Police officers and PCSOs are ‘just doing their job’ IFFESAVERS!

by Nishan Wijeratne & Denise Harvey

ESSEX police officers and PCSOs stepped in to save the lives of at least three members of the public in just five days last month.

In the first incident, in Harlow on December 21, a PCSO administered cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to a member of the public who had collapsed.

On Boxing Day morning, two constables rescued a man from his burning kitchen in Clacton.

And at 1pm the same day, a Stanway road policing officer was able to administer a life-saving injection to a motorist who had suffered a hypoglycaemic attack.

PCSO Burt had taken first aid, both during his PCSO training and on an FA coaching course. And it was not the first time he had had to put his knowledge into practice.

Two and a half years ago, his wife suffered a heart attack after going into anaphylactic shock.

“At the time, I panicked, although I had trained. It was easier this time because I didn’t know the man and I just went into robot mode,” said PCSO Burt.

PCSO Burt had taken first aid, both during his PCSO training and on an FA coaching course. And it was not the first time he had had to put his knowledge into practice. Two and a half years ago, his wife suffered a heart attack after going into anaphylactic shock.

By now I was really worried for him. I gave a hard push on his chest area and the man gave an inward gasp.

“I can’t express how I felt at that point – it was extremely emotional. I placed him in the recovery position until the ambulance crew arrived to take over.”

Local shoppers stepped in to help protect the man’s head by placing blankets so he was comfortable before an ambulance crew took him to the town’s Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Then the PCSOs resumed their patrol. Later the same day, police switchboard operators took a call from a consultant at the hospital’s resuscitation department stating how much he appreciated the officer’s quick actions, that the thump on the chest had started the man’s heart again and that the man would not be alive had it not been for the PCSO’s quick response.

The man who was taken ill was back at home and recovering by December 27.

PCSO Burt said: “I think anyone who come across a situation like that would have done the same thing.

“I am just glad that I was in the right place at the right time to help.”

PC Brooker, 26, is one of only four road policing officers in the county who is trained as an advanced medic – having qualified just six months ago.

At the time, he had on board his patrol car his specialist medic’s kit.

He said: “I completed a basic patient assessment and ruled out any other life-threatening injuries, then I used some diagnostic equipment and discovered the man had a low blood sugar level.”

Although Pc Brooker has completed several day-long attachments with the ambulance service, this was the first life-threatening situation he had faced on his own.

The driver recovered, although he had sustained a minor injury in the crash, which was treated by paramedics at the scene, before he was taken to Colchester General Hospital for further treatment and released a few hours later.

East of England Ambulance Service personnel have commended Pc Brooker for his actions, indicating that the “incident could have been more serious”.

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Pc Barry dragged the 52-year-old man out of the flat and Pc Howe helped to get him down the stairs. She also evacuated the building, helping six people, including a baby, outside.

The man was treated in Colchester General Hospital before being discharged.

The two officers were also taken to hospital, suffering from smoke inhalation but returned to normal duties the following day.

Pc Howe, who has been with the force just 18 months, said afterwards she had been shaken by the incident – the most dramatic in her career to date. “It sank in afterwards. Other officers have been saying how well we have done but it is just our job.”

Pc Barry, who has just over two year’s service, said he had dragged the man out because he had been rather unsteady on his feet.

“I did not know what to expect when we went in – whether he would be conscious or unconscious,” he added.

A ROAD policing officer from north-east Essex was praised by paramedics after saving the life of a motorist who had become hypoglycaemic.

He was able to inject the 24-year-old driver with glucagon, a glucose solution.

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New year, new you

Do you fancy a fitness challenge? …

CRIMESTOPPERS would like to recruit police officers and police staff to run the Flora London Marathon 2008 to raise vital funds. The gruelling 26.2-mile event has been dubbed the world’s greatest race and is the ultimate challenge for many.

This year, however, the challenge takes on an even bigger importance as 2008 is the 20th anniversary of the Crimestoppers charity – the only one which allows people to give information anonymously about crime.

Crimestoppers has a small number of Gold Bond places available, which guarantee runners a place at the start. All Crimestoppers asks in return is for a firm commitment from each runner to raise £1,200.

Crimestoppers’ fund raising team is on hand to offer ideas on how to raise this sum.

- For details on how to secure a place and for fund raising tips, call the Crimestoppers events team on 020 8254 4200 or email events@crimestoppers-uk.org

DC Sam Garwood has always wanted to run the London Marathon and is training hard for her marathon debut in April.

The catalyst was her 30th birthday this month, which made her look at her achievements so far.

Although Sam will have passed the 30-mark she anticipates crossing the finishing line in around four hours.

