

# The Law



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CiB Anglia Communic8 2008 awards – best small internal publication

September 2008

## Driving down crime and increasing sanctioned detections **OP COUGAR LEAPS ON PROLIFIC CRIMINALS**

by Heather Turner

**A THREE-month campaign to drive down crime across Essex was launched at the start of this month.**

**Operation Cougar also aims to improve the force's sanctioned detection rate – which, at the end of July, stood at 34.87 per cent.**

Launched on September 1, the operation runs for three months and is focusing on:

- Targeting known offenders, especially prolific and priority offenders (PPOs)
- Targeting crime hot-spots
- Reacting to crime trends 'on the day'
- Problem-solving
- High-visibility policing
- Making a search team available every day for the three months to carry out Section 18 searches after an arrest
- Educating police officers about National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS) and National Standards of Incident Recording (NSIR)
- Reminding officers and police staff about the use of TICs in applicable circumstances
- Sharing best practice across divisions

Three hand-picked teams have been formed – one comprising public order-trained officers who are being specifically tasked with actioning 'arrest packages', dealing with emerging crime trends and conducting high-visibility patrols at crime hot-spots.

The second team, in the Crime Bureau, is re-investigating previous unsolved crimes in a bid to identify potential new lines of enquiry and will also give advice on crime and incident recording standards. Crime Bureau staff are also reviewing officer caseloads.

And the third team consists of a number of search-trained officers who will be available to conduct any Section 18 searches relating to suspects held in custody.

Meanwhile, territorial divisions are being requested to supply details of outstanding suspects to the Operation Cougar 'desk', which will be staffed by two detectives from HQ Crime Division. They will assess the 'packages' and pass them on to the operational team for action.

Heading up the operation is ACC Peter Lowton. He believes Operation Cougar is an excellent opportunity for Essex Police to reinforce its commitment – of continuing to reduce incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour – to residents by directly targeting the small number of people who commit the majority of crimes in the

county. "This work is additional to the excellent day-to-day business already being carried out by our police officers and staff on division," said Mr Lowton.

"However, Operation Cougar will increase our ability to reduce crime as it occurs and to target those criminals who think they are beyond our reach.

"All police officers and PCSOs can play their part by ensuring they submit intelligence on criminal activity and crime hotspots via CID61s as soon as the information comes to their attention.

"And members of police staff should inform their local neighbourhood policing teams if they have relevant information.

"This will ensure that officers will have the most up-to-date information when targeting known criminals, thus increasing our chances of success."

Mr Lowton added: "A key part of Operation Cougar is giving police officers help and guidance to record crime incidents correctly.

"We don't want to over-record crime and neither do we want to under-record it – we want to get it right.

"For example, if you have a Section 5 Public Order offence then you must put the appropriate wording for that offence on the crime complaint.

"Inappropriate wording will lose us a hard-earned detection.

"A crime must be recorded as a crime and all officers must continue to record crime correctly, in accordance with national guidelines."

● ACC Peter Lowton was appointed to head up Territorial Policing last month following ACC Carmel Napier's departure for Gwent Police on promotion.

He says he has already been impressed by the hard work carried out by police officers and staff on the territorial divisions and is looking to build on this.

"I know our neighbourhood officers, PCSOs and police staff have a difficult job to do but they always rise to the challenge and I am proud to be given this opportunity to work with them," said Mr Lowton, who joined the force in 2006.

"We are a team and I look forward to working with everybody to help attain this year's force objectives and to help Essex become the safest county in England and Wales in which to live and work.

"With the hard work, commitment and dedication I have already seen, I am sure that, together, we achieve this."

- For more information about Operation Cougar, visit the Mobile Support Division intranet site and click on Operation Cougar on the left-hand menu
- See Page 10 for news of the changes to the force command team



● ACC Peter Lowton, now in charge of Territorial Policing, on the streets of Chelmsford

Picture by Heather Turner

## Operation Cougar - five operational strands

### Audit and control

Encouraging 'good housekeeping', and providing expert guidance and advice to help reduce crime and increase sanctioned detections

### Operational phase

Multi-skilled operational team has been set up to provide flexibility and the ability to target emerging crime trends as they happen

### Internal marketing campaign

Ensuring that all officers, PCSOs, members of police staff and Essex Police Special Constabulary are aware of the aims of Operation Cougar and how they can help.

### Innovation and operational enhancement

If you have a suggestion that can assist the Operation Cougar team, email them at [operationcougar@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:operationcougar@essex.pnn.police.uk)

### Monitoring and evaluation

Evaluating the success of the operation, establishing what works well and what tactics can be implemented for the long-term.

# Working together results in a drop in road injuries

by Nishan Wijeratne

**A DRAMATIC reduction in people killed and seriously injured on our roads since 1997 is attributed to road safety campaigns, cameras and community initiatives.**

In 1997, 1,452 people were killed or seriously injured in road crashes in Essex. Ten years later, that figure had dropped by 387 – a fall of nearly 30 per cent.

And the Essex Casualty Reduction Board – a partnership comprising Essex Police, Essex County Council, Essex County Fire & Rescue Service, East of England Ambulance Service and the Highways Agency – is determined to continue its work to make the county's roads the safest in England and Wales.

In July, its work was highly commended at the National Transport Awards.

Our road policing officers have been at the heart of a concerted bid to educate motorists and take dangerous drivers off the roads.

Under Operation Calypso – re-launched at the start of this year – road policing officers have seized 165 vehicles for being illegally driven and issued more than 4,000 fixed penalty notices for a variety of offences, including no seatbelt and using a mobile phone.

Insp Richard Phillibrown, of Mobile Support Division, believes people need to understand what road policing officers do.

“Officers are trained to deliver bad news to

people who have lost loved-ones in collisions,” said Insp Phillibrown. “It’s a traumatic experience for them each time they have to knock on that front door.

“Road policing officers know they can make a difference. They share the belief that road safety is a multi-agency responsibility and one in which communities and motorists also have a role to play.”

The introduction of Speed Indication Devices (SIDs) and residents’ Community Speedwatch campaigns has helped people appreciate the need to reduce their speed.

Insp Phillibrown added: “Neighbourhood policing officers are always being asked to do something about speeding at their neighbourhood action panels. The response has been to give residents a role in educating drivers about reckless speeding.”

The force has run dedicated 12-hour road policing operations in and around major towns across the county.

A ‘ring-of-steel’ operation in Loughton last month saw 189 fixed penalty notices issued, 11 vehicles seized and six people arrested for non-motoring offences.

And motorists in Essex are learning that it pays not to speed after only 24,000 £60 endorsable fixed penalty notices were issued during the last 18 months, compared to the 75,000 handed out during 2004/05.



● Picture the scene ... FIR area supervisor George Campbell took this picture of a beautiful dawn sky over the Force Information Room at HQ on his mobile phone at 5.45am on Saturday, August 16

## Swooping on dangerous drivers

THE force helicopter will be used to help crack down on dangerous driving in the county.

A trial run by the Essex Casualty Reduction Board (ECRB) will see the helicopter flying over designated areas when returning to its Boreham base after an operation, to monitor drivers’ speed.

The initiative is particularly aimed at reducing the numbers of motorcyclists killed or seriously injured in the county.

Signs have been put up to warn motorists of the possibility offences will be detected from the air.

They warn of the possible detection by the helicopter, which is equipped with an automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) device, which can read a vehicle index from 700ft, radar speed detection, global positioning scheme (GPS) mapping and thermal imaging.

The initiative is being piloted in three areas: the B184 Ongar to Dunmow road; the B1012 Lower Burnham Road; and the B1057 Dunmow to Finchingfield road.

Senior traffic management officer Adam Pipe said the helicopter would be used to “enforce road traffic legislation on specific key casualty routes in Essex used by motorcyclists”.

He said the move should help to address and improve driver and rider behaviour to help reduce further the number of people killed or seriously injured on Essex roads.

“Use of the force helicopter will enable officers to obtain video evidence of offences, including excess speed, and support specific road safety operations by providing information and intelligence to officers on the ground in addition to the helicopter’s ability to disrupt and detect travelling criminals.”

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## 20 things you didn't know

LAST month, *The Law* celebrated Crimestoppers’ 20th anniversary and the charity’s one millionth actionable call.

Since Crimestoppers was set up in 1988, more than 85,000 arrests and charges have been made across the country thanks to calls in.

This month we bring you a list of 20 things you should know about the Crimestoppers charity as it celebrates 20 years helping the police to catch criminals.

- 86,310 arrests and charges have been made
- More than one million actionable calls have been received
- £102million of goods have been recovered
- £151million of drugs have been seized
- Around 17 people are arrested every day as a result of information given to Crimestoppers
- One person every five days is charged with murder as a result of information given to Crimestoppers
- In 1988, Crimestoppers received just under 5,000 calls with useful information – last year, just over 81,500 such calls were received
- Since 1988, 790 people have been charged with murder or attempted murder with the help of Crimestoppers information
- The Most Wanted website, established two years ago, has already resulted in almost 400 criminals being arrested
- Twelve fugitives believed to be on the run in Spain have been arrested as a result of Operation Captura, which encourages anyone who recognises the wanted criminals on its website to call Crimestoppers from Spain

- Working in partnership with Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) – with appeals for missing convicted sex offenders on Most Wanted – nine arrests have been made since November 2006
- The ‘new look’ Crimestoppers website was launched in January 2008 – and attracted almost one million hits on the first day
- There is a 24/7 Bureau in Godstone, Surrey, ensuring calls can be answered around the clock, every day
- Crimestoppers created ShadowCS – a successful online method of connecting with young people and how crime affects them
- Crimestoppers is expanding partnerships with UK police forces and other law enforcement agencies, both at home and abroad
- Operation Pentameter 1 and 2 – targeting crimes within the sex trafficking industry – 232 people have been arrested with the help of Crimestoppers
- A network of 39 Crimestoppers’ regional boards across the UK, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man is made up of volunteers successfully raising money and mounting campaigns
- Crimestoppers has more than 400 people volunteering their spare time to help fight crime in the UK
- There has been a 440 per cent increase in actionable calls from Southwark since Crimestoppers launched an anti-gun and knife project in the borough.
- Crimestoppers has established the Integrity Line for private companies to pass on information about crime and wrong-doing in their industries.

## OPERATION APEX

Ambition for policing in Essex

### Waiting for go-ahead to recruit 110 extra officers

MORE than 100 extra police officers could be pounding the streets of Essex over the next six months, if Essex Police Authority gives the green light to ambitious plans.

The police authority agreed in June to give the go-ahead to the development of a business case to bring an additional 600 police officers to Essex over a three to five-year action plan – Operation APEX or Ambition for policing in Essex.

The business case was due to be presented by Chief Constable Roger Baker to the police authority meeting on September 8.

The plans include a recommendation to recruit the first 110 of these new police officers.

The force says increasing police officer numbers will help to increase public trust and confidence.

As part of our aim to become the safest county in England and Wales, we want to reduce the amount of recorded crime to fewer than 100,000 incidents a year in the short term and also have the lowest number of anti-social behaviour incidents in England and Wales.

And the force is also striving to achieve the best sanctioned detection rate in England and Wales and the best Protective Services of any non-metropolitan force.

Along the way, we want to improve our quality of service and customer satisfaction levels and achieve the best public satisfaction rating.

If Essex Police Authority members support the plans on September 8, then the force will begin a phased recruitment process, starting next month.

We aim to recruit the first 110 police officers by the end of the financial year next March.

### Remembering our fallen comrades

THE fifth National Police Memorial Day this month honours police officers who have given their lives in the line of duty.

