

The Law



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May 2008

New strategy drawn up to improve co-ordination and consistency

RAPE INVESTIGATION

PROCEDURE CHANGE

Help is part of a day's work

A SHOEBURY PCSO went beyond the call of duty to help a homeless man down on his luck.

PCSO Duncan Latham-Green was patrolling near Fossetts Park in Southend when his keen eye detected smoke coming from a pillbox. On further investigation he found a 53-year-old man who was living rough inside it.

The man had been sleeping rough for about a week, having fallen on hard times after being thrown out of his accommodation and losing his job.

On speaking to the man, PCSO Latham-Green discovered that the man was not aware he was entitled to assistance.

While off-duty the next day, PCSO Latham-Green delivered a food parcel and sleeping bag to the man and arranged for the Homeless Action Resource Project (HARP) in Valkyrie Road, Westcliff, to advise him about what assistance was on offer. HARP then arranged temporary accommodation in a homeless shelter.

PCSO Latham-Green – who joined the force at the end of February, having previously worked for Lincolnshire Police – said: "Essex Police don't exist solely to fight crime; we are also there to help all members of the community."

Area inspector Jeff Appleby added: "He has demonstrated the level of care our officers show the community and has taken time out of his personal life to help another.

"People like this are a credit to have in my team and a credit to Essex Police."



● PCSO Duncan Latham-Green at the pillbox in Southend

Picture by Stuart Edney

by Nishan Wijeratne

ESSEX Police is hoping to experience an improvement in detections while maintaining its high-quality service to rape victims by a change of focus and new-style training for specialist officers.

As the force's specialist senior investigation officer (SIO) on rape investigations, Det Supt John Quinton has been at the helm of implementing a new policy and deployment protocol for Sexual Offence Trained Officers (SOTOs), which will enhance evidence-gathering and officer welfare.

Last year, of the 293 rape offences reported to the force – down 17 per cent on the previous year – 79 per cent of victims knew their attackers.

A Rape Investigation Working Group (RIWG) was formed in December and a new strategy drawn up to ensure a co-ordinated, consistent approach to tackling this serious crime was adopted.

The new policy comes into effect this month and will see the distribution of early-evidence kits to all divisions and the introduction of a new, effective programme of SOTO training to ensure the force is working to the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) investigation manual.

"Rape is one of the most traumatic assaults that can be inflicted upon any person," said Det Supt Quinton. "While the physical injury may be considerable, the psychological effect can be devastating.

"This policy will co-ordinate rape investigations from the first 999 call through to the conclusion in crown court. For the first time, divisional crime managers will be given the responsibility of managing and monitoring their SOTO deployment to guarantee best-possible evidence capture."

The recent conclusion of Operation Oliver again demonstrated the force's ability to secure a swift conviction following a stranger rape when quality evidence was obtained from the victim.

The attack happened one weekday evening last December when a 16-year-old girl was raped by James Krengle on a footpath by the Riverside Retail Park in Chelmsford, known locally as the Bunny Walks.

The 27-year-old builder, from Mayland, was arrested within three days. He subsequently pleaded guilty at Chelmsford Crown Court to four charges of rape and one of robbery – offences he committed during the attack and last month was given a five-year indeterminate prison sentence for the public's protection.

To improve our co-ordination of SOTOs, the force will adopt the Sexually Trained Officer (STO) manual produced by the National Police Improvement Agency and incorporate this into existing training.

New and current SOTOs will receive further training in the form of multi-agency seminars which will include presentations on scientific developments and new case law. In addition, regular meetings between senior investigating officers and crime managers will assess the progression of ongoing cases and bi-annual discussions will review recently-completed investigations.

Three jailed for a total of 33 years

THREE men have been jailed for a total of 33 years for their parts in the murder of a man in Clacton.

Ian Wilson, 29, was killed at his home in Old Road on June 9 last year.

A jury at Chelmsford Crown Court last month found 30-year-old Darren Benstead guilty of his murder and Terrence Benstead, 28, and Wayne Johnson, 41, guilty of manslaughter.

Judge Christopher Ball gave a mandatory life sentence to Darren Benstead, with a 17-year tariff, and jailed Terrence Benstead and Wayne Johnson for eight years each.

Senior investigating officer, DI Godfrey O'Toole said afterwards: "Ian Wilson was viciously attacked and murdered at his

home by Darren Benstead. Terrence Benstead and Wayne Johnson played a substantial part in this crime and have been found guilty of manslaughter.

"Their response to what amounted to a trivial disagreement, was brutal and beyond reason.

"Whilst the severity of the sentence handed down reflects the heinous nature of the crime, the grief Ian's family and friends feel for his loss will continue – only the passage of time and their support for each other can ease that pain.

"It is the sincere hope of Essex Police that the success of this trial will bring a degree of closure to these tragic events for Ian's family and help them move forward.

Thanking the force for its investigation

into Ian's murder, his family said: "We would like to thank Essex Police for their tireless and thorough investigation and for the support and compassion they have shown to us.

"We, as his family are still numbed and shocked at the brutal and senseless way he was killed and there is not a day that goes by where we do not think about him.

"Ian was such a loving and caring person; he was gentle, kind and just loved playing his music; a wonderful son, brother, uncle and a friend to many.

"There could be no sentence long enough to provide adequate punishment for the three responsible for his death but now we as a family can begin the process of healing and attempt to move forward with our lives."



Picture courtesy of Greater Manchester Police

Farewell to the 'copper's copper'

A POLICEMAN all his life, Mike Todd, the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police, who died in March, was destined for great things.

The former Essex officer, 50, who began his career as a cadet in the mid-1970s, was widely tipped to become the next Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

He had inspired many who knew him, first in Essex – where he started out as a police constable in his home town of Billericay – then at Nottinghamshire Police, where he spent three years as an assistant chief constable, in the Metropolitan Police, as deputy assistant commissioner and assistant commissioner, and latterly at Greater Manchester Police (GMP) as chief constable.

In Essex, Mr Todd served as both a uniformed officer and a detective. After Billericay, he transferred to Laindon Traffic and then to Southend CID.

On promotion to sergeant, he worked at Westcliff before moving on to the Fraud Squad, followed by moved to Chelmsford CID and then to Personnel.

As an inspector he moved back to Chelmsford and he spent time as a detective chief inspector at HQ.

By 1992 – in just 16 years – he had risen to become sub-divisional commander at Grays and two years later, aged 37, was promoted to chief superintendent.

He also found the time to gain a first-class honours degree in politics from the University of Essex.

Mr Todd was credited with turning the Manchester force around – but evidence of his policing ability was abundant way before his arrival there in 2002.

He took part in the first management exchange scheme between the Essex and Metropolitan forces, serving as an inspector at Bethnal Green.

Det Chief Supt Wil Kennedy, head of Crime Division, worked with him at Westcliff, and recalled that even then, Mr Todd seemed destined to move up through the ranks.

He added: "When Mike arrived as a sub-divisional commander at Thurrock, his impact was immediate and performance rocketed. The rest of the force looked on with envy at what he was achieving. He took the battle to the criminals and he got everyone on-side."

Chief Supt Win Bernard last spoke to Mr Todd at the Black Police Association international conference in Manchester.

"His enthusiasm for making a difference and doing what he knew to be right for the people of the country never seemed to wane," said Chief Supt Bernard.

While with the Metropolitan Police, Mr Todd oversaw several high-profile operations – including the street crime initiative – and was awarded the Queen's Police Medal in 2001. In 2006, Mr Todd was appointed vice-chairman of ACPO.

ACPO president Ken Jones said: "Mike has made an enormous contribution to policing in Manchester and nationally throughout his distinguished career."

"He has been a progressive and persuasive voice in the debate about how policing can best serve the public in this country, taking a major role in many ACPO initiatives on behalf of national policing."

A thanksgiving service to celebrate Mr Todd's life was held at Manchester Cathedral on April 11 attended by hundreds of former colleagues.

Acting Chief Constable Dave Whatton told the congregation: "One of Michael's favourite sayings was 'I'm not a politician, I'm just a simple policeman'. He wasn't, he was nationally significant."

And the Rt Rev Nigel McCulloch, the Bishop of Manchester, described Mr Todd as an approachable man, friendly and free from pomposity.

He had an impressive intellectual rigour and was often to be found "up-front, forward-thinking, challenging, taking police policy to new heights".

Among the congregation from Essex were DCC Andy Bliss, Chief Officer of the Essex Police Special Constabulary George Cook, Pc Gary Jay, of Clacton, and Pc Kieran Dale, of Bocking Dog Unit.

Also attending were retired Essex officers and members of police staff, including former Chief Supt Mike Benning, former Supt Mike Frost and former Federation chairman Sue Kelly.

Mr Benning said afterwards: "Mike was very approachable and not afraid to get his hands dirty."

Ms Kelly, who attended Billericay Comprehensive with Mr Todd, said: "My abiding memory of him at sixth form was of him wearing a mid-blue crimplene blazer. He walked incredibly fast everywhere and only I could keep up with him so we talked because nobody else could."

"Mike always did everything deliberately – I never saw him undecided about anything."

"He was very affable but also a very serious and intense person."



● Mike Todd, above, taking the oath as the new Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police in 2002, left, as an Essex Police Cadet pictured with the 1973-76 intake and right, as a chief superintendent with Essex Police



Take a look at equality progress

THE Equality Scheme Annual Review 2007 has now been published.

The review incorporates the force's race, disability and gender equality schemes and shows the progress we made during 2007 towards eliminating unlawful discrimination and promoting equality as set out in the objectives of the Equality Scheme 2006-09.

The review includes a summary of achievements for 2007, which includes the force's success in the 2008 Stonewall Top Employers index – achieving 38th position, an improvement of 50 places from the previous year – the introduction of the Autism Alert Card and

receiving the Employers' Forum on Disability Diamond Award for Vision and Commitment' to Disability.

The review also looks at what has been carried out to promote equality and good relations by working with our staff networks, the Community Training Advisory Group, Essex Criminal Justice Board and Independent Advisory Groups.

● For more information, visit the Equality & Diversity intranet site, on the Information menu on the intranet home page, then click on Equality Scheme, then Essex Police Equality Scheme Annual Review 2007

Getting tough with parents causing school safety issues

POLICE in South Western Division are warning parents their cars will be towed away if they continue to cause parking chaos outside schools.

Insp Rachel Wood said the drastic action was a "last resort" in Corringham and Stanford-le-Hope because some drivers were failing to park sensibly near the schools.

She said: "There is a real danger of serious accidents being caused. It may seem Draconian but many drivers have simply refused to co-operate."

"Mums with pushchairs have to walk in the road because pavements are blocked by cars, drivers have also parked on zig-zag lines at pedestrian crossings and carelessly parked vehicles of all sizes have also blocked residents' drives."

"On some occasions, streets with cars parked on either side have been blocked by people leaving large vehicles in the middle of the road."

Letters were sent out by schools while police officers and PCSOs had spoken to drivers but

the problems have persisted. Now, in response to complaints from residents, some parents and members of the local community forum, Insp Wood said neighbourhood policing teams would be invoking Section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002, which is aimed at motorists who fail to show consideration for others or who cause "alarm, distress or annoyance to members of the public."

Drivers can be given a warning which lasts for 12 months and which also applies to the vehicle. If the driver or the vehicle commits another breach of the act then the vehicle can be seized and towed away by police.

The fee to release the vehicle is £105 plus £12 per day storage.

Insp Wood added: "Officers will continue to respond in this manner until drivers get the message that poor parking outside schools is not acceptable and will not be tolerated."

