

The Law



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40th anniversary issue

April 1969-April 2009

CiB Anglia Communic8 2008 awards winner – best small internal publication

Anglia CIPR PRide awards 2008 finalist – best newspaper or magazine

FOCUS TURNS TO NEW BRIEFINGS



● Acting Sgt Mark Hodgson briefs his shift on the Southend Central Neighbourhood Policing Team

Picture by Julia Pack

A NEW briefing system is being introduced across the force to standardise briefings for front-line police officers, PCSOs and Specials.

ACC Peter Lowton, responsible for Territorial Policing, wants every division to return to traditional-style briefings and appointed Supt Luke Collison, of South Eastern Division, to lead the project.

Focus has already been trialled on South Eastern for two months and reactions have been extremely favourable from sergeants, constables and PCSOs.

Supt Collison said the aim was to standardise the briefing process and the quality of content across the force while placing a renewed emphasis on debriefing and feedback to assess the effectiveness of local patrols and taskings.

"I am really pleased with how well Focus has been received by front-line officers and with the support they have given to the trial, which has made it such a success," said Supt Collison.

Mr Lowton said he wanted to return to the days of structured daily team briefings where officers were directed and tasked by their sergeant before their patrols began.

"I am confident that this system will deliver by investing in this vital process – officers will have better clarity regarding their priorities and, as a result, be more effective overall.

"The new model will help sergeants to direct their officers and take personal responsibility by providing them with easy access to the most up-to-date intelligence.

"By using a consistent format and structure, this approach will quickly become familiar to officers as it is embedded within their working day," he said.

The force's BATS briefing system will be replaced by a whiteboard, sound system, projector and screen and simple PowerPoint slides, which can be accessed through the intranet front page, in a similar way to BATS. The Focus briefing slides will be compiled by divisional intelligence units each day and updated for each shift.

Focus briefing headings will be prescriptive and will be standard across all divisions. This will include separate briefings for each shift and across each district and will include local information at neighbourhood level as well.

Localising the information even more, there will also be room for an electronic sergeants' briefing handover – this seeks to enhance the current handover and is a format capable of being more widely shared 24/7.

The seven briefing headings are: 1 Crime trends – including hot spots and patrol plans; 2 Vehicles of interest; 3 People of interest; 4 Officer safety; 5 Divisional calendar; 6 Force issues; 7 Local issues.

The briefings will be fully searchable and have email links to the divisional intelligence unit so any intelligence or identifications from briefings can be shared immediately.

Sgt Steve May, of Southend Neighbourhood Policing Team, said: "The new briefing system has many benefits as all the information we need is there in one place – I can quickly identify crime hot-spots for targeted patrols, outstanding suspects to be arrested and other key topics to assist with crime reduction and in providing greater reassurance to the public."



● ACC Peter Lowton

Chief Constable announces retirement

CHIEF Constable Roger Baker is to retire on July 5 – four years and a day since he joined the force.

After a career spanning 32 years, he has taken the decision for personal reasons.

Mr Baker's appointment to the post was the "the proudest moment of my policing career".

He said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed working here and am glad to have led a team responsible for so many achievements – all of which have put the public first."

His promises to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, reduce the fear of crime, catch more criminals and put more police officers on the streets have all been achieved.

Mr Baker said: "We have responded to what the public have asked of us by increasing the number of officers, PCSOs and Specials on the



● Chief Constable Roger Baker

front line, culminating in Operation APEX – the ambition for policing in Essex – which continues to place even more police officers on the streets for the benefit of the communities we serve.

"I believe all of the changes have made a real difference to the service we provide to the public.

"We now attend all crime and have implemented Neighbourhood Policing, extended opening hours at



● DCC Andy Bliss

police stations and re-introduced motorbike patrols and the Mounted Unit.

"My main aim with Essex Police Authority was to make Essex the best-performing force in the country, and I believe that by continuing to do business differently, this will be achieved."

Police authority chairman Robert Chambers said he had enjoyed working with Mr Baker, for the good of the people of Essex.

"Together we have implemented changes that have benefited both the force and the public," he said.

DCC Andy Bliss will become temporary Chief Constable from July 6, in the wake of Mr Baker's retirement.

Mr Bliss said: "As Essex Police is already a very high-performing force, it's my intention that we'll keep performance top on our agenda of delivering excellence in policing.

"I'm looking forward to working closely with officers and staff across the force and I'm determined to ensure that the excellent work currently being undertaken continues and develops in the future.

He will initially take up the position for six months and it is anticipated that Essex Police Authority will formally advertise the post in due course.



Detective sergeant proves he is hot stuff

SCENES of crime investigator Ds Rennie Chivers has another qualification to add to his impressive list of achievements.

He has become a certified fire investigator with the International Association of Arson Investigators – the only police officer in the country to hold the qualification.

The examination took place in front of a board of examiners – before being eligible to take the exam, Ds Chivers had to have worked for five years as a fire investigator, achieved other academic qualifications and reached a certain standard.

He said: “This American qualification for fire-scene investigators is being accepted more and more internationally.

“I believe only 13 people in this country have qualified and the others all work for the fire brigade or within the private sector.”

He added: “Fire scenes are particularly difficult to investigate and I am keen to do as much as possible to ensure that Essex Police remains a leader when it comes to tackling arson investigations.”

Phone The Law editor Heather Turner on 0300 333 5555 ext 54337 with your news

New senior investigators tell the long and the short of it

THE force's first female detective superintendent senior investigating officer (SIO) has described how she achieved an ambition by landing the job – despite nearly falling short of ever becoming a police officer.

Newly-promoted Det Supt Tracy Hawkins, 47, who now runs Major Investigation Team 1 at Brentwood, was originally a PE teacher. She became disillusioned with teaching and applied to join Avon and Somerset police but was rejected for being two inches too short for the 5ft 6ins limit.

Essex Police was seeking officers over 5ft 4ins – Tracy “scraped in by a fraction of an inch” and has never looked back.

She has served for nearly 22 years and admits that being an SIO has always been her dream job.

She said: “Since my very early days in the CID I knew that it was the job I wanted to do. I am delighted to have been appointed and I just want to do the job to the best of my abilities.”

Tracy added that when she first joined the force, some female officers tended to be stereotyped as dealing with sex offences and child protection. “But all that has



● Det Supt Liam Osborne

changed and male and female officers now have equal opportunities for promotion,” she said.

Tracy was inspired to become a police officer after watching TV crime programmes such as *Morse*, *A Touch of Frost*, *Juliet Bravo* and – a particular favourite from her younger days – *Cagney and Lacey*.

The reality of Tracy's career is that she started as a Pc at Thurrock and became a Dc four years later.

After serving as a detective sergeant at Basildon she worked in child protection at Harlow and Rayleigh.

She was promoted to DI at Grays for a year before joining the Major Investigation Teams (MITs) at Harlow and Rayleigh.



● Det Supt Tracy Hawkins

After 18 months as Castle Point district commander she moved to Central Division as DCI before joining MIT 1 at Brentwood as SIO.

She added: “Over the years I have been inspired by some superb senior officers, had plenty of experience with dealing with major crimes and have loved every minute of my work with Essex Police. I am looking forward to the challenges of the future.”

● ANOTHER new SIO is Det Supt Liam Osborne, 42, currently in charge of MIT 2 at Brentwood.

He has served for 24 years, mainly in the former Basildon Division, which included Canvey Island, where Liam started as a Pc.

He worked up through the ranks after joining the CID and became a DI on Harlow MIT before returning to Basildon as DCI.

He said: “I spent a long time on division as a detective sergeant, learning the tools of the trade.

“A former head of Crime Division, Steve Reynolds, told me that the job that most prepared him for the SIO role was being a divisional detective sergeant, leading a team on a whole range of investigations.

“He was absolutely right. It was the most important phase of my career and honed my skills. I am sure it is the way forward for anyone who wants to be an SIO of the future.”

Liam, who was recently commended for his work on the murder of Dean Boshell in 2001 and for his management of the investigation into the 2006 murder of 89-year-old Catherine Grosstephan in Theydon Bois, also recalls his involvement in the arrest of Glenn Nelson for the savage attack of two women in Basildon and Grays as being among the significant successes of his career.

● More news about People on Page 10

Jo goes the extra mile for deaf children

LOUGHTON-based Pc Jo Kerly, 23, is running her first marathon in London next month and is certainly going the extra mile in raising money for her chosen charity.

She will be running the Flora London Marathon on April 26 in aid of the National Deaf Children's Society as her niece Maddie was born deaf and the charity has helped enormously to get Maddie the correct support and regain some hearing.

Jo said: “The charity petitioned to enable all new babies to get a hearing test at a very young age so lessening the impact on their life and getting the right help from the start.”

Jo also organised a dinner dance at Langdon Hills Golf Club with a band and Frank Sinatra impersonator, a photographer, raffles and auctions, which raised more than £700 for the charity.

Jo said afterwards: “Despite the current climate, the night was a great success. The pictures were a great hit and everyone looked lovely and took the time to dress up in smart outfits.”

● To sponsor Jo, contact her on 07763 631444 or visit www.justgiving.com/joannekerly1

● More charity fundraising news on Page 8

Modernising your Workforce? Are you set up to succeed?

We recognise that workforce modernisation programs present complex challenges involving the management of multiple issues whilst maintaining performance within critical services.

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Two-yearly tests for advanced and response drivers

DRIVERS holding advanced and response police driving permits are to be re-assessed every two years by staff at the Collision Reduction Unit.

by Heather Turner

The unit, based at HQ Practical Skills Centre, was set up last year to increase awareness of driver safety and to reduce the number of Essex Police vehicle collisions.

The CRU will also develop and deliver bespoke driver training where trends are identified concerning collisions involving police drivers and vehicles.

A new Safe Driving Policy, P80/08, has been published and everyone who drives a vehicle on force business is urged to make themselves familiar with it.

The new policy has introduced a new points system for driving permits regarding accidents/incidents that are deemed to be the fault of the police driver.

Driver safety awareness manager Gary Heard said: “The Collision Reduction Unit was set up to improve Essex Police driving standards still further and to reduce collisions involving police drivers and vehicles.

“Part of this involves identifying potential trends and problems and the new points system will help us to do that.

“We can then work to resolve those problems, for the good of everyone.”

From April 1, drivers holding advanced and response police driving permits will be re-assessed every two years (biennially).

Lists of officers and police staff who need these re-assessments for their current role are

being drawn up. And all police officers and police staff who drive a vehicle for any work purpose will need to have an annual fit-to-drive interview with their supervisor/manager on division/department.

This interview will cover an eye test, a brief medical questionnaire, driving licence check and document checks for those who use their own vehicles on police business. Trials are planned to start on Western and Stansted Airport divisions in the near future.

Once the biennial advanced/response assessments have been embedded, attention will turn to the rest of those police officers and members of police staff who drive pool cars, hire cars, patrol cars or their own cars on force business.

These employees, who should hold standard/NPPA or basic driving permits, will then be assessed on a five-yearly basis by divisional assessors, who will have been trained by HQ Driving School.

The CRU has now set up its electronic driving details database, which holds approximately 5,000 driving permits and authorities. This contains the driving records – including relevant permits, assessments and points – of everyone in the force who drives a vehicle on police business.

● For further information, visit the Collision Reduction Unit intranet site, under Divisions & Departments on the intranet Site Directory

● Or contact any member of the CRU on exts 53625 or 55271



Public told: 'If you suspect it, report it'

ONE of the newest ways in which Essex residents can join police in helping to keep the county safe is a dedicated hotline for people to report suspicious activity they believe may be linked to terrorism.

