

The Law



www.essex.police.uk

July 2010

Putting Essex First:

❑ PIP Level 3 investigators course launched by college

❑ Air support trial evaluation begins

❑ Training starts for CrimeFile users

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FIRST UK SAFE COMMUNITY

CHELMSFORD is the first borough in the UK to be designated an International Safe Community by the World Health Organisation.

The move provides recognition for the many activities delivered by the Safer Chelmsford Partnership during the past ten years.

Chelmsford joins more than 190 communities based in 26 countries in the International Safe Community Network, which shares best practice and research to promote community safety and injury prevention activities and deliver a better quality of life for residents.

Membership of the prestigious scheme was granted following the assessment of a number of successful multi-partner community safety initiatives in the area, including the provision of road safety education dramas, taxi marshals and street pastors, plus Crucial Crew safety roadshows and Firebreak courses for young people.

The senior World Health Organisation adviser, Bo Henricson, who judged the application and who presented the award on June 14, said: "I am impressed. What a wonderful application. You are really going to be the shining star of the upcoming international safe communities."

The presentation took place in front of Safer Chelmsford Partnership members, guests from the Home Office, Government Office (GO) East,

World Health Organisation recognises Chelmsford Borough

the Improvement and Development Agency for local government (IDeA) and the Local Government Association plus representatives from Chelmsford's twin towns, Backnang in Germany and Annonay in France.

Chief Insp Joe Wrigley said the recognition was reward for the hard work put in by numerous people from many different organisations to make life better for Chelmsford residents.

"It is fantastic to see that all the work Essex Police and other community partners have been doing together in the area has had such a positive impact," he said.

"From a police point of view I would like to emphasise to residents, workers and visitors to Chelmsford that we have seen significant crime reductions over the last two years and we will continue to do our best to reduce levels even further.

"There is no doubt that this remains one of the safest places anywhere and, thanks to the Safer Chelmsford Partnership and the efforts of many in the community, we will strive to make it safer still.

"By working on a number of



❑ Receiving the World Health Organisation (WHO) Safe Community award are, from left, Chelmsford Borough Council (CBC) community safety manager Spencer Clarke, Chelmsford district commander Chief Insp Joe Wrigley, CBC cabinet member for safer communities Cllr Ian Grundy, WHO senior adviser Bo Henricson and CBC director of safer communities Averil Price

Picture courtesy of Chelmsford Borough Council

projects, including the popular Nominated Neighbour scheme, and putting police officers back out in to the community through Operation Velo and a variety of other activities carried out by neighbourhood policing teams, we have been able to reach the heart of the community and make a difference.

"I now hope that other towns across

Essex and the rest of the country can work towards achieving the same award."

The Safer Chelmsford Partnership has been operating for more than ten years to reduce crime and the fear of crime across the borough.

Working collaboratively, partners include Essex Police, Essex Police Authority, the borough council, Essex

County Council, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, Essex County Fire Authority, NHS Mid Essex Primary Care Trust, Essex Probation and other public, voluntary and business organisations.

They place particular emphasis on tackling anti-social behaviour, domestic violence, hate crime, substance misuse and road safety.

London 2012 Olympic Games – only 24 months to go but our countdown has already begun!

– see Page 5 for more



Federation news by Roy Scanes



WE appreciate the serious financial situation the country is in and the difficult decisions the new coalition government faces – making savings where possible.

The coalition's first Budget made clear the scale of the challenge facing the public sector: a reduction in spending of £17 billion by 2014/15.

This we know is essential to reducing the country's deficit and the police service is not protected and must play its part.

Police budgets will be cut, although we will not know by how much and when until after the Spending Review has concluded.

Three-year pay deal honoured

Chancellor George Osborne announced a two-year pay freeze to cover public sector workers earning more than £21,000.

I can confirm that our general secretary, Ian Rennie, has spoken to the Home Office and that this will not affect police officers expecting the final instalment of the three-year pay deal due this September.

This also confirms the assurances given by Home Secretary Theresa May and Police Minister Nick Herbert at our conference in May.

Review of pay, conditions and pension

Representatives of the Police Federation of England and Wales recently met Home Secretary Theresa May and Police Minister Nick Herbert.

The Home Secretary's announcement at the Police Federation conference regarding a review of pay and conditions for police officers was discussed but she confirmed there are currently no detailed proposals.

General secretary Ian Rennie, together with vice-chairman Simon Reed, also raised the issue of the planned review of public sector pensions, specifically any proposed changes to the police officer pension scheme.

Again, the Home Secretary and Police Minister said there are no firm details or

proposals available at this stage.

However, they have assured us that the Police Federation of England and Wales would be engaged in full consultation about any future proposals relating to pensions or terms and conditions.

We therefore await further detail but it was made clear to the Home Secretary that we are ready to actively engage with the government to ensure that the unique and dangerous role police officers undertake in society is fairly reflected in our terms and conditions.

Police reform

In a speech to the right-wing think-tank Policy Exchange, on June 23, Police Minister Nick Herbert stated that an over-riding government criminal justice objective is crime prevention.

He made clear that the new coalition government wished to move away from crime detection to an environment where prevention is key.

Over the course of the next few months, the government will be setting out proposals for fundamental criminal justice reform.

We expect that it will introduce a Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill in this first session of the new Parliament.

Mr Herbert also said that, where appropriate, we should replace bureaucratic accountability with democratic accountability and therefore drive on with the policy of introducing directly-elected individuals to replace police authorities.

The government is discussing these plans carefully and constructively with the police and other stakeholders, with the intention of announcing further details in due course.

The government says it will also shortly be announcing proposals to reform Legal Aid, on which currently more than £2 billion a year is spent – more than in almost any other country.

Unison news by Geoff Wright



Police Staff Council three-year pay deal

POLICE staff members will be aware that in the government's emergency Budget it announced a two-year pay freeze in 2011 and 2012 for public sector workforces, except for workers earning less than £21,000 who will receive an increase of at least £250 per year in these years.

With no further information being available about the detail of these pay proposals at this stage, Unison is, however, able to confirm the following:

The proposed pay freeze starts in 2011 and will not affect the third year of the Police Staff Council (PSC) pay deal, which is effective from September 1, 2010.

At the same time, we understand that the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) is currently consulting chief constables as to whether they believe the conditions are right to trigger the re-opener clause for the third year of the PSC pay deal.

We are not clear if ACPO is also consulting about whether to trigger the re-opener clause for the Police Negotiating Board (PNB) deal for police officers.

We will keep you up to date with developments on our external website.

General secretary – election results

The election of the Unison general secretary – as mentioned in last month's issue of *The Law* – has taken place.

The result is that Dave Prentis has been re-elected as general secretary of the UK's largest public-sector union.

Voting in the ballot was as follows:

Dave Prentis 145,351 (67.2 per cent)

Roger Bannister 42,651 (19.7 per cent)

Paul Holmes 28,114 (13 per cent).

Serious Crime Directorate

Notes of discussions that took place during June about issues affecting the Force Intel-

ligence Bureau (FIB) and major crime are available on our external website. We will continue to post information as it becomes available, to keep you abreast of developments.

The future of PCSOs

There are concerns about the future of their continued employment from within the ranks of PCSOs in Essex Police.

In response to a direct question posed on our external website, Chief Constable Jim Barker-McCardle, or his representative, has replied in the following terms: "The economic climate makes predictions on future funding for PCSOs uncertain."

