

The Law



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July 2008

Chief Constable's vision for policing the county is unveiled

'600 MORE OFFICERS ON ESSEX STREETS'



ESSEX Police Authority has pledged its support for plans to bring an additional 600 officers to the streets of Essex.

The number of front-line officers increased by 440 in the past three years – bringing them to 3,468.

And the force wants to continue giving the public the service they want – more police officers on the beat; conducting our business face-to-face by attending all incidents of reported crime; and significantly reducing offences of crime, nuisance and disorder.

Chief Constable Roger Baker said: "The policing style in Essex puts the customer at the forefront of everything we do. The public are our biggest partners and we are committed to doing our business differently in order to provide them with a first-class service and to make them as safe as possible.

"Essex is a low-crime area but one crime is one too many and we will do everything possible to reduce incidents and provide vital reassurance to our communities by increasing our visibility."

By employing more police officers, we also aim to:

- reduce recorded crime to fewer than 100,000 offences a year in the short-term and become the safest county in England and Wales
- reduce anti-social behaviour incidents to the lowest in England and Wales
- achieve the best sanctioned detection rate in England and Wales
- achieve the best Protective Services of any non-metropolitan force
- improve our effectiveness and quality of service
- achieve the best customer experience
- and achieve the best public satisfaction rating.

The force hopes to increase the number of officers by 600 over five years and has developed an action plan. A comprehensive business case will be presented to a meeting of the full Essex Police Authority in September.

Subject to getting the police authority go-ahead, a Change Management Board will be established, reporting into DCC Andy Bliss's Force Development Board to oversee its implementation.

Each division and department will be asked to identify a SPOC (single point of contact) to report to the new board, passing on feedback, views and suggestions from police officers and staff.

Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers said of the proposals: "In partnership with the Chief Constable, the authority is delighted to support these plans, which will undoubtedly give the public an improved service, a better customer experience when they contact us and an increased presence on our streets.

"We will work with Essex Police to deliver these plans and we will continue to work with our partners to develop various options for funding, so that the cost does not fall on the Essex taxpayer."

● At a press conference on June 30, above, Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers and Essex Chief Constable Roger Baker set out their plans to recruit an extra 600 police officers over the next five years

● Pc Paul Logan and Pc Jason Corrigan on patrol in Witham – the force ensures it has a high-visibility presence on the streets to provide public reassurance



Looking to the future at Great Dunmow

THE cutting of a red ribbon signified the opening of the new Great Dunmow police station last month.

The station was officially opened by Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers, Chief Constable Roger Baker and the Mayor of Great Dunmow, Cllr Clive Smith.

Mr Chambers said afterwards he was delighted that the station had been officially opened.

"I would personally like to extend my thanks to everyone who has been involved in this project."

Local dignitaries, the media, staff from partner agencies, members of the Disability and Discrimination Act (DDA) Forum and members of the local community saw the opening on June 11 and were then able to look round the station.

Special presentations were made to the DDA Forum and to station office assistant at Dunmow Irene Munro.

The DDA Forum was set up by Essex Police Property Services and consists of representatives from local access groups across the county.

Forum members were consulted about disability access and were presented with a special certificate to thank them for their help and support.

Mrs Munro, who works in the new station's front office, was presented with a special photograph and flowers by Mr Baker for being the local public face of Essex Police in Great Dunmow for nearly 24 years.

She joined the force in October 1984 as a typist. Three years later she became station



● Chief Constable Roger Baker and Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers hold the ribbon for Dunmow Mayor Cllr Clive Smith at the official opening of the new Great Dunmow Police Station

office assistant, a role she performs to this day.

The new station in Chelmsford Road houses Central Division's Scenes of Crime, Divisional Intelligence Unit and Human Resources team, along with Dunmow's uniformed and CID officers, plus road policing and dog unit officers – from Bocking.

It is the first new police station to be built in Essex since Clacton and Laindon stations 11 years ago.



● What a lot you get! Braintree police officers and PCSOs and members of the CGV Youth Project promoted several Essex Police initiatives on their carnival float, including Neighbourhood Policing, the new non-emergency number and a forthcoming 'purse awareness' day

Pictures by Gordon Ashford

Carnival float fun with a message

THE police float at Braintree Carnival was an ideal community engagement platform in more ways than one.

Not only did the team covering Braintree, Bocking, Notley and Three Fields get help from young people with the Braintree CGV (Chat, Gather, Vacate) Youth Project to decorate the float but they also made an arrest and won second prize!

The theme of the float was *Out of this World* with an Essex Police spaceship and banners advertising the CGV project and the police – all made by the youngsters.

Braintree council provided funding for paints and other materials, which they spent several Fridays converting into the space ship and banners and private haulage company Logistic Planning Services provided a lorry and a driver.

The float also featured displays publicising the new Essex Police 0300 non-emergency number and Neighbourhood Policing.

It was manned by youngsters wearing Tackling Drugs T-shirts, uniformed PCSOs wearing alien masks and neighbourhood specialist officers (NSOs) wearing T-shirts advertising a forthcoming purse awareness day.

The team on the float gave out of freebies advertising neighbourhood policing, the recruitment of Specials, the 0300 number, police cadets etc.

And flyers were given out advertising forthcoming beat surgeries and (neighbourhood action panel (NAP) meetings, while others publicised the name and contact details of Braintree section NSOs.

Area inspector Gordon Ashford said: "This was a real community and team effort. Pc Zoë Insull, other members of the policing team, the council and all the youngsters involved deserve the real thanks for this.

"The public seemed to really appreciate the officers letting their hair down and supporting the youngsters – it showed the human side of policing.

"And from the vantage point of the float the team was able to spot an offender breaching his ASBO – second prize and an arrest isn't bad."

● POLICE in Colchester took part in the Colchester Young Children's Festival in Castle Park to meet local youngsters and give guidance on personal safety.

They also provided parents with wristbands on which to write their mobile phone numbers and secure around their child's wrist in case the child gets lost – two lost children were reunited with their parents during the day.

Sgt Dave Gillies said: "We had a lot of interest from the children about becoming police officers and it's encouraging to see so much interest."

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Going to the dogs

TWELVE-year-old Nathan Bligh, of Basildon, made the most of his visit to the Inside Justice Open Day at the town's court in April.

His hard work, finding out as much as possible about all the criminal justice agencies represented, paid off, as he used his new-found knowledge to win the competition.

And last month he, his 15-year-old sister Jennifer and mother Coralie had the unique opportunity of witnessing Essex Police dogs in action at their training school in Sandon last month.

After a tour of the facilities, they watched some of the dogs being put through their paces by trainer Sgt Dan Elford and some of his fellow officers.

The open day at Basildon Combined Court was jointly hosted by Essex Criminal Justice Board and Her Majesty's Courts Service.

Valerie Goodchild, of Essex Criminal Justice Board, said: "Nathan obviously paid close attention in the court hearings and on the tour of the buildings, checking information to correctly answer all the quiz questions."



● Nathan Bligh and his sister Jennifer get to know Taz, a German shepherd dog belonging to Pc Elaine Michaels, of Stanway Dog Section

Picture by Phil Passfield

Text-message first for our new summer safety drive

POINTING young people in the direction of a safe summer is the concept behind Essex Police's first text-messaging marketing campaign.

HQ Territorial Policing has been working with the Marketing Communications to come up with the 2SMART Summer campaign.

Officers will be visiting schools during the last two weeks of term this month to give out Your Guide To A Safer Summer, designed and illustrated by force graphic designer Tom Knight.

The guide gives handy hints on how young people can stay safe whether they are out at night, on the internet or using public transport.

The guide also promotes the 82122 text number. Young people who text the words Essex Summer to 82122 will receive ideas about things to do throughout the summer holidays.

Everyone who texts in will have the chance to win a Nintendo Wii and other great prizes.

Insp Kevin Whipps, head of the Children's and Young People's Policing Team, said: "Together with Essex County Council, we are focusing our efforts this summer on reducing anti-social behaviour and crime so we can achieve our pledge to make Essex the safest county."

"From Your Guide To A Safer Summer cards, to outdoor giveaways and the hundreds of activities going on throughout the summer, this campaign is about pointing our children and young people in the direction of staying safe."

"Most of our young people want to enjoy the summer and not get into trouble; we want to help make that a reality."

ACC Carmel Napier said she hoped "this positive approach" to youth issues paid dividends by tackling anti-social behaviour more extensively.

• If you know of any summer events and activities, let Marketing Communications know so it can be added to the www.2smart.co.uk/ summer web page. Email nicola.bastendorff@essex.pnn.police.uk

Banding together

THE Essex Police Band is joining up with the Redbridge Brass Band for a summer spectacular.

The concert will be held at Hadleigh Temple Salvation Army in Hadleigh High Street, on Saturday, July 12, at 7.30pm.

The two bands will play music from films and shows, plus classical and popular music, so there is something for everyone to enjoy.

• Tickets, cost £8 each and are available from band secretary Mark Harvey by calling 07789 117804, emailing mth1943@hotmail.com or on the door

Satisfaction rates are on the rise

KEEPING our customers informed has given us our highest monthly satisfaction level from people responding to the user satisfaction survey for May.

Treating as individuals the law-abiding people and victims of crime with whom we come into contact – by keeping them informed and not just as a case file number – means we have broken the 70 per cent barrier for satisfaction for the very first time.

The monthly survey also saw the highest monthly level of satisfaction for

actions taken and treatment of customers by officers and police staff.

Head of customer services Claire Heath said: "Customer standards were promoted through the chief officer-led ACTION roadshows.

"The standards are all about giving the public what they want. There are some excellent individual and team champions of our ethos and this has shown in these good results.

"We can continue to build on these and inspire confidence in the force if we act

in a professional and polite manner and consider our impact on the feelings of the people we deal with."

• Customer service standards have been refined following feedback from the chief officer-led roadshows and will be launched as part of future divisional ACTION roadshows



• Testing an 'unidentified powdered substance' 'found' at the Safer Roads Bureau in Billericay

Being safe in the office as well as on the roads

A SUSPICIOUS substance evacuation exercise has been carried out at the Safer Roads Bureau in Billericay

It was truly a Mobile Support Division team event – the Safer Roads Bureau was formerly the Camera Enforcement Office – with the PolSA unit and the CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear) team taking part.

The day started with an 'unidentified powdered substance' being 'discovered' by a member of staff in the mailroom opening a hand-delivered package.

Immediately, the bureau's safety team swung into action, implementing the evacuation procedures prior to the arrival of PolSA sergeant Julian Hallam and MSD's operational planning sergeant Steve Powell – both members of the CBRN operations team.

Safer Roads Bureau office manager Kevin Brown said: "The PolSA officers arrived to investigate the 'substance', wearing the necessary clothing.

"Using specialist equipment, they carried

out a very successful exercise in which the equipment detected the powder as being no more than coffee whitener.

"At the same time they gave the SRB team the opportunity to hear and see firsthand what happens when incidents such as this occur."

Bob Clarke, MSD's health and safety inspection officer, said it was the first time this type of exercise had been undertaken by the CBRN team as part of a real evacuation exercise involving other Essex Police employees.

"It shows how well prepared MSD is for dealing with this type of scenario, whether it were to occur in-force or anywhere throughout the county or the eastern region," he added.

• For further information about what to do if a suspicious powder is discovered, contact a member of the MSD Special Operations Team, based at Boreham.

