

The Law

including Essex Police Magazine



Collecting Charity
coppers — see
centre pages

The Newspaper of the Essex Police

December 1991

No 222

Local campaigns support police in tackling drink driving FESTIVE WARNING TO

DRIVERS

**Essex
to get
58 more
officers**

HOME Secretary Kenneth Baker has granted the force's bid for an extra 58 officers next year.

National figures had shown Essex to be under policed in relation to its population size, and the additional officers will help in the fight against rising crime figures.

Money for the new posts has still to be approved by the County Council, which must fund almost half of the cost.

If granted, the extra officers will be deployed on uniformed operational duties, and the areas of Essex in which they work will be determined according to policing priorities.

ACC (P) Terry Rands welcomed the increase, which is exactly the number of officers the force requested.

Dates of recruitment will be determined following consultation between the Chief Constable and Police Committee but it is intended to recruit half of the new officers next October.

Mr Rands said, "Essex has been shown to be relatively under policed, and this welcome increase is in line with the Chief Constable's objective, and that of the Police Authority, to bring the ratio of police to public up to the national average."

Julian's job is a hoot



KELVEDON Sgt Julian Dawson gets to grips with his role as one of the force's newly appointed wildlife liaison officers.

His European eagle owl, pictured, is a regular companion on his beat which incorporates three large nature reserves, including this one, Oxley Meadow, near his Tolleshunt Knights home.

For all the news on the new posts see page 5.

Picture by Steve Argent, courtesy of the Maldon and Burnham Standard.

ESSEX Police are again targeting drink drivers in the festive season — not to be Scrooge-like spoilsports, but with the aim of ensuring the county's road-users have a safe and Happy Christmas.

The campaign is one of many accident-reducing initiatives by the force's traffic officers during 1991.

Nominated

The police support local efforts to eliminate drink driving, such as Colchester Evening Gazette's "Drink Soft, Drive Safe" campaign, which provides a nominated driver with free soft drinks, and has the full backing of Colchester Licensed Victuallers Association.

The force also backs the Brewers' Society's

by Jenny Bullus

"Wheelwatch" initiative, promoting cabs, and Eastern National's "Don't Get a Ban, get a Bus" campaign.

The message to the public is that it is no longer fashionable to drink and drive — and reminds them that it will bring an automatic minimum one year ban, and could lead to a jail term.

Essex officers breath-tested nearly 2,000 drivers in last year's Christmas campaign, including every driver involved in an accident, regardless of the time of day.

Nearly six per cent proved positive, down from the previous year's 10 per cent — but still too many.

Sgt Bob Bourne of

Stanway Traffic said, "We concentrate on drink driving all the year round, but the tragedy it can cause is especially highlighted at this time of the year."

"We will have high-profile police patrols, and they will breath test anyone they suspect of drink driving."

Roadside

Traffic officers at Stanway and Chelmsford are for the first time this year putting out roadside signs bearing the message, "Don't Drink and Drive."

Sgt Bourne said, "We want people to enjoy themselves during the festive season, but to think beforehand about getting a taxi or a lift. These signs will hopefully remind them."

The national Christmas campaign has been launched with the slogan, "Drinking and Driving wrecks lives", backed up by a hard-hitting television commercial.



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: Traffic Pc Vince Atkinson sends a warning signal to drivers. Picture by Fred Hammerton, courtesy of The Essex Chronicle.

Merry Christmas to all our readers

Federation Notes



by Brian Pallant

NEWS . . . NEWS . . . NEWS . . .

Appeal brings charge change

MEMBERS will be aware that under the relevant legislation on Community Charge, members with two homes have been able to pay personal Community Charge on their main residence and standard Community Charge on their second home.

Recently a Hertfordshire officer appealed against this decision. The officer lived in Police Provided Accommodation in Hertfordshire but also owned his own property in Suffolk.

He appealed on the grounds that he should be assessed on the Community charge on his own property with the Police Provided Accommodation as his second home. This was allowed.

The result of this means that as he is not the owner or tenant of the Police Property he would not be liable to the standard charge on that property.

Any member seeking further advice should contact me in the Federation office on extension 2797.

Stalling cars

WE STILL appear to be no nearer a decision from the Home Office regarding this scheme.

The latest position is that I have written once again to the Home Office requesting a meeting with Jenny Rumble and her Legal Advisers to discuss why this straight forward scheme could not be brought to fruition.

Although I wrote over a month ago I still await a reply.

Rent Row

THE HOME Secretary recently responded in writing to Vee Neild the Federation General Secretary with regard to the outstanding anomalies as a result of the change in the rent/housing allowance.

The one area which gives rise for concern is with regard to where a police officer is married to a police officer and one of the partners leaves the service after the 1st April 1990.

The previous Home Secretary promised to address this issue, however the new Home secretary appears to have had an about turn and has remained with the original regulation.

The matter is being raised direct with the Home Secretary by Vee Neild with the hope that he will reconsider. You will be kept informed of developments.

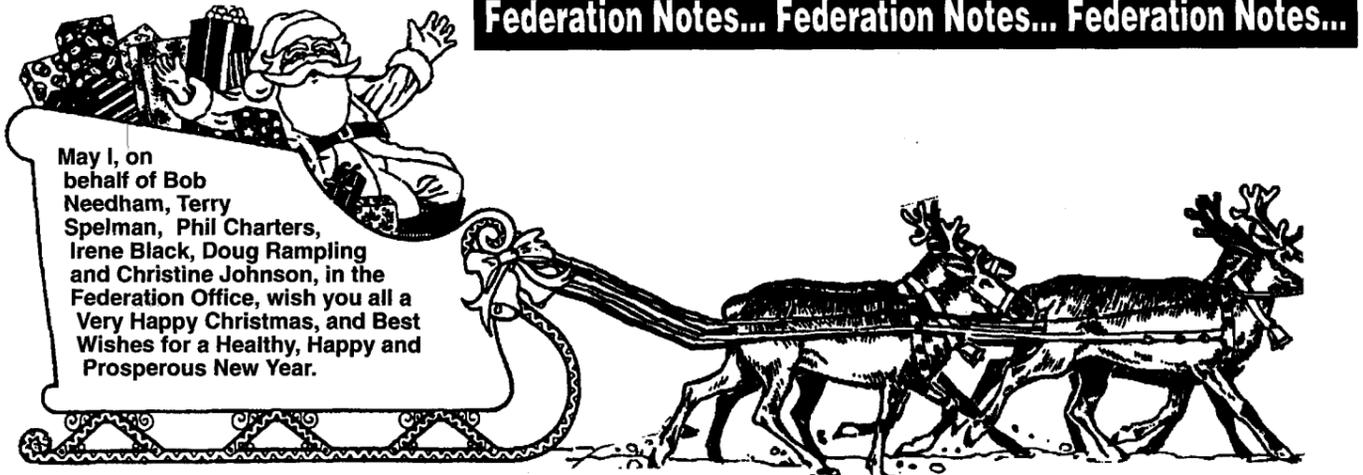
Pension News

AS a result of my article in the last edition I have had numerous enquiries from members.

Since then I can report that the Inland Revenue have further relaxed their rules. Officers who were previously prohibited from taking out an AVC because they would have completed 30 years service by the age of 50 are now included.

The Inland Revenue has given them an exemption under the rules. This means that all Officers can now consider taking out AVC'S.

HOWEVER IF IN DOUBT PLEASE CONTACT ME AT THE FEDERATION OFFICE.



FED CHARI-TEA AT FARLEIGH

DATELINE — Wednesday 25th September.

IT'S NOW mid afternoon and I am in the midst of a Grand Tea Party at Farleigh, the home of Chelmsford's Hospice in New London Road.

This former boys school has been tastefully converted for use as a hospice and boasts ten bedrooms for in-patients and has day-care facilities for at least eight additional patients.

I have already seen the splendid gardens laid out with thoughtful care. There are cute little sun traps for sitting out and ramps for wheelchairs.

The refurbished Farthings Cottage in the corner of the gardens now acts as the office complex for the fund raising activities at Farleigh.

A wander into the main building allows me to see the day-care room, dining room, television room and quiet room.

I am impressed with the standard of decorations and how appropriately well they blend into the character of this old house.

A modern reception area

greet all visitors and the whole building has an air of friendliness and openness.

So why am I here and why is this tremendous Tea Party taking place? The answer to these questions starts with a meeting of the Brand Board's Charity Working Party.

This group has the responsibility for allocating some of the funds which make up the Charity Account. All those purchases of ties, key rings, pens, plaques etc., generate small profits which help to swell the coffers of the Charity Account.

The Working Party decided that one of its first ventures should be to support a local

By Bob Needham

charity here in Chelmsford and selected the Chelmsford Hospice.

I was deputed to do some background enquiries and found that the staff were wholeheartedly behind the suggestion. A decision was made to hold an afternoon Tea Party on 25th September.

The date has special significance for it marks the second anniversary of the inauguration of the Hospice In-Patient facilities.

Added to that they have just opened up a satellite centre at Braintree which also accepts patients on a day-care basis.

So we have invited all those from Braintree as well this has enabled us to assemble quite a goodly crowd for the afternoon.

The Police connection here is quite strong. The Public Relations Appeals Manager is

George Harris who most will remember as the former Divisional Commander at Chelmsford. Catering for the afternoon has been in the hands of Wilma Grieg who was formerly Catering Manageress at Police Headquarters.

I have also just found out that one of the nursing sisters here is the wife of a PC!

So far the afternoon is going well. Matron Mrs Janet Curmi is ensuring that everybody is being well served with enough food and drink whilst I have a chat with Dan Chandler.

I find out Dan is an employee

of the Ford Motor Company. He tells me that as part of company policy he has been seconded for two years work in the community.

He has done thirty years with Ford, whose attitude towards social contribution is a little known aspect of the company.

Judging by the happy faces and thankful comments, I am sure that everybody has enjoyed themselves and that the venture has been a huge success.

It has been a pleasure to head a small party of Joint Branch Board volunteers and their wives for the afternoon, and perhaps show in the same way as Ford's have done, the little known social conscience of the Joint Branch Board.

Well done Brian!



BOB NEEDHAM the JBB Chairman presents Brian Palmer with the Federation Plate for his long and devoted service to the Joint Branch Board.

DRIVING HOME THE MILEAGE TAX CHANGES

IN recent weeks I have received many enquiries in the office with regard to the change in the liability for taxation on Casual and Essential user mileage.

To assist members I have reproduced a copy of the latest profit tables issued recently by the National Police Federation — this is available on request from the Federation Office.

The tables are for this tax year 1991/92. However as the Inland Revenue now assess members in advance instead of arrears your tax codes will be

changed to take account of estimated mileage for this year based on your last year's returns.

If as in most cases your mileage will have been reduced you should inform the inland revenue personally at the end of the tax year in April 1992 to make sure you have paid the right amount of tax.

You might be liable for a refund.

