

The Law



www.essex.police.uk

February 2010

Inconsiderate motorists are focus of National Specials Weekend

CLAMPDOWN ON SELFISH DRIVERS



by **Morwenna Holland**

ALMOST 700 cars were stopped and checked across Essex during National Specials Weekend.

Held on February 6 and 7, the main purpose of the weekend is to highlight the vital roles performed by members of the Special Constabulary and the ongoing contribution these volunteer officers make to policing within their communities.

And this year's theme was road policing initiatives which raise public confidence.

Joining forces with the county's Local Access Forum, Essex Police Special Constabulary focused on addressing key issues raised by neighbourhoods, such as anti-social and inconsiderate parking.

More than 350 Specials were on duty for almost 4,000 hours during the weekend.

They stopped and breathalysed 70 drivers – four tests resulted in arrests for suspected drink-driving – ten vehicles were seized and 115 fixed penalty tickets were issued.

Derek Hopkins, Deputy Chief Officer of Essex Police Special Constabulary, said: "The activities the Special Constabulary carried out were extremely successful, benefiting local communities, individual special constables and Essex Police.

"By targeting specific issues in our neighbourhoods we can respond to local concerns. As well as targeting road issues, more than 80 special constables were redeployed to Maldon at the beginning of the weekend to help evacuate homes near a fuel oil distribution depot that had caught fire.

"The support of the Essex Police Special Constabulary meant that regular police officers were not taken away from their planned duties."

ACC Sue Harrison said the patrols carried out by members of the Essex Police Special Constabulary during the national weekend and helped to make roads across the county even safer.

"As well as targeting inconsiderate parking, officers worked to prevent further incidents by addressing a range of issues, such as failure to wear a seatbelt, using a mobile phone whilst driving and speeding," she said.

"Essex Police Special Constabulary has a key role to play in the policing of local communities, creating a vital link between the police and local residents.

"Everyone has a skill they can contribute to improve the quality of their community and the training and skills you will receive as a special constable are also transferable into your normal place of work.

"So, if you have the drive and determination to devote a few hours each week then why not become a volunteer police officer with the Essex Police Special Constabulary?"

• Members of police staff and the public interested in joining Essex Police Special Constabulary who would like to see first hand what being a special constable involves, can visit one of the regular open evenings at their local police station.

For more information call the Essex Police recruitment hotline on 01245 452277 or visit www.essex.police.uk/specials

• Deputy Chief Officer Derek Hopkins and Peter Lainson, chair of the Local Access Forum for Essex, discover how inconsiderate parking can blight the lives of people in wheelchairs and those with pushchairs

Picture by Morwenna Holland



GOSH! All this cash HELPS

IT Department staff have raised more than £400 to sponsor a slum school in India.

When Paula Skidmore, the department's HR manager, heard that one of the team's computer technicians was working with the charity HELPS to set up and support a slum school in India, she wanted to assist.

So she nominated HELPS as the department's charity at Christmas.

● POLICE officers and staff have helped to raise £101.50 for Great Ormond Street Hospital for children by buying Kiss It Better badges.

Kiss It Better is an initiative to raise money for research into the causes and treatment of childhood cancer.

Copford change

COPFORD police station has closed for four months for refurbishment.

During this time, police officers and staff will work from an alternative property.

Public enquiries should be directed via HQ switchboard on 0300 333 4444.

The direct dial number 01206 210441 and internal ext 13400 have been disconnected. New phone numbers will be advertised internally.

Striking the balance on police health and safety

“INDIVIDUAL officers must always be able to make a judgment in the circumstances about what must be done to prevent crime or protect the public.

For senior officers, however, there is a balance to be struck between ensuring that officers can act dynamically and making sure that they are not put at senseless risk.

Health and safety has brought real benefits for the police service – the widespread use of body armour vests was a health and safety-led initiative, as was the use of ear defenders during firearms training.

Real health and safety is about ensuring real risks in the workplace are sensibly controlled, not blocking operational decisions.

However, the realities of operational policing require the management of complex, challenging situations. Not all risks are foreseeable, and decisions often have to be made in dangerous and fast-moving situations, often with limited information available.

So, it is not surprising that there has been some uncertainty within the police service about what health and safety at work legislation means in terms of operational policing.

Some senior officers are concerned their officers and staff might be prevented from doing what they signed up for because of concerns about health and safety and possible subsequent prosecution.

The tragic death of Pc Bill Barker in last year's Cumbrian floods brought the issue of the safety of police officers and staff into sharp focus. Pc Barker died while directing members of the public to safety and Health and Safety Executive chair

Judith Hackitt says there is a delicate balance between operational decisions and health and safety considerations.



There have even been some calls from the police service for the 'dis-application' of parts of the Health and Safety At Work Act.

But police officers and staff deserve protection at work like everyone else. Forces need to protect their employees and control risks to the public – as far as is reasonably practicable – while performing their unique, indispensable role.

The phrase 'as far as is reasonably practicable' is at the heart of the Health And Safety At Work Act. Risks cannot, and should not, be eliminated from

policing operations. However, it is important that people are not put at unreasonable risk.

We all recognise the dynamic situations in which decisions are made. Where operational decisions are taken in good faith and have adverse consequences, it is not appropriate for others to re-evaluate the choices made with the benefit of hindsight.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is currently working with the Association of Chief Police Officers to ensure that future operational guidance reflects this delicate balance.

The principles of the policy statement will guide our work.

We are working with the police to identify current guidance which supports the principles and to review and revise other guidance to ensure it reflects the principles of the statement.

Working jointly with the police service, we will ensure that health and safety rules do not prevent police officers and staff from doing their jobs.

This reflects our shared commitment to helping police officers and staff deal with risk in a common-sense, responsible and proportionate way – taking necessary risks when the job demands it, while not being criticised for stepping away from an unreasonable risk where there is little to be gained.

I hope you share my view that this is an important step for the HSE and the police service.

The policy statement, *Striking the balance between operational and health and safety duties in the Police Service*, can be downloaded from www.hse.gov.uk/services/police/duties.pdf

ESSEX POLICE

OUR PLEDGE TO ESSEX

Our local Policing Pledge:

- tells the public what they can expect from our neighbourhood policing teams and how to contact us
- sets our standards of customer service
- ensures the public are consulted when setting local priorities and influencing actions
- ensures the public are updated on our progress with their neighbourhood priorities

What part do you play in the Essex Policing Pledge?

To find out more, visit the Neighbourhood Policing intranet site and click on Policing Pledge

*The Essex Policing Pledge –
policing our communities together*

ACTION

Fund raising for little Isabella does her proud

BOTH staff from our Criminal Justice Department (CJD) and the Crown Prosecution Service in Essex have raised money for Isabella Cox.

Three-year-old Isabella, the daughter of Pc Simon Cox and Dc Christine Bennett, suffers from a rare chromosomal disorder.

Her illness means she struggles to sit up or speak, has to be fed by a tube in to her stomach, has two holes in her heart, suffers epileptic seizures and is registered blind.

CJD raised £800 towards treatment by holding a book sale, a raffle, a breakfast at Rayleigh Criminal Justice Unit and sponsored 'naga chilli eating'.

Tricia Brennan, head of CJD, presented the money during a quiz held by the CPS, which raised more than £7,000 itself.

CPS staff, alongside independent barristers from London and East Anglia, defence solicitors, staff from the Post Office and officers and staff from Essex Police came together for a quiz night and auction in her honour and have raised £7,265.55.

Organiser Maurice Branch said it was the biggest amount raised in 20 years of holding the quiz.

New home for obituaries

THE obituaries of retired police officers have found a new home.

Previously placed on the Essex Police website – as well as on Page 10 of *The Law*, where they remain – obituaries can now be found on the new Essex Police Authority website.

Every effort will continue to be made to ensure that deaths are placed on the website as soon as possible after the force is notified.

- Visit www.essex.police.uk/authority/about/obituaries.aspx

- More news about the new Essex Police and Essex Police Authority websites can be found on Page 6

Paedophile

extradited from South Africa

A LENGTHY and, at times, extremely frustrating investigation by Essex officers led to the extradition of a South African national to face justice in the UK for his previous paedophile activity in Essex.

Stephen Wooding, 36, who had lived in Harlow, was sentenced earlier this month at Chelmsford Crown Court to a minimum of six-and-a-half years' imprisonment after pleading guilty to 34 separate offences involving sexual assaults on children and offences relating to indecent images of children.

He was made the subject of a sexual offences prevention order, to run indefinitely, and will be deported on his release from prison.

In January 2008 a woman reported that her two children had been sexually assaulted by Wooding, who disappeared on the day the offences were reported to police.

Public protection officer Dc Barry Lyden said Wooding had managed to return to South Africa despite the force being in possession of his passport. However, Wooding was eventually traced and arrested in December 2008.

Following court appearances and close, regular contact between Essex Police, the CPS, Government offices and the South African authorities, Wooding was collected by Essex officers and flown back from South Africa last April and charged by Harlow Child Abuse Investigation Unit (CAIU).

Dc Lyden said: "This was a lengthy investigation culminating in the capture and conviction of a dangerous sex offender.

"Despite his obvious attempts to evade capture from the authorities we have shown that however far away you think you are you will not escape justice when Essex police officers are after you."

A 'varied and enjoyable' career protecting the public

STANSTED divisional commander Peter Coltman, 51, feels himself to be very fortunate that after 30 years' service with Essex Police he is retiring with a pension and has the opportunity to take up a new career in training, about which he is passionate.

Starting as a probationer in Clacton in the old Tendring Division, Chief Supt Coltman proceeded to bounce between there and Colchester as his early career progressed. Memories of the Miners' Strike in 1984, spells in Colchester CID and Special Branch abound, before, in the early 1990s, he was seconded to Essex University to take a degree in philosophy.

Chief Supt Coltman said: "This was an amazing opportunity and not one we can offer now but, at the time, the force encouraged sergeants to take a degree to progress their careers."

Back to Clacton as uniform and then detective inspector he moved on promotion to head of Special Branch, during the years of conflict in Northern Ireland and the London bombings.

This gave him "a completely different view of the world, with the focus on terrorism, but was one of the jobs I enjoyed the most".

A support manager role at Colchester preceded his role as senior investigating



● Chief Supt Peter Coltman

officer in 2001. The case of missing East Tilbury teenager Danielle Jones, whose uncle Stuart Campbell was convicted of her murder even though her body has never been found, is the one investigation he regrets has not been totally resolved before he retires.

He said: "I know that the force will never give up looking for Danielle for the sake of her family and I believe that one day we will find her and bring such

a sad situation to a close."

Harlow Division was his next port of call and, as divisional commander, he fulfilled the ambition he had early in his career to reach the rank of chief superintendent.

He said: "This was one of the busiest and toughest divisions at the time and I am proud of my contribution".

A racist murder in Harlow stands out in his mind as the division successfully managed the community tensions and risk of retaliation.

Moving on to Braintree and then to head of Professional Standards for three years, he says that he worked hard to protect the good name of the vast majority of decent, honest officers.

His final year before retiring on February 1, was as divisional commander at Stansted Airport – "a lovely, friendly place to work".

