

# The Law



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April 2008

Police officers and staff praised as new objectives set for 2008/09

## HARD WORK PAYS OFF AS CRIME FALLS



● Neighbourhood policing is at the heart of what we do: Sgt Dave Hewes, of Loughton Neighbourhood Support Team

Picture by Denise Harvey

**THE efforts of all police officers and staff have again allowed the force to continue cutting crime levels and raising detections.**

Total recorded crime in Essex fell by 6.2 per cent over the past year – 2007/08 – and the force's sanctioned detection rate has increased by 2.8 percentage points to 32.3 per cent.

Other achievements include having further improved our emergency response times, moving an additional 120 police officers and staff to front-line duties and recruiting an extra 191 special constables.

We have also introduced a new 24-hour, seven-day-a-week, non-emergency number – 0300 333 4444 – and centralised the force's switchboard.

The force is continuing to focus on neighbourhood policing and putting the customer first through a citizen-focused policing style.

Introducing this year's force objectives, Chief Constable Roger Baker said: "I believe we are in a strong position to meet our future challenges, thanks to the hard work of everyone who works for Essex Police and the continuing support we get from Essex Police Authority.

"As a force, we are committed to delivering a first-class policing



● Chief Constable Roger Baker

service which puts the citizen at the heart of all that we do.

"We want to further reduce crime and the fear of crime and bring more offenders to justice so that, by further improving on our performance, Essex remains one of the safest counties in the country."

Building strong community links through neighbourhood policing has allowed us to target areas of local concern and achieve results through our intelligence-led approach – helping to reduce crime, nuisance and disorder and improving people's quality of life while easing their fear of crime.

The public has told the force it specifically wants us to focus on:

- increasing police visibility and reassurance
- improving both the timeliness and the quality of response to calls for assistance and
- tackling anti-social behaviour and disorder.

These are all things which are included in the force's performance targets for 2008/09. A three-year strategy has been adopted for 2008-11, which commits the force to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour still further as well as delivering a high-quality service to the people of Essex.

The new Annual Policing Plan focuses on protecting vulnerable people, reducing road deaths and serious injuries, reducing youth offending, reducing violent crimes – including domestic abuse, assaults and sexual offences – and making the people of Essex feel safer.

The force continues to concentrate on putting more resources towards front-line duties by increasing the number of officers, special constables, PCSOs, police staff and members of the extended policing family.

In addition, Essex Police and Essex Police Authority intend to build on existing collaboration work with other forces and partner agencies to further enhance our ability to protect communities from serious and organised crime and other threats as well as reducing costs to the taxpayer while continuing to improve the service they receive.

The force is also preparing for significant challenges, such as the developments at the Thames Gateway and the Stansted/M11 corridor and the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

- Improving the way we protect our public – the Protective Services Improvement Plan – see Page 2
- Stansted reorganisation – see Page 3

### Key achievements in 2007/08

- reduced incidents of anti-social behaviour by more than 13.8 per cent
  - reduced by 105 the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads, a drop of 10.4 per cent
  - reduced total recorded crime by 6.2 per cent and we reduced robberies by 14.6 per cent
  - increased our sanctioned detection rate by 2.8 percentage points to 32.3 per cent, with an increase of 5.2 percentage points in the sanctioned detection rate for violent crime to 58.2 per cent
  - dismantled five organised crime enterprises and disrupted 14
  - introduced a centralised switchboard and a 24/7 non-emergency call-answering service
  - opened our police stations for an additional 461 hours a week
  - further improved our emergency response times
  - moved an additional 120 police officers and staff to front-line duties
  - recruited 191 additional special constables and
  - identified £4.4million of recurrent savings to enable us to spend still more on increasing our front-line capabilities (Operation Austin).
- \* These are provisional figures

### Force objectives for 2008/09

- reduce recorded crime and incidents of anti-social behaviour by at least five per cent
- increase our sanctioned detection rate to at least 40 per cent
- increase recorded Class A drug supply offences brought to justice by at least 465
- reassure the public
- improve our response to the public
- reduce serious road traffic casualties to fewer than 893
- enhance community protection by meeting the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) Protective Services Standards
- combat terrorism
- employ an effective and representative workforce
- further collaborate with Kent and the eastern region police forces.

# Improving the way we protect our public

**A PROTECTIVE Services improvement plan has been published to bring Essex Police into line with new national standards.**

Assistant Chief Constable Peter Lowton is in command of Protective Services in Essex and leads a strategic group which has undertaken a detailed, forcewide gap analysis and threat assessment to identify areas which can be improved.

- So far, the strategy group has:
- Completed a threat assessment of all areas of our Protective Services
  - Identified and mapped the assets available to our Protective Services
  - Prepared an improvement plan to ensure we comply with new national standards.

Mr Lowton said: "The assessment process we have undertaken has shown that Essex Police is in a very strong position for most of our Protective Service areas.

"However, far from being complacent, we will be looking to make significant improvements in those areas where we fall a little short and the improvement plan will enable us to focus on those key areas.

"This strong position is due to the on-going investment in Protective Services by Essex Police Authority – which last year allowed us to spend an extra £1.76million in these areas – and also to the existing Essex Police programme of work to further develop and professionalise these services."

A new Protective Services Improvement Team has been formed, headed up by DCI Keith Davies, to drive improvement through performance and compliance with the national standards.

Implementation of the improvement plan will be overseen by the Protective Services Policy

Programme Board, which is governed by Mr Lowton in conjunction with Essex Police Authority.

Mr Lowton added: "Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary will be visiting Essex later this year to inspect our progress and compliance against the 369 national minimum standards and will look to share our best practices with other forces.

"Essex Police is committed to continuous performance improvement and we are currently collaborating with the Kent, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire forces to ensure that we have the best Protective Services to protect and reduce the risk of harm to our public."

The Protective Services Improvement Plan for 2008/09 was published on April 1 as part of the force's Annual Policing Plan for 2008/09.

It came about as a result of work carried out by police forces nationwide after the publication of the Closing The Gap report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC).

That report, published in September 2005, assessed the ability of forces in England and Wales to provide effective and sustainable protective services to a common standard.

When the government dropped its plans to merge police forces, it was decided that collaboration between forces was the way ahead.

And last autumn, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) asked forces to look at their own Protective Services – and to ensure they were appropriate to the needs of their communities.

As a result, ACPO published 369 national standards for Protective Services which police forces are expected to attain.

- Protective Services areas are: counter-terrorism; civil contingencies; firearms; major crime; public order; road policing; serious and organised crime; domestic extremism; critical incidents; and public protection.





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Advertising feature

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It is supplied by Blues and Twos Ltd, which specialises in supplying high-quality products to police officers, private security officers and paramedics. Since it was formed in July 2006, the Rochford company has grown steadily, building a portfolio of products which it believes are of high quality and affordably-priced for emergency personnel. Although it is a small, family-run company, Blues and Twos does not think small – it is very big on customer service and satisfaction. And the firm believes it should match the service and commitment which is provided to the public by emergency services personnel every day.

As well as kit bags, Blues and Twos can supply torches and accessories, baton-holders, belts and accessories, boots, cuff-holders and cuff keys – to find out what the company has to



offer, just visit [www.bluesandtwosltd.co.uk](http://www.bluesandtwosltd.co.uk). To be in with a chance of winning a high-quality patrol kit bag, all you have to do is answer the following question:

**How much does the Hiatts handcuff key cost?**

The answer can be found on the Blues and Twos website at [www.bluesandtwosltd.co.uk](http://www.bluesandtwosltd.co.uk). When you have your answer, email it, plus your name and contact details, to [heather.turner@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:heather.turner@essex.pnn.police.uk). The sender of the first correct answer drawn after the competition closing date of Friday, April 25, 2008, will receive the patrol kit bag. No other prize is offered and the editor's decision is final.

# Recognition for officers and staff



FOUR officers have been recognised for their outstanding work at a special ceremony.

Sgt Mike Wilkinson, Pc Rob Bell, Pc Matthew Leach and Pc Alex Plakhtienko received their trophies from Essex Lord Lieutenant Lord Petre at Shire Hall in Chelmsford last month.

At the same time, a couple who met at work and two of our ACCs were among officers, members of police staff and the special constabulary receiving long-service awards, marking 22 years.

Insp Gordon Ashford, of Braintree, and his wife Tracy, ACC Derek Benson and ACC Peter Lowton all joined the police service in 1985.

Gordon and Tracy met in 1996 on a course at Essex Police College.

Tracy, of HQ Internal Communications, said: "I have enjoyed the whole of my career with Essex Police. It has been life-changing because while I was on a team-building course I met my future husband. I now juggle my career with my home life of two young sons."

Insp Ashford said the proudest moment of his career had been meeting his wife.

### Force awards

Laindon Road Policing Unit's Pc Rob Bell collected the Wilson Trophy for the most meritorious act.

It was made in recognition of his professionalism and bravery during an incident where he was threatened with a shotgun in December. Despite being on his own and being confronted by an armed man with a shotgun, Pc Bell's bravery and quick-thinking under immense pressure was truly exemplary.

A neighbourhood policing officer

from Basildon has won this year's Millard Trophy in recognition for his work on one of the busiest patches in the county.

According to residents, Fryerns has become a safer place to live because of Pc Alex Plakhtienko, of Pitsea.

The neighbourhood specialist officer has helped to cut anti-social behaviour and nuisance youth problems on the Craylands Estate while setting up a Business Watch scheme on three retail parks in the town.

Pc Plakhtienko is delighted with his award, for making the greatest contribution to the community and to Essex Police.

"It's nice to receive the praise but it's really a team effort as we have all done some really good work in dealing with community issues and introducing crime reduction programmes with hard-to-reach members of the community," said the 43-year-old.

"It's all about promoting better relations and working with residents to improve their quality of life."

Basildon District Commander Chief Insp Mark Wheeler said: "Alex is incredibly committed and innovative and we're all very proud of his work."

Pc Matthew Leach, based in Harwich and Dovercourt, was awarded the Anthony Peel trophy for his contribution to crime reduction.

Pc Leach's work has led to significant reduction in crime levels and enhanced levels of crime detection. He is involved in a number of community projects, including the Prison No Way Scheme which works with young people on the cusp of offending.

And Sgt Mike Wilkinson received the Sir Jonathan Peel Trophy, awarded to the highest-placed Essex officer in the OSPRE sergeant's exam.



● Essex Lord Lieutenant Lord Petre presents special awards to, clockwise from top left: Pc Alex Plakhtienko, Pc Matthew Leach, Sgt Mike Wilkinson and Pc Rob Bell

Pictures by Gary Kenton

## Case prompts call for driving ban review

THE call for a change in the law on driving bans given to jailed motorists has reignited following the sentencing of a drink-driver from Basildon.

Njabulo Nyathi was jailed for five years and disqualified from driving for the same period of time after admitting to causing the death of a motorist by dangerous driving while three times over the drink-drive limit.

A campaign calling for driving bans to begin after jailed motorists are released was started by a mother from Cleveland whose daughter was killed by a drink-driver in 2005.

She is backed by Shadow Roads Minister Robert Goodwill, who states the current law is unclear – it allows people to partially use up a driving ban while they are in jail and are not able to drive.

In 2006, Sam Matkin's Ford Fiesta was struck by Nyathi's Nissan X-Trail, which was travelling on the wrong side of the A13. Sam, 22, of Corringham, died at the scene.

Nyathi, 46, of Basildon, pleaded guilty before his trial last month.

Sam's mother Christine said she wanted to thank officers at Laindon Road Policing Unit "for their never-ending quest to find justice."

