

The Law



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Two new campaigns to target burglars and prevent crimes

'IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT DON'T DO THE CRIME'

by Laura Anderson

OFFICERS in South Western are sending out a strong message to burglars.

Known prolific burglars in Laindon were followed by police for a week last month in a development of the nationally-acclaimed Operation Leopard, which used similar tactics in the fight against anti-social behaviour.

Meanwhile, a pilot scheme running throughout the Basildon and Thurrock districts will involve the DNA-coding of valuable property.

"If you don't like it, stop committing crimes" was the message behind Operation Bright Shadow – the brainchild of Laindon and Basildon inspector Simon Anslow.

The operation, which ran from May 23-29, was the first of its kind in Essex and followed on from Operation Leopard, where anti-social behaviour offenders on a Vange housing estate were followed and filmed by police.

And results were significant. A comparison with figures for the same week last year saw a 44 per cent drop in house burglaries and a 54 per cent reduction in other burglaries, such as sheds, garages and commercial buildings.

Similar results were found when comparing figures from the week of the operation to those from the previous week, May 16-22.

There was again a 44 per cent drop in house burglaries and a 57 fall in other burglaries.

Insp Anslow said: "We do all we can to tackle the issue of burglary but burglary is less area specific than something like anti-social behaviour, so it makes sense to follow the offender rather than target an individual street.

"Op Leopard has been extremely effective in stopping anti-social behaviour offenders. Some people may ask why target known burglars in the same way, and to that I reply, what is more anti-social than breaking into someone's house and ruining their lives?"

Known offenders were given a letter from Essex Police, explaining they would be openly watched and filmed but also offered support from members of the Drugs Intervention Programme (DIP).

Police targeted a list of known offenders, with previous burglary convictions, who were kept under observation so they



● Officers at work during Operation Bright Shadow

Picture by Laura Anderson

could not commit crimes. Intelligence was also gathered on their activities. Insp Anslow said: "We are not dealing with nuisance youths or children, these are active and prolific offenders, who by their illegal activities, cause misery to local residents. If they don't like it, they can stop committing crimes."

DIP support is key to the longer-term reduction of burglary rates. Insp Anslow added: "By offering the help they need for any drugs dependencies we can remove their motive for committing burglaries, which can be to fund a drugs habit.

"This in turn can achieve a longer-term reduction in offences committed by the individual." The Essex DIP is provided by the Westminster Drug Project.

Clive Emmett, Essex DIP county manager, added: "This operation enables our DIP programme to connect with drug-using offenders who are resistant to accessing treatment and apply a 'carrot and stick' approach to these problematical offenders in specific areas of Essex."

Making their mark

Residents across Basildon and Thurrock are also being helped to protect their valuables from being attractive to burglars in the first place.

The force has joined up with the Home Office and the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to run a pilot scheme in designated streets that will involve DNA-coding valuable property – it is one of the largest in the country.

Officers will visit homes and show residents how to use SelectaDNA, an advanced forensic crime reduction system which links criminals to crime scenes and provides an unbreakable chain of evidence in court.

A special liquid – specifically DNA-coded to that residential address – is applied to valuable property such as televisions, music players and bicycles.

If the items are stolen and later found they will be linked directly with the crime scene, not only allowing the property to be returned to its owner, but also increasing the chance of conviction.

The officers will not only show residents how to use the DNA system, but will take the opportunity to run security checks on the home and provide burglary reduction advice.

Residents are given window stickers and signs to display and street signs will also be put up, all of which warn potential thieves that homes are secured with SelectaDNA.

South Western divisional commander Chief Supt Maurice Mason said: "Although the problem of burglary remains small, even one incident is one too many and we want to put a stop to it.

"By providing this advanced crime reduction system to designated areas in Basildon and Thurrock and providing burglary reduction advice to residents, we are certain this will deter thieves and reduce burglary in the area.

"Burglaries can have a lasting impact on people's lives."

● Direct residents to burglary reduction advice at www.essex.police.uk/burglary

● Seeing the Colchester district is kept safe – turn to Page 2

£1.5m cannabis road haul

ROAD policing officers seized an estimated £1.5million of cannabis and are taking action against 1,971 offending drivers during a campaign to improve road safety and detain travelling criminals.

A man and a boy arrested on suspicion of burglary and taking a car without consent were among eight people detained for various offences during Operation Minstrel, which ran on the M11 between May 16 and 31.

The operation, led by police and Essex Casualty Reduction Board, was primarily aimed at drivers who flout the law and risk causing fatal or serious-injury accidents.

Speeding was the most common offence – a total of 1,187 cases were recorded by a speed van. The majority involved vehicles travelling at more than 97mph. The highest speed was 119mph.

Drivers were also stopped for drink-driving, careless driving, driving while using a mobile phone, not using seat belts, driving faulty vehicles or not having valid vehicle tax, insurance or driving licences. Thirty-seven vehicles were seized and 566 fixed penalty notices were issued.

The cannabis haul was found after a police car equipped with automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) equipment stopped a van near Stansted Airport.

The pair arrested on suspicion of burglary and taking a car without consent were detained following an ANPR interception near Loughton.

Sgt Dan Barber, of Chigwell Road Policing Unit, who organised Operation Minstrel, said it would be repeated regularly on roads in west Essex.

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● One of 37 cars seized during Operation Minstrel is ready to be towed away

Picture by Bill Stock

Pledge to target bad drivers

• From Front Page

He added: "With nearly 2,000 offenders dealt with, Operation Minstrel has been a huge success.

"However, Operation Minstrel is just a small part of our commitment to reducing casualties and denying criminals the use of the road.

"The figures demonstrate a worrying disregard by some drivers of road traffic legislation, which is in place to safeguard all road-users.

"And it is this minority of motorists who Essex Police and our partners will continue to target, in order to build upon our huge successes in reducing casualties over the past three years.

"We will keep focusing our attention on those roads that continue to account for a proportionately higher number of casualties – including the M11 – and will deal strongly with drivers who break the law."

Also involved in the operation, on selected days, were: the Highways Agency; the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA); the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA); HM Revenue and Customs; and the Department for Work and Pensions.

Force hosts regional dog trials

THREE of the force's finest dogs competed in the regional police dog trials, hosted by Essex this year.

Pc Tony Mayo and police dog Keane, of Laindon, Pc Amanda Pollard and police dog Quincy, of Chigwell, and Pc Neale Gleeson and police dog Ben, of Rochford, joined nine other top police dogs from across the eastern region – Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk – who were selected from 150 police dogs after competing in their own force trials.

A police dog from the Metropolitan Police also guested.

HQ sports field was used to stage the obedience and criminal work.

Sadly the Essex police dogs and their handlers didn't finish in the top two and therefore will not progress to the national stage.

Dog trainer Sgt Dan Elford said: "It is very prestigious to take part in the regional dog trial so they did very well to get to that stage.

"The competition was extremely strong and unfortunately Keane, Quincy and Ben will not progress any further, but they put in a great deal of effort and put on a great show."

Commendations for bravery and hard work

OFFICERS from Mobile Support Division, Colchester and Ongar have received Chief Constable's Commendations for their courage, professionalism and selfless dedication to duty.

Pcs Darrin Lee and Roy Linton, of Stanway Road Policing Unit (RPU), were called out to a report of debris on the A12 in November.

They found the debris had flicked up off the road and been thrown through the front of a car, causing horrific injuries to the driver.

Both officers administered first aid under very difficult conditions and supported the paramedics at the scene.

They were commended for their selfless dedication to duty. Pc Adam Thompson, of Colchester Neighbourhood Support Team, and Paul Spurgeon, of Stanway RPU, attended an incident in Tiptree in December where a woman had made threats to kill her husband and children.

Arriving at the scene, the officers were attacked with a large carving knife by the woman.

Using CS spray and restraint techniques, they safely disarmed her and no-one was hurt.

Pc Thompson and Pc Spurgeon were commended for their courage and exemplary standards of behaviour.

SSgt Stewart Watson and Sc Imlach Shearer, based in Colchester, were commended for their professionalism, courage and determination during an incident in December 2007 while on a routine foot patrol.

They approached a man to conduct a drug search. He ran off so both Specials chased him for some distance before he stopped and threatened them with a large kitchen knife.

The officers used tactical communications in a potentially life-threatening situation and arrested the man without any injury to him or themselves.

PCSOs Aimee Dilloway and Sally Jackson, from Ongar, were commended for their bravery and professionalism in November 2008.

Whilst on foot patrol, they found what appeared to be an



● Chief Constable Roger Baker, centre, with the latest recipients of Chief Constable's Commendations

abandoned car in the middle of a field – it later became apparent it had been involved in a crash.

Despite it being dark and in poor weather conditions, the male driver was found nearby suffering from severe injuries.

Both PCSOs made valiant attempts to resuscitate him but he died at the scene.

Pc Lea Westby, of Colchester Neighbourhood Policing Team, was sent to an incident on May 28 last year where a woman had been slashing her arms with a knife.

He attempted to negotiate with the woman but forced entry into her house when this failed. She locked herself in the bathroom and Pc Westby had to force his way in, grabbing the knife and restraining the woman. Pc Westby was commended for his courage and initiative.



● Back, from left: Dc Darren Paterson, Dc Paul Byrne, Dc Daniel Ford, Dc Mark Giles, Ds Paul Lopez. Middle, from left: Chris Arnold, Dc Ray Turner, Dc Patrick Ring, Det Supt Simon Dinsdale, Sgt Neil Morgan, Martin Oakley, Sgt Chris Bramhill. Front, from left: Sgt Philip Rowberry, Sgt Bill Potter, Pc Natasha Hazell, Pc Claire Coe, ACC Derek Benson, Sharon Walker, Pc Mike Goldstone, Pc Paul Arthey, Pc Steve Holgate
Pictures by Chris Morgan

ESSEX Police officers and staff have been recognised for the support they provided to Suffolk Constabulary during the unprecedented and extraordinary events of the Ipswich murders in December 2006.

ACC Derek Benson presented certificates of appreciation to members of Rayleigh Major Investigation Team and PolSA, who assisted with the biggest ever investigation in Suffolk Police's history.

