

The Law

including Essex Police Magazine



Floods of '53 remembered - centre pages

The Newspaper of the Essex Police

February 1993

No 235

Brave Pc vows to get back on the beat after baseball bat attack

KIRSTE STILL BEARS

Mick's in the thick of US hijack drama

THE SCARS

ESSEX Police's senior hostage negotiator was in the thick of the action when a Lufthansa passenger aircraft was hijacked across the Atlantic to JFK Airport in New York earlier this month.

Chief Superintendent Mick Brewer was in America for a

by Jenny Grinter

hostage negotiating course at the FBI Academy, and on the day of the hijacking was with full-time negotiator Dominick Misino from the New York Police Department.

It was Dominick who, as primary negotiator, conversed with the hijacker over the radio from the airport's control tower, and negotiated a peaceful solution.

Chf. Supt Brewer was pre-

had just heard.

"The purpose of my visit to New York was to see how hostage situations were dealt with, and we realised we had got the first hijacking into the US for 16 years."

Mr Brewer was at the airport three hours before the hijacked plane landed.

Co-ordinating the response between the FBI, New York Police Department, Airport Authority, Airport Police, Federal Aviation Authority and other agencies was a major task, and one which appeared successful, said Mr Brewer.

Although he took no active

would land, and where the media would be (the hijacker did not want the media present).

The arrangement was made that Dominick would be on the tarmac to meet the hijacker — who called himself Jack and spoke good English.

Mr Brewer said, "He indicated his willingness to leave his weapon on the plane and to walk off and give himself up. This is what happened.

Careful

"It was relatively straightforward at the end, but that position was arrived at by careful negotiations and proper handling of the incident."

Mr Brewer was present with the three-man negotiating team for their debriefing, and also attended the press conference held by the Deputy Director of the FBI.

Despite the peaceful ending, there were lessons to learn.

Passengers complained that after the hijacker left the plane, they were confronted by armed police officers dressed in black shouting orders at them.

They were totally unprepared for this, and described it as more frightening than the lengthy ordeal at the hands of the hijacker.

From the police point of view, it was essential for their SWAT team of armed officers to check immediately for weapons, bombs, or other hijackers on board. But clearly this needed to be managed better.

Other difficulties included establishing radio communication with the hijacker, and operating from the control tower which continued to control other air traffic into the busy airport.

Mr Brewer is now arranging a meeting with Essex Police negotiators, officers from Stansted Airport and Support Division, to share his experiences and review the Force's own arrangements to deal with a hijacking.

Essex officers were on full alert while the hijacked Lufthansa plane was in British airspace, in case of any change of plan.

by Jenny Grinter

HER physical scars have almost healed. But for Pc Kirste Snellgrove, who was savagely beaten unconscious with a baseball bat, the mental scars go much deeper.

Her brave smile conceals the nightmare of the brutal attack, which has left her afraid to venture out alone.

But although she is taking one day at a time as she comes to terms with her ordeal, Kirste has vowed she will return to the beat.

Damage

"I've made up my mind that I'm not going to let him beat me," she said of her attacker. "He has done enough damage already. I worked hard enough to get into the police force, and he is not going to ruin it."

Four weeks after the attack, which happened while Kirste was on night patrol at Rayleigh, she has had the nerves removed from two of her front teeth.

The horrific bruising on her hands is no longer visible, although she is still unable to write properly, and she still suffers from headaches and stomach aches.

Kirste admits that as her attacker repeatedly rained blows over her whole body, she thought he was going to kill her. Her survival instinct took over and, even as she started to black out, she used her hands to protect herself from more serious injury.

At first the senseless beating dented her faith in human nature, but the overwhelming response from colleagues and complete strangers — which included 29 bouquets of flowers and nearly 200 cards and letters — has helped to restore it.

Kirste said, "I would like to



BRAVE SMILE: Kirste Snellgrove recovers at home. Teddy — a present from her mum after her ordeal — is named after baseball player Joe DiMaggio, showing she retains a sense of humour after being beaten with a baseball bat.

thank everybody who has given me so much support. I have spoken to police officers who have been through similar things.