Sam is running for Whizz Kids, a charity which gives disabled children the freedom to enjoy an active childhood by providing them with customised mobility equipment.

The equipment allows the children to enjoy a more active childhood and realise their full potential.

Sam is hoping to raise over £2,000 to pay for a customised, powered wheelchair that will provide a disabled child with independent mobility.

- To sponsor Sam, you can do so online at www.justgiving.com/samanthagarwood or by contacting her on ext 75611 or via email at samantha.garwood@essex.pnn.police.uk

... Sam is going for the marathon

Resolving to have a happy New Year

IF you, like many others, are fed up with being a smoker and are really motivated to give up, you may find it easier to enlist the support of a smoking cessation service.

Research has shown that people using smoking cessation services are more likely to quit smoking for good.

Such a service is currently available at HQ Occupational Health on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Health surveillance nurse Jacqui De La Salle qualified last year as a smoking cessation advisor with the Mid-Essex Stop Smoking Service.

A 20-a-day smoker for ten years she knows how hard it is to give up smoking because she worked in the health service and knew how bad the habit was for her. However, she finally quit and has been smoke-free for many years.

The free service involves counselling and support, with discussions about smoking history, the ‘triggers’ for smoking and how to change routine to avoid temptation.

Jacqui said: “During the first meeting, strategies for giving up are discussed, including the need for nicotine replacement therapy, which is generally recommended.

“If nicotine replacement therapy is agreed, then smokers will be referred to their GP, who can prescribe the recommended therapy.”

Smokers can make arrangements to see their counsellor once every one or two weeks for support and encouragement and to review the nicotine replacement therapy.

- To make an appointment, or to find out about other options to help you quit smoking, contact health surveillance nurse Jacqui De La Salle on ext 58611 or 58614

Championing a green cause

THE New Year is upon us again and it’s time to make those New Year resolutions.

I make a plea for the planet and suggest that some of you could become environmental champions to ensure that Essex Police recycles all its waste and saves energy wherever possible.

There is a tendency to wait for others to set up systems so I suggest that our New Year’s resolution should be to be the driving force for a more environmentally-friendly Essex Police.

- Contact Ian on ext 50732 or email him at ian.mott@essex.pnn.police.uk if you want to volunteer

NEW Year should be a time of fresh hope and aspiration.

And the Police Credit Union is encouraging police officers and staff and their families – retired police officers can join too – to take control of their financial affairs. Because the credit union is owned and controlled by its members, it exists only to serve their needs.

It keeps its monies within the police family, because there are no outside shareholders to pay and those who save know that the only people who are benefiting are their work colleagues.

The credit union offers Essex Police employees payroll deduction opportunities to save and borrow at sensible rates. Life insurance is provided on savings and loans at no extra cost, up to the age of 65.

- For more information, call 0845 241 7509, visit www.policecu.co.uk or email essex@policecu.co.uk
Putting the jigsaw together

A Lithuanian lorry driver has been found guilty of smuggling 56 Chinese illegal immigrants in a lorry.

Case officer De Angela Hastings began to review hours of CCTV footage around the South-East – at the start of the most complex case in which she had ever been involved.

Det Supt Tucker's previous role had been as head of the UK liaison bureau for Europol in The Hague and his contacts were to prove invaluable.

Georgji Negatin, described by his former employers as 'a sly fox', was a wanted man.

The Hague and his contacts were to prove invaluable.

A Day In The Life Of... are now available forcewide following their debut screenings at the ACTION roadshows, which focus on customer service. The standards also tell the public what they, in turn, can expect from the force.

De Hastings said: "This has been the most complex investigation of my career – fascinating, frustrating and stressful at times but ultimately enjoyable.

"It has taken me to Denmark, Holland and Belgium on enquiries and we have had excellent support from many organisations and forces."
An improved offer but ‘oh dear’...

At the time of writing these notes, police staff have just learned of the improved pay offer by the employers’ side of 2.5 per cent, vitally backdated to September 1, 2007.

The acceptance or otherwise of this offer will rest on the result of a ballot but it seems likely that it will be accepted.

But whilst we all feel pleased with the result of our ballot for a fair settlement – a settlement that goes some way to reflect the vital role we all play in today’s ever-changing society – we can’t help feeling left wondering about the appalling way that our employers were treated by the same government that claims to be a supporter of effective law and order.

Unison has called on the Home Secretary to honour the arbitration award already agreed for the police officers.

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Corner the chairman

Essex Police Authority chairman
Robert Chambers

Pay issue ends the year on a very sour note

THE last year, like most years, has been a difficult one but, I believe, very successful. We at Essex Police Authority are both proud and grateful to all people in Essex Police service for their hard work and dedication over the past year.