The disappearance and murder of five women in such a short space of time meant this was a particularly challenging case involving 600 officers from almost every force in the country. During the investigation 176 sites were

searched and 11,000 hours of CCTV footage were scrutinised.

Mr Benson said: "Our police officers and staff worked extremely hard under difficult circumstances and were asked to work away from home for an extended period. "Their assistance to Suffolk was of the highest standard and was rightly recognised by Suffolk Police in awarding certificates.

"It was a complex investigation and the professionalism and expertise of the Essex officers and staff helped to bring about a successful conclusion and apprehension of a dangerous offender."

Seeing the Colchester district is kept safe

COLCHESTER district has launched a See It Safe campaign to deter burglars.

See It Safe is a variation of the 3VP Plan, which was the brainchild of Sgt Scott Cannon, of Basildon Neighbourhood Policing Team.

The plan covers vulnerable people, property and premises (3VP) – potential targets are recorded on a spreadsheet so that local officers can keep tabs on their area, record what action was taken and ensure residents heed advice given.

Colchester district commander Chief Insp Adrian Coombs said: "Our officers

will be working with the street wardens and civil enforcement officers to identify houses, cars, bikes and any other property which have been left unlocked.

"Whenever they spot an insecure premises or piece of property, they will try to speak to the owner and give them some crime prevention advice.

"When this is not possible, we will send a letter with some guidance on keeping safe," he said.

Insp Chris Willis, of HQ Territorial Policing, recommends that the 3VP Plan is used throughout the force. "It is a

simple, highly-effective concept which is the key to reducing burglaries and theft," he said.

When 3VP was first launched in South Western Division, 400 potential burglary targets were identified in Basildon in a single month.

Now it is used across the division by neighbourhood policing teams and the 24-hour response teams.

● For information on how to introduce 3VP in your area, contact Insp Chris Willis on ext 52042 or Sgt Scott Cannon on ext 40822 – or via email

More local officers for your area

NEIGHBOURHOOD Policing in Essex is being enhanced.

ACC Peter Lowton has confirmed the roll-out of ward-based policing which aims to increase the availability and accessibility of neighbourhood specialist officers (NSOs).

This scheme will further improve the Neighbourhood Policing model, which currently sees our five territorial policing divisions split into 145 neighbourhoods.

Over the next 18 months staff at HQ Territorial Policing will be leading a forcewide change to provide more NSOs in priority areas.

A policing ward will be loosely determined by the electoral wards set by Essex County Council.

The move is being made possible thanks to the extra officers being recruited to the force via the APEX programme – the Ambition for Policing in Essex.

APEX aims to recruit 600 extra officers by September 2013.

Neighbourhood Policing inspector Sam Jarvis said: "Work is currently being carried out with local Neighbourhood Policing Teams to support priority neighbourhoods across the county.

"We want to ensure that the public receive an appropriate level of policing. The increase in NSOs will be spread across the force and is being gradually implemented over the next year to 18 months."

Insp Jarvis said the benefits of ward-based policing would include the increased availability and visibility of police officers with specialist knowledge of their area.

Where there are more police on the streets this acts as a deterrent to would-be offenders, she added.

Making recruitment Special

PEOPLE attending a Specials recruitment evening in Brentwood had a question and answer session tailored to suit their needs.

Brentwood district commander Chief Insp Keith Dobson said people had found previous sessions too long so it was decided to make them more fun and interactive by 'hot seating' on a question and answer session.

With six desks containing two officers of varying ranks and roles, the volunteer hopefuls were able to gain different perspectives on policing.

More than 20 people attended, including people who were Russian, Polish and Tunisian.

● To apply to join Essex Police Special Constabulary, call our recruitment hotline on 01245 452277 to request an application pack or visit www.essex.police.uk and click on Recruitment and then on Special Constabulary

Do you have a story for The Law?

Contact editor Heather Turner on ext 54337 or via email: heather.turner@essex.pnn.police.uk

Spotlight focuses on our local communities

GETTING to know our local communities was the theme of the force's annual Diversity Day.

The focus was on how we engage with our county's diverse communities and representatives from those communities joined police officers and staff for the event last month.

Equality of service manager Insp Ian Carter said: "Although it is an 'outdated' view, some still perceive diversity as predominantly a race issue when in fact it encompasses race, faith, gender, sexual orientation age, and disability.

"When you look at the bigger picture, diverse groups make up a significant proportion of our communities.

"Ensuring our services are accessible to all and that they have confidence in Essex Police is vital.

"The Diversity Day's theme was all about engagement and getting to know our local communities.

"Knowing your customers and their needs is something that successful firms already make great efforts to do.

"How can any organisation provide an effective service and gain the trust



● **Royal Association for Deaf People (RAD) business manager Nicola Crisell, Disability Network co-ordinator Denise Chaplin, ACC Sue Harrison and RAD PR & marketing administrator Lorna Bareham**

Picture by Nishan Wijeratne

and confidence of their customers if they don't know who they are?" asked Insp Carter.

"A great deal of excellent work through neighbourhood policing teams is already helping us build a better picture of the communities of Essex and it is important that Essex Police builds on this and reaches out

to all communities.

"That is why the day included community members and organisations from a rich mix of backgrounds, including our strategic and local Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs) and our staff networks"

Disability Network co-ordinator Denise Chaplin used the Diversity Day

as a chance to introduce the new materials on offer to police officers and staff which give guidelines for communicating with deaf and hard of hearing people in emergency situations.

The project is being run in conjunction with the Royal Association for Deaf People, which is supplying the majority of the funding.

Posters will be put up at all front desks and custody suites and specially designed z-cards will be sent to every officer.

Denise said: "Our aim is to increase the confidence among the deaf community of the police's commitment to improving communication with them."

Organisations represented at the event – organised by the Diversity Unit and hosted by DCC Andy Bliss – included the Gypsy Council, various religious and faith groups, groups representing various disabilities and Essex Racial Equality Council as well as the Prison Service, Crown Prosecution Service, Criminal Justice Board, Braintree District Council and the National Community Tensions Team.

Off Beat

A HAPLESS dog handler ended up naked from the waist down after running into a lake of pig slurry while pursuing a suspect in the dark.

Pc Steve Hutley and his dog Gus, from Stanway Dog Section, were searching for a man near the A12 when they came across the hazard.

In Steve's own words: "Somehow, due to its crust having been sun-baked for several weeks, my dog managed to walk over the surface without any problem. Initially I believed it to be quicksand as I quickly sank up to my waist in a soft, moist substance but within seconds the pungent smell hit my nostrils and informed me differently!"

Despite being totally covered from waist to foot in excrement, Steve "soldiered on" in his pursuit – unfortunately to no avail.

On return to base, he had to strip off outside the building (luckily no-one else was about at the time) and dispose of his trousers and underwear, which were bagged up and binned to save the environment.

Steve was fine after a quick shower but sadly his Pro boots, despite being hosed down and polished twice, still retain the smell of pigs!

All playing a part in delivering the Pledge

SIX months after the force was the first nationally to introduce the Policing Pledge more than 95 per cent of people say the officer they spoke to was polite and courteous.

Almost three-quarters of people who answered our user satisfaction surveys between January and March said they were kept informed of progress – up from an average of two-thirds for the whole of 2008/09.

And 86.4 per cent of survey respondents said they were satisfied overall with the service provided by Essex Police.

The force also answered 94.9 per cent of 999 emergency calls in ten seconds.

Now the Citizen Focus Programme Board has reviewed all areas of the Policing Pledge – introduced forcewide on December 1 – and has drawn up an improvement plan.

This plan will design and deliver new processes to enable the force to match or exceed the standards expected of us.

Chief Supt Glenn Caton, who is the force lead on the Policing Pledge, said:

by Heather Turner

"The Policing Pledge guides us in everything that we do as a force and we all have a part to play, whether it is taking ownership for phone calls from the public or providing aftercare to victims and witnesses – ensuring feedback and updates are given via the preferred method and frequency to the person of their choice.

"But it is important to remember that the Policing Pledge is not just about customer service, it is also about engaging with people in our communities and knowing what they want and working with partner agencies to achieve results.

"While we are performing well in some areas, the customer satisfaction surveys help us to identify those areas where there is still room for improvement.

"We will use this information to make our processes more customer-friendly – we can learn from compliments as well as from dissatisfaction," added Chief Supt Caton, Communications divisional commander.

"Our pledge to the public and how we keep it is under continual review."

● Personal development reviews (PDRs) for 2009/10 will include objectives on

performance, Customer First and race and diversity.

By the end of this month, all line managers should have signed off PDRs for 2008/09 and have input the 2009/10 objectives into the new e-PDR system.

Performance: objectives for police officers and staff will focus on crime reduction and detection, the Policing Pledge and confidence in policing. All neighbourhood policing team members will have an objective relating to Neighbourhood Policing.

Customer First: objectives will focus on customer service, both for the public – victims and witnesses – and for colleagues in divisions and departments across the force, ensuring that divisions are provided with the necessary tools to support front-line police officers and staff.

Race and diversity: by December, all employees to be competent against national standards for promoting equality and valuing diversity and senior managers to be competent against national standards for developing a culture and systems which promote equality and value diversity.

THE **Policing Pledge** sets out a clear minimum standard of service for the public and clear priorities for all forces, shapes the way the police will deal with issues and concerns, informs the public of the standard of service they should expect from their local neighbourhood policing teams.

