his parents were greeted by the Marine Unit team before heading out on the water with Pcs Jason



● PCSOs Dorian Atkins and Ben Mearing at Burnham Yacht Marina - marine crime levels have dropped since they launched Marine Watch



● Dc Simon Lofting



● Stuart, from Southminster, on the Alert IV with members of the Marine Unit, on a day out organised by the Starlight Children's Foundation

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 or omit letters.
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Bringing back long-lost memories

THE picture in the October issue of *The Law* which showed Commander Willis holding the annual HMIC's (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary) inspection at Epping police station brought back memories of the 1950s. Cmdr Willis would also visit Southend police station on his annual inspection. There would be the usual parade and most of us would be wearing our wartime medals. Anyone who, like me, was wearing the Atlantic Star would be singled out. The commander would stop and enquire about one's Naval service.

Jack Faulkner
Southend

AS a recipient of *The Law*, I was amazed to see a picture of my late husband taken at the back of Epping police station in 1957 (Down Memory Lane, October 2007).

At the time, we were living in Harlow and my husband was an area car driver. I hope it brings back happy memories to others serving at the same time. Down Memory Lane it certainly was.

Jean Knowles
Chelmsford

There was no going back!

RE 70 years of driver training (October 2007). My father, the late Sgt Jack Williams, was selected to attend the first driving course. The Earl of Cottenham gave a lecture in which he declared that drivers' reaction time declined with age. My father queried this and, when he revealed that he was 36, he was dismissed from the course for being too old!

A few months later, after some serious accidents, older officers were asked to re-join. My father declined.

Steve Williams
Coggeshall

One of our first women officers

I AM saddened by the seemingly indifferent way that news of ex-Supt Olive Butler's death in early October was disseminated in Essex Police publications.

While her death notice was circulated to current officers, it was not included on the force website where retired officers could have more easily seen funeral details.

So the death of a senior woman officer whose career illustrates an important part of force history has gone almost unrecorded, especially as the November issue of *The Law* wrongly says that she served in the Southend on Sea Constabulary!

As one of the three retired women officers who did attend Miss Butler's funeral, I was glad to see four NARPO representatives in attendance. But there would also have been many more former colleagues if they had known.

For the record, Miss Butler, was born in Braintree and became one of the first women police officers to be appointed by the then Essex County Constabulary in 1946.

From 1941, uniformed female auxiliaries performed wartime duties

but were not trained police with full powers. Rising through the ranks of the Women Police Department, and always based at Chelmsford, Miss Butler became the chief inspector in charge, until the appointment of Supt Helen Welburn, who headed the women police between 1970 and 1974.

Miss Butler then became superintendent in May 1974 – with broader responsibilities after the equality legislation of 1975 abolished a separate Women Police Department. She retired in 1976.

Dr Maureen Scollan
Witham

Editor's note: *The Law* is very much dependent upon people supplying it with the correct information. Unfortunately, the welfare officer who visited the family was informed that Miss Butler had served at Southend during her career – and the majority of her service was before the amalgamation of the two forces. Sadly, the mistake was compounded by the fact that the person who updates

the Essex Police website with details of recent death notices had been off sick. A colleague will now also receive details, too, so this unfortunate situation does not occur again.

● I WAS appalled at the few lines given in the November issue of *The Law* to Olive Butler, one of our first woman superintendents.

She, in fact, joined the old Essex County Constabulary and not Southend on Sea.

She was well liked by her woman officers and I had the pleasure of working with her when I was in command of Chelmsford Rural.

I first remember her as a sergeant and I called her out to deal with a woman prisoner I had arrested at Takeley late one Saturday night. It was 2am when we had finished the paperwork – no complaints about hours, we just got on with the job. Those were the days.

Ronald Canham
Frinton on Sea

History repeats itself

EVERY once in a while, history begins to repeat itself.

The benefit of this is that it gives us the chance to learn from past mistakes and avoid the consequences which had previously followed.

Current police pay negotiations are an example. In the late 1970s, the Labour government ordered a review of police pay and conditions – the Edmund Davis report. The new Conservative government agreed the finding of Edmund Davis and police got the deal they deserved – they needed it, officers were leaving the service in their droves.

The deal included: a cost of living-based annual salary review; free or subsidised housing; an annual tax rebate on rent allowance; reclaimable housing rates (now Council Tax), and water rates; an excellent pension scheme; free prescriptions and dental treatment; and an

extensive expenses claim structure.

At the time, the right of an elected government to govern was threatened by various trade unions, including the miners, and the country was in the grip of the Cold War with the Soviet Union.

Through the 1980s, the threats to democracy were beaten, often by police action, and in the early 1990s the government forgot the work the police had done and began to look at the Edmund Davis settlement – Sir Patrick Sheehy published his report in 1993.

Despite the best efforts of the Police Federation, most of Sheehy's findings were sadly adopted and the result was the huge number of things listed previously that most officers with less than 17 years' service will not recognise. These disappeared from police pay and conditions of service. How much would that package be worth today?

Recently, in the interests of 'modernisation', the pension has been restructured to a less attractive deal.

Now, after some of the biggest increases in mortgage, gas and electricity payments etc for years, the government does not even want to honour the annual cost-of-living agreement. Obviously, this too, it feels, is in need of 'modernisation'.

Politicians need to remember and understand that, although their right to govern is no longer challenged, society itself depends upon an efficient and effective police service. There is no substitute for intelligent, competent and experienced police officers performing the full spectrum of their role.

This comes at a price, and the policy of 'modernisation' of police pay and conditions is in grave danger of repeating the conditions which necessitated the Edmund Davis review in the late 1970s.

Perhaps, it's time to complete the circle and return to the values of Edmund Davis – in the interests of 'modernisation,' of course.

Sgt Bernie Tompsett
Great Yeldham

You will notice Victim Support is changing for the better

VICTIM Support is in the middle of major change.

There are two key parts to our transformation: improving our efficiency and targeting our resources better; and changing our structure to create a single, unified charity, working right across England and Wales.