Having said that, the year is finishing on a very sour note.

The Home Secretary, having managed to avoid a pay rise for sworn officers, has refused to backdate it to September 1, 2006, thus reducing a 2.5 per cent increase to a mere 1.9 per cent.

Why she is doing this, who knows?

It is, in my opinion, politically very foolish, as I believe that all police authorities have budgeted for 2.5 per cent, so the money is already there.

In this time of instability in the world – from Iran and Iraq to Afghanistan and Pakistan – the one thing in the world which is acknowledged to be the best – the British police service – is being seriously undermined and the peace of mind of the British public could be dramatically affected.

I, as chairman of Essex Police Authority, will do all I can to ensure that the police officers get what is rightfully theirs.

May I finish by wishing all personnel within Essex Police service a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Have a ‘heart’

A CENTRAL inspector is appealing to force employees to ‘have a heart’ and help him to raise money for the British Heart Foundation.

In 2007, Insp Paul Bartlett collected almost 200 old mobile phones, raising more than £700 for the charity.

And with many people having received new mobile phones for Christmas, he begged: ‘Don’t throw the old one in the drawer never to see the light of day again – if you send them to me I will forward them for recycling.’

Inspector Paul on ext 63122 or package up your phone and put it on the mail run to him at Brantree police station.

Our soccer stars pull out all the stops for Arron

by Bill Stock

MORE than £4,000 was raised for partner officer Insp Pat Mahoney during a remarkable five-a-side soccer event that brought out the best in Essex Police teamwork.

Hundreds of people rallied to support the ‘Finest in Football’ team, who suffered serious neck injuries during a rugby match last year.

Officers and staff from Arron’s South Western Division worked together to organise the event and to raise money by charging teams an entry fee and by selling food, drinks and hundreds of tickets for a huge raffle.

A total of 36 teams were formed to do battle in a contest that was as light-hearted as it was serious – although the regular players quickly got through to the later rounds.

Some of the ‘fun’ teams had trouble counting and it was not unusual to see more than eight players on the pitch at any time. Les’s Ladies, a team from Basildon Service Desk, set a record by playing the whole squad of eight, plus manager Les Champman. ‘We are a team. We like to stay together, especially on the pitch,’ joked Les.

The majority of teams were from South Western but there were entries from across the county and two from the Metropolitan Police.

The starspans, in terms of vocal support from fans, were South Western Command Team’s Ain’t Half Hot, Ma’am squad, dressed in bargy shorts and wartime green Army singlets and with nicknames including Wobbly, Ossie, Cutters, Dobbie, La-di-da and Gunner Carey emblazoned on the backs.

Team founder and fan of the It Ain’t Half Hot Mum TV series, Chief Supt Simon Coxall, was unable to play due to duty commitments but Insp Pat Mahoney stood in for him in goal and the team was joined by ACC Derek Benson, who played in three matches.

He was one of the first casualties after being floored during a tackle by a PCSO from the all-girl Wick Chicks team. But the ACC was quickly cured with some muscle manipulation by Pc Marchi.

The tournament, at Southend on Sea, was won by The Men In Tights, a team from Epping led by district commander Chief Insp For Harvey, who beat The Seashiners, from Southend, 7-2 in the final.

Event organiser Pc Colin Ellis said: ‘I wish to thank everyone who came to play or watch and made this a unique event to help one of our colleagues.’

A special video of the event and dozens of photographs will be sent to Arron. Chief Supt Coxall said: ‘The tournament was inspired by the bravery of one of our own – Arron Williams – as he daily meets the challenges of severe injuries received earlier in the year. He is an example to us all and it was tremendously satisfying to see such camaraderie displayed by so many in joining together to support him.

‘I know from the many I’ve spoken to how enjoyable a time was had by all. And for me and everyone on South Western Division it marks a tremendous tribute to Arron’s ongoing struggle to see such a team together, dedication and loyalty from all corners of the county.

Confronting issues of domestic abuse

A DOMESTIC homicide where the victim’s neck was almost severed is one of efficient officers who introduced Domestic Abuse and Hate Crime Units (DAHCUs).

The victim had been the subject of previous attacks but when officers arrived at her house following another call, she had only wanted the matter recorded and so they noted the incidents in their pocket books.

There was no risk assessment process at that time.

Following the introduction of DAHCUs in 2005, a new project, concentrating on the victims and offenders who present the greatest risks, is being piloted in Western and South Western divisions to try to stop the cycle of domestic abuse.