The confidential, national Anti-Terrorist Hotline number 0800 789 321 offers another way for our communities to report concerns about suspicious activity they believe may be linked to terrorism.

The hotline is not linked to any current threat anywhere in the country, it simply offers a further way for people to report any concerns they have about suspicious activity.

ACC Derek Benson, responsible for Protective Services, said: "Police forces up and down the country work tirelessly to counter the threat to the UK from terrorism.

"While it is important for people to understand that this hotline is not in response to any specific threat, it is a vital tool to help us in our work.

"Counter-terrorism is not an issue that the police service can manage alone.

"By working closely with local partners and engaging with our local communities, we gain useful information that helps shape the policing service we provide.

"However, we know that some people may still not feel comfortable reporting information to their local officers and this hotline offers another way to share information discreetly."

The message to our communities is: "If you suspect it, report it. It doesn't matter how small or insignificant the information may seem, it could be the final piece of the jigsaw police need."

People should be made aware they can still contact Essex Police with concerns or about any suspicious activity in the usual ways:

- their local neighbourhood policing team mobile number – they can visit www.essex.police.uk/yourarea and enter their postcode to find the number
- our non-emergency number 0300 333 4444 / or text 07624 800101
- 999 in an emergency.

Information about crime can also be reported anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Teenager gets 18 years' jail

A TEENAGER who murdered his father and attempted to murder his mother has been jailed.

At Chelmsford Crown Court last month, Edward Belben, 17, was sentenced to 18 years for the murder of his father Gary, 59, and seven years, to run concurrently, for attempting to murder his mother Tanya, 43.

Belben was 15 when he carried out the attacks at his Colchester home in 2007.

Media shake-up to benefit the force and public

IT'S all change for the Media department as a new staff structure and strategy have been launched.

The changes are being led by new head of Media Claire Ziwa, who joined the force in December.

Since Claire's arrival, the department has gone through a complete restructure and a new strategic direction is being taken.

The department will now focus more on working together with police officers and staff across the force to improve public confidence.

The department will be supported by the creation of three new posts which will ensure that best practice in research and marketing are at the heart of our external communication.

The department is also to launch a

new-look Essex Police website in the autumn, which will be supported by a full-time online journalist.

Claire said: "It's a really exciting time for the department as we are completely changing the way that we work.

"The development of a new external website will help us as a force to engage with the public in new and exciting ways, whilst utilising new media platforms to better effect."

HQ Press Office is also developing, with the launch of an online service especially tailored to work in a more efficient way with external media. More proactive and positive press releases will be published too. Claire said: "Our press officers really want to showcase the excellent work that police officers and staff across the force are doing.

"There are so many positive stories and projects which are making a real difference to the public.

"It's the job of our department to share those successes with people living in our county."

Claire joined the force from the BBC World Service Trust where she worked in post-conflict African countries, such as Sierra Leone, Angola and Sudan, specialising in governance and human rights programming and journalism training.

Claire also project-managed the first and only project in the world which facilitated journalists from Sierra Leone and Liberia to cover the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor, who is currently on trial for war crimes and crimes against humanity at the Special Court in The Hague, The Netherlands.



● Head of Media
Claire Ziwa

Drug dealer ordered to pay court £210,000



● The Dutch lorry fitted with an immobilisation device under new legislation introduced at the start of this month

Drivers are no longer 'getting away' with it

THE force is leading the way under new road safety legislation – it is believed we were the first to immobilise a vehicle using powers introduced by the 2006 Road Safety Act.

The legislation came into force on April 1 and just before 6am, officers carried out a stop-check on a Dutch lorry on the A12 at Chelmsford.

The driver was found to have exceeded his hours, so an immobilisation device was fitted to his steering wheel – and removed later that afternoon when the driver had taken a rest break.

The act also introduces changes to the fixed penalty notice (FPN) system – FPNs and graduated FPNs have been introduced for certain offences where the driver does not have a UK licence or where there is no satisfactory UK address.

The legislation also introduces the ability to require a cash deposit from the driver. If they fail to pay a deposit then their vehicle can also be immobilised.

As the Dutch lorry driver found out, vehicles can also be immobilised in circumstances where previously it would only have been subject to a prohibition eg should a driver have infringed hours regulations or if they are driving a defective or overweight vehicle.

So, if a driver does not take his daily rest break, the vehicle can be immobilised for 11 hours, forcing the driver to comply with traffic legislation.

Additionally an immobilisation device can remain in place until any defects to the vehicle are repaired.

Commercial traffic investigator Pc Harry Sexton said: "This legislation enables the police to effectively deal with illegal vehicles and their drivers.

"Prior to its introduction, a prohibition notice would be issued but thereafter the driver was trusted not to drive the vehicle. Many failed to comply and police would find a vehicle had arrived at Dover whilst still prohibited.

"Now we can prevent tired drivers from continuing to drive. This will have a significant impact on the reduction of serious collisions and the safety of other road-users."

A CONVICTED drug dealer has been ordered by a court to pay a confiscation order of £210,158.

Simon Bromley was found in possession of £24,658 in cash when he was arrested during Operation Portwing.

This was seized under the cash seizure provisions of the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA).

Bromley was jailed for eight years in September 2006 after admitting conspiracy to supply cocaine and selling a firearm.

Following his conviction, financial investigators set about establishing Bromley's 'criminal benefit', with a view to obtaining a confiscation order under POCA.

Last month at Basildon Crown Court, it was declared that Bromley had benefited by £606,178 from his crimes and he was ordered to pay a confiscation order of £210,158 within six months or face a further three years in prison.

After the hearing, financial investigator Dawn Johnson said: "The result reflects the efforts we all put into it. It also shows how long a confiscation case can take to bring to a conclusion, especially when the defendant is determined to make the process as lengthy as possible. "Fortunately this is the exception rather than the rule."

Launched in spring 2004 by SOCD Investigations, the undercover Operation Portwing aimed to infiltrate and dismantle an organised crime group suspected of supplying cocaine and firearms in the South Ockendon area.

It closed a year later when 14 people were arrested and charged with a variety of offences.

● FINANCIAL investigators have also been successful in recovering £78,378 for an elderly victim of deception.

Under the terms of the confiscation order, the money will be paid to the victim as compensation.

● For advice on cash seizures, confiscation orders and POCA, contact SOCD Financial Investigations on ext 61625

Partnership to help domestic victims

THE National Centre for Domestic Violence (NCDV) is expanding its services into Essex.

NCDV is a registered charity that provides fast, free advice and support to all victims of domestic violence regardless of age, race, gender, sexuality or financial circumstances.

The charity usually obtains injunctions within 24 hours and its service is free.

Vulnerable victims co-ordinator Insp Nick Burston said: "To be able to offer victims quick and easy access to legal advice and support in obtaining injunctions is a great step forward in the way in which they are able to take steps to protect themselves and their dependents.

"We look forward to a long and fruitful partnership working with NCDV."

● For information about NCDV, ring Insp Nick Burston on ext 55345 or visit www.ncdv.org.uk

New mutual aid guidance

GUIDANCE to officers on how to apply for mutual aid has been updated.

Recent years have seen events which have resulted in exceptional demand for police officers.

Examples include major protests by environmental activists, the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami and the 2006 murders of five women in Ipswich, which have all led to police forces requesting support through the police national mobilisation plan via the Police National Information and Communication Centre (PNICC).

The authority to apply for mutual aid will come from chief officers but all officers of inspector rank and above should make themselves aware of the Essex Police mobilisation plan on the Contingency Planning intranet site.

Officers should remember substantial cost, logistical and planning implications are linked to any request for mutual aid.

One of the largest mobilisations has been Operation Glencoe, which provided security at Stansted Airport for international delegations attending this month's G20 summit in London.

● For more information, contact Insp Dave Richards, of the Protective Services Improvement Team, on ext 485122, Chief Insp Mark Schofield, of Mobile Support Division, on ext 480628 or Contingency Planning

Motorist finds out 'stop means stop'

THE conviction of a driver who failed to stop at a school crossing patrol in Harwich sends a strong message that such patrols should be respected.

Pc Paul Barry, of Stanway Road Policing Unit, investigated the case and the male driver was taken to court.

On March 27, he admitted failing to stop at a school crossing and received three points on his licence, a £60 fine and £220 costs.

The court heard that the man failed to stop for the crossing patrol operator near Mayflower Primary School in Dovercourt on September 5 last year at 3.15pm.

She had been standing in the middle of the road with her sign displayed when he drove round her.



Unison news by Mike Frost



Unison – supporting the front line

FOR the next few months this column will feature just a few of the things that Unison members do in the course of their working lives for Essex Police.

This month, step forward our Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) colleagues.

Recently, the media have highlighted the time that social service employees spend on a computer instead of being “out there” with the people who need them.

The truth is, though, that accurate records are essential and so is monitoring and analysing how the police spend their time.

Essex Police, as an organisation, is accountable to the people of Essex. Properly recording intelligence and preparing papers for court and so on, takes time.

Police officers doing that cannot be out and about interacting with the public as they may wish to do but PCSOs are very well-equipped to fill the gap.

Come rain or shine, PCSOs patrol our towns and villages on foot or by bike so that local people can see and speak to them easily.

Neighbourhood surgeries, mobile police stations and knocking on doors, all provide opportunities for face-to-face interactions that are greatly appreciated by the public.

A quote from a woman in South Woodham Ferrers recently sums it up nicely: “It would be nice to see Bobbies on the beat again but our local PCSO is a lovely lady.

“She always has time to listen and just yesterday stopped a group of youngsters running down our road, tipping over our bins.

“She knew just who they were and they treated her with proper respect when she made them pick the bins up again.”

Working positively with young people has always been an important police role. PCSOs Louise Coveney and Hayley Toye recently set a shining example.

With Loughton Youth Neighbourhood Action Panel, they formed the 999 Under-18 Club. Their first joint venture was a “cops and robbers” evening in February, when more than 70 young

people had a great evening. Now more events are planned with the Ignite Youth initiative. Loughton inspector Simon Werrett feels very positive indeed about his PCSO colleagues.

He said: “This shows how the police are working together with young people to make everyone, young and old, feel safer in the area.”

There are countless other positive examples of PCSOs working in the community in support of their warranted colleagues.

In Harwich, cyclists using footpaths were a problem so PCSO Philip Barnes involved himself with the Cycle Safe campaign.

Then in Shrub End, Colchester, local PCSOs have addressed the ‘parent parking’ problem outside local schools to very good effect.

And in Southend, PCSOs patrolling the seafront provide welcome reassurance to countless holiday visitors and to their “locals” as well as a reminder to would-be thieves that Essex Police is ‘on the job’.

Are local people happy with their neighbourhood PCSOs?

There’s no doubt about that and our federated colleagues on the ground are supportive too! If it wasn’t for PCSOs, their job would be even more demanding – no doubt about that either!

Changing the subject, Unison is very concerned about your personal rights. Did you know that a huge NHS database might make all of your personal details available to other agencies, for example?

You can opt out – details are on the branch website at www.essexpoliceunison.org

By now the retirement of Chief Constable Roger Baker will be public knowledge.

He has not been with Essex for very long but his support for popular Neighbourhood Policing has been evident from his very first day.

For colleagues, this has also been a time of considerable change. Unison appreciates Mr Baker’s constructive attitude to employee relations and the open relationship that your executive enjoys with chief officers and the Chair of the Police Authority.

We thank him for his positive contributions to the police service over 32 years and wish him well in the future.