"It is just a matter of time until a child is seriously injured if they continue to be bloody-minded and park inconsiderately."

'Station surgeries' catch commuters on the run

IF you can't come to us, we'll come to you is the message from Leigh neighbourhood policing teams (NPTs), who are keen to reach busy residents who commute.

Police officers and PCSOs have been visiting Leigh, Prittlewell and Chalkwell railway stations to speak to commuters about their views and concerns.

NPTs in the area already have a good relationship with local community centres and

schools, and are keen to branch out in order to reach all sections of the community and obtain a balanced perspective on policing priorities in the town.

Insp Dave Colwell said: "We are carrying out short surveys on platforms – to find out what their policing priorities are and what crimes they fear most."

"Since these surgeries began in mid-March we've spoken to almost 100 people."

ESSEX POLICE

Essex Police
**Mounted Unit
Crime Prevention Day**

Thursday, May 29, 2008 10am – 4pm

Towerlands Equestrian Centre,
Panfield Road, Braintree

There will be lots to see and do including exhibits, equine security products, tack marking, micro-chipping and freeze-branding all at special discounted show prices!

For more information visit
www.essexhorsewatch.org.uk
or call Essex Police tel: 01245 452395

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Training to help us to protect our communities

POLICE officers and staff are constantly being encouraged to help the force gain better knowledge of the communities they serve.

And a basic tenet of neighbourhood policing is that police officers and PCSOs know their patch.

Post-July 7, 2005, it was recognised that this knowledge and understanding would also help police forces identify and counter any potential terrorist threats at an earlier stage.

Now our police officers, special constables, PCSOs and front-line police staff are being urged to complete a special CBT (computer-based training) program by Thursday, July 31.

The CBT, which can be found on the Special Branch website, covers the history of counter-terrorism, including recent global terror events and the current UK situation – the threat level is currently classed as ‘severe’.

It also examines the ways in which police officers and staff can build up a knowledge bank of useful information about their own communities.

In this way, we can help to keep ourselves safe from criminals and the potential threat of terrorism.

Head of Special Branch, DCI Bob Chatterton said: “Working with all communities is crucial for Essex Police to understand their needs as well as improving the flow of information into the force.”

“Terrorism is now home-grown and there is not a day in this year where there is not an on-going court trial relating to terrorism.

“Everyone needs to be aware of the threat and what they as an individual can do to counter it. Our Special Branch intranet site also makes them aware of simple things to look out for,” he said.

Chief Insp Jon Dodman, the force’s counter-terrorist operations adviser, said the investigation and disruption of terrorist units throughout the country was an ongoing issue.

“The CBT tells our front-line officers and staff what they can do to help disrupt any potential terrorist threat and how they can take steps to protect themselves, should it become necessary.”

As well as the CBT, you can also find information on the Special Branch intranet site about the government’s Contest Strategy – for tackling terrorism, developing awareness and encouraging members of the public to tell the police of any concerns – and an information film about peroxide-based explosives.

● To find the CBT, visit the Crime Division – Special Branch intranet site and click on the Counter-Terrorism Access E-learning button at the bottom of the front page.

This will provide a link to the CBT package and instructions on how to log on, complete the course and obtain your certificate of completion

Public satisfaction with our service is rising

OVERALL customer satisfaction improved in 2007/08, with a greater proportion of people asked saying they were satisfied with the service they received from the force compared to the previous year.

Members of the public are particularly satisfied with the ease of their first contact with the force and with how they are treated by police officers and staff.

Head of customer service Claire Heath said she was pleased with progress made but said there was more to be done.

“A lot of good work is being done but we must remember to keep the public informed of our progress – it is a simple way to ensure that they are happy with the quality of customer service we are providing,” she said.

“We will be striving this year to

improve the public’s satisfaction with our feedback and following-up,” she said.

“We can help improve this area by setting realistic expectations, keeping appointment times or providing an update when there may be a delay and keeping our promises to return calls.

“It makes a big difference when we let members of the public know what will happen next and when they can next expect an update,” added Mrs Heath.

Each division has a superintendent responsible for improving customer satisfaction and an action plan to improve the way we provide feedback and follow-ups to crime victims.

These are: Communications, Supt Stuart Ashton; Central, Supt Steve Johnson; Eastern, Supt Iain Logan;

South Eastern, Supt Carl O’Malley; South Western, Chief Supt Maurice Mason; Western, Supt Simon Williams; and Stansted, Chief Insp Graham Stubbs.

Mrs Heath, Supt Williams, Supt Johnson and Chief Insp Steve Robinson, of HQ Crime Bureau, will be making phone calls to victims of crime or witnesses and asking some basic questions about the level of service they received.

They will also use the opportunity to put back on track any areas where we could have performed better.

And police officers and staff will be attending divisional ACTION roadshows over the next three months to find out what more we can all do to improve the way we deliver our services to meet public expectations.

Happy anniversary!

by Kate Batson

A YEAR ago, the Essex and Kent police forces and authorities agreed to work in partnership for the benefit of the communities they serve.

The collaboration project aims to provide an improved service to the public by making the most of Essex’s existing resources to deliver genuine cash savings to be reinvested into front-line policing.

Since April 2007, the forces have been working together to identify collaborative opportunities in both front-line services and professional HQ support functions.

Collaboration programme director Rick Tazzini said: “Through working in partnership we believe we can make substantial savings and significant service improvements.

THE force has agreed to share its air support with Kent under new groundbreaking collaboration arrangements.

The partnership went live on April 1 and means the Boreham-based helicopter will be available to both Essex and Kent forces during its 20 hours a day, seven days a week flying time.

This is a significant increase to the

“Both forces and authorities are committed to this project because it will bring benefits to both communities; making the best use of our resources and removing duplication and unnecessary bureaucracy.”

In the last year the collaboration programme has achieved a number of successes, including shared air support, co-ordinated marine

units, joint patrols along the Thames estuary and government funding for Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology.

Another significant achievement is the development of various Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) – formal agreements outside mutual aid, including major crime, specialist vehicles,

firearms and specialist search.

A major strand of work is the review of professional HQ support functions and budgets – which started with a review of Procurement functions and of £100million of non-pay related budgets – looking at how much public money each force spends and what efficiency savings can be made.

current service in Essex – 34 hours a week – and a new service for Kent.

The helicopter will still be based in Essex but will use Rochester airport as a base for refuelling.

Many operational aspects of this partnership have been ‘air-tested’ since October 2007, and the force helicopter has been deployed on a mutual aid

basis to Kent for the past year.

Already, the working arrangements have led to the discovery of £86,000 of stolen vehicles in Kent, in January.

Essex is part of an established consortium with the Suffolk and Cambridgeshire forces and so will still be able to call on them for air support if necessary.



● Kent Chief Constable Michael Fuller, Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers, Kent Police Authority chair Ann Barnes and Essex Chief Constable Roger Baker

Suppliers targeted in drugs raids

OFFICERS from across Essex executed 18 warrants under the Misuse of Drugs Act in the Colchester area last month.

The raids followed months of intelligence and evidence-gathering targeting Class A drug-dealers in the Colchester area.

Operation Theatre saw 24 people arrested on suspicion of drugs offences.

Eastern Divisional Commander Chief Supt Dave Hudson said:

“Hopefully this will send a very clear message that drug-dealing will not be tolerated in Essex.

“Due to the hard work and professionalism displayed by everyone, some outstanding results were achieved. Colchester is a safer place due to our efforts.”

Of the 24 people arrested, 20 were charged – several for supplying heroin and/crack cocaine – and three were released on police bail to enable further enquiries to be carried out.

The 24th person was cautioned for a drugs offence discovered on the day.

The 24th person was cautioned for a drugs offence discovered on the day.

Women are racing for cancer funds

CRIME Bureau investigator Melanie Watts is taking part in the Race for Life at Gloucester Park, Basildon, next month to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

Melanie said: “I’m passionate about fundraising and was mad enough to walk 60 km around London a couple of years ago for cancer research.

“This time I am doing this for my cousin Lynne, who was diagnosed with breast cancer last year. Although this event isn’t quite on the same scale every penny counts and I’ve set myself a personal target of £250.”

● For more information and to sponsor Melanie, visit www.raceforlifesponsorsome.org/melwatts.

● MEDIA and PR graphic designer Pru Kingham is keen to start running and thought that the 5k Race for Life would be a good way to start.

Pru is taking part at Hylands Park, Chelmsford, next month.

● For more information and to sponsor Pru, visit www.raceforlifesponsorsome.org/prukingham

Bingo robbery man is jailed

A 30-year-old man has been jailed for four years for his part in an armed robbery at a bingo hall in Pitsea.

Leeroy Hippolyte, of Plaistow in London, was one of two men who threatened female staff with knives at Gala Bingo in The Broadway on October 15, 2006, before fleeing with an unknown amount of cash. Hippolyte was sentenced at Basildon Crown Court last month.

‘If in doubt, check it out’, warns Nigel

“IF in doubt, get it checked out!” is the message from detention officer Nigel Somerville, who has recently returned to work following treatment for skin cancer.

Last August, 47-year-old Nigel Somerville visited a GP following an assault in custody. A nurse pointed to the spot on his nose and recommended he got it checked out. Nigel had noticed the spot a few weeks before but thought nothing of it. However, to be on the safe side, he booked an appointment at Southend Hospital.

Following numerous biopsies over the next few months, it was diagnosed as a basal cell carcinoma, a common type of skin cancer, which usually starts as a spot on the face.

Fortunately it was benign but, during surgery, doctors realised the tumour had spread and a further operation was required in January.

Nigel was warned that he may lose his nose and require reconstructive plastic surgery at a later date.

The operation was successful and Nigel is now just left with a scar on his nose



● Detention officer Nigel Somerville

Picture by Julia Pack

about the size of a penny. He is very aware that he was lucky and is keen to urge anyone with worries about a mark on their body to get it checked out.

He said: “I’ve always been an outdoor person – I enjoy fishing and I worked for the MoD for 20 years, spending much of the working day out of doors.

“It didn’t occur to me to wear a hat or apply sun-cream and, like most people, I

just assumed that it wouldn’t happen to me.

“I’m lucky that the nurse had the presence of mind to tell me the spot needed checking out and I am also very lucky that it turned out to be benign.

“However, it could have been much worse. The doctor told me that it is feared many thousands of people are out there who are walking time-bombs, preferring to ignore unusual moles or marks on their skin than face the possibility that they may be cancerous.

“I really want to stress to everyone the importance of using sun-block whenever you’re out in the sun and to take the time to get unusual marks checked out as – particularly if it’s a malignant tumour – early diagnosis makes all the difference.”

Nigel, Southend’s longest serving jailer with 10 years in the role, is now pleased to be back at work on full duties.

“I couldn’t stand being at home any more, it was making me feel so lethargic,” he said. “Now I feel I have a purpose again and I intend to live life to the full!”



Federation news by Roy Scanes



National poll

SINCE our electronic online poll was launched, the arrangements in place have revealed that some non-police personnel may have been able to take part.

In the absence of a national members' database, we were unable to put in place measures to completely satisfy the necessary confidentiality and security requirements. So, we have had no alternative but to remove the online version of the poll and resort to paper copies.

Please note there may be some confusion in relation to these ballot sheets being circulated. The sheets were designed and printed when the online vote was expected to be used.

There is a section telling officers not to use the paper voting slip if they have already voted online and which also directs them to the national website.

That information is now incorrect. Due to issues with security no online votes are valid. The only method of voting is by paper ballot. The paper also refers to a deadline of May 2 for receipt of votes. This has now been extended to May 9.