Perpetrators of domestic abuse choose to target their victim – who may be their partner, spouse or children but, increasingly, it can be parents and grandparents – before moving on to strangers.

Officers attending a domestic incident must consider the background of the case – easily done by asking the Force Information Room to carry out an intelligence and check on the address in question. Nowadays, it is not down to the victim to choose whether any action is taken against the perpetrator.

If there is enough evidence to take a crime report then there is enough evidence to make an arrest.

Head of Public Protection DCl Ewen Wilson said: ‘The completion of a risk assessment DVI is most important to the new approach as the submission of this booklet will mean action is taken quickly.’

‘Using performance information will mean not just looking at numbers but turning information into something more meaningful.’

A central multi-agency action plan template, supported by senior officers, detective chief inspectors and DAHCUs, has been devised to reduce the number of high-risk victims by using a sustain- able solution and not treating an incident as a one-off.

Officers attending a domestic incident must gather all the evidence available to them at the time.

They must obtain a good account and record it and look at other sources of evidence, such as photographs, because an outline of events can be important before the victim either forgets or later changes their mind about giving evidence.

DCl Wilson said that in 95 per cent of cases the children were either in the same room or the next room when domestic abuse took place.

‘Children in domestic abuse situations and child abuse often go hand in hand and lead to poor-performing children,’ he said.

If the victim is too drunk or high on drugs to look after the children after an incident, then officers need to ensure that a Public Protection Order is taken out or the victim chooses someone responsible who can look after them.

DCl Wilson added: ‘When looking after high-risk victims, officers need to look outside the box and use an holistic approach using neighbourhood policing teams (NPTs) to disrupt the perpetrator’s lifestyle. Linking-in to schools and colleges can also bring results,’ he said.

The tactical and tasking co-ordinating group (TTCG) can also be approached for more resources.

About six murders a year in Essex arising from domestic abuse, the importance of stopping people becoming high-risk repeat victims in the home.

Press officer Heather Watts talks to the head of public protection DCI Ewen Wilson about what is being done in force to try to prevent such abuse.

Roads safer in 2007

THE number of people killed or seriously injured on Essex roads fell significantly last year.

In 2007, 83 people died and 914 people were seriously injured compared to 106 deaths and 1,072 serious injuries in 2006.

Chief Supt Michael Thwaites, Mobile Support Divisional Commander, said: ‘We have settled a pay rise for sworn officers, has

Off Beat

A LEARNER driver crashed her car in Danbury on the way to take her driving test.

The Vauxhall Corsa hit the kerb before colliding with traffic lights in Maldon Road.

Not only were the lights damaged, a road sign and a keep-left bollard were also demolished.

THIEVES didn’t quite get the festive message when they stole a sheep just three days before Christmas.

The rare grey-face Dartmoor ewe went missing from the Salvation Army Farm in Benfleet overnight on December 21.
Neighbourhood policing moves forward

January 2007

ESSEX Police appointed its first woman chief officer, Assistant Chief Constable Carmel Napier.

February 2007

Two districts – Southend and Basildon – were named in a report as Area Champions in the Police Authority's 10th year of funding, which aimed to tackle serious crime.

The Greater Essex Crime Task Force, a partnership of local authorities and the police, was launched.

Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers paid fitting tribute to nine police officers who had died in the line of duty.

March 2007

POLICE officers and staff raised £9,000 for Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers by taking part in a day of sport against cancer.

A Brighton Police officer was commended for the way he led traffic in Basildon to control last year's car次要

April 2007

CHRISSIE helping pop lady Moody about from the cold.

The final video message from Henry, Ton, Davey, and Dommo was played on a television screen in the Essex Police Authority's offices.

May 2007

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Letters

HAVE YOUR SAY: Write to Heather Turner, Letter, Publications Unit, Police HQ, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0DA 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. The deadline is the 20th of each month.

We reserve the right to edit or omit letters. Please be aware The Law is reproduced on the internet and circulated to the media.

We need a national police force

IF the Ipswich prostitute murdered, the shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes and now the bodies in Kent don’t ring the bell for a national police force or, at the very least, regional then I don’t know what does.

The Suffolk and Kent inquiries needed the help of every other police force in the country with resources, intelligence and media.

It goes without saying that, once you are in another police area, the chances of you knowing the territory, people and places are almost impossible and therefore to attempt to speak with any authority is an impossible task to trouble.

The sooner we have a complete overhaul of the police system of the 21st century – and not a Royal Commission – to decide what is right for those who is guilty to lead it rather than manage it and where it is going, the better.

Bob Miller
Chelmsford

Why not write and tell the editor what you think?
The deadline is the 20th of every month.