"However, PCSOs are an integral part of our neighbourhood policing teams and do an excellent job in helping to make local communities as safe as they are; we would be reluctant to lose their important contribution to policing."

Working together

Many employees at Essex Police have had very good money-saving ideas and will no doubt continue to have them – do visit the feedback pages on our external website.

And DCC Andy Bliss echoed the working together theme in one of his blogs last month.

He said: "It's vital that we all continue to work together as a team of both officers and police staff, who can continue to generate savings so that jobs can be protected so far as possible."

If you have a good idea that may save money and protect jobs, why not send it to those tasked with discovering and producing cost savings?

Contact us

Information from the Essex Police Branch of Unison is available from our external web pages at www.essexpoliceunison.org or from your local Unison steward or from the Unison branch office, situated on the first floor of Kingston House at Essex Police College, HQ, on ext 55012.



News

Down Memory Lane ...

ESSEX Police Museum curator Becky Wash had a huge response to her plea for information about two photographs we published in the March issue. The colour photograph of a man and a woman in the early 1990s prompted most replies.

Sgt Amanda White (née Field) was easily identified at the old Braintree police station in Fairfield Road, in about 1993.

And Dc Mark Smith contacted her to say the picture was taken in the custody area.

"It was taken on the morning we moved in to the new Braintree police station and Amanda and I were the last out. The picture was taken together with a number of others and one of them was used in that month's issue of *The Law*."

The other picture was black and white and dated 1980. It showed Brenda Byrne with one of the first force computers, purchased in 1975/6 to print off crime report statistics, in the old canteen kitchen at HQ – it was out of use at the time – which now houses the Fingerprint Bureau. Brenda was the data processing manager working with punch cards before the first computer, a Sperry Univac, arrived.

The first real-time computer project team, which introduced the Command and Control system and HOLMES 1 and worked alongside Brenda in 1981/2, comprised Ralph Barrington, Malcolm Hargreaves, Lee Weavers, Paul Tedder and Brian Jaggs.

Our TV screens are intercepted by MSD

ROAD policing officers are the stars of two TV series on our screens this summer.

Officers and staff at Mobile Support Division in Boreham rubbed shoulders with TV presenter Gethin Jones when he dropped in during filming.

The force has been taking part in this year's series of *Police, Camera, Action!* due to be screened on ITV1 for four weeks, starting on Thursday, July 29 at 9pm.

Strictly Come Dancing star Jones is providing the voiceovers for the programme.

Filming began in November and concluded in February. The Essex part of the programme, which also features other forces, concentrates on commercial vehicle operations including Operation Mermaid, excess speed, young driver behaviour and driving with no insurance.

AND the force intercept team has also made a TV comeback.

Now part of the Territorial Support Team (TST), they hit our screens in the new Five series of *Police Interceptors* last month.

The popular fly-on-the-wall series, every Monday at 8pm, features some familiar faces from previous shows as well as some new officers.

Raw Cut TV has been filming the team of one inspector, five sergeants and 25 constables in action across the county since January.

In the shows, officers are seen cracking down on drink-drivers, catching diesel thieves, searching for dangerous drivers with the help of the Air Support Unit, using automatic number-plate recognition (ANPR), catching suspected burglars and dealing with public order offences.

TST shift sergeant Gerry Parker said: "The camera crew



Mobile Support Division management information researcher Melissa Allsup, researcher Claire Walters and analyst Lorraine Bower meet Gethin Jones during filming at Boreham

have been filming with all shifts so there will be some new faces as well as some of the more familiar ones.

"Being filmed felt a bit strange at first but we just got on with it and become good friends with the camera crew by the end of it."

"Interceptors will show us responding to the problems that are out there on a daily basis as well as revealing our more human side. I hope viewers will see our officers give it their all every single day."

More news from Mobile Support Division / find out how the force's PCSOs are to appear on TV in Russia – turn to Pages 4 & 5



PCs Paul Rawson and Martin Winterbone with Cllr Ian Robertson

Picture courtesy of Southend Borough Council

Marine Unit forges links

PATROLLING the no-sailing zone with the Marine Unit at Southend Airshow gave Southend borough councillor Ian Robertson a good insight into Marine Unit duties.

Cllr Robertson is keen to forge good partnership working and feels that time spent with officers on the front line gives him more knowledge into the police's working practices and requirements.

Choir cash

ESSEX Police Choir has raised more than £5,400 for charity this year.

The totals included £1,300 towards Shelterbox aid for Haiti earthquake survivors; more than £1,300 for the Children with Leukaemia charity and Teenage Cancer Trust; £800 for the St Christopher Young People's Trust; and £2,000 for the East Anglian Air Ambulance.



Air support trial evaluation begins

EVALUATION of the five counties air support trial has begun, to see whether Operation Borderless is a workable operational model for the future.

The joint operation between Essex, Kent, Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire saw the deployment to an incident of the nearest appropriate police helicopter, regardless of where that incident occurred and from which force the helicopter originates.

The three-month trial – which involved four aircraft as Kent Police shares our helicopter – ended on June 30 and the Essex Air Support Unit is now being deployed via the Force Information Room (FIR), as it was before the trial began.

Sgt Russ Woolford, of the Essex Police Air Support Unit, said: “The anticipated benefits of the operation are that it will have reduced response times and produced a more efficient service.

“And there have been advantages in Essex as our helicopter needed maintenance during some of the trial. Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and even Norfolk have been deployed on tasks in the county.

“But officers on the ground should have perceived little difference in the service delivered.”

Just 20 minutes into the operation –



which started on April 7 – the Norfolk aircraft was called out to Colchester, where a vehicle pursuit ended with the offenders escaping on foot in a rural area. Norfolk’s helicopter arrived at the scene within 30 minutes.

□ **The Essex Police helicopter, QH 99, is one of four in the eastern counties which took part in a trial to see whether sharing air support resources is the way forward**

Each month The Law will keep readers informed of progress in Chief Constable Jim Barker-McCardle’s Putting Essex First agenda for action.

Several projects and workstreams have already been launched. You can also find out about the most recent developments quickly and easily via the first Chief’s Blog of every month.

The Putting Essex First intranet site has also been set up so you can check on the progress of a particular project at any time. Just click on the link on the blue menu on Portal, the intranet front page.

Booking in to provide a more efficient service

Top-level course for investigators is run by our college

ESSEX is one of only five forces in the country to run the PIP Level 3 investigators course.

The national Professionalising Investigation Programme (PIP) aims to ensure that police officers investigating crime have the right skills to achieve successful investigations – from scene attendance through to disposal at court – and that these skills are standardised across all forces.

PIP Level 3 is aimed at senior investigating officers (SIOs) – detective chief inspectors – investigating complex crimes up to and including homicides.

The first course started at Essex Police College this month.

Led by DI Stuart Hooper and former SIO Kevin Macey, not only will the course promote standards within Essex Police, we will be sharing best practice with other forces as it has attracted ‘students’ from Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Norfolk Constabulary and the Royal Military Police.

DI Hooper said: “The course will provide senior investigators with access to local experts and knowledge and relevant case studies while allowing them to share best practice.

“Not only will it enhance and standardise top-level investigative skills but it will also provide us with income as we are the only force in the Eastern and South-Eastern regions to run it – in fact it is a real feather in our cap.

“We and other forces will also benefit from the fact that PIP Level 3-accredited investigators are placed on a national register and can provide mutual aid if an investigation requires it.”

Subjects covered during the three-week course include crime-scene management, family liaison, intelligence, investigative strategies, media management, honour-based violence, kidnap, counter-terrorism, Crown Prosecution Service liaison and witness protection.