"They have pursued this with grit and determination. We felt the road policing officers had a personal interest in this case – because they see the tragedy and destruction that drink-drivers cause."

# National spotlight shines on SOCO test

**CRIME scene investigators are due to be put through their paces this month as part of their biennial assessments.**

Scenes of crimes officers (SOCOs) will be tested on their knowledge of law, their ability to process a crime scene and the quality of their exhibit submission.

Competency testing (CT) examines their understanding of forensic issues as well as force policies and procedures. The programme has attracted the attention of the National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA) and other forces due to its content and delivery.

Development officer Dc Clive Morris co-ordinates the training of scientific

by Nishan Wijeratne

support staff and will be organising the week-long assessments for the 45 scenes of crime staff, constables and sergeants on division and at HQ.

"CT looks at an officer's all-round ability as well as their customer relations," said Dc Morris.

"This final component is just as important as the other aspects as we look to ensure the best level of care is given to victims.

"The two-hour assessment examines various areas of work that any SOCO would expect to deal with in their day-to-day role, from the processing of attempted murder or rape to a burglary scene."

Chief Constable Roger Baker, President of the Forensic Science Society

# More protection for Stansted

STANSTED Airport Division has moved under the umbrella of Protective Services.

The move from Territorial Policing was made at the start of this month.

There will be few changes to the way the division will work, except for the change in the reporting line to ACC (PS) Peter Lowton, from ACC (TP) Carmel Napier.

Stansted Airport Division will be involved in Protective Services tasking, together with Crime Division and Mobile Support Division.

The aim is to improve the force's Protective Services, as recommended by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC).

Meanwhile, collaboration between Essex Police and Kent Police is looking at the creation of a Unified Ports Command.

Stansted Divisional Commander Chief Supt Ian Grüneberg

has already been nominated as shadow commander.

Work under Operation Forefront includes collaborating with Kent on ports policing, Marine Unit work, the use of automatic number-plate recognition (ANPR) and the provision of air support as well as looking at opportunities links between the two forces can provide.

Chief Supt Grüneberg said: "All ports, whatever their size, are potentially venues of terrorist interest, serious and organised crime and general criminality, are risks to public safety and require contingency planning.

"Bringing ports under a unified command will assist Essex and Kent police forces to improve police performance at ports and encourage intelligence and information sharing.

"This is an exciting time for the development of policing."

● For more about developments in Protective Services – see opposite page

## Detective turns soccer troubleshooter

DESPITE being a West Ham fan, the opportunity to go and work for Portsmouth Football Club was too good to miss for former detective Paul Mullaly.

And, only two months into his new role, it has been an exciting career change, culminating in his new team reaching the FA Cup semi-finals – due to be played on April 5 – for the first time since 1939.

Paul's role is player liaison officer, dealing with everyday problems and taking some of the pressures away from manager Harry Redknapp and the board of directors.

He helps new players settle in, handles legal issues and arranges work permits for foreign players, using his experience to 'tackle' the employment regulations.

Paul worked for Essex and the Metropolitan police for 24 years, mainly in investigative roles. Prior to leaving Essex he worked in immigration intelligence, investigating people-trafficking.

He misses the job and especially his old colleagues, he said: "This was a great opportunity for me. I love my sport and to work within sports management and the regulatory side was a dream come true.

"It's one of those jobs that come along just when you are about to retire and then it is an easy decision to make.

"Pompey last won the FA Cup in 1939 and then retained it for six years, which is a record – because World War Two broke out. I hope that's not an omen."



## Federation news by Roy Scanes



### Have your say

BY the time you read this article, the Police Federation poll will have been launched.

The poll is open to all Federated ranks in England and Wales – every member should receive a ballot paper and reply-paid envelope by mid-April. The deadline for return is May 2.

### How did we get to this point?

Last year, the Official Side (the bosses) and the Staff Side (police officers) of the Police Negotiating Board (PNB) failed to reach an agreement on the police officer pay award for 2007/08 and the matter was referred to the Police Arbitration Tribunal (PAT).

The PAT decided that pay for all police ranks should be increased by 2.5 per cent from September 1, 2007.

In December, Home Secretary Jacqui Smith announced that she had a responsibility to ensure pay settlements were affordable and consistent with Government pay policy, including the maintenance of low inflation.

She determined the pay of police officers in England and Wales would be increased by 2.5 per cent from December 1, not September 1. This reduced the award in real terms to 1.9 per cent.

On January 23, more than 25,000 off-duty police officers conducted a dignified march through the streets of London to express our sense of betrayal and anger at the Home Secretary's failure to honour the PAT decision in full.

Unlike other public sector workers, police officers are different. They are not employees but Officers of the Crown. They do not have employee status with industrial rights but instead work to Police Regulations.

If police officers are to be treated as all other workers in the public sector, should we have the same rights? It was this question which led us to conduct this poll. It is important we know your views and we will only know these if you take part. Results will be announced at the Police Federation conference in May.

### What is the problem?

When a decision on the police pay award goes to the independent PAT, arbitration is binding on both sides of PNB but not on the Home

Secretary. The Home Secretary is required to ratify the award for it to be implemented in law.

This is the first occasion on which the Home Secretary has failed to ratify a police pay arbitration award. The Home Secretary can choose to ratify the award or impose an alternative pay award if she can demonstrate that it is a matter of utmost national importance.

The argument given for not ratifying the arbiters' decision was the need to keep inflation down and to keep police pay in line with a two per cent public sector pay policy.

### What is arbitration?

Police officers in the UK are prohibited by statute from the right to strike. Under the constitution of the PNB, therefore, matters on which no agreement can be reached and which cannot be resolved by conciliation, may be referred by either side to arbitration.

Pension matters are, however, not arbitrable. Arbitration is carried out by a standing PAT, which consists of three arbitrators appointed by the Prime Minister.

Any decision of the arbitrators is treated as though it were an agreement of the PNB. The decision is therefore binding on both the Staff Side and Official Side of the PNB but not binding on the Home Secretary.

### What are industrial rights and industrial action?

Having industrial rights allows the employee to take industrial action. Industrial action is an act, carried out by either an employee or an employer, which prevents the operation of the contract of employment.

Forms of action by employees include strikes, go slow, overtime bans and work to rule. The usual form of action by the employer is a lockout.

Whether carried out by the employer or the employee, the act constitutes a breach of contract but the law protects the employer and employees, in certain circumstances from court proceedings.

This is when the action is deemed to be lawful industrial action. Most trade unions will ballot members before any decision to act is taken.

Have your say, don't miss out – your view counts.

## Unison news by Chris Willcock



DO you have a disability? Are you aware of Access to Work, which provides practical support for disabled people and their employers?

The Access to Work programme is customer-led and tailored to the individual, who must have had a diagnosis of a disability before making an application for help.

Based in Colchester, it has a team of eight advisers who work with individual cases from start to finish, as far as possible.

Applicants must include an accurate description of their day-to-day job to help the advisers assess what help employers need to give them in order for them to do their job and what 'reasonable adjustments' may need to be made.

When deciding what recommendations to make and agreeing to part-fund them, Access to Work takes into account standard equipment used and then assesses what would be needed in addition to this.

This can include transport costs and the provision of co-workers.

Upgrades to equipment and/or software are the responsibility of the employer ie Essex Police.

Under the scheme, the force pays for the 'reasonable adjustments' and then claims back the agreed funding from Access to Work.

Access to Work can fund up to 80 per cent of the cost of any equipment or adjustments needed to enable a disabled person to carry out their job and duties effectively.

The Colchester office can agree up to £60,000 but amounts higher than this can be referred to head office.

Contracted assessors are sent to make assessments in the workplace. The total grant is then agreed by Access to Work.

The applicant and their employer then both receive a copy of the grant agreement.

- If you feel Access to Work could help you, contact your line manager or your HR manager in the first instance.

- For more information, contact Disability Network co-ordinator Denise Chaplin on ext 54102

### Key issues in the new Local Government Pension Scheme

The new-look Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) came into effect on April 1 and contains some amendments of which you should be aware.

**Joining:** Regulation 2 of the LGPS (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2007 – known as the Benefits Regulations – states that an active member of the previous scheme – the 1997 scheme – is an active member of the new scheme from April 1, 2008, and for as long as they continue in LGPS employment.

The Benefits Regulations introduce the requirement that a member is not an active member unless they are employed under a contract of employment with more than three months' duration.

**Employee contributions after April 1, 2008:** From April 1, members' LGPS contributions will depend on pensionable pay in the scheme year – the higher your pay, the higher your contribution rate will be.

There are seven bands, ranging from 5.5 per cent, for those earning under £12,000 a year, to 7.5 per cent, for those earning more than £75,000pa.

Employers will be responsible for allocating members to the band and determining what counts as pensionable pay. You should be aware that if and when pensionable pay changes, the deduction rate will automatically change, if applicable.

Each band will increase in line with the Retail Price Index (RPI), starting from next April. Once the Government has announced the new cost of living (RPI) figures for the next financial year, the bands will be changed to reflect the updated RPI.

If a member of staff's pay increases after the RPI announcement then they will only move into a higher band based on the revised bandings and not the ones in force at the time.

- For further information on the LGPS scheme, contact Essex County Council Pensions Department, on ext 821912 the Unison office on ext 55012 or 01245 452597 or Employee Relations on ext 58622 / 51535

## Disability Network news

by Denise Chaplin



DYSLEXIA is a recognised disability which must be supported by Essex Police.

Dyslexia is best described as a combination of abilities and difficulties which may affect learning, literacy and numeracy. Short-term memory, mathematics, concentration, personal organisation and sequencing may also be affected.

Dyslexic people often demonstrate an ability to think and work differently – this enables them to produce innovative and creative solutions to problems.

There are 37 common characteristics of dyslexia – these can be viewed on the Equality and Diversity intranet pages under the heading of Disability – Dyslexia Liaison.

Around four per cent of the population are severely dyslexic, with a further six per cent having mild to moderate problems.

Dyslexia cannot be cured. However, strategies and alternative learning methods can be developed to overcome most difficulties.

A person with dyslexia has strengths alongside their difficulties, including innovative thinking, problem-solving, creativity, excellent visual awareness, practical skills and strong communication skills.

Our dyslexia support group was set up in 2003 by Sgt Mitch Goodchild. Sgt Tim Mariner became co-ordinator in 2004 and, in 2006, the group merged with the Disability Network.

Sgt Mariner continues to be dyslexia liaison officer on the executive committee.

The group's aims are to:

- help and support any police officers or staff with issues relating to dyslexia
- promote awareness/diversity within the force
- assist Essex Police in introducing new dyslexia-friendly electronic forms and computer-based applications.

If you think you are dyslexic, in the first instance, you can talk to your supervisor or line manager. If you do not feel comfortable speaking to them, then someone from the support group will happily assist you.

An adult dyslexia checklist is available on [www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/adultchecklist.html](http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/adultchecklist.html) which may help individuals ascertain if they

may be dyslexic. This is *not* an assessment or test of any kind but is a good indicator of the probability that an individual may have dyslexia.

Unfortunately many people in the past have been either misdiagnosed or not tested at all.

The current framework deals with your current situation and Essex Police will consider any assessment request.

The assessment is paid for from a central reasonable adjustment budget through your HR manager and any necessary equipment is paid for by both Access to Work and by the force.

Once assessed, Access to Work via IT can provide equipment to help with your day-to-day role. Contact any member of the support group who can provide advice with these.