If you haven't yet received a ballot paper please contact your JBB office. My apologies for any inconvenience this has caused.

Judicial Review

The two-day Judicial Review hearing on police pay has now ended – you may have seen some of the national newspaper coverage of the Police Federation evidence.

With time to prepare, both sides presented strong, well-argued cases. It's impossible to read the thoughts and views of the two judges present from the direction of their questions, as they raised many queries for both sides.

You may recall that we had initially received an indication from Lord Justice Collins that we may get a decision within a matter of days.

Unexpectedly, he was unavailable, which meant the hearing took place with Lord Justice Keene in the hot-seat.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Lord Justice Keene explained that he understood the urgency of the decision but could not com-

mit to such a short timescale. Our legal team advise us, from their experience and knowledge, that we should expect the judgment in approximately two weeks' time.

I will update you as soon as I hear.

Police earn government's debt

The government has now amassed sufficient money to pay police officers the wages it owes them. But whether it does the honourable thing and settles its debt is another matter.

An independent arbitration panel ruled last year that police in England and Wales should be given a 2.5 per cent pay increase.

Despite the fact that this was well below the rate of inflation – currently 3.8 per cent as measured by the retail price index – officers accepted it.

Home Secretary Jacqui Smith, however, decided to withhold it from officers' pay packets for three months. To pay the rise in full, she explained to the House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee, was not affordable for the taxpayer.

But now the Government has funds galore – and none of the money has come from the taxpayers' pockets. In fact, the bonanza is thanks to the efforts of the police.

The Home Office has recently announced that it last year seized £125million of assets from criminals. This is more than enough to pay the £30million of back pay – which the police are owed – with loads of cash left over.

And, thanks to the assiduous efforts of the short-changed police, the government is expecting its pockets to be lined with still greater largesse in the future.

"I have committed to recovering £250 million a year by 2009/10," trumpeted Home Office Minister Vernon Coaker. He added: "Crime does not pay." A bit like the government, really.

Federation Open Meeting.

The Essex Joint Branch Board will be holding an 'Open Meeting' on Thursday, October 30.

This is your chance to put questions to our Chief Constable, Roger Baker, who has accepted our invitation to attend.

Plan ahead, put the date in your diary, further details will follow.

Unison news by Chris Willcock



Workers' Memorial Day – Remember the dead, fight for the living

Empty Shoes

*No more footsteps on the path as you come home
I just sit here with my grief – so all alone
No key is turned by you in our front door
No sound of walking to me across our floor
I've cried so much my eyes are red and sore
Empty shoes, no more you – just empty shoes.
When the kids cry out "I want my Dad"
We cuddle up for comfort when we're sad
And we whisper that we miss you
Want to hear your voice, be with you
We want and need to kiss you
Left with memories – and empty shoes.
The boss sent you alone, to mend the roof
No harness, no mate – you fell with a
"whoosh".*

*No safety there to guard your health
Your life forfeit to bring others wealth
Now I'm without your dearest self
My empty arms – your empty shoes.
Your broken body lay in the dirt
Your lifeblood drained amidst your hurt
To honour your great sacrifice
I hope your workmates unionise
And do it soon before another dies
In remembrance of you – no more empty shoes.*

This poem by health and safety campaigner Wendy Lawrence was penned after she'd read about yet another avoidable death caused by work.

It also seeks to re-iterate the tragic loss and waste of life caused by accidents at work.

What is Workers Memorial Day?

International Workers Memorial Day (IWMD) takes place all over the world on April 28 each year.

It is about not forgetting those who have lost their lives, been injured or suffered from illness caused by their work.

Secondly it is about using such tragedies to reinvigorate the campaign for healthier and safer work, hence the campaign slogan Remember the dead, fight for the living.

Unison is calling for ...

... the government to recognise IWMD as a

national day of remembrance for those who are killed, injured or made ill by their work.

Unison globalisation

A sad fact is that in South Africa victims of asbestos were offered a maximum of £5,250 for a life – it is difficult to imagine unions accepting such an offer in the UK.

This is another reason for working globally in relation to health and safety of workers. It is important to raise standards both at home and in the wider global village.

Unison-organised workplaces ...

... are much safer than non-union-organised workplaces.

There is much evidence to support this, from unions both in the UK, the European Union and around the world. The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 established legislation in relation to health and safety:

Employers must establish safety committees; union health and safety reps have a right to be consulted and attend committee meetings, to carry out safety inspections and to review risk assessments; and they have recourse to notify the Health and Safety Executive – all in support of worker health and safety.

Conclusion

Trade union health and safety reps make a difference because their involvement helps to reduce injuries at work, generally leads to a reduction in levels of ill-health caused by work, encourages greater reporting of injuries and near misses, makes workers feel more confident and helps to develop a positive safety culture in the workplace.

Contacts

If you have any health and safety concerns, contact your Unison safety rep:
FIR - Sandra Child ext 52170; Central - John Watts ext 60101; Eastern - Pat Smith ext 16149 or Marilyn Mayo ext 16322; MSD - Michelle Stace ext 480570; South Western - Laura Wood ext 70211; branch health and safety officer Margaret Davis ext 55013 or Barry Faber ext 55012.

ESSEX POLICE

What does neighbourhood policing mean to you?

Police Staff
Providing a vital link between the public and frontline neighbourhood policing

Right up your street

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

www.essex.police.uk

Christian Police Association



news by Ian Grüneberg

DO you like anniversaries? Many people love these events as it provides the opportunity to reflect on the past and look forward to the future.

This year the Christian Police Association (CPA) in Great Britain is celebrating its 125th anniversary.

In 1883, Catherine Gurney created and developed the association, bringing together police officers who had a Christian faith.

Catherine's aim was not for a group to be a one of self-interested individuals but for one which was there to be available in a very practicable way to assist others.

She personally worked tirelessly to provide amenities such as orphanages and convalescent homes for police officers and their dependents.

Although, fortunately, we no longer require the orphanages, colleagues do still get injured and killed in the course of their duties.

Now, in addition to the Police Convalescent Homes, there is the Gurney Fund to support those left behind and the CPA is still involved in the management of these services

Although British society has changed in many ways over the past 125 years, today the basic 19th century attitude of "knock the police" still prevails.

The CPA, with branches in many UK police forces, draws together Christian officers and police staff from all denominations for support and fellowship and to pray together and to proclaim and promote the good news of Jesus Christ both on and off duty.

The legacy left by Catherine Gurney is a network of Christians, as well as support for those in the police family who seek assistance. Within Essex Police the CPA is recognised as a support network.

But it's not only the CPA which is interested in you.

Christians throughout the country maintain their interest in the police service and regularly pray for you.

On May 1, churches throughout the country were requested to celebrate this year's National Day of Prayer for the Police Service.

Hopefully you may have seen notices around

your place of work regarding this.

If not, you may be interested to know the specific issues which Christians had in mind as they prayed:

- that senior officers may have wisdom to direct their forces well and have concern for all their staff
- that local forces will be effective in administering justice, supporting victims, preventing and detecting crime, reducing the fear associated with it and building public confidence
- that officers will be kept safe and will enforce the law with integrity and wisdom, especially in volatile situations
- that officers and their families will be protected from the effects of stress and know God's peace in their lives
- that Christian police officers and support staff will be strong and effective in their witness within the police service
- that God will crush the forces of evil at work in the lives of individuals and communities which lead to addiction, despair, crime and disorder
- that the church will respond to local issues and help bring communities together with the police to tackle local problems effectively.

It is good to know we are not alone. In practical ways, Christians are assisting the police and society.

This year, some churches are involved in a national project to engage with their communities, through Hope '08.

Although independent of policing, Christians are moving out of their churches and working in very practical ways to improve their communities.

Christians have had an interest in society and policing for many years and continue to do so.

If you are an officer or member of support staff who is a Christian and are interested in becoming a member of the CPA, please contact me via email. The CPA is always seeking new members and if you are interested, please make contact.

However, whatever your faith, or even if you have none, please remember that the CPA is here and willing to assist you.

Corner the chairman



● Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers

Neighbourhood policing goes from strength to strength

“ALL of you should be aware that there has been a continued effort to ensure every resident in Essex knows who their neighbourhood officer is. Neighbourhood policing has been established in Essex since January 2006 – much longer than a lot of the other forces in the UK – and continues to go from strength to strength. We have made sure that our residents are able to contact their dedicated neighbourhood specialist officer (NSO) via a designated mobile phone number and are holding neighbourhood action panel (NAP) and Have Your Say sessions where views can be shared between the public, the police and our partner agencies. Neighbourhood policing is all about working together with the people of Essex to improve the quality of life. I want to make sure that the people we serve are getting the best possible service from Essex Police and I believe that one of the most effective ways of achieving this is engaging with them. Essex Police Authority is committed to providing people in Essex with what they want. The public have told us they want to see an increase in visible policing, a reduction in crime, a more efficient response to their calls and, above all, an even safer county in which to live and work. These are all priorities that we have set to tackle during 2008 and beyond and I really believe that, by working together with our communities and partners, we are in a strong position to achieve this. I would ask that you all continue to keep up the good work so we can meet the needs and expectations of the people of Essex.”

If you have a story to tell, ring editor Heather Turner on ext 55819

Kirste's Olympic torch honour

ESSEX Police College trainer Pc Kirste Snellgrove will remember the 2008 London Marathon for a host of reasons. Not only did she run shortly after discovering a recurrence of breast cancer, she was also honoured to carry the Olympic torch on part of its journey through the capital just a week before the marathon on April 13. Kirste finished the marathon in a time of 4hrs 59mins 50secs and hopes to have raised around £1,000 for Team Continuum, which helps cancer patients and their families who travel to New York for treatment. The probationer trainer decided to compete despite finding out in February that the breast cancer she had in 2005 had returned. She had the chance to run 250m with the

Olympic torch on April 6, having won a Capital Radio competition after being nominated by a friend. “It was absolutely fantastic being there,” said a thrilled Kirste. “I am a big fan of the Olympics and it was just surreal. I was so proud to do it – it really was an honour.” She ran through Picadilly Circus after receiving the torch from Denise Van Outen and handed it over to Chelsea FC chief executive Peter Kenyon, which did make the dedicated Spurs fan and season ticket-holder blink for a moment. But she said she had not seen any of the trouble or demonstrations which marred some stages of the route.

Nikki's fundraising run

STANSTED Airport communications officer Nikki Jay raised £315 for a hospice after completing the Great North-West half-marathon. Nikki ran with her sister Alison Smith, a runner with Birchfield Harriers in Walsall, who beat her time of 2hrs 25mins and 20secs by a couple of minutes. They ran the Blackpool race to raise cash for St John's Hospice, in St John's Wood, London, which cared for Nikki's mother-in-law Rose Jay before she died of cancer last year. “Both staff and volunteers at St John's Hospice do an excellent job and provide great care and support not only to the patients but also to the families.” Of the race, Nikki said: “It was a great day and highly rewarding. So much so that I have a guaranteed place in the Great North Run in October, when I will be running on behalf of Help the Hospices. “I've also registered my details for a place in the 2009 Flora London Marathon.”

Runners don't give up

DESPITE extremes of weather, the spirits of Essex Police officers and staff were not dampened as they took part in the London Marathon.

Charity coffers have been swelled by their magnificent efforts and there were some quite impressive times over the 26.2-mile course.

Maldon constable Mick Bond – a stalwart of the force's cross-country and athletics teams – showed the rest a clean pair of heels, finished in 2hrs 50mins 20secs, good enough for 494th place overall and tenth UK over-50 male.