1 Treat people fairly and with respect. Ensure they have fair access to our policing services

2 Provide details of your dedicated neighbourhood policing team, including contact information. Keep your website pages up to date

3 Ensure neighbourhood policing teams spend at least 80 per cent of their time on visible patrol and accurately record any abstractions

4 Respond to all messages within 24 hours – remember to take your NPT mobile out on patrol

5 Answer 999 calls in 10 seconds. Attend urban emergencies in 10 minutes and rural emergencies in 20 minutes

6 Answer non-emergency calls promptly. Allocate a unit with ETAs as follow:

Vulnerable/upset: 60 minutes

Neighbourhood priority *: 60 minutes

Appointment: within 48 hours

Attendance not required: Provide your best possible advice/service

7 Arrange monthly public meetings, including neighbourhood action panels (NAPs). Ensure you know your neighbourhood priorities *

8 Provide these meetings with news of positive results and arrests as well as updates regarding crime trends and the action being taken. Consider using information from crime & incident maps – find these on the Essex Police website

9 Keep victims up to date with our investigations. Check with victims how frequently and by what method they want this to happen. Use form CID23a to update crime reports. All incident informants must be updated before the STORM incident is closed

10 Acknowledge any complaint regarding service within 24 hours

* Remember to update the Security Systems Office and your own webpages if your neighbourhood priorities change

For more on the Policing Pledge, visit the Neighbourhood Policing intranet site, listed under Divisions & Departments

Change in job criterion

FORCE advertisements for specialist posts will no longer state that police officers must hold a response driving permit to be eligible to apply.

Essex Police Driver Training has been working with Protective Services and HR to allow all officers who have only received NPPA training to apply for specialist roles.

Advanced and response permits may still need to be attained to take up the job.

● The new Media Department intranet site front page

Media site to help get your message out

VISITORS to the Media Department's intranet site will notice its new look.

The site has been redesigned to make it easily navigable so police officers and staff can find the best person to help them with their queries.

By communicating to both internal and external audiences, the Media Department is working to improve public confidence in Essex Police – the government's single performance objective for this year.

Find out on the intranet site how the Press Office, New Media Unit, Research and Marketing Unit, Essex Police Museum and Internal Communications can help you identify your audience and get your message across.

Head of Media and Public Relations Claire Ziwa said: "As a department we aim to offer a professional and efficient media service to Essex Police officers and staff.

"We have launched a new intranet website which we believe is clearer and easier for everyone to use.

"We hope that the new site will support officers and staff with their related media activity, and we welcome any feedback so that we can ensure continued improvements can be made where necessary."

Shoehorning half Western's PPOs into jail

ALMOST half of all the core prolific offenders in Western Division are safely behind bars.

Fourteen of the division's 32 most prolific and priority offenders (PPOs) in jail and another in rehabilitation.

The remainder continue to be targeted under Operation Shoehorn and are subject to daily covert or overt police attention, designed to monitor and disrupt their criminal activities through visits, surveillance and raids.

The successes from the operation have been due to the active participation and on-going co-operation by all agencies involved.

Divisional commander Chief Supt Tim Stokes said: "This no-nonsense operation targets the small number of criminals who commit most of our crime."



Federation news by Roy Scanes



Police Federation Conference – a year on

I write this having just returned from the Police Federation Annual Conference and thought it an appropriate time to look back over the past year's events through the eyes of the Federation.

A year ago at conference, Home Secretary Jacqui Smith acknowledged the strength of feeling shown when 25,000 police officers marched through London for 'fair pay'.

It was a momentous day and yet the Home Secretary stood by her decision not to honour the pay award recommended by an independent arbitration decision.

The then chair of the Police Federation, Jan Berry, accused the Home Secretary of 'betraying the police service'.

At that same conference the rank and file voted for the right to strike if arbitration does not become binding on all parties including the Home Secretary.

Discussions were opened on a multi-year pay deal for the future. As you are all aware these negotiations culminated in our current three-year pay deal, a fair deal that this government is committed to and will honour in full.

New commutation factors for calculating lump sums under the Police Pension Scheme 1987 were announced. These new factors – which are the same for both men and women, were backdated to October 1, 2007. This date was challenged by the Police Federation and our case was eventually won at judicial review, meaning the new factors were to be backdated to December 1, 2006. Our success in this claim benefited 3,500 extra retired members to the tune of approximately £100,000,000.

The Police Federation called for the greater use of the Taser to protect both officers and the public. Following successful trials, the government provided funding for an additional 10,000 Tasers across the country and extended its use to officers other than authorised firearms officers.

I promise that the Federation will champion our members' cause in an attempt to make the Taser readily available at every suspected or

potentially violent incidence.

Please remember for your own safety and that of the public 'think violence – think Taser'.

On-call allowance has been debated to death, with the Police Federation's stance that there should be a national allowance that is included in the Police Regulations and Determinations.

The Official Side agrees that on-call should be remunerated but wishes it to be an arbitrary payment at the discretion of Chief Constables regarding who gets it and how much. Not surprisingly this argument will now go to a Police Arbitration Tribunal on July 3. Watch this space!

Regarding this year's conference, every one of our members will be receiving their individual copy of Essex Police Federation's newsletter *The Informer*. This will give you an insight into the business end of conference and all the issues debated. The highlight of the week for me was our Chief Constable, Roger Baker, with his presentation on 21st Century Policing – the Essex Model. I was immensely proud to be an Essex police officer and to have our Chief Constable preaching not just what the public wants but what our fellow colleagues want.

The public could not care less about how well the statistics relating to their crime have been collated. All too often we are only concerned about quantitative and not qualitative in policing. It is no coincidence that we have ranks such as inspectors that are created to inspect and ensure the quality of the service we deliver. We shouldn't forget that

When have you ever heard of a letter being written by a member of the public congratulating the service on the quality of statistics being collated in relation to a crime committed against them?

They are only interested in quality of service received, how we dealt with the incident and face-to-face interaction.

That's why we need supervisors on the streets with constables, not in the station ensuring the crime report is beautifully presented to the superintendent the following morning.

Keep up the good work.

Unison news by Mike Frost



Unison Conference matters

THIS month sees the 16th annual National Delegate Conference.

This year the meeting is at Brighton but if you think that it is a junket in the sun, apparently you should think again! I say "apparently" because I haven't been before but I am told by those who have, that from Monday to Friday, it's pretty much one delegate meeting after another.

Anyway, this year I am attending on your behalf with assistant branch secretary Margaret Davis – not for Unison a charabanc of delegates on an outing to the seaside for a week and we get no subsidy from Essex Police.

It's just Margaret and me, staying in a B&B (in separate rooms of course) and eating in local cafés as we get the chance.

Looking at the provisional agenda, it has all the makings of a busy conference. If you wish to do so, please feel free to contact either Margaret or me to share your views on any of the issues that are likely to be tabled.

You will be able find the proposed conference agenda at www.unison.org.uk once the provisional details have been agreed.

Remember, though, that this is not the police staff delegates meeting but the national conference and so it will reflect a wide range of issues that will affect a lot of people from many walks of life.

The provisional agenda includes items under the general headings of Implementation of national recruitment strategy; Improved representation; Collective bargaining; Reorganisation, restructuring and privatisation; and Public services.

Within those are motions about organising and recruiting Unison membership to maximise our influence; time being allowed by employers for Unison officials to meet their agreed obligations; additional police information on enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks; and defending public sector pensions.

Of course there is much more than this, including the matter of volunteers in the

police service, so we shall be very busy on your behalf.

Staying with nationally-important issues that can affect us all, a bill is in the House of Commons which could have a seriously negative effect on the National Minimum Wage.

Few, if any, police staff are on the National Minimum Wage but we may have relatives or friends who are, or at least know someone who would be affected if the National Minimum Wage were effectively to be 'done away' with.

What is being proposed is that employees can "opt out" or "volunteer" to be paid at less than the agreed minimum rate.

That will simply allow unscrupulous employers to put pressure on those who need to work to accept sweat-shop wages.

Is there any evidence that this could happen – oh yes!

Care home staff, for example, are notoriously low paid but, by and large, are dedicated people performing a vital role for vulnerable elderly people.

Allegedly, there are care-home owners who employ people on short, part-time hours at the national minimum rate and then offer overtime to carers they know need the extra money.

Overtime hours, of course, need not be paid at even the national minimum rate.

So overtime is offered not at an enhanced rate but at a reduced hourly rate that is even below the national minimum.

Unison urges you to visit <http://tinyurl.com/pof27n> and sign up to Wage Concern to make your voice heard.

Unison general secretary Dave Prentice says the National Minimum Wage "is needed more than ever in tough economic times. We really need your help".

● You can keep up to date with all that is going on nationally on the main Unison website www.unison.org.co.uk and at www.essexpoliceunison.org for local issues. Margaret and I will do our level best to ensure that conference issues of local interest are put on the Essex Police Unison website on a daily basis.

Worklife Balance Network news by Nicky Norris



FOR those of you who don't know the Worklife Balance Network, we were previously the Maternity Network.

Although we still mainly deal with maternity issues, we felt that to reflect the work we do supporting police officers and staff with paternity and carers issues and also flexible working applications, we should change our name to the Worklife Balance Network.

This change was advertised on the intranet but still people say they haven't heard of us so I, as the chairman of the network, have ventured into the unknown waters of writing a regular column for *The Law*.

Hopefully this will give us much-needed publicity and encourage more people to contact us should they need our support.

At the beginning of the year, we ran a primary schools competition to design a new baby congratulations card as our old one looked pretty dated – we had also hoped that we could use one of the entries to give our logo an overhaul.

The entries were varied and extremely colourful – ideal for the card but not quite suitable for a logo.

A winner was chosen and a number of cards are being printed with the new design. Graphic designer Tom Knight, of the Media Department, has very kindly offered to design a new logo for the network.

The lucky winner of the card competition and their class are having a special trip to the Essex Police Museum – our thanks go to curator Becky Wash for organising this together with our South Eastern police co-ordinator Tracey Butt.

We have said a sad goodbye to the network's HR champion Jane Ship and wish her luck in her new project role at HQ.

We welcome back Angela Jones, now the deputy employee relations manager, who is busy researching a new policy to cover IVF (in-vitro fertilisation) treatment and the network has offered her its assistance with this research.

We are still actively working with the Federation on the new Risk Assessments policy and procedure for pregnant women and

new mothers returning to work and hope that this will be published soon.

This has been a lot of work for us but we need to ensure that this is right before it is submitted to the safety committee for authorisation.

Keeping In Touch (KIT) days caused some concern for police officers when the Federation highlighted the fact that taking these could have a detrimental impact on a police officer's pension.

