

# The Law



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March 2010

**New statement-taking guidance:**

up to 20,000 fewer statements a year

spending more time with victims and witnesses

fulfilling our Policing Pledge

– see Page 3

Project Chevron focuses on training and developing our first-line supervisors

## CHERISHING OUR NEW SERGEANTS



**CHANGES** have already been made to make the Sergeant's Scheme more challenging.

More than 30 officers joined the latest intake this month and were greeted by ACC Sue Harrison as she launched Project Chevron.

Part of *Putting Essex First* – Chief Constable Jim Barker-McCardle's agenda for action – Project Chevron is the force's new focus on sergeants and first-line supervisors

As well as making sergeants and front-line supervisors more visible, Project Chevron plans to pilot the return of more charging decisions to custody sergeants in South Eastern and South Western divisions and in Brentwood in Western Division.

It will also improve training, support and mentoring as well as searching for good practice in other forces.

Mrs Harrison told the new sergeants and detective sergeants: "Being a sergeant is one of the toughest jobs in the force. Don't be afraid to ask for help but be confident in your own abilities."

"Sergeants have both enormous responsibilities and great opportunities, which include directing front-line policing teams, so the role should not be under-estimated."

"Thank you for taking on the chevrons and taking the bold step into supervision. More than 85 per cent of our budget is spent on people and people are our most valuable asset because they are how we deliver our policing."

"Sergeants have a responsibility to recognise their good people but we are also recognising you by investing more time and energy into you with more training, suitable guidance and help with developing your skills."

Outlining the key aims of Project Chevron, Mrs Harrison said: "We want to give you back the power to make decisions, such as bailing suspects, and we want to improve the visibility of sergeants in force and out on the streets of Essex, so people can see who is in charge."

Examples of new uniform incorporating larger, more visible chevrons were shown to the new sergeants.

This month's new group of sergeants have already experienced changes as their applications were assessed by inspectors and each will be allocated a divisional mentor and supported by their divisional inspectors and HQ Staff Development in completing a personal development plan.

And the Sergeant's Scheme is set to become more selective, raising standards of training and encouraging more people to seek promotion through the proposed Essex Police Promotion Framework – for sergeants and inspectors – which will re-introduce promotion boards. The new framework is due to be finalised later this year.

The current Sergeant's Scheme will be re-opened to new applicants in May – with an August start date – and this may be the last time Pcs with OSPRE parts 1 and 2 can join the scheme without a promotion board or any further assessment. In the future, there will be two intakes to the scheme a year, rather than the current, open-ended process.

• A new focus group for sergeants and front-line supervisors is also being formed to develop the key areas of Project Chevron. In advance of this, ACC Sue Harrison is keen to receive ideas and suggestions via email

• For further information concerning the Sergeant's Scheme, contact senior HR manager Zoe Hack on ext 58402 or resourcing and planning advisor Dawn Burton on ext 54103

• Sgt Frazer Low, of Ockendon Neighbourhood Support Team, tries on new sergeant's chevrons watched by ACC Sue Harrison at the launch of Project Chevron

Picture by Dawn Burton



## Getting a head-start on 2012

A DEDICATED neighbourhood specialist officer (NSO) has been organising imaginative ways of clearing areas near the Olympic mountain-biking course at Hadleigh Castle.

Sgt Mark McQuade, NSO for Benfleet, has so far completed one project to clear an area of trees and bushes in Dark Lane, Thundersley.

He rallied the local Thundersley Guides and Brownies and together they

● **Sgt Mark McQuade with some of the Thundersley Guides and Brownies who helped to tidy up Dark Lane**

have cut back the undergrowth and cleared accumulated rubbish and litter.

Sgt McQuade is hoping to run a programme of activities once a month which will see various cleanup activities taking place ahead of the 2012 Olympic Games.

Sgt McQuade said: "The first exercise went extremely well. All the kids did their bit and really got stuck in. We leafleted all the houses in the vicinity about what was going on and the response from residents has been very positive.

"This was a real partnership effort involving not only ourselves and the Guides but also Castle Point Borough Council

and the Castle Point Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership."

In his effort to engage the local community in taking pride in the area, which will see thousands of visitors during the London 2012 Olympic Games, Sgt McQuade has support from local businesses, which have donated materials to help with events.

The London 2012 Olympic Organising Committee, the Metropolitan Police and other forces around the capital have launched Changing Places, a regeneration initiative to involve young people in small projects to smarten up areas with links to the 2012 Olympic Games.

## Getting out and about

THE next generation of Essex Police officers have been out and about at Freeport shopping village near Braintree performing role-playing exercises as part of their training.

Sgt Kirste Snellgrove led a team of tutors in putting the student officers through their paces, with help of volunteers from the public.

She said: "As part of their education and development, it's important to get our student officers out of the classroom and into a real-life environment, reacting to the kind of scenarios that they'll face when they become Essex Police constables.

"The tutors were watching their performance at all times so that we can break it down step by step with the students back at Essex Police College and everyone can learn from the experience."

Seventeen student officers and six tutors took part in the exercise.

The student officers were 20 weeks into their training at the time and were deployed to police stations around the country last month.

● Do you want a group of 'free' officers in your district or division for a day?

Student officers undertaking their foundation training at Essex Police

College have to take part in community engagement days.

This gives them a taste of front-line policing before they transfer to a divisional Professional Development Unit (PDU).

This day of engagement is part of the 80 hours of compulsory community engagement time all officers must complete by the end of their first 20 weeks of initial training.

● Contact Sgt Kirste Snellgrove at Essex Police College on ext 56138 if you have a task you think that student officers can help with out on division



● **Thelma reports an 'incident' to Pc Angela Chapman and Pc James Howden at Freeport** Picture by Jan Klimkowski



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## Raid dog returned to owner

A STOLEN dog was reunited with its owner after it was found during a drugs operation in Harlow.

British bulldog Alfie was found by Western media communications co-ordinator Denise Harvey on disused ground during Operation Bracken – a multi-agency operation targeting suspected drug dealers.

Denise, who had been taking photographs during the operation, heard a whimpering and then saw Alfie looking out from a small box. The RSPCA and Dog Lost Essex co-ordinator Jo Thompson arrived, discovered Alfie was micro-chipped and that he had been stolen from Roydon last August.

Alfie was taken to the vet and reunited with owner Marina Nicolas.

Denise, who had issued several media appeals for information at the time Alfie was stolen from his home in Roydon, said: "The vet informed us that Alfie had lost two stones in weight."

Sgt Lewis Basford, who was on the operation with Denise, encouraged all dog owners to electronically chip their dogs.

No arrests were made at the Harlow property but officers did make four arrests during co-ordinated raids at other sites.

Operation Bracken saw several linked raids and 24 warrants executed across the Harlow area.

District commander Chief Insp Nick Morris said: "A significant amount of resources



● **Sgt Lewis Basford returns stolen British bulldog Alfie to his owner Marina Nicolas** Picture by Denise Harvey

and partner agencies were committed to this operation.

"It was specifically planned to target individuals and not communities.

"We were acting upon intelligence gathered over a number of weeks and I would like assure the local community that we will continue to target

any individuals involved in crime, wherever they may be."

Officers were accompanied by staff from a variety of other agencies, including HM Revenue and Customs and the RSPCA.

A stolen horsebox, van and two motorbikes were also recovered.

## Importance of allowing victims to have a say

VICTIM personal statements are a vital part of the justice process, says ACC Peter Lowton. And new information about them has been added to the Criminal Justice Department (CJD) intranet site. The revised MG11 statement-taking guidance means more time is now available for police officers and staff to concentrate on the needs of victims. Under the Victim Personal Statement Scheme, victims of crime can explain how that crime has affected them psychologically, physically or financially and state any concerns they have. Often, this statement can be taken into account when bail, compensation or a sentence is considered at crown and magistrates' courts, as well as during civil cases, such as child care proceedings and road traffic compensation claims, or applications to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA). Victim personal statements can be considered at every decision-making stage of the criminal justice process, not just at court. Space to make a victim personal statement is included in the MG11 witness statement form. If a victim does not initially want to make a victim personal statement but later changes their mind, they can make one at any point before the end of criminal justice proceedings. Such statements can also be updated at any point during this process. Under point 9 of the Policing Pledge, police officers and staff are also encouraged to update crime victims regularly about their case by making a contact agreement to arrange the format and frequency of such updates. Victims of crime say they appreciate being kept informed, regardless of what the progress is.

- To view the new information about victim personal statements, visit the CJD intranet site, listed under Divisions & Departments on the intranet Site Directory, click on the Victims, Witnesses and WMS link on the left-hand menu and then scroll down to the heading Victim Personal Statements

# New volume crime operating model

A NEW force Volume Crime Operating Model is being developed to resolve low-level quality of life issues in a progressive manner.

This will enable police officers and staff to make greater use of restorative justice options and community resolution in appropriate cases.

ACC Peter Lowton said a lot of low-level crime and anti-social behaviour could be resolved without taking more

formal action against those responsible. "Ultimately, the model will set out a professional process detailing how such behaviour should be dealt with.

"We will still record all instances of crime and anti-social behaviour but sometimes there may be better ways of solving the problem than by simply arresting someone.

"Using a commonsense approach and sending the right people to deal with

minor indiscretions in the right way can often get the message across effectively without having to resort to taking more formal action."

Work also being carried out by the Volume Crime Operating Model review group includes looking at initial crime assessment, investigation, proportionate crime recording and 'suspect management'.

# Fewer statements but a better service to victims

**OFFICERS and staff now have more discretion over statement-taking, as revised guidance has been approved by Chief Officers.**

ACC Peter Lowton says the aim is to free up more time for officers and staff to spend on victim and witness care while continuing to take quality witness statements.

And, by keeping unnecessary form-filling to a minimum, it could mean up to 20,000 fewer statements being taken each year – saving around 800 days of officer and staff time.

Mr Lowton said: "Our main concern is providing the best service to victims and witnesses. This new guidance will enable officers and staff to do that while also continuing to carry out professional investigations.

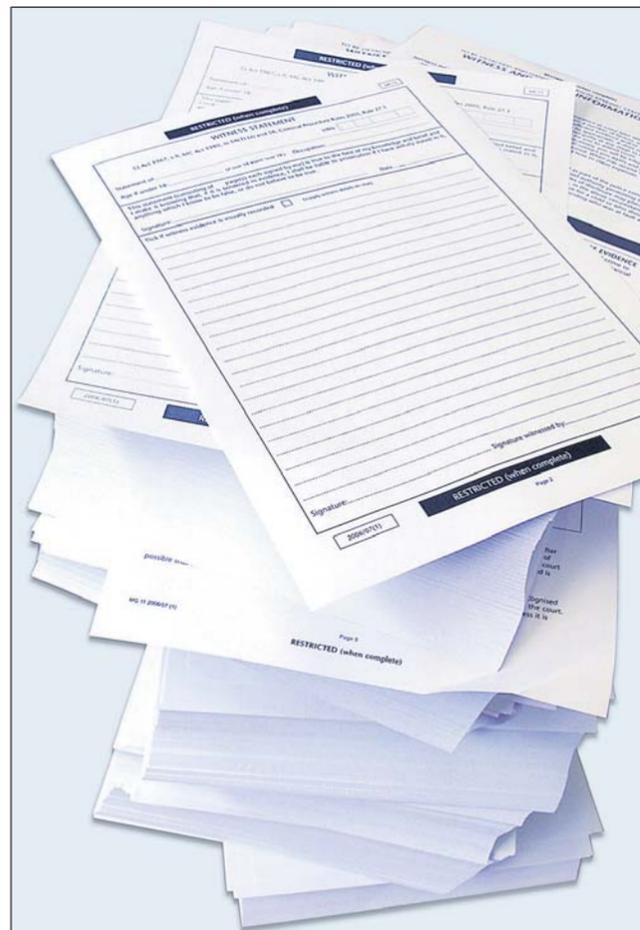
"They will be able to devote more time to keeping victims updated on the progress of their case, which is one of our key Policing Pledge priorities, and offering an enhanced service to victims who are vulnerable or intimidated.

