

The Law



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November 2009

Clacton man directed firebomb strikes on officers' homes **ARSONIST JAILED FOR 2 'WICKED' ATTACKS**

by Heather Watts

A CLACTON man was sentenced to 18 years in jail this month for ruthless arson attacks on the homes of two of our serving police officers.

Wayne Taylor was found guilty at the Central Criminal Court last month of two offences of arson with intent to endanger life in connection with the attacks in January 2006.

And on November 3, also at the Old Bailey, he was handed his jail sentence – and ordered to serve a minimum of nine years.

Taylor instigated the attacks in an attempt to interfere with the rule of law.

At the time, both officers – long-serving and well-respected within the Clacton community – lived in the town with their families.

However, Taylor desired revenge following the lawful execution of a search warrant at his home in Holland on Sea in December 2005.

Both officers' homes were subjected to arson attacks in the early hours of January 28, 2006, at a time when the occupants, including a two-day-old baby, were asleep.

It was only through good fortune that the officers and their young families were not killed or seriously injured as a result.

The jury accepted the prosecution's case that Taylor directed both arson attacks to take place and that he was motivated by a "wicked and vindictive" sense of retribution.

The attacks were said to be indicative of Taylor's belief that he was beyond the rule of law and should be free to go about his criminal business at will, free from interference by the police and the wider law-abiding community.

Senior investigating officer Chief Supt Keith Garnish said after the case: "The investigation leading to Taylor's conviction has been complex and protracted.

"Together with the earlier convictions in 2006 of two men, who are now serving long prison sentences for offences of arson with intent to endanger life, it underlines our commitment to tackle those involved in serious and organised crime and to ensure that they are brought before the courts.

"Although specifically targeted against police officers and their families, these arson attacks represented an attack on the wider law-abiding community who we serve on a daily basis and with whom we continue to work to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and to make our communities safer places to live.

"Anyone who is prepared to use extreme violence against police officers clearly poses the gravest danger to society."



● Back from left: the mystery guest (Jo Ella), John Stanbrook (holding a pumpkin grown by Katherine Ella), Ian Andrewartha, Pauline Shaw, John Gardiner, Andy Begent and Shirley Elderfield (holding a pumpkin grown by Jo Ella), and, front, Debbie Lee (holding a pumpkin grown by Sarah Holland) and Charlotte Parmenter

Picture by Heather Turner

The smashing pumpkins

FROM the seeds of a discussion at HQ Corporate Development one day, force incident registrar Pauline Shaw grew a big idea.

And she reaped the benefits when she was named the CHUMP (Chelmsford HQ Ultimate Massive Pumpkin) champion for growing the heaviest pumpkin – a whopping 29lbs.

All eight entrants in the department's

inaugural fund-raising pumpkin-growing competition received a packet of pumpkin seeds and Pauline was also awarded a special trophy, complete with knitted pumpkin, courtesy of policy development officer Denise Peacock.

A purple-clad mystery guest at the judging was later revealed to be senior data quality and compliance officer Jo Ella, who helped to raise £30.01, which will kick start this

year's departmental Christmas card pot, which donates money to charity.

Pauline said: "Corporate Development is split across many different offices but this has really brought people together – we have been posting diaries and pictures on our intranet site.

"So many people in the department grow their own fruit and vegetables, which led to the competition idea."

From cadets to officers: 40 years of police training

ESSEX Police College has celebrated 40 years of operation, after first opening its doors to students in 1969.

Throughout the past 40 years the college, based at Essex Police HQ in Chelmsford, has seen many cadets and students pass through the system to become the police officers of today.

Head of operational training Chief Insp Ian Cummings said: "I am very proud to be part of the Essex Police College in its 40th year. We have had great success supporting and training the whole policing family, including police cadets, police staff, police community support officers, the special constabulary and regular police officers, at all stages of their career.

"Today the college is committed to putting the customer first, providing flexible, high-quality development opportunities in a supportive and professional manner. Offering a wide range of courses, from driver training and road policing to diversity and community engagement, we now look forward to developing the college even further over the next 40 years."

In 1977 the cadet school officially closed to make way for further training opportunities – first becoming Essex Police Training Centre and then, in April 2006, a college – but the cadets continued to attend Chelmsford College for academic lessons and part of the Police Vocational Course (PVC).

Cadet Joseph Reynolds, who was named Cadet of the Year 2009, said "The college is a

great place to be with so many activities going on and experiences to take part in.

"I feel really honoured to have been named Cadet of the Year in the college's anniversary year. I am sure there will be more young people, who are waiting to join the cadets, who will enjoy their time here as much as I have."

● THE Eastern Region has hosted the first collaborative police trainers' development conference.

Around 120 police trainers from the Essex, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk forces – as well as the MoD Police based at Wethersfield in Essex – met at Newmarket to hear about national learning and development strategies, gain knowledge skills about training areas, network and share best practice.

The conference, to support continuous professional development, was organised by Essex Police College head of learning and development Pankajni Trivedi and Norfolk Police head of learning and development Jocelyn Simmons.

"We wanted to invest the time in developing, re-invigorating and motivating our trainers because we continually expect them to enthuse their students," said Miss Trivedi.

Workshops were held on creative problem-solving in the learning environment and accelerated learning techniques, among others.

Essex Police College's leadership and development trainer Sgt Andy Spink led a workshop on facilitation skills for trainers.



● From left, Most Improved Student cadet April Worsley, Cadet of the Year Joseph Reynolds, Essex Police Authority college link member Simon Walsh, head of operational training Chief Insp Ian Cummings, foundation learning and development manager Nichola Hurley, foundation trainer Natalie Watkins and Pc Anthony Hopkinson, a student officer being posted to Southend – representing the transition of training now delivered at Essex Police College, from cadets and student officers to police officers and PCSOs

Picture by Chris Morgan

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Business crime falls while detections rise

ESSEX firms have been told that tough action by the force and strong partnership working with the business community has seen crime against business drop by 7.2 per cent so far this financial year.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Essex Businesses Against Crime Forum, ACC Peter Lowton said: "So far this financial year the crime figures show there were nearly 800 fewer business crimes in Essex than during the same period last year.

"Across Essex Police our detection rate for all crimes is above 35 per cent – a figure which puts us in number one position for the number of crimes solved compared to our group of most similar police forces elsewhere in the country.

"The figure for crime against business is even better with nearly 41 per cent of such crimes being solved.

"We have seen the number of either failed or successful attempts to break into business vehicles to steal contents fall by 24 per cent; the number of offences of making off without payment from petrol stations fall by more than 15 per cent and the number of burglaries against business premises fall by 3.6 per cent."

Sadly, Mr Lowton said, shoplifting had increased slightly, by 0.7 per cent, but he would be talking to major stores – the main target – to discuss how to work together to reverse the trend.

"But generally the situation on crimes against business is improving thanks to the hard work of the increasing number of police officers and PCSOs who are in post and the strong partnerships we are developing with the business community, including Essex Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)," he told last month's meeting at Essex Police HQ.

Essex FSB chairman Iain Wicks said afterwards that the forum had been pleased by Mr Lowton's report.

"It shows that the points made by



● ACC Peter Lowton addresses the Essex Businesses Against Crime Forum

Picture courtesy of Essex Federation of Small Businesses

businesses at last year's forum were not just listened to but acted upon as well and that is what businesses want," he said.

"The fall in the number of crimes against business is good news and the higher than average detection rate shows that Essex Police take such crimes seriously.

"Business owners have a duty to take steps to protect their staff, customers and property from criminals and the team of Essex Police crime prevention officers offer free advice on-site, specific to each business.

"We would encourage every firm to make use of this service so that at next year's forum we see the figures down even further."

Essex FSB represents small businesses in the areas covered by Essex County Council and the London boroughs of Havering and Redbridge.



Chief's blog highlights



● Most police officers and staff will be aware that Chief Constable Jim Barker-McCardle is writing a weekly blog on the force intranet. Here are the highlights of October:

“ SEPTEMBER 27 saw me at Cardiff with Essex Police Federation secretary Roy Scanes, colleagues and some Essex families at the National Police Memorial Service for colleagues who have lost their lives in public service. It is a magnificent, fitting and emotional event and a powerful reminder of how many colleagues make the ultimate sacrifice. Other meetings that week included hosting visitors from HM Treasury, who were really keen to know more about Operation APEX as well as getting a bit of an insight into policing – we obliged. Key meetings the following week included a visit to Stansted Airport with a chance to look at our policing operation in detail. Whilst I am pretty familiar with sea ports policing from my days at Dover, it was a welcome opportunity to start to understand some of the complexities of policing a major airport. I was very impressed with colleagues I met, including those running an impressive investigation into a major and international car theft and cloning operation. I met George Cook, Chief Officer of the Essex Police Special Constabulary. We reflected on the outstanding work of the Special Constabulary, including expansion plans. I also had a substantial and very helpful meeting with Essex Police Federation chairman Tony Rayner and secretary Roy Scanes, where we talked about themes from the roadshows, professional standards, skills and front-line supervision. On October 20, I visited all our 24-hour custody centres. I wanted to see things for myself and speak to staff in advance of Chief Officers considering the custody refurbishment programme. I was very impressed with the custody sergeants and staff. ”

National recognition for diversity achievements

COMMUNITY engagement officer Dc Tess Wisbey has been awarded the bronze medal for Diversity In Action at the Jane's Police Review Gala Awards.

She was nominated for her work when she was the vulnerable adults and minorities officer in Thurrock – a police constable role.

Her nomination read: "Pc Wisbey works within an often challenging and rapidly changing environment where 50 per cent of children entering primary school are from black and minority ethnic communities.

"Her enthusiasm, commitment and dedication to her role has opened lines of communication between local residents and the police and overcome a number of difficulties.

"Working closely with vulnerable groups including partner agencies, influential community leaders and members of the community, Pc Wisbey has worked tirelessly to gain their trust and respect.

"Fully engaging with local groups Pc Wisbey has now become a Dignity Champion for the local community.

"Pc Wisbey continues to promote equality and diversity and develop



● Dc Tess Wisbey

cultural understanding at all levels of the community."

South Western Division's partnerships superintendent Ivor Harvey, who

nominated Pc Wisbey for the national award, said: "The role Pc Wisbey carried out extended far beyond her duty. Her enthusiasm and dedication never ceases to astound me.

"She has found her true vocation and it is clear her engagement and actions within the diverse community ensure it is a better place for everybody to live and work."