If in doubt give me a ring in the Federation Office.

In checking some of the tax returns recently it became apparent that some officers mileage figures supplied by County Hall to the Inland

Revenue were in fact wrong.

What happened was that all miles travelled for officers were sent as one total to the Revenue. They have then assumed that all the miles were either at Casual User Rate or Essential. In many cases mileage has been claimed at the locally agreed rate.

County Hall are aware of the mistake and are currently checking all officers that are on mileage.

Correct figures will be sent to the Inland Revenue.

Unfortunately the new codes take affect in December therefore there will have to be another adjustment made either in January or February.

If in doubt give me a ring on extension 2797.

Next Month:

... is a new year — so don't forget your 1992 Fed. Diary, available from the Federation office for 50p.



OFF BEAT

Sergeant's labour

OUR officers and civvies are a talented lot, you know, and amongst the crime and complaints there is a light-hearted side to the work they do.

So when a call from a worried father-in-law, who thought his daughter-in-law was in labour and unable to get to the door, turned out to be a false alarm, the sequence of events inspired a Braintree control room operator to burst into verse.

She wrote, "The lady was not in labour, She was over the road with a neighbour, She was drinking some tea, and knitting some mittens, whilst watching Pk Walls, outside having kittens. Poor chap was only doing his job!"

Open and Shut

WE'VE had one or two interesting thefts reported recently.

A report on IRIS tells me that a postman in Chelmsford Division had his "male" stolen, and what about the chap down in Stanford-le-Hope who stole a door? Police are treating it as an open and shut case.

And it seems the thieves in the north of the county have got a lotta bottle. A suspect fleeing from police in Halstead dropped a black bag, which was found to contain 20 pints of milk.

Dial "D" for Mercedes

TWO GLEAMING motoring monsters brought a sparkle to Basildon this Christmas, as D shift gave up their rest day to help local disabled people get some seasonal shopping done.

The 1920s Mercedes and a roaring Ford Mustang, which were lent to officers, joined a fleet of ambulances in ferrying people to the Eastgate shops for late night opening.

The event was organised by Don Baxter of Shop Mobility, and helping alongside the police were local Sea Scouts, Army Cadets and other community associations, many of whom provided transport.

And of course, being that time of year, Father Christmas was on hand (in the form of Pc Paul



Collection has outgrown Dave's patch



NO ROOM AT THE DBO: Dave's badge collection has outgrown his small office at Great Waltham.

WHEN it comes to collecting most people haven't got a patch on Great Waltham Pc Dave Manders.

For if the rural bobby was ever asked to hand over his badge it could take a long time - he long ago lost count, but his collection of American Police badges runs well past 500.

Dave's interest began over 14 years ago watching American cop shows on TV and he decided to try to collect the colourfully-designed patches US police forces and departments wear on their uniforms.

He began by writing off speculative letters to police chiefs in the States, teamed up with some American pen pals, then finally made the leap across the pond to Arizona - and sew on.

Between 1980 and '86 he went back to the US every year, mostly to

by Paul Dunt

Arizona. The collection grew and grew and membership of an international collectors association brought in more contacts - and patches.

His collection now includes many rarities and patches out of production, as well as some oddities such as an Hawaii 5 O Police patch, from the TV series since Hawaii is the only state not to have its own official state Police patch.

Other valuable additions are a display of Indian tribal police patches, which he swapped with an Essex Officer, and a selection of US 'Essex' badges such as Essex Police, Vermont, Essex Police Dept - New Jersey and Essexville Police!

But Dave's expanding collection, which also includes some police hats, equipment uniforms, and shield badges, is now

rapidly out-growing his small detached beat office, which means many spend most of the time locked away.

"It's such a pity but I just haven't got room to display them here," said Dave, so he is appealing for anyone who could give part of the collection a temporary home where they will be on display to come forward.

"What I would really like to do is to loan them out to a station where they will be appreciated and seen by people", he said.

If anyone has ideas about where the badges could be displayed, or would like them in their station or department, where they will be seen by officers and members of the public please contact Dave at Gt Waltham on 0245 360267.

The only stipulation is that the badges must be displayed in a secure glass case for their protection.

Christmas message from the Chairman



I SEND all members of the Essex Police, uniformed and civilian, the most heartfelt seasonal greetings. I exclude seasonal weather as the ice and snow we can do without over the holiday period.

For the rest, the holly, the mistletoe, bright lights, warm hearts and children's expectant faces, they will be as welcome around our homes as always.

And into your homes I send, on behalf of Essex people (not necessarily Essex man!), gratitude for your service to the county over the past year and hope that you and your families will be able to enjoy the spirit of Christmas together.

Looking at the New Year, as recession wanes, there are grounds for optimism. In Essex at least, with an extra 58 officers to come on the strength, and ever growing support services, Essex Police can look forward with confidence but certainly not complacency to the challenges of 1992, so let us continue to lead the country in the service we give.

Geoffrey C. Waterer,
Chairman,
Essex Police Authority.

From the Chief Constable

CHRISTMAS is by tradition a time when with our families we count our blessings and think about others who are less well off than ourselves.

As members of Essex Police our working lives are spent providing a

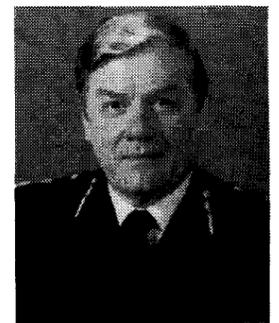
service to those who are either the victims of crime or of some other traumatic incident.

Despite the many difficulties we have faced both as a nation and as police officers and civilian staff during 1991 you have maintained this tradition of the British Police Service.

In my many contacts with you I am always assured by your good humour, fortitude and professionalism as you go about your daily duties.

In many respects 1991 has been a successful year. Your efforts are reflected in a reduction in road accidents, a 19% rise in the number of offences detected and, despite the increased demands for police assistance, the number of complaints has again fallen.

The focus has now

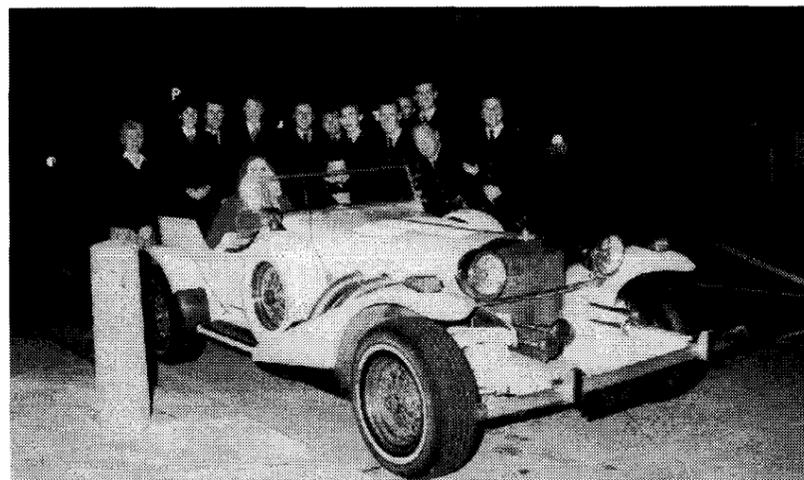


shifted to quality of service issues but we already have much of which we can be proud.

I know from my own experience that we cannot give of our best without the invaluable support and understanding of our wives, husbands and families.

So may I wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and a less frantic and peaceful New Year.

I look forward to meeting many more of you personally in 1992 when once again our thoughts will return to the community and the realities of day to day life.



SANTA'S going upmarket: Swapping his traditional sleigh for a marvelous Mercedes, he helped Basildon police and other community organisations to provide a Christmas shopping treat for the area's disabled people.



Back to Methuselah

GREETINGS to my old chief serang John (Sorcerer's Apprentice) Reid. Congratulations on blowing my cover.

But he flatters an old penny-a-liner who won a few prizes of various sizes but was never a patch on the chap from Devizes.

Conversely, John might have become our secret weapon or have majored in hokum or housey. In the event he was our guru, genius and technocrat in the black art of his chosen discipline.

His super said so. Oh, his tales of derring-do; ah, that heart-stopping soap, "1891" that dark and stormy night when a tear stood in his bright brown eye ...

Metro PC, bohemian biped, commits multiple mayhem at Blind Beggar, Dickensian watering hole by night .. Finally, in excess of zeal, waltzes into blue yonder with one Wanda delectable barperson to Hearts and Flowers and sobbing zigeuner violins like.

Condign punishment fits crime, fined 2s6d. Should run and run.

Does anyone out there remember "Nine P'ints of the Law," Lawson Wood's ever-green send-up of the thick blue line, also circa 1891? Inspired by Gilbert and Sullivan's leg-pull, it portrayed nine rogue policemen quaffing foaming pintas (or quartas?) in style.

Some miscreants are seen whipping the next man's potion and the facial expressions of cunning and cupidity are admirably captured.

This picture decorated the recreation room at Clacton's nick pre-war when they decanted us tender shoots for inspection at the Hall of the Mountainous King Caleb ...

Today the picture survives world-wide 'mid shot and shell where-e'er Kipking is quoted and the white man's burden is borne. **STOP PRESS:** My jailer ('Er indoors) has just authorised a small replica for my cell. Forgive these maudlin tears.

Ral, bohemian son of the prophet Jonah

Grateful thanks

Dear Mr Burrow

My aunt and I would like to thank you for your letter of consolation, regarding the death of my father, Roy Tolson. I like to think that it was as much a mark of respect for the man himself, as a condolence for us.

I have placed a number of notices in the local press to thank friends, neighbours, hospital staff etc (your good selves included), but wanted to write to each and every person who had sent flowers/cards/letters and thank you all personally.

Both Gwen and I are extremely grateful to you at this time, please pass this message on to any members of the force that knew my father.

Pete Tolson and Gwen Jones,

The Oxleys, Harlow.

Four of our guests



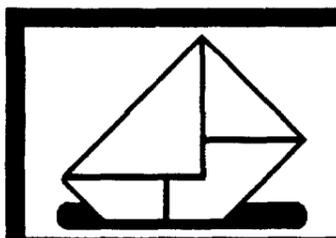
ANOTHER picture from the Doug Andrews archives, this was taken at the old Chelmsford Police Station, in 1953.

The four guests, from the Air Police, are pictured with, from left to right, Pc. Evans, PS Vic Mills, PS. Doug Andrews, PS. Mascal, Pc. Goddard, Pc. Weall.

IN OCTOBER, we printed Doug's picture of the former home Secretary R.A. Butler, at a police function in Saffron Walden. Sgt. Ray Little from Basildon phoned in to identify the handsome Essex officer with the lovely smile and the moustache as ex-Pc. 999 Bill Fry. Thanks.

Stamps for homes

THE CARR-GOMM Society is still collecting Green Shield stamps. These are being redeemed to raise money for housing for single isolated people. So send your stamps to C.E. Williams, (Ex-Pc 564), 4 Becket Close, Warley, Brentwood.