"Statements will obviously continue to be taken in appropriate cases, which conform to the Volume Crime Operating Model of initial attendance and secondary attendance but we are allowing the investigator to exercise discretion where appropriate."

The revised guidance – which comes into force on Monday, March 15 – sets out broad categories in which statements should continue to be taken. However, victims will still be given the opportunity to make a statement if they wish.

MG11 witness statements should continue to be taken when:

- the victim is identified as a vulnerable victim or is a repeat victim, as defined in the Essex Police Repeat Victimisation Policy – Policy Publications (Greens) B0300 and B0301
- the victim is subject to a serious offence, including the following examples (this is not a finite list):
  - ♦ assaults – excluding both section 39 common assault and assault causing actual bodily harm (ABH) if, in either case, Restorative Justice solutions are applicable and the victim agrees<sup>1</sup>
  - ♦ hate crime
  - ♦ sexual offences
  - ♦ robbery
  - ♦ house burglary
  - ♦ harassment, where this is considered to be a crime
  - ♦ serious road traffic offences
- a suspect is named or is believed to be identifiable through future investigation
- a suspect is arrested at or near the time the crime is reported
- identifiable property has been stolen
- the victim / witness lives or will in the future live outside Essex or where the victim / witness is likely to be unavailable for an extended period of time
- the offence is detected and likely to be subject of an evidence file
- in any other case where the officer considers the taking of a statement will aid the investigation / decision-making process or will add evidential value
- in addition to the above criteria, a statement should also



be taken when the victim wishes to make a statement in relation to the incident and the officer believes this to be the appropriate course of action.

"This forms part of the force Volume Crime Operating Model ACC Lowton, responsible for Territorial Policing, took on the project under Chief Constable Jim Barker-McCardle's Putting Essex First programme of work.

Mr Lowton said it was impossible to list all specific instances when a statement should be taken.

"The new guidance allows our police officers and staff to use their training and experience to make sound judgements," he explained.

"I would like to thank the Superintendents' Association, Essex Police Federation, divisional commanders, members of the Volume Crime Operating Model review group and other colleagues for their contributions to the new guidance."

- To view the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime, visit the Communications Division intranet site and click on Customer Services, then click on Victims of Crime and Witnesses (listed under Quality of Service) – the Code of Practice is on the right-hand list

## 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 February:

“ALL forces are now required to conduct local policing surveys at district/unitary authority level. Our first survey results are being finalised for publication soon. Until now we have been reliant on the British Crime Survey but this can't be broken down to divisional or district level, so this is a real breakthrough and will give us vital information about the single confidence target, confidence in policing, perceptions of anti-social behaviour and other things at district/unitary level. The surveys will be an immense help in continually improving our service. I am forever conscious that it's all too easy to forget to say 'well done' to all the remarkable officers and staff who work tirelessly to make policing in Essex the success that it is. All the clever IT systems and equipment matter but ultimately it's human endeavour that makes the difference. We are one of the few national pilot sites to return more charging decisions to the custody sergeant. It looks likely that the pilot will start in April which gives us time to do the necessary 'baselining exercise' and get training and processes in place. Essex Police Authority set a Council Tax precept increase of 3.02 per cent. So we remain one of the lowest precepting authorities and forces in the country. I took up my seat on the Criminal Procedure Rule Committee on behalf of ACPO. The committee is chaired by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Judge, and includes the Director of Public Prosecutions Keir Starmer and senior judiciary. Essentially the committee lays out and consolidates the rules governing the management and conduct of criminal cases.”

## Tony recalls trials and tribulations of being a village bobby

PERSUADED by a friend to write his memoirs of his life as the village bobby in Tillingham, former Pc Tony Suttling has been surprised and delighted that his tales have raised money for charity research.

His book *True stories of a Bobby on the Beat in the Dengie 100: 1954-1970* tells of his time as the first live-in policeman and village life, incidents and events in the 17 years he was stationed there, including being

befriended by gangsters, becoming a murder suspect and being involved in an investigation ordered by then Prime Minister Harold Wilson.

Written in short chapters in an engaging style, the book is being sold

by Tony for £8 a copy, with all money going to research into prostate and breast cancer.

- To obtain a copy, contact Tony Suttling on 01621 853248 or email a.suttling@sky.com



## Federation news by Roy Scanes



### On-call allowance claim set for arbitration

Despite the Police Arbitration Tribunal (PAT) deciding last August that police officers should receive a national on-call allowance, negotiations to agree the amount of the payment have failed after a derisory £10 for a 24-hour period was offered.

The Police Federation of England and Wales has therefore referred the matter back to the PAT for it to decide a figure.

Being on call means a police officer must be fit for duty and available to attend their workplace at any time when they are off duty.

This claim was to recompense officers for the disruption this causes to their family lives and to introduce a financial cost that would avoid officers being placed on call unnecessarily and using it as a cheap option to provide operational cover.

The £10 offer fails to recognise the level of disruption and is significantly below the amount paid to our police staff colleagues and below the amount currently paid by some police forces through the Special Priority Payments scheme.

There is no requirement within Police Regulations for officers to be on call. Officers voluntarily undertake to be on call, often as part of a particular policing role.

Forces have come to rely too much on the goodwill of officers who put their personal and family lives on hold when they are off duty.

I will update you as soon as I receive a date for the tribunal.

### Faulty line of phone-call overtime story

Recent media reports that police officers are paid hundreds of pounds for answering work-related telephone calls while off duty are sensational and also completely untrue. Overtime is paid if the call requires an officer to take action in his or her off-duty time.

But the simple act of talking to a manager or a colleague – to learn, for example, that duty

hours have been changed – will earn them precisely nothing and nor would they expect it to.

The reports also fail to mention the thousands of hours a year which officers work for no pay out of goodwill, whether it is turning up before their shift to complete paperwork or to attend briefings prior to their shifts.

The Federation has argued for many years that there should be sufficient officers on duty 24/7 to obviate the need for those who are off duty to be disturbed.

### Annual conference

The Police Federation's annual conference runs from May 17-20 at the Bournemouth International Centre (BIC).

This year's topics include:

- Olympic Games in 2012 – are we ready?
- A critical look at the policing of public order events – are we meeting public expectation?

It is possible we will have a new Home Secretary in May, making the Federation conference one of the first diary appointments – a great opportunity to hear their vision.

Conference will be asked to consider the implications of current government policy of 'more for less' – are amalgamations the way forward?

There will also be sessions on trauma risk management, disability and the implications on shift resilience of having a burgeoning female workforce.

### 30+ Plus scheme

The new 30+ Plus scheme starts on April 1. It will not affect officers already on the 30+ scheme.

The new scheme seems far less attractive than its predecessor. My opinion would always be to seek financial advice before committing yourself to this scheme. You are always welcome to contact me for further information.

● Details of the 30+ Plus scheme can be found on the Home Office website [www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk) Click on About Us, then on Publications, then on Home Office Circulars and finally on 2010

## Unison news by Geoff Wright



### More Unison reps needed

A recent audit of Essex Police branch of Unison has revealed that our membership has increased to such an extent that we now need more reps to act for our branch members, particularly as we anticipate increased work generated by Operation Apex 2.

We will probably need five or six new workplace representatives, also known as stewards.

If you are a member of Unison and want to become more active in union affairs, read the information below and contact the branch office – details are at the foot of this article.

### What is a Unison workplace representative?

The Unison workplace representative is the most important link between the union and its members.

They are organisers who talk to, recruit and organise members regarding workplace issues, hold meetings, undertake surveys and help run ballots.

They give members information about union issues by publicising campaigns, distributing leaflets and keeping members informed about and involved in local negotiations.

They are advisers and sounding boards, talking to members about workplace problems and – if they feel confident – giving advice on how to deal with these.

Alternatively, they may arrange for the member to get advice or assistance from elsewhere in the union, or work with them to obtain the information they need.

They are representatives and spokespeople for members in their workplace. Where they feel confident and have received appropriate training, they accompany members in meetings and assist them in raising problems with managers before these get out of hand.

Otherwise they seek advice and support from other union representatives. They also have an important role in ensuring that the views of the members within the workplace

are represented to the wider union. They are the workplace representative in Unison – an essential part of a large and powerful national organisation.

All workplace representatives and members belong to a local Unison branch, which is their main source of advice and support. In turn, branches belong to one of Unison's regions which integrate with the national structure.

This way Unison provides strong and effective organisation for all our members and their representatives.

### Collaboration

Consultation on further collaboration with Kent Police continues, with discussions taking place over the future of a Joint Serious Crime Directorate, as well as Procurement and IT services.

### Reorganisation

Reorganisation work is moving on with the expectation that some support functions will be moved into a business support centre.

Operation APEX 2 will be looking to identify savings totalling £2-3million in the future, looking at these support and administrative roles: general administrative/supervisory; finance, business and clerical administration support; human resources; quality, performance and audit; intelligence/analysis; and media specialists.

According to the Operation APEX intranet site, 'this restructuring will take between six and nine months to complete, with formal consultation anticipated to take place between February and May 2010 and changes implemented after that'.

Members who are concerned about collaboration or restructuring and how it will affect their post or role should contact their local steward or the branch office, on the first floor of Kingston House next to Essex Police College at HQ, ext 55012, or visit our website [www.essexpoliceunison.org](http://www.essexpoliceunison.org)

## Essex Black Police

### Association news by Jity Bajaj



THE Essex Black Police Association (EBPA) is undergoing some exciting developments in the coming months.

Jity Bajaj joined us just over a month ago as the new network co-ordinator, covering Jennifer Doré's maternity leave.

Although coming from the private sector, Jity had previously worked for the Department for Work and Pensions for a number of years so has a good understanding of how large public-sector departments work and, especially, the issues which may arise from having a diverse workforce.

We are looking into a launch date for the new title of our network, which was changed recently in order to make it more inclusive of the wide variety of ethnic backgrounds we have in the force.