On receiving her bronze medal, Dc Wisbey said: "I am completely stunned but thrilled to have been presented with this award.

"I truly love the role that I have been working in as it gives me new challenges every day. I don't like to see anyone suffering because of someone else's dislike of a characteristic that cannot or should not be changed.

"Diversity involves everyone and I hope we can continue to work together to make positive changes in the future."

The Diversity in Action Award was introduced in 2004 to the Jane's Police Review Gala Awards.

Diversity in Action covers the widest definition of diversity and includes gender, race, sexual orientation and disability.

PDA awards show they prove their worth

IN a bid to promote the use of hand-held computers (PDAs), the Mobile Data Project team has presented awards to various users.

Central Division's operations superintendent Steve Robinson announced the winners at an event hosted and funded by O₂.

Road policing officer Pc Mark Bullock was found to have had the highest combined use of the Police National Computer, the STORM command and control system and input on CID61 intelligence forms.

Pc Joanne Andrews, of Leigh, was judged to have the best 'good news' story – the use of her PDA in the identification and arrest of a burglary suspect who gave incorrect details. A Video Witness photograph proved him to be the wanted man.

And Ds Trevor Garrard won the most innovative use section relating to the use of PDAs for intelligence briefings during Operation Glencoe – the Stansted Airport security operation surrounding US President Barack Obama's visit earlier this year for the G20 Summit in London.

This has resulted in the use of PDAs being approved as the best practice method for briefings in future large-scale operations.

Winners and guests were also invited, courtesy of O₂, to meet the England rugby team at a dinner at Twickenham.

Project manager Stacey Pollard said the competition had revealed a several new innovative uses of PDAs.

And she urged police officers and staff to continue to submit good news stories, feedback and suggestions to pdafeedback@essex.pnn.police.uk

By the end of this year, 3,000 PDAs will have been issued to operational police officers and staff and all initial training completed.

Trickster ordered to forfeit £410,000

A CONVICTED thief who tricked an 88-year-old man out of his savings has been stripped of assets totalling more than £410,000.

by Bill Stock

It was one of the biggest Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) seizures handled by Essex Police.

Ralph Gopall, 61, a retired broker from Hadleigh, appeared at a confiscation hearing at Basildon Crown Court on October 5.

He was ordered to repay £198,541.89 compensation to the estate of his victim, who has since died, and a further £211,885.35 as confiscation for money obtained from crime.

Gopall was arrested in September 2006 following investigations into thefts from a Rayleigh man.

Investigations revealed Gopall had befriended his victim and encouraged him to close his bank accounts and investments and open a joint account to

which Gopall had access. Gopall then moved money around to try to steal it.

He was found guilty of six counts of theft when he appeared at Basildon Crown Court in October 2007 and was jailed for five years.

DI Paul Dibell, head of Financial Investigations, said after the latest hearing: "This case demonstrates the power of the Proceeds of Crime Act to hit criminals where it hurts by taking away the very purpose of the crime – the money.

"Essex Police will continue to use this legislation to the full effect to reassure the public that criminals in our community are not living the high life on the proceeds of crime."

More than £700,000 has been recovered since January at POCA hearings involving criminals in Essex and a number of ongoing high-value financial investigations are likely to lead to more

confiscation hearings. Between April and October 23 2009, 51 confiscation orders totalling £599,619.61 have been obtained in court, plus 17 cash forfeiture orders totalling £99,627.11.

In June, former National Lottery winner and convicted cannabis producer Richard Storey was made the subject of a £101,280 confiscation order – if he doesn't pay within 12 months, he faces three more years in prison – and former solicitor Philip Totenhofer was ordered to repay more than £100,000 to charities he stole from within six months, or face another 18 months in jail.

While in March, a pilot who used his aircraft to drop drugs and firearms into Essex was ordered to pay a £24,347 confiscation order in addition to serving a 17-year prison sentence.

● For information on what you can do to help achieve this, visit the SOCD – Financial Investigations intranet site, contact the unit on ext 61675 or contact your divisional POCA manager

BBC Essex links up to broadcast our crime appeals

THE force has broadcast its first regular slot on BBC Essex, run in conjunction with Crimestoppers.

The weekly breakfast show slot will give us the chance to appeal for witnesses to a major crime or a recent incident, give out crime prevention advice or launch a proactive campaign.

Tune in to the Ray Clark breakfast show at about 8am every Thursday morning until Christmas and you will hear it.

Each week, a police officer will be interviewed by Ray about their case.

DCI Julie Macfarlane and Ds Danny Stoten were the first to go under the media spotlight to make an appeal in connection with missing British man Paul Duckenfield, who Essex Police believes has been murdered.

Mr Duckenfield lived in Portugal with his wife Tracey and his two young daughters but regularly returned to the UK on business, flying from

Faro to either Stansted or East Midlands airport.

On September 15, 2008, Mr Duckenfield flew on easyJet to Stansted, where he was picked up by a business partner and was last seen that evening at the Palm Trees restaurant in Great Saling.

Mr Duckenfield, then 41, was believed to have been involved in the distribution of anabolic steroids and growth hormones, used by some bodybuilders and athletes to enhance their performance.

He also ran a company called International Debt and Security Consultants, based in Derby.

It is possible that Mr Duckenfield visited gyms and leisure facilities in Essex when he visited the areas.

He had planned to return home to his family on September 19 or 20, 2008, by flying from East Midlands Airport to Faro.

But he did not take any of the flights destined for

Faro on those dates and has not been seen or heard from since. Investigating officers believe Mr Duckenfield was murdered in the Essex area on or around the evening of September 15, 2008.

His body has never been recovered.

They would like to hear from people with information and knowledge relating to Mr Duckenfield's business, the circumstances surrounding his death and the location of his body.

● Contact Essex Police Harlow Major Investigation Team with information on 01279 641188 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111

● Any police officer with a case they think may be suitable for the BBC Essex breakfast crime appeal, contact HQ Press Office on ext 50619 or DCI Julie Macfarlane on ext 52464

● Tune into BBC Essex on 103.5 and 95.3fm or 729, 765 and 1530mw



Staff associations

Federation news by Roy Scanes



National Police Memorial Day

THIS year's memorial service was held at St David's Hall in Cardiff and I need hardly say how proud I was to be representing Essex Police to honour the outstanding courage and heroism of police officers and, in particular, to commemorate those officers who have given their lives in order to make our communities safer.

This ultimate sacrifice is not only paid by the police officers but also by their families and friends alike, for whom this day is a lasting legacy to ensure the sacrifice of their loved ones is never forgotten.

Once again, the force did us proud, with our Chief Constable, Jim Barker-McCardle, and his wife accompanying some of the families of Essex officers who have fallen in the line of duty.

I know I speak for all who attended when I convey our thanks to Mr Barker-McCardle for his commitment on this day, which was made even more respectful now knowing that he returned to Essex late at night for an important early-morning meeting.

Pc Yvonne Fletcher (1959-1984)

The timing of this year's memorial service came just days after media speculation about government trade deals with Libya; a country still hiding the murderer of Metropolitan Police constable Yvonne Fletcher.

Pc Fletcher was the Metropolitan Police officer who was shot and killed on April 17, 1984, in St James' Square, London, whilst on duty during a protest outside the Libyan Embassy.

Her death resulted in a police siege of the embassy, which lasted 11 days.

Successive governments have always given an assurance that Pc Fletcher's killer will be hunted down and brought to justice.

However, the current government has

indicated that it is no longer able to provide this assurance.

The Police Federation of England and Wales believes this decision is an absolute disgrace and undermines the duty that the government has to protect police officers and the law of the land.

Our national chairman Paul McKeever has written to Prime Minister Gordon Brown, calling for an explanation and a change in this decision.

The government should recognise that, a quarter of a century later, for one family there is still no resolution and for the entire police service there has been no justice.

In support of this campaign, a petition has been set up to request Mr Brown to seek urgently the extradition to the UK of Pc Fletcher's suspected murderer.

● Please support the petition at <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/YvonneFletcher>

Essex Joint Branch Board website

We are soon to launch our own new website, which will be a totally independent site for our members.

Over the following few weeks we will be populating this site with information which we hope will be of interest to the police officers we represent, from the ranks of constable to chief inspector.

In keeping with one of our primary aims – to look after the welfare of our members – we will also be publishing details of offers from a range of member service providers, which we hope will be useful.

● View the site now at www.essex.polfed.org

● I would appreciate any feedback and/or ideas about additional information you would like to see included – contact me via email or on ext 54562

Unison news by Mike Frost



UNISON membership amongst Essex Police employees continues to grow and now far exceeds the 51 per cent target which means that, legally, your branch is the formal police staff consultative body.

By virtue of the local facilities agreement and the national Police Staff Council agreement, all police staff have long been represented in a general sense but the more members there are, the more influence the branch can exert when the chips are down.

Unison membership is always beneficial but particularly so as the force moves into another new era and Chief Constable Jim Barker-McCardle openly says that to fulfil the aims of the APEX programme, some police staff redundancies are "inevitable".

Of course, as the 600 extra police officers are appointed, they will need back office support. It follows then that if there are to be fewer back office staff, those who are left will have to be more productive somehow.

That will mean managers finding new ways of working. Such change management inevitably gives rise to personal uncertainties and stress.

When it happens to you, who are you going to rely upon for support if you are not a member of Unison?

On most days now, colleagues who are not members contact Unison for advice.

Regrettably, we are not able to help them other than in the most general terms and it's never easy to explain that membership benefits are not retrospective.

Just to make it clear one more time, Unison represents all police staff in the sense of collective bargaining. That means that in matters such as annual leave, pay rises and restructuring, everyone benefits from the work of Unison representatives.

However, when it comes to the individual details, only members in good standing can be

helped. Sadly and all too frequently, we also get calls from non-members who find themselves in trouble one way or another.

Complaints from the public, bullying, grievances, injuries at work, suspensions, Professional Standards interviews and even arrests are all things we get called upon to deal with. When it happens it can be stressful in the extreme and often affects family life too, especially when fears for job security come into the equation.

Unison members can get immediate assistance including, when necessary, legal support. Non-members have no such benefits and there are current examples of people having to pay for their own solicitor to defend them in court or fight their own claims after being injured by an accident at work.

Having an experienced representative with you at an interview and disciplinary hearing can make all the difference between losing your job and something less devastating.

Negotiating redundancy payments and employment tribunals can be tricky too unless you know what you are doing.