Law

Letters

Harnessing the "Good Life" Down Under

I RESIGNED from the Essex Police in August 1991 to emigrate to New Zealand with my family, and hope to use The Law as a medium keep some sort of contact with my friends in the force.

It was with great difficulty I left the service, however, having made the decision it was important to follow it through.

Our plans are working well so far and New Zealand is most certainly a great place to bring up a family.

We were able to buy a small 'lifestyle' block of ten acres with a reasonable house attached and

have set up the saddlery and harness making business.

In addition to the Saddlery we are running a few cattle and goats to subsidise the income, and hope in the future to acquire more land and expand the business into a full blown equestrian centre.

I live about a twenty minute drive from Rob Turner who a lot of you

will remember, and he too passes on his good wishes.

New Zealand certainly has had a hard time of it economically and politically over the past few years.

However there is a good feeling that the recession is nearing an end, and like most places, we feel that those that are prepared to put in a hard days work will reap the benefits.

My address is shown for any of you that wish to get in touch and there

will always be a place stay here should any you get the urge to come out.

We send our best wishes to you for Christmas and 1992.

By the way, many thanks to all of you that turned up to our leaving do, we thoroughly enjoyed it and it was good to see so many of you.

Tony, Elaine, Hannah and Charlotte Walker

RD Gubbs Road Wellesford

Mysteries of the men of Dengie

THIS excellent photograph was sent to us by Phyllis Burrows from Southend. We passed it onto museum curator Fred Feather to try to identify the occasion and the date. Here are his conclusions:

I thought it might interest your readers to know how we set about identifying photographs like these. We already have a much inferior copy and this is a great find.

We know that it is before 1907 because that is when Sergeants were first allocated numerals.

We know it is after 1901 because Constable 307 PEARSON received the Merit Star whilst stationed at Southend.

From a document in the Essex Record Office we know that what the men with these numbers have in common is that they were all a part of the Dengie Division in 1902.

A ride to Southminster shows the front of the Police Station is still the same and that it has 1901 carved on it.

In our opinion this is the opening of Southminster Police Station on 24th July 1902, the date Superintendent Noah GIBBONS moved in from Latchingdon.

I suspect that Constable Joseph BRADFIELD transferred to the Southend on Sea Constabulary in 1914 and this was found in the loft of his home in St Benets Road, Westcliff.

Some mysteries for your readers. Which officer was posted to Maldon having been found asleep and under the influence of drink?



SOUTHMINSTER Police Station, circa 1902: Back row from left to right, constable Charl Bilner, Constable Harry Woodgate, Constable William Rixon. Middle, Constable Edwin Taylor, Constable Joseph Bradfield, Constable Benjamin Pearson (Merit Star 1901) Constable Samuel K Dale, Sgt William Robinson, Constable Chas W Surridge, Constable Robert Pamment, Constable Arthur Rolfe, either Sgt. Walter Digby or Sgt. Marti Wedlock, Constable Samuel F Mott, Constable Joseph W Marslen, Constable Herbe Empson (Merit Star 1905). Front, Superintendent Noah G Gibbons, Inspector John Waterman.

Which Inspector had 11 children and had been disciplined for being drunk and assaulting someone in Coggeshall 15 years previously?

Who got awards for saving a man from death under a train and who for dealing with a man discharging a loaded revolver then got done for losing his temper and using obscene language?

There was seldom a dull day out on the Dengie Peninsula! Please send in more pictures.

FLOATY'S SMART REPLY

I wish to reply to the letter by W.W Smart in the October issue of The Law.

I joined the Borough force in 1936, and knew Pc Smart well as station officer at Leigh.

I think the family who his father lodged with at Leigh were the parents of Pc Tom Turnidge, who were well known in the Leigh area.

Pc Turnidge was warrant officer when he retired in the 1950's and would be about 88 years.

C. Turner (Floaty) Hall Farm, Stow Maries, Nr Chelmsford

Top Capers

SHARP-SHOOTERS in the force's video unit may be hitting the headlines recently but spare a thought for crime-conscious pupils at Oldfield Girls School in Bath.

They were just in the middle of shooting a crime-prevention video when thieves rushed in and stole their camera — leaving their efforts well and truly spooled.

Speedy Special

And talking of double-takes, motorists on the Isle of Man could be forgiven for thinking they had been drinking funny formula if they had stopped to ask a certain Special Constable the way to the local shops.

It appears racing ace Nigel Mansell, who has just moved to America, joined the island's 200-strong force as a Special four years ago.

The 37-year-old Grand Prix star worked more than fifty eight-hour shifts as a bobby on the tax-haven island before departing to the US. Wonder if he ever stopped anyone for speeding?

Give us a break!

Mind you, it doesn't seem likely accident-prone Duncan Adswold will be returning to the States in a hurry. He had only been there 30 minutes when he got a broken leg and a traffic ticket.

He was knocked out after being hit by a car in Delaware and when he came round in hospital Highway Patrol Officers handed him a £12 fine for jaywalking.

The Cat's Whiskers

He could have cried, but then again so could that famous cartoon cop Officer Dibble, who tried for years to catch Top Cat and his feline friends. But now folk in Derby have two officers who are just purrfect.

PC Paul Dibble mans the cells in the town's Full Street Station while PC Steve Dibble works in Crime Prevention! Top that!



The cup of success floweth over! Clara and her silverware.

MUSICAL marvel Clara Smith hit the high notes at last month's 80th anniversary Southend Music Festival.

Clara, who has produced Essex Police Musical Society's annual shows since the mid 1970s, won a sensational SEVEN trophies. And she just missed out in the Recital section, where she took second place.

This was the tenth consecutive year that Clara had entered the Southend Festival and easily her most successful, although her name already appears on many of the trophies.

Clara's voice and polished performances made a hit with the judges in the British Folk Song, International Folk Song and Early English Song sections, with numbers like "I know where I'm Going" and the Negro spiritual "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen".

She won back the trophy for the Gilbert and Sullivan Class with a rendition of "The Duchess' Song" from The Gondoliers. Last year Clara had been beaten into second place by the force Musical Society's Derek Lee.

Clara was also on song in the Stage Musical section, singing "Adelaide Lament" from Guys and Dolls, the Mezzo Soprano Solo with Elgar's "The Poet's Life" and the Contralto section, in which she had to sing a set piece.

Also making a 10th appearance, accompanying Clara, was pianist Bryan Cass, the musical director of the police Musical Society.

Clara said, "I couldn't have done it without Bryan accompanying me." Bryan's playing has also won praise from the judges over the years.

Clara joined the Essex Police Musical Society back in 1970, and is currently busy knocking the performers into shape for their next show, Gigi, which runs from February 24 to 29. It stars dog handler Martin Garwood's 15-year-old daughter Kim, and promises to be another huge success.

Bobbies, Barn Owls and Brock — taking a walk on the wild side

Call of the Wild



WHAT A HOOT: Insp. Mick Barry with his eagle owl Sheba. Picture by Diane Baker, courtesy of the Braintree and Witham Times.

AT WORK, Inspector Mick Barry's job is to prey on criminals, but when he wings his way home his fascination turns to birds of prey.

But now his hobby has become part of his work, with his recent appointment as one of Essex Police's Wildlife Liaison Officers.

Historically, the force's main dealings with wildlife have been the odd drunks and hooligans on a Saturday night in town. But now the boys in blue are turning distinctly green and stepping up their protection for our furry and feathered friends.

Witham-based Inspector Barry's interest in birds began with the keeping of tropical birds like cockatiels, love birds and parrots.

Kestrel

Then 14 years ago an injured baby kestrel was handed into police. Sadly it died, but Insp. Barry was snared. He had the bird

stuffed, and keeps it at home.

Nowadays he has 11 birds of prey living in his garden aviaries, a mixture of eagle owls, tawny owls, buzzards, a barn owl and a kestrel.

"They do fascinate me," he said. "They are the top of the food chain, and I find them very impressive. Although you tame them and train them, they are always wild birds."

Over the years he has become an expert on caring for sick birds, rescuing dozens which have been shot, poisoned or the casualties of road accidents, all over the county.

Customs

"If any officer has any queries about birds of prey, then do get in touch with me," he said.

Along with ACC (P) Terry Rands and Chf. Supt. Mick

Brewer at Harlow, Mr. Barry has a county-wide responsibility for wildlife liaison.

"Our role is to be a point of reference for outside bodies, like the RSPB, the RSPCA, and customs officers," he said.

Recently, in each sub-division of the county a wildlife officers has been appointed, with a specific responsibility for wildlife matters, in addition to his normal police duties.

Essex has always taken a lead on wildlife issues, appointing its first Wildlife Liaison officer ten years ago, although most forces in England, Wales and Scotland now have designated wildlife officers.

Badger

Badger disturbance will undoubtedly be a major area of concern, with a large population of the animals in the county, and a number of conservation groups willing to report any signs of illegal activity.

Other wildlife worries could include the taking of birds from the wild, with good populations of both Sparrowhawks and Kestrels in Essex, and smuggling of valuable birds through the county's ports and airports.

Insp. Barry said, "It is not only that there has been an increase in legislation, but there has been an increased use of it."

"This is because of the greater public interest and awareness of environmental and wildlife issues, which means more things are being referred to us."

Hawk

It may be a case of someone reporting that their neighbour is keeping a hawk, where police will have to check the bird is registered.

Or a member of the public may report a pet shop selling barn owls, or other unusual creatures. Often such activities are properly licensed, but the legislation is complex and it helps to have officers properly genned up on the Wildlife and Countryside Act and other such laws.

Chorus Lines

THE highlight of the choir's Christmas events was a concert at St Botolph's Church, Colchester on December 11.

The choir joined the Essex Police Band and the choirs of Rickstones School, Witham, and Colchester High School for Girls, in a concert which raised more than £600 in aid of the Colchester Victim Support Scheme.

The school choirs performed first, and the quality of their singing was truly superb, and set a standard to the challenge of which our own choir responded.

The finale was the singing of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing", in which the band, the combined choirs, the organ and the audience joined to bring to an end a memorable musical evening.

On Sunday December 15, the choir again joined local school choirs and the Salvation Army Band in the Civic Carol Service at the Mill Hall, Rayleigh.

Monday December 16 saw a more lighthearted event at Witham, with a mixed programme of our favourites and carols.

The New Year will see the start of rehearsals for "Songs from the Show", and another combined concert with the band.

If you have hidden vocal talents or just enjoy a good sing, make a New Year's resolution to join us on Tuesday evenings in the Training School.

Roger Grimwade

Spreading the Gospel...

AFTER rumbling through a muddy farmyard the patrol car comes to a silent stop. Ahead is a large expanse of grassland, dissected in the distance by the carved channels of a saltmarsh.

