

The Law



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January 2008

Police officers and PCSOs are 'just doing their job'

LIFESAVERS!

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) on 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.

Chief officers have been quick to praise their heroic actions.

ACC Derek Benson said: "I am proud that our officers and PCSOs stepped in to save three people's lives – in one case, at risk to their own safety.

"It is a testament to their character and training that they reacted so quickly and positively in such life-threatening situations."

● PCSO Stuart Burt, of Harlow Town Patrol Unit, was tutoring his colleague PCSO Chris Maynard in Harlow's Broadwalk when he was alerted that a man had collapsed nearby.

While PCSO Maynard called an ambulance, PCSO Burt examined the man.

"I placed the man on his back and saw immediately that he was very grey," he said.

"I was extremely concerned as I could not find a breath or a pulse and his lips were turning blue. I thought he had already died.

"I started CPR on him and, for about 25 seconds, nothing happened.

"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."



● PCSOs Stuart Burt, left, and Chris Maynard back on patrol in Harlow town centre after saving a shopper's life

Picture by Denise Harvey

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.

Both he and PCSO Maynard were invited to HQ on Christmas Eve where they were congratulated by ACC Derek Benson, Director of Finance and Administration Rick Tazzini and Western Divisional Commander Chief Supt Tim Stokes.

● TWO police officers saved a man's life when they dragged him out of a burning flat in Clacton.

Pc Stacey Howe, 20, and Adam Barry, 23, were praised by firefighters for their quick-thinking actions at a block of flats in Ellis Road.

Essex Police received a call shortly before 10:30am on December 26 from a resident concerned for a neighbour whose apartment appeared to be flooding.

The officers contacted the ambulance service before forcing their way into the premises to discover the male occupant slumped in the kitchen, which was on fire.

- Pc Martin Brooker, right, reacted quickly when faced with a motorist who had suffered a hypoglycaemic attack
- Pcs Adam Barry and Stacey Howe, below, dragged a man from a burning flat

Picture courtesy of the East Anglian Daily Times



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 ill at the wheel shortly before his car crashed.

The collision happened near Marks Tey railway station shortly after 1pm on December 26 when the driver of a white Mini Cooper lost control of his car as he travelled along the A120 towards the A12 Ipswich-bound slip road and struck a lamp post.

Pc Martin Brooker and Pc Trevor Sleet, from

Stanway Road Policing Unit, arrived at the scene before paramedics. Pc Brooker quickly established that the driver, from Colchester, had become hypoglycaemic.

He was able to inject the 20-year-old driver with glucagon, a glucose solution.

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

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.

● Essex Police women's life-saving team sweep national trophies – see Page 10



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 3200 or email events@crimestoppers-uk.org

● Health surveillance nurse Jacqui De La Salle can help you try to quit smoking



... Sam is going for the marathon

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-marker 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 75631 or via email at samantha.garwood@essex.pnn.police.uk

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 adviser 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.

Another new year is dawning and thoughts turn to making resolutions to give up smoking, save more money, take up running and to recycle more ... to name but a few.

avoid temptation. Jacqui said: "During the first meeting, strategies for giving up will be 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

The free service involves counselling and support, with discussions about smoking history, the 'triggers' for smoking and how to change routine to

Championing a green cause



As a prelude to a series of articles on saving energy and materials, Ian Mott, of Property Services, urges us all to turn over a new leaf.

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

STAFF at HQ Vetting Unit are going up the wall – for they have produced their own office calendar.

The calendar was the brainchild of team leaders Dave Manders and Tina Fraser, who saw it as a way of teambuilding.

There are more than 30 staff in the unit and they all appear in the calendar, which is appearing on noticeboards around the office.

After stressing the 'no nudity' clause, pointing out fancy dress was optional and coming up with theme for every month, Dave – a keen amateur photographer – took the pictures and is printing the calendar at home.



● Stuart Berry and Rob Grimwood, of the Vetting Unit, get ready for Christmas 2008

No need for New Year blues, says credit union

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.pnn.police.uk or email essex@policecu.co.uk



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Putting the jigsaw together

A Lithuanian lorry driver has been found guilty of the manslaughter of a man he brought into the country illegally. Press officer Helen Cook looks at the background to the investigation.

THE weather was hot – it was June 2006. Footballers playing in the World Cup in Germany were being allowed extra water on the pitch.

Miles away, in the Netherlands, five men who had spent months travelling across two continents were nearing their final destination.

They had paid about £3,000 to be transported to the UK and willingly got into a tool box underneath a refrigerated lorry.

The box measured about 8ft x 4ft x 2ft and was locked from the outside.

The men had simply the clothes they were wearing but were desperate for a new life so they could send money to their families in India to lift them out of poverty.

The Lithuanian lorry driver had driven his cargo of chilled pork carcasses from Denmark but diverted to collect his illegal human cargo and earn himself in little extra cash.

Nine hours later he stopped on the A12, discovered that his illicit travellers were seriously unwell – suffering heat exhaustion and dehydration – so he dumped them in a quiet lane near Witham.

One man was dead, two were alive, just – one died in hospital, the other survived after hospital treatment – and two men walked off into town, never to be seen again.

The next morning, a man alerted police to the bodies. Det Supt Phil Tucker – a new senior investigating officer – took on the case and says it was perplexing from the start.

“I called for the helicopter to fly overhead and photograph the scene but I remember thinking that the only picture will be of a clueless detective standing by the side of the road wondering where to go from here.”

It was the start of a very complex investigation by Stanway Major Investigation Team (MIT).

The case bore all the hallmarks of people smuggling so the team contacted experts from across Europe and liaised with Kent detec-



● Pieces of the jigsaw, clockwise from left: the human face of the tragedy – one of the, as yet, unidentified victims; the lorry toolbox in which the five men were hidden; a vital clue – the cigarette packet which connected the victims to the lorry; and Georgji Negatin, who has been jailed for eight years

tives who had dealt with the death of 56 Chinese illegal immigrants in a lorry.

Case officer Dc Angela Hastings began to review hours of CCTV footage from ferry ports 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.

Pc Harry Sexton, the force's commercial investigator and tachograph expert, had identified the box where meat hooks are stored on refrigerated lorries as the most likely way that the men had been carried. Weeks of work finally pointed investigators to Danish haulage company Andreas Andresen, which had had 11 lorries on a ferry crossing to Harwich on the evening before the discovery of the men at Witham.

A study of tachograph and satellite-tracking records pinpointed a specific lorry. Its Lithuanian driver, was however, no longer working for the firm.

Georgji Negatin, described by his former

employers as ‘a sly fox’, was a wanted man.

In February 2007 he was stopped and arrested at customs as he tried to enter the UK while driving for another company.

Negatin admitted he had stopped on the A12 but denied that the men had been in his lorry.

However an empty packet of cigarettes found in the lorry's toolbox proved crucial. Remarkably, a hair was attached to the packet and tests at the Forensic Science Service laboratory provided a DNA profile which matched the surviving witness.

Last month, Negatin was convicted of the manslaughter of one of the men and was sentenced to eight years imprisonment with a recommendation that he is deported on his release.

The two men who died have not been formally identified but work with the police service in India and other agencies has led detectives to believe that they came from small, poor villages in remote parts of India and officers, including Dc Hastings, intend to travel to India to obtain DNA from people believed to be relatives.

Dc 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 organisation and forces.

“Special thanks go to Dc Richie Adams for his expertise on immigration crimes.”

Calling it a “callous and inhumane crime”, Det Supt Tucker added: “These desperate young men travelled illegally into the UK in the hope of a better life but died for the sake of a sip of water.

“When I was standing at the scene I thought that we were looking for a needle in a haystack.

“But through excellent work by many people within Essex Police and other organisations, we have found lots of needles, leading us to piece together the strands of this investigation.

“I am proud of what the team has achieved and grateful for the co-operation we have received from forces across Europe and India and from Europol.”

DVDs highlight our achievements

TWO new force DVDs have been released to coincide with the ACTION roadshows, which focus on customer service.