National Police Memorial Day is designed to remember every officer killed on duty since modern policing began more than 175 years ago and recognise the courage and dedication shown by all officers across the UK every day.

A service will be held at Liverpool Cathedral at 3pm on Sunday, September 28.

● To register for tickets to the service, email [nationalpolicememorialday@polfed.org](mailto:nationalpolicememorialday@polfed.org) or leave a name and contact number on the National Police Memorial Day answer phone on 07843 293958



● Left, PCSO Kevin Sanderson, Sgt James Paget, Insp Simon Werrett, Pc Alan Shelley, PCSO Hayley Toye and, in front, PCSO Angela Dalpatdu, Pc Jenny Paget and PCSO Louise Coveney with Surinder Singh Purewal, secretary of the Sikh Missionary Society, and executive committee members Bahadur Singh and Chancel Singh, and youngsters who attended the annual children's summer camp at Guru Gobind Singh Khalsa College, Chigwell, last month.

● Above, Insp Simon Werrett, of Loughton, with Amardeep Singh Sidhu from *Signature*, who featured on *Britain's Got Talent* earlier this year. During the week, local police officers and PCSOs talked to youngsters about their concerns and about policing issues.

## Division's disabled work scheme is set to expand

**OPPORTUNITIES for people with disabilities to work for Essex Police are planned to increase following the success of a volunteer scheme run by Communications Division.**

The force works with organisations including Disability Essex, Rempoy and Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI) to offer people with disabilities the opportunity to get back in to work.

Before the scheme started about two and a half years ago, advertisements for communications officers were only attracting 0.7 per cent of applications from people with some kind of disability.

But the force has now been training

by Donna Veasey

volunteers on a part-time basis, which gives them the opportunity to get work-based training and gain recognised skills.

Jim Gibson, development and training officer for Communications Division, said: "We recently had four volunteers who received training and three then went into full-time employment with us in areas including the Force Information Room and Crime Bureau.

"We are now looking to branch out into offering opportunities in administrative support roles."

Communications Division advertises volunteer vacancies via the various organisations, including Disability Essex, whose chief executive Richard Boyd recently wrote to *The Times* news-

paper in response to a reader's letter praising Essex's scheme.

He said: "Who will give the disabled a job? Well, try Essex Police. A uniformed organisation, based on mainly fit, young adults, appears to be the example of a poor example.

"Yet the truth is that they employ more disabled people than probably any other employer in the county.

"They have a partnership with a disability organisation to identify and encourage routes to work through volunteering and mentoring. An ethos of finding out what you can do, rather than what you cannot."

● Anyone wanting more information about the scheme can contact Jim Gibson on extension 50756

● Turn to Page 4 for news about the Disability Network

### Update aids our tracking of prisoners

OFFENDERS in prison can be tracked thanks to an intelligence system update.

The Prisoner Identification Notification System (PINS) can locate and track offenders through the prison system and is designed to increase efficiency for officers.

It's a simple, user-friendly database which can transform a job which used to take days into a few minutes.

Force Intelligence Bureau (FIB) manager DI Paul Johnson said: "PINS has been updated and this has given us opportunities we haven't had before. As the system develops further, I think it will prove a very useful tool for us."

Warrants are downloaded on to the system daily, thereby giving the warrants department the heads-up as to who in prison has an Essex warrant outstanding against them – the matter can then be dealt with easily while they are inside or on their release.

PINS contains a variety of information that will not only assist in the identification of the person in custody but also other information about their stay.

The information on PINS provides probation details, next of kin, release dates and addresses and warning markers.

Intelligence can also be gathered as users can see data on every prisoner in the country, including which cell they are in. If a neighbourhood is experiencing a rise in a certain problem then a quick check can reveal who has been recently released from prison into that area.

● Access PINS through every divisional intelligence unit, the FIB and the Intelligence Support Bureau – at any time of day or night

## Nexus members take a pride in the force and spread the word

FOLLOWING successful participation at Pride 2008 in Brighton last month, members of Nexus and other areas of the force were looking forward to Chelmsford Pride this month.

Staff, including Nexus co-ordinator Jo Littlewood-Kennedy and deputy chair Gary Kell, took a mobile police station down to Brighton and shared a pitch with Essex County Fire and Rescue Service.

They were there to promote Essex Police and encourage recruitment.

Their second aim was to ensure that lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgendered (LGBT) people who may have been the victims of homophobic or transphobic hate crime know where and how to report incidents.

Jo said: "We want to make sure that people know that Essex Police is gay and trans-friendly and that we have



domestic abuse and race hate crime units who have the knowledge and expertise to help them."

"We go to Brighton because there are people who may not be comfortable in reporting crime and talking to us in Essex but feel that they can do so there.

"Like neighbourhood policing teams, we have knowledge of our community partners and we can put them in touch with people who can provide support and work with us to help."

Chelmsford Pride, which celebrates

diversity in Essex, has been running for a number of years but this year the organisers have got together with the police, fire service and local council to make it a bigger event.

The event was due to be held on Sunday, September 7, in Moulsham Street, with stalls in nearby Grove Road. Profits raised will be going to two local charities – Action for Men and Farleigh Hospice.

Jo said that the benefits of Nexus' diversity work was not always understood but did have a big impact. She added: "We are pleased to support an important community celebration which also helps to raise awareness of hate crime and provides an opportunity for us to recruit staff to ensure our workforce is representative of the communities we police."



## Federation news by Roy Scanes



### Have your say

I AM pleased to inform you that Essex Police Federation will be holding an open meeting on Thursday, October 30.

This is the first real open meeting we have had for many years and the success of the event depends solely upon you, our members.

Chief Constable Roger Baker has accepted our invitation to attend and I am hopeful that his chief officer team and members of Essex Police Authority, all of whom have been invited, will also be in attendance.

The general secretary of the Police Federation of England and Wales, Ian Rennie, has also accepted our invitation and will be able to update or address us about any national issues.

The meeting is at 7.30pm at Stansted Airport's Hilton hotel. Coaches will provide transport to and from the meeting, with various collection points around the county of which you will be notified nearer the time.

After the meeting there will be a complimentary buffet and refreshments.

The rest is up to you. I will gauge the success of the meeting on how many members are interested enough to attend, either to 'have a say' or to be updated from the 'horse's mouth'.

### Pay dispute prompts reminder of your rights

For the third year running, our pay negotiations are again heading to arbitration.

The government had pursued a multi-year pay deal but the Federation could not agree, due to the current volatile economic climate and because there was no scope in the proposals to allow renegotiation.

As part of our campaign this year, we will be reminding officers of their rights under Police Regulations and Determinations.

We are concerned that some of these rights are not well known by all members. You should be aware of your rights, to ensure that you secure your full entitlements as well as being aware of the obligations of your chief officer and police authority, under those regulations and determinations.

I can assure you that, with your support, the Police Federation will do everything possible to ensure that you are fairly rewarded for the difficult and often dangerous job you carry out on behalf of the public.

The fight for fair pay continues.

### Date of commutation changes challenged

At our annual conference, Home Secretary Jacqui Smith announced that the lump sum payable to officers who retire under the 'old' 30-year pension scheme will increase as commutation figures are now being applied equally to men and women.

I have since have been inundated with enquiries from retired officers who retired before the implementation date of October 1, 2007.

I requested legal opinion on the government's choice of this date. The Police Federation has now lodged an application for a judicial review into the decision to choose October 1, 2007, as the time to start back-dating these improvements.

General secretary Ian Rennie has warned it is unlikely a date earlier than December 1, 2006, could be considered as this was when the new factors for commutation were first proposed by the government's Actuary Department.

I will keep you informed of progress.

### The Metropolitan Police Federation joins us in supporting Roger Baker's vision

The Metropolitan Police Federation has no doubt that our Chief Constable, Roger Baker, will be the toast of the public – though not necessarily of some politicians – with his call for more sworn police officers to be available for front-line duties.

Mr Baker, who was described in one newspaper as having "a reputation for defying Government diktats", told the media that he intended to recruit hundreds of fully-warranted officers for front-line duties.

Mr Baker, fully supported by Essex Police Authority, plans to increase sworn police officers by 600 over the next three to five years.

We fully support this vision and, for the record, we believe it's the first time the Metropolitan Police has ever praised a provincial force.

## Unison news by Mike Frost



### From pay deals to funeral plans – it's "your" Unison

ONE of the most frequently asked questions of Unison stewards is "what does Unison do for me?"

In truth, Unison does a great deal for "you" and some of it "you" benefit from, whether or not you join the union.

One of the most vital things that Unison does for "you", whether or not you are a member, is to negotiate annual pay and conditions with the Police Staff Council.

In July, Unison put in a claim on "your" behalf for a five per cent increase on all pay points, a five per cent increase in standby allowances and the deletion of the five lowest pay points on the national pay scale.

The pay claim justification brought to the attention of the employers that, in June, the Retail Prices Index (RPI) inflation measure rose to 4.6 per cent but that food costs, petrol and domestic fuel prices for us all have risen by more than twice that.

Perhaps these cost of living increases are less impactful if one's salary approaches £100,000 or more a year, plus bonuses but, for a great many of our colleagues who earn less than £20,000 per year and don't get a bonus of any kind, these rises are very significant indeed.

Unfortunately the Police Staff Council is not exactly littered with decision-makers who might be classed as "low earners" with a family to support and a mortgage to pay.

So don't hold your breath for a five per cent increase, or anything like it!

The response from the employers was that they were "... prepared to look at 'lower pay' ...", that "... affordability was an issue for all police forces ..." and that they "... wanted to explore the potential for a three-year pay deal covering 2008, 2009 and 2010."

Unison replied that a three-year pay deal could be "considered" but only if it

- delivers "decent rises" in each of the three years

- has a "re-opener" clause – should inflation continue to rise

- tackles "low pay"

- increases leave entitlement to 25 days in all forces and 30 days after five years of service, and

- leads to the "setting up of a national pay and grading structure for all police staff in England and Wales".

Next, there will be a lot to rhetoric and exchanges over tea and buns, at the end of which police staff employees will get a pay rise – but who knows what that will be.

Typically, it won't be far removed from whatever our Federated police colleagues get.

Speaking of working with the Police Federation, Unison and the Federation have negotiated a mileage allowance rise to the maximum allowable under HM Revenue and Customs rules and, again, *all* of "you" can benefit from that if you claim mileage.

### Exclusive member benefits

As for exclusive member benefits, Unison is a veritable horn of plenty.

One of the most useful benefits is the provision of support when a member has a "grievance" or is subject to a disciplinary process.

Only those who have been there know how very stressful that can be.

Your local Unison stewards will help you through these minefields but, if it is needed, legal assistance can also be provided, right up to and including employment tribunal representation.

It won't happen to you? Have you read the papers recently?

So are the subscriptions worth it? You bet! Check out the discount shopping service and the insurance deals, the holiday club and welfare benefits, the roadside rescue and healthcare savings.

You can even change your car at a discount and save £50 off a funeral plan!

If you are a member, it's "your" Unison, make the most of membership to save money – you may well need to when gas and electricity prices go up again!

## Disability Network news

### by Denise Chaplin



THE Disability Network continues to go from strength to strength and enjoyed a very successful AGM, attended by almost 40 members and representatives from community partners.

Elections were held to form a new executive committee:

Chair	Tony Boothman
Vice-chair	Tim Mariner
Dyslexia liaison	Louise Linzell-Williams
Publicity	Kathy Holloway
Disability awareness	Gwyneth Brown
Social secretary	Jan Mason

I continue in the role of network co-ordinator as this is an employed post and is therefore not subject to annual voting.

Workshops were held and, as a result, an action plan was formulated for the network to work towards over the next 12 months.