The police officer, eyes bright with interest, scans the horizon and immediately spots what he came to see, but eager not to cause any disturbance the car doors remain firmly shut.

It has all the feel of a stake-out, with more than 2,000 individuals scattered before him, but this time the officer is not looking on a crowd of people buy a huge gathering of Brent Geese.

Reserve

"Worldwide there are only around 200,000 of these geese and around 4,000 visit this area, so it's a very important habitat for the species," says Kelvedon Sgt Julian Dawson, one of the Force's sub-divisional wildlife liaison officers.

Old Hall Marshes, near Tollesbury is one of the RSPB's largest reserves and as such is an important part of Sgt Dawson's patch which also encompasses Coggeshall, East Thorpe, Wickham Bishop

and Hatfield Peverel.

With him in the car is newly appointed reserve warden, Chris Tyas, and the two wildlife enthusiasts quickly get down to discussing some of the problems the reserves faces as well as some unusual sightings out on the turf fields.

In the past both duck and geese have fallen prey to poachers on the reserve and recently low-flying helicopters have been startling the birds into flight — sapping vital stores of energy at this bitter cold time of year.

Moths

Both will be issues Sgt Dawson will have to keep an eye on over the coming months as he gets to grips with his new responsibilities, which come in addition to his other duties such as the burglary he has just attended.

But working with wildlife comes naturally for a man who has lived in the countryside all his life and used to keep moths and butterflies when he was a boy and an avid member of his schools natural history society.

He still keeps animals now, but somewhat larger. A European Eagle Owl takes up a lot of his time and is a constant companion on his visits

to local schools and organisations, such as the Women's Institute.

Eagle

Although the European Eagle Owl became extinct in the wild in the UK over 50 years ago, growing interest in conservation means it could be re-introduced some time in the future and Sgt Dawson feels his bird is helping to spread the gospel of conservation.

"The owl creates a lot of interest and encourages them to research their own area," he said.

Meanwhile, it's time to hit the road again and during a routine call to an A12 service station the issue of wildlife again rears its head as the manageress reports on how a new building development has left three barn owls dead.

Uphold

It's the sort of incident that in the past, perhaps, wouldn't have received much attention from most officers other than a referral to an organisation such as the RSPB.

But with the Force's strong emphasis on wildlife protection such issues are now likely to receive much better police attention with a greater determination to uphold the

Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Yet as Sgt Dawson points out, the aim of the newly appointed officers is not to assume total control for all wildlife incidents in their area but to pass on their knowledge and advice so other officers can also act against law-breakers.

In this role he is aiming to take local Pcs on a tour of Badger setts in the area, so they are aware what they look like to see when they have been disturbed and of the devices and methods baiters may use to snare them.

Protect

"I think most police officers are interested in the environment and we must get the actual officers to deal with offences under the Act," he said.

"The worst thing is when people phone a police station and don't get a response or to be told sorry we don't deal with it."

Back on patrol again he reels through a long list of local reserves, rare orchids and endangered habitats in the area, that he regularly visited even before his appointment.

Now those visits will be in a professional role, working alongside wardens, rangers

and enthusiasts to protect the Essex countryside.

And as the morning's work demonstrated, with thought, this can be carefully dovetailed into the wildlife liaison officer's other important role of protecting the public.

Bruno, Bandsmen and Brainstormers h



'ELLO 'ELLO, Where did you get that hat? Harlow Pc. Darren Wiles enjoys a joke with nine-year-old Richard Graves from Chigwell.

Christmas Stars in their ey

by Jenny Bullus

A CRESCENDO of sound and a barrage of colourful balloons assaulted the senses of anyone brave enough to venture into Harlow SportCentre on December 3.

Christmas was already in full swing for 400 youngsters, who were being whipped into a frenzy of excitement by guest DJs Timbo and Andy Kay.

Children's bubbly laughter almost, but not quite, drowned the heavy-bass sound of the disco beat.

Boxing

The youngsters may all have been suffering from varying degrees of handicap, but on this day they were no different from other children — and they were out to have

a great time.

The huge shape of boxing and pantomime hero Frank Bruno loomed large in the centre of the throng. Despite being mobbed by excited autograph hunters, he still had time for a smile and a chat to each and every one.

Big Frank is President of the President's Sporting Club, an organisation formed in Harlow 10 years ago to raise funds to provide sporting facilities for handicapped kits.

Police

Saffron Walden-based Police Inspector Mike Jackson is Chairman, and the modest behind-the-scenes organiser of

the spectacular Sporting I

Since the event started in 1986, a host of celebrities attended, with the popularity an ever-present.

This year was no different and among the crowd of faces like goalkeeping star Pat Jennings and Cornwall wealth Games Silver medalist Wendy Jeal.

Turkey

Before the slap-up dinner was served, the kids took the stage in a "Frank impressions" contest, with "Where's Harry's" being voices just a little high-pitched.

The Sporting Club has more than £100,000 over seven years to donate to organisations like Riding

Disneyland Dream all set for Russell

THE SMILE says it all as beaming six-year-old Russell Blake looks forward to the trip of a lifetime thanks to a trio of caring Chelmsford officers.

Russell, who suffers from a rare form of cancer — non-Hodgkinson's Lymphoma, which affects the lymph glands will be jetting to Disneyland early next year and he just can't wait!

With him on the plane will be mum Linda, dad Robert, and brother Jason, aged three and it's all down to the intercontinental exploits of Pcs Dave Manders, Robert Nunn and George Lambeth.

After hearing about Russell's illness they were determined to do something to help and a whistle-stop jailbreak to Phoenix brought in more than £4,500 for Russell and Imperial Cancer Research.

"I think these guys are the bees knees," said Robert. "We were absolutely flabbergasted when they said they wanted to help and from then on it just escalated.

"There's so many children that would like to go to Disneyland that never get the chance, had it not been for Andy, Dave and



Pc Dave Manders (left) and Pc George Lambeth present Russell with his tickets. Not pictured is Pc Andy Nunn, who was on court duty at the time of the presentation. The trio were given help on their trip by a host of companies and individuals such as Richard Branson's Virgin, who helped out with tickets (see below).

George it would be very unlikely he would have gone. There are still some wonderful people about."

Although Russell looks well in his picture, behind that brave smile lies the grit and courage of a fighter.

At the moment he is in remission and has to visit

Great Ormond Street every eight weeks. But he hasn't always appeared so healthy as Robert and Linda, from Canvey Island, explained.

"For about a week he was hanging onto life by his fingernails," said Robert, who said the illness was discovered by the family GP who felt some lumps on Russell's stomach which proved to be

tumours.

His early diagnosis of an illness that only affects around 100 children a year meant treatment could start quickly and the family are full of praise for his help. "He is a doctor that really listens to you," said Linda.

Tumours affect the lymph glands all over the body and at one point both little Russell's kidneys packed up. "We've got two boys now - there might have only been one," reflects Robert.

"He's one special little boy." But however special Russell may be there is one thing he is not having - the date, the family will fly out. "We are keeping that secret for now," smiles dad.

Dear Russell,

Just to say I hope you have a lovely holiday in March. I'm delighted we've been able to help!

Kind regards,

Richard Branson,
Chairman,
Virgin Group of Companies

Mother Hubbard helps fill the Cupboard

Old Mother Hubbard, two punks and a Christmas tree brought an arresting sight to Grays Police Station recently leaving one pink haired rocker locked up in the cells.

But don't panic! Before the Vice Squad set out for an investigation it had better be made clear that the strangely-dressed bunch were all busy raising money for Children in Need.

Fancy

The strange events all took place in Grays CID Admin on Friday November 22, when big-hearted staff



All change at Grays as CID Admin do their bit for children in need.

decided to raise money for the BBC Appeal by staging a fancy dress day.

Computer Supervisor, Kate Bryant, who was dressed as a punk, was arrested for appearance likely to cause a breach of the peace.

She was detained in the cells until being released into the custody of a lady brief who also made an appearance on the day along with a witch and a waitress.

Pudsey

Staff also organised a raffle -

first prize was a Pudsey cake, donated by one of the punk's sisters. Other prizes were donated by Neighbourhood Watch Officers.

A variety of refreshments were on sale at 25p an item that by the end of the day had raised an impressive £200.15 had raised.

CID Admin said they would like to thank everyone in the Division whose support contributed to make the event so successful.

Police flood the force with Charity Coppers

as

ES



HE'S A KNOCK OUT: BOXING giant Frank Bruno signs for another young fan during his sixth annual visit to the Christmas Lunch.



COMMONWEALTH Games Silver medalist Wendy Jeal meets up with nine-year-old Daniel May and friends at the sporting party.

Fun day cash brings festive cheer to charities

CHIEF CONSTABLE John Burrow played Father Christmas to a host of Essex charities this month as he dished out more than £25,000 to worthy causes.

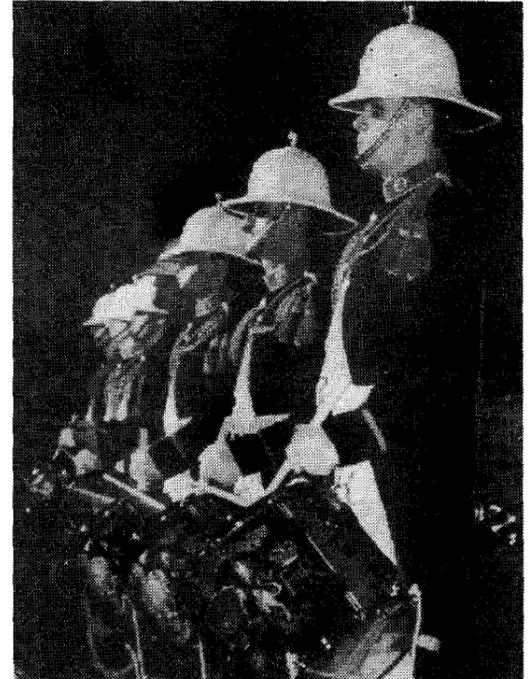
The bumper hand-out was the spectacular result of a year of fund-raising by Essex Police staff and volunteers focusing mainly on the Force Fun Day in July and the Band concert in November.

Up to 15,000 people flocked to Police Headquarters for the Force's fifth annual Fun Day and for the first time the Sports Field was divided into two areas to make room for more attractions.

And last month, despite a terrorist threat against military bandsmen in St Albans, around 1,400 people turned up to watch a concert given by the Essex Police Band, the band of the Royal Anglian Regiment and the Kings Own Borderers at the Brentwood Centre.

"The response of the public, the Force and the business community has been fantastic this year despite the difficult economic climate," said Fun Day chairman, Chief Inspector David Bright.

"Because of the tremendous support we received we were also able to



give £1,000 to the widow of Sgt Alan King, who was murdered in London in November, and also we gave money to Violet Taylor, the 102-year-old lady robbed in Westcliff," he explained.

The Force's main chosen charity this year, the Essex Kidney Unit Appeal, received £5,000 from the Force, while The Royal Star and Garter Home was given £2,000.