A single charity will benefit from greater focus, improved efficiency and

shared systems, which will not only monitor our work nationally but will also give local data and accountability.

To help ensure a smooth process, individual local charities will join the national organisation over a staggered period of time and are also adopting the new enhanced services, which may involve some restructuring to create the new roles required.

Victim Support Essex is just beginning the change programme, carrying out the legal and financial checks and controls necessary in merging with the new national charity. This should be complete by June 30, 2008.

We are absolutely committed to minimising disruption to services as we change and want our working partnerships to continue and to

develop in the future. We are confident you will soon begin to notice improvements in how we work and the results we deliver.

We will still be able to guarantee that local funding supports local work, if that is what our funders want.

Tom Elliot
Area manager
Victim Support Essex

Gone . . . but not forgotten

Pc Peter Wringe – Essex Police.
Served from December 29, 1981. Died July 4, 1982

PC Peter Wringe had an insight into the police from his two previous jobs – one in Colchester Magistrates' Court and the other as a civilian employee of the Metropolitan Police.

Pc Wringe was 23 when he joined Essex Police and he was posted to Southend where he is remembered as an officer with a keen sense of humour who enjoyed projecting himself as a 'country boy'.

He was always willing to do

more than was expected of him and, with only six months' service, he joined other members of his shift at a warehouse alarm in the early hours of a July morning.

The building appeared secure but he knew that burglars had previously entered through the roof, so he climbed on to the single-storey building to check. He fell 30ft to the ground and died later in hospital.



● Pc Peter Wringe

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.

Analytical award makes me feel it was all worthwhile

I WOULD like to congratulate Ted Hampson and his team for achieving the award for their analytical work (Our intelligence training gets national recognition, October 2007).

It is a far cry from my days in 1992, sadly and annoyingly cut short by disability, as the first detective inspector for our region with the then National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS).

NCIS having been set up to use, train and promote the analytical dissemination and evaluation of intelligence as an effective tool for investigation teams, it was a difficult task to get hard-nosed, old-fashioned detectives to consider this new concept as a viable and effective means to produce results.

Trying to get them to work together closely with other investigation agencies and change to using factual and analytical-

based intelligence rather than speculative surveillance and suspicion was so beyond comprehension in some investigation units that, on one occasion, I was physically ejected from the offices of a Regional Crime Squad office in the Metropolitan Police.

My untimely demise through illness from 'the job' left me feeling that I had not been able to complete my career nor the task in hand.

Seeing now that our force has not only got in place 38 analysts but is receiving such prestigious awards for its intelligence analytical excellence compensates me that our early efforts went some way to convince the service that such methods were worthwhile and produced effective and efficient results.

Bob Craven
Southend

Mentoring could help to lower prison population

HAVING just listened to a first-class Cripps Lecture, delivered by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers, at The Howard League for Penal Reform, I feel it prompts further debate.

Lord Phillips talks of finding ways of reducing the prison population, which is the highest in Europe, and, at the same time, saving the tax-payer enormous amounts of money which can be re-invested elsewhere.

We already know that our prisons contain a fairly large percentage of people who should not be there. We now need to concentrate our efforts on reforming those who are in there because there was no alternative. Before we are able to do anything we must change the mind-set of criminals and, to do this, we might well give consideration to mentoring prisoners. Mentoring is already working well in schools, colleges and universities and has started among politicians and others in public service.

Companies, private individuals and others are offering their services, mainly for free, to try to help people who feel they need it. Might I suggest the Prison Service, if it has not already, considers this as another way of getting outside help, to prevent inmates re-offending and reduce the numbers in our already over-crowded prisons.

Bob Miller
Chelmsford



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

TO Insp Alan Jelley

I wish to express our gratitude for our recent contact with officers from Rayleigh Road Policing Unit.

As a family, the past few months have been the most difficult of our lives in trying to deal with the tragic death of our son in a road traffic accident.

We have been in contact with a number of officers from the time of the accident and have always found them to be both professional and compassionate.

We would like to express special thanks to Pc Noel Jeffrey, who was our constant point of contact. We can't praise him enough for his thorough investigation and his personal touch.

His commitment even extended to calling the family on a number of occasions when he should have been off duty.

We are sure that most people who enjoy moaning about the police have no idea of the difficult task faced by your officers in cases such as ours.

In Pc Jeffrey, I believe you have an officer who goes beyond the call of duty and, for that, the family is very grateful. He truly is a credit to the force and hopefully will remain so for many years.

KF
Benfleet

TO Chief Supt Dave Folkard Please pass on our thanks and appreciation to all your officers who were on duty on October 31 - I know a number of them were required to work their rest day.

Their efforts made it one of the better Hallowe'en evenings for our services for a number of years.

I know from the feedback I have received from my staff who were operating services on that evening that the police presence in the area, as well as those officers travelling on our vehicles, was of great comfort and support.

Only a small number of vehicles were damaged and we were able to operate the majority of our services that evening, which was a great improvement from previous years.

Operations manager
First Essex Buses
Hadleigh

TO PCSOs Brett Fleming and Sharon Cooper

We would like to thank you for your helpfulness in dealing with the situation when we nearly had to abort our trip to Nice.

Our six-year-old son swallowed an unknown tablet prior to our take-off and you kindly attended to our every needs. It is good to see true values still remain in our community.

JH
Newmarket

TO Chief Supt Simon Coxall Thank you for the help and assistance the police gave us at the time of the burglary to our property.

The first two police officers, Pcs James Chesney and Luke Bevan, arrived extremely quickly and were very good at comforting and reassuring our children, who were the ones to find the house had been burgled.

The officer in charge of the case, Pc Tony Tyndall, has also been very helpful and kind.

It has been a very distressing time for us all but the help from the police has made this less stressful. It is good to know that we can rely on the police when required.

SD
Langdon Hills

I WAS attacked and police and ambulance were called to the incident. Two police officers arrived one minute and 40 seconds after receiving the call.

Sc Tony Short took a full description of the two people involved and went to look for the suspects.