Mentoring is not the answer to the problem of criminality

HAVING recently spent six years on the wings and landings of an HM Young Offenders Institution (YOI), I have to take issue with Bob Miller’s letter — Mentoring could help to lower prison population.

The current Lord Chief Justice, Lord Phillips, like his immediate predecessor Lord Lloyd, seems to be more concerned with the human rights of serial and violent offenders than with those of victims of crime and it is widely accepted that community service sentences do not work as offenders fail to turn up.

Mentoring of convicts has been tried in prisons for some years. The trouble is that mentors — most often women — do not seem to carry out this voluntary duty for long for various reasons. The same seems to be true for female teachers in prison educational facilities.

A former senior probation officer and NCJS criminal intelligence analyst, David Fraser has said crimes “are dangerous, greedy, selfish acts committed as a matter of free choice by criminals who need to be stopped and imprisoned, so the public are protected from them.”

Alone on 11 hours-plus night duty shifts, week on, week off, I spent most nights tiptoeing around a cell to cell, gathering information on planned criminal activities which would resume as soon as their all-too-soon releases from custody would be effected.

Bob Miller
Chelmsford

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Letters

Miss Butler set us the standards

I WAS interested to read the two letters about ex-Supt Olive Butler in last month’s issue of The Law.

I am also very saddened to learn of her death, especially as I had visited her fairly recently in the home at Danbury where she had been for some time.

I would like to add that, when I joined the Essex and Southend Constabulary in 1970, Miss Butler was then Chief Inspector of the Police Women’s Department and a stalwart supporter at all police women’s events — ie hockey matches and first aid tendent.

Senior male officers also always appeared to have a high regard for her.

Rosie Palmer
Ardsleigh

IN the last issue of The Law, the editor bemoaned the fact that she was not given enough information about recently deceased colleagues.

This was followed by the obituary column, which noted the deaths of constables 107 and 249 of the Southend Borough Constabulary, whose funerals took place within two hours of each other. Each service had its own highlights.

John Beckett was awarded the Queen’s Commendation for Bravery after an incident at Eastwood and his name appeared in the London Gazette in April 1965.

A certificate, signed by then Prime Minister Harold Wilson, hung in his home.

Others may be able to tell you more of that incident.

He is shown, right, receiving the award from Sir John Ruggles-Brise, the then Lord Lieutenant of Essex, watched over by the late J Daniel Devlin, author of books on police procedure.

To the left of the picture, you can just see the Sgt Sam Perry, who was about to receive the British Empire Medal for the same incident.

Frank Wilkin had a notorious sense of humour. Having conceived a hatred for a tree which left all its leaves over all his garden, his relatives bought him a machine to suck them up.

He phoned them the following year to complain that it did not work. They expressed surprise as it was new. “Yes,” he said, “I pointed it at the tree but nothing happened.”

Fred Feather
via email

‘Grumpy’ friend remembered

RE Down Memory Lane: The Law sends me on a trip down memory lane each month.

And the second appearance of the motto of the ex-CID chiefs in November was particularly nostalgic for me.

I was first introduced to CID work under Vic Cook and his deputy Bill Girt at Romford — what a time that was.

As Ted Travers said in the same issue (Challenge is the same after 40 years), the challenge is still the same but what a difference in the methods used to face those challenges.

In 1953, when I joined Essex Constabulary, the good guys were 100 per cent on the police and the bad guys had the greatest respect and even fear for the men in uniform, in particular the CID if they ever had the misfortune to be taken into that room upstairs.

Those members of the upper classes, to whom we were obliged to gear our helmets to, were rude to officers as they always seemed to be when portrayed on TV police soaps.

It was a proud and great time to be a police officer, when police and politics were still far removed from one another.

The young men and women of today who are obliged to ply their trade in a quite different manner to those of 40 years (40 years), the challenge is still the same but what a difference in the methods used to face those challenges.

As for Ted Travers’ 40 years of service, I take my hat off to him but am not sure that it is a record.

I am approaching my 25th year of retirement; does anyone know what the record is in this area?

George Raven
Cabo De Palos Spain

Editor’s note: We established in last month’s issue that the record for service by an Essex officer was more than 41 years — although one officer could claim for more than 42 years of service, this did include the years’ RAF service during World War Two.

There is a 30/30 club consisting of officers who served in the police force for 30 years and have been drawing their police pension for 30 years or longer.

Perhaps readers of The Law could tell us more?

Sue Kelly
Secretary
Essex Police Comrades’ Association

Come and join our happy throng

THE annual meeting of the Essex Police Comrades’ Association will be held in the Federation Office at Stable Lodge, Roman Police HQ, on Thursday, January 17, at 10.30am.