As he says good bye to the force and colleagues he is setting up his own business, Principled Wellbeing, with his wife Sue, delivering training in the 'three principles' of mind, thought and consciousness.

He is excited about what is round the corner and grateful that, after 30 years' service, he is lucky enough to have this opportunity of a new career helping people.

Three jailed for £4m airport jewellery theft

ONE of the force's longest-running major investigations concluded with three people jailed for their roles in a £4million jewellery theft.

One of the highest-value thefts in force history happened in May 2001 in which approximately 2,000 items of Cartier jewellery were stolen from Southend Airport.

Seven years later, one of the gang, Tom Baisden, walked into Southend police station and confessed to the offence and named his accomplices.

A few months later, Joseph Xenofondos 34, from Loughton, was

charged with conspiracy to steal and Gary Maughan, 43, of Hackney, was charged with conspiracy to steal and handling stolen goods.

Following a six-week trial at Basildon Crown Court, both were found guilty – Xenofondos was jailed for five years and Maughan for six.

Baisden, 27, appeared at Southend Crown Court and was jailed for two years and one month.

Senior investigating officer Det Supt Tracy Hawkings said: "Gary Maughan and Joseph Xenofondos enjoyed the proceeds of their crime for many years, with a lavish lifestyle funded at the expense of Cartier who were the victims of this crime. During the 18-month

investigation, we examined the financial aspects of this case and conducted numerous, protracted enquiries which traced Cartier goods as far away as Asia.

"The main witness, Tom Baisden, joined the Fifteen Foundation – a charity founded by celebrity chef Jamie Oliver – which helps disadvantaged young people to turn their lives around and, in some cases, leave a life of crime.

"It was this experience that encouraged Tom Baisden to come forward and confess his involvement.

"This case demonstrates our unwavering determination to bring to justice people who believe they are beyond the law."

Training strictly for dance contest

IN true fund raising style Transport Services assistant fleet coordinator Colleen Perkins promised to give it everything she'd got when she donned her dance shoes to take part in Strictly Air Ambulance.

Colleen, 25, was one of six lucky contestants, including Heart radio breakfast presenter Su Harrison, chosen to perform in the show at the Brentwood Centre, following an online competition and an audition at Chelmsford Dance Centre.

Training with professional dancer Mark Cathcart for the jive and waltz proved to be more challenging than Colleen anticipated.

To perfect their dances meant train-

ing three or four times a week for four weeks.

Although Colleen, who trained in ballet, tap and jazz dance, didn't find the training physically demanding she found learning the steps for a completely different style of dance hard.

Before the competition Colleen said: "Some of the other contestants are more experienced than me in these type of dances and learning two dances at once has made it more difficult.

"There has been a lot to take in but as long as nerves don't get the better of me I hope to perform well for my friends, family and work colleagues on the night."

Head of Transport Services John Gorton

said: "Colleen has always been a star of the Transport Services Department – working in the fleet administration section she keeps all the vehicles legal.

"Whilst we knew she danced, it was a very happy surprise to find that she passed the auditions to this competition."

Canadian professional dancer Katya Virshilas, of BBC's *Strictly Come Dancing*, and world champion ballroom dancer Klaus Kongsdal performed and judged. Also appearing were X Factor finalist Austin Drage and Essex Blues idol Josh Dubovie.

While Colleen did not win the competition, earlier this month, she helped to raise funds for Essex Air Ambulance.

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 January:

“ My most pressing task in the New Year is to pull together a carefully prioritised development and implementation plan of my intentions as set out in *Putting Essex First*.

It is the people of Essex who will be central to our plans, which include a performance framework designed to drive the outcomes that we will be seeking.

I have spent time with the Colchester Criminal Justice Unit (CCJU) and other criminal justice colleagues at Chelmsford and HQ.

I was also privileged to attend Chelmsford Cathedral and witness many local young people received their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards.

This was really heart-warming stuff and I only hope their public service, commitment and endeavour gets the publicity they deserve.

There has also been the opportunity for me to meet some of our newest recruits who got the chance to ask me questions and they certainly didn't hold back!

During a meeting with the media, I was keen to stress my position regarding the retention of DNA profiles for people who are unconvicted.

My position is simply this – DNA retention and the civil liberties issues attached to it are far too important for 42 Chief Constables to take an individual or collective position.

I do get a bit tired of Chief Constables and police forces picking up the criticism for the retention of profiles from the unconvicted.

This is an issue for Parliament and that is where the attention needs to be focused.

Finally, I'm offering six work shadowing days in the coming months – you get to work shadow me for the day and co-write my blog. ”



Federation news by Roy Scanes



Independent review of Federation funding
AS I reported in the December issue of *The Law*, Federation membership subscription rates have been frozen ahead of the Police Federation Conference in May 2010.

The Federation has now appointed BDO to undertake an independent review of our funding arrangements.

BDO is one of the UK's leading firms of accountants and business advisers. The firm has conducted many reviews for public and private-sector bodies, including high-profile projects such as those in relation to MG Rover and Northern Rock.

BDO's remit is to report back to the Federation with its findings and with any observations or recommendations it may have.

The review is to begin on February 15, with the final report due a month later. This will then allow for national discussion in readiness for debate at our annual conference.

It is my personal opinion that whatever comes out of the review, our subscriptions will increase. Compared with trade unions, the Police Federation still offers its members a first-class service at a much lower rate.

Legal aid provision

I have touched on it before but we must remember that the legal aid provision for police officers appearing at crown court came into effect on January 1, 2010.

This means that all police officers who find themselves in the unfortunate position of being criminally charged to appear at crown court are likely to be assessed as having disposable income above the set rate.

This will therefore make them personally

liable to pay a significant proportion of their own legal costs.

This change alone could result in an additional £3million burden on Police Federation funds.

This change will form part of the debate on membership subscriptions at our conference and will be a key issue if we want to provide the best level of protection for our members.

At present, the Police Federation has agreed in principle to negate the need for all members to be means-tested by privately funding representation in relation to duty-related criminal matters within the crown court up until the conference.

Future funding of these cases will be assessed again after the conference debate and this will determine the level of support the Police Federation will be able to provide.

This is not the only change to the legal aid system that affects us. In October, the government introduced a restriction on defence costs refunded from central funds when members are acquitted at crown court.

The Law Society has sought a judicial review of this decision as it considers that this removes the fundamental right for fair and equal access to justice for all.

Crown court is not the only funding the Police Federation provides to its members.

£10million of the Police Federation's 2010 budget is for legal services.

This includes representation to cover Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) awards claims, gross misconduct and performance matters, defamation, employment tribunals, regulation-related disputes, inquests and judicial reviews.

Unison news by Geoff Wright



Voluntary redundancies

UNISON can confirm that Essex Police is presently evaluating the expressions of interest and business cases requesting voluntary redundancy that it has received.

The evaluation is in preparation of the voluntary redundancy panel – comprising Chief Officers and senior members of police staff – which will look at each individual case on its merits, confirming whether the criteria have been met.

The panel will make the final decision as to whether voluntary redundancy is granted.

Operation APEX

Radical plans to dramatically increase the number of front-line police officers patrolling the streets of Essex have been put on hold for at least 18 months, Chief Constable Jim Barker-McCardle has said.

So far the Operation APEX – Ambition for Policing in Essex – programme has created a further 239 front-line posts in the force.

But Mr Barker-McCardle said that in the current recession it would not be possible to continue increasing the number of officers.

Instead, savings made through Operation APEX would be used to avoid having to cut the number of front-line police already in place.

He added that it was too early to say how much money would be saved with the restructuring of back office operations, which could see the merging of some departments with Kent Police.

And he said it was not yet possible to speculate on the number of jobs that might be lost in Essex.

A Million Voices for Change

Unison is running a national campaign to call for a fairer society called A Million Voices for Change.

Unison has more than a million members delivering essential services to the public.

services that protect, enrich and change lives. We want to see changes that put people before profit and public interest before private greed.

Public service workers are on the front line of dealing with this recession – helping people in financial difficulties, guiding people back into work, creating new opportunities through education and training and dealing with increased rates of homelessness, family breakdown and mental health problems.

Unison wants to make sure our members get the support and the resources they need to help people through hard times and lay the foundations of our economic recovery.

The campaign is calling for:

- **social justice:** help for those facing redundancy, repossessions and poverty – not bonuses and tax cuts for millionaires
- **good jobs:** environmentally-sustainable and socially-useful jobs, with decent pay and pensions and a strong union voice
- **quality public services:** no more privatisation, increased investment in accountable public services, such as health, education and housing.

In an economic climate where jobs and livelihoods are threatened, Essex police staff, alongside colleagues working in the police and public services across the country, need the mutual support that this campaign is working to build.

You can add your name to the campaign and read all about it, on the national Unison website at www.unison.org.uk/million/index.asp

- Information from the Essex Police branch of Unison is available from our recently-reorganised external web pages at www.essexpoliceunison.org from your local Unison steward or from the Essex Police Unison branch office on the first floor of Kingston House at Essex Police College at HQ on ext 55013

If you have a news story for The Law, contact editor Heather Turner on ext 54337 or via email



HOME INSURANCE THAT SHOULD SAVE YOU MONEY & COULD ALSO PAY FOR DINNER...

...£25 Marks & Spencer or Tesco voucher to welcome you as a client.

Great levels of cover, excellent value, our friendly, knowledgeable UK-based staff will find the right policy for you. Everybody requesting a Home Insurance quote will receive a **FREE** Parker pen, and as a welcome, every new policy holder will receive a £25 Marks & Spencer or Tesco voucher. Recommend a friend and you **BOTH** receive the vouchers*.

This isn't just Home Insurance, this is Home Insurance from Philip Williams & Company...

CALL 0845 230 1650

or visit www.philipwilliams.co.uk NOW! and quote "Dinner".



35 Walton Road, Stockton Heath, Warrington, Cheshire WA4 6NW
Tel: 01925 604 421 Fax: 01925 861 351

Nexus news by Jane Diggons



MY name is Jane Diggons and I am the New Nexus co-ordinator at Essex Police.

I would like to tell you a little bit about my personal background, which will, hopefully, give you a little insight into who I am and why I decided to support Nexus.

When I was seven, my mother walked out on my father, my siblings and me.

Reflecting back more recently, I can remember thinking that my family were very different, which gave me the feeling of being 'not good enough'.

I was comparing my family to other families in my neighbourhood and realised that we were very different – in a minority of that time, the 1960s and 1970s.

As the years have passed, I have learnt a lot about myself and this experience has also helped me to gain a better understanding of why people behave and feel as they do during certain situations in their lives.

My life's experiences have given me strong beliefs and morals, which are that every individual deserves the right to be treated fairly, listened to unconditionally and accepted for who they are without passing judgment.

Having this attitude towards each individual helped me to achieve my goal, which is in the counselling field.

I got my BA degree in person-centred counselling last year.

This training has helped me to identify the importance of self-care – which is first and foremost – and secondly having someone there to talk with, someone who is empathic, non-judgmental and totally supportive.