One of the plan's requirements is for the Disability Network to make visits to divisions to make us more accessible to all employees.

At these visits, members of the executive committee will be on hand to chat and to offer help and advice.

The series is due to commence in Braintree on Friday, September 12. Details will be publicised on the intranet and within the station and anyone is welcome to attend or pop in for a while.

We will also continue to raise awareness of all disabilities and this will be promoted by the disability awareness officer and all other members of the executive committee.

Other members of the network who have invaluable experience and knowledge of a wide variety of disabilities also have an input.

We have recently begun to promote a wider awareness of dyslexia.

Initially, we have produced a screensaver and posters, which give details of contacts available to approach for help and advice. Further divisional contacts can be found on the Equality & Diversity intranet pages, found on the Information menu – then click on Disability and look for Dyslexia Liaison under the Support Groups heading

We are also in the process of making all HR staff, mentors and trainers aware of the option of being referred for a Dyslexia Adult Screening Test. Self-referral can also be made

and I am the contact for this. The test gives an indicator of the risk a person may be at of having dyslexia. Consequently, advice can be offered with regard to work-related coping strategies or study skills.

Another important way of raising awareness is by forming close links with community groups.

Existing partners include the Royal Association for Deaf People, MIND (the National Association for Mental Health), Essex Autistic Society, Extra 21 (a Down Syndrome charity), Dyslexia Rooms and Disability Essex.

And we are forging new links with groups such as Epilepsy Action, Mencap and the Macmillan and Helen Rollason cancer charities.

Together with Epilepsy Action, we are working towards the introduction of 'alert cards' and awareness leaflets similar to those produced by Autism Anglia.

Meanwhile, Mencap has asked for network support to promote its fund raising events through the intranet and network updates.

Other work includes the production and distribution of deaf awareness Z-cards to all front-line staff. It is hoped to have this scheme under way fairly soon with the aid of a generous financial donation from the Royal Association for Deaf People towards the production costs.

It is important for anyone planning to join Essex Police as an employee to be aware of the benefits of all support networks.

Therefore, the Disability Network was due to be represented at the PCSO/Specials open day on September 6, the Mobile Support Division open day on September 11 and a transferee open day on October 6.

This is an important role for the network as we have been successful at previous open days in discussing disability-related issues raised by potential applicants.

Much of the work done by the network is only possible because of support from members.

Anyone is welcome to join or attend meetings. The next is on Monday, October 6, at Dunmow police station from 10am-noon. Parking can be arranged. Please let me know if you wish to attend.

• I can be contacted on ext 54102 or via email

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## Corner the chairman



● Essex Police Authority chairman  
**Robert Chambers**

## Residents are having their say

“ SINCE June, Essex Police Authority has held a number of Have Your Say events throughout the county. These have been an opportunity for members of the public to meet officers from their local neighbourhood policing teams and staff from Essex Police Authority to discuss local issues and to take part in a short survey about Neighbourhood Policing.

The events have been held at a variety of locations, including supermarkets, a university campus, community centres and even the Clacton Airshow – and they have all been extremely successful. I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in Have Your Say – police officers, police staff, Specials and cadets have all played a valuable role in reaching our communities and discussing with them any issues, concerns or ideas that they may have had. The information we have gathered from the surveys will also prove extremely beneficial.

I look forward to seeing the results of the surveys and addressing any issues that may arise from them. Now that the Have Your Say events are over, we are embarking on a series of public meetings which are to be held throughout the county. Details of when and where the meetings are taking place can be found by visiting the Essex Police Authority website at [www.essex.police.uk/authority](http://www.essex.police.uk/authority). I would also like to take this opportunity to say that I hope you all had a safe and happy summer, even though we didn't see the sun as much as I'm sure we all would have liked! ”

## Going hi-tech

ESSEX Police Authority is going hi-tech and, at its Colchester Town Hall meeting this month, will be 'asking the audience'.

The audience will be asked a series of questions/opinions about policing in their area and asked to press a button on a hand-held device. Their answers will be displayed on a screen.

● **YOUNG** people had a 2SMART Summer thanks to a joint Essex Police and Essex County Council campaign. Safer Schools Partnership officers visited schools before the holidays to distribute Your Guide to Staying Safe and give out advice on the subject. Neighbourhood specialist officers also promoted the campaign – which focused on low-cost fun things to do during the summer – at local events. The 2SMART Summer team produced a website which listed ideas and events across Essex and linked to local council summer holiday activity pages. It also gave information about Connexions, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme and other sites aimed at young people. Insp Kevin Whipps, head of the Children's and Young People's Policing Team, said: "The campaign has been a great focal point for conversations between young people in Essex and police officers. It has been another opportunity for officers to get into schools and out to local events promoting the 2SMART Summer message." A series of commercials on Essex FM – with the chance to win Nintendo Wiis, Nintendo DS Lites and flat-screen TVs – helped the campaign stay fresh in people's minds. And by texting Essex Summer to 82122 young people were able to register to receive ideas of things to do and for the chance to win the prizes.

● Pictured is the first person to win a Nintendo Wii in the 2SMART Summer campaign, Harry Dillon, 12, of Tillingham



# High-visibility does the trick at V Festival

**CHELMSFORD'S** biggest annual event, the V Festival, was safe and enjoyable with extremely low levels of crime.

More than 80,000 festival-goers attended each day and only 80 crimes were reported over the course of the August weekend, mainly for theft of personal property.

Officers made 20 arrests for drug possession, public order offences, assault and theft.

And crime figures were considerably lower than last year, when 138 crimes were reported and 42 people arrested.

A portable drugs testing device was used at the festival to help in the fight against drug and knife crime.

Random hand swabs were taken and tested for drugs on the state-of-the-art

Ion Track Itemiser, which can find traces of prohibited drugs and explosives within seconds.

The device has already been used on a series of checks on pubs and clubs and the results have led to increased engagement between local officers, licensees and the community in preventing drugs misuse on licensed premises.

Insp Paul Howell, the force lead on substance misuse, said: "Ion Track was successfully used at the V Festival conducting random checks around the site as part of a deployment strategy that included our new mobile knife archways, which have been used successfully in recent weeks during various operations at railway stations and nightclubs across the county."

Officers organising the force's policing of the festival were delighted that their high-visibility approach, which included

horses, officers on bikes, road policing units and local officers, worked very well.

Supt Tim Newcomb, of Central Division, said: "From our point of view, a lot of credit must be given to the thousands of festival-goers, the vast majority of whom enjoyed a fantastic weekend's entertainment in a good-natured way.

"We were able to deal effectively with the minor problems which arose and are delighted to report a huge reduction in crime and disorder in comparison to previous years.

"I would personally like to pass on my thanks to all the police officers and staff from around the county who worked hard to make it a successful weekend for the public."

● Grant to help continue work on knife crime – Page 12

# ACTION now takes to the road

A LOCALISED programme of ACTION roadshows – ACTION phase II – is being rolled out across divisions and departments this month.

The seminars will highlight what we have achieved since the ACTION leadership programme began in 2004 as well as the new focus on customer service both for the public and for 'customers' in other divisions and departments – as emphasised by the 'C' in ACTION.

They will also provide an opportunity for officers and police staff to share ideas and good practice and to re-state ACTION values.

All divisional commanders and heads of department will be arranging their own roadshows – enabling each one to have an individual slant depending on local or departmental priorities.

And each division and department will highlight its own achievements.

All employees will have the chance to watch two new DVDs – *A Day In The Life Of...* and *Service Standards*. The latter shows ACC Derek Benson talking to the public at Lakeside shopping centre in Thurrock.

And Special Branch will deliver a

presentation about the importance of community engagement.

ACTION is the internal leadership programme developed to improve performance and thereby enhance the service we deliver to customers.

The acronym stands for: Achievement Focus; Customer First; Take Responsibility for Performance; Inspire High Standards; Overcome Hurdles; and Never Accept Second Best.

DCC Andy Bliss said the divisional ACTION days would be a chance for management teams to pass important messages on to employees.

"We have made great strides in keeping the public informed about the progress in their own cases and in May we broke the 70 per cent barrier for satisfaction for the very first time.

"However, there is more to be done in keeping victims and witnesses up to date and we hope these special seminars will go a long way towards this.

"The roadshows are also a chance to thank all our employees for the good job they continue to do and to highlight outstanding examples."

Western divisional commander Chief Supt Tim Stokes spoke at the

ACTION roadshows for managers and supervisors before Christmas.

He said: "Treating people with respect and keeping them informed of progress has a huge potential pay-back.

"It will inspire confidence in the force and they are more likely to come to us with useful information in the future and that could have a direct impact on solving crime and incidents of anti-social behaviour."

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

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

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

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

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

## End of an era as widows' fund winds up

WITH some sadness, the trustees of the Southend on Sea Police Widows' and Children's Fund have wound up the fund and donated the balance to the Essex Police Benevolent Fund.

The Southend fund was set up following the amalgamation of the Southend on Sea County Borough Constabulary and Essex Police in 1969 when the Welstead Gardens Sports ground was sold off.

This money was then invested to provide funding for local widows and their children in the borough.

Over the past few years, investment returns have fallen so the fund's capital has rapidly dwindled and regular payments to recipients had to cease.

The trustees had also experienced difficulty in locating and identifying those entitled to receive money from the fund so fund administrator Les Seals said the decision was taken to wind up the fund.

He said: "The remaining balance of £2,900 has been donated to the Essex Police Benevolent Fund, which is available to all members, including widows, who are in need of assistance."

## Detectives get stuck in

A SEVEN-strong team of detectives from Western and Central will be tackling the Great North Run in Newcastle next month.

Samantha Garwood, Tracey Harman, Barry Lyden, Paul Glasgow, Rick Atkins, Mike Summers and Steve Jones will be running in aid of Children with Leukaemia charity.

Barry's father died recently from leukaemia and the team, who all work in child abuse investigations, felt it was a good charity to support.

● To sponsor the runners, contact Steve or Barry at Harlow

● ESSEX Police officers and staff will be recognised for their commitment, dedication, enthusiasm, leadership and achievements at the annual Force Awards this month.

Forty employees have been nominated for ACTION Awards in the categories of police officer, PCSO and police staff. And 12 nominations have been short-listed for the Jane's Police Review awards in the categories of Lifetime Achievement, Community Police Officer, PCSO, Student Officer, and Diversity in Action.

Jane's Police Review nominations are: Eastern – PCSO Jacqueline Tyrrell, Pc Rob Diss, Pc Julie Cosson, Insp Richard Day; Central – PCSO Donna Smith, Pc Hannah Kirk, Pc Stuart Bills, Insp Cheryl Callow, Chief Supt Win Bernard; South Eastern – PCSO Jacqueline Hill, Pc Michelle Rawson, Insp Howard Laverack.

The awards will be presented on September 24.

**ACTION**



● Mick, left, in Afghanistan and, right, outside the British Embassy in Kabul  
● Above, a map of Afghanistan, showing Kandahar and Helmand in the south of the country



# Back from the war zone

AS a member of the Territorial Army since 1981 Mick Fidgeon, the force's firearms office manger, expected to be called up to serve abroad.

But, when the call finally came, he did not expect to be flying out to a war zone with actor Ross Kemp and returning home with Prince Harry.

Mick had waited for a call that never came during previous conflicts but in July 2007 he received his notification of compulsory mobilisation just two weeks before heading off to a training camp in the UK.

As well as sorting out his work commitments, Mick had to think of the practicalities of being away from home for up to six months. In between doctor's and dentist's appointments, he had to arrange insurance, builders due to fit a new bathroom and a bank overdraft and prepare his will.