All members are welcome to attend. We would like to remind readers of The Law that membership of the association is open not only to all retired officers but also to serving officers with ten or more years’ service.

Please contact the Federation Office on 01245 452799.

Sue Kelly
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TO Insp Adrian Dearsley
There are two of our police officers who are often faced with criticism. But I am writing to offer my appreciation to your officers following an incident when two of my staff accompanied a woman to a flat to collect documents. They were confronted by her partner who was extremely rude when I attended I was faced with the same situation, and in my previous role as chief officer we would have liked to offer our apologies. Two officers were already talking to the people in question when we got there. A compromise was reached. I want to congratulate all three officers, Sgt Deeks was extremely helpful and acted very swiftly, as did the male and female officer who attended the flat. We were extremely grateful for your support in this matter.

TO Insp Rachel Wood
Tilbury & Corringham

I FELT compelled to write a letter in respect of a police officer and Pc Michael Deets gave me such a positive impression of the force. It is a credit that such police officers and generous community support are in service. I found myself in the invidious position of being stranded on a roundabout without a phone and what turned out to be a broken car. It was the evening, extremely cold and, being a young lady, I was extremely scared. Here in Shoebury, one of the police officers is named Michael Deets. I have averaged 12 referrals per month, and I feel that in my opinion this negative view is totally unfounded.

TO Insp Rachel Wood
Tilbury & Corringham

TWO £100 ACTION awards were made at the meeting of the Bonus and Honoraria Panel last month. The work of officers and staff put forward for the awards demonstrated at least one of ACTION’s six strands: Achievement focus; Customer first; and an associated arrest.

The invaluable assistance of Tony Pearson, Westminister Drugs Project

I WORK as an arrest referral practitioner (drugs worker) at Harlow police station, for Westminister Drug Project which provides information, advice, counselling and treatment to drug users. I would just like to express my gratitude to two officers, Pc Graham North and Pc Steve Judd, for their kindness in allowing me to accompany them on an evening patrol around the district. As an MJP, I am inundated with copious reports and sets of statistics, not least about policing, but there is nothing like getting out on the ground and seeing the reality for yourself. I was immensely impressed by the coolness under pressure and professionalism of your two officers and with the way that they dealt courteously but firmly where necessary with members of the public, not least with a large number of rowdy youths in Hockley and an associated arrest. I was also concerned to see the short time for which your officers have to deal with and am now trying, in a constructive way, to pursue this back at Westminster as I would like to see your officers having to fill in fewer forms than they do at present.

Mark Francois
MP for Rayleigh

I WRITE regarding an incident in which people were acting suspiciously in my local area. I would just like to express my gratitude and thanks for the swift and reassuring way in which this matter was brought to a conclusion.

The officers I spoke to on the phone on that day – Force Information Room staff Elizabeth Walter, Wendy Adam and Laura Hamlyn and Sgt Andy Clarkson – were most considerate and helpful at this most worrying time. I must congratulate you on a job well done and repeat my sincere thanks to all concerned.

TO Sue Kelly
Thank you for your kind letter regarding my late father.

Also may we thank you for the drapes you supplied for my coffin and for the two police officers, Pc Simon Laurie and Pc Ben Broderick, who stood by the entrance to the chapel. The amount of people who attended was a tribute to my father. Much was said by the retired police officers, including that he was one of the old school and enjoyed his work, and that he has rubbed off on people he met. Not least one of ACTION’s six strands: Achievement focus; Customer first; and an associated arrest.

The two officers were driving past and stopped to help. They not only helped me to get back to the flat and a companion, but also took the car and were seen by Sgt Neil Phimister, of Sandon Dog Section.

Shoeburyness

I am writing to thank you for your community support in helping to enforce the temporary road closure which was greatly appreciated.

Please would you also thank Sgt Richard Miller for all the invaluable advice that was given whilst attending the working parties meetings.

Mayor’s Office
Maldon Town Council

A LARGE front window was broken in our bungalow on Hallowe’en, which was noted by two of your officers – Pcs Craig Davis and Thomas Archer – very swiftly.

A day later, we had a follow-up visit from PCSOs Clare Eaves and David Franklin to check that we were OK, all of which was very reassuring.

We would like to put on record our warm appreciation of these visits.

PAG C
Canvey Island

Your support is much appreciated

I feel fortunate to have been working at Harlow. As someone new, from an outside organisation, everyone has been very helpful, in particular the custody officers, which has made my work a great deal easier.

I have averaged 12 referrals per month, these are individuals who have voluntarily agreed to access treatment which will, hopefully, reduce their offending behaviour and improve their quality of life.