Customer Standards and *A Day In The Life Of...* are now available forcewide following their debut screenings at the roadshows, which are being rolled out across the county.

Officers and police staff of sergeant rank and above are attending the half-day presentations, which began in November and are due to conclude later this month.

They and other colleagues appear in both DVDs, following filming which has taken place around Essex over the past few months.

A Day In The Life of... is the new promotional DVD for the force and replaces *Your Force*.

While *Customer Standards* highlights case studies involving members of the public who have had good and bad experiences when contacting the force. It highlights simple practices that can be taken to improve satisfaction.

Head of Customer Service Claire Heath commissioned the latter DVD while Chief Constable Roger Baker wanted a new force DVD to capture the changes which have taken place since the introduction of neighbourhood policing.

Mr Baker said: “These DVDs help highlight the daily challenges that face us all in delivering a quality service to the public of Essex.

“A considerable amount of hard work has gone into producing them, they are of an excellent quality and I am delighted to see them being shown both within the organisation and externally to our partners and the public.”

TV Unit producer Tracey Radley pulled off a coup when she secured the rights to use the chart hit *Carry On* by *Ben's Brother* as the soundtrack to the promotional DVD. The three-year deal will enable the hit and the DVD to be used at corporate events and as part of recruitment drives.

● Anyone wanting a copy of either DVD should contact the Television & New Media Unit on ext 56530

How would you want us to treat *your* family?

AS 21st century policing increasingly focuses on providing what the public wants and expects, customer service is moving to the fore.

Essex Police has always prided itself on its good results and service ... now we must start telling the public.

The new citizen-focused policing style encourages forces to reflect the needs and expectations of their local communities and customer service plays a large part.

Head of Customer Service Claire Heath said: “In today's 24/7 society, people expect to have their queries dealt with promptly and to be kept informed of what is going on – they are used to it.

“And their expectations of the service provided by the police are no different.”

While 89 per cent of people who contacted Essex Police in 2006 were satisfied with this contact, 37 per cent said they were dissatisfied when it came to being kept informed of progress.

Mrs Heath said Essex residents generally had a good impression of the force. “But they may only contact the police once in their lifetime,” she said.

“If they are one of the 37 per cent who are dissatisfied with the provision of follow-up information, then that impression may be dented.

“And that is sad because the force is

Customer Service Standards to help the public

currently performing extremely well, with good detection rates and falling crime and anti-social behaviour.”

Essex Police has introduced a set of customer service standards so officers and police staff can provide a consistent, professional image to the public.

The standards also tell the public what they, in turn, can expect from the force.

We aim to respond to voicemail messages, emails, text messages and web enquiries within one working day.

We aim to answer all phone calls within five rings. And we aim to answer letters within ten working days.

Communications Divisional Commander Chief Supt Maurice Mason said: “Of the 14 police stations open 24/7 across East Anglia, 12 are in Essex and we aim at all times to have a member of staff available on reception at these and at all our other police stations.

“Reassuring the community is one of our primary aims. Essex is one of only two forces in the country which vow to attend all incidents of crime. This can help to build community contacts – which is invaluable in today's security-conscious climate.”

Mrs Heath said everyone in the force

had a part to play. “We can all help to leave a lasting, positive impression on the public. Often it is the little things, such as forgetting to provide regular updates when we promised, which annoy people the most,” she explained.

“If we remember to treat people the way we would want our family to be treated if they came into contact with the police, then the vast majority of the public will be more than happy.”

As well as providing regular feedback and updates to victims of crime, another popular cause of public complaint is the difficulty of contacting officers with follow-up information.

Mrs Heath said: “Ease of contact works both ways. If officers and staff keep their contact details up to date then the public will be able to contact them easily to provide them with information which can, in turn, help to solve more cases.”

● For more information, visit the Communications Division intranet site, click on Customer Services and then on Customer Service Standards





Federation news by Roy Scanes



I WROTE this one day after another of our colleagues died while doing his job – a job that Home Secretary Jacqui Smith considers no different to any other.

Metropolitan Police Constable Chris Roberts, 47 years old and a dad of three, died whilst arresting a person on Boxing Day.

My thoughts go out to his family, friends and colleagues – their grief is unimaginable and worsened tenfold at this time of the year.

Unfortunately, Chris's widow and family will get a smaller pension than deserved, due to Jacqui Smith's decision not to honour the arbitration decision on our pay.

Since last month, a lot has happened regarding our pay deal. I will devote the rest of this article to update you.

On December 9, heavy media interest was generated from a story in the Mail on Sunday – journalists were keen to ascertain whether police officers want to strike and what action they can and would be prepared to take if there is no resolution on pay.

On December 10, our national chair, Jan Berry, was interviewed live on GMTV's morning programme and the Police Federation started legal action against the Home Secretary, Jacqui Smith.

The following day, at a meeting with the Home Secretary, it was clear she had no plans to make a U-turn on the pay decision. Both the Chief Police Officers' Staff Association and the Superintendents' Association are supportive of the Police Federation and have a similar view on the government's decision.

On December 12, GMTV, Sky, BBC Breakfast and a host of radio stations covered live broadcasts from around the country.

Our Joint Central Committee determined to show a strong lead to the country and to ensure a way forward was decided.

Three decisions were made: to ballot members on whether they want the Federation to lobby for full industrial rights; for police officers, to hold a rally in central London; and to call upon the Home Secretary to resign as officers no longer have faith in her ability to deal fairly with pay and conditions.

Federation representatives from all 43 Joint Branch Boards in England and Wales agreed to move the campaign forward and discussed the idea of lobbying the Home Secretary's Redditch constituency. A press conference and a press release ensured headlines on all major radio and TV stations nationally and locally, continuing throughout the following day.

On December 16, Jan Berry and her team met the Justice Unions Cross-Party Group, which said it would apply for an adjournment debate on the pay issue, which we hope will be early this month.

The next day, Jan Berry and our general secretary, John Francis, gave evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee on Police Pay, which received a very positive response and resulted in a press release addressed to Jacqui Smith supporting the Federation's case.

On December 18, a letter was sent to Opposition leader David Cameron asking for support and assurance that a future Conservative government would abide by arbitration.

Another was sent to Prime Minister Gordon Brown requesting him to reverse the pay decision and to remove Jacqui Smith from office.

In Parliament, an Early Day Motion tabled by Keith Vaz MP had 175 signatories – many of them Labour. The news that police staff will receive their 2.5 per cent backdated served as a further insult. However, Unison issued a press release supportive of our situation.

On December 19, the Superintendents' Association issued a press release of support on pay. A meeting at Surbiton decided on the date, location and initial arrangements for the rally to be held in central London, confirmed as Wednesday, January 23. Jan Berry issued a response to the Home Secretary's Christmas message which can be viewed on the Federation website www.polfed.org. The rally will not be in uniform and will be in officers' own time.

We would like to have ten per cent of our members present, which in Essex means about 340 officers. Please show your support with your feet.

Happy New Year.

Unison news by Chris Willcock



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 will all feel pleased with the result of our negotiations for a fair settlement – a settlement that goes some way to reflect the vital role we all play in today's ever-changing police service – we are left wondering about the appalling way that our police officer colleagues have been treated by the same government that claims to be a supporter of effective law and order.

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

To treat two bodies of people working in the same environment for the same employer so differently is plainly wrong.

Unison national officer for police staff Ben Priestley says: "By treating police officers and police staff pay differently, the government risks undoing all the good work over the last ten years to build a unified police service."

"Police staff and police officers work side by side to protect our communities – they do not want to be divided over pay."

As a branch, we extend our total support to the colleagues we are proud to serve alongside and we sincerely hope that the Home Secretary will listen to the overpowering opinion and public support that police officers have in this dispute and allow common sense, honour and decency to over-rule her decision.

Understaffing and stress

UNISON, along with the universities of Strathclyde and Stirling, has just published the findings of a study into understaffing issues in some police control rooms – including Essex.

The main results of several years of investigations show that the understaffing,

along with a pre-occupation with statistical targets, pose a significant threat not only to personal safety of patrolling officers and members of the public but also to the health of the control room staff who try their hardest to achieve a professional service under increasingly impossible circumstances.