Problems incurred by dyslexic officers and staff are local issues but the Disability Network and the Diversity Unit can provide advice and guidance to HR managers who identify any common or recurring specific issues.

The effects of dyslexia can be largely overcome by skilled specialist teaching and the use of compensatory strategies.

Coping strategies are ways that a person overcomes difficulties in the workplace and in their daily life.

All reasonable adjustment considerations must be dealt with as quickly as possible.

Policies and procedures for assisting people with dyslexia and other disabilities must be enforced and adhered to by all supervisors and line managers to enable fair and non-discriminatory recruitment and the retention of staff.

Your local contacts are:

- Denise Chaplin, Disability Network co-ordinator, HQ, ext 54102
- Sgt Tim Mariner, Disability Network dyslexia liaison officer, Grays, ext 71927
- Louise Linzell, HQ HR, ext 51556
- Dc Mark Sibley, HQ Crime Division, ext 54223
- Pc Kirsty Thomas-Unger, Loughton PDU, ext 23140
- Pc Neil Culham, Clacton, ext 16149
- Sgt Dave Hewes, Loughton, ext 23024.

## Corner the chairman



● Essex Police Authority chairman  
**Robert Chambers**

Have you got our number?

0300 333 4444

I ATTENDED the official launch of Essex Police's new non-emergency number – 0300 333 4444 – at the Fairhouse Community Infant School in Basildon last month. I was joined at the school by DCC Andy Bliss and officers from the Automatic Number Plate Recognition Team who were showing their cars and equipment to the pupils.

Eleven of the pupils then fashioned special Essex Police T-shirts printed with the new non-emergency number, as did I, for photographs with the local media.

The new telephone number is a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week service which will connect callers from across the county to the force's new centralised switchboard.

Calls will then be directed to the most appropriate person, department or station.

I would urge all Essex Police employees to use this new number and to help promote it by giving it to the public – along with your ID number and your extension number.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has worked extremely hard to get this number up and running. 0300 333 4444 is great news for the people of Essex as it will provide convenient access to the police 24 hours a day, ensuring that all calls are dealt with quickly and efficiently – a service which members of the public have asked for.

So if you haven't done so already, please store this number on your phone now!

0300 333 4444

## SOS bus award

THE Colchester Community SOS Bus won a £1,000 grant at this year's High Sheriff Awards ceremony.

The SOS bus, supported by Essex Police and Colchester Borough Council, provides a contact for anyone who needs medical, emotional or practical assistance on a Thursday, Friday or Saturday night in Colchester town centre.

## Showcasing emergency medical skills

A SPECIAL training session demonstrating how police officer medics handle injured people in potentially life-threatening situations has raised over £2,000 for charity.

Firearms medics teamed up with a doctor from Colchester General Hospital to hold the session over the Easter weekend.

Its aim was to give medical professionals an insight in to the way the force's medically-trained officers deal

with patients during dangerous situations, such as firearms operations.

A total of 20 people attended, from backgrounds including the military and emergency medicine.

It was the first time Essex Police had held such a session and the trainers gave up their time for free so that all the money raised can go to help provide medical equipment for people in Tanzania.

Pc Matthew Clark, of the Force

Support Unit, helped to organise the training.

He said: "This training session gave the medical professionals the opportunity to see what we do in relation to tactical medicine.

"It was really successful and we raised over £2,000. If we have sufficient interest we may think about running another in the autumn."

The two-day training session included theory sessions as well as role plays.

## PCSOs take to the water

**THREE PCSOs are swimming three miles to raise money for the Marie Curie Cancer Fund.**

**They will undertake their swim at Dunmow Leisure Centre on Saturday, April 19, as part of the national Swimathon weekend.**

**PCSO Angi Greneski, who patrols Felsted and Stebbing, teaches swimming in her spare time and having took part in the event before, encouraged her colleagues, PCSO Emma Webb, of Hatfield Heath, and PCSO Glenn Braden, of Dunmow Town, to participate this year.**

**Angi said: "Marie Curie is such a worthy cause and we are honoured to be able to contribute in some way. We are really excited about the challenge and are looking forward to making as much money as we possibly can."**

**Between them, the PCSOs have already raised £100 towards their £500 target.**

**● Anyone wishing to sponsor the trio can contact them on 07779 085616**



● PCSO Emma Webb, left, PCSO Glenn Braden and PCSO Angi Greneski get into the swim of things at Dunmow Police Station

Picture by Karen Keen

## 'With a little help from my best friend'

**BRAVE Pc Jenna Seaton is running 5km to raise money for a cancer charity – with the help of her best friend.**

Jenna and best friend Jennifer McCree have known each other since infant school and on July 9 the pair, both aged 22, intend to enter Cancer Research UK's Race for Life at North Weald.

Running holds particular significance for Jenna, who was diagnosed with medullary thyroid cancer in 2005, while she was training to become an officer.

She put her training on hold and underwent several unsuccessful attempts at chemotherapy.

Although her cancer is incurable, Jenna was eventually able to find main-

tenance drugs to hold the cancer at bay, allowing her to finish her training.

And she 'passed out' as a constable in February this year, and is now based in Grays.

Both women took part in the Race for Life at North Weald last year and will run in July with Jenna's twin Kirsty, her younger sister Ellie, mum Jacqui, aunts Kym Brown and Linda Nunn as well as close friend Emma Puddick.

Jennifer, of Barking, said: "Jenna has amazed us all with her determination to

succeed in the police and not let cancer get to her.

"She was half-way through her training when she found out she had cancer so had to put it on hold while she was being treated and had an operation to remove her thyroid, some lymph glands and a tumour on her chest.

"Once she was well enough, she returned to training, loving every minute of it. She 'passed out' recently and our very close and supportive group of friends couldn't be more proud of her."

● Jenna and Jennifer are encouraging other women to join the fund-raising. To sign up for the 2008 Cancer Research UK Race for Life visit [www.raceforlife.org/centraleast](http://www.raceforlife.org/centraleast) or call 0871 641 2271

● To sponsor Jenna, email your pledge to her



**In this month's article about being 'green', Ian Mott, of Property Services, calls for Environmental Champions to step forward**

### Using environmental awareness to save money

LIKE every other public body, Essex Police has to meet ever-increasing demands to improve the service provided, within ever-reducing budgets.

One of the easiest ways that we can achieve this is to reduce the cost of the energy resources we use, such as electricity, gas, oil and water. Another way is to ensure that stationery is used effectively.

In addition, we need to ensure that we do not incur high costs for the disposal of the waste we generate.

If we all try to ensure that we only use what is required then there are considerable savings to be made, which will contribute

towards Operation Austin.

An added bonus is that we will be assisting in limiting the force's impact on the environment and its contribution to climate change.

In order to maintain this momentum, we would like to encourage officers and staff around the county take up the challenge and assist us in developing a way forward. So, please, if you value your environment, become an Environmental Champion for your department and keep us informed of ways you and your colleagues feel we can progress this.

● Contact internal communications officer Heather Turner on ext 55819 or via email if you want to be your department's Environmental Champion

## Injured Pc thanks trek colleagues

AN officer left disabled after a rugby accident has spoken of his admiration for 56 colleagues taking part in a 630-mile walk to raise cash. Pc Arron Williams, 25, of Pitsea, suffered severe neck injuries last September. He told Basildon's Insp David Miller he was amazed that so many had responded to take on such a daunting challenge on his behalf.

Insp Miller has organised the sponsored relay trek along the South-West coast path from Minehead in Somerset to Poole in Dorset, from May 3 to mid-June. The walkers have themselves been inspired to succeed by Arron's determination to get back to work. Insp Miller said: "He says he is still a copper and wants to come back to do his bit. He loves the job and is very determined to remain a member of the team and do whatever he can."

"He is very positive but also very realistic and knows that the likelihood of walking again is remote. "He can use his arms but his fingers are not strong yet. But he is still having a considerable amount of physiotherapy."

Arron is a patient at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Buckinghamshire. However, he hopes to return home full-time this month and plans to get his own flat and a 24-hour carer.

Insp Miller is hoping to raise between £12,000 and £15,000 through sponsorship but believes the final total will be boosted by other fund-raising events at towns along the route.

The cash will be used to buy equipment to help Arron but he has asked that about £6,000 should be donated to the hospital to buy a special piece of equipment to help people in the early stages after their injury.

● To support the walkers, send a cheque – payable to the Basildon Police Sports and Social Fund – to Insp David Miller, Basildon Police Station, Great Oaks, Basildon, SS14 1EJ

## Newest recruit falls from sky

THE newest recruit to the Criminal Justice Department (CJD) is set to freefall for charity next month.

Neil Lightfoot will be completing his first tandem sky-dive in Norfolk while also hoping to raise money for Victim Support Essex.

He will be joined in mid-air by volunteers from partner agencies such as the Crown Prosecution Service and courts service.

The 23-year-old warrants clerk is looking forward to his newest challenge but needs reassurance and pep talks from his colleagues to keep him focused.

He said: "My boss, Tricia Brennan, told me I was doing it! I've got the charity box rolling by introducing a 'negative comments' policy, whereby anyone offering such a comment is obliged to donate £1."

## Minibus tests will save cash on divisions

THANKS to a little help from our friends, Essex Police College driver training can now offer minibus tests.

For the past 11 years, a separate driving test has been required before people can drive minibuses and other similar vehicles – the D1 category.

This has become an ever-increasing problem for forces throughout the country, so instructor Kevin Pasco undertook a course with the Driving Standards Agency.

He is now qualified to conduct minibus and other tests on their behalf.

The only problem was that the test includes specific manoeuvring exercises, which require a large, marked area.

Fortunately, beady eyes at the force's Practical Skills Centre soon spotted an area at Boreham Airfield.

Sadly, it was in a terrible state of disrepair.

But, following negotiations with Balfour Beatty, which maintains the county's roads, a road sweeper was organised and the area was cleaned by Richard Duston, of Legerton Contracts, ready for marking out.

Soon, driver training will be able to instruct and conduct D1 tests in many types of large vehicle, which should save divisions £900 per staff member trained.

## Murder talk raises honour trust money

TWO investigating officers gave a talk on Investigating Murder in Essex to raise money for the Police Roll of Honour Trust.

Roy Tyzack and Frances Bol both joined Harlow Major Investigation Team (MIT) about four years ago.

Their talk to the Fuchsia Society in Epping gave the audience an insight into how the MIT carries out a murder investigation – from the discovery of a body through to the court appearance.

It covered all aspects and included a practical demonstration of finding and lifting fingerprints.

Club president Vonda Baines presented the pair with a £50 cheque for the Police Roll of Honour Trust, which honours UK officers who have died on duty and provides support for those left behind.

● For more details, visit [www.policememorial.org.uk](http://www.policememorial.org.uk)

## Have you got a spare hour?

ESSEX Police College needs police staff and retired officers local to Chelmsford to volunteer to be role players in practical scenarios.

These practicals are an essential part of probationer training and helps them to consolidate their theoretical knowledge.

● For more details, contact Mary Stopher on 01245 490606 or via [mary.stopher@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:mary.stopher@essex.pnn.police.uk)

# Referral can change lives for the better

**Not only have referrals to our Youth Offending Teams tripled in a month, the work they do can have life-changing results for some of the young people they come into contact with, as press officer Helen Cook found out.**

**"THE benefits are huge," says Insp Kevin Whipps, who heads up the children and young people section of HQ Territorial Policing.**

He is keen that officers continue to 'think YOT' when dealing with young offenders and their families.

And he reiterates that the youth offending teams undertake intervention work with young offenders' families in order to help break the pattern of offending.

"So the initial referral is vital," Insp Whipps stresses.