The Home Office Police Finance and Pensions Unit was asked for its view and has now confirmed that "hours worked on a KIT day should be considered pensionable and contributions deducted as normal – this should not affect the officer's ability to buy back the rest of that month as normal if she chooses".

We agree with the policy adopted by the Local Government Pension Scheme, which is that "for the purposes of calculating buy-back of unpaid maternity leave, KIT days should be ignored".

We now have a new batch of maternity leaflets for police officers and members of police staff which contain a variety of information about subjects ranging from notification of pregnancy to returning to work. These are being distributed to all HR business teams.

Last, but certainly not least, our Childcare Vouchers Scheme goes from strength to strength.

If you are reading this and you pay for registered childcare but have not signed up for the scheme, you may be losing out on money.

Information about the scheme is on our intranet site or you can speak to your HR business team or any of the Worklife Balance co-ordinators.

A complete list of co-ordinators and their contact numbers can be found on the Worklife Balance intranet pages found within the HR department intranet site, which is listed under Divisions & Departments on the intranet site directory.

● If you are interested in becoming a co-ordinator, contact Nicky Norris on ext 28503



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Corner the chairman



● Essex Police Authority chairman
Robert Chambers

Showing what Essex is made of

“ I ATTENDED this year's Police Federation conference in Bournemouth. It was a very successful conference with a number of interesting speakers. Along with Chief Constable Roger Baker and Operation APEX programme director Rick Tazzini, I was asked to speak to the conference about the Essex policing model, in particular Operation APEX – and how we in Essex are giving the public what they want – more bobbies on the beat, at no extra cost. This was a fantastic opportunity to showcase to other forces, the Police Federation, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and many others what we are doing in Essex and what a positive impact it is having on the people of Essex. I hope that all other forces recognise that they too can give the people in their county what they want, by doing what we have done through Operation APEX. If all 43 forces in England and Wales followed our example, they could save more than £800million and increase the numbers of police officers up to 20,000, at no extra cost to the taxpayer. What a difference this would make to the people of England and Wales! I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate our newly-appointed assistant chief constable, Sue Harrison. I am delighted to have offered Mrs Harrison this position permanently and I am looking forward to working with her. ”

Show's £200 for greyhounds

A CHARITY dog show put on by an Essex Police dog handler raised £200 for abandoned greyhounds. The event was held at Essex Police HQ last month. Former Laindon dog-handler Belinda Spensley, decided along with her club, the Essex 2000 Working Trials Society, to hold the show to raise money for Greyhound Rescue based in Wickford.

Case highlights some dangers of social networking sites

A COURT case highlighting the dangers of social networking sites has resulted in two men from east London area each receiving six years' imprisonment.

Jean-Claude Rugero, 18, from Ilford, and Prince Afriyie, 17, from Chigwell, were both found guilty of raping a 17-year-old girl from the Colchester area in the underpass near St Botolph's roundabout, Colchester, last August.

Ds Steve Jennings said after the sentencing last month: “What started off as an innocent encounter on a social networking site led to a very nasty sexual assault.

The defendants decided to travel to Colchester where they recognised the girl from her picture on the networking site and took their opportunity to assault her.

“Although incidents like this are rare it does highlight the dangers of social networking sites.”

Air festival policing is a soaraway success



● Clinic Sister Julie Wicks and prepares to take more blood from Chief Insp Keith Dobson

It only takes 10 minutes to give a pint of blood

BRENTWOOD district commander Chief Insp Keith Dobson has received a National Blood Service (NBS) bronze award.

Now he hopes other police officers and staff will follow his example and donate blood. Chief Insp Dobson first became aware of the need for donors after seeing soldiers with horrific injuries whilst serving in the Armed Forces during the 1982 Falklands War. After 12 years with West Yorkshire Police, he joined Essex Police in 2005 and through both his work attending road traffic incidents and seeing media coverage of soldiers fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq, he was once more inspired to give blood. Chief Insp Dobson said: “It only takes me ten minutes to give a pint of blood, I just pop into the centre near the end of my duty.

“I can even see what happens to my blood as I have a web account which informs me for what purpose my blood was used.” NBS donor centre business co-ordinator Phil Crawford said: “We hold recruitment drives for blood donors at Essex Police HQ and Essex Police College. This has now been rolled out to other stations such as Brentwood, Basildon, Grays, Chelmsford and Colchester, with other stations planned in the near future. “The result has seen nearly 200 police officers and staff becoming new donors as well as seven existing donors becoming platelet donors. “The National Blood Service is delighted with this response and the continuing support of Essex Police.”

- Essex Police allows time for officers and staff to give blood
- Visit www.blood.co.uk

Matthew's friends walk to raise anti-drugs funds

THE sun shone for those taking part in a mile and a half sponsored walk in memory of teenager Matthew Dear.

Matthew, 17, from Southend, died in April after taking what are believed to have been anabolic steroids.

The idea for the walk was that of Matthew's friend Morgan Heirs, who decided to give the proceeds to the Essex Police anti-drugs, bullying, knife crime and alcohol programme 2SMART.

Matthew's parents Tina, 42, and Chris, 43, are also keen to get involved with 2SMART and help the force to raise awareness of the dangers of drugs.

More than 100 people took part in the walk in Southend last month. Donations and sponsorship are still coming in, so a final total has not yet been calculated.



by Julia Pack

DESPITE perfect weather and an influx of more than half a million people to Southend for the annual airshow, the district stayed within its crime reduction target.

This impressive statistic has delighted the South Eastern command team, which has historically faced high crime figures and a packed-out custody block during the weekend of this popular event.

Instead, 2009's re-named *Festival of the Air* flew by without a problem.

Southend district commander Chief Insp Glen Westley was full of praise for the way officers policed the event.

He said: “Taking on board lessons learnt from previous years, this year we slightly tweaked the way in which we policed the airshow with tremendous success.

“With increased high-visibility patrols in amongst the crowds, excellent local control, a central post for lost and found property and the use of two mobile police stations amongst other things, our strategy for the event worked a treat. “I'd like to thank all officers, PCSOs, Specials and other police staff who took part in the event, some of whom came in from other divisions.

“The support and professionalism displayed over the course of the two days meant that only five airshow-related arrests for minor matters were made in all and the Southend district was able to remain within its daily crime reduction target.

“Considering the number of people, the warm weather and the potential for trouble, this is an exceptional result so thank you all.”

HR partners organise business differently

AFTER a re-organisation of the HR department, there are no HR managers out on division and their title has changed to HR business partner.

Zoe Hack is the senior HR manager who is responsible for the new HR business partners at HQ and their teams, as well as Staff Development and Resourcing.

Sue White is the HR business partner for Crime, Mobile Support and Stansted Airport divisions. Linda Garner is the HR business partner for Central and Western divisions.

HR business partner for Eastern, South Eastern and South Western divisions is Jackie Foulkes.

And Pauline Appafram is the HR business partner responsible for all HQ departments, including Transport Services and Territorial Policing.

The assistant HR managers have been re-named HR advisers.

Making things a little 'hare-y' for coursers

A NEW leaflet Hare Today ... Gone Tomorrow is being distributed to farmers, landowners, land managers and people interested in rural affairs.

Force wildlife crime co-ordinator Pc Andy Long is using the leaflet to seek the views of the public about problems they suffer with illegal hare-coursing.

The leaflets will also be available at police stations across the county.

Pc Long said: “I am often told that farmers do not inform us that they are suffering with hare-coursing as they believe we are not interested.

“We are and this is a chance to let us know the real extent of the problem. The information we obtain will help us to utilise resources to tackle it.

● The public can contact their local wildlife crime officer on 0300 333 4444 or by emailing wildlife@essex.pnn.police.uk

● Hunting of mammals with dogs was made an offence under the 2004 Hunting Act. Hares are also listed as game under the 1831 Game Act

Bike Safe goes from strength to strength

THE fourth Essex Bike Safe event has been hailed the most successful ever.

More than 700 riders attended, 50 assessed ride-outs were conducted on demo bikes supplied by local dealers and 49 riders signed up for a Bike Safe workshop.

The Air Support Unit had an exhibit showing the force helicopter's capabilities and camera enforcement also turned out, as did local PCSOs.

And more than 30 exhibitors attended the event at Millfields in Burnham last month.

Sgt Mick Green, of Chelmsford Road Policing Unit, supervises Bike Safe. He said: “This event gives us a fantastic opportunity to provide an assessed ride on a demo bike to riders who would not normally speak to us.

“We can give them a bit of feedback which may be the bit of advice that stops them from crashing.

“We also reassure residents about policing of the area, which is popular with motorcyclists all year round.”

Cannon BMW, of Braintree, has provided a BMW K1300s for the force to use during the Bike Safe season.

No distraction, just a drama

A NEW initiative piloted in Epping Forest gives ways to keep bogus callers at bay, by use of drama.

A preview of the play *Feeling Good, Keeping Safe* was performed at Theydon Bois Village Hall by volunteers from the Roding Valley U3A (the University of the Third Age).

With distraction burglaries the average age of victims is 81.



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

TO Chief Constable Roger Baker: I just wanted to thank you and your officers for hosting my visit.

I really enjoyed the visit and, in particular, spending time with officers and hearing about the good work they are taking forward in Essex.

I spent the morning at the SOS and Community Bus Project in Colchester and thought it was a really good example of partnership working at its best.

I also visited Colchester police station and spent time with the community safety team and heard about the successful multi-agency neighbourhood action panels and their continuing community engagement.

I was very impressed by everything I saw and heard.

Vernon Coaker MP
Policing, Crime and Security Minister

TO Pc Anna Gill:

Thank you so much for finding and returning our son's stolen bike.

We are quite sure that in the grand scheme of things stolen bikes are not a priority but we never gave up hoping it would be found and our son's face was a picture when we told him the news.

Mr & Mrs L
Canvey Island

TO Pc John Swann:

Thank you very much for all your help and consideration during my 'another Mini off the road' moment.

I hope I wasn't too difficult to deal with. I know you were just doing your job when you reported me for careless driving.

Thanks for putting yourself out. It's really appreciated.