And Dc Dave Wood, of Southend, continued his impressive form, setting yet another life-time best of 3hrs 17mins.

Meanwhile, Essex Police College (EPC) receptionist Rachel O'Connor completed the race in just 3hrs 50mins and 4secs.

She hopes to have raised more than £500 for the Broomfield Hospital ITU appeal. Rachel said: “The rain was quite lovely – for a bit. I did manage to finish before the hail and at least I beat Gordon Ramsay.”

Braintree's Sgt Tony Benjamin was disappointed with his time of 3hrs 53mins. Tony said: “I was aiming for 3hrs 40mins but after 22 miles it began to hurt.”

TV and New Media Unit producer David Fogerty was pleased to complete the course in 4hrs 10mins – by the 19-mile point he had grown some very nasty blisters on his wet feet.

David said: “The day was great; it was a very special atmosphere. With your support, so far I have raised over £1,560 for Havens Hospices.”

His time tied with that of Bocking sergeant Terry Balding.

South Eastern Division neighbourhood specialist officer supervisor Sgt Dave Browning was running his fifth London Marathon. An injury prevented him training and he struggled with the resultant pain, from the 17-mile marker.

Despite that his time was a respectable 4hrs 27mins and a local charity benefited by more than £200.

Sgt Gerry Parker, of Mobile Support Division, ran with determination, finishing in a time of 4hrs 44mins while his deputy divisional commander, Supt Jed Stopher, clocked 4hrs 53mins..

He said: “May I again thank you on behalf of the British Heart Foundation for your support, which has enabled me to raise in the region of £2,500.”

South Eastern divisional commander Chief Supt Dave Folkard and Pc Martin Spensley, of Mobile Support, both crossed the finish in a time of 4hrs 44mins.



● London Marathon runners, from left: Terry Balding, Tony Benjamin, Dave Folkard, Martin Spensley, Brad Stopher and his father Jed Stopher, Allan Barley, Matt Garratt, Gary Nash, and Gerry Parker

Chief Supt Folkard said: “I raised £540 in three days, after only getting confirmation of my place on the Tuesday evening before the race, for cancer charity Team Continuum. I had been doing some training to try and get fit with half an eye on being ready should a place come to fruition, and it did.”

Team Continuum – which helps cancer patients and their families who travel to New York for treatment – also benefited by another £200 as Sgt Matt Garratt, based at Copford completed the race in 4hrs 49mins.

EPC course administrator Philippa Harris not only raised £1,000 for Team Continuum, she also raised a smile from Pc Sue Powl, of the force's driving school, who won a bottle of Bollinger Champagne for guessing correctly that Philippa would finish in just over 5hrs.

Another runner at the five-hour mark was Pc Dave Willis, of Colchester, with 5hrs 2mins.

Pc Sam Garwood, of Brentwood Child Abuse Investigation Unit, expects her 5hrs 22mins run will have raised about £1,000 for charity.

And, finally, the injured runners who completed the course in about six hours sum up the race. Chelmsford Town's PCSO Allan Barley, running

for cancer research, said: “I didn't mind the rain or being overtaken by a bottle of beer, Sonic the hedgehog, Buzz Lightyear, a tree, numerous Elvises, sumo wrestlers and a tribe of Masai warriors but I nearly called it a day when the Cornish pasty done me in the home straight.”

And Bocking Road Policing Unit's Pc Terry Hobbs, running for Little Havens Hospice, said: “I completed the run with my wife Jenny who works on PNC bureau. With our joint injuries we did it in just over six hours – not our best times by far but it matters not, we finished together, holding hands.”

● If you did not sponsor Supt Jed Stopher but would still like to help the British Heart Foundation, you can donate old mobile phones. Insp Paul Bartlett, of Braintree, has just sent off another 68 phones to the charity, which will raise £238.

He said: “Donating is easy. If you have any old mobile phones, working or not, or any redundant/upgraded work phone which I can get written off to charity just send them to me in the internal mail to Performance and Standards at Braintree police station.”



In this month's article about being 'green', Ian Mott, of Property Services, updates us on various projects

Progress on environmental projects

AS a number of you will be aware, we have several projects under way to ensure that we reduce the force's impact on the environment.

These projects are, in most cases, the start of what will eventually become a general approach to all developments within the force.

That is, to improve and enhance facilities while reducing our revenue costs – thus freeing-up resources to enable the force to carry out its work of keeping Essex safe. Here follows an update of where we are with some of these projects:

● **Replacement of windows with new double glazing:** This programme is having a very positive impact on the occupants of buildings involved and,

where we have carried out such work, has improved people's comfort – as regards drafts, warmth etc – with the additional benefit of saving money on heating costs. We are at present monitoring the energy use but it is unlikely that we will have any real information until this time next year.

● **Installation of automatic lighting control in offices:** In order to gain the greatest benefit from this, it is usually necessary to change the light fittings so this will usually be carried out as part of an office refurbishment scheme.

● **Installation of automatic lighting control in toilets:** We are continuing to reduce running costs in this way but savings have not been as high as expected.

● **Installation of automatic lighting**

control in corridors: This is showing more promise but I still have to complete the full cost-analysis.

● We have also been working with Essex and Suffolk Water on trials of water-saving systems which are showing promise but, again, we are still analysing the results.

● We continue to examine the best ways for the force to recycle – not just paper, plastic bottles and tin cans etc but also tyres and other materials. Progress is slower than we would like as we have to ensure that we minimise our costs and recycling is currently an additional cost for all businesses. Please keep up your good work so that together we can strive to lessen the force's impact on its surroundings.

Learning high on our agenda

THE first student officer to achieve a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level 3 and 4 in Initial Policing is Pc Emma Portfleet.

And Essex Police College has scored well in its own assessment from the awarding body, City and Guilds. The NVQ is not only a great achievement for Emma but for the force, too, as it recognises the professionalism of learning and development delivered at the college.

It is also recognition of the rigorous assessment conducted by professional development officers (PDOs) who work with student officers at the six professional development units.

To gain her qualification, Emma has completed a total of 22 study units, including skills to provide an initial police response to incidents, interview suspects, first aid and defensive and search skills.

South Ockendon PDO Pc Paul Day was assigned to assess Emma's evidence against NVQ standards and the minimum level required for student officers as set by the Home Office.

The college's accreditation and NVQ Centre manager Natalie Foster said: "Well done to Emma for being the first of many to gain this qualification – all student officers now have to complete this qualification as part of their IPLDP (Initial Police Learning and Development Programme)." She added that the college was delighted that it has recently been awarded a 'grade A' from City and Guilds, recognising its compliance with the strict awarding body requirements.

"This was a complex task when also balancing assessments with students' personal development and the demands of operational policing," said Natalie. "As an accredited centre, we are now held up as a 'best practice' centre."



● **Head of training Pankajni Trivedi, professional development officer Pc Paul Day, Pc Emma Portfleet, ACC Derek Benson and Natalie Foster, Essex Police College's accreditation and NVQ Centre manager**

Pictures by Heather Turner

● **Criminal intelligence analysts Dawn Wallis, Enzo Vullo, Colin Robinson, Daniel Ketrtridge and Jane Sharman with director of intelligence Det Supt Phil Tucker, centre, and principal analyst Ted Hampson, centre right. Also receiving their NVQ but not available for the photograph were: Will Cubbin, Caroline Fisher and Belinda Hunt**



INTELLIGENCE analysts have had their skill rewarded by achieving recognised qualifications.

A total of eight analysts have been awarded an NVQ level three certificate in Intelligence Analysis after two years hard work.

Essex was the first force in the country to set up a centre for providing these qualifications for staff, and is also helping other forces to achieve the same.

Principal intelligence analyst Ted Hampson developed the intelligence analyst learning and development programme which has allowed staff to achieve the nationally recognised qualifications.

Mr Hampson said: "This is

all about ensuring that our analysts are fully equipped to help front line officers gain detections and reduce crime."

And since Essex established itself as an approved NVQ centre in August 2004 more forces have been following suit.

In the spirit of working together, Essex is now providing support to Cambridgeshire to allow their analysts to complete the same course.

As part of on-going development, a workshop was held for analysts to review their performance and to look at ways they can further support the force in reaching its sanctioned detection and crime reduction targets.

Letters of appreciation

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

TO Pcs Adrian Ranson, Sue Stevens and Ben Olive: I just want to say how sorry I am for what I did.

I know it was wrong of me and I have learnt my lesson.

I also want to say thank you for your support and kind words and also for your professionalism.

I don't feel I should have been treated with such respect as I committed an awful crime, stealing a purse from the lost property cupboard and spending the money.

I also felt I wasted police time as there are serious criminals out there who need your time more than I do.

Please accept this letter as an apology and I would also like to say thank you so much for your kind words and also for respecting my dignity.

KO
Tilbury

TO Chief Constable Roger Baker: I would like to congratulate your personnel for the excellent work carried out under

the leadership of acting Supt Keith Dobson regarding a protest at the Coryton Refinery.

The professionalism shown was exemplary and certainly ensured that the security of our plant and the safety of our employees were not compromised.

Petroplus Refining and Marketing Stanford le Hope

WE would like to donate £200 to the Police Benevolent Fund in recognition of Essex Police's and Essex Police Special Constabulary's help on carnival procession day.

Maldon Carnival Association

THANK you to Sc Paul Delany for the help and assistance which he gave me.

I had just turned into London Road from Danbury when all my lights failed. He was kind enough to assist and guide me back to Maldon.

WE Goldhanger

ON behalf of The Mercedes-Benz Club Ltd and the members who attended, I am writing to thank our tour guides, Doug Newlyn and Jeff Walker, for a very entertaining visit to the Essex Police Museum.

We all thoroughly enjoyed our tour of the Force Information Room and the

insight that our visit provided into the work of Essex Police, and its fascinating history.

TDF Halstead

I CAME into Basildon police station to report that my car had been stolen.

My complaint was dealt with by service desk assistant Carole Raven.

I am writing to compliment her on her excellent customer caring service.

Although I was deeply distressed, she was sympathetic, patient and a true professional.

Much to my embarrassment, I had to return later that evening and to say the car had not been stolen, return the report and apologise.

Carole dealt with me so that I did not feel embarrassed and she said it was not the first time anything like this had happened.

I would like to thank her for the way she treated me. She is every reason why a person like gives the police a good name.

PC Horndon on the Hill

TO Chief Insp John Walker: My wife fell and hit her head on the fireplace, resulting in serious cuts.

She managed to reach the phone and call the emergency

services – two of your officers promptly responded and, after gaining entry, administered first aid until the paramedic arrived.

Once she was taken to hospital, the officers collected my daughter from school and took her to meet me at Southend hospital.

Pc Daryl Flint, Pc Lisa Wiggins and PCSO Michelle Emson conducted themselves in a thoroughly professional manner and prevented a serious incident from becoming considerably worse.

All too often we hear criticism of the police in the media and rarely do we hear them praise the police force. Your officers do a difficult job in arduous circumstances.

The officers did you, the police force and themselves credit and I am extremely grateful to them.

SM Southend

TO Essex Police Authority: The Mobile Data Project is primarily to deliver mobile/remote access to operational systems for police officers via PDAs (personal digital assistants).

Around 1,000 devices will be delivered to chosen staff where it is anticipated the highest benefits can be achieved. The project is on course to meet its

objectives.

I would like to bring to members' attention the exceptional professionalism of the project team under the leadership of ACC Derek Benson.