These two case studies from Southend and Tendring demonstrate the real differences that can be achieved.

### CASE ONE

Ann became involved with her YOT when she was 16. Originally from Tendring, she had become estranged from her family.

Her chaotic lifestyle led to a dependency on crack cocaine and heroin and, eventually, to arrests for robbery and burglary. She was sentenced to a two-year detention and training order.

The YOT's role is to step in, make an assessment and see where it can help to prevent re-offending. It was recommended Ann should go to a secure training centre, which places the emphasis on education with an on-site school.

The centre can address substance misuse and promote the young person's psychological well-being. Ann's 25-hour-a-week schooling resulted in several passes at GCSE.

Her support team worked with her family to rebuild trust and a strong and supportive relationship when she was eventually released.

On her release, Ann moved back home and took a college course, which led to full-time work. Throughout, the YOT and Essex Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service (EYPDAS) worked with her so it is thanks to their input and counselling that Ann has turned her life around.

She has not returned to drug use and has continued her liaison with the YOT, helping it to promote its



● Sgt Kevin McPoland and Chelmsford YOT Pc Katie Boddy in a final warning session with a young person and her parents – they will talk about the incident and what happened, help the young person to understand the implications and the impact it had on the victim

Picture by Dan Rankin

good practice at high-profile events around the county.

Pc Mark Harvey, of Colchester YOT, said: "Success of this kind relies on strong links between all agencies and the ability to maintain the appropriate level of intervention, driven by ongoing assessment and identification of risk to the young person and the community."

"In addressing this need, we were able to give this young person the encouragement to distance themselves from offending and achieve our primary goal, which is to help young people not to re-offend."

### CASE TWO

Jane is fairly typical of those who are put in contact with the YOTs.

Her family, while close, are unfortunately entrenched in criminality and substance misuse. Her mother has mental health problems and in Jane's background are stories of paternal sexual abuse and violence to her siblings.

Jane began drinking and smoking cannabis at 13. By 2005 she was shoplifting and then committing more serious offences. These led to her arrest and time spent in a young offenders' institution.

As Jane's alcohol consumption spiralled out of control, she was arrested for two serious assaults and faced an indeterminate prison sentence. But she was referred to the Youth Offending Service

and the Young Person's Drug and Alcohol Service. By now, Jane had admitted she was an alcoholic and wanted help.

After careful liaison, a judge agreed she could go to an alcohol rehabilitation centre prior to sentencing. Jane fought hard to overcome her alcohol addiction and has stayed sober since – the judge gave her a two-year community sentence, supervised by the Youth Offending Service's alcohol worker. Although Jane's life has not been easy – she also became homeless, – with support she has remained sober and has not used drugs and is looking forward to her future.

\* Names have been changed to protect identities.

Basildon YOT 01268 520612 Esther Howitt	Harlow YOT 01279 27495 Victoria Wilson
Chelmsford YOT 01245 358092 Katie Boddy	Southend YOT 01702 534300 Steve Dewberry
Colchester YOT 01206 573188 Mark Harvey	Thurrock YOT 01375 413900 Being recruited

# A crackdown on illegal workers



● Pc Ben Shepherd, of South Ockendon, and an immigration investigator look through papers they have found

Picture by Bill Stock

TEN people were arrested during a major operation by police and immigration officers to crack down on crime involving illegal immigrants in south Essex.

Operation Tumion was launched after intelligence gathered by police and the Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) – now the UK Border Agency – showed that about 800 foreign nationals had found work in the Thurrock and Basildon areas by using forged stamps or counterfeit passports.

Dawn raids were carried out last month at 12 addresses in Purfleet, Tilbury, Grays and Southend by four strike teams comprising police and immigration officers.

Twelve police officers from South Western Division were involved together with seconded officers from Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, attached to BIA teams based at Stansted Airport and Felixstowe.

Of the ten people arrested, eight were held on suspicion of criminal offences. Five were later charged and three were bailed pending further inquiries. Two others were detained on suspicion of immigration offences.

Insp Nick Morris, of South Ockendon, said that police and the immigration teams had launched a joint investigation in December 2006 when several firms in the area were found to be employing a large number of temporary staff who had obtained their jobs illegally.

Checks at one firm found about 170 temporary staff with illegal stamps in their books. At another, 69 people, almost a third of the workforce, had used forged

stamps or counterfeit passports. Last year, further checks were carried out at recruitment agencies and employers in the Thurrock and Basildon areas and about 800 foreign nationals were found to be working in similar circumstances illegally.

As a result of those investigations, 15 people have already been prosecuted for identity card offences and been given jail sentences ranging from nine months to a year.

Insp Morris said: "I was shocked to discover the number of people working illegally in my area. "There is a significant link between illegal workers and other fraud offences and we will continue to work closely with the BIA to discourage others from committing these offences in this area."

Immigration officer Dave Butler, who led last month's operation, said that most of the properties raided had been higher-value homes and included large four or five bedroom houses or flats near the River Thames. At one four-bedroom house in Grays at least seven people had been known to live there.

Mr Butler added: "We are seeing an increase in large or expensive addresses being rented out as multiple occupancies."

"We are always out and about in Essex and visit an average of three to six residential addresses each week. We also make commercial visits to businesses, targeting illegal workers."

● Essex Chief Constable Roger Baker has been asked to join the board of the new UK Border Agency – see Page 10

## Roadshow campaign is now even smarter

THE award-winning roadshow 2SMART is back and covering more subjects than ever before.

For the past 11 years, 2 Smart for Drugs has been held up as a successful way of getting anti-drug messages to young people but this year it has been expanded to include alcohol, knives, and bullying and has been rebranded, simply, 2SMART.

Insp Kevin Whipps, head of the children and young people's policing team, said: "We have changed the focus of 2SMART this year to make it more relevant and up-to-date for children and young people in Essex, fulfilling our desire to make Essex a safer place to live. "We want the roadshows to be more varied and deal with wider issues and issues that are often in the news."

"We believe that prevention at the earliest stage possible is the key. This is why 2SMART is such fantastic way of getting our message across as it engages with 90 per cent of Year 7 children in Essex. "This year we want officers to get fully involved in 2SMART so they have the information to continue the educational messages long after the roadshows finish."

This year's roadshows are being supported by anti-knife campaigner Ann Oakes-Odger, whose son Westley died when he was stabbed in Colchester in 2005.

This year, the force has designed and produced a teachers' guide and developed teacher sessions to help continue to develop the links between police and schools.

● To get involved in 2SMART contact Insp Whipps on ext 52031 or 01245 457245. Visit the website at [www.2smart.co.uk](http://www.2smart.co.uk)



● Insp Kevin Whipps, 2SMART roadshow organiser Pam Withrington and youth participation worker Dan Rankin are excited about the new focus being taken by the latest campaign

Picture by Nicola Bastendorff

# Hankies are crucial to some investigations

**The family liaison officer is not only vital in building a rapport between investigators and a victim's family, they can also provide information crucial to solving the case.**

**Sp officer Heather Watts examines their role.**



● FLO Dc Mick Battersby, of Maldon, notes down information from the relative of a victim

Picture by Heather Turner

used just to maintain a link to and from a family suffering bereavement.

"In supporting the family throughout the investigation, sensitivity, compassion and respect for the family's needs and wishes must underpin the approach to gathering evidence and information."

There are four key objectives to the deployment of a FLO:

- To provide care, support and information in a sensitive and compassionate manner
- To ensure that family members are given information about support agencies and that referrals are made to Victim Support and other agencies in accordance with the family's wishes
- To gather evidence and information from the family in a manner which contributes to the investigation and preserves its integrity
- To secure the confidence and trust of

the family, thereby enhancing their contribution to the investigation.

FLOs work closely with the coroner and coroner's officers.

One of the more distressing things for families to deal with is the treatment of the deceased. This may involve cultural issues – for example, where a person cannot be buried in accordance with traditional requirements – but the problem can usually be resolved with the support of the Independent Advisory Group or local religious or community leaders.

Insp Burston said: "Most families want to see their loved ones in order to be able to start the grieving process and the FLO will have to explain why it may not be possible to view them immediately.

"They will explain the need for a forensic post-mortem and possibly more than one being necessary to the investi-

gation and any subsequent court proceedings.

"They will discuss the appearance of the deceased to give the family an informed choice about viewing where the victim has been severely disfigured."

The SIO will consider the information required by the FLO for their role and brief them.

It may not be appropriate for certain information to be shared with the family and so this information will not be disclosed to the FLO, who must be honest in all their contacts with the family.

The FLO will be asked to produce a family tree and a victimology, which will include statements from the victim's family, friends and contacts to find out how the victim lived.

Because of the immense amount of information gathered, a comprehensive log book needs to be kept to record the SIO's decisions, information shared, family questions and replies. These will all be disclosable and form part of the investigation.

The work is very intense at the start of an investigation and the SIO may task further family inquiries as the investigation unfolds.

While the FLO is looking after the family, intense pressure means they need looking after themselves.

A family liaison co-ordinator (FLC) will be appointed to the investigation to monitor the FLOs and act as a link between them and the SIO.

The FLC is responsible for making sure that debriefs and risk assessments are carried out at regular intervals.

FLO deployments are monitored to ensure that the right balance of work is maintained and that a FLO is not deployed on two enquiries in close succession.

Welfare checks are carried out on FLOs every six months via Occupational Health and a FLO can self-refer at any time.

A FLO can ask to be removed from the force FLO database either temporarily or permanently, for personal reasons, and this decision will always be respected.

● Contact Ds Jo Williams in Crime Training on ext 55293 for more information on how to become a FLO

## Have you trained for breath-test kit yet?

NEW breath-testing kit is to be introduced across the force – with the bonus that it will reduce paperwork.

The Dräger Alcotest 6810 will replace the current Intoximeter Alco-Sensor IV on Thursday, May 1,

and all operational officers must make sure they have been trained to use it.

Pc Chris Black, of Essex Police College driver training, said the new kit was easy to use and would stop the need for officers to fill in breath-test return forms after every roadside test they carried out.

"Each Dräger roadside screening device can hold statistics for up to 250 tests, which can then be downloaded monthly by dedicated officers," he explained.

The force will receive 370 Dräger Alcotest 6810 machines – all paid for by the Department for Transport (DfT).

When conducting a breath test on the Dräger Alcotest 6810, officers must input information about the age, gender and ethnicity of the person being tested, as well as the reason for the test and their own collar number.

This is all recorded alongside the reading of microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath.

Once downloaded – each police station will ultimately have two or three officers trained to do this – the statistical information will be passed on to the DfT for trend analysis etc.

Every marked Essex Police vehicle – including carriers, response vehicles, patrol vehicles and motorbikes – will have a Dräger machine allocated to it. They will be accuracy-checked monthly and recalibrated where necessary.

Pc Black said all Intoximeter Alco-Sensor IVs would be withdrawn by May 1.

He urged all operational officers to complete the CBT (computer-based training) programme before May 1 so they could start using the Dräger roadside screening devices immediately.

"If you are not trained and you have not completed your CBT, the Dräger reading may not be admissible evidence in court," he warned.

"When you have completed your CBT, print out the certificate and get it signed. It will then be logged on your NSPIS record as a skill."

● To find the Dräger CBT, choose the Training, Manuals & Help menu on the intranet front page and click on Dräger Breath Test Device

## Hospice help

HELPING out at a club's running events has allowed PCSOs in Harlow to donate £200 to St Clare Hospice.