Whilst awaiting treatment at hospital, a nurse said someone was asking about me at reception and gave a description of my attacker. Sc Short went straight away to check this out.

I found Sc Short very helpful, professional and caring. Pc Richard Aston spent time taking my statement. He was

very polite, calm, thoughtful and understanding.

When the suspect was arrested, Pc Aston called the same day to tell me. I have written as we are often too quick to complain and not praise.

CC
Leigh on Sea

I MUST pass on my thanks and appreciation for the assistance and consideration of Dc Nick Brunton during what has been a very difficult period.

An incident occurred which left me with poor vision in my right eye. Pc Brunton has been very supportive and helpful in all aspects of this case. He took time to explain all procedures involved and, without his reassuring presence at court, I would have been completely overwhelmed.

In these times where great criticism is often levelled at the police, it is good to be able to pay tribute to an individual officer for his help and kindness.

DC
South Benfleet

I WOULD like to thank Dc Dominic Graham for his work, helping me and my family move on from the burglaries we encountered in Basildon.

When we first went ahead with the prosecution, I was not the most willing participant but Dc Graham helped me to realise that this would be the best for the community.

He was both professional in his approach and was very down to earth with what he explained.

He turned up at court to make sure all was alright for me and my wife and that says he is an asset to Essex Police.

When I have phoned to find out what is happening with the case, Dc Graham has been informative and very helpful.

Whatever he has said he would do, he has done. He has made a better life for me and my children - it has been a life-changing experience.

AA
via email

I AM writing regarding a Mental Health Act assessment I attended in the presence of four officers in Tilbury.

All four were extremely professional but Sgt Andrew

Sams and Pc Mark Weeble were outstanding. They were able to form a good rapport with the person being assessed, mindful of risk, ensuring that the situation remained calm.

They were incredibly empathetic and appeared to have comprehensive knowledge of dealing with people experiencing mental distress.

I was very impressed by their manner and feel that these officers really are a credit to Essex Police.

I thank them for their assistance in what could have been a difficult situation.

Community Mental Health Resource Centre for older people
South Essex Partnership NHS Trust
Grays

TO Grays Domestic Abuse and Hate Crime Unit

As you know, the police provide safe, stable and nurturing environments for people.

Your caring commitment is critical for ending the cycles of racial abuse, attacks or other issues which often prevent people from enjoying their community to the full.

We truly appreciate your dedication and hope you

recognise, as we do, the valuable role you play in building this community and making it a safe place for everyone.

It is through the positive efforts of people like you that can make a lifetime change for this community.

Adventural Travel
Tilbury

I AM writing to praise Sc Anthony Bishop and Sc Stephen Conroy when one of our company vehicles was attacked by a gang of youths hurling stones and missiles, causing damage to the bus. Our driver was quite shaken, although, luckily, no one was hurt.

The support that they showed was greatly appreciated and they travelled with our driver.

I would like to commend them both on their professionalism and thank them for the assistance that they gave. They were a credit to Essex Police.

Operations manager
Arriva Southern Counties
Southend

I WANT to thank Pc Lisa Staines and Pc Joe Anderson for the help and assistance they gave to my father. He

suffers from a form of dementia and went missing in Romford.

He was subsequently found by Pcs Staines and Anderson and taken to Grays police station. The officers kindly gave him refreshment and a dry top, as he was wet through and it had rained heavily.

Although my father is very confused about what happened that night, he does remember that the officers were very kind to him.

CC
Elm Park

MY son and I called into Grays police station to make a statement after he had been a victim of crime at university.

May I compliment Ann-Marie Fisher on the front desk and Pc Adam McRobbie, who took the statement.

My son was traumatised and very nervous about giving a statement. The kindness and professionalism of these two officers put him at ease and helped him through the process.

Pc McRobbie gave him some good advice, which he is now following.

AM
Grays

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



The work of officers and staff put forward for the awards demonstrated at least one of ACTION's six strands: Achievement focus; Customer first; Taking responsibility for performance; Inspiring high standards; Overcoming hurdles; Never accepting second-best.

The recipients were: Pc Jason Mowbrey, of Rayleigh Road Policing Unit (RPU); Pc Alex Black, of Chelmsford RPU; Simon

Willsher, of Chigwell RPU; Pc Christian Howell, of Canvey Neighbourhood Policing Team; Linda Farrell, of Crime Division; Merrilyn Fitch, of the Force Intelligence Bureau; Richard Hopkins, of Harlow workshop, Transport Services; Glenn Armstrong, of Laindon workshop, Transport Services; Amanda Tomlinson, of Communications Division; Anne White, of Communications Division; and Joanne Traynor, of Communications Division.

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- Repayments by **payroll deduction**
- Benefit from **life insurance** up to the age of 65 at no extra cost**
- We already serve **15 forces**
- We keep our overheads low but offer nationwide service from **nine regional offices**
- We're proud to serve Essex Police through a **dedicated address, telephone and email.**

The copper's new number one for unsecured loans.

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Tel: **0845 241 7509**
Email: essex@policecu.co.uk
Or visit our website: www.policecu.co.uk

**Life Insurance is offered subject to condition Loans subject to status, conditions and credit checks to persons aged 18 or over. Written quotations for loans available on request. The Police Credit Union is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.

Police Credit Union
Because there's strength in unity

Project teaches community about slave trade 'journey'

A NUMBER of libraries and museums hosted a unique community project devised by the Essex Black Police Association (EBPA) to enlighten schoolchildren and residents about the slave trade and its impact on the county and the force.