A special mention should also be made of Phil Stimpson, the senior project manager, who has been the main driving force behind getting us to the position where the project is on target and which has also enabled Essex Police to bid for 2,000 additional devices from the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA). Essex Police is about the only force in a position to meet such tight timescales and large-scale deployment.

If successful, the devices cover just under 89 per cent of the force's 3,382 police officers – 3,000 devices will make a positive difference to policing in Essex.

Charles Obukofe Lead member for the Mobile Data Project Essex Police Authority

PLEASE pass on my sincere appreciation for the excellent service and assistance given to me and my son in resolving a difficult problem in Clacton.

My son had been deserted by his friends a long way from home on a freezing cold night and with no money.

I rang Essex Police and was

put through to service desk assistant Ron Gentry at Clacton police station.

He arranged for me to deposit money at Bangor police station so that my son could then be given some cash for food and drink. He also helped us to get my son home with National Express Coaches.

He was so helpful and deserving of this message of appreciation.

AJ Conway North Wales

I WISH to express my hearty gratitude to the assistance given by police in Wivenhoe and Brightlingsea in connection with the theft and subsequent recovery of my bike.

When I reported the crime to the police I did not have much hope that the bike would be recovered.

But to my pleasant surprise it was found in a very short period and without any major damage.

I was impressed with the speed, and good co-ordination of the two police stations.

I would like to thank Pc Wendy Byrne for her help in keeping me informed and releasing the bike to me, and to the Brightlingsea team for recovering the bike.

JP via email



● **Chief Supt Win Bernard**

Picture courtesy of Echo Newspapers

Honoured for his fire and security work

A RETIRED police officer and senior architectural liaison officer for Essex Police has been appointed as the chair of the Essex Security and Fire Protection Association (ESFPA).

John Hills was installed at the association's annual meeting last month.

The meeting also saw the launch of the organisation's new website www.esfpa.co.uk

The ESFPA was established in 1997 by members of Essex Police and Fire authorities, fire and security companies and other individuals and organisations involved in security and fire across the county.

Mr Hills, whose role forms part of HQ Territorial Policing, said: "It's a privilege to be chair of such an association with its aims and objectives that are the same as mine: to promote security and fire safety throughout Essex, thus making our neighbourhoods safer places to live, work and visit."

He has been associated with ESFPA for eight years and added: "It's not an association that's there to make money for its members. Its objectives are to provide a networking and learning environment."

"ESFPA has also given thousands of pounds to local charities over the past 11 years and will continue to support local initiatives aimed at crime and fire safety, whenever and wherever it can."

The association is dedicated to supporting its members through the provision of a local database of technical support and local knowledge.

● If you live or work in Essex or its neighbouring counties and your work involves security or fire in any way – eg consultancy, sales, installation, health and safety, manufacturing, contingency planning or training – then visit www.esfpa.co.uk for more information

'A fabulous time'

HEAD of Crime Det Chief Supt Wil Kennedy will have many fond memories of the force when he retires this month ... but he will have the opportunity of gathering a whole lot more as he is taking over as head of review and compliance once he has had a fortnight's break.

He counts the most pleasurable aspects of his 30-year police career as being the friendship and camaraderie he has experienced from all who work for the force and making a difference for victims of serious crime.

"Over the last few years, I have been very lucky in being involved in one aspect or another of most serious crimes in this county," he said.

"I have also been involved in intelligence operations that no-one ever hears about – I am immensely proud of the work which gets done."

Det Chief Supt Kennedy, 48, joined Crime Division's command team in 2001 as director of intelligence and was promoted to divisional commander in 2003.

But it was not how he expected his career to turn out when he joined the force as a cadet in 1975.

His father, Galleywood village bobby Pc Wilfred Kennedy inspired him to join the force because "Essex Police has always been an extended family to me".

At first based on Canvey Island, which was "a bit of an eye-opener as I lived in digs", the young Pc Kennedy dreamed of becoming a traffic officer and driving fast cars.

Having driven an area car and got that out of his system, he then undertook a CID attachment and decided, at the age of 22, that dealing with serious crimes and victims of crime was much more exciting and rewarding.

After serving at Southend and Westcliff CID, Det Chief Supt Kennedy was promoted to sergeant in 1985 back to Canvey Island, then it was on to Basildon as a detective sergeant.

He spent time at HQ's Central Detective Unit with the Drugs Squad and returned to Southend as inspector in 1990. After time back in Basildon CID, he spent eight months working on the force restructuring project in 1993.

"It was purgatory as I was away from operational policing," remembered Det Chief Supt Kennedy, "but it was time well spent as it taught me how the force runs."

He went back to Basildon again, this time as DCI and, ten years ago, transferred back into uniform at Southend as operations manager, which he thoroughly enjoyed but which means that he faces a lifetime as a Southend FC supporter.

Det Chief Supt Kennedy had intended to remain an officer past his 30 years but did not want to pass up the opportunity to



● **Det Chief Supt Wil Kennedy** Picture by Heather Turner

become head of review and compliance in Corporate Development when Dick Madden leaves in June.

"I still get up every day and thoroughly enjoy coming to work and doing the job that I do. It will be tough stepping out of the operational part."

"But I wanted to do something that would be a challenge and keep me within Essex Police because it is a fabulous force."

Heather Turner

THIRTEEN 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 accept-

Mackman, Pc Andrew Holdsworth, Insp Graham Rendell and Insp Craig Carrington, all of Western Division; Pc Andrew Waldie, of Mobile Support; PCSO Sandra Strange, of Central Division; Louise Baars and William Middlethick, of IT; Sam Weeks and Siobhan Miller, of Corporate Development; and Joanne Traynor, of Communications Division.

Former DCC is new Deputy Lieutenant for the county

FORMER DCC Charles Clark has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Essex.

Mr Clark retired from the force in December 2006, having served as a police officer for almost 40 years.

In 2001 he was awarded the Queen's Police Medal and in 2007 he received an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Both of these awards recognised his services to policing.

Mr Clark is also a member of the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales, having led work on young people for the Association of Chief Police Officers for a number of years.

Now chairman of Essex Community Foundation, Mr Clark was a founder trustee. The charity aims to inspire local charitable giving, matching people, ideas, resources and needs to make a lasting difference. Around £11million of grants have been awarded to charities in Essex since it began in 1996.

The Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Lord Petre, said: "Charles' commitment to Essex through his work with Essex Police and Essex Community Foundation has been tremendous. His recognition and appointment as a Deputy Lieutenant of Essex is justly deserved."

Mr Clark said he was honoured by the appointment, which was a "complete surprise and delight".

"I have had the privilege to work with many wonderful people, who have helped me achieve all the things I have wanted to," he said.

● **Please turn to Page 10 for more news about people employed by or associated with the force**

Reflecting on 'exhilarating' career

ONE of the most recognisable faces in Essex Police history retires this month, citing an incident of "near-nakedness with a colleague in the back of a van" as a memorable moment.

But Chief Supt Win Bernard was awarded the Queens Police Medal in 2005 for a reason; his dedication and commitment to three vital areas of policing – hostage negotiation, serious crime investigation and counter-terrorism.

The 53-year-old joined the police service "for fun" in 1978 after larking around with his friends and former colleagues in the customs and excise trade.

Little did they all know that 30 years later he would be a chief superintendent and his best mate would be a chief operations manager for the East of England Ambulance Service.

"From the days of walking through Oxford's Eynsham Hall, I realised I would have the last laugh," said Chief Supt Bernard. "I only intended to stay for a couple of years, but then realised that this is one of the best jobs in the world."

From his probationer days in Epping through to his finishing role as the force's specialist advisor on counter-terrorism capabilities, Chief Supt Bernard has had an exhilarating career, with stints on the drugs squad and both uniform and detective posts at Harlow, Chelmsford, Braintree, HQ, Special Branch and Major Investigations during his 30 years.

He was also the force's chief negotiator during the first hijack at Stansted Airport and played a pivotal role in the second, during 2000, working with negotiators from other forces.

He became divisional commander of Chelmsford and, latterly, of Central after the force reorganisation a couple of years ago.

Aside from his shared naked moment with former detective Nigel Walek in the back of an 'obs' van on a drugs operation in the baking sun, Chief Supt Bernard cites three highlights from his time with the force.

"First up has to be the Bamber family murders," he states with no hesitation. "Jeremy Bamber is a cunning, evil man."

"Then there is the Debra Carne murder, which was a very challenging job due to the lack of evidence at the scene. I found it very satisfying to see her killers receive justice."

"Finally, there is the Tony Clowes hospital death. This has so much impact from a human perspective when you consider the 11-year-old boy went in for a routine finger-stitching operation, but then died on the operating table.

"My admiration for his parents will never diminish because, despite losing their son, they didn't lose their dignity, objectivity or integrity."

In retirement, Win has many projects lined up but his priority will be to finish building his house, which includes replacing the bin liners which have acted as a lounge ceiling since 1991.

Win concludes: "I will become a professional dabbler, doing a few police consultancy jobs as well as hopefully setting up my own recording studio and a Caribbean restaurant."

Win leaves his 29-year-old son, Craig, to carry on the family name in the force while he enjoys retirement with his wife, two other grown-up children and two grandchildren.

Nishan Wijeratne

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.

Welcome tributes for my husband

ON behalf of my family, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who came to the funeral of my husband, John Alexander, and for the many tributes to him and messages and flowers for me.

Special thanks go to Frank Reed and members of NARPO (the National Association of Retired Police Officers) for all their support.

John enjoyed being a copper and was always true to the force. He played his part in some historic milestones.

He served from 1950 until 1978 and was on duty during the floods on Canvey Island in 1953.

He served at HQ and at Grays before moving to Clacton on promotion, in time for the arrival of the Mods and Rockers in 1964.

He moved from Clacton to Colchester crime prevention until his retirement. We will certainly miss him.

Joan Alexander, Ian and Claire Colchester

I'm not the secretary

IN the March issue of *The Law* you reported that the Essex Police Band secretary walked off with the top prize in February's force lottery draw.

Whilst I was, of course, delighted with my good fortune, I wish to point out that although I'm a band committee member I do not and never have held the position of secretary.

That arduous task has, for the past five years or so, been admirably carried out by Pc Mark Harvey.

Whilst writing about the band I would like to add that, as a result of the door collection at our annual Christmas concert in December, a cheque for £500 was sent to the charity Bowel Cancer UK in memory of the band's late chairman, ACC Liam Briggingshaw.

Joy Madigan Chelmsford

Language was worse!

I WAS pleased to see the letter in the March issue of *The Law*, from Ron Hayford.

He was one of the characters from the old Southend on Sea County Borough force and showed me around the beat on my first night in 1959.

I do remember the incident with the Velocette but my recollection of what Ron said to the vicar contains much stronger language than his.

Happy days Ron. Glad you are well and happy in France.

Brian Flynn Shoeburyness

If you have a story to tell, ring editor Heather Turner on ext 55819

Coverage of long-service awards was 'lacking'

I REFER to your coverage of the Long Service Awards ceremony at the Shire Hall, reported in last month's issue of *The Law*.

My wife and I attended this event, as our son was receiving his Long Service Medal.

It was a well-organised event and a proud evening for families and friends of the recipients. However, I must comment on the reporting of this special occasion.

The two assistant chief constables featured strongly in your report. But there were some 40 other officers present (totalling at least 800 years' service between them) and these officers were not deemed worthy of a mention in

your report. I realise that space prohibits the inclusion of numerous photographs but surely a list of the recipients' names could have been included.