Clearly then, this is an open invitation to join Unison.

Taking into consideration recent newspaper reports and the commendable honesty of Mr Barker-McCardle at his recent roadshows, can you be certain that you will not need the reassurance that membership of Unison brings, as Essex Police moves into its next incarnation?

Look around you at APEX and collaboration with Kent. Speak to IT colleagues about the effects of reorganisation. The future is exciting but there is "no gain without pain".

If it's you who needs support and guidance to make the most of your changing situation, the modest cost of Unison will be money well spent!

● Visit the Unison intranet site, listed under Divisions & Departments on the intranet Site Directory

You're booked!

If you're wondering what to buy for Christmas, why not try one of these three books, written by members of the Essex Police family.

WRITTEN on behalf of Essex Police Museum by former officer Martyn Lockwood, *The Essex Police Force: A History* examines the history of police in Essex from 1840 to the current day.

It contains more than 250 photographs, many never published before. There are separate chapters on the Essex County Constabulary; Colchester Borough Police; Southend Borough Police; Essex and Southend on Sea Joint Constabulary; and Essex Police.

Now the force's senior contingency planning officer, Mr Lockwood is also a volunteer at Essex Police Museum, which is a charity.

His book was not intended to be a definitive history of the force. "The biggest difficulty was not what to include in the book but what to leave out," he said.

The Essex Police Force: A History is on sale from December 1, 2009, price £12.99 but you can pre-order it on amazon.com at £11.69. Proceeds will go to the museum.

● A SPY novel written by former Essex Police sergeant Leonard Sellers has been listed as one of the top books of its kind by the former director-general of MI5.

Dame Stella Rimington listed *Shot In The Tower* as one of the five best books about spies in Britain. The book is a story about the 11 spies executed in the Tower of London during World War One. Dame Stella described the book as "humane and touching" in the *Wall*

Street Journal. The book, first published in 1997, has now been republished in paperback, priced £12.99, by Pen and Sword Books following her comments.

Other books by Mr Sellers include *Death For Desertion* and *The Hood Battalion*.

● ESSEX Police Authority research and administration officer Jerry Drewett spent two years writing his debut novel

When Blood Ties Lie, an action packed story set in ancient Japan.

Several years ago, Mr Drewett drew up a 'things to do before I die' list and is working his way down it.

He said: "I have always wanted to be an author and writing a book and having it published appears on the list – I try to achieve at least one thing on the list every year."

"They say write about what you know and I have a great fascination for Japan and the Samurai culture so I decided to base the story in ancient Japan."

He wove his plot around the Gempei wars of the 1180s, a civil war between two great clans, the Minamoto and the Taira, which resulted in the establishment of the first Shogun or military leader.

When Blood Ties Lie is priced £9.99 and is available in Waterstone's, WH Smith and online at melrosebooks.com amazon.com and caio.co.uk

● THE latest Essex Police Museum History Notebook is now out. Written by Dr Maureen Scollan – a former Essex inspector – it gives an insight into the origins of women police officers in Essex.

And the notebook, no 52 in the museum's collection, charts the emergence of women in police forces through history to the present day.

Contact museum curator Becky Wash on 01245 457150 or email museum@essex.pnn.police.uk for



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Corner the chairman



● Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers

The high calibre of officers and staff makes me proud

“On October 14 I was lucky enough to attend the Long Service Awards at the Central Baptist Church in Chelmsford.

I felt very proud hearing about the police officers and staff who were being presented with their awards.

It is very inspirational to know that we have had these dedicated people as part of the Essex Police family for more than 22 years – what an achievement!

During the evening a number of Specials were also awarded with the Special Constabulary Long Service Medal, presented to those who have served in the Essex Police Special Constabulary for nine years.

It was also great to see Student Officer of the Year Dc Nathan Hutchinson receive his trophy, and Diversity Trophy nominee Jim Gibson and ACTION Award nominee exchequer officer Sarah Symonds receive their certificates as they were unable to attend the Essex Police Annual Awards ceremony in September.

I believe that Essex Police has the best calibre of officers and staff in the country and these awards are just another way of demonstrating this.

I would like to congratulate all those who received a Long Service Award.

I am very grateful for your hard work, commitment and loyalty over the years and for your continued commitment in the future. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone throughout the force for their continued hard work and dedication. With your help, we will continue to make Essex an even safer county. ”

Locating missing people quickly

IMPROVEMENTS are being made to the way the force investigates cases of missing people.

Firstly, the CID94 missing person form has been updated – making it easier for front-line officers and staff to use.

And the new missing persons performance and review officer, Pc Belinda Spensley, has also re-written the policy and procedure for missing people.

It is a new role for Belinda, who was previously a dog handler. Now she is based in the Public Protection Unit at HQ and her next aim is to familiarise all police officers and staff with the COMPACT (Co-ordinated Missing Person and Case Tracking) system and get them using it to its full potential.

Pc Spensley said: “The procedure for putting missing people on to COMPACT has been simplified and any authorised person will now be able to create a new entry on the COMPACT log, making a sometimes laborious job simpler.”

“From December staff in Central Division will be piloting the new procedure in dealing with missing people for six weeks and, if successful, it will be rolled out across the divisions.”

While looking at procedures in other forces, Pc Spensley found that many have dedicated missing person liaison posts which have reduced missing reports by up to 60 per cent in some areas.

The officers in the designated posts are responsible for undertaking the ‘safe and well check’, rather than local

by Helen Cook

officers. The force is looking at introducing these posts so we can focus more on people who go missing regularly – often children – and try to find out why they are going missing and find the help they require.

Pc Spensley said: “I would like to get local PCSOs and neighbourhood policing team (NPT) officers involved in getting to know the residents in local children’s homes and care homes for the elderly.”

“I believe they will be able to provide valuable knowledge should someone go missing.”

A new protocol has also been signed with the Safeguarding Children’s Boards in Essex, Thurrock and Southend.

This should have an impact on the number of young, vulnerable children reported missing from care every year and hopefully streamline the amount of time officers currently spend dealing with young missing persons.

Under the new government protocol, all foster parents and staff at children’s homes have the same responsibility as a parent would for their child.

They now have to record descriptive details and take a photograph when a child comes into their care.

And it will be the responsibility of the foster parent or children’s home to make initial enquiries and checks – eg with friends – and to complete the risk assessment when a child goes missing.

Pc Spensley said: “The time limit for a child who has taken authorised absence

will be risk-assessed and, if it is thought appropriate, the time will be increased from two to six hours before they are reported as a missing person to police.

“In forces already using this protocol there has been a huge reduction in the number of calls to police reporting missing children, who turn up safe and well a few hours later. This obviously saves many hours of police time.”

She added: “We are looking to work with the NHS and private health care trusts to instigate a similar protocol regarding hospital patients and people with mental health problems who go missing.”

Pc Spensley is keen for police officers and staff to contact her about using the COMPACT system.

Currently all supervisors have the authority to create a new log but everyone may search the COMPACT database.

Pc Spensley says rural stations may find it useful for NPT officers to request permission to input details directly on to COMPACT, thus saving valuable time, rather than contacting the PNC Bureau or waiting for authorised staff to come on duty.

She said: “The potential for COMPACT is huge – not only is it a system to record and retain details of all missing people but it may also be used to record vulnerable people who are at high risk of going missing, eg a person with Alzheimer’s who regularly wanders off.”

● Pc Spensley will assist police officers and staff to use COMPACT. She can be contacted on ext 55242

Russ and Shadow top the trials

LAINDON dog-handler Sgt Russ Abbott and police dog Shadow took the honours at the annual force dog trials.

Over the three days, dogs and their handlers were marked on tracking, man-work, obedience and searching.

Sgt Abbott and Shadow also won the tracking trophy.

Three dogs will now be selected to compete in the regional trials in the early part of next year.

In second place, and winners of the manwork trophy, were Pc Nick Pickard and police dog Clyde, of Stanway.

Third were Pc Phil Robinson and police dog Floyd, also of Stanway. Fourth, and winners of the search trophy, were Pc Simon Newman and police dog Harvey, of Great Dunmow.

Fifth, and winners of the obedience trophy, were Pc Tony Mayo and police dog Keane, of Laindon.

And winners of the Chad Trophy were Pc Neale Gleeson and police dog Ben, of Rochford.

Jeans therapy

OFFICERS and staff across the force raised £948.24 for the Jeans for Genes research charity.

Communications Division raised £289.75; IT £221.85; Crime Division £164; Southend Crime and Incident Management Unit £95; Essex Police College, Finance, Territorial Policing, Procurement and the Professional Standards, Criminal Justice and Media departments also contributed.



● Essex Police Museum curator Becky Wash receives the cheque from Insp Louise Beattie, Sgt Dave Rudd and police dog Tom

Picture by Heather Turner

Dogs ‘fetch’ £268

INSP Louise Beattie, Sgt Dave Rudd and police dog Tom – an explosives search dog – have handed over a cheque for £268.89 to Essex Police Museum curator Becky Wash.

The Dog Unit put on two displays during the museum’s annual fun day and decided to give the donations from the crowd to the museum, which is a charity.

More than 1,300 people walked through the doors of Essex Police Museum on the day and hundreds of others enjoyed the Dog Unit displays, the Essex Police helicopter, which landed during the afternoon, and a classic police car and motorbike display. While plenty more queued for a chance to see the Force Information Room at work and the museum’s World War Two air raid shelter.

Ford Motor Company also had a special security van on show and visitors were able to obtain advice on vehicle security.

Essex Police Museum is a charity and Mrs Wash said she would add the £268.89 to the £568.58 already raised at the fun day and use it to produce a new

interactive educational session for Key Stage 3 pupils (Years 7-9), which will be available free to all schools across the county.

Insp Beattie said: “The Essex Police Museum is a worthwhile charity and our money will enable it to continue with its award-winning educational work.”

In July, Mrs Wash was commended for the excellent educational resources she provides to schools by the East of England Broadband Network E2BN presented her with a certificate of commendation for excellent resources provided to schools.

● Essex Police Museum is based at Essex Police HQ in Springfield and can take group and school visits by appointment. Contact Becky on 01245 457150 or via email at museum@essex.pnn.police.uk

● To view the schools’ educational resources, visit www.essex.police.uk/museum and click on Education and then on the E2BN Gallery logo in the bottom right-hand corner – you do not need a password

Marvellous museum award for an excellent Essex museum

THE public has voted and Essex Police Museum has been awarded Best Event for its children’s summer activities at this year’s Essex Marvellous Museum Awards (EMMAs).