Some of the other things we are planning for the upcoming months are:

- Thursday, March 25: EBPA meeting at HQ Sports Pavilion, 5-6.30pm – all welcome;
- International Food Day: we will be hosting this later on this year in order to celebrate the different cultures we have in Essex Police;
- Monday, May 3: the EBPA will be taking part in the Essex Global Gala, which is part of the Explore Culture One World Festival, which raises awareness of the diversity of culture in Essex and runs between March and October – for more information, visit [www.oneworldfestival.org.uk](http://www.oneworldfestival.org.uk)
- We will also be running awareness days about different cultures, starting with Sikhs at Stansted Airport Division this month.
- If you have any questions or suggestions about this column or anything to do with the EBPA, contact Jity on ext 50666 or 01245 452011

## Christian Police Association



### news by Simon Werrett

IT was a remarkable weekend – spending time with a converted terrorist, a prison worker and an ex-FBI agent in the Spanish sun (which didn't arrive till Sunday) at the first Spanish Christian Police Association meeting in Madrid last month.

DI Simon Werrett and his wife PCSO Linda Werrett attended the conference in Simon's role as chairman of the International Christian Police Fellowship (ICPF).

Simon gave a presentation on the ICPF but it was also an opportunity to share on the difference and similarities between our policing cultures.

As well as Spanish delegates, there were also some from Italy and Portugal.

It is interesting that the policing challenges the enlargement of the European Union is providing in the UK are also reflected in their countries.

There was an input from a Spanish social worker about human trafficking and the fact that there are more people in enforced slavery today than when William Wilberforce was working to abolish slavery more than 200 years ago.

The concept of the police and the Church working together was explored as both organisations were working to improve the quality of life for communities and of engagement with young people.



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Three cadets with one brilliant idea

THREE cadets in their second year with Essex Police are not only completing the cadet scheme but actively working to enhance it.

Operation Education is an ambitious and creative idea developed by the cadets to connect with young people aged between 14 and 16 at secondary school.

Cadets Joseph Reynolds, Toby Wells and Frankie Cole hope to raise awareness of the police and what we do, promote the Cadet Scheme and provide valuable crime prevention advice.

Cadet Joseph Reynolds said: "Operation Education is meant to be a way of talking to young people in a way that they understand and can relate to. We hope that it will help to build bridges within the community.

"I have really enjoyed the Cadet Scheme and hope that Operation Education will not only be a way of teaching future cadets but also help us reach out to the younger generation across Essex."

Operation Education will also teach young people about the consequences of crime and how the criminal justice system operates and gives advice on protecting themselves online and keeping belongings safe.

Foundation training supervisor Sgt Barry Davison, of Essex Police College, said: "I am very proud of the cadets and what they have achieved.

"Being a cadet is a great learning experience and a brilliant opportunity to build many important life skills."

He added: "Being a cadet also gives you the chance to learn about all aspects of policing, anything from forensics to dealing with 999 calls."

## Mobile funds for GOSH

OLD personal mobile phones are sought by Pc Terry Wheeler, of South Western Division, for Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) for children in London.

Many people renew their personal phones when they sign up to a new contract and the hospital can sell old and unwanted handsets, using the proceeds for additional funding.

Terry said: "I had the misfortune that two of my three children have been admitted to GOSH so I can personally say that the funds raised are well used.

"Please send me your mobiles, chargers, ancillary equipment and whatever you have in your wardrobe, drawer or cupboard."

● Mark envelopes: Pc Terry Wheeler, Basildon

# Course to inspire the leaders of our future

**THE latest line of sergeants and police supervisors are 'raring to go' with their staff after completing the latest management course at Essex Police College.**

The Core Leadership Development Programme (CLDP) equips newly-appointed police staff supervisors and newly-qualified sergeants with theory, motivation and learning which enables them to become inspiring leaders.

Police staff and officers from across the force graduated from the February intake. With service lengths varying from several years to just eight weeks, it contained a diverse group of officers and police staff.

Newly-arrived Richard Jones joined Essex Police last Christmas from a solicitor's firm in Basildon.

"It was certainly an eye-opener,"

exclaimed the 28-year-old corporate accounting supervisor, who is due to marry his fiancée in April. "It's been a whirlwind couple of months; leaving my old job, joining Essex Police, preparing for the wedding and then completing this course.

"However, the CLDP is fantastic and definitely broadens your viewpoints on an array of subjects, scenarios and everyday life."

Course subjects include employee relations, welfare, professional standards, media awareness, team understanding and customer service. However, the highlight for many is the team skills awareness day spent in Danbury's Riffhams Woods where the students learn about their own individual abilities as both leaders and team members in unusual, challenging circumstances.

Ds Lee Morton, from the Police Online Investigation Team (POLIT), said: "It was bitterly cold, but we all had a fun

day out. I found it extremely useful and will certainly take many aspects of what I learnt back to my team and employ various new ideas.

"I definitely recommend newly-qualified sergeants or police staff supervisors to enrol on this two-week course because it gives so much back."

Tutor Sgt Andy Spink is already looking forward to the March intake. "Every month, Sgt Chris Hennessy and I learn something new from the latest intake as they all have something to contribute from their policing or social experiences," said Sgt Spink.

"It's just as rewarding for us as it is for them at the end of the fortnight."

● If you would like to be considered for the CLDP, first talk to your supervisor. If approved, you will need to submit the online training request form TS2

● For more information about the CLDP course, ring Sgt Andy Spink on ext 56110 or Sgt Chris Hennessy ext 56113

## Giving others the chance to fly high



A FORMER police officer disabled on duty is determined to raise money to support a charity that gave him a life-changing opportunity to learn to fly.

Simon Crane, a member of Essex Police staff since 2000, was invalided out of the Metropolitan Police after shattering a knee while chasing a suspect.

With a fascination for flight that stemmed from childhood trips to airshows, Simon was inspired to turn a dream into reality when he heard about Flying Scholarships for the Disabled.

The charity was set up in the memory of legless wartime fighter pilot Douglas Bader and is supported by various organisations including British Airways, the RAF's Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and the Red Arrows aerobatic display team.

After a three-day selection course at RAF Cranwell Simon was given a scholarship to spend six weeks training towards a Private Pilot's Licence at a flying school in South Africa last October.

During the trip Simon completed

40 flying hours and passed a series of theory exams. He is now continuing lessons in similarly-adapted aircraft at Lasham Airfield in Hampshire and hopes to obtain his pilot's licence as soon as possible.

Simon, 44, said: "The flying in South Africa was fantastic, the weather was perfect and the scenery on some of the long cross-country flights was amazing.

"The course was superb and very much a life-changing experience. I got so much out of it. I have been invited back to Cranwell this year to act as a mentor for people going on the scholarships this year, which is quite an honour for me."

Simon, who works at the Vetting Unit at HQ, is now determined to raise money to support the charity and anyone who would like to help can obtain collection envelopes from his office.

He is also planning to do a fund-raising tandem skydive and his ultimate ambition once he has qualified as a pilot is a sponsored long-distance flight in a light aircraft.

● Contact Simon Crane on ext 52963

● **Simon Crane is raising money so others can benefit from the chance he was given by Flying Scholarships for the Disabled**

## 'Cracker' of an acquisitive crime campaign

OPERATION Christmas Cracker was hailed a resounding success after acquisitive crime fell by more than 30 per cent.

Running between November 30 and December 31, it focussed on shoppers in Chelmsford, Basildon, Colchester, Maldon, Braintree, Clacton, Brentwood and Harlow who were given advice on how to minimise their risk of becoming a victim of purse thieves.

Purse bells and security chains were handed out along with tips on how to keep belongings safe whilst out and about.

There was an increased police presence using both plain-clothes and uniform patrols during shopping hours,

and known purse thieves were targeted.

In total 190 arrests were made; 106 stop searches were conducted; 27 intelligence reports were generated; 19 final penalty warnings and 28 dispersal orders issued; along with a number of alcohol seizures.

Insp Chris Willis, of HQ Territorial Policing, said: "We are delighted with the results. Across the eight town centres running the operation we saw a 31 per cent decrease in theft-related offences compared with the same period the previous year.

"Most importantly, this means 158 fewer people being victims of crime as a result of the partnership between Essex Police and Essex County Council.

"The hard work of police officers and our partners on the ground, with the goodwill of the community, helped us to achieve these results together."

Essex county councillor Tracey Chapman, responsible for Community Safety, said she was delighted with the campaign.

"We are very happy with the success of Operation Christmas Cracker, we took a two-pronged approach to fight street crime and it has paid off," she said.

"By helping people to be more aware of what's going on around them, coupled with an increased police presence, we have made our town centres even safer for Essex residents."

## Corner the chairman



● **Essex Police Authority chairman**

**Robert Chambers**

## Giving the public value for money

"LAST month was an important one for Essex Police Authority.

On February 15 we set the coming financial year's budget and Council Tax precept (demand).

And we managed to keep our precept as one of the lowest in the country with a 3.02 per cent increase.

The rise means that Essex residents pay an extra 7p a week for their policing.

Our main areas of investment include:

- 50 police officers – recruited during the 2009/10 financial year
- extra capacity in the serious crime teams
- more staff working on custody duties
- Essex Watch staff
- supporting Community Speed Watch

I was pleased that the forthcoming year's budget will help us to deliver what the public wants and also meets the operational needs of Essex Police.

I am also delighted that we have managed to keep the precept low for our residents.

Last month we also held a public Have Your Say meeting in Brentwood and there will be more to follow, the dates of which will soon be publicised on the front page of our website at [www.essex.police.uk/authority](http://www.essex.police.uk/authority)

Please check and, when there is one in your area, make sure that local people know when and where it is and encourage them to attend and have their say!"

## Charity soccer

A MIXED six-a-side football tournament will raise money for Haiti earthquake victims on Friday, June 25, at HQ sports field, from noon.

Teams should consist of nine players, with a minimum of two women – cost is £5 per player.

● Contact Denis Angell on 07785 724242 or via email at [info@supa6leaguewitham.co.uk](mailto:info@supa6leaguewitham.co.uk) for more information. Entry closing date is Friday, May 28

Please note *The Law* will reduce to eight pages from the April 2010 issue and we will no longer have space to print classified advertisements

What will you do if staff can't get into work?

DID you know that every division and department has a business continuity plan?

Business continuity is a subject we have heard about but do we know what it really means?

Will Newman, business continuity manager, says that in 30 minutes everyone can improve their knowledge of business continuity – planning today so we can be prepared tomorrow.

He recommends that police officers and staff of inspector/PO2 level and above complete the Business Continuity Management computer-based training (CBT) package but all officers and staff are welcome to complete it to find out more.

Essex Police has suffered several minor business continuity incidents during the past year, including adverse weather conditions, the Royal Mail strike and the swine flu outbreak.

● The Business Continuity Management CBT consists of seven chapters, including a knowledge check. It can be found listed under the Training and CBTs menu on the intranet Site Directory  
● For further information contact Will Newman on ext 480586

# Forces come to new 'understandings'

**DURING periods of peak or unusual demand, Essex and Kent police forces have a range of plans in place to help each other out.**

Some of these memoranda of understanding (MOUs) are better known than others.

There are now 11 across the two forces: Critical Incidents; Firearm Intervention; Major Crime; Specialist Search; Specialist Vehicles and Equipment; Witness Protection; Public Order – Sharing of Course Capacity; Surveillance; Media and Communications; Professional Standards Investigation; and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) Training Support.