Frank Joslin Chelmsford

● *Editor's note: I am sorry that you were disappointed with the coverage in the April 2008 issue of The Law.*

We actually focused more on the Force Awards in both the report and the pictures.

The Law is a newspaper and so long-service awards are not featured unless I am informed of a particular story angle. The names of recipients of force Long Service and Good Conduct Medals are

published in the weekly Personnel Bulletins, or 'pinks', as a matter of record.

I felt that two assistant chief constables receiving their long-service awards at the same time was enough of a coincidence to be newsworthy, as was the fact that Insp Gordon Ashford and his wife Tracy, a member of police staff, also qualified for long-service awards together.

The only other time during my three-year editorship of The Law that I have featured the long-service awards was in November 2006 when we wrote about inspectors Tony and Kate Sale, who met during their Essex Police training 22 years previously.

Remember pillars of our community

I THINK I have found a front-runner in the longest retirement competition.

In Southend High Street recently, I met George Roberts, known as Robbie, who celebrates 57 years on pension, since his retirement from Leigh in 1951, following a serious illness.

He had about six years service with the Southend on Sea County Borough Constabulary, after service in the Welsh Guards.

I think medical discharges still count as pensioners. I make him about 84. He was shopping with his daughter when I saw him.

On a separate topic, the Essex Police Museum displays a Metropolitan Police



● Coombes Corner in Leigh sometime in the 1930s

model "Tardis," which I am sure the children who visit love.

However, I always thought that they were not in use in

this county, other than some brick-built ones of the old Southend force, like the one at The Glen at the junction of Southchurch Road and

Bournemouth Park Road.

I was wrong! This 1930s photograph shows a wooden police box at Coombes Corner in Leigh, with a police pillar beside it.

Some time back I was told that all the old borough pillars were buried in the former police garage inspection pit, which is now under the car park at the junction of Alexandra Street and Clarence Road. They must be worth a fortune.

The last pillar that the museum was offered, ten years ago, the asking price was £5,000. I have spoken to Jack Bridge and Brian Lewis and it appears that the boxes must have been got rid of in about 1960, just before I transferred in.

Fred Feather Leigh on Sea

Only thing in favour of national police force is economy of scale

I WAS pleased to read that Bob Miller sees that we sing from different hymn sheets - 'Change, you ain't gonna stop it', Letters, March 2008.

Mine is an outdated hymn sheet involving *Land of Hope and Glory* whereas I think I detect an element of *The Red Flag* in Bob's.

So far as the policing of the miners' strike was concerned, was Bob there? I was - second in command of the first full Essex Support Unit to go and in command of one of the last.

The result so far as we were concerned was to protect life and property and to

facilitate those who wished to work to do so in peace.

Bob's only real argument in favour of a national police force seems to relate to bulk buying. The physical needs of the various regions in both uniform and vehicles vary considerably and mitigate against this approach.

Also, I recall our stores officer regularly buying direct and more cheaply than he could through the bulk-buying efforts of the firm which bulk-bought for a number of counties.

So far as the Jean Charles de Menezes shooting in London is concerned, the

Metropolitan Police is the nearest that we currently get to a national force.

It regularly (since Sir Robert Mark) draws senior officers from throughout the land - which does nothing for Bob's argument.

I prefer to quote not films but Bert Lance, Jimmy Carter's budget guru, who cautioned against financial waste of taxpayers' money with the wise words "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Roy Bracey via email

● Correspondence on this matter is now closed.

Wanting to contact former friends and boxers

I WOULD like to contact retired officers George Raven and Alan Levy.

They were secretary and treasurer respectively of Chelmsford Amateur Boxing Club when it was reformed in 1968 and started a close affiliation between the club, Essex Police and Chelmsford CID which still exists to this day.

I am also trying to trace Norman

Chaplin, Malcolm Kohler, Ron Burrell and any other Essex Police personnel I have omitted who were involved with the club in any way between 1948 to date.

Later this year, the club celebrates its 60th anniversary and all people connected with the club are being traced and invited to a reunion on Sunday, October 26, between noon and 5pm at

Chelmsford Boxing Club's HQ at Harway House, Rectory Lane, Chelmsford.

Please contact club trainer and event co-ordinator Ray Cooper at pick-pocket@blueyonder.co.uk for further details.

Bob Miller Chelmsford ABC life vice-president Chelmsford

Retirement do will leave me with fond memories

I WOULD like to thank everyone who attended my retirement evening on April 10 at HQ Sports Pavilion, and everyone who contributed towards my fabulous leaving gifts.

I had a wonderful evening, which lived up to its expectation.

Coupled with so many friends who attended, I am now left with very fond memories of the evening and the past 30 years' service.

I embark on a 12-month trip around the world, starting this month, during which I intend to catch up with as many ex-Essex police officers as possible.

My trip starts in North America, via Canada, before returning to America and journeying south to Central and South America.

This is followed by flights to New Zealand and Australia before I go to Japan and then into the Far East for four months.

My trip concludes with a visit to northern India, Kathmandu and Nepal, before returning home via Italy and France.

I wish everyone continued good luck to the future and look forward to catching up upon my return.

Chris Winstone Halstead

Birthday greetings!

I WAS delighted to see the article and photograph of ex-inspector Archie Southgate in last month's issue of *The Law* - Honouring Archie, 101.

My late husband, ex-inspector McEntee, served with him as a sergeant at Brentwood so it brought back many happy memories.

We had really good times in those days.

If Archie should read this, I would like to congratulate him on reaching such a grand age and looking so well - and still smiling, as he always did!

Gwen McEntee West Mersea

Classic cars open day plea

HARWICH police station is holding an open day in July and I am looking for classic police vehicles which can go on display to the public.

Do you own a classic police vehicle? Would you like to show it off to the public? Are you free on Saturday, July 26?

If the answer to all these questions is yes, please contact me at Harwich police station on 01255 508760 or ext 19129.

You, your family and friends are welcome at the open day between 10am and 4pm - there will be other displays and tours of the police station.

PCSO Ray Aylott Harwich

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MARBELLA Costa del Sol. Penthouse, two bedroom, 2 bathroom apartment. Terrace, sea views, beach 500 metres, communal pools. Golf/town/shops close. From £250 per week. Call 07958 2099909.

MUNDESLEY, Norfolk, two-bedroom house, sleeps four to six, 400 yards from 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. Near Disney and other central Florida attractions. Contact Alison and Michael on 01245 266949 or 01376 573406.

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

TURKEY, Side. Two-bedroom, two-

bathroom, ground-floor apartment. Pools, gym, near beach and amenities. From £225 per week. DVD/brochure on request. Contact Matt on 07957 151820 or oasisturkey@hotmail.co.uk

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

WELLS-next-the-Sea, Norfolk. Warm Victorian cottage. Courtyard garden, parking. Near quayside, shops and beach. Visit www.norfolkdreams.com or ring 07976 720022 for details.

For sale
BMW 320 convertible, 2002, silver, manual, black leather, one owner, 42,000 miles, full service history, MoT, Tax, £11,950 ono, beautiful car, many extras, ring Pete 07866 702683.

SAILING cruiser 32ft, six-berth, 1976. ISHP inboard diesel. Lovely boat, good inventory, new dinghy furling headsail. Afloat Blackwater. £19,500 ono. Call 01621 853596.

TYRES, Westlake 205/55/R16 new, £20. Goodyear Eagle 205/55/R16 used, 5mm tread £10. Pirelli P6000 used 6mm tread £10. Call Doug Warren on 07815 874090.

Homes for sale & rent
ONE-bedroom flat, 10 minutes walk from HQ. Newly fitted kitchen and bathroom, allocated parking space. Contact 01245 346715. Offers in excess of £133,000.

SINGLE room to let in Loughton. Non smoking. Quiet cul-de-sac, close to Central line, M25/J26. £375 pcm. Ring Rob on 020 8281 7710.

SPACIOUS, one-bedroom flat in Hadleigh. Three years old, modern, immaculate throughout £150,000. Call Rory on 07917 410608.

Miscellaneous

BEREAVEMENT counselling from Cruse Bereavement Care trained grief support worker and trained counsellor. Completely confidential service. Contact Amanda on 01277 231936 or email amanda.mcardle@hotmail.com

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 ring 01277 364626.

Changes afoot at the top of Crime Division

THERE are changes galore in the top echelons of Crime Division - with the retirement of Det Chief Supt Wil Kennedy and a reshuffle among senior investigating officers (SIOs).

Det Supt **Tim Wills** rejoins Harlow Major Investigation Team (MIT) following his short stint at Stanway MIT while Det Supt **John Quinton** replaces him.

Returning in Det Supt Quinton's place at Brentwood will be Det Supt **Keith Garnish**, who will lead Team 2 - **Simon Dinsdale** remains detective superintendent of Team 1.

David Peplow finishes his time as an SIO and returns as DCI to lead the Child Abuse Investigation Unit, replacing DCI **Terry Haines**, who returns to his post as head of the Serious and Organised Crime Directorate (SOCOD).

A new SIO, Det Supt **Jason Gwillim**, joins the force on promotion from the Metropolitan Police.

Chief Supt Glenn Caton moves out of South Western on promotion to become Communications divisional commander, taking over from Chief Supt **Maurice Mason** who moves in the opposite direction to become divisional commander of South Western.

The previous incumbent of that post, **Simon Coxall**, moves as detective chief superintendent to take over as head of Crime Division - the post left vacant by the retirement of Det Chief Supt **Wil Kennedy**.

Chief Insp **Keith Dobson** moves from his post as South Western's crime manager to become district commander at Brentwood. Insp **Alan Ray** comes to the end of his temporary promotion there and moves to become Western's support manager.

Meanwhile, Supt **Ivor Harvey** moves on promotion from Epping to head South Western's operations.

Supt **Steve Worrton** has left Southend for a new post in Corporate Development at HQ. His place is taken up by a move south for Supt **Carl O'Malley**. Supt O'Malley takes over as operations support manager at South Eastern with Supt **Gwynn Williams** becoming neighbourhood policing and partnership manager.

Replacing Supt O'Malley at Eastern Division, is Supt **Iain Logan**, who has moved on promotion from Mobile Support Division. Replacing him is Chief Insp **Mark Schofield** - Chief Insp **Graham Stubbs** slots into his post as Stansted deputy divisional commander.

And finally, Chief Insp **Jonathan Baldwin** will be leaving Territorial Policing later this month to become Epping district commander.

Retirements

DI **Gary Glassfield**, 54, is retiring from the force after 34 years - he also spent brief stints in the South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire forces before joining Essex Police.

He has worked in Crime Division and at Basildon, Southend and

Chelmsford. He is currently in charge of both Chelmsford and Colchester Child Abuse Investigation Units.

Pc **Michael Turner**, 52, completes 30 years service and retires at the end of this month. He has worked at Chelmsford, Harlow, Mobile Support Division and Communications Division.

Dc **Chris Binks**, 59, from Eastwood retired last month with just under 30 years' service.

He worked in Southend and Rayleigh - latterly South Eastern Division - for his entire career.

Pc **Paul Watson**, 48, who lives and worked in the Southend area for all his career, retired following 30 years service at the end of last month.

Meanwhile, Pc **Terry Rackley**, 52, retires later this month, having served for 30 years in Traffic, the Force Information Room, at Harlow Dog Section and then at Harlow IMU - where he will continue to serve on the 30+ scheme.

And Pc **Steven Adams**, 54, retires this month from his post in South Eastern's Incident Management Unit following 26 years' service. He has previously worked at Southend, Rayleigh and HQ.