DG
Rayleigh

TO Pc Ben Rowe and Pc Adam Seeger:

I was half-way up Chadwell Hill when my car started to fill with smoke.

My wife and I put on the hazard lights and got out.

Fortunately, a police car stopped and one officer stood by with an extinguisher while the other phoned the fire service.

They asked if they could

contact anyone for us. I started shivering because it was a very cold day and one of the officers asked if I would like to borrow a high-visibility coat.

As they could not contact my son-in-law, I asked them to contact a recovery vehicle.

When my son-in-law finally arrived, one of the officers asked me to leave my keys with him so he would see my car loaded on to the recovery vehicle.

The officers could not have done any more for me or my wife. They were most courteous and kind.

GS
Chadwell St Mary

TO Pc Daniel Barber and Pc Claire Chambers:

Thank you for everything you have done for us after the burglary.

Without your help, our son might not have got his motorcycle back.

Mr & Mrs B
Westcliff on Sea

TO Chief Constable Roger Baker: I would like to congratulate you on your officers.

We have had terrible trouble around here and have been terrified.

However, I rang a number Pc Sears had given me.

She arrived in three-and-a-half minutes, with PCSOs Robert Fraser and Natasha Judd soon after as the trouble got worse.

There was a constant surveillance around our homes. They were wonderful.

In another incident, I had my purse stolen so I reported it to police at Laindon.

I had no money or bus pass to get home so two police officers took me home, passing past where some of these yobs live.

I introduced them to one of the officers, saying he was my grandson and would be looking out for me and my neighbours.

I must say, those boys are very chatty to me now. The older ones have disappeared because your officers 'haunted' our area day and night.

My grateful thanks to you all.

EF
Corringham

THANK you for the prompt and caring support I received after I left or lost my credit card at Tesco in Pitsea.

I reported it to Barclaycard and then to the police.

I spoke to Janine Gilbank, who took my details and

arranged for Pc Jennifer Leigh to visit me the next day. She took a careful statement and was very polite and supportive.

I then received a phone call from Victim Support and this was followed up the next day by a letter from the victim liaison officer Pc Reece Darwin.

I was very impressed with the way this was handled and would like to thank everyone involved for their kindness and support.

LE
Billericay

TO Chief Constable Roger Baker:

We had our horse lorry stolen and an hour after we reported it, your colleagues spotted the vehicle travelling on the A120. The suspect was apprehended near Stansted Airport.

I would like to express my admiration for the speed in which the vehicle was found.

I was also enormously impressed with the quality of information supplied to us by your colleagues after the event.

This follow-up has helped my wife come to terms with the fact someone broke into our property and took her vehicle.

Thank you particularly to Pc Andrea Emery, Pc Karen Wood and Pc Martin Van, all of Halstead Neighbourhood Policing Team.

I believe we are very lucky in Essex to have a police force which clearly has focus and purpose.

MV
Bocking

THANK you to Pc Paul Clarke and Pc Sarah Brunt who show me such kindness and support when I have to call them out to find my husband when he goes out and wanders around.

Thanks to the car crews who find him and bring him home.

I appreciate most sincerely all you do for me in difficult circumstances.

DP
Braintree

TO Sgt David Harvey, Pc Jason Bullock, Sgt Matthew Adamson, Pc Tina Quinlivan, Pc Gavin Freeman, Pc Robert Bray, Pc Neil Yorke-Wade, Sc Paul Leuty, Pc Paul Wiles and Pc Barry Hilton:

Thank you to all of you who helped when I was sure I had an intruder downstairs.

The response was amazing. I am just sorry that I was

mistaken. I did not wake my husband as we have been burgled before – the criminals left kitchen knives on the stairs – and I knew my husband would go downstairs to investigate.

Within seven minutes of my 999 call, officers were knocking at the door.

Thank you so much for your efficient and professional response – I am sorry to have wasted your time.

LM
Hadleigh

I WOULD like to acknowledge the help and co-operation of Pc Stuart Smith and Pc Rosanna Rowe for their assistance in the implementation of sectioning a woman in Braintree under the Mental Health Act.

Their quick response aided her to access medical treatment within a short period of time.

Their kindness in escorting the woman, who required restraint, was exceptional. They showed great professionalism and empathy in dealing with her.

Crisis Resolution and Home Treatment
North Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

TO Pc Ryan McNamara:

We wanted to thank you so much for all your help, guidance and understanding in dealing with such a devastating event in all of our lives.

Our son, as you know, is full of remorse and realises what an impact a moment of bad judgement has had on his future.

Hopefully, he can now put this behind him and build and plan his education, making something good come from such a terrible mistake.

We are so grateful that you got so closely involved with our son and supported him beyond the call of duty.

It's wonderful to know that there are good people in the world, like yourself, who seem to have such empathy with the young.

Our son has benefited hugely from your involvement. We are eternally grateful.

L, R & D F
SB

TO PCSO Jackie Tyrrell:

Thank you for your kind letter with the enclosed handbag alarm which has been fitted to my purse and handbag.

May I say that I really appreciate the way the police have dealt with my loss.

They have been both thorough and considerate, on the phone and in person, when Pc Nathan Milbank, of Brightlingsea, came to take a witness statement.

ME
Walton on the Naze

I HAD to visit Basildon for the unpleasant task of identifying the body of my sister-in-law.

I was met at Laindon police station by Sgt Chris Sculfor, with kindness and sympathy

and also mugs of tea – very welcome after our journey from Leicester.

I was taken to Basildon hospital by Pc Julie Dennis and Pc Tracy Nicholls, who were exceptional in their care and consideration for me.

LG
Blaby
Leicestershire

TO Insp Andy Parkman:

I want to thank you and your team of officers for all the help you have given us.

Our teenage daughter lost her temper and became so violent towards us that, as parents, we made a very difficult decision to ask for your help.

In no time at all Pc Laura Farnsworth and Pc Colin Wells arrived and took over the situation with such a calm, professional manner that it made us feel totally at ease with our actions.

They reassured us that we had made the right decision to ask for help, which made me feel better as I felt quite ashamed I had called them to help with my daughter.

Without them, I don't like to think what may have happened as our daughter had totally lost control and all we could do was restrain her before she harmed herself.

The next day the incident was followed up quickly and again we were made to feel we had made the right decision by calling you.

Pc Paul Wigington and Pc Jamie Willetts visited my husband at work and were brilliant by dealing with the situation discreetly and professionally.

We are both so very grateful and just wanted to say how much we appreciated your help.

Mr & Mrs B
Rochford

I WRITE in recognition of PCSO Clair McWilliams and in sadness at the loss of her patrolling my area.

I run a small second-hand shop and Clair regularly called in in the line of duty.

She was professional and informative as to stolen goods and what to keep an eye out for and I felt there was always an approachable, helpful and friendly face at the end of a phone or when she popped in.

I feel she was a tremendous asset to our area and it is a great loss to our part of town that she has now moved on.

I cannot speak highly enough of her, she is the epitome of what community policing should be.

RK
Colchester

TO DI Pauline Bowers:

I am writing to commend the prompt and effective action taken by Pc Steve Judd at the Review Child Protection Conference.

One of the conference members became critically ill. It transpired he had a stroke, which later proved fatal.

Pc Judd intervened immediately it became clear the man was in difficulties – he helped

to clear some space so the man could be laid on the floor, he phoned the ambulance and gave clear directions and information.

He assisted the paramedic and, overall, he was a calm and supportive presence during the whole, upsetting situation.

Subsequently, Pc Judd has followed up the case, with vital information on the family, in a way that has been very sensitive to the needs of the Rayleigh Children's Social Care team, of which the man was a member.

I would like to record the professional and compassionate manner in which he carried out his duties at this difficult time.

Essex Social Services
Basildon

TO Chief Supt Keith Garnish: I would like to praise the actions of all the officers involved in the search for my teenage son, who suffers from autism and has severe mental health problems.

The officers first in attendance, Pc Claire Chambers and Pc Ben Dudmish, were extremely empathetic and understood the need for urgency.

I know a large number of officers were later called in to assist in the search. I would like to thank them all for the way they handled my son when he was eventually found, in an extremely distressed state. The situation was dealt with sensitively and calmly, allowing all concerned to make the decision to admit him to hospital under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act.

I expect your officers are trained to handle situations like this but putting into practice what you have learned is not always so easy when you are dealing with a distressed, paranoid teenager.

I am so very grateful for their support that night in ensuring the safety and well-being of my son.

I would especially like to thank Pc Chambers as she ensured all the information I provided about my son's condition was communicated clearly to all officers involved in finding him.

She was very supportive of the family and kept us informed all night of what action was being taken to find him.

SF
Westcliff

TO Sgt John Gray:

We would like to make you aware of our gratitude for the work Pc Rachel Birrane has done as our neighbourhood police officer.

She has always attended our meetings when possible, sometimes when off duty. Her genuine interest has been a credit to her and the Neighbourhood Policing strategy.

While we are sorry to see her go, we wish her every success in her new post.

The Stanford Forum
Stanford le Hope

Police staff driver trainers

Driver Training department Essex Police HQ

£22,611 - £29,106 pa (progression criteria apply)
37 hours per week

Essex Police Driver Training department is looking to recruit two full-time members of police staff to join its professional and committed team of driving instructors.

We would welcome applications from retired police officers who have been trained to Home Office-approved Advanced Level.

- For further information about the role, contact Insp Rob Norcup or Sgt Sam Smith on 0300 333 4444 ext 55308 or 55671

- For full details and an application pack, call the HR Business Team on 01245 452716, quoting reference number 786.

Closing date for applications: Friday, July 3, 2009

TEN ACTION awards were made by the Bonus and Honorary 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: Sgt Gary Chapman and James Selwood, of Eastern Division; acting Insp Shaun Kane, of Western Division; Pc Robert Edgar, Pc Phil Weedon, Pc Elaine Crisp Littlefield, all of Central Division; Irene Bailey, of Stansted Airport Division; and Sarah Rundell and Bob Blackmer, of IT.



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.