"I have never had a day

shares with her mum, and all the cards hang around the walls. Kirste said, "I want to write to everybody individually, but until my hands get better I am having to do one letter at a time!"

She estimated one in three of her cards had been sent by strangers, from youngsters to retired police officers. Members of the public expressed support for the police, and anger that officers should be subjected to attacks.

But despite the support and encouragement, the healing process will be a long and lonely one. There have been nightmares, and moments of doubt.

Wary

"I am not an insecure person, but since it happened everything seems to be a bigger problem," Kirste said. "I am still very wary, and don't like going out on my own. There are still times when I

get upset."

Thoughts of returning to work are still some way off. "The Force has been really good. They don't want me back until I'm ready to go back," she said. "I'm certainly not in a hurry to go back out on my own, especially on nights."

Kirste will spend two weeks at the Police Convalescent Home at Goring-on-Thames in March.



BRUISED AND BATTERED: Kirste after the attack.

without a visitor. My friends and colleagues have been there for me. If I want to talk I can, if not they come and watch TV with me. They haven't forgotten me."

Flowers and cuddly toys are everywhere in the home she

Time for seminars

One of the most important changes in the recent history of the force will take place this week as Essex Police's first Service Delivery Standards are revealed.

Don't miss your seminar — for a full list see page two.

Opinion — page 2, Letters — page 4, Retirements — page 8, IPA — page 10

Federation Notes... Federation Notes...

Demonstration of equipment for MPs

Baton case goes to Westminster

THERE HAVE been many articles written lately with regard to the Police Federation's demands for the evaluation trials of the Side Handled Baton or other suitable items of equipment able to give more protection to the officer out on the beat than the existing short truncheon.

The Joint Branch Board in Essex have for some time been in discussion within the Force command to try and move forward

for Essex officers. At the moment we are hoping that there may be a movement from Chief Constables to actually take

the lead and start their own evaluation trials.

The Home Secretary appears to be rigid in his stance to ignore the National Federation's call for trials - a call that has been supported by both the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Superintendents Association.

To assist our case, the Federation nationally has

arranged for a demonstration of all suitable items of protective equipment which would include the Side Handled Baton to be carried out at the Houses of Parliament at the end of March 1993.

Your Joint Branch Board locally has further raised the issue with local members of Parliament and the Home Office Inspector of Constabulary.



by Brian Pallant

A taxing issue for married couples

YOU ARE probably aware that under independent taxation the married couple's allowance of £1,720.00 in this tax year of 1992-93 - automatically goes to the husband.

It can be transferred from the husband to the wife only to the extent of any excess balance of the married couple's allowance over the husband's actual income after all other deductions.

DECISION

There was a change introduced by the Chancellor in his budget last March which was carried through into a Finance Act 1992 which will provide greater choice as from the 1993-94 tax year.

It will be possible from that date for the married couple's allowance to either stay with the husband or be transferred wholly to the wife or be split equally.

It is necessary to look carefully at the relevant incomes and tax positions before taking your decision to transfer or split.

If the husband pays income tax at the top rate of 40% and the wife at basic rate of 25% only, or if the husband pays at basic rate and the wife's income is covered by her personal allowance, then no transfer of the married couple's allowance from the husband should be contemplated.

If these circumstances are reversed however a transfer should cut down the overall tax bill.

TRANSFER

Married couples who will benefit by leaving the married couple's allowance with the husband need do nothing - the allowance will be allocated to him by the Revenue anyway.

Those couples who find they will be better off with a transfer to the wife or an equal split of the married couple's allowance can obtain a special form 18 from the tax office.

If dealt with in good time before the 6th April 1993 the inspector should be in a position to put the new allocation straight into effect from 1993-94 tax year.

There is, in fact, a leaflet available from the Revenue numbered IR80 and titled "Income Tax and Married Couples" which may be of assistance.

SPECIAL REPORT... SPECIAL REPORT... SPECIAL REPORT...

Latest news on Council Tax

THE LATEST position with regard to our claim to the Police Committee is that enquiries have been made with the Home Office but to date no reply has been received. Obviously I will keep members informed as soon as a reply is to hand.

