

The Law

including Essex Police Magazine



**1992: Essex
in Europe —
see page 5**

The Newspaper of the Essex Police

January 1992

No 223

Fancy dress fun dwarfs previous cash collection



PANTO FUN: The cast of Snow White, alias "B" Shift.

CHRISTMAS Day callers to Essex Police would have been shocked to know they were talking to Snow White, or maybe one of the seven biggest dwarfs in the whole wide world.

For fun-loving, fund-raising staff in the Information Room staged an impromptu pantomime as they raised the grand sum of £1,150 for terminally ill children.

Despite their 6am start, B. Shift were in good spirits as they reported for duty in Fancy Dress. In between manning the phones, they acted out the tale of Snow White, but some of the dwarf's names were a little unfamiliar.

Can you remember a dwarf called Bonky, or Smutty?

Last year B Shift hit upon the idea of wearing Fancy Dress for their

by Jenny Bullus

Christmas duties, to raise sponsorship money for the Farleigh Hospice in Chelmsford. The idea took off, and they raised £550. This Christmas, they chose the Haven Appeal for the Children's Hospice of the Eastern Region, based in Cambridge.

Their target was to raise £700, with colleagues from other HQ departments and other police stations — but the total quickly rocketed to more than £1,000.

P.s Dee Hawkins was the man behind the video camera, as the unrehearsed panto unfolded, with Maxine Nightingale cast in the starring role of Snow White and Colin Lea and Andy Spink narrating.

The rest of the cast were Insp Dick Malcolm, playing a dwarf called Bossy, Mo Baker, Dick Dickens, Jackie Flynn, Mick Wade, Pauline Reed, Mick Paterson and Sue Stannard.

Sgt Hawkins said, "Fortunately we weren't

very busy on Christmas Day, and we had a good laugh." And although the shift won't be on duty next Christmas they are already forming plans for further festive fund-raising.

For another picture of the festive fund-raisers turn to back page.



SWEEPING up cash for charity, Sandra Spore and cat Helen Morse join in the Fancy Dress extravaganza.

GOOD OMEN AS WOMEN LOSE THE "W"

WHEN is a Wpc not a Wpc? As far as Essex Police are concerned, the answer is very soon.

As the force vigorously pursues its Equal Opportunities Policy, it has decided to drop the "W" prefix for women officers of all ranks.

Women constables will become Pcs, the same as their male colleagues. And the force will also drop the 3,000 numbering system for female officers.

However, serving women officers will retain their current collar number, and the number change will only apply to new female officers.

The decision, made by the Force's Policy Group, is in line with at least 13 other forces, including the Metropolitan Police, who have stopped using the "W" prefix.

Inquiries by Equal Opportunities Officer

Insp. Jo Collins have revealed a further eight forces considering a change.

Head of personnel, Chf. Supt. Bill Pirie, said, "There may be practical difficulties, but the aim is to make greater use of first names, which will make the force more user-friendly."

Discrimination

This is not the first time such a decision has been taken in Essex. In 1975 the "W" prefix was abolished in response to the new Sex Discrimination Act, and the system of giving all women officers a number

beginning with 3 was introduced.

However, the "W" was re-introduced by Essex Police a year later, in January 1977, after research was carried out, which included consideration of practical and administrative problems.

The force currently has 339 women officers, approximately 11 per cent of its strength.

Insp. Collins said, "This decision will not be universally popular, as some woman like being known as women, but I think it is a step forward in terms of equal opportunities policy."

Insp. Lesley Chilcott, the Women Inspectors and Chief Inspectors representative on the Police Federation, said, "My supervisors never address me as Woman Inspector now.

"I think the majority of women will be quite happy to just become Inspector or Sergeant, and I would be surprised if anyone made an issue about it. We are all professionals.

"I can see times when it could cause an administrative problem, for example, in the training school where I work, booking rooms for officers on courses."

Practical

Sgt. Bob Needham of the Police Federation said, "We can see the reasons for this change, but wonder if it is going to be totally practical, as there will be occasions when supervisors need to know whether an officer is male or female, such as an emergency call for support in a case of public disorder."

Film helps rape hunt

WE'RE GETTING THERE! That was the response from Brentwood detectives after the force's TV Unit teamed up with British Rail in a bid to track down a brutal rapist.

The TV Unit filmed a reconstruction of the horrific attack, which was played repeatedly at Brentwood Railway Station for three days.

Detectives were delighted with the public response, as more than 30 callers came forward. The 25-year-old victim was raped in the station car park at about 6pm on Friday,

January 3.

The reconstruction, using two police officers, was filmed the following Tuesday, and the TV Unit had supplied the finished tape in time to be viewed by rush-hour commuters on the Wednesday evening.

Det Insp Dave Delamain, heading the hunt for the rapist, said, "The results were excellent, just what I wanted.

"With the film, we could

reach as many people as possible using the railway. It served to jog their memories, and broadcast our appeal for witnesses.

"It also saved substantially on manpower." Officers who otherwise might have spent hours at the station questioning rail travellers, were able to carry out other inquiries.

Ian Deal from the TV Unit said, "This was quite a new thing for us, and we were encouraged by the response. Perhaps this is something we should consider doing more often in the future."

Federation Notes



by Brian Pallant

Legal Expense Scheme Change for Federation

DUE to the present insurers (DAS) advising that as from the 1st February, 1992 it is their intention to increase the current subscription rate by some 58 per cent, the Trustees of the scheme have been negotiating with alternative insurance companies, seeking a more realistic premium.

As a result, as from 1st February 1992, the scheme will be underwritten by Hambro Life Limited at a monthly premium of £2.20 per member.

The services of the same solicitors will be retained and cover remains almost unchanged in as much as the only slight amendment appears in Section 4 Peaceful Occupation of the Home.

Cover under this section will be for prosecution only, defence of cases under this section will not be covered.

Unless notified to the contrary, deductions of £2.20 per month will commence with the February 1992 payroll from salaries of officers who are members of the scheme.

Any member who wishes to cancel his membership should notify the Joint Branch Board Secretary at Headquarters in writing as soon as possible.

For those members who remain and wish to pursue a claim, Hambro have installed a Helpline Telephone on (0206) 867775 to which all enquiries should be directed.

The presently held DAS membership card will expire on 31st January 1992 and cannot be used after this date when it should be destroyed.

New membership certificates and information packs will be issued to all members as soon as possible.

Federation Notes... Federation Notes... Federation Notes... Federation Notes

Fed says Farewell to Phil Charters and Chris Hovells

PHIL CHARTS A NEW COURSE

THE Federation says goodbye this month to two old faces as Phil Charters and Chris Hovells retire from the Force and move to pastures new.

Phil Charters, the Constables' Branch Board Secretary and Joint Branch Board Claims Secretary retired from the service on the 5th January 1992.

Phil had served for over 30 years and had been the Federation Claims Secretary since January 1983 on a full time basis.

His skills in that department have been well recognised setting up a Claims Department which is second to none.

Success

On behalf of the Joint Branch Board I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Phil for his help in the past and best wishes to him and his wife for the future.

I am sure that he will make a success of a new career as a County Council Planning Officer as he did within the Federation.

From the 6th January 1992 Phil's department will be Constable Mick Englefield.

Challenge

Mick has 13 years service and was stationed at South Woodham Ferrers. He is a married man with one young daughter.

He has represented the Chelmsford Division for many years.

I am sure that Mick will carry on in the same way as Phil. I wish Mick all the best in his new challenge.

For the information of members, Mick will still be working from the Federation Office at Headquarters and is available on extension 2795.

Cricket

The Federation also said goodbye this month to Chris Hovells who has been the constables' representative for the Grays division for

many years and will be sorely missed — particularly on the cricket field in the annual match between the Joint Branch Board and the Chief Constable's 11, according to JBB Chairman Bob Needham!

Chris, a married man and a former coroner's officer also played a major role at conference, sponsoring a motion to have bodies tested for HIV, AIDS, or other contagious diseases at the request of the police.

Body

This came after he was dealing with a body at Tilbury and was unsure whether it was HIV positive. He sponsored the motion to ask for formal tests to be arranged so all those handling the body could be properly protected.

The motion was carried overwhelmingly by conference and the matter is currently being pursued by the Department of Health and the Home Office.



JBB Chairman Bob Needham presents Chris Hovells of Grays with the JBB plate for his long service on the Federation, who

News Extra... News Extra...

Mortgage Scheme Brings Benefits

MEMBERS may be interested to know that the above scheme arranged by G E Heath (UK) Ltd has the below benefits:-

1. A discounted Mortgage for the full period of the Loan.
2. A full refund of valuation fee upon completion.
3. Reduced legal costs arranged with local solicitors.
4. A cash refund of up to 150 towards legal or other costs.
5. Low cost premium rates for Building and Contents Insurance.

Additional Provisions are:-

- A. Special discounts for first time buyers.
 - B. 100 per cent loans.
 - C. New fixed rates for up to five years.
 - D. Low start arrangements.
 - E. Larger Loan discount.
- F Reduced costs for arranging a will for first time buyers.
- If you are interested in any of the above give the mortgage Desk a ring and speak to Janet Woolstencroft on the Freephone Number 0800 262713.

WHILE getting ready for the New Year JBB Secretary Brian Pallant discovered this poem and thought it might be an interesting start to 1992. (Editors note: notice the last word is man, not woman!).

SOME TIME

Some time when you're feeling important,
Some time when your ego's in bloom,
Some time when you take it for granted,
You're the best qualified in the room,
Some time when you feel that your going
Would leave an unfillable hole,
Just follow these simple instructions
And see how it humbles your soul.

Take a bucket and fill it with water,
Put your hand in it up to the wrist,
Pull it out and the hole that's remaining
Is the measure of how you'll be missed.

You may splash all you please when you enter,
You can stir up the water galore,
But stop-and you'll find in a minute
That it looks quite the same as before.

The moral in this quaint example
Is - Just do the best that you can,
Be proud of yourself, but remember,
There is no Indispensible Man.

SHIFTING SHIFTS — YOU HAVE YOUR SAY

The Police Negotiating Board Working Party on Police Working Times has been meeting recently to discuss change in the Regulations covering members conditions of service.

They are looking at the following:-

- Hours of Duty.
- Duty Rosters.
- Extension of working day beyond eight hours.

With the above in mind the Joint Branch Board have sent out a questionnaire covering alternative shift systems.

These were distributed to all members on the 6th January 1992. If you have not received your questionnaire please contact me in the Federation office.

The questionnaire covers the Ottawa type shift system and other alternatives. Your comments would also be welcome on any type of shift system between eight and ten hours duration but stick with a 40 hour week over a period of time.

The Force shift system working party is meeting on the 29th January 1992 so your early replies would be appreciated.