□ Visit the PIP intranet pages at <http://web/info/profinv>

□ **Tiptree neighbourhood sergeant Andy Drake and Colchester district commander Chief Insp Andy Fusher with members of Tiptree Parish Council at the village fire station**

Picture by Debbie Chisholm



ESSEX Police has joined forces with other public services across the county to find more effective and cost-efficient ways of working together.

Together with Essex County Council (ECC) and Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS), we are identifying locations where police officers and staff could potentially be brought under one roof, providing significant accommodation cost-savings.

The property rationalisation initiative is currently being led

by Jules Donald, of the Strategic Change Management Department (formerly Corporate Development).

A three-month pilot is due to be launched this month in Tiptree. The neighbourhood policing team will use the village’s fire station as an administrative base from Saturday, July 17, and will serve the public from the local library.

An evaluation will be held at the end of October to determine whether the scheme is rolled out to other parts of Essex.

DCC Andy Bliss explained: “Tiptree is an ideal place for the pilot and, from what we’ve seen so far, it’s a winning situation for all involved.

“The police are in a more

centralised location in the village, making it more convenient for residents to go and meet with them face-to-face, partnership working has been enhanced and we are making the best use of Council Tax-payers’ money.

“Ultimately it’s our police officers and staff who deliver services to the public; we need to use our buildings more effectively across public-sector organisations.

“As long as we are content that we can continue to deliver the same high-quality service in shared premises, we will look to roll the initiative out across Essex.”

Deputy Chief Fire Officer Adam Eckley said: “Tiptree Fire Station is in an ideal location for the po-

Training starts for users of new crime management system

CRIMEFILE classroom-based training starts this month for the Crime Bureau, supervisors and other crime-management based roles.

And work is also underway to produce a computer-based training (CBT) package for teaching other system-users.

The force’s business process for crime management and investigation has been finalised so further adjustments to CrimeFile can now be made and tested against this process model before CrimeFile is due to be launched across the force in early October.

Project manager Martin Blackmore says: “This new work will ensure that when it goes live, CrimeFile will complement and underpin the force’s crime management and investigation processes by streamlining the flow of information.”

CrimeFile will replace the existing Crime Recording System, providing tasking and supervision capability which will allow us to manage and track the progress of our crime investigations and keep victims updated with this progress. It will also allow us to record and manage non-notifiable crime and anti-social behaviour.

Project SCI FI (Sustaining Crime and Intelligence for the Interim) will ensure CrimeFile meets the force’s crime management and investigative needs until Project Athena – our collaborative work with the eastern region forces of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk, plus Kent and the City of London – implements a long-term integrated case, custody, crime and intelligence management system.

And ECC audience development manager Janice Waugh added that the council was pleased to be involved in the new initiative.

She said: “We are always looking for ways that we can best use our resources and this seems like an excellent approach.”

□ Tiptree Neighbourhood Policing Team can be contacted on 07966 197404

Corner the chairman



Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers

Cash-saving ideas are very welcome

I AM sure you have all seen and heard in the news the recent proposals from the government and how police forces' budgets are being cut. Here at Essex Police Authority we are working closely with Chief Officers at Essex Police to tackle this, with our overall priority being to try to maintain front-line police services for the public. In the past few years we have worked hard to make considerable savings. Now it is time to step this up a notch to save even more. Even though it may be challenging at times, we will continue to remain optimistic and work tirelessly to ensure that our police service remains one of the best in the country. I would really like to hear your suggestions on how you think Essex Police and Essex Police Authority could save money. Please email my press and PR officer Jenna Smith at jenna.smith@essex.pnn.police.uk with your suggestions and I will review these and feed back some of your ideas in my next column.

Officers scale new heights

THREE police officers are raising money for the Haiti earthquake appeal by scaling new heights. Pcs Richard Logan and Richie Dulson, along with Insp Leigh Norris and possibly some other willing volunteers, will be taking part in the Three Peaks Challenge later this month. The expedition involves climbing Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon in the space of 24 hours - which includes travel in between. Anyone wanting to donate should visit http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/richardlogan

Our PCSOs' 'Russian job'

by Jan Klimkowski

THE intriguing statement "There are no PCSOs in Russia" led to a BBC World Service film crew going out on patrol with PCSOs Sharon Mitchell in Chelmsford and Sue Sullivan in Runwell.

BBC Russian Service producer Yevgeny Kanevsky was making a series of short films about policing cultures around the world.

And he was certain that the Neighbourhood Policing philosophy in Essex, with daily contact between PCSOs and members of their local communities, would be a real eye-opener to his Russian audience.

Yevgeny and his cameraman Nikitas Patrikianos started the day with PCSO Mitchell, filming her leaving Chelmsford police station and following her town patrol.

PCSO Mitchell helped several local people with information and advice before heading to the High Chelmer shopping centre and the CCTV security centre.

The BBC team learned that not only were PCSOs the eyes and ears of Essex Police on the ground but that they were linked up by radio with local CCTV operators as well as the Force Information Room (FIR).

This provided an immediate two-way flow of information on incidents ranging from lost children to shoplifting offences.

Next on the schedule was some rural filming, so Yevgeny and Nikitas met up with PCSO Sue Sullivan, who covers the Runwell, Rettendon and Battlesbridge beat, which includes a significant farming community.

First up, PCSO Sullivan responded to a call from a farmer about three bales of hay being set on fire, and they filmed as she took details of the incident and was given evidence at the scene.

Next, PCSO Sullivan visited one of her local



PCSO Sue Sullivan talks to Runwell resident Alan Donald while being filmed by BBC World Service cameraman Nikitas Patrikianos

Pictures by Jan Klimkowski

communities with a high number of retired people, to learn if they had any concerns or were bothered by any nuisance behaviour - all in a morning's work

The day's filming ended back at HQ with an interview with the head of Territorial Policing, Supt Ewen Wilson, providing a strategic perspective of the role of PCSOs and their integral part in liaising with local groups and key individuals, as well as gathering intelligence to help Essex Police achieve its vision that Essex will be the safest place in the country with the best policing.

Extended policing family co-ordinator Steve Kettle said: "The Territorial Policing department was very pleased to facilitate the visit by the BBC Russian Service. It was an ideal opportunity to showcase the excellent skills and different capabilities that our PCSOs are required to attain and illustrated our commitment to engaging closely with our communities and providing high-visibility reassurance patrols.

"We feel Essex Police has shown that PCSOs are helping to deliver local solutions to local problems together with colleagues in the neighbourhood policing teams."

Meanwhile, reflecting on her Russian adventure, PCSO Mitchell said she had been a little nervous about filming at first, "then I realised how much I was enjoying the experience. I hope that we have given an informative insight of our role and that maybe a similar service could be adopted elsewhere."



Filming in Chelmsford High Street with PCSO Sharon Mitchell, BBC World Service producer Yevgeny Kanevsky and cameraman Nikitas Patrikianos

PCSO Sullivan was delighted at the interest in community policing from another country. "I thoroughly enjoyed the experience," she said. "Inevitably, because the BBC team was only filming for a couple of hours, they glimpsed a snapshot of life as a PCSO rather than the job in all its complexity."

"However, I very much hope that the Russian people will like what they saw of our Neighbourhood Policing style and will seek to introduce PCSOs into their own country."