Ben Priestley, Unison national officer for police staff, says: "Our police control room members are the voice at the end of the line when members of the public need help."

"Calls to police control rooms are difficult, distressing and need an accurate and timely response. That is what the public expects."

"Chronic understaffing in police control rooms means that this service is now under threat."

"Unison is calling on the police service to deal with understaffing before an avoidable crisis or tragedy takes place."

Locally, the Essex Police Unison branch has been working closely alongside Force Information Room management to address these issues and a lot of good progress has been made.

If staff feel that there are still unresolved issues, they should contact the branch office to discuss them.

Further details from this report can be found on our own website.

Unison website

IT is a good idea for all police staff to check the Unison website on a regular basis.

Our web address is www.essexpoliceunison.org and there is a link on our site to take you to the national website.

Annual meeting

FINALLY, please don't forget the annual meeting of the Essex Police Unison branch.

It takes place on Wednesday, January 16, at 4.30pm at the HQ Sports and Social Club, behind Essex Police College.

It is vitally important that all Unison members should try to attend this one meeting each year, so please do your best – we hope to see you there.



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Tony is taking over the reins at the Federation

A NEW Essex Police Federation chairman will be welcomed in at the start of next month following Pc Sue Kelly's retirement. Chief Insp Tony Rayner is no stranger to the office, though, as he has been Joint Branch

Board assistant secretary for the past two years.

He is due to be voted in as the new chairman when the Joint Branch Board ratifies his position at a meeting later this month.

The 50-year-old father of three has served in both the north and south of the county, spending stints in Tilbury, Harlow, various road policing units, Southend and in Rayleigh. He became the first sergeant at the Air Support Unit in 1990.

Within the Federation, Tony was secretary to the Sergeants' Branch Board in the early 1990s and chairman of the Inspectors' Board later in the decade. He became secretary of the Inspectors' Board five years ago. As the new force Federation spokesman, Tony will continue to work with chief and senior officers on a daily basis.

"I'm first going to start looking at a long-term strategy, something which states what we want to achieve," he said.

"I want to be able to refer to a set of objectives when I'm talking with chief officers and police authority members. I want us to have a list of aims which we seek to achieve on behalf of our members."

"Historically, we've tended to be reactive on policies and authority agendas and now

officers want us to be more proactive – so we shall be."

Tony will continue to represent officers at employment tribunals and over grievances, as well as on probationer case conferences.



● Chief Insp Tony Rayner is to be the new chairman of Essex Police Federation
Picture by Nishan Wijeratne

He said: "I know that some members may be wary of my rank but I've been involved in the Federation while at three different ranks and almost all of my work involves helping constables."

And he joked: "I have held supervisory rank for longer than some of my members have been alive. I'm a bit of a gamekeeper turned poacher, using my accumulated management experience to help colleagues with their problems."

Talking about the police pay dispute, Tony said: "The Government has deliberately picked a fight with police officer pay so who knows what the next

few years hold for all of us." He paid tribute to Sue's work and her "astounding" record as an Essex Police Federation rep for 21 years.

"She has advanced the interests of female officers tremendously," he said.

"Sue and I have been friends throughout our careers, starting in Thurrock. She has been the chair for the past six years and she has done a first-class job, representing Essex and its officers on the national stage."

"I, and I'm sure all of us, wish her and her husband Steve all the best in retirement as they begin their new life together in New Zealand."

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 settled a pay rise for sworn officers, has refused to backdate it to September 1, 2007, 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 service 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."

● Contact Paul on ext 63122 or package up your phone and put it on the mail run to him at Braintree police station

Our soccer stars pull out all the stops for Arron

by Bill Stock

MORE than £4,000 was raised for injured officer Arron Williams during a remarkable five-a-side soccer event that brought out the best in Essex Police teamwork. Hundreds of people rallied to support the Pitsea-based constable, who suffered serious neck injuries during a rugby match last year. Officers and support 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 won through to the later rounds. Some of the 'fun' teams had trouble counting and it was not unusual to see more than five 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 Chapman. "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 superstars, in terms of vocal support from fans, were South Western Command Team's Ain't Half Hot, Ma'am squad, dressed in baggy shorts and wartime green Army singlets and with nicknames including Wobbly, Ossie, Cotters, Dobbo, 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 Mairhi Mowbray, of South Western Professional Development Unit, an expert in holistic massage.

The tournament, at Southend on December 17, was won by The Men In Tights, a team from Epping led by district commander Chief Insp Ivor Harvey, who beat The Seasideers, from Southend, 7-2 in the final.

Event organiser Pc Colin Ellis said: "I wish to thank everyone who



● **South Western Divisional Commander Simon Coxall, above left, and ACC Derek Benson, above right, with the winning team from Epping, The Men In Tights**

● **Right, team 118 put up a good showing in earlier rounds**



Pictures by Bill Stock

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 extensive injuries received earlier in the year. He is an example to us all and it was

tremendously satisfying to witness 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 teamwork, generosity and loyalty from all corners of the county."

Confronting issues of domestic abuse

A DOMESTIC homicide where the victim's neck was almost severed when her husband attacked her with an axe inspired former Assistant Chief Constable Liam Briggins to introduce Domestic Abuse and Hate Crime Units (DAHCU).

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 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 need to consider the background of the case – easily done by asking the Force Information Room to carry out an intel-

With about six murders a year in Essex arising from domestic abuse, the importance of stopping people becoming high-risk repeat victims is in the hands of officers attending a domestic abuse incident.

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.

ligence check and a 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 DCI Ewen Wilson said: "The completion of a risk assessment DV1 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 sustainable 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.

DCI 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.

DCI 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 officers can also bring results," he said.

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

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 100 deaths and 1,072 serious injuries in 2006.

Chief Supt Michael Thwaites, Mobile Support Divisional Commander, said: "We have been targeting the ten major roads across Essex where historically there have been accidents."

The figures reflect the close partnership working between Essex Police and Essex County Council.

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 Dartmore 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.

Coincidentally – as it was the first anniversary of the introduction of neighbourhood policing in the county – Mrs Napier was given responsibility for the force's Territorial Policing department and promised to focus on putting the customer first and to continue reducing crime while improving detection rates still further.

Mrs Napier had joined the force in October 2006 as acting ACC, coming from North Yorkshire.

January also saw a number of Essex police officers and staff working up the A12 in Suffolk to assist with Operation Sumac – the investigation into the deaths of five women from Ipswich.

Also this month, it was reported that selected members of police staff were being trained to take statements in relation to criminal investigations.

A number of staff volunteered to be part of a pool to be called upon by divisions and departments as and when the need required.

February 2007

TWO districts – Southend and Harlow – were named as Respect Action Areas by the government.

Both were set to receive extra funding to continue work to reduce anti-social behaviour.

The Respect Agenda encouraged various agencies, including the police, to tackle bad behaviour with the aim of creating a culture of respect.

Constitutional Affairs Minister Harriet Harman visited Harlow and met acting Supt Stuart Ashton and members of the public.

While Culture Secretary Tessa Jowell met South Eastern Divisional Commander Chief Supt Dave Folkard in Southend.

Essex became the first force in East Anglia to trial a new handheld fingerprint-reading machine called Lantern.

It was launched at Stanway Road Policing Unit with a special media briefing, where the aims of increas-



● ACC Liam Briggingshaw, who died on February 19

ing the time officers spend out on the streets and making roadside disputes over identity a thing of the past were the focus of publicity.

The force was chosen to take part in the year-long pilot scheme to gauge the value of the device and it seemed to prove its worth only a couple of weeks into the trial.

The first in a series of roadshows where the public get to meet Essex Police Authority members kicked off.

Members went out and about across the county, visiting shopping centres in a bid to discover what the public wants and expects from their police service.

Essex introduced cycle training for all neighbourhood officers and PCSOs who have access to bikes. Each division has access to an average of 20 Smith and Wesson bikes and Insp Kevin Whipples arranged a day's training for everyone with Cycle Training East.