• If an employee discovers any suspicious substance, they are reminded they must contact the FIR duty inspector on ext 55100

Hitting the criminals where it hurts them

ALL officers can help the force to meet extremely challenging and demanding new targets set by the government for 2008 under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA).

Simply by filling in a MG17, as part of business as usual, will alert the Financial Investigation Unit (FIU) to any proceeds of crime issues, enabling it to meet the hefty £3,070,000 confiscation target set for the force this year.

Part of the Serious Organised Crime Directorate, the FIU is working jointly with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to make sure that the force capitalises on any opportunity to legally hit the criminals where it hurts – in their pockets.

Head of financial investigations DI Alan Stevens said: "Officers are asked to consider and look at every opportunity where criminals gain from their crimes.

"Investigating officers should be thinking of any financial element within their investigation strategy and not as a bolt-on.

"We react to information provided by officers, particularly with regard to the MG17. If this alerts us to any acquisitive crime where property or money is gained by the criminal then we ask the officer in the case to provide a summary from information they already have.

"This also means the offender will not get any more gain from that particular crime. Failing to fill in the MG17 will mean that the CPS will not offer any charging advice."

DI Stevens also asks that, during normal office hours, the FIU is alerted to any cash seizure of £1,000 or more which is suspected of being used or to have

been used as part of criminal conduct and where the person in possession cannot give a reason for having the money.

And any officer concerned that a criminal in their area is earning money from criminality not under investigation is asked to contact the FIU or their divisional POCA champion.

DI Stevens said: "I guarantee that FIU officers will process any forms and deal with any court proceedings relating to POCA."

• For further information, visit Crime Division – Financial Investigation under the Divisions & Departments intranet menu

• Divisional POCA champions are: Central, David Bird; Eastern, DI Roy Clark; South Eastern, acting DI Simon Dovaston; South Western, DI Stuart Hooper; Western, DI Denise Morrissey; and Stansted Airport, Ds Hugh Conerney

Computer plea

A CHELMSFORD officer is due to fly to Nepal later this month with a group of young people from the Essex Association of Boys' Clubs and he needs your help.

Pc Simon Knightley, of the neighbourhood support team, is taking basic equipment, such as pens and pencils, to a school in Burpak and had hoped to take three old laptop computers promised by a local bank.

However, only one has been received and Simon hopes someone may have a laptop they would be willing to donate.

It needs to be in working order and have a Microsoft Word programme installed as it will be used to teach basic computer skills.

• Anyone who can help can contact Simon on 07966 313441

Memories wanted

ESSEX Police Museum is putting together a new display about the history of women in the police force, and is looking for any contributions.

Museum curator Becky Latchford wants to expand the current display to give an insight into the changes of work and attitudes of women working in the force over the years and needs the help of serving and retired officers with stories, photographs or objects.

And, in the longer term, Becky wants to hear from officers, police staff, serving and retired, and other members of the extended policing family who have competed in either the summer or winter Olympic Games or in the Paralympic Games.

She hopes to be able to mount a museum display closer to the 2012 London Olympic Games.

• Contact Becky at the museum on 01245 457150 or by email if you can help with any of the planned displays

Praise for our abuse work

ESSEX Police and other organisations which help the victims of domestic violence have been praised by the new High Sheriff of Essex for their "professionalism and compassion".

Sarah Courage made the comments after meeting domestic abuse specialists at Basildon police station and visiting a women's refuge.

Walk raises cash to help protect the elderly

A HATE crime investigator has raised more than £250 on a sponsored walk to help to protect elderly people from abuse.

Pc Tess Wisbey, hate crime liaison officer for Thurrock, joined seven other walkers to trek 12 miles from Grays to Basildon last month to raise awareness of the work carried out by Safeguarding Adults teams in both districts.

The walk started at Thurrock Council's offices and ended at Basildon Hospital but walkers stopped along the way to visit 17 other agencies also involved in working with elderly or vulnerable people.

The stops included fire, ambulance, police, social services and various other council departments as well as the offices of voluntary groups where collections had been made to support Safeguarding Adults.

Basildon Hospital's Safeguarding Adults Group organised the walk to highlight its work and how the many different agencies were working together to reduce prejudice against the elderly.

The event raised more than £1,200 in total.

Pc Wisbey said that Safeguarding Adults groups helped to protect vulnerable adults from physical or financial abuse by members of their own family or from staff in care homes.



Federation news by Roy Scanes



Federation loses High Court fight to backdate pay award

TWO High Court judges have ruled that the Home Secretary, Jacqui Smith, did not act unlawfully.

In making their ruling, Lord Justice Keene and Mr Justice Treacy recognised that police officers were in "a difficult position over pay" and were denied the right to strike.

Ms Smith said: "This was a difficult decision but one I stand by. It was important to ensure that pay settlements are affordable and consistent with government pay policy in the interests of keeping the cost of living under control for families across the country."

We are obviously extremely disappointed with the decision. The Federation did not take the decision to bring this matter to court lightly but the failure of the Home Secretary to fight our corner in government and her unwillingness to accept and implement findings of an independent police arbitration tribunal left us with no choice.

This has been demonstrated by the tremendous support shown by the public and politicians of all political parties who have voiced their anger and concern at the way this government has treated police officers across the UK.

In December, chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee Keith Vaz MP urged the Home Secretary to "honour the terms of the independent tribunal", which called for a 2.5 per cent rise.

It should be backdated, he said, adding that it was a "question of trust".

The Home Secretary's action had shown the government could impose whatever pay award it wished on the police, regardless of negotiations and independent recommendations.

We are police officers. We want to fight crime and criminals. We don't want to fight the Home Office and the Home Secretary.

We should never have been put in this position by the Home Office in the first place. We don't have any other employment rights. We are unique in that sense and we expect to

be treated fairly by our Home Secretary.

The Police Federation was given 14 days in which to lodge notice of appeal. However, a decision not to appeal was taken after legal advice and very careful consideration. It was decided that the fight for fair pay, binding arbitration and the pursuit of industrial rights is better served in Parliament than the legal arena.

Last month at the Police Federation conference, we announced the results of a poll of police officers in England and Wales. The result gives the Police Federation a mandate to lobby the government for full industrial rights for police officers if arbitration is not binding. This is a route we do not want to go down but one we will follow if the government continues to turn a blind eye to our fair and reasonable request for binding arbitration.

The Police Federation is now writing to every MP seeking their support for independent, binding arbitration. If the government wants to restore any trust with the police service, we must have independent arbitration that is binding on all parties – that includes the Home Secretary.

We are seeking an assurance that any negotiated settlement or arbiters' decision be implemented in full by the Home Secretary and that she will not simply impose a multi-year deal based on a flawed index or reduce an award by staging the settlement.

We are already negotiating for the 2008/09 police pay award. We need to know there will be true negotiation at the Police Negotiating Board, and that the process is not just a sham with the Home Secretary's pen already poised over a pre-planned pay deal. We also need an assurance that, if no agreement is reached and it goes to arbitration, the decision of the arbiters will be binding; otherwise there is absolutely no point to the entire process.

The fight for fair pay continues.

Date for your diaries

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

All members are invited to attend and ask questions of Chief Constable Roger Baker.

Unison news by Chris Willcock



Unison National Conference

THE three appointed delegates to the Unison National Conference left Essex on June 16 for what was to be a busy week at Bournemouth.

Essex Police Unison was represented by chair Sandra Child, treasurer Mick Wade and secretary Barry Faber.

The first event, on the Monday evening, was the eastern region delegates' welcome meeting, chaired by regional convenor Paul Farley, and regional secretary Greg Grant.

This meeting set out the order of business, protocols and procedures which were in place at Bournemouth Conference Centre.

Although the delegates had all previously attended conference, it did provide information for new delegates about what to expect and was a good way for all the eastern regional representatives to network with activists from other service groups eg local government and health.

The Tuesday started with the opening address by president Norma Stephenson. Showing Racism the red card, the Labour government, challenging the British National Party, encouraging our involvement in local politics, the Cuba struggle, domestic abuse, reducing our carbon footprint, equalities and recruitment were just a few important topics highlighted during her speech.

It was followed by the presentation of the Unison annual reports and accounts.

Tuesday afternoon included debates on the National Minimum Wage and Challenging Inequality and general secretary Dave Prentis's speech.

Things started to hot up when Dave launched a scathing attack on MPs and Euro-MPs who claim expenses, which, on a monthly basis, are said to be more than public sector workers earn in a year.

He pledged that, although the NHS workers had voted to accept a three-year pay deal, if inflation and price rises were to spiral out of control, Unison would be back at the negotiating table to demand a review of the agreement.

Dave further pledged that Unison would fully

support its members in local government if they rejected their latest pay offer – later on in conference, local government workers recommended that this pay offer be turned down and called for industrial action to follow.

And he finished by warning the government that 2010 was likely to be the year of the next general election and that, unless it recognised the valid claims of its public sector workers, the price to be paid would be high.

The Wednesday started with a closed session on Funding the Equal Pay Challenge. Although this presently does not affect many branches in the South, there is a major issue in the North and Midlands created by no-win, no-fee lawyers suing the unions. Later on, former professional footballer Leroy Rosenior gave an interesting and emotive speech on racism and how to overcome it in sport.

The Thursday morning was dominated by international motions relating to Palestine, Columbia and the Burma tragedy.

Events got more heated in the afternoon regarding the debates on rule changes.

Two debates, one on disabled officers having to be disabled and one about retired members in receipt of other income, resulted in card votes – always a high point of conference. Both changes were lost as there was not a two-thirds majority in support of the amendments.

However, after many years of putting it forward, the rule relating to the requirement to be a member for 13 weeks before being able to obtain legal assistance was amended to a qualifying period of just four weeks.

And finally, the Friday session was dominated by debates about how to eradicate gun and knife crime, organising members and the basic State Pension.

Apart from the mandated requirement that all branches should be represented at the national conference, it is an opportunity for your local representatives to meet union officers from other police forces and sectors who are dealing with similar issues/problems.

This networking provides opportunities to understand how issues have been resolved or to become aware of pitfalls others have encountered.

Nexus news by Jo Littlewood-Kennedy



IT was H G Wells who stated "adapt or perish" and members of Nexus – the force's support and resource network for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) personnel – have been developing our adaptation skills this year.

Nexus's year began on April 1, with members having voted in a small but highly-motivated executive committee.

It was certainly the smallest executive I have seen since I was employed as co-ordinator. Personally, I put this down to fewer members feeling they could take on the extra commitment of an executive post.

Those elected were Tracy Martinez, as chair, Gary Kell, as deputy chair, Jackie Azzopardi-Johnson, taking responsibility for welfare, and Dru Willcock, providing transgender awareness. In addition, a member – who is not "out" – arranges all our network's informal events.

These members have all had experience of working in the team together previously and are utilising all their individual and team skills to ensure Nexus members are well served by their executive.

As a small executive they are depending more on the tools Nexus has in place, such as our skills list, which allows us to search our membership for people with specific experiences, and our liaison officers, who provide contact points for Nexus.

As with most staff networks at present, membership is growing within Nexus but most members keep up to date by email and don't attend the formal meetings.

So, within Nexus, these meetings have been made less frequent this year. We have found that, by arranging regular events in the evenings and at weekends, members are more comfortable meeting up with their peers, accessing support and giving their views and opinions to the Nexus executive in an informal setting.

With fewer hours currently being donated to our work by members, Nexus has become "energy efficient".

The executive has chosen the objectives on our action plan carefully and executive members have prioritised their actions to areas

where they can make the most impact.