Mick said: "Often it is hardest for those left behind and I knew that my mother, who had been widowed two years earlier, would find it hard and would be worried. Anyway I needed her to be strong as she was looking after my dog!"

Work colleagues provided an appropriate send-off with a range of gifts including insect repellent and a toilet roll as well as an MP3 player and a photograph of them all – the added bonus was that Mick felt confident he was leaving work in capable hands.

As an experienced Territorial Army Warrant Officer Class 2 (WO2), he passed the initial training and the medicals – but not without some concern about his hearing and a pair of knees that had been operated on four times.

However he and they passed or, as he says, "were good enough for the Army".

Mick flew out to Afghanistan at the end of August last year and on his flight was actor Ross Kemp who was flying out to film a

by Helen Cook

documentary on the soldiers serving out there.

On arrival at Kandahar airport, Mick transferred to his tent – his new home for the next three months. Despite a DVD player and large-screen TV as standard, the difficulties of sitting on a toilet with your knees touching the door or dancing around a shower cubicle trying to get some water on your body made him really appreciate the small luxuries of life.

Mick quickly adapted to the routine of performing a fairly repetitive job 12 hours a day, seven days a week.

The monotony was broken up by the camaraderie of colleagues and going 'outside the wire'.

But everything was conducted in heat of 40°C-plus which made even menial tasks seem exhausting.

Mick said: "Luckily I didn't need to wear body armour all the time, unless we came under rocket or mortar attack.

"Some nights the noise from attacks was continuous but you soon got used to it, unless it was a near miss, when you would land back on your seat or bunk after being propelled into the air with the explosion.

"If that didn't keep you awake then the aircraft turning and burning yards away on the runway would."

As the only Territorial Army soldier among the squadron, Mick continued to joke that he was only in Afghanistan for two weeks, before going home. However, he served an entire six-month tour before returning to the UK and then continued to work for the military on the south coast before agreeing to return to Afghanistan for another few weeks for the handover.

During his stint in Afghanistan, Mick moved camp to purpose-built accommodation within a walled compound.

This was luxurious by comparison and he greatly appreciated

life's small comforts. He said: "However the drive to the airfield was three times as far and we came under the scrutiny of the Military Police a whole lot more.

"I even got a speeding ticket when driving back from the ranges. I felt like framing it, a 17mph speeding ticket but three of those and I would be banned for my entire tour. I wasn't sure if that was a good or bad thing!"

Flying back home in March, Mick spotted the red hair of a well-known royal – Prince Harry was on the same flight.

Back home, Mick was demobbed and doctors checked that he was mentally stable before his return to Essex Police but he jokes that there was always a question about that before he went away.

Mick returned to the force in June and, whilst the job and the people were the same, he says he has had time to reflect on the past year and feels that the experience has changed him.

"While constant bombings and having a gun pointed at you is part and parcel of the job, I do think about the 23 British military personnel who were killed during my tour," he said.

"I think I have learned that the little things that worry you are not so important in the general scheme of things. I am less stressed and able to laugh things off more than before.

"When you attend the funeral of a 29-year-old soldier who had left notes about exactly what he wanted at his funeral, it puts life into perspective."

Mick is now back doing the job he enjoys and is still training with the Territorial Army.

He says he would recommend the life and adds: "Whatever experiences you get from the Territorial Army, many of them are transferable to your civilian or work life, whether it is leadership, team work or task orientation."

And would he go back again?  
"Yes, but I would miss my job and my dog."

# Force must 'get frugal with fuel'

by Heather Watts

OFFICERS and staff from Essex joined colleagues from around the country last month in Kent as over 1,000 environmental protesters gathered at the Camp for Climate Action.

The annual camp is one of the biggest environmental protest events of the year in the UK. It attracted more media coverage for the actions of the police and the small minority of the protesters intent on breaking the law than for the law-abiding protesters' environmental message.

Mr Gorton said: "We have already taken measures to cut our spend by having national contracts for fuel cards – giving us heavily-discounted fuel – we have moved to more fuel-efficient vehicles and we consistently renew the fleet to access the latest technology.

"We have a consistent and accurate service and maintenance routine as regular servicing makes the engine run more efficiently.

"And we constantly review the use of alternative fuels and keep a continued focus on policies around economical and green fleet issues.

"However, there are measures we can all take when driving to reduce our fuel spend and reduce our carbon footprint," said Mr Gorton.

"In a recent BBC2 Top Gear experiment (science, Jeremy Clarkson-style, so it must be true...), a hybrid Toyota Prius was tested alongside a petrol BMW M3. Running at the maximum speed of the Prius, the BMW was proven to be the most fuel-efficient.

"While we may not all be given a BMW to drive it's not just what you drive, but how you choose to drive it!"

Mr Gorton said following some simple guidelines

● A road policing Land Rover Discovery, right

● Head of Transport Services John Gorton, below, hopes police officers and staff will take note of his fuel-saving hints



● An Essex Police Ford Focus standard response vehicle, right

could help reduce the force's fuel bill and its carbon footprint:

- while driving, anticipate things in time and lift your foot off the accelerator earlier as over-revving the engine and hard or sudden braking wastes fuel
- check vehicle tyre pressures regularly – guidance is published on the front of the log book – as under-inflated tyres can raise fuel consumption by ten per cent
- idling the engine also wastes fuel
- air-conditioning increases fuel consumption so turn it off or down when it is not necessary.
- observe speed limits and plan your route, avoiding busy times if possible.

Mr Gorton said: "With fuel prices expected to continue to rise, it is important that all fleet vehicle users take whatever steps are possible to minimise fuel usage without affecting operational efficiency.



● An Essex Police Ford Focus standard response vehicle, right



## Met officers want help in fund raising

METROPOLITAN Police officers fund raising to help colleagues' young son are calling on Essex Police officers and staff for help again.

Jack Brown is the seven-year-old son of detective sergeants Dick and Yvonne Brown.

He has a rare cancer called neuroblastoma and is currently being treated in Vermont, USA. His medical bills have already topped \$1million.

In May, Pc Dan Thrall, of Pitsea, Neil Bazzoni, of Corringham, and Christian Forbes, of Rochford, joined Metropolitan and British Transport police officers on the Team JACK (Joining Against Cancer in Kids) trip to New York.

They ran two half-marathons over two days and the Essex quartet contributed an impressive £2,500 towards the total of more than £42,000 the team of 44 raised for the appeal, which will go towards hiring a scientist at the University College London Hospital.

The JACK Foundation has been set up to prevent children like Jack having to travel to America for expensive treatment.

Next year's event will again involve officers running two half-marathons over two days in Central Park.

The team is due to depart from Heathrow on Thursday, May 21, and spend six nights in New York.

Officers must pay their own hotel and discounted air fares and commit to raising a minimum of £320 each in sponsorship.

For more details, contact Pc Mark (Taff) Edwards at mark.edwards@met.police.uk or visit the websites www.jackbrownappeal.org and www.j-a-c-k.org

## Museum thrives

VISITOR numbers to the summer activity events held at Essex Police Museum were up this year.

Six hundred young people attended summer activities this year – compared to 450 last year – raising £174 for funds.

And general visitor numbers to the museum at HQ last month were 1,500 compared to 700 in 2007.

## HAUNTED HALLOWE'EN FUN

at the Essex Police Museum

Wednesday, October 29

open from 11am-4pm



come in fancy dress!

make your own 'trick or treat' bags

Hallowe'en and fireworks safety advice

Learn how to be safe but still have fun this Hallowe'en

Free admission – suitable for children aged from three upwards children must be accompanied by an adult

# Use of drug intervention scheme rockets

A LARGE number of offending drug-users are being steered away from a lifestyle that includes the destructive cycle of committing crime to fund drug use.

And it's down to a remarkably successful crime reduction scheme commissioned by the Essex Drug and Alcohol Action Team (EDAAT) involving police across Essex.

Working in partnership with various other agencies, police officers are now at the front line of a project to identify and help adults who offend to fuel their class A drug use.

The Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) was re-commissioned in May 2007 and has since seen a massive increase in the number of offenders receiving treatment.

When the scheme was launched, the government set the Essex DIP a target of bringing 33 offenders a month out of crime and into meaningful treatment.

The team easily broke that target and now deals with an average of 70 to 100 offenders a month.

In fact, there was a 2,150 per cent increase in the number of people entering treatment via the criminal justice system in the first six months after the Westminster Drug Project's (WDP) appointment.

The Government-funded project is performance managed by EDAAT, which commissions WDP to provide services including arrest referral, through-care and after-care.

Twenty full-time experts now work for the WDP Essex DIP – to give the project its full title – and they are based within police stations across the county, ready to engage with individuals with drug habits whenever they are arrested.

Members of the team are also based in prisons to work with prolific and priority offenders (PPOs) and other offenders with drug problems.

Paid staff are additionally supported by a team of 50 volunteers trained and supervised by Supporting Others Through Volunteer Action (SOVA) and offenders have access to a housing guarantee scheme and emergency beds.

Once an offender agrees to take part, various other agencies within the Essex Drug and Alcohol Partnership (EDAP) work together to provide drug treatment aimed at preventing re-offending.

Insp Paul Howell, the force lead on substance misuse, is currently seconded to EDAAT for two years as the strategic criminal justice lead and is working closely with EDAP members.

He said: "In the past, the police very much worked in isolation to address persistent offenders who committed crime to fund drugs.

"We needed a way of bringing all agencies together to identify the problems quickly and appropriately in order to find long-term and, more importantly, sustainable partnership solutions.

"A tremendous amount of work is now going on among our many partners and it is proving to be a successful partnership response to crime reduction."

Clive Emmett, a former Essex Police officer who is now county manager of the WDP Essex DIP, said: "The next phase of the project is to introduce

fast-track prescribing, in which addicts can be seen within 48 hours and given alternative, prescribed drugs. This will be a major advance in changing the lives of class A users.

"We have had many success stories since the scheme started and we are getting more and more referrals from police officers.

"We tell clients they have got to face their punishment but we will walk alongside them, without leading them by the hand.

"It is all about helping people, giving them fresh hope for the future and reduce crime. We are extremely proud of what we have achieved so far."

● Any officers dealing with class A drug users or prolific and priority offenders (PPOs) should contact Essex DIP's 24/7 number 0808 1000 110 for advice, information or a referral into the DIP scheme

Bill Stock

# Recognition for Media & PR

THE work of the Media & PR department has also been chosen as a finalist in the Best Business in the Community category of the Mid Essex Business Awards – winners will be announced next month.

The work by senior PR officer Morwenna Holland and assistant graphic artist Pru Kingham in launching and promoting the return of the Mounted Unit last year has been shortlisted by APPRO for the GSL/APPRO Awards for Excellence in the category of Excellence in Planned Communication.

Winners will be announced at the APPRO conference in November. The APPRO awards recognise the valuable contribution made by public relations professionals working for the police service.

The news also comes hot on the heels of the department's success in the British Association of Communicators in Business (CiB) Anglia Communic8 Awards in July with *The Law* and the *When I Leave School* leaflet.

And *The Law*, edited by Heather Turner, is entered in the category for Best Newspaper or Magazine.

Winners will be announced at the East Anglia CIPR Pride Awards ceremony in December. The CIPR is the UK's largest association

# Letters of appreciation

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

I WANT to praise the way Pc Paul Andrews investigated and prepared a case for trial – theft from a petrol station in Halstead when, over three months of employment, some £4,700 was stolen.

As prosecutor, I was extremely impressed, not only with the way Pc Andrews conducted his enquiries but also on being asked for further material with his swift reaction to obtain that evidence.

I have been a barrister for ten years and felt that Pc Andrews' application was worthy of mention.