Tax on car mileage figures at your fingers

Local Authority car allowance 1991-92: Summary tables

Business Mileage	Class of car for which allowances paid			
	1	2	3	4
Essential users				
0 - 1000	560	650	780	870
1001 - 2000	540	610	770	850
2001 - 3000	520	570	760	840
3001 - 4000	510	520	750	820
4001 - 5000	620	650	920	980
5001 - 6000	740	780	1080	1140
6001 - 7000	860	910	1240	1300
7001 - 8000	980	1040	1400	1460
8001 - 9000	1100	1160	1560	1620
9001 - 10000	1210	1290	1720	1780
10001 - 11000	1330	1420	1880	1940
11001 - 12000	1330	1400	1870	1910
12001 - 13000	1320	1380	1870	1890
13001 - 14000	1320	1360	1860	1860
14001 - 15000	1320	1340	1850	1830
15001 - 16000	1310	1320	1850	1800
16001 - 17000	1310	1310	1840	1770
17001 - 18000	1300	1290	1830	1740
18001 - 19000	1300	1270	1830	1710
19001 - 20000	1300	1250	1820	1680
20001 - 21000	1290	1230	1810	1650
21001 - 22000	1290	1210	1800	1620
22001 - 23000	1280	1190	1800	1600
23001 - 24000	1280	1170	1790	1570
24001 - 25000	1280	1150	1780	1540

Casual Users								
0	499	0	130	140	0	130	140	
500 - 1499	270	290	390	430	270	290	390	430
1500 - 2499	320	330	480	520	320	330	480	520
2500 - 3499	380	380	570	610	380	380	570	610
3500 - 4499	500	500	740	790	500	500	740	790
4500 - 5499	690	720	1000	1060	690	720	1000	1060
5500 - 6499	810	850	1160	1220	810	850	1160	1220
6500 - 7499	920	970	1320	1380	920	970	1320	1380
7500 - 8499	1040	1100	1480	1540	1040	1100	1480	1540
8500 - 9499	1160	1230	1640	1700	1160	1230	1640	1700
9500 - 10499	1280	1360	1800	1860	1280	1360	1800	1860
10500 - 11499	1340	1410	1880	1930	1340	1410	1880	1930
11500 - 12499	1340	1390	1870	1900	1340	1390	1870	1900
12500 - 13499	1330	1370	1870	1870	1330	1370	1870	1870
13500 - 14499	1330	1360	1860	1840	1330	1360	1860	1840
14500 - 15499	1320	1340	1850	1810	1320	1340	1850	1810
15500 - 16499	1320	1320	1850	1780	1320	1320	1850	1780
16500 - 17499	1320	1300	1840	1760	1320	1300	1840	1760
17500 - 18499	1310	1280	1830	1730	1310	1280	1830	1730
18500 - 19499	1310	1260	1820	1700	1310	1260	1820	1700
19500 - 20499	1300	1240	1820	1670	1300	1240	1820	1670
20500 - 21499	1300	1220	1810	1640	1300	1220	1810	1640
21500 - 22499	1300	1200	1800	1610	1300	1200	1800	1610
22500 - 23499	1290	1180	1800	1580	1290	1180	1800	1580
23500 - 24499	1290	1170	1790	1550	1290	1170	1790	1550
24500 - 25499	1290	1170	1790	1550	1290	1170	1790	1550

In last months edition I covered this subject. However there was insufficient room for the profit tables to be included. These are now set out above for your information:

To assist you the columns relate to the mileage payment tables i.e.
1. 541 to 999cc, 2. 1000 to 1199cc, 3. 1200 to 1450cc, 4. 1451 to 1750cc.

Off Beat

HERE'S paws for thought. Officers in Harlow Division thought they were being wound up when Mrs Burrows reported her pet rabbit was missing.

But water 'bout the gentleman who reported a burst water main flooding the A128 road? It was Mr Ford of course, and the location was between Running Waters and West Horndon.

Beefy Tale

However, the most amusing of all was the report of a cow on the road, near the Beefeater, where else? So it's true they guarantee very fresh steaks.

There was an interesting report of a suspicious object in a Colchester shop doorway. The paperwork records it was a "gold plastic bog" with something in it. "Well, I've heard about having a silver spoon in your mouth ...

Essex potty

And on the subject of the immovable object, The Daily Express broke the story of thieves who stole a hippopotamus from Basildon during the New Year festivities.

Not just any old hippo, but a peaceful 6ft plastic animal, which was advertising beds, decked out in its striped pyjamas.

The Express observes that it knows just the men for the important job of tracing the stolen hippo. "Remember Avon and Somerset's plastic policemen? And Northumbria's plastic police cars? They should be sent to Essex immediately ...

"It doesn't make any sense," says detective searching for teenager

Fears Grow For Missing Dinah

by Paul Dunt

DETECTIVE Sergeant Derek Nickol opens a well-thumbed blue file and, like most other days, racks his mind for an answer he hopes lies buried somewhere within the familiar pages.

Once more he relates the text, tracing the last-known hours of a happy 18-year-old student who seemingly vanished from the face of the earth at a rock festival last August.

Like thousands of others, Dinah McNicol has joined the files of Missing People, but it soon became clear there was something very wrong about this particular disappearance.

The Tillingham teenager, bright, intelligent and especially inquisitive, had everything to live for. Gregarious and fun-loving she was enjoying the summer while waiting on the results of her four A levels.

Legacy

While at Chelmsford High School for Girls she had worked hard, specialising in history, and was making up her mind on whether to go straight onto University or to take a year out travelling.

Her mother, who had died in a car crash, had left her a legacy and she was determined to spend the money wisely. When the

chance came to travel to the concert at Liphook, Hampshire it seemed a good way to relax before the results came through.

But five-months later the results still lay unread, waiting with her 52-year-old Jazz musician father and her 14-year-old sister Shona, for her to come home. Last week, detectives reluctantly prepared the family for the very real fear this may never happen.

The hunt for Dinah has taken Ds Nickol into a world he hardly knew existed and has brought

It soon became clear there was something very wrong.

him to two depressing conclusions: that Dinah is either dead, probably murdered, or has been taken by a religious sect from which she is unable to escape.

"I have spent hours and hours and hours on the

phone, I have talked to all sorts of people that normally wouldn't talk to me and I have had their full cooperation," he says, but he has now come to a frustrating impasse with all lines of inquiry seemingly exhausted.

Sects

Dinah had an almost cat-like curiosity for unusual characters — she had recently spent some time with a fire-eater — and religion fascinated her. One of her University applications was for a course at Sussex University in Comparative Religious Studies.

Ds Nickols investigations have revealed the existence of almost 2,000 religious organisations in the UK, any number of whom could have been at the unofficial concert, which took place on Ministry of Defence land and attracted around 12,000 people.

Enquiries with some of the large religious sects, some with huge followings in the United States, have proved fruitless and he has even had help from an individual who specialises in freeing people from the grips of religious organisations. But no-one has seen, or will admit to seeing, Dinah.

But Dinah's interest was

purely academic and she was unlikely to get more deeply involved once her curiosity had been satisfied, he explained.

CND has also joined in the hunt, distributing photos and making an appeal on Essex Radio to help trace her, but despite their efforts, no-one seems to know anything about Dinah's disappearance.

Media

And as concern grows for the missing teenager the national media too are becoming interested with several national newspapers and more recently the Evening Standard, running the story.

Anglia and TVS, the local papers and Essex Radio and BBC Essex have also put out appeals, but still nothing. An article has even appeared in the national opticians magazine — she suffered from very bad eyesight and it was hoped she might turn up for an eye test or to get her contact lenses checked. Nothing.

Talks are also going on with Crimewatch UK with the hope of getting them to run the story, but, as Ds Nickols points out no crime has yet come to light and Dinah's strange disappearance must compete with a host of others.

Yet all aspects of this case point to this being no ordinary runaway teenager story.

Dinah was last seen on August 4 at around 7pm. She was wearing hippy style dark trousers, a red top, brown boots and a long green corduroy coat. Three hours earlier, while her friends were packing up to leave the concert site, she had gone off for a walk. They had expected her back in minutes.

Soldier

With her was a man aged 20-25 and she told her friends she would not be returning with them, but instead she would be staying in the area for a while and in character with her curiosity, visiting Portsmouth because she had never been there before.

She walked off with the man, who was smartly dressed with short hair, and has never



Dinah (right) pictured with her sister Shona, 14, while at their grandmother's house in Skegness. It was from here, wearing these clothes, Dinah left to travel to the Liphook concert — she has not been seen since.

been seen since. All attempts to trace him have failed. It's a possibility he may have been a soldier — the Borden Garrison is only five miles away — but it's a theory that remains inconclusive.

But it is what happened

"We have spent hours in this office discussing the possibilities"

next that has convinced detectives that something very serious happened to Dinah.

Being a student Dinah had very little money and that she did have she was very careful with. She had even caught a lift to the concert with her history teacher to save on petrol money.

And despite the £2,700 legacy from her mother, she was determined not to waste it. The week before the concert while staying at her grandmothers in Skegness she had got by on less than £10.

Money

It was strange then when just four days after her disappearance large amounts of money began to disappear from her Abbey National account.

In just 10 days most of the money was withdrawn from cash machines along the south coast including Margate, Havant, Brighton, Hove and Ramsgate. It had the classic mark of somebody using a stolen card.

And when her A level results arrived at home there was no phone call to see how she had done. She had in fact passed four. On November 23, the date of her step-sister Sarah's birthday, with whom she was very close, the family waited for a call — but none came.

There had been no rows at home and her father, while caring for her, had not imposed a strict regime on when she had to be at home — just as long as she got in touch to say where she was and everything was OK.

Answer

"It doesn't make any sense," Ds Nickol says finally, laying the file on the desk. He reluctantly concludes with his fear that Dinah is probably dead. It makes his almost daily contact with her family even harder.

"I have a young daughter myself and can obviously relate to her father, but so would most policemen in this type of situation. We have spent hours in this office discussing the possibilities.

"Every time I pick it up I look at it and think is the answer in there somewhere?"

At the time of going to press the Force is liaising with our colleagues in Hampshire on the possibility of conducting a full search of the concert area with the hope of discovering anything that could help find Dinah. Anyone who has any information about this enquiry should contact Ds Nickol at Maldon Police Station on (0621) 852255 ext 3729.

Life-saving Pc rewarded

A QUICK-thinking Pc who gave the kiss of life to a road-crash victim slumped in the wreckage of a car is to be rewarded with The Royal Humane Society's Resuscitation Award.

Pc Kevin Moore was the first to arrive at the scene of the crash on March 8, 1991, in Potash Road, Billericay where a car had left the road and collided with a tree. Shortly after Pc Moore's arrival the front seat passenger, 20-year-old Ian Day, who had suffered serious head injuries, stopped breathing.

Recovery

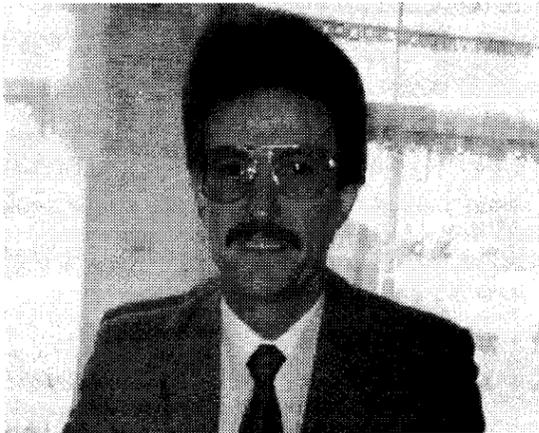
Despite the man's horrific injuries, Pc Moore, then based at Laindon Traffic and now at HQ Driving School, managed to resuscitate him and today he is making progress in a long fight for recovery.

Doctors said there is no doubt Pc Moore's presence of mind and prompt action were instrumental in saving the young man's life and praised his brave efforts.

Pc Moore, 30, said he was surprised, but pleased, on hearing he was to receive the award. "It's all part and parcel of the job really, we all sign up for the protection of life and property."

Reward

It's not the first time Pc Moore has had to give the kiss of life, but is his first real success. "My reward really is to see this man alive today," he said. He still keeps in touch with the family to follow Mr Day's progress. He will be presented with the award by the Basildon Police Liaison Committee this month.



Ds Derek Nickol.

Xmas Drink-Drive Worry

ESSEX Traffic chiefs say there is still a hard core of drivers, most probably middle-aged, who think they can drink and drive and get away with it.

The disturbing news, from Chief Inspector Brian Ladd, follows figures from the Force's Christmas Drink-Drive Campaign which show a slight upturn in the percentage of positive breath tests this year.

The campaign though, began encouragingly. Between 6am on December 16 and 6am on December 19, officers breath-tested 539 motorists

with only 10 (1.85%) proving positive or refusing to be B-tested.

But between 6am on December 19 and 6am on December 22, that figure rose as 732 drivers were breath-tested with 40 (5.46%) registering as positive or refusing to be B-tested.

During the last period to be measured which includes Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, both black-spots for drink-driving, the figures rose again.

From 6am on December 22 to 6am on January 1, 1397 tests were conducted with 84 (6%) positive or refusing.

The figures mark a marginal increase in those providing positive breath test during the 1990/91 campaign:

Between December 14 and December 19 1990 1243 were B-tested with 45 (3.6%) positive or refused. The December 19 to December 22 period saw 1163 blowing into the bag with 36 (3%) positive. December 22, 1990 to January 1 1991 saw 1944 tested and 112 (5.8) positives or refused.

