

# The Law



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Offenders are spotted and targeted by officers on town estate

## NATIONAL INTEREST IN ASB OPERATION

**A UNIQUE and brilliantly simple neighbourhood policing operation which halted crime on a Basildon housing estate is to be adopted elsewhere in Essex and around the UK.**

Officers involved in Operation Leopard knocked on the doors of known offenders, warned them that their behaviour wouldn't be tolerated and then photographed them and their associates as they wandered around an estate for the next four days.

The result was dramatic. Burglaries, criminal damage and car crime stopped completely during the course of the operation at the end of January. And there have been few incidents since.

A further 15 Operation Leopards are to be carried out in the Basildon district over the next year with joint funding from HQ and a housing association.

The pioneering operation attracted considerable national media attention when a three-page article in a Basildon daily newspaper was followed up with positive articles in the *Daily Mail*, the *Mirror* and *The Sun*.

Anglia TV and a local radio station carried interviews with one of the officers involved and the BBC Panorama programme has applied to film a forthcoming operation.

The publicity drew inquiries from other forces around Britain which want to adopt similar techniques in areas with anti-social behaviour problems.

Operation Leopard was devised during a meeting between Basildon district commander Chief Insp Mark Wheeler, the Pitsea area commander Insp Steve Ditchburn and Sgt Gav Brook, the neighbourhood policing team sergeant for Vange.

The trio were considering ideas on how to tackle crime on one particular housing estate when they hit upon the idea of using Forward Intelligence Team (FIT) officers.

The FIT is normally deployed at major public events, such as football matches or at fox hunts, to gather information and photographs of troublemakers.

Some FIT officers had been used to film car cruisers plaguing a car park in Pitsea some months earlier. But it was

by **Bill Stock**

the first time they were to be sent into a housing estate.

With the FIT booked for the four-day operation, local officers then carried out a widespread public survey to find out who was causing problems on the estate.

With information from the public and from police intelligence, the names of 15 known troublemakers were obtained.

Two were Prolific and Priority Offenders. Some others, of school age, had been excluded from education or were attending only part-time.

As the operation got under way, targeted suspects and their friends laughed and joked about being photographed and being asked to give their personal details.

But they quickly realised it was no laughing matter as the officers followed them, filmed them as they sat in quiet alleyways and continued to ask questions.

Sixty stop-checks were carried out during the course of the operation and there were five stop and searches. Four associates of the 14 suspects were arrested.

Two hundred residents who were questioned before the operation and helped to provide names of troublemakers were questioned again after the operation and said that Operation Leopard had increased their confidence in the police and also reduced their fear of crime.

Chief Insp Wheeler said: "Anti-social behaviour and crime in general significantly affects residents' quality of life. We take that very seriously, which is why we decided to take this radical approach, targeting people responsible for problems in Vange."

"Operation Leopard was not about targeting kids hanging around on street corners. It was about targeting people believed to be responsible for criminal damage, vehicle crime and burglary."

"We are committed to solving these problems and the use of specialist officers for this operation should confirm to people how serious we are about doing that."

Assistant Chief Constable Carmel Napier added: "This is an excellent example of responsive local policing that is listening to its communities, taking positive action where necessary to address inappropriate behaviour and working with others to develop alternative avenues where young people and others can more appropriately use their energy and express themselves."



● Officers from the Forward Intelligence Team prepare to talk to youths, above,  
● Photographing a young person, top

Pictures by Bill Stock



## The road to success

TWO new automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) teams have been set up following the success of the first – launched in April 2005.

Teams at Chigwell and Stanway join the original team at Laindon – giving Essex the largest intercept capability of any county force in the country.

Technology enables the total of nine vehicles to process an average of 18 million number plates a month – around three per cent, or 540,000, of which will flag up a warning to officers. In the past year, ANPR intercept teams have been responsible for 350 arrests, seizing 775 uninsured vehicles, recovering 30 stolen cars and issuing 1,467 fixed penalty notices.

And they have attended the V-festival, Southend football matches, raves, cruising events and drugs operations. ANPR project manager Insp Paul Moor said: “The recent expansion of the intercept teams has significantly increased our ability to target criminals operating across Essex and the region as a whole.”

“The success of the first team clearly showed the value of intelligence-led targeting of our resources.”

Each team consists of an inspector, a sergeant and six constables. They use high-powered Subaru Imprezas or Mitsubishi Evos, backed up by Spectrum vans, all fitted with the latest ANPR technology.

● The success of the force's first ANPR intercept team has led it to set up two new teams – there are now three, based at Laindon, Chigwell and Stanway – the Air Support Unit also plays its part when called upon

## Winners are flying high

THREE youngsters were the lucky winners of a guided tour of the force's air support and marine units.

They were the winners of competitions organised by PCSOs Anne-Marie Hayden-Case and Danielle Rushton-Hickman at last year's Harlow Town Show. PCSO Hayden-Case said: “The youngsters enjoyed sitting in the helicopter and playing with the gadgets and they really enjoyed the engine room of the police boat. They also got police goodie bags.”

# Pounding the beat – not your pocket!

**AN extra 35 police officers, 33 members of police staff and 14 PCSOs are set to be recruited after Essex Police Authority approved the 2008/09 budget.**

Currently, the force has 3,450 officers, 464 PCSOs, 2,164 members of police staff and 542 Specials.

In line with the current Specials recruitment drive, the force also plans to recruit at least 100 additional special constables during the coming financial year.

Last month, members approved spending of £251million for the 2008/09 financial year – after a government settlement of £173million, the difference will be met by a Council Tax increase of 4.95 per cent.

Director of Finance Rick Tazzini explained that the new budget aimed to continue the growth started in this current financial year.

One of the areas targeted by the increase in police officers and staff will be protective services – helping to keep the county safe from the threat of more serious crime.

The budget includes cash from Stansted Airport Ltd (STAL) to pay for 19 extra officers to police the airport.

This year, the force's budget allowed us to increase the number of front-line posts by 120 – 96 police officers, 22 PCSOs and two members of police staff.

In fact, the number of officers and staff policing the communities of Essex has risen from 4,785 in 2001/02 to 6,013 this year – helping to make the county a safer place in which to live and work.

To help pay for this investment, the force is currently looking to make £6million of recurrent savings by March 31, 2009, and, so far, has saved £4.4million under the Operation Austin banner.

As well as increased numbers of police officers and staff, the new budget will also fund replacement Airwave radios, uniform and protective equipment.

Mr Tazzini said: “Our Council Tax and spending are both the second lowest of the 31 shire police forces and we currently top our group of most similar forces when it comes to overall levels of recorded crime and our success in detecting that low crime rate.”

“In fact, pound for pound, we will be spending £9million less than the average budgets of the forces in our group and we have managed to keep our increase to just 11p a week for the average Council Tax-payer while delivering even more growth in numbers.”

“So Essex Police will be pounding the beat and not your pocket.”

Recorded crime in the county fell by 6,617, or 6.2 per cent between April 2007 and January 2008, compared with the same period the previous year. That means many fewer victims in Essex every day – enough in just 9 months to fill Colchester United ground! At the same time, our sanctioned detection rate continued to rise, to 32.44 per cent, up from 29.02 per cent – an extra 1,498 crimes detected.

The police precept for an average, Band D property will now be £122.22, an increase of £5.76 on last year.

Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers said: “I am pleased that the authority has managed to increase the budget by just 11p a week. It will help to fund extra police officers on the front line as well as ensuring that they are properly equipped. “Our aim is to make policing in Essex more visible and accessible to the public and we are committed to ensuring continued improvement and value for money in our service.”

And Chief Constable Roger Baker added that, providing even more officers on the beat “allows us to deliver what the public wants and meets the operational needs of Essex Police”.

## Special day brings the fun closer to home

DISABLED children from across the county are being offered an opportunity to visit a working farm and participate in a host of interactive events this summer.

The annual Essex Police 4x4 Fun Day at Marsh Farm, South Woodham Ferrers, takes place on Thursday, August 28, with activities such as off-road driving, an adventure playground and strolls through the animal paddocks on offer.

A barbecue will keep the parents, carers, volunteers and guests going throughout the day.

The event is into its 12th year – it was first held in Hastings before moving to Kent. However, after the 2001 foot and mouth outbreak, organisers wanted to bring the event closer to home and make it even more accessible for schools and organisations throughout Essex.

Co-organiser Michele France, an Essex Police College IT trainer, reflected on the event's aim and why she has been committed to it for the past eight years.

She said: “We usually have many sleepless nights in the run-up but it's all worth it just to see the looks on the children's faces and the delighted cheers from the parents.”

“We forget their disabilities for one day and just ensure the boys and girls have a great time, enjoying new situations and trying out their skills at different tasks.”

“It's all about them and the successful running of the day – that's why I do it.”

The event is funded by local businesses and Essex Police Federation, with volunteers recruited to ensure the day runs smoothly.

● Anyone interested either in becoming a volunteer or who knows of disadvantaged children who could benefit from the fun day is urged to contact Michele via email or on ext 57100

## Tuning up for another concert

THE Essex Police Band is tuning up again to help raise funds for Writtle All Saints' Church's Tower Roof Appeal.

The concert at the church on Saturday, April 26, at 7.30pm, will also feature Sound Lantern.

Tickets, costing £7.50, include light refreshments, and are available from Mrs Joy Madigan, Essex Police Band, Essex Police HQ, Springfield, Chelmsford, CM2 6DA or from Writtle Post Office. Please make cheques payable to Essex Police Band.



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## Polishing up officers' language

A BRAINTREE inspector has secured funding for officers to learn Polish.

The district has seen an increase in people arriving from eastern Europe and Insp Gordon Ashford felt that learning Polish would help officers and PCSOs to communicate more effectively with this section of the community.

Now, thanks to funding from the Learning and Skills Council, a six-week course is being held at Braintree police station.

Insp Ashford hopes that the language students will be able to use their new skills at local beat surgeries.

"It is vital that all parts of the community have trust and confidence in the police," he said.

"Some people may require a different level of support or type of service to others.

"Problems can and do arise. Often, these problems focus on issues that most people would take for granted and therefore cause confusion – an understanding of local legislation, the criminal justice system, education, employment, medical and other welfare support issues."

Already, the police are liaising with Braintree District Council's migrant community development officer.

PCSO Will Gladwell said: "The response is overwhelming and certainly being able to speak a few words in Polish breaks down a lot of barriers very quickly."

## 'Constable country' charity stroll

A WALK to commemorate the first chief constable of Essex will be used to raise money for charity, too.

People are invited to stroll along the Admiral McHardy Way – a collection to raise funds for Pc Arron Williams and the British Heart Foundation will be held.

The walk starts at 8.30am on Monday, May 5. Walkers will start from HQ Sports and Social Club and wend their way to Little Baddow before returning to HQ.

The 12-mile Admiral McHardy Way walk originated in 1990 to commemorate 150 years of policing in Essex and was named after the first Essex Police chief constable, John Bunch Bonnemaision McHardy.

Admiral McHardy was in charge of the force from its founding in 1840 until his retirement some 41 years later, aged 81. He died in 1882 and is buried at Holy Trinity Church in Springfield.

Two of his 15 children became chief constables of Scottish forces, making the McHardy name one of the most important in the early development of modern policing.

• Anyone wishing to take part should note that they are responsible for their own health and safety and should go along properly equipped

# South Eastern rolls out five new areas of policing

SOUTH Eastern Division is to undergo changes as part of a new restructuring initiative.

The restructuring goes live at the end of next month and will see neighbourhood support teams merged with neighbourhood policing teams to create five, area-based NPTs covering the Southend, Rochford and Castle Point districts.