He kept in close contact with the witnesses and went through his spreadsheet and exhibit evidence with me before trial.

His investigation led to the defendant pleading guilty before the trial, saving a witness who was out of the country a return journey.

**CG London**

WHILE travelling home from work, I encountered a young man whose dangerous driving nearly resulted in a head-on collision with another car and caused me and several other motorists to take extreme evasive action.

When I drew alongside him in stopped traffic, displayed my warrant card and identified myself as a police officer, the man drove off at speed in an extremely aggressive manner in a bid to evade me.

His actions convinced me the car was either stolen or he was under the influence of something.

In slow-moving traffic, he was still making no attempt to stop but then neighbourhood officers Pc Ross Wheeler and Pc Paul Clarke drew up behind me and stopped him.

I wish to put on record my appreciation for their assistance, having spotted me trying to get the man to stop and come to my aid.

Had this man not been stopped, I feel sure that his reckless and dangerous driving would have eventually resulted in an accident.

**BG Braintree**

TO Supt Gwynn Williams: I am writing to thank you and your colleagues for showing me and my husband some of the marvellous work going on in Southend and Rochford.

We learned a great deal about different ways of crime prevention. We were very impressed by both Pc Michelle Rawson and PCSO Andy Hill.

We were both amazed by the quality of the CCTV screens and were glad not to be in the shoes of those doing the eight-hour shifts.

**Sarah Courage High Sheriff of Essex**

WE introduced our three-year-old son to PCSOs Deb Green and Mark Ling as they walked past our house.

While they were chatting, they said they would give us some colouring pages for him.

The next day, they gave us the colouring pages and a couple of other things for him to do. Naturally, we were

thrilled that they had taken the time and effort to do this for us, and that they came back so quickly.

We are very keen to teach our son that he can approach a police officer at any time and we were very touched the way that both Deb and Mark talked to him and then came back so quickly with the things they had promised for him.

**M & GJ Castle Hedingham**

THANKS to Pc Audrey Hart and all the officers in dealing with the crack-house closure of 27 South Street, Colchester.

Pc Hart worked tirelessly in getting a successful closure order on the property and, without her diligent pursuit of this, it would still be a major problem for the residents of South Street.

Since the closure order was granted I have had nothing but peace and quiet.

Pc Hart is a credit and an asset to your force.

**MM Colchester**

I WOULD like to thank Sc Paulette Smith and Sc Perry Woolner for allowing 1st Beacon Hill Scouts to visit Witham police station.

Their talk was very informative and it was really interesting to hear about the work of the force and how it is there to keep our community a safe place in which to live.

**1st Beacon Hill Scouts Wickham Bishops**

TO Pc Rachel Birrane: We want to thank you for all that you did for us after my wife and children were nearly run over and then I was assaulted in Stanford le Hope.

You were a tower of strength, especially on the trial day. We never want to go through that again! Your support got us through that and we are so grateful.

**K & D C West Tilbury**

TO Pc Adrian Ranson: We would like you to know that we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the help you gave us over the years since my husband died and up to the trial. We couldn't have wished for a better liaison officer.

Please also thank the others in the team who worked so hard in the case.

**LT Laindon**

TO Insp Rachel Wood: Thank you for your help and support regarding parking issues around our school. We want to compliment you on the quality of the team you have in the Stanford le Hope area.

Since Pc Rachel Birrane and PCSO James Pittock introduced themselves last September, I have been extremely impressed by the effort they have put into developing a strong partnership with the school.

They spoke to the whole school in assembly and then made time to work in individual classes to break down barriers and build relationships with the children.

They have been very responsive when I have needed to seek advice and support – I understand other PCSOs on the team have also been involved.

I felt it important to take time to recognise the excel-

lent work Rachel is doing with her team of PCSOs.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with the police for the benefit of the community in the future and hope you will pass on my compliments to those higher in the chain of command who are helping to support this policy of closer liaison with schools.

**St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Stanford le Hope**

TO Dc Paul Bird and team: Just a note to you boys in blue,

You swept into action right on cue, When we were in a terrible stew,

While doing your job You reassured us, all without making too much fuss.

As the helicopter droned above us, You quickly apprehended two of the robbers.

We think maybe you don't get enough thanks, So well done to you all throughout the ranks!

**Downes and Partners Veterinary Surgery Leigh on Sea**

(This letter was written after an armed robbery took place.)

WE would like to thank Pc Hayley Mitchell and the team involved with helping to find my husband.

They went to enormous trouble to find him, connecting with police in Stanford le Hope – where he was found after taking a train there from Southend.

My husband has Alzheimer's and was supposed to have been in respite care while I was staying with my sister for a rest.

Pc Mitchell kept my family informed of progress and officers carried out house-to-house enquiries etc.

We have the highest regard for them all.

**MD Southend**

MY elderly mother was entering her front gate after shopping when she was pushed over and had her bag and purse snatched.

Pc Ben Rushmere and Pc James Jessett arrived promptly with a third officer who, I believe, searched the surrounding area.

I appreciate the manner in which it was handled. The officers were very professional in dealing with an elderly – and rather deaf – old lady.

They showed great patience, in that she was not rushed to make her statement. Their attitude enabled her to relax and begin to overcome a very traumatic experience.

As a result, she felt that they were interested in what had happened to her and felt confident that everything would be done to apprehend the criminals involved.

Thanks for a service that was second to none.

**JF Grays**

TO Chief Supt Maurice Mason: I am writing to express our gratitude for the help from your officers regarding my mother-in-law's funeral.

The cortege was due to arrive at home at the same time nearby school pupils were going home – as you can imagine, the usual parents' parking and subsequent traffic problems would have made it impossible for the cortege to get into this road. Pc Scott

Threadgold assured me he would place No Parking bollards to make things easier.

As we left, we found vehicles had been stopped from entering our road and parked cars had been cleared from one side of a nearby road, so the cortege was easily able to set off without incident.

All of this was "above and beyond" – your officers were so polite and respectful and their efforts helped to make an awful occasion more bearable.

Pc Threadgold even called to check that everything had been dealt with satisfactorily.

Please pass on my family's thanks to all concerned, in particular Pc Threadgold and PCSO Jo Mitchell.

**MD Grays**

WE would like to thank PCSO Kelly Roberts and PCSO Ben Freeman for their ongoing enthusiasm and the support given to our parent council and Thurrock Road Safety Team.

Other members of their team have also assisted and their work has been invaluable in supporting the Herringham Parking Patrol.

We look forward to our continued working relationship.

**Herringham Primary School Chadwell St Mary**

TO Chief Supt Maurice Mason: I want to express our appreciation for the hard work and diligence of your officers and PCSOs and for their support in policing the area of Chafford Gorges Nature Park at Chafford Hundred.

Essex Wildlife Trust and its subsidiary company Chafford Gorges look after this superb nature park.

We have seen a great deal of anti-social behaviour over the years and I am pleased to report that gradually, year by year, this is being brought under control by the vigilance of my staff and volunteers, supported by your officers.

Thank you for their important involvement.

**Essex Wildlife Trust Great Wigborough**

OFFICERS attached to the Central Task Force executed a number of warrants in east London, which resulted in the recovery of a MAC10 machine pistol silencer, .38 revolver, 100 rounds of ammunition and a substantial amount of crack cocaine.

Four people were arrested on suspicion of firearms and drug trafficking offences and charged.

The intelligence generated by Pc Russell West and colleagues at South Ockendon police station was instrumental in identifying the suspects in our operation.

This allowed the Metropolitan Police to intervene, disrupt serious offences, recover firearms and drugs and arrest all the principals.

I would like to thank Pc

West and his colleagues for their assistance.

**Specialist Crime Directorate Metropolitan Police**

I HAVE hardly had any dealings with the police but for a few days I saw them a great deal.

There was a collision outside my flat and I brought the two elderly people from one car into my flat so they could sit down and have a drink.

The police and ambulance staff spent the morning here, getting statements.

A week later, we had a break-in so, once again, the police became part of our morning.

On both occasions, the officers were wonderful – polite, they were reassuring and, in the case of the car accident, extremely patient.

I thank you for such excellent service.

**MK Westcliff on Sea**

TO Pc Tess Wisbey: Thank you so much for the display on hate crime at our conference, Raising Attainment Through Diversity, and also for all your work with the cluster student council.

It is a pleasure to work with you for the benefit of our young people and the community – you have a gift for getting people talking constructively.

**Tilbury and Chadwell St Mary Excellence Cluster Children, Education and Families Thurrock Council**

TO Chief Supt Dave Folkard: My ABH case went to court and my assailant pleaded guilty on the day.

Pc Adam Clark has been very helpful throughout. I would also like to thank the Criminal Justice Unit team, who have been brilliant, very helpful and understanding.

On several occasions I have been in personal contact with Nigel Cook, the caseworker at Southend police station. He sat for many hours with me, filling in victim personal statements, and made numerous phone calls to me.

I was extremely lucky to have Nigel as my caseworker. Being an ex-policeman gave him excellent knowledge, understanding and patience and he was very helpful.

On many times I have just spoken to him about how I felt after my attack. Not once has Nigel tried to dismiss me or show irritation.

I have written in before and thank you also for your time and for replying to my letters, when you have more important issues to deal with.

**CC Leigh on Sea**

MY wife and I had an attempted break-in at our home. Thankfully, all I came home to was broken glass.

It was still upsetting and,

although I rang a non-emergency number to report it, a scenes of crime officer (SOCO) was at my home within 30 minutes.

The female SOCO, T/Dc Susan Jones, was very helpful, sympathetic and extremely efficient.

We talked about installing an alarm and she recommended a company she had recently used – they lived up to the officer's reports of their professionalism and good service.

The next day, Pc Gail Wilkinson came to take our statements. Once again, she was very sympathetic and understanding. Later, we saw her carrying out house-to-house checks and over the next few days we saw different officers continuing these investigations.

I'd like to thank those concerned – they are a credit to themselves, you and the police service.

**TC Southend**

TO Chief Supt Dave Folkard: On behalf of the organisers of the Jim Peters Southend Half Marathon and BTMK Fun Run, I would like to thank you and your colleagues for your kind support.

In this, the 13th year, we organised the event from a new venue and it was like starting from scratch.

The involvement of Sgt Martin Somerset-Butler and others on the day helped to make this event a great success and we believe we have again raised a significant sum for local hospices.

**NC Leigh on Sea**

WHAT a wonderful job PCSO John West is doing within the Thurrock community.

As a civil enforcement officer, I have come across him on several occasions and found him to be an extremely polite and likeable man.

I was patrolling a school one afternoon with two of my colleagues and just found him so caring towards the old and young around the school.

His job and that of other members of the police is well appreciated as we try to work together for a better future.

**DB Tilbury**

THANKS to Pc Giuseppe Gasparini for his handling of my wife's attendance at Tilbury police station.

She was in need of medical attention and he appropriately involved the local mental health team without delay. This led to her receiving long overdue treatment for her condition.

My family and I are very grateful to him for taking the correct course of action and keeping us informed of what was happening throughout.

**AE Tilbury**

TWENTY-two ACTION awards were made by the Bonus and Honoraria Panel last month.

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

The recipients of £100 awards were: Pc Lee Harris, Pc Frank Pallett, Pc Paul Screech, Pc Mark Hibbert, Pc Tevor Edhouse and Pc Amanda Pollard,

of Mobile Support Division; Insp Matt Bennett, Insp Mark Furneaux, Insp Glen Westley, Sgt Anna Brennan and Pc Mike Kellett, of Communications Division; Sgt Mike Suley, of Eastern; Ds Michelle Conner, Dc Daryl Fryatt, Dc Karolyn Sisto, Pc John Commons and Dc Donna Hindle, of South Western; Laura Sumer, David Keenan and Derren Childs, of Corporate Development; Chloe Orange, of Crime Division; and Jonathan Stuart, of Essex Police College.