When the position for the Nexus co-ordinator was advertised, I was interested in finding out what this role involved and how Essex Police was intending to support lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) individuals, as, ironically, at this time my nephew had disclosed to me that he wanted to go through transgender reassignment, this issue has given me a personal interest, too.

As the Nexus co-ordinator, my role is to give up-to-date information on what the network is doing to support LGBT members, ie upcoming events, supporting Essex Police with external organisations and building positive service

with LGBT issues. I have the membership forms for anyone wanting to become a member of Nexus.

For those of you who may have concerns regarding your membership, may I reassure you that all members are dealt with in confidence.

The Nexus objectives for the forthcoming year are to:

- assist Essex Police in improving our position in the top 100 employers in the Stonewall Equality Index – the force was 48th in 2008
- promote and support LGBT diversity training for every member of Essex Police, especially Trans training
- monitor sexual orientation and gender Identification
- improve visibility of our members – Out and Proud
- recruit Straight Allies
- support our members and Essex police officers and staff.

There are also annual events to support LGBT individuals. This year's events are:

- IDAHO – the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia – on Monday, May 17
- Essex Pride – on Sunday, September 5
- Transgender Day of Remembrance, to commemorate those killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice (transphobia) – on November 20
- World AIDS Day – the Terrence Higgins Trust – on Friday December 3.

Essex Police cadets will be working on a project at Essex Police College to support IDAHO and hope to produce a display in the college's front foyer.

Nexus meetings take place monthly and it would be great if we saw some new faces. The next meeting is on Wednesday, March 10, 2.30-4.30pm in the small interview room opposite HQ canteen. And our annual meeting is on Monday, March 22, 10am-4pm in the small dining room near HQ canteen. I look forward to meeting you then.

If anyone would like to speak to me in confidence please contact me on ext 54056 or 01245 457102.



Breaking down language barriers at Stansted

STANSTED officers have the opportunity to learn new skills in the shape of basic foreign language courses. The command team at the airport's police station took up an offer from the East of England Development Agency to send eight officers on short Polish and Italian courses.

They cover basic pronunciation and also teach students about the country's culture. The lessons are tailored to the officers' needs and the teacher ensures they learn relevant policing terms such as driver's licence and arrest. Insp Perry Funnell, of Stansted

Division, said: "I think it's very important for officers working at an airport to have foreign language skills. "We have thousands of travellers here from all different nationalities: people who are lost and people who are coming in to our contact. To break those barriers has proved very helpful."



Multi-lingual guide for new Essex visitors

A NEW multi-lingual guide to the law has been produced and will shortly be given out to divisions to distribute to the public.

The guide, for European citizens new to our county, has been produced by Essex Police with the support of the Essex Criminal Justice Board and other agencies.

The booklet provides information on driving, cycling, reporting crime, the role of the police, personal safety, unlawful activities – such as prostitution, drugs, weapons and threatening behaviour – domestic violence and forced marriages.

The booklet contains some essential basic information about the law and offers practical guidance and support for the safety of those new to Essex.

It is published in English, Polish, Russian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Portuguese, Slovak, Bulgarian and Romanian.

The guide also includes phone number for all the 24-hour police stations in Essex, as well as useful contact numbers for councils, courts and other organisations in Essex.

• The booklet will shortly be sent out to territorial divisions and will be distributed to neighbourhood policing teams so they can hand them out at community meetings. It will also be made available at public engagement events attended by Essex Criminal Justice Board

Charity gala dinner for kids

POLICE Credit Union chairman Peter Watson is organising a gala dinner at Bolton's Reebok Stadium to raise funds for disabled and ill children across the UK.

The £45 a head dinner is on March 26, at the De Vere Whites Hotel, and is followed by a live BeeGees tribute and a disco.

The Police Credit Union has chosen Children Today as its official charity for three years. Children Today provides equipment for children and young people with sickness or disability.

• To book tickets or for more details, email carole@policecu.co.uk



BRED from Kennel Club champions and bought from money acquired under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA), these three springer spaniel puppies are beginning their training to sniff out drugs, live firearms and cash.

Gizmo, Oso and Dibley are 14 weeks old and are being trained at Sandon Dog Section. The £2,000 needed for the puppies and their training was agreed by DI Paul Dibell, of SOCD - Financial Investigations Team, and means that, for the first time, money taken from criminals under POCA has been used to buy police dogs.

Insp Louise Beattie, of the Dog Unit, said: "It is fantastic that money raised through criminal activity can be used in such a positive way.

"Once trained, these dogs will not only be excellent sniffer dogs but they will also act as a deterrent to criminals who know how fail-safe a fully-trained dog can be.

"These dogs will be part of our front-line team to fight crime and reduce criminal activity in Essex still further." Each puppy will undertake an intensive six-week training programme to hone their skills, with the expertise of Insp Louise Beattie, Sgt Neil Phimister and Pc Mark Watts, pictured left, all from Sandon Dog Section, to bring them up to scratch.

Picture by Claire Elliott

Keeping information secure is our priority

EVERYONE in the force has a part to play in keeping our information safe and secure, says the Information Security team.

It is mounting a campaign to make police officers and staff more aware of its role.

Information security officer (ISO) James Wyatt said: "Information security is everyone's responsibility because information is one of the force's most valuable assets, aside from its people."

"Information defines everything we do as a force – we can't function without it. "And its leakage, loss or destruction can potentially be catastrophic to the force in terms of everything from embarrassment for the force to loss of life."

Mr Wyatt and fellow ISO Rob Poynton are responsible for ensuring Essex Police maintains, stores and transmits its information – whether on paper or electronic documents – securely and appropriately of which the well-known Government Protective Marking Scheme is a part.

They also ensure that any information security breaches are brought to the attention of the Information Management Board and they sit on most other project boards – such as Mobile Data, Information and Access Management (IAM), the Police National

Database (PND) and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) – so that information security is built in to all relevant projects.

The force already has a Data Quality project running but Mr Wyatt said that just as important as ensuring data input was accurate and timely was ensuring it was secure.

"Our data is viewed as important by criminal gangs and even foreign intelligence services and it could be useful to people with a vendetta – so keeping it safe means we are protecting not only the public we serve but our fellow police officers and staff," he said.

It can be as simple as protecting computer passwords, locking office doors and filing cabinets and using the correct Protective Marking categories.

Mr Wyatt and Mr Poynton, who sit within the Information Management section of Corporate Development, also carry out physical security assessments of areas where information – in any form – is currently stored and of new buildings where it may be stored in the future.

They ensure force policies and procedures regarding information security are kept up to date and they work with the Professional Standards operational security officer, Leigh Kirkby.

And, intriguingly, Mr Wyatt and Mr Poynton are also in charge of the force's crypto-custodian duties.

This has nothing to do with Superman but means they are responsible for the preservation of encryption tools and methods used by the force to protect its information systems – from the Airwave sets used by police officers and PCSOs on patrol to the force intranet and its access to the Criminal Justice Extranet (CJX) – which provides feeds to national police IT systems, such as ViSOR, ANPR, the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS), various NSPIS applications and the major inquiry system HOLMES.

Now the pair are in the process of adding a new string to their bow – as they are to become the force's official systems accreditors of new information systems, making sure these comply with current legislation and have been tested to make certain they interact with all the other IT systems the force uses.

This involves applying a risk management process – as directed by CESG, the technical arm of Government Communications HQ (GCHQ) – to all information systems to ensure they are robust enough to deal with a security compromise.

• For more about Information Security, visit the Information Management intranet pages – listed under Divisions & Departments on the intranet Site Directory – or ring them on ext 54546 or 52341

DVD puts renewed focus on briefing sessions

A NEW DVD has been made to help sergeants develop their briefing skills.

The new model of Focus briefings was rolled out last year following successful trials in South Eastern Division.

Recognising the need to further improve the standard of shift briefings and to reinforce the introduction of the Focus briefing system, a corporate DVD has been produced for use in both central training and on division.

The 17-minute DVD *Shift Briefing Training* has five chapters which can be

viewed in one session or in sections. These cover Briefing of intelligence; Individual and team tasking; Delivery of briefing; The briefing style; and The debrief.

The DVD provides useful guidance and information and links directly to the recommendations within the National Intelligence Model. It can be used as part of a formal training package or accessed by individuals interested in self-development.

Sgt Chris White collaborated with TV

Unit producer Tracey Radley on the DVD, which was filmed at various locations and uses CCTV footage.

Sgt White said: "The DVD reinforces the importance of briefings being task-specific and the need for debriefs after incidents to feed back what has been learned into the intelligence systems."

• Copies of the DVD will be available via local divisional training officers or TV & new media technician Andy Bisco on ext 56515 or at the TV Unit, based in Essex Police College at HQ.

Corner the chairman



• Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers

Great chance for public to have their say

"I WAS in Chelmsford on Saturday, January 30, promoting the new Essex Police Authority website.

I managed to speak to many members of the public about the site and how it can help them. I was also joined by our Chief Constable, Jim Barker-McCardle, who was there alongside police staff and officers from Essex Police promoting its new website.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody involved in creating both websites. I am sure that they will make such a positive impact on the people of Essex.

The websites will inform and give people in our communities the opportunity to have their say.

I would again urge all police staff and officers to continue promoting them. A few days earlier, I attended a Business Breakfast at Stock Brook Manor in Billericay.

This was an opportunity for Mr Barker-McCardle and me to meet people from local businesses, discuss future plans and answer any questions.

It was a very beneficial morning and I believe it helped to build on our existing good links with our local business communities. "

Changing course

SOUTH Western's Professional Development Unit (PDU) has moved to Grays.

It has moved from South Ockendon into the former CID office at Grays police station and is now called Grays PDU.

• Contact the PDU on ext 70422

Date for Isabella

A PARTY night will raise money for Isabella Cox at Chicago's in Chelmsford on Wednesday, March 10. Tickets are £7 on the door. Doors open at 8.30pm and headlining are Rant and Rave.



Website to tackle difficult subjects and give advice

FOR the first time the Essex Police website is tackling difficult subjects as well as every day crime prevention advice.

The new-look website, launched last month, includes a detailed guide to what happens when we receive a report of rape as well as a section dedicated to advice on how to protect your home against burglary.

Both subjects are included in the new Be Safe area of the website – www.essex.police.uk – and have been created with the input of sexual offence trained officers (SOTOs), crime reduction officers and architectural liaison officers. The rape section has been designed to encourage people who have experienced rape or serious sexual assault to seek help and support from the police rather than suffering in silence.

It includes honest information about what to expect when making a statement, seeing a doctor and being involved in a court case as well as details of organisations throughout Essex which can offer

counselling and support. The information is supported with leaflets – which can be downloaded from the Centre for Action on Rape and Abuse – and audio advice from Sheila Coates, director of the South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre.

Visitors to the section will also be able to view a short film about a woman struggling to come to terms with the repercussions of unwanted sexual intercourse.

It aims to encourage men and women who have been victims of sexual assault to come forward while highlighting to men the consequences of their actions.

Det Supt John Quinton, the force's specialist on rape investigations, said: "We've made huge strides to try to improve the way we deal with victims of rape and serious sexual assault."