Chief Supt Carl O'Malley, the programme manager for collaboration between the Essex and Kent forces, said the agreements provided added operational capability in times of need, such as the investigation of serious crimes, "as well as bringing a sense of reassurance for the public of Essex and Kent that both forces have a substantial pool of resources to call upon during periods of high demand".

Since they were established, the MOUs have been activated on several occasions – Kent called on Essex search teams when it had to search a number of properties in the county in a serious drug-dealing case a year ago.

Kent also had cause to use the Major Crime MOU in 2007 during its investigation into the murder of Dr Victoria Anyetel in Dartford.

And Essex utilised Kent's resources for a major crime investigation of its own 18 months ago – the September 2008 murder of Clive Enkel at his home in Abridge.

Divisional commanders and heads of departments will decide if an MOU would be of value, depending on the circumstances.

Chief Supt O'Malley said: "The heads of the various specialist

● We currently have 11 MOUs with Kent Police – one is Specialist Search



divisions and departments within both forces have the ability to activate the various MOUs relating to their areas of business when they feel it is appropriate, so early liaison with the relevant specialists in your force is essential to the effective management of demand."

● Further details on these MOUs and what is required to initiate them can be found on the Kent/Essex Collaboration intranet site, listed under Divisions & Departments on the Site Directory

Advisors are here to help

THE crime training section at Essex Police College has trained its first group interview advisors.

The role of the interview advisor is to provide information and guidance about the best ways to manage and co-ordinate victims, witnesses or suspects in major investigations.

They can be consulted about potential interviews during major investigations and will provide strategic advice while helping to co-ordinate, monitor and evaluate the interview process.

The new interview advisors are:

Central - Ds Gary McNair  
Eastern - Ds Kev Cooper and Ds Steve Jennings  
South Western - Ds Tony Kantaris  
Western - Ds Martin Read  
Stansted - Ds Mick Carrington  
Crime Division - Ds Paul Lopez and Ds Liz Morgan.

## A speedy site

TRANSPORT Services has redesigned its intranet site to make it more user-friendly.

It now provides information on our fleet vehicles and has the facility for online defect and mileage reporting, plus divisional performance information.

# Degrees of indecent pictures sorted for speedy assessment

**AN "absolutely brilliant piece of work" is how the development of a categoriser for indecent pictures, called C4P, has been described.**

Dc Paul Chambers' work not only earned the respect of colleagues but contributed to his Master's degree (MSc) in cyber-crime forensics, which he achieved with a distinction.

The three-year course was funded by Essex Police but Dc Chambers carried out all research and study in his own time.

Dc Chambers was formerly based at Southend CID but he always had a strong interest in computers and technology and joined the Hi-Tech Crime Unit at HQ seven years ago in the role of computer network investigator, later deciding to study for an MSc to widen his knowledge.

For the final year of his course, he had to choose a research topic and he knew there had been a huge increase in the seizure of computers and hard drives, which impacted on investigation and analysis, especially relating to cases involving indecent images of children.

Working with a software application

from Canada, Dc Chambers evaluated a system that automatically identifies and grades photographs, and adapted its use for Essex Police.

He said: "It works because every file has a unique digital fingerprint or MD5 hash value, which can be stored within a database."

The programme then follows existing processes to identify and extract photos during forensic analysis and compares their digital fingerprint with known pictures.

"The technology identifies those pictures already in the database, grades them automatically and deals with any duplicates."

"Pictures not automatically categorised are viewed in a dedicated application, allowing speedy assessment, categorisation and updating of the database."

"From a sample of ten cases processed with C4P, three-quarters of recovered images were already known to the database and this significantly reduces the number of pictures left for assessment."

"This efficiency and standardisation has a potential saving of an officers' time – equivalent in the commercial world to more than £2million a year."

Dc Chambers' user-friendly software and training DVD was sent out to divisions last year, to provide clear,

step-by-step instructions on using the system, plus a guide to current legislation and case law.

C4P also provides a standardised report for the Crown Prosecution Service and includes a photo category for the new law on possession of extreme pornography, introduced in January 2009.

During its first year, the database grew to more than 58 million pictures, with a 300 per cent increase in the number of known pictures of child sex abuse.

And two months ago, Dc Chambers introduced an updated version of the program. He has now finished training the force's computer examiners to use this new software.

He added: "I wanted to choose a research topic I was passionate about and something that would benefit the force."

"I hope my program has made it as easy as possible for divisional officers to use and has reduced their workload."

Chief Supt Gareth Wilson, who was director of specialist investigations when Dc Chambers developed C4P, said it was an "absolutely brilliant piece of work".

"Not only did he do all the research in his own time but using the C4P program has helped the force to bring offenders to justice a lot more quickly."



● Dc Paul Chambers with his MSc. His research led to the development of a new electronic database of indecent pictures

A fun way of learning our police history

ONE of the best-attended half-term events at Essex Police Museum allowed youngsters to decorate plastic truncheons while leaning about this iconic piece of police equipment.

An impressive 249 visitors went through the museum doors at HQ on Wednesday, February 17, for the fun, educational event.

Youngsters were able to hold a King William IV truncheon dating from the early 1800s while learning of the truncheon's historical importance and they were able to view the oldest object in the museum – a King George III truncheon dating back to 1760.

Curator Becky Wash said: "Police truncheons are an important piece of police equipment, which were used right up until the 1990s."

"During Victorian times, an officer would have carried a truncheon as a badge of office, like a uniformed officer would wear a warrant card today."

"Police officers would often have their truncheon elaborately decorated, as it was not only a form of defence but was also used to show their importance."

**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

## Students learn why police have to ACT NOW

A CHIGWELL school played host to an engagement day in which students joined forces with Essex Police to understand counter-terrorism policing operations. Not only is West Hatch High School the first in the county, it is also the first school in the eastern region to have participated in the ACT (All Communities Together) NOW exercise which demonstrates the complexities of a terrorist plot and the consequences of a bomb explosion in a fictional town. Sixth-form students discussed issues with neighbourhood policing officers during the table-top exercise, playing the roles of operational and senior police officers as the investigation developed. Loughton neighbourhood inspector Tom Simons said he was delighted with the enthusiasm and commitment from the local community in making the day a success.

"I'm proud to have been involved in the organisation of this event, which is vital in securing the support of residents and people from minority backgrounds," said Insp Simons.

"It's important for us to ensure that all



● PCSO Andy Flett discusses a fictional terrorist scenario with West Hatch High School student Lauren Smith  
Picture by Nishan Wijeratne

sections of the community understand our operational and strategic decisions throughout such incidents."

An important aspect of modern-day counter-terrorist operations is the media management.

A mock news conference saw four students 'grilled' by a police press officer who took on the role of a journalist, enabling them to appreciate and empathise with the pressures faced by police when confronted with such challenging questions.

A-level student 18-year-old Haider Anwar said afterwards: "Taking part gave us an insight into the kinds of decisions the police have to make in extreme situations and will ultimately give us all a better understanding of counter-terrorism procedures."

"It demonstrated how we can all work together to defeat terrorism."

The ACT NOW roadshow will eventually visit all towns in Essex, with the force's Community Engagement Team playing a core role in its delivery.

**Contacting police at Copford**

FOLLOWING the closure of Copford police station for refurbishment, officers and staff are now working from temporary premises.

New internal telephone numbers have been issued: the new hunt group number is ext 436000; the sergeant's office is ext 435003; ring constables on ext 435001; and PCSOs on ext 435004; the new internal fax number is ext 435010.

Neighbourhood mobile phone numbers are unaffected by the move. Public enquiries should be directed to the Essex Police non-emergency number 0300 333 4444 and they will be put through.

**ESSEX POLICE**





## PLAN TODAY BE PREPARED FOR TOMORROW

**How would you contact your staff during a Business Continuity Disruption?**  
i.e Loss of a building, redeployment or staff or changes to normal working practices

The Cascade System defined in each Divisional/Departmental Business Continuity Plan should be used to contact staff.

This system should be frequently reviewed and tested by each Division/Department

**Business Continuity Awareness**  
Visit the Contingency Planning Intranet site and click on Business Continuity for more info  
[www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk)

ACTION



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

TO Chief Supt Keith Garnish: I am writing to thank all the police officers who have supported me during the past year – through the hardest and toughest times of my life.

All the officers at Southend Domestic Abuse and Hate Crime Unit – and especially Pc Mark Matthews, Dc Paula Slade, Ds Caroline Venables, Ds Steven Jones, Dc Jo Sell, Pc Kerry Auger and independent domestic violence advisor Jean Fox – have helped to keep me and my children safe. They worked so hard during the run-up to the case.

I also wish to apologise for not seeing the trial through to the end but I'm truly thankful for all that has been done.

I think it is important that this work is recognised and for women to see that there is a way out of domestic violence and to provide a safe environment for children.

I know that without this support, my children could have ended up without a mother.

Although it has been an emotional, horrendous time, I was supported so I could give my version of what happened and give a strong message that what he did to me was wrong and should not be allowed to happen.

Please let this be acknowledged because a lot of women are reluctant to tell police what is happening to them because they feel ashamed, embarrassed and that they won't be believed.

**Anonymous**

I LEFT my family home after being in an abusive marriage for 30 years.

I went to a hostel and on several occasions had to call the police for advice and assistance regarding harassment, even though I had an injunction.

Several police officers came to see me and were extremely kind and helpful but I would like to thank one officer in particular, Pc Karen Pownall.

She was fantastic in dealing with my case and was very kind and supportive.

I feel she was responsible for my children and me being able to enjoy our Christmas together after she took reports of my husband breaching his injunction and actively went out to solve this problem.

This left me free and safe to travel around over Christmas to see my loved ones.

I cannot praise Pc Pownall enough. My faith in the police service has been restored.

**AW  
Grays**

TO Chief Insp Nick Lee: I would like to bring to your attention the outstanding police work carried out by Pc Janice Deal.

Following a car-jacking, my son was subjected to a very unpleasant ordeal. He has

been a victim of crime in the past.

Pc Deal showed an outstanding level of professionalism and compassion towards my son.

She ensured he was reassured whilst taking a detailed statement and description of the suspects.

She was able to reconstruct the event and obtain accurate descriptions, which led to arrests, and she located a missing witness.

Her work led to court proceedings and Pc Deal kept us informed at all times.

The level of reassurance received by my son and the subsequent detection of the crime was a credit to the police service.

Pc Deal is an outstanding police officer and a credit to Essex Police as the way she speedily investigated this unpleasant incident and brought people before the court was exemplary.

Chief Insp Lee, you have an excellent team of police officers at Halstead and I feel Pc Deal's dedication and local knowledge of our community was instrumental in apprehending these criminals.

**DB  
Halstead**

I AM writing to commend Pc Gregory Smith.

My father died suddenly at his home in Westcliff.

As is normal procedure in these cases one of your officers attended the house.

Pc Smith's concern, understanding and unobtrusiveness on this occasion were second to none.

Although he appeared to be quite young, his behaviour was that of a much more experienced officer.

He carried out what must have been a difficult task with great sensitivity.

**PC  
Westcliff**

TO Insp Scott Cannon:

I would like to express my deep gratitude to Pc Luke Bevan and Pc Jenna Potter, of Laindon Neighbourhood Policing Team.