The Museums in Essex Committee introduced the awards this year to recognise excellent Essex museums and the Essex Police Museum has won one of the three categories put forward for the public vote.

Museum curator Becky Wash said: “It’s fantastic that the public has voted for us to win this award.

“Throughout the year we organise a great number of children’s activities and events, so it is nice to be able to

get such a positive response for this work.”

The awards were open to more than 80 museums across Essex.

The winners also received £200 to put towards a project.

Achieving our vision to make the county safer

A NEW Force Confidence and Equality Board has been established to help us achieve our vision that Essex will be the safest place in the country, with the best policing.

Chief Constable Jim Barker-McCardle said: "We can help to achieve our vision by improving public confidence in Essex Police and assuring residents that the county is a safe place in which to live, work and visit."

"Our force strives to provide high-quality services which are sensitive to individual needs and which are delivered fairly and without prejudice, recognising that the people of Essex and our police officers and staff have different needs and lifestyles."

"We aim to ensure nobody is disadvantaged by their difference and we will work positively with our communities to increase our understanding of issues, improve practices and perceptions and promote equality of opportunity."

As well as Chief Officers – the board is chaired by Mr Barker-McCardle – other members include head of Media Claire Ziwa, head of Corporate Development Dave Gosling, head of Communications Division Chief Supt Glenn Caton, head of Customer Services Claire Heath, head of HQ Territorial Policing Supt Ewen Wilson.

Essex Police Authority chief executive Robin Paddock, Strategic Independent Advisory Group chair Neela Hibbert and the chief executives of Essex County, Southend Borough and Thurrock councils also sit on the board.

The new board will help to set the force's strategic direction on all confidence, equality and diversity matters, both within the force and within our communities.

Members will also be able to commission work in relation to confidence, equality and diversity matters when and if necessary.

The board meets every four to six weeks but, when it has become more established, it is envisaged this will reduce to once every three months.



● **DCC Andy Bliss pours tea for former Dc Julie Baker at the Retired Officers' Tea Party last month. The tea party is an opportunity for the force to recognise the work of police officers and staff who have recently retired. They are each presented with a certificate to acknowledge their career with Essex Police and it is also a chance to reminisce and have a chat. Usually organised twice a year by HR officer Janet Guise, it was the third tea party this year – owing to the large intakes of police officers in the late 1970s, who are coming up for retirement after 30 years. There were 396 years and 62 days of policing experience in the room this time, from a variety of disciplines, including road policing, air support, detectives, scenes of crime, child abuse investigation and Neighbourhood Policing. Mrs Baker retired in November last year from Crime Division after 30 years in the force. She also collected a certificate for her husband – former Dc Paul Baker, also of Crime Division – who retired at the same time but who was unable to attend.**

Picture by Gary Kenton

Family organises dinner to help a special little girl

THE family of two police officers is helping to raise funds for their severely disabled daughter to be sent to America for treatment.

And next on the fund raising list is a charity dinner-dance on November 21 in Rayleigh.

Three-year-old Isabella Cox is the daughter of Stansted Airport's Pc Simon Cox and Chelmsford Dc Christine Bennett.

She was born with a rare chromosome disorder which means she has to be fed through tubes into her stomach, has two holes in her heart, suffers epileptic fits and is blind.

The black-tie dinner-dance is being held at Mill Hall with live band Elco Jones – featuring Ds Kerry Bennion and Chief Insp Alan Gooden in their line-up – and a DJ providing entertainment in between the drinks reception and three-course meal.

Isabella's aunt and uncle Jason and Melanie Cox are helping to organise the event, along with her grandparents John and Susan Cox and great-grandparents Norman and Cissy Cox.

Jason said: "Everyone who meets Isabella is won over by her. We all want to give her the best possible chance in life and that's why we are arranging these events."

And Susan added: "Isabella is a very special little lady. Despite all the challenges she brings, nobody has ever brought so much love and joy to all our lives."

An auction of music memorabilia, holidays, a recent tour Madness T-shirt, signed John Travolta pictures, and Guinness Rugby Premiership tickets will be held during the evening.

● Tickets cost £45 each and all profits will go towards Isabella's treatment in America and her future care and equipment – contact Christine Bennett on 07515 715121 or Jason Cox on 01702 549023

● Isabella's progress can be viewed on her own blog at www.isabellasfund.blogspot.com

Man to be sentenced for his part in 'country gun factory'

MASSES of guns and ammunition were taken off the streets following a raid on a country mansion in a tiny village near Braintree.

As well as the secret arsenal of guns, officers also discovered a cannabis factory at grade II-listed Pollards in Bardfield Saling on September 17 last year.

A joint operation between the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and Essex Police led to Paul Alexander's arrest by armed police and the discovery of a gun factory.

It was the culmination of more than a year's work by various police forces and agencies.

Police in Essex first became aware of Alexander, 53, after Merseyside Police approached SOCA to locate him.

The long investigation into Alexander's activities began when Merseyside Police ran Operation Bosanova in 2007 which targeted two feuding groups, both of which were believed to have been involved in gun crime.

Intelligence led officers to execute an armed operation and suspects were arrested. A number of firearms were found with magazines, cartridges and sound moderators. These, grouped together, are known as assassin kits.

Two suspects were later convicted and jailed for 15 and eight years.

A DNA profile obtained from a self-loading pistol recovered from one of the addresses targeted proved a match for Alexander.

And DNA evidence was also found on two weapons seized following an

by **Donna Veasey**

operation by Greater Manchester Police in June 2008 which matched Alexander.

When Alexander and his wife Caroline Hunter-Mann-Purdy, 59, were arrested – him at a Chelmsford car rental firm and her at the mansion – last year, officers seized approximately 28 firearms, including handguns and rifles, and discovered a hydroponics set-up.

Enquiries uncovered the acquisition of at least 37 further handguns by Alexander from dealers in the UK and Germany, as well as more than 12,000 component parts of ammunition, including cases, bullets and pistol powder.

Forensic examination also linked tools found at the addresses used by Alexander to weapons linked to incidents including a murder in Birmingham in April 2009, four attempted murders, nine shootings and an armed robbery.

On July 7, Alexander pleaded guilty at Chelmsford Crown Court to two counts of possessing a firearm/ammunition with intent to endanger life, converting an imitation firearm in to a firearm, possessing/purchasing or acquiring/manufacturing/selling or transferring prohibited ammunition, cultivating cannabis and acquiring/using/possessing criminal property.

Hunter-Mann-Purdy admitted entering or becoming concerned in a money-laundering arrangement and one of her two daughters, Rachael Hunter-Mann, 38, admitted money-laundering – they both received two-year community orders. Her other



● **Pollards in Bardfield Saling, above, where the gun factory and cannabis factory were found**

● **Three rifles, right, discovered during the raid**



daughter, Jasmin Purdy, 21, admitted conspiring to cultivate cannabis and was given a 12-month jail sentence.

Senior investigating officer Det Supt John Quinton said prior to Alexander's sentencing on November 6: "This was a complex, protracted enquiry which involved the identification of more than 18 linked offences involving weapons and ammunition; including one murder, four attempted murders and the criminal discharge of firearms."

"We worked closely with SOCA after identifying Paul Alexander as a significant supplier of firearms to drug gangs. "We recovered 28 weapons which

would have been used in violent crime in communities that are already blighted by gun crime.

"He had the capacity to produce even more. The guns that he helped place in circulation will long be used to commit crime, probably even after he finishes serving his sentence."

Macmillan Nurses get £1,300 boost

CUPS of coffee and tea and slices of cake were consumed with great gusto across the force to raise more than £1,300 for Macmillan Nurses.

Staff again took part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning at the end of September.

The Criminal Justice Department county total was £963.08 – they also held a raffle, which helped to boost the total.

And Harlow Criminal Justice Unit contributed £250 of that, with a cake sale, quiz sheet – won by service desk assistant Linda Turpin – and raffle.

HQ Crime Division administration raised a further £295.26 for the cause.

As well as "great" homemade cakes and donated raffle prizes, they had a signed programme from the musical Grease, which helped to beat last year's total of cash raised.

And a coffee morning held by the Media Department at HQ raised another £90.40.

Satisfaction with mystery shopping

THE Customer Service Team distributed 600 customer satisfaction surveys in a week last month.

They were distributed to people who had reported such incidents as nuisance youths, disturbances and 'suspicious circumstances' during National Customer Service Week.

Customer services manager Debbie Batey said it would allow the team to find out about people's 'customer experience'.

The team also carried out mystery shopping checks on the force's response to dissatisfaction enquiries.

And Eastern Division Service Desk measured the number of people attending the division's main stations throughout the week, to provide a better insight into busy periods and customer requirements.

Honoured at Justice Awards

CRIMINAL Justice Department (CJD) operations manager Barbara Holmes and Chelmsford special constable John Turnbull were among those honoured at the Essex Justice Awards.

Mrs Holmes and Sc Turnbull were judged to have demonstrated extra dedication and commitment in their support of victims and witnesses and in their work with offenders and tackling youth crime.

The Essex Criminal Justice Board's (CJB) Justice Awards, held last month, recognise people working in the criminal justice system who go the extra mile in working with offenders, victims or witnesses, whether they are from one of the criminal justice agencies or their partner organisations or are volunteers working with victims, witnesses or offenders.

Mrs Holmes, who was due to retire from the force on November 1, was said to have demon-

strated an exemplary degree of dedication and commitment to her duties in support of operational police officers and the public of Essex since first joining us in 1979.

In 1995, Mrs Holmes wrote an innovative policy which led, for the first time, to support being provided to next-of-kin throughout court hearings involving fatalities.

In January 2000, she was seconded to a joint agency project and played a pivotal role in the introduction of joint police/Crown Prosecution Service units across Essex.

Three years later, she became a major player in a local joint-agency implementation team which planned and implemented changes to the management of summary trial cases, which once again attracted complimentary recognition of her approach. Her latest achievement, in June, was the delivery of the Streamlined File Process to the force.

She was nominated by fellow CJD operations manager Steve Powell, who said: "Throughout her service, while she has increasingly played a strategic role, she has never lost her personal touch and the support of her staff is pivotal to her success as a manager."

Mrs Holmes received her certificate of commendation for Long Service from singer, actress and BBC Essex presenter Sadie Nine and Essex CJB chairman and Chief Crown Prosecutor Ken Caley at the awards ceremony on September 30.