"We've redefined the way we go about our business, engaged with our partners and now have 100 specially-trained officers to deal with victims of rape."

"It's a case of making sure the victim is put first and foremost and that's what we intend to do."

The new burglary section is full of serious security messages pushed home in a series of comedy films by



● Chief Constable Jim Barker-McCardle discusses policing in Essex with a shopper at the launch of the new Essex Police website

Norman, Essex Police's newest recruit in the fight against crime.

The films, featuring the character and fictitious company Wrong Co, highlight simple ways to avoid becoming a victim of crime.

Norman's messages are supported with audio advice from senior architectural liaison officers John Hills

and Heather Gurden, leaflets to download and a home security checklist produced by the Home Office.

Visitors to the Be Safe section will also find guidance on how to security-mark their property, improve security in the workplace and be on their guard against bogus callers.

Consulting the public at launch

CHIEF Constable Jim Barker-McCardle and Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers launched the new Essex Police and Essex Police Authority websites on January 30.

The new Essex Police website has been redesigned with video and audio at the heart of its content and the public were able to see it and watch new films about Essex Police.

And the new authority website will make consulting the public on a range of policing issues its top priority.

Meeting shoppers in the High Chelmer Shopping Centre, Chelmsford, Mr Barker-McCardle and Mr Chambers were joined by the force's Mounted Unit, local neighbourhood support officer Pc Alex Doyle and PCSOs from Chelmsford Town Neighbourhood Policing Team.

As well as publicising the websites, they spent time with the public discussing local issues and the Policing Pledge, which sets out the service the public should expect to receive from the police.

And Norman, from Wrong Co, was also on hand to advertise the need for good crime prevention advice.



ESSEX POLICE FEDERATION
Annual Worldwide Family Travel Insurance

Worldwide Family Cover £52 per year
(payable £13 per quarter by direct debit)

If aged between 65 and 69 years premium is £95 per year
(payable £23.75 per quarter by direct debit)

Application forms available at the Federation office or by calling Philip Williams & Company on **0845 230 1650**



35 Walton Road, Stockton Heath, Warrington, Cheshire WA4 6NW
Tel: 01925 604 421 Fax: 01925 861 351

Philip Williams and Company are authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.

● Norman is the new face of the force's new crime prevention campaign



Crime prevention information gets a facelift – new films to raise awareness

MEET Norman, the force's newly-appointed crime prevention ambassador.

Norman and his adventures with his Wrong Co purchases can be seen in a series of short films on the new Essex Police website at www.essex.police.uk. Produced in-house by our TV Unit at a cost of just £1,200, the films present a new way for the force to highlight the importance of basic crime prevention. By using humour, the aim is to entertain the public in a bid to trigger a response – to act on the advice provided.

The films have been targeted at a younger audience (age 16-35) and the force has taken advantage of new

media channels such as YouTube to promote the films to this group. In addition, a supporting marketing campaign has been designed to encourage more visits to the Essex Police website throughout 2010 – we have also set up another website at www.wrongco.co.uk which redirects visitors to the Wrong Co crime prevention section on the force website.

The focus of the campaign following this month's launch is home security, which will drive home important crime prevention advice in support of Operation Hornet, the force's anti-burglary campaign.

Listen out for radio adverts starring Norman on Heart FM and activity in Essex's busiest railway stations. Chief Constable Jim Barker-McCardle is fully supportive of the campaign and recognises the fresh approach the force is taking to engage with the public. He said: "If we get just one thing out of working with Norman and Wrong Co – that when the public hear Norman or see something with Norman's image it makes them think of crime prevention – it will have been a success."

● For further details about the Wrong Co campaign and supporting marketing materials, contact marketing executive Joanna Rogers, on ext 52043

Taking the sting out of burglary

OPERATION Hornet has been launched to tackle the problem of burglary.

In November, the force recognised an increase in the number of homes being burgled across the county.

Operation Hornet was launched by ACC Peter Lowton and officers and staff are working tirelessly to combat the issue.

The majority of burglaries are relatively unsophisticated and involve the forcing of doors and windows of unoccupied homes.

Property stolen typically includes jewellery, money and other easy-to-remove items.

Other offences are associated more closely with organised crime, involving

the burglary of occupied homes and the subsequent theft of high-value vehicles.

Supported by Mobile Support and Crime divisions, Operation Hornet has quickly established an intense response.

Real-time intelligence is being used to ascertain patterns of offending and individual persistent offenders who are at the root of the problem.

The force has mobilised a 50-strong team of uniformed officers who can be deployed for maximum impact by conducting high-visibility reassurance and stop checks of suspects in the street.

Similarly but more discreetly, plain-clothes officers and operations have targeted known offenders and handlers

of stolen goods. Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Intercept teams have been strategically deployed to deny organised criminal groups the use of the highway.

And many burglars have been arrested and stolen property recovered, which individual divisions are now seeking to identify.

Head of Crime Division Det Chief Supt Simon Coxall: "This has been a challenging time but one which has seen all disciplines and departments within Essex Police combine together to create a dynamic response to a persistent and widespread problem."

"Specialist teams have sought to surgically 'cut out' the organised criminals behind the burglaries and

thefts of high-value vehicles. At the same time, a range of other police tactics and the hard, foot-slogging work of many officers has attacked head-on the petty villains behind the bulk of the burglaries."

In support of Operation Hornet, media activity has been stepped up to raise public awareness around home security.

A series of short comedy films have been produced – featuring the force's new crime prevention ambassador, Norman, and his adventures with Wrong Co products – and are being promoted to the public this month.

Crime prevention leaflets have also been distributed and radio adverts are currently airing on Heart FM.

Tempers flare ... then the real problem arrives by air

by Bill Stock

IT is mid-morning at Stansted Airport. The check-in area is crowded with angry people and tempers are rising.

More than 1,500 people have missed early flights to Europe after the M11 was blocked in both directions by a massive pile-up.

Now they are at the check-in desks trying to arrange alternative flights – there is a risk of public order offences as they try to queue-jump ahead of a further 4,500 people who are in time for their flights.

Essex Police officers based at the airport have the situation under control. But suddenly senior officers are faced with a new, and potentially deadly, problem.

Immigration officers have reported that there is confirmation that a man, who has arrived on a flight from Holland, has strapped around his waist a "dirty" bomb capable of seriously damaging the terminal building and releasing radioactive fallout across a wide area of Essex.

Fortunately this scenario is not real but the basis for a tabletop exercise to test Essex's readiness for a potential attack involving chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) materials.

The exercise was organised in conjunction with Stansted Airport by CBRN instructors from Essex Police and officials from the Police National CBRN Centre, which runs training courses and command exercises for all emergency services and for staff in government and public services.

The five-hour exercise, held at the airport in December, brought together CBRN-trained officers from Essex Police, all other emergency services, airport staff, health organisations, officers from Essex County Council and local district councils and the Environment Agency.

Officials from the Police National CBRN Centre closely questioned participants and gave advice on how their various organisations would respond as the scenario developed.

Chief Insp Mark Schofield, unit commander for CBRN Operations – which is part of Mobile Support Division Special



● Members of the CBRN team during their recent exercise



Operations – said the exercise was arranged to test a multi-agency response to any potential incident in the county.

Chief Insp Schofield also urges all Essex officers to be aware of the police response to CBRN incidents and to watch a PowerPoint presentation on the subject by clicking on CBRN Awareness on the intranet Site Directory's Information menu.

He said: "All front-line officers should familiarise themselves with CBRN procedures. The presentation is full of advice and useful do's and don'ts about recognising the signs and symptoms of materials and dealing with CBRN incidents safely."

"Members of the CBRN Operations Team are always happy to give extra advice and guidance."

● Contact the CBRN Operations Team by ringing Martin Lucking and Pc Rob Maile on ext 480631 or Pc Aaron Connolly and Pc Dave Hiscock on ext 480579

Do you have a potential police cadet in your community?

THE force is recruiting its annual intake of police cadets.

Is there anyone in your neighbourhood who might be a suitable candidate?

They must currently be in Year 11 at school and born between September 1, 1993, and August 31, 1994.

Successful applicants will study for a BTEC in public services.

Applicants must be able to attend the Essex Police Cadet Recruitment Event on Saturday, March 13, at Essex Police College otherwise they will not be considered. The recruitment day runs between 9am and 4pm, at the college at

HQ in Springfield (CM2 6DS for sat-nav purposes) and comprises a series of one-hour presentations – which include input from serving cadets and information on our comprehensive training package and how to complete an application form.

● Booking places is essential and can

only be done from Friday, February 26, when details will also be available on www.essex.police.uk

To book, telephone the Recruitment Team – 8.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday – on 01245 452277 to reserve a place. Due to space constraints only one guest will be allowed per applicant.



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

TO Insp Adrian Dearsley: My son was injured by another pupil at a school in Colchester.

I wanted to advise that Pc Joe Loftus is a credit to the force. He dealt with this very delicate incident with compassion, empathy and a lot of understanding at a time that was very traumatic for my family.

I found your officer to be supportive. Many thanks for your help when it was needed.

BB
Colchester

TO Chief Constable Jim Barker-McCardle: My mother in Eastwood was telephoned by a man claiming to be a police officer, who told her he was going to bring a shredder as a free gift.

He asked a number of questions about whether she lived alone or had neighbours who looked out for her etc and then made an appointment to call.

Fortunately, my mother mentioned this to us and we contacted the police.

All the officers we dealt with were courteous, friendly, polite and professional. All were a credit to your force and I hope you can pass on my heartfelt thanks for the care of a vulnerable, elderly person.

Sgt Steve Parry instigated the proceedings and sent two wonderful neighbourhood police officers – Pcs Sharon Polkinghorn and Louise Wilson – to interview my mother.

They organised for two plain-clothes officers to wait in her house to see if the caller turned up.

They too were professional, kind and reassuring. The caller didn't keep the appointment so it seems most probable that he was a fraudster.

We are so grateful for the time and trouble they took in their care of a very vulnerable old woman.

You must be very proud to have such officers under your command.

KB
Benfleet

TO Chief Supt Michelle Dunn: I would like to draw your attention to the conduct of Pc Paul Clark and Pc Tom Hurrell.

They attended when my mother-in-law attacked my father-in-law as a result of her Alzheimer's and dementia.

They arrived at our house at approximately 9.30pm and left at around 1.45 am, nearly four hours after their shift was due to end.

Although they insisted that they were only doing their job, both were instrumental in getting social services to make a firm commitment to visit my mother-in-law to assess and rectify the situation.

Without their diligence and commitment I would not like to think what might have happened had the situation been allowed to deteriorate further.

We would like to express our thanks and gratitude to these two officers who represent Essex Police and Braintree station in such an exemplary fashion.

DC
Braintree

I WOULD like to say how impressed my husband and I were with the two officers, Sgt Matthew Parker and Pc Christopher Jones.

Our little old dog had been attacked and, although we know this is not a major crime, the injuries sustained were very upsetting to us and him.

It was the third time he had been injured by the same dog.

Pcs Parker and Jones were extremely kind and helpful and even took the trouble to call again after speaking to the dog's owners.