Health insurance scheme is now up for renewal

RENEWAL documents will shortly be issued to members of the Essex Police Federation's AXA PPP voluntary health insurance group scheme indicating renewal premiums for the forthcoming year, from July 1. Premium increases this year are approximately eight per cent, caused by higher than average claims, with an age increase on top of this.

Should anyone already on the scheme wish us to review their policy and consider a range of options – either to change their benefit or excess – or would like to know what is available from alternative insurers to fit in with their specific requirements, they can contact Graham McIntosh, Sally Brown and Brett Clifton on 01892 891900 or at enquiries@bdhl.co.uk

Last year we received calls from members thanking us for the information we gave them, enabling them to afford to remain on cover. Some found that for the first time ever they needed to make a claim, which would otherwise not have been available to them if they had cancelled their scheme.

We even have access to a policy that encourages healthy living by offering a way of having free membership of a gym and rewards for a healthy lifestyle by reducing premiums and offering discounts for health farms.

Guy Jones
 Managing director
 Berwick Devoil Healthcare Ltd

Trying to trace family of former Southend officer

I AM trying to trace relatives of Pc Frederick Tucker, a former Southend on Sea County Borough Constabulary officer.

I have his national registration ID card – an old-style warrant card – with a photo of him in his uniform and signed by the Chief Constable.

I also have his birth certificate, certificate of Army service and his soldier's release book.

Having tried and failed to trace relatives by other means, I am hoping that readers of *The Law* may be able to help me.

Pc 153 Tucker was born in Shoeburyness on September 11, 1906. He joined the Army in January 1924, serving in the Royal Artillery and the Corps of Military Police until October 1945. He joined the Southend Borough force the following year, retiring in 1960.

Married to Sylvia, Pc Tucker had three children – Sylvia, Ronald and Anthony. He died in 1976, aged 70.

If anyone can help, please can they contact me at Saffron Walden on 0300 333 4444 ext 65320 or via email at paul.webb@essex.pnn.police.uk

Paul Webb
 Station office assistant
 Saffron Walden

You never know if you will need help

IT has come to my attention that only two-thirds of police officers subscribe to the Benevolent Fund – the remainder do not know what benefits they are missing.

Over the past few years, my family and I have received a large amount of help and support from the fund, which was not asked for but which was gratefully received.

In 2000, my late son Dc Andrew Skillin became ill with a rare form of cancer and spent long periods of time in hospital.

Following on from his treatment, he was invited twice to spend time at the police rehabilitation centre at Flint House in Goring, Oxfordshire – the sec-

ond time was predominantly aimed at giving his wife, Julie, a break from being his carer.

Sadly, Andrew passed away in 2002, leaving behind Julie and their daughter Sarah. She was in the middle of her GCSEs but later was accepted by Essex University.

The Gurney Fund was of great assistance in respect of Sarah's tuition fees and was also very supportive throughout her three years at university. She graduated with a law degree last year.

The Benevolent Fund has also supported me, as a retired officer. In 2006 I had a total left-knee replacement and then last year I had a total right-knee replacement.

However, neither was 100 per cent successful and I was suffering a lot of

discomfort and lack of mobility.

During a visit, I told the force welfare officer of the problems and he advised me to apply for a visit to Flint House.

This I did and I was able to spend a week there, which was the best seven days I had had in a long time. I can now walk a lot further than I could before and ascend stairs with more ease.

I would strongly suggest that all who don't subscribe to the Benevolent Fund should reconsider as it could not only benefit you and your families while you are serving but also when you have retired.

The Benevolent Fund has greatly assisted me and my family, for which I am very grateful.

Ray Skillin
 Colchester

Would your old police vehicle like a day out at HQ?

THE Essex Police Museum is looking for classic police cars, vans and motorcycles to display at the museum's Family Day later this year.

The Family Day is an opportunity for the public to find out about the history of the police force.

This free event will take place at Essex Police HQ in Chelmsford on Sunday, September 20, between 10am and 4pm.

All police vehicles, not just those from Essex, are welcome to take part. Lunch will be provided for participants.

If you would like your vehicle to take part, please contact me on ext 50771 or on 01245 457150 or via email at becky.wash@essex.pnn.police.uk

Becky Wash
 Curator
 Essex Police Museum

Remembering those who have died at work

A SMALL but select gathering took place in Central Park, Chelmsford, on April 28 – International Workers' Memorial Day – to remember those who have lost their lives in the workplace.

The tree commemorating this day stands near the bowling green and lake. A wreath of lilies, carnations and irises was laid at its foot by Thompsons solicitors.

Local groups represented included the Chelmsford Star Co-op, Chelmsford railway station, Chelmsford Trades Union Council (TUC) and, more globally, Unicef, United Nations Children's Fund.

The Rev Chris Bishop, Stansted Airport's industrial chaplain, presided and remembered, among others in the prayers, those members of the police, fire and other emergency services, armed forces and construction workers who have lost their lives whilst carrying out their duties.

It was a most poignant of days for some of those present and a reminder to the rest of us how important it is to continue to campaign for better health and safety procedures in the workplace.

Bob Miller
 Chelmsford

Down Memory Lane ...

The Romford Outrage: The Murder of Inspector Thomas Simmons, 1885 by Linda Rhodes and Kathryn Abnett

AN Essex Constabulary inspector was murdered near Romford in 1885 whilst pursuing three suspects. Twenty years ago this crime was little known within our force, for only those with access to an early personnel register would have seen the entry for Thomas Simmons, against which were two crosses and the words "shot by a burglar".

I first learned the details from *An Inspector Dies*, an article written by Maureen Scollan in the former Essex Police Magazine in 1977.

Simmons's glittering career began in the north of the county and ended when he was subsequently placed in charge of the important county station at Romford. His murder was well covered by Maureen's article.

My own contribution to the story was to follow events beyond the execution of one of the participants and the acquittal of another, into the crimes which followed and the fate that overtook the presumed third felon.

I wrote this up for the Essex Police Museum as a History Notebook called *The Cumbrian Link*.

Now, Linda Rhodes and Kathryn Abnett have produced the whole fascinating story as *The Romford Outrage*.

The authors and their collaborator Kevin Trott are determined to have a memorial to Insp Tom Simmons raised in a park near where he met his death, south of Romford.

They already have the co-operation of the Metropolitan Police – which, since 1965, has policed the patch on which the murder occurred – Havering Council and our own Essex Police Memorial Trust.

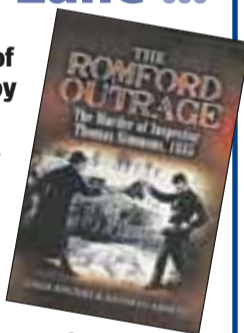
The latter has, each year, been looking after his grave in Romford during its annual inspection of our force memorials and graves.

Donations to the Inspector Simmons Fund can be sent to trust treasurer Trevor Thompson at HQ, with cheques made payable to the Essex Police Memorial Trust.

Reading this lively book might make you feel generous.

Fred Feather
 Essex Police Memorial Trustee

• The Romford Outrage: The Murder of Inspector Thomas Simmons, 1885 by Linda Rhodes and Kathryn Abnett is published by Pen and Sword Ltd and costs £12.99



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GOING to New York? USA mobile phone for sale \$13 of calls remaining, full kit. Call Doug Warren on 01245 261810.

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Sue Harrison is our new ACC

SUE Harrison has been promoted to assistant chief constable.

She had been temporarily performing the role since last August.

Mrs Harrison said: "I am delighted and proud to have been appointed as assistant chief constable for Essex Police, which I believe to be one of the best forces in the country."

"I would like to thank all the officers and staff at Essex Police for their encouragement and support whilst I have been carrying out the role."

"I would particularly like to thank colleagues in Human Resources, the Criminal Justice Department and Communications Division with whom I have been working closely whilst temporary ACC."

Mrs Harrison, who joined the force in 1983, said she would "endeavour to ensure that more offenders are brought to justice and that Essex remains a safe and pleasant place in which to live, work and visit. I am also looking forward to the challenges ahead, such as Operation APEX and the 2012 Olympics," she added.

Congratulating Mrs Harrison on her permanent appointment, Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers said the authority had interviewed candidates of a very high calibre.

Mrs Harrison started her police career on Basildon Division, soon moving to CID. She has spent much of her service in various roles within CID. Other key roles have been at Southend as football match commander, various operational command roles including Southend air shows and V concerts at Hylands Park, Chelmsford, and post-incident manager roles.

She was an accredited firearms officer for more than ten years and is a Gold Commander for firearms operations.

Mrs Harrison has served as temporary Chelmsford divisional commander, head of the Professional Standards Department, Braintree divisional commander, Contact



● ACC Sue Harrison

Management Programme manager and Communications divisional commander. She also worked on the Essex/Kent Collaboration project.

In May last year, she was appointed as Chief of Staff and in August was appointed as temporary ACC, responsible for Operational Support.

Obituaries

Tribute has been paid to Central Road Policing Unit administrator **Kay Smith** who died last month.

Mrs Smith, 56, died of cancer after a short illness. She leaves a husband, Ian, and two daughters.

She re-joined the force ten years ago – having served at Harwich before having children – as assistant unit administrator at Bocking Traffic, moving to Stanway Road Policing Unit (RPU) on promotion to unit administrator.

Mrs Smith returned to Bocking and then transferred to Dunmow when the RPU opened at the new police station last year.

Mobile Support Division's assistant business manager Jackie Squire, who was unit administrator at Bocking Traffic when Mrs Smith joined the force, said: "We worked together in my first supervisory role and Kay was lovely to supervise. She was a perfect lady and a great team player – very loyal to Essex Police and completely trustworthy. Whatever she

was asked to do, she'd do it. Kay was courageous throughout her illness and she will be sorely missed."

Donations may be made in Mrs Smith's memory to Farleigh Hospice. Cheques can be sent c/o Jackie Squire, assistant business manager, Mobile Support Division, Boreham.

Former Essex Police Special Constabulary divisional officer **Brian Moye**, of Maldon, has died, aged 71. He leaves a widow Marian.

Mr Moye served from 1979 to 2002 on the then Chelmsford Division.