Sc Turnbull, who was awarded a certificate of commendation in the Volunteer of the Year category, joined Essex Police Special Constabulary in March 1999.

He is based in Chelmsford. His nominator was SSgt Dawn Burton, who praised Sc Turnbull for



● **Barbara Holmes is pictured, right, receiving her certificate from Sadie Nine. Sc John Turnbull did not attend the ceremony**

Picture courtesy of Essex Criminal Justice Board

his effectiveness in reducing the number of outstanding warrants by ensuring that every person wanted on a warrant received a visit within seven days of the warrant being issued. SSgt Burton said: "His effectiveness can be measured by the reduction in the number of warrants, as well as from the praise and recognition from regular police colleagues."

One-stop services for residents

A NEW single point of contact for public services in Chelmsford was launched during National Customer Service Week.

The week, from October 5-11, was also marked with a relaunch of InfoPoint@Colchester and beat surgeries at the one-stop shop in Basildon.

InfoPoint@Chelmsford was launched for a six-month trial. It is based in the atrium at County Hall – Essex Police has joined forces with Essex County Council, Chelmsford Borough Council, NHS Mid-Essex and Essex Fire and Rescue Service to provide a service which will benefit residents significantly.

It is simply an easier and more convenient way for people to find out about all the area's public services.

Chelmsford district commander Chief Insp Glenn Maleary said: "This is another example how close partnership working can have a really positive impact on the lives of those who live, visit or work in Chelmsford."

"The opening endorses our joint commitment to National Customer Service Week and I believe InfoPoint@Chelmsford to be an excellent means of community engagement for us all."

"Through the Infopoint, my aim is for Essex Police to deliver assistance with crime and anti-social behaviour reduction and to provide access to the police through beat surgeries, which are hosted by the Chelmsford neighbourhood policing teams."

InfoPoint@Chelmsford will be staffed on weekdays and a rota will be displayed at County Hall reception, which will give available times for each of the partner agencies involved.

InfoPoint@Colchester was relaunched to coincide with National Customer Service Week in a bid to encourage more people to use its services.

Police officers from all three of the town's neighbourhood policing teams are at the InfoPoint – based in Colchester Borough Council's High Street offices in Angel Court – between 10am and noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Community Safety sergeant Steve Scott-Haynes said: "The service is for people who can't normally get to beat surgeries and neighbourhood action panel meetings in their area but who can get into Angel Court. They can come and talk to their neighbourhood specialist officers."

InfoPoint@Colchester also includes representatives from the borough council, Essex County Council, NHS North East Essex, Colchester Borough Homes, Colchester and Tendring NHS Stop Smoking Service, Essex Fire and Rescue Service, Flagship Housing, Essex University and the Citizens Advice Bureau.

And to mark National Customer Service Week in Basildon, police held beat surgeries at the one-stop shop in the Basildon Centre – which allows residents to access a whole host of Essex Police and Basildon Council services under one roof.

Police staff from our Customer Services section joined the council's customer service staff in promoting the vital role customer service plays for both organisations.

Basildon district sergeant Kevin McPoland said: "As a force, we deal with a whole host of people, from victims to the vulnerable, and it is really important we give them the best possible service."

He said the week would provide police in Basildon with feedback as to how the public think we can best serve them.

Basildon Council customer services team leader Maureen Young added that it was a chance to demonstrate the effectiveness of customer service when delivered in partnership.



● **Essex Police staff members Borka Price and Denise Field speak to a customer at InfoPoint@Chelmsford during National Customer Service Week** Picture by Jenna Smith

CENTRAL PROPERTY STORE IS CHANGING ITS NAME...

...BUT EVERYTHING ELSE IS STAYING THE SAME



OH NO!



PHEW!

SAME LOCATION...
SAME SERVICE...
SAME TELEPHONE NUMBER...

FROM JANUARY 1, 2010, CENTRAL PROPERTY STORE WILL BE KNOWN AS

THE RECORDS AND EVIDENCE CENTRE

THE REC

ACTION



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

TO Chief Constable Jim Barker-McCardle:

We wanted to write in praise of the rapid response and continuing support given to us by PCSOs Wayne Burke and Peter White, from Walton on the Naze.

In these times when the police seem to come in for such a lot of criticism in the Press and from the general public, we feel it is important they should also be thanked for the many instances where their assistance is invaluable.

We have been plagued by the noise and behaviour of neighbours and were becoming increasingly stressed by this over the summer.

When we called the community support team, they arrived within minutes, heard the level of noise we were experiencing and had it stopped.

The police have since been in touch to ensure we were suffering no repercussions.

We cannot thank them enough for the support they have given us, which has enabled us to feel much more secure and at peace in our

own home. We do hope that, with more officers like this on the beat, more people will feel able to stand up to the anti-social behaviour within our society at the moment, without being left feeling defenceless and vulnerable.

RC
Walton on the Naze

TO Insp Scott Cannon:

After a 999 call we made regarding a burglary suspect on our roof, we would like to express our thanks for the most rapid response of your officers, Pc Luke Bevan and Pc Darren Fountain.

On their arrival, I was impressed for the way they dealt with the situation and their professionalism and help.

GM
Langdon Hills

TO Chief Insp Simon Dobinson:

I am writing to inform you of the brilliant help and support of two of your officers, in particular Dc Andy Smith.

I witnessed an attempted murder almost two years ago.

Without the support of Dc Smith and his partner Dc Tony Robinson, I probably wouldn't have got to the point of going to court.

The self-belief they instilled in me convinced me it was the right think to do.

I mainly dealt with Dc Smith as he had given me his

number in case I needed to add any details or just talk about my statement etc.

I did see the defendant again about a year later and rang Dc Smith to inform him.

Throughout the past two years, Dc Smith has been completely professional and given me as much support as was needed and made me feel differently about the police force.

My confidence in the police force has risen, as I have seen and heard how much went into this case. I would like to commend Dc Smith for all his help and support.

SP

I WOULD like to express my gratitude for the help I have received from Essex Police after I rang to report a man harassing me.

Everyone has been superb but, in particular, I must mention Pc Rachel Anderson. She was most caring and inspired confidence.

I realise the police have a most difficult task. I have nothing but the highest praise for you all.

AR
Leigh on Sea

TO Pc Arran Holmes:

Thank you for the update letter and for the marker pen.

We would like to say how impressed we were by the manner in which the police –

you, Dc Courtney Cowell and Dc Andrew Thacker – have handled this matter.

From the first interview by you and your colleague – which was a public relations masterclass in how to handle two shocked and confused people, right through all the police follow-ups to the recovery of our vehicle.

Following your visit, we have arranged for a burglar alarm to be installed, so, hopefully, we can 'shut some stable doors'.

PW
Great Leighs

TO PCSO James Graham:

I would like to thank you very, very much for finding my purple Samsung Phone.

I understand it cost Mum a lot of money and I shall start taking more care of it.

I thank you very much and would like you to show this to your boss. I also think you should get a reward.

MB
Braintree

TO Supt Steve Johnson:

I would like to compliment Pc Shaun Hammond on his excellent partnership working and his commitment to his job.

I am aware that over the past few years that Pc Hammond has worked extremely well with the licensing enforcement officer to result issues with licensed premises, to the benefit of Braintree District Council, Essex Police and the public.

Pc Hammond is extremely pro-active, is held in high regard by the officers within the Licensing Department and is a credit to Essex Police.

Food, health & safety and licensing manager
Braintree District Council

TO Pc Stuart Francis

Thank you so much for all your help to find my lost purse. I am so impressed by the police.

I would also like to thank Pc Martin North. He was so good at taking my statement.

MC
Basilston

TO Insp Darren Wiles:

I would like to thank officially Pc Jane Grieve and Pc Chris Howell for their help and support in a case involving my daughter, which recently came to trial.

They were both very understanding, supportive and reassuring, especially due to the nature of the case. Without this, the family would have found the process difficult to cope with.

Being able to speak to Pc Grieve over the past few months has been a great help to my daughter and Pc Howell's calm approach helped to keep things together

er for all the witnesses during the trial.

AD
Canvey Island

TO Sgt Rob Huddleston, Pc Dave Marter, Pc Andy Sunderland, Pc Kelly Cattley and Pc Bob Amey:

I called 999 when we were woken by someone entering our property.

Our dog had scared the intruders off but I called 999 to report the incident. I would like to thank you for your immediate response. You were outside my house in minutes.

I often work nights, leaving my wife and daughters at home and your quick attendance reassured them at an obviously distressing time.

Your quick response also resulted in two arrests. In a climate where everyone is quick to complain, I wanted to say thank you and well done!

GD
Epping

TO Chief Supt Michelle Dunn:

During the course of the day, it became increasingly clear that we had mounting concerns about the care of a six-year-old girl.

My staff visited at 6pm with the intention of assessing the situation and making a judgement about her safety.

I had asked that, at the very least, an agreement should be gained for the girl to go to a relative. In the event, no-one was at home.

Because of our evident concerns, the staff at Witham police station agreed to undertake a welfare visit – without proactive medication, this child could easily be in difficulty.

As I understand it, Sgt Rob Dickson asked Sc Adam Walker and Pc Christopher Major to make that visit, which they did so at 11pm. They then made the decision to move the child to the relative.

I was very concerned about the girl's situation. Can you please thank your officers for the visit and such a positive response to the situation.

The child is now accommodated at the relative's and staff will be taking further steps to ensure her ongoing wellbeing.

Mid Assessment and Family Support
Schools, Children and Families Directorate
Essex County Council

TO Chief Insp Keith Davies:

I've just read in the October 2009 issue of *The Law* of the success of Operation Prescott, which you rolled out recently in the Castle Point area and no doubt included Canvey Island, in which I am particularly interested.

It is comforting to read the results of this operation and that the Alco-Blow device

seems to be a worthwhile tool to have.

We are all very much aware how much alcohol and drug abuse feeds violence and various other forms of anti-social behaviour – not forgetting motoring offences and knife crime – and I just wanted to express my thanks to you and your team in bringing these new initiatives to our streets and hopefully reduce the effect of this stigma on our neighbourhoods.

RH
Canvey Island

TO Insp Alan Jelly:

I would like to thank Pcs Gervaise Wright and Pete Pette for their prompt, polite and wonderful assistance when our car was stolen and, most of all, for their great sense of humour – my stolen car was a 20-year-old Citroen 2cv – as it really helped to take the sting out of the situation.