March 2007

POLICE officers and staff joined colleagues from Essex Police Authority to pay their respects to Assistant Chief Constable Liam Briggingshaw, who died on February 19, following a fight against stomach cancer.

A fortnight later, colleagues united at the Cathedral of St Mary and St Helen in Brentwood to celebrate his life.

Hundreds of people attended the funeral and a book of condolence was



● Central Divisional Commander Chief Supt Win Bernard made Marjorie Dixon's birthday 80th birthday in April extra special by driving her to her party. Mrs Dixon was one of the first three woman police officers in the Burnley Borough police force and her daughter Kim, a constable in Witham, asked Chief Supt Bernard if it was possible for a police car to drive her mother from her Witham home to the party as it would make her day. However, Mr Bernard volunteered to drive himself as it was his day off.

Picture by Richard Ambury

opened. Flags were flown at half-mast as a mark of respect and both Chief Constable Roger Baker and Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers paid fitting tributes to Mr Briggingshaw who joined the force in January 2003.

Little fighter Oliver Wishick, aged three, visited force HQ in Chelmsford as officers helped the Make-A-Wish Foundation make Oliver's dream of meeting Spiderman come true.

Oliver suffers from kidney disease. Pc Simon Driver donned the red and blue suit of Oliver's hero to help him catch a baddie.

It was announced that organised crime had been struck a heavy blow following an operation to reduce petrol theft at filling stations in Basildon and Thurrock.

Operation New Cross had been mounted in October 2006 as a way of 'drying up the watering holes' which gangs were using to fill up vehicles used in armed robberies and other crimes. They had been committing around five thefts of petrol a day.

An awareness campaign was launched to advise people what to do when answering the door to strangers in a bid to stop people falling foul to bogus callers.

The insides of buses in Basildon, Harlow and Thurrock displayed the message 'Don't open the door to strangers' and door-hangers providing simple steps on how to avoid becoming a victim were given out.

April 2007

CHART-topping pop band McFly recorded a special message for youngsters attending the 2007 2Smart4Drugs tour.

The video message from Harry, Tom, Dougie and Danny was played at all the shows – complimenting the wide range of acts involved in getting the anti-drugs message across to the youth of Essex.

Teenagers from Harlow and Epping experienced six hard-hitting and powerful scenarios – including drink-driving, drug-taking and speeding – in a bid to avoid becoming a statistic as part of the Road Runner scheme.

It aims to reduce the incidents of road collisions and traffic offences

involving young drivers by developing responsible attitudes towards safe driving.

The scheme was a partnership venture involving the Driving Standards Agency, Essex Trading Standards, driving schools, Essex Fire and Rescue Service and Essex Young People's Drug Advisory Service together with Essex Police.

The Major Investigation Team (MIT) seconded to Suffolk to help with Operation Sumac returned after four months out of force.

Det Supt Simon Dinsdale had led the team and was appointed senior investigating officer (SIO) for the last two murders – those of Paula Clennell and Annette Nichols, whose bodies had been found on December 12, 2006.

May 2007

THE Motorcycle Unit in Mobile Support Division celebrated its first year back in the saddle.

The unit had been disbanded in 1998 for financial reasons but Chief Constable Roger Baker had asked Essex Police Authority to examine the possibility of its reinstatement.

The unit helps the force's ongoing aim of reducing the number of deaths on the county's roads.

Essex's hard work was reinforced this month with the Home Office announcement that crime had fallen across the county by more than the national average in the final quarter of 2006.

Crime dropped by three per cent between October and December 2006 compared with the same period in 2005.

Vehicle crime had fallen by eight per cent and criminal damage by two per cent – despite a two per cent rise nationally.

June 2007

CONSTABLES Mark Potter and Pc Gary Cable, from Stanway Road Policing Unit, were praised for their swift-thinking in rescuing a woman and two children from a fire in Clacton.

They had been on patrol at midnight when they spotted the awning of a shop on fire.

They forced their way into the flat

above and led the woman and her children to safety.

A new unit was formed to handle high-profile road collision investigations.

The Road Crash Investigation Team (RCIT) was the brainchild of road policing manager Chief Insp Tom Diment and is based behind Billericay police station.

Benfleet officer Sgt Paul Saunders took to the airwaves for the first time to develop closer contact with his community.

Sgt Saunders took to presenting a regular show on Link Radio dealing with community issues which concerned listeners.

He said the aim was to increase the police's relations with community groups.

July 2007

A TEAM of officers, including Det Supt Kevin Macey, helped police in Spain to bring ex-pat Jacqueline Moore to justice over the murder of her husband Raymond.

Mr Moore had been kicked, beaten and suffocated to death in a violent brawl between him, his wife and her son George Ross.

Jacqueline was found guilty of Raymond's murder and sentenced to life imprisonment and George was convicted of assault.

A crime reduction initiative in Maldon resulted in a number of people being arrested and prosecuted for motoring offences.

Road checks were set up with the aim of deterring thieves and gathering intelligence. Officers were supported by PCSOs and Specials.

Over the two days, a total of 197 vehicles were stopped and a third of those drivers were prosecuted for offences including drink-driving, mobile phone use and failure to wear a seatbelt.

August 2007

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

The ride began in Hackney Wick and Essex Police had 14 members of staff taking part – 12 from Communications Division.



● PCSO Lucy Smith and Billy the retired police dog entertain Essex Police Museum visitors Adam and Katie. A record 711 visitors passed through the museum on its May 12 open day. And the open day figure boosted the month's total to a record 1,136 visitors – the previous high was 1,012 in July 2006

Picture by Becky Latchford

Mini-motos were seized in Western Division and smashed to smithereens as part of the Safer Harlow Partnership's zero-tolerance approach to the bikes.

Mini-motos were publicly crushed in Harlow's Market Square to reinforce the message that they should only be ridden on private land.

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

September 2007

FIBRES-plastic fusion used to match a shoeprint to a brake pedal was used for the first time in force history to prosecute a woman who killed a man in a road crash.

Anne Milton was jailed for seven and a half years for causing death by dangerous driving. She had accused her passenger – who lost both legs in the M11 collision – of driving.

But the Forensic Science Service was able to place Milton in the driver's seat after analysing the fusion of clothing fibres with plastic from the vehicle and reciprocal marks between her footwear and the brake pedal.

Road policing officers announced they had confiscated over 4,000 uninsured or unlicensed vehicles between January and August 2007.

In the first eight months of the year, 4,023 vehicles were seized under section 165 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, of which 1,849 were crushed.

Sgt Justin Smith, of the ANPR Intercept Team, said: "Driving illegal-

ly on our roads will not be tolerated. "This piece of legislation will hit where it hurts – in the pocket – so motorists who are driving illegally should take notice if they don't want to risk losing their vehicle."

Suspected drug dealers got a rude awakening when Operation Racketeer was executed in Brentwood.

Search warrants were obtained and five teams totalling around 60 officers from across the force targeted addresses in Hutton, Brentwood and Romford, leading to 13 arrests.

Seizures included 187 wraps of heroin and crack cocaine, with an estimated street value in excess of £4,000, as well as £3,000 cash.

October 2007

THE force's newly-acquired horses faced their first challenge by taking part in a dressage competition.

One of the horses won a prize in one of the competitions at the Barnsby dressage competition at the Longwood Equestrian Centre in Laidon.

The horses were destined for the re-formed Mounted Unit – and they were waiting for the results of a competition to find out their new Essex Police 'stable names'.

Thorpe-le-Soken police station was re-opened following major restoration work.

The station had been closed four years previously and was badly damaged following a fire in April 2006. For 150 years it had been the only fully-operational station in the area

and was home to the officer in charge.

Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs) were granted the authority to use Taser in a greater set of circumstances.

The Home Office gave permission for the Taser to be deployed to incidents which would fall outside the remit of conventional firearms deployments.

Essex officers are now authorised to deploy Taser where the use of firearms is not authorised but where officers may face violence or the threat of violence so severe they would need to use force to protect the public or themselves.