"We felt a little disappointed because it had gone up a bit, but it is clear we have got a problem with a hard core of drivers," he said, adding that although he did not have the

actual ages of all those tested, the incidence seemed to be in people of his age.

"Youngsters seem to have a more responsible attitude with one of them sticking to soft drinks if they are in a car," he said, adding that Random Breath Testing might be the solution to cracking the hard core who break the law.

"My own feelings at the moment are that we have got pretty effective powers to deal with drink/driving but it may well be that Random Breath Testing will change people's perception, in that they think they might be caught, rather than giving us extra powers,"

he said.

But he made it clear that now Christmas was over it did not mean people could return to old habits. "Our philosophy has always been that it's a 365 day problem — 366 days this year," he said, adding that he would like to see much more emphasis on campaigns throughout the year than the 'Annual Event' at Christmas.

Yet the general trend against drink-driving was positive, he said. "What most traffic officers will tell you now is that trying to find a drink-driver is quite hard," he concluded.



Thanks for Fining Hurrying Hubby

To the Chelmsford Police
 I don't suppose you usually get thanked for speeding fines. But I want to say thank you for giving my husband a fixed penalty fine recently. He is not as careful at speed limits as he should be, so hopefully this will be a check on him.
 Thank you from a grateful wife.

MICK Beale at Chelmsford Traffic thought 'Law' readers might be interested in reading this anonymous letter which arrived at Chelmsford Police station and was passed to the traffic office.

As the 'grateful wife' says, it's not often the Force gets thanked for handing out speeding fines, so the unusual letter has been framed and now adorns the wall in their office!

Barrell bows out after 39 years

I WOULD like, through The Law, to thank most sincerely all my friends and colleagues who so kindly contributed towards my retirement just before Christmas — the gifts were wonderful.

I would especially like to thank the civilian staff at CSB who made my work with the branch so pleasant and enjoyable.

After 39 years with the Force I shall obviously miss it very much, but I shall have plenty of memories to fall back on.

Yours sincerely,

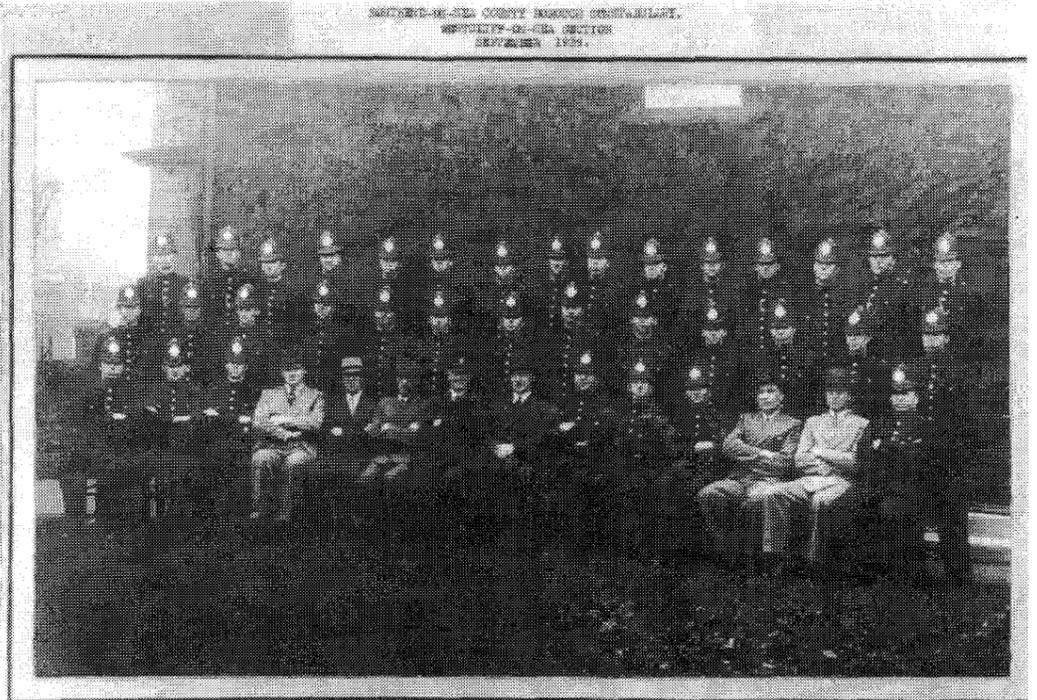
Don Barrell,
 Hunt Avenue,
 Heybridge,
 Maldon

Essex Police Musical Society
 present
GIGI
 24-29 February 1992

Reservations for tickets may now be made on application to:
 R A Clare
 HQ/CDU/Fraud
 Police Headquarters
 PO Box 2
 Springfield
 Chelmsford
 CM2 6DA

Law Letters

Bright as Buttons — the Boro' boys of '39



FORMER Boro' boy Floaty Turner, a former Police Ambulance driver, sent this fascinating picture to The Law of the Southend-on-Sea Borough Constabulary, Westcliff-on-Sea Section, taken in 1939. Floaty can be found in the second row, second in from the left. Do you recognise any old faces?

SO SMART

MRS Helene Hawkins has written to The Law via NARPO's Southend-on-Sea branch regarding the feature in the July edition 'All Our Yesterdays' and particularly the photo captioned: "Don't they look Smart?"

"Of course they do," said 97-year-old Mrs Hawkins, who was able to help out and name the Deputy Chief Constable, who was not identified in the picture.

"He was Deputy Chief Constable Edwin Hawkins, ex Sergeant Major 2nd Battalion Scots Guards DSO," she writes, adding that "Inspector Acreman was the fourth man and a very fine serving officer."

Guide Dog Appeal — Can You Help?

"A Guide Dog is equal in many ways to giving a blind man sight itself" — Thomas Ap Rhys.

"Behold me now with a practically unlimited range and able to proceed at a good, health-giving pace" — Allen Caldwell.

Pioneer

These quotes are from two pioneer dog owners, who qualified in October 1931 on the very first Guide Dog for the Blind training course held in this country.

"Will you please help me raise £2,000 to buy two guide dogs to provide 'sight' and added mobility to two more

Brainy Brian

NOVEMBER'S Law article 'Calling cadets to 20-year Reunion' brought smiles to the face of Terry Lack, SOA at Basildon.

For among the sea of faces we asked readers to view, we pointed out Brain Jeapes and his wife, Julia. "Always knew he was brainy," said Terry, who spotted

the intellectual misprint.

Sorry Brian! Looks like that infamous Law Gremlin is on the loose again. Either that or we've been watching far too many episodes of Thunderbirds!

LETTERS

Send your letters to Jenny Bullus or Paul Dunt at The Law Office, Press Office, Essex Police Headquarters, Chelmsford.

Handcuffs

Pc UNIDOG is a yellow labrador riding a black unicycle, with black police helmet and nose. His truncheon is brown and handcuffs are silver. His pink tongue is panting in anticipation of the £2,000 he hopes to clock up for this worthy cause!

Many other items are also

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association

available from this Port of London Authority Police appeal — for more details write to Sean Hollands, Saxons Drive, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 5HS, (0622) 758043, where sterling currency/cheques should also be sent for the

PC UNIDOG ORDER FORM

Name: Address:
 Town: County/State:
 Post/Zip Code: Country: Tel:
 Badges required: @ £1.00 each. Payment enclosed: £

Media move proves crucial in unprecedented appeal

Morgue photo presses home murder mystery

DETECTIVES leading the murder hunt following the discovery of a badly beaten, stabbed and burned body at Benfleet took the unprecedented step of releasing a morgue photograph to the media.

The young man's body was discovered near a lay-by on Canvey Way on December 19, but despite extensive inquiries and media appeals, officers had been unable to identify him EIGHT days later.

Decision

High level discussions took place between Deputy Chief Constable Peter Simpson, ACC O Geoff Markham, Det. Chf. Supt Ralph Barrington, Det. Supt. Ivan Dibley, who was in charge of the inquiry, and the Press Office, before the decision to release a photograph was taken.

Mr Dibley explained, "There was no precedent in Essex for releasing a photograph of a murder victim, and we had to consider the traumatic effect which the decision could have on the man's family.

by Jenny Bullus

"We also had to consider the impact this photograph might have on the general public if it appeared on TV or in newspapers, particularly as the man had suffered appalling injuries.

Killer

"But the over-riding factor was the need to find out who the man was, in order to track down his killer, and we had exhausted other lines of inquiry."

Several days earlier the murder team had released photos of two distinctive tattoos on the man's arms via the Press Office, but this had failed to produce any clues to his identity.

Shy

Somewhat surprisingly, many of the national newspapers fought shy of using the shocking photograph of the dead man's face, despite the fact that considerable cosmetic efforts had been made to disguise his injuries.

The next day, Saturday December 28, it appeared only in *The Sport*, which devoted more than half a page to the story.

The decision was vindicated. That same day officers received a call from the dead man's mother, and at last the investigating team could start following up new lines of inquiry. Soon a fingertip search was underway at a flat in Hornchurch.

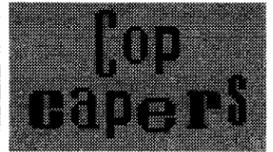
A day later, five Nottingham men were arrested, and have subsequently been charged with murder.

Victim

The media appeals concerning the murder produced more than 300 calls from members of the public, who offered more than 100 possible names for the victim.

Mr Dibley said, "We are very grateful to the media, particularly *The Sport* newspaper, for the publicity they gave this case, which led directly to us identifying the victim."

The dead man was identified as 28-year-old Steven Pell from Nottingham.



THE Christmas season brought its fair share of incidents to the country's coppers, so spare a thought for police in Sussex who went nuts after racing to a burglar alarm at a house in Crawley.

On arrival they discovered the intruder was a squirrel destroying the festive decorations inside. Nothing like acorn crook at Christmas.

Boney Burglars

Meanwhile, burglars in Bath got more than they bargained for after breaking into an ambulance station and discovering a skeleton in a cupboard. Make no bones about it, they ran and ran from their find, used to train St John Ambulance volunteers.

Wordy Warden

However motorists in Hereford will hopefully avoid running away from traffic warden Brian Saunders in the future. Brainy Brian, 58, has just passed a BA degree in social sciences to help him deal with angry drivers. Sounds like just the ticket.

Double Trouble

Not so smart though were some officers in Beaumont Fee, Lincoln, according to the *News of the World*. In an article headlined 'Thin Blue Fine' the paper reported that a police blitz on drivers who ignored double yellow lines outside a police station netted several of their own men!

Name Game

Bet there's some name-calling going on there — well at least that's true in Derbyshire. Apparently Pcs in the county are being allowed to use first names when speaking to sergeants and inspectors.

Rumour goes that it only applies to officers called Robert. "Alwoight Bobby?"

Stolen Watch

But finally spare a thought for crime-busters in the beautiful Devon resort of Dawlish. The Neighbourhood Watch scheme there had a £3,000 membership and crime prevention fund, — until it was stolen.

EUROPE 1992: ESSEX IS READY

WITH two international airports and a lengthy coastline dotted with ports, it was always clear Essex would be taking a major role in the policing plans for the European Community.

And as the ferry's ploughed back and forth across the channel over the years, the Force was making sure its continental contacts were firmly established before the tide of change began to gain momentum.

A high-powered Euro-team was set up, headed by ACC (0) Geoff Markham, flanked by CID chief Det Chf Supt Ralph Barrington and Supt Des McGarr from Traffic. Its aim was, and still is, to observe and help shape the future for Europe.

Border

"As is quite common with the force, we have had a system in place to monitor what is going on and to influence the course of events earlier than most," explained Mr Markham.

One development the group has been following closely is the idea of a 'Hard Shell' over the community. In short the first point of entry into Europe from outside — be it an external border or an airport — would be so rigid and controlled criminals and undesirables would be screened out.

Consequently it means internal borders, like for example between Holland and Belgium, could afford to be less stringent.

Doubt

Yet clearly the idea of people travelling freely within and across the community without let or hindrance concerns Mr Markham.

"If the Hard Shell is as

IT'S HERE! After years of speculation about the future of Europe, 1992 has finally arrived and preparations for the Single Market are in full swing.