The remainder of the money was handed out between more than 30 other worthy causes.

But before the Force starts resting on its laurels, the date for Fun Day '92 has already been set for July 12 and anyone prepared to help out is being asked to get in touch with the Fun Day committee as soon as possible.

Preparations are also in hand to run the successful football and netball tournaments begun last year — for more details see page 11.

'Peering' at Pictures for Children in Need

ON Friday 22 November four officers took part in the annual 'BBC Essex Pier Chase' which this year started at Clacton Pier and after following 8 cryptic clues to various locations ended at Southend Pier. The locations visited were: Walton Pier, Colchester Leisure World, Sainsbury's Superstore Springfield, BBC Essex Chelmsford, Purleigh Vineyards, Barley Farm Museum Billericay, Hadleigh Castle & Leigh Cockle Sheds. About 13 teams took part in various fancy dress costumes, writes Sgt Keith Beechener.

My team was: Myself (HQ FIR Project); DC Chris Farnell (Colchester SOCO); PC Julian Hallam (Colchester Research Officer); SOA Jackie Mills (Colchester).

Our team name for the day was 'Lack of Patients' because Chris actually broke his leg playing football for Colchester Police in September and took part with his leg in plaster. The other three were his Doctors. (Therefore: 3 doctors, 1

patient — lack of patients)!!!!

Bucket

We only got lost once on route and raised about £200 for Children In Need.

Meanwhile: back at Colchester Police Station the cleaning staff toured the station with a bucket and collected over £100 for Children In Need during the day.

In the evening, while most

people were watching events on TV we held a quiz at Colchester Police Station (organised by, and questions set by; Keith Beechener, Chris Farnell and Sgt Clive Butler).

Saddam

The quiz was made up of 10 rounds of 15 questions each on various subjects. In addition, there was a 'photo sheet' with 50 famous (?) faces on it for the teams to identify. Just for a chance we included photos of ourselves (Keith aged 9 years — Clive about 15 yrs ago — Chris 10 yrs ago) and although two or three teams spotted us, the range of answers were amazing: Keith: Roger Moore, Peter Noone, Prince William, Prince Harry. Chris: Charlie Chaplin, Gordon Banks, Saddam Hussain. Clive: John Lennon, Kray Twins, Dessy Ellis (B'ham 6).

Blood

34 teams took part and among

the prizes for the evening was one for the team in the best fancy dress, which was won by the cleaners who cleaned up with the collection earlier in the day. Headed by Ann Garwood they were dressed as surgeons complete with gowns, masks and hats and a trolley of assorted implements, some dripping with blood (not real blood).

Whip

A large raffle, added to the entry fees, a donation of £175 from the bar on account of three barrels of beer from the suppliers, a quick whip round at the pub next door by DC Tim Jeffs at the end of the night, and a few other donations brought the final takings (including the Pier Chase) to over £1,000. The final figure, when all sponsor money is collected should be nearer to £1,200 for 'BBC Children in Need.

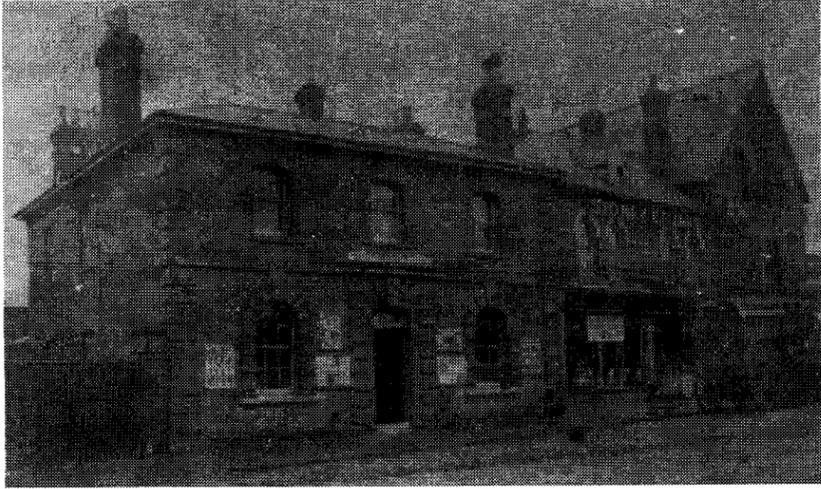
Our thanks to all who donated and took part in the events.

Where the money went

The Essex Kidney Unit Appeal	The Essex Autistic Society School
Essex Voluntary Association for the Blind	Brentwood M-I-N-D
The Paraplegic and Handicapped Sports Association	Lancaster School for Handicapped Children - Westcliff on Sea
The Maldon and East Essex Branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society	Moulsham Grange Childrens Charity
Kingsdown School for Handicapped Children.	British Diabetic Association - Braintree Branch
Army Benevolent Fund, Chelmsford Branch	Take Heart Association
Lexden Springs School	The Royal Star and Garter Home
St Lukes Hospice	Hamelin Trust
Carr Gomm Society	The Ongar War Memorial Hospital
'Debra'	Quest Test for Cancer
Rochford Hospital Diversional Reminiscence Project	Dunton School
The Dyslexia Institute	San Raphael Club
Meadowside Community House	The Hargrave House School for Mentally Handicapped
Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme - Castle Point	The Asthma Research Society
Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme - Maldon	Air Cadet Corps
Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme - Colchester	Sgt Alan King - Widow
	Handicap Children D of E
	Ian Strachan Appeal
	Robbery Victim., Violet Taylor, aged 102.

"MET. OFFICERS CHASED SUSPECTS ACROSS THE LEA TO APPREHEND THEM IN ESSEX"

Horse patrols tackled Essex highwaymen



LOUGHTON Police Station, circa 1908, when it formed part of the Metropolitan Police "J" or Bethnal Green Division. Picture courtesy of the Metropolitan Police Museum.

June's Christmas cheer



CHRISTMAS came early for June Clare and nine other lucky winners, who received festive hampers packed full of delicious

goodies as their prizes in the December lottery. June, who works in the Press Office at HQ, (pictured above), was thrilled

with her assortment of Christmas spirits, mince pies and plum pudding.

The hampers were awarded instead of £50 consolation prizes in the lottery draw, and Force Sports Secretary Chris Jacob wants to know if members would like the idea to be repeated.

He is appealing for members of the lottery, both police and civilian, to fill in the attached questionnaire. Would you like the chance to win an exotic holiday, a small car, or a weekend break, instead of cash prizes?

The choice is yours

Christmas Lottery

THE result of the Force Lottery is as follows: £1,500 Sgt P. O'Riordan, Harlow; £700 Cons S. Gibbs, Clacton; £300 Sgt P. Probyn, Sandon Dogs; £200 Insp M. W. Gurden, Epping; £100 DCons P. Mullaly, Leigh.

The following received a Christmas Hamper: Sgt D. Ball, Leigh; J. E. Clare, HQ; Sgt G. Hadley, Tilbury; Cons M. Maxim, Leigh; Sgt J. Woolard, Basildon; Sgt R. W. Booth, Halstead; Cons B. Westing, HQ; WSgt S. Watson, Chelmsford; Cons M. J. Galbraith, Rochford; Cons D. C. Jepson, Witham.

by Sgt. Bernard Brown
Metropolitan Police

Ilford, Barking, Dagenham and Woodford, while the Islington Division took over new stations at Leyton, Walthamstow (Lea Bridge) and Waltham Abbey.

These 'exterior districts' remained unchanged for the next 25 years, until October 1865 when a new outer division was created.

DIVISION

Known as the 'Y' or Highgate Division, it took over responsibility for Walthamstow and Waltham Abbey.

This was followed in August 1886 by yet another new division known as the 'J' or Bethnal Green Division who took over Barkingside, Wanstead and Loughton police stations.

The old 'K' or Stepney Division, however, had been known as the Bow Division since May 1880 and had taken over special duties at the Purfleet Magazine from the Woolwich Dockyard Division in March 1884, at the expense of the War Department.

In the half century between 1851-1900 new police stations were opened as the population increased at West Ham, Plaistow, Walthamstow (Forest Road), Canning Town, Chingford, East Ham, Claybury, Barkingside, Wanstead, Forest Gate, Chadwell Heath, Leyton, Leytonstone and Nth

Woolwich, the latter was somewhat of an anomaly, although north of the river it was actually part of Kent!

It became part of the new Metropolitan Borough of Woolwich in 1889, while East Ham and West Ham later became Essex County Boroughs., (even issuing their own registration marks).

The L.C.C., unlike Middlesex, Surrey and Kent, had not made any inroads into Essex but this soon changed on 1st April 1965 when the G.L.C. was created.

Five new London Boroughs were formed at Newham, Waltham Forest, Redbridge, Barking and Havering.

In the case of Havering, this area was taken over not only by the G.L.C. but now came under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Police, the new Romford sub-division being placed under 'K' Division.

The stations acquired from Essex were Romford, Hornchurch, Rainham, Harold Hill, Collier Row, Upminster and Plough Corner, although the latter closed in March 1970.

The old County station in South Street, Romford was replaced by the present modern divisional HQ in December 1965. (Pre-war there had also been stations at Havering and South Hornchurch).

In the more rural districts

mainly beyond the G.L.C. are new police offices were opened at Debden and Hainault in November 1971 followed by another at Chigwell in May 1972, the latter being renamed Limes Farm upon the opening of a new divisional HQ in Chigwell in January 1976 which replaced Claybury first opened at the turn of the century (1900).

By 1980 the original 182 divisions had been renamed Districts and six years later with the abolition of the G.L.C. they were dispensed with altogether and the MP split into just eight areas.

The former 'J' division forms part of No.2 Area (East

AMALGAMATION

Despite many parts of the former County still bearing Essex postal addresses, the only true part of Essex still policed by the Metropolitan force are the Waltham Abbey and Loughton sections which are both part of the Epping Forest District Council, an amalgamation of the former urban districts made in 1974.

Today there are still relics showing the 1840 boundary between the former constabulary and Metropolitan forces in the form of white coal-posts bearing the City of London arms stretching in an arc from the River Lea to the Dagenham Road.

● Bernard Brown is a member of the Police History Society. His article on "The Railway Police in Essex" will appear in a later issue of The Law.

PLAN

FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF
Highwaymen, Footpads, House-breakers,
And other OFFENDERS against the Law,
By establishing HORSE-PATROLES
Within Twelve Miles round London under the Direction of the Civil Power,
Chiefly Founded on the
STATUTE of HUE and CRY.