Harlow Running Club wanted to show their appreciation for the PCSOs' help and, in turn, the PCSOs decided to donate it to the Hastingwood hospice after marshalling last month's Sunflower Run.



**HAVE YOUR SAY:** Write to Heather Turner, Law Letters, Publication Unit, Police HQ, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DA or via email to heather.turner@essex.pnn.police.uk

Letters and emails must be no longer than 300 words and must include your full name and home town. The deadline is the 20th of each month.

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

## Sentencing should be left to the experts

I FEEL there has been too much interference from politicians and now from Merseyside Chief Constable Bernard Hogan-Howe, into what sentences judges should impose.

Judges should remain free and independent to sentence in the manner which they consider fits the crime.

The police officer's job finishes when the evidence is presented to a court. It has now become fashionable for investigating officers to carry out post-case press conferences, and become personally involved by commenting on the sentencing and the offender(s).

I believe police officers owe as much to the offender as they do the victim because it is the crime they are investigating, not the perpetrators.

By all means use the media to its fullest extent when carrying out the investigation but leave post-case interviews to the press office or others.

**Bob Miller**  
Chelmsford

## Old comrades will be very welcome

A FINAL reminder that the Comrades Association spring buffet will be held on Saturday, May 17, in the Essex Police College canteen.

HQ Sports Pavilion bar will be open from 11.30am and lunch will be served at 1pm.

The spring buffet gives members the opportunity to bring partners and guests so you can renew old friendships and, hopefully, make some new ones in convivial surroundings.

Please let me have your booking forms and cheques as soon as possible – the deadline for applications is Friday, May 2.

The cost is £20 per head, inclusive of mineral water, fruit juice and table wine.

If, for any reason, you have not received the 2008 membership information, then please contact my secretary, Marian Godwin, in the Federation Office at HQ on 01245 452799.

**Tony Rayner**  
Secretary  
Essex Police Comrades  
Association

## Can anyone help my robbery research?

I AM currently undertaking some research and would like to appeal to readers who have knowledge/information by way of attending the original scene, working on the investigation or just general memory recall, however slight, of any of the below offences:

1. A robbery in 1974 – date unknown – when three offenders, armed with sawn-off shotguns, attacked a security guard who was making a cash delivery to the Midland Bank in Corringham.

2. A burglary at a gun shop in Brentwood on the night of September 8, 1975, when a stolen car was driven through the front doors.

Ten shotguns were stolen.

3. An armed robbery on September 22, 1975, at the Midland Bank in Basildon when a Security Express guard was held up inside the bank premises by a robber armed with a sawn-off, pump-action shotgun.

A second robber cut the security retaining chain which attached the money box to the guard's wrist.

Both offenders got away, with £25,000.

Two people were arrested – a man was charged with the robbery but was subsequently acquitted at his Crown Court trial. A woman was convicted of assisting offender(s).

4. An armed robbery which occurred in either 1974 or 1975 at the National Westminster Bank in Town Square Basildon.

On this occasion, a lone security guard was attacked while making a cash delivery or collection.

In the event that readers of *The Law* are able to enlarge upon the somewhat sketchy information available, I would be grateful if they could forward their contact details to Angela Smith at Essex Police HQ on 01245 452506 or via email to angela.smith@essex.pnn.police.uk and she will pass them on to me.

**David Bright**

# Prison should be an early deterrent

**I WOULD like to respond to Bob Miller's letter, 'We must strive to rehabilitate offenders', in the February issue of The Law.**

Bob says that, in his opinion, 'prison is an academy for people to continue to be criminals.'

My opinion uses the similar words with a slight difference: 'prison academy is for people who have continued to be criminals'.

It is probably easier to get into a leading university than it is to get into prison – get a few A-levels, attend a selection interview (for some) and you're in. Not so easy to get a place in prison.

There is, of course, the fast-track scheme but you have to murder, rape, child molest or be an 83-year-old who refuses to pay their Council Tax to qualify.

The alternative is long and arduous. Imagine being a candidate for prison

academy. All that hard coursework in the early years totally discounted for being under-age.

You have to go on to collect ASBOs, cautions, conditional discharges, fines, supervision orders and suspended sentences before gaining a place.

It involves appearing before many selection committees (the courts) and, to make it even more frustrating, the person you have engaged to represent you begs the selectors not to give you a place and you are forced to give up or go away and get more qualifications.

These days a criminal gets to prison by proving he/she is committed to a life of crime.

I think Bob has been listening to too many Johnny Cash songs. He also held the romantic notion that prison does not work.

Prison comes too late in the options. I think we should try putting offenders for serious offences into prison at the start of their careers rather than wait until they

are fully committed to the way of life to which they have grown accustomed.

Let's have separate prisons for first-time offenders so they are not encouraged and corrupted by the 'old lags'.

Bob refers to rehabilitating in society. Whose society, his or mine?

My mother was one of five siblings. Each got married and had two children, who in turn got married and had two children, with one couple having three. My father was one of five siblings. Each got married, had two children, with one having three. They all in turn got married and had two children, with one having three.

All of these couples are still together, with the exception of one. None of my relations or their chosen spouses have ever been in trouble with the exception of two – me for speeding and one other for a minor offence. That's my society.

**Colin Yates**  
Salviac  
France

## Does anyone remember the CSB?

I RETIRED from Essex Police in 1989, finishing my career with the Community Service Branch (CSB) – one of the 'brain-children' of then ACC Geoffrey Markham.

I considered it a privilege to be part of the CSB, which was a huge commitment in manpower terms, dealing with vulnerable children and adults.

My main role was as a full-time schools officer, from September 1979 until June 1989.

I would like to contact surviving members of the CSB so we can organise a get-together next year, the 30th anniversary of the formation of the CSB.

The children and adults at risk side

started on January 1, 1979, whilst the schools officers began their schools input in September that year, although we went through an exhaustive training regime prior to that.

So we have quite a choice of when we could celebrate our 30th anniversary but, first, are there any others with such fond memories as I have?

I know Mr Markham is interested in taking part if we can organise something and I am sure there are others. Please contact me at Glencarse, 115 Silverdale Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 9BB.

By the way, when *The Law* first started, I was the residential beat officer (RBO) for Springfield in Chelmsford and,

as with other RBOs, one of my tasks was to hand deliver copies of *The Law* to the Essex Police pensioners who lived on my beat.

The number was quite large as plenty of ex-coppers wanted to retire near to HQ for some unknown reason.

Anyway, I made plenty of friends amongst the pensioners because of that and it was a good link.

I know that in today's world it would be impossible to repeat that but it did show that we valued our pensioners, who did more than give me cups of tea – they gave me advice, some of which I found useful!

**Tom Deans**  
Westcliff-on-Sea

## Memories of 40 years at Laindon

LAINDON Road Policing Unit was opened in April or May 1966 and my father, Don Gladman, was one of the first to serve there.

He wants to organise a reunion for anyone who served at Laindon in the 1960s and would like to hear from anyone who has any information, photographs etc or who is interested in a reunion.

Please contact me on 01268 541312 or via email at andy.gladman@essex.pnn.police.uk and I will pass the information on to my father.

The reunion would be arranged at a date and location most suitable to where most people were coming from and so may not necessarily be held in the Laindon area.

**Sgt Andy Gladman**  
Laindon RPU

## Cadets plan to re-unite

WE are planning a reunion to mark the 20th anniversary of the Cadet and Police Vocational Course

Intakes around the late 1980s are mainly invited to celebrate this anniversary on Sunday, April 20, from 7pm at the Riverside Inn in Victoria Road, Chelmsford.

As per a previous reunion, it is hoped that retired Sgt Mick Toogood and retired Insp Pete Knight will be able to attend, along with other key individuals who made those years such a pleasure.

It is anticipated that we will gather for drinks and then aim to grab food locally or just be event-driven!

Please email me at peter.chivers@essex.pnn.police.uk or ring me on 01787 237254 for more information or to confirm attendance.

**Sgt Pete Chivers**  
Great Yeldham

## Thanks for the support

THE family of the late Francis (Frank) Wilkin would like to thank all the officers who attended his funeral in December.

It was heartwarming to see that so many of you took time to pay your respects.

The donations, amounting to £200, have been passed to Cancer Research.

Your support at this difficult time was much appreciated.

**Sybil Wilkin, Jacqui, Rob and John Devine**  
Horsham  
West Sussex

THE family of the late Andy Cracknell would like to thank everyone who attended Andy's funeral on March 7.

We were comforted and proud to see he was remembered by so many colleagues and friends.

**Karen, Jenny and Pete Cracknell and family**  
Harlow



## Recognition for his international work

**A DETECTIVE from the Marine Unit has received the this year's President's Award from the International Association of Marine Investigators (IAMI).**

**Dc Simon Lofting, pictured left, was given the award in recognition of his contributions to the IAMI and**

**for his "steadfast efforts" in the fight against marine crime around the world.**

**Dc Lofting, a marine investigator based at Burnham, said: "It was a complete shock to get the award over 150 other members."**

**The award was presented in Dc Lofting's absence during the association's conference in Baton Rouge, USA, in February. The presentation was made by IAMI's president, Master Deputy Sam Bean, of the Orange County Police Department in Florida.**

# Honouring Archie, 101

**A FORMER Essex police officer from Shoeburyness received a couple of unexpected visitors bearing gifts on his 101st birthday.**

Ex-inspector Archie Southgate was presented with framed photographs of four police stations where he served during his 36-year police career – Brentwood, Clacton, Saffron Walden and South Benfleet – and an Essex Police crest.

Mr Southgate was visited by his local neighbourhood policing team inspector, Jeff Appleby, and Chief Insp Paul Eveleigh, representing South Eastern Division command team.

Initially a gardener, Mr Southgate said he was prompted to join the police because he was fed up 'living-in' at his job in a small Suffolk village.

"I was chatting to the local policeman and he suggested joining the Army or the police. At the local police station, I was told not to try Suffolk as it was a small force but to try a bigger force, such as Essex, because I would stand a better chance of getting in," said Mr Southgate.

He joined Essex Police in 1929 and served at various stations around the county until his retirement in 1965.

Eighteen months after he joined, the 1930 Road Traffic Act came in and Mr Southgate was working in one of the force's first traffic units, based at Brentwood.

"In 1931, I was using my own Triumph motorcycle on the roads around Southend, Brentwood, Romford and Billericay – we were paid ½d a mile," he recalled.

A move to Springfield followed when new garages were built and Mr Southgate later took over the accounts for the motorcycles and, in 1934, two Austin cars.

In 1937, he moved to Saffron Walden as station sergeant, on promotion, and was Aliens Officer during World War Two – responsible for the registration of foreign nationals.

After the war, he moved to Clacton Division, serving as section sergeant in Mistley, and then back to Brentwood as an inspector. Three years later, in 1950, he moved to South Benfleet – which also covered Canvey Island, Hadleigh and Thundersley – and retired from there 15 years later.

"I liked my career – I was very happy all round and I would do it again," said Mr Southgate, who was 101 on March 9.

"However, the worst bit was the 1953 floods, when I was in charge of police operations there. It was quite distressing."

Policing changed vastly during his long career and Mr Southgate said it was difficult to compare 1929 with 1965. "Mostly more work was required all round. And there was a lot more traffic on the roads. But, in those days, we only had to fill in one form when we made an arrest," he said.

After retiring from the force, he spent ten years as a clerk at Southend Magistrates' Court – among other things, dealing with unpaid fines and applications for maintenance in family cases – finally retiring in 1975.