For example, when they reviewed the awareness days we could support this year, they decided the most impact would come by supporting a local youth committee's IDAHO (International Day Against Homophobia) event.

The youth committee held an event which would raise awareness within its local youth community as to the issues young LGBT people face around the world.

By providing information about how to report a homophobic or transphobic incident, we were highlighting a channel in which young people can support their LGBT peers.

Nexus felt this awareness initiative would be high impact because it supports people who are most vulnerable within our community – as illustrated by the studies done by King *et al* and Warner *et al* in 2003/2004 which show that young people that identify as LGB in the UK are twice as likely to self-harm as their heterosexual peers.

Other ways in which we intend to make the most of the next nine months are to support the National Trans Police Association in its first year of development, help to develop the community side of Chelmsford Gay Day – the only LGBT Pride event in Essex – and support Essex Police as the force measures itself against the Stonewall Diversity index.

However, the single most impactful thing we can do this year is to encourage force employees to disclose their sexuality.

This will allow Essex Police to check that LGBT employees are getting the same employment opportunities as their heterosexual colleagues and to see if ten per cent of employees identify themselves as LGBT and thus whether the force is representative of the community it serves.

Currently, a new computer programme is being installed in-force, which will allow any person working for Essex Police to update their own personnel records.

Once this is all in place, we will be encouraging people to start to disclose their sexuality. If people are not confident, they can use the box "prefer not to say", which in itself will give a measure of workforce confidence.

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● Essex Police Authority chairman
Robert Chambers

We want
your views!

“AS I am sure you are all aware, following a finance and audit committee meeting on June 30, we unanimously supported plans to put an extra 600 officers on to the streets of Essex, which I believe is fantastic news. We are constantly told by the vast communities throughout Essex that what they want are more bobbies on the beat – by approving this plan we are giving them what they want. I believe it is essential that all our officers and police staff are frequently made aware of the progress of these exciting plans, hence why each division and department will identify a SPOC who will report to a Change Management Board and also report back to their colleagues. This will enable us to gain vital feedback from all of our officers and staff who will ultimately help us to make this plan happen. I hope you will agree that this is a big step in the right direction for Essex Police and I not only look forward to welcoming our new officers but also to continued working with all present officers and police staff across the force so that together we can strive to make Essex Police the best police force in the country. I would also like to take this opportunity to say to all our employees that, if you have any questions or concerns about this exciting news, please do not hesitate to contact me via my press and PR officer Jenna Smith on ext 50637 or email her at jenna.smith@essex.pnn.police.uk”



● Former Essex officer Pc Kelvin Westall plays the Last Post at the memorial service to Sgt Bob Walsham

Picture courtesy of the East Anglian Daily Times

A tribute to Sgt Bob

A FLOWERING cherry tree now stands proudly alongside a garden bench at Clacton police station as a touching tribute to Sgt Bob Walsham, who died in a road crash as he travelled to work in January.

Family, friends and work colleagues gathered for a memorial service at the station last month and there were emotional scenes as sons Frazer and Ben, watched by Bob's fiancé Emma, unveiled a plaque remembering Bob as “a coppers' copper”.

Bob was based at Colchester police

by **Kim Perks**

station when he died but he had worked for many years at Clacton and been recognised and awarded for his community work and his fundraising.

He was particularly known for his ability to connect with young people and it was therefore fitting to see four students from Colbayns School perform Bob's favourite song *You Raise Me Up*, the Westlife version of which was played at his funeral.

Police chaplain the Rev Alison Finch officiated the service with a speech delivered by divisional commander Chief Supt Dave Hudson. Bob's old shift formed a guard of honour, Sgt Andy Macfarlane played the bagpipes, and former colleague Pc Kelvin Westall –

now a Metropolitan Police officer – played the Last Post. There was also a tribute by retired officer and fellow biker Pete Gardner.

The tree was donated and planted by Original Landscapes, of Dedham, with the building materials and a piece of York stone for the plaque donated by Silverton Aggregates, of Clacton.

Service desk assistant Del Marshall, who helped to arrange the memorial, was pleased that all the meticulous planning made for such a special day.

He said: “Bob was a great friend of mine and I would have gone to the ends of the earth to make sure it was the most fitting memorial. It was a perfect tribute to him and it was wonderful that his boys were able to be there to share in it.”

Helping the child victims of crime

RETIRED Southend Borough and Essex County police officer Tony Hall is fundraising to help child victims of crime.

As chairman of Harlow Council for 2008/09, he has to nominate a charity to support and has chosen Child Victims of Crime (CVOC) – setting a £10,000 target.

He is organising a golf tournament at Nazeing Golf Course on September 12, a pre-season friendly between Harlow Town and Southend Utd and an open air music event in Harlow Town Park.

Tony has also asked Shadow Justice Minister David Burrowes MP to raise CVOC's profile – it is the only national victims' charity run by police officers.

Money is dedicated to child victims of crimes, who are put forward by the officer in the case.



● Tony Hall, centre, with Essex Police Child Victims of Crime rep Pc Diane Murphy, of Basildon, and acting Supt Mike Martin, of Harlow. They are promoting sales of charity mascot Bobby Bear

● For more information about the charity, visit www.cvoc.org.uk

Picture courtesy of Harlow Council

Awards can be anything from a toy shop token to a holiday and can include specialist counselling in certain circumstances.

Tony said: “I served for 32 years and saw many children's lives blighted by crime, so this charity seemed particularly appropriate.”

● To make a donation or to purchase Bobby Bear (£30 each of which half is donated to CVOC) write to Chairman's Charity, c/o Sue Felgate, Harlow Council, Civic Centre, Water Gardens, Harlow, Essex CM20 1WG

● For golf day information, ring Sue Felgate on 01279 446001

Reaping the benefits of mentoring

ESSEX Police employees are continuing to reap the benefits of becoming mentors as part of a project organised by Anglia Ruskin University.

A group of nine took part in the mentoring scheme after each agreeing to mentor a student for seven months – committing to a minimum of 12 hours.

Tom Newman, development and support officer in Corporate Development, signed up for the scheme after one of his colleagues took part.

He said: “It has given me confidence in my ability to get the best out of people.”

“It is really satisfying and I have learned a lot about my skills.”

Over the course of the seven months, mentors covered topics including work-shadowing, CV writing and how to fill in application forms.

The scheme aims to give students help with skills required to progress in to the working world once they have left their academic lives.

And Tom will be signing up again to become involved in the next cycle from September.

● For more information, visit the Anglia Ruskin University website at www.anglia.ac.uk

Dc praised by charity

A DETECTIVE in the Central Child Abuse Investigation Unit has won special praise from the charity NSPCC.

Dc Mick Buckley was so supportive in a trial involving two vulnerable witnesses that he was given a commendation from the charity's young witness supporter Tricia Leary.

Awarding Dc Buckley with the commendation, Manyara Walker, NSPCC children's services manager, said: “Dc Buckley was excellent, he was there 100 per cent for the children, even meeting with them after the trial to check they were OK.”

“This was a sensitive case and the children did well giving their evidence, resulting in a guilty verdict.”

MPs hear of 'night-work'

SOUTH-Eastern hosted two MPs to discuss the work Southend officers have been undertaking through the Night-Time Economy Group.

Hornchurch MP James Brokenshire, Conservative lead on knife crime, and Southend MP James Duddridge met district commander Chief Insp John Walker and divisional commander Chief Supt Dave Folkard.

They were told about the new 'knife arch' metal detector to be used as a reassurance measure around the town and saw a demonstration of the Ion Track drug-detection machine which has been deployed around the town.

Energy-saving is 'cool'

WITH the light evenings and hot days a lot of us will be forgetting that we are having an increased environmental impact on the world.

We in Property Services have not taken our eye off the problems and continue to look for cost-effective ways of reducing the impact of the force on the environment.

I have finally been able to analyse the energy savings from our introduction of controls on corridor lighting. Although we save around 50 per cent of the

energy, the cost-effectiveness is not as good as we had hoped, with a pay-back period of seven to ten years.

This means that to have the greatest cost benefits, this work needs to be carried out as part of a refurbishment and we will ensure that these measures are incorporated as appropriate.

Trials looking into the effectiveness of lighting controls have indicated that we can save a high proportion of the energy used but, at current energy costs, it is difficult to justify the expenditure.

However, this situation could well change if energy costs increase as it is

being predicted – we will continue to monitor and report progress.

In the meantime, in order to continue to make the force energy-efficient, please ensure you maintain vigilance on wastage:

- switch off lights when not required
- keep windows shut if you work in a building or office with air-conditioning
- if you have air-conditioning units with local controls, set them to cool to 23°C
- and turn off your computer monitor when you finish work for the day.



Ian Mott, of Property Services, reports back on energy-saving trials and reminds us to keep our cool this summer



● Have you seen this man? These e-fits depicting the attacker were compiled at the time of the attacks in the early 1990s, right

Still seeking justice for assault victims

by Donna Veasey

FOLLOWING a cold case review, Essex Police launched a fresh investigation into a series of sex attacks carried out in Laindon between March 1990 and August 1992.

The attacks were recently reconstructed for BBC's Crimewatch programme.

The Brentwood Major Investigation Team (MIT), led by Det Supt John Quinton, is investigating the links between the six assaults in Laindon in the early 1990s.

The attacks were carried out on local girls and young women, mainly in daylight.

They were featured on Crimewatch on June 24, and since then, the MIT has had almost 400 responses via phone, email and text message and now has almost 250 names to process.

An intensive investigation was carried out into the attacks at the time but had found no suspect or forensic links by 1995, when work was scaled down.

However, in 2000, following advances in technology, two assaults were linked via a DNA match.

Unfortunately, the person with this DNA does not feature on the national DNA database and enquiries to date have not managed to trace the man responsible.

Officers are now using advancing technology surrounding familial DNA techniques which could see a relative on the national DNA database holding the key to identifying the attacker.

The first attack happened at 4.10pm on Monday, March 19, 1990, in Mandeville Way – formerly known as Road 50. A 16-year-old girl, out walking with a



● Filming for the Crimewatch programme in Lee Chapel Lane, Laindon

Picture by Donna Veasey

15-year-old girl, was subjected to a terrifying indecent assault in the bushes.

Eight days later, two 16-year-old girls were walking in Lee Chapel Lane at about 5.30pm on Tuesday, March 27, 1990. Both girls were raped after being dragged into bushes.

Then, on Monday, October 8, 1990, a 20-year-old woman was walking along Road 50 at about 3.30pm when she was grabbed by a man and, again, raped in nearby bushes.

More than a year later, on Friday, December 13, 1991, an 18-year-old woman was indecently assaulted at about 7.15pm at a car park opposite the BP garage in Nethermayne in Basildon, known as Car Park 14.

The final attack in the series, being collectively investigated as Operation Infinity, happened on Friday, August 14, 1992.

A 15-year-old girl delivering newspapers on the Handley Green estate was raped in an underpass below Road 50, at about

6.35am. The investigation team believes the same man was responsible for all of them.

He is described as white, aged in his 20s, about 6ft tall and of stocky build, with short brown hair, round face and a moustache. He also wore a small hooped earring in one ear.

During the majority of the attacks, he was armed with a Stanley knife and wore a stocking over his face.

Det Supt Quinton said: "The offences were committed on students who were going about their daily life in Laindon."

"This man systematically targeted his victims, approaching them from behind, armed with a knife.

"He carried out horrendous assaults on them which have left a lasting impact on their lives.