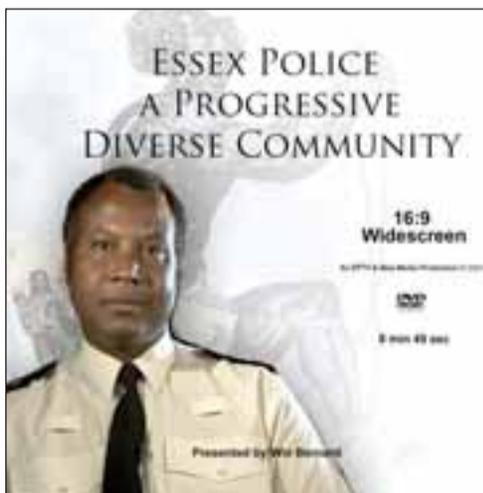
To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade, the EBPA joined forces with Epping Forest District Museum to commission the display *The Longest Journey: From Slavery To Abolition*, which presents music, photography, video and personal testimony.

The exhibition covered five key areas, focusing on Essex's roots to the slave trade and its connection with Essex Police, whose first chief constable was Admiral John McHardy.

As a naval officer, Admiral McHardy was described as "the terror of pirates and slaves" in the West Indies after capturing an infamous slave ship, the *Boladora*, in 1829.

Alongside this exhibition, the force has produced a DVD, presented by Chief Supt Win Bernard, Central's divisional commander.

The force's most senior black officer traces his own roots back to the West Indies slave



● Chief Supt Win Bernard's DVD, produced by the force's TV Unit

trade and examines how British society has evolved into a modern-day, diverse community.



Holiday lets

COSTA Blanca, La Marina, two-bed, two-bath villa. Sleeps four to six. From £175 per week discount for police. Ring Mick Ager on 07775 676142 or (+34) 617 110 096 or email casadomi02@hotmail.com

COSTA Blanca, Almoradi. Three-bed, two-bath apartment. From £200 per week. Contact Dave Ashpole on 07912 506620, 01702 201694 or dashpole@hotmail.com

COSTA Blanca Empuriabrava. Two-bedroom, waterfront apartment. Families welcome. Call Fiona on 07817 821316. or www.fiona@jemideas.co.uk

COSTA Blanca. Two-bedroom apartment. Sleeps six. From £110 per week. Phone 01702 531188.

EXECUTIVE Orlando villa. Four-bed, three-bath. Police discounts. Visit www.cranesorlandoretreat.com

FLORIDA, luxury, four-bed villa. Police discount. Free brochure. Contact Jill on 01702 586092 or visit www.my-florida-villa.net

FLORIDA, four-bedroom home. From £450 per week. Call Pete/Lin on 01245 321378 or email pete.wtaylor@yahoo.com

FLORIDA four-bedroom, three-bathroom villa. Contact Nicky Norris on 07792 031620 or visit www.casonaflorida.com

FLORIDA Sarasota villa recently renovated. Email Norma at norma.gill@comcast.net

FLORIDA, three bed, 2 bathroom villa. Visit www.hardysfloridavilla.co.uk or contact Keith or Diana Hardy on 01702 464358.

FRANCE, beamed stone cottage. Sleeps two to four. £150-£175 a week. Contact Emma on 07711 421579 or matt.smith1973@btinternet.com

FRANCE, large tranquil rural farmhouse near Gorrion in Loire. July 2 to July 16, 2008, only. £250 per week. Ring Phil Dawes on 0033 243007497.

LA MANGA Spain. 2 bedroom apartment. Quality accommodation well reported 2007. Low cost flights from Stansted. Contact Bernie on 079860 98422

LA TORRE golf resort, Murcia, Spain. Two-bedroom apartment. Contact Tina on 07752 290041 or doehmr@aol.com

NORTHERN France, three comfortably furnished gites/cottages, near the Somme. Ring 01375 483045 or visit www.le-petit-hameau.com

NORFOLK, superb holiday cottages, close to Norfolk attractions.

Long/short lets suitable for family/couples. Ring Gwen on 01508 489754.

ORLANDO, luxury villa, four bedrooms, three bathrooms, sleeps up to ten. Contact Alison and Michael on 01245 266949 or 01376 573406.

SOUTHERN Spain, Marbella, private villa with large luxury apartment. Sleeps six, three-bed, 1 ensuite. Contact www.owners direct.co.uk (ref S6911) for full details or email tailors@villapasatiempo.com

THREE-bedroom mobile home, Argelas Mer near Perpignan, South France. Early booking advised for school holidays. Ring 01206 304392.tailors@villapasatiempo.com

TURKEY, Side. Luxury two-bedroom, two-bathroom, ground floor apartment. From £225 per week. Contact Matt on 07957 151820 or oasisturkey@hotmail.co.uk

TUSCANY, Italy. Medieval village house. Four bedrooms. Visit www.tuscanlife.co.uk or phone 07976 720022.

WELLS-next-the-Sea, Norfolk. Victorian cottage. Winter and summer breaks available. Visit www.norfolkdreams.com or ring 07976 720022 for details.

For sale

MINI Mayfair, 1992 Rover, midnight blue. 67,000 miles, MoT June 2008. Classic car in excellent condition. £2,500 ono. Contact 0787 5835599.

FORD Galaxy, 1999, seven seat, 2.3 Zetec. Excellent condition, 63,000 genuine miles. Burgandy, CD airconditioning, all electric. Full MoT, new tyres, battery. Service history. £3,100 bargain. Ring 07976 065969.

For rent

DOUBLE room to rent in Thaxted. Police employees/specials preferred. Ring Joe for details on 07842 144928 or 01371 831216.

SOUTHEND/Rayleigh area, two-bed, two reception, semi-bungalow for rent. New kitchen, tumble drier, comprehensive modernisation. Contact Steve on 07930 927010.

Miscellaneous

TROUT fishing syndicate near Chelmsford has membership places on two lakes. Contact Bill Clark on 07793 064534 or bill.clark@tube.tsl.gov.uk

Tributes are paid to South Western quality controller

TRIBUTES have been paid to evidence file quality controller **Bill Spence**, who has died following an operation.

Mr Spence, 52, joined the force Staff Bank in 2000, working on Basildon Service Desk and in the Criminal Justice Department.

Two years later, he became an evidence file quality controller and moved back to Basildon.

He had served with British Transport Police from 1977 to 1999, retiring as a detective sergeant based at Euston police station.