Maastricht has come and gone and whatever position the UK takes in the coming years nobody doubts the country must adapt.

But as *Paul Dunt* found out, Essex Police seems well prepared for its new responsibilities and has already forged firm links with its continental cousins.

In this frank interview with *The Law*, the Force's European Liaison Officer, Assistant Chief Constable Geoff Markham, reveals his hopes and fears for the new Europe.

good as ours right across the European Community I shall not be overly concerned, but there are those who seriously doubt the will of some countries to be very good at making sure the Hard Shell is a Hard Shell and not a joke," he says. "That's why there's a general reluctance to do away with some of the controls we presently have."

These concerns lead to the controversial issue of identity cards — an area where Mr Markham foresees change. ID cards on the continent allow an internal system of security checks on people.

Liberty

But the idea of ID cards in Britain has been fiercely condemned from many quarters, particularly civil liberty organisations.

"I do see that countries like ourselves and indeed Holland that resist the idea of ID cards will need perhaps to adjust their position," he says, but adds: "I don't know which Government would have the nerve to do it."

Many see the introduction of a photograph on the driving licence as a first step towards ID cards and Mr Markham predicts ID cards may well come to Britain in the future.

But of all the European issues currently under the spotlight his biggest concern at present is, perhaps surprisingly, traffic, an area which seems to have escaped much attention so far.



HARD SHELL: Security at first points of entry, such as Stansted Airport, will have to be tight community-wide if criminals are to be kept out.

Yet the implications of ignoring this issue could be enormous he suggests, pointing out that there is nothing to stop car drivers leaving Southern Spain driving all the way to a French or Belgian ferryport and then driving in the UK with only perhaps an hour and a half break.

"These two sets of driving times can't be counted togeth-

er — the potential for disaster is great — I think there needs to be a European approach to traffic, especially road traffic," he warned.

"I think that's the area where we will see the most immediate effect on European cooperation and it's long long overdue."

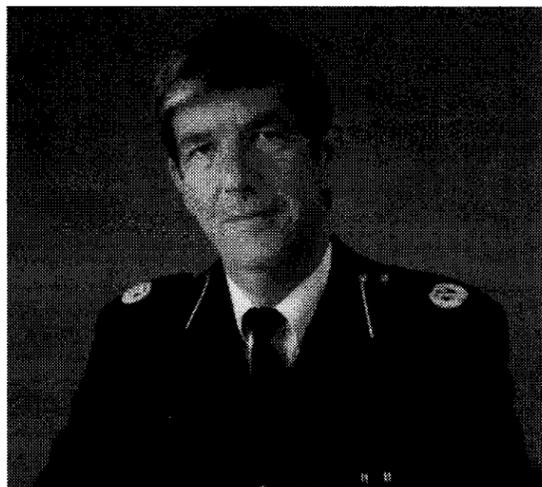
Fortunately it's a field in which Essex is well placed to get involved. Mr Markham is Secretary of the M25 Committee, Chairman of ACPO Traffic and Chairman of the South East Region Senior Traffic Officers Conference, while Supt Bob Good is Secretary of the National Motorway Conference.

Justice

One area which has come under close scrutiny is how different Criminal Justice systems on either side of the channel will work together and whether they will merge to form a European system. Yet it is not an area which holds too many worries for the ACC.

"We are still going to have different Criminal Justice systems on either side of the channel I think for many years to come and we have got to get used to each others policies and practices in relation to those and that is a very well advanced system," he says.

Internationally agreed systems for issues such as the identification of bodies and searches for missing



ACC (0) Geoffrey Markham — at the forefront of the Force's approach to the 'new' Europe.

people already exist, he states.

National

"It isn't a question of some sort of movement in one direction — there are contradictory movements within Europe and Europe's big enough to withstand those contradictory pushes and pulls. I don't see some sort of grey system emerging which is a little bit of France, a little bit of Germany and a little bit of Germany," he said.

"Perhaps somebody will come up with a system one day which is perhaps the best that man can devise and we might well gravitate towards that, but I doubt whether you or I will see it," he said.

"I think you can actually tolerate a variety of police systems within a very small area."

He sees the formation of NCIS — the National Criminal Intelligence Service, which begins work in April, as an important step, however, is providing Britain with a national ability to pass and receive information from continental countries.

"We seem to be making some very positive moves, resisting the temptation to leap in and have a national Police Force," he said. "That seems to me about right on the criminal front."

And indeed in many ways 1992 will mean "As you were" for a Force to whom dealing with our European neighbours on a day to day basis is far from a new experience.

Incident

This year marks the 23rd year of the Cross-Channel Intelligence Conference which involves the Dutch, British, Belgian and French forces discussing the policing implications ports place on their work. Three years ago the confer-

ence was held in Westcliff.

"We have had some very large operations involving our colleagues on the continent which have been brought to very satisfactory conclusions and I can't recall an incident where we have suffered in the investigation of crime because we had to deal with battles on a continental basis.

Although there are many differences in the way the UK and continental Police forces operate cooperation can work, he says and there are lessons to be learnt on both sides.

"Before perhaps we would look to America for some sort of role image — I think that's really a thing of the past. I think our comparisons and thoughts have got to be with our continental colleagues."

Essex Police Band
IN CONCERT
Essex Police Choir

Christ Church, Chelmsford.
7.30pm, Saturday 7 March

Tickets £2.50 from Chf. Insp. Roger Grimwade, HQ ext. 2457 or Pc Bill Brightmore HQ ext. 2429



RUNNING WITHOUT TROUSERS: The team of ten brave Essex bobbies missed a record by just six minutes in April's London Marathon, but their bold bid raised around £10,000 for charity.



JUNE: Lesley Rosenwoud took the lead when she became the force's first woman dog handler, accompanied by 16-month-old Cassie. Picture: The Essex Chronicle.



MARCH: The Queen opened the new £400 million terminal at Stansted Airport, heralding a new chapter in aviation history. One of the biggest security operations ever mounted by Essex Police swung into action for the official opening. Picture by the Essex Chronicle.



BACK TOGETHER AGAIN: The boro' boys reunion in March organised by Pc Steve Wynn of the Force Support Unit. The former ambulance drivers were taken on a tour of HQ (including the Firing Range) and were presented with a specially commissioned model police ambulances. From left to right (back) George Rushforth, 'Floaty' Turner, 'Popeye' Phillips, Cliff 'Sooty' Fenton and Jack Ladds. At the front, Larry Adlington.

Looking Back: A Year Review

JANUARY

TENSION was high as the New Year began with war clouds looming in the Gulf. Police stepped up security across the county, and especially at Stansted Airport, as the United Nations deadline for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait came and went. Soon Britain was at war.

On a more cheerful note Traffic Sergeant Frank Ruggles was awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours List for his tireless charity work, raising thousands of pounds for the ill, disadvantaged and handicapped.

The Essex Police Band was celebrating its 25th Anniversary.

FEBRUARY

WINTER came with a vengeance in February, with the worst weather Essex had seen for years. Drivers were stranded on motorways, smaller towns and villages were cut off. The force borrowed 14 four-wheel drive vehicles from the Army as our officers bravely struggled through the snowdrifts to help others.

But fans of the force Musical Society were not to be deterred, and they were thawed by a spirited production of *Oliver*, the 26th musical performed in the Assembly Hall at HQ.

But while *Oliver* was asking for more, Steeple Bumpstead bobby's wife Elaine Howard was weighing a lot less, shedding a staggering seven stone to reach the National Final of the Slimmer of the Year competition.

The dog section heard the patter of tiny feet, recruiting seven-week old pup Carla to win over a few hearts in a traditionally male world.

MARCH

COLD noses turned red as Comic Relief Day hit the force. Few copped-out.

Also smiling was Canvey Pc Bob Sheridan, who was amused to discover his island home had declared unilateral independence from mainland Britain.

Arriving at a crime prevention conference at Olympia he was surprised to be handed an identity card displaying him as an "Overseas Visitor"!

Meanwhile, the force was reaching for the sky at Stansted as the Queen arrived to officially open the new terminal, making the Essex Airport one of Europe's major gateways. It also brought new responsibilities and challenges for Essex Police.

And reminiscences of the boro' bloodwagon and the Southend beat of the late 1930s came flooding back for a bunch of old police pals who used to crew the old force ambulances when they were reunited at HQ.

APRIL

TEN Essex Officers hit the headlines with their brave bid to smash an RAF record in the London Marathon. Running in uniform from the waist up, complete with helmets and truncheons, they made an arresting sight.

Chelmsford Specials went one better, with a world-beating cycle coding session during the first National Crime Prevention Week, which stamped their names into the Guinness Book of Records.

The force launched its first schools football and netball tournaments, which culminated in four Fun Day finals.

On a tragic note, sixties pop legend Steve Marriott died in a blaze at his rented home in Arkesden, near Saffron Walden.

Meanwhile the beefy lads from the force rugby team thought they were being made April Fools when they posed for a film crew from Paris. But the glossy pics made the Sunday Times colour supplement later in the year as Will Carling's boys proudly flew the Union flag.

MAY

A 27-year-old bank cashier was abducted as she arrived at work in Brentwood. After she escaped, Essex Police and No.5 Regional Crime Squad mounted an operation to catch those responsible and a man was arrested later that day in London.

The Air Support Unit made history when it joined forces with

1991 was an historic year that saw the release of W... ended as the mighty... uncertain collection... In Essex too, there... the Royal opening of... new terminal to the... when the new QE2 b... Britain's worst traffic... There were triumph... failures.

PAUL DUNT and J... at some of the memo...

Metropolitan Police helic... motorcycle on the A12. In... helicopters had worked to... Great Baddow Post Office... The force launched its... national legislation requir... just a month motorists fou... charged more than £20,000...

THE Law revealed the rea... majority of Essex officers... per cent said a resounding... And there was another b... Essex officers had been... solicitors and their client... experiment, of which the... interview rooms were equ... Two Essex Chief Const... appointed second vice-pr... Bunyard being knighted in... There were also British... Wainwright and HQ Insp... But the last word goes to... her Sandon-based job as E...

ESSEX sizzled with sup... 15,000 people flocking to... Meanwhile Essex ACC... alleged irregularities in... Mark Braithwaite jailed... had their convictions qua... In Colchester, teenage g... manager Peter Lamb at... staff. The coroner recor... A '999 Spectacular' b... the emergency services... jetted off to the Caribbea...

THERE was a hectic... with the kidnapping of... Colchester home.

An armed gang drove... he handed over his stor... and helped by an appea... and his team made a nu... Meanwhile, with so...



SEPTEMBER: Tragedy on the M25 as five die in one of the county's worst accidents.

In the life of Essex Police Year of '91

began with the Gulf War, hostages in Lebanon, and Union broke down into a turbulent states. Momentous moments, from the Airport's £400 million of commuters' nightmares to Thurrock at last relieved of its rack. Tragedies, successes and... BULLUS take a look back at the year...

Constable Peter Simpson was appointed to run the Mutual Aid Co-ordinating Centre at New Scotland yard, co-ordinating the dispersal of prisoners to police stations throughout the country. On a lighter note, the original Essex Police frogmen made a comeback, as a 70th birthday treat for founder David van Lennep. He and fellow pioneer Phil China watched the modern day divers at Heybridge. The Law found it had a rival, when Epping Police launched their community newspaper "The Beat", and nearly half the Force Sports Association subscribers said "NO" to a monthly increase, to fund an ambitious sports pavilion at HQ.

SEPTEMBER

THE Force took a walk on the wild side as it appointed Wildlife Liaison Officers in every sub-division in the county - the first in the country to do so. Epping magistrates imposed £15,548 in fines on 185 drivers who exceeded the mandatory 50mph speed limit in force on the M11 earlier in the year during roadworks. But tragedy hit the county on the 27th when five people died in a multiple crash on the M25 near Brentwood - the worst road accident the force has ever encountered in terms of fatalities. Also in Brentwood, a mother watched in horror as thieves made off in her car with, unbeknown to them, her baby sitting in the back. The tiny tot was later left at a social security office by the concerned crooks who only wanted the car. 'Law' readers named the Force's new horse Cardinal.