Force Lottery - Questionnaire

Name

Station

1. Do you think we should stay with the present format, i.e. £1,500, £700, £300, £200, £100 and ten £50 consolation prizes, (and increase the ratio as we get more members).
YES/NO

2. Would you like a larger first prize and less smaller prizes.
YES/NO
Suggestions:

3. Would you like a smaller first prize and more smaller amounts.
YES/NO
Suggestions:

4. Once a year would you like a major prize, like a small car or exotic holiday.
YES/NO
Other Suggestions:

5. In this month's draw, instead of the £50 consolation prize, the committee agreed to provide Christmas hampers and most of the winners thought this was a good idea. Would you like us to do similar things throughout the year, e.g. Weekend Holiday breaks for two at a Hilton Hotel of your choice.
YES/NO
Suggestions:

Any additional suggestions regarding the Force Lottery:

All completed forms please return to Chris Jacob, Force Sports Secretary, Stanway Traffic, Colchester.

Hospice needs more helpers

VOLUNTARY help for your local hospice is always needed. It is important to the continuing success of the six independent hospices now giving care and support to terminally ill patients and their families in Essex free of charge.

Duties vary from direct contact with patients and helping with transport to reception, clerical duties and helping in the charity shops: all are important —

just contact your local hospice for details.

Chelmsford Hospice appeals officer, George Harris would like to hear from any retired officers who would assist with the management of collection boxes in shops and offices in Mid Essex, including Braintree, Witham, Kelvedon and Maldon. Just give him a ring on Chelmsford 358130. Not a very arduous task but an important one.

He is grateful for the help he receives from two Ex-colleagues, Ron Bearman and Les Manning.

Are you a bright spark?

AT CHRISTMAS, probably more than any other time of the year, flammable materials are in abundance in the form of paper chains, Christmas Cards, paraffin heaters, plastic displays, Christmas trees (real or artificial) and fairy lights.

Introducing easily ignitable and flammable materials into the workplace (or home), especially if they are placed next to ignition sources such as electrical fittings and light bulbs, increases the risk of fire.

Overloading of electrical circuits, careless use of portable heaters and careless disposal of smoking materials are all known causes of fires. If a fire did start, would YOU know how to deal with it?

Do you know the location of fire extinguishers? Would you work if needed?

Would you know which type to use, safely? IF NOT, FIND OUT (the easy way).

For advice on fire safety at work, call Health and Safety Officer Tony Corbett on ext 2439.



CARNIVAL time at HQ garage.

Skid pan thrills and spills for Thurrock carnival court

WHAT'S all this then? Essex Police traffic officers are certainly getting better looking these days if this stunning trio, pictured at headquarters, is anything to go by.

But unfortunately you are unlikely to see the fairytale threesome out on patrol as the force is not quite ready to swap biking leathers for flowing pink dresses, regal robes and tiaras.

The Royal party - Thurrock Deputy Carnival Queen, Sheradan

Trangmar and her princesses, sisters Karen and Tina Dadds - were invited to HQ by Grays Crime Prevention Officer Dave Ruff.

"They've done so much good work for the force in Grays, helping out at fetes and Fayres and delivering leaflets, that I was determined to reward them for

their efforts," said Dave.

And when he asked them what they would like to see, the skid pan came out tops so the driving school took them onto the oil and water where they turned a few heads as well as the cars!

"It really was great fun, it has been a marvellous day," said Sheradan, who took to the wheel of one of the force's 2 litre Sierras and tried out the circuit.

The carnival beauties were joined by Thurrock Carnival Association chairman Ken Collins, secretary Susan Bircham and float manager Edward Bircham.

"It's just a thank you really," said Dave. "The girls are our local celebrities and are always happy to help myself and Thurrock Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Elaine Neill in any way they can."

Z-VICTOR-ONE TALKS BACK

IN REPLY to the almost anonymous verse in November's edition of The Law as the "nowt we can do for you" radio technicians we feel compelled to pen a suitable reply.

The boys from the ground floor are sorry to hear, That Z victor one isn't coming through clear

It's Understandable that operators become over-heated When froggies, beeps and squarks are all "repeated".

The Problem is twofold as we can see For one there's not enough space on the airwaves thats free.

The other that gives you controllers hysterics As you rightly declare, the dreaded atmospheric.

The cure for the first is no great mound With modern technology solutions abound.

What's needed is money from the Chancellor's Purse Exit reason one, that causes your curse.

The next is more tricky, universal you see It's the same propagation that affects your TV.

So when the sun shines and the high pressure's here Just get the CC to have a word in Gods ear.

We Radio Technicians do try our best to please But even we resort to Mecca, facing East on our knees.

In closing a tip to take out the sting Try shouting down bean cans and a long length of string.

HQ Radio Technicians

CALLING CHINA HANDS

FOR 65 years the Navy stationed destroyers in the Far East. From 1898 - with a break during the World Wars - nearly 50,000 sailors served in some 75 of these hard working ships from Singapore, Shanghai to Japan and beyond.

Known collectively as the 8th Destroyer Flotilla until 1952, when they were renumbered the 8th Destroyer Squadron, the crews of many of these ships have got together and formed the 8th Destroyer Association.

Old friendships established many miles away have been renewed; already over 700 'Old China Hands' have joined, over 500 of whom attend the weekend Annual Reunion.

A half-yearly magazine (China Chat) is distributed, an annual lunch is held for those naval personnel who served in the Korean War, and overseas reunions are organised - to Hong Kong this year, and Malta and Gibraltar in 1992.

Any ex-naval readers who feel qualified to join are warmly invited to write for details to the Secretary, Mike Gorbett, 1, Melbourne Crescent, Stafford, ST16 3JU.

Self Defence classes prove a big hit with women GETTING TO GRIPS DOWN IN GRAYS

ALL OVER Grays, hubbies and boyfriends are nursing sore elbows and bruised egos this week thanks to a new initiative by local police.

For the willing partners have been acting as guinea pigs for a new breed of Grays woman ready and aware of how to defend herself against an attack.

Since setting up self defence classes back in April Grays police have seen the idea grow from strength to strength and now women from all over the region are signing up to learn about the strong arm of the law.

Defend

The idea to hold classes began during Crime Prevention Week when it became apparent local ladies were keen to learn how they could defend themselves if attacked, explained Pc Dave Ruff.

He then got in touch with Pc Dave Dunn, a former physical training instructor in the army and they got together developing a unique course which would be suitable for women of all ages.

"No-one that attends has to be a martial arts expert - the lessons are predominantly to show quick release holds," said Dave. "You haven't got to be fit and we encourage them to go home and try it out on their partners."

Popular

Since April courses have been held in local schools, a sixth form college, hospitals, local businesses and even a 70-strong drum majorette team want to take part in the innovative idea.

In fact, the courses are becoming so popular that Pc Dunn is training up some colleagues - Pc Phil Truss and Tilbury Special Sue Oldfield - so they can run additional classes.

And now even civilian women staff at Grays Police Station are getting in on the act with courses being held after work in the assembly hall where 'The Law' found them getting to grips with the moves.

But when the course begins Pc Ruff is keen to make it clear that the risk of attack

locally is very low. "I say in this area I don't consider it a high risk for this type of offence, but you don't stay in Essex all your life so it's important to know."

Risk

Around 10 women have attended this particular course this week, which begins with a video demonstrating the precautions people can take to lessen the risk of attack and prevent becoming another crime statistic.

The instructors are dressed in a distinctive black T shirts with the logo 'Grays Police say Be Safe' and local Police chiefs such as Chf Insp Holyoak and Supt Free have given the courses their full backing.

Mock

Martial Arts Expert Pc Dave Dunn, who terms the training 'Realistic Self Defence' says so far he has taught women from 14 to 84. "It's a really relaxed atmosphere, we have a lot of fun and no pressure is put on anybody."

"Nobody knows what they will do until they are attacked, and hopefully none of these women will be, but at least we can show them how to have a go back at any attacker."



Alison Smith (right) and Sandra Luff, get to grips with self defence under the instruction of Pc Phil Truss, who like many of those involved in the idea have given up their free time to see it through.

And it seems to be working - although much larger than the women, Pc Truss's mock attacks on some of the group are being met with a swift rebuttal, a twist of the arm, and suddenly he is the one in pain.

But if the price of women's safety is a few groans and the odd bruise, then Grays Police

and those volunteer hubbies and boyfriends are prepared to pay up!

Helpline for debts

UNFORTUNATELY, it is a well publicised fact that due to the current economic climate, both police officers and civilians can easily fall prey to high interest rates, credit card debts, HP and loan agreement arrears.

As from the New Year there will be a CONFIDENTIAL debt helpline available within the Welfare Office.

This service will be manned Monday - Friday 9.00 - 12.00 or answerphone 24 hours.

Speak to Wendy Rawlings or Jeanette Poston on debtline number 0245 452888, ednet 2888.

Harlow Specials win Ward Cup

HARLOW Special Constables proved their worth when they challenged other specials from the division for the Ward Cup.

The competition involved a practical First Aid Test, followed by questions on law, procedure and First Aid.

Organised by Sgt Steve



THEY'RE SPECIAL: Supt Moss (left) with the winning Harlow team and members of the Epping team.

Smith, Harlow's sub-divisional liaison officer for the Specials, and First Aid judge DS Glyn Evans (SOCO), the competition was held in the Harlow Police bar on November 29.

The Ward Cup was presented to the Special Constabulary by Special Supt Ward some years ago. It is now to be competed for annually by teams from Harlow, Epping and Ongar, and Dunmow and Saffron Walden.

Quiz master was DTO Sgt Steve Humbles, and he presided over a close-

fought contest, which eventually saw Harlow as winners.

Supt Greg Moss presented the trophy to the winning team of Special Constables Brian Dahle, Chris Gould and Dave Bruce.

At the presentation, Woman Section Officer Linda Anodin of Epping was declared winner of the Cottis Cup, another trophy which has been brought back into use. This is awarded to a Divisional member of the Specials on a similar basis to the force's Dooley Trophy.



I.P.A. NEWS

MID-ESSEX BRANCH
Fred Dyson

Eerie trip to The Tower

ON A cold, wet, windy night on Tuesday, November 12, 30 members and wives left Police HQ by coach for a visit to the Tower of London to see the Ceremony of the Keys.

Fortunately, the rain had stopped for our open air tour, which was conducted by Yeoman Warder, John Kenny, who gave an interesting and gruesome talk on the history of the Tower.

It is the oldest fortress prison in Europe and has stood there for more than 800 years.

We saw Traitors Gate through which captives were brought to the Tower from the River.

William the Conqueror had the Tower built on Roman foundations. He also built the Norman Chapel; we viewed its splendour from inside.

With time to spare before the Ceremony of the Keys at 10 o'clock, we

adjourned to the Yeomans Club for refreshments and met other Yeoman Warders who are IPA members.

At the set time Yeoman Warder, John Keohane, took us to Traitors Gate close to the sentry on guard. There we saw a Yeoman Warder in full dress carrying lighted lantern and keys, escorted by four armed Guardsmen, march into the distance to lock the gates of the Tower.

On his return he is challenged by the sentry, "Who goes there?" His reply, "The keys." Reply, "Whose keys?" Answer, "The Queen's keys."