It meant a great deal to us that they showed such concern and took steps to help us.

MH
Ingrave

TO Chief Supt Tim Newcomb: I am an old man of 70. For no apparent reason I was threatened by a man who abused me verbally and came close to head-butting me.

I was so shocked that my disabled legs were shaking and I could hardly inch my way towards my house.

The man followed me, using his abusive language and humiliating me.

It took me two hours to pick up enough strength to make my way to Colchester police station.

It was a great relief when service desk assistant Abigail Kimantas, a nice girl, very welcoming and sweet, took a few notes, told me to wait in a room and kindly offered me a cup of tea, she was great.

Pc Simon Lamborn took a statement with a non-bias – justice for justice; a very cautious man.

Pc Lamborn phoned me later to tell me that he had a man in for questioning at the police station.

It is great to know that an action taken by a great young policeman has reinforced my confidence in Essex Police.

AK
Colchester

I would like to express my gratitude to all the officers who attended when my sister died, especially the female officer who helped feed and look after my eight-month-old nephew and the two officers who took me and my daughter to the hospital and home again.

And the two officers who tried to revive my sister – even though it was apparent that she had already passed away – are a credit to the force.

They treated my sister with the utmost respect and dignity. I will be forever grateful for that.

Nothing can bring my sister back but I just wanted to say thank you for all they did for

me and my family on that awful day.

DL
Colchester

THANK you for the kindness shown to me, especially Pc Stephanie Triscott.

I have just received the chain for my purse.

It's so upsetting when something is stolen.

I just couldn't believe it had happened to me. The first time I hope is the last.

JL
Bourne
Lincolnshire

TO Insp Dave Colwell: May I congratulate you on having polite and business-like staff.

So often one reads about the police being criticised for the way they deal with the public, so I feel it fair to show the other side of the coin.

I was gullible enough to allow an appointment to be made for a representative of a security firm to call on me.

Later, I was having second thoughts about the sense of my actions and, since I did not have a phone number for the company, decided to ring your police station for advice.

I was immediately put through to a young woman who was not only informative but caring and most helpful.

As a result, my appointment was cancelled and I was very grateful for the help and efficiency of your staff.

FM
Leigh on Sea

TO Chief Supt Michelle Dunn: I am writing to thank Pc John Hallworth and Pc Jason Corrigan very much as they were extremely helpful and very sensitive to the client's needs when they attended an address in Silver End.

And Pcs Shaun Hammond, Toby Daniel and Eva Verlander, who attended an address in Earls Colne were also extremely helpful, very supportive and very sensitive to the client's needs.

I really want to say thank you as it makes all the difference, when people have acute mental illness, to receive support from officers who are this helpful. Thank you for the excellent work.

Approved Mental Health Practitioner
North Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

TO Chief Supt Keith Garnish: I have been a member of our neighbourhood action panel since its inception in 2007 and am writing to express my thanks for the dedicated hard work that has been put in on behalf of the community of Hullbridge by your officers and staff.

It has made such a difference having a police presence in our village and I trust the system will prevail.

Please be so kind to pass on my gratitude to your officers and their team.

GN
Hullbridge

TO Chief Supt Michelle Dunn: During the past 12 months there have been a number of occasions when young people have been involved in

anti-social behaviour, often centred around the park in Parkinson Drive.

The response of Pc Anthony De Vries and PCSO Karen Garwood has been tremendous.

There has been a feeling of desperation amongst several of our neighbours, as the situation had deteriorated to a level where residents who had intervened when youths were misbehaving had become known to them and were being harassed.

Following the creation of a Neighbourhood Watch group and the intervention of your staff, we can now live in relative peace.

Relatively minor incidents started to occur again and I spoke to PCSO Garwood, who said she would speak to the individual concerned as she had built up a 'working relationship' with him.

I cannot believe that her timely involvement and the subsequent absence of problems is a coincidence.

The individual comes from a troubled background but it is people like PCSO Garwood who give him the opportunity to make choices for himself and, at the very least, keep him on a 'straighter and narrower' path than he would otherwise have followed.

MO
Chelmsford

I AM writing to say how much my husband and I value our community police officers.

PCSO Carole Gladman is in a class of her own. In the past three months, we have witnessed her in action on three separate occasions and this is why I must write.

I know other people in the village talk highly of her efforts in familiarising herself with our quite diverse village and she if definitely a credit to Essex Police and community policing in general.

JP
Great Leighs

I WOULD like to commend Pc Mark Wilsher and Pc Ben Elliot, who assisted when my niece fell ill.

They dealt with the situation in an exemplary way, not only with respect for her but also for the consideration given to my young great-nephews who were also staying with me.

They later returned to advise us of the action being taken and talked to the boys to reassure them and leave them in no doubt the police were their friends.

MP
Chelmsford

TO Chief Insp Keith Davies: We would like to thank you for all your hard work and dedication in finding our mum.

Both my dad and I would like to apologise for all the

inconvenience that was caused by mum absconding on her day out and we can't express our appreciation enough to everybody who was out looking for her.

We would like to express a special thank you to Pc Katie Parker and Pc Paul Levene, who dealt with us face to face.

They were so professional and helpful and we can't thank them enough.

LP
Wickford

TO Insp Paul Butcher: My purse was stolen in Colchester some months ago and since then someone has been convicted of the theft and made to repay the £130 cash which was in the purse.

The way the case was handled has given me great confidence in the police and, without the community officers, I don't know how I would have coped.

Subsequent to my initial interview, Pc Dave Underwood visited our home and took further statements.

He also put in an inordinate amount of time trying to get information from my bank.

His skills in questioning allowed me to remember much more detail about the incident than I had originally recalled.

He was obviously genuinely concerned about my welfare yet determined as part of his team to secure a conviction, if possible, to deter such despicable people from our town.

I would be pleased if you would accept the enclosed money, £130, to be put to some use to help others.

Thanks again to you and your super team.

MS
Colchester

● *Editor's note:* The money was used to buy 'purse bells', which are given out free to shoppers to help deter purse-snatchers and pickpockets because they jingle when moved.

WE are writing to express our appreciation and thanks to police at Canvey Island for the professional way in which they handled a quite serious matter which took place in the bungalow next to our property.

Without the prompt action of Pc Paul Ross, together with Mark Waters and the Focus Team, the situation would no doubt have escalated and become out of hand.

Pc Ross has kept us informed at all times and it has been reassuring to know that we can contact him if the activity starts up again.

E & BS
Canvey

ACTING Sgt Claire Forster was instrumental in bringing the police service elements

together for the South Woodham Ferrers Community Safety Day and also to Pc Bill Evans, for his hard work.

We were immensely grateful to them and all the police service personnel for their involvement and enthusiasm.

South Woodham Ferrers Community Safety Forum

TO Insp Dave Colwell: Pc Leon Pezzuolo has been an enormous help to me, not only in terms of advice and looking in to aspects I couldn't but also in soothing my worries and state of mind regarding problems I was having with a neighbour.

He comes across as being genuinely interested and concerned.

He knows how to respond to people's worries and how to put you at ease. He is a good man, with his heart in the right place.

As a nation we are quick to criticise the police, probably more often than not but not justifiably.

So I thought, when he upheld the badge and uniform in the way he did, that you should know. If all your men are like Leon you must be doing something right.

JS
Leigh on Sea

TO Chief Insp Keith Davies: I would like to thank Essex Police for its support in the 2009 Poppy Appeal in the buying of wreaths and I look forward to your support in 2010.

We have, to date, collected £22,568, which has been an excellent year for Canvey Island.

Canvey Island Royal British Legion

TO Insp Dave Colwell: I wish to express my sincere gratitude to you and Sgt Leslie Hawkins and Pcs Daniel Bray, Suzanne Hellier and Janine Spokes for safely finding my partner.

Your staff were professional and courteous at all times and their prompt action may have been vital for ensuring her well-being during this difficult time for her.

I hope you will pass on my gratitude to all those involved.

NY
Westcliff on Sea

TO Pc Brad Healey: I just wanted to say thank you for everything you have done for me since the investigation started into my case.

You really are a very fair police officer.

I have made a lot of mistakes in my life but you have really helped me try to turn my life around.

HC
Crianlrich
Perthshire

SEVEN 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: Jean Chubb, of IT; PCSO Heidi Evans and Sandy Short, of South Eastern Division; PCSO Macdonald Neife, of South Western Division; Pc Fiona Clements, of Stansted; Insp Debbie Grafton and Pc Andrew Sweeting, of Central 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.

Ray would be so proud

AS the family of Ray Stannard, the Maldon crime reduction officer, we would like to thank all friends and colleagues who attended Ray's funeral on December 30 and for the kind words that were offered.

The turn-out was overwhelming and we know Ray would have been very proud.

To see so many friends and colleagues turning out to show their respect demonstrates the high regard with which Ray was held and this helps provide some comfort at this difficult time.

The Stannard family

Thanks for your support

WE would like to thank everybody from Essex Police for their help and support, their kind messages of sympathy, and floral tributes.

Also thanks to all those who attended the funeral of lovely husband and father Pc Len Breewood, who retired from the Essex Police Dog Unit in 1983.

Len was always very proud to be a member of Essex Police and he would have been very touched to have seen the support shown. Thank you to all.

Peggy and Abigail Breewood Eastwood

Benevolent fund can pay you dividends in later life

THE Law has published letters regarding the benefits for serving and retired police officers of contributing to the Gurney Fund for police orphans and praising the work carried out at Flint House, the police rehabilitation centre at Goring on Thames.

I write to fully endorse those comments.

Following a total hip replacement in November, I requested a stay at Flint House to help with my physiotherapy.

As a retired officer, I was offered a

week's stay, as of January 4. My husband – for whom we paid a modest daily rate – accompanied me.

I can only say the experience was one which I am sure could not be bettered anywhere.

With one-to-one physio for 30 minutes each day, extra exercises to do myself and the use of a gymnasium and swimming and hydrotherapy pools, my mobility rapidly improved.

We became 'snowed in' that week and consequently were offered a further week's stay. The benefit I gained by the second week was of the greatest value.

All the staff were friendly and helpful and nothing was too much trouble. The catering was of five-star standard.

Many staff volunteered to go beyond

the call of duty by remaining at the centre overnight for a number of days to ensure that it remained fully functional and that we were catered for.

The contributions I made during my service have thus been more than repaid.

One never knows if or when the facilities available at Flint House may contribute greatly to one's recuperation from illness or injury.

I would urge all officers who are not at present contributing to the Essex Police Benevolent Fund to do so in future. It can only be in their own interest, and that of their colleagues, to do so.

Joy Madigan Chelmsford

Chris, thanks for our fantastic holiday

IN September, a group of 27 of us from Essex Police HQ Sports and Social Club, set off on a holiday of a lifetime to the Canadian Rockies and Alaska.

We landed in Calgary and immediately boarded our coach, which was to take us to Banff, on to Jasper, Kamloops and Vancouver.

The scenery was stunning, we went up cable cars (and down again), ventured on to glaciers and saw black bears, elk, wild mountain goats and eagles.