OCTOBER

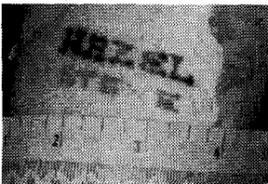
DISASTER struck at Harwich as a packed passenger ferry collided with a cargo ship in the pitch black seas of the harbour approaches. But fortunately it was only an exercise and MARINEX, as it was code-named, taught the force many valuable lessons for the future. Champagne corks were popping at Thurrock as the Queen opened the new £86 million Thames bridge relieving years of misery for M25 commuters. The drinks and then the traffic, flowed freely. Hot on the heels of cardboard policeman used by some other forces, Essex got in on the act by announcing the building of a cardboard information room - but only to serve as a test bed for the new force communications centre due to go live in '93. And a new police examination was stretching its wings as the first entrants sat the new more practically based, OSPRE tests.

NOVEMBER

THE force's talented TV Unit scooped three national awards for keeping officers in the picture. Their "Preservation of the Scene" and "Are you Properly Briefed?" tapes won two of five categories in the annual police video awards competition, and they were highly commended in a third category. Meanwhile, rookie runner Martin Gormley, who works at HQ, travelled to West Africa as Great Britain's sole representative in the Ivory Coast marathon. His superb effort as 19th Briton to cross the line in the London Marathon, only his third attempt at the distance, had not gone unnoticed. Despite the humidity, and cramp, he finished 12th in Africa.

DECEMBER

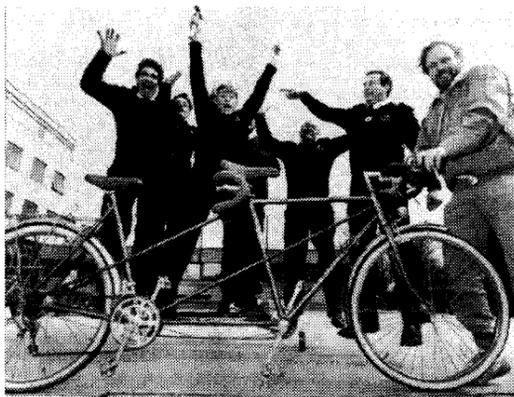
CHRISTMAS came early for 400 handicapped kids who were entertained by boxing giant Frank Bruno and other sporting stars at a slap-up lunch, organised by Saffron Walden-based Inspector Mike Jackson. And Essex Police received a Christmas present from Home Secretary Kenneth Baker, who granted the force's bid for an extra 58 officers. But the year ended on a grisly note, with the discovery of a stabbed, burned and badly beaten body at Benfleet. Essex detectives launched a murder hunt, but it took ten days to identify the victim, with the unexpected assistance of The Sport newspaper which published a morgue photo. Five men have since been charged with murder.



A GRISLY end to the year as the force tries to identify a murder victim (above). Earlier in the year teenage gunman Colin Budd, right, was shot dead as he tried to rob a gunshop in Colchester.



FEBRUARY: As Britain slithered to a virtual halt, the police were in the front line. A Landrover on loan from the Army kept these two Southend officers on the move through the snow.



APRIL: Record-busting Chelmsford Special Constables earned a place in the Guinness Book of Records by post-coding 500 bicycles in a four-hour stint. Picture: The Essex Chronicle.



JULY: Fun and laughter at the Force Fun Day as thousands flock to HQ and raise thousands for charity. Picture: The Essex Chronicle.



OCTOBER: Cheers at Thurrock as the new QEII Bridge, seen here under construction, untops one of Britain's worst traffic bottlenecks.

Force Fun Day brought around nearly £25,000 for charity. Arkham was asked to look into interview of Winston Silcott and of Pc Keith Blakelock. Both later Budd was shot dead by gunshop rob the premises and threatened lawful killing". to Southend to see the work of of Crime boss Geordie Wright experience.

ST... by period for Essex detectives, rger "Andy" Andrews from his folk wood and held them until hours burning the midnight oil, Det Supt Malcolm Hargreaves police cells, Deputy Chief ents.

Essex Police searches for its roots in Camulodunon

SINK LOW, SWEET ROMAN CHARIOT

WHEN we think of the development of the Essex Police, what comes to mind? The early 1830's? The parish constables? Even further back in the days of the watch?

You're nowhere near it — policing started in Roman times and our researchers, whilst arranging material for the museum, have come across some early parchments which give an idea of the state of public disorder about 2,000 years ago.

So what we're doing nowadays isn't new — its roots go back in the mists of time.

There's no new problems these days — just adaptations of old ones. How did the Romans cope?

Chariot

"The natives are a bit restless again," remarked the Centurion as yet another rock clouted the side of the chariot.

His driver, a legionary soldier with only a few weeks' overseas service under his belt, temporarily took his head out from under his shield to agree, then ducked back under what he fondly imagined was the perfect protection from the Britons.

Most of the patrols had taken to driving around with a shield tied across the sides of the chariots — with practice, the Britons were able to lob a rock onto the soldier's crust from 50 metres.

They'd also lately discovered that a horse impaled on several spears tended to stop abruptly, leaving the occupants of the chariot up the creek — running wasn't easy, what with those heavy metal shin-guards and having to hold their short kilts down.

It was all very well policing the centre of Colchester, where the government offices and various assembly areas were situated, but if you drew the short straw and got slung out on the outskirts, you stood a fair chance of going back to Rome in a little clay pot.

The Britons were none too keen on their conquerors, and once they got lit up on their homebrew and slapped woad all over their faces, they were enough to put the wind up a pack of tigers, let alone the Roman Legions.

"It's bad enough down here," said the Centurion, "I wouldn't like to be up North — Hadrian stuck

THE TASK of preserving the history of Essex Police is well underway, with the force museum preparing to receive its first visitors in the summer. Hand-in-hand with this project, Inspector Maureen Scollan is busy researching and writing a history of the force.

But Ex-Pc Tom Morrison from Braintree argues that the roots of the present-day force lie 2,000 years ago in Roman Britain, when rock-throwing natives posed a major threat to public order ...

that great wall up to keep out the Picts and Scots, and still he gets hammered.

If they emigrate down this way, I'm retiring to a quiet vineyard in Gaul.

The soldier said "Are they still chucking things?" "No, you're not in line for GBH, you can come back up into the real world."

The pair of them looked back nervously at the British settlement they'd just passed through. They were supposed to show their faces once in a patrol, but it was more a matter of showing anything but.

Atrocious

"Why do we want this God-forsaken island anyway?" complained the soldier. "It's cold and damp, the food's atrocious, and to cap it all if you want to keep warm you have to try setting light to some black stones."

"The Emperor knows what he's doing," replied the Centurion, "this is the furthest outpost of our Empire, and if we get further than Scotland, we'll probably fall off the edge."

We've just got to sort out some amicable terms with the natives — although it's a bit like trying to tame vultures.

The theft that goes on around our camps is something chronic. They can take your toga off whilst you're sleeping in it. "That's why we're short on shifts then," said the soldier, "everybody going off sick with chills."

"While I think of it," said the soldier, "are we doubling up on Saturday nights? "It's been getting a bit rowdy lately in the settlement, and some of our civilians out for a good time have ended up trying to swim across the river with several boulders tied to them."

If we used the big 4-horse chariot we could take a dozen men to anything that flared up and saturate the area."

"You got a permit for it then?" asked the Centurion. "Yes, passed it last week and I haven't had a chance to use it yet."

"Yes, and the driver stays with the horses whilst the others get stuck in — I thought there might be an ulterior motive."

Still as you're the only driver you're in luck — but remember the horses are your responsibility.

Check them over before the patrol starts, and if one of

them ends up on a Brit barbecue you're on a swift posting to Canvey Island, doing the immigration checks on the galleys when they come in."

Bawled

By this time they were nearing another settlement. Predictably, the horse hung back, having a swift look round for a by-pass, but the driver flicked the whip over its ears and bawled, "If I'm sticking my head in a noose, so are you."

The horse accelerated violently, shut its eyes, and went through the village like a cork out of a bottle, covering the inhabitants in a cloud of dust and attracting a volley of abuse in lieu of stones which the natives hadn't had time to pick up.

"Well," said the soldier defensively, when the Centurion raised his eyebrows, "They just said go through the villages, they didn't say anything about how fast."

"They're supposed to see us, that's the whole point of the exercise," said the Centurion.

The horse slowed down, feeling a certain elation at having gone the whole length of the main street without collecting a single war wound. He had a feeling he'd broken the lap record this time.

"Three more to do and we're finished," sighed the Centurion, "then I'm for a hot bath and kip. Let's take the next one a bit slower, and try to keep both wheels on the ground when we go round the left-hand side by the woad factory."

"We can watch the women finish work," agreed the driver, "I've been trying for the past 6 weeks to spot one that isn't ugly, but so far they all look worse than the men"

"Personally I can't tell the difference" replied the Centurion, "they all look pretty muscular to me. Even when I'm slinging them out of the Forum when they get out of hand, I don't know which is which."

Cultivate

"I suppose," said the Centurion, "we should make some effort to cultivate the kids. Perhaps if we treated them better they'd grow up to be decent citizens, but their parents don't show much of an example."

"Cultivate them?" exploded the driver. "They spend half their time practicing rock-throwing at moving objects — mainly us — and the other half

learning new ways of giving us aggravation.

They don't want cultivating, they want pulling through with a Christmas tree. I reckon they're a lost cause — if we go back to Rome and leave them to it they'll massacre each other. The place'll be a waste land in 10 years."

"Just as they entered the next village and slowed down, a rock caught the Centurion on the shoulder and a small hairy thing ran off between two hovels.

"Come back here you little rat-bag," screamed the Centurion.

"I'll tie you to this chariot and drag you till your legs wear off!"

"Is that cultivating them?" asked the driver innocently.

"Just shut up and drive," fumed the Centurion, rubbing his bruise. "I've changed my mind — they're not worth the trouble."

The horse glanced back over his shoulder, checking for any flak likely to come his way, then took it upon himself to abandon the slow patrol.

He went into his head-down, eyes shut and full throttle routine. He tore through the village centre and entered the left-hand side by the woad factory.

Unfortunately he still had his eyes closed, and shot straight on, juddering over a piece of waste ground then went clean into the river.

He struck out for the opposite bank, ignoring his driver who was practically hanging himself with the reins, trying to turn him back.

The chariot slowly sank, and the driver cut the traces to let the horse swim. All three of them made the far bank and crawled out. The horse shook itself, mildly wondering just how much trouble it was in.

The Centurion looked at the driver in disbelief. "You actually sunk a chariot!"

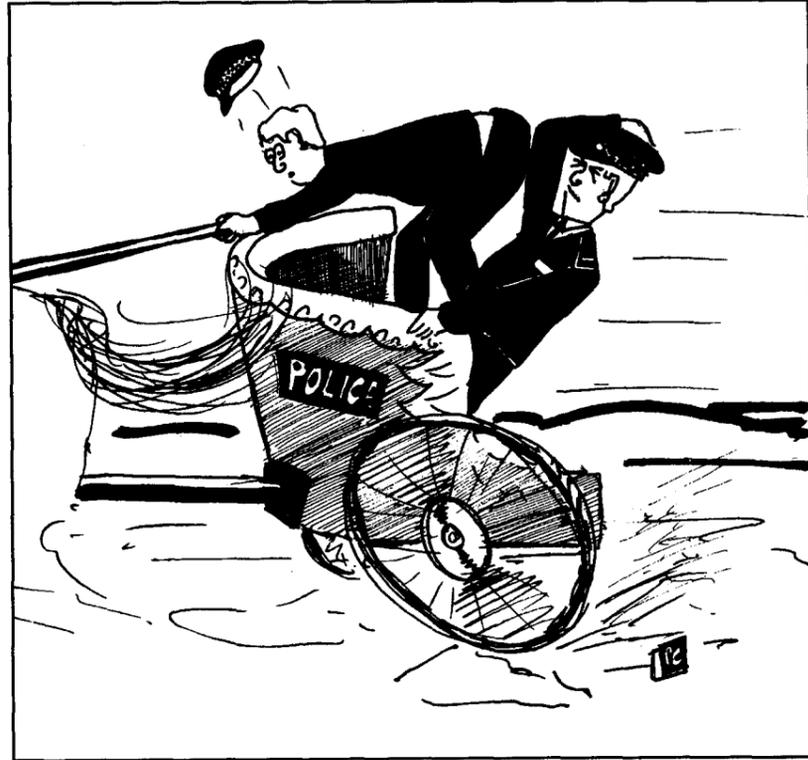
We have the odd crunch with a wheel off, or an occasional Brit with terminal flat-tire, but I've never seen this before! I thought you could control horses?"