And not forgetting scenes of crime officer Julia Goward, who was there within one hour of the first working day after it was found. Again, she was very professional and very lovely.

RS
Westcliff on Sea

TO Chief Constable Jim Barker-McCardle:

In this climate of complaints against the police, I am writing to tell of our opposite experience.

I would like to congratulate your officers at Wickford who so ably supported us in deterring intimidation and damage from a group of people, which posed a very real threat to our business.

Once our problem was known to your officers, they demonstrated how proactive your local community police team could be. As a result, their uniformed police presence on numerous occasions contributed to high visibility, which became a serious deterrent to those seeking to exert their aggressive behaviour towards us.

Your officers' actions avoided potentially more serious confrontation.

I would particularly like to commend Insp Sue Heaton, who initiated the action, acting Ds Stuart Minihane, who confirmed by his actions our faith in the protection we could expect from your force, and Pc Mike Deats, who has continued with these initiatives.

My fellow directors and I would like you to thank the officers for what we see as participating in an important community support lead, the aims of which, I am sure, originate from your office and can clearly work, as demonstrated in our case.

DQ
Chelmsford

Christmas stocking-fillers

The Essex Police Museum has a range of gifts to fill your Christmas stockings – for children and adults



Children's handcuffs
£2



Crime scene tape
£1.50



Essex Police Museum tie-pin
£3



Pewter handcuffs keyring
£1



Metropolitan police whistle
£10



Policeman fridge magnet
£1

All items can be purchased directly from Essex Police Museum at Essex Police HQ or order by post, telephone or email. Cheques should be made payable to Essex Police Museum and sent to: The Curator, Essex Police Museum, PO Box 2, Essex Police HQ, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DA telephone 01245 457150 email museum@essex.pnn.police.uk

Essex Police Museum is open every Wednesday from 1pm to 4.30pm and on the first Saturday of each month from 10.30am to 3pm

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



The recipients of £100 awards were: Pc Danielle Bailey and PCSO Samantha Baines, of Eastern; Supt Steve Johnson, Pc Ben Griffiths, and Pc Sonia Mirrington, of Central; Mick Barry, of Communications Division; Peter Byfield, of Stansted Airport; and Terence Gerard and Richard Turner, of Mobile Support Division.

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.

Thanks for your football generosity

ON behalf of everyone at St Clare Hospice, I would like to thank Supt Simon Williams and everyone at Harlow police station for your kind donation of £4,548.22, which was raised from a summer football match held at Barrows Farm and which, I'm pleased to say, the police team did win.

I'd like to pay special thanks to the following officers who worked excellently together to organise a very successful event for the hospice: acting sergeants Terry Rackley and Karen Brimson and PCSOs Stuart Burt and Dave Brown.

The money raised will help St Clare Hospice in the following ways:

£3886.33 will provide one day's relief for our patients in our new day care unit, which provides alternative therapies, recreational therapy and general support for nine patients in the community for four days of the week.

And £661.89 will provide one bed in our IPU for a day, which will help a patient and family receive help, support and guidance from our clinical team.

It was an absolute pleasure to work with you all at Harlow on this event and I hope to work with you all again soon.

Victoria Parker
Community fundraiser for Harlow and Epping Forest St Clare Hospice
Hastingwood

All this name-calling just confuses the public

I WRITE as chairman of the Police Federation in Essex, following the exchanges through the Letters pages and Unison's column in the past two issues of *The Law*.

First, what's in a name? The Police Federation chooses to call community support officers (CSOs) just that.

We choose to drop the word 'police' from their title because it confuses the public.

It even confuses the media. It is routine to read about 'police community officers' – and I do not see Unison or the organisation rushing to criticise the deletion of the word 'support'.

The blurring of what is and what is not a police officer continues apace and if we can impede that blurring in a small way by trying to dispel the growing myth that CSOs are a form of police officer, then we will continue.

How extraordinary that Unison's only retort is to threaten us with the Force's Dignity At Work Policy when we are complaining about the lazy use of nicknames that the public associates with officers.

Why is it OK to call CSOs coppers but we can't delete the word police from their title?

The letters from Dean Chesterman and Jed Stopher in the October issue talk about the worth of CSOs but completely fail to answer the point made by Mick West in his September letter.

Indeed, Dean supports our stance when he writes "most youngsters do call us police officers or copper".

As for Mike Frost's Unison comment last month – what was that all about?

Again, it missed the point being made by Mick and went off on a tangent of obfuscation about what the public think of CSOs.

Why is it relevant to offending police officers by calling CSOs coppers or bobbies? Mike adds, amazingly, that CSOs need more powers to do their job properly.

Thurrock had another great get-together

I WOULD like to thank those hardy souls who braved the foul weather on October 9 for the Thurrock Reunion.

Although numbers were down on last year, I'm sure we were in the thoughts of those who couldn't make it.

It was a great evening given the appearance of Thurrock's William Marr – back from Spain for his grandchild's Christening as well as a youth club reunion.

It was great also to chat to the likes of Geoff Crux, my old 'guv'nor' at South Ockendon, and without doubt one of the finest men it has been my privilege to work with.

Also making a show were Delboy Mahoney, Tony Ashkettle, Dave Anthony, my old sparring partner David Hudson and so many more.

To all who made the effort, thanks. You may also have breathed some life into the bar and hopefully contributed to its continuing prosperity.

A reunion will be held again next year in early October, so pencil that timeframe into your diaries.

Laurie Rampling
Stanford le Hope

If all a CSO is for is to be the "eyes and ears" of the police, why do they need any powers at all? If they are supposed to be non-confrontational, why do they need body armour? Dean, Jed and Mike opened a debate on the usefulness of CSOs; the Essex Police Federation did not.

However, to answer their assertions that the public think they are wonderful, I cite the YouGov poll published on May 19, 2008: 70 per cent of respondents said they would feel safer if there were fewer CSOs on the beat but more police officers.

Operation APEX seeks to add 600 police officers to the strength of Essex Police.

Both former Chief Constable Roger Baker and new Chief Constable Jim Barker-McCardle have said that growing the numbers of sworn officers is the priority and Mr Baker said we have a disproportionately high number of support staff in the force compared to other constabularies.

I am certain that there will be another survey in existence that will show that the public think that all police officers should be replaced by CSOs – the Conservatives think we should replace the Chief with an elected Sheriff – but can we all just calm down and remember that the original letter was a protest at calling CSOs 'coppers' or 'bobbies'.

Sworn officers take exception to be referred to as 'employees' and police staff don't like being called 'civilians'.

Tony Rayner
Chairman, Joint Branch Board
Essex Police Federation

Down Memory Lane ...



HQ Reception supervisor Roger Barkway believes this is a picture of the Basildon Divisional Football team circa 1972, winners of the divisional cup – thought to have been called the Collinge Cup.

Roger was a patrol officer at Laindon Traffic when this picture was taken and he played for Basildon Division's football team.

Pictured are, back row from left: John Weatherley, ?, George ?, Bob Hunt, Bill

Clark, Dickie Bird, Roger Barkway, Mick Benning, Bill Gray – Basildon divisional commander

Front from left: manager Joe Gazzard, Dave Letch, ?, John Moran and Mick Brewer.

● If you can fill in the gaps, please contact Roger on 0300 333 4444 ext 50555 or via email at roger.barkway@essex.pnn.police.uk



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SUBARU Impreza, 55-reg, 47,000 miles, silver, 310BHP, air-con, CD, FSH, MoT, tax, £11,500 ono, ring Mark 07870 747666.

SUPER king-size divan bed. Memory foam, two drawers. £800 new, £400 ono. Call Moira on 07968 032258 Benfleet area.

YAHAMA digital keyboard model PSR – S550 with stand used once £350 contact Brenda Jennings on 01621 857884.

WANTED GCSE psychology coursework book Psychology First by Barbara Woods (first or second edition). Contact Michelle Prior on 07790 599515.

WORCESTER Greenstar Camray kitchen 12/18 oil-fired boiler, two years old, £150, contact 07866 192479.

Miscellaneous

TWO-bed ground-floor flat to rent in Colchester off Abbots Road. Redecorated throughout, new carpets £485 pcm. Call Geoff Evans on 07881 527200.

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SERENITY holistic massage ITEC-qualified mobile therapist, 15-mile radius of Basildon. Contact Lisa Knight on 01268 411176 or 07868 329553, member of CThA.

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New ICT Director to take Essex and Kent forward

THE new Director of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for Kent and Essex Police is Andy Barker.

He joins us from the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), where he has been Information System Improvement Strategy (ISIS) Programme Director.

Mr Barker will split his time between Essex Police HQ in Chelmsford and Kent Police HQ in Maidstone.

Essex head of IT Brian Jaggs and Kent acting head of Information Systems Bob Nelson will report directly to him.

Mr Barker will be responsible for taking Essex and Kent's ICT strategies forward together – equipping both forces for future ICT challenges, such as the introduction of new joint systems and applications, while improving the efficiency and effectiveness of those we use now.

He said: "I am delighted to be joining Essex and Kent as the new Director of ICT at this exciting time."

"It is important that, while Essex and Kent collaborate to enable their ICT systems to become more efficient and effective, we can also build in flexibility to support each individual force's strategic objectives and corporate plans in order to better protect the public and support front-line policing."

Operation APEX Programme Director **Rick Tazzini** is leaving the force to take up a post as director of resources with North Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

Mr Tazzini became Director of Finance and Administration (DFA) in April 2004 and has led our various efficiency and financial management programmes – including FLAG (Front-Line Action Group), Operation Austin and, briefly, the Kent/Essex collaboration project – before becoming Operation APEX Programme Director in September last year.

Chief Constable Jim Barker-McCardle said: "We all wish him well. Mr Tazzini has been an outstanding director throughout his time with Essex Police and this includes his work in setting up and running the APEX programme."

"Mr Tazzini has shown passionate and selfless support for policing and serving the people of Essex as well as being a key player on the national stage."

Mr Tazzini said: "Essex Police has been a great place to work, with many fabulously talented and committed colleagues."

"I am proud to have worked for the force and to have helped it achieve significant service improvements and front-line growth over the past five years."



● Andy Barker

Chief Supt **Maurice Mason** has resumed command of South Western Division, after his stint as an ACC, and Supt **Jed Stopher** has returned to Mobile Support Division as deputy divisional commander.

Southend district commander Chief Insp **Glen Westley** and Rochford district commander Chief Insp **Andy Prophet** have swapped roles.