Federation news by Roy Scanes



Unfinished business

AS you will now be aware, our Chief Constable, Roger Baker, is to retire on July 5, a year earlier than expected.

Over the past four years, the Federation has built up a good working relationship with Mr Baker and, although we don’t always see eye to eye, he has always been true to his word and has responded to each and every communication.

I can only admire what he has been trying to achieve in Essex, even if some of his vision and direction seemed to get lost as it cascaded down to the front line.

Essex is going against the grain and increasing the numbers of warranted police officers while most forces around the country are reducing.

Six hundred more officers in the next three to five years – with 110 of these already recruited as promised – can only benefit our colleagues and the communities we serve.

Most of this ‘Ambition for policing in Essex’ has been Mr Baker’s ambition. Although we are doing things differently in Essex, the end result is what Mr Baker was doing when he first joined the service 32 years ago – police officers on the beat, talking to the public and attending every reported crime.

I bet that, 32 years ago, Mr Baker never imagined police officers would become bogged down by an overbearing weight of bureaucracy, policing performance would be driven by target-obsessed ministers and PC would stand for ‘politically correct’.

I once called Mr Baker an ‘area car driver in a Chief Constable’s uniform’. His ambition is one every police officer would support, ie putting more ‘bobbies’ back on the beat.

It seems Mr Baker has even influenced the new Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Paul Stephenson, who recently called for a ‘cultural shift’ and a return to the tried and trusted methods of 1960s neighbourhood policing.

Mr Baker has four months left before his retirement but I can assure you that we will be working with him and Essex Police Authority to ensure that his dream becomes reality!

Outcome of the judicial review into the commutation of police pensions

I am pleased to be able to tell you that the

High Court has found in favour of the Police Federation in the judicial review of the Home Secretary’s decision in relation to the backdating of the new factors for commutation under the Police Pensions Regulations 1987.

The date the new commutation factors should come into effect is the date they were prepared by the Government Actuaries Department (GAD), which was December 1, 2006, and not a date fixed by the Home Secretary.

The High Court said that there is no scope for affordability or any other public expenditure implication to be taken into account. To do this would be to interfere with the private law rights of the pensioners concerned.

The Home Secretary has 14 days to decide whether to appeal. If this happens, then the decision will not take effect until the appeal is resolved.

If there is no appeal, then the decision means that:

- the new factors, which were backdated to October 1, 2007, will be backdated to December 1, 2006

- anyone who retired with an immediate pension or whose pension came into payment between December 1, 2006 and September 30, 2007 will be entitled to an additional commutation payment or to an increase in pension – on the basis that a smaller amount would need to be commuted for the lump sum already paid.

There are various administrative and tax issues, outside the scope of the litigation, which result from the decision.

These include whether any additional commutation payments will be treated as taxable by HM Revenue and Customs and what should happen if they are.

We have raised these issues with the Home Office, which has indicated that any tax implications will not affect payments to retired officers. We will provide a further update as soon as possible.

In case of any adverse comment about the cost of police pensions, it is worth noting that commutation is intended to be actuarially neutral ie that the lump sum is the exact present equivalent of the future pension that is being given up.

This is not “extra” money; rather it is ensuring that the right amount is paid.

THE CREDIT UN-CRUNCH!

Police CU has launched three limited period offers for loan applications up to 30 June 2009. Ring us or call into your local PCU branch.

- 1** Police CU is offering a discount of 1% for new Resourcer unsecured, fixed term loans, reducing its typical APR from 9% p.a. to 8% p.a. for the life of the loan and making it easier for borrowers to make regular monthly payments.
- 2** ANY member can apply for a loan of up to £20,000. So no matter how small your savings, you can apply for as much as you can afford to repay.
- 3** And for members with good credit ratings and employment records, Police CU will even consider increasing the available term for new loans over £10,000 to 7 years to make monthly repayments smaller (while increasing the total amount payable).

Loans subject to status, conditions and credit checks to persons aged 18 or over. The Police Credit Union is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. 0845 telephone numbers are charged at local rate for landlines but may attract a premium from mobile phone providers.

REGIONAL BRANCH OFFICE,
ESSEX POLICE FEDERATION OFFICE,
POLICE HEADQUARTERS, STABLE LODGE,
PO BOX 2, CHELMSFORD, ESSEX CM2 6DA

Your force PCU representative: Ian Curley

Tel: 0845 241 7509

Email: essex@policecu.co.uk

or visit: www.policecu.co.uk

Police Credit Union
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Honorary President: Lord Stevens of Kirkwhelpington, QPM, DL

Community response is always a first for Ray

THE East of England Ambulance Service is recruiting more volunteers to offer emergency aid in their local communities.

More community first responders are needed to be trained to provide assistance to people suffering from life-threatening illnesses or injuries before ambulances arrive.

Ray Newman, from Crime Division, has been a community first responder for a year. He said: “I thought it was a good idea to get involved as I wanted to learn something which might be useful in the future.

“I find it very rewarding. You do your training with the ambulance service and you have to re-qualify every six months.”

Community first responders are trained and equipped by the ambulance service to provide an emergency response to 999 calls.

They receive basic training to deal with severe bleeding, choking and breathing

difficulties as well as strokes and heart attacks and are provided with specialist equipment, including oxygen and defibrillators.

Once trained, first responders join a local rota and cover a period when they would normally expect to be at home.

First responders live locally so may reach the patient before the ambulance service does.

In life-threatening situations, a few minutes can make all the difference to the patient’s recovery and their subsequent quality of life.

Even if a solo paramedic gets there first, they often appreciate an extra pair of hands until their colleagues arrive.

- For more information or an informal chat, speak to Ray Newman on ext 52258 or the East of England Ambulance Service community first responders co-ordinator for Essex, John Hopkins on 01245 443344 or at john.hopkins@essexambulance.nhs.uk

Association seeks new members

THE Essex region of the International Police Association (IPA) is seeking new members.

There are three branches in Essex for officers to join. Together with K-Branch of the Metropolitan Police, they form 10 Region of the British Section of the IPA.

The IPA was founded in 1950 and now has more than 250,000 members in 60 countries. It is open to every serving or retired police officer and aims to develop cultural and friendly relations amongst members and to broaden their knowledge by encouraging the exchange of police-related experiences.

This helps to contribute to an understanding of professional problems and the develop-

ment of friendship between individuals and forces.

A network of IPA Houses exists, where members can stay, and International Youth Exchange programmes offer opportunities to younger members to further their educational and cultural experiences.

There is also a very active caravanning section and hobbies groups allow members to share their interests.

New members, particularly serving officers, are welcome.

- Further information on membership can be obtained from regional vice-chairman Peter Culligan on 01268 780274 or 07802 213034

The Law



www.essex.police.uk

40th anniversary issue

April 1969-April 2009

CiB Anglia Communic8 2008 awards winner – best small internal publication

Anglia CIPR PRide awards 2008 finalist – best newspaper or magazine

End of an era as forces merged

BOROUGH PARADE

IN March 1969, the Southend on Sea County Borough Constabulary – comprising more than 400 officers – held a final march to signify its loss of independence.

And, on April 1, 55 years to the day after its creation, the force amalgamated with Essex County Constabulary. Southend's acting Chief Constable Harry Devlin handed over the reins to Essex Chief Constable John Nightingale.

But the proud borough force had not given up without a fight.

In 1964, the force had celebrated its 50th anniversary, also with a grand parade through the streets of Southend.

But, ironically, the writing was already on the wall. The 1964 Police Act allowed the Home Secretary to order compulsory amalgamations of forces and two years later, the Home Secretary proposed an amalgamation between Essex and Southend.

A four-day public enquiry at County Hall in Chelmsford in 1967 heard several arguments from the Southend Watch Committee in favour of staying separate, among them the concern that Essex officers had no experience of policing

a busy seaside resort – however, the county had had plenty of experience of clashes between Mods and Rockers in Clacton, Frinton and Walton in the 1960s.

Despite the committee's best efforts, a government inspector's report published the following year acknowledged the borough force's efficiency but suggested amalgamation with the county force would produce even greater efficiency, with better prospects for promotion and improved communications.

It was all so different from the force's beginnings in the early part of last century.

As the number of day-trippers grew, more police officers were needed in Southend.

In her book *Sworn To Serve: Police In Essex*, former inspector Maureen Scollan notes that for several years prior to 1914, the Southend Corporation had increasingly demanded more control over the local police, including consultation over matters which were the Chief Constable's to decide.

They demanded a superintendent of their choice and insisted on dictating who should work in the town – the bulk of officers were to be experienced men with more than three years' service.

"No self-respecting Chief Constable would

• Turn to Page 6



● Wearing their distinctive white helmets, officers of Southend on Sea County Borough Constabulary parade through the town's streets in March 1969 to mark the end of 55 years of independent policing – the following month they became part of the new Essex and Southend on Sea Joint Constabulary

Listening to *The Law*

THE first issue of *The Law* was published on April 1, 1969 and, around 460* issues later, it is still going strong.

As you can see from the picture, left, the style might have changed but the principle hasn't.

The first issue announced: "Today, April 1st, 1969, is Amalgamation Day when the forces of Southend-on-Sea and Essex combine.

"Today is also Publication Day, when the first edition of "The Law" comes out.

"Finally, today is All Fools' Day, an occasion upon which further comment might be dangerous.

"The first two events have been deliberately made to coincide in the hope that the new organisation will have a means of spreading news both inside and outside the Force."

John Nightingale, the Chief Constable of the merged Essex and Southend on Sea Joint Constabulary – it was not to become Essex Police for another five years – told readers that the intention of *The Law* was "to provide an informal means of communication between all members of the Force and its friends so everybody can be made aware of what is going on, particularly in the unofficial, social and domestic pursuits which take up as much of our lives as do official duties."

And those are still the aims of *The Law*, 40 years on.

Readers of the first issue were informed that Merger Saga Ends Happily – the amalgamation proposals for Essex County

Constabulary and Southend on Sea County Borough Constabulary having been somewhat prolonged since the publication in 1962 of the final report of the Royal Commission on the Police.

The first editor of *The Law* was Chief Insp John Hedgethorpe, said to be 'probably better known for sport than work'. Supt Cyril 'Skid' Rand was its second editor, from 1979-81.

The Law was based in HQ Press Office until August 2006 and was edited by various police officers until Jenny Grinter became the first civilian press officer to take over the editing and production of *The Law*, followed by Kim Perks.

Heather Turner took over the editorship in 2005 and carried *The Law* over to Internal Communications when that section was created within the Media & PR department three years ago.

Currently, 6,300 copies of each issue are produced monthly. As well as being distributed throughout the force, *The Law* is posted externally to around 2,700 people, the vast majority of whom are retired police officers and police staff.

Since 2003, *The Law* has been available on the internet so that anyone who is interested in finding out about Essex Police can do so. Readers can now sign up for monthly emails alerting them to when the latest issue has been published.

● Visit www.essex.police.uk/news/n_law_01.php to find out more

* At one time, *The Law* was published 11 times a year, with a joint July/August issue.



Borough's officers were proud of their reputation

From Page 5 accept such limitations on his traditional authority," says Dr Scollan. "As a result, when Southend was granted county borough status on April 1, 1914, it set up a separate police force." Henry Kerslake had been appointed Chief Constable in December 1913 and one of his first acts was to select the 101 men he wanted in the new force, including those given the option of transferring in from Essex, of whom 73 did so – one inspector, four sergeants and 68 constables to the new borough force.

The pay was three shillings more a week and they had a day off every week rather than every fortnight.

However, Southend officers were at least two inches taller than some Essex officers due to the 5ft 10ins height restriction.