"Have a heart," complained the driver "I can't tell from up here if the stupid animal shuts its eyes, can I? I nearly took his head off pulling on the reins, but it didn't make any difference."

They both climbed up on the horse and slowly podded their way back to the Garrison, where an ironic cheer greeted their arrival.

The Centurion crept into the Commander's office and said, almost in a whisper, "Just finished patrol Sire — one or two small incidents to report..."

So you see, patrols aren't that different, are they? Whatever you do, somebody's done it before you. You're not unique — it's all the same old incidents, just dressed up a bit. Mind you, the women have improved no end.



Bards Relieve Dave's Burden

LOOKS like the Force's beavering bards have been at it again!

When Harlow Ds Dave Burden asked for two Police 'No Waiting' cones "simply to establish whether such articles breed, proliferate or escape from custody," the Minor Projects Panel sought the muse.

And you can't blame them after hearing the baffled detective waxing lyrical about the places the errant cones turn up in.

"Usages seem to be never ending, including goal posts. They also appear to have a decorative quality they can frequently be found adorning shop doorways, arches and other street signs," writes Ds Burden.

But the solution, he says, is simple. "This force spends in excess of £4,500 per year on such cones. This sum could easily be saved by simply picking them up. I therefore ask that this brilliant idea be forwarded to the Force Suggestion Scheme and I claim my £50 accordingly."

The matter has been given careful consideration by the panel, but in the meantime the poets in MSD have sent him this informal reply!

**The Minor Projects Panel sits deep in thought:
Boss and Deputy, Management Support;
Two thirds of Project Co-ordination;
Chelmsford's brightest and Bob of Federation.**

**Four B.As, at least, are at the table,
But Academia is not able,
Either jointly or alone,
To solve the curse of the wandering cone.**

**"How come" says one, "that the Harlow Detectives
(originators of self-exploding terrorists)
Have got the time when crime is rife
To worry about such trivia in life?"
"That's not the point!" says P.J.N.
"The problem's serious and we're the men,
No matter how daft it seems to be,
To test this for its feasibility."**

**"Electronic homing device — that'd stop 'em."
"No — cost of cure more than problem."
"Integrate with EPICS, then?"
"And have to wait 'till twenty-ten?"**

**"Fill them with lead"
Someone said.
"At a tanner a pound, melted and squeezed.
The Force Accountant won't be pleased."**

**"How about cat's pee spray?
There'd be less incentive to take them away."
"Bad enough now," Paddy decrees,
"Dogs already mistake them for trees."**

**"Yes, I remember," says BKD,
"A project we did in eighty-three."**

**It was concluded by some bright fellow
That for that reason we'd paint them yellow."**

**And so it went from dawn to noon,
(With BROWNIE gasping for a roll-up soon),
Until at last the answer came!
As simple as a children's game.**

**The cones are paid for by POS
So lads on the ground couldn't care less.
Sub-div. Commanders are more worried too
With operational matters, than who pays who.**

**So although our cones are a-wandering
around,
And in some odd places are off to be found,
Sub-div. Commanders couldn't care a bit
For it's not their budgets that's paying for it.**

**So make them pay for every cone,
And then they'll treat them as their own.
For once they have to sign the docket,
It's just like it comes from their own pockets.**

**So there you are, the answer's found
And costing HQ not a pound.
Devolve the budget and, thus, the blame.
And whose idea was that again?**

**Can we claim a monetary award?
The Burden suggestion was judged absurd,
But we have teased it to and fro
And come up with the answer, so.**

**But please, no medals for MSD chest.
We are but here to serve the rest.
We will not claim your thoughts as ours,
So stick your doubts right up your vest.**

Special medal

A FORMER Essex Special has been awarded the Special Constabulary medal by the City of London Police.

Ex-Sect. Officer Ivor Hutchin served for ten years in the Regular Army and for seven years in the TAVR. On leaving the Army Reserve he joined the Essex Special Constabulary where he served for three years.

Due to a change of occupation and living in the City he joined the City of London Special Constabulary in July 1984 serving until December 1990.

Christian Police Association

ARE YOU interested in joining the Christian Police Association or perhaps attending one of their meetings?

If so, then Branch Secretary Pc Simon Werrett would like to hear from you. "The Essex branch is part of the national organisation, which is non-denominational," he explained.

"We meet monthly for prayer, discussions and fellowship and anyone, whether a Police Officer, a Special or a Civilian is welcome to attend," he added.

This year, to make travelling easier for some of the meetings, the branch has split the county into North and South.

The January meetings are: South: Wednesday January 22 at 73 Eastwood Rise, Leigh-on-Sea where the topic for discussion will be Sunday working and trading.

North: Thursday January 30 at 17 Aldburgh Way, Chelmsford where discussions will take place after watching a U.D.A. Terrorist who became a Christian.

Meetings are open to everyone in either area, and both can be attended.

For further information, or for directions to the meetings, contact Pc Werrett at Leigh-on-Sea on (0702) 471212 or Ednet 6571.

Sharp words as police chief says, "Give Tilbury a chance"

DUMPING THE IMAGE OF THE DRUNKEN SAILOR

by Jenny Bullus

A YEAR ago Tilbury made the national news. A magazine article labelled the town's Ship pub the hardest pub in the world.

It made a good story, and was picked up by the national newspapers, both tabloid and broadsheet, with glee.

Of course, the story was a lot of hype, but it was bad news for Chief Inspector Bryan Sharpe, who runs Essex Police's Tilbury sub-division.

Chf. Insp. Sharpe explained, "People think because Tilbury is a dock town that the streets are full of drunken sailors."

If that was true many years ago, it is certainly not the case today. Dock work is no longer labour intensive, and with the move towards container shipping, even the largest ships have crews of less than a dozen, and they are usually on a 24-hour turn around.

"There's a stigma which goes back many years," said Chf. Insp. Sharpe. "You can lose a good reputation overnight, but to gain a good reputation will take a long time."

One of the problems, in policing terms, is recruiting officers, to work on the patch, one which has historically been viewed as a punishment

posting.

Yet, the most striking thing on a tour round the station is how friendly and cheerful the officers and civilian staff seem.

Having crawled out from a cramped corner at headquarters, it was also striking to discover how much space there is at Tilbury, and how easy it is to park at the police station.

The working atmosphere was positively pleasant. And Tilbury section has just enjoyed a hugely successful year in the fight against crime.

Enthusiasm

The section had a reduction in reported crime in 1991. And the number of arrests made in the sub-division, which includes Corringham, was up to well over 1,100.

Chf. Insp. Sharpe quotes this as an example of the hard work and enthusiasm of his officers. "Tilbury is not the place to come for officers who want an easy time," he said, "We are extremely busy here."

It is certainly life at the Sharp end, for as well as Chf. Insp. Sharpe, there is also a Pc. Dave Sharpe, a Dc. Sharp, and Pc. Adrian Sharp, who was seriously injured in a road accident on duty two years

ago, is battling to regain his fitness in the hope of joining colleagues at Corringham.

Pc. Dave Sharpe has served 11 years in the sub-division and says, "There are all walks of life. Yes there are some nasty people, but there are also some very nice people."

"This is an anti-police town generally, but at the same time not many officers are assaulted. We have had some horrendous public order situations, but even then very few Pcs end up being assaulted."

But public order offences are not the biggest problem for Tilbury officers to tackle. Pubs like The Ship and The Anchor, and the town's working men's clubs, tend to weed out the troublemakers themselves. Burglaries, and particularly autocrime, are the major issues, but Neighbourhood Watch schemes are starting to flourish.

One way in which Tilbury differs greatly from places like Basildon and Southend is that there are few passing criminals.

It is a deprived area, with high unemployment, and criminals from outside would not view it as a place to go for rich pickings. This means officers are essentially dealing with local crime, and local criminals.

They get to know the offenders and their habits, which means a number of successful arrests can produce a significant drop in the number of crimes.

"Once officers get here they tend to enjoy working here, and are often happy to stay," said Chf. Insp. Sharpe. "The reason they leave is on promotion or transfer to CID or Traffic."

Image

"But because Tilbury suffers from a poor image, people rarely wish to transfer to the sub-division. Our incoming personnel tend to be recruits, or officers transferring from other forces. We have just got one from the Met. and one from Kent."



Chf Insp Bryan Sharpe at Tilbury Police Station.

Officers are not required to live in the Sub-division, some like Chf. Insp. Sharpe travel in from Southend Division, others live in new developments in the Grays sub-division.

But there are nice parts of the patch, such as Orsett or East Tilbury, said Chf. Insp. Sharpe, and a surprising amount of open marsh and farm land.

And the area has a rich history. In 1588, Queen Elizabeth I addressed the troops at Tilbury before they set sail against the Spanish Armada, the 400th anniversary of which was celebrated three-and-a-half years ago with a pageant and the lighting of a beacon at Tilbury Fort.

In 1381 the Peasants' Revolt made Fobbing famous, and the writer Daniel Defoe, best known for Robinson Crusoe, lived at Chadwell St. Mary.

In 1886, 5,000 navvies from Ireland and Liverpool arrived to build the docks, which

formed part of the Port of London. Many of the town's streets reflect its former importance as a port, with names like Montreal, Sydney or Calcutta Road.

More recently, in the 1950s, there was substantial development in Tilbury as the Government of the day decided to house large numbers of the travelling population.

Travellers still frequently camp in the area, which has a lot of common land.

Refineries

The policing challenges of the sub-division include two oil refineries, a power station and a gas bottling complex, all of which necessitate emergency planning.

Responsibility for the docks currently falls on the Port of London Authority Police, although with the docks due to be sold off in April, the future is unclear.

Thirty-eight Essex Police officers are based at Tilbury,

so shifts are small. Young officers are encouraged to develop a range of skills, and have the opportunities to display them.

Chf. Insp. Sharpe said, "Officers tend to think if you come to this area, you will be forgotten, but our officers have done well with promotion. It's a good grounding for anywhere else in the force."

Relationships between CID, Uniform, civilian staff and Special Constables are good, like the town itself the police station has a close knit community.

Chf. Insp. Sharpe admits when he first heard he was being posted to Tilbury four years ago people spoke to him in hushed, sympathetic tones, leaving him wondering what to expect.

"People from outside believe it's such a terrible place to work, I'm trying to change that perception," he said.

Caring approach to cot death trauma

by Roger Grimwade

THE TRAGIC death of TV presenter Anne Diamond's baby has brought the trauma of 'Cot Deaths' to the forefront of the public's attention.

After the death of her child she kept the issue in the news by featuring in a campaign drawing attention to the advice of the Government Chief Medical Officer to let parents know how they can minimise the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, as it is medically known.

The Government guidelines include placing babies on their back or side to sleep, ensuring they are not too hot, keeping them free from smoke and, if they are showing signs of being unwell, seeking prompt medical attention.

But despite the advice, the causes of these myste-

rious deaths are still largely unknown and sadly Essex Police officers are called out to cases where apparently healthy babies have died suddenly.

Bereaved

The force recognised early on that the quality of service given to the bereaved parents by officers at this distressing time is crucial, and subsequently published a policy linking the quality of police involvement with the trauma suffered by parents who have lost a

child.

A force order issued in August 1991 sets the police response to Cot Deaths in perspective with the emphasis on a compassionate and caring approach to what will, in the vast majority of cases, be a death from natural causes.

The order makes it clear that when attending a report of a 'Cot Death' the risk of allowing a criminal act to go undiscovered is minimal — for the crucial evidence in such cases will come from

the Post Mortem examination which will be carried out in every case.

The Essex Police response to Cot Deaths arose from research conducted by Det Supt Peter Whent, and, following his departure to British Transport Police, Det Supt Geoff Payne and Det Insp Stuart Rowe took over.