Retiring from the Crime Bureau, **Janet Bell**, 60, served Essex Police for 19 years. She worked in South Eastern, Western and Communications divisions.

Frances Oliver, 61, retired after over 18 years' service. She worked for Harlow Prosecutions Unit and Criminal Justice Unit.

PCSO **Mark Broad** finally says farewell after nearly 18 years with Essex Police. He has served as a special constable and Force Information Room communications officer and latterly as PCSO at Rochford.

Brian Davis, 66, from Chelmsford retired at the end of March with a total of 13 years working in the Corporate Development Department.

Obituaries

Former ACC **Arthur "Robbie" Burns** has died, aged 90. He joined the force as assistant chief constable in February 1963 and was promoted to deputy chief constable.

He transferred to Suffolk Constabulary as chief constable in March 1968.

After serving in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment as part of the 8th Army during World War Two, and being awarded the DSO (Distinguished Service Order), Mr Burns rejoined Derby Borough Constabulary - which he had initially joined shortly after war broke out in September 1939.

He transferred to Norwich City Police in 1958 and became deputy chief constable there, before transferring to Essex.

Mr Burns retired from Suffolk Constabulary in 1976. He was awarded the Queen's Police Medal, the Colonial Police Medal - for his work in Cyprus during the EOKA terrorist emergency of 1956 - and an OBE (Order of the British Empire) during his career, which was inspired by his being a great-nephew of one of the country's early policemen, who

had served in the Gloucester force in 1839.

Mr Burns, who died in February, leaves his daughter, Lynne Burns, who became a chief inspector with the Derbyshire force.

Former chief inspector **Dennis Johnson** has died, aged 80. Mr Johnson, from Ipswich, served from 1949 to 1978 at Brentwood, Harlow, Chelmsford, the Communication Room, Driving School, HQ, and Stanway Traffic.

Ex-sergeant **Derek Morbey**, of Sawbridgeworth, has died, aged 77. He leaves a widow, Pauline.

Mr Morbey served from 1951 to 1981 at Brentwood, Canvey Island, Brentwood CID, Grays and Harlow.

Former sergeant **John McGowan**, of Pitsea, has died, aged 71. He leaves a widow, Patricia.

Mr McGowan served from August 1965 to April 1995 at Basildon and Pitsea.

Leslie Skyring, aged 81, from Linton in Cambridgeshire has died. The former constable leaves a widow, Emily. Mr Skyring served for 30 years at Romford, Upminster, Tilbury and Saffron Walden.

Ex-constable **Michael Rooney**, of Rochford, has died, aged 80. He leaves a partner, Carol.

Mr Rooney, a former Grenadier Guardsman, served from May 1948 to January 1977 with the Southend on Sea County Borough Constabulary and then with Essex Police in the Traffic Unit.

He was renowned for his beat policing and his knowledge of the local area - he would place a stone on garden gates at night so that, on his second time around, he could spot if the gate had been opened and would then know to investigate.

Former constable **Brian Lay**, of Clacton, has died, aged 78. He served from 1956 to 1981 at Chelmsford Traffic and in the Marine section. He leaves a widow Joan.

Ex-detective constable **Leslie Shaw**, of Basildon, has died, aged 71. He leaves a widow Susan.

Mr Shaw served from July 1958 to December 1991 at Romford, Brentwood, Grays, the Regional Crime Squad in Kent at Basildon.

Former constable **David Sharpe**, of Corringham, has died, aged 59. He leaves a widow Christine.

Mr Sharpe served from April 1973 to January 2000 at Tilbury, Grays, the Marine Section and as a divisional training officer.

Former Southend on Sea County Borough Constabulary constable **Maurice Perrin**, of Southend, has died, aged 60. He leaves a widow Iris.

He joined the borough force in 1967 and also served with the joint Essex and Southend force until 1974.

Mr Perrin emigrated to Australia and became a Narcotics Squad detective before returning to Essex and serving five more years with the force until 1982.

And former police surgeon Dr **Boleslaw Bendkowski**, who worked during the 1980s in the Rayleigh and Southend areas, also died in March.

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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.



Orchestra wants your help to party

THE British Police Symphony Orchestra are seeking new members in the run up to their 20th anniversary celebrations in 2009.

Orchestra members are drawn from across the UK's 43 police forces and all players are either serving or retired police officers, police staff or other members of the extended police family. They meet monthly at various centres across the UK and perform several times a year at a variety of venues.

Each year, the orchestra provide the music for the National Police Memorial Day service and, in December, perform the annual Last Night Of The Proms Spectacular at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, to an audience of 2,000.

Members recently returned from a ten-day tour of India, playing in Delhi, Mumbai and Agra.

The orchestra are recruiting members now – particularly string and horn players.

Players should be of a good standard with significant orchestral experience as the BPSO is considered one of the finest amateur orchestras in the UK.

A registered charity itself, the orchestra always appears in support of other charities and, over the years, has helped to raise close to £200,000 for other causes.

• For more information, visit www.bpso.org.uk

Choir seeks more basses

ESSEX Police Choir are looking for men to boost their bass section.

The choir have recruited ten new members this year but they have all been to the soprano, alto and tenor sections.

Coupled with the loss of a couple of basses, this means that the balance of sound from the choir has been affected.

While new members for all sections are welcome, the choir would particularly like to find some new bass voices.

Rehearsals take place in Essex Police College canteen on Tuesdays at 7.30pm.

• For more information, visit www.essexpolicechoir.co.uk or use the link from the Information menu on the intranet home page

Marcus aims for the stars

MARCUS Buckley is to represent the force in the 2008 PSUK Super Star competition at Hopton in Norfolk this month.

Marcus, of Colchester Town, will have to pot golf balls, take shots at netball and football goals, run, row, compete at archery and take a bleep test and four gym tests.

The competition is based on the TV Superstars event.

Cast and audience enjoyed South Pacific

AN enjoyable performance of *South Pacific* attracted crowds to HQ Assembly Hall last month.

Claire and George Lambeth as Nellie Forbush and Emile de Becque, respectively, looked the parts and generally sang well, although it was unfortunate that Emile at first stumbled over the words of *Some Enchanted Evening*, which seemed to shake his confidence but he recovered well to hit the top note in the reprise at the end of Act One.

Simon Brett as Luther Billis presented the character well and clearly enjoyed himself, particularly during his rendition of *Honey Bun*.

Two young actors, Lili Barkway as

Ngana and Kieron Young as Jerome, came over very confidently while Bloody Mary was well acted by Lynda Barkway, whose *Bali Hai* and *Happy Talk* were the two outstanding principal musical numbers

Chorus numbers were competent but rather static. At one point there seemed some uncertainty about how to finish a reprise of *I'm In Love With A Wonderful Guy*, which just tailed off.

The speed with which Cable (Paul Walker) and Liat (Donna Stevenson) entered the native hut produced chuckles from the audience and Cable's re-emergence, shirtless, to deliver *Younger than Springtime* was well received.

The news of Cable's death in Act 2 Scene 8 really caught the audience and there was silence throughout. And, as always, Emile's return to Nellie left a few lumps in audience throats.

The show looked good, with excellent use made of painted cloths, good costumes and some interesting lighting, reminiscent of the 20th Century Fox film version.

The show was generally good although sometimes a little static and vocal quality was inconsistent. The cast should believe in themselves more and then they would be able to produce the quality in all numbers that they managed in some.

Tom Whelan

Women's hockey team take national trophy

ALTHOUGH buoyed by a 5-0 win over Lothian and Borders in the PSUK women's hockey championships, Essex viewed themselves as underdogs in the match against the Metropolitan Police.

This prediction proved inaccurate, however, as Essex triumphed 3-1 in a fast-paced final in Belfast against their policing neighbours.

It was clear from the start that Essex were not going to be intimidated by a very well-prepared opposition.

A motivational pre-match talk by captain Lucy Robinson and coach Angela Finn sent the team out with a determined attitude.

Within minutes of the start, Essex were unlucky not to score when Sarah Bamfield shot just wide. Shortly after, another shot was saved on the line by a defender's foot and Essex were awarded a penalty stroke, sadly saved by the Met keeper.

Essex continued to batter the Met defence and with the support of some timely tackles from Sharn Taylor, backed up by Teresa Oxley, Kelly Gibbs and Rachel Jeffrey in midfield, Essex had numerous opportunities to open the scoring. Bamfield went close with a short-



• National champions – Essex Police women's hockey team

range shot and Hannah Green hit the bar. Late in the first half, Bamfield flicked a shot wide of the keeper, leaving Essex 1-0 up at half-time

The second half saw defender Caroline Fisk in outstanding form. Debbie Batey, Di Reynolds and Robinson also dealt calmly and effectively with any Met attacks. But the opposition continued to push forward and were awarded with two successive short corners. Excellent

goal-keeping from Katie Mead resulted in Essex clearing these attempts and piling the pressure on at the other end. From this, Essex were awarded a free-hit and Leisa King and Bamfield ensured it was turned into a second goal.

Bamfield scored the third – having pounced on a rebound off the keeper.

Wanting to protect their lead, Essex sat back and this allowed the Met to score a consolation goal near the end.

Central take Croker Cup – yet again!

CENTRAL Division have again romped away with the Croker Cup – a clear 36 points ahead of their closest rivals. Runners-up South Eastern gained 73 points, compared with Central's 109. Third were HQ with 59 points, Western were a close fourth with 57 points, with South Western claiming the wooden spoon with 44 points.

Trophies will be presented to Central – which includes Stansted Airport – and South Eastern in due course.

The final Croker Cup 2007/08 events and results were:

lawn tennis - 1 South Western 10 points; 2 Eastern 7pts; 3 Central 5pts; 4 South Eastern 3pts, 5 HQ 2pts.
sea angling: 1 Central 10 points; 2 South Eastern 7pts; 3 Eastern 5pts; 4 HQ 3pts.

• THE Croker Cup squash competition was privileged to have the top two players in the country competing.

Andy Hynes, of Central, and Jason Foster, of Western, faced each other, with Andy coming out on top.

However, the honours on the day went to the team from South Western – Adrian Bunting, Joel Henderson, Clive Day and Paul Randall – who retained the trophy they won last year.

Second were South Eastern, Western came third and Central came fourth. Sadly, Eastern and HQ players had to drop out on the day.

• ANDY Hynes and Jason Foster also faced each other in the PSUK squash competition in Sheffield last month. Andy was hoping to retain the trophy he has held for five years but, reversing

the Croker Cup results, this time Jason was too strong in the final, on an all-glass court, and won 3-0 to re-take the trophy – which he had held for several years prior to his career break.

• THE new Croker Cup season is now underway and already several events have been scheduled.

First off is the Triathlon on Sunday, May 11 at Gloucester Park in Basildon – a 400m pool swim, 10km off-road bike ride and a 4km run on off-road trails.

Then the athletics take place on Wednesday, May 28 – organised by Derek Walker on ext 10320 – followed by beach angling on Wednesday, June 4 – organised by Dave Clark – and sea angling on Tuesday, June 10 – organised by Tim Hills on ext 69272.

Lottery top prize taken by Essex Police College

THE winner of the April force lottery is Pc Jason Boots, of Essex Police College, who receives £3,000.

Runner-up is Susan White, of Harlow, who wins £1,000, and Doug Adams, retired, wins the third prize of £500.