He is then allowed to continue with the escort. This ceremony has been carried out every

night of the year for over 200 years and at this time of the year is quite an eerie scene.

Forthcoming events:
Friday, January 10, 1992: AGM at HQ. Please, let's have a good response from members with some fresh ideas.

Friday, February 14: Our annual dinner at the "New Times Inn", Tiptree. Cost of the meal £10, so please forward your cheques to Dick Giggins as soon as possible to confirm your booking.

May I take this opportunity of thanking all members, their wives and friends who supported the Branch in attending events throughout the year to make it successful.

May I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year.

SOUTH EAST ESSEX BRANCH Belgian Beer Festival

SATURDAY November 9, 2.30am. Twenty-eight members of South East Essex Branch assembled at PLA Tilbury for the journey to Ostend.

We caught the 6am ferry from Dover to Calais, smooth crossing, followed by a pleasant coach journey to our destination - the Lido Hotel at Ostend.

The afternoon was then free to explore, eat, or sleep, or in most cases a combination of all three. We set off at 7pm to Diskmuide, the venue for the Beer Festival.

The Town Hall was the setting with a very good brass 'Oompah band'. As the evening went on the beer continued to flow and everyone appeared to enjoy

themselves. (Photographic proof available!).

The following day, bad heads meant many people resorted to a brisk walk along the seafront and it seemed everyone else in Ostend had the same idea.

We met the local IPA members that afternoon for a few hours and more contracts were made for the future. The evening was spent in a local restaurant.

Next morning we set off for home with a brief stop for beer and other goodies at a hypermarket. A rather gusty channel crossing and

then it was back to Tilbury. An excellent weekend in the true spirit of the IPA.

AGM
OUR AGM is to be held at Southend Police Station at 8pm on February 3, 1992. We would like to see as many people as possible as it is your chance to vote in a new committee and decide how you want the branch to be run.

So please come along, or don't complain at a later date.

Finally, may I and the rest of the committee wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

DAVE FOX

RETIREMENTS

THE force extends its good wishes to the following officers who are retiring, and thanks them for their many years of service.

Pc **R Charters**, Support/Federation, 30 years 352 days
Dc **L Shaw**, Basildon, 33

years 152 days
Supt **J Papple**, Grays, 33 years 177 days

Pc **M Scott**, Colchester/Clacton, 27 years 13 days.

Pc **F Nicholls**, Chelmsford, 30 years
Insp **G Harvey**, Southend/Leigh, 28 years

179 days
Pc **M Perry**, Chelmsford/Witham, 26 years 280 days.

OBITUARY

22.11.91 Ex Pc **O J Ridgway**, aged 75 years, who retired in 1962.

Back to school for classroom cops

ESSEX Police Officers have been sent back to school in a new training initiative.

Twelve officers attended a week-long course at the William de Ferrers School in South Woodham Ferrers, which included a session of teaching practice with the pupils.

The course was designed for recently appointed and prospective Schools Liaison Officers and, whereas previous training has taken place at HQ Force Training School, it was felt more benefit could be gained by holding the course in a school environment.

Officers attending were drawn from all over the county, and William de Ferrers School was chosen partly for its central location and modern facilities, but mostly because of the co-operation and enthusiasm for the idea from the staff.



SCHOOL'S OUT: New Schools Liaison Officers presented a statue to the Deputy Head of William De Ferrers School, Mr Andrew Merchant, at the end of their training course.

The Deputy Headmaster, Mr Andrew Merchant, took the concept on board, and developed the course from an ACPO/SEO document dealing with Schools Liaison Officers training. The course was varied and included drugs education, classroom leadership and management, the Duke

of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, and Youth Crime Prevention Panels.

Chief Inspector Derek Durham from HQ CSB said the course was a great success in terms of the benefit to officers involved, and would undoubtedly lead to an improved quality of service offered to

schools across the county.

He said further in-school training would be organized in the future. At the end of the course, held between November 25 and 29, a police statue entitled "Safe" was presented to the school to thank staff and pupils for their help and co-operation.

AS 1991 draws to a close it seems a good time to reflect on what has gone on during the last twelve months.

If this year has been for you anything like it has

LOCK IT OR LOSE IT

Benfleet Police stood by and watched as 'car thieves' smashed their way into several shiny new Fords at Rayleigh dealers Perrys recently.

But the officers were being far from complacent — it was all part of a special seminar they set up to show car owners and dealers how to beat car thieves.

Well over 100 people attended the action-packed display which pulled no punches in demonstrating how easily the professional car thief takes to break into even a modern car.

been for me, then you must be saying where has the time all gone?

It really has flown past and here we are thinking about cards and presents.

1991 has produced, amongst other things, one of the lowest inflation rates for a November for many years.

This does not bode well for any pension increases in April next year and, if predictions are anything to go by, I reckon on something in the region of 3.5 to 4%.

However, I have previ-

ous for not getting things right, so I hope I am wrong.

1991 has seen membership of NARPO keep up to normal, we have lost some good friends but have gained others.

On the social side there have been outings during the summer, a buffet and dinner for the Comrades and, of course, the Force Garden Party, so all in all not a bad year.

Let us all hope for better things during 1992.

It only remains for me to thank everyone who has written or phoned during the year.

On behalf of all your Secretaries and Branch Officers I wish you all a

National
Association of
Retired
Police
Officers by
Doug Rampling

Happy Christmas and above all Health and Happiness in 1992.

MARKET PLACE . . . MARKET PLACE . . .

SKIS, BLIZZARD, 200 length, with bindings, sticks and bag. Used two seasons only. £90. Pc Golding, Laindon Traffic, or 0268 757628.

RENAULT 5 GTL, C reg, very good cond., low mileage, economic. Wpc Kedge, Grays, or 0255 423568.

PHILLIPS tumble dryer, excellent condition. £40 ono, Pc Howells, Hadleigh, or 0268 771684.

TANDON 386/20 IBM/PC. 40mb HD. 5.25 HD drive. Green Screen monitor. £1,400 ono. Wayne HQ ext 2546 or 0245 468498.

ONE BEDROOM FLAT, BOREHAM, NEAR CHELMSFORD.

Well fitted kitchen, lounge diner, bathroom with shower, carpets, curtains, Economy 7, parking, £45,000. Pc Turner, Stansted, ext 5922.

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE — ONE WORD PER BOX

Name and Rank Station

Home telephone Signed

LAW SPORT . . . LAW SPORT . . . LAW SPORT . . . LAW SPORT . . .

Time to sign for force fun



FLASHBACK: CHIEF Constable Mr John Burrow presents the Hi-Tec Shield to the winners of the 1991 Senior netball tournament, Lee Chapel School from Basildon.

FUN DAY organisers are looking for a bumper entry in next year's junior football and netball tournaments, which are again being sponsored by Southend-based sportswear firm Hi-Tec.

In 1991, the first year of the competitions, 123 schools from all over Essex took part. Schools are now being asked to complete their entries for the 1992 event by February 14.

The first of the six qualifying rounds, held in each police division, takes place at Prince Avenue School, Westcliff, on May 2. There are tournaments for two age groups, 7-10 years and 10-11 years.

Winners will go through to the finals at Police HQ, Springfield to be held during the Force Fun Day on July 12, 1992.

Chief Constable John Burrow said, "Essex Police has long been committed to promoting positive relationships with children and young people and these events will, I hope, reinforce that commitment, whilst at the same time providing an enjoyable occasion for the participants."

FOOTBALL

Frost strikes late to freeze out Beds

THREE goals in the last twenty minutes secured Essex victory over Bedfordshire in the PAA National Football Competition at HQ recently.

In a thrilling match which saw Essex with more possession than the visitors, defensive errors in the first half were punished by two Beds goals.

All credit to our lads whose continued pressure and determination brought goals from Daryl Heffer, Cliff Haines, and Shaun

Frost, for a win which takes us into the next round against Kent or Hertfordshire.

As far as the league goes, one point separates Essex Police First XI from the top club, Shell, and the reserves are in the top five in their division. Both sides could do better.

Two lack lustre performances by the firsts have meant losses which shook their confidence, and the reserve team needs consistency to maintain the promotion challenge.

Talking of losses, the most serious one for the club has been to lose Charlie Clark to ACC, Leicestershire

His loyalty and determination to see Essex Police FC successful will be sorely missed.

SEPA CROSS-COUNTRY LEAGUE

Essex eleven mount wooden spoon challenge

IN THE first two fixtures of the season it has been a case of never mind the quality feel the depth as far as the Essex men's team is concerned.

Compared with Sussex, who have surprisingly dominated the competition so far and on the last outing at Guildford packed five runners into the first seven places, we could only manage two in the first 61.

Nevertheless Essex mounted a strong rearguard action with no less than 11 runners challenging for the wooden spoon.

The two notable exceptions

are Mike Kliskey and Len Perrott who have had their own private tussle up front. At Welwyn on 16th October Len managed a creditable 10th place (29.13) behind winner Maybon of Surrey (27.36).

Mike was just three seconds behind Len in 12th place.

At Guildford on the 13th November Mike turned the tables on Len, their respective positions being 13th (31.12) and 18th (31.50) in a record

field of 110.

Veteran Andy Down managed respectable 22nd and 62nd places respectively.

Despite our lack of superstars the spirit in the squad is good, and should enforce the point that the league caters for runners of all standards. So please come along to the next race.

Nevertheless we still need to get out our better runners because despite having no realistic chance of taking the 'A' team trophy we could still mount a challenge for the 'B'

Banks bags gold as force fighters are tops

ESSEX KNOCK 'EM FOR SIX

ESSEX fighters knocked their opponents for six in the 1991 National Police Self Defence Competition (Tiaho-Jutsu) held at Durham District Training Centre on 19 October. The force's five competitors notched up a final tally of one gold, two silvers and three bronze — a total of six medals.

This year the team representing Essex Police was smaller than at previous competitions.

Other forces represented, including those from Scotland and Northern Ireland, were larger than in previous years with many new faces.

Standards of all competitors were far higher, and this year it seemed we would not do so well as we have previously.

Bronze

Our one new face, Brian O'Donnell from Witham, fought extremely well throughout the day, surpassing all expectations to take the bronze medal in a very large category, both in numbers and size.

Brian was beaten by the eventual Gold medal winner in a contest that could have gone either way right up to the final seconds.

In the open grade over 90's weight category Nick Banks from Braintree got his first, long sought after, Gold medal.

The final between himself and last years Silver medalist was the concluding contest of the day and brought all the spectators and fighters to the edge of the mat.

Nick appeared to have the fight in the bag very early on in the first minute with an excellent throw, the only one of the contest, but his opponent made him work hard for his win right

by Bob Foster

up to the fourth minute.

Nick also entered the over 80kgs open category and seemed to be constantly going from mat to mat in order to complete all his fights.

He eventually came out with a bronze medal in this category.