Officers from Essex and the Metropolitan Police were involved in Operation Rodney, which used ANPR technology to deter travelling criminals

Joint working 'deterrent'

TWELVE people were arrested and more than 30 vehicles were seized during a major inter-force police operation to improve road safety and detect travelling criminals.

A range of offences was detected, including the supply and possession of class A and B drugs, thefts of and from cars and possession of CS spray. Two people wanted for earlier offences were also arrested.

Up to 200 officers were involved in the latest round of Operation Utah last month, with cars, vans and lorries taken for checks at the Moto Services, Thurrock.

It was led by Essex Police and supported by officers from Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Hertfordshire, Suffolk and Norfolk - each force takes its turn in mounting the operation.

Fixed and mobile automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras were used to

identify cars linked to crime or being driven without insurance and other valid documents. Other agencies involved included the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA), HM Revenue and Customs and Essex County Council's road safety team.

A FURTHER eight people were arrested in a joint police operation designed to detect and deter criminals travelling between Essex and neighbouring London boroughs.

Operation Rodney involved about 70 officers from Essex and the Metropolitan Police, centred on the Brentwood district and its borders with Havering.

Using ANPR, Essex officers checked about 5,000 number plates during the course of the 11-hour operation, carrying out 20 stop searches and 55 stop checks, issuing two fixed penalty notices and an uninsured car was seized one car for not being insured.

Olympic countdown has started

by Helen Cook

WITH just two years to go until the start of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the force is on track with its preparations.

The Games period runs for 64 days - from the opening of Olympic Park in Stratford on July 13, via the Olympic Games - which start on July 27 - and Paralympic Games to the closure of Olympic Park on September 14.

Supt Kevin Bailey, who leads the Essex Police London 2012 Planning Team, said: "As Olympic Park is just six miles from the Essex border it will have a significant impact on the county."

"The Olympic Games is the world's largest sporting event, with around 10,500 competitors from more than 200 countries and around nine million spectators expected to attend the venues.

"It is clear from the scale of the events and their presence within and adjacent to Essex that it will have a significant impact on us.

"There will be a dramatic rise in population and related increases on all transport routes to Olympic Park, including trunk roads and park and ride operations, that will require road policing activity.

"We have a dedicated team at Essex Police planning the force's response and are looking forward to the challenge and the event itself."

The only event Essex will actually host is the mountain bike event at Hadleigh Farm,

Hadleigh. The 550-acre rural site is set against the backdrop of the 700-year-old ruins of Hadleigh Castle, just off the A13 and overlooking the Thames estuary.

The track will open for training in July 2012 with the two-day competition held on August 11 and 12.

It is only a temporary venue - with capacity for 20,000 spectators and 2,600 staff attending each day - but the course itself will become a legacy for locals to enjoy.

Just over the county border at Waltham Cross in Hertfordshire is the Olympic slalom canoe course. As up to 12,000 spectators are expected each day during the four days of competition, policing the event will have a big impact on our force.

Supt Bailey explained: "Policing requires a partnership approach between our two forces. The transport hub where the coach and bus operations will pick up and drop the spectators is on the Essex side of the River Lea."

Meanwhile, three Essex venues have also put themselves forward as training centres: the Brentwood Centre; and Spurs Lodge and The Old Loughtonians Hockey Club in Chigwell.

And British Swimming has already announced its intention to use the soon-to-be-completed Garon Park pool in Southend as a training base for the British Olympic diving team, including world ten-metre platform diving champion Tom Daley.

It is also anticipated that other training and accommodation venues will be announced in the months before the opening of the Olympic Village.



Historic Hadleigh Castle, right, overlooks the Olympic mountain-biking course

Left, an example of the type course competitors may have to face

So Essex will be at the heart of plans for competitors, spectators and workers to reach the Capital.

Stansted Airport has good road and rail links with the Olympic venues and is also a good choice for bringing in freight due to its ability to deal with heavy aircraft on its long runway.

Supt Bailey explained: "We anticipate large volumes of Olympic-related passengers passing through the airport during the Games period, with the associated policing problems that will entail."

And the Port of Tilbury has been earmarked as a key port for bringing in construction ma-

terials for Olympic Park. Supt Bailey said that while work has been ongoing there to deepen the berths in order to accommodate larger ships it has not had any significant impact on policing.

Our Marine Unit will also be heavily involved as Supt Bailey pointed out: "We anticipate a full marine policing operation will be required to support the security of London."

The River Thames gives access to the centre of London and many Olympic venues, including Olympic Park, are directly accessible from the waterways.

The joint Essex and Kent Police Marine Unit polices the coastline from Harwich to Dunge-

A SPECIAL charity night has raised more than £2,200 for the Breast Cancer Campaign.

The event has taken Essex Police College tutor Sgt Kirste Snellgrove's fund raising for the campaign to £7,000.

Coldfire - comprising members of Essex Police - headlined for free and a raffle

included a signed picture of Manchester Utd and England striker Wayne Rooney.

MEANWHILE professional development officer Pc Mairhi Mowbray has raised £400 by selling off her old DVDs.

The cash will be split between the Breast Cancer campaign and the Help for Heroes charity.

Officers conducting an Operation Mermaid vehicle check discovered the driver of this stretch limousine did not have a licence to drive it



Limousine driver was stretching a point

'HATS off' to road policing officers who seized a stretch limousine en route to Ascot at an Operation Mermaid vehicle check at Thurrock Services last month - the driver did not have a licence to drive the vehicle.

Operation Mermaid is a national policing initiative launched to raise driving standards and ensure that vehicles are mechanically safe.

The limousine was one of the more unusual results on the day. Others included finding an articulated lorry laden with illegal beer and a Lamborghini seized for being uninsured.

Two vehicles were found to have devices stuck on their tachograph recording equipment preventing the recording of drivers' working/driving hours and stopping the vehicles' speed limiters.

These drivers were dealt with for

making false records. Seven of the 37 vehicles checked were clamped and their drivers issued with drivers' hours prohibitions.

Commercial traffic investigator Pc Harry Sexton said: "Despite the introduction of graduated fixed penalty notices and roadside deposits officers are continuing to see drivers of commercial and other vehicles trying to find ways to flout the rules.

"So far this year money taken under the Operation Mermaid banner alone has amounted to nearly £100,000."

OF more than 1,900 commercial vehicles stopped and checked in Essex between January 1 and June 30, 2010, 907 of them had mechanical defects.

Of these, 497 were so serious the lorries were prohibited from continuing their journeys until they were repaired.

A total of 10,991 driver's hours offences were discovered and in 112 of the more serious cases drivers were prohibited from going further until they completed enforced rest breaks.

A further 63 lorries were seized after it was found their drivers either had no insurance or did not have valid driving licences.

Officers also discovered 302 other offences, such as excessive weight or dangerous loads.

Changes in legislation which came into force in October 2009 mean police officers have been able to issue fixed penalty notices or take deposits for charges immediately after a driver is found to have committed offences.

In the past six months, a total of £99,430 has been collected by Essex officers.

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 June:

As part of the government's work to balance the national books, all forces have been notified of reductions in their current (ie 2010/11) budgets.

For Essex that means a reduction in our revenue budget of £2.6million and a reduction in our capital budget of £200,000.

We are working very hard to work out how best to make these urgent savings and that is dominating much of my business. As our plans crystallise I will keep you informed - but we do have some good ideas.

Fund raising inspired by school pupils

A CADET has raised £165 for a Leigh school catering for children with special needs.

As one of his community placements - arranged through the police cadet scheme - 17-year-old Chris Flynn spent one or two days a week helping out at St Christopher's School in Mountdale Gardens.