Chief Insp Eveleigh said he had been delighted to meet Mr Southgate and wish him a happy birthday. As Essex Police has returned to the neighbourhood policing of the kind which Mr Southgate knew, I think it was a great coincidence that he met



● Archie Southgate with Insp Jeff Appleby, left, and Chief Insp Paul Eveleigh  
Picture by Heather Turner

one of our constables a few weeks ago during some house to house inquiries we were carrying out in his area.

"I enjoyed our discussion about neighbourhood policing. The principles have not changed very much since his day – many of them still hold good.

"And Mr Southgate was delighted to hear that the force had reintroduced the Motorcycle Unit – he had many fond memories of his time as a traffic officer."



## Letters of appreciation



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

I WOULD like to thank Pc Lee Renalls and Sgt Steve Parry.

In the early hours, your officers were, I believe, in plain clothes when they came across my son being violently beaten.

There were three men and my son was on his own. My son was beaten very severely and has received some rather bad injuries, both visible and physiological.

From what I understand, my son was knocked out cold and the beating was still taking place when your officers drove past and saw what was happening. I truly believe that it was not for them, this beating could have continued and my son would not be here today.

While I understand that the police have a hard job to do and that these officers may simply say that they were just doing their job, to me that is not enough.

People are often too quick to moan about an officer but I feel a simple thank-you is just not enough for what these officers have done in helping my son.

The officers also arrested a man regarding this incident. Many heartfelt thanks.

**EM**  
Shoeburyness

TO Pc Rob Burdis, Sgt Tony Walker, Pc Marc Arnold, Sgt Tom Simmons and Pc Scott Owen:

My 13-year-old son was the victim of a street robbery very close to our home.

A passer-by witnessed the incident and called the police who apparently arrived very quickly afterwards.

I want to bring to your attention what I consider to be a fantastic response and the professionalism of all the

officers involved. I would particularly like to thank the original reporting officers for their prompt response, their kindness when dealing with my son and leading him through what was obviously a distressing time for him.

I also want to thank all the other officers involved, including the detective at Harlow who took his video statement and the other investigating officers we have seen.

I was impressed with how quickly he was called in for his statement, viewing the witness albums, seizing his clothing for forensics and examination of CCTV.

It seems a lot of people like to denigrate the police. It is clear your officers are investigating this thoroughly.

**KN**  
Buckhurst Hill

THANKS to Pc Douglas McMahon and Pc Paul Woodward who attended an incident where my sister's partner had died suddenly.

Naturally, my sister was in great shock and distress, as indeed we all were, and it was a great help and comfort to us that your officers acted with such patience, professionalism and compassion at a very difficult time.

**AE**  
Hawkevell

MY wife and I would like recorded the exemplary manner in which Pc Louise Robinson, from Clacton police station, handled a very disturbing and delicate situation involving the death of a close family member.

She acted not only in a professional manner, as would be expected of her from her superiors, but also as a caring female. Any welfare organisation would have been proud of the kind and considerate way she handled the situation in informing our granddaughter.

You have a fine officer in Louise Robinson and we are proud to have made her acquaintance.

**DD**  
Holland on Sea

TO Chief Supt Dave Hudson: We are writing to say that we are amazed at how lovely and quiet it has been here lately – no motorbikes or youths and broken bottles, food cartons etc.

It has been great, thank you so much. I hope it stays like it as it's a pleasure living here now.

**RG**  
West Mersea

LAST week our monitored alarm was activated twice – 30 minutes after we had left for work – due to a faulty part, which has now been replaced. On both occasions your officers responded in double-quick time and were both helpful and understanding. I would like to thank them – Pc Tony Arthur, Pc Lyndsey Matthews, Pc James Adams and Pc Rebecca Jenkins – for the speedy response and apologise for the false alarms.

**AM**  
Grays

THANK you for a purse chain given to me by your police officers in Chelmsford Square in December 2006.

It is one of the best and sensible gifts I have had.

In the latter part of 2005 and early 2006 I lost my purse once with my pension in and later that year it was stolen from my trolley, while I was shopping.

But I know this will not occur again as I secure the purse chain to a zip on any bag I carry and then attach it to the supermarket trolley so if anybody tries to take it they would have to take it all.

All pensioners should have one. I know in 18 months this has saved me endless worries, my perfect gift.

**Mrs P Cundy**  
Maldon

TO Insp Susan Heaton: I am sure that, too often, your post relates to complaints about unsolved crimes and issues but I wanted to thank some members of your staff.

My father lives in Stock and is a senior citizen. On an almost daily basis he goes

into Billericay and has a set routine.

I know from speaking to him that at least two members of your force – I believe they may be female PCSOs – always go out of their way to speak to him and ensure he is OK.

I no longer live in Essex and it is really re-assuring for me to know someone is taking the time and trouble to look out for my dad who is very special to me.

**DM**  
Fordingbridge  
Hampshire

TO Chief Insp Mark Wheeler and Insp Steve Ditchburn: I read in the paper about Operation Leopard in Basildon, where you followed known troublemakers.

I would like to say well done for a great job.

Please keep this kind of pressure up so decent members of society can walk the streets without fear.

**DW**  
Basildon

CONGRATULATIONS on the success of Operation Leopard in Basildon.

This is what most people want and expect from the police.

I think there would be more community groups like ours if it was thought the police would back them up in this way.

**Chestnut Walk Neighbourhood Watch and Chestnut Young Voice and Juniors Vange**

TO Chief Insp Craig Robertson:

We would like to thank all who helped and attended the break in at our property.

I know you must get a lot of flak so I thought you should get praise, too.

We would like to thank all for a great service.

**I & D H**  
Tiptree

I WOULD like to thank Pc Ian Flynn and Pc Robert Chapman, who did a very good job at Thorpe Bay for the woman driver of the No 1 bus and for myself by detaining a fellow passenger, armed with a knife. Thank you from all of my family, too.

**OP**  
Shoeburyness

I AM writing to commend two officers who responded speedily and effectively to an incident in Pathfields Road involving some students and adults.

As you know, the school is very fortunate to have Pc Phil Suarez based here. He is highly effective and we benefit hugely from his work.

Unfortunately, on the day Phil was at a meeting.

Pc Tom Walker and Pc Darren Petrick arrived promptly, calmed the incident and supported me in getting to the bottom of the issues.

Thanks to Pc Walker and Pc Petrick for their support.

Here at Colbayns, we benefit from the excellent approach taken by the police and I remain grateful for the support and excellent working relationship.

**Colbayns High School**  
Clacton

MAY I pass my sincere thanks to all your officers who assisted Essex County Fire and Rescue Service at a fire in North Fambridge, especially Sgt Glenn Simons, of Maldon.

Unfortunately, it was necessary to close a road to facilitate large-bore water hoses to pass over it, thus ensuring sufficient water at the incident.

This was completed by your officers and alternative routes rapidly identified and informed to the public, minimising inconvenience both to the public and to me as the incident commander.

**David Moore**  
Station Commander  
South Woodham Fire Station

I AM writing following the arrest of a repeat offender who has recently been targeting my store.

This man was seen leaving my store carrying a bag full of items despite being banned on several occasions in the past.

I contacted Essex Police and was assured that a unit was on its way and would be looking for the man before coming to see me.

I went to look for him, at the same time contacting PCSO Jake Geere, who informed me he was on his way to the area.

I saw the man and continued to follow him until help arrived.

I would like to say a big thank you to PCSO Geere and to Sgt Dave Cook and Pc David Moon for their swift response, professionalism and attitude which resulted in an arrest and the recovery of the stolen goods.

**SJ**  
Colchester

TO PCSO Julie Anderton: Just a little way to say a big thank you for all your hard work helping us to achieve our Crime Prevention badge.

**7th Maldon Brownies**

FIVE ACTION awards were made by 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:

Insp Chris Galley, of Essex Police College; Pc Alastair Cuthbertson, of Chigwell Road Policing Unit; Phillip Colgrove, of Financial Services; and Janet Guise and Louise Looney, both of Human Resources.





## Holiday lets

**COSTA** Blanca, La Marina, two-bedroom, two-bathroom villa. Sleeps four to six, beach 5K/shops five mins walk. From £175 per week, police discount. Ring Mick Ager on 07775 676142 or (+34) 617 110 096 or email casadomi02@hotmail.com

**FARMHOUSE** to rent in Wales, short break or full week, secluded location. Sleeps 2-14. Four hours from Essex. Contact Jonathan on 07908 100906 or www.penygraigcottage.com

**FRANCE**, three nicely furnished gites with modern comforts. An hour from Calais, rural country close to 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. Quality accommodation, well reported in 2007. Low-cost flights from Stansted. Ring Bernie on 07986 098422.

**MUNDESLEY**, Norfolk, two-bedroom house, sleeps four to six, 400 yards from Trimmingham beach. 20% police discount, from £154. Visit www.essex2norfolk.com Ring Paul on 07970 107542 for details.

**NORFOLK**, superb holiday cottages, close to Norfolk attractions. Wonderful country, wildlife and scenery. Quiet luxury. Long/short lets suitable for family/couples. Ring Gwen on 01508 489754.

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

**POLARIS** la Torre, golf resort. Two bed apartment overlooking pool. Clubhouse, restaurants, bars and shops. 15 mins from airport, 20 mins from beach. Phone Marion on 0794 103290 or 0207 5117752 or email daehmr@aol.com

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

**SUNNY**, southern France. Wine, culture, history and wine! Luxury B+B from £45 per night/room. Contact John Taylor on +33 468 201 105 or visit www.domainestgeorge.com

**TURKEY**, Side. Luxury two-bedroom, two-bathroom, ground-floor apartment. Outdoor and indoor pools, gym. Walk to beach and local amenities. From £225 per week. Contact Matt on 07957 151820 or

oasisturkey@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.norfolk-dreams.com or ring 07976 720022 for details.

## Miscellaneous

**HOST** families needed for French students in Chelmsford, July 4-16. Students will have lessons all day at Trinity Methodist Church. Good rates of pay. Ring Sian Mayo on 01245 440839 or 07790 239136.

**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

**BMW** 320 convertible, 2002, silver, manual, black leather, one owner, 42,000 miles, full service history, MoT, Tax, £12,750 ono, beautiful car, many extras, ring Pete on 07866 702683

**LADIES'** cavity back golf clubs. Brand new three to sand wedge. Lady Lazer make. Bargain £150. Phone John on 01621 892511.

**SUBARU** Impreza WRXLS 03 plate, 28,000 miles. Silver with black leather interior. One owner from new. Full service history. £10,000. To view call 07976 242899.

**TRAILER** 3ft x 3ft, about 12ins deep. Tanfield make. £150 ono. Call 01376

## Homes for sale & rent

528497.

**BRAINTREE** to let. £725 pcm. Immaculate three bedroom house, close to town centre. Gas central heating, large garden, two parking spaces, available April. Ring 01621 893646.

**SINGLE** room to let in Loughton (Epping Forest district). Non smoking. Quiet cul-de-sac location, close to central line, M25/J26. £375 pcm. Ring Rob on 0208 281 7710.

**TURKEY**, buy a lovely holiday home, villa or apartment. Prices start from £39,000. Superb build, design, quality and reputation. Contact Nathan on 07859 074569.

# Chief to help keep our borders safe

**CHIEF Constable Roger Baker has been appointed to the board of the UK Border Agency to strengthen effective police co-ordination at a strategic level.**

The move came as new measures to ensure closer working between the police and the new UK Border Agency (UKBA) were announced by Home Secretary Jacqui Smith.

Mr Baker said: "Maintaining security of our border is paramount to the security of the UK and I am proud to have been appointed to represent the police on UK Border Agency board."