The number of officers in Essex Police Special Constabulary broke the 500 mark this month.

However, the force will not rest on its laurels as we there is still a lot of work to be done to reach Chief Constable Roger Baker's target of having 1,000 Specials by the end of 2010.

November 2007

A BURSARY was set up by the Helen Rollason Heal Cancer Charity in memory of former Assistant Chief Constable Liam Briggingshaw.

Mr Briggingshaw's widow Alyson and his daughter Phoebe visited Essex Police HQ in Chelmsford to collect two cheques totalling £5,517.33 – money raised by various officers and police staff through fund raising events.

A commemorative rose was also planted in the garden behind the Chief Constable's House at HQ in Mr Briggingshaw's honour.

PCSOs were praised for their part in finding a woman who was missing from East Tilbury.

Warren Venables, Debbie Lister and Phil Long found the woman, who went missing from a party for nearly 18 hours, two miles from where she had disappeared near Coalhouse Fort.

Colleagues of Pc Arron Williams, who was seriously injured following a rugby game in September, rallied



● In September, the Marine Unit presented Chelmsford Sea Cadets with a retired police vessel after the Essex Police fleet was upgraded. The force donated a rigid-hulled Dory boat with twin 60HP Evinrude onboard engines. Acting Sgt Jason Lane, left, is pictured with PCSO Ben Mearing, who is also a petty officer with Chelmsford Sea Cadets

round to raise money to help his recovery. Pc Williams is now in a wheelchair following the accident.

Colleagues from his team in Pitsea, as well as others across the force, have got behind Pc Williams and have been raising money through sponsored events as well as tea and breakfast mornings.

More fund raising attempts are being organised as it was estimated that to give him any quality of life would cost between £10million and £15million.

December 2007

POLICE dog Brennan was commended by Chief Constable Roger Baker for his "bravery and tenacity" in tracing and apprehending two men suspected of stealing a vehicle in June. His handler Pc Mick

Finch, of Chigwell Dog Section, said: "People don't understand the bond between a dog and his handler."

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

In October, Brennan was signed off sick by the vet after he was assaulted by a suspect.

PCSO Andy Hill waded into water off Wallasea Island to drag two men out of their car. PCSO Faye Mills helped the two men to dry off and took them to a local marina to change.

And Crime Division analyst Will Cubbin stepped in between a rottweiler and a two-year-old girl.

Keen cyclist Will forced his mountain bike between the dog and the girl, allowing her uncle to get her to safety after the incident at Norsesy Woods in Billericay.

● Ds Paul Clark and a Kent PCSO lay flowers in the rear garden of the Margate house where the bodies of Dinah McNicol and Vicky Hamilton were discovered last month. Essex Police went to the house in the course of their search for Tillingham teenager Dinah, who vanished in August 1991, aged 18. However, officers from Stanway Major Investigation Team also found the body of missing Scottish teenager Vicky Hamilton

Picture courtesy of Kent News & Pictures



● Fourth generation: Clacton Pc Paul Wood, right, with his father, former sergeant Peter Wood, who is holding a picture of Paul's great-grandfather Sidney Smy, an inspector at Clacton. Paul's grandmother Ruby worked in the Women's Auxiliary Police Service (WAPS) in Clacton during World War Two



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. 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.

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 was 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 competitions – even prior to her becoming a superintendent.

Miss Butler always had time and took a great interest in the welfare of every female officer in the force, even after the 1975 Sex Discrimination Act, and it was because of this that I invited her to attend my long-service award after she had retired – she was one of the officers on the board at my initial interview when applying to join the police.

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

**Rosie Palmer
Ardleigh**

We need a national police force

IF the Ipswich prostitute murders, the shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes and now the bodies in Kent don't cry out 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 asking for trouble.

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

**Bob Miller
Chelmsford**

Memories of Borough men

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 illustrated 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 late 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 leaves all over 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

I AM writing about ex-Ds Ron Norman. I served in Essex Police from 1971 to 1983 – when I transferred to the City of London Police – retiring in 2001.

In my early days on CID at Brentwood, I was fortunate to receive my 'on the job' training from 'grumpy' Ron Norman and later to enjoy his friendship.

He was a first-class detective with a rather gruff exterior and didn't suffer fools gladly.

However, behind that facade lurked a sharp mind, a quick wit, a keen sense of humour and, more importantly, a trusted and valued colleague and friend.

He was also a family man who took immense pride in the achievements of his daughters and, latterly, his

grandchildren. Sadly, Ron suffered a stroke and was 'cast' after 22 years.

Essex Police was the poorer for his leaving and he was sorely missed by his colleagues and the public he served with dedication and commitment for every day of those 22 years.

Ron's health deteriorated in recent years and he moved to a BLESMA home in Blackpool where he could receive the care and support he needed.

Sadly he passed away on November 26 I attended his funeral at Lytham Park Crematorium on December 3, together with family and close friends, all of whom consider themselves to be the better for his friendship.

**Steve Sexton
Hornchurch**

Memories change but policing doesn't

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

And the second appearance of the photo 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 behind 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 interview room upstairs.

Those members of the upper classes, to whom we were obliged to touch our helmets, were never rude to officers as they always seem 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 from us oldies will inevitably one day join the ranks of those like me, whose only contact with the force they loved is to read *The Law* each month and take a stroll down memory lane.

Their memories will be different from ours but none the less sentimental and I hope happy.

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 three 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?

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 Woolf, 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.

Former senior probation officer and NCIS 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 long nights tiptoeing around, cell to cell, gathering intelligence on planned criminal activities which would resume as soon as their all-too-soon releases from custody would be effected.

**Mike Hughes
Goring-on-Thames
Oxfordshire**

Thanks so much for all messages

I AM writing regarding the late Insp Elizabeth Mary Saunders.

I was extremely touched by the number of people kind enough to attend Elizabeth's funeral on December 21.

People from all parts of Elizabeth's life came; police colleagues, friends from the judging and dressage world, those who had known her at her church and friends generally.

I know that Elizabeth would have been most happy at the turnout and I also know how very proud she would have been to know she would rest under the Essex Police shroud whilst she was in church.

For myself – I have received many messages of sympathy. To everyone who has sent such a message, and so made a very difficult time a little easier, I return my heartfelt thanks.

**Charles Saunders
Broomfield**

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, Essex 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.

For further information or details of membership, please contact me at the Federation Office on ext 54501 or on 01245 452799.

**Sue Kelly
Secretary
Essex Police Comrades' Association**

Driving me to drink

A GUIDE to drunkenness? So someone at the Home Office has decided that a police officer cannot tell when a person is drunk.

A guide book has been issued. The book sets out the signs to look for. The outcome of all this? At court, the arresting officer will no doubt be asked to list at least five signs listed in the guide to prove the person was drunk.

Then will come the test case as to the validity of the guide and why wasn't it written by a medical practitioner?

It's enough to drive one to drink.

**Jack Faulkner
Southend**

Do you remember?

MY father, Edwin Joseph Woodards, and I live in California. He left Essex Police in 1953 and brought us to the USA.

He is still alive, aged 93, and I want to find out how many of his old work colleagues are still alive.

Dad started out in Romford as PC 565 and was then posted to Harwich as Sgt 52. We lived in Harwich Police House and I remember it well.

I completed 30 years with the California Highway Patrol, retiring as a sergeant in 1995. Anyone who remembers my dad can get in touch with me at 3032 Lewis Street, Placerville, California 95667, USA.

**Ed Woodards
California**

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



Letters of appreciation



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

TO: Jan Woodhouse

I received a phone call from Jennifer Dore asking if the Essex Black Police Association (BPA) could offer any support for the hate crime problem in Tilbury.

Jennifer spent some time giving examples of BPA involvement elsewhere in the county whereby the community had been successfully engaged with and we agreed that there were several things we could work together on.

I said it was a shame I had not known earlier because I would have asked for support at the Tilbury Fair and Christmas Lights Switch-On that evening, when lots of the local community would be in one place.

Within two hours Jennifer arranged to be present that evening. Sgt Rob Maile met her and a number of positive actions are already being put in place, such as linking with schools.