Jim Hollick from the FSU, last years Gold medalist, fought in the same category as Nick Banks, the open over 90kgs. He was eventually knocked out of the contest by Banks and last years Silver medalist, but gained a satisfactory Bronze medal.

Paul Bird from Wickford entered the under 80kgs and after an average opening contest went on to the final with some conclusive wins.

The final seemed to be going his way until the final seconds when the Gold medal was snatched away from him with a momentary lapse in concentration, the final score being ten - nine.

Paul had led to that point nine-seven needing only one knife strike to secure a worthy victory. Paul was

awarded the Silver medal.

Our final entrant Kay Blackman from the FSU was entered in the over 67kgs (only a few grams over) Ladies event.

Kay, who last year took the Gold in the Ladies Light Weight event was unfortunate at the weigh-in to be moved into the heavier group, the decision being made on the day to reset the weight categories, making Kay the lightest in her group.

Kay met last years heavy-weight Gold medalist in her first fight, and after a long wait for the fight, which proved to be the best Ladies fight of the day, started badly allowing her opponent to score well in the first minutes.

Kay fought back in the last minute and eventually managed to get the scores to nine-six. Kay went on to beat all her other opponents, winning herself a creditable Silver medal.

Loudest

The eventual count up revealed one Gold medal, two Silvers, and three Bronze medals, divided amongst the five fighters, once again the best individual force result at the competition.

The team also proved to be the best supporters and the loudest.

I would like to thank the force for its total support of

the team, this being one of the reasons why we achieved such good results.

I would also ask that if anyone employed by Essex Police has an interest in the Police Self Defence system, whether or not you have martial arts background, contact any of the team members or myself as we are always looking for new people to train.

We would like to take a far larger team to next years Nationals.

The Self Defence System known as TIAHO-JUTSU is taught to all recruits and recently to the Special Constabulary, it has varying levels, the basics being taught as control and restraint at all levels of Public Order and Basic Training.

The sporting side to the system, involving more complex techniques, gives a greater understanding of the techniques and will ensure a more intuitive reaction by all persons involved with police work.

Regional

It is now an accepted force sport in its own right. The team trains at the Force Training School once a week and it is expected that there will be regional contests during the coming year. Next years finals will probably be held during July 1992 in the South of the country.

MENS HOCKEY: Leicester Police 2 Essex Police 1

Hayter's tackle stops a suspect

WE FINALLY exited from the PAA Cup, losing by the odd goal to a useful side who had previously disposed of Surrey 8-0.

The Leicester side, used to a grass pitch which was badly waterlogged at one end, besieged the Essex goal for the first fifteen minutes where Julian Cooper was outstanding, pulling off two superb saves, justifying his 'Cooperman' nickname.

Essex gradually fought their way back into the game and came close on a number of occasions.

The first half drew to a close goalless, but Essex substitute John Hayter sprinted across the pitch and a nearby field to assist a local police officer and security guard chasing a sus-

by Bob Ward

pect. It turns out that the person detained came from Southend!

Thank goodness he wasn't one of our supporters!!

The second half saw Essex start well and our attacks looked promising.

Matt Brooking going for a 50-50 ball was up-ended by the Leicester 'keeper and had to come off, being replaced by Trevor Garrard.

Leicester then, against the run of play, scored an excel-

lent narrow angled goal and suddenly launched a series of effective attacks that Essex were lucky to withstand.

'Keeper Cooper then saving a difficult shot palmed the ball away, conceding a penalty which was effectively taken.

2-0 down Essex then produced some excellent hockey and Mark Shaw scored a superb goal.

The last ten minutes saw continual Essex pressure, including a memorable run from Geordie Tyson which almost ended in an equaliser.

However, Leicester held out and deserved their win. We wish them luck in the Regional Final.

The Law



SPORTS
SPORTS
SPORTS

Gormley earns 12th place on GB debut

African heat cramps brave Martin's style

ROOKIE runner Martin Gormley earned an impressive 12th place as Great Britain's only representative in the Ivory Coast marathon, held in the capital Abidjan.

Martin, 30, who works at force HQ, battled bravely against the heat and humidity, to become the second European to cross the finishing line in a time of approximately 2 hours 46 minutes.

First and second place went to Ethiopian athletes, running around 2 hrs 20 mins, with a strong Belgian competitor coming in third. Martin finished well ahead of the French and Italian runners.

Sticky

Martin arrived in West Africa the day before the race, giving him little time to acclimatise to temperatures in the mid-80s. "When I got off the plane, the first thing that hit me

by Jenny Bullus

wasn't the heat, it was the humidity, the way my hands felt sticky — that was the problem," he explained.

Around 7,000 runners lined up at the start of the race, although many were taking part in a half-marathon, he said. It was fairly chaotic as they all set off together, at 4pm on November 20.

"I intentionally didn't go with the early pace, as that would have been suicidal," said Martin. He spotted the Belgian early on and latched on to his pace for the first 15 miles.

He had planned to run at a certain pace, but his carefully worked out kilometre times were thrown out by incorrectly placed marker posts.

"I started to get cramp after about 15 miles, which I have never had before. Within a couple of miles I knew I was in trouble, and I certainly thought about a lift in the First Aid van."

"But I just kept thinking it would be nice to finish,

and plodded on. I wasn't interested in anyone else.

Dizzy

"I can't say whether it was a good or bad result. The good thing was that I finished in such extreme conditions. I was pretty dizzy and faint afterwards."

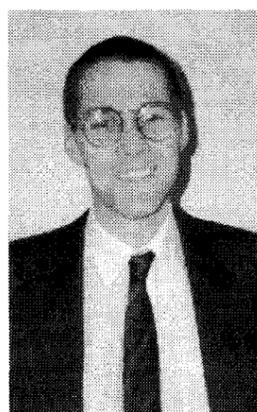
Another hazard for Martin was the traffic, particularly as it grew dark during the last hour of his run. "We were crossing roads like those in the middle of Paris, sometimes with six lanes of traffic coming at you! It was a bit hairy."

The crowds lining the route numbered tens of thousands, all in good spirits, and sometimes the gap for the runners was only a couple of yards wide.

"One of them nicked my hat," laughed Martin, "but it was a good experience."

This was only Martin's 4th marathon, and his selection for Great Britain followed his superb run in

April's London Marathon, where he finished just 11 minutes behind the winner in 1 hrs 20 mins 6 secs. This made him the 19th British runner to cross the line.



Martin Gormley

Martin, who works as Force Analyst in the Management Support Department, runs for Chelmsford Athletics Club. He will now be concentrating on training for the 1992 London Marathon, and looking for an even better time to impress the British coach.

Pat's a big splash

A HARWICH policewoman has made a splash with local kids by teaching them lifesaving and water skills.

WPC Pat O'Toole has been recognised for her efforts, by being awarded Harwich, Dovercourt and Parkeston Swimming Club's annual Hogue Shield for services to lifesaving.

Pat has been with the club for eight years, and teaches youngsters aged between nine and 13 every week in her free time.

She holds the Royal Life Saving Society's teaching certificate, and the Bronze Medallion. Pat, 31, has been a police officer for 13 years.

AGM

THE AGM of Essex Police Sports Association will be held at 2.30pm on Thursday, December 19 in the Conference Room at HQ.

Refs needed

ESSEX Police RFC are in desperate need of referees to join the Essex Society of Rugby Football Referees.

Anyone interested will receive full training, so contact Pc Mike Hall at HQ FSU. Both Wednesday and Saturday referees are in demand.

Battling Butler's on a roll



TOP TEAM: The crew of mechanics, including three from HQ garage, top up the fuel in Andy's car (no 166) during the rally. Lloyd's car (no 167) is also being checked over.

Rally ace Andy sticks it out

GRITTY traffic cop Andy Butler battled on to finish in 75th place in the gruelling Lombard RAC rally, despite the shock of rolling his car on the second day of the prestigious event.

After the roll on a 90 degree bend, his team of mechanics worked wonders patching up Andy's Toyota Corolla with sticky tape so he could carry on.

It was to be a tough challenge for Chelmsford-based Andy and co-driver Adrian Gladwin, who sailed through the four-day event last year without even a burst tyre.

On the first day they struck a rock near Chatsworth, buckling a wheel, which then rubbed on the brake caliper for the remainder of the stage.

The next morning, in Wales, they got stuck in deep mud, losing ten precious minutes before four spectators hauled them in with a tow rope. "The clutch was burning, the wheels spinning, but we couldn't get the car to move backwards or forwards," said Andy.

After dark that day, at about 5pm, came the spectacular roll when Andy skidded too heavily on a bend, hit a bank, and the

car flipped over and back onto its wheels. "I was completely disorientated," he said, "My co-driver was saying keep calm, let's carry on, and I was saying 'Which way up are we?'"

Although they only lost about three minutes, most of the glass in the car was broken and the roof heavily dented.

Adrian had a badly gashed hand, which was stapled together by a doctor to stop the blood, until he could visit the hospital in Chester at the end of the day's rallying.

Andy continued, "We had to tape all the windows of the car with plastic and sticky tape to stop the rain coming in, which was a problem for the rest of the rally."

"We got through miles of sticky tape. Because the roof was dented, the windscreen wouldn't fit and couldn't be replaced. It was badly crazed and it did restrict visibility."

Andy had teamed up with Lloyd Shelley, a fel-

low member of the Seaxes Auto Club, to enter the rally, in a bid to cut costs by pooling their resources.

Lloyd, who also drove a Toyota, had a trouble-free ride to finish in 69th place. Between the two rally cars and their back-up vans, they got through 36 tyres and £1,200 of petrol.

For both crews, completing the mudbath course was an achievement, with only 78 of the 151 starters crossing the line.

Andy said, "I enjoyed it this year for different reasons. It was more difficult to overcome the problems and carry on, but it gave me a bigger sense of achievement."

He now faces a £1,000 repair bill for his crippled car, and said it would be several years before he could afford to enter again.

After racing along the gravel tracks at speeds of up to 100mph, Andy enjoyed a right Royal return to duty at Chelmsford traffic. One of his first jobs was to chauffeur the Duchess of York on her visit to the town's hospice.



RALLY ACES: The two crews line up with their back-up team. Lloyd and Ray are number 167, Andy and Adrian number 166.

FORCE SPORTS ASSOCIATION

P.A.A. JUDO

THE 1992 P.A.A. Judo championships will be held on Friday 14th and Saturday 15th February at the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary Headquarters, Exeter. Any officer wishing to be considered, please contact the Force Sports Secretary.

BOWLS

SUPT G. Moss, Harlow, Cons B. Arnell, Southend and Cons L. Lee, Brentwood have been selected to represent the P.A.A. at Bowls on Wednesday 29th January against the Fire Service at Blackpool.

HOCKEY

W.CONS D. Grainger,

Basildon has been selected to represent the British Police in a Hockey tournament to be held in Northern Ireland, from Saturday 22nd February to Tuesday 25th February.

AGM

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