This will continue, thanks in no small part to the support of everyone at Harlow police station.

Tony Pearson
Westminster Drugs Project

What does neighbourhood policing mean to you?

I was extremely impressed by the coolness under pressure and professionalism of your two officers and with the way that they dealt courteously but firmly where necessary with members of the public, not least with a large number of rowdy youths in Hockley and an associated arrest.

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**Holiday lets**

**COSTA** Blanca, Almoradi. Three-bedroom, two-bathroom apartment. Communal pool/terrace, sky TV. 15 mins from beach, 25 mins from airport. From £200 per week. Contact Dave Ashpole on 07912 506620, 01702 201684 or dashpole@hotmail.com

**STELLA** La Marina, luxury two-bedroom, two-bathroom villa. Sleeps four to six, air conditioning, heating. Beach/shops five mins, golf ten mins, airport 25 mins. From £175 per week discount for two weeks. Ring Mick Ager on 07775 676142 or +34 611 108 06 or email casadom02@hotmail.com

**COSTA** Blanca lovely villa, sleeps two to eight. Private pool, fully self-contained levels. Quite location, beach and more nearby. Contact 01603 661150 or visit www.casinilla.co.uk

**FLORIDA** Disney, four-bedroom villa, three bathrooms. Private pool, air conditioning, cable TVs, DVD, CD, PlayStation, games room. Golf five mins. Disney 15 mins. Ring Karen or Chris McAuley on 01625 431373 or 07881 641045, or email mcauley60@hotmail.com

**COSTA** Blanca, luxury, sleeps two to eight, private pool, entirely self-contained levels. Quite location, beach and more nearby. Contact 01603 661150 or visit www.casinilla.co.uk

**LA MANGA** Spain. Two-bedroom apartment, pool, garage, sea views. Seconds from beach. Quality apartment, pool, garage, sea views. LA MANGA - next-the-Sea, Norfolk. Warm, stylish, traditional Victorian cottage Close to Quayside, shops and beaches. Winter and summer breaks available. Ring 07976 720222 for details or visit www.mcaulay60@hotmail.com

**ORNELDA** Italian, rustic, recently-refurbished two-bedroom, two-bathroom luxury villa. Visit www.rrweddings.co.uk or contact Bernie on 079860 98422.


**ORLANDO** luxury villa, four bedrooms, three bathrooms, sleeps up to ten. Private, screened pool near Disney and other central Florida attractions. Contact Allison and Michael on 01245 266949 or 01376 573406.

**TURKEY**. Luxurious two-bedroom, two-bathroom, ground floor apartment. Outdoor and indoor pool, 20 mins to beach and local amenities. From £225 per week. Contact Matt on 07515 181820 or oaskturkey@hotmail.com

**TUSCANY, Italy**. Superbly furnished gites/cottages with original beams and modern comforts. Located near the Somme in France, recently-refurbished two-bedroom, two-bathroom, 10 mins from airport. From £200 per week. Contact Stall on 07976 720222.

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**NORTH** Fen, three comfortably furnished gites/cottages with original beams and modern comforts. Located near the Somme in France, recently-refurbished two-bedroom, two-bathroom, 10 mins from airport. From £200 per week. Ring Stuart on 07973 639502.

**LANZAROTE** Costa Teguise. New two twin-bed, one-bath apartment. Kitchen, large dining room/lounge, large terrace for sunbathing at al fresco dining. Ring Karen or Chris McAuley on 01625 431373 or 07881 641045 or visit www.lanzaroteis.com

**NORTH EAST** Norfolk, superb holiday cottages, close to Norfolk attractions.
Anglers hook a brand new fishing venue

THE force’s freshwater angling club has secured a new water for members in Battlesbridge.

There are two general coarse-fishing lakes and an exclusive specimen lake at Churchgate Fisheries.

Club membership is open to all Essex Police employees for an annual fee of just £30. Membership includes a full year’s fishing and a family member as a guest, free.

Non-fishing family members are welcome and other fishing guests must pay £10 per visit.

For more information, contact either Graham Perks on ext 54203 or Mark Harman on ext 480552.

Hockey visit to Belfast

HOCKEY players Lucy Robinson, of HQ Crime Division, and Debbie Hately, of Financial Investigations, Brentwood, have been selected to represent national PSUK women’s hockey team.

The are due to play in a tournament staged by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) in Belfast on January 16 and 17.

Soccer honours

NICHOLAS Smith, of Great Yeldham, has been selected to represent the British Police football team in a match against the fire service in Sheffield.