Vancouver, by contrast, was very loud and modern. From Vancouver we took the ferry to Victoria, the capital of

British Columbia. We rode yet another cable car to the top of Grouse Mountain, where we saw grizzly bears and an amazing lumberjack show. We visited the beautiful Butchart Gardens and the adventurous among us braved the Capilano Suspension Bridge and the tree walk beyond.

After a hectic first week, it was a pleasure to relax and enjoy the luxury of a five-star cruise to Alaska on the Celebrity Mercury.

We stopped in Sitka, Juneau, and Ketchikan as well as spending a magical day at the Hubbard Glacier, watching

huge chunks of ice breaking off and listening for the sound, which arrived much later.

We sailed back through the Inside Passage, where we watched for whales, dolphins, porpoises and seals, before arriving back in Vancouver for our flight home.

It was a fantastic holiday, thanks to the organisation and leadership of Chris Evans, secretary of the HQ Sports and Social Club.

Jeff & Jan Walker Chelmsford

Sir, winning the force lottery made my year

I WOULD like to say a very big thank you for a very surprising telephone call I received just before Christmas.

I was having a bad day, having just got back from a funeral and getting a flat tyre, only to receive a call from HQ to say that Chief Constable Jim Barker-McCardle wanted to have a word with me.

I thought 'Oh my goodness, what have I done?' as I had just finished three night duties, and it must be really bad if the Chief is ringing me.

After being reassured that the call was genuine, I was told that I had won first prize in the force lottery and had won a car.

This was the best news I had had all year, so a big thank you to all concerned who run the lottery and a very big thank you to Sir for telling me that I am the winner.

Dawn Reynolds Service desk assistant South Western Division

Do you have a news story for The Law? If so, contact editor Heather Turner on ext 54337 or via email

Gone ... but not forgotten

IN the mid-19th century, people sentenced to imprisonment by Billericay magistrates had to be taken to Brentwood for onward conveyance to Chelmsford County Gaol.

On November 21, 1850, William Wood, 20, was jailed for three months for poaching in Noursey Wood and Pc Robert Bambrough – sometimes referred to as Bamborough – was asked to escort Wood on the seven-mile walk to Brentwood.

Pc Bambrough, 43, was originally from Jersey and had spent many years in the Army prior to joining Essex County Constabulary on August 21, 1843.

Wood was secured to Pc Bambrough by a set of manacles. At Hutton, Wood instigated a scuffle and both men fell into a stagnant pond near the junction of Rayleigh Road and Church Lane.

Wood got to his feet and, trying to escape, trampled the officer into the muddy water.

Pc Bambrough retained his grip of the manacle chain, so Wood thrust mud into the officer's mouth and rendered him unconscious.

Wood then leapt from the pond but, after a few paces, he returned and lifted Pc Bambrough's head and shoulders clear of the water. He then ran off down Church Lane towards the church.

However, the whole event had been witnessed by 11-year-old Sarah Hatch, watching from a window at Hutton House. Her screams alerted nearby workmen who pulled Pc Bambrough from the pond and took him to the Chequers pub.

The police and a doctor were called and realised that it was only a question of time before Pc Bambrough died.

We are re-introducing our popular Gone ... but not forgotten feature which remembers police officers who have been killed on duty. This month, we remember the life of Pc Robert Bambrough, which ended on November 30, 1850.

The same magistrates who had dealt with Wood that morning were called to take down Pc Bambrough's account of what had happened.

Meanwhile, pursued by the police, Wood escaped via Tilbury to Gravesend and then on to Chatham.

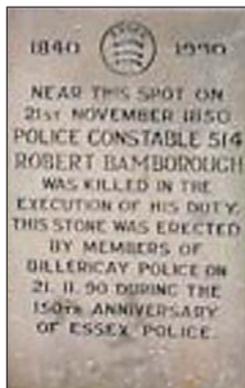
When the police arrived at Chatham they found Wood already in custody, having been recognised from a description published in that morning's papers – Wood was back in Billericay within 24 hours of his escape.

As was the practice, Wood was taken to Pc Bambrough's bedside to hear him relate what had happened. Wood didn't ask any questions but stated that he had never intended to harm the officer.

Pc Bambrough died the next day and Wood was charged with attempted murder. The case went to court in March 1851 at Chelmsford and Wood's assertion that he had not intended to harm Pc Bambrough was accepted. He was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to transportation for life.

Pc Bambrough is believed to have been buried at Great Burstead.

A memorial stone was erected by officers in his honour beside the A129 near Church Green, Billericay, on November 21, 1990 – the 150th anniversary year of Essex Police.



Down Memory Lane ...



FAMILY members of the first two female police officers in Havering are being sought by a Metropolitan officer.

Pc Wendy McAllister hopes to invite them to an event to celebrate great achievements of women in Havering.

The event at Ardleigh Green College campus on Saturday, March 6, 2011, will coincide with International Women's Day, which is celebrated around the world.

Dora Jordan, pictured above, far left, and Alice Wilson, far right, were recruited by the National Union of Women Workers (NUWW), one of a number of organisations in London agitating for women to be given the vote and a greater role in society.

When the Metropolitan Police refused to employ female officers, the NUWW set up its own independent patrol schemes. Dora was 26, and the

daughter of an Essex police officer, while Alice was in her 40s and married. They worked in Romford from August 1918 to October 1919. They are pictured with male police officers from Romford Division, which transferred to the Metropolitan Police in 1965.

● Anyone with information can contact Pc McAllister at wendy.mcallister@met.pnn.police.uk

● For more about women police in Essex, read Essex Police Museum's History Notebook no 52 – copies can be obtained from museum curator Becky Wash, who can be contacted on 01245 457150, ext 50771 or via email at becky.wash@essex.pnn.police.uk



Holiday lets

BAULERA GOLF, southern Spain. To let - spacious apartment, all facilities, fully equipped, 3 bedroom sleeps up to 6 people. Large terrace, overlooking the golf course and pool. 5 minutes to the beach and shops. Phone 01621 838179 or 0034 650124382

BRITTANY France - stone cottage in central Brittany sleeping 4 (one double/one twin). Within walking distance to Lake Guerledan. Photographs and information at www.caurelgrange.com

BRITTANY France - Beautiful longere in central Brittany (sleeps 6) bordering Lake Guerledan. Photographs and information from Amanda.campbell@wanadoo.fr (0033296 263548).

DALYAN, Turkey. Luxury four bedroom detached villa, sleeps 8-10. Private pool, three bedrooms, air conditioning. 20 minutes from Dalaman Airport, contact Ian 07725 130531.

HOLIDAY 2010? Beautifully furnished 2 bed, 2 bathroom, self catering apartment. La Manga Spain. Sea view seconds from the sea. Flights from Stansted, excellent rates, contact Bernie 07986098422.

LOW cost holiday 2010, La Manga Spain. Adjoining 2 and 3 bedroom apartments, panoramic sea views, seconds from the beach and a pool. Hire together/ separate, excellent rates tel 07986098422.

SOUTH Africa 2010 World Cup. Luxury self catering accommodation, restaurant and pub, large discounts available, contact D Price at d.price@mapri.co.uk or 07969 744427 quoting POL1.

TUSCANY, Italy. Gorgeous mountain retreat. Beautifully located rustic, romantic medieval village house. Stunning views. Near Pisa, Florence and Riviera. Full weeks or long weekends. Phone 07976 720022.

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

For sale

FOR sale VW Transporter Campervan, 1994, 66,000 miles, 2 litre petrol, MOT, TAX, full service history. Water heater, heating, fridge and

many extras. Very good condition £7,950 call 07804313450.

SUPER king-size divan bed. Memory foam, two drawers. Bought for £800, selling for £350ono. Bargain! Call Moira on 07968032258. Benfleet area.

VAUHALL Tigra 1.4 Exclusiv, black/silver 2006 reg, 34,000 miles, air con, electric roof and boot opening, £7,500 ono. Please contact 01277 373948.

WANTED wind-in type key for old type, non-ratchet, Hiatt handcuffs. Peter Whatling 01702 527627.

Homes for rent

TWO bed fully furnished flat to rent in Basildon. Close to the town centre, A127 and A13. £650pcm call Darren on 077939 52573.

COTTAGE to let, Burnham area, one bedroom, unfurnished, parking, no pets, non-smoker. Reference required £350pcm 01621 772195.

CHELMSFORD Springfield, one bedroom house, unfurnished, gas, parking, garden, no pets, non-smoker. £550pcm 01621 772195.

DANBURY furnished self-contained studio annex. Shower, toilet, fully equipped kitchen. Single occupant, non-smoker £375pcm ring 07920775210.

CHELMSFORD, house to rent. One bed starter home, Chelmer village - close to HQ. One bedroom, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, communal gardens, parking. £490pcm. Contact Steve on 01245 468155 or 07733 435923.

TWO double bed roomed, 1st floor flat in Tiptree. The property is very modern and has recently been redecorated. £600pcm. Contact Esther on 07810 308218.

Miscellaneous

FREE - child's mid-range bunk bed including mattress. Good condition. For collection in Southend. Contact John on 07891 040737.

SPORTS therapy massage ISRM registered. All forms of muscular and joint sports injury treated. Mobile service across central and south Essex. Call 07845 556562.

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

Moves to proposed Joint Serious Crime Directorate begin

GARETH Wilson has been appointed as the detective chief superintendent for the proposed Joint Serious Crime Directorate.

He moves from Mobile Support Division, where he has been divisional commander.

Prior to that, Det Chief Supt Wilson was director of specialist investigations for Crime Division.

He said he was looking forward to the opportunities presented by the proposed Joint Serious Crime Directorate, which is a collaboration project with Kent Police.

"I relish the chance to work with colleagues across both forces, whose enthusiasm and passion for the job will be hugely important in achieving our goals," he added.

Kent ACC **Alan Pughsley**, who was recently appointed as head of the proposed directorate, said: "I am really pleased to have the opportunity to work with Gareth. He brings with him many years of valuable experience with Essex Police. Together, we are utterly committed to doing our best to benefit both forces."

The proposal to form a joint command has been confirmed by both police authorities and is subject to full consultation with Unison, the Superintendents' Association, the Police Federation and other stakeholders.

No decisions have been taken about structures beneath Mr Pughsley and Det Chief Supt Wilson or work locations and the proposals for any changes will be developed with the full engagement of police officers and staff at the appropriate time.

The new divisional commander for South Western is Chief Supt **Glenn Caton**, who transfers from Communications Division at HQ.

Braintree district commander Chief Insp **Alan Gooden** has moved to the Force Information Room. His role has been taken over by Chief Insp **Nick Lee**, who has moved across from Maldon. And the new Maldon district commander is Chief Insp Steve Ditchburn.

Retirements

Acting inspector **Ian Carter**, 49, retires this month after 30 years with Essex Police. He began his service at HQ before moving out to serve in Westcliff and Rochford before stints at Chelmsford, South Woodham Ferrers and Southend CIDs. He moved back to HQ and worked in MIT Services and for Crime Division's then Community Safety Branch in Brentwood and Rayleigh. Secondments to the Proactive Essex Police Youth Strategy (PEPYS) and the Youth Justice Board followed. Acting Insp Carter finished his career working for Executive Support at HQ.