This research involved contact with the parents of the 40 babies who died from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome in Essex in 1989 and reflected their views of the attitude and

approach of police officers they had contact with at the time.

Foundation

The force also got in touch with the Foundation for the Study of Infant and Death. Sue Hanson, their North East Thames Regional director said:

"I am glad that such a policy has come out of the research done in Essex."

"The brief time the police spend with the family does have a significant effect on how they are

able to cope in the long term once the initial crisis is over," she added. The force policy is a reflection of the changes within the service where force orders are intended to guide and assist officers, and encourage the use of discretion responsibly.

This even applied where subsequent information leads to the revision of an earlier decision. The style of the Cot Death order sets the tone for the continuing development of force policy.



I.P.A. NEWS

MID-ESSEX BRANCH
Fred Dyson

Festive evening

ANOTHER successful year came to a close on Friday evening 13th December, when many members and their wives assembled at HQ bar for the Annual Christmas Social.

A good assortment of food had been prepared by the ladies and drink was supplied by members.

Local and general knowledge games had been prepared, and there was also a raffle with many prizes.

A large Xmas Card had been made and decorated with the IPA crest by the artistic Tony Hillam for all to sign against a donation of £1 towards our funds.

Our guest for the evening was our friend from Lesotho Johnson

Likoti. FORTHCOMING EVENTS:-

Friday 14th February — Annual Dinner — "New Times Inn", Tiptree.

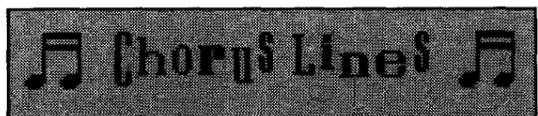
Friday 13th March — Social evening at Police HQ. Guests "M" branch and Yeoman Warders from The Tower of London.

April — An event to be arranged

12th - 22nd May — Visit to Trondheim, Norway.

June — Possibility of a trip to Chatham Dock Yard.

Sunday 28th June — Day visit to Old Warden, Beds, the home of the Shuttleworth Trust.



On song for Canada

CANADA '93 is on. With over 20 members having committed themselves to travel to Victoria, British Columbia in May 1993 an Essex Police Choir involvement in the International Police Music Festival is confirmed.

The West Midlands Police Band and the Bedfordshire group "Folk Lore" are also travelling to Canada with strong interest being shown by Copenhagen Police Choir and the South Africa Police Choir, and a definite attendance by the Hong Kong Police Choir, which all reinforces the international flavour of the event.

The opportunity to combine a wonderful holiday and a musical extravaganza means that most choir members will be taking their partners to visit the spectacular countryside around Vancouver.

It may still be possible to increase the numbers attending, so if this is the incentive you need to join the choir, then the advice must be, "Get in quick."

Having met all our pre-Christmas commitments, carol books can be put away until the end of the year. But that means rehearsals have started for our joint concert with the Essex Police Band to be held at Christchurch, New London Road, Chelmsford on Saturday 7 March. Tickets will soon be available.

A 'refresher course' for "Olivet to Calvary" is also underway for performances at Coggeshall, Stisted and Grays before Easter.

There will be an opportunity for maximum audience participation in a musical evening to be held at Headquarters on Friday 24 April when the second half of the evening will be devoted to 'old favourites', when everyone will be encouraged to sing along.

Comrades Association

AGM - Friday 14 February 11am at the Stable Lodge, Police Headquarters.

Any enquiries please contact Bob Needham on (0245) 491491 Ext 2799

RETIREMENTS

THE force extends its good wishes to the following officers and civilians who are retiring:

19.1.92. Pc L D McKenna, Support/Southend Dog Section, 34 yrs 123 days.

14.2.92. Pc M H Gosling, Chelmsford/Southminster, 30 yrs.

01.3.92. Pc K D Briggs, Chelmsford, 20 yrs 210 days.

04.1.92. Mrs J Clulow, Clerk Telephonist, Clacton, 19 yrs.

19.1.92. Mrs D. Turner, Clerk, Southend Admin, 18 yrs.

25.1.92. Mrs L Burke, Part Time Cleaner, Laindon, 4 yrs.

30.1.92. Mrs I Myers, Cleaner in Charge, Harlow, 19 yrs.

MARKET PLACE.. MARKET PLACE.. MARKET

LAKES COTTAGE home from home, sleeps 4. Full central heating. Parking. Further information from Keith Davey (Retd Tr Off) 06973-20721.

HMV 4000 HI-FI SYSTEM, amp, radio, tape/record player, two Sony speakers, stand. £100 o.n.o. Insp Malcolm HQIR.

CORNWALL, Polperro. Holiday Chalet on pleasant site. All mod/cons. Sleeps 4/5. Indoor and outdoor pools, Club, etc. Discounts given. Craig Bailey, (Retd) 0279-653570.

ATARI St Mega 2, Tower Power, two disk-drives, Atari mouse, cordless mouse, joy-

Harlow cash boosts cancer quest



SCIENTISTS researching cancer were given a welcome boost this month as Harlow Police presented fundraisers with a bumper cheque of £625 towards their work.

The money, just part of the £25,000 raised by the Force Fun Day and the Band concert, was handed over to Pat Watkins of Quest Cancer Test which is based at Roydon and was one of the division's chosen charities last year.

The charity concentrates on developing routine testing so the first signs of cancer can be detected and treated. It is also firmly against the use of animals in research for both scientific and humanitarian reasons.

Pictured from left to right (back row) are: Ch Supt Mick Brewer; Lois Baker, of the process office; Pat Wilkins, from Quest Cancer Test Chief Inspector Andy Drane and Pc Roger Howlett.

Sitting at the front are Kathy Hibberd, process office manageress and Ann Howlett, telephoneist.

Soldier on to help others

IF THE end of your police career is looming, and the prospect of retirement seems daunting then SSAFA/FHS would like your help and experience with some vital volunteer work.

The Soldiers' Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association and Forces Help Society is a civilian organisation that looks after anyone who is, or has ever been in, the Services as well as their families and dependents.

One in four of the British Population are eligible for the organisation's help, should they need it, and friendship as well as practical help is offered.

In 1990 some 6,000 SSAFA/FHS volunteers, manning 900 branches and divisions across the UK, helped over 72,000

people.

"Police Officers, by the very nature of their profession, are used to offering help and support in the community and make excellent caseworkers as we already know," said organisational and recruitment officer Ann Needle, adding that more than 200 retired Police personnel are already working for SSAFA/FHS throughout the country.

"As well as caseworkers we need volunteers to be responsible for organising SSAFA branches and divisions to help with treasury work and driving

the sick and elderly to hospital — the list is endless," she said.

"Please volunteer, we guarantee you job satisfaction and team work. Training is given and all out-of-pocket expenses paid," she added.

In fact the organisation even has a retired police officer working for them in Alicante, Spain!

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Ann Needle, SSAFA Central Office, 19 Queen Elizabeth Street, London, SE1 2LP.

OBITUARIES

11.12.91. Ex Pc S H Every Aged 78 yrs, who retired in 1963.

24.12.91. Ex Ps J Barret Aged 87 yrs, who retired in 1954.

03.1.92. Ex Ds R G Hollam Aged 75 yrs, who retired in 1967.

WPc Coote, Brentwood.

XR 4x4 1989 grey 2.9i. History warranty remaining, 60,000 miles. A.B.S. Heated front screen. Absolutely beautiful, bargain £6,750 o.n.o. Ps Gary Heard, Chelmsford or 0376 562026.

DETACHED HOUSE, Shoebury, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 33ft lounge, double glazed, G.C.H. Double garage, backs open farmland, £110,000. Sub Div Clerk Flynn, Westcliff or 0702 295602.

ONE BEDROOM HOUSE, Longridge Park, Colchester, garage, well fitted kitchen, lounge, gas heating, carpets and other fittings remaining, £41,000. WPc Tunstill, Wivenhoe.

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE — ONE WORD PER BOX

Name and Rank	Station
Home telephone	Signed

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

Seaxes' Silver celebrations

IN 1992 the Seaxes Auto Club celebrates its 15th anniversary.

Our club intends to run events involving other local clubs and Police motor clubs from surrounding forces during the year.

Although we have nearly 130 members, who just enjoy motor cars and bikes, we are always looking for new keen members.

No member has to own a high performance vehicle to take part in any event organised by the club, although we do

By Harry Sexton

have members who participate in off road rallies which are part of a national championship, and members who have been sponsored by the club to complete the toughest event in the British motorsport calendar, the Lombard RAC rally.

Treasure

On the other hand, we hold our own championships, which include Navigational rallies, top marshal, top club member and so on. Also held during the summer

months are a series of Treasure Hunts which are popular with all the family.

Members are also invited to assist at major events throughout the country.

Any employee of Essex Police can become a member as can their family and friends, who will be able to try their hand at the Driving School skid pan, an event which we hold twice a year and is always fully booked.

Social events are also

held, usually the proceeds go towards a local charity.

Famous

The year's celebrations will culminate at the Essex Police Fun Day where we hope to have a large stand. We have already been promised a number of rally cars, including some famous ones, and talks are underway to secure a Formula 1 racing car for display.

Competitions for the day will include a prize Treasure Hunt, the top prize being a day out driving at Brands Hatch or a Rally School, a Pram race with a difference, and a bicycle trial.



SEAXES member Pc Andy Butler entered his Toyota Corolla in November's prestigious Lombard RAC rally - his second consecutive drive in the gruelling event.

Join the knight riders

POLICE Officers who love motorcycling are invited to join the Blue Knights, a motorcycle club which started in the USA in 1974.

A branch of the special club for the police service was formed in England and Scotland last February, and currently has members from 21 different forces.

The English branch will be holding its first rally in July, at Edale in the Peak District, and already has bookings from as far away as Sweden.

The Blue Knights Motorcycle Club was started in the USA after a group of police officers who owned and rode motorcycles became concerned about the image portrayed to the public by

motorcycle gangs.

The public were becoming increasingly hostile to anyone who rode a motorcycle and these officers decided to rectify the situation by forming a club just for policemen.

Since that date the club has grown into the largest police motor club in the world with membership of over 7,500.

Branches now exist in America, Canada, Australia, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden and England.

Each branch of the club meets regularly and holds social events and rides out.

In addition each country holds a weekend rally once a year when visiting members attend.

Charity

These weekends are inexpensive and a great opportunity to meet with new friends.

The proceeds from the weekend normally go to charity and at the Germany 1 Rally in Bonn 1991 over 220 riders went to a Drugs Rehabilitation unit, where a cheque for £2,500 was given for the unit's use.

The entire event was shown on SAT 1, the German National TV channel.

Once a year all the worldwide branches come together in the United States for an International

Convention.

The 1992 Convention is in Orlando, Florida and the club will fill an entire hotel for a week.

The end of the convention sees a parade of Nations ride, which has been over ten miles long!

Abroad

The club in England, has a number of female members and the Blue Knights is a club for all the family.

Nearly half of our members have now been to a rally abroad.

The only requirement for membership which is currently £12 a year is that you must be a regular or part-time police officer and you must own a motorcycle.

The size of the motorcy-

cle does not matter, just the spirit of the rider!

If you love motorcycling and require more information about the Blue Knights please contact: Mr Andrew Green, 4 Dovedale Close, High Lane, Stockport, SK6 8DU or telephone 0663 763675.



CROKER CUP 1991

Southend score cup hat-trick

SOUTHEND have won the Croker Cup for the third year running, thanks to a late surge.

They took maximum points in the Sea Angling, Football and Squash to pull well clear of Colchester in second place.

Headquarters also came through with a late flurry of victories in golf, pistol shooting and badminton to take third place.

The 1992 competition gets underway this month with the race walk on January 19, and the event should be keenly contested.

With Colchester and Clacton Sports Clubs amalgamating this year, they emerge as favourites for the new competition. The merger of Braintree and Chelmsford should also hot up the competition.

One new event is introduced this year, with Rugby 7-a-sides to be held at HQ in May.

FORCE SPORTS ASSOCIATION

RULE CHANGES

THE following rule changes will be discussed at the next meeting of the Management Committee of Essex Police Sports Association.