Sgt Neil Barrett, of South Western Incident Management, said Mr Spence had suffered from a long-standing illness but it was a "true strength of his character" that he did not let it get him down.

"Throughout his time with this department, Bill's enthusiasm and commitment to his role was second to none.

"Whenever anyone had a question, he was always keen to assist, always replying with a smile.

"He had a great passion for the police service, being an avid collector of police badges, which adorned his office but his great love was for his children, Maisey and Grace. He would often talk about planning the next adventure with them.

"To the very end Bill was a true professional but more so a loving father who will be sorely missed by all."

Mr Spence leaves his partner Diane and two children from his first marriage, Alex and Emma.

Retirements

Pc **Rod Howell**, 49, retired from Western Professional Development Unit last month after 30 years with the force.

He served in a variety of roles, latterly in the Technical Support Unit,

Major Investigation Team at HQ, MICAS, Harlow, Brentwood, Ongar and Epping.

Administrator **Moira Bishop**, 61, has retired after serving the force for 19 years in Southend Criminal Justice Unit.

And communications officer **Sue Coley**, 60, retires on Christmas Eve after more than 11 years in the Force Information Room.

Obituaries

Former sergeant **John Jacobs**, of Chelmsford, aged 75, has died. He leaves a widow, Joan.

Mr Jacobs served from November 1952 to November 1982 at Halstead, Heybridge, Southminster and Clacton.

Donations may be made in his memory to Cancer Research UK c/o Leslie Barlow funeral directors, 98 Station Road, Clacton, Essex.

Ex-constable **Robert Cook**, of Canvey Island, has died, aged 63. He leaves a widow, Sandra.

Mr Cook served January 1964 to January 1991 at Canvey and Benfleet.

Former constable **Robert Meade**, of South Ockendon, has died, aged 73. He leaves a widow, Daphne.

Mr Meade served from 1960 to 1985 at Hornchurch, Harlow, Grays and South Ockendon.

Donations may be made in his memory to Cancer Research c/o West and Co. 28A High Street, Aveley, Essex, RM15 4AD.

Ex-constable **John Beckett**, of Leigh on Sea, has died, aged 73.

Mr Beckett served from October 1954 to August 1983 with the Southend Borough force and then at Leigh and Eastwood, in CID and with Rayleigh Traffic.

A memorial service will take place on a date yet to be decided.

Donations may be made in his memory to Macmillan Cancer

Support c/o Co-operative Funeral Service, 15 Queensway House, Southend, Essex.

Former constable **Ronald Norman**, of Blackpool, has died, aged 76. He leaves a widow Joan.

Mr Norman served from May 1958 to 1980 at Ongar, Romford, the Regional Crime Squad, and Colchester.

Donations may be made in his memory to the RNLI c/o D Hollowell and Son funeral directors, 497 Lytham Road, Blackpool, Lancashire, FY4 1RE.

Ex-constable **Francis (Frank) Wilkin**, of Leigh on Sea, has died, aged 78. He leaves a widow, Sybil.

Mr Wilkin served from November 1952 to January 1983 with the Southend Borough force and with Rayleigh Traffic.

Donations may be made in his memory to Cancer Research UK, c/o Stibbards and Son, 1032 London Road, Leigh on Sea, Essex, SS9 3ND.

Former constable **Peter Cable**, of Attleborough in Norfolk, has died, aged 78. He leaves a widow Ruth.

Mr Cable served from August 1949 to August 1977 with the Southend Borough force and with the traffic section.

Donations may be made in his memory to Diabetic Association, c/o Rosedale Funeral Home, Yard House, High Street, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 2EH.

Ex-constable **Charles Burt**, of Canvey Island, has died, aged 76. He leaves a widow, Eileen.

Mr Burt served from November 1956 to October 1982 at Romford, Benfleet, Takeley and Canvey Island.

He then became a warrant officer for the former Basildon Division, finally retiring in the early 1990s.

Donations may be made in his memory to the British Heart Foundation, c/o S Stibbards and Son, 22 Canvey Road, Canvey Island, Essex, SS8 0LW.

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE - ONE WORD PER BOX

Name and rank

Station Home tel.

Date Signed

Send to The Editor, The Law, Internal Communications, Essex Police HQ. Advertisers should be aware that The Law is now published on the internet and any telephone numbers given will be in the public domain. No internal or direct-dial work phone numbers should be given as contacts in the adverts. Only adverts from those directly connected to Essex Police (either serving or retired) will be accepted. Adverts should be restricted to a maximum of 24 words and repeat ads should be re-submitted on a monthly basis. The deadline is the 20th of each month. The Law team reserves the right to edit or omit any advert.

Top investigations award

A PRESTIGIOUS award for former senior investigating officer (SIO) Kevin Macey is, he insists, an acknowledgement of excellent work by Crime Division as a whole. Mr Macey received an award from the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Homicide Working Group for his distinguished career with the force as a senior detective. He was nominated by Head of Crime Det Chief Supt Wil Kennedy, who said: "Kevin is the most experienced senior detective within Essex Police, having been an SIO for a decade. "During this time, he dealt with more than 52 murders and attempted murders, together with a multitude of other investigations, which included many high profile cases such as the 2000 Stansted Airport hijacking, where he secured the conviction of nine people."

Mr Macey was also praised for his professionalism and for sharing his experience to the benefit of others by delivering training locally and at national level.

Det Chief Supt Kennedy summed him up as: "A consummate detective, respected by peers and subordinates alike."



● Kevin Macey, right, with Commander Dave Johnston, deputy chair of the ACPO Homicide Working Group, left, and former ACC Tony Rogers, now director of award-sponsor Servoca Dream

Mr Macey is now the head of the force's Major Crime Review Team. He said: "It is very flattering to receive an award such as this but I am only one part of all these investigations. It is very much team work and I have been fortunate to work with some very good people, so the accolade is shared by many."