"At the time of the assaults there were waves of fear throughout the community and it is both for the victims and the residents that we are still determined to catch the man responsible and bring him to justice."



● The underpass below Road 50 in Laindon – scene of the 1992 attack. It has since been demolished

A personal account from the teenager attacked on her paper round in August 1992 – she is now 31.

“After I was raped I felt like I wanted to scream and for the world to swallow me up.

From the moment I was raped to going to tell my parents and then the police arriving was something that happened so fast that I did not have time for what happened to me to sink in.

I felt dirty and used. I was only 15. I understood what had happened to me but it was all new to me and I didn't know what to think.

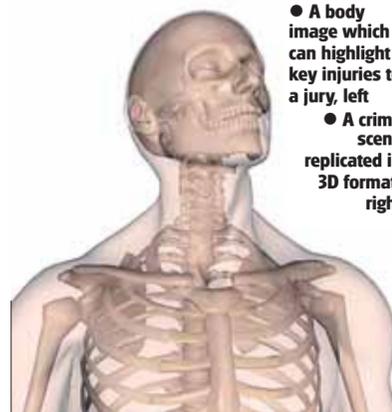
If I see anything on the news, in newspapers or friends talking about rape I have a flashback to what happened to me. I usually go quite quiet and withdrawn.

Sixteen years on my life has changed a lot but being raped is never far from my mind – not a day goes by that I do not think about it. I've never been able to open up to anyone about how I feel.

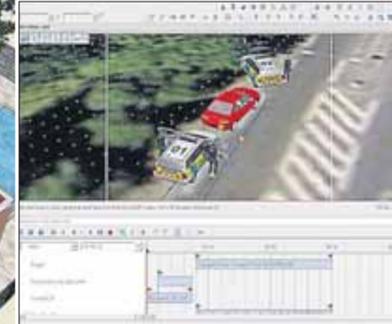
The date is stuck in my mind even though it's 16 years ago. I still remember it as if it were yesterday. Around the anniversary I become very moody and withdrawn and always know when it's coming.

If he was caught and convicted I would feel that he is where he belongs, knowing that he cannot hurt me anymore.”

Tackling crime scenes with computer wizardry



● A body image which can highlight key injuries to a jury, left
● A crime scene replicated in 3D format, right



● An animated training program for vehicle tactics, above

With crime-scene imagery now more important to juries than ever before, press officer Nishan Wijeratne examines the work of one officer who helps 'take the sting' out of gruesome pictures.

PICTURES of mutilated bodies and flesh wounds are gradually becoming distant memories in courtrooms as judges look to protect innocent eyes from the horrors that unfold during murder trials.

Very few forces are able to help with this process but Sgt Kevin McPoland is one man whose forensic imagery skills are setting the pace in Essex.

He is a Neighbourhood Policing sergeant but also helps the force's Major Investigation Section (MIS) to re-create some of their crime scenes on computer so that juries are given a 3D experience of events as well as being protected from grisly real-life images.

The 43-year-old Basildon officer has been with the force since 1989, serving at Westcliff, Essex Police College (EPC) and Basildon.

Qualifications in O-level technical drawing and A-level art have led to him working on many high-profile court

cases. "I've always been IT-orientated and discovered a passion and skill for computer imagery while at EPC," said Kevin.

"It's just a hobby, but I'm only too happy to help Essex Police by incorporating it into some of their work. These images enable a jury to view injuries without seeing distressing photographs. I de-humanise the body by using a 3D mesh similar in build to the victim.

"I never try to replicate the victim's face. I show clear, specific injuries anywhere on the body.

"Internal organs, muscles and the skeletal system can all be shown; the direction of a weapon into a body can be depicted and the bodies can be rotated in full 3D form to give a clear account of how the prosecution believes someone was assaulted or killed."

In each case, the senior investigating officer (SIO) liaises with the pathologist to ensure Kevin's graphics resemble their findings and that they will stand up to scrutiny in court.

Kevin was first asked to demonstrate his skills in 2002 after the murder of Barry Redsell on Southend's Kursaal estate.

He said: "Quite a few residents witnessed the stabbing and it was important for the jury to see where they lived in relation to the murder scene, so I 'built' the entire estate in 3D.

"I also retraced the victim's movements from the nearby train station to his house on a presentation map."

When asked to recall his most complicated construction, Kevin

instantly winces at memories of the Jay Clarke murder in Basildon.

The 30-year-old was stabbed outside Marks & Spencer in the town centre during the summer of 2006.

Kevin said: "I had just one grainy, black-and-white video clip consisting of a small number of time-lapsed frames to work from in order to place individuals at precise locations in a 3D environment. I also had to include every single concrete tile on the pavement and this meant counting them!"

"I then had to carry out the wound-mapping as it related to Jay's body.

"I had the pathologist's report which made sense to me but putting it in a sterile, yet uncomplicated graphical way for the jury to understand was the real work."

Kevin's crime-scene reconstructions and wound-mapping have been used in numerous other murder trials including Inga Losiene, Lisa Sweeney, Debra Carne, Helen Maughan, Jean Dicker and John Ward; but Kevin's skills could also be used in other serious cases, such as sexual assaults.

"I can reproduce injury marks and, if the victim is too embarrassed to have their pictures shown in open court, then I can help with a 3D version of their injuries," he said.

Former SIO Kevin Macey is one detective who utilised Kevin's skills on numerous occasions to assist with his prosecutions.

"From the first case in 2002, I was hugely impressed by the work Kevin produced," said Kevin Macey, who now

heads the Investigative Review Team.

"He was able to present horrific injuries in an understandable and acceptable format. With juries better able to see the nature and extent of injuries, the case was far easier to present.

"With juries now being shielded from actual crime-scene footage more than ever, the prosecution has to be able to paint the picture in a different way.

"Kevin's work is outstanding and I recommend him to any current SIO."

While crime-scene reconstruction is his main area of work outside his neighbourhood policing role, Kevin McPoland is also involved in vehicle tactics training for Mobile Support Division (MSD).

He generates the computer graphics to help road policing and firearms officers to understand correct tactical procedures to use in stops. He is currently working on various projects connected with counter-terrorism.

Kevin does not allow his forensic imaging to detract from his primary role for South Western Division, ensuring that Neighbourhood Policing takes priority before agreeing to take on any voluntary work from MIS or MSD.

"My command team knows I don't and won't allow my computer graphic work to interfere with my core role.

"Likewise, my wife understands that my hobby brings me back to work rather than keeping me in the loft, garage or golf course," he said.

Arrests from joint ANPR operation with Kent

A JOINT road policing operation with Kent led to more than 20 arrests.

Operation Lockdown used four automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) intercept teams from the two forces to reduce criminality on the main routes in and out of towns in west Essex.

The three-day operation in May aimed to 'lock down' all major access roads, such as the M11 and A414.

Officers worked around the clock for the three days, netting 23 arrests for a variety of offences.

During the operation:

- 487 stop checks were carried out
- 141 breath tests were carried out
- 65 endorsable – points on driving licence and a fine – tickets were issued
- 56 non-endorsable – a fine – tickets were issued
- 64 drivers were reported for various offences
- 47 vehicles were seized as they were uninsured
- and four stolen cars were recovered.

Of the 23 arrests, three people were arrested on suspicion of money-laundering – officers recovered a considerable quantity of cash; two were arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply class A drugs – officers recovered cash and drugs;

and one person was arrested on suspicion of driving a 12-seater minibus, loaded with passengers, while disqualified.

Insp Paul Moor, of Mobile Support Division, said the operation had been very successful.

ANPR technology made it harder for 'hit-list' vehicles to avoid interception because criminals "have no idea where we will be at any given time," he added.

Further operations are planned for the remainder of 2008 in both Kent and Essex. Collaboration Programme Director Rick Tazzini said:

"Over the last 12 months we have developed a successful collaboration programme between the two forces, which has included work to develop a joint ANPR strategy. Partnership working has undoubtedly contributed to the success of this operation."

PCSO mends boy's bike

CYCLING PCSO Alex Courts rode to the rescue of a ten-year-old boy stranded with a broken bike.

PCSO Courts came across the lad in Park Avenue, Canvey with the front tyre hanging off his BMX bike – more than a mile to his Benfleet home.

He said: "Fortunately, I had a puncture kit with me and was able to carry out a running repair, despite not being able to get the wheel off. The boy was then able to ride home on his bike; it would have been too heavy for him to carry by himself had we not been able to fix it."

Limited edition Essex Police tie-pin

Only 500 available!



Just £3 each!

These lovely Essex Police tie-pins are made of nickel-plated brass, are 35mm wide and cost just £3 each

Send your cheques, made payable to Essex Police Museum, stating how many tie-pins you want, to Becky Latchford, Curator, Essex Police Museum, PO Box 2, Essex Police HQ, Springfield, Chelmsford, CM2 6DA

first come, first served

Flying high for charity after 'retirement'

A LOVE of flying has taken former Essex and Norfolk officer Adrian Went on a fulfilling journey to remote Uganda.

Adrian worked as a constable and sergeant in Essex – serving in Harlow, Chelmsford and Braintree – before he transferred on promotion to finish his police career in Norwich.

After 30 years as a police officer he wondered what to do next.

Adrian had learned to fly at Earls Colne airfield following a trial lesson – a present from his wife, Jacqueline.

They were both Christians and knew about the Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) so, for them, the logical decision was to go abroad and help others overseas.

The couple flew out to Kampala

in Uganda 18 months ago for a big change in life and lifestyle.

Adrian's role is operations manager, looking after the airfield operations and the pilots.

The pilots fly into some of the most deprived and most remote areas of Uganda and southern Sudan.

The countries' infrastructure is very poor, the roads – if they exist – are often no more than tracks and badly maintained.

The aircraft are a lifeline for some people, bringing in food, provisions, medical staff and other aid.

Northern Uganda and southern Sudan have suffered more than 20 years of conflict and the truce that presently presides is a fragile one.

The use of aircraft means that villages which may take two days to reach by road can be reached in 40 minutes by plane, saving weeks of work and considerably reducing security risks.

In Uganda, Adrian's wife, Jacqueline works as an administrator in the office, designing brochures and running the MAF guest house for staff.

The couple also help to coordinate the volunteer medical teams, which provide services such as cataract operations and primary medicine for people in such remote areas.

Adrian's life has certainly been transformed by his assignment. He is 18 months into his four-year contract and returns home for six weeks of the year to promote his

work and raise funds for supplies.

Adrian's latest project is to develop air strips on the Lake Victoria Islands which are 70 miles from the mainland and only accessible by canoe.

The islands are fairly primitive, with the local fishing industry being the main source of food and income for the thousand-strong population. The new air strips and aircraft will be a crucial lifeline for the inhabitants.

Adrian said: "We know we are making an effective difference in these places and lives are being saved."

For further information, visit www.maf-uk.org

● Adrian Went at the airfield in Kajansi, Uganda





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

TO all police officers and staff involved in the investigation of the murder of Ian Wilson: I am writing on behalf of my family and myself to thank Essex Police for all its help and the hard work carried out into the investigation of the murder of my son Ian Wilson on June 9, 2007.

Ian was stabbed on the doorstep of his own home in Clacton.

As you will appreciate, this has been a very traumatic time for my family – I am still grieving and always will be.

However I could not let this time go by without sending our praises and thanks to all concerned.

I requested the names of everyone from the officers who were there with Ian on the day to the officers who were with me through the five-week court case and thereafter to the end.

I could not believe how many police officers were involved.