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Soccer honours

NICHOLAS Smith, of Great Yeldham, has been selected to represent the British Police football team in a match against the fire service in Sheffield.
A MAN who fled to New Zealand in a vain bid to evade justice has been sentenced for his part in a money-laundering scam.

Terrence Steel had been traced, arrested and interviewed in connection with the offence before fleeing to the other side of the world. The then 49-year-old had received £29,877 via a non-authorised payment from a call centre in Clacton to his Woolwich Bank account as part of a conspiracy to steal £566,884 during two months in early 2003.

But Essex officers finally tracked Steel down in Christchurch, New Zealand, where he was living with his wife. A decision, made in partnership with the Crown Prosecution Service, was made to attempt extradition, an affidavit was sworn at Westminster Court and submitted via diplomatic channels to the New Zealand authorities.

In mid-April last year, Steel was arrested in New Zealand under an International Arrest Warrant and remanded in custody.

Then two officers from the Serious Organised Crime Directorate (SOCID), Financial Investigations, travelled to New Zealand to bring their man back to face justice – following the tradition that “if you commit crime in Essex you had better bring a toothbrush.”

Their whirlwind trip, which meant four days in the air and only two on the ground, saw Steel brought safely back to Harlow custody.

And, at Chelmsford Crown Court last month, he was sentenced to nine months’ imprisonment, suspended for two years, and ordered to pay costs and compensation.

Steel was the last of 11 defendants to appear at court over the case, of whom ten, including Steel, were found guilty.

A paramedic partnership

A NEW initiative is being trialled in a bid to reduce emergency service response times, provide a better service and reduce hospital admissions.

Last month, a police officer patrolled on foot in Harlow town centre on Friday nights with a paramedic from the East of England Ambulance Service. Officers are already very positive about the initiative, which is only the second in the county.

Chief Insp Mike Martin said: “This is an excellent example of partnership working. It will be effective when dealing with big events such as the lead-up to Christmas, big football matches and bank holidays when there’s a high volume of people out socialising.”

SOCD get their man: from New Zealand!

BELLA and Biscuit met their adoring public in Chelmsford town centre last month – the first horses on the streets of Essex for eight years.

They stole the show at the launch of the force’s new Mounted Unit, which is based at Writtle College.

Consisting of eight horses – by the unit’s second year – nine police officers, new vehicles and facilities, the unit will support the fight against crime and increase public reassurance.

Chief Constable Roger Baker, who attended the launch, said he was extremely pleased to see police horses back in action.

“The Mounted Unit had a long and proud tradition within Essex Police until it was disbanded due to challenging budget cuts in 1999,” he said.

“I welcome back the new Mounted Unit, which looks set to be one of the key initiatives Essex Police has been involved with in recent years.”

Bella and Biscuit, together with their riders, will be expected to assist with a wide range of policing situations.

Mr Baker added: “Having seen the benefit police horses bring and the reassurance they have on communities, I am sure the horses will be welcomed and will have an extremely positive impact on the whole county.”

New Mounted Unit, which is based at Writtle College, said he was extremely pleased to see police horses back in action.

“Standing at around 17 hands high the new police horses will make a big impression both physically and functionally,” Mr Chambers commented.

“Only a handful of the UK’s police forces have Mounted Units so it really is a privilege for Essex to have this asset on our streets.”

Web video can help you deter crime

TOP tips on how to enjoy a crime-free Christmas are valid all year round.

The force’s TV Unit created a video to ensure that people didn’t drop their guard and give criminals the opportunity to take advantage.

Based on the 1993 movie Gruesome Day, the three minute 12 Crime videos follow a woman as she embarks on a last-minute shopping trip. She re-lives her journey each time a negative event occurs until she gets it right.

She experiences burglary, mobile phone and credit card theft, bogus callers and anti-social behaviour and she drives without a seatbelt and over the limit, while speeding.

Assistant Chief Constable Claire Schnitzer said: “The content of the video relates to people of all ages and using internet allows us to reach a wider audience.

“The video reminds people to take responsibility for their own actions while they are out and about and most of the tips can be applied at any time of the year.”

A paramedic partnership A NEW initiative is being trialled in a bid to reduce emergency service response times, provide a better service and reduce hospital admissions. Last month, a police officer patrolled on foot in Harlow town centre on Friday nights with a paramedic from the East of England Ambulance Service. Officers are already very positive about the initiative, which is only the second in the country. Chief Insp Mike Martin said: “This is an excellent example of partnership working. It will be effective when dealing with big events such as the lead-up to Christmas, big football matches and bank holidays when there’s a high volume of people out socialising.”

NO horyng around with public safety

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