And the Chief Constable's staff officer, **Sean O'Callaghan**, has joined Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) on secondment as a superintendent.

He has been replaced by Chief Insp **Lucy Robinson**.

Retirements

DCI **Graham Curtis**, 54, has retired from the force after 30 years' service but is joining the 30+ scheme.

DCI Curtis served at HQ, Colchester and Chelmsford and with the Dog Unit and Mounted Unit.

Insp **Paul Fieldsend**, 53, retires this month after 30 years' service, finishing up as the neighbourhood inspector in charge of several Tendring neighbourhood policing teams, including Brightlingsea, Frinton and Walton.

Criminal Justice Department operations manager **Barbara Holmes**, 61, retired this month after almost 31 years with the force.

Last month, Mrs Holmes was presented with a special long service award for her dedication and commitment at last month's Essex Justice Awards – see Page 6 for the full story.

Mrs Holmes began her Essex Police career as an office manager and then became Glidewell Project manager before becoming manager at Laindon Criminal Justice Unit.

Safer Roads Bureau camera and data technician **Roy Knott**, 65, has retired after almost 21 years with the force.

He started out as a traffic warden in Southend and then became a

detention officer, also in Southend.

During his career, Mr Knott has received two Chief Constable's Commendations and 15 from superintendents as well as a Royal Humane Society velum for saving a swimmer's life and he twice won the Betts Trophy for going above and beyond the call of duty.

Also retiring this month is South Eastern facilities assistant **Richard Hilbery**, 63, after almost 12 years with the force.

Obituaries

Ex-superintendent **Barry Devlin**, of Hampshire, has died, aged 68. He leaves a widow, Sheila.

Mr Devlin served from 1962 to 1993 with the Southend on Sea County Borough Constabulary and then, after its merger with Essex Constabulary, at Chelmsford, Colchester, Saffron Walden and HQ.

Donations may be made to Naomi House children's Hospice in his memory and sent c/o Nigel Guilder Ltd, funeral directors, Nathan House, 27 Hursley Road, Chandlers Ford, Hampshire SO53 2FS.

Former inspector **Ethel Tomkins**, of Cambridgeshire, has died, aged 93.

She transferred into Southend on Sea County Borough Constabulary as an inspector in November 1962, having served in Buckinghamshire County Constabulary since 1947, becoming a sergeant.

After the Southend force merged with Essex in April 1969 to form the Essex and Southend on Sea Joint Constabulary, Miss Tomkins remained serving in Southend East until her retirement in May 1972.

Donations may be made in her memory and sent c/o T L Cobbold funeral directors, 11-13 New Street, St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 1AE.

Ex-constable William Mann, of Chelmsford, has died, aged 84. He leaves a widow, Betty.

Mr Mann served the force between from 1952 and 1977 at Colchester, Brentwood and Grays.

Awards

Dc **Paul Chambers**, of the Hi-Tech Crime Unit, has passed an MSc in cybercrime forensics from Canterbury Christ Church University with distinction.

HQ Scenes of Crime development officer Dc **Clive Morris** has been named the National Policing Improvement Agency Development Fingerprint Enhancement Student of the Year.

Dc Morris won the Foster and Freeman Award for attaining outstanding levels of both personal academic achievement.

Dc Morris was presented with his award at the Forensic Awards Day held by the NPIA's Harperley Hall forensic centre.

Are you budgeting for next year's holiday?

NEW and existing members of the Southend Police Club Holiday Fund are being encouraged to join the 2010 savings scheme.

Existing members should already have received their application forms for the fund which starts on January 1 – they must be returned by

December 1. And new members are welcome to contact club treasurer Les Seals for details as soon as possible.

The fund is a means of saving to assist with payments for annual holidays and Christmas shopping or even theatre trips.

Membership is open to all Essex

police officers and staff. Contributions of £10+ a month are deducted directly from members' salary.

● For further details, contact Southend Police Club Holiday Fund treasurer Les Seals via email at les.seals@talktalk.net or les.seals@essex.pnn.police.uk

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Only adverts from those directly connected to Essex Police (either serving or retired) will be accepted. Adverts should be restricted to a maximum of 24 words and repeat ads should be re-submitted on a monthly basis. The deadline is the 20th of each month.



National success despite learning wrong test

LAURA Martin has had national success at the British Riding Club National Championship, representing Saffron Walden and District.

She qualified for the championships back in July in the Riding Test discipline, which is similar to Dressage – the object of the ridden test is to assess the rider's technique.

Martin, a PCSO with Epping Neighbourhood Policing Team, has been riding for 22 years. She said: "After two weeks of perfecting and the learning the

test, I was horrified to ride down the centre line at the start of the test to hear the horn from the judge's car, to indicate I have gone wrong.

"She corrected me and I carried on with the next movement, albeit slightly confused, only to hear the horn again – unfortunately I had been given the wrong test to learn.

"Fortunately, the chief steward allowed me to go away and learn a new one – which normally takes days.

"Feeling as though the whole weekend

was total waste of time, I got ready to make the journey home but, to our surprise, we found out that the team had come second out of 30 teams and I had been placed 16th nationally out of 120 riders.

"This obviously made up for the earlier stress."

● Laura Martin at the British Riding Club National Championship



● Viv Leese presents the Steve Leese Memorial Shield to Boyce Hill Golf Club captain and former Essex detective Mark Lonergan

Golfers tee-off to remember a friend and colleague

THE memory of Sgt Steve Leese has been celebrated with a match between his two beloved golf societies.

Sgt Leese, South Eastern's licensing sergeant, died suddenly in January. He was a keen golfer and member of both Southend Police Golf Society and Boyce Hill Golf Club.

Both clubs met earlier this year, keen to mark the positive effect that Sgt Leese had in so many lives and from this came the idea to introduce the Steve Leese Memorial Shield.

They played the inaugural match in August and Boyce Hill won.

Sgt Leese's widow Viv attended the presentation ceremony and said afterwards: "We were so thrilled that some of Steve's many friends and colleagues thought it fitting to introduce a trophy in his name.

"Steve was a very unassuming man and I'm sure he would have been totally blown away by the gesture."

Fittingly, it was a pleasant day for golf and a warm evening for the presentation ceremony.

Mrs Leese added: "It was a bit daunting going to the ceremony as I didn't know many of the golfers personally but I needn't have worried as everyone was so welcoming and we had a lovely evening.

"It was such a kind thing for them to do and it's a real honour to Steve's memory."

Former Southend detective sergeant Mark Lonergan collected the shield on behalf of the Boyce Hill Golf Society.

He said: "I hope Steve's family are pleased that, while a group of his colleagues are doing something they all enjoy so much, they are playing for a trophy devoted to his memory."



● Front from left, Elizabeth Man Rey, Tess Wisbey and Amanda Pollard. Back from left, Charles Quaey, Peter Ryan – with the men's championship individual trophy – and Steven King

Teams walk off with it

FOUR new members helped both Essex Police's men's and women's teams win the PSUK walking race championships.

Tess Wisbey, of Crime Division, won the women's 5km race, with Elizabeth Man Rey, of South Ockendon, coming second and Amanda Pollard, of Chigwell Dog Section, fourth – results which brought them the team trophy, too.

Retired Essex officer Peter Ryan won the men's 10km race, with Steve King, of Colchester, and Charles Quaey, of Rochford, coming seventh and ninth, respectively, to take second place in the team event.

The race at Tally Ho in Birmingham contained stiff competition from ex-international and national champions, however, after some good advice from team captain Steve King, the Essex walkers were ready to take them on.

Despite the negative image race walking has had in the past, the young team got a real buzz from the day and would encourage anyone to have ago.

The walking team are holding taster sessions around the divisions soon to encourage more people to give it a go.

King said: "We did and look what happened!"

● For more information, contact Steven King on ext 10440

Beach angle

THE Croker Cup beach angling competition is to be held at Holland on Sea next month.

It is a pairs competition, costing £30 per pair. Match HQ is the Kingscliff Hotel and the competition runs between 2pm and 7pm.

● To enter, contact Tim Hills on ext 60522

PSUK runner

FORCE running captain Mick Bond has been selected to represent the PSUK in next month's cross-country match against the fire and prison services.

Mick pipped at the post

THE PSUK ten-mile road-running championships led to disappointment for Essex veteran and team captain Mick Bond.

Just days before his 53rd birthday, Bond crossed the line in 62mins 10secs – 33rd overall – and believed he had done more than enough to claim the veterans' over-50 (V50) title for a third successive year.

But some hours later, the final results revealed that he had finished just 14 seconds behind a "younger" rival making his debut in the same age group.

The event in Llandudno was no stroll

along the prom for any of the 350 competitors. They were immediately faced with a testing climb as the route followed The Great Orme, a narrow toll road over the cliffs.

Reaching more than 1,000m above sea level in just over two miles, the road descended rapidly until the turnaround point, when the runners again faced the mental and physical challenge of heading straight back up to the summit. It was not a day for setting personal bests.

Following Bond in as first Essex returner, there was a three-way battle to be next home for Essex. It took a trademark sprint from Derek Walker – 70mins 41secs and 104th overall – to hold off V40 John Jackson (71:14 and

109th) and V50 Don English (71:16 and 110th).

V40 Charles Quaey (73:18 and 127th) had a good run, just ahead of John Mackenzie (74:17 and 133rd) who finished fifth on his V55 debut.

Another race battle saw V40 Tony Benjamin (80:19 and 173rd) hold off team debutant Gavin Timms (80:22 and 174th).

V50 Pete Bryan (86:12 and 211th) came home ahead of final Essex runner and another making his debut, Stuart Goldsack (93:32 and 230th).

The veterans' men's team finished ninth with the men's team taking 18th. Disappointingly, there were no Essex women entrants.

Men get off to good start

HAVING made a clean sweep of team awards for the last two seasons, Essex Police cross-country runners were keen for a good start to this winter's regional PSUK league campaign.

Essex claimed top spot in the men's and veteran men's races but there was only one woman runner Tina Quinliven, who finished fourth.

First home was Dave Wood – fifth overall and second veteran over 40 (V40) – followed by Russ Welch in sixth place and Dan Corr, on his debut, in eighth.

Captain Mick Bond (ninth and first V50) was chased home by Don English (11th and second V50), Del Walker (12th), John Jackson (13th and first V45) and Dan Sorrell (14th).