Jennifer was very involved with the event and spoke to the chair of the local community forum (neighbourhood panel).

Jennifer's enthusiasm and community focus are impressive and I would like to record my thanks for her support at such short notice for this event.

**Insp Rachel Wood
Tilbury & Corringham**

TO Insp Adrian Dearsley
There are times when the police 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 and intimidating and when I attended I was faced with the same situation.

We went to Harwich police station and were seen by Sgt Darren Deex, who knew the people involved. He asked if we would like officers to accompany us. Two officers were already talking to the people in question when we got back to the flat and a compromise was reached.

I want to congratulate all three officers; Sgt Deex 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.

**NC
Dovercourt**

I FELT compelled to write after Pc James O'Connell and Pc Michael Deats gave me such a positive impression of the force.

It is a credit that such polite, professional and courteous officers 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 woman on my own, I was very scared.

The two officers were driving past and stopped to help. They not only helped me to solve the problem but also ensured I was constantly at ease and have left me with a great respect for both the capabilities and the kindness of police in Basildon.

Both offered practical and helpful solutions and immediately set about to rectify the problem.

At first I was distressed and they dealt with it in a very professional yet compassionate way. I never felt that my safety was compromised, which is quite an achievement given that we were on a roundabout on the approach to the A13.

I was extremely embarrassed by the incident and feel indebted to all the officers involved.

If all officers are like Pc O'Connell and Pc Deats then we have a police force to be very proud of.

**KS
Basildon**

THERE has been some bad publicity recently about PCSOs and what they do.

I feel that I should let you know that in my opinion this negative view is totally unfounded.

Here in Shoeburyness and attached to Shoebury police station are three PCSOs – Emma Hewitt, Vanessa Toohey and Isobel Buckley – who are doing a tremendous job in the area.

They have successfully got rid of taggers and mini-moto riders, they ensure that under-age drinkers are unable to purchase from the local shops and they are

respected by local children who feel able to talk to them.

**JD
Shoeburyness**

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.

**RD
Westcliff**

I WISH to express my gratitude to two officers, Pc Graham Nuth and Pc Steve Judd, for their kindness in allowing me to accompany them on an evening patrol around the district.

As an MP, I am inundated with copious reports and sets of statistics, not least about policing, but there is nothing like going 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 degree of paperwork that your officers have to deal with and I 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**

TO Sue Kelly

Thank you for your kind letter regarding my late father.

Also may we thank you for the drape you supplied for his 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 itself 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 this has rubbed off on people he met

during his police service.

**S & A R
Leigh on Sea**

TO Chief Insp Craig Robertson and SInsp Adam Pipe
I AM writing to thank you and officers from Maldon police station for their attendance at the Remembrance Sunday Parade.

The invaluable assistance of your community police officers in helping to enforce the temporary road closure was greatly appreciated.

Please would you also thank Sgt Richard Miller for all the invaluable advice he was able to give whilst attending the working party 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.

**P&G C
Canvey Island**

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;

Taking responsibility for performance; Inspiring high standards; Overcoming hurdles; Never accepting second-best. The recipients were: Angela Kemp, of Mobile Support Division; and Sgt Neil Phimister, of Sandon Dog Section.



Letters extra

Your support is much appreciated

I WORK as an arrest referral practitioner (drugs worker) at Harlow police station, for Westminster Drug Project – a registered charity which provides information, advice, counselling and treatment to drug users.

Last May, we took over the contract for drug workers in all Essex police stations as part of the Essex Drug Intervention Programme.

Within the last few months we have substantially increased refers to treatment across the county.

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**

Fond thoughts of former colleagues

AS ex-Pc 1089, I was stationed at Canvey Island from 1965 to 1988 and served with two of ex-officers mentioned in the obituary column of last month's issue of *The Law* – Charlie Burt and Bob Cook – I thought highly of both.

I would like to advise readers of the death of another ex-Essex officer – Eric Ernest Fretten. He was a sergeant instructor at Eynsham Hall, the No 5 Police District Training College in 1961.

He was then stationed at Romford and went on to Colchester Traffic on promotion.

Eric became chief inspector on Traffic with the Metropolitan Police and was the first promotion to a specialist branch from an outside force.

He rose to chief superintendent and was only prevented from becoming commander through ill-health, which forced him to retire early.

Following a long fight against illness, Eric died on November 14, aged 78. Should any readers who remember Eric wish to get in touch with his widow Audrey, they can do so via me at Dan Plain, Cenarth, Newcastle Emlyn, Carmarthenshire SA38 9JL.

**Graham Elliot
Newcastle Emlyn**

● I THOUGHT readers of *The Law* who remembered my husband Charles Burt, who died recently, aged 76, might like to read the following poem written about him – an Ode to Charlie:

Alas, alack and golly gosh,
Poor JA4 got stuck in the wash,
They took it in all covered in dirt,
The driver was 'Old Charlie Burt'.
The suds and brushes whirled away,
What would the Chief Inspector say?
The crew then wondered, would it be alright?
What about the big blue light.
Then suddenly an almighty crash,
Something on the roof did bash,
The brushes jammed, the wash had broken
And the doors they couldn't open.
With no panic, but breath abated
For help our gallant crew awaited.
Passing motorists laughed and joked
But our proper Charlie was not provoked.
It seemed the car it was entombed,
An interview with Irwin loomed,
Help arrived, released at last,
They drove away red faced and fast.
They checked the car, no damage found
The light was there, all big and round.
So there is the tale of 'Charlie's Luck'
When in the car wash he got stuck!

**Eileen Burt
Canvey Island**

ESSEX POLICE

What does neighbourhood policing mean to you?

Territorial policing
Providing strategic and tactical support to front-line staff and officers

Right up your street

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

www.essex.police.uk

Holiday lets

COSTA Blanca, Almoradi. Three-bedroom, two-bathroom luxury 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 201694 or dashpole@hotmail.com

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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 McAulay on 01625 431373 or 07881 614045, or email mcaulay60@hotmail.com

FLORIDA, three-bedroom, two-bathroom luxury villa. Visit www.hardysfloridavilla.co.uk or contact Keith or Diana Hardy on 01702 464358.

LA MANGA Spain. Two-bedroom apartment, pool, garage, sea views. Seconds from beach. Quality accommodation well reported 2007. Low cost flights from Stansted. Contact Bernie on 079860 98422.

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Wonderful country, wildlife and scenery. Quiet luxury amid splendid environment. Long/short lets suitable for family/couples. Ring Gwen on 01508 489754.

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TUSCANY, Italy. Romantic, rustic, medieval village house. Four bedrooms, stunning views. Near Florence, Riviera and Pisa. Visit www.tuscanlife.co.uk or phone 07976 720022.

WELLS-next-the-Sea, Norfolk. Warm, stylish, traditional Victorian cottage Close to Quayside, shops and beaches. Winter and summer breaks available. Ring 07976 720022 for details or visit www.norfolkdreams.com

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Extra special service for your special day. Braintree, Colchester and Uttlesford districts. Contact Pete Caulfield on 01787 477537 or visit www.rvweddings.co.uk

SELL or rent your Florida house. See www.mjcoleman.com for info. Property management also available. Ring 01245 206593 or email murray@mjcoleman.com

WEDDING car hire. White Rolls Royce Silver Shadow II. Discounted

For sale

rate for police employees. Visit www.specialdaycarhire.co.uk email info@specialdaycarhire.co.uk or contact Dave or Sally Swann on 01277 364626.

SONY television, 26in screen, large size but perfect working order, offers. Contact Helen on 07939 144030.

For rent

WITHAM, recently-refurbished two-bed terrace house to rent. Five minutes to train station. Police employees preferred. Contact Mel on 07919 401970.