Chris, a former Southend High School for Boys pupil, found the placement extremely challenging.

He said: "I was aware that children at the school would have learning difficulties, however, I was surprised that the placement was a lot more challenging than I had imagined.

"Some of the children deal with a wide range of other conditions including physical disabilities, speech impairments and emotional problems."

Having already signed up to take part in the annual Mulberry Mud Run at Southend and, inspired by the children he had met, Chris donated his £165 to the school.

Essex Police College diversity and community engagement officer Heather Gill said: "Police officers, PCSOs and cadets really benefit from community placements."



HAVE YOUR SAY: Write to Heather Turner, Law Letters, Internal Communications, Police HQ, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DA or email heather.turner@essex.pnn.police.uk

Letters and emails must be no longer than 300 words and must include your full name and home town. The deadline is the 20th of each month.

We reserve the right to edit or omit letters. Please be aware The Law is reproduced on the internet and circulated to the media.

I WAS interested and intrigued to read the comments of Chief Constable Jim Barker-McCardle from his blog that he has now qualified to ride police bikes.

I could not work out if this was a humorous quip or if indeed qualification is now required to ride a pedal cycle on duty.

Did the Chief Constable complete the standard or advanced course?

I had to smile at the thought of some of my past Chief Constables coming out with me when I was cycling on the A12, Eastern Avenue in 1964 – Romford Division.

It also brought back memories of an incident one evening when I was late turn area car driver with a male colleague as observer.

We received a radio message to say that a car had been stolen in the past few minutes from a nearby town.

We spotted the stolen car coming towards us, containing what appeared to be very young occupants and I was able to turn the police car round just in time to see the stolen car turn off into a lane.

It was abandoned and the young occupants were running off into a field.

My observer leapt from our

car and commandeered quite a small bike from a girl and roared off in pursuit of the offenders.

It worked a treat. The offenders had entered a field and were cut off by a deep river.

It turned out they were absconders from a detention centre and the stolen car was owned by a man who was quite anti-police but the events of that evening changed his attitude.

**Dave Rose
Linton
Cambridgeshire**

□ *Editor's note: Officers undertake a standard one-day assessment course to ensure health and safety requirements are met before being able to ride a bicycle on duty.*

An advanced course is being held by the Metropolitan Police and, to date, only a few officers have completed this.

FLICKING through the May 2010 issue of *The Law*, I noticed a picture and article about neighbourhood resolution.

The example given was of an officer giving friendly words of advice to two boys about cycling on the footpath.

I presume this was simply an example of how we can now use our discretion under the neighbourhood resolution process (restorative justice).

What would the officer have done if this new resolution process hadn't been implemented? Surely *The Law* could have presented us with a better example than this?

Neighbourhood resolution and restorative justice is at last a sensible step to stop criminalising members of our community for meaningless technical breaches of the law.

This is particularly true for our young teenagers, sometimes not even old enough to be teenagers.

Of course we shouldn't forget that police officers have always had discretion – I don't remember anyone taking it away from me.

It was just made extremely difficult to exercise sometimes. Has anyone actually realised that this new policy, process – call it what you will – is not discretion but just a realistic way of providing a positive disposal.

**Sgt Fergus Caulfield
Pitsea Neighbourhood Policing
Team**

DURING 2009, the fund raising event Commando Cops took place in central London, followed by a black-tie dinner to raise money for the 60-plus now paraplegic Royal Marines who have lost limbs in recent conflicts around the globe.

Due to the massive success of this event where in excess of £175,000 was raised, it has been decided to extend Commando Cops to Commando 999, incorporating former Royal Marines who are now a part of the either the police, fire or ambulance services anywhere in the UK.

Several large fund raising events and dinners are scheduled to take place over these next few years and all money raised will go straight to the Royal Marines Association (charity no 206003) and then into the Royal Marines Charitable Trust Fund which looks after the 'corps family' from cradle to grave.

The current fund is now reduced to £500,000 due to the much higher than average spending in support of the last two operational tours of Afghanistan and of Iraq prior to that, with further operational tours looming.

Severely-injured Royal Marines need your help, so please contact former Marine and now Metropolitan Police chief inspector Mark Scoular at mark.scoular@btinternet.com if you wish to help or visit www.bmcharity.com/commandocops for more details.

**Tony Rayner
Chairman
Essex Police Federation**

THE 40th anniversary of the first passing out parade from

the Essex Police Cadet School is in July next year.

Many of those former cadets met at ex-inspector Harry Fuller's funeral earlier this year but, sadly, several were unable to attend and others seem to have disappeared off the radar.

I would like to rekindle contact with all the cadets who took part in that first passing out parade in 1971, with a view to arranging a reunion for next July.

There are several clusters of ex-cadets who regularly keep in touch but it would wonderful if as many of us as possible could meet up again next year.

I would be delighted to hear from any former cadets with whom the first intake from 1969 have lost touch – contact me via email at campen.family@virgin.net

**Pat Campen (née Cole)
Little Waltham**

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

MY thanks to Pc John Simpson and Supt Glenn Maleary, who attended my aunt when she slipped and fell in Colchester High Street on her way to church.

She tells me they were very kind at the scene, arriving before the ambulance.

Later, one of them looked in at A&E at the hospital to see how she was faring.

I am obviously grateful for that kind attention and can tell you that she later had what appears to have been a successful operation.

**MH
via email**

TO Chief Constable Jim

Barker-McCardle: The Duke of Gloucester has asked that I write to thank you and your officers for your support and assistance during his visit to Essex.

It was a successful visit and Essex Police contributed with their usual professionalism and efficiency to ensure the very smooth running of the day.

His Royal Highness sends his very best wishes to you, your officers and staff and looks forward to visiting the county again.

**Equerry to TRH The Duke and
Duchess of Gloucester
Kensington Palace**

TO Claire Ziwa:

I had a look at the content of the dedicated 2010 World Cup section on the Essex Police website.

I was impressed by the extent to which it sets out local police preparations and operations and provides very sensible and pertinent advice for the people of Essex.

Congratulations on this special initiative. I wish you all every success during the tournament and beyond.

**James Brokenshire
Parliamentary Under Secretary of
State for Crime Prevention**

TO Chief Insp Alyson Wilson: I am writing in appreciation of the partnership work undertaken by crime reduction officer Peter Caulfield.

My community safety officer Martin Ford has been given the task of implementing the new Great Dunmow town centre CCTV system.

Peter's help has been absolutely invaluable in getting this project up and running.

The specification is nearly complete and Peter has put a considerable amount of effort into developing this document.

Peter has really gone the extra mile in supporting this project in partnership with the council and no request has been too much trouble for him.

Given that Martin is relatively new in post it has been a real bonus to have police representative support in developing the new CCTV system, which should be an important aid in attempting to reduce anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and the fight against crime and disorder generally.

**Community partnership manager
Uttlesford District Council**

TO the Security Systems office: We are retiring. Many thanks for all the help you have given us over the last 26 years.

We have been particularly appreciative of your sound practical methods when dealing with problem customers, and also the fact that you, alone of all the police forces we deal with, have the courtesy to let us know when changes take place.

**Conifer Alarms
Weston Colville
Cambridgeshire**

TO DCI Mark Wheeler:

I was the victim of a burglary. Although my property was damaged in the process, nothing was stolen from my house.

My sister discovered the smashed glass and Essex Police very promptly arrived at the scene to take fingerprints, interview my sister and advise her how to make the house safe again.