Donations to Macmillan Nurses Essex may be made in his memory and sent c/o A G Smith Funeral Services, 7 Spital Road, Maldon, Essex.

Retirements

Eastern Division custody sergeant **Kevin Taylor**, 50, is retiring at the end of this month after serving with Essex Police for more than 30 years.

He has spent his career on Eastern and the former Chelmsford Division.

Sgt **Paul Ashworth**, 50, retired last month from Stansted Airport.

During his police career, he also spent time with the Force Support Unit, in Colchester and with Mobile Support Division. He also spent almost six years with the Royal Marines.

Sgt **Phil Cross**, 48, has retired after 30 years' police service. During his time with Essex, he served in various posts in Chelmsford, South Woodham Ferrers and Great Baddow. He also served with the Metropolitan and Hertfordshire forces.

Two retiring detective constables are rejoining the force on the 30-plus scheme. Dc **Nicholas Ingram**, 52, spent his service at HQ, Chelmsford and Colchester Scenes of Crime.

And Dc **Jerry Gay**, 50, first served in Grays and South Ockendon, including CID, before moving to HQ Crime Division. He then moved back south, spending time with Tilbury and Corringham CID before moving to divisional HQ at Grays.

South Eastern typist **Carole Lloyd**, 64, retires this month after 28 years' service.

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE – ONE WORD PER BOX

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

Sergeant offers autism help

SGT Simon Mathias and his wife Judy had no knowledge of autism until their son, Ethane, now aged four, was diagnosed nearly two years ago.

It was a shock but through help and support, especially from other parents, they have learned how to cope with their son's condition and make the most of their time together as a family.

Simon is now offering his help to talk to anyone who lives have been touched by the condition.

Simon said: "When I tell people that my son is autistic the common responses are 'that means he is very clever doesn't it?' or 'that's like the chap in the film 'Rainman', isn't it?'"

"Neither statement is completely wrong but this only captures a small percentage of those affected by autism."

Autism, which affects 1 in 110 people, is a life-long disorder which changes how the brain functions. The three most noticeable forms of the condition are communication difficulties, social interaction and using the imagination. However an important aspect is that people are affected in different ways and to different degrees – some mild and some more severe.

Essex Police, in conjunction with Autism Anglia, recently produced an aide memoire for officers to help them when they come across people with an autism spectrum condition, and who carry an Autism Alert card.

The condition can mean that people will not speak, cannot make eye contact and may get upset with loud noises or voices. Officers and police staff need to



● Ethan Mathias

consider the possibility of an autism condition when dealing with people exhibiting behaviour that is out of the ordinary.

Clacton-based Sgt Mathias said: "I am happy to offer help and support to anyone affected by autism in any way."

- To find out more, contact Sgt Simon Mathias on ext 16146 or via email, view his son's website at www.ethan-and-autism.co.uk
- Contact the Diversity Unit at HQ if you need more copies of the aide memoire
- Visit Autism Anglia's website at autism-anglia.org.uk



Turn-out up for popular athletics competition

SOUTH Western dominated this year's Charrington Cup – the Croker Cup athletics and tug-of-war competition.

Turnout was up on previous years for the event at the Colchester Garrison athletics stadium.

Since 2005, a different division has won the Charrington Cup each year and this time it was South Western's turn, with 221 points.

The team were particularly strong on the track, finishing in the top three in many events.

South Western's Lisa Wiggins secured gold in the women's 200m, 400m and 800m races and was third in the 1,500m.

Not to be out done, in the veterans' competition, Brad Evans celebrated a double sprint victory – winning the 100m in 12.50secs and the 200m in 25.80secs. The latter performance winning him the Maurice Brazier Memorial trophy.

And South Eastern's Paul Sheldrake repeated the feat in the men's races, winning the 100m in 12.4secs and just edging the 200m in 25.2secs, three-hundredths of a second ahead of event organiser Del Walker, of Eastern.

Kerry Freeman, of South Eastern, finished in the top three in seven of the eight events she competed in and she was joint highest point-scorer, alongside South Western's Stacy Cocks, who also scored 35 points.

In the distance events HQ's Wendy King controlled her 1,500m race superbly, cruising home in 5mins 18sec.

In the men's 5,000m Central super-vet Mick Bond won in 18mins 30secs, ahead of Western's Dan Corr, who won the men's category in 19mins 6secs.

In the field events, South Eastern's Jay Barnes won the men's shot-putt (10.44m), javelin (39.33m) and discus (34.65).

Freeman won the women's javelin with a throw of 17.07m.

Will Cubbin, of HQ, won the high jump with a jump of 1.50m. Cocks won the women's high-jump with 1.22m.

Anthony Sharman, of South Eastern, launched himself to victory in the men's triple and long jumps. The 4x100m relay saw an easy win for the Western men, who cruised home, with South Eastern and South Western battling behind.

● Final results were: 1 South Western 221pts; 2 South Eastern 173; 3 Western 125; 4 HQ 61; 5 Eastern 55; 6 Central 18.

● EASTERN'S Skelly Lambert oversaw the tug-of-war, contested in a round-robin competition involving Eastern, South Eastern, Western and South Western.

A well drilled Eastern team were dominant in each pull. Results were: 1 Eastern; 2 South Western; 3 Western; 4 South Eastern.

● AN Essex team has been selected for the PSUK athletics and tug-of-war Championships in Doncaster on July 8.

Kart-racer Alan slows down after spending his life in the fast-lane

KART-racer Alan Lamb has lived life in the fast-lane since an early age and has even beaten current world Formula One Lewis Hamilton.

But during a topsy-turvy fortnight earlier this year, the Ongar-based Pc had to put the brake on racing, became a dad-to-be and landed a transfer to become a road policing officer so that he can drive full-time at work.

Lamb, who started karting at the age of eight, had spent the winter practising with a professional racing team and was preparing to enter top level and national events this season.

He had to make a sudden change in plans when his partner, former Essex officer Patricia Moure-Mosquera, announced an addition to the family was on the way.

Lamb, 26, said: "It was fantastic



news but it meant that I would have to save up for the baby and a bigger home instead of spending money on kart racing.

"I could continue racing if I could find a sponsor prepared to put up £300 or so a month but in the current financial climate that might be a little difficult.

"I will be hanging up my racing gloves for the time being but the team

boss has left the door open to return whenever I can.

"I have been karting for 18 years and competed at the highest level and it has been brilliant fun."

Lamb competed many times against Hamilton, who rose through the ranks of motor sport to win last year's Formula One world championship in only his second year in Grand Prix.

Lamb still has a programme from

Hamilton's first race when he finished second and Hamilton was third.

Lamb, who joined the force in 2005, will achieve an ambition when he transfers from his neighbourhood support team job in Western Division to join Chigwell Road Policing Unit.

"The reason I joined up was to get into traffic because of my great love of anything to do with driving. In time, I would love to join the ANPR team," he said.

His interest in driving also extends to spending some of his days off instructing with an off-road racing company.

"I instruct people who wish to improve their own driving or who want to learn how to drive at speed in a controlled manner," said Lamb.

He also has a driving ambition for his first son or daughter.

"My partner is Spanish but the baby will definitely be driving for Britain if he or she ever makes it to Formula One," he said.



● **Action from the 2009/10 season Croker Cup football competition – Western (white) 1 South Eastern (blue) 0**
After four teams played a round-robin tournament – organised by HQ groundsman Denis Angell and refereed by Dave Bloxham – South Western topped the table with 13 points, having won four of their six games and drawn one. Western were second with ten points from three wins and a draw, followed by South Eastern and Central tying with five points from a win and two draws each. South Eastern came third on goal difference.



● **Rachel Wood, of South Western, and Janet Bloomfield, of Central, lead Paul Eveleigh, of South Eastern, up an incline during the Croker Cup triathlon** Picture by Simon Ford

Cubbin storms ahead to take triathlon title

GLOUCESTER Park in Basildon was the scene of the Basildon Off-road Triathlon – incorporating the 2009 Croker Cup race.

The athletes were first faced with a 400m swim in the swimming pool, then a run to their waiting cycles.

The racers took to their bikes, to face a difficult course through the park, including some steep climbs and descents.

Paul Eveleigh, of South Eastern, had set the pace for the men in the pool, with one of fastest swim times of the whole event, and Sam Deer, of Crime, set the fastest time for the women.

On the bikes, Rachel Wood, of South Western, powered into the lead, three and a half minutes faster than her nearest competitor. The men's race was getting much closer – an exceptional ride by Will Cubbin, of Crime, brought him into

sight of Eveleigh and their race would be decided on the run.

Wood continued her dominance of the women's race on the run, continuing to pull away and finishing some six minutes ahead of her nearest challenger Janet Bloomfield, of Central, who took the veterans' category.

The men's battle continued to the very end but the strength of Cubbin's bike and run was too much – he took the overall win by seconds, leaving Eveleigh to take second overall and the veterans' honours.

David Browning, of Central, raced well into third overall.

Results were: Will Cubbin, Crime Division, 45mins 10secs, first male; Paul Eveleigh, South Eastern, 45mins 53secs, first male vet; David Browning, Central, 47mins 15secs, second male; Greig

Avery, South Western, 47mins 50secs; Gary Lane, Western, 48 mins 21secs; Daniel Brand, South Eastern, 50mins 40secs; Rachel Wood, South Western, 52mins 13secs, first female; Gavin Timms, South Eastern, 53mins 29secs; Mark Jones, South Western, 54mins 22secs, second male vet; Chris Layley, Crime Division, 56mins 32secs; Peter McCormack, South Western, 58mins 11secs; Janet Bloomfield, Central, 58mins 20secs, first female vet; Rick Poulton, Crime, 1hr 4secs; Joel Henderson, South Western, 1hr 5secs; Lisa Haines, South Western, 1hr 1min 50secs, second female; Nicola Pain, South Eastern, 1hr 4mins 36secs; Samantha Deer, Crime, 1hr 6mins 20secs; Peter Kittle, South Western, 1hr 9mins 19secs; Darren Ward, South Western, 1hr 19mins 10secs.

NPT officers clean up in force lottery

GARY Heard, of the Collision Reduction Unit, wins the top prize of £3,000 in the May lottery draw.