The five teams will work a six on, four off 24-hour shift pattern and the role of the Neighbourhood

Specialist Officer (NSO) will be preserved and augmented.

Efficient planning and organisation of the restructuring by everyone involved at South Eastern will ensure a smooth transition for the division.

Divisional commander Chief Supt Dave Folkard believes the restructure will bring significant advantages.

He said: "The changes are being made to ensure we provide an even better service to the people of south-east Essex.

"We have listened to what our officers have had to say and have worked closely with their representatives to see that the transition is completed with the minimum disruption to their professional and personal lives."

# A motorbike send-off for an 'outstanding' officer

by Kim Perks

**HUNDREDS of leather-clad bikers and uniformed police officers united in grief to bid farewell to Sgt Bob Walsham.**

A keen motorcyclist, Bob died in a road crash on the A12 in Suffolk on January 29.

His send-off would have made him proud and it poignantly illustrated his popularity as a family man, an "outstanding" police officer and as a friend.

Two police motorcycles led the cortege and a convoy of Harley motorbikes through a police guard of honour, and the extent to which Bob had touched all of their lives was written across many faces.

The sheer numbers of mourners at his funeral on February 19 left many outside the chapel at West Mersea Crematorium, braced against the cold and listening to the service via speakers.

Overcome by tears, Bob's 15-year-old son Ben was unable to read out the tribute he had penned, in which he described his father as "a machine programmed to love people".

It was not just Bob's caring side that was evident during the service. Ben's tribute spoke of the time his fun-loving father took him and his brother Fraser skateboarding, only to break his ankle but still manage to drive home.

Retired officer and fellow motorbike enthusiast Pete Gardner also recalled the time Bob dressed up and danced in a white tutu for a bikers' rendition of Swan Lake.

He put as much enthusiasm into his



• Two police motorcyclists lead the cortege and a convoy of motorbikes at the funeral of Sgt Bob Walsham, pictured above

work as he did to his free time and became an inspiration to a great many colleagues with his strong ethics and a determination to make a difference in the communities that he served, at times with great success.

Bob began his career in the Metropolitan Police before moving to Essex in 1989 and had served for a total of 26 years when he died.

During that time he was awarded three commendations as well as the Millard Trophy for his work in Clacton.

Bob was living with his fiancée Emma and her four children and was travelling from their home in Hadleigh, Suffolk, to work in Colchester when the crash happened.

Pete Gardner, himself choking back

tears, described Bob as a "copper's copper" with a great sense of humour, who died doing what he loved best – riding his motorbike.

Donations can be made to a diabetic charity in Bob's memory. Cheques, made payable to The Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust charity fund 20491, may be sent to Co-op funeral directors, 89 Wimpole Road, Colchester CO1 2BB.

• A MEMORIAL to Sgt Bob Walsham is to be put up at Clacton police station.

The ornamental tree and encribed brass plate will be placed on the grassed area behind CID.

To make a donation, contact service desk assistant Derek Marshall on ext 16320 or 01255 221312.

## Weapons training seeks to get ahead of the recruitment game

THE Weapons Training department has conducted the first of a number of open evenings aimed specifically at officers in their probation.

The information evenings were set up with chief officer support because of an on-going priority for the recruitment of firearms officers to Stansted Airport.

Weapons trainer Sgt Tim Johnstone said: "The rationale for doing this is based on identifying officers at an early stage of

their service and assisting them in structuring a future application to become an authorised firearms officer (AFO), with the airport in mind as the first stage of their firearms career."

Thirty-six probationers attended the first open evening last month and were all given a one-to-one interview with a weapons trainer.

And 26 were recommended for appraisals – so far, 11 have passed this stage – the remaining ten were all given structured development plans.

Insp Mark Furneaux, of Stansted Airport Division's command team, said after the event: "This was an excellent response to the first open evening.

"We really welcomed Weapons Training providing the skills and expertise to assist us in this part of our recruiting process."

Essex Police College head of training Chief Insp Graham Stubbs said the open evening was "just the start of an objective which we hope will lend

real weight to the recruitment process at Stansted Airport."

He added: "Officers outside of their probation continue to be encouraged to apply for AFO posts and should feel free to contact any of my staff to get any guidance needed."

• For more information on how to become an AFO, contact Sgt Tim Johnstone on ext 53082

• The next open evening for probationers is on Wednesday, March 26, at 5.30pm at EPC canteen



In the second of his articles about saving energy and being 'green' Ian Mott, of Property Services, looks at lighting.

### We can all become a little more environmentally friendly

THIS month I want to look at ways we can save energy used by lighting. Over the last few years, there have been considerable improvements in the efficiency of lighting.

And, for many years, the force has ensured that it uses the most efficient light fittings.

But it does not matter how efficient they are if they are left on when not required ... so, if lights are not needed, please switch them off.

Latest developments have come in the way we control lighting and, when it's economically viable, new office installations are being designed which incorporate the latest technology. This will automatically control light levels within the office and switch lights off when they aren't required. Also, in corridors, we will be looking at the provision of controls which will only switch the lights on when they are needed.

These innovations in lighting control will take time to roll out across the force – although they will save energy and

revenue costs, they cost money and so, to make the most effective use of our funds, will mainly be installed as part of other work.

In view of this, if we are going to make Essex Police a more cost-effective, efficient and environmentally-friendly service, we all need get into the habit of switching off lights when they are not required.

However, always check when switching off the lights that you are not having to walk down corridors or the stairs in the dark or, worse still, leaving a colleague in the dark!



## Federation news by Roy Scanes



### Unfinished business

IT is now a month since our historic march through the streets of central London and you have every right to question what happens next.

Well, for the Police Federation, not a lot has changed. The government has tried to 'draw a line' under last year's pay dispute but we are refusing to discuss 2008 until 2007 is finished.

John Francis, the general secretary of the Police Federation of England and Wales, said: "The Police Federation feel very bruised, very angry and very badly let down by the events over the last few months."

"We consider 2007 unfinished business and the time has now come to see evidence of a different attitude from the government."

The Police Federation's first priority is to sworn police officers, to officers of the Crown – never again must we have to suffer from a failure to honour a pay award of an independent arbitration tribunal in full.

Our application for a Judicial Review of the Home Secretary's decision has been successful, with the judge stating he 'had no hesitation in agreeing to a judicial review going ahead.'

I have no doubt that this was said with such assurance because we held the moral high ground on this issue, supported by the public and by most politicians. A two-day hearing in mid-April at the High Court will be held, which is a positive next step in our fight for fair play.

In the meantime, on February 29, I attended a national Police Federation meeting in Birmingham, which coincided with the Labour Party spring conference, being held at the International Convention Centre.

Our venue wasn't as grand – it was held yards away, at a comedy club – but the message was perfectly clear – police pay is no joke.

At this meeting our national chairman, Jan Berry, announced the Federation poll of members to be launched on March 24, with the results being announced at our annual

conference in May. The two questions for the ballot are:

- Do you think the decision of the independent Police Arbitration Tribunal should be binding on the government?

- In the absence of binding arbitration on the government, do you wish the Police Federation of England and Wales to start to lobby for a change in legislation to allow police officers full industrial rights?

The survey, to be carried out by Ipsos MORI, will be conducted both online and via paper questionnaires.

Police Federation members will be able to access the online survey via [www.polfed.org](http://www.polfed.org) and I will also have paper questionnaires to supply upon request, for members unable to participate online.

When answering the ballot, think very carefully about your answers. If we had full industrial rights now, we would be balloting police officers regarding strike action.

I will be supplying you with more details of the ballot following this publication and there will be an informed briefing sheet to help you decide.

Just the thought of police officers talking about striking should inform the government just how far they have pushed us. For the past two years, the government seems to have prevented the Police Negotiating Board from operating successfully.

We feel it is now time to remove the Home Office from the official side of the Police Negotiating Board so that we can get on with real negotiations. If we are going to be treated like any other worker then the time has come to ask for the same rights.

We have an important role to play.

For nearly 90 years, the Police Federation has been the guardian of the ethics and principles of policing. British policing has set the standard, not only for the United Kingdom but across the globe. This history gives me immense pride in my job – and should give all of you immense pride in the undertaking of your responsibilities.

Together, it's worth fighting for.

## Unison news by Chris Willcock



CHANGING the way annual and bank holiday leave is calculated brings Essex Police in line with guidance from the Department of Trade and Industry.

The purpose is transparency, so that staff of any employer will know just how many annual and public holiday leave days they are entitled to in any year.

The force now uses the electronic PROMIS system for recording leave details relative to individual patterns and hours of work. Theoretically, this is fairer to everyone. The data is entered by local Resource Management Units (RMUs) but it's worth checking that the calculations are right for you.

Everyone should know for how many hours they are contracted per week and how many days of annual leave to which they are entitled.

Knowing that, and how many bank holidays there are in a year, means it is easy to calculate your exact leave entitlement in hours and minutes. Then, a quick look at PROMIS will confirm that your own details are correct. If you are unsure, your RMU can help.

As is often the case when things change, there have been a few "teething troubles".

Most of these stem from communication issues or differences in interpretation, which are being ironed out by Employee Relations at HQ. There should be consistency throughout the force but if anyone thinks that leave has been deducted incorrectly, their RMU should be able to explain and correct mistakes.

Unison is grateful to Jane Ship, of Employee Relations, for this clarification:

"Annual leave and bank holidays have been combined into one pot of leave from October 1, 2007, in line with guidance from the Department of Trade and Industry.

RMUs and staff will share the responsibility for ensuring that time is booked accurately from leave allocations.

RMUs also have the task of allocating the correct leave entitlements. Staff must book time off when they take annual leave or are not required to work on a bank/public holiday.

Bank/public holidays are treated exactly the same as annual leave. All types of leave should

be booked in hours and minutes, because PROMIS works in this format and not in decimals.

When booking leave, the contractual duty length in hours and minutes for each day should be taken into account. This means that all staff must ensure that RMUs are updated with changes to working patterns. To ensure that time off is booked accurately, the exact time to be deducted should be included in the comments section of the leave booking form.

Staff working any pattern other than the standard daily seven hours and 24 minutes will have to make the decision as to how they wish to treat the difference between their entitlement and the length of duty time they would have worked on any day taken as annual or bank holiday.

There are three options for "funding" this difference:

1. Reduce their pay to fund the difference
2. Make up time in agreement with their line manager (local discretion)
3. Use annual leave time.

Employees must choose and tell their RMU but the choice is that of the member of staff and not the organisation. Failure to fund any differences is unfair to colleagues and so entirely unacceptable. ”

So, the new system should operate throughout the force in exactly the same way. If anyone has any reason to doubt this, colleagues in HQ Employee Relations or divisional Human Resources departments will be pleased to assist.

Unison members can always rely on their local stewards to support them if they still have any concerns, of course.

On to other matters: Unison members are very grateful to payroll colleagues for including the recent pay rise in the February pay cheques.

The Essex Police branch of Unison is the most active in the region and, again, is pleased to welcome almost 40 new members this month.

Welcome also to Amir Navabi, of Harlow Service Desk, who is now a Western Division Steward, Assistant Equalities Officer with Chris Willcock and helping Chris to represent our disabled and black and minority ethnic members.



## Staff associations back special awareness event

STAFF associations joined officers, police staff and partner agencies at a special 'unity event' at Lakeside last month.

Officers from South Western's Domestic Abuse and Hate Crime Unit staffed an information stand at the shopping centre in a bid to raise people's awareness of hate crime.

Afterwards, Pc Tess Wisbey said she was "shocked" at the public's general lack of awareness and concerned that victims may not report offences because they don't know where to obtain help.