I received several calls on my mobile from the police, keeping me informed of what was happening and when.

I really felt that the police were conscientious and showed concern and I believed that the police would try and catch the culprits.

Dc Craig Wiggins was very patient and thorough when writing the reports.

**LS
Feering**

TO Pc Neville Hayden:

I would like to thank you very much for your help when you kindly brought my mother home after her walkabout.

She is fine now.

**SW
Great Dunmow**

TO Chief Supt Alison Newcomb: I would like to acknowledge and praise the good and efficient work undertaken by wildlife liaison support officer Red Leeson and her colleague.

PCSO Leeson has taken a very conscientious and active interest, on behalf of wildlife, regarding a piece of land in Peldon, where the landowner was clearing trees and undergrowth with the bird nesting season commencing and where there was evidence of badgers.

PCSO Leeson successfully

intervened and has stopped any further clearance work at least until September.

She has proved herself to be most capable, effective and determined in her job.

I also appreciated that she kept in touch by telephone and kept me updated with information and remains available to contact if help is required in the future.

Therefore, I would like to thank Essex Police for providing this invaluable service.

**FF
Peldon**

TO Pc Leigh Day and team:

Thank you for all your help and support. You were a great help to us in the last couple of weeks.

All at the Cromer Avenue OAP Scheme were very pleased with the results.

**SP, BF& AL
Laindon**

TO Chief Insp Alyson Wilson: What a wonderful job Pc Dave Flynn and Pc Richard Woolgar-James did when they visited me.

I don't have much experience of dealing with the police and I was visibly shaken and upset by my earlier experience with a very aggressive man.

Your Pcs were very kind and sympathetic to my predicament and made me feel so very much better about my incident.

They explained everything very well and their happy and enthusiastic approach calmed my nerves.

I felt so much better by the time they left.

**JG
Bishop's Stortford**

TO Pc Brad Healey:

Thank you very much for the tremendous help you and colleagues Sgt Chris Sharp, Pc Tom Bastendorff and PCSO Joanna Trevail-Philips gave my wife when she was taken ill in Hatfield Heath.

You were most helpful and thoughtful. My wife has now fully recovered.

**FW
Bishop's Stortford**

TO Chief Insp Alyson Wilson: I would like to thank Pc Rob Gillespie for the way he has treated me and my family over the last few months.

Pc Gillespie has been extremely supportive, understanding, caring and helpful.

I am due to attend court as a witness and this past year has been an extremely difficult one and without the support of Pc Gillespie it would have been even harder.

**KS
Great Dunmow**

TO Jeff Walker:

A big thank you from the ladies of the Spare Rib Club who enjoyed a great evening at the Essex Police Museum.

You gave us a lot of information, you were friendly and had a sense of humour and were very helpful.

When we got home, everyone said what a good evening they had.

I have told Becky Wash, the curator, and will certainly recommend people to visit Essex Police Museum.

**Spare Rib Club
Upminster**

Gone ... but not forgotten

PC Rod Daniels had served with Essex Police for more than 30 years when he was killed – he joined the force on June 4, 1970.

He was on duty in an unmarked car, returning from court at Harwich, when he stopped at the scene of a minor road collision near a bend in the A12 at Kelvedon, on February 8, 2001.

The crash had happened shortly before 12.30pm and the inside lane was blocked.

Pc Daniels had spent most of his career on Traffic and realised the danger to other motorists and called for assistance.

Colleagues in a marked police car arrived and began to clear the accident.

Wearing a fluorescent jacket, Pc Daniels, 53, began walking down the verge to warn other drivers when he was struck by a maroon Ford Sierra and killed.

Pc Daniels' colleagues described him as an officer who would never pass by a difficult situation and would always try to help. He put the safety of other road users as his first priority.

He had received four Chief Constable's Commendations, including one for calmness when confronted by a man with a loaded shotgun, a Court Commendation and a Letter of Congratulations.

He left a widow and two sons.

Gone ... but not forgotten remembers police officers who have been killed on duty.

This month, we remember the life of Pc Rod Daniels, which ended on February 8, 2001.



□ Pc Rod Daniels

Chief Constable joins NPIA board

CHIEF Constable Jim Barker-McCardle has joined as one of three non-executive members on the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) Board.

He replaces the chief constable of Bedfordshire who is retiring.

Supt **Steve Johnson** is the new Stansted divisional commander.

His position as Central Division's operational support superintendent has been filled by **Sean O'Callaghan**, who returns to the force from his secondment with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

Retirements

Forty-six years of service with Essex Police and for the people of Essex came to an end last month for **Roger Barkway**, 65.

He began his career with the force as a police cadet, became a constable and was promoted to sergeant.

He spent time on Traffic and 16 years with HQ Driving School. Following his retirement as an officer, he spent 12 years as a member of police staff, first as a firearms assistant and

then on HQ Reception, first as Reception/Mail Room clerk and latterly as Reception/Mail Room supervisor.

DCI **Tony Guinan-Browne**, 56, retires this month after 30 years' service.

He has served on Crime, South Western, South Eastern and Central divisions and in Professional Standards, as well as a secondment to the Regional Counter-Terrorist Review Project.

Insp **David Britton**, 49, also retired last month, having completed more than 30 years' service. Joining the force in 1979, he served at various stations including Grays, Southend, HQ and Basildon, then spells within CID as a sergeant and inspector. He had been based on South Western Division for the past eight years.

Obituaries

Retired traffic warden **Bert Malseed**, of Colchester, has died aged 65, leaving a widow, Moira, two sons and a daughter.

Mr Malseed was a traffic warden controller for Braintree Division and had 20 years' service with the force. Prior to that, he served 23 years with the Royal Signals.

Retired superintendent **Bill Burles**, of Westcliff on Sea has died, aged 93. He retired from Southend-on-Sea County Borough Constabulary in 1967, having served 30 years.

Donations may be made in his memory to Southend Blind Welfare Organisation and sent c/o Maureen Stevens, 118b Hamlet Court Road, Westcliff on Sea, Essex.

Ex-sergeant **Gordon Bettridge**, of Brentwood, has died, aged 81. He leaves a widow, Winifred.

Mr Bettridge served from 1955 to 1981 at Billericay, Romford, Writtle, Brentwood and Basildon.

Donations may be made in his memory to the Stroke Association and sent c/o Herongate Wood funeral directors, Herongate Wood Burial Ground, Billericay Road, Brentwood CM13 3PS.

Former Pc **Robert Carter**, of Chelmsford, has died, aged 60. He leaves a widow, Patricia.

Mr Carter served from 1968 to 1997 at Chelmsford and as a scenes of crime officer.

Donations may be made in his memory to the Essex Police Benevolent Fund and sent c/o Pennack and Sons funeral directors, 1-3 Maldon

Road, Chelmsford CM2 7DW.

Awards and commendations

Special operations administration and training officer **Martin Lucking** has been presented with a Metropolitan Police Borough Commander's Commendation.

He was dining in a Surbiton restaurant in September 2008 when there was a disturbance outside.

A man from the flat above had doused himself in paint-thinner, set himself alight and run out into the street.

Mr Lucking took off his top and tried to beat out the flames, threw water and used a fire extinguisher in a vain bid to save the man's life.

Mr Lucking, who received his award for bravery and quick-thinking, said: "It was shocking situation but, as an ex-sergeant who has served 23 years with Essex Police I just went on to autopilot."

"One minute I was enjoying a meal, next I was frantically trying to save a man's life."