My son was arrested for throwing a snowball at a moving car and, due to his attitude, they decided to take the matter further.

My husband and I have been having a lot of trouble with our son and, when I explained this to the constables, they were a great help. They dealt with him magnificently.

I would also like to express my thanks to the other staff at Basildon police station.

Hopefully, you will not be seeing my son again at the police station.

**TH  
Laindon**

TO Insp Mick Pitcher:

As an elderly resident, I am writing to express my grateful and sincere thanks to you and all your officers at Witham for the kindness and consideration shown to me during the bad spell of snow and ice.

It was very reassuring to have PCSOs Mark Ling, Dan Seymour and Danny Spence call and ask if I was alright

and if any help was needed.

Fortunately, I was alright but, as many were house-bound during that spell, it was very nice to know someone cared.

**KW  
Witham**

TO Chief Constable Jim

Barker-McCardle: My heartfelt thanks for the service we received from your officers.

Our business was inundated with a rather large number of young people.

At about 10.30pm, there was a slight problem but we managed to separate the two groups.

One group was overheard saying they were going to wait until the other group came out and 'get' them.

I rang the police. The male controller was fantastic, making me feel that my call was important. As I went inside to prepare to shut, there was an officer waiting to speak to me and quite a few officers in a van.

They were so very polite and made me feel very comfortable, knowing that they were there to stop any unruliness. Fortunately, the crowds left quietly, and that was that.

Their presence did indeed help. All too often, people are judgemental.

Anytime I have needed the police, I have received top-class service. Our local police are a true credit to the uniform – they are polite, efficient and very quick!

**LM  
via email**

TO Pc Warren Venables and

PCSO Ashley Walden: Thank you for the help you provided on the day of my brother's funeral, with the traffic at the lights.

This may not seem very much to you but to all of us it was a very kind and thoughtful thing to have done.

**MM  
Tilbury**

TO acting Chief Insp Rachel Wood:

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Pc Richard Aldridge for his professional, caring manner while taking my statement for an assault.

I looked and felt terrible that day, having had very little sleep since the incident, and was considering terminating my job but your officer was so kind and understanding and gave me the strength to be stronger. For that, I'll always be grateful.

**WS  
Stanford le Hope**

TO Sgt Ronnie Stewart:

Recently my son had the unfortunate experience of being assaulted with a bottle in Colchester. He received severe injuries to his mouth and teeth.

The investigation was handled by Pc Kevin Woodcock. I would like to formally record my thanks and appreciation and bring to your attention the outstanding effort, dedication and time that Pc Woodcock has so far devoted to this case.

Neither I nor either of my children have ever had any dealings with any police force and its system before – this being a good thing – thus I was totally unaware of the procedures etc.

Pc Woodcock constantly stayed in touch, returning all of my numerous phone calls, explaining the procedures, updating us on the case status and offering support and reassurance to both me and my son, who, at the time, was living away from home for the first time.

All this was done with the utmost professionalism and care.

I would like Pc Woodcock to receive the credit he is due for all he has done to help make this incident a little easier for my family.

**AW  
via email**

TO Insp David Colwell:

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to you, Sgt Les 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 in ensuring her well-being during this difficult time for her.

**NY  
Westcliff**

TO Sgt Mick Ashton:

We would like to thank our local police, particularly with respect to the assistance with the necessary road closures and general public safety, for our fireworks event.

We appreciate that our ongoing success is only possible due to the tremendous support we get from local businesses and organisations and would like to thank you for your part in this.

Thanks especially to: SSgt Trevor Smith, Pc Dawn Bamford, Pc Jack Russell, Sc Martin Halls, Sc Christopher Howard, Sc Nicola Pick, Sc James Roberts, Sc Robert Smith, Sc Andrew Thomson, PCSO Christine Barrett, PCSO Rose Clarey, PCSO Jillian Law and PCSO Michael O'Donnell-Smith.

**Saffron Walden Round Table**

TO Insp Mick Pitcher:

I am writing to tell you of the kindness shown to me by Pc Hannah Kirk.

She was extraordinarily kind and caring.

I tottered out of my door, hoping to catch a bus to Colchester, but seeing my difficulty in walking Hannah tried to persuade me to go back indoors.

We saw the bus go past so that was that!

Hannah was so obviously concerned about me and she spoke to members of my fam-

ily to express her concerns.

I had been incarcerated indoors for three months and was determined to catch a bus.

Hannah managed to talk me out of this desire and, on reflection, I realise how right she was.

She was in my road to make a duty call but she made time for me. You can be very proud to have such an officer in your force.

**JB  
Coggeshall**

TO Insp Mick Pitcher:

I would like to commend and thank Pc Carl Crysell and Pc Charlie Abercrombie, who dealt with the death of my friend's mother.

Their professionalism and sensitivity needs to be acknowledged.

**JM  
Witham**

TO Chief Supt Michelle Dunn: We witnessed an assault and would like to say how impressed we were with the police officers who attended, especially Pc Vania Askew.

She took total command of the situation and had to deal with an extremely antagonistic and very large and intimidating man, which she did, in an exemplary manner.

She was professional, calm, firm and authoritative throughout the incident and was an extremely good ambassador for your force.

We were very impressed with her handling of the situation. We are very aware of how difficult policing the community must be, often with little or no thanks.

**MT & JD  
Braintree**

TO Chief Constable Jim

Barker-McCardle: Unfortunately, I found my car had been broken into on my driveway.

I reported this to the police and the woman who answered was very friendly, helpful and efficient.

Later that morning, scenes of crime officer Dc Kevin Donald attended – he, too, was very helpful, pleasant and extremely efficient, leaving no stone unturned.

Then Pc James Eccleston attended and obtained a statement. He was very pleasant and explained everything to me in a very clear and concise manner.

When everyone seems so quick to complain and criticise, I felt I should bring to your attention the good work your officers are doing in order to promote Essex Police in these very difficult and demanding times.

I am sure you must be very proud to have such efficient staff under your command.

I would like to compliment them on their friendly help. It

does make so much difference when one is faced with what may be a minor matter.

**JE  
Saffron Walden**

TO Chief Supt Michelle Dunn: I had to write to highlight an outstanding member of your team.

I have, over the past few months, had the pleasure of dealing with Pc Tom Bastendorff.

It has been a very trying and complex investigation, involving family members. Pc Bastendorff conducted the whole affair fairly and demonstrated the utmost professionalism throughout.

I have never had dealings with the police before but this young man epitomised what strong, competent, fair and patient officers you have on your team.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank your sergeants at Braintree for their efficient and helpful manner towards me.

**EL  
Bishop's Stortford**

TO Chief Constable Jim

Barker-McCardle: I wish to thank your staff, especially Pc Jackie Sweeting, Pc Matt Dalby and Pc Faye Moore.

We recently required assistance in serving papers relating to a Prohibited Steps Order made under section 8 of the Children Act 1989.

One of our process servers had, only the day before, been intimidated in his duty by acquaintances of the respondent.

Pc Sweeting followed through on her promise to arrange assistance, which, sadly, is a rarity in this day and age.

Pcs Dalby and Moore were with us at the address, having arrived promptly at the time arranged by Pc Sweeting and acted with the utmost professionalism to ensure our safety.

The professionalism of these officers is a credit to Essex Police.

I cannot recall a time, in other counties, when an operation has gone so smoothly from initial call to the control room to meeting officers in the 'field'.

**Portland Investigations  
London**

TO Chief Supt Tim Newcomb: I am writing to say a big thank you to all your officers. Pc Danielle Bailey and her team are stars. It's thanks to people like them, who give their time to help the community.

We would also like to thank them for the presents and the support. The children's faces at the party said it all.

**Coppins Hall Community  
Association  
Clacton**

TEN ACTION awards were made by the Bonus and Honoraria Panel this 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: Dc Dave Bishop and Dc Steven King, of Eastern Division; Pc Peter Carter, of Central; Pc Aaron Connolly, Pc Andrew Kemp and Jackie Shearer, of Mobile Support Division; James Cook and Sarah Riddell, of Financial Services; Matt Harding, of IT; and Denise Long, of Crime 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](mailto:heather.turner@essex.pnn.police.uk)  
Letters and emails must be no longer than 300 words and must include your full name and home town. The deadline is the 20th of each month.  
We reserve the right to edit or omit letters. Please be aware *The Law* is reproduced on the internet and circulated to the media.

## SOCO social invitation

A SOCIAL evening and buffet for past and present members of the Essex Police Scenes of Crime department – fingerprints, photographic and scenes of crime personnel) will be held at the sports pavilion at Essex Police HQ at 7.30pm on Thursday, May 27.

Members of the department – whether police or civilian, serving or retired – and their partners are welcome.

For catering purposes,

please can people interested in attending contact one of the following:

Ron Cook on 01376 572306 or email [ron@rcook.org.uk](mailto:ron@rcook.org.uk)  
Frank Reed on 01255 429155 or email [reeds.clacton@onetel.net](mailto:reeds.clacton@onetel.net)  
Laurie Rampling on 07909 985343 or email [actionrewind47@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:actionrewind47@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Ron Cook  
Feering**

# Did you lodge in Grays?

## DO any readers of *The Law* recall lodging with a Mr and Mrs Benton in Cromwell Road, Grays?

They provided accommodation for police officers in the 1950s and my late mother was a friend of Mrs Benton.

When I started work in August 1952 as a junior clerk at Grays in the Thurrock Council offices, Mrs Benton told my

mother that I would be welcome to visit them during my lunchbreak for a cup of tea and a sandwich.

The police officers were usually preparing to go on late shift at that time and I got to know some of them quite well.

They usually came from the north and east of the county and were based at Grays police station, which was in Orsett Road at that time.

I visited Mr and Mrs Benton until early 1956, when I was called away for

two years' National Service with the Army.

After completing my time with the Royal Artillery, I did not return to my former employment with the council.

I served with the Essex and London fire brigades for 30 years, retiring in May 1988.

I can be contacted at 62 Halt Drive, Linford, Stanford le Hope, Essex SS17 0RA.

**Alan Painter  
Linford**

## Down Memory Lane ...

THE jury is still out as to when this picture of Essex Police rugby team was taken.

Essex Police Federation chairman Tony Rayner, who sent it in, thinks it was during the 1987/88 season.

Tony played tighthead prop although, as he proudly points out: "I have started for Essex Police in every position in the pack as well as at full-back and centre."

"The trophies indicate that we were actually pretty good."

Essex Police RFC president and no 8 Mike Hall recalls: "The trophies are the BL League Champions shield and the Regional Police Sevens Plate."

"I think the year was 1990. It

was the last year we played at HQ before we had to move to Witham RFC.

"It was the second year that we put a Saturday side out and I insisted the star players from the clubs come and play for us – Tim Newcomb (Sudbury), Mark Jones and Ashley Stern (Ongar), Jim Hayter (Thurrock) and Paddy O'Riordan (Chelmsford)."

Mike added: "The year after this photo was taken we went into the Eastern Counties Courage League division six, won it and got promoted to division five, which we also won."