**HAVE YOUR SAY:** Write to Heather Turner, Law Letters, Publication Unit, Police HQ, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DA or via email to [heather.turner@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:heather.turner@essex.pnn.police.uk)  
 Letters and emails must be no longer than 300 words and must include your full name and home town. The deadline is the 20th of each month.  
 We reserve the right to edit or omit letters. Please be aware *The Law* is reproduced on the internet and circulated to the media.

## Enter officer, stage right!

RECENTLY an item caught my eye in a book of true accounts of things which happened while actors and actresses were on stage.

Apparently, during a performance of Henry IV at the Focus Theatre in Short Street, Southend, the cast were stunned when a policeman appeared on the stage.

He said: "If anybody here has parked on the pavement outside, would they kindly remove their cars, otherwise I am likely to take action."

Several members of the audience promptly made a hurried exit.

One of the cast phoned the police station and was told that it was probably someone practising for the pantomime.

Does anyone know who the policeman was? Unfortunately no date for this incident was given.

**Jack Faulkner  
Southend**

# Chance to meet old friends

**THE autumn lunch for the Essex Police Comrades Association will be held on Friday, October 10, at Essex Police HQ sports pavilion.**

The bar will be open from 11.30am and lunch will be served at 1pm.

A park and ride system will again be in operation from the Chelmer Retail Park, opposite the end of Sandford Road.

A minibus will operate between 11.15am and 1pm and again at the end of the lunch.

Please note there will be no parking facilities at HQ.

If you have any special dietary requirements or mobility problems, please let my secretary, Marian Godwin, know as soon as possible on 01245 452797.

Please ensure that your booking form, together with a cheque for £20, made payable to Essex Police Comrades Association, is sent to me to arrive no later than Monday, September 29.

The address is Essex Police Federation office, Stable Lodge, Essex Police HQ, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 6DA.

For administrative reasons, any bookings received after this date will only be included in the final numbers in exceptional circumstances.

**Tony Rayner  
Secretary**

**Essex Police Comrades Association**

● AN ex-Romford Division reunion luncheon is again being held later in the year.

This event will take place in HQ

sports pavilion bar on Saturday, November 22, at 1pm. Wives and partners are also invited.

The cost is £13.25 a head, drinks are not included. The bar will open at 11.30am.

Cheques should be made payable to S P Mather (Lunch account) and forwarded to me at Copper Leaves, 25 Queens Avenue, Pooles Lane, Hullbridge, SS5 6PS.

If anyone wants further information, they can ring me on 01702 231383.

**Stu Mather  
Hullbridge**

● CALLING all Thurrock personnel – both serving and retired.

The Thurrock Divisional Club – now, I believe, going under the guise of South Western Division – is planning to hold the annual retired officers and personnel get-together

in the bar at Grays police station on Friday, October 10, 2008.

The 'do' will commence around 7.30pm and a small, but I'm sure very filling, buffet will be provided.

Previous functions have proved very popular, even if the last one did clash with the Rugby World Cup!

Hopefully a large contingent of Scenes of Crime personnel can make it as ex-DI Ron Cook is trying to arrange a get-together of 'the Scientists', me included, of course.

We look forward to seeing all those who can make it – you know you will always be guaranteed a warm welcome.

Just turn up but, for more information, people are welcome to ring me on 07909 985343 or contact me via email at [lr006n3460@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:lr006n3460@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Laurie Rampling  
Thurrock Sports Club secretary**

## Down Memory Lane ...

LAST month, we printed a picture of the Essex Police driving course, held from May 11 to June 13, 1964 – submitted by former officer Mike Fruin, who now lives in Tasmania. We had a great response to our appeal for information about the picture.

Derek Arber, Les Hammond, Dennis Mason, Stuart Mather, Chris Snow and Tony Wicks all responded.

From their recollections, we can tell you that it

was, in fact, a picture of an advanced driving course and that most students came from 5 District, City of London.

However, we have been able to track down some names for you.

In the back row, from left, the first four people remain unidentified but then come Pc David Westrop, Pc Charlie Howlett, Pc Dennis Mason, Pc Tony Wicks, of Colchester Traffic, and Mike Fruin himself.

We have managed to identify the entire front row, from left: Sgt Ken Blake, Sgt Ken Watson, Insp Ken Baker, Sgt Jock Powl and Pc Mike Lawson.

● If anyone has any more information, Becky can be contacted at the Essex Police Museum on 01245 457150 or ext 50771, via email at [becky.latchford@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:becky.latchford@essex.pnn.police.uk) or at Essex Police Museum, Essex Police HQ, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DA

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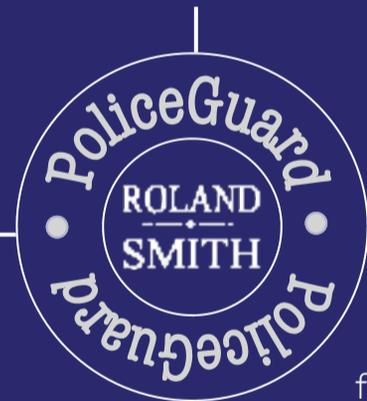


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**COSTA Blanca**, Almoradi, lovely Spanish town, three-bedroom, two-bathroom 2<sup>nd</sup> floor apartment, communal pool, terrace, sleeps six. From £200/week. Ring Dave Ashpole on 07912 506620 or 01702 201694 or email [dashpole@hotmail.com](mailto:dashpole@hotmail.com)

**COSTA Blanca** luxury apartment, sleeps six, near beach, use of pool. From £125 per week, 50 mins from Alicante airport. Ring 01702 531188.

**FLORIDA**, Disney Haven, four-bedroom villa, three bathrooms – two en suite, TVs, games room, pool, minutes from Disney. Contact Terry on 01245 468600 or email [judithwh@googlemail.com](mailto:judithwh@googlemail.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](http://www.my-florida-villa.net)

**FRANCE**, three nicely-furnished Gites with modern comforts. An hour from Calais in rural country near market towns of Arras and Amiens. Ring 01375 483045 or visit [www.le-petit-hameau.com](http://www.le-petit-hameau.com)

**HOLIDAY 2009?** At 50 per cent of brochure prices – why pay more? Quality seaside accommodation in south of Spain, pool. Autumn 2008 availability. Ring 07986 098422.

**LAKESIDE** chalet, Cotswold Water Parks. Exclusive, fully-equipped, two bedrooms, one bathroom, kitchen, lounge and terrace. Leisure centre on site. From £150 to £300 per week. Ring Stuart on 07973 639342.

**MARBELLA** Costa del Sol. Two-bed/two-bath penthouse. Terrace, sea views, beach 500m, 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 per cent police discount, from £154. Ring Paul on 07970 107542 or visit [www.essex2norfolk.com](http://www.essex2norfolk.com)

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

**SOUTHERN** Spain, Malaga airport, Marbella coast 25 mins, private villa, sleeps six, three bedrooms, one en suite, own pool. Fantastic views. Visit [www.ownersdirect.co.uk](http://www.ownersdirect.co.uk) (ref S6911) or

email [taylor@villapasatiempo.com](mailto:taylor@villapasatiempo.com)  
**TURKEY**, Side. Luxury two-bedroom, two-bathroom, ground-floor apartment on 5\* complex. Outdoor and indoor pools, gym and tennis. Close to beach and local amenities. Contact Matt on 07957 151820 or visit [www.oasis-turkey.net](http://www.oasis-turkey.net)

## Miscellaneous

**ROLLS** Royce wedding car hire. Extra special service for your special day. Police discount available. Call Pete Caulfield on 01787 477537, email [info@rrweddings.co.uk](mailto:info@rrweddings.co.uk) or visit [rrweddings.co.uk](http://rrweddings.co.uk)

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## Homes for sale & rent

**BUNGALOW** to let, fully furnished, detached, garage, 200ft garden. Pets welcome. Available now. £650 per month. Ring 01621 778322 or 07752 290041.

**FAMILY** house, Valros, south of France, 20 mins from Mediterranean, close international airports. Euros 222,000. Contact David or June on +33 467 310 747 or 07778 703150.

**HOUSE** share in large three-bed house, Clacton. Garden, parking, storage, all mod-cons, 10 mins from town/police station. Rent negotiable. Ring 07736 302868.

**HOUSE** share, four-bed, detached, Little Baddow. Double room, private lounge, wi-fi, cleaner, parking. £110 per week, including bills. Contact Jill on 07963 039251 or email [jillymeg@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jillymeg@yahoo.co.uk)

**ONE**-bedroom, top-floor flat, Rayleigh, new-build in complex. Flooring, blinds included, parking space. £625 per month. Contact 07961 729386 or email [sue.hells@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sue.hells@yahoo.co.uk)

## Cars for sale

**2004** Renault Clio, five-door, 1.4l, 14,500 miles only, 54 reg. Woman owner. Full service history, air conditioning, electric everything. £5,795. Ring 01245 261810.

**MGB** GT, 1,800cc purple coupe, 1974, currently SORN declared as recently restored. Good condition. £2,500 ono. Contact 07917 835320.

## Wanted

**WANTED**, small etching press in good condition or washing mangle with double tension screws on top, wooden rollers in working order. Ring Stan on 07748 481783.

# ACC Carmel Napier: 'My role made easy by local commanders'

**CHANGES** have been made to the force command team following the departure of ACC Carmel Napier to Gwent Police on promotion to deputy chief constable.

**Sue Harrison** becomes temporary assistant chief constable with responsibility for Operational Support.

She moves over from the post of chief of staff. Consequently, ACC **Derek Benson** has taken over the Protective Services portfolio and ACC **Peter Lowton** now heads up Territorial Policing.

A recruitment and selection process will now take place to appoint a new, permanent assistant chief constable.

**Mrs Napier**, 48, oversaw the foundation of Neighbourhood Policing across Essex, increased performance achievements and helped the force to bring more offenders to justice.

She said: "I wanted the challenge of a new role and another force which shares my philosophy in policing and the customer-first ethos.

"However, I definitely want the opportunity to return to Essex and, with the benefits of working as a senior investigating officer, assistant chief constable and deputy chief constable, I can see no reason why not – I've loved working for this force and loved living in the county."

Despite serving us for just under two years, Mrs Napier enhanced our links with Essex County Council and district councils, ensuring their objectives to help make Essex a safer place in which to live and work were aligned with ours.

Commenting on Neighbourhood Policing, Mrs Napier paid respect to the force's capacity and capability to deal with almost any critical incident.

"Essex has a number of leaders in specialist areas, enabling the organisation to mobilise very quickly," she said.

"The chief officer role is made easy due to these local commanders who display leadership, passion and commitment, which are the key ingredients to attaining a high level of achievement.

"This force's 'can-do' attitude is refreshing and positive."

She added: "I'd like to thank all the officers and



● ACC Carmel Napier



● ACC Derek Benson



● ACC Peter Lowton



● T/ACC Sue Harrison

police staff I've worked with. They've all been responsible and respectful of the requests I've made of them. I look forward to seeing how the officers and police staff I've worked with progress in their careers."

Mrs Napier moves from Witham to Gwent with her husband James, to whom she has been married for 30 years.

Essex/Kent Collaboration programme director **Rick Tazzini** has left the team to take over the reins of Operation APEX, again as programme director.

**Bev Ashton**, from Kent Police, will take over as Collaboration programme manager and South Eastern's operational support manager Supt **Carl O'Malley** joins the team to support Bev.