Life-savers sweep national trophies



● ACC Derek Benson presents the trophies to the force women's life-saving team of Ds Mel Jobson, Sgt Paddy O'Toole, Pc Sue Clark and Pc Sarah Pike

CHIEF Constable Roger Baker has congratulated our women's life-saving team on again sweeping the board at the ACPO championships. The team consists of captain Pc Sarah Pike, of Great Yeldham, Ds Mel Jobson, of Brentwood Child Abuse Investigation Unit, Pc Sue Clark, of Benfleet Professional Development Unit, and Sgt Paddy O'Toole, of Executive Support. Not only did they win the national trophy, the Allington Cup, for the four disciplines – individual 12m rope throw, individual 50m swim and 50m tow, team first aid incident and team open water incident – they also won the Kenneth Williams Trophy for the best combined marks in the two team events and Pc Pike came third overall in the individual competition. The team also raised £500 for the Liam Briginshaw Bursary. ACC Briginshaw had been elected chairman of the ACPO Life-Saving Society shortly before he became ill in 2005. Presenting the trophies, ACC Derek Benson said: "The skills and disciplines involved in life-saving are directly relevant to everyday policing in a force such as Essex, which has an extensive coastline and miles of inland waterways."

Officers promoted after board meets

THE force has new chief superintendents, following last month's promotion boards.

Temporary chief superintendents **Tim Stokes** and **Maurice Mason** and Supt **Glenn Caton** were successful.

Chief Supt Stokes is Western Divisional Commander and Chief Supt Mason is Communications Divisional Commander.

Steve Worrton has been promoted to superintendent at South Eastern division and Chief Insp **Simon Williams**, formerly of Stansted Airport, has been promoted to superintendent, working on the Protective Services Project.

Meanwhile, **Stuart Smith** has taken over as Eastern's crime manager, as a temporary detective chief inspector.

Retirements

Sgt **Paul Fincham**, 48, has called it a day this month after serving the force for 30 years.

During that time, he has served at Harlow Division, Harlow Traffic, Grays and Mobile Support Division.

He finished up as garage sergeant at Chigwell Road Policing Unit.

We also bade farewell to Pc

Heather Sheldon, 51, after 32 years with the force.

Heather joined the force in December 1975 and has spent her career in the south of the county.

From Grays, she moved to Tilbury, Rayleigh, Leigh on Sea and Canvey Island and back to Leigh before becoming a station office assistant in 1991 for four years. She rejoined as a constable in 1995 and served in Grays Division, latterly South Western.

And Pc **John Meacock**, 44, retired last month on medical grounds after serving for just over 17 years.

He spent his career on Eastern Division.

Val Doggett, 61, also retired from the force last month after almost 18 years. She worked at HQ CID, for Executive Support and latterly for Transport Services.

Obituaries

Retired inspector **Elizabeth Saunders**, who served with Essex Police between 1970 and 1996, has died, aged 60, after a short bout of a vicious cerebral cancer. She leaves a widower Kenneth.

Mrs Saunders served first of all at Harlow, and then at Epping. She was then WPC 10 Falconer.

Promoted to sergeant, she transferred to Chelmsford and then to

Chelmsford Traffic, and was with them when they moved to Rayleigh.

As inspector, she was first at Basildon, and ended her service at the Crown Court.

Donations to Cancer Research may be made in her memory c/o Bennetts funeral directors, 120 High Street, Brentwood CM14 4AS.

Former Castle Point Neighbourhood Watch (NW) co-ordinator **Ray Harding** died last month in Norwich.

Mr Harding was a retired Customs and Excise officer and one of the first NW co-ordinators to work from an office in a police station.

He worked as a NW co-ordinator in the 1980s and 1990s, working out of Benfleet police station and retiring in 2000.

He was awarded the MBE for his services to NW in the 1990s. He was a founder member of Benfleet Shooting Club, although he devoted most of his time to NW, taking part in many crime reduction campaigns and also sitting on the Castle Point Crime Reduction Panel.

Degree

Chief Insp **Jon Dodman**, of Mobile Support Division Special Operations, has been awarded an MSc in Police Science and Management by the University of Portsmouth.

OBE for former deputy

THE former Deputy Chief Constable of Essex, Charles Clark, has received his OBE for services to policing. He was presented with the honour by Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace last month.

Mr Clark, who retired from the force on December 31, 2006, said the award was as much for the colleagues he had worked with during almost 40 years at Essex Police as it was for him.

"I was deeply honoured and delighted to have been awarded an OBE for services to policing.

"I gained great satisfaction from delivering a service to the public for almost 40 years, most of that time serving in Essex, and, in particular, I enjoyed the last ten years of

my career as Deputy Chief Constable in Essex. "When I think of the achievements that may have led to this wonderful award I think of the work I led on youth justice for the Association of Chief Police Officers for more than ten years. I committed myself to Essex, which enabled a local understanding to policing and I led and oversaw numerous complex and difficult operational situations.

"I have achieved this award thanks to the outstanding support I have received from my wife, family and friends and a whole range of fantastic people I have had the privilege to work with over so many years. This award is as much for all of them as it is for me."



● Former Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark after the ceremony with, from left, daughter Rachel, wife Sue and daughter Naomi

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.



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.

● To join, send a cheque for £30 made payable to Essex Police Angling Club, to Alan Diver, Barrack House, Trinity Street, Halstead, CO9 1JQ.

On receipt, he will provide details, directions and fishery rules

Do you need help with triathlons?

ESSEX Police Triathlon Club are organising coached running sessions at Braintree Athletics Track on Wednesday evenings.

The sessions will be held at the track in Panfield Lane, Braintree, between 8pm and 9pm.

The sessions are free to members of Essex Police Sports Association (EPSA).

Novice and experienced runners are welcome as the sessions will be tailored for mixed abilities.

● 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 Batey, of Financial Investigations, Brentwood, have been selected to represent the 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.

Dilys gets a lovely car surprise just in time for Christmas

BRAINTREE Service Desk Supervisor Dilys Ware was the lucky winner of a car in the December lottery draw, made by Chief Constable Roger Baker.

Winner of £3,000 was Insp Simon Dobinson of HQ Territorial Policing, David Bell, of Corringham, won the £1,000 prize and Pc Gemma Horton, of Colchester, won £500.

The winners of the £100 prizes were:

Ds Douglas Bedford, of Colchester; Michael Haig, retired; Denise Maynard, of HQ Staff Development; Dc Philip Butt, of Southend; Pc David Ince, of Southend; David Harvey, of

Central Property Store; DI Godfrey O'Toole, of Stanway Major Investigation Team (MIT); Insp Darren Deex, of Harwich; Ruth Dixon, of HQ Occupational Health; Neville Robinson, retired; and Pc Adam Thompson, of Colchester Professional Development Unit.

Winners of the £50 prizes were:

Pc Paul Fisk, of HQ Weapons Training; Richard Mason, retired; Dc David Pawsey, of Feering; Dc Dominic Graham, of Wickford; Geoffrey Markham, retired; Keith Gurney, of Chelmsford Warrants Office; Dc David McKenzie, of Stanway MIT; Chris Webb, of Corporate

Support; Pc Sean Murphy, of Southend; Pc Simon Tassell, of Braintree; Sgt Paul Whittingham, of Laindon Road Policing Unit (RPU); Ernest Dark, retired; Peter Roddy, of the Force Information Room; and Wendy Murphy, of Halstead.

Winners of Benenden Healthcare teddy bears were:

Danielle Rushton-Hickman, of Harlow; Pc Lewis Kearney, of Southend; Dc David Bishop, of Clacton; Pc Philip Suarez, of Clacton; Rosemary Dabbs, of Laindon RPU; and Lisa Crow, of Harwich.



● Essex Police Choir chairman Peter Simpson presents a cheque for £5,000 to Ranjan Thilagarajah, of Broomfield Hospital, for the Holmium laser appeal, watched by fellow members of Essex Police Choir at their Christmas concert

Choir makes a £5,000 present to hospital charity

ESSEX Police Choir ended another successful year by presenting a £5,000 cheque to Broomfield Hospital in Chelmsford.

The gift was made by chairman Peter Simpson during a sell-out concert to Ranjan Thilagarajah, from the hospital.