Great victory at second try

IN just their second match, the force's men's rugby team beat the students of Writtle College – current University Premier League champions who had only been beaten twice in three years.

Essex Police started off slowly, with Writtle racing ahead with a penalty and two converted tries, 17-0.

But the breakthrough came after a Writtle player was sin-binned for a late tackle.

Centre Anthony Sharman and fullback Paul Sheldrake both scored, the latter's try converted by fly-half Rob Wingar.

Following a Writtle penalty, No 8 Neal Parker scored another try and then, with two minutes remaining, captain and prop Myles Bradley crossed the line to make the final score 20-22.

Top lottery prize makes its way south

THE winner of the top, £3,000, prize in the October force lottery draw is Sgt John Knott, of Southend.

Hutton Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT). PCSO Karen Gibbs won the £1,000 second prize and Sc Andrew Thomson, of Saffron Walden took third prize of £500.

Winners of £100 prizes were: Jan Toomey, of HQ Security Systems; Pc Adam Halleron, of Pitsea; Agnieszka Lewis, of HQ Crime Bureau; Susan Bird, of Colchester Criminal Justice Unit; Heather Turner, of HQ Internal

Communications; Terry Edwards, retired; Pc Nicola Prior, of Brentwood; Frederick Nicholls, retired; Sgt Kevin May, of Rayleigh Road Policing Unit (RPU); Gary Kell, of the Force Information Room (FIR); Dc Ian Box, of Crime Division; and Pc Tony Kent, of Essex Police College. Winners of £50 prizes were: Kim Bright, of HQ Crime Bureau; Kim Kjolsen, of Harlow; Graham Skeggs, of Pitsea North West NPT; Paul Schwarz, of Rochford; Pc Daren Chambers, of

Southend; Mick Barry, of FIR; Pc James Preston, of Chafford Hundred NPT; Dc Terence Whitlock, of Brentwood Major Investigation Team; Sgt Andrew Swan, of Mobile Support Division; Pc Adam Anderson, of Ockendon; Pc Rachel Leach, of Thurrock Neighbourhood Support Team; Pc Paul Downes, of Laindon RPU; Adam Hunt, of the Legal Department; Trevor Gernon, of the Camera Enforcement Unit; Dc Wayne Lagden, of Crime Division; and Pc Jessica Bifield, of Pitsea South East NPT.



● Christian Robinson ext 58883

EPSA Sports Pavilion, HQ

THE Essex Police Sports Association Sports Pavilion at HQ is perfect for a variety of social events.

The downstairs function room seats 80 people and has standing room for 120, making it the perfect venue for weddings, birthday parties for all ages, quiz nights, Christenings etc.

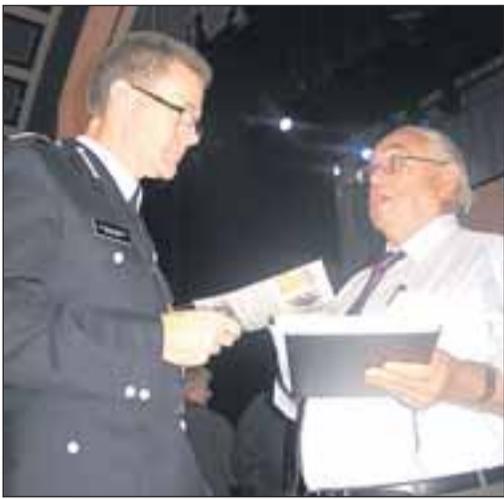
Set in beautifully-kept grounds, the pavilion can be opened up on to the patio, set out with tables, chairs and patio heaters. A grassed area can be used to accommodate bouncy castles, barbecues etc.

We offer an extensive selection of alcohol at competitive prices for EPSA members and their guests. A wine list can be provided for weddings and similar functions.

The upstairs bar is open Monday to Thursday, from 7.30-11pm. It can be hired out for smaller functions which only require a bar and holds up to 50 people.

The Rayleigh bar and hall are also available for hire.

● For further details or to enquire about availability, contact the club steward Sam Barkway on ext 58884



Packed public meeting to question Chief

MORE than 160 people flocked to the Princes Theatre in Clacton to meet Chief Constable Jim Barker-McCardle at a joint Essex Police Authority and crime and disorder partnership public meeting.

And he has vowed to continue to get out and meet the public.

Guests at last month's meeting were able to speak directly to Mr Barker-McCardle, local

senior police officers including Eastern divisional commander Chief Supt Tim Newcomb and representatives from Essex Police Authority and the Tendring Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

Mr Barker-McCardle said afterwards: "I think it was a really good meeting, excellent attendance, a really good breadth of questions and good presentations.

"It would be a sad day if the police and our local partners turned up to find there is nobody in the hall so to have around 160 people here, all of whom were actively engaged local residents keen to work with the police and partners to make life even better in Tendring, has been great to see."

Mr Barker-McCardle says he is keen to attend many more of these meetings but also has plans to meet more Essex residents.

"These meetings are really important in how we take policing forward in Essex," he said.

"However, I am keen to find other ways of getting out and talking to the people of Essex. I do have intentions of simply walking out and about in places like shopping centres, talking to shopkeepers and chatting to people on the street about policing in Essex."

Last month's meeting was one of many held by Essex Police Authority throughout the year. They aim to address local issues and find out what local residents want from Essex Police.

● **Chief Constable Jim-Barker McCardle talks to Mike Vaughan-Chatfield, of Neighbourhood Watch**

Picture by Jenna Smith

First ticket under the new rules nets banned driver

30 years of abuse lead to jail term

A HARLOW pensioner was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment last month for incest, rape and indecent assault.

The man was labelled 'the Essex Fritzl' by the media as details of the years of abuse to which he had subjected his daughter were revealed to Chelmsford Crown Court.

The girl was only seven when she was first abused by her father and the offences spanned a 30-year period during which she bore two children by him.

Dc Emily Monk, of Harlow Child Abuse Investigation Unit (CAIU), said afterwards: "The victim showed incredible courage. This was an extremely serious case where a man had abused his daughter over a very long period of time.

"She was not imprisoned but he had controlled her and she felt she could not leave.

"The crimes came to light when she spoke to a friend and that friend persuaded her to contact us.

"Her courage is a lesson for all women in similar situations.

"At the CAIUs we investigate many historical cases and this particular case shows that it doesn't matter how long ago the offence occurred, we will still take it seriously and investigate it thoroughly.

"I hope it encourages other victims to come forward."

● A court order was made forbidding the defendant from being identified

ESSEX road policing officers have issued graduated fixed penalty notices and 'roadside deposits' for the first time after a change in legislation.

The officers used their new powers during a commercial vehicle check at Thurrock Services last month.

Five were issued for drivers' hours offences, ranging from no weekly rest and excess driving to one driver who destroys his records at the end of each day because of his excessive working hours.

Commercial vehicle traffic investigator Pc Harry Sexton said "This new system allows for a level playing field for all offenders – it now redresses the balance in enforcement as, previously, foreign drivers could go home without suffering a penalty."

The new powers work alongside the recently-introduced immobilisation powers to deal effectively with all motoring offenders who have a non-satisfactory UK address, ie a UK address at which the person can be located in relation to the proceedings.

Previously, the removal of officers from duty and the cost of taking non-satisfactory UK address-holders to court for some offences resulted in an imbalance, whereby foreign motorists were often likely to escape penalty whereas UK drivers weren't.

Normal fixed penalty notices for traffic offences will continue to be issued as before but a number of new offences have been brought within the penalty notice system – before, a driver would have been reported for possible court prosecution.

by Heather Watts

And some fixed penalty notices – eg for tachograph and excess weight offences – can now be 'graduated', depending on the severity of the offence.

However, if an offence is deemed so serious that the officer feels it should be put before a court and the driver has a non-satisfactory UK address, a 'roadside deposit' can now be taken on the spot.

The taking of money – both for fixed penalty notices and 'roadside deposits' – can only be done by an authorised prohibition officer and 40 road policing officers have been trained to do this.

They can take a cash or credit card deposit – ranging from £30 to £300 per offence – at the roadside from offending motorists who have a non-satisfactory UK address. Officers took £3,000 in 'roadside deposits' in the first two days.

If the driver is unable to pay, then their vehicle will be 'prohibited' and immobilised until payment is made.

A dedicated phone line enables officers to send the roadside payments directly to the courts, which will, in due course, inform the offender if any points are to be added to their licence and make a refund if it is subsequently decided they have overpaid a 'roadside deposit'.

A driver record will be created by the Driver & Vehicle Licensing Agency for non-UK licence-holders so their penalty points can be added to it. The driver may eventually be subject to disqualification from driving in the UK, under the 'totting up' rules.

Motorists with a satisfactory UK address will still be issued with fixed and graduated fixed penalty notices



● **Pc Dave Gorbutt issues the first fixed penalty ticket under the new scheme, having also taken a 'roadside deposit'. The foreign driver had falsified his tachograph records to cover up a lack of daily rest breaks. Because he was discovered to have been banned from driving and so was uninsured, his vehicle was also seized. He was later jailed for eight weeks for driving while disqualified and banned from driving for a further six months**

Picture by Harry Sexton

but road policing officers will not take payment at the roadside as they will pay the courts in the usual way.

● FORTHCOMING legislation will see motorists across Europe, who

commit offences outside their home country, having points added to their driving licence, which may lead to their disqualification in any European Union country.

12 arrested in joint operation to target prolific and priority offenders

A JOINT operation to target prolific and priority offenders resulted in 12 arrests.

Officers from Western Division and neighbouring Hertfordshire identified the most prolific and priority offenders (PPOs) committing the majority of 'core' crimes, such as burglary and vehicle crime, and subjected them to daily covert or overt police attention by moni-

toring and disrupting their criminal activities through visits, surveillance and raids.

Among the arrests at the end of September were two men from Brentwood, on suspicion of possession of drugs with intent to supply, a London man on suspicion of possessing a Class A drug and a Harlow man, charged with possessing a controlled drug.

All have been bailed until later this month or next. The PPO scheme started in 2004 has three strands:

- 1 Prevent and deter
- 2 Catch and convict
- 3 Resettle and rehabilitate.

Western divisional commander Chief Supt Tim Stokes said the "no-nonsense" operation

had targeted the small number of criminals who commit most crime.

"Working closely with neighbouring forces and partners," he said, "we actively focus on these individuals day and night to reassure our communities and ensure any offenders are brought to swift justice. This is about chasing the criminal, not the crime."

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