General Rule 3, Qualification for membership. Delete the existing rule and replace with:

(a) The members of the Force Sports Association shall be members of the Sports Club of their normal 'place of duty'. All serving Police Officers and Civilian Staff, contracted Civilian Staff and Special Constables are entitled to be members, subscriptions being deducted from the salary staff.

(b) Retired Police Officers and Civilian Staff may be members of the Force Sports Association on payment of subscription (This will allow retired persons into the Force Lottery).

General Rule 6, The Annual General Meeting. Delete the existing rule (b)

and replace with:

(b) Receive reports from the secretary as to the activities of the affiliated sections.

DARTS

THE Force Darts championships will be held at Southend Police Station at 2.30pm Monday 13th January.

The winners of the Mens Singles, Ladies Singles, Mens Doubles, Ladies Doubles and Mixed Doubles events, will represent the Force at the No 5 P.A.A. Championships to be held on Friday 14th February at Wood Street Police Station, City of London.

This event is only open to serving Police Officers as the winners will be representing the Force at a P.A.A. event.

Any queries to Cons P Hyem at Shoebury (Ednet 6275).

RACE WALK

THE first event in the Croker Cup for 1992 will be the Race Walk. This will be held at Southend on Sunday 19th

January starting at 11am from Southchurch Park.

The men's event is 15 kilometres and the Ladies 5 kilometres. Any queries to Insp J McCabe at Clacton (Ednet 4604).

FORCE SNOOKER

THE Force Snooker championships will take place at Chelmsford Snooker Centre on Wednesday 29th January at 10am.

The winner of this event will represent the Force at the no 5 Region P.A.A. championships to be held on Friday 14th February at Wood Street Police Station, City of London.

This event is only open to serving Police Officers as the winner will be representing the Force at a P.A.A. event. Any queries to Sgt R Booth at Halstead (Ednet 3983).

CROSS COUNTRY

THE Croker Cup Cross Country championships will be held at Essex University at 11am Sunday 2nd February.

Any queries to Sgt L Williams at Colchester (Ednet 4529).

TABLE TENNIS

THE Force Table Tennis championships will take place at Colchester Police Station on Tuesday 11th February, starting at 10am.

As Vehicles cannot park at Colchester, arrangements have been made for all vehicles to be parked at Stanway Traffic Garage and Competitors will be conveyed to Colchester Police Station at 0930hrs.

The winners of the Mens Singles, Ladies Singles, Veteran Singles, Mens Doubles, Ladies Doubles and Mixed Doubles events, will represent the Force at the No 5 Region P.A.A. championships to be held at Colchester Police Station on Sunday 23rd February, for this reason the event is only open to serving Police Officers.

There will also be a consolation event for all first round losers. Any officer wishing to enter must let Sgt P Layzell at

Burnham (0621 782121), know before 1st February.

FORCE LOTTERY

THE result of this months Force Lottery is as follows: £1500 Cons J Lawmon, Southend; £700 WCons S M Hammond, Chelmsford; £300 Cons I East, F.S.U HQ; £200 Cons S J Waller, Colchester; £100 DSgt M Hughes, HQ.

The following will receive £50 prizes: Cons M Furlong, Copford; Mr J Reed, Benfleet; Cons C J Arnold Wickford; Cons J Kinnell, Basildon; Sgt T J Gernon HQ; Cons D Northcott, Laindon; Insp P J Baxter, Tilbury; Cons T J Rackley, Harlow Dogs; Sgt P J Dolphin, Westcliff; Cons P E Parker, Corringham.

P.A.A. FENCING

THE 1992 P.A.A. Fencing championships will be held on Sunday 3rd May at Suffolk Constabulary Headquarters, Ipswich. Any officer wishing to be considered, please contact the Force Sports Secretary.

CROKER CUP 1991 FINAL TABLE

1st	Southend	65;
2nd	Colchester	46;
3rd	Headquarters	33;
4th	Basildon	30;
5th	Chelmsford	28;
6th	Clacton	27;
7th	Harlow	25;
8th	Grays	20;
9th	Braintree	17.

The Law



NEWS
NEWS
NEWS

Don's gone after 39 years service

Vascar King

clocks off

IT WAS on 30th October 1952, just over 39 years ago, when Essex Police didn't know what hit it. Don Barrell joined at the ripe old age of 25, having served almost five years in the army.

It did say he reached the rank of Lance Corporal graded Z. Now Z is the last letter of the alphabet and if you grade people from the top we need say no more.

He served at Chelmsford Town from February 53 to February 57; that was the last that operational policing saw of Don because since that date he moved to Headquarters with a lot of time spent in Traffic. So if ever there is a real

by **Bill Pirie**

Headquarters man it's got to be Don Barrell.

Borderline

Having looked at his file it was seen on his original application a note which said, "Call for interview; he is a borderline case as far as education's concerned."

Looking at the results of his entrant's exam — 87 per cent in maths, 75 per cent in intelligence and 76 per cent in current affairs — I would have thought recruits these days would be happy to get those figures.

An incident comes to mind whilst Don was on Traffic at Headquarters, when he found a van parked in the lay-by.

He searched out the driver and goodness knows what Don said to him, but he climbed in his van to move it and immediately collapsed at the wheel.

Don immediately called a doctor who certified the man dead.

However, they continued to work on him and he came back and as far as we're aware he's still alive.

Vascar

Then of course Don cracked it — the big time. He became the king of Vascar.

The first man trained in the country and then he, in turn, trained everybody else all over England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, and one or two countries beyond.

However, the work with Vascar obviously hastened his retirement because he left on 1st June 1980 before he completed his 30 years.

He wasn't a bad Traffic driver, because looking through his Driving School file it was seen that he got a mark of 91 and that's pretty good.

After leaving the force on

1st June 1980, the following day he was employed in Civilian Headquarters Stats. He moved on promotion to Headquarters Community Services Branch.

Obviously by this time old age had crept up on him because he kept getting hot flushes and dizzy spells and he even tried to get away with blaming the Gas Board for it; he'd obviously got an eye to a claim, but I'm pleased to say he didn't succeed.

Goodies

Finally, on 18th December 1991, after 39 years service, both as a police officer and a civilian, Don left the force.

A retirement function was held for him within the Community Services Branch and colleagues during those 39 years joined him for a farewell drink and presentation of a few goodies.

Don Barrell is liked by everybody, and we in the Personnel Department were sad to see him go, but we wish him and his wife all the best for the future.

I understand he is now going to start making garden furniture, so if any of you out there have an eye to getting goods on the cheap don't try Don Barrell, he's bound to charge you the full price.

Brave leap

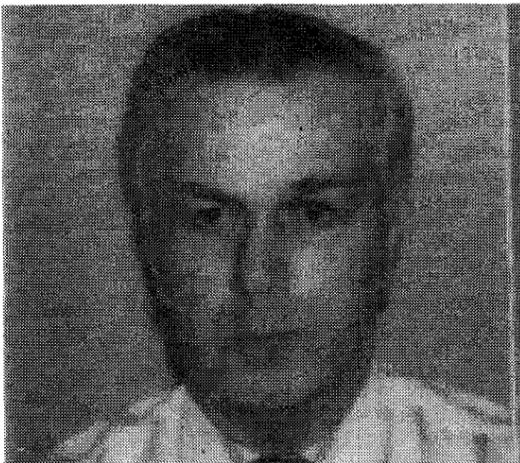
THREE fearless Harlow officers took to the skies to raise £350 for the Laser Quest Appeal at the town's Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Dc Simon Norris, Pc Gary Sanderson and Pc Steve Fells were joined by their friend Mark Wayman for a parachute jump from 2,000 feet above Ipswich.

On Christmas Eve they handed over their cheque to a representative of the hospital. The £150,000 appeal aims to provide a Laser machine, which will enable surgery to be carried out without the trauma of a major operation. Meanwhile Chelmsford Crime Prevention Officer Pc Ray Stannard confounded his colleagues by taking part in an aerobics session.

"Derek Sewell, the Coroner's Officer, is learning to be an aerobics instructor and he threw out the challenge. I'm not exactly known as Mr Fitness," explained Pc Stannard, "I think they thought I would have a cardiac arrest."

But his exhausting effort raised £23 from his workmates to go to the Broomfield Hospital Accident and Emergency Trust Fund.



Don Barrell

IPA — South East Essex Branch

HERE IS our programme for 1992, so mark the dates in your diaries.

January: Free.

February 3 — AGM at Southend, February 26 — Black Museum.

March 16 or 17 — Visit to brewery.

April 7 — Ceremony of Keys at the Tower.

May 12 to 22 — Visit to Trondheim, Norway.

June 16 — Bar-B-Q, Brentwood.

July 23 — Visit to K Branch, Chigwell.

August — Quiz Night (date TBA).

September — 10 Region visit to Edinburgh Tattoo.

October 14 — Car rally.

November 6 — Beer Festival.

Please let the branch secretary know if you will be attending any of the above events.

NEWS EXTRA... NEWS EXTRA...

Off to work we go!



HI HO, HI HO, it's off to work we go, even though it's 6am on Christmas morning.

The boys and girls of B shift enjoyed a little festive fun, and raised a whopping £1,150 for the Children's Hospice in Cambridge with their panto antics in the Information Room.

These three overgrown dwarfs played a part in the Snow White story, from left to right, Dopey (Andy Spink), Mosey (Mo Baker) and Bonky (Mick Wade).

PRIVATE MEDICAL SCHEME

Pay by Direct Debit

THOSE of us who make regular payments or subscriptions to various organisations and use Bankers Order Mandate for payments will understand some of the difficulties encountered in that process.

There is an increasing use being made of the Direct Debiting facility. Direct Debiting has a number of advantages for both the subscriber and the group administration. A number of questions immediately come to hand:

What exactly is a Direct Debit?

A simple, safe and convenient banking service which enables the Bank — with your authority — to settle your accounts as and when they fall due.

How does it work?

ON your authority, payment is made automatically from the Bank according to the due date, and in accordance with your instructions.

Is the amount specified in the Direct Debiting?

NO. The advantage to you is that you do not have to give fresh instructions to your Bank if the amount varies. You might, for instance, add a dependant to your membership which would result in a change to your monthly subscription.

How will P.P.P. notify me of the amount due?

THEY will send you a Membership Statement which will confirm any

changes which have been made. It will show the new subscription payable.

When will my account be debited?

DURING the first week of the month ONLY for the amount due as notified to you on your Membership Statement.

What control do I have over the Direct Debit?

YOU — the payer — remain in total control. You can cancel your Direct Debiting Instruction at any time by advising P.P.P. and your Bank in writing.

What happens if I do not agree the amount P.P.P. has debited?

P.P.P. adheres strictly to the terms of your Direct Debit Instruction and we have lodged an Indemnity with our Bank which protects your interests. If however, a debit should be originating which is outside the terms of the Instructions you have signed, this Indemnity means that you will be reimbursed immediately via your Bank.

Who can operate the Direct Debit service?

ONLY authorised organisations — P.P.P. has this authorisation and has had many years of experience in operating Direct Debit.

Your Management Committee has agreed to Direct Debiting to coincide with the contract renewal on 1st May 1992. The introduction of Direct Debiting will reduce significantly some of the Banking errors that occur and the resulting corrective

work required by the group administration.

Private Patients Plan are able to offer a premium discount to Direct Debit customers and with the introduction of charges by County Treasurers for salary deductions, it makes sense to seek cost saving alternatives.

In order to prepare for the simple change of payment details, it is vital that P.P.P. are in receipt of member's current home address.

Would all members who have changed their addresses since their original registration please ensure that their new address is forwarded to the Group Secretary for recording at P.P.P.

LAW APPEAL

ARE YOU an avid collector, or just someone who doesn't like throwing things away?

If so, you may be able to help Inspector Maureen Scollan compile a full set of copies of The Law, from its first issue nearly 23 years ago to the present day.

THE MISSING ISSUES COVER ALL OF 1980, ALL OF 1983 AND ALL OF 1986. If you have copies of The Law from these years, and could help provide the force with a full record, contact Insp. Scollan on HQ ext. 2395.

THE LAW

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