More praise for getting the message over

THE force's neighbourhood policing communications programme has received another national accolade. The communications aspect of the neighbourhood policing programme was recognised at the Association of Police Public Relations Officers annual awards in the category of excellence in planned communication. Neighbourhood policing communications manager Daniel Lennox-Foreman said it was testament to the "tremendous enthusiasm and commitment" of front-line officers and staff plus the divisional media communications co-ordinators, who deliver locally-focused information to residents. Neighbourhood policing communications also received a gold award at the Chartered Institute of Public Relations annual awards last year.



Hockey team slots in 9 for emphatic win

CAPTAIN Gaz Ingram scored an incredible six goals in Essex's 9-1 demolition of Strathclyde in the first round of the PSUK men's hockey cup. Both teams looked strong, with players who represent the British Police team. Essex were put under pressure for the first ten minutes but then Ingram latched on to a good forward pass to score.

Five minutes later, he scored again from the first penalty corner. Another five minutes saw him repeat the feat for his hat-trick. He scored his fourth after collecting the ball in the middle of the pitch and weaving past several defenders.

He then subbed himself off, for Mark Shaw, who scored Essex's fifth.

Strathclyde rallied in the final ten minutes of the first half but Essex keeper and man of the match, Kevin Harvey, kept them out.

With a minute to go, Ingram subbed back on and scored a sixth goal immediately. Strathclyde scored straight after the break and Harvey was forced to make more saves.

Then debutant Grant Fryatt scored Essex's seventh, which inspired Matt Brown to score an eighth.

Finally, at the end, Strathclyde gave away a penalty and Ingram stepped forward to score his sixth and the team's ninth goal.

Keen competition for Ed Mansfield's trophy

THE 2007 Ed Mansfield League ended with Melbourne FC being crowned this year's winners.

The five-a-side league was set up as a tribute to Ed Mansfield, the force's chemist inspection officer, who died in December 2005.

Ed was a keen footballer/manager/referee/coach and had managed Broomfield FC. This year's summer tournament was organised by Darren Thomas, of Corporate

Development.

The games were played on the HQ pitches with the support of the Essex Police Sports Association, which supplied goals, flags and bibs.

This year, 21 teams entered, culminating in a hard-fought final between IT (1) and Melbourne FC.

Melbourne FC came out on top and were presented with their trophy by Bob Chatterton, the striker from last year's winners, FIB.



● Chris Arkley, Stuart Truss, Mark Gridley, Seff Manesh, Rob Gould, Leighton Hammett, Allen Long and Tony De Vries, of Melbourne FC, receive the Ed Mansfield trophy from FIB striker Bob Chatterton



● John Mackman with his two world championship medals

A double world champion after 18 months' training

JUST 18 months after he took up karate, John Mackman has become a double world champion.

John, 47, was competing in the Funakoshi Shokotan World Championships for the first time.

He took gold in the light-heavyweight Kata section – Kata is a set series of moves and forms – and gold in Kumite – fighting.

He has only been a member of the mid-Essex-based Tokon Kai Karate Association (TKKA) since January 2006 but carried out two and a half months of intense training after being picked for the squad.

John, who works in Harlow Incident Management Unit, is

already a fourth kyu (a purple belt with one white stripe) and is now working towards his brown belt.

"I am very proud of what I have achieved," he said.

John had been taking his son to karate lessons for a while when he suddenly thought 'why not?' because it was something he had wanted to do himself for years.

Now he is busy training for the 2008 world championships but feels it will be tougher to repeat his achievements as he will be competing at a higher level.

John was one of two from the TKKA squad who won two golds – the total medal haul was 46.

Russ steps in to help

CRIME Division's Russ Welch stepped in when achilles problems prevented Mick Bond, of Central Division, from representing the PSUK cross-country team.

Welch finished 23rd overall and completed the winning police team ahead of the fire and prison services and the RAF in Buckinghamshire last month.

Bond was originally selected because of his win in the Veterans' over-50 (V50) category in the PSUK 10-mile run, which the force hosted in September.

Welch, Bond and Derek Walker have all been selected for the next representative fixture at RAF Halton next month.

A marathon

COLCHESTER service desk assistant Derek Walker was the sixth Briton home in last month's Florence Marathon.

He came 287th out of more than 6,200 entrants to the Italian event in a time of two hours 59 mins and 4 secs.

Afterwards, he said: "No more marathons for a long time. I'm looking forward to watching everyone else in April."



● Kerrie Barkway ext 58883

Odeon/UCI Cinemas and Cineworld child voucher scheme launch

GIVEN the success of the subsidised voucher scheme launched earlier this year, the Essex Police Sports Association has decided to purchase bulk orders of child admission vouchers for both the Odeon/UCI group and Cineworld.

These vouchers are valid for children up to 14. Child vouchers can now be purchased from EPSA at £3 each, saving at least £2 per child ticket.

As with the adult tickets, EPSA will sponsor every tenth ticket, so, if you want to buy ten child tickets at a time, it will cost you £27.

The tenth free ticket will also apply to mixed orders of child and adult tickets, dependent on the luck of the draw. As with the adult vouchers, the child vouchers can be exchanged for a standard seat only.

For all other conditions, visit the EPSA webpage, click on Member Benefits, then Cinemas and Theatres.

To order vouchers, email Kerrie Barkway with your requirements, specifying whether you need Odeon or Cineworld.

Payment is by cash or by cheque, made payable to EPSA and sent to the Sports Pavilion at HQ.

A perfect start to the season as runners sweep the board

ESSEX had a perfect start to the south-east region police cross-country season – sweeping the board in all three competitions.

The men's, women's and veterans' teams all took first place – the men were undefeated in every regional fixture last winter, too.

Hosts Sussex switched the Deanne Park course back to its old route, which includes a steep hill on each lap, but also takes in an enjoyable woodland section.

The winner of the women's race was never in doubt as Kate Swanson (City of London) led from start to finish and even headed the whole field in the early stages.

But it was Essex who had the strength in depth and claimed an early lead in the team competition, thanks to the efforts of Rachel Wood in fourth place, Stacey Cock in sixth and Pauline Bowers in ninth.