Winners of the £100 prizes were: Pc Steven Simmans, of Chelmsford; Sgt Elaine Fuller, of the PNC Bureau; Pc Andrew Humphreys, of Braintree; Pc Matthew Geldart, of Laindon Road Policing Unit; Pc Victoria Spracklin, of

Basildon; Pc Mairhi Mowbray, of South Ockendon Professional Development Unit; Guy Fletcher, of the Intelligence Support Bureau; Sgt Tony Walker, of Epping; Pc Matthew Brooking, of Southend; Pc Martin Mcgrath, of Harlow; Donna Maxen, of the Force Information Room (FIR); and Insp Mark Furneaux, of Stansted Airport.

The winners of the £50 prizes were: Pc Nicola Turnbull, of FIR; Patricia Truman, of Brentwood; LunaRahman, of

Crime Bureau; Pc Simon Phillips, of Canvey Island; Susan Ding, retired; Pc Victoria Elvins, of Colchester; Dc James Cousen, of Southend; Adam Wells, of Crime Bureau; Jacqueline Tyrrell, of Colchester; Pc Graham Lant, of Stanway Dog Unit; Sarah Thomas, of Corporate Development, Pc Steven Fisk, of Southend; Pc Christopher Burch, of Basildon; Stephen Smith, retired; Pc Ian Turner, of Southminster; and Pc Graham Garner, of Stanway Dog Unit.

Veterans storm through

ESSEX Police Veterans FC pulled off a fantastic achievement with a 3-1 victory in the PSUK quarter final away to Derbyshire Police.

The match was tough and, despite the setback of conceding an early goal from a corner, Essex Police worked hard as a team to pull the result around.

Notable performances were Matt Clark in goal for two outstanding first-half saves, Simon Gray for his tireless running and for sticking away the extra-time penalty that sealed the team's victory and Shane Burke and Mike Hammond for their efforts in midfield and defence.

The game finished 1-1 and Derbyshire had nothing left for extra time, having dominated the second half. Instead, Essex controlled the extra time period, scoring twice and then keeping the ball away from the opposition to set up an interesting semi-final against the Metropolitan Police – who had beaten them twice in the group qualification stage.

The veterans have progressed through to the latter stages of the competition, which involves about 35 teams from across the nation.

Manager Joe Wrigley said: "This was a fantastic performance and the players can be immensely proud of themselves."

• *Editor's note: The semi-final was due to be played on April 14 at Burnham Ramblers FC but sadly The Law had not received a match report at the time of going to print.*



• Kerrie Barkway ext 58883

Family days out thanks to Staffordshire Police Federation

COURTESY of Staffordshire Police Federation, good deals can now be had by Essex Police Sports Association members at the following national attractions:

Madame Tussauds, the London Dungeons, York Dungeons and Edinburgh Dungeons, Alton Towers, Chessington World of Adventures, Thorpe Park, Legoland and ten different Sea Life centres.

• For further details and ticket prices, call Staffordshire Police Federation on 01785 232555

• DON'T forget EPSA also has discounted entry tickets for Colchester Zoo, Adventure Island and Sea Life Southend plus a discount voucher for Pleasurewood Hills, Lowestoft.

• To order any of these, contact Kerrie Barkway by email or on ext 58883

Stray dogs no longer police responsibility

STRAY dogs are no longer the responsibility of Essex Police.

The move follows a change in legislation – section 68 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 – last month, and means police will cease to take in stray dogs brought in to police stations.

Senior property officer Dawn Clark advises officers and staff to direct all enquiries about stray dogs to local district and borough councils.

“This will increase the chance of dogs and their owners being reunited and will make it simpler for the public to make reports of stray dogs,” she said.

The force has now ceased to take reports of lost and found dogs – which amounted to around 5,500 incidents last year.

Divisional service desks and the force switchboard have been provided with office and out-of-office contact details for their relevant local authorities.

Police remain responsible for recording and investigating nuisance dogs and offences relating to dogs, such as dangerous dogs, dogs worrying livestock and reports of dog theft.

‘Local’ arrangements for housing seized dogs remain in place and contact should be made with divisional business managers for details of these.

Charity run in memory of police officer

A CHARITY run in memory of Pc Tom Lodmore, who died in January last year, is being organised to raise funds for Epilepsy Bereaved.

The sponsored five-mile run will take place at Thorndon Country Park near Brentwood on Sunday, June 1, at 11 am.

A number of trophies will be awarded for first male, first female, etc, to finish the course and, with over 40 entrants, so far it looks to be an exciting day.

Tom, 27, was a huge West Ham fan and he worked at Upton Park as a steward for a while.

There is a possibility that former West Ham and England player Sir Trevor Brooking will make an appearance on the day.

And organisers have obtained a large amount of signed football memorabilia which they intend to raffle.

Afterwards, there will be a barbecue at Kelvedon Hatch police station.

● To take part in the run, or to buy tickets for the raffle, contact Sgt Shirley Cole at Brentwood on ext 75185 or via email

Got a story? Contact editor Heather Turner on 0300 333 4444 ext 55819

Child abuse investigation ‘brought into line’

CHILD abuse investigation units (CAIUs) in Essex have been reshuffled and brought into line with territorial divisions.

The five offices have been renamed and, in some cases, restructured in order to cover the geographical areas of their home divisions from the start of this month.

The areas served by the CAIUs had remained unchanged for a number of years. When the department was reviewed, it highlighted the fact that the CAIUs did not have common boundaries with other authorities, such as health, social care or councils or our divisional boundaries.

This move is the last stage of the investment in the unit and depended on the appointment of five additional detective sergeants, two detective constables and a member of support staff, as well as identifying suitable accommodation.

Head of CAIU DCI Dave Peplow said: “This move brings the CAIU offices in line with our territorial divisions. It makes it simple for officers to know where to go when referring cases or asking for advice and support.

“The crimes the CAIU offices investigate are still recorded on the division’s figures – this change will also assist our performance analysis and management.”

The Colchester office will remain and

has been renamed Eastern CAIU.

The Chelmsford office has gained Uttlesford district – which was being served by the Harlow office – and has been re-branded Central CAIU.

Harlow has gained Brentwood district and become the Western CAIU.

The Rayleigh office has been re-named South Eastern CAIU and half the staff based there have moved to a newly-created office at Laindon police station – the new South Western CAIU – which can be reached on 01268 244010 or on exts 44080 / 44706 / 44713.

● To contact the other CAIUs, look on the force telephone directory on the intranet’s Information menu

Mighty oaks out of little acorns grow ...

WHEN Bradley Cox became a Scout leader with the 4th Canvey Island Scout group 29 years ago, little did he realise how much he would achieve and for how long.

Now, in recognition of almost three decades of his service to the Scout Association, he has been presented with a top honour – the Silver Acorn.

A member of Tilbury Neighbourhood Policing Team, Pc Cox has been serving the Scouting movement for longer than he has been with Essex Police, which he joined 27 years ago.

He was presented with his Silver Acorn – for more than 20 years of specially distinguished service – at the district’s annual Renewal of Promise ceremony on April 27 by Essex County Commissioner Bob Bye.

Pc Cox said afterwards: “I was very proud to receive the Silver Acorn – it was a complete surprise.

“I have been with the Scouts for 29 years and it would be very difficult to leave now. It is a hobby but it is also a way of life and it is lots of fun.”

As well as the Silver Acorn, Pc Cox was given the Medal of Merit in 1992 for outstanding service.

He became Scout Leader of the troop in the mid 1990s and in recent years he has taken on increased district responsibilities – he is ‘Nights Away’ Camping Advisor for the Castle Point groups and an assessor for the county’s water activities.

Last year, in a Castle Point District Scout Council initiative, Pc Cox was project leader for the Party in the Park gala as part of the Scouting movement’s centenary celebrations.

Featuring a concert by Essex Police



● Pc Bradley Cox, left, receives his Silver Acorn award from Essex County Commissioner Bob Bye

Picture by Graham Carder

Band, it enabled a £2,000 cheque to be presented to the Havens Hospice

Pc Cox has also spearhead his group’s development, building up a supporters’ network, increasing membership and sourcing fundraising projects, sponsorship and a National Lottery grant.

Now, the 4th Canvey Island Sea Scout group has 150 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers who meet weekly and, in November 2006, Chief Constable Roger

Baker was present when the group’s new £400,000 centre was opened – after ten years of fundraising.

The group has also re-equipped its boating fleet and become RN96, 4th Canvey – it is in the top five of the 100 Scout groups granted Royal Navy recognition.

● Turn to Pages 7 and 10 for more news about people employed by or associated with the force

Supporting young court witnesses

YOUNG witnesses are getting more support through the justice process from the NSPCC.

The Essex Young Witness Project, run by the children’s charity, aims to reduce the stress that children experience when giving evidence at Crown Court, by preparing and supporting them throughout the whole process.

The more supported the witness is through the justice process, the more value they are able to add and the more confident they are.

The NSPCC can make home visits, speak to the young person on a one-to-one basis, build up a rapport with them, arrange court visits and attend court

with them to provide extra support and reduce the ‘fear factor’.

The NSPCC initially offered support to young witnesses several years ago and it made an immediate impact on the conviction rate.

Criminal Justice Department (CJD) trials unit manager and witness care lead Gilliam Pegram said: “If there is no witness, there’s no justice but people can have unjustified fears about becoming involved in the justice system as a witness.

“And using the support workers means that we don’t need to use police resources to ensure witnesses can and do attend court.”

The project provides independent

support before, during and after the court process.

Support workers maintain contact with the witness following a trial, not only to conclude their involvement but also to see whether the witness or their family have further needs which could be met elsewhere within a network of other agencies.

The project has a small number of staff and relies heavily on volunteers to work with the young people.

It is appreciated by families, young witnesses and other professionals who have seen the difference it makes.

● Contact the Essex Young Witness Project on 01206 737737

Museum’s popularity is rocketing

A RECORD-breaking number of visitors crossed Essex Police Museum’s threshold last year.

Almost 5,500 people came through its doors in the last financial year, which was a pleasant surprise for curator Becky Latchford.

She said: “As I was only working in the museum part-time for most of that year I did not expect a rise in numbers, as I felt that we had previously reached full capacity. Now that I am working full time and with the help of our volunteers I hope we can see an increase on those numbers this year.”

With plans to develop the displays further, including the provision of more interactive displays, and bringing other items out of storage, it will be a busy time for the museum.

Summer events will continue but, with record numbers attending her craft events, Becky has an appeal.

She said: “I would like to hear from anyone who has some spare time on Saturdays to volunteer to help staff the museum.

“Currently we only open on the first Saturday of the month but, if we could find friendly, enthusiastic people who are used to working with the public, we could open more often.”

● Anyone who is interested – you do not need to know anything about history or the police service – can contact museum curator Becky Latchford on 01245 457150 for more information about volunteering

Cannabis plants raid

DRUGS raids in Westcliff have enabled 443 cannabis plants to be taken off the streets.

Two drugs warrants were executed last month. At the first address, an established hydroponics factory was uncovered, containing 267 mature plants and 176 seedlings.

A second house was found set up prepared for cultivation and paraphernalia was seized – no plants were found.

Two women, aged 34 and 36, were arrested on suspicion of producing and supplying cannabis, and abstracting electricity.

A 39-year-old man from Westcliff was also arrested on suspicion of producing and supplying cannabis and abstracting electricity. All three have been released on police bail until June 25.

Talk talk offer

HARLOW MIT investigating officer Roy Tyzack is offering his services as a speaker – as long as the fee goes to charity.

Mr Tyzack, a former Metropolitan Police detective, has a wealth of stories. His fee goes to the Police Roll of Honour Trust.

● Roy can be contacted on 0300 333 4444 ext 25137 or 07971 388511