In its potted history of the Southend force, *The Law* stated: "As is usual in these cases today promotions followed. Inspector Ellis was promoted to Chief Inspector, all the sergeants were made inspectors and eight of the constables also stepped up".

Southend-on-Sea County Borough Constabulary proved to be efficient and well-equipped, with bespoke tailored uniforms and Jaguar traffic cars.

The police officers of the borough were proud of their force and they achieved a reputation for firmly dealing with the vast crowds of holidaymakers, who were often rather drunk.

While the Essex County Constabulary was continually short of manpower, Southend had no recruitment problems.

However, as we have already heard, this was not enough to keep the Southend force independent from the county force and the wishes of the government of the day prevailed.

A combined police authority was set up to smooth the merger process. As Dr Scollan says, each force was jealous of its own politics and identity.

Working parties were set up to anticipate problems and to deal with those which arose and "personalities in the two forces were introduced to one another through an in-force newspaper, *The Law*".

Changes were also made in Essex on April 1, 1969. Braintree Division ceased to be as it amalgamated with Colchester Division, Saffron Walden Division was incorporated into Harlow Division and Brentwood Division became part of Basildon Division.

Southend itself was split into two divisions – Southend East and Southend West.

Five years later, the process of amalgamation was completed as Essex and Southend on Sea Joint Constabulary became Essex Police on April 1, 1974.

White helmets on parade for the last time



SOUTHEND officers line up in their distinctive white helmets, left, for their last march through the town in March 1969.

Pc 205 Geoff Callan is pictured on the furthest left in the photograph at the back.

The white helmets were introduced in 1962 for 'Illumination Duty'. Officers on foot would wear them to appear more visible to the busy crowds of tourists. At 2am, officers changed back into navy helmets.

The first white helmets had a nylon cover. Later, some navy helmets were painted white until a shiny, white, fibreglass helmet was created.

Pc Callan, now retired, recalled: "In summer, we wore white helmets and members of the public congratulated you on your appearance."

"The discipline was such that you paraded ten minutes before your shift began to be briefed and your truncheon, whistle, notebook and pencil were checked by the shift sergeant."

"You were addressed by number unless you were the senior man on the shift. Christian names were never used and the sergeant was called just that, and the inspector Sir."

As well as Pc Callan, the names of other a few of the other officers pictured, left, on parade are known. Back row, third from left, is Pc 23 Jack Baldock and furthest right is Sgt William 'Uncle Bill' Gostling. At the far left of the middle row back is Pc 124 Ernest Pooley, third from left is Pc 326 Barrie Upton, second from right is Pc 34 Dick Soward and far right is Sgt Michael Bannister. Second from left of the front row is Pc 5 Arthur Banwell, third from left is Pc 185 Phillip Baxter, third from right is Pc 284 John Fowler, second from right is Pc 26 Patrick Hunter and far right is Sgt Leslie Seals. In the front is Insp 251 Ronald Turner.

If you can fill in any of the gaps, contact Essex Police Museum curator Becky Latchford on 01245 457150 or ext 50771, via email at becky.latchford@essex.pnn.police.uk or by writing to her at the Essex Police Museum, Essex Police HQ, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DA.

'Southend years were the best'

OF his 40 years involved in law enforcement, financial investigator Geoff Callan believes his first two were the best.

He joined Southend on Sea County Borough Constabulary on January 10, 1968, 15 months before the force's merger with Essex, and recalls:

I was stationed on what was the Eastern Division working out of the HQ police station in Victoria Avenue – now South Eastern's divisional HQ. The station was immaculate with highly-polished wooden floors and pristine stairs and paintwork.

Caps were always worn, ties were knotted and collars starched.

In summer we wore white helmets and white gloves and members of the public congratulated us on our appearance.

There were always large shifts

parading and plenty of support when needed from colleagues. They were happy times and everyone got on with the job in hand – to keep the Queen's peace and bring offenders to justice.

There were no Support Groups riding around in vans to attend fights or crowd problems – the shout simply went up and those available attended.

One such occasion was August Bank Holiday 1968. In those days Southend was a popular resort for Mods, Rockers and, latterly, Skinheads.

Sgt Bill Gostling – known to all the young jobs as Uncle Bill – was on duty. A sign of the authority he commanded was the way young troublemakers would ask as we walked the beat 'Is Uncle Bill on?'. If the answer was 'yes then there was no trouble.

There had been sporadic outbursts of what is now known as anti-social behaviour and those of us on the 10am-6pm day shift, along with the early turn, had been back and forth to the seafront that morning to sort out

the trouble. We had just returned to the canteen – staffed by a chef and a group of motherly ladies – and sat down to lunch when the station tannoy announced: "Officers need assistance".

To a man, we all piled into whatever vehicles were available and headed for the seafront.

Up against a wall outside The Foresters and Minerva pubs stood a selection of youths wearing braces, belts and 'bovver' boots with Uncle Bill standing guard – no baton or CS spray, he was not even carrying a truncheon.

Uncle Bill then issued the directive to take their belts, bootlaces and braces, then he told the group: "You have two choices. Either you are all nicked or you hand over your belts, bootlaces and braces to these officers, which can be collected from the police station when you go home."

The youths did as they were told. For the rest of the day we carried out the same tactic whenever there was trouble.

It was very funny watching these so-called 'hard' men walking about trying to keep their boots on and their trousers up.

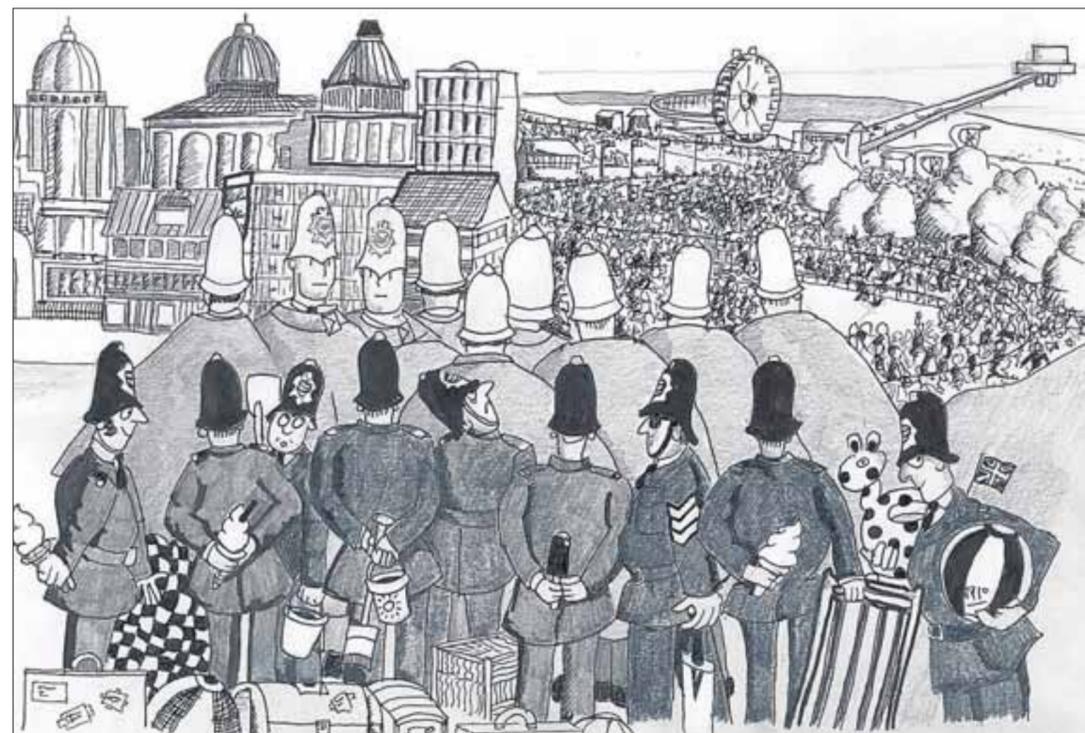
With both hands occupied it was difficult to cause trouble.

At the end of the day there was a pile of belts, braces and shoelaces, which were then collected by those who had been the subject of our preventative action.

There were no complaints and Southend had been a calmer day for families to enjoy thanks to Uncle Bill's practical policing and his innovative method of dealing with a problem.

I have many other stories and memories of a bygone world when the public respected their police officers and when walking the beat there was always a tea stop and a friendly chat to be had.

One of my biggest surprises was a card signed by a number of traders on the seafront when one found out I was getting married.



Cartoonist Simon Coxall's take on the merger of the Essex and Southend forces in 1969. The borough force operated a 5ft 10ins height restriction for its officers – making them some two inches taller than many of their new Essex colleagues. Southend officers were also renowned for wearing distinctive white helmets on duty so they could be spotted in a crowd



Last one serving

THE Chief Officer of Essex Police Special Constabulary, George Cook, started his career in Southend. Mr Cook joined the Southend Borough Special Constabulary on December 3, 1963 as special constable 613. Now, more than 45 years later, he is the only Southend officer still serving as a police officer.

A 'Borough' full of characters

FRED Feather spent 41 years with the "brutal and licentious Constabularies," but says his seven years with the 'Borough' are those most easily recalled:

When in 1962 I transferred to the Southend on Sea County Borough Constabulary from St Albans City Police – a Saturday night boom town, where the workers from the new M1 and M20 roads let off steam – I entered a world where the police seemed far more numerous and thus more in control.

The collar numbers of men and women reached about 370. Bidding a tearful farewell to my Hertfordshire skipper Ronnie Rowe, I found that the Borough boasted his relatives, Sam (80) and Ted (45) Rowe and, later, Stuart (245).

I also found many exotic and wonderful characters. I was initially shown the retirement newspaper cutting of Sgt 34 Gerry Sutton, who "retired after

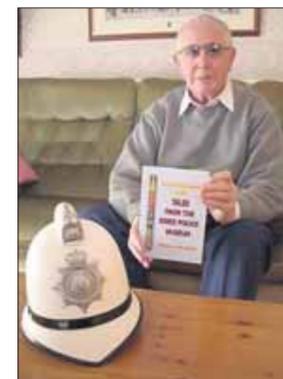
50-plus black eyes." Still present was the famous Pc 556 "Uncle Bill" Gostling, inventor of the "Gostling" caution – which, roughly, went: "I must caution you that the speed of my reaction often deceives the eye."

He was also a prime suspect in the system of the removal of bootlaces and braces from potential troublemakers in the town.

Among the CID sergeants was the much beloved Ds 116 Smith, a prime joker, who would play the office "dictabelt" machine backwards as an unintelligent jumble of words when an unsuspecting "attachment" to CID was alone in the office answering the telephone and would tell him or her to make notes for the Special Branch.

When he was on station duty in uniform and answering a lost property enquiry, he would appear to ring a bell and sink below the desk as if there were a lift, returning with the desired object.

Together with the brilliant Pc 165 Harry Moxham – "Good morning, what do you mean by that?" – I was attached as a Detective Aide. Harry



● Fred Feather with his white helmet

and I were forbidden to leave the office together, despite the fact we had nearly 20 years service between us, until we were proper detective constables.

At Shoebury was the wonderful Pc 98 Jack Taylor, who attended an accident where the crowd had moved an overturned car upright. He made them put it back where it had been, on its side. After Jack retired we often had a good laugh about that incident.

I spotted, walking along Leigh Broadway, a giant ex-Grenadier Pc 122 Mick Rooney, walking on the pavement. Beside him, wheeling a bike, was an ex-War Reserve 227 Phil Fenton, who was about 15 inches shorter and walking in the gutter. Phil was the brother of Pc 91 Cliff Fenton, known as "Sooty" because he had a marked resemblance to the puppet's friend Harry Corbett.