It was much the same in the men's race, as Ben Whitby (City of London) had an easy win, followed

home by Essex pair Russ Welch and Derek Walker.

With Dan Sorrell sixth & Mick Bond seventh – also first veteran over-50 home (V50), the team win again was secured.

Tony Benjamin was placed ninth – and second in the V40 race – and John Jackson 14th – fourth in the V40 – which completed the veterans' team and Essex's hat-trick.

● THE Essex men's cross-country team continued their winning run with a second straight win – out of two – at Richmond Park in south-west London. However, the women had to settle for second place this time and the veterans slipped to third.

As well as the overall team results, there were some great performances, particularly by those making their Essex debut – the future certainly looks healthy.

Kate Swanson (City of London) got a shock to find herself under pressure from Essex newcomer Wendy King and only pulled away in the closing stages.

Rachel Wood was slightly down on her usual placing, in eighth, and Di Frew was back in action,

in tenth place, bringing the team home to a solid second place.

Men's winner Ben Whitby (City of London), a former international 3,000m steeplechaser, cruised to his second straight victory.

Exchanging their first race places, Essex pair Derek Walker and Russ Welch filled second and third.

Having improved with every race last winter, Dan Sorrell, who took fifth, looks set to continue in the same vein this season.

Showing huge potential on his debut, Richard Matthews, ninth, could really make a big impact in this sport, should he be lured away from his first love of cycling.

Still restricted by his latest achilles problems, Mick Bond – tenth and first V50 – made a cautious start before slowly moving through the field.

Other Essex results were: 20 Dave Browning; 21 Ian Jeppard; 25 John Mackenzie (3 in V50); 30 Pete Bryan (5 in V50); 31 Terry Balding; 33 Courtney Cowell; 34 Dave Willis; 35 Mike Monkton; and 37 Sean Judge.

Swim wins

STANSTED'S Brett Lummis took several medals in the ASA National Masters short-course swimming championships.

He won a gold in the 4 x 50m mixed medley relay, breaking the British record.

Brett also won a silver in the 50m breaststroke and bronze medals in the 100m breaststroke and the 100m individual medley. More than 100 people entered each event.

Force Information Room retains its lucky streak

THE winner of the November lottery draw, picking up £3,000, was Nick Milbank, of the Force Information Room.

Second prize, of £1,000, went to Sgt Chris Hennessy, of Essex Police College, and the £500 third prize went to Sgt Mike Suley, of Clacton.

The winners of the £100 prizes were: Jenny Grantham, of the PNC Bureau; Pc Samantha Turner, of Basildon; Pc Michael Bridge, of Laindon Road Policing Unit (RPU); John Gwillim, of Clacton; Dave Innes, of Southend; Pc Ashley Sandford, of Braintree; Dc Karen Hills, of Brentwood

SOC'D Investigations; Frankie Wells, of Brentwood; Pc Daniel Phipps, of Western Professional Development Unit (PDU); Sgt Darren Worsey, of Chelmsford; and David Keenan, of Corporate Development. The winners of the £50 prizes were: Pc Dale Copley, of the Mounted Unit; Pc Steve Buscall, of Chelmsford; Dc Dave Nash, of Crime Division; Pc Andrew Kettle, of South Woodham Ferrers; Pc Mark Rickwood, of Loughton; DI Lee Davies, of Stansted Airport; Pc Roy Keyes, of Laindon RPU; David Bright, retired; Pc Paul Gridley, of

Essex Police College; Pc Daniel Bray, of South Eastern PDU; Suzanne Brazier, of Crime Division; Pc Steven Catton, of Rayleigh RPU; Albert Horne, retired; and Michael Keogh, retired. Winners of Benenden Healthcare teddy bears were: Gina McEvoy, of the Camera Enforcement Office; Pc Tina Clothier, Stanway RPU; Sue Thomas, Crime Division; Pc Leila Pidgeon, of Chelmsford; Dc Alex Gartshore, of Rayleigh; and Ds Stephen Jennings, of Stanway Major Investigation Team.

Highways benefit from hi-tech equipment

ESSEX is the first force to use new state-of-the-art technology which helps to keep drivers moving by reducing the time that a motorway or major route needs to be closed after a serious road traffic collision. Global positioning system (GPS) satellite-enabled equipment, provided by the Highways Agency, enables police officers to make a virtual map of a crash scene much more quickly than in the past. It also helps them to gather vital evidence and get motorists back on the road sooner.

In a recent case on the M11 near Harlow, where a coach overturned, our Collision Investigation Team was able to survey the scene in ten minutes while Highways Agency Traffic Officers (HATOs) used a rolling block to stop traffic temporarily. This saved about two hours – previously, a full road-closure would have been put in place to allow the team to set up equipment in order to gather evidence.

Collision Investigation Team Sgt Richard Raker said: "This new technology is allowing us to speed up our investigations. "We can survey the scene while the recovery vehicles are still there as we do not require a direct line of sight."

Central's first 'crack' at problem

BADDOW Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) notched up the first crack house closure for Central Division last month. Local residents too scared to give evidence against anti-social behaviour were spared by a superb evidence file submitted by police and housing officers. Chelmsford Magistrates' Court heard how the house in The Chase, Great Baddow, had been used for the supply, use and production of class A drugs. The serious nuisance and disorder caused was blighting local residents' lives. Sgt Nikki Gander, of Baddow NPT, said: "The beauty of the legislation allows us to give evidence on residents' behalf. "Local residents lived in fear of what would happen next and could not be happier now that their neighbourhood has been returned to the peace and tranquility they once had."

Have you an interesting story to tell? If so, ring editor Heather Turner on ext 55819

Brave staff wade in to save the public

PCSO Andy Hill did not hesitate when called upon to rescue two men left stranded in their sinking car in south-east Essex.

The drama unfolded on Wallasea Island during extremely high tides, which saw PCSOs Andy Hill and Faye Mills on routine patrol.

They came across two men who were trying to free themselves from their Audi A8, which was floating in 4ft of water after the road had suddenly flooded.