"The police already work closely with the Border and Immigration Agency and Customs colleagues at ports and airports across the UK."

"As the Chief Constable of Essex Police, I have had first-hand experience of building those important relationships required to tackle crime at the border and I am looking forward to using my skills and expertise to help ensure UKBA deliver safety and security to the public."

The UK Border Agency brings together the work of the Border and Immigration Agency, UK Visas and parts of HM Revenue and Customs at the border.

Its job will be to work closely with the police and other law enforcement agencies to improve border controls and security.

Ms Smith said Mr Baker's skills would be "invaluable in ensuring UKBA delivers in its role".

Staff movements this month include Supt **Simon Williams**, who has moved from the Protective Services Project to replace Supt **Stuart Ashton** as the district commander for Harlow.

Supt Ashton moves to the Force Information Room, part of HQ Communications Division.

DCI **Keith Davies** moves on promotion from the Serious and Organised Crime Directorate (SOCD), part of HQ Crime Division, to the Protective Services Improvement Team.

Also on the move is Supt **Iain Logan**, from operational planning at Mobile Support Division to operational support at Eastern Division.

And Chief Insp **Andrew Prophet** has left his post as DI at Southend to become Rochford District Commander.

## Retirements

Dc **Christopher Winstone**, 49, retires this month after having completed 30 years service. He served at Basildon, Chelmsford CID, South Woodham CID, Harlow, Brentwood CID, Major Investigations HQ CID, HQ Crime and at Colchester CID.

Pc **Kevin Watson**, 48, is also retiring having completed 30 years' service. He served in Crime Division as well as at Stansted Airport.

Also retiring is Pc **Kevin Raby**, of Western Division, who has also completed 30 years. He has previous service with the Metropolitan Police.

Cleaners **Heather Gibbons** and **Valerie Evans** retired from their posts last month.

Heather, 67, has worked for Essex Police for 22 years and worked in A Block at HQ, cleaning in MICAS and the fingerprint bureau. And Valerie, 65, who worked at Harlow, had completed 20 years with the force.

Both were presented with awards by Monthind managing director Tony Clarke.

Former constable **Steve Cleaver**,



● **Tony Ellis with his Service Above Self award from the Rotary Club of Epping** Picture courtesy of the Epping Forest Guardian

49, has asked us to point out that not only did we print his name wrongly when we published his retirement after 30 years with Essex Police, we were also supplied with the wrong service history.

He served at Brentwood, Harlow Traffic, the Central Motorcycle Unit, Laindon Traffic, Rayleigh Marine Unit, Mobile Support Division's Marine Unit and the Air Support Unit. He is now a member of police staff, working at HQ Crime Bureau.

## Obituaries

Officers and police staff across the force were stunned by the sudden death of former Essex officer **Mike Todd**.

The Greater Manchester Police (GMP) Chief Constable began his police career as a cadet – his first posting as a constable in 1976 was to Billericay. He then served at Basildon, Chelmsford, Southend, Thurrock and Harlow during nearly two decades with the force, before transferring on promotion to Nottinghamshire Police as an assistant chief constable.

Mr Todd joined the Metropolitan Police Service as a deputy assistant commissioner, being promoted to assistant commissioner and then awarded the Queen's Police Medal in 2001.

He was appointed Chief Constable of GMP in 2002 and in 2006 became vice-chairman of ACPO.

Essex Chief Constable Roger Baker said many in the force who knew Mr Todd and worked with him "must be saddened at what has happened just as I, and my fellow chief officers, are."

"Our thoughts and sympathy go out to his family, friends and colleagues at GMP."

Head of Crime Division Det Chief Supt Wil Kennedy worked with Mr Todd at Westcliff.

He said: "Every now and then, the police service produces someone you know will move through the ranks and he did exactly that."

"At no stage did he ever lose the understanding of what it's like at the front end of policing. He was a genuine, nice guy."

"He took the battle to the criminals and he got everyone on side."

Former sergeant **John Alexander** has died, aged 82. He lived in Stanway and leaves a widow, Joan.

Mr Alexander served from 1950 until 1978 at Colchester.

Ex-constable **Alec Thorogood**, has died, aged 91. Mr Thorogood, of Stisted, leaves a widow, Norah.

He served for 30 years from 1938 to 1968, serving initially at Romford then Newport, Finchingfield, Gidea

Park and Tiptree.

Former constable **Anthony Chadd** has died, aged 76. He lived at Clacton and leaves a widow, Sylvia.

Mr Chadd served from 1956 to 1981 at Clacton, Hornchurch and St Osyth. Brightlingsea resident and ex-constable **Edward Glover** died in February, aged 68.

He leaves a widow, Anita. Mr Glover served from 1967 to 1991 at Rayleigh, Harwich, Colchester, Clacton and Brightlingsea.

## Award

After a lifetime working for Essex Police, crime reduction officer **Tony Ellis** has received a special Rotary Club award recognising his commitment.

Tony, 58, has added the Rotary Club of Epping's annual Service Above Self award to a clutch of awards and commendations he has received during his 42-year career.

He has served in the Epping Forest district for over 30 years – both as a police officer and latterly as a member of police staff in his crime reduction role.

He said: "Everyone likes to feel that their work and efforts are appreciated and I am no exception. Even after all these years, I still love my job and being involved with police work."

Tony joined Essex Police as a cadet in 1966, based at Brentwood. As a constable, he served in Grays and South Ockendon before transferring to Epping on promotion to sergeant, developing community beat teams.

He organised rural gamekeepers into Keeperwatch, which was so successful that it was developed and taken up by other forces.

In the late 1990s, Tony helped to develop community policing teams, which earned him a Chief Constable's commendation. He has four other Chief Constable's commendations, including one as a member of police staff for his crime prevention work – he became Epping's crime reduction officer in 1999, after retiring.

Other awards he has received include two Epping Forest District Council community service awards – one as a police officer and one as a crime reduction officer.

In 1991 he won the Millard Trophy for his contribution to social services in the community and police public relations, and a year later was runner-up in the International Police Exhibition and Conferences (IPEC) UK Community Police Officer of the year award. As a result, he was invited to one of the Queen's garden parties at Buckingham Palace in 1993.

## 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.



## Barbados tour 'a great success'

GENTS of Essex CID Cricket Club returned to the Caribbean last month for their winter tour – this time visiting Barbados.

The 33-strong touring party of players, wives and guests were hosted by the Barbados Tourist Association.

The highlight of the seven fixtures featured a game against an Icons and Legends XI captained by former test star Joel Garner and featuring five other ex-test players.

Sir Gary Sobers met the tourists afterwards at an evening pool-side reception.

This event was only superseded by the Gents first overseas victory when they overcame North Stars in a close encounter.

The remaining fixtures all went in favour of the home sides but the hospitality and friendship shown by the hosts was second to none.

Other attractions included a golf day, big-game fishing and swimming with sea turtles.

## Enchanted evening ...

TICKETS are on sale for South Pacific – the latest production by Essex Police Musical Society.

Performances in the Assembly Hall at Essex Police HQ run from Tuesday, April 22, to Saturday, April 26, at 7.30pm with a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.

The show tells the story of two couples on a tropical island against the backdrop of World War Two and features many well-known songs by Rodgers and Hammerstein, including *There Is Nothing Like A Dame*, *Some Enchanted Evening*, and *I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outta My Hair*.

● Tickets cost £8 each or £6 concessions.

To book, Essex Police employees can ring Lynda Barkway on ext 50739 or Jenny Ayres on ext 482003, otherwise call Pat Nicholson on 01245 478439

## Golf day out

THE annual 10 Region International Police Association golf day is being held at The Essex in Earls Colne.

The tournament on May 21 consists of 18 holes of golf, breakfast and a sit-down meal plus a prize-giving ceremony. Teams of four will pay £28 a head and battle it out for the title.

● Spaces are limited. Contact Steve Hunt or Barney McKenzie at Stanway Major Investigation Team to book your place on 0300 333 4444 ext 13226 / 13327

## Tennis match

ALISON Oddy, of Stansted Airport, and Daniel Thrale, of Pitsea, have been selected to represent the British Police lawn tennis team in a tournament at La Manga, Spain, this month.

# Soccer teams progress well on all fronts

AFTER a mixed season last year, force football is on the way back up following impressive performances in the county and further afield.

Relegation from Mid-Essex Division One proved an eye-opener for the regular Essex side but they now sit proudly on top of Division Two.

With six games to play they are looking to make it a double, having reached the league cup final where a classic against Harold Wood is on the cards at Maldon Town Football Club later this month.

While the force team are performing well in the Essex league, they are having equally good results in the PSUK compe-

tion, and won through to the semi-finals of the South Midlands Cup after a 3-2 win over neighbouring rivals Hertfordshire. Nothing but a win would have put Essex into the semis but they left it until the last few minutes of the game to squeeze out the result.

Two goals from Nicky Simpson plus one for Luke Callandar ensured this happened.

Now they face Kent, away, during this month.

Meanwhile, the veterans' side are on top form in their police competition, too, having won a play-off to qualify for the PSUK quarter-finals versus Derbyshire.

They got to the play-off after coming

runners-up to the Metropolitan Police in the eastern regional league, which also consisted of teams from City of London, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Suffolk.

And they made the most of their chances, blowing away a Scottish Northern Constabulary team 4-1.

And the vets have also had a successful league campaign, with the Sunday side bedding down in their first season, too.

● CAPTAINS from all teams, senior and veterans, are looking for new players.

● Anyone interested should contact Craig Bolton at the Force Support Unit ext 480546 or Joe Wrigley at Saffron Walden on ext 65515

## Men complete cross-country double at regionals

HAVING made a clean sweep of the team awards in the league, the next challenge for our cross-country runners was to complete the double at the Regional Police Cross-Country Championships.

In a strongly-supported men's race at Ampthill Park in Bedfordshire last month, it was something of a surprise

that Essex failed to have an individual runner within the first three places.

However, thanks to the close packing of their required four to score, Essex still did enough to secure the team win.

Del Walker (fifth place), Russ Welch (6), Rick Matthews (8) and Dave Wood (11 and third veteran overall) led the team in.

The veteran men's team completed the double, with Dave Wood's great run supported by Don English (18 and 7) and Tony Benjamin (21 and 9).

The only disappointment for Essex was the failure of the women to field a full team, however, as usual, Di Frew (11) and Pauline Bowers (12) did not let the side down with their placings.

# Down to the wire

HAVING made it to the semi-finals of the PSUK men's hockey competition for only the third time in 30 years – the force team went one better.

And they took the reigning champions, the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) right to the wire.

A depleted squad, led by captain Gaz Ingram, dispatched Greater Manchester Police (GMP) 7-1 in the semi-finals – gaining revenge for last season when GMP knocked out the Essex team at an earlier stage – with Ingram scoring five and James Preston two plus good work from goalkeeper Kev Harvey.

The PSNI had won the competition 17 times in the last 30 years and Essex knew they had a job on their hands in the final.

The game started at a furious pace with the PSNI physically stamping their authority but calm and composure from Essex bore fruit as they soaked up the punishment and slowly started to take control of the game to ensure 0-0 at half-time.

Shortly into the second half, Essex drew first blood with a goal delivered by Ingram from a short corner.

Ten minutes later and an aerial shot picked up by Lewis Smith resulted in a second goal. The PSNI fought back hard and scored and then squandered a penalty flick. Sadly, they got a second chance a few minutes later, and levelled the score



● The Essex Police men's hockey team

to ensure extra time. Essex went into the lead once more with a penalty flick only to see the PSNI again equalise.