Second prize of £1,000 goes to Sgt Ian Hughes, of Shoebury Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT), and third prize of £500 goes to Pc Barrie Schulz, of Halstead NPT.

Winners of £100 prizes are: Michael Thorp, retired; Pc Chris Roper, of Great Dunmow Road Policing Unit; Barbara Dawtre, of Force Information

Room (FIR); George Lambeth, retired; Karen Puttock, of Essex Police College; Pc Graham Garnham, of Colchester Dog Section; Paul Evenden, of FIR; Robin Paddock, of Essex Police Authority; Dc Doug Rawden, of Rayleigh Child Abuse Investigation Unit; Pc Mark Cotgrove, of South Ockendon; Barry Johnson, of Great Dunmow; and Tony Boothman, of FIR. Winners of the £50 prizes are: Ronald Norris, of Grays; Faye Mills, of Wakering NPT; Michael Jones, retired;

Pc Andrew Turrell, of Harlow; Abby Kimantas, of Colchester; Christene Evans, of Firearms Licensing; Dc Janet Collins, of Saffron Walden; Dc Peter Wood, of Stansted; Anthony Richards, of Basildon; Sgt Nikki Gander, of Chelmsford North NPT; Louise Parke, of FIR; Geoffrey Saunders, retired; Pc Michael Hutchins, of Chelmsford Neighbourhood Support Team; Chris Macintosh, of the Criminal Justice Department; Pc Darren Potts, of the Force Support Unit; and Gail Ainsworth, of Harlow.

Women's rugby

THREE women from the force's newly-formed rugby section were selected to take part in a PSUK women's rugby tournament.

Emily Gizzi, of Epping, Rebecca Hall, of Brentwood, and Sarah Jay, of Harwich, travelled to York last month.



● Christian Robinson ext 58883



EPSA sports shop

SHOP manager Jo Baker has asked me to remind you all about the sports shop.

We stock a large variety of specialised sports clothing, equipment and shoes.

And we can order any equipment on your behalf, ensuring that you get the best price.

The shop now stocks a variety of logoed apparel, including golf shirts, sweaters, pens, key rings and very useful drawstring bags.

We have a good range of heavily-discounted perfumes and beauty products, also with an opportunity to order in any items that are not stocked.

The shop also sells discounted Imperial War Museum Duxford passes, and cinema, Colchester Zoo and Adventure Island tickets.

Opening hours are 10am to 2pm Tuesday to Thursday and 10am to 1pm on the first Saturday of the month. Please pop in when you get the chance.

● email jo.baker2@essex.pnn.police.uk with any questions.

Accreditation scheme landmark

THE Essex Police Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) has welcomed the 25th organisation on to the scheme.

Harlow Council was presented with a certificate of accreditation by Harlow district commander Chief Insp Nick Morris to officially recognise that it is now part of the initiative and can begin nominating staff for training.

The CSAS now has a total of 383 extra pairs of eyes and ears to work along side officers and PCSOs.

Any organisation wanting to be part of the scheme is fully checked before it is allowed to join. Individuals who are then nominated for accreditation must work in a public-facing role and are fully vetted. They are then trained by an Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) approved trainer before they are allowed to become an accredited person.

An accredited person has the power to ask for the names and addresses of anyone behaving in an anti-social manner, confiscate alcohol and allows them issue fixed penalty notices.

CSAS officer Jenny Ayres said: "It is all about building links within the community and sharing information with one another. Accredited people provide a valuable resource for the police as an extra pair of eyes and ears on the streets. It is also a great way to build links with-

in the community by directly working with a wide variety of different organisations.

"Many of the people who take part in the scheme are traffic wardens, security staff, parking attendants or people who regularly have contact with the public in a particular area. People on the scheme invariably know the area where they work very well and are able to notice things that look out of the ordinary. This information is then passed on to the police."

In order to help maintain communication between accredited people from outside the force and police officers and PCSOs, accredited people are regularly invited to attend team briefings at their local police station, which means intelligence received can be acted on quickly.

The Essex Police scheme – started as a result of the Police Reform Act 2002, allowing organisations involved in community safety to be accredited by the police – is now considered to be a best practice model and is copied by other forces.

The Home Office uses Community Safety Accredited people from Colchester Borough Council as an example on its website.

• For further information on the CSAS, visit www.essex.police.uk/csas or contact CSAS officer Jenny Ayres on ext 50675



• Chief Insp Nick Morris presents the CSAS certificate of accreditation to Cllr Eddie Johnson, with clockwise from left, extended policing family co-ordinator Steve Kettle, Harlow council licensing officer Paul Adams, Pc Rob Hance, Harlow council health and safety and licensing manager Peter Bourn, Harlow council anti-social behaviour co-ordinator Marysia Rudgley and CSAS co-ordinator Jenny Ayres

Praise for rural crime initiative

AN initiative to reduce rural crime in the Epping Forest district received praise from Prime Minister Gordon Brown during his speech at the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership conference in London last month.

And he urged others to copy the scheme where farmers in west Essex are linked to police and each other via email, exchanging information about thieves and how to keep them at bay.

Mr Brown said: "The Epping Forest Neighbourhood Policing Team has now created an email chain of over 70 farmers who keep each other informed of rural crime and keep burglars at bay."

"I want every area to consider using mobiles and email to give people instant advice on safety and any other crime or anti-social behaviour problem that worries them."

The email network was originally created by crime reduction officer Tony Ellis.

Public appeals can net some significant results

PUTTING appeals for the public's help out to the widest possible audience has resulted in some immediate successes.

The officer investigating a major public order incident at Loughton Football Academy in the early hours of New Year's Day arranged for CCTV footage of the violence to be shown on BBC's *Crimewatch* programme in April.

Pc Sam Bailey, of Harlow CID, said: "The *Crimewatch* show was an excellent and very worthwhile experience. I received three calls on the night, during the show, which gave me the identities of two out of four unknown suspects."

"Since that time I have received around two or three intelligence reports on a daily basis, with more information."

Further information was given to Crimestoppers by callers who wished to remain anonymous.

Since then, seven arrests have been made, with the suspects bailed to return next month.

Officers found two cannabis factories while making two of the arrests and five further arrests were made for cultivation of cannabis at the scene of one of them.

by Roger Grimwade

Essex Crimestoppers itself has enjoyed increased success with a 14 per cent rise in the number of actionable reports – containing useful information to assist police investigations – over the 12 months to April, with 91 criminals being arrested and charged as a result.

But these successes are not restricted to crime alone. A 14-year-old girl reported missing from Chelmsford was traced to South Wales the morning after a press release was issued and as a direct report from someone who had seen the case featured on GMTV that day.

The media can also help in the identification of suspects who have been captured on CCTV or where efits have been created.

Wanted people, who police have been unable to trace, can also be circulated through the force's website – visit www.essex.police.uk and click on News, then on Unsolved Crimes – and also linked to the Crimestoppers' Most Wanted website – www.crimestoppers-uk.org/wanted – to ensure national coverage.

If you have an appeal or case that might benefit from wider circulation then speak to HQ press offi-

cers who will assist in exploring avenues that may be open to you.

• HQ Press Office can be contacted on ext 50622
• POLICE officers and PCSOs are reminded that Crimestoppers can be a valuable resource.

Crimestoppers is an independent charity which helps the police to solve crimes.

It operates the 24/7 telephone number 0800 555 111 and the website www.crimestoppers-uk.org which people can use anonymously to pass on information about crimes.

Crime reduction sergeant Nathalie Carr said: "Obviously it is better if people speak to us directly with information about crime but if you sense that someone may be reluctant then it is worth encouraging them to give their information anonymously to Crimestoppers instead."

"It is better for us to get information that way than to get no information at all."

"All you have to do is give that person a card or leaflet with the Crimestoppers number on it."

Crimestoppers details are on the back of officer contact cards – In1 on the Force Forms Register – which are given to all victims of crime.

ACC Derek Benson said: "We receive key information from Crimestoppers that can be used to prevent and solve crimes."

Go-ahead to recruit another 50 extra police officers



• Chief Constable Roger Baker

CHIEF Constable Roger Baker has been given the go-ahead by Essex Police Authority to recruit an additional 50 police officers as part of Operation APEX – the Ambition for Policing in Essex.

The announcement came as it was revealed that public confidence in Essex Police had risen dramatically within a year.

The British Crime Survey figures show that of 42 forces in England and Wales – with the Metropolitan and City of London forces combined – Essex is now ranked seventh, taken from figures for 2008, compared with its ranking of 24th for figures from 2007.

The figures are the result of people saying they strongly agree or tend to agree with the statement: "Taking everything into account I have confidence in the police in this area."

Operation APEX aims to increase police officer numbers in Essex by 600 by September 2013. This latest growth of 50 police officers means that Operation APEX will have recruited an extra 212 police officers since its inception last September.

Deputy Chief Constable Andy Bliss said: "I am



pleased the police authority has given us the green light to recruit even more police officers and I am equally delighted to see that many more people in Essex now have confidence in the force.

"Residents of Essex have told us they want to see more police officers and this is something we are committed to achieving."

"The results of the British Crime Survey are confirmation that the work Essex Police is doing is having a positive reaction from the people we serve."

And he vowed: "We won't stop until we have the highest levels of public confidence."

• CHIEF Constable Roger Baker spoke about

the Operation APEX programme to the Police Federation of England and Wales conference in Bournemouth last month.

He was well received by delegates and Operation APEX attracted a lot of national and local media interest.

The Essex Police presentation also included input from Operation APEX programme director Rick Tazzini and Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers.

• A DVD of the presentation will shortly be available on the National Police Federation website – visit www.polfed.org and click on Annual Conference

• DELEGATES to the Police Federation conference watched an Essex Police DVD, titled 21st Century Policing, showing police officers from 20 years in the future returning to see the shape of policing in 2009 and examining changes which could be made to enhance Neighbourhood Policing and place more police officers on the front line.

The DVD, made by the Media Department's TV and New Media Unit, will now be shown to all new student officers trained at Essex Police College.