The matter regarding payment of Council Tax was discussed at a recent National Federation Secretaries meeting held at Surbiton. The National Federation Secretary Vee Neild asked for information from Forces with

regard to officers in provided accommodation being assessed at a high rate.

I appreciate that at this time you will not know what exactly you will be required to pay, however by now most officers would have received their notice of banding. If you think that you have been unfairly assessed compared with other provided accommodation please let me have the details.

To date I have received some interesting information from several detached beat officers which I will be sending to Vee Neild for her information.

For the benefit of all officers I have reproduced details from a circular issued by Vee Neild:- "The purpose of this circular is to give further guidance in relation to the introduction of the Council Tax with particular reference to members residing in single quarters.

If the regulations referred to below had not been made, the person liable to pay Council Tax in respect of single quarters would be the resident licensee, ie. the member.

However, under Section 8 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, regulations have been made prescribing classes of chargeable buildings in respect of

which the owner of the building is liable to pay the Council Tax. The Council Tax (Liability for Owners) Regulations 1992 prescribe, amongst others, the following class of such buildings being:-

"A dwelling inhabited by persons who do not constitute a single household, each of whom either:- (a) is a tenant of, or has a licence to occupy, part only of the building; or, (b) has a licence to occupy but is not liable (whether alone or jointly with other persons) to pay rent or a licence fee in respect of the dwelling as a whole." (Regulation 2 - Class C).

Members occupy police provided accommodation under licences to occupy. Therefore, in circumstances where there is more than one person occupying provided accommodation not as a single household, then the Council Tax (Liability for Owners) Regulations 1992 would appear to apply.

When therefore members occupy single quarters accommodation but shared living accommodation, it would appear that the owner of the housing (being the Police Authority or Chief Constable etc) will be liable to pay Council Tax and not the member.

If a Police Authority owned house is occupied by more than one member then, unless those members have themselves requested the provision of the accommodation together, it is very unlikely that they will be considered as occupying the police provided house as a "single household".

Rather, it is much more likely than not that they will each be considered as having been granted a licence to

occupy only part of the dwelling (their licence would not extend to a bedroom of one of their colleagues).

The liability to pay the Council Tax would again fall on the owner of the house.

In circumstances where the charging authority gives notice of its intention to seek to recover Council Tax from a member occupying quarters as described above (or a police provided house which is occupied by more than one member not as a single household), it is recommended that they respond to the charging authority in the terms of the attached standard draft letter.

Reference is included in this standard draft to it being notice given under Section 16(4) of the 1992 Act which confirms the letter to be the first stage in the appeal process.

A further Circular on how the appeal process should be pursued thereafter, in the absence of any satisfactory response, will follow in due course.

The Regulations on appeals are still awaited and are likely to be published in February."

You will see from this circular that where more than one officer is allocated to provided accommodation then they are not liable for the Council Tax that charge would fall on the Police Authority.

We are talking here about officers being instructed to share and not where two officers ask for permission to cohabit.

A draft letter has been prepared by our Federation Solicitors for those members who are in the above position and wish to claim exemption.

A copy of this letter is available from Federation Secretary Brian Pallant.

Evidence heard by Sheehy

BY NOW all members should have received their own personal copy of the National Federation report and update on the evidence to the Sheehy Inquiry.

If members have not received a copy please contact the Federation Office at Headquarters.

Rumours only on mergers

THERE have been many rumours regarding the possible amalgamations of Forces.

To date nothing has come out of the Home Office.

As soon as I have any details to hand I will let you all know straight away.

THE LAW OPINION

WHEN Essex faced up to the threat of flooding last weekend, many must have cast their minds back to the disastrous stormy night of January 31st, 1953.

Comparisons between then and now were inevitable. But things have moved on a long way, not only in the technology and equipment the modern force has at its disposal, but also in the society it has to police.

Forty years ago the savage baseball-bat attack on young woman constable Kirste Snellgrove would have been unthinkable. So too would many of the violent assaults on police officers which have become sickeningly commonplace.

Forty years ago, perhaps, officers felt their truncheon provided adequate protection. Today, the service as a whole has been forced to look at alternatives. There is much debate about escalating crime rates and, currently, about juvenile crime in particular.