Then there was "Gonger" Frost (159), "Floaty" Turner (172), "Didi" Nash (Did he? did he?) and a

cornucopia of other wonderful characters, not forgetting the cricketer Ted "Chuckles" Tearell (55).

Bringing some class to the proceedings were the policewomen, led by the graceful sergeants Connie and "Charlie." They did not require numbering. There was also the first woman detective in this county "Big Eddie" Edith Fowler.

I remember the force choir and concert party were going great guns and appeared on television with Jack Hulbert and Cicely Courtneidge. Pc 40 David Davies – Ds Ray Law's uncle – went on to greater things as an actor. He starred in a series called *Probation Officer* and then, on *Coronation Street*, he was a detective sergeant who escorted Elsie Tanner (Pat Phoenix) to a Licensed Victuallers' Ball.

Then there were the parades. The force marched round the town twice in my time, for the force's 50th anniversary and for the final parade. On the latter I was on CID security duty, viewing the fun from the upstairs window of the Tavern in the Town.

For the former, nearly 300 men and women marched down Hamlet Court Road, Westcliff as part of the 1964

parade marking 50 years of the 'Borough'. A woman ran out of a shop and asked: "What is going on?"

A voice from the sore-footed ranks wearily replied: "There is a fight at the Queen's Hotel."

In the early 1960s the force had delivered white helmets, uniforms tailored by Horne Brothers of Victoria Circus, Jaguar cars – we had to hunt for a road without a 30mph limit – and a nice TR4 sports car – an eight-hour tour of duty in that was agony.

Then, as an innovative piece of police transport, three Velocette 200cc lightweight motor cycles were bought.

Two were assigned to divisions, with the number plates SJN 972 and SJN 974, as I remember.

SJN 973 was allocated as the CID bike and had a green stripe on each side to fool all those villains who could not work out the sequence of numbers as they whizzed at 25mph around the town.

Even more exotic were the DMW motorcycles, with twin headlights and many eye-catching features, on which we struggled to reach 25mph.

Once lost a motorcycle combination, which kept circling round Westcliff just out of reach until my engine blew up.



● The Southend on Sea County Borough Constabulary male voice choir perform on *The Police Hour* in 1958, which also featured Hughie Green, Jack Hulbert and Cicely Courtneidge



● Essex Chief Constable John Nightingale



● Supt Bill Burles with the Southend on Sea County Borough Constabulary Triumph TR4

Thank you to all those former Southend Borough officers who took the trouble to send in their memories and photographs. If they have not appeared this month, they will be used in future issues this year. Next month, *The Law* will feature a selection of photographs taken of former Southend Borough officers at the 40th anniversary reunion, held at the Essex County Hotel, Southend, on March 28.



Corner the chairman



● Essex Police Authority chairman
Robert Chambers

More public consultation coming up

“THE first of Essex Police Authority’s public meetings will be taking place this month and I am looking forward to finding out what the people of Essex have to say and what they want from Essex Police.

The views of the public are extremely valuable to us and we will continue to strive to give the people of Essex what they want. This month, Doug Hayton, who has been the authority’s chief executive for the past six years, will be retiring.

I had the pleasure in appointing Doug as chief executive back in 2003 and since then I have thoroughly enjoyed working with him and will miss him greatly – as I am sure will everyone at the authority. In the past five years, Doug has contributed greatly to the many successes of the police authority and has helped transform it into the efficient and effective organisation that it is today.

Everyone here at Essex Police Authority would like to thank Doug and wish him all the best for the future.

With Doug retiring, we will be welcoming our new chief executive, Adam Hunt with whom we are very much looking forward to working. Adam joins us from his previous post as Essex Police’s force solicitor.

● Turn to Page 10 for more on Doug Hayton’s retirement and the appointment of Adam Hunt



● Sgt Dave Jones has lost more than two stone training for his 1,000-mile bike ride

Picture by Nishan Wijeratne

Dave’s long ride

ROAD policing officer Sgt Dave Jones is embarking on a charity bike ride from one end of the UK to the other in memory of former colleague and friend, Pc Mark Hylands, who died suddenly last year.

He is due to set off from Lands End in Cornwall at the end of this month, taking in approximately 1,000 miles of English and Scottish scenery during his 14-day mission. Dave, 44, said: “I decided I wanted a challenge and so was originally going to do it for personal achievement but, after Mark’s funeral, I began to think about raising funds for the Help for Heroes charity and do the ride in memory of Mark.”

Dave has been training on his exercise bike every evening and stopped rugby refereeing at weekends in order to take to the roads. He plans to cycle 85 miles

each day until he reaches John O’Groats but then has a further 200 miles to go to link up with motorcycling friends in Fort William – taking his journey to more than 1,000 miles.

Pc Hylands’ widow Sue said: “It’s fantastic to hear of people’s efforts to raise money for the Help for Heroes charity in memory of Mark. He would have been so proud and humbled by the support people have shown and our sons and I are incredibly grateful and amazed by the amounts raised so far for this charity, which was so close to Mark’s heart.”

Dave previously took part in the Essex Castle 50-mile ride in memory of former ACC Liam Briggins, who died in 2007 from cancer.

● To sponsor Dave Jones, visit www.joneses100.co.uk or www.justgiving.com/jones260

Cyclists are fundraising for children



● Isabella Cox

SEVEN officers from Stansted will be taking part in a 175-mile coast-to-coast cycle ride to raise money for children with life-limiting illnesses.

Police constables Simon Cox, Mark Willis, Neil Course, Shaun Heckles, John Morgan, Shaun Russell and James Clift will be taking on the four-day challenge next month to raise money for two very worthy causes.

The first is Little Havens Hospice in Thundersley, which helps children with life-limiting illnesses to live their lives to the full.

The money raised will help Little Havens continue to care for terminally ill and disabled children under the age of 19.

And the second is the daughter of one of the cyclists, Pc Cox.

Three-year-old Isabella Cox has been diagnosed with a rare chromosome disorder. She has various heart defects, is registered blind, suffers from epilepsy and has severe global mental and physical developmental delay.

It is hoped that money raised will help with her long term future.

Pc Cox, who is co-ordinating the ride from Whitehaven in Cumbria to Sunderland, said: “Many children throughout Essex are terminally ill.

“Their day-to-day lives are full of challenges but they manage to face them with a smile.

“We would like to support their bravery and help to secure a better future for them.”

● To pledge sponsorship or for further information on the coast-to-coast cycle ride, contact Pc Simon Cox via email at simon.cox@essex.pnn.police.uk



● Police staff from HQ and Essex Police College support Comic Relief on Red Nose Day

Picture by Bill Stock

We ‘nose’ our totals

ALL the cake, competitions and silly outfits paid off as, across the force, divisions and departments dug deep, found their funny side and raised an impressive £1,236 for Comic Relief on Red Nose Day.

Police staff arrived for work in fancy dress and sold cakes and books, to name but a few things they did to raise money.

The Safer Roads Bureau in Billericay

raised £229.46, Crime Division raised £181, the Force Information Room raised £150, while HQ Canteen raised £124.47 and Essex Police College’s fundraising totalled £122.65.

Other divisions and departments which took part and raised money included: Stansted Airport; Crime Bureau; Thurrock; Transport Services; Basildon; Employee Relations; Corporate Vetting; Executive Support;

Media & PR; Finance; Procurement; and Colchester Criminal Justice Unit.

Over at Essex Police Authority, administrative support assistant Claire Morrison left her pyjamas on and took her teddy bear into work for moral support at the Hoffmans Way offices while public engagements adviser Maureen Browning made some delicious cakes.

Together they raised an additional £100 for Comic Relief.

Bright sparks raising money for children

NEIGHBOURHOOD specialist officer Phil Collie, from Leigh, is running the 2009 London Marathon later this month to raise money for Sparks.

Sparks is dedicated to funding pioneering paediatric research with one single aim – to help all babies to be born healthy and stay healthy.

Phil’s interest in Sparks started when close friends, the parents of a little girl called Olivia, received news when she

was 22 months old that she had a tumour on each of her kidneys.

Olivia underwent a course of severe chemotherapy and had her kidneys removed. The treatment was successful and Olivia is currently on dialysis while waiting for a kidney transplant.

● To sponsor Pc Phil Collie, visit www.justgiving.com/philcollie

● MARATHON debutant Pc Andy Hughes, based at the professional

development unit in Eastern Division, is running the London marathon in aid of the school his children attend.

St Andrew’s Primary School in Weeley needs to raise £35,000 for essential building work and PDU tutor Andy hopes that his efforts later this month will go a small way towards the school’s target.

● To sponsor Pc Andy Hughes, visit www.justgiving.com/andyhughes1standrews



Ian Mott, of Property Services, looks at the importance of considering all aspects of a purchase or design

Looking after Essex Police and the environment

INSTEAD of looking at ways we can save energy and reduce our impact on the environment, this month I want to consider the general approach to a sustainable future.

When carrying out building work, designing new buildings and selecting equipment, it is necessary not just to look at the initial impact these designs or selection have but also their long-term effect on the environment.

The initial cost of a boiler or light fitting, for example, is only a comparatively small part of the cost which will be incurred over its useful life.

The cost of energy consumed and of servicing will far outweigh the initial costs and will need to be assessed at

the time of purchase.

This approach is known as ‘for-life costing’.

It means selecting the most cost-effective solution which has the lowest impact on the recurring cost of energy and maintenance – costs which will inevitably increase year on year.

Historically, with low fuel costs and with environmental impact not being as recognised as much as it is today, the approach was generally just to worry about the initial cost.

But if we are to become more prudent and consider energy usage and environmental impact, we need to place greater importance on the long-term effects of our choices.

And energy and maintenance/service costs play a great part.

Donna’s just plane mad

HQ press officer Donna Veasey plans to take a bold jump in the name of charity.

She has pledged to throw herself out of an aeroplane to raise money for the Anthony Nolan Trust.

Donna signed up to become a bone-marrow donor more than four years ago after meeting an inspirational teenager with leukaemia when she was working as a local newspaper reporter.

Donna said: “I’m really scared of needles so to sign up to be a bone-marrow donor was a big step. Now I thought I would go one better and throw myself out of a plane!”

She has not set a date for the skydive, but hopes to raise the £400 needed as soon as possible so she can take the plunge before the end of the year.

● To sponsor Donna, visit www.justgiving.com/donnaveasey or contact her on ext 50620 or via email

● A NOVEL money-raising idea has been created by Rochford Pc Colin Wells. He has come up with a mutual aid patch to be sold in aid of Little Havens Hospices.

Little Havens is a local charity which cares for children with terminal illnesses and supports their parents.

The patches cost £2.50 and at least £1 from each one will go to the charity.

● To order, email your name, rank, collar/ID number, your station/office and the number of patches you require to Colin Wells, then send a cheque – payable to C Wells – to Pc Colin Wells at Rochford police station



HAVE YOUR SAY: Write to Heather Turner, Law Letters, Internal Communications, Police HQ, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DA or email 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.

The Comrades just want to make friends

THIS is a final reminder that the Essex Police Comrades Association spring buffet will be held on Saturday, May 9, at Essex Police College canteen, at HQ.

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

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

Please let me have your booking forms and cheques as soon as possible by sending them to me at Essex Police Federation, Stable Lodge, Essex Police HQ, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, CM2 6DA. The deadline is Thursday, April 23.

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

If, for any reason, you have not received your 2009 membership information, then please contact my secretary, Marian Godwin, in the Federation office on 01245 452799.