The stand also highlighted the work of the force's Diversity Unit, its Nexus support group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender officers and police staff, the Essex Black Police Association (EBPA), the recruitment section, Essex Criminal Justice Board and the Probation Service.

Nexus co-ordinator Jo Littlewood-Kennedy said: "As well as the obvious opportunities to meet with the public, Nexus also benefited from the day by spending time alongside the hate crime unit staff and the criminal justice service. We had the opportunity to discuss and develop ideas on joint working."

And EBPA co-ordinator Jennifer Dore added: "The EBPA was elated at the opportunity to meet and address the concerns of the public whom we serve."

"For EBPA plays a role in helping to foster and promote good race relations between Essex Police and minority ethnic organisations and communities with a view to enhancing the quality of the service to the public."

"Because of this, we felt the need to co-ordinate the Lakeside event with the hate crime unit, recruitment, other staff associations and Essex Criminal Justice Board."

"Moreover, EBPA, along with all the support networks, firmly believes that if our workforce is broadly reflective of the diverse communities we serve, the public is more likely to feel safer and have confidence in us as a police force."

Pc Wisbey, of South Western DAHCU, said seven offences, including two serious ones,



● **Thurrock community safety manager Steve Greener, Pc Sam Everett, of South Western Domestic Abuse and Hate Crime Unit, Essex Black Police Association co-ordinator Jennifer Dore and Pc Tess Wisbey, also of South Western DAHCU, at Lakeside**

had been reported to her during the event and, in each case, the victim had not known action could be taken against the culprits.

"I was shocked that these offences, all in Thurrock, only came to light during general discussion about hate crimes. In one case a man had been stoned on his way to work and another incident involved children being racial abused at school," she said.

Pc Wisbey told each of the seven victims how police and other agencies could take action and how they could also be given support.

She added: "Essex Police and our community partners have done a great deal of work to spread the word about dealing with hate crime, but clearly there is more to do."

"The visit was very worthwhile because we have been able to advise these seven people and have also given information to others who may become the target of hate crime."

## Corner the chairman



● Essex Police Authority chairman  
**Robert Chambers**

Your ideas on cash spend were welcome

“IN my last column I asked for your suggestions on the best way that we could use the one-off payment of £750,000 which was budgeted for the full 2.5 per cent pay rise, if it was not awarded to police officers after the Federation’s Judicial Review, due to take place in April. I would firstly like to thank those who kindly sent ideas and suggestions – all of which I have looked through and will pass on for consideration by members of the police authority.

One of the main suggestions I received was that the one-off sum should be awarded to each officer as some sort of bonus payment. Unfortunately, as much as I would like to be able to do this, national regulations on police pay would prevent us using bonus payments to pay every officer. This could be viewed as an illegal or unauthorised payment.

As I have mentioned, the Federation’s Judicial Review is due to take place next month so the money cannot be committed yet. If the Federation wins the Judicial Review and the Home Secretary has to abide by the September 2007 pay date, then the arrears of pay can be made to all officers. However, if the Judicial Review fails then we could set aside this money specifically for other purposes which will support policing services throughout the county. I hope, wholeheartedly, that the Federation’s Judicial Review goes our way – however, in the event that this is not the case, the money will not be lost.

● If you have any further suggestions or comments about how to spend this money for the benefit of the county’s policing – should it not be able to be used to back date officers’ pay to September 2007 – then please e-mail my Press and PR Officer Jenna Smith. ”

## Mentoring can be rewarding experience for both people

PEOPLE who are willing to listen, challenge and help others to further their careers are required for the force mentoring scheme.

Newly-appointed Staff Development sergeant Mark Rayner has had a recent surge of interest from people wishing to become mentors but is still keen to encourage more people to join this worthwhile scheme.

Sgt Rayner said: “Mentors are asked to foster a relationship that provides guidance and support to individuals so they can maximise their potential, skills and performance.

“Sergeants and all ranks above or police staff can become mentors – they do not necessarily have to have the same background as the person

they are mentoring. They do need to be able to listen, challenge and help scheme members to review their progress in order to encourage them to make the most of their opportunities and progress in their careers.

“A mentoring relationship is likely to last some time and it is expected that several meetings will take place.”

● Further information and guidance about the mentoring scheme can be found on the Staff Development website – visit the HR intranet site, click on Departments, then on Staff Development, then on Mentoring

● Anyone interested in becoming a mentor can contact Sgt Mark Rayner by email or ring ext 54103 for an application form

## Free health-screening offered

FREE health screening is available for all Essex police officers and staff as part of a far-reaching research programme into the use of Airwave radio

Part of Tilbury police station has been turned into a clinic and will offer appointments until July, when the service will move to Colchester for a further six months.

Assistant Chief Constable Derek Benson launched the scheme by taking the first appointment.

Screening takes about an hour to complete and includes a blood-pressure test, electro-cardiogram (ECG) heart trace and the measurement of height, weight, waist and hip size plus body composition. Blood and urine samples are also taken.

All information will be kept confidential and will not be passed on to occupational health staff or kept on employment records.

If a serious problem is identified, a patient will be referred to a GP for further



● ACC Derek Benson has his blood pressure tested by nurse Jacqueline Richardson, watched by Prof Paul Elliott, of Imperial College London, and South Western Federation rep Pc Brad Cox

Picture by Bill Stock

tests and treatment. The investigation is being carried out as part of a national study into the use of Airwave handsets.

There is no current

evidence to suggest that Airwave is harmful but the Home Office has asked for further medical research to examine the possible short or long-term health conse-

quences. The study is being carried out by Imperial College London, under the leadership of Prof Paul Elliott, who welcomed Mr Benson to the first session last month.

Prof Elliott said: “The study will be nationwide and be carried out over a period of ten to 15 years. More than 11,000 police staff have been screened so far and it is important that we see as many people as possible.”

Pc Brad Cox, South Western Division Federation representative, added: “This is a superb idea and fully supported by the federation and the Association of Chief Police Officers. I would urge all officers and support staff to get booked in and have a free health check-up.”

The screening is carried out by nurses specifically trained by Imperial.

Abstraction time has been provided by the force so that visits may be made during normal duty time.

● Book an appointment by contacting Alison Cannon on ext 72500 or 01375 362199

## Tony takes over the reins from Jeremy

DISABILITY Network chair Jeremy Craig went on permanent “gardening leave” last month, taking over as deputy head gardener, at a Kent college. Jeremy was instrumental in setting up the Disability Network for Essex Police and has been chair since August 2006. Vice-chair Tony Boothman is taking over the reins until the next election for posts at the AGM in June.

Disability Network co-ordinator Denise Chaplin said: “We all wish Jeremy the very best for the future. “Under



● Tony Boothman

Tony’s guidance, the network will continue to go from strength to strength. We currently have about 90 people who have completed membership forms.” Tony is well known across the force. He joined as a cadet in 1974. Unfortunately, he was disabled following a crash in 1986 and is currently a supervisor on full shift work in the Force Information Room (FIR). Tony said: “I joined the Disability Network at its inception and have attended as many meetings as shift work will allow.

“I believe the network can really assist disabled employees and carers and hope to be a part of the backbone of the scheme.” Tony helps with workshops in FIR for disabled people and often assists with the network’s monthly inputs to the Core Leadership Development Programme and probationer courses.

# Driver-safety is a top force priority

**CASH has been allocated to set up a new Collision Reduction Unit (CRU) – to continue the good work in reducing the number of crashes and their cost to the force.**

Chief officers have allocated finances so driver training inspector Jim White can set up the unit in the coming financial year.

The cash will fund the CRU’s accident reduction supervisor, two driver trainers and an administrative assistant, plus an extra four driver trainers – bringing the total to 18 instructors for Essex Police College’s (EPC) driver training

And all driver permits are now held on a computer database, allowing the CRU to monitor a police driver’s training progress and health and safety records more easily. Currently, out of 3,058 police drivers, 2,045 are advanced or response-authorized.

The changes have partly been made in response to the 2006 Road Safety Act – due to become law on April 1 – and the 2007 Corporate Manslaughter Bill, which place greater emphasis on an organisation’s ‘duty of care’.

An Independent Police Complaints Commission report last year was also generally critical that forces nationally experienced too many crashes involving police vehicles.

One of the jobs of the CRU will be to

by Heather Turner

monitor and analyse collisions and their causes, identifying potential problems early and taking action to prevent them – including refresher and bespoke training with targeted action plans if necessary.

The CRU will also ensure regular medical, eyesight and driving licence checks are carried out, that driving permits and training are up to date, manage a points system for drivers who have been involved in a collision and examine Vehicle Incident Data Recorder (VIDR) activations.

The average annual cost to the force of accident repairs and payment of third-party damages averages £608,498 a year but the Health and Safety Executive estimates this figure can be multiplied tenfold once invisible costs – such as sickness, overtime, solicitors’ bills and insurance premiums – are taken into account.

Insp White said: “The yearly cost of collisions by our staff equates to 21 PCSOs or 15 police officers. With the force’s current Operation Austin campaign making savings to pay for more front-line staff, a first-year target of £100,000 savings for the new unit can only help towards that.

“We are hoping the cost savings from the CRU to the force will be immense – both in human and financial terms.

“If we can reduce the number of collisions – which range from bumping into

walls to high-speed crashes when on a response call – by a quarter, we could save the force £1million over the next six years,” he added.

The 2006 Road Safety Act states there will be no legal exemption for officers or any other staff member who have broken a speed limit, if they have not been on a Response course.

Insp White said: “We have taken this opportunity to reassess all our advanced and response drivers.

“We want to start with a clean slate in 2008 and be assured that our officers that undertake Response work are up to the job.

“I know this will cause pain for some – no-one likes to be assessed – but this is a necessary process.

“Not only will this ensure that we comply with the Road Safety Act, it will also act as valuable refresher training and we can update our records as to how many ‘active’ response drivers the force has – some may now have moved to desk jobs and not be available to shifts.”

Any response or advanced drivers who have not been reassessed by May 31 will revert to a standard driving permit.

Currently, priority is being given to front-line, operational response drivers, followed by those who don’t regularly use their response permit, such as CID officers and inspectors.

EPC driver training has laid on extra refresher response courses for those who may need them.

● Contact Insp Jim White on ext 55308 for more details

### Off Beat

#### The inconvenience of HQ WCs ...

THE following news item was spotted on the intranet home page last month:

“HQ – disruption in water services  
There will be a disruption to water services to the WCs and cisterns within B and C-blocks at HQ for the next three days.  
This is to allow modification works to pipework and general maintenance to take place.  
We apologise for any inconvenience caused.”

**Help them to find us ... A Name in Every Neighbourhood**

A NAME in Every Neighbourhood campaign has been launched to ensure that the public is aware that neighbourhood policing "is what we do".

And police officers and staff all have a part to play in spreading the word that neighbourhood policing is local – local people bringing local concerns to the attention of their local neighbourhood policing teams (NPTs) so that, together, they can achieve local solutions.

If asked, all Essex Police employees should be able to tell any member of the public or our partner agencies – such as health authorities, councils and other emergency services – who is their local neighbourhood specialist officer (NSO) and how to contact their local NPT. And finding out is quite simple.

Visit the force website at [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk) and type in your postcode where prompted under the How To Contact Us section.

This will bring up details about the NSO and NPT responsible for policing that postcode.

You will be given contact details for the local NSO – including a mobile phone number – opening times for the local police station, details of local beat surgeries – where people can drop in and discuss matters of concern – and neighbourhood action panel (NAP) meetings.

At NAPs, the police and public can try to find solutions to local problems and set out priorities for their neighbourhood, such as cracking down on illegal parking, anti-social behaviour etc.