### Retirements

Police trainer Sgt **Wendy Welham**, 48, retires on September 14, after serving 30 years with the force. She has previously served at Stansted, in Staff Development and at Dunmow.

Pc **Gary Macswan** has retired having also completed 30 years service with Essex Police. The 52-year-old, who last served at Stansted Airport, previously worked in Mobile Support Division.

Dc **Kevin Stiff**, 48, retired at the beginning of the month from Crime Division after serving his 30 years.

Temporary Dc **Nigel Beckman**, 54, has retired after almost 30 years. He previously served in Colchester, Chelmsford and Braintree and finally in Crime Division.

Traffic warden controller **Bernard Yeulett** retired at the end of last month, following nearly 14 years service with Essex Police.

Mr Yeulett, 62, worked at

Stansted Airport and had previously worked in Central Division as well as in Colchester.

### Obituaries

Ex-sergeant **Norman Lonergan**, of Leigh on Sea, has died, aged 81. He leaves a widow, Doreen. Mr Lonergan served from 1949 to 1981 at Rayleigh Traffic.

Former constable **Tony Robinson**, of King's Lynn, has died, aged 78. He leaves a widow, Doreen.

Mr Robinson served between 1957 and 1987 at Rainham, Romford and North Weald.

Donations for the Dialysis Unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn – made payable to Dialysis Unit QE Hosp NH Trust – can be sent to R H & C G Bond funeral directors, Malach, Oxborough Road, Stoke Ferry, Norfolk PE33 9TA.

And ex-Dc **John Line**, of Great Wakering, has died, aged 67. He leaves a widow, Jeanette.

Mr Line served from 1960 to 1987 at Grays, Chelmsford, Hockley, Great Wakering, Rochford, Westcliff and Southend.

His funeral service was due to take place on Monday, September 8, at St Nicholas' Church, Great Wakering, at 10am, followed by cremation at Southend at 11am.

Donations may be made to Fairhavens Hospice in his memory, send c/o Co-operative Funeral Care, 28 High Street, Great Wakering, Essex SS3 0EG.

### Awards and recognition

Police search adviser (PoLSA) Pc **Heather Alston** has been presented with a Gold Commander's Certificate of Recognition by Suffolk Constabulary, in relation to Operation Sumac – the investigation into the murders of five

women in the Ipswich area.

Pc Alston said: "I am delighted that Essex has been recognised for their contribution to the search. From the first week I knew we were in it for the long haul.

"It was good to be involved in such an unusual and unprecedented case and it was an honour to be part of it."

During the investigation, 176 searches, totalling 13,000 hours, were carried out. Heather was commended for her "outstanding contribution to the management and effective deployment of search teams during the unprecedented and extraordinary events of December 2006".

Suffolk faced one of the biggest challenges in British criminal history after the discovery of the bodies of the five young women.

Speaking at an awards ceremony, Suffolk Chief Constable Simon Ash said: "We have had much discussion about how best to recognise the contributions of everybody.

"As you might imagine, it is not easy with an incident of this magnitude."

Sgt **Barry Atkinson**, of Braintree South Neighbourhood Policing Team, has been awarded a BSc (Hons) crime and criminology degree by the University of Portsmouth.

And civil claims manager **Adrian Williams**, of the Legal Department, has been awarded a diploma in legal practice with commendation by Anglia Ruskin University.

And Sgt **Richard Miller**, of Maldon NPT, has been awarded a post-graduate certificate in the management of anti-social behaviour by Anglia Ruskin University.

## BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE – ONE WORD PER BOX


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Send to The Editor, The Law, Internal Communications, Essex Police HQ.  
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Only adverts from those directly connected to Essex Police (either serving or retired) will be accepted. Adverts should be restricted to a maximum of 24 words and repeat ads should be re-submitted on a monthly basis. The deadline is the 20th of each month. *The Law* team reserves the right to edit or omit any advert.



AS we reflect on the great performance of the GB team at the Beijing Olympics last month, I thought it would be good to look back over our own achievements in national Police Sport UK (PSUK) competitions during the past year.

The past year's sporting calendar has seen some great results for Essex Police in a variety of competitions.

I list here a few of these achievements below and apologise to all those who have done well but I have not mentioned.

### National PSUK selection

To get into a national police team is quite a feat and we have no less than 29 Essex Police employees participating at this level.

Bowls – John Stewart

Cricket – Adrian Garnham

Men's football – Nicky Smith

Men's golf – Keith Davies

Women's golf – Toni Hodge

Men's hockey – Gaz Ingram, Lee Ward, Lewis Smith, Vic Murphy & Matthew Brown

Women's hockey – Lucy Robinson

& Di Reynolds

Orienteering – Wendy Welham, Steve King & Tom O'Brien

Race-walking – Steve King

Road-running – Mick Bond & Russell Welch

Women's rugby – Sarah Jay

Snow sports – Marina Ericson

Squash – Andy Hynes & Adrian Bunting

Swimming – Brett Lummis

Table-tennis – Keiran Lally & Chris Jacob

Tug of war – Skelly Lambert, Steve Tyrrell & Jim Finnigan

Volleyball – Amanda Pollard

### Women's hockey

The team got to the final after winning their semi in Scotland with a solid display of attacking and defending.

The final against the Metropolitan Police was played in Belfast. We were underdogs but quietly confident that a good performance would see us through.

A solid display of teamwork resulted in a convincing 3-1 win. Sara Bamfield scored all three goals



● Christian Robinson ext 58883



with the Met's goal coming too late in the day to cause any real worry. Leisa King was awarded the player of the match by the PSUK committee.

### Veterans' football

Another semi-final worth watching – Essex Police played the Met at Burnham and won on penalties after a hard-fought game, which included some exceptional goal-keeping from Matt Clark.

Essex started slowly in the final at Port Vale FC but, because of solid teamwork and more good goal-keeping from Matt, came away 3-1 winners to take force's first national

football title. Nick Smith was voted man of the match and a great vote of thanks goes to Joe Wrigley for his player/manager input over the year.

### Men's hockey

I must mention our men's hockey team – although not national champions, they came so close.

After beating Greater Manchester Police 7-1 in a one-sided semi-final they faced a final against the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), who have won the competition 17 times in the last 30 years.

Essex played out of their socks, scoring first and taking a two-goal lead during the second half.

PSNI came back strongly and scored late in injury time to take the contest to extra time.

Again Essex took the lead twice during extra time, only to lose to two late goals in injury time.

The final score was 5-4 to PSNI, who said it was the best final they had played in for many a year.

### Cross-country

Mick Bond rallied his troops to complete an exceptional running season.

The team created a little bit of history with Essex becoming the first police service to win the men's, women's and veterans' team awards in the same season.

### World Masters Diving

Although it is not a PSUK sport, I must mention Gemma Pearson, who brought back five medals from the World Masters Diving Championships in Perth, Australia.

Gemma's two golds were won with her synchro partner Beth Ackroyd and her three other silver and bronze medals were won in individual 1m and 3m events.

### PSUK indoor games

This year also saw a good performance from all our entrants to the indoor games at Potters in Norfolk.

Chris Jacob won the veterans' table tennis, while Colin Hill and Lee Heaton reached the final of the pool doubles only to lose to the Metropolitan Police, whom they had beaten in an earlier round.

## Golden times for tug-of-war

SADLY, the Essex tug-of-war team had to join forces with Staffordshire Police for the national championships.

But that did not prevent their trip to Hillingdon Athletics Club – the event was held in conjunction with PSUK athletics – from being a total success.

Toby Kemp and Russ Mason gained gold medals in the catch-weight class, which was coached by Skelly Lambert.

Jim Finnigan, Steve Tyrrell and Lambert got three golds apiece in the other weight classes – 640kg, 680kg and 720kg – and Phil Molloy, Mason and Kemp won three bronze medals each.

And Essex brought back the silverware for both the 640kg and 680kg classes – now proudly on display at Colchester police station.

● A TRIP to Blandford Forum in Dorset for a Tri-Services competition hosted by the Army, saw Skelly Lambert, Steve Tyrrell and Jim Finnigan compete in the British Police squad which won gold in the catch-weight and silver in both the 600kg and 680kg contests.

## Narrow loss for bowlers

ESSEX hosted the PSUK eastern region outdoor bowls championships at Orsett Bowls Club last month.

Essex pairing Jerry Gay, of South Western, and Wally Whitehill, retired, reached the final of the pairs competition, narrowly losing out to a pair from Bedfordshire, who, in an earlier round, had beaten the Essex pair of Tom Sanderson, retired, and Dave Jones, of Thurrock.

The winners were due to compete in the national finals this month.

In the singles competition, Gay lost in the semi-finals, and Chris Clancey, retired, lost to the eventual winner, Paul Turner, of Hertfordshire, who will represent his county in the national finals.

● To join the Essex Police bowls section, contact Jerry Gay on 0300 333 4444 ext 70439 or via email

# Grit and determination pays off at nationals

## ESSEX finished sixth in the medal table at the PSUK track and field national championships.

With a number of injuries leading up to the event, picking teams was difficult for team manager Del Walker.

However, he needn't have worried as a fresh new team of athletes emerged and didn't let him down at Hillingdon Athletics Club (AC) in London.

Steven King paced well, earning a silver medal in the men's 3,000m walk.

An impressive debut from Kerry Freeman in the women's 100m saw her finish fifth overall. And Paul Sheldrake ran well in the men's 200m, finishing sixth in 25.4secs.

On top form was Dan Sorrell in the men's 800m, finishing in 2mins 7.7secs. Essex hopes were high for Rachel O'Connor and Lisa Wiggins in the women's 800m. O'Connor fought for third place – just missing out in a time of 2mins 48.2secs. Wiggins was fifth, a second behind. O'Connor also finished fourth in the women's 1,500m, in 5mins 48.2secs, with Kerry Freeman sixth in 6mins 16.7secs.

The veteran men's 5,000m was competitive and Mick Bond finished fourth in 17mins 29secs.

Triple-jumper Anthony Sharman finished fourth with 10.74m.

Jay Barnes threw 10.60m to gain sixth place in the shot putt 29.93m for seventh in the discus and 38.51m for eighth in the javelin. Team-mate Lewis Kearney threw 38.37m to finish ninth in the javelin.

Chelmsford AC thrower Shirley Quinn persevered after seeming out of sorts in the shot – fifth with 7.73m – and coming fourth in the discus with 30.02m. But she was victorious in the hammer, throwing her best in the first of six attempts with 30.14m.

With only four women in the Essex athletics team that had been competing all day, it was a tough ask for them to compete in the 4x100m relay but perform they did and gained a respectable fourth in 64.7secs.

A medley relay – 800m, 200m, 200m, and 400m – faced the men. With injured captain Walker unable to lead the team out for the 800m leg, Sheldrake stepped up to the mark to run the first leg.

He kept Essex in the hunt for medals and passed the baton to Rob Nicholson for the first 200m leg, who passed on to Anthony Sharman on the back straight. Waiting on the 400m final leg was Daniel Morgan, who with all of the Essex team cheering him on, powered around the lap. The team finished in a time of 4mins 28.5 secs and, more importantly, won a bronze medal for Essex.



● Dan Thrale, of Pitsea, after his tennis match for PSUK against the Army, which the police won 9-0

## Winning ways

PITSEA'S Dan Thrale did his bit in helping the PSUK men's tennis team thrash an Army team 9-0 on the grass courts at Imber Court.

It was an overwhelming performance by the PSUK side as the Army were preparing for their Inter-Services Championships at Wimbledon.

The victory was even more impressive as the police team only dropped one set in the whole match in Dan's doubles match with Paul Underhill, of Avon and Somerset.