Tony Rayner
Secretary
Essex Police Comrades Association

Special police pensioners also invited

RECENTLY, there has been a lot of discussion about retired officers who have had a pension for longer than they served and the possibility of getting them to attend a function so that they can chat about their service experiences.

Every year, I organise a reunion lunch for officers who served in the Romford Division of the then Essex County Constabulary before it was taken over by the Metropolitan Police in 1964.

Obviously, many of those attending have been retired more than 30 years.

I would like to invite officers who have drawn a pension for longer than the time they served in the force – to join us at the annual Romford Reunion lunch.

The lunch will be held in HQ Sports Pavilion at 1pm on Saturday, September 26.

Anyone interested in attending – whether because you are a former Romford officer or because you have drawn your pension for longer than you served – can contact me on 01702 231383.

The cost is £13.75 and wives and partners are invited.

Stuart Mather
Hullbridge

The Law gets out and about

IT gives me a great deal of pleasure to read *The Law* every month.

The only other English newspaper I can get here is *The Baltic Times*, which concerns itself with the politics of the Baltic states.

In short, I thoroughly enjoy reading *The Law* over a couple of pints.

I have made great friends with the local police here, who look after 'the old man', ie me, and treat me with great respect.

Their methods of policing remind me of my early days in Essex Police. My house is one of their tea stops and it's quite normal to see a police vehicle parked in my drive – very comforting, as well.

If there is anybody left in the force who remembers me and would care to drop me a few lines, it would be much appreciated.

Contact me at dusty5538@yahoo.co.uk or by ringing +370 37 432277 (landline) or +370 61337578 (mobile).

Also I own and run a small B&B, so if anybody would like to pop over to Kaunas for a few days, I will look after them – the beer is wonderful (cheap).

John 'Dusty' Miller
Kaunas
Lithuania



● John 'Dusty' Miller swaps hats with one of the local officers in Kaunas. Lithuanian Police stipulate that all officers must learn to speak English



Can you identify these people?

ESSEX Police Museum curator Becky Latchford is hoping that readers of *The Law* will be able to identify the two people pictured in these stills from a film in the museum's collection.

The short, silent film from the 1960s is about someone who has their bicycle stolen and reports it to the New Street police station in Chelmsford.

Footage includes shots from New Street police station, Chelmsford and Gainsborough Crescent, in Springfield near Essex Police HQ. Can anyone identify the police officer or the 'victim'?

● Becky can be contacted at the Essex Police Museum on 01245 457150 or ext 50771, via email at becky.latchford@essex.pnn.police.uk or by writing to her at the Essex Police Museum, Essex Police HQ, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DA



Underwater memories

FORMER sergeant Nigel Dermott has been able to identify some of the divers from the Essex Police Underwater Search Unit we pictured in last month's issue of *The Law*. They were taken at Heybridge Basin by Jack Faulkner in 1996.

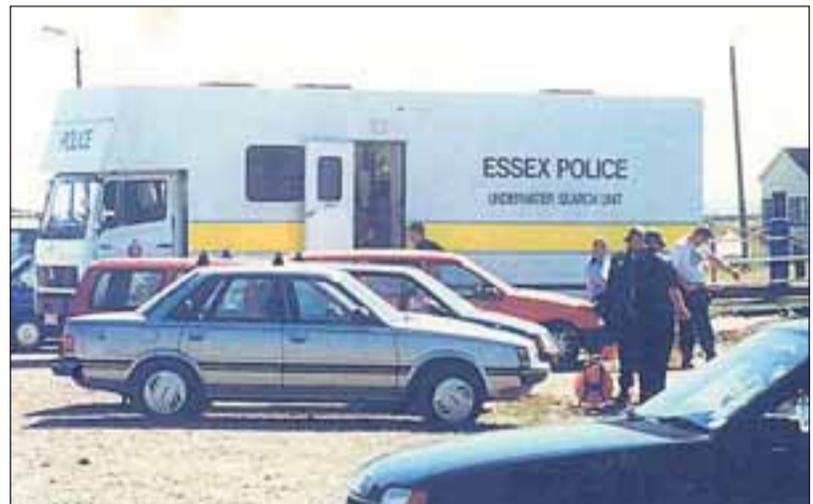
Nigel says: "The photo was taken at a time when I was in charge of the unit. Heybridge was a popular training location and the vehicle was built to my own design.

"I believe that sitting in the door to the lorry is Steve Milbourne and the person in the woolly hat standing to the right of the side door might be Aiden Brick.

"I am sitting on the bonnet of the car and on the right in the light top – holding the communication cable – is Bob Lay.

At the front of the photo is an officer with his back to the camera who I cannot identify and I believe it is John Barr facing the camera. The two divers in the water I cannot identify for obvious reasons."

Nigel adds: "Now that I am retired, photos like these are priceless but life after the police service is brilliant. Clearly, when I look back on these photos, we had a ball and I wouldn't change a thing. But life moves on. Kind regards to all who remember me."



Nation outraged by murder of Romford officer

The Romford Outrage: talk and book signing at Essex Police Museum

AUTHORS Linda Rhodes and Kathryn Abnett will visit Essex Police Museum this month to talk about their latest book.

The Romford Outrage tells the story of the murder of Insp Thomas Simmons, which shocked the nation back in 1885.

Simmons, the son of a farmworker, was born in Weeley in 1844 and joined the Essex County Constabulary, aged 21.

He spent most of his career at Romford and, in 1881, was promoted to inspector there.

In January 1885, he was shot in the abdomen as he attempted to question suspected burglars in what is now Upper Rainham Road, near Bretons in South Hornchurch.

Despite his injury, Insp Simmons joined in the chase as the suspects fled across the fields towards Dagenham and London.

He died at home four days later and was buried at Romford's Crow Lane Cemetery.



● The shooting at Romford, as depicted by the Illustrated Police News

The pursuit of his killers culminated in the murder of a second policeman, Pc Joseph Byrnes, in Plumpton, near Penrith in Cumberland (now Cumbria).

Linda and Kathryn will give talks on their latest work at the Essex Police Museum, at HQ, on Thursday, April 23, at 4pm and 6pm.

They did much of their research at Essex Police Museum and the Essex Record Office, going through employee records, photographs and newspaper cuttings to reconstruct the day-to-day duties of Insp Simmons and his colleagues, the countrywide manhunt and the court cases and executions which followed his murder.

Linda and Kathryn have also written *The Dagenham Murder: the brutal killing of Pc George Clark, 1846*, which won the Crime Writers' Association Gold Dagger Award in 2006.

● Tickets for the talk cost £2 – proceeds will be donated to the Essex Police Memorial Trust fund for a memorial to Insp Simmons. For more information, contact Essex Police Museum on ext 50771 or 01245 457150.

● *The Romford Outrage: the murder of Inspector Thomas Simmons, 1885*, by Linda Rhodes and Kathryn Abnett is published by Wharncliffe Books, cost £12.99

Holiday lets

COSTA Blanca, Almoradi, lovely Spanish town, three-bedroom, two-bathroom second-floor apartment, communal pool, terrace, sleeps six, English television. From £200/week. Ring Dave Ashpole on 07912 506620 or 01702 201694 or email dashpole@hotmail.com

COSTA Blanca, La Marina, two-bedroom, two-bathroom villa. Sleeps four to six, communal pool, near beach. From £200 per week plus police discount. Ring Mick Ager on 07775 676142 or (+34) 617 110 096 or email casadomi02@hotmail.com

FLORIDA, Disney, four-bedroom villa, three bathrooms. Private pool, air conditioning, cable TV. Golf five mins, Disney 15 mins. Ring Karen or Chris McAulay on 01625 431373 or 07881 614045, or email mcaulay60@hotmail.com

FLORIDA, luxury, four-bed villa, private heated pool near Disney and golf. Free brochure Police discount 01702 586092 or visit www.my-florida-villa.net

FLORIDA. Luxury villa 4 bed, private pool cable TV, free WI-FI, free UK calls, games room. Disney 10 mins. We only rent to friends and colleagues for information contact Mary on 01245 465690, 07971 482022 or email maryjane66@hotmail.co.uk

LA Manga, 2 bed, 2 bath apartment, pool, sea views, seconds from the sea, restaurants, low cost flights. For brochure contact Bernie on 07986 098422 email bernie99-9@tompsett@yahoo.co.uk.

LANZAROTE, Costa Teguisa. New two twin-bed, one-bath apartment. Kitchen, large dining room/lounge, large terrace for sunbathing and al fresco dining. Ring Karen or Chris McAulay on 01625 431373 or 07881 614045 or visit www.lanzarotesun.net

MUNDESLEY, Norfolk, two-bedroom house, sleeps four to six, 400 yards from beach. 20 per cent police discount, from £165. Ring Paul on 07970 107542 or visit www.essex2norfolk.com

NORFOLK, high quality, low-cost converted barns sleep 2-6. Pets welcome, lovely countryside, wildlife. Access Norwich Broads, unwind, rural, idyllic. Ring Gwen on 01508 489 754.

ENJOY an affordable family holiday in France this year. Just three hours drive from Essex, nicely furnished Gites located in Beautiful northern France countryside Ring 01375 483045 or visit www.le-petit-hameau.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.

PRIVATE villa, self-catering accommodation, sleeps six – three bedrooms, one en suite. Own pool, fantastic views, excellent holiday location. Southern Spain – Malaga Airport, Marbella coast 25 mins. Visit www.villapasatiempo.com or email taylors@villapasatiempo.com

SOUTHERN Spain. Apartment, three bedrooms, two bathroom, lounge, kitchen, terrace, pool. On Baviera, golf, beach, shops five minutes. Contact Sue or Mike 01621 838179.

TUSCANY, Italy. Fed up with the UK? Beautifully located rustic, romantic medieval village house. Stunning views. Near Pisa, Florence and Riviera. Full weeks or long weekends. Visit www.tuscanlife.co.uk or phone 07976 720022.

Miscellaneous

ROLLS Royce wedding car hire. Extra special service for your special day. Police discount available. Call Peter on 07791 601591, email info@rwweddings.co.uk or visit www.rwweddings.co.uk

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

Homes for rent

TO rent: Basildon two-bed flat. Recently decorated, secure parking. Close to all amenities, A13 and A127. £650 per month contact Darren on 07793 952573.

HARLOW two double-bed house for rent. Church Langley, allocated parking, conservatory and rear garden shed. £750 per month, contact Nic 07773 062555.

CHELMSFORD, Springfield, one bedroom house, unfurnished. White goods, gas, parking, garden. No pets. £550pcm, contact 01621 772195.

STANSTED Mountfitchet. House share, double room. Listed cottage, private courtyard, parking, cellar. Furnished if required. £500 per month including bills, contact Amy 07764 568189. Available June 1, 2009.

For sale

PIAGGIO Zip moped, 2007, black. Under 5,000 miles. Tax February 2010, never dropped, 100 miles per gallon, very cheap commuting. £500 contact Sgt Kettle 01702 232642.

KYMCO 125 motor bike, red, 57 plate, under 6,000 miles, tax September 2009. Never dropped, cheap commuting £1,500, contact 01702 232642.

Chief executive bids farewell to authority as solicitor takes over

ESSEX Police Authority bids farewell to chief executive Doug Hayton, who is retiring at the end of this month.

He will be replaced by **Adam Hunt**, who is currently the force solicitor.

Mr Hayton, 60, became deputy clerk to the authority in 1998, when he was employed as the head of Essex County Council's Corporate Law Division. He became the authority's clerk in 2002 and chief executive a year later.