People can also text their postcode to 07624 800 101 and will shortly receive back the name of their NSO and a mobile phone number on which to contact them if necessary.

ACC Carmel Napier, responsible for neighbourhood policing, said: "Every member of this force should know that neighbourhood policing is at the heart of what we do."

"It can make a difference to our communities both by us getting to know our communities better and by them getting to know us better and what we can do for them."

"After all, it's also your community, your neighbourhood and your family living there, too. Together with the public, we can help to create and shape the future of our communities to make them safer places in which to live and work."

"We can all play our part by spreading the knowledge about neighbourhood policing, what it can do and how people can get in contact with us quickly and easily," said Mrs Napier.

"And we can all make it our business to share relevant, local information – police officers can file information about local concerns and intelligence on CID61 forms while police staff should inform a member of their local neighbourhood policing team."

"Together, we can make it happen!" The campaign coincides with the national deadline for the implementation of neighbourhood policing – March 31, 2008 – Essex Police had all its NPTs in place by July 2006.

**Teenager thanks officers who saved him**



● From left, Pc Paul Hills, from Stanway Road Policing Unit, Jamie Hedges, Pc Michele Lockyer, from Chigwell Road Policing Unit, and Pc Dan Bellingham, from Bocking Road Policing Unit, at last month's commendation ceremony

THREE officers who saved the life of a teenager have received commendations from Chief Constable Roger Baker.

Pc Dan Bellingham, from Bocking Road Policing Unit, Pc Paul Hills, from Stanway Bocking Road Policing Unit, and Pc Michele Lockyer, from Chigwell Bocking Road Policing Unit, saved the life of 17-year-old Jamie Hedges, when he came off his moped in October 2006.

Jamie and his family, from Halstead, were guests at the commendation ceremony held at HQ last month.

Jamie said then: "The officers are heroes to me. I wouldn't be here without them. They really deserve the commendations for what they did."

And his mum Caroline added: "I am forever indebted to the officers for saving my son. No matter what award they are given, it would never be enough in my eyes. They went above and beyond the call of duty."

Doctors say the actions of the three officers at the crash scene saved Jamie's life. They worked as a team to remove his crash helmet, keeping him stable and his airway open.

If his helmet had not been removed, Jamie would have suffocated because blood loss would have obstructed his airway.

A doctor and a paramedic arrived at the scene of the crash and the officers worked alongside them until Jamie was taken to hospital.

He had suffered a serious head injury and was in a critical condition for several weeks after the crash. But, after spending five months in hospital, Jamie made a 90 per cent recovery, although he still has problems with his vision and left leg.

Chief Supt Mick Thwaites, Mobile Support divisional commander, said: "The three officers acted in the best traditions of policing by taking responsibility and making some very tough decisions in order to save the life of this young man."

"This one event justifies all the training we give to officers who police the very busy roads of Essex."

Chief Constable Roger Baker said he had been very proud to present the three officers with their commendations.

"It highlights the great work which is carried out by Essex Police officers. The officers demonstrated quick-thinking and good teamwork, which ultimately saved the life of Jamie Hedges," he said.



● Chief Constable Roger Baker presents Pc Andrew Unsworth with his commendation for saving a man's life on the railway

**Constable saved man from train**

A POLICE officer has received a commendation for saving the life of a man who was threatening to lie down on the tracks of a railway line.

Laindon-based Pc Andrew Unsworth pulled the man away from the live track at Laindon Railway Station – when a train was due.

Officers were called to the station in the early hours of May 20 last year because a man was on the tracks, threatening to lie down.

A train was due in a matter of minutes so Pc Unsworth approached the man, grabbing him by his arms and dragging him to safety.

The man, who was drunk and violent, struggled with Pc Unsworth and other officers until he was restrained.

It is believed the man could have died if Pc Unsworth had not taken the action he did, due to the man's drunkenness and state of mind.

South Western divisional commander Chief Supt Simon Coxall said: "Dealing with dangerous and unexpected situations is part of everyday duties for a police officer."

"Pc Unsworth displayed impeccable courage and professionalism in dealing with a situation that endangered the life of a disturbed man and perhaps others."

"His actions were in the highest traditions of the service. I am delighted and proud of his actions."

Pc Unsworth received his commendation from Chief Constable Roger Baker in a ceremony at Essex Police HQ last month.



● Controlled drugs liaison officer Allan Adam is here to help you if you have any queries or need advice  
Picture by Donna Veasey

**Bursary helps Mark and his family after cancer**

**THE Liam Brigginsshaw Bursary was set up last year by the Helen Rollason Heal Cancer Charity in memory of ACC Liam Brigginsshaw.**

**Mr Brigginsshaw died in February 2007, having fought stomach cancer for five months.**

**The bursary received donations from the force after Mr Brigginsshaw's wife Alyson made it known how the charity had helped her family during her husband's illness. It can be used to pay for officers and police staff and their families, who have been touched by cancer, to take part in the Live Well Experience.**

**Here we find out how Essex officer Pc Mark Jones benefited.**

**ONE of the most important factors for those facing a cancer diagnosis is the level of support services available to them.**

The Helen Rollason Heal Cancer Charity (HRHCC), based at Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford, exists to provide therapeutic support and development to men, women and their supporters following a diagnosis.

Pc Mark Jones – who was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma – and his wife Julie received support from both the charity and, latterly, the Liam Brigginsshaw Bursary.

Mark, 48, was diagnosed in October 2004 – treatment started immediately and continued until May the following year.

During this time, he found it impossible to continue in his role as a local beat officer but, he said: "The force was very good to me and allowed me to work from the office instead." Once he finished his treatment, he went



● Pc Mark Jones and his wife in Ireland on the Live Well Experience – their trip was paid for by the Liam Brigginsshaw Bursary

back on the beat and is now an identification officer at Harlow.

However, Mark's wife Julie, 46, began suffering from depression, due in part to the worry of her husband's illness and their uncertain future.

Their children coped amazingly well, said Mark, but Julie felt she needed some professional help.

He had been treated at Basildon Hospital, where staff had made him aware of the

support networks available to him through HRHCC.

One of these was a counselling service for anyone dealing with cancer, whether as a patient or as a close member of family.

Julie attended counselling sessions run by HRHCC at Rochelle House in Springfield, something she said she found invaluable when coping with her husband's treatment process.

Once Mark had finished treatment and had some time to get back to fitness – spending

time at Flint House convalescent home in Goring, Oxfordshire – he raised £1,300 for the charity by running last year's London Marathon. Staying in touch with HRHCC, Mark heard about the Liam Brigginsshaw Bursary, set up with the charity last year to help police families touched by cancer and the physiological impact of a cancer diagnosis.

Initially, Mark was unsure about taking part in the Live Well Course because he was in remission and felt his illness had been dealt with and was in the past.

He decided to go because Julie was still suffering depression and he began to understand that while the physical aspects of his cancer had been dealt with, the effects on his wife's mental health had not.

From the beginning of the Live Well course, Mark realised what a fantastic experience the couple's week in Ireland would be.

He said: "I would start the day with a run around Donegal's beautiful, rugged coastline with the sun coming up and it would blow me away".

He also enjoyed Tai Chi, meditation and walks and he was put on a diet with no meat but lots of fresh fish.

Mark said: "Group therapy sessions were also really great. Most of the participants were women and, in fact, I was the only man on the course who had had cancer."

"It's often an assumption that cancer is a woman's disease and others on the course assumed Julie was the one with cancer."

The group sessions proved a very safe environment to express feelings and emotions, something Mark said he would usually find very difficult to do.

"I thought I'd dealt with the cancer but soon realised I hadn't – I hadn't got my mind round it at all but the course enabled Julie and I to do that."

"The whole experience was fantastic and I would encourage anyone in my situation to go on the Live Well course, it's a marvellous thing."



● Mike Jelley with his father, Insp Alan Jelley, of Rayleigh Policing Unit, and some police mementoes

Picture by Nishan Wijeratne

**Catching a criminal was quite an experience for young Mike**

A NEW Jelley is in the mould and should be ready to be rolled out for policing duties in just a few years' time after helping town centre officers to capture a criminal.

Mike Jelley, son of Rayleigh's road policing inspector, Alan, spent a day with Basildon's Town Patrol Unit (TPU) as part of his two-week Trident work experience placement with the force.

The Sandon School pupil is keen to follow in his father's footsteps and so jumped at the chance to spend time with Essex Police. He is passionate about collecting and building model police vehicles, with almost 100 from the UK forces.

"The two-week placement with Essex Police was great fun, despite the early-morning alarm calls," said the police enthusiast. "I've had an interest in policing and police cars ever since dad began bringing them back home at night when on-call."

As the 15-year-old joined PCSOs Val Whitechurch and Daniel Brady on their walk from the police station to the town's policing unit, the PCSOs noticed a man outside Eastgate Shopping Centre who was wanted for criminal damage.

While they were making some quick enquiries, the 24-year-old man ran off so Val and Dan followed. Mike too was in hot pursuit.

The chase ended in the market when the man

ducked into Shipleys Amusement Arcade in the hope that he would lose his followers. However, Mike had kept his distance, keeping 'eyeball' on the entrance while the PCSOs called for a police officer.

Pc Simon Gray arrived and led the man away in handcuffs. He was later issued with an £80 fixed penalty notice for criminal damage.

Val said afterwards: "Mike is a really good lad and a credit to his parents."

Mike hopes to join the force soon after finishing school but does have the option of joining the Royal Air Force Police as he currently is an air cadet with 276 Chelmsford Squadron.

He said: "The TPU officers are really keen and motivated so it made for a truly amazing and rewarding day. My mates were well impressed with my police pursuit!"

Mike's parents, 47-year-old Alan and 42-year-old Lin, are encouraged by their son's enthusiasm for the police and will not stop him pursuing his aspirations.

"He is 100 per cent into policing," said Alan. "This placement will really push him to do well at school and ensure he knuckles down if he wants to pursue a career in the police service."

Nishan Wijeratne

**Allan has all the drugs answers**

HAVE you ever, or are you likely to, come in to contact with a property being used to cultivate drugs?

If the answer to this is yes, did you know Essex Police has a controlled drugs liaison officer in the shape of Allan Adam? Allan Adam is the man you need to call should you come across an illicit lab being used for the cultivation of drugs, should you find any chemicals inside.

He will be able to identify what the chemicals may have been used for and can also organise their safe disposal.

In his role Allan has produced an aide memoire about illicit labs, which all officers should carry. This gives officers information about the procedures which must be carried out when a property is found being used for the cultivation of drugs.

Although Allan has been in post since December 2005, it appears there are still sectors of Essex Police, particularly officers on the ground – constables and sergeants – who are unaware of his existence and responsibilities.

Allan said: "I am here to help you, but it seems some people still do not know I exist."

Prior to his current role, Allan worked in the Force Information Room for two years before moving to Colchester as an intelligence analyst and then as a level two analyst with the Force Intelligence Bureau.

He was instrumental in establishing Operation Blade, which relates to thefts from heavy goods vehicles.

The job of the controlled drugs liaison officer is varied – Allan can source intelligence about methadone users as well as information on any showing suspicious behaviour surrounding possibly drug supply.

He carries out targeted visits to pharmaceutical outlets, which can include the destruction of controlled drugs, giving advice on the correct practice and reporting any infringement of regulations.

Through this liaison he is able to gain intelligence on the illicit manufacture of drugs and, indeed, their distribution. He will liaise with CID and can decide whether a police investigation is necessary in respect of any incident reported by local NHS bodies. This could save the force valuable time, money and resources.

Allan said he has been involved with a number of criminal investigations.