The Army won the first set 6-3 but the pair dug in and won the second set 6-3 and then won the deciding tiebreak.

However, Dan won his singles match against the Army's Joe Martin in fine style, 6-2, 6-4.

● Earlier in the day, Dan and his fellow PSUK team members experienced a game of real tennis at Hampton Court – the oldest real tennis court in the world.

## Gents tie their last match

THE Gentlemen of CID tied their last cricket match of the season, against Rettendon.

Rettendon elected to bat first but were restricted by good bowling from Dave Miles and Jim Couchman – the former claiming 3-25.

Dave Griffiths replaced Couchman got some severe treatment from the batsmen, recording ten overs for 50.

Phil Mellon replaced Miles and bowled tightly to finish with 4-36. Rettendon scored 198-7.

In reply, Gary Brown and John Stonehouse both attacked and scored 20s apiece. Quick wickets fell before Miles went in at seven and smashed a quick 55.

The ninth-wicket partnership of Lee Parrish and Mellon took the CID to within eight runs of victory. Both hit boundaries and, with the scores level, Parrish was out.

With nine balls left and levels scores, last man Barry Johnson came in. On the second delivery, he tried to hit the winner and was bowled. CID 198-9.

## Calling retired officers for golf

CHELMSFORD'S branch of the National Association of Retired Police Officers (NARPO) runs a golf section which is recruiting new members.

They organise days out to various Essex golf clubs within Essex at competitive prices and hold an annual Three Branch Golf competition with NARPO sections at Southend and Colchester

Both men and women are welcome and all retired officers are welcome, whatever their age or ability.

● Contact secretary Barry Tarbun on 01376 584873 or Chris Rawlingson on 01245 268661 or 0300 333 4444 ext 45354

## Finding their way

STEVE King, of Colchester, and Andrew Eves, of Harlow, have been selected to represent the PSUK orienteering team; King is due to compete in Hungary this month and both will travel to Germany next month.

THE winner of £3,000 in the August force lottery draw was Dc Mark Giles, of Crime Division.

Second prize of £1,000 sent to Dc Stephen Eddy, of Harlow Major Investigation Team (MIT), and Vaughan Mullender, of Essex Police College, took the £500 third prize.

The winners of £100 prizes were:

Dc James Offley, of Epping Forest; Pc Gary Minors, of the Force Support Unit (FSU); Sgt Lee Stannard, of Corringham/Tilbury; Dc Kevin Bailey, of

South Eastern; Sheryl Higgins, of HR Systems; Dc Stephen Rawlinson, of Crime Division; Catherine Renew, of Thurrock;

Dc Harry Knight, of Harlow; Deborah Smith, of the Force Information Room; James Cousen, of Crime Division; Pc Carole Currey, of Basildon; and Dc Andrew Smith, of Grays.

The winners of £50 prizes were: Pc Ben Hall, of Colchester; Lesley Blyth, retired; Dc Michael Smith, of Harlow MIT; Stephen Sparrow, of Braintree;

Rob Bray, of Rayleigh Road Policing Unit; Neil Armor, of Epping Forest;

Pc Christopher Smith, of FSU; Sgt Nick Edwards, of Mobile Support Division; ACC Sue Harrison; John Watts, of Chelmsford; Sgt Richard Bowler, of Crime Division; Sam Barkway, of Essex Police Sports Association; Heather Streets, of Brentwood; Ella Martin, of Braintree; Scott Jones, of Billericay; and Dc Jo Sell, of Castle Point.

## Residents' concerns are acted upon

COMMUNITY concerns about an increase in street prostitution in part of Southend led to a joint operation involving police officers and health, benefits and housing officials.

Operation Galaxy was launched last month following an increase in complaints about sex workers and kerb-crawlers.

By the end of the month, 19 cautions had been issued and two women had appeared in court, one of them being jailed for nine months for breaching an anti-social behaviour order (ASBO) connected to prostitution.

Southend district commander Chief Insp John Walker said: "We set up Operation Galaxy after a neighbourhood action panel identified key areas of concern.

"The area has attracted prostitutes for a long time, not on a massive scale, but we wanted to keep a control on it.

"We now have regular patrols and are issuing cautions to girls involved in prostitution offences. If a woman is cautioned twice within a 12-month period we can arrest her."

Now partner agencies are working with the police to consider longer-term solutions in 'red light' districts.

Chief Insp Walker said: "We have been going out with officials from other agencies such as the Department for Work and Pensions, the NHS and a housing association to offer their support to women involved in prostitution.

"Most need money for drugs so, under the caution process, we give them the opportunity to see a social worker for guidance on drug and alcohol problems under a drug intervention scheme.

"Operation Galaxy has had a considerable effect and is an excellent example of working with the community and partnership agencies."

## Banking a gift in memory of fallen officers

THE Essex Police Memorial Trust had a pleasant surprise when it received £1,000 from the Royal Bank of Scotland, whose credit card centre is based in Southend.

The memorial trust was established in October 1993 and commemorates officers who have served in the seven police forces which have covered the county since 1840.

The donation from RBS will go towards the up-keep of memorials to fallen officers and a new inscription on the roll of honour for Sgt Bob Walsham, who died in a motorbike crash in January.

Trust secretary Brian Hindley said: "This will be of great benefit to the work we do giving recognition to Essex police officers who die in the line of duty."

# Drivers 'killed three teenagers'

TWO men have been found guilty of causing the deaths of three school pupils in a road crash in north Essex.

Both Christopher Kibble and Sakir Olgun were remanded in custody prior to sentencing on September 19.

The teenagers died in the collision on the A131 just outside Halstead early on May 6, 2007.

They were passengers in a Ford Escort, which struck a tree. Christopher Jolley, of Maplestead, Danny Archer, of Sible Hedingham, and Richard Warren, of Halstead, were all certified dead at the scene.

Ford Escort driver Christopher Kibble,

18, of Sible Hedingham, was charged with three counts of causing death by dangerous driving.

The driver of a Volkswagen Bora which left the road in the same time in the same location and struck a hedge was Sakir Olgun, 27, of Tottenham. He was also charged with three counts of causing death by dangerous driving.

After a trial at Chelmsford Crown Court both were found guilty of all charges.

Senior investigating officer Chief Insp Tom Diment said afterwards: "Last May's crash led to the untimely deaths of three 15-year-old boys.

"The car drivers – Christopher Kibble and Sakir Olgun – are jointly responsible for causing the deaths of these young boys.

"We would like to once again offer our deepest sympathies to their families who have been bereaved by this sad, tragic incident.

"Nothing we or courts could do will ever bring back Danny, Chris and Richard but it was necessary to investigate and prosecute this sort of criminal behaviour.

"Essex Police will continue to pursue such cases in a robust manner, with such behaviour not tolerated on our roads."



● Essex Police Special Constabulary Chief Officer George Cook and Southend district commander Chief Insp John Walker with the new bus advertisement

Picture by Morwenna Holland

● A SIX-month media campaign has been launched by Marketing Communications to help Essex Police Special Constabulary work towards its goal of 1,000 Specials by 2010.

Assistant graphic designer Pru Kingham has designed a special poster which will appear on buses across the county advertising a special recruitment hotline. The number of Specials has significantly increased since 2005.

Working alongside their regular colleagues, Although they are volunteers, Specials have full police powers and help the force to deliver a high-quality service.

● For more details, ring 01245 452277 or visit [www.essex.police.uk/specials](http://www.essex.police.uk/specials)

# College scores a first with new funds grant

ESSEX Police College (EPC) has scored a national first in attracting additional government funding to its in-house student officer training programme.

The college linked up with Harlow College to obtain more than £127,000 for the 30-week Initial Police Learning Development Programme (IPLDP) from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), which is responsible for funding and planning education and training for over 16s in England.

After months of negotiation, head of learning and development Pankajni Trivedi persuaded the LSC that EPC was being disadvantaged by not being eligible for funding and so the partnership with Harlow College was born.

Now, under a pilot scheme, EPC will ultimately receive the extra funds for the 92 student officers who started the IPLDP between March and July this year.

A condition of the scheme means that EPC must pay Harlow College around £64,000 – in return, its student officers

by Heather Turner

will receive a basic skills identification and tutoring service, eg for those with dyslexia. These are specialist teaching skills and will expand the college's teaching services. EPC will also receive help with prioritising additional teacher-training for its own trainers.

Miss Trivedi said: "I am delighted that Essex Police College has been at the forefront of attracting additional government funding to help us to train the police officers of the future.

"And I'm so excited by this scheme, which is the result of strategic negotiation and key EPC staff working very hard.

"The pilot project has benefited those student officers who were eligible by giving them access to specialised teaching, if they were found to require it, and this can only help them in their chosen career.

"Our innovative partnership with Harlow College meant that we could provide an additional service to our students and further develop the skills of our in-house trainers."

If the LSC's funding criteria remain the same, Miss Trivedi said she hoped to

continue to receive funding, which will make a big impact in reducing training costs and help the college's contribution towards Operation APEX.

"On a national perspective, it will help colleagues in other forces across the country to access similar funding and take advantage of "a great opportunity".

Under the old LSC funding rules, EPC was excluded because many trainees already had post-GCSE qualifications but Miss Trivedi successfully argued that all new police recruits have to take the IPLDP in order to become officers, regardless of previous qualifications.

In April 2006, all forces were required to bring their student officer training programmes 'in-house' – Essex Police has set up its curriculum to achieve NVQ Level 3 / 4 in policing.

After a 20-week class-based programme, including law and policing theory, recruits spend ten weeks undergoing 'on the job' training in divisional professional development units (PDUs).

After passing out, they then continue working towards their NVQ, which is usually achieved within a year of joining Essex Police.

Currently, the force starts IPLDP training for 18 students every six weeks.

## Cash to help continue work on knife crime

THE force has been awarded £150,000 to continue its work to reduce knife crime.

In addition, the Home Office will fund the purchase of 11 portable knife-detector archways and 80 hand-held metal detectors.

Insp Kevin Whipps, of the Children and Young People's Policing Team, said: "We were pleased to have been recognised by the government for the work we do to prevent violent crime in the county and be invited to join its programme to tackle knife crime."

The extra funding will help to further work underway to educate people about knife crime and to deal robustly with those carrying knives on our streets.

Insp Whipps said "Essex is one of the safest counties in the country and does not experience the knife crime problems seen in other areas.

"However, one victim is one too many and we will seize every opportunity to continue to work to eradicate this type of crime from our streets."

A key tool in the force's fight against knife crime is the 2SMART programme, which reaches thousands of secondary school pupils each year.

It was relaunched this year to include education about knives and bullying as well as drugs and alcohol.

Around £58,000 of the government funding will be used to further supplement the 2SMART programme, launch preventative work in schools and establish a referral project for young people who may already be carrying knives.

The force plans work with youth councils to highlight the dangers of carrying knives, coupled with targeted operations using the archways and hand-held detectors to find knives.

Insp Whipps said: "We believe a mix of education and enforcement is the answer to tackling knife crime and anti-social behaviour.

"Knife crime in the county is low, however, we will never become complacent and will continue to work inside schools and within the communities we serve to keep Essex safe. Education and prevention are vital."

● For news about 2SMART's summer campaign, turn to Page 5

● High-visibility does the trick at V Festival – Page 5

## Wayne's world

DC Wayne Hickey, of Basildon, raised more than £350 for the Arron Williams Trust Fund by taking part in a triathlon.

Sadly four punctures and a bike crash meant Wayne did not complete the race.

● ESSEX Police College raised £223 for charity with a non-uniform day last month.

The money will be given to the intensive care unit at Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford, which is raising £100,000 for vital equipment.