PCSO Hill waded through the water and helped to drag the men on to dry land where PCSO Mills helped them to dry off.

She then drove the men to a local marina where they changed into dry clothes.

The men, aged 24 and 44, both from London, were uninjured.

PCSO Hill said: "The conditions were very blustery and the water was ice-cold, but I had no hesitation in wading through as the level only came up to my chest.

"My colleague Faye watched my back as I went to the men's aid.

"The two men were extremely grateful

As PCSO helps to rescue two men stranded in a sinking car, analyst steps in between young girl and a rottweiler

and bought some new clothes, before stating that we had saved their lives."

Rochford inspector Richard Baxter said: "Both these PCSOs did a marvellous job. They are a credit to this force."

● KEEN cyclist Will Cubbin also did not hesitate when he saw a woman calling for help.

Crime Division analyst Will followed her along a path towards Norsey Woods in Billericay, where he saw a rottweiler trying to attack a two-year-old girl.

Another man was already trying to distract the dog with a piece of wood.

Will forced his mountain bike between the dog and the girl, who was being carried by her uncle.

"I didn't really think about it, you follow your first reaction, which was to save the girl," said Will, a member of the force mountain biking team.

"I didn't want to get bitten and I didn't want the girl to get hurt."

His actions were successful and the first man and a fellow cyclist were then able to distract the dog while the man and his niece took refuge in the women's toilets at the Norsey Wood Information Centre.

The dog was then guided into the men's toilet and Will was able to shut the door.

The girl suffered lacerations and a bite wound to her lower legs.

Basildon district commander Chief Insp Mark Wheeler was in the vicinity at the time and was called to the incident.

He said: "I thought we would turn up to find out it was more horrific than it was.

"If Will and the members of the public had not intervened when they did, it could have been much worse.

"Will was brave and selfless – it typified the spirit of Essex Police employees."

● The dog has now been destroyed



● PCSO Caroline Booth with her 'get well' card

Picture courtesy of the Maldon and Burnham Standard

Youngsters wish local PCSO well

A PCSO was touched when she received a 'get well' card from local residents on her patch.

PCSO Caroline Booth, of Maldon Neighbourhood Policing Team, had had a fall at home and injured her back.

The many youngsters who gather in the Falcon Fields area of the town during the evenings, together with a local resident, sent a 'get well' card when they heard that Caroline was off sick.

The card was on her desk when she returned to work and she was very touched by all the kind comments the youngsters had made.

Maldon district commander Chief Insp Craig Robertson said: "At Maldon, we have made youth engagement one of our key priorities.

"Calls regarding nuisance and minor anti-social behaviour have dropped in Maldon this year – much of this is down to the good work done by Caroline and her colleagues in getting to know young people and establishing good relationships with them whilst ensuring that their activities give people no reason to complain.

"The kindness shown to Caroline demonstrates how effective this approach can be."

Seven commended for 'complex' case

SEVEN officers and staff have been commended for the part they played in investigating the case of a body found in a car boot in Southend two and a half years ago.

The septet from Rayleigh Major Investigation Team were praised for their hard work during Operation Parasol, the inquiry into the murder of Lithuanian Inge Losiene.

Senior Investigating Officer Det Supt Simon Dinsdale, together with Ds Paul Lopez, Ds Nick Stoneman, Dc Paul

Byrne, Dc Paul Gould and investigating officers Wendy Napper and Julia Alger received their commendations from Chief Constable Roger Baker.

The five officers and two members of police staff were commended for their professionalism, tenacity, investigative skills and attention to detail displayed during the operation into the Inge's murder in Southend in May 2005.

The investigation was both problematic and complex, involving witnesses from Lithuania, Iraq, Poland and Portugal,

some of whom gave evidence at the trial.

In July 2006, Inge's partner, Faruk Farik, was found guilty of murder and of committing three sexual offences.

He received a sentence of life imprisonment with a recommendation that he serve 20 years.

Trial judge Mr Penry-Davey thanked the investigation team for their expert and skillful investigation and complimented the outstanding level of understanding and care which, he said, had been shown to all witnesses.

Airport probe of baggage handling theft reaps results

THE largest proactive operation ever conducted at Stansted Airport concluded last month when a baggage handler was sentenced to eight months in jail.

Operation Bruno was instigated following numerous passenger complaints over missing items from luggage in transit.

Lasting almost two years, the operation involved intelligence-gathering as well as undercover and high-visibility policing.

The number of items stolen soared as anti-terrorist measures were implemented and Operation Bruno moved up a gear, which led to 23 arrests and 19 house raids.

Former baggage-handler Adam Roberts, 22, of Braintree, appeared at Chelmsford Crown Court and admitted three counts of handling stolen goods and one of theft.

Investigating officer Ds Vic Murphy said he was satisfied with the result and the message it sent.

"Adam Roberts was part of an organised group of criminals who targeted passengers, stealing cigarettes, alcohol and electrical equipment," said Ds Murphy.

"He and his fellow thieves betrayed the trust that was given to them as baggage-handlers and, as such, they have been disbanded, resulting in a virtual wipe-out of such crime.

"Fifteen other employees lost their jobs after admitting to theft and being cautioned. Notwithstanding the 20-odd detections, we have emphasised the fact that Stansted is a safe airport."

● THANKS to some great detective work, one of the victims was reunited with her camera and the pictures the thieves had deleted – the only photographs of her daughter's birth and first year.

But officers managed to access all the photographs and traced her through the picture of a car, which showed her registration plate.

Cadet scheme award praise

THE force's cadet scheme has been shortlisted for a national award.

Managed by Natalie Foster, accreditation and cadets manager at Essex Police College, the scheme was short-listed for programme of the year at the National Force Training Managers Conference.

Sir Ken Macdonald, the Director of Public Prosecutions, spoke and presented the award, which was won by Hertfordshire Police.

The force's head of training, Pankajni Trivedi, said: "Apparently it was a close thing and we will be doing our best to win next year."