Pc **Pascal Menelas**, of South Western Division, has been awarded a foundation degree (FdA) in police studies by Portsmouth University.

Vincent's career comes full circle

DESPITE working for the NHS Vincent Watkins spent his last day before retiring where he began his career 35 years earlier.

Initially a post-room assistant aged 16, Mr Watkins worked at Essex Police HQ from 1975, back when Chief Constable John Nightingale was the man in charge.

At the age of 21 he left to begin a successful 30-year career with the NHS, finishing up as an emergency care practitioner.

Mr Watkins said: "I couldn't believe it when I received the call to attend Essex Police HQ."

"To be able to end my career in the same place I started is a brilliant coincidence."

He added: "Being back at HQ is certainly an unusual way to end my full-time employment with the NHS. After 30 years it has been a bit of a roller coaster but I have really enjoyed it."

Sports & social

Force lottery prizewinners

THE winner of the June force lottery draw was Carey Greene, of the Force Information Room (FIR), who receives £3,000.

Insp Martin Mueller, also of FIR, wins £1,000 and Kieron Harris, of Transport Services, wins £500.

Winners of the £100 prizes were: Sgt Andrew Sawyer, of Colchester South (twice); Jean Pringle, of Colchester; Ds Ian Jennings, of Harlow; Sgt Darren Worsey, of Braintree; Sgt Christopher Sculfor, of Basildon Response Team; Sc Andrew Thomson, of Saffron Walden; Michael Thorp, retired; Pc Andrew Duffell, of Essex Police College; Sgt Marc Jordan, of Aveley Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT); John Coyle, retired; Dc Paul Crook-Williams, of Stansted.

Winners of the £50 prizes were: Pc Jerry White, of Witham North NPT; Anita Littmoden, of Grays South NPT; Cymon Vansertima, of IT Service Support; Pc Russell Cutchey, of Harlow Response Team; Jenny Hillyard, of the Legal Department; Pc Victoria Bax, of Southchurch NPT; Pc Timothy Atkins, of Stansted; Pc James Nash, of Chelmsford; Zulekha Joyce, of Pitsea North West NPT; June Higgs, of Rayleigh; Dc Michael Smith, of Harlow Major Investigation Team; Duncan McDowall, of Harlow; Janice Seaber, of FIR; Pc Christopher Brennan, of Chelmsford NPT; Angela Kemp, of Mobile Support Division; Barry Bright, retired.

Sgt Matt Bell, of HQ Territorial Policing, won an Amethyst Experience steam train experience for two; and Lynda May, of the Legal Department, won four Alton Towers tickets, donated by Merlin Entertainments.

Cricketers' ironic dismissal from PSUK

THE force cricket team suffered a drastic reversal of fortune following last season's PSUK victory.

And ironically their nemesis in the first round of this year's competition were the team they beat in the final – Dyfed Powys.

Essex were without star players Dave Jackson and Dave Newman and had a hard task against a side containing three ex-professionals.

Jon Butcher, Paul Gamman and Luke Gamman were dismissed for a total of just 14 runs and two more wickets went before the score reached 50.

Kevin Cooper, Ady Garnham and Andy

Blunt steadied the ship but Essex were skittled for a paltry 129.

Any hope Essex had of fighting their way back into the game were dashed once the British Police pair Evans and Williams got into their stride – they smashed the ball to put on 133 runs in only 22 overs and Dyfed Powys cruised to a nine-wicket victory.

THE Gentlemen of Essex CID have started their new season, beating Trinity College Cambridge by seven wickets in the opening match, with an exemplary display of fielding.

**Trinity College 116
Gentlemen of Essex CID 119-3**

Both the Gents and Billericay Veterans stood for a minute's silence to honour the memory of Billericay opening batsman Richard Carr. They then got down to business and the Gents dismissed Billericay vets, winning by 168 runs.

Gentlemen of CID 233-3

Billericay Vets 65 all out

After a shaky start in the shadow of Audley End House, the Gents sorted themselves out, with Gavin Edwards scoring 55 runs, Harry Callaghan 52 and Martin Southwell 51. This lifted the Gents to an 87-run win with 13 overs to spare.

**Gentlemen of Essex CID CC 246-6
Audley End CC 159 all out**



Croker Cup award

CROKER Cup winners South Western received the cup at the annual meeting of Essex Police Sports Association.

Ivor Harvey was presented with the cup by EPSA chairman Derek Benson – pictured far right.

Stuart Ashton received the runners-up trophy on behalf of South Western Division.

Sports Achievers of the Year were named as the force cricket team, who won last season's PSUK championship. They were represented at the meeting by captain Ady Garnham, Dave Newman and David Jackson.

And EPSA finance officer John Mackenzie was presented with a shield to recognise his services to the EPSA.



• **Christian Robinson**
ext 58883

AS summer fast approaches, I thought it would be a good time to remind Essex Police Sports Association members about specific benefits which help at this time of the year.

We have numerous discounts at theme parks within Essex and many more across the UK.

Many travel companies and resorts also offer our members great rates and special discounts.

And two companies offer reduced rates for childcare during the long summer school break.

EPSA has negotiated well in excess of 400 benefits for our members, 200 of which are available through www.perkz.com

Please call the EPSA office for the registration code which you will need to register for Perkz.

For more information on all of the benefits or for a member benefits list, contact Jo Baker in the EPSA office on 0300 333 4444 ext 58889 or email her at jo.baker2@essex.pnn.police.uk

❑ **RETIRE**D Essex officer Iain Fraser was third in the English Police boat fly-fishing championships.

Fraser's tally at Rutland Water was 23lbs 9oz. He will now go on to fish in next year's European Police Championships in Eire.

❑ **ESSEX 'A'** were clear winners of the regional beach fishing competition.

The team, comprising Russ Cole, Simon Clark, Chris Gibson and Sam Green, scored 259 points in the contest at Aldburgh, Suffolk – 51 points clear of second-placed Norfolk 'A'.

❑ **COLCHESTER'S** Ben Pryke came third in the 100m butterfly at the PSUK national swimming competition.

Pryke, 26, has been swimming since he was eight and used to swim for Ipswich and Suffolk.

Between 13 and 15 he swam at three national competitions, with his best ranking being seventh in the UK at 50m butterfly – his best stroke.

❑ **THIS** year's Croker Cup golf tournament will be held on September 16 at Rochford Hundred Golf Club.

Each division is invited to enter a team of eight players. A maximum handicap limit of 18 for men and 24 for women applies.

❑ Full competition rules can be found on the Police of Essex Golf Society (PEGS) website at <http://pegs-golf.co.uk> or contact last year's individual winner Ian Clark on 0300 333 4444 ext 470219

Force 'truly committed' to diversity

ESSEX Police is "truly committed" to supporting diversity, according to the results of the latest Staff Equality Survey.

The force wanted to know what you thought about equality issues and the results of the survey, carried out in October and November 2009, have now been analysed.

And they showed members of under-represented groups felt the force was truly committed to supporting diversity.

Equality and diversity manager Jan Woodhouse said: "Undertaking this survey is a helpful opportunity to understand perceptions within the force."

"We will work with the Federation, Unison and our staff networks to address any problem areas identified and build confidence that equality of opportunity applies to all our staff members."

"To ensure that progress is made, a full action plan will be drawn up and delivered by our Internal Equality Action Team to drive improvements forward."

A notable finding was that 88 per cent of lesbian, gay and bi-sexual police officers and staff who responded felt confident to recommend Essex Police as an employer.