"We were voted the Courage League Team of the Month twice, once for beating Old Verulamiums (St Albans) and

the other for beating Hertford in the Pilkington Cup – we won 12 new balls, tackle bags and pads, corner flags and post pads."

Pictured are, back row from left: Taff Harris, Mike Hall, Bob Foster, Paul Schofield, Bill Clark, Pat O'Riordan, Jed Stopher, Jim Hayter, Danny Morton, Tony Rayner and Paul Smith.

Front row from left: Tim Newcomb, Cliff Roomes, Ali Enver, Mark Loneragan, Mark Jones, Tom Diment, Dave Crichton-Smith, Richard Jones and Ashley Stearn.

Missing from the picture are Simon Halford (Southend), Doug Bedford (Witham), Dave Gibb and Jason Boots.



**ESSEX Police Museum once again requires readers of *The Law* to put on their thinking caps and delve into the recesses of their mind. Curator Becky Wash is looking for information about these two pictures, above, from her 'communications' folder. She would like to identify the two people in the picture above and where the picture was taken.**

**"The picture is definitely 1990s because of the woman's cravat and hairstyle and the man's blue shirt," says Becky. The second picture is of the first computer at Essex Police.**

**The picture is dated 1980 but Becky believes the force had computers in the 1970s.**

**Press officer Roger Grimwade, a former chief inspector, believes this could be a picture of the 'punch card' system for accident and crime statistics, which pre-dated computers.**

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



**BACK in November, we printed a picture submitted by HQ Reception supervisor Roger Barkway of the Basildon Division football team circa 1972, winners of the divisional cup.**

**Roger had more than 40 emails and 15 phone calls giving him the names missing from his recollection. The full line-up now reads – back row from left: John Weatherley, Alan Hurley, George Farrow, Bob Hunt, Bill Clark, Dickie Bird, Roger Barkway, Mick Benning and Bill Gray, the Basildon divisional commander; front from left: manager Joe Gazzard, Dave Letch, Titch Hurrell, John Moran and Mick Brewer.**

**Roger also heard from George Farrow's widow, Joy Adderley, who was married to him for 36 years until his death in 1995, shortly after retiring from the force.**

**She emigrated the following year to Western Australia to be near her family.**

## Gone ... but not forgotten

COMPETITION for the Cadet Corps in the Essex and Southend-on-Sea Joint Constabulary was so strong in 1972 that cadet Lesley Beet was unsuccessful at her first attempt.

But, receiving every encouragement from her parents – who were both special constables in Harlow – Lesley decided to stay on at school for another year in order to try again.

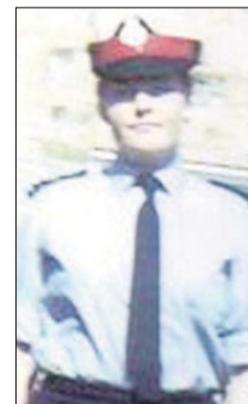
This time she was successful and joined the Cadet Corps on September 3, 1973, when she was 17.

Cadets led a full academic

**Our popular Gone ... but not forgotten feature remembers police officers who have been killed on duty. This month, we remember the life of cadet Lesley Beet, which ended on March 13, 1974.**

and sporting life and on March 13, 1974, Lesley was in a supervised party of cadets canoeing on the River Chelmer.

Sadly her canoe capsized and, despite efforts to save her, she drowned.





## Holiday lets

**BRITTANY** France – stone cottage in central Brittany sleeps four (one double/one twin). Walking distance of Lake Guerledan. Photographs and info at [www.caurelgrange.com](http://www.caurelgrange.com)

**BRITTANY** France – Beautiful longere in central Brittany (sleeps six) bordering Lake Guerledan. Photographs and information from [amanda.campbell@wanadoo.fr](mailto:amanda.campbell@wanadoo.fr) or +33 296 263 548.

**CARCASSONE**, one of the best B+B's in the south of France. Visit [www.domainestgeorge.com](http://www.domainestgeorge.com) or ring John Taylor on +33 468 201 105.

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

**FLORIDA**, Disney, four-bedroom villa, three bathrooms. Private pool, air conditioning, PlayStation, games room. Golf five mins, Disney 15 mins. Ring Karen or Chris McAulay on 01625 431373 or 07881 614045, or email [mcaulay60@hotmail.com](mailto:mcaulay60@hotmail.com)

**FLORIDA**, luxury, four-bed villa for rent, private heated pool near Disney World and golf courses, free brochure, police discount visit [www.my-florida-villa.net](http://www.my-florida-villa.net)

**FLORIDA**. Luxury villa, four double-beds, private pool, free wi-fi and UK calls, games room. Disney 10 mins. For information, contact Mary on 01245 465690, 07971 482022 or email [maryjane66@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:maryjane66@hotmail.co.uk)

**FLORIDA** villa sleeps six, 15 minutes from Disney, own pool with free electric heat. Backs on to woods, secluded location, wi-fi. Visit [www.hardysfloridavilla.co.uk](http://www.hardysfloridavilla.co.uk)

**GITE** in northern France, just three hours drive from Essex. For families and couples who want to escape to peace and tranquility in rural France. Ring 01375 483045 or visit [www.le-petit-hameau.com](http://www.le-petit-hameau.com)

**HOLIDAY** 2010? Beautifully furnished two-bed, two-bath self-catering apartment La Manga, Spain. Sea view seconds sea and a pool. Flights from Stansted, excellent rates, contact Bernie 07986 098422.

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

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

**LIMOUSIN**, France. Beautiful self-catering gite in heart of France. Sleeps four. Fully renovated within ancient building, pretty hamlet in Creuse region. Ring 01245 468269.

**MUNDESLEY**, near Cromer Norfolk, two-bedroom house, sleeps four to six, near beach. Police discount, from £165. Ring 07970 107542 or visit [www.essex2norfolk.com](http://www.essex2norfolk.com)

**NORFOLK**, top quality converted barns sleep 2-6. Beautiful country-side, easy access to Norwich Broads – long/ short stays. Ring Gwen on 01508 489 754.

**PRIVATE** villa, self-catering accommodation, sleeps six – three bedrooms, one en suite. Own pool. Southern Spain – Malaga Airport, Marbella coast 25 mins. Visit [www.villapasatiempo.com](http://www.villapasatiempo.com) or email [taylorst@villapasatiempo.com](mailto:taylorst@villapasatiempo.com)

**SKI** apartment, Bansko, Bulgaria. Near main gondola. Sleeps 4/5, sauna, jacuzzi, from £225 per week. Contact Dave Britton 07802 799193.

**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.

**UNITED** Golf Resort, La Terua, Costa Carida, Spain, three bedrooms, modern apartment overlooking pool, beaches nearby, 15 mins from St Javier airport. Ring 07511 882183.

**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](http://www.norfolkdreams.com) or ring 07976 720022 for details.

## Weddings & photography

**PHOTOGRAPHY** by Barrie White-Miller LRPS. Weddings and civil partnerships. Portfolio and details at [www.spearmanphotography.co.uk](http://www.spearmanphotography.co.uk) Ring 07766 970771 or email [barrie.w-m@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:barrie.w-m@hotmail.co.uk) Discounts for police employees.

**PHOTOGRAPHY**, family portrait, mobile service in Essex area, special police employee rates, visit [www.pandapix.co.uk](http://www.pandapix.co.uk) contact Paul 07939 243562 or email [pandapix@hotmail.com](mailto:pandapix@hotmail.com)

**ROLLS** Royce wedding car hire. Police discount available. Call Peter on 01787 477537, email [info@rrweddings.co.uk](mailto:info@rrweddings.co.uk) or visit [www.rrweddings.co.uk](http://www.rrweddings.co.uk)

**WEDDING** car hire. White Rolls Royce Silver Shadow II. Discounted rate for police employees. Visit [www.specialdaycarhire.co.uk](http://www.specialdaycarhire.co.uk) email [info@specialdaycarhire.co.uk](mailto:info@specialdaycarhire.co.uk) or contact Dave or Sally Swann on 01277 364626.

**WEDDING** photography in a relaxed documentary style. Discount rate for Essex Police personnel. Visit [www.georgepark.co.uk](http://www.georgepark.co.uk) or call George on 07796 090594 or email [info@georgepark.co.uk](mailto:info@georgepark.co.uk)

## Homes for sale/rent /wanted

**DANBURY**, newly-modernized, furnished, self-contained studio annex. Shower, toilet, fully equipped kitchen, single occupant, non-smoker. Parking, garden, £375pcm. Ring Harrison 07920 775210.

**HOUSE** for sale, France. Professionally-restored period farmhouse, oak beams, granite fireplaces, barns, outbuildings, gardens, parkland, fishing lake. Near Vendee coast, Loire Valley, airports. £250,000. email [pauline.hayford@wanadoo.fr](mailto:pauline.hayford@wanadoo.fr)

**ONE**-bedroom house in Bicknacre to rent, fully decorated, laminate flooring downstairs, new kitchen and bathroom. Off-road car parking, front garden, central heating, double glazed, £575 per month. Contact Andy Heard 07783 784866.

**ONE**-bedroom house to rent, north Shoebury. Excellent location, two parking bays. Fully-furnished if required. £600pcm. Contact Chris 07787 156751.

**EX-WPc** seeks rental property in or around Grays/Corringham area. Phone 07977 310747.

**BMW** 120D SE coupe, immaculate condition, July 2009, grey, 3,400 miles, 'run-flat' tyres. £19,500 ono. Contact Kieran Dale 01245 321136.

## For sale

**FORD** Fiesta Zetec S 1.6 Metallic grey, 09 reg. 10,000 miles, leather, air-conditioning, alloy wheels. Tax, two years' warranty, £10,800. Ring 07715 104238.

**FULL**-size butterfly table tennis table, never used, £50. Two adult desks: largest has CD rack, shelves above and below with drawers £25; smaller one £20. Ring Alan 01702 217958.

# New Director of IT

## THE new permanent Director of IT for Essex and Kent is Andy Barker.

He was appointed last month, having been appointed as interim Director for both forces in November.

His work will include taking forward Project Athena – next-generation case, custody, crime and intelligence systems – IT convergence and other key improvements such as desk-top video-conferencing.

Mr Barker was previously the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) Information Systems Improvement Strategy (ISIS) Programme Director.

He joined the NPIA in March 2009, following six years as head of the Information Systems Department at Kent Police.

### Retirements

DCI **Graham Curtis**, 55, of Crime Division, is retiring after more than 30 years' service with the force.

He has also served on Central, South Eastern, Mobile Support and Eastern divisions.

Ds **Grahame Hadley**, 52, is joining the 30+ scheme after 30 years with the force. He served on South Eastern, South Western and Crime divisions, ending his career with Western Major Investigation Team (MIT) at Harlow.

Sgt **Tim Hills**, 48, is retiring after 30 years' service. He spent time with Brentwood Response Team, Kelvedon Hatch Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT), Grays Response, Corringham Response, Grays NPT, Harlow Response, Southminster NPT, and Chelmsford Response and as a communications officer in the Force Information Room before transferring to the Professional Development Units at South Woodham Ferrers and then Chelmsford.

Pc **Steve Wheeler**, 50, retires after 30 years with the force.