He was instrumental in leading the authority to become an organisation independent of Essex County Council and moving to its own premises at Hoffmanns Way, Chelmsford, in August 2004.

Mr Hayton said he was grateful to authority chairman Robert Chambers and the other members for giving him the opportunity to work with them.

"I have also had the unique privilege of forging excellent working relationships and friendships with many senior officers in Essex Police," he said.

"I would also like to thank all members and staff at the authority, past and present, for their contribution in making this one of the most dynamic police authorities in this country.

"I hope that I have played some small part in leading the police authority so that it now operates as a cohesive and effective organisation in overseeing the performance of the force and representing the views of the general public of Essex."

Mr Hayton said the last 11 years of his working life had been the most happy and rewarding times of his career and he would miss working for the authority "immensely".

Mr Hunt joined Essex Police the



● Doug Hayton



● Adam Hunt

same year Mr Hayton started working for the police authority.

Mr Hunt had previously worked for a law practice in Colchester and in-house for another company.

He said: "Essex Police Authority is one of the best police authorities in the country and I am very proud to have been given this opportunity.

"I look forward to working with the authority and Essex Police to ensure that Essex remains a safe place to live. "I will also be committed to ensuring continued improvement and value for money in our service.

"Overall I want to ensure that the people of Essex receive the police service they deserve."

Sgt **Tony Coleridge**, 50, also retires at the end of this month after almost 32 years with the force.

Having served in Western, Central and South Western divisions, he ends his career as a custody sergeant in Brentwood.

Pc **Jess Fisher**, 50, is retiring after serving 30 years with the force in South Eastern Division. Her final post was as neighbourhood specialist

officer on Canvey Island Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Promotion

Former Eastern divisional commander Chief Supt **Dave Hudson**, who has been at the Senior Police National Assessment Centre (PNAC) has been seconded as temporary ACC to the National Policing Improvement Agency as capability support manager.

Obituaries

Former Essex sergeant **Richard 'Dick' Jones**, has died, aged 44.

Sgt Jones served Essex Police for four years in Western Division, before transferring to Hertfordshire Police in January 2006.

Former sergeant **James Rudd**, of West Mersea, has died, aged 81. He leaves a widow, Gwendoline.

He served from 1951 to 1981 at Hornchurch, Romford, West Mersea, Rayleigh, Southend and HQ.

Ex-constable **Clifford Barham**, of Colchester, has died, aged 86.

He served from 1951 to 1977 at Colchester.

High Sheriff recognises community work

OFFICERS have been honoured by the High Sheriff of Essex for their community work.

Colchester district commander Chief Insp Adrian Coombs received an award from Sarah Courage for his role in setting up Colchester's SOS Bus.

Peter Carrington, Colchester Crime and Reduction Partnership's com-

munity safety co-ordinator, also received an award for his work on the bus project.

Chief Insp Coombs received £1,000, which will be donated to the SOS Bus project.

And, in a separate ceremony, PCSO Sandra Strange was recognised for her work with Moulsham Youth Club in Gloucester Avenue, Chelmsford, which she set up in 2007.

Chief Insp Coombs dedicated his award to the volunteers who had contributed to the SOS Bus's success.

"Without this team, particularly those volunteers who so enthusiastically work the evenings and into the nights, the bus would not be the triumph it is today," he said.

And Mr Carrington added: "The bus has only been made possible because of the fantastic partnership working between all the agencies

involved and this, for me, is one of the greatest positives to have come out of this project."

Mrs Courage noted Moulsham Youth Club's "valuable services to community safety in the county" and its "contribution to enhancing the life of the community".

The club regularly attracts 30-40 young people and is built upon the efforts of voluntary helpers from the community, partner agencies such as Chelmsford Borough Council and Moulsham High School and local youngsters.

PCSO Strange said: "Young people now frequently act as 'buddy helpers' for other youngsters and it's very much a community-led project.

"We adults are there to help and guide, when necessary, but all the activities are fundamentally driven by the youngsters themselves."



● Peter Carrington and Chief Insp Adrian Coombs with their High Sheriff's Awards for their work with the Colchester SOS Bus

FIVE ACTION awards were made by the Bonus and Honoraria Panel last month. The work of officers and staff put forward for the awards demonstrated at least one of ACTION's six strands: Achievement focus; Customer first; Taking responsibility for performance;

Inspiring high standards; Overcoming hurdles; Never accepting second-best. The recipients of £100 awards were: Pc David Wilkinson and Pc Richard Dines, both of South Western Division; and Peter Brown, Rosie Pick and Belinda Williamson, all of Stansted Airport Division.



BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE – ONE WORD PER BOX

Name and rank:

Station: Home tel:

Date: Signed:

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



Players cue up for national competition

EIGHT cue sports players from Essex have got through to the PSUK national championships. They will now compete at Potters in Great Yarmouth from May 5 to 8. At the regional round at St Albans in January, Lee Heaton got through in the snooker singles and Peter Orpe qualified in the billiards competition. Andy Myers and Chris Holmes got through in the men's pool doubles, Emily Freeman and Jackie Cade qualified in the women's pool doubles and so did Annamaria Tabrett in the women's pool singles, while Mark Jones took the retired pool singles competition.

Golfers get stuck into IPA

THREE officers competed in the International Police Association's national golf tournament. Steve Jennings, John Wright and David 'Barney' McKenzie competed against officers from Nottinghamshire, Northern Ireland, the Metropolitan Police and Scotland on a challenging course at Mapperley Golf Club, Nottingham. The winner of the cup and main prize was Matt Alltree, from New Scotland Yard. Information about next year's IPA tournament, including details of regional play-offs, will be posted on IPA's website www.ipa-uk.org in due course.

- New members, particularly serving officers, are welcome to join the IPA. Further information on membership can be obtained from regional vice-chairman Peter Culligan on 01268 780274 or 07802 213034

Athletics and tug-of-war

THIS year's Croker Cup Athletics and Tug-of-War Championships will be held on Wednesday, May 20, at Colchester Garrison athletics track. All track and most field events will be held but the emphasis, as always is on teamwork and having fun. Registration is from 11am, with the first athletics event starting at noon and the tug-of-war beginning at 3pm. Selection for the police national championships on July 8 in Doncaster will be based upon performances on the day. Spectators and families are welcome.

- Contact Del Walker on ext 10320 or via email for athletics information and Skelly Lambert on ext 10911 or vial email for tug-of-war information

email Heather Turner at heather.turner@essex.pnn.police.uk with your sports news

Hockey team power through to semis

THE Essex Police men's hockey team hosted Hampshire Police in the quarter-finals of the PSUK national cup at Gloucester Park, Basildon, on March 11.

Essex were confident going into the game after their 11-0 thrashing of Grampian Police in the previous round.

Both teams enjoyed possession at first, however, although Essex created far more attacks on the opposition goal they were unable to capitalise.

After 20 minutes, a fast Essex counter-attack saw Lee Ward enter the circle on the right and smash the ball into the bottom left hand corner of the net.

Essex were strong in defence throughout the first half, with debutant Mark Kimba playing well at sweeper, support-

ed by Ian Anderson, Jamie Gingell, Matt Francis and keeper Kev Harvey. Much of Hampshire's midfield possession was broken up well by Mark Potter and Matt Brooking.

In the second half, Essex made substitutions, which saw Vic Murphy and Mark Shaw coming on.

The half-time break and a chance to talk tactics made a difference as Essex started the second half with an early attack.

Gaz Ingram passed a through ball to Matt Brooking who had made great run behind the defence in front of goal. Brooking calmly scored, having beaten the keeper with his run.

Five minutes later, Hampshire got one back from a long corner.

But then Ingram broke from the midfield into the opposition's final third and passed to Ward in the circle – the umpire awarded a penalty as a defender intercepted it with his foot, which Ingram duly converted.

Ingram moved up front while Matt Brown moved into midfield and started to win some great possession and made some great passes around the pitch.

A break led to Ingram receiving the ball high up the pitch. He beat two defenders before committing the keeper and passing to Ward, for his second goal.

Keeping the majority of possession, Essex won further penalty corners, one of which Ingram converted to make the final score 5-1.

Hard-fought final

THE League 2 Cup Final will probably go down as one of the best games of football staged by the Essex Veterans League all season.

Essex Police v Vichouse Sports had been billed as the most imbalanced of games with League 2 runaway leaders Vichouse Sports having won every league game at a canter, conceding only seven goals while knocking in 66.

Earlier in the season, Essex Police had held them to a 4-2 scoreline, which was the closest Vichouse had been pushed.

Manager Joe Wrigley selected a side that would not be pushed around during the match at Maldon Town FC on March 26.

The game got off to a storming start with Essex Police showing they were no pushovers and, although Vichouse had the lions' share of possession, they were unable to turn it into goals until just before half-time when a bit of poor marking in defence allowed the Vichouse centre-half to steal in at the far post to poke in a free kick.

It was a harsh blow as Essex Police had made some chances – Danny Fallows wriggling free down the right and crossing for Martin Hooper to trigger a small scramble and Joel Henderson heading a corner just wide.

Occasionally the Vichouse front two were given too much freedom but Glyn Evans and Henderson looked solid, especially in the second half where, after a sleepy start, Essex took hold of the game.

Colin Norton and Ray O'Hare were introduced and, once they settled into the game Essex saw more of the ball.

Neil MacDonald was switched to the right and he and Nigel Cockrell started to cause problems down that side.

Henderson forced excellent saves from the Vichouse keeper with two powerful drives, Norton found the keeper's hand with a header from a tight angle and Steve Brook put a shot just past the post.

At the end, Vichouse were on the back foot and five of their players saw the referee's card.

Wrigley said afterwards that had been a product of the effort and pressure they had been put under.

He added: "I am extremely proud of the lads for the effort and commitment they put in. If we were able to generate this week in and week out, we would be pushing Vichouse at the top of the league. Vichouse were blown away by our grit and spirit and we came so close to getting a goal in the second half."

Basildon detective takes lottery top prize

THE winner of the top £3,000 prize in March's force lottery draw was Dc Steven Wilson, of Basildon. Second prize of £1,000 went to Sally-Ann Judd, of Essex Police College, and third prize of £500 went to Albert Horne, retired. The winners of £100 prizes were: Calvin Wright, of Crime Division; Pc Lea Osborne, of the Force Information Room (FIR); Pc Sharon Lawrence, of Benfleet; Pc Terry Collinson, of Colchester Dog Section; Supt Jed Stopher, of Mobile Support

Division; Duncan McDowall, of Harlow; Adam Crossland, of Media & Public Relations; Dc Peter Hunt, of Stansted Airport; Stephen Langdon, retired; James Panting, retired; John Rogers, of Basildon; and Pc Andrew Mitson, of Loughton Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT). The winners of £50 prizes were: Robert Bell, retired; Christopher Heaffey, retired; Pc Natalie Pollard, of Pitsea North West NPT; Dc Mark Smith, of Stansted; Dc Graham Morris, of

Harlow; Pc Matt Hylands, of the Force Support Unit; Ds Gary Washbrook, of Stanway Major Investigation Team; Sgt Ian Banks, of Colchester Town NPT; Sgt Philip Barrett, of Southend; Pc Robert Bowden, of Clacton West NPT; Sc Andrew Wells, of Chelmsford Town; Pc Benjamin Andrews, of Colchester Professional Development Unit; Pc Gary Coe, of Clacton Central NPT; Catherine Taylor, of Grays; Pc Joanne Bridge, of the Mounted Unit; and Pc Jane Ball, of FIR.

Darts thriller in Southend

A THRILLING finish to the Croker Cup darts competition saw South Eastern retain the trophy by the narrowest of margins.