"I am currently involved with FIB in the investigation of a doctor who appears to have been over prescribing drugs. "And recently I was called to a flat where a large amount of chemicals had been found, following the execution of a warrant, and organised their disposal. This resulted in me having to appear in court as an expert witness to testify as to what the chemicals may have been used for and the effects were of that use."

● Anyone who wants advice with regards to pharmacies/doctors' surgeries or on illicit labs, then contact Allan – who is on call 24 hours a day – on 07795 025758 or leave a message on his answerphone on ext 54561

**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](mailto: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.

## Our museum book is a 'must read'

HAVE readers of *The Law* read Tales from the Essex Police Museum yet? If not, why not?  
 It is compiled by former museum curator Fred Feather, with illustrations by Jack Bridge and Bob Marrion – it has an impressive front cover.  
 Well done to all concerned. It only costs £1 and is a jolly good read.

**Jack Faulkner**  
Southend

● *Editor's note:* To purchase a copy of Tales from the Essex Police Museum, send a cheque for £1, made payable to Essex Police Museum, to current museum curator Becky Latchford at the Essex Police Museum, Essex Police HQ, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DA.

## Prevention is best way to deal with it

RE Bob Miller's letter about the need to rehabilitate offenders (*The Law*, February 2008).  
 Surely the answer is to deter people going to prison in the first place.  
 Bob concludes by saying, I quote amongst other things: "We must find alternative methods of punishment."  
 I could not agree more. I suggest that if we introduced Sharia law, the prison population would soon be reduced.

**Brian Williams**  
Chelmsford

## Saddened by death of 'enthusiastic thief-taker'

HOW saddened we are to learn of the tragic and premature death of Bob Walsham.

Bob was one of the few genuinely nice characters in the job who had time for everyone. He was down to earth, honest and practical and there will be a generation of young coppers who have Bob to thank for the passing of his immense knowledge and many more who have lost a friend and col-

league. With his 30 years insight, this is a truly heart-breaking lesson of just how unfair life can be.

**Alan and Dawn Cooper**  
Adelaide  
Australia

● I WAS so sad to read last month of the death of Sgt Bob Walsham.

I remember Bob when he came to Essex Police, after transferring from

the Metropolitan Police. At this time, I was a sergeant at Halstead.

I'd never met anyone with such enthusiasm and phenomenal policing skills.

One of Bob's Met colleagues described him to me as 'a natural thief-taker' and what a loss to them.

Bob told me that, when he was on nights, he would tie a piece of cotton across an alleyway to check if anyone

had been that way. Not only was he an exceptional officer, he was a great bloke who had a good sense of humour and was a pleasure to work with.

I would like to send my deepest sympathy to all his family, friends and colleagues.

**Rita Warriner**  
San Fulgencio  
Spain

## Going into fight at full throttle

I WAS interested to read in the February issue of *The Law* that the force museum has acquired a 1963 Velocette 'Noddy bike' and a request made for memories and stories from those of us who rode them at that time.

Imagine a very dark, very wet, winter's evening in the early 1960s. I was on patrol on one of the said bikes in Southend-on-Sea, where I was stationed at the time on the old Southend Borough force.

A general call was received to the effect that a police officer required urgent assistance as he was being assaulted in the vicinity of Westcliff police station.

I was quite close and, at full throttle, answered the call. As I approached the police station I could see a constable fighting furiously with a man in the middle of the road.

I gave the 'Noddy bike' one last burst of the throttle, braked hard, skidded on the wet surface, did a 360-degree circle and ended up with the said bike on top of me.

The fight was still going on but here was I, the gallant rescuer, struggling with a very

heavy bike which was now astride me. Standing in the roadway close by to me and the 'fighting officer' – Pc, later Insp, Brian Flynn – was a very respectable looking gent in a buttoned-up raincoat.

He was quite interested in both our predicaments. I shouted at him, from beneath my bike: "Don't just stand there gawping you idiot, get this thing off me," which he kindly did.

I then got stuck in with Brian and the 'fighting drunk' was hauled into the Westcliff charge room.

Shortly afterwards, the 'respectable-looking gent' was invited into the station to give a statement and, as he removed his very wet raincoat, the full garb of one of the local vicars was revealed.

He apparently commented to the station sergeant, on completing his account of things, that he thought the policeman on the motorcycle was 'rather harsh' with him after falling off the bike.

I only hope you can remember the incident, Brian, as I often think of this, and a few others, as I sit here with my wife in our old farmhouse in the middle of France.

**Ron Hayford**  
La Ronde  
France

## 'Change, you ain't gonna stop it ...'

I READ with interest, Roy Bracey's response to my letter on national policing (*The Law*, February 2008).

When I read his words – to the effect of 'leave things as they are because the miners' strike was a good example of mutual policing' – I knew we were singing from different hymn sheets.

As I recall, the miners' strike cost an absolute fortune, with what result? It was hardly a good example of giving value for money.

I also note that, upon his retirement, former Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark took up a civilian post, looking at regional policing.

On the other hand, I note Chief Supt Win Bernard says the police force has changed more in the last three years than in the last 20.

In my opinion, the case for nationalisation was not put forward in the right way. The consultation process was hurried, with insufficient detail being made available.

Nor was the next generation consulted. I think the debate was withdrawn too quickly.

Investment would be required initially but would soon be recouped under bulk-buying arrangements of transport, uniform and equipment etc.

In an emergency, reinforcements would be readily available from neighbouring areas, without need for consultation.

We would have the pick of the right officers for the right jobs – people with a proven operational track record and credibility among their peers, who would have a say in who got promoted where.

The Jean Charles de Menezes enquiry highlighted the fact that operational command was missing at the crucial time.

I think a national police force would go some way to restoring leaders, rather than managers, to the police service and it would also resume accountability, both of which are something sadly lacking in public service generally.

To quote from the film *No Country For Old Men*: "Change, you ain't gonna stop it."

**Bob Miller**  
Chelmsford

## Borough's male voice choir was a tribute to Alf Roper

READING about Alf Roper – Former Borough man reaches his century (*The Law*, February 2008) – brought back memories of another of his achievements.

In 1954 he re-formed the Southend-on-Sea County Borough Constabulary male voice choir – last heard prior to World War Two – and it went from strength to strength, performing at functions around the county, in London and even on TV.

Not only did he revive the choir in 1954 but he also was a member of the original choir in the 1930s – the first photograph shows him seated fourth from the right in the second row.

The second photograph shows the choir as it appeared in a TV programme in 1958 entitled *The Police Hour*, with Jack Hulbert, Cicely Courtneidge and Hughie Green.

Alf is on the far right, second row, and I am next but one along.

Most of the choir, alas, are no longer with us but I'm sure there are readers who can put a name to most of the faces. I still remember them all. There are many tales that can be told of the choir's achievements but I'll leave that to others to recount.

**Ray Law**  
Southend



● Left, the Southend-on-Sea County Borough Constabulary male voice choir perform on *The Police Hour*

● Far left, the choir with Alf Roper and Ray Law in the second row, on the right

## Down . . . memory lane

FOLLOWING the publication of several old pictures on Page 2 of *The Law* last month (February), Roy Bracey has been in contact.

He recognised himself as part of a winning team from Braintree who had just won the inter-divisional competition for the Chief Warden's cup in April 1965.

The officers standing in front of the scoreboard are, from left, Roy Bracey, Eric Knowles, WPC Brenda (surname unknown), Derek Cass, Eric Scott and Larry Piper.

Roy Clark also provided some information on one of the first aid pictures, identifying Eric Knowles as receiving the First Aid cup from Alan Goodson, who left Essex to become chief constable of Leicestershire.

Roy believes that the officer on the extreme

right of the photograph is Geoff Butler, on his right is Graham Oakley and on his right is possibly Paddy Redmond.

Ken Oehlich recognised the picture taken outside Harlow police station as of a course he had attended in the late 1970s. He can't remember exactly what it was but says it may have been a refresher course.

He identified the top row, from left, as Bob Needham, Terry Owen, Tony Ritcher, Peter Marks, Wally Lindsell, unknown. Bottom row, from left, Eric Knowles, Dave Jennings, Peter Hook, unknown, Johny Johnson, Ken Oehlich, unknown.

The pictures certainly brought back some memories. Thanks to all those people who contacted us to provide information.





## Happy birthday!

STAFF at the Traffic Investigation Unit marked 25 years of investigating major road crashes last month. The team are now based at Boreham within Mobile Support Division.

Former members of the TIU, together with the current team, traffic investigators from other forces, scientists from the Forensic Science Service and other organisations gathered together with Essex Coroner Caroline Beasley-Murray and Assistant Chief Constable Peter Lawton to mark the occasion.

Officers at the TIU are forensic collision investigators. They use physical evidence – including tyre marks, damage to the vehicles, and the distribution of wreckage – to help establish how serious injury and fatal crashes happened.

They also give expert evidence at magistrates', crown and coroner's courts and, sometimes, in the civil courts to explain how and why fatal and life-threatening crashes occur.

Sgt Richard Raker has worked in the TIU for four years. He said: "It is the best job ever and I work with an excellent team of motivated and committed people."

"The job is very challenging and interesting. It is nice to be able to explain to families how their loved ones have died and to be able to answer their questions."

● The TIU will shortly be recruiting new collision investigators. Any officers interested in a career in the TIU should contact Sgt Raker on ext 480615



## Letters of appreciation



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

REGARDING a minor road traffic incident in which I was involved and for which I was subsequently arrested.

I am writing to express my extreme gratitude at the way from the outset that Pc Gervaise Wright became involved.

I have nothing but the utmost gratitude as to the way the incident and I were dealt with. Please also pass on my sincere thanks to the custody officer, Sgt Keith Banks.

The officers involved in the incident were excellent beyond par. Thank you.

**JD**  
Leigh on Sea

I WAS arrested by Pc John Swann, from Rayleigh Road Policing Unit, and I just wanted to thank him for the way he treated me in the arrest.

He treated me with respect and that made me feel comfortable and not defensive. It made me co-operate readily.

This kind of treatment promotes a good relationship between the force and the public, thus creating a safer environment.

Once again I would like to say thank you to Pc Swann and keep up the good work.

**TH**  
Northampton

I AM writing to thank Essex Police for the wonderful experience we had while dealing with one of your officers, Pc Jill Prophet.

The first time we had dealings with this officer was with regards to an assault on my son.

This time it was with regards to my daughter who had run away from home. Pc Prophet could not have been more polite, understanding and friendly.

She handled the situation in a calm, friendly manner, came across as very confident and made a very volatile situ-

ation calm and stopped it becoming troublesome and escalating into a much bigger problem.

So thank you to her and the police force as a whole.

I am sure that if all officers are the same in their dealings with the public, the police will become a better public service and publicity will all be positive.

**Mr M**  
Chelmsford

TO Becky Latchford:

I have been teaching The Victorians for several years now and wish I had known about the Essex Police Museum sooner.

Your presentation was excellent, keeping 16 lively-minded 11-year-olds fully engaged and interested throughout.

The 'hands-on' experience was great, especially when they were challenged to think through the reasons for change.

The gift shop too must be the 'best value for money one', that I have been to on school trips! I am sure we will be back again next year.

Following a discussion with the children, we all felt the museum had so much to offer that it deserved more space.

**Woodlands School**  
Warley

TO Insp Rachel Wood:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your officers for your efforts in pursuing those responsible for illegally riding motorbikes in the neighbourhood and for issuing them with warnings.

**Thurrock Council**  
Grays

TO Insp Adrian Dearsley:

Thank you and your officers for your assistance in the incident at our garage when a number of batteries were taken from our yard without permission.