He served on Western and Central divisions, finishing up on the identi-

fication team at Harlow.

**Ronnie Johnson**, 69, is retiring at the end of this month after working at Clacton police station for 32 years, latterly as a cleaner but previously as a custody matron.

Rayleigh Criminal Justice Unit administrator **Bob Carey**, 64, is retiring after almost 23 years. Prior to Rayleigh, he was based in Southend.

### Obituaries

Former sergeant **William Borley**, of Kirby Cross, has died, aged 85. He leaves a widow, Betty.

Mr Borley served from 1947 to 1973 at Theydon Bois, Great Yeldham, Chelmsford and Epping.

Ex-constable **Norman Embley**, of Ardleigh, has died, aged 89.

Mr Embley served from 1946 to 1973 at Tilbury, Romford, Grays, Manningtree, Ardleigh and Canvey Island.

Former constable **John O'Brien**, of Hainault, has died, aged 87.

Mr O'Brien served between 1946 and 1976 at Harlow New Town and Southend.

## Colleagues rally round to help fulfil Kirste's dream

COURAGEOUS training sergeant Kirste Snellgrove will show colleagues once again what she's made of when she hops on top of a plane for a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

After mentioning in passing that one day she would like to do a wing walk, Kirste never imagined that colleagues would make the dream a reality.

But Kirste, 40, is made of strong stuff, having completed countless marathons despite battling cancer

for the past five years.

She is booked in for April 3, thanks to the efforts of fellow Essex Police College trainer Natalie Watkins, who embarked on a fund raising effort which saw money donated from police officers and staff, including Chief Officers.

It took only days to raise the £300 needed and the wing walk was booked. It was cancelled due to the bad weather but has now been rescheduled.

Kirste said: "It'll just be me and the pilot on April 3. I'm not 100 per cent confident about it but life's too short not to have a go."

"I've never done anything like this before and I'm no daredevil."

She's been told the only thing she needs to remember in preparation for the wing walk is to wear warm clothing, but colleagues are apparently choosing a costume for her to wear so she can raise money for cancer research.



FOURTEEN years ago Mick Forsdick stood at the start of a Somerset footpath and vowed that one day he would complete the 630-mile route.

That ambition is likely to come true in June when Mick, left, tackles the South West Coast Path solo.

It runs up and down some of the steepest and most gruelling routes from Minehead, around Devon and Cornwall, finishing at Poole in Dorset.

Walking an average of ten to 15 miles a day Mick expects to take about two months to complete the trek, sleeping mainly in a tent but with occasional stops at B&Bs to charge phone batteries.

The trip has been made possible only because Mick retires from Essex Police this month after 30 years serving at Leigh, Rayleigh, Southend

and in the Force Information Room.

Mick said: "This is something I have wanted to do since visiting Minehead 14 years ago. I also decided that this adventure would be a waste if I did not achieve something useful out of it so I will be walking to raise money for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).

"This route will take me past 27 RNLI stations, all manned by volunteers. They need every penny they can get to keep our shores as safe as possible and to save lives.

"I hope to raise at least £5,000 from sponsorship and will, on my return, try to raise even more money by publishing a pictorial journal of the entire route."

● To sponsor Mick, visit his web pages at [www.charitygiving.co.uk/mickforsdick](http://www.charitygiving.co.uk/mickforsdick)

## Big-hearted Stansted fundraisers

A STANSTED traffic warden is running three marathons in three days for the Help for Heroes charity and is looking for help.

Former Royal Marines Commando Martyn Webb is waiting for his date to start training as a police officer.

And he is looking for anyone who would be willing to run or cycle alongside him when he undertakes his challenge in June. He said: "The first run is here in Essex on June 10, the next in Norfolk and the third across the friendly terrain of Dartmoor.

"I served six years as a Royal Marines Commando, being deployed

to both Iraq and Afghanistan, and I've had close friends injured in Afghanistan so Help for Heroes is very close to my heart. I'm aiming to raise £1,500.

"As the majority of the routes are on country roads I'm trying to 'recruit' people to help me out, either by running/cycling alongside. So if you're a fitness guru or just fancy lending a hand to give me a kick up the backside, your help will be greatly appreciated."

● Contact Martyn Webb on 07757 160919 or via email if you can help him. To make a donation, visit [www.bmycharity.com/3marathons3days](http://www.bmycharity.com/3marathons3days)

● THE Stansted Airport Firearms Response Team will be putting down their weapons and putting on their running shoes to raise money for Sport Relief.

Led by Pc Jim Beard, officers on B-shift will be completing a six-mile route on Sunday, March 21, starting at 11am from Stansted Airport police station at Enterprise House.

All the money raised by the team will go to Sport Relief to help those in need in the UK and around the world.

● To make a donation, visit [www.mysportrelief.com/stanstedpolicebshift](http://www.mysportrelief.com/stanstedpolicebshift)

Please note *The Law* will reduce to eight pages from the April 2010 issue and we will no longer have space to print classified advertisements



## Now it's a musical comedy

ESSEX Police Musical Society return with a Musical Comedy set in ancient Rome – *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.

Inspired by the farces of the ancient playwright Plautus, this salacious musical tells the story of Pseudolus the slave and his attempts to win his freedom by helping his young master, Hero, win the girl next door.

Despite their efforts, the girl has already been sold to a Roman captain, Miles Gloriosus. Pseudolus tries every way he can to get the girl away from the captain and into the arms of her Hero, thus becoming free.

Including the songs *Comedy Tonight*, and *Everybody Ought to Have a Maid*, this farcical comedy twists and turns its way through boisterous romps amidst gorgeous girls, mistaken identities, stunning surprises, cunning disguises and great Stephen Sondheim songs.

Performances take place in the Assembly Hall at Essex Police HQ at 7.30pm from Tuesday, April 27, to Saturday, May 1, plus a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.

• Tickets cost £8, concessions £6.50, and group discounts are available for certain nights. To order tickets, visit [www.essexpolicemusicalsociety.co.uk](http://www.essexpolicemusicalsociety.co.uk) print off and complete the booking form and return it, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: EPMS Box Office, 2 Falcons Mead, Off Seymour Street, Chelmsford CM2 0NN. Or you can ring the box office on 07867 851355 or call Peter Buckley on ext 50893 or Sally Summers on ext 480648

## Croker Cup football teams take note ...

ALL six Croker Cup 'divisions' have entered 13 teams for next season's six-a-side football tournament.

Now organiser Denis Angell needs teams to make a small contribution towards costs – £10 to cover the catering after the tournament at HQ on May 21.

Please make cheques payable to Denis Angell, write your team name(s) on the reverse and send them to him at 38 Foxglove Close, Witham, Essex CM8 2XW.

Cheques must be received by Wednesday, March 31, otherwise they will not be entered into the tournament draw on April 6.

Tournament rules will be emailed out with the draw results. Only the highest-placed team for each division will score Croker Cup points.

# Two swimming records broken

TWO swimming records were broken at this year's Croker Cup swimming gala.

Both came in the men's over-40 one-length sprints.

Paul Eveleigh, of South Eastern, broke the freestyle record, which had stood for seven years, by 0.2 seconds.

John Mauger set the one-length (33 1/3 metres) front-crawl record of 18.19 seconds in 2003 but Eveleigh pared it down to 17.99 seconds.

And Chris Mathlin, of Western, broke his own backstroke record – set last year – by 0.1 seconds, bringing it down from 22.97 seconds to 22.85 seconds.

The 2010 gala was held on January 31 Gloucester Park swimming pool in Basildon.

This event is used to select the Essex Police swimming team to represent the force at the PSUK national swimming and water-polo championships in Liverpool in April.

In the past, the Croker Cup gala has discovered swimming talents such as Brett Lummis, Craig Peterson and Courtney Cowell, who have all gone on to shine at national police swimming level and have subsequently been selected for the British Police swimming team.

And this year's gala was no exception. This year's new talent turned out to be Ben Pryke, of Eastern, who won all the men's under-40 events on the day and was therefore selected to represent Essex at the PSUK nationals in April.

Men's under-40 events comprise two lengths of the pool in the strokes of butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle (front-crawl).

Croker Cup swimming gala results were: 1 Eastern 96 points/10 Croker Cup points; 2 South Eastern 74/7; 3 Central 63/5; 4 South Western 61/3; 5 HQ 39/2; 6 Western 27/1.



• National retired police pool champion Mark Jones hard at play

## Cue sports team travel in strength

THE force's largest-ever cue sports team will be competing this year in the National Police Indoor Sports Championships.

Following last month's achievements in the regional championships at Peterborough, the team is now hoping to repeat last year's success when Mark Jones was crowned national retired pool champion.

Jackie Cade and Emily Freeman were also runners-up in the women's pool doubles and they have been automatically invited back, too.

Joining them this year at Potters holiday resort near Great Yarmouth from May 3 to 7 will be Peter Orpe (billiards), Sam Bailey (snooker singles), Caroline Green and Alison Riley (women's pool doubles), Dean Chesterman and Chris Holmes (men's pool doubles) and Anna-Maria Tabrett (women's pool singles).

• Potters has reserved the entire resort for the police competition at a discounted rate and non-competitors and their families are welcome. Contact the Police Sport booking team on 0845 437 9890 for more information

# Runners triumph again

**WITH four of the five regional PSUK cross-country league fixtures completed, the Essex men knew only a win at the final race would ensure they retained the title for a fifth consecutive season.**

Going into the final fixture at Richmond Park, hosted by City of London, the Essex men led Kent by just two points – both teams having won twice.

It was more straightforward for the veterans' team as they held a clear lead.

But sadly, victory for the women's team, and a second successful defence of their title, was already out of reach.

Although the course was fast, it was also short of the expected distance (4.6 miles or two laps for the men and half-distance/one lap for the women).

With both team & individual places still to be decided, the pace was fast from the start.

Paul Cardy, of Hampshire, led the way

to his fifth win of the season but the real battles were behind him, with Kent runners in fourth and fifth place, followed by a train of Essex runners led by Dan Corr.

During the second lap, team captain Mick Bond took over the chase but just failed to catch the second Kent runner by the finish.

However, his fifth place was his highest this season and it enabled him to win the veterans over-50 (V50) class by a huge margin overall.

Corr was sixth, followed by Scott Oxley in seventh place, Derek Walker, eighth and Dave Wood ninth.

Wood's position also gifted him second place overall in the V40 category.

Next Essex runners home were Darren Paterson in 12th and John Jackson in 13th place – Jackson's result ensuring him second place overall in the V45 section and Paterson's third overall in the same section, in his first season.

Pete Bryan in 15th place – and second V50 home on the day – and Ian Jezzard, 16th, confirmed the win needed to retain both the men's and veterans' team titles for Essex.

Chris Holmes, 22nd, and Steve King, 23rd, completed the rout, both having improved their placings from last month's race.

Once again the Essex women were unable to field a full team of three but fortunately (for them) it has been the same for their opponents.

Having debuted this season, Tina Quinlivan, in fourth place on the day, showed that she has great potential and Amanda Pollard, in sixth place, provided the back-up that kept the team in third place overall.

The other notable individual result was John Mackenzie who was second overall in the V50 category.

Attention now turns to the regional PSUK championships later this month at Stanborough Park in Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire.