The atmosphere around the ground was electric as the furious pace of end to end play brought the crowd to a crescendo.

The last period of extra time saw the Irish go into the lead for the first time with yet another penalty flick.

One last push and a shot by Vic Murphy bounced off the keeper on to Ingram's stick who promptly put yet another goal away. All was even at 4-4.

Both teams were totally exhausted and had given their all but it was the PSNI who were to be the victors as they scored the final goal of the match with seconds to go.

Afterwards, Murphy said: "As the 'old man' of the team and after 30 years of playing Essex Police hockey in what is probably my last year, I would like to praise every member of the squad for a magnificent performance, the bravery and determination of which I have never before witnessed."

# Hockey women win through to semi

THE women's hockey team are through to the semi-finals after a win against Cheshire Police.

Cheshire were an unknown quantity as they had got through to the quarter-finals on byes.

The match started quickly and, after just ten minutes of play, Di Reynolds scored for Essex.

Following some good play, Cheshire equalised from a corner. For the rest of the half the ball was mainly in the Essex half and goalie Caroline Fisk made a great save from a Cheshire

corner to ensure the score remained 1-1 by half-time.

Essex failed to capitalise on two short corners early on in the second half and Fisk cleared a shot from a Cheshire break and Lucy Robinson did likewise a few minutes later.

Sadly, Leisa King scored for Essex from a short corner but had the shot disallowed. She did not make the same mistake two minutes later, to give her team the lead.

After a long battle, Essex were awarded another short corner and Reynolds scored her second goal to seal the win 3-1.

## Retired officer takes top prize in force lottery

RETIRED officer Michael Jones was the winner of the top £3,000 prize in last month's force lottery. Kelly Wood, of Brentwood, received £1,000 and Dc Kevin Stiff, of Stansted Airport, won the third prize of £500.

Winners of £100 prizes were: Dc Lee Drury, of Basildon; Mike Walker, retired; Denis Sheppard, retired; Patricia Gillgan, of Brentwood Major Investigation Team; Sharon Hurley, of Professional Standards; Neil Fenn, of East

Tilbury Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT); Pc Lee Marshall, of the Air Support Unit; Insp Robin Norcup, of Stansted Airport; Pc Jean Seager, of Harlow; Sue Gardner, of Southend Criminal Justice Unit; and Ian Patterson, of Rochford NPT.

The winners £50 prizes were: Pc Heidi Lee, of Chelmsford Road Policing Unit; Mim Moy, of Basildon; Pc Simon Stone, of South Ockendon Professional Development Unit; Steve Terry, retired;

Glen Bowen, retired; Pc Wendy Byrne, of Wivenhoe; Pc Jade Huxter, of Colchester; Ds Peter English, of Crime Division; Rick Tazzini, of the Essex and Kent Collaboration Team; Chris Willcock, retired; Timothy Rees; Dc Fintan Foley, of Loughton; Pc Stuart Jones, of Colchester; Dc John Vickers, of SOCD Financial Investigations.

There were also 100 lucky winners of £50 each in a special bonus draw – cheques have gone out already.

## Tug-of-war is added

TUG of war has been added to this year's Croker Cup Athletics Championships. The whole event takes place on Wednesday, May 28, at Colchester Garrison athletics stadium.

If there are sufficient competitors and available officials, a hammer event will also take place.

Exceptional performances will be considered towards Essex team selection for the PSUK athletics and tug of war event, hosted by the Metropolitan Police in July.

● For details about the athletics, contact Del Walker on ext 10320 or via email

● For details about the tug of war, contact Pc Skelly Lambert via email

● FORCE athletes have also been invited to compete in the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service athletics championships on April 20.

## Soccer shorts

EASTERN Division proved too strong for the opposition in the Croker Cup women's football competition – winning all their matches without conceding a goal. Results were: Eastern 10 points; South Western 7; HQ 5; Western 3; and Central 2.

● NICKY Smith, of Great Yeldham, is to represent the English Police at football against the Scottish Police.

## Rugby brief

SHARLENE Cronin, of Pitsea, is to represent the British Police women's rugby team in a match in Edinburgh this month.



● Kerrie Barkway ext 58883

AS the weather improves, you might like to think about a day out with the family.

Courtesy of Staffordshire Police Federation, Essex Police Sports Association members can get reduced-rate entry at many family attractions.

Deals are available at Legoland, Alton Towers, Chessington World of Adventures, Warwick Castle, Madame Tussauds, the London Dungeons, Thorpe Park and ten Sea Life centres across the country.

For a list of prices and booking details, visit the EPSA intranet site, and click on Member Benefits, Family Days Out.

Don't forget that EPSA always has a stock of reduced-rate Colchester Zoo tickets, Adventure Island vouchers, and Sea Life Southend vouchers as well as cinema tickets for Odeon, Cineworld, Empire and VUE.

● Contact Kerrie Barkway for details on all the above offers, preferably via email at kerrie.barkway@essex.pnn.police.uk or on 0300 333 4444 ext 58883

## £100,000 of drugs taken off the street

A DRUGS operation in Harlow targeting people suspected of cultivating cannabis led to five people being charged and put before the courts.

Officers raided homes in Fold Croft, Purford Green and Old Road last month during Operation Summit.

Virtually every room in the houses was packed with what are believed to be cannabis plants with an estimated street value of £100,000.

The five people, aged 17, 20, 21, 24 and 26, were charged with producing cannabis and remanded in custody to appear before magistrates.

DI Jock Gibson, of Western Division, said: "Communities are our eyes and ears and we rely on their information."

"It is important that the police and communities work together to combat this type of activity."

"Every observation of suspicious activity is important to us to ensure we keep our neighbourhoods safe and free of crime."

## First arrest for new unit

MEMBERS of the force's new Mounted Unit have made their first two arrests.

Following reports of a theft from a building site, Pc Jo Bridge and Pc Michael Magin, on horses Bella and Patrick, joined PCSOs Sian Suddell and Warren Venables to investigate.

A short while later, a teenage boy and a man in his fifties were arrested on suspicion of theft.

Supt Jed Stopher, deputy divisional commander of Mobile Support Division, said the arrests reinforced the positive effect the Mounted Unit was having across the county.

The Mounted Unit is based at stables in Writtle. It was reinstated last year.

## Bikesafe scheme is honoured with major award

AN education programme to improve the road safety of motorcyclists has been recognised with a national award.

Bikesafe has been accredited with the Prince Michael International Road Safety Award for achievement and innovation.

The national programme is run by the majority of forces in England and Wales and allows members of the public to assess their skills and obtain pointers

and advice from police motorcyclists and civilian assessors.

Essex co-ordinator Sgt Mick Green believes that fellow officers and police staff would also benefit by signing up to the course.

"Bikesafe is important as it works towards improving road safety for all motorcyclists and forms part of our work to reduce casualties," said Sgt Green, of Chelmsford Road Policing Unit.

"In fact, we're working with the British Army and the county's fire and rescue service this summer with a view to improving the riding abilities of their staff."

The Bikesafe initiative focuses on the three main causes of motorcycle crashes: overtaking, bends and mindset.

● For further information about the scheme and dates in Essex, visit [www.essex.police.uk/bikesafe](http://www.essex.police.uk/bikesafe)

# Chief Officer elected as first national chairman

by Morwenna Holland

**ESSEX Police Special Constabulary Chief Officer George Cook has been elected the first national chairman of the newly-formed Association of Special Constabulary Chief Officers (ASCCO) for England and Wales.**

The creation of ASCCO was confirmed at the National Special Constabulary Conference in Gatwick last month.

The purpose of the association is to represent the organisational needs and development of the special constabulary at a strategic level.

Its primary objectives are:

- The provision of strong and visible leadership
- To be its principal voice amongst key stakeholders
- To encourage members to maintain the highest standards of professionalism and performance.
- To support regular colleagues and the diverse communities we serve.

With more than 14,000 volunteer officers nationwide, the special constabulary is now firmly embedded in neighbourhood policing.

As chairman of ASCCO, Mr Cook – who also took the national lead in developing the association – commented: "I hope that the formation of ASCCO will give the special constabulary the opportunity to influence the direction and development of volunteer policing. It is a major milestone in the proud history of the special constabulary."

"The association would not have been possible without the initial vision and encouragement of Peter Fahy, the Chief Constable of Cheshire Police and ACPO lead on the special constabulary, and the support of Essex Chief Constable Roger Baker, Essex Police Authority and numerous colleagues nationally, especially the association committee members – all of which has been invaluable."

Mr Baker welcomed the creation of ASCCO, saying: "The special constabulary is essential in delivering the high quality of service that is expected from police forces across the country."

"With the help of special officers in Essex, levels of crime have continued to fall. ASCCO is an exciting step forward in recognising the vital work that the special constabulary carries out."



● Essex Police Special Constabulary Chief Officer George Cook, above, and Assistant Chief Officer Simon Wootton, right



● ASSISTANT Chief Officer of Essex Special Constabulary Simon Wootton has been elected to the national committee as the eastern region representative.

## Colchester is launch site of new national police inquiry

A MAJOR national inquiry into 21st century policing was launched in Colchester.

Members of a parliamentary committee visited to canvass the views of grass-roots police officers.

The Home Affairs Select Committee is overseeing the Policing in the 21st Century inquiry.

It will visit various police stations across the country about the challenges police face while patrolling the streets.

The six-month review, began in Colchester on March 3.

It will consider building a national police database, equipping officers with Blackberry palmtop computers, the role of PCSOs and police visibility.

Committee chairman Keith Vaz MP and Colchester MP Bob Russell also met Eastern Divisional Commander Chief Supt Dave Hudson.

Chief Supt Hudson said: "We had a very useful meeting with Mr Vaz and Mr Russell and we are grateful they chose Eastern Division as part of their fact-finding tour."

"They wanted to hear about the problems a divisional command team faces and to discover good practice."

"As their final report will clearly be very influential, it was a real opportunity for us to help share their findings and, in turn, to influence the future of policing."

Mr Vaz said: "In Colchester we have got an excellent police force which obviously is working to maximum strength. We want to make sure police officers are out and about doing what they can do."

"We are not looking for Dixon of Dock Green, we are looking for his grandson – a new police officer for a new century."

"We want to hear about the issues that matter most to people around the country and ask the stakeholders in these regions to help us with our deliberations."

The select committee is also looking closely at issues surrounding migration in the UK which were highlighted by two chief constables – Julie Spence, of Cambridgeshire, and Mike Fuller, of Kent – during the past year.

Both say rising migration has increased the pressure on their individual forces.

Mr Vaz said it was important to examine the issue, which could affect such services as translation.

"It is important we look at those kind of pressures and we will look at that kind of pressure for Essex as well," he said.

Mr Vaz also praised the Braintree scheme for officers to take Polish lessons to improve relations with the high number of Polish people living in the district.

## Museum smashes another visitor record

ESSEX Police Museum has enjoyed its best visitor numbers for a craft event.

In total, there were 253 visitors during the five-hour event which saw youngsters having the chance to become mini-detectives.

The record number of visitors to pass through was 711 in May 2007, when the museum at HQ held an open day in conjunction with the Celebrate Chelmsford festival.

And one boy loves the museum so much that he asked to have his birthday party there.

Thomas McIlroy, of Chelmsford, celebrated his ninth birthday with friends and family on February 9.

Last August Thomas was given a 'star visitor' award for attending every craft activity since the museum opened to the public in 2005.



● More satisfied Essex Police Museum visitors: Thomas McIlroy, back row, far right, and guests at his birthday party

Picture by Becky Latchford