At court, I met a few of the officers who were with Ian on that day. This meant the world to me as I could speak to them personally concerning Ian's last moments – I had left immediately I received the call from his friend telling me Ian had been stabbed but sadly he died while I was on my way to him.

At Clacton police station in the early hours of the Sunday, we met Dc Lee Pollard, who became our family liaison officer.

Our family cannot praise him enough. He has been there from the minute we met him, as he promised, and he has helped us tremendously.

He is a very professional and genuine person and we could not have got through this without his help and advice.

I attended the court case every day and the following officers were amazing: Dc Liz Stephens, DI Godfrey O'Toole and Ds Gary Washbrook. Dc Stephens also attended every day and was so helpful and, again, very professional in her work, always there to answer any questions which arose.

To the officers who were involved in searching and finding the knife, we are grateful for this too as we otherwise may never have known who committed the murder.

I would like all the officers involved in the case to know how grateful our family are for all their efforts and hard work during the past months in what has been an horrendous ordeal.

Our lives will never be the same but Ian will never be forgotten, however, with all your help three were arrested and have now been convicted – one of murder and two of manslaughter.

On behalf of my family, I would like to say thank you.

Ann Wilson

REGARDING the incident in which two young women robbed me of my wallet and £600 in a lift, I would like to thank Pc Ben Andrewartha who accompanied me home and took a statement.

Also, thanks to the two

women officers who came to the store and showed me very kind care and genuine support in my distress.

I am truly impressed and very grateful to the police here in Colchester.

**KC
Colchester**

I AM writing regarding a problem we have had with parking at the side of our house.

I have contacted the police to ask for help with two lorries parking on the pavement, obstructing the pavement and making coming out of our garage a big problem.

Recently PCSO Jo Mitchell has become involved and she has been absolutely brilliant.

She has been so communicative and helpful and has been round to see if the problem is still occurring.

When she is off duty, she makes sure that one of the other officers attends to make sure the lorries are not there.

She is really lovely, helpful and co-operative and is a credit to the force.

**ST
Grays**

I could not believe how many police officers were involved.

I SUFFER from arthritis and don't often venture out on my own but this once I went to collect my prescription.

Unfortunately I left my keys in the door but it must have been my lucky day as PCSO David Kateley noticed it as he walked past.

I was really shocked by the experience but it should make me more careful in the future.

**AW
Leigh on Sea**

TO Ray Williams:

I would like to thank the meeting and all respective partners for their swift response to the request for graffiti removal.

It was brought to my attention that this was done the very same day of our last meeting.

Shotgate Baptist Church are eternally grateful. We do respect and appreciate what you are trying to do in the Wickford community.

Keep doing what you are doing and do it very well, with all your heart, mind soul and body.

**Shotgate Baptist Church
Shotgate**

I WISH to thank Basildon police station for the quick response when I went out and left my front door wide open.

A neighbour noticed and alerted the station. Pc Daemon Haywood quickly arrived and managed to contact my son who was able to come to the house and stay until I returned.

Thank you for your prompt action.

**CS
Basildon**

IN response to a small incident at my home, I was visited by Pc Gemma Leacey and Pc Paul Brady to gather some information about the bogus callers.

How impressed I was with the polite, friendly and professional way in which they dealt with the situation.

They are a credit to the force.

**PG
Grays**

I WOULD like to thank the wonderful staff at Harlow

police station for being so helpful and so reassuring when I reported my father missing.

Being that he is foreign speaking, elderly and of ill-health, your team acted immediately and kept my mother and myself posted.

This was not the first time staff at Harlow have been contacted with regards to my elderly parents.

I contacted your controllers a year ago as I was unable to contact my parents all day and evening by phone.

They were good enough to attend and to check that all was in order.

I do sincerely thank you for having such a wonderful team of officers and staff.

**CD
Chipstead
Kent**

I RECENTLY had the misfortune to be burgled.

Pc Sam Baldwin and Dc Kelly Jordan attended my home shortly after I reported it.

I was so impressed with their manner and general concern.

They were absolutely fantastic officers and are a real credit to the team.

They both took time to explain everything to me and were very thorough in everything they did and said. I cannot praise them enough.

PCSO Linda Werrett was also very professional and helpful and took the time to reassure me during what was a very upsetting time.

**MG
Leigh**

TO Sgt Andy Spink:

We understand from Cambridgeshire Police that you were one of the people who came to the aid of my husband and I on the M11 at Duxford.

The Addenbrooke's Hospital team have managed to save my husband's right arm but he has a long way to go to see how much use he will have in it. But we just thank God we are still alive.

If you and the other people had not been quick in coming to our aid, things could have been a lot worse.

Thank you also for enquiring about us afterwards.

**R & M G
Newark**

I AM writing to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to Pc Alexander Nellist, who attended after I reported my 15-year-old daughter missing – which was causing my wife and I much distress.

He spent a great deal of time dealing with numerous youths in various locations who had lied to my wife about my daughter's whereabouts.

It was solely due to the skill, persistence and quality of Pc Nellist, who is clearly an experienced officer in these matters, that we now have our daughter back.

**JH
West Mersea**

A TEAM of Customs officers was required to search premises in Southend in relation to a drugs operation.

Police assistance was required so we contacted Southend police station.

I am writing to thank station office assistant Stephanie Pye, who logged the incident, and Sgt Mark Galbraith and Pc Shane

Robinson, who both attended the premises.

On behalf of myself, my team and HM Revenue and Customs I would like to thank you for the courteous and professional assistance given by your officers.

**HM Revenue and Customs
Ipswich**

I WOULD like to record my appreciation to Dc Lisa Haines for her prompt and kind response an attempted burglary at my home.

It was very upsetting to arrive home to find broken glass everywhere and to discover that someone had attempted to break in.

Fortunately they did not succeed on this occasion but Dc Haines was very professional and kind when she visited me. I was also impressed with the speed of her response.

**SS
Grays**

THANK you to Chief Insp Paul Eveleigh and Insp Jeff Appleby who called on me on my 101st birthday.

I also say thank you very much indeed for the greatly-valued gifts presented to me.

It still gives me pleasure to remember I once wore the uniform.

I would add that pictures of the old police station bring back happy memories.

**WS
Shoeburyness**

THANKS for all Pc Martin Thacker's efforts in helping to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in the Shoebury and Thorpe Bay areas.

I am sure his many visits to the seafront have helped us to reduce damage. The gathering and passing of intelligence has proved useful.

**Southend Beach Hut Owners
Association
Southend**

I HAD to use the police service following a break-in at my shed on my allotment.

Pc Nick Smith, of Yeldham Neighbourhood Policing Team, came to see me to take a statement and has contacted me since. I can't let it pass that this officer has a tremendous presence of understanding around him.

He listened to my complaint with compassion and I felt that that he does genuinely care for the people that he is serving.

My heartfelt thanks for a great service.

**ST
via email**

A DOUBLE fatality took place at Harlow Mill railway station, which was widely reported in the media.

I arrived at the scene and assumed control of scene security, allowing the duty officer to deal with the investigation.

I was impressed by the professionalism and actions of the Essex Police officers who attended and the handover given to me in relation to the cordons and access points.

I did not have sufficient officers to effectively staff the scene and cordons, so the Essex Police duty officer kindly offered assistance and provided the following PCSOs to assist – Dean Coates, Elizabeth Burton, Megan Skinner, Anne-Marie Hayden-Case, Emma Harris, Danielle Rushton-Hickman and David Alston.

Their presence facilitated the effective preservation of the scene. They remained at static positions for several hours and remained professional throughout what was a high-profile incident with numerous media agencies trying to gain access to the scene.

I would like to thank them for assisting us with the incident and also those officers present in the initial stages.

It was a difficult incident to police but was certainly made easier by the professionalism of the Essex Police personnel present.

**Sgt Adam Turner
British Transport Police**

TO Sgt Gerry Parker:

In your capacity as Essex single point of contact (SPOC), I thank you on behalf of Winterbourne Gunner for the safe undressing procedures (SUP) team which assisted during the highly-successful disaster victim recovery identification (DVRI) exercise.

I commend the team led by Pc Aaron Connelly for their dedication, bearing and professional expertise in what was a long day.

The team never wavered and gave unstinting support throughout.

One of the SO15 – counter-terrorist unit – members stated: "This was the best CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear) exercise that I have been involved in." Praise indeed!

For me, the exercise displayed all that is good in multi-agency and everyone working together for a common goal. Essex certainly played their part and were a credit to the force.

**Training Delivery
Police National CBRN Centre**

I WOULD like to thank Sc Nick O'Connell and Pc Mahesh Hirani, who pulled me over on the A13.

I was riding home from work and caught up with a police car and overtook it.

The police car stopped me and both officers proceeded to question my riding.

I was a little annoyed as I have overtaken a number of police cars in similar situations and none of them were worried about my actions.

I was issued with a ticket to produce my insurance certificate at a police station.

At the police station, I realised why I was pulled over – my insurance certificate was not showing the correct motorbike registration, one letter was different.

I felt completely stupid but realised Sc O'Connell and Pc Hirani checked my registra-

tion against the database while I was riding past them and pulled me over to question this fact.

Despite them being on an uninteresting journey they were not wasting time sitting in a queue of cars but had decided to do something which I think was very useful.

I would like to thank them and express my admiration for their work and focus on stopping crime.

**MZ
Bicknacre**

TO Chief Insp Graham Stubbs:

Thank you for letting the Essex Police tactical firearms group and Pre-Hospital Care UK host the Introduction to Tactical Emergency Medicine course at Essex Police College.

Both Dr Aaron Pennell and Pc Matt Clark put a great deal of time and effort into organising this course, along with the other instructors.

In total 18 delegates attended, from as far as Nottingham, Southampton and Wales. The course raised "2,150 for the Paediatric Transfer Ambulance Project in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

The firearms group is most definitely leading the way in tactical emergency medicine provision in the UK.

You have a very special team, who are clearly motivated and passionate about their job and are willing to give their time freely to help educate other emergency service personnel and medics. They are a real credit to Essex Police.

**Medical director
Pre-Hospital Care UK**

THANK you to all the officers who took care of my three-year-old daughter when she went missing.

**SS
Grays**

IN 2004, Dc Simon Loft undertook an investigation into a complicated telephone fraud where BT was the victim.

After four years of hard work, the case came to trial at Chelmsford Crown Court, with the defendants charged with conspiracy to defraud BT.

The case was withdrawn at the last stage. Despite this, Dc Loft's efforts were exemplary.

He acted professionally and tenaciously throughout this four-year investigation. He remained motivated and, despite having moved departments on several occasions, remained focused on getting the matter to court, a fact for which BT is very grateful.

Dc Loft is a credit to Essex Police.

BT Security Investigation

WE would like to express our thanks to the officers at Eastwood and Leigh police stations for all their help in locating our son.

We appreciate their assistance and compassion.

**R&JW
Leigh**

TEN ACTION awards have been made by the Bonus and Honoraria Panel recently.

The work of officers and staff put forward for the awards demonstrated at least one of ACTION's six strands: Achievement focus; Customer first; Taking responsibility for performance; Inspiring high standards; Overcoming hurdles; Never

accepting second-best. The recipients of £100 awards were:

Sgt Alan Pitcher and Nikki Geaves, of Central Division; Pc Chris Black, Natalie Watkins, Nichola Hurley, Mary Stopher, Lynn Pennell and Zoe Goodey, of Essex Police College; Lindsay Shankland, of HR; and John Welsh, of South Eastern Division.



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.