I was impressed with the speed that you actioned this matter, enabling it to be brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

**TG**  
Dovercourt

TO Sgt Caroline Golding, Pc Mark Matthews, Anne White, Clare Chadney, Heather

Wright, Keith Wooderson and Pc Paul Chesney:

I telephoned the Southend non-emergency number late in the evening to try to find out how I might contact someone regarding my cousin.

I had the feeling that there was something wrong as it had not been possible to make contact by telephone.

My very sincere thanks for the welcome response 'we can help'. Also thanks to those who visited the house, spoke to neighbours and telephoned me and later called me with information about my cousin.

I wish to place on record that their courtesy and help was greatly appreciated.

**RB**  
Surrey

PCSO Bradley Brown has been patrolling our area for some time now and he is a very dedicated PCSO.

I am always able to contact him if there is a problem with the youths in our area.

He approaches each problem professionally and fairly and is always friendly and helpful.

I had to write – we are very pleased with Bradley.

**PB**  
Dovercourt

TO Chief Supt Dave Folkard: On behalf of the Beach Hut Owners' Association, I would like to express our thanks for the prompt response of Pc Paul Ledger and Pc Lee Reynolds in arresting three youths causing graffiti-type damage to beach huts.

We have a zero tolerance to beach-hut crime so it's reassuring to know that when police are needed they act efficiently, resources permitting.

We are also grateful, as are the hut owners concerned, for the work of the officers who later dealt with the youths.

The station office assistant at Shoebury was also very helpful on this occasion as contacting control directly would not have had such a quick response.

**JC**  
Leigh on Sea

TO Chief Insp Adrian Coombs: I would like to express gratitude at the recent increase in

foot patrols around Colchester and especially Mill Street/Lucas Road. We have noticed and are reassured by this.

This corner of Colchester has greater than average instances of our local neighbourhood policing team's priorities – violent crime, substance and alcohol abuse, anti-social behaviour, graffiti and criminal damage.

We appreciate that the situation has been taken seriously and responded to.

Please pass on our appreciation to your hard-working officers. Their increased presence and visibility is particularly important to the large number of people living alone in this part of town.

**HC**  
Colchester

MY wife and I have had a great deal of assistance from Pc Spencer Keeble concerning our daughter and her problems with drug-related issues.

I have had personal contact with Pc Keeble on this issue in an attempt to find a resolution.

Sadly, matters seem to be ongoing in spite of all the help and assistance my daughter has been given, even down to your officers helping to find a place of safety for my daughter from drug dealers, which, sadly, she has declined.

However, that must not deflect from the major input Pc Keeble has put into this matter.

I have no idea how long Pc Keeble has been an officer, however, I feel he is unique.

Here is an officer who does not just deal with the crime; he also takes effective steps to deal with the preventative nature of crime. Essex Police

should be very proud that you have an officer of this calibre in your midst.

Although my wife and I may never see an end to our daughter's plight, ie her drug addiction, it still does not detract from the high standards this officer has set as a representative of Essex Police.

**HC**  
Colchester

I WOULD like to inform you of the excellent service provided to me by Ds Danny Walker, from Tilbury police station.

Ds Walker was the officer in a recent case against my ex-partner which went on for over a year.

Ds Walker recently informed me that the case would not proceed to court due to insufficient evidence. This was not the outcome I had hoped for as I wanted justice for my family.

However, we wanted to express our thanks and gratitude to Ds Walker for his kind, caring manner and for the way he dealt with our sensitive matter professionally. This officer is a credit to Essex Police.

**KJ**  
Tilbury

I AM writing both to compliment those concerned in arranging the consultation with local residents in a 'door knocking' process and, more specifically, the excellent manner in which PCSO Matthew Didcock performed this duty.

He was courteous, very professional and represented your station and the service generally to the benefit of the exercise and the force.

He is young and I assume fairly new to his duties. I hope

that he will remain an officer and will be given every encouragement to do so.

**CK**  
Loughton

TO PCSO Matthew Didcock: Just a note to say thank you for your kindness and consideration shown to our son in Chigwell.

The actions of you and your fellow officer renews one's faith in the police force and humanity.

**MR**  
Loughton

I AM writing to thank PCSO Dave Goldfinch, who helped me after I had been assaulted.

I was assaulted at 1.30pm. He came to help me and was very calm, caring and professional. He seemed to know exactly what to do and gained all the details from the witnesses to my assault.

I feel that he is very much a credit to Essex Police. He made me feel very secure and that things were being dealt with.

**RD**  
East Tilbury

I AM writing to extend my gratitude for the efficient and courteous way that two of your officers assisted me.

I inadvertently locked myself out of my house early in the evening and, as a 72-year-old man recovering from my latest stroke, I was worried about the effect the cold was having on me.

Your officers, Pc Stan Ferris and Pc Sara D'Silva, quietened all my fears and set about methodically gaining access for me. Their patience and sympathy was a credit to your whole force.

**PM**  
Westcliff

SIXTEEN ACTION awards were made by Farrow, of Eastern; Pc Dawn Senior and 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 of £100 awards were: Pc Hannah Kirk, of Central; Dc Emma



Katie Chisnall and Lynda McGurran, both of Crime Division; and Steven Pollard, Tracy Ashford, Faye Cullinane, Tracey Radley, Pru Kingham and Tabitha Wilson, all of Media & PR. Chongyang Huang, of IT, was awarded £50.

Melissa Allsup, both of Mobile Support; Pc Graeme Kettle, of Central; Pc Julian Gibson and Pc Graham Pipe, both of Communications Division;

Katie Chisnall and Lynda McGurran, both of Crime Division; and Steven Pollard, Tracy Ashford, Faye Cullinane, Tracey Radley, Pru Kingham and Tabitha Wilson, all of Media & PR. Chongyang Huang, of IT, was awarded £50.



**Holiday lets**

**COSTA** Blanca, Almoradi, three-bedroom, two-bath apartment, communal pool, Sky, sleeps six to eight, beach 15 mins, from £200/ week. Ring Dave Ashpole on 07912 506620 or 01702 201694 or email dashpole@hotmail.com  
**COSTA** Blanca apartment. Sleeps six, two bedroom, one bathroom, communal pools. Quiet family area. From £110 per week. Phone 01702 531188.  
**COSTA** Blanca, La Marina, two-bedroom, two-bath villa. Sleeps four to six, beach/shops five mins. From £175/ week, police discount. Ring Mick Ager on 07775 676142 or (+34) 617 110 096 or email casadomi02@hotmail.com  
**FLORIDA**, luxury, four-bed villa, private pool near Disney and golf. Christmas still available. Police discount. Contact Jill on 01702 586092 or visit www.my-florida-villa.net  
**FRANCE**, three nicely furnished gites with modern comforts. An hour from Calais, near market towns of Arras and Amiens. Contact 01375 483045 or visit www.le-petit-hameau.com  
**LA** Manga, Spain, two-bedroom apartment, pool, garage, sea views, seconds from beach. Low-cost flights from Stansted. Ring Bernie on 07986 098422.

**MUNDESLEY**, Norfolk, two-bedroom house, sleeps four to six, near beach. 20 per cent police discount, from £154. Visit www.essex2norfolk.com Ring Paul on 07970 107542 for details.  
**NORFOLK**, superb holiday cottages, attractions. Wonderful country, wildlife and scenery. Quiet luxury. Long/short lets suitable for family/couples. Ring Gwen on 01508 489754.

**ORLANDO**, four-bedroom, three-bath villa, sleeps up to ten. Private, screened pool near Disney and other central Florida attractions. Contact Alison and Michael on 01245 266949 or 01376 573406.

**SOUTHERN** Brittany, one bedroom gite, sleeps four. Sole use of pool. 90 mins from Roscoff, 25 mins to beach. Visit www.holiday-rentals.co.uk prop ID 57421.

**SOUTHERN** France, near pretty town of Limoux. Luxury B&B from £45/night/room. Visit www.domainest-george.com or ring John Taylor on +33 468 201 105.

**SOUTHERN** Spain, Malaga airport, Marbella coast 25 mins, private villa, sleeps six, three bedrooms, one ensuite, own pool. Visit www.ownersdirect.co.uk (ref S6911) or email taylors@villapasatiempo.com

**TURKEY**, Side. Luxury two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartment. Pools and gym, near beach. From £225 per week. Contact Matt on 07957 151820 or email oasisurkey@hotmail.co.uk

**TUSCANY**, Italy. Romantic, rustic, medieval village house. Four bedrooms, stunning views. Near Florence,

Riviera and Pisa. Booking for 2008. Visit www.tuscanlife.co.uk or phone 07976 720022.

**WELLS**-next-the-Sea, Norfolk. Warm, stylish, traditional Victorian cottage. Close to quayside, shops and beach. Winter and summer breaks available. Visit www.norfolkdreams.com or ring 07976 720022 for details.

**Miscellaneous**

**GARAGE** sale in preparation for pending emigration. Sunday, March 16, 11am to 3.30pm. 8 Castlefields, Great Leighs, Chelmsford. For more information or directions contact Kim on 07850 882215.

**ROLLS** Royce wedding car hire. Extra special service for your special day. Hurry, last remaining dates for June, July, August. Visit our website www.rweddings.co.uk

**WEDDING** car hire. White Rolls Royce Silver Shadow II. Discounted rate for police employees. Visit www.specialdaycarhire.co.uk email info@specialdaycarhire.co.uk or contact Dave or Sally Swann on 01277 364626.

**For sale**

**CITROEN** C3 HDI SX, September 2002, blue. Under 54,000 miles. MoT February 2009, VEL January 2009. Air-conditioning, radio, CD player. £3,995. Contact 07070031545.

**HONDA** Accord 2.0i VTEC Tourer, 2003/03 SE, 59,700 miles. Tax/MoT, full service history, climate control. £6,500 ono. Ring Paul on 07970 107542 or 01277 653561.

**HONDA** Civic estate, silver, 24000 miles, leather (black) R-Reg, Air conditioning, all electrics, 1.6 Auto, FSH (Maindealer), £2,500. Contact Roger on 07710 123981.

**PANASONIC** 'Viera' flat-panel 37in plasma TV. Widescreen, high definition. Shelved stand, 18 months old. Bargain at £495. Ring 07793 816495.

**Homes for sale & rent**

**DETACHED** house, two bedrooms, bathroom, utility room, lounge, kitchen, cloakroom, gas central heating, gardens overlooking sea. Point Clear near Clacton. £130,000. Contact 01255 823188.

**STANWAY**, Colchester, five bedroom detached house, with garage, two living rooms, open-plan kitchen, large garden with sheds. En-suite, utility room. £344,995. Ring Mel/Steve on 07807 573466.

**STANWAY**, Colchester. Three-bed semi-detached, with garage. Walking distance to Heath School, Wintree Road, easy access to A12 and Tollgate Centre. Available from June 1, 2008. £750 pcm. Contact 07970 031545.

# Partnership says thanks for work

**MALDON'S district commander and crime reduction officer have been named Community Champions by Essex High Sheriff Lady Diana Kemp-Welch.**

Chief Insp **Craig Robertson** received his award for his "strategic direction and partnership promotion", while **Ray Stannard** was awarded for "partnership work beyond his role".

The pair received their awards – special glass pyramids – at the annual conference of Maldon Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership last month.

Lady Kemp-Welch opened the conference for the CDRP, which has been praised by the Home Office for its success in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour in the district.

● Turn to Page 12 for full story

The Maldon CDRP conference was one of Chief Insp Robertson's last engagements as district commander.

At the end of this month he will be leaving Maldon and moving to Chelmsford to work on a project before retiring from the force in May.

The new Maldon district commander will be Chief Insp **Nick Lee**, who moves from Communications Division.

**Retirements**

Insp **Glenn Mayes** retires this month after more than 31 years service.