Other results showed that, at the time of the survey, 79 per cent of all responding officers felt that, overall, teamwork in their section was good.

While 70 per cent of all respondents felt they were treated with fairness and respect and 67 per cent thought that working for Essex Police gave them a sense of achievement.

However, there was evidence that more work needed to be done to ensure that everyone within the force felt valued, not just under-represented groups.

And a number of women also indicated issues regarding clothing and kit, while some police officers and staff felt their career opportunities may be limited by part-time working hours.

For full details and results from the Staff Equality Survey 2009 visit the Equality/Diversity intranet pages – listed under Information on the intranet Site Directory – and scroll down to and click on Facts & Figures

A Mutual benefit

THE force's network of Police Mutual authorised officers has been recognised by the society for achieving the highest increase in new members over the past year.

The award was presented to Supt Ivor Harvey, of South Western Division, at Police Mutual's annual conference.

Officer represents war veterans at Palace

WESTERN'S acting Operations superintendent Keith Dobson was presented to the Princess Royal last month.

Earlier this year, the Falklands War veteran was one of three members of the South Atlantic Medal Association (SAMA 82) to receive an invitation to the 90th anniversary celebration of the "Not Forgotten" Association, of which the Princess Royal is patron.

As well as a Champagne reception at Buckingham Palace, acting Supt Dobson was invited to a private concert along with selected veterans from all wars and

conflicts which have taken place in the past 90 years, including those in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He was presented to the Princess Royal and her husband Vice-Admiral Tim Laurence.

"She showed surprise when she realised I was a serving police officer and we spoke about the Falklands War and policing in Essex," he said.

"It was a great honour to be asked to attend the Palace to represent those who fought in the Falklands War in 1982."

"I was fortunate – 255 members of the

Task Force never came home."

Acting Supt Dobson, 47, joined the Royal Corps of Signals in 1978 and served in Germany, Cyprus and Central America.

In 1982, he was with 5 Airborne Brigade in Aldershot and joined the Falklands Task Force, seeing action on the islands.

After leaving the Army, he joined West Yorkshire Police in 1993 and transferred to Essex Police in 2005.

The "Not Forgotten" Association provides leisure and recreational activities for wounded serving and ex-servicemen and women with disabilities.

Five men jailed for high-value car thefts

FIVE men have been jailed for a total of more than 16 years for their part in a £750,000 stolen car ring handling vehicles stolen in Essex and Greater London.

Operation Nidus was the force's investigation into the theft of up to 70 high-value cars.

The crimes were discovered after gang members hired an Audi A4, a Mercedes C180 and a Vauxhall Astra from hire companies at Stansted airport in April last year.

None were returned but were later recovered with cloned identities.

Officers found that the gang had been receiving cars stolen from homes across London and the Home Counties after the keys had been stolen during burglaries.

Gang members specialised in handling stolen BMWs, Mercedes, Audis and top-of-the-range Volkswagens.

Earlier this year Krzysztof Nowicki, 38, of no fixed address, and 34-year-old Eduadas Masiulis, of London, admitted conspiracy to handle stolen vehicles.

The remaining four defendants – Joanas Bondarenko, 35, of Walthamstow, Vidmantas Lajauskas, 28, and Nerijus Jarusevicius, 33, both from Dagenham, and Kamil Dudko, 23, of Leyton – were all convicted last month following an eight-week trial at Chelmsford Crown Court.

Bondarenko and Dudko were convicted in their absence, the former having failed to attend the trial, while the latter fled halfway through.

During sentencing on July 1, Bondarenko was identified as the ringleader and given a seven-year prison term.

Lajauskas and Jarusevicius were each jailed for three and a half years and Dudko for 22 months while Nowicki received a one-year suspended jail sentence. Sentencing of Masiulis has been postponed.

Investigating officer Dc Jean Seager said: "The men made the mistake of linking their crime to the airport where our sophisticated security systems proved to be their undoing."

"The high level of security around UK airports meant that we had access to information and databases and were able to identify vehicles and bank accounts that led us to arrest all six men."

Crown Prosecution Service Prosecutor Anil Patani said: "These men would specifically target high-value vehicles and in quick time would change their identity and sell them on."

Cyclists soon catch up with burglary suspect

IT took just 14 minutes for officers from South Eastern's advanced cycling team to get from Shoebury police station to Western Esplanade to catch a suspected burglar.

Sgt Paul Bird, Pc Paul Sheldrake and PCSO Sam Dunbobbin were on duty when a hit on the automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) system alerted them to a vehicle possibly being driven by someone wanted for burglary in Hertfordshire.

Cycling at around 24 miles an hour, they soon found the vehicle and arrested a 44-year-old man from East London on suspicion of burglary.

Sgt Bird said: "We were able to catch the suspect quickly, beating traffic and getting through places cars can't."

Hertfordshire Police bailed the man until July 21, pending further inquiries.

It was just one of a number of ANPR hits which have been acted upon by the team since it was set up more than two months ago.

They have made 24 arrests and cycled more than 2,100 miles.

It is the force's first dedicated cycle patrol team, comprising one sergeant, two constables and two PCSOs.

Members of the public got to meet them for the first time on June 12 at Southend Pier when they dished out bike security and safety tips.

Due to the continued success of Operation Velo – which aims to increase officers' visibility through increased cycle patrols – it was decided to set up a team dedicated to patrolling on bicycles across the whole of South Eastern Division ie the Southend, Rochford and Castle Point districts. Team members underwent in-

From left, Pc Daren Chambers, PCSO Luke Gamman, DCC Andy Bliss, PCSO Sam Dunbobbin, Pc Paul Sheldrake and Sgt Paul Bird at the official launch of South Eastern's advanced cycling team

Picture by Jenna Smith



tensive advanced cycle training so they will be able to pursue and catch suspected offenders safely and quickly.

The training will also enable them to perform quick dismounts and negotiate sets of steps or uneven terrain.

Sgt Paul Bird said: "The training means we can get to difficult places quickly. We can beat traffic and get to places which are hard to get to in a car."

"It's also helping us do what we are

hired to do – catch criminals."

"Being on the team also keeps us fit, is environmentally-friendly and helps us engage with local communities."

To see the team in action, visit the Operation Velo pages on the force website at www.essex.police.uk/opvelo and click on FILM: Pedal-powered policing gets advanced

Chief Constable's cycle training – see Letters on Page 6

YouTube's window on our force

FILMS on the new Essex Police YouTube channel have been watched more than 17,000 times since its launch six months ago.

The channel – which can be found at www.youtube.com/essexpoliceuk – was created in January to coincide with the launch of the new Essex Police website and is now home to more than 35 short videos.

The films, created by the Media Department's Internet and Television units, show police officers, staff and animals in action across the county.

Internet manager David White said: "Traditional methods of getting messages out there are having less impact and reaching fewer people so we can't rely on them alone any more."

"Easy access to technology means the internet is playing an even bigger part in our lives than ever. We need to embrace this as a way of communicating and pushing home our messages to the people of Essex."

"I'm delighted the films are proving popular and hope they will continue to be so." Since January, a new two to three-

minute video has been added to the channel every week.

The films are also published on the Essex Police website at www.essex.police.uk

Those on show include a day in the life of a Scenes of Crime officer, behind the scenes at the Essex Police lab, a look at the gadgets on board the Essex Police helicopter QH99, fun at the 2SMART roadshows for young people and Operation Velo's high-visibility cycle patrols.

The WrongCo crime prevention films are also featured.