Oh, what a night! Fond memories of police boxes

I WANTED openly to express my warmest thanks to all those who took the trouble to attend the Cherry Tree pub towards the end of April to share in my leaving 'thingy'.

And to those who may not have attended but who still contributed to both comments on the great card that I received and the gift(s) also!

The evening was very special, with friends and colleagues attending who spanned my whole career, with some individuals I hadn't seen for many years.

The presentation, made by my ex-inspector at Shoebury, Jeff Appleby, was both funny and warming and I hope that the speech that I made in response afterwards made it clear to everyone present how important and priceless both the people and

the experiences during my career, had been.

That evening at the Cherry Tree was a terrific conclusion to my career with Essex Police and something that I will remember with much affection.

I have since relocated to Derbyshire – the Peak District – where the people are friendly and 'chilled' and the pace of my life has certainly been reduced – even the local sheep up here have an air of 'just relax' about them!

So I say a final thanks to my friends and colleagues, from both my police and cadet careers between 1975 and 2008, not forgetting also to express my gratitude to what Essex Police has provided me with during the course of those years and the legacy of security that it continues to provide me with in my retirement from the service.

**Paul Watson
Old Tupton
Derbyshire**

CSB get-together on the cards

FOLLOWING my letter in the April 2008 issue of *The Law* proposing a get-together to mark the 30th anniversary of the setting up of the Community Service Branch (CSB) in Essex, I have received replies from eight people interested in meeting up.

But, to make it worthwhile, we need a few more.

We would probably meet in Chelmsford in May or June 2009 so, if you served, in any capacity in the CSB, please get in touch with me via tomdeans@btinternet.com

Being a former Shrub End fella myself I wonder where Bob Hunt, Peter Pearson,

Paul Spurgeon and Ian Steele are these days.

I also have Bob Mann, now living in Norfolk, asking if I have contact with Peter Rouse, Roy Smith, Bob Fugl and Tom Stott so, if any of the above, and the many I have not named, are interested in a get-together, please get in touch by email, by writing to me at Glencarse, 115 Silverdale Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 9BB, or by ringing me on 01702 432328 or 07966 428333.

**Tom Deans
Westcliff-on-Sea**

I JOINED the old Southend Borough force in October 1960, stationed at Westcliff.

Amongst those I remember on the shift were John Bunn, Brian Appleby, George Sage, Ted Luke and Fred Feather.

In response to Fred's letter about the old wooden Tardis-style police boxes (*The Law*, May 2008), I can recall at least three which were within the borough area and agree with him that there were none, to my knowledge, in the rest of the county. Here I may be able to jog Fred's memory and remind him of the three boxes that I certainly recall.

No 1 Box was indeed of brick construction and situated at Victoria Circus. I believe it was No 2 Box, of wooden construction, which was at the bottom of Hamlet Court Road at the foot of the railway bridge and its junction with Station Road. At the junction with Kenilworth Gardens and Southbourne Grove was No 11 Box, also made of wood.

There were a few more dotted around the borough but I can't now recall their location. These boxes gave one a little warmth and comfort on a freezing cold winter's night duty while on the cycle beat. I believe they all had a heater – No 11 Box certainly had.

Unfortunately, they were demolished or

dismantled and replaced by the police pillars. I think the boxes were offered to officers to use as garden sheds.

**Reg Hooper
Thundersley**

● I WAS interested to read the letter in last month's issue concerning the Southend police box – Borough only had one brick police box.

In August 1955, I and four others went to Eynsham Hall in Oxfordshire for initial training.

Only one of us could drive – Jack Stone from Old Harlow. He hired an old 'sit up and beg' Ford to cut costs. He toured Essex, including my home at Rochford, to take us back to Eynsham.

Driving round the back of Southend Airport he lost it on a bend and ended up in a ditch, almost alongside a Southend police box.

He was uninjured and was helped back on to the road by a Southend officer who had been in the box at the time. We were late back to Eynsham – I went by train – and next morning we were reprimanded in front of the rest of the school by Commandant Mr J Nightingale.

**Tony Cooper
Braintree**

● Correspondence on this matter is now closed.

Down Memory Lane ...

ERIC Caley and Mr Tracey stepped forward to give Essex Police Museum curator Becky Latchford information about the Down Memory Lane photograph we published in last month's issue.

All Becky knew was that Essex County Constabulary officers from Colchester, including Chief Insp Salmon, were pictured with the First Aid and Borough Ambulance Cup in the 1950s.

Mr Caley and Mr Tracey believe the picture of officers with the First Aid Cup was taken in 1951.

In front, with the cup, were Chief Insp Alfred Charles Peagram and Chief Insp Harry William Salmon and in the back row, from left, were: Pc Ivan Stodel, Pc Peter Fitz-John, Pc Charles Francis 'Frank' Jennings, Pc Eric Theo Hitchcock, Pc Eric Percy Caley, Pc Leonard Charlie Bozeat and Sgt Gilbert Ernest 'Joe' Colton.

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

FLORIDA, luxury, four-bed villa, private heated pool near Disney and golf. Christmas still available. Free brochure. Contact Jill on 01702 586092 or visit www.my-florida-villa.net

LA Manga, Spain, 50% savings brochure high street prices, two-bedroom, two bathroom apartment, panoramic sea views. Excellent 2008 availability, well reported in 2007. Stansted. Ring Bernie on 07986 098422.

MARBELLA Costa del Sol. Penthouse, two bedroom, 2 bathroom apartment. Vast terrace, sea views, beach 500 metres, communal pools. Golf/town/shops walking distance. From £250 per week. Call 07958 209909.

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 families/couples. Ring Gwen on 01508 489754.

FRANCE, three nicely furnished Gites with modern comforts. Only an hour from Calais in rural country close to market towns of Arras and Amiens. Ring 01375 483045 or visit www.le-petit-hameau.com

ORLANDO, luxury villa, four bed-

rooms, three bathrooms, sleeps up to ten. Private, screened pool near Disney and other central Florida attractions. Contact Alison and Michael on 01245 266949 or 01376 573406.

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

TUSCANY, Italy. Beautifully located rustic and romantic medieval village house. Stunning views. Near Florence, Riviera and Pisa. Visit www.tuscanlife.co.uk or phone 07976 720022.

WELLS-next-the-Sea, Norfolk. Warm, stylish, traditional Victorian cottage. Period features, courtyard garden, parking. Close to quayside, shops and beach. Visit www.norfolkdreams.com or ring 07976 720022 for details.

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ROLLS Royce wedding car hire. Extra special service for your special day. Police discount available. Call Peter on 01787 477537 or visit our website info@rrweddings.co.uk

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

Homes for sale & rent

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

SPACIOUS three bedroom flat with allocated parking, 8 mins to Grays station near M25/A13/Lakeside. £850pcm negotiable (unfurnished/furnished), email paul.andrews@signflash.co.uk for details.

TWO bedroom flat, Catalin Court, Howard Close, Waltham Abbey. Immaculate, £725 pcm. Contact Gary 07930 442773.

WRABNESS, beautiful large period four bedroom house. Two conservatories, rural location with private mooring on river. Suitable for house share. Contact charles.cadwallader@xtra.co.nz

Chief receives top policing honour

CHIEF Constable Roger Baker's service to policing has been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

He was awarded the Queen's Police Medal (QPM) for distinguished service.

Mr Baker, who joined the force in July 2005, said he was delighted to receive the honour.

"I believe it shows recognition of the commitment Essex Police and Essex Police Authority have to the community we serve," he said.

"I am pleased to receive this award on behalf of the men and women who work tirelessly to make this county a safe place in which to live and work."

Mr Baker has been in the police service for almost 31 years, joining Derbyshire Constabulary on July 25, 1977.

Essex Police special constable **John Turnbull** was highly commended at the annual Special Constables and Police Support Volunteers Awards – formerly known as the Ferrers Awards – for his exceptional work to reduce the number of outstanding warrants in the Chelmsford area.

His proactive and self-initiated actions raised the profile of enforcement action and changed offenders' attitudes towards fines and punishments.

Chief Insp Ian Cummings, who supported Sc Turnbull's nomination said: "Sc Turnbull is a motivated officer with excellent communication skills and is, without doubt, an asset to our force."

"His actions to improve the execution of warrants are second to none with extremely positive results to demonstrate this."

Sc Turnbull said he was pleased to be highly commended and revealed that the work had resulted in arrests of suspects for a stabbing incident and to investigate two addresses suspected of being involved in drug dealing and another three housing suspected illegal immigrants.

The national awards have been presented annually since 1993 for outstanding achievement and commitment shown by members of the special constabulary.

Staff move

Following an interim restructure of Essex Police College – pending a full review of HR – Chief Insp **Alan Cook** has stepped up to combine his former role of head of staff development with that of the vacant post of deputy head



● Chief Constable Roger Baker QPM

of learning and development.

Assuming the new role of head of staff development and training, he will be responsible for operational training, including probationers and the college's Practical Skills Centre, which will also now include cadets.

Head of learning and development **Pankajni Trivedi** continues to manage leadership, strategy and management development for the force and will also assume the management of strategic direction for the Professional Development Units.

Both will now report directly to head of HR Michelle Wall.

Retirements

DI Roy Clark, 48, retires from the force at the end of this month after 30 years' service.

He served in Colchester, Chelmsford and Braintree divisions before spending time with the National Central Bureau of Interpol. On his return to force, he worked in Colchester CID and intelligence unit.

He is holding a farewell drink on Friday, July 18, at Colchester police station from 7pm for friends and colleagues past and present.

Pc **Andy Allington**, 48, also retires at the end of this month after 30 years.

He served at Ongar and Stanford Rivers in the old Harlow Division before moving north-east to Mistley.

Moving across to Colchester Division, he worked in the Northern Community Policing Team, at Copford, Colchester, West Bergholt, Great Bentley and Ardleigh.

He retires from Dunmow Road Policing Unit – formerly Bocking.

Pc **Gail Taplin**, 48, retires at the same time, again after 30 years' service.

She has served at Grays, Rayleigh, Basildon, Colchester, HQ, Braintree, Harlow and HQ Crime Division.

Another retiree is Pc **Neil O'Sullivan**, 49, who has spent his 30-year career in the south of the county.

Pc O'Sullivan has served at South Ockendon, Laindon, Tilbury and Brentwood Traffic, followed by stints at Laindon and Rayleigh road policing units.

Obituaries

Ex-sergeant **Keith Treasure**, of Leigh on Sea, has died, aged 64. He leaves a widow, Jennifer.

Mr Treasure served from 1968 to 1984 at Southend, the then Cadet School, at Maldon, Basildon and with Interpol in London.

Donations may be made to Fair Havens Hospice in his memory, c/o s Stibbards and Sons funeral directors, 1032 London Road, Leigh on Sea, Essex SS9 3ND.

And former constable **Kenneth Waters**, of Great Wakering, has died, aged 86. He leaves a widow Evelyn.

Mr Waters served from June 1949 – when he joined the Southend on Sea County Borough Constabulary – until June 1976.

Donations may be made to Fair Havens Hospice in his memory, c/o FP Guiver & Sons funeral directors, 641 Southchurch Road, Southend, Essex SS1 2PN.

Awards

Dc Christopher Green, of Stansted Airport, has passed an Open University exam in Islam in the West: The Politics of Co-existence.

Chris Webb, of Corporate Development, and **Michelle Miller**, of the Vetting Unit, have both been awarded Level 2 NVQs in team-leading.