Glenn, 50, was latterly the extended policing family manager for Territorial Policing but had served at Southend and Chelmsford with stints in operations/emergency planning.

Sgt **Peter English**, 48, is retiring after 30 years' service. He has served at Harlow and Basildon and at HQ Crime Division.

Sgt **Steve Smith** has retired after almost 33 years with the force. Steve, 52, who retired in December, served as a cadet in 1974 and 1975 before becoming a police officer.

He latterly served at Pitsea but had served at Billericay, Basildon, Dunmow, Chelmsford and Writtle during his career. He has now joined the British Transport Police, working on the Channel Tunnel rail link.

Pc **Richard Jones** retired last month after serving a full 30 years. The 49-year-old served at Basildon, South Woodham Ferrers and on Communications Division.

Another to retire last month was Pc **Dave Wakeling**, who spent nearly 29 years with Essex. The 49-year-old served at Braintree, Harlow, Brentwood and with Communications Division too.

Pc **John Lace** served just over 30 years before handing in his hand-cuffs. The 54-year-old spent time on Western and Central divisions during his career.

And Pc **Alan Cleaver** also retires this month after 30 years' service. The 48-year-old served at Basildon, Thurrock, Harlow Traffic, HQ Ops, Central Road Policing Unit, Rayleigh Marine and with Mobile Support Division on the Thames Diving and Burnham Marine units.

Disqualified drivers administrator **Maureen White**, 63, is to retire from the Finalisations section of the Criminal Justice Department.

Maureen has spent just over ten years with the force, working in the CJD.



● Chief Insp Craig Robertson, above, and Ray Stannard, right, receive their special awards from Essex High Sheriff Lady Diana Kemp-Welch

Pictures courtesy of Maldon District Council



**Obituaries**

Former constable **Laurence Collins** died in February, leaving a widow, Pauline.

The 59-year-old served the force for 27 years, spending time at Grays, Brentwood and the Force Support Unit.

Former detective sergeant **Ronald Stark** died last month, aged 84. He began his service with Essex in 1954 and was stationed at Epping, Harlow and Maldon before retiring in 1979.

Former constable **Andrew Cracknell**, of Harlow, has died, aged 52. He leaves a widow, Karen.

Mr Cracknell served from 1977 to 1999 at Harlow and Harlow Traffic.

Donations to the British Heart Foundation may be made in his memory by sending cheques, made payable to MFH Charities Account, to Masterson Funeral Home, Station Road, Old Harlow, Essex CM17 OAS.

**Awards and competitions**

A Colchester officer has received an accolade from the town's businessmen.

The award to Pc **David Hirst** was made by Jim Wellerd, chairman of the 225-year-old Colchester Association for the Protection of Property and the Prosecution of Thieves – known as The Thieves – at the organisation's annual dinner.

Mr Wellerd said: "This annual award by Colchester's top businessmen is in recognition of a local policeman who has put in an outstanding year in the performance of his duties in crime detection and prevention."

"Pc Hirst's record during 2007 caught my committee's attention and we are delighted to give the award to him."

Pc Hirst joined the MoD Police in 1983, transferring to Essex Police in 2000. Five years later, he joined the Colchester Town team.

Since then he has arrested more than 155 offenders, shut down three crack houses in the Dutch Quarter – resulting in the eviction of three occupants involved in the supply of class A drugs – and led a successful investigation into a prolific offender who had caused damage to 500 vehicles in the Colchester district, resulting in a conviction.



● Ds Rennie Chivers' winning photograph

Caseworker **Louise Bassett**, of Colchester File Management Unit, has been awarded a distinction in her Certificate in Criminal Justice Administration from ILEX Tutorial College.

Witham sergeant **Ken Midwinter** has been awarded a certificate in contemporary science by the Open University.

**Susan Harman**, of Financial Services, has received distinctions in both her Advanced Diplomas in insurance – for property insurance and for marketing – by the Chartered Insurance Institute.

And a Clacton officer has won a competition which saw him combining his passion for photography and fire investigation.

Scenes of crime officer Ds **Rennie Chivers** specialises in fire and arson investigation.

He entered the IAAI-UK 2007 photographic competition run by the International Association of Arson Investigators UK and won the 'close-up and forensic' category and the 'best overall' photograph award, receiving £250 of vouchers.

His winning picture, above, depicts the yellow and red reflective warning stripes on the rear of an Essex County Fire and Rescue Service van which caught fire on the A12 at Stanway in 2007, while carrying a cylinder of acetylene gas.

**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.



## Mixed bag of results leave Central on top of table

PERSEVERANCE paid off for South Eastern Division in the Croker Cup darts competition. They put two teams into a strongly-contested event, with a large turn-out, and the 'A-team' came out on top with 17 games to their credit.

Last year's winners, Western, were runners up with 12 games, South Eastern's B-team and Central were joint third with five games apiece and HQ – playing with a team of three after losing two players – were fourth with three games.

Organiser Lee Heaton, of Brentwood, said afterwards: "Even though Western lost this year – breaking their run of three years – everyone had a really good day with some very good standard darts being played."

● WESTERN Division cleared the table in the Croker Cup snooker and billiards competition. The team won the snooker 16-9 and were runners-up in the billiards, losing to Central 10-5.

Organiser Peter Orpe said: "All those involved had an enjoyable time with closely contested matches throughout the day."

The morning session was dedicated to the billiards with Central winning the trophy and Western as runners up.

The afternoon snooker saw Western winning and Central as runners up. The day's results were an exact reversal of last year's outcome, therefore, at the prize-giving, it was simply a matter of the captains Lee Heaton (Western) and Colin Hill (Central) swapping the cups they had won last year.

● THE Croker Cup table after 12 events:  
1 Central 89 points; 2 South Eastern 56 points; 3 Eastern 46 points; 4 HQ 45 points; 5 Western 44 points; 6 South Western 17 points.  
Just four more events are likely to be staged this season – tennis, squash, sea angling and women's football. Men's football and women's football are due to be staged but probably within next season's calendar.

## Dan puts up a great fight for PSUK tennis team

DAN Thrale says he played his highest standard of tennis ever for the PSUK men's tennis section against Norfolk County – despite recovering from a shoulder injury. He fell during a game of football, which stopped him playing tennis for several weeks before the match at Esporta in Norwich and limited him to a handful of practice games beforehand.

Playing with Mike Burnett, of Lincolnshire Police, the 22-year-old won his first doubles game 3-6 6-4, 10-6 in the championship tie-break

but he and his partner lost their second and third games in two sets each.

Overall, the PSUK team lost by seven rubbers to two – three pairs playing each other once. "I was happy with how I played," said Thrale, of Pitsea, afterwards. The Norfolk County team had included a recent world-ranked player and proved too strong for the police team. PSUK captain Roger Clarke said Thrale had played well in his first match for the PSUK team.

"Dan has possibly the fastest serve in the PSUK tennis team – none of the Norfolk pairs found returning his serve easy" he said.

"Although Mike and Dan lost their next two matches it was a good performance as Mike has not played for the PSUK for several years; having been convinced to come out of PSUK tennis retirement. Thrale first picked up a tennis racket aged two and began group coaching lessons at six. By the time he was 15, he was playing in the men's first team at

Leigh Tennis Club. Within the last year he has moved to Westcliff Hard and plays for their Essex League second team.

Thrale's next challenge is to put in a good performance at La Manga in Spain next month – the top 16 UK police players will attend and play a singles competition so British Police team captain Roger Clarke can identify the squad's best players. Dan said: "I'm told not everyone will be invited back to La Manga as part of the PSUK squad next year, so a good performance is vital."

# A clean sweep!

**HAVING led every team category in the regional police cross-country league since December, Essex travelled to the final fixture looking to complete the job.**

And also to create a little bit of history by becoming the first police service to win the men's, women's and veterans' team awards in the same season.

Not only did they succeed but, for good measure, also claimed the first four individual men's places, the leading overall veteran male, second in the veterans' over-50 category, a third in the women's event and a second in the veteran women's contest.

Just a week after competing in the gruelling PSUK championships, many of the same runners asked their tired bodies to make one more effort as captain Mick Bond rallied his colleagues for the fifth and final league race at St Neots.

Team placings are based on results from every race but the final individual



● Members of Essex Police men's, women's and veterans' cross-country teams at the PSUK championships in Gwent

scores are calculated using each runners' four best results.

League results were: Senior Men - 1 Russ Welch 12 points, 2 Derek Walker 14 points, 3 Dan Sorrell 25 points; Veterans 40 - 1 Mick Bond 10 points; Veterans 50

- 2 John McKenzie 17 points; Men's Team - 1 Essex 68 points; Men's Master Team - 1 Essex 49 points. Senior Women - 3 Rachel Wood 31 points; Master Women - 2 Pauline Bowers 18 points; Women's Team 1 Essex 76 points.

## Team acquits itself well at nationals

THE Essex team gave a good account of itself at the 2008 PSUK cross-country championships at Pontypool Park despite being faced by the toughest course captain Mick Bond had seen in 25 years of off-road running. The event acted as the selection race for the PSUK team for the forthcoming European Police Championship, and so attracted top competitors and a record field of entries.

The women's team were led home by Rachel Wood (46) and Kirsty Potterton (87). Over-45 veteran (V45) runner Pauline Bowers came in 105th, getting back to fitness, just ahead of Diane

Frew (107), competing in her first PSUK championship. The team finished 19th overall.

There were almost 300 runners in the men's race, including the winner, British International marathon runner Dave Mitchison (Hertfordshire). So Andy Jopson did extremely well to come in 20th.

Despite a recent injury, Russ Welch managed 36th place, chased home by team captain Mick Bond (38), who claimed the V50 title, despite having suffered yet another Achilles injury since winning the same age group at September's PSUK 10-mile road race

in Colchester. Failing to get clear of the mass at the start caused problems for the next wave of Essex runners and probably cost the team silver medals – Dan Sorrell (88), V40 Dave Wood (90) and Derek Walker (95) were all well down on their expected placings and the team were placed sixth overall.

Other results were: 160 Terry Balding; 176 Charles Quae; 186 Ian Jezzard; 199 Gary Lane; 203 Jim Ling V45; 223 John Mackenzie V50; 227 Pete Bryan V50; 232 John Jackson V40; 253 Mike Monkton; 263 Dave Willis; 264 Mark Finbow V40; 265 Steve King V45.

## Why not try volleyball?

THE force volleyball team is looking for new players so why not go along and have a tryout? Manager Steve Greener, of South Western, says: "We would love you to come and join us. It is very informal and the standard is mixed. We have one or two excellent players but the majority are only novices with quite a few beginners so I am sure you will feel at ease whatever your ability." The club train at HQ gym at the Essex Police College on Tuesdays from 7.30pm to 9pm and have a mixed team in the Essex League plus they enter men's and women's teams into the PSUK volleyball championship every September.

● For further information, contact Steve Greener on ext 70135, Amanda Pollard on ext 21769, or Gemma Gunn on ext 34126 or via email

## Gruelling time awaits

THE annual Cheviot 2000 team fell race will be hosted by Northumbria Police in the Cheviot Hills on Saturday, June 21.

The course circumnavigates a 22-mile route – one wrong foot and you are up to your waist in a peat bog, one wrong turn and you are in Scotland.

Entry is open to teams of three from police force employees, the Armed services and other emergency services. The course record is currently held by the Royal Logistic Corps with a time of four hours 55 minutes, in contrast the last finishers in more than 11 hours. It is described as "undoubtedly one of the most gruelling of its kind".