Steve Fisk, of Southend, failed to succumb to the pressure as he won the last leg of the last game to take the honours for his division.

Fisk played the last leg of both of South Eastern's games, against Central and HQ, and he also scored the only 180 of the tournament, held at Southend last month.

Central had made a flying start, beating HQ 5-0, and looked as though they might wrest the trophy from South Eastern but South Eastern beat both Central and HQ 3-2.



• Christian Robinson ext 58883



Ticket pricing

UNFORTUNATELY the Essex Police Sports Association (EPSA) has had to increase the prices of the tickets we sell in the sports shop. This has been brought about following a price increase from our suppliers.

We will also be stopping the 'tenth ticket free' deal with the cinema and Colchester Zoo tickets and have replaced this with a 'first adult free' deal with our Adventure Island tickets.

All these ticket deals still offer great value for money and we will be continuing with the free entry to Imperial War Museum Duxford deal and the Pleasurewood Hills ticket scheme. The price increase came into effect on April 1.

The new prices are: Adventure Island, £10 for a Big Ticket and £7 for a Junior Ticket (each member will receive one free Big Ticket when ordering their tickets – this will be restricted to one ticket per member); Colchester Zoo, £12 for an adult ticket, £7.50 for a child ticket, £9 for a senior ticket, £6 for disabled and carer tickets; Sea-Life Adventure, £4 for an adult ticket; Odeon, Cineworld and Empire Cinemas, £5.50 for an adult ticket, £4.50 for a child ticket (not available for Empire cinemas); Imperial War Museum Duxford, free entry for members when showing a Duxford Pass (available from EPSA) and your membership card; Essex County Cricket Club, free entry to the Ford County Ground (not twenty20 games); Pleasurewood Hills, discounted tickets available for EPSA members;.

- For information on these ticket discounts, email Jo Baker (EPSA) or Christian Robinson



• HQ B team on the attack against Central at the Croker Cup five-a-side football tournament on March 27. HQ B won the game 1-0. Full results will be published in next month's issue

Good effort at nationals

THE force was represented by a depleted squad at the PSUK National Cross-Country Championships last month.

With top runners Mick Bond, Dave Wood, Russ Welch, Andrew Jopson, Dan Sorrell, Wendy King and Rachel Wood all unavailable, there was no chance of any silverware coming back from Cumbria.

But the hardy team who made the long journey north all put in tremendous effort on a testing and scenic 2.2-mile loop course.

The women ran two laps and debutant Rachel O'Connor excelled, coming 62nd overall, which placed her 11th in her age category, whilst seasoned campaigner Pauline Bowers persevered for 119th overall and seventh in her age group.

Amongst the men in a three-lap race, Derek Walker was first Essex

man home and was surprised by his strong performance in 85th place out of 287 finishers after a season-long struggle with injury to his ankle.

Top veteran and next home was Don English who put in his usual honest effort in 115th place, which earned him eighth place in the veteran over-50 category.

After a constant tussle throughout the race, John Jackson, in 168th, eventually got the better of Essex colleague John Mackenzie, who was 180th, with Charles Quaeay not far adrift in 185th position.

Retired traffic officer Pete Bryan carved his way through the field to and made a fast finish in 215th, passing youngster Mike Monkton, whose fast start left him struggling over the latter stages and left him in 248th place. Closing the team placings was top walker Steve King in 274th.



Officer's bravery acknowledged by nomination

AN unarmed Essex officer who tackled a man with a gun has been nominated for a national police bravery award.

Pc Steve Fisk has been nominated by the Essex Police Federation for the award which is sponsored by *The Sun* newspaper.

The father-of-three was nominated for his actions during an incident a year ago in Leigh-on-Sea.

Essex Police Federation chairman Tony Rayner said: "It was extremely brave of Pc Fisk to tackle a man he believed had a gun."

"Steve's overwhelming concern was for the safety of the public in Leigh-on-Sea, and that is why he acted to disarm and detain the man as quickly as possible."

"He took the one opportunity presented to him and brought the incident to a successful conclusion. "Had the man produced the imitation gun when challenged by armed officers there is a chance he

could have been shot." Pc Fisk was on his way to collect a statement on March 7, 2008, when he was flagged down by a member of the public who had seen a man waving a gun around.

Pc Fisk found the man, watched him and saw that he was acting erratically and was attempting to get into the cars waiting at the traffic lights near Station Road and London Road.

He said: "When people are acting erratically you just do not know what they are going to do next so I knew it was important to get this guy."

"It was 9am and there were women and children were around. I knew I had to do something and fast. At this stage I couldn't see a gun but believed it was hidden somewhere under his clothing."

Pc Fisk saw an opportunity to sneak up on the man. He walked along the side of a shop and



● Pc Steve Fisk

managed to get behind the man without him seeing. When the man lent back on the railings with his

arm stretched out, Pc Fisk took his chance and grabbed hold of the man's arms. The man was very abusive and threatening and struggled against Pc Fisk's grip.

The 6ft 3ins officer then dragged the man along the railings and got him on the floor – an armed response vehicle and local police officers then arrived.

The gun was hidden in the man's trousers but it was only when Pc Fisk, who spent six years as an armed officer at Stansted Airport, felt the weight of the gun he realised it was a very convincing replica.

Pc Fisk, who has worked for Essex Police for 21 years, has three sons age 19, 17 and seven who are very proud of him. He said: "My sons are mega proud of me. I tried to talk it down to them but they said 'Hold on Dad, you took someone out who you thought had a gun – that is so cool'."

"My sons would like to follow me into policing and I would be behind

them 110 per cent, I love my job and it has made me a better person but you never know what is around the corner and I would have the natural reservations of any parent."

Pc Fisk is looking forward to attending The Sun Bravery Awards in London in July. He said: "Everyone has been so supportive of my nomination. Many people have said 'I wouldn't have done what you did'. But I just thought this guy cannot roam about with a gun."

He added: "I am very proud to have been recognised. Police officers face dangerous and difficult situations and it is nice when meritorious acts are recognised. It is a real honour to be nominated for a Sun Bravery Award."

At the time of the incident, Pc Fisk was working with the Leigh-on-Sea Neighbourhood Policing Team.

He now works as a divisional operational skills trainer in Southend.

Our national recognition for work with Prison Service

Chief is proud of our performance success

We are not 2SMART for Sheriff award

GOOD work between the force and the Prison Service has been highlighted as good practice and received national recognition.

Prison intelligence officers Dc Kat Miner and Dc Dom Davis cover both Chelmsford and Bullwood Hall prisons, working closely with the Prison Service.

The Offender Management Act (OMA) was introduced last year to target people who attempt to traffick items into prisons.

Since then Dc Miner and Dc Davis have referred the highest number of trafficking cases in the country under the act to the Home Office's Police Advisers Section (PAS).

In one case, a woman stopped and arrested earlier this year while attempting to take a SIM card and drugs into Chelmsford Prison later received a four-month prison sentence.

Dc Miner and Carol Beavin, the security governor at Chelmsford Prison, have also been recognised by the PAS for their excellent joint working and are being held up nationally an example of good practice.

Since the act was introduced, their work has led to six people being charged and six being cautioned, with a further ten cases outstanding for a result.

Ds Angie Garrard, of the Force Intelligence Bureau, said: "It is nice to receive recognition for the good partnership work that we do with the prison and it reflects well on Dc Miner."

"It also sends out a strong message to people who are considering trying to traffic items, such as drugs and mobile phones, that we will target them and put them before the courts."

TOTAL recorded crime in Essex fell by five per cent last year, while the sanctioned detection rate rose to 35.3 per cent.

The force will build on these successes to ensure Essex remains one of the safest counties in the country by continuing to reduce crime, increase detections and bring more offenders to justice.

Other successes in 2008/09 include a 20.8 per cent reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads, a 12.1 per cent reduction in vehicle crime and a 13.4 per cent reduction in incidents of anti-social behaviour.

Last November, Essex became the first force in the country to launch the Policing Pledge, formalising our commitment to the provision of a first-class local

policing service for the people of Essex.

Chief Constable Roger Baker said: "I am extremely proud of the reduction in crime and increase in detections we have achieved. These figures reflect the hard work given every day by our police officers and staff."

"Much of our success comes from our unique style of policing and our determination to do things differently – increasing visibility and face-to-face contact, attending every crime and making sure we are accessible to every member of our community."

Plans for the future include continuing to increase police visibility and reassurance, to improve both the timeliness and the quality of our response to calls for assistance and to tackle anti-social behaviour and disorder.

Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers said he was proud of the force's achievements so far and was

confident that the ability of police officers and staff would make Essex an ever safer county in which to live and work.

He said: "By September 2013, Operation APEX, the Ambition for policing in Essex, will see the number of officers in the county rise by more than 600, placing more officers on the street than ever before to support safer and stronger communities."

"At the forefront of our business is public safety and Essex Police is very well-placed to deal with serious criminality and other challenges, including the threat of terrorism."

Mr Chambers said the force's position was strengthened by its partnerships with other agencies and through its collaboration with Kent Police and other forces in the eastern region – working together to improve services and realise savings for further investment in front-line policing.

Key achievements April 2008-February 2009* :

- Reduced the number of anti-social behaviour incidents by 13.4 per cent
- Reduced total recorded crime by 5.2 per cent and the number of victims of crime aged 0-19 by 9.7 per cent
- Reduced the number of people killed and seriously injured in road collisions by 20.8 per cent, some 188 fewer
- Reduced vehicle crime by 12.1 per cent
- Increased our sanctioned detection rate by 2.9 percentage points to 35.3 per cent – the sanctioned detection rate for racially-aggravated crime rose by 3.7 percentage points to 46.9 per cent

* compared with April 2007-February 2008

Force Objectives for 2009/10

- Improve public confidence in policing
- Deliver our Policing Pledge to the public
- Reduce recorded crime, anti-social behaviour and domestic abuse by at least five per cent
- Increase our sanctioned detection rate to 42 per cent
- Increase the number of drug offenders brought to justice
- Reduce road traffic casualties by five per cent
- Meet and exceed the national Protective Services Standards
- Ensure our communities are safe by promoting and developing the UK counter-terrorism strategy
- Have an effective and representative workforce
- Maximise force efficiency – to enhance the front line



● Pc Steve Burton, of Chelmsford Road Policing Unit, and Environment Agency officers
Picture by Laura Anderson

Making roads safer for everyone

ROAD policing officers, helped by colleagues from other agencies, carried out commercial vehicle and automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) checks at Dartford River Crossing service area last month.

Operation Bottle, the first of many such initiatives to be carried out across the county, aimed to prevent crime and reduce road casualties.

The ten-hour operation detected a number of criminal offences – nine arrests were made.

Officers issued 132 fixed penalty notices, 15 vehicles were seized, 23

vehicles were found to be defective, 15 had mechanical problems, three were committing hazardous chemical offences, 13 drivers were prohibited from driving and 123 drivers' hours offences were discovered.

In addition, the Department for Work and Pensions found six people claiming benefits they were not entitled to and the Environment Agency discovered 18 waste offences.

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) vehicle examiners issued 18 prohibitions and VOSA traffic examiners issued one prohibi-

tion relating to driver hours and one for having no operator's licence.

Mobile Support divisional commander Chief Supt Gareth Wilson said: "We were kept very busy on the day and, even considering the huge amount of traffic using the crossing, we detected a significant number of offences, which has a positive impact on volume crime."

"Operations like these enable us to take unsafe vehicles off our roads and we will be mounting more around the county in a bid to make our roads safer for everybody."