Bond said: "Having secured the men's and veterans' league titles, the focus is now on 'doing the double' and hopefully being joined by the women in gaining success.

"Kent will want to get revenge so we will need to be at our strongest in all categories."

## Force lottery prize goes to Brentwood

PC Richard Logan, of Brentwood, took home February's force lottery prize of £3,000.

Second-prize winner was Pc Eric Turnbull, of Colchester, who wins £1,000, and Dc Alan Randall, of Chelmsford, won third prize of £500.

Winners of £100 prizes were: Albert Horne, retired; John Hopes, of HQ Firearms Licensing; Robert Cochrane, of Waltham Abbey Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT); Sarah Brown, of Harlow; Pc Adam Clarke, of Hadleigh NPT; Graham Truluck, of Corporate

Development; Yvonne de Young, of Crime Division; Moira Baker, of the Force Information Room (FIR); Trish Morley, of Essex Police Federation; Pc Simon Cox, of Stansted; Pc James Barnacle, of Chelmsford Neighbourhood Support Team (NST); and Sylvia Burton, of Crime Division.

Winners of £50 prizes were: Lisa Ebdon, of HQ Crime Bureau; Marion Bailey, of FIR; Rodney Booth, retired; Pc Richard Aldridge, of Tilbury NST; Dc Scott Fleming, of Brentwood Major Investigation Team; Sgt Paul

Whittingham, of Laindon Road Policing Unit; Pc Russell Cutchey, of Harlow; Pc Fay Edwards, of the Air Support Unit; Dc Peter Hunt, of Stansted; Sgt Alison Crosse, seconded; Pc Stacy Williams, of Clacton; Sgt Vaughn High, of Feering; Pc Jacqueline Dean, of Corringham West NPT; Ds Mel Jobson, of Laindon Child Abuse Investigation Unit; Dc Graham Morris, of Harlow; and Geoff Anderson, of Crime Division. And Pc Tony Mayo, of Laindon Dog Section, won two tickets for an Amethyst Experience day out on a steam train.

## Band supports Met concert

ESSEX Police Band are supporting the Metropolitan Police annual concert at the Barbican centre in London on March 29.

The bands/acts performing consist of members of the police service, including the MPS Male Voice Choir.

This year the concert will be attended by Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Paul Stephenson and senior members of the Metropolitan Police Authority.

Commissioners and Chief Constables from other police forces are also invited to attend.

• The concert starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are £12 each and are available from the MPAA office on 0207 161 3088 or directly from the Barbican box office on 0207 638 8891 or at [www.barbican.org.uk](http://www.barbican.org.uk) for a reduced booking fee

## Cricket selection

TWO PCSOs have been selected for a PSUK cricket tour.

Dave Newman, of Lakeside Policing Unit, and Luke Gamman, of Hullbridge/Rayleigh Neighbourhood Policing Team, will be touring the East Midlands from July 27-29.

They will play in 50-over and Twenty20 matches against Prison and Fire services teams.



• Christian Robinson ext 58883

IT'S the time of year when we renew all the Essex Police Sports Association member benefit deals.

So please bear with us while we update all the different codes, numbers and vouchers that are needed to access the various benefits.

We now have around 150 benefits and, when that is coupled with the 180 benefits available through Perkz, it hopefully means happy members.

If you need more details about Perkz, email me at [christian.robinson@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:christian.robinson@essex.pnn.police.uk)

However, the member benefit list is reasonably up to date.

On the EPSA intranet site, you will find both four-page and 16-page lists to print off, depending on how much detail you require.

If you cannot access our intranet site, do email me a request and I will forward the list to you – if there is something specific you are interested in, please let me know and I will include the details.



Sc George Cook, left, meets Chief Officer George Cook

Picture by Claire Elliott

## Something in the name ...

AS Essex Police Special Constabulary Chief Officer George Cook prepares to retire after 47 years' service he might have been forgiven for thinking he was unique.

But now another George Cook has joined the ranks of the Special Constabulary and he hopes to be just as successful.

Sc George Cook, 18, works at the Co-op in Colchester and has been posted to Colchester police station.

He said: "I have been in the role for about four months and I haven't been allowed to forget that I share the same name as the Chief Officer (CO).

"I'm very fortunate as there are a number of full-time special constables who I have learnt from and gained experience from – I owe a lot to them.

"It's been really exciting and I've already made five arrests. It's a real hands-on role which is different every day and I'm really enjoying it."

Sc Cook had the opportunity to meet CO Cook, who offered some words of advice. "Policing hasn't really changed over the years, we still assist people in need," he said.

"The best weapon any officer has is the ability to treat all people with courtesy and respect and speak to them accordingly. This will often enable officers to calm down a situation without resorting to force, which is always the desired outcome.

He continued: "Being a special constable means dealing with many different people in a wide range of situations. You have to think on your feet, but that's what keeps the role so exciting." Both agreed that other than sharing the same name they also had a desire to give something back to society and help others.

After meeting his namesake, CO Cook invited the new recruit for a coffee and a chat – a great opportunity to get some more advice from the man at the top.

Unlocking the secretive world of gun crime

EVERY gun tells a different story and the National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NaBIS) is launching a new national database to help the police service to unlock them.

The NaBIS database operates across 43 forces and partner agencies in the UK and uses cutting-edge forensic technology to analyse firearms and ballistic material.

Any firearms and ammunition coming into the possession of Essex Police, which may either be linked to criminal activity or fits the submission criteria, is sent forward for examination and entry on to the new database.

The NaBIS database is also used to record intelligence and incidents relating to ballistic material, thereby building a national picture.

Head of intelligence DCI Julie Macfarlane said: "Gun crime is rare in Essex but whenever a gun is fired it has an impact. This database will enable us to see the bigger picture of criminal activity in Essex and across the UK.

"Being able to compare firearms and ballistic material from previous crimes will help to establish those crucial links during an investigation.

"Ballistic items suitable for the database include all firearms, air guns, replica guns, blank-firing guns, component parts of firearms and ammunition.

"It is vital that every officer and member of staff who regularly comes into contact with the public is aware of this database and what to do if they come into contact with any ballistics or firearms."

● For more information on NaBIS and what to do if you come in to contact with firearms and ballistic material, click on the NaBIS link listed on the Information menu of the intranet Site Directory

# Top recognition for our trafficking work

**THE work of Essex officers to combat human trafficking has gained Parliamentary recognition.**

It is hard to believe that there are more people in slavery around the world today than there were in the entire 350-year history of the slave trade.

One in eight are in Europe, at least 10,000 of those are in the UK and more than 1,000 of them are children.

Gathering intelligence for Essex Police in a bid to stop this massive trade in human cargo are Ds Angie Garrard and Dcs Richie Adams and Julie Dovaston, of HQ Crime Division.

And their work was recognised last month at the House of Commons when Ds Garrard and Dc Adams were invited to the opening of an exhibition, organised by the chairman and officers of the All-Party Group on Trafficking of Women and Children.

Head of intelligence DCI Julie Macfarlane said: "It is lovely to see recognition being given at such a high level praising the incredibly hard work of Ds Garrard, Dc Adams and Dc Dovaston.

"Through their commitment they have highlighted Essex Police as a forerunner in tackling the horrendous crime of trafficking in human beings."

The interactive exhibition, using information provided by Essex Police and the Metropolitan Police, aimed to raise awareness of the scale and effect of trafficking and to seek solutions to

by Heather Watts

reduce supply and demand and to improve welfare provisions for victims.

Behind police tape cut by Home Secretary Alan Johnson and Shadow Foreign Secretary William Hague were mocked-up rooms – a kitchen and a room in a brothel – which illustrated the plight many victims find themselves in.

In those rooms were victims who told their stories of domestic servitude, often unpaid and abused, and of exploitation for the sex trade.

There was also a sad and sorry pile of soft toys, each with a label attached telling a child victim's poignant story.

Ds Garrard said: "People tend to think of human trafficking as something confined to London and other cities.

"The fact is that only too frequently here in Essex we are coming across women being exploited in the sex industry, young girls who are subject to domestic servitude and labour exploitation, and in many cases violence is used to ensure compliance.

"There are never enough hours in the day to tackle the issue but the work is extremely satisfying and includes not only working alongside our police colleagues but a multitude of other agencies including End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT) and the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC).

"The exhibition sent out a poignant message highlighting the plight of these victims."

Humans can be trafficked in and out of the country as well as internally within

the UK and it is not only women and children.

Young Vietnamese men are often duped by offers of a better life, only to find themselves forced to care for cannabis factories.

They are often threatened and told their families back home will suffer if they don't comply.

And they may reside alongside any one of us in a residential street in Essex.

Christine Beddoe, of ECPAT, explained: "Child trafficking is child abuse.

"The best way to protect children is early intervention and police need to recognise the early warning signs of trafficking, including trafficking for labour exploitation and forced criminality such as cannabis cultivation and begging."

A recent conference highlighted the fact that the growing trade of human trafficking is being exploited by groups within the UK.

And Project Talon has been launched by the UKHTC to look at developments where vulnerable men – both British and immigrant – are being targeted for use particularly in rogue trading offences.

Once in the clutches of human traffickers, the men are kept prisoner and often beaten until they are too frightened of the consequences of running away or telling anybody about their plight.

● If you have information about human trafficking, contact the Force Intelligence Bureau (FIB) on ext 52016 during working hours

## Website can help to recover stolen marine items

THE Marine Unit is asking fellow officers to ensure all stolen marine items are registered on the stolenboats.org website as well as the Police National Computer (PNC).

Dc Simon Lofting said: "Any officer recording or dealing with marine crime

must ensure that all stolen marine items with serial numbers are put on the www.stolenboats.org website.

"The site is more accurate than PNC for stolen marine items and includes anything from boats, engines, electrical items and trailers.

He added: "People can use this tool for searching against recovered items as well or, if you email me, I can assist with inputting or searching."

All sailing boats and jet-skis have a 12 or 14-digit hull identification number (HIN) and all engines have serial numbers.

Minimum of 14 years' jail for murder of sister-in-law

A MAN has been sentenced to life in prison for murdering his sister-in-law in Chigwell.

Mohammed Akhtar Sayid was given a minimum jail term of 14 years when he was sentenced at Chelmsford Crown Court for the murder of Soabia Sayid on April 27 last year.

The 29-year-old housewife, who lived in Hycliffe Gardens, was strangled.

After the case, senior investigating officer Det Supt Liam Osborne said: "The jury may have returned a guilty verdict but we, like Soabia's family, remain perplexed as to why her brother-in-law reacted in such a way and killed her.

"Mohammed Akhtar Sayid lost his temper after she had called him stupid but has said nothing since.

"During our meetings and communication with her relatives, we have found a family who led a peaceful life and without conflict.

"Since that fateful day their individual lives, especially those of her husband and their three young children, have been turned upside down.

"Anwar Sayid kissed his wife goodbye on the Sunday night before travelling to Somerset on business but then returned home the following day to find his life devastated. He has lost his wife and his brother from this death."

Det Supt Osborne also thanked officers in Western Division for their professional approach throughout the investigation and Communications Division for the operator response to the initial 999 call.

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