Chartered Management Institute CMI Level 5 diplomas in management have been awarded to Sgt Wendy Welham, of Essex Police College, Sharon Burton, of Rayleigh Criminal Justice Unit, Rochford District Commander Chief Insp Andy Prophet, and Jay Smith, formerly the force's CSAS (Community Safety Accreditation Scheme) manager.

And CMI Level 3 certificates in management have been awarded to acting DI Joanne Williams, of Essex Police College, Sgt Richie Miller, of Central Division, DI Lynn Goodall, of South Western, and Sgt Mark McQuade, of South Eastern.

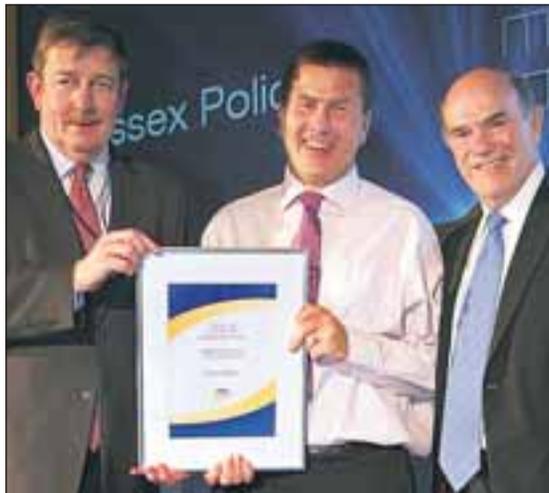
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Name and rank:

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Send to The Editor, The Law, Internal Communications, Essex Police HQ.
 ● Advertisers should be aware that The Law is now published on the internet and any telephone numbers given will be in the public domain. No internal or direct-dial work phone numbers should be given as contacts in the adverts.
 Only adverts from those directly connected to Essex Police (either serving or retired) will be accepted. Adverts should be restricted to a maximum of 24 words and repeat ads should be re-submitted on a monthly basis. The deadline is the 20th of each month. The Law team reserves the right to edit or omit any advert.



● Supt Ivor Harvey accepts the award from Police Mutual president Sir Ronnie Flanagan and chairman John Giffard

Mutually beneficial

THE force has won the Police Mutual Award for the highest increase in new members over the last 12 months in a force between 5,000 and 10,000 employees. Supt Ivor Harvey, of South Western Division, accepted the award on behalf of Essex Police at the society's annual conference.

Supt Harvey, the force's authorised officer for Police Mutual, said: "It's great to see more people taking up the benefits of membership with Police Mutual."

"It's the first time we have won this award and it's down to the outstanding work done at Essex Police College by encouraging new officers and police staff to have an awareness of their financial affairs."

"My thanks also go to the divisional authorised officers for their hard work and commitment."

An affinity friendly society, Police Mutual was set up by the police for the financial welfare of the police in 1922. It now has around 180,000 members nationwide and assets of £1 billion, providing savings, investments, pensions, a mortgage service, insurance products and financial education exclusively to the police family.

Players sought to continue success

ESSEX Police FC now have five sides operating and are on the look-out for new players to continue last season's success.

Despite exiting early from the PSUK competition, the senior side got to the final of the South Midlands Cup, losing 6-1 in the final to Hampshire.

The senior Saturday side enjoyed a very good season in Division 2 of the Mid-Essex League, with a respectable fourth-place finish.

The jewel in the crown was the lifting of the divisional league cup following a 2-0 victory over Harold Wood.

The first season of competitive football for the Braintree Sunday League team was a season of consolidation.

They had a good run in the Essex Junior Trophy and finished eighth in the league.

Meanwhile, the veterans had their most successful season to date, beating Avon and Somerset 3-1 in the PSUK Cup.

And, despite a season of ups and downs in Division 1 of the Greene King Veterans League, the side finished seventh overall.

● ESSEX Police FC are always on the lookout for new players so, if you fancy a new challenge and are looking to play your football either on Saturdays or Sundays, they want to hear from you.

And, if you are over 35, then the veterans could be the side for you.

● For more information, contact Gary Heard at the Practical Skills Centre via email or on 07947 370342 or ring the 'football mobile' on 07908 117474

CID Gents draw in first match

THE Gentlemen of Essex CID drew their match with Billericay Veterans – their first match since their Barbados tour.

The CID and guests batted first, having won the toss.

Pete French and Chris Trowell opened the innings. French was out lbw for 11.

Dave Griffiths joined Trowell, who fell for 26. Skipper Phil Mellon forged a partnership with Griffiths to put on 133 for the third wicket before Mellon was out for 63. Griffiths finished on 84 not out – giving a total of 194-3 declared.

Billericay opens Wiseall and Carr put on 63 before Griffiths' bowling had Wiseall stumped by Ronnie Hanley. With Southend Utd manager Steve Tilson bowling an excellent spell of 22-1, Billericay were behind the required run rate and settled for the draw, although they only received three overs fewer than the CID.

Peter Orpe recorded figures of 2-49 from nine overs. A good natured, friendly game with a fair result.



● Chief Supt Graeme Bull, of Central Division, receives the Croker Cup for 2007/08 from EPSA chairman ACC Derek Benson

Pictures by Christian Robinson

Celebrating sports achievers

CENTRAL Division have picked up last season's Croker Cup. Divisional commander Chief Supt Graeme Bull was presented with the cup by Essex Police Sports Association chairman ACC Derek Benson.

Mr Benson also presented the runners-up trophy to Supt Gwynn Williams, of South Eastern.

The final placings for the 2007/08 season were: 1 Central 109 points; 2 South Eastern 73; 3 Eastern 68; 4 HQ 55; 5 Western 52; 6 South Western 44.

● TWO sportsmen have been honoured at the EPSA annual meeting.

ACC Derek Benson handed over an award to Sportsman of the Year Andy Hynes, of Moul-



● Alan Diver

sham, and one for Outstanding Service to the EPSA to former constable Alan Diver, of Braintree.

● AFTER three events in the new Croker Cup season, HQ are heading the table with 27 points – having won the triathlon and beach angling competitions and come second in the athletics.



● Andy Hynes

Triathlon: 1 HQ; 2 South Eastern; 3 Western; 4 South Western; 5 Central. Beach Angling: 1 HQ; 2 South Eastern; 3 Central. Athletics: see report below.

After three events: 1 HQ 27; 2 South Eastern 24; 3 Western 10; 4 Central 9; 5 Eastern 3; 6 South Western 3.

Fun and games at force athletics championships

FORCE athletes gave impressive performances at this year's Croker Cup athletics and tug-of-war championship.

Turnout was similar to last year for the athletics competition, at Colchester Garrison's athletics stadium.

The emphasis on the fun element of the day was evident in heat one of the men's 100m into which South Eastern put some thought by running in fancy dress – Jackass's 'Party Boy', Spiderman, Wonderwoman, Rambo and 118 men were a sight to behold. In the final, South Eastern's Paul Sheldrake won in 12.44secs.

First place in the veteran's men's race was won by HQ's Mark Jones. Mick Bacon came first in the super vets race.

South Eastern's Kerry Freeman overhauled team-mate Stacy Cocks to claim first place in the women's 100m.

HQ's Will Cubbin proved too much for his competition in the men's 400m, finishing in 64.78secs. All-rounder Julie Bolingbroke, of Eastern, was first in the women's event, in a time of 79.06 secs.

Regular Essex representative Daniel Sorrell was in good form as he came first in the men's 800m, 1500m and 3000m steeplechase.

Rachel O'Connor, of HQ, did the double, winning the 1500m and 800m. Guest and international athlete Dominic King led the way in the men's 3000m walk, and his father, Eastern's Steve King, followed suit to claim first place in 18mins 05.3secs.

Central triathlete Andy Jopson won the men's 5000m in 17mins 42.46secs. Central's Mick Bond won the super-vets category in 18mins 13mins.

The field events also saw some impressive performances. Guest fireman Rob Earle, from Colchester, who threw 12.19m in the men's shot. First place went to South Eastern's Jay Barnes.

Club thrower and official Shirley Quinn, of HQ, led the way in the women's event with 7.28m. Barnes also won the discus ahead of past-Essex representative and national medallist

then topped the day off by beating ex-British Police captain Ian Quinton 10-4.

His results ranked him sixth and he was chosen to play for the British Police against the RAF the following day, with the format the best of three sets.

Dan started slowly against the RAF's fifth seed, losing the first set 6-0. But he won the next set 6-1 and the final set in a 10-6 tie-break, helping the police to a convincing win.

He has been selected for the British Police team to play against the Army at the end of this month.

He hopes to be going to the La Manga

PITSEA'S Dan Thrall had great success at the British Police tennis trials in La Manga. He was one of the top 16 players invited to the training camp to determine the best players – most matches for the British Police involve a team of six. Divided into four groups of four, the players each played three singles games, with the first to ten games. Dan started slowly on the clay surface, losing 10-5 to fourth seed Michael Wood from the Metropolitan Police. He reversed that scoreline when beating Lincolnshire's Michael Burnett and

then topped the day off by beating ex-British Police captain Ian Quinton 10-4.

His results ranked him sixth and he was chosen to play for the British Police against the RAF the following day, with the format the best of three sets.

Dan started slowly against the RAF's fifth seed, losing the first set 6-0. But he won the next set 6-1 and the final set in a 10-6 tie-break, helping the police to a convincing win.

He has been selected for the British Police team to play against the Army at the end of this month.

He hopes to be going to the La Manga

trials for the next couple of years and his next goal is to break into the top four "as every four years the top four are involved in a European Championships against other EU countries' police forces".

● AT the regional tennis championships in Earls Colne, Dan Thrall, of Pitsea, and Tony Sharman, of Harwich, made it through to the nationals in the men's doubles, just pipping their Norfolk opponents 7-6, 5-7, 7-6 in a nail-biter.

Other Essex colleagues through to the nationals are Alison Oddy, of Stansted Airport, Jeanette Poston, of HQ Welfare, and Frances Harrison, retired.

Dan sets his sights on tennis top four

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He hopes to be going to the La Manga

PCSO wins Ford Fiesta in force lottery

THE top prize in the force lottery's June draw was an £8,800 Ford Fiesta won by PCSO Glenn Braden, of Great Dunmow. He was told the good news by DCC Andy Bliss, who conducted the draw. The £3,000 prize went to Pc Bradley Taylor, of South Ockendon, the £1,000 to Pc Georgette Beckett, of Harlow, and the £500 to Albert Horne, retired.

Winners of the £100 prizes were: Dc David Nash, of the Hi-Tech Crime Unit; Cathryn Mansfield, of Financial Services; Denise Clarke, of Harlow;

Pc Joanne Lindfield, of Chelmsford; Sgt Andrew Robson, of Rochford; Michele Barber, of Southend; Dc Simon Loft, of Harlow; Pc Philip Robinson, of Stanway Dog Section; Nigel Hirst, retired; Luna Rahman, of the Crime Bureau; Ronald Norris, of Grays; and Anthony Ware, of Transport Services. Winners of the £50 prizes were: Norma Blamey, of Property Services; Pc Sharon Lawrence, of Hadleigh; of Pc Adam Barry, of Clacton;

Pc James Stewart, of Colchester; Pc Paul Radley, of Pitsea; Sgt Richard Raven, of Basildon; Lesley Coltham, of Communications Division; Pc Kevin Hemsworth, of Southend; Dc Norman Stone, of Crime Division; Paula Furneaux, of Corporate Development; Sgt Mark Estall, of the Force Support Unit; Dc Paul O'Callaghan, of Corringham/Tilbury; Sgt David Martin, of the Mounted Unit; Insp Stephen Kilcoyne, of the Collaboration Unit; Keith Boutell, of IT; and Terence Clark, retired.