The December 15 concert at the town's Trinity Methodist Church was held to raise funds for the hospital's Laser Appeal to purchase a Holmium laser, which can be used for the treatment of a number of disorders, including cancer of the prostate and kidney stones.

It is a major advancement in the urology field, offering non-intrusive surgery for patients.

This year the choir was supported by the Cavender Singers, always an audience favourite.

The choristers showed off their wide-ranging repertoire, performing favourites from this year's selection. Following a break for refreshments and the 'regulation' mince pies, the second half was full of seasonal songs and carols.

Publicity officer Mark Lawrence said afterwards: "Essex Police Choir would like to thank all the people who have supported us throughout 2007 to enable us to make such a valuable contribution towards the purchase of this equipment."

● ESSEX Police Choir is recruiting new members to help maintain its excellent singing tradition and continue raising funds for charities across the county.

You do not have to be a member of the police service to join the choir. Anyone interested can ring 01245 281412 or visit the website www.essexpolicechoir.co.uk

Runners continue to fly the Essex flag

ESSEX are leading every team category after three races in the PSUK regional cross-country league.

The third fixture of the regional PSUK cross-country league, hosted by Essex, was again combined with this season's force Croker Cup cross-country race last month.

After the heavy morning rain had cleared, runners were faced with very strong winds, which, combined with the fact it was held at Gosbecks Archaeology Park in Colchester, produced a tough but traditional English course.

It was the first sporting event to be held at the ancient Roman burial site and the course included a woodland section through the adjoining Roman River valley.

Competing over 5km, the women were led home by Rachel Ling, of Sussex Police, with team honours going to Cambridgeshire.

Making it three straight Croker Cup wins, Rachel Wood was first home for Essex in fifth place, followed by Kirsty Potterton in sixth and Amanda Pollard in 13th, also the first Essex veteran. With good support from Lisa Kiely in 14th place, closely followed by Di Frew and Ella Hearn, in 15th and 16th, respectively, the team secured a valuable

second league place. Once again, the men's race was dominated by former Commonwealth games runner Ben Whitby, of City of London, with his third straight league race win.

His nearest rival was a mysterious runner who joined in at the start and, after crossing the finish line in second place, disappeared again leaving no details – some suggested he was the ghost of a Roman Centurion who haunts the park.

Just ten days after competing in the Florence Marathon, Derek Walker used his strength to prevent Russ Welch retaining the Essex title – they finished third and fourth overall, respectively.

Excellent runs by Andy Jopson, fifth, and Dan Sorrell, ninth, ensured the Essex men continue undefeated since March 2005 in any regional fixture. Indeed, with an average age of 29½ years for the leading Essex runners, there is every reason to expect the success to continue for some time.

Making his debut as a veteran, Dave Wood – tenth overall and competing in the veterans' over-40 race (V40) – produced his best ever cross-country performance, holding off Mick Bond in twelfth place (V50) and Don English, 21st (V45) to lead the vets team to second place.

Completing the individual Croker Cup awards, Trevor Crosby came out of

retirement to claim the V55 prize, finishing 35th overall.

Out of a total field of 72 runners, Essex produced more than half – 37 – for this home fixture. The next regional league fixture is in Hampshire on January 17.

● ESSEX are leading every team category after three races in the PSUK regional cross-country league.

In the men's competition, Essex have 57 points, followed by City of London with 137 and Kent in third place with 223.

In the men's veterans section, Essex have 74 points, Kent are close on their heels with 78 points and City of London and Hertfordshire are tying for third place with 140 points each.

And Essex also lead the women's competition with 62 points, followed by Cambridgeshire with 93 and Hampshire with 96.

Individually, Ben Whitby with three wins and thus three points, clearly leads the men, with Essex's Derek Walker on eight points and Russ Welch on nine.

Essex's Mick Bond leads the veterans in the over-50s section.

Rachel Ling, of Sussex, heads the women's race with seven points and Essex's Rachel Wood is second with 17 points.

● Croker Cup results: 1 Eastern; 2 Central; 3 HQ; 4 Western; 5 South Eastern; 6 South Western.



● Kerrie Barkway ext 58883



TIME to burn off the Christmas pudding? Essex Police Sports Association members have a number of great gym membership deals available across the county so, if it's time to put those New Year's resolutions into practice, here are five of the best: **Virgin, Chelmsford and Thundersley:** normally £51 a month full membership and £40 joining fee but they run deals every month; **Cannons, Chelmsford:** take a free one-week corporate trial pass at any time to test out the club first; **LA Fitness:** ten per cent off rates at all their clubs and a personal programme; **Fitness First:** seven branches across the county. Three- and 12-month packages with free corporate day passes; **Clarice House Group:** corporate membership packages available. Luxury within country house settings. Further details of these and other clubs across the county can be found on the EPSA website, just click on Member Benefits and then on Health Clubs. Happy New Year.

Have you been selected for a national sporting squad?

Make sure you let

The Law know

Email [heather.turner@](mailto:heather.turner@essex.pnn.police.uk)

essex.pnn.police.uk



Brothel owner must hand over £30,000

A WOMAN convicted of managing three brothels has been ordered to pay a £30,000 confiscation order.

Karen Williamson, who now lives in Le Pediz in Spain, had pleaded guilty to the three counts of managing a brothel last year – the brothels were in Southend, Basildon and Chelmsford.

Her sentence had included a three-month prison sentence, suspended for 12 months, and a 200-hour community service order.

But she was brought back to court last month for a confiscation hearing. At Basildon Crown Court, Judge Clegg declared a criminal benefit figure of £202,857.22 and ordered her to pay the £30,000 from her assets within three months or serve 12 months in prison. Financial investigator Tracy Pollington said afterwards: "We will continue to monitor Mrs Williamson's wealth and if more assets are found we will consider using our powers to recover the remaining criminal benefit figure."

Under the Proceeds of Crime Act, a judge can declare by how much he believes an individual has benefited from the proceeds of crime – the court then sets an amount that the defendant has to pay the court, based on that figure.

If the individual later comes into more money, then the Crown Prosecution Service can go back to court and apply for the individual to be ordered to pay more money to the court.

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 Groundhog Day, the three-minute 12 Crimes web film follows 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.

Public relations officer 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."

• To view the video, visit www.essex.police.uk/12crimes

SOCD get their man: from New Zealand!

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-authorized 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 (SOCD), 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 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 horsing around with public safety



• Sgt Dave Martin, on Bella, and Pc Dale Copley, on Biscuit, introduce their two mounts to the people of Chelmsford

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."

Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers, who was key to the return of the Mounted Unit, said not only had the horses brought benefits to operational policing but they had increased public interest and confidence in the force as a whole.

"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."

A new range of policing tactics and possibilities

AUTOMATIC Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) is to be rolled out across the UK this month following a successful pilot scheme in Essex and three other forces. ANPR cameras, deployed through dedicated fixed sites or mobile units, have been checking thousands of vehicle number plates in and around Essex everyday for both their involvement in criminal activity and road policing offences since 2005. And this expansion of ANPR capabilities has given Essex Police the opportunity to increase substantially the number of offenders caught. Early detection using ANPR allows the police to enforce the law at various levels, combating crime to support the drive toward increasing detections, while simultaneously supporting road policing objectives to remove unsafe vehicles and drivers and as a result reducing casualties on the roads.

As an intelligence-gathering tool, ANPR is widening investigative options, thus enabling

more comprehensive crime investigation.

Assistant Chief Constable Peter Lowton chairs the ANPR Project Board. He said: "Essex is combining with community partners and is making a substantial investment in this technology."

"ANPR is a valuable tool in our objectives to reduce crime, apprehend offenders and improve the safety of our roads."

Business manager Russell Bush said research showed motoring offences were often associated with other, more serious crimes so ANPR cameras could have an immense impact on modern policing.

He said: "Traditionally seen as a roads policing tool used to enforce legislation and make our streets safer, ANPR use is now expanding, offering a new range of policing tactics and possibilities surrounding intelligence and both reactive and proactive crime investigation."

"I am aiming to make ANPR an everyday use for all crime enquiries."



• Waiting for the criminals to drive past