Pc **Philip Golding**, 51, retired in December after almost 31 years with the force. He was first posted to Harlow and then moved to Rayleigh, before joining the Traffic Division at Laindon and then Rayleigh. He then moved to Grays Community Policing

Team and stayed in South Western, ending up in the Incident Management Unit (IMU).

Dc **Charles Panting**, 52, retired this month as a scenes of crime officer in Colchester after 30 years with the force. Prior to Crime Division, he served in Eastern and Central divisions.

Dc **Elizabeth Price-Stephens**, 51, retired last month after 30 years' service. As well as Crime Division, she served in South Western, Central, Western and South Eastern divisions.

Dc **John Shipley**, 60, has retired from Clacton CID after serving for 30 years. He spent his entire career on Eastern Division.

Pc **Helen Culligan**, 51, retired this month after 30 years with Essex Police. She first served at Billericay and then at Basildon, Corringham, Pitsea, and Wickford before working at Basildon in Crime Management and as a HOLMES indexer. Following a brief spell in Grays, she moved to HQ MIT and then back to Thurrock, first at South Ockendon, then at divisional HQ in various roles before finishing her career in the IMU.

Dc **Paul Toms**, 48, retired last month after almost 30 years with the force. He served in Western and Crime divisions.

Pc **Stephen Buscall**, 54, retires this month after 28 years with the force - he spent time with Essex County Council prior to joining Essex Police. He served at Melbourne Park, Southminster Marine, Shotley Training College, South Woodham Ferrers and Essex Police College before ending his time in Central IMU.

Obituaries

Former inspector **Harry Fuller**, of Chelmsford, has died, aged 80.

Mr Fuller was the first deputy commandant of the Essex Police Cadet School, which opened in 1969 at HQ. Mr Fuller served the force between 1954 and 1985, spending his entire career at Chelmsford.

Ex-constable **Peter Vousden**, of Harwich, has died, aged 85. He served from 1951 to 1976 at Bradfield, Wix and Harwich.

Donations may be made in his memory to St Helena Hospice (Tending Centre) and sent c/o Paskell Funeral Service, 15 High Street, Manningtree CO11 1AG.

Former Pc **William Cobbold**, of Southend, has died, aged 85.

Mr Cobbold served from 1953 to 1978 at HQ and in Southend Borough and Special Branch

Donations may be made in his memory to Southend Stroke Club and sent c/o Tanner's Funeral Directors, 26 East Street, Prittlewell, Southend-on-Sea SS2-6LH.

Ex-constable **Peter Bailey**, of Poole in Dorset, has died, aged 76.

He joined Southend on Sea County Borough Constabulary in 1953, transferring over to the Essex force in 1969 and retiring ten years after that.

During his time with Essex Police

he worked at Shenfield, Billericay, Rayleigh and Brentwood. After retiring from the force he worked for Social Services and finally in the garage at Essex Police HQ.

Former Pc **Michael Dray**, of Talgarth in Powys, has died, aged 76. He served from 1955 to 1970 at HQ and was the first physical training instructor at Essex Police Cadet School.

Ex-constable **Peter Cartwright**, of Little Clacton, has died, aged 74.

He served from 1961 to 1986 at Clacton and Stanway Traffic.

Donations may be made in his memory to St Helena Hospice and sent c/o R Gwinnell and Sons, Funeral Directors, 112 Ipswich Road, Colchester CO4 0AA.

Former constable **David Saunders**, of Finchingfield, has died, aged 73.

Mr Saunders served from 1957 to 1987 at Chelmsford and Braintree.

Donations may be made in his memory to Creamer Fund and sent c/o GW Hardy and Sons, Funeral Directors, The Green, Finchingfield CM7 4JS.

Ex-Pc **Anthony Chaplin**, of Little Wakering, has died, aged 52.

He served from 1980 to 1990 at Southend-on-Sea, Rayleigh and Great Wakering.

Donations may be made in his memory to Help for Heroes and sent c/o The Co-operative Funeralcare, 28 High Street, Great Wakering SS3 0EQ.

Awards

Dc **Colin Eggleton**, of SOCD - Financial Investigations, has been awarded an MA in fraud management by Teeside University and a BTEC Professional Diploma in financial investigations by Edexcel.

And Dc **John Vickers**, also of SOCD - Financial Investigations, has been awarded a BTEC Professional Diploma in financial investigations by Edexcel.

Western Division media communications co-ordinator **Denise Harvey** and Essex Police College course administrator **Fay Rowlandson** have been awarded an NVQ Level 3 in business administration. South Eastern clerical assistant **Kerry Freeman** has been awarded an NVQ Level 2 in the same subject.

Western's service desk assistant **Karl Weber** and domestic abuse liaison officer **Lucy Kelly** have been awarded NVQ Level 3s in customer service.

Crime Bureau investigator **Claire Miles**, South Western service desk assistants **Ann-Marie Reece-Ford**, **Irene Hawkins** and **Sally Levy** and Stanway Road Policing Unit administrator **Sarah Wisbey** have all been awarded an NVQ Level 2 in the same subject.

Correction

In the January 2010 issue of *The Law*, we stated that PCSO Natalie King, of Copford Neighbourhood Policing Team, had gained a PCSO tutoring qualification. It was in fact, PCSO **Natalie King**, of Canvey Island NPT, who gained the qualification. We apologise for the mistake.

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE - ONE WORD PER BOX

Name and rank:

Station: Home tel:

Date: Signed:

Send to The Editor, The Law, Internal Communications, Essex Police HQ.

Advertisers should be aware that *The Law* is now published on the internet and any telephone numbers given will be in the public domain. No internal or direct-dial work phone numbers should be given as contacts in the adverts.

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



Could you be a police sport Super Star?

THE national event to find this year's police Sporting Super Star is in May.

If you think you can perform well in the numerous disciplines – 100m, an orienteering run, archery, gym tests, golf (50-yard drive, five shots nearest to the hole), basketball, football shooting, distance rowing, curling, climbing wall, a bleep test, and rifle shooting – then why not give it a go.

PSUK Sporting Superstars will be held at Potters in Great Yarmouth on the same weekend as the PSUK indoor sports championships, May 4-7.

There will be both men's and women's competitions, held over two days, based on the format of the TV Superstars programme.

• To find out more, visit the PSUK website www.policessportuk.com and click on Events/Fixtures, and then on Details of Future Events

Snooker and billiards players are through to regional finals contest

SNOOKER and billiards players have had a busy month with not only the Croker Cup but also the force championships.

First up were the Croker Cup snooker and billiards competitions at Chelmsford Snooker Club.

Organiser and Essex Police Sports Association sports secretary Peter Orpe said: "It was pleasing to see that the number of participants was higher than for previous years, with five divisions competing."

Results were: Snooker – 1 Central 10 points; 2 Western 7pts; 3= HQ and South Western 5pts; 5 Eastern 3pts. Billiards – 1 Central 10pts; 2 Western 7pts; 3= HQ and South Western 5pts; 5 Eastern 3pts.

The Force Snooker and Billiards

Championships were held a fortnight later at the same venue.

Orpe won the billiards competition, while Sam Bailey of Western CID, won the snooker singles. The snooker doubles competition was postponed.

Orpe and Bailey now progress to the regional finals to be held later this month in Peterborough, hoping to win through to the nationals finals to be held at Potters in Great Yarmouth from May 4-7.

• THE Force Pool Championships are to be held this month, with the winners going through to the regional finals later this month, again in Peterborough.

The categories are: men's singles and doubles, women's singles and doubles and mixed doubles.

• THE Croker Cup table currently stands as: 1 South Western 81 points; 2 South Eastern 73pts; 3 Central 71 pts; 4 Western 56pts; 5 Eastern 37pts; 6 HQ 31pts.

• THE Croker Cup squash tournament is on Thursday, February 25, from 10am at Clements Hall in Hockley.

Divisions need teams of five players. To enter, contact Adrian Bunting on ext 387125 for details.

The swimming competition was held on January 31 at Basildon's Gloucester Park complex and the badminton tournament took place on February 10 in Hawkwell.

• CROKER Cup fixtures still to be arranged are tennis, netball, darts and women's football.

Looking ahead to soccer tournament

BEFORE the current Croker Cup competition has finished, HQ groundsman Denis Angell is already looking ahead to next season.

He is organising the Croker Cup six-a-side men's football tournament at HQ and has set the date for Friday, May 21, starting at noon.

Last year's tournament was a success, with South Western coming out on top.

However, not all divisions were represented and Angell is hoping that situation will change this year.

• To enter a team for your division, email Denis Angell at info@supa6leaguewitham.co.uk by Monday, March 1. Further details will be issued after that date

Cricket nets have been booked up

CRICKETERS can practise prior to the start of the new season, thanks to the Essex Police Sports Association.

The association has again secured nets at Essex County Cricket Club's ground in Chelmsford and all members interested in cricket are welcome to attend.

The nets have been booked from 2-4pm on Mondays February 22, March 1, March 8, March 15 and March 29.

• For further details contact EPSA sports secretary Peter Orpe on ext 58881 or force cricket captain Adie Garnham on ext 489604

Cross-country men maintain challenge

THE fourth and penultimate fixture of the regional PSUK cross-country league was hugely important for the Essex team as it could well have decided the outcome for the season.

Before the race on January 13 at Denne Park in Horsham, West Sussex, the men's team were just a point behind Kent and needed a good result if they were to have any chance of retaining the league title for a third successive year.

Kent were reliant on their two new young runners to finish in the top four.

But, as team captain Mick Bond pointed out, Essex have strength in depth and are capable of filling ten of the first 15 places on a good day.

And the seven runners stepped up to the mark, beating Kent and now have a four-point lead going into the final race on February 18 at Richmond Park in the City of London.

Bond praised their "terrific performances" and said of the final men's race: "We will need everyone to be at that fixture if the men are to retain the title. Kent have been five points ahead in their two wins this winter so it is going to be very, very close."

The women's team had to field a full team to have any chance of mounting a challenge and retaining their title but sadly could only muster two runners. And with just one finisher, they dropped points.

Force lottery results

THE winner of the January force lottery, taking home a £3,000 prize, was Lynn Williamson, of the Force Information Room (FIR).

Second prize of £1,000 went to Marie Hall, of SOCD Financial Investigations, and Pc Tony Mayo, of Laindon Dog Section, picked up the £500 third prize.

Winners of £100 prizes were:

Ds Samantha Deer, of Laindon; Elena Loveday, of Harlow; Jeanette Halls, of HQ Switchboard; Richard Steane, retired; Pc Michael Bridge, of Laindon Road Policing Unit (RPU); John Coyle, retired; Pc Terence Hobbs, of Rayleigh RPU; Rachel Cotton, of Wickford Park Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT); Claire Quilter, of Clacton; DI Brian Elkington, of Crime Division; Timothy Rees, retired; and Sc Edward Lewsey, of South Woodham Ferrers NPT.