● Download entry forms from [www.cheviot2000.com](http://www.cheviot2000.com) or contact organiser Gary Saunders on 07971 416557

## Fell racing

THE 2008 British Police Fell Race Championships take place in Mungrisdale, Cumbria on Tuesday, May 13, at 1pm.

The established event – which is not a PSUK one – is for teams of three.

It is a nine-mile course traversing Bowscale, Blencathra and Souther fells – the total ascent is 2,700ft.

● Full details and entry forms from Derek Walker, Colchester Service Desk, on ext 10320 or visit [www.policessport.org](http://www.policessport.org)



● Kerrie Barkway ext 58883

ARE you planning a holiday or a family break? The Essex Police Sports Association has a range of villas, apartments and holiday lets at preferential rates.

Here are a few of the best: **Casa Cazorla:** set in the white-washed village of Hinojares, in the National Park of Cazorla, this old, beamed Spanish village house is typical to this beautiful region.

**Princess Park:** a new development in Calahonda on the Costa del Sol, stylishly furnished throughout, with a great sun terrace.

**Florida Villa, Orlando:** fabulous villa offering a minimum 20 per cent discount to EPSA members.

**Orlando Retreat:** four-bedroom villa located close to all the amenities Orlando can offer.

**Les Charmettes, France:** three-bedroom holiday caravan set on a fantastic park for a fun-packed family holiday. **Side, Turkey:** five-star luxury apartment set in a complex with all amenities.

**Woolacombe Bay:** four, award-winning holiday parks offering ten per cent discount in Devon.

**Mundesley, Norfolk:** fully-equipped holiday home just yards from the beach, offering 20 per cent discount.

● For further details of these and others, visit the EPSA intranet site and click on Member Benefits, Travel and Accommodation, then Villa, Apartment and Holiday Home Hire

**Have you been selected for a national sporting squad? Make sure you let The Law know – email [heather.turner@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:heather.turner@essex.pnn.police.uk)**

## Band secretary walks off with top lottery prize of £3,000

ESSEX Police Band secretary Joy Madigan takes home the top £3,000 prize in the February force lottery draw. Second prize of £1,000 goes to Christine Wright, of the Safer Roads Bureau, and third prize of £500 goes to Peter Buckley, of Financial Services. Winners of the £100 prizes are: Pc Alison King, of Maldon; David Cunliffe, of the Force Information Room; Elizabeth Burton, of Harlow; Sally Anne

Fester, of Braintree; Insp Katharine Sale, seconded; Christopher Whiddon, retired; Sara Whitehead, of Southend; Pc Mark Bullock, of South Ockendon; Keith Gurney, of Chelmsford; Robert Johnson, of the Camera Enforcement Office; and Pc Paul Gridley, of HQ Practical Skills Centre. Winners of the £50 prizes are: Denis Sheppard, retired; Ray Stannard, of Maldon;

Pc Paul Sheldrake, of Rayleigh; Pc Natalie Hammond, of Chelmsford; Sylvia Goodchild, of Specials HR; David Cuthbert, of Manningtree; Karen Gange, of Southend; Dc Paul Graham, of Financial Investigations; Pc Ian Turner, of Southminster; Pc Robert Newlyn, of Stanway Road Policing Unit; Susan Bishop, retired; Dc Robert Dix, of Stansted Airport; Pc James Nash, of Chelmsford; and Dc Andrew Eves, of Harlow.

## Youth email scheme sees YOT referrals shoot up

A NEW way of referring young people to youth offending teams (YOTs) has seen referrals almost triple in a month.

Not only is the new method a more secure way of transferring information, it also cuts down on time and means that the right interventions can be put in place to keep more young people away from crime.

All front-line officers must submit a RW1 young offender form via email within 24 hours of dealing with any young person who is then charged or summonsed or subject to a reprimand, final warning, penalty notice for disorder (PND) or a fixed penalty notice (FPN).

Insp Kevin Whipps, head of children and young people, has been monitoring the use of the new email version of the form and is delighted with its success.

Before the scheme started on January 28, only 29 per cent of young people were being referred to the county's six YOTs.

By February 26, that figure was up to 82 per cent.

Insp Whipps said the new version of the RW1 form was just two pages and was email-only.

"This is about helping us to make more informed decisions quickly to prevent youth reoffending, while reducing the time wasted at the fax machine and there is no risk of the data being intercepted," he explained.

"We can also carry out intervention work with young offenders' families to break the pattern of offending – but this is difficult to do if the YOTs are not informed."

● The RW1 young offender form can be found by searching the Force Forms Register – click on the tab at the top of the intranet home page

## Arresting artwork

ESSEX High Sheriff Lady Diana Kemp-Welch called in at a Rochford café to view efforts to keep youngsters off the streets and clear of crime.

She left the Teen Café in Stambridge Road with a permanent reminder of her visit – a spray-can painting of the High Sheriff's emblem of office, presented to her by PCSO Andrew Hill, of Rochford Neighbourhood Policing Team.

The visit coincided with the official launch of an initiative started by PCSO Hill to divert youngsters away from committing acts of graffiti vandalism.

Huge wooden boards at the café, donated by local firms, can be used by youngsters to create their own artwork and then painted over for re-use.

## Force first as Tazer team arrests man all at sea

A TEAM of firearms officers entered the history books by making the force's first arrest at sea after a Taser deployment.

The drama last month occurred after police received a call for assistance from the master of the 6,000-tonne container ship Caprojo, 11 miles off the Suffolk coast.

He had found a stowaway on board and

was alleging that the 34-year-old Turkish man had caused damage to the ship.

Treacherous weather meant a Marine Unit deployment was untenable, forcing the team of six specially-trained officers to be flown out of Harwich by an RAF Sea King helicopter.

Once over the ship, Chief Insp Jon

Dodman, Sgt Andy Ford, Dc Simon Lofting and Pcs Shane Burke, Andy Kemp and Matt Hylands were winched down on to the deck in 35-knot crosswinds. They located the man at the top of a 42-metre crane.

He was arrested and handed over to Suffolk officers to process once the ship docked at Felixstowe.

# Have you got force's new phone number?

by Morwenna Holland

**DEPUTY Chief Constable Andy Bliss was due to launch the force's new single, non-emergency number on March 6 – as The Law went to print.**

And he was to be joined by Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers and pupils at Fairhouse Community Infant School in Basildon.

The new number – 0300 333 4444 – is a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week service which will connect the county's residents to the force switchboard.

Their calls will then be directed to the most appropriate person, department or station to be dealt with.

The single, non-emergency number should be used by all members of the public making enquiries to Essex Police and officers and police staff should give it to the public, along with their collar or ID number and their extension number as the best form of contact.

However, the new number does not replace 999 in an emergency. The public should be reminded that if a crime or serious incident is in progress, or there is a serious risk of injury or damage to property, they should always dial 999.

Mr Bliss said before the launch at Fairhouse school: "The non-emergency number will improve telephone access to the police, ensuring that all calls are dealt with quickly and effectively.

"By having a memorable, low-cost, non-emergency number for the whole county,



● Pupils at King's Road Primary School in Chelmsford won't forget the new single, non-emergency number for Essex Police

it will be easier to contact Essex Police even when you are away from home.

"Members of the public can still contact their local neighbourhood police officer on their mobile telephone number, which can be found on the Essex Police website or by texting your postcode to 07624 800101."

Urging people to remember the new number and to save it on their mobile phones, Mr Chambers added: "Having a single, non-emergency number provides convenient access to Essex Police 24-hours a day – a service members of the public have asked for."

Callers to 0300 333 4444 will be

charged the same or less than calls to 01 (eg 01245) and 02 (eg 0208) prefixed numbers and calls will be included as part of any inclusive minutes or discount package.

● TRANSFERRING calls effectively, to the correct destination, can only be achieved if contact details for police officers and staff are up to date and accurate.

It is your responsibility to ensure your details appear correctly on the Outlook email address book.

Check yours are up to date and, if not, then click on the Update Email tab at the top of the intranet home page to amend them.

## Praise for partnership's crime prevention

MALDON'S Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) has been praised by the Home Office for its success in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.

One of the major priorities of the partnership and of each of its members this year is to reduce the fear of crime across the district, which far exceeds the reality.

Jerry Jones, of Government Office East (GO-East), said: "Crime has continued to fall over the last few years and CDRPs like Maldon have made a considerable contribution to this success.

"Maldon is one of the safest areas in

one of the safest counties in England and Wales and all the statistics bear that out.

"However we can't be complacent. Although recorded crime has clearly come down there still exists a disproportionate fear of crime that bears no relation to reality."

The partnership held its annual conference last month, opened by Essex High Sheriff Lady Diana Kemp-Welch.

She presented special Community Champions awards to district commander Chief Insp Craig Robertson and crime reduction officer Ray Stannard.

Chief Insp Robertson gave a presenta-

tion on reality v perception of crime and delegates discussed how to promote behaviour, tolerance and respect in the community.

PCSO Julie Anderton and Carrie Sawkins, community safety development officer, spoke about the achievements of the young winners of the Kool 2 B Kind initiative.

Five youngsters aged between eight and 12 from schools across the district won awards for carrying out outstanding acts of kindness.

● Turn to Page 10 for more details about the Community Champions awards

## Colleagues support charity in Tom's memory

STAFF from across Western Division are being encouraged to sign up to a relay event in memory of a former officer who died suddenly.

Tom Lodemore died after suffering an epileptic fit in January 2007, triggering colleagues to organise a charity relay in aid of Epilepsy Bereaved. The event

takes place on Sunday, May 11, and will see participants run or walk from Brentwood police station to Upton Park in east London.

Co-organiser Sgt Shirley Cole, of Brentwood, said: "We've got several team applications from nearly everyone at Brentwood as well as from officers else-

where in the division who joined up with Tom.

"We're looking for as many as possible so that we can hand over a large cheque to the charity."

● Anyone else who is interested in taking part in the relay can contact Shirley via email

## Team reflect as Suffolk serial killer jailed for life

THE force, in particular senior investigating officer Det Supt Simon Dinsdale and his major investigation team from Rayleigh, had every right to feel proud last month as Ipswich serial killer Steven Wright was sentenced to a whole-life tariff in prison.

The Essex officers had played a vital part in the investigation leading to Wright's conviction.

Wright had picked up all his victims from the town's red-light district and murdered them during a six-week killing spree which triggered one of Britain's biggest ever manhunts.

Answering a call from Suffolk Police for assistance, Det Supt Dinsdale and his team arrived in the county on December 12, 2006.

The small force was already investigating the murders of three women from the town and were concerned for two others who were missing.

The Essex officers were tasked with the two missing persons inquiries.

Det Supt Dinsdale recalled: "Within half an hour of arriving in Ipswich, the bodies of our missing women, Annette Nicholls and Paula Clennell, had been found within 100 metres of each other.

"Time was on our side as we were able to have investigating officers on the ground within one-and-a-half to two hours, interviewing a significant witness – the man who discovered the bodies."

The amount of DNA recovered from all the bodies was remarkable and Wright was arrested very quickly. All five murders were to be investigated separately in a linked operation under the banner of Operation Sumac.

Det Supt Dinsdale said: "We had particular lines of inquiry to make sure there was no duplication between the investigation teams and forensics were dealt with centrally.

"It was a real learning experience for all of us and, although some officers had worked on the Soham murders, it was the biggest case any of us had worked on.

"The sheer volume of information was amazing, with more than 12,000 calls and almost 11,000 hours of CCTV footage to be scrutinised," he said.

"And disclosure was a big issue, with all our evidence having to be properly presented to the court.

"All the team were a credit to the force. From December 2006 through to April 2007, when we returned to Essex, we were all working on average 72 hours a week and spending a long time away from home."

He added: "I am pleased at the result for the victims' families and am proud to have been a part of it."