Charlie's rugby representation

REPRESENTING the PSUK women's rugby section, Charlie Cronin, of Basildon, played a match against a Scotland team comprising development squad and national players.

Scotland won 22-5. Charlie, who has played rugby since she was 11 and now plays for Thurrock, plays open-side flanker and sometimes scrum-half.



● Christian Robinson ext 58883

KERRIE Barkway has now left the Essex Police Sports Association and we wish her well with her new ventures.

Jo Baker has stepped into Kerrie's role and is now the person to contact for all ticket ordering. I will still be responsible for any enquiries about the multitude of member benefits available to our members.

So, before you book a holiday, purchase a car or buy insurance please give me a call or send an email.

John Mackenzie is responsible for all our finances and he also looks after the membership database and the force lottery, so call John if you have any plans to join the lottery or to increase your ticket allocation.

We have recently renegotiated the Warner's holiday deal and our members can get up to 25 per cent discount on these holidays and we now can get 50 to 70 per cent on last-minute breaks booked a week prior to your break.

● Please contact me on ext 58883 if you want more information

Looking at the bigger picture in drug cases

ESSEX is taking a lead in ensuring that police forces involved in drugs operations and investigations at all levels are thinking of the wider picture.

DCC Andy Bliss is the co-chair of the UK Drugs Nexus Group, set up a year ago with the aim of providing a forum and structure for all UK police forces and their partner agencies – such as the UK Border Agency (UKBA) and the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) – engaged in drug enforcement to share knowledge, best practice and problems, thus providing a more effective operational response.

Mr Bliss said: “The UK Drugs Nexus Group will support improved partnership and collaborative working between law enforcement agencies. “The aim is that there will be less duplication of effort and less chance of adverse publicity concerning ‘piece-meal’, ineffective, short-term and unco-ordinated law enforcement activity in this area of our work.”

The group’s work has already had some success in forces outside Essex where increased resources have been directed at heroin packages being sent through the post from countries such as Afghanistan and Pakistan.

“A recent joint operation between SOCA, the UKBA and some forces – the first of its kind – saw an increase in the number of seizures of such packages destined for the streets of the UK.”

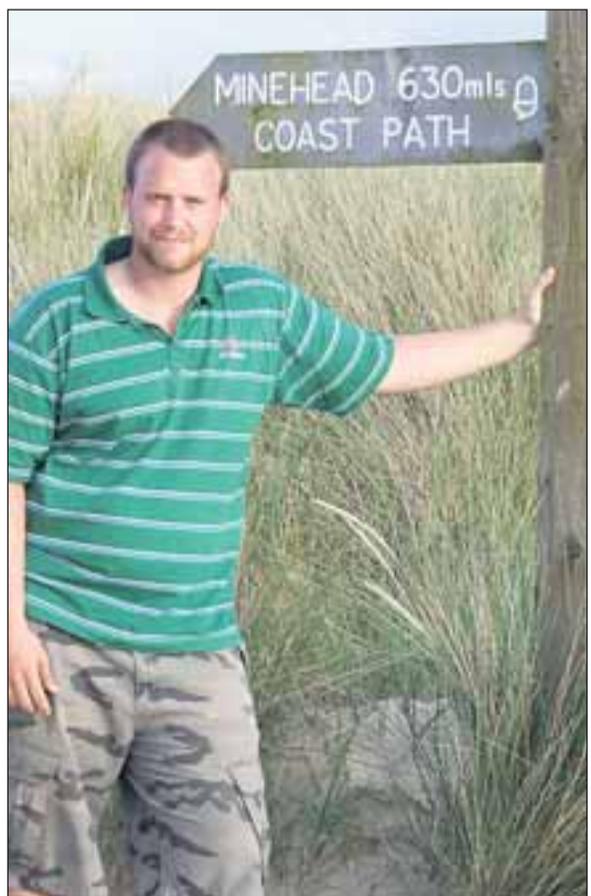
The Drugs Nexus Group also looks at the extent of cannabis cultivation across the UK, gaining intelligence to establish a national forensic drugs collection plan, and working with the UKBA and Home Office to prevent drug supplying criminals entering the UK.

Insp Trevor Williamson, who co-ordinates the group’s work, said: “We are fortunate Essex is a relatively safe county and we do not have a big drugs problem compared to some inner city areas.

“However, we, like other forces, regularly find people involved in commercial cannabis cultivation and we need to ensure that we work closely with SOCA so that they can target the top level of the criminal chain and ensure these people are taken out.

“We are also looking at the impact countrywide on the harm caused to communities by criminals involved in the drug trade and creating a unified intelligence picture of the UK drugs market.

● Insp Williamson wants to hear from officers working on drugs issues they feel would benefit from SOCA support. He is also happy to hear ideas on how to “better tackle criminals making vast amounts of money out of other people’s misery”. ● Contact him by email or on ext 51044



● Dc Darren Ward, of Basildon, at the end of the epic walk for Pc Arron Williams

Colleagues complete team walk challenge

MORE than 50 Essex police officers who tackled one of the Britain’s toughest long-distance walks to raise money for an injured colleague have been praised for their “remarkable achievement”.

Insp David Miller organised the relay walk along the 630-mile South West Coastal Path. He said everyone found the trek far more arduous than expected. Each of the South Western Division teams walked about 100 miles a week – taking annual leave – along paths rising and falling over spectacular cliffs and hills from Somerset around Devon and Cornwall, finishing in Dorset. They hope to have raised around £10,000 to help Pitsea-based Pc Arron Williams, 25 – paralysed after a rugby accident last September – and Stoke Mandeville Hospital where he received treatment.

Insp Miller said: “It was a big challenge because the path goes up and down extremely steep inclines. “Many of the walkers suffered

severe blisters and crocked knees and ankles but they kept going and the relay walk from Minehead to Poole was completed. “Arron is overwhelmed with the support he has had and the effort that has been put in on his behalf. All the teams were phoning him to keep him up to date with their progress. “The walkers were also touched by the support from members of the public who stopped to give officers cash along the route. “Total strangers came up to all the teams and have given money. One person handed over a £50 note. More than £150 was handed in to the front counter of Basildon police station as a result of local publicity during the course of the walk.”

The money raised will be presented to Arron by ACC Derek Benson at HQ in September.

● There is still time to send cheques, made payable to the Basildon Police Sports and Social Fund, to Insp David Miller at Basildon police station, Great Oaks, Basildon, SS14 1EJ

Seven years for police assaults

A MAN has been jailed for seven years for assaulting a police officer and a police dog – among other offences.

Tommy Munro appeared at Basildon Crown Court last month after pleading guilty there in March to committing numerous offences, including robbery, assault with intent to resist arrest, causing cruelty to police dog Brennan, car crime, firearms offences and burglary.

The 20-year-old, of no fixed address, was arrested on New Year’s Eve 2007 following an armed police operation at a house in Stanford-le-Hope. Officers recovered an array of illegal weapons, including a crossbows, swords and imitation firearms.

Investigating officer DI Stuart Hooper said after the case: “Tommy Munro’s long period in prison will come as a relief to a lot of people.

“He is a dangerous criminal who had no qualms about using violence to offend, especially with the aid of assault weapons.

“He had caused many people to live in fear, but they can rest assured that, through a joint operation between road policing officers, firearms officers and my detectives, he will be behind bars for many years.”

Munro was arrested in September 2006 following a burglary at a leisure centre in Grays in which a staff member was threatened with a handgun.

Last October, he was arrested after running off from a road crash and then assaulting two police officers and police dog Brennan.

Two months later, he committed an armed robbery at a Co-Op store in Grays in which he threatened a staff member with a handgun. He sped off in his getaway car, but crashed and threatened passers-by with a handgun to aid his escape.

● POLICE dog Brennan received a Chief Constable’s Commendation earlier this year, for a different incident.

He and his handler Pc Mick Finch had been called to an incident in Basildon where five occupants had fled from a stolen car in the early hours of June 15, 2007.

One of the men grabbed Brennan by the ears but the dog hung on until back-up arrived.

As a result of Brennan’s actions two men were arrested and convicted of taking a vehicle without consent.

A web ‘first’

FOR the first time, the stories and achievements from the force’s annual report have been brought to life on the internet in the form of a dynamic webcast.

The webcast was designed, edited and produced completely in-house by Essex Police’s TV and New Media Unit.

It is believed to be the first time a police annual report has been interpreted in this style.

Road policing officers develop their PIP skills

THE first road-policing officers to complete their registration as PIP investigators have received their certificates from divisional commander Chief Supt Mick Thwaites.

PIP is the national Professionalising Investigation Programme which seeks to achieve professionalism in investigation at all levels.

Chief Supt Thwaites, of Mobile Support Division, said: “The officers deserve much credit for achieving the PIP qualification and it reflects well on them professionally as individuals and on the division.

“I hope this exceptional achievement encourages others to complete the programme and further evidence the high degree of skill and dedication

shown by officers on this division.” The officers completed a Professional Development Portfolio (PDP) through work-based assessment.

The PDPs used by the road-policing officers were based on those used for registration of detectives and front-line uniformed colleagues but tailored to meet the investigative competencies required of officers investigating road crashes.

Pc Andy Donaghy and Pc Rob Barlow, of Chigwell Road Policing Unit (RPU) will be registered as RPU PIP Level 1 investigators, while Sgt Kevin May, also of Chigwell RPU, will be registered as a RPU PIP Level 2 investigation manager.

And Sgt Dave Jones, of the Road Crash Investigation Team completed the Road Death Investigation Manager PDP after attending the Dream Policing Road Death Investigation course.

PIP project manager Insp Graham Perks said: “PIP ensures that we are confident in the investigative abilities of our staff as they only receive registration status following a period of workplace assessment where they have to provide evidence of their investigative competence.

“These RPU officers are taking a lead in ensuring that those people involved in road policing investigations receive an even more professional service from our staff.”

The PIP registration process will be rolled out to the remainder of the force alongside the implementation of a new electronic PDR system.

Officers and police staff in investigative roles will be able to provide evidence of their investigative skills within the new PDR.

This evidence will be assessed by their line supervisor.

Judge orders anonymity to be lifted

SENTENCING two youths for their part in the death of a Colchester woman, a High Court judge ordered their names and photographs were made public at the end of their trial.

Alex Young, 17, was found guilty of murdering 24-year-old Helen Maughan while Lewis Hayward, 14, guilty of her manslaughter.

Lord Justice Bean made the unusual ruling at Chelmsford Crown Court, lifting the defendants’ anonymity saying that the media could report the boys’ names.

And he made a court order



● Alex Young



● Lewis Hayward

that the force should make their pictures available.

Last month, Lord Justice Bean sentenced Young to 15 years in youth custody and Hayward to four years.

The judge said Young was a

very dangerous young man and would not be released until a parole board considered he no longer posed a serious risk to the public.

He said Young had dominated the then 13-year-old

Hayward for some time. “You pose a significant risk to the public of serious harm by the commission of further offences. Therefore there will be an extended licence of two years,” he told the younger teenager.

Miss Maughan’s body was found in the River Colne in Colchester on May 20, 2007.

A murder investigation by Stanway Major Investigation Team was conducted and, following an appeal on BBC Crimewatch and the local release of CCTV images, the two boys were identified, arrested and charged.