Winners of the £50 prizes were:

Pc Carole Pitchers, of FIR; Pc Jamie Collins, of Southend; Pc Roy Keyes, of Laindon RPU; Pc Scott Woods, of Brightlingsea NPT; Dc Emma Taylor, of Southend; Glenda Winslade, of Crime Division; John Wright, of Stanway Major Investigation Team; Dc Gary Cootes, of Crime Division; Kerri Bowden, of Loughton NPT; Insp Craig Carrington, of Epping Forest NPT; Pc Ahren Perry, of Southend Central NPT; Pc Natasha Gwillim, of Chelmsford; Cathy Renew, of Thurrock; Natasha Burridge, of Southend; Pc Asa Smith, of Rochford NPT; and Pc Paul Howard, of the Mounted Unit.

However, the men's veterans' team extended their lead with a strong performance on the day – just one race away from holding on to their top placing for a third year.

Uni-Commodation

Where will your child live at university?

There are plenty of things to worry about when your son or daughter goes off to university, not least their accommodation...

- Where will they live?
- What will the accommodation be like?
- What will the area be like?
- What will the landlord be like?

The truth is, good student accommodation is hard to find. Unsurprisingly, many parents think about buying a place both to secure their child some safe accommodation and also as a future investment.

But in a city or town with thousands of students looking for somewhere to live, just where do you start?

You start with Uni-Commodation. Our industry expertise and local knowledge mean we can sort the whole thing out for you, ensuring you end up with safe children AND a safe investment. We do everything from finding the property and refurbishing it to ensuring it is fully compliant with health and safety requirements. We liaise with the university and with our network of existing students and we ensure the utilities and tenancy agreements are in place.

Find out more from Agi Eugenio, Managing Director, on 020 8441 1421 or email agi@aeugenio.co.uk.



The affordable route to a safe investment

Is your child going to university?

Would you like to receive rental income rather than pay rent every month?

You could save £1,000s – and make even more..



"Agi and his team guided and supported us through every step of the way and removed all of the hassle. They were transparent and open about the commitments involved and they delivered exactly what they said they would."

Paul Allan



• Christian Robinson ext 58883

THE Essex Police Sports Association (EPSA) is looking forward to a year full of changes and hopes that we will still provide our members with some great money-saving benefits and services. We are presently going through the various member benefits and ensuring that they are all up to date for 2010. Merlin has renewed for 2010 – it owns Madame Tussauds, Alton Towers, Legoland and six other great attractions. Our deal with Merlin is special because it offers our members discounted accommodation as well as discounted entry tickets. Speaking of renewing, please remember that we have a great deal with the AA and RAC for joining and for renewing your membership. All the details can be found on the EPSA intranet site – it is listed under Divisions & Departments on the intranet Site Directory. Other new deals to look at are electrical supplier Bennetts and Prostar, for sports clothing. In closing, please keep an eye out for our new EPSA leaflet, which will be launched soon.

Do you have a sporting story for *The Law*? If so, please contact editor Heather Turner on ext 54337 or via email

Complex case results in a successful prosecution

A LARGE-scale investigation led to a dangerous paedophile being sentenced last month.

Enquiries extended to four other police forces and officers were assisted by financial investigators from the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) and scientists from the Forensic Science Service.

Mark Longman, 43, of Chelmsford, received a four-and-a-half-year indeterminate prison sentence for public protection for offences of sexual assault, making, possessing and distributing indecent images of children and perverting the course of justice.

He will be placed on the Sex Offenders Register for life and have to serve at least three years of his sentence, only being released when he can prove he is no longer a danger to the public.

Dc Phil Merriam, of the Police On-Line Investigation Team (POLIT), said after the case at Basildon Crown Court that the complex enquiry into Longman's grooming and sexual abuse of teenage girls started in May 2008.

"Throughout the investigation Longman denied his wrong-doing and attempted to pervert the course of justice by getting others to destroy evidence.

"Therefore he prolonged the pain and distress of his young victims. The thorough and complete investigation into Longman's offending, lifestyle and background eventually forced him to admit his guilt."

The investigation involved more than 40 civilian and police witnesses, in excess of 430 exhibits, 13 hours of suspect interviews and the examination of more than 2,000 gigabytes (GB) – or two terabytes – of data from more than 30 computer hard drives and 18 mobile phones.

Jim Warnock, head of CEOP's specialist operations support said: "In using specialist financial investigators, CEOP was able to support Essex Police in proving the scale of Longman's online offending and the extent of his subscriber network of like-minded individuals to whom he was selling child abuse images.

"This sentence should send out a clear message to those seeking to profit from the sexual abuse of children.

"Every financial transaction – like any activity on the internet – is like a digital footprint which we will track and follow to hold these offenders to account."

Dangerous dog attacked police horses

A DOG which attacked two police horses in Harlow is facing a destruction order after the force pursued the case through the courts.

The owner has appealed against the order and the force awaits the outcome.

A 43-year-old woman was arrested after her dog attacked police horses Rosie and Toffee, while they were out on patrol in Harlow on October 28.

The woman was later found guilty of being the owner of a dog dangerously out of control in a public place and fined £80.

The force retained the dog as expert evidence deemed it to be a pit-bull type

and, as the dog was a banned breed, last month took the owner back to court where magistrates ordered it should be destroyed. They also ordered the owner to pay £200 towards kennel costs.

The force is now making a civil claim to recover vet fees for the horses.

The horses were on a routine patrol when they came across the dog off the lead. It attacked both horses, the riders were thrown and the horses bolted with the dog still attached.

The horses spent several days at a vets – Rosie received serious wounds and Toffee received stitches for wounds –

while the officers were heavily bruised.

Subsequently, both horses have had to be retrained to work with dogs. Toffee has since returned to duty but Rosie is not yet ready.

Mounted Unit inspector Louise Beattie said they were both making a full recovery. "I am delighted they are able to remain police horses, especially when the initial outlook was bleak," she said.

"People who have dogs with an aggressive nature must ensure that they are responsible owners, otherwise we will see more cases of serious injury and it could be a child next."

Pair said they had a 'wheely good time'



ESSEX Police Authority press and PR officer Jenna Smith will become a regular face on tea-time TV this month when she appears on Channel 4's hit programme *Coach Trip*.

Now into its fourth series, *Coach Trip* follows seven pairs on a once-in-a-lifetime trip travelling around Europe on a coach, with their every movement being filmed!

Jenna and her best friend of 14 years, Jodie Coulson, paired up to audition for the show, beating thousands of applicants to be picked as one of the original seven pairs and couples to embark on the tour in September 2009.

Jenna said: "We really didn't expect to get on the show when we auditioned, we just did it for a laugh. We were actually on the beach in Portugal when we got the call saying we had been picked and would be need to be available to start filming the week after.

"It was an amazing experience, we got to go to some great places and do some really funny and exciting activities but I can't reveal too much."

The show started in Portsmouth and the coach and its travelled around Europe for 50 days.

• Jenna is not able to say for how long she and Jodie managed to stay on the coach so tune in and find out – *Coach Trip* airs on Channel 4 at 5pm Monday to Friday, throughout February and March

• Essex Police Authority press and PR officer Jenna Smith, far left, and her friend Jodie Coulson are pictured preparing to set off on their Coach Trip

Officer's beach rescue

A SOUTHEND officer helped to rescue a teenage girl stuck in sand.

Pc Laura Stellon, 24, waded into the sea after a 14-year-old became stuck while taking photos of the snow on the beach at Eastern Esplanade on January 10.

The girl was knee-deep in water and the tide was coming in fast.

Pc Stellon said: "She was scared, very cold and her legs were hurting. I got as close as I could and waited with her until

the coastguard arrived. I thought I could go back but if it was me I would like someone to wait with me. I tried to reassure her and speak to her until the coastguard arrived."

Pc Stellon instructed the girl to keep moving so she didn't get stuck further and a coastguard crew in a lifeboat then arrived and pulled the girl out.

Pc Stellon said: "I have been overwhelmed by the reaction of what I did. The girl and her mum came up to me at the hospital and were very grateful. You don't really think, you just want to help."

Supt Stuart Ashton, of South Eastern Division, said: "This is an excellent example of an officer using her initiative in responding to a young girl caught in the mud in freezing conditions.

"She managed to reassure her and keep her calm until the coastguard was able to attend and bring the teenager back to shore.

"On an almost daily basis, our officers put themselves in positions of risk that often go unreported. I am pleased that, due to her prompt response, the incident ended safely."

Tortoise-smugglers are foiled at Stansted

A COUPLE who tried to smuggle wild tortoises through Stansted airport were foiled in an operation involving Essex Police wildlife crime officers.

Michael Gates and his partner Carol Wormley, both 42, were arrested in July when they stepped off a plane after a holiday in Corfu.

Pc Andy Long, the force's wildlife crime co-ordinator, searched the couple's hand-luggage and suitcases and found seven endangered Hermann's tortoises, mostly babies only a few inches long.

The largest was wrapped in black electrical tape to keep its head and legs in its shell.

Officers from the Metropolitan Police

Wildlife Crime Unit, who were also involved in the operation, later searched the couple's home in Walthamstow, east London.

Officials from the RSPCA and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) were also involved in the investigation.

Gates and Wormley were subsequently charged and appeared at Harlow magistrates' court last month.

Gates admitted causing unnecessary suffering to protected animals, failing to ensure animal welfare and transporting animals taken from the wild.

He was ordered to carry out 150 hours of unpaid community work.

Wormley admitted failing to ensure animal welfare and transporting live animals from the wild. She was ordered to carry out 80 hours of unpaid work.

Both were also banned from keeping reptiles for ten years.

Pc Long said afterwards: "The illegal importation of tortoises is an ACPO and national wildlife crime unit priority for 2009-10 because it could lead to tortoises becoming extinct.

"There is a large trading network in small baby tortoises from Corfu. By taking the young reptiles away this will affect future generations.

"It is illegal to import tortoises and a licence is needed to sell them in the UK."

Managing time brings benefits to all

KEEPING track of the additional hours you work is more important than you think, says Jean Steele.

She is the Resource Management Unit strategy manager and it has been her job to reduce the force total.

Most importantly, said Jean, keeping track is important for well-being and good health, everyone needs time to relax and forget about work.

Secondly is the cost to the force. If a large number of people accrue a lot of additional hours – through the reallocation of bank holidays, cancelled rest days and hours worked where there is prior agreement for them not to be paid – there is a huge cost implication to Essex Police and this can ultimately affect the number of police officers on the streets.

Jean said: "When I first took on the task of reducing unallocated hours in 2006 the statistics didn't look good.

"We had a starting figure of 126,454 unallocated hours which has now been reduced to a healthy 12,485 hours.

"There is still more work to be done but it's a great to have been able to reduce unallocated hours to a tenth of their original amount.

"This couldn't have been achieved without everyone's co-operation and support."

Work is continuing to reduce the amount of unallocated hours, even though sometimes they cannot be avoided.

Jean added: "It is important everyone remembers to log and allocate unallocated hours as soon as possible, to prevent any possible health implications for the individual and cost implications to the force."



• Pc Andy Long with two of the Hermann's tortoises
Picture by Bill Stock