Retired officers reminiscences of the days when they gave young upstarts a clip round the ear and sent them home terrified by the threat to tell their parents, are days which will never return.

Society is quick, and rightly so, to jump on any suggestion of excessive use of force, and criticise the occasional failings of police officers.

But through even the most uncomfortable changes, there is a comforting thought.

Forty years ago, a Superintendent's report of the floods concluded, "Everybody worked under shocking conditions for prolonged hours, often absolutely soaked through and sometimes owing to the prevailing conditions they worked until exhausted."

In some cases officers who were on the point of collapse through sheer physical exhaustion had to be literally ordered off duty by myself personally before they would leave the scene."

Who would bet against the same dedication to duty, had the floods recurred in 1993?

The Editors would like to make it clear that the views expressed in this opinion column reflect those of the Editors and not the Chief Constable or any other member of the Essex Police.

Don't miss your seminar!

- February 25: 10am - Essex Showground
2pm - Essex Showground
- February 26: 10am - Essex Showground
2pm - Essex Showground
- March 2, 3, 4: 10am - Rayleigh
2pm - Rayleigh
- March 9: 10am - Colchester
2pm - Colchester
- March 10: 10am - Colchester
- March 11: 2pm - Hutton
- March 12: 10am - Hutton
2pm - Hutton
- March 16, 17, 18, 19: 10am - HQ
2pm HQ

The Essex Police Choir and Bedfordshire Police Folklore

in concert at

Christchurch

New London Road, Chelmsford
7.30pm Saturday 17 April 1993

Admission £2.50

Tickets from Roger Grimwade,
HQ ext. 2457

Off Beat

NO 'ARM DONE

POOR Chelmsford based Inspector John Worland has had more than his fair share of salutes from mickey-taking colleagues recently.

Red-faced Mr Worland snapped to attention and threw his smartest salute as the Princess Royal left Chelmsford Prison after a visit earlier this month.

But things went horribly wrong when his arm came sharply up under the chin of an elderly lady peering over his shoulder, and knocked her over backwards. Fortunately the woman was unhurt, and the Princess departed with a chuckle.

NO PORN

OFFICERS out at Walton were quick to respond to a call from a distressed woman when the location was given as the Porn Brokers. Sadly it was just a spelling mistake!

COCK AND BULL STORY

WHEN a bull escaped and threatened to cause mayhem in Colchester, police helped to round up the hapless creature. The incident inspired one of our officers to verse, but could Acting Sgt Turnbull be a pseudonym?

*"The bull was blowing and puffing
Because he did not want stuffing!*

*A chase ensued — bull was pursued
The steed which was very large*

*When cornered — did charge!!
Echo Romeo Seven's buffer*

*Not enough to repel the "Huffer"
All rallied to the call,
Vets, Zoo, F.S.U & all
A round-up took place.*

*One large cow with a red face!!
Officer dealing was Pc Veal
Yes, yes — his name is real!"*

Deputy to join UN in Romania

DEPUTY Chief Constable Peter Simpson will join a United Nations team in Romania next month to advise senior officials on human rights issues.

The five day trip to Bucharest follows on from the work Mr Simpson did in Albania in November, when he also linked up with a UN team.

Under the auspices of the Foreign Office, police visits have been arranged to several of the former communist countries of Eastern Europe.

Mr Simpson will give presentations on the practical aspects of dealing with human rights to audiences including civil servants, police and possibly the military.

Mr Simpson said "I'm pleased that as a result of the work we did in Albania, I have been asked to give similar presentations in Romania."

800 pupils to get "hands-on" experience of dealing with real-life hazards

CRUCIAL NEWS FOR THE KIDS

Calamity is a success



Eileen Kligerman and Bob Bray in an exciting scene from Calamity Jane.

WHAT A CALAMITY! Essex Police Musical Society's production of Calamity Jane thrilled a sell-out audience at Headquarters every night last week.

And it showed how professional the society has become since its first production — also 'Calamity Jane' — more than 25 years ago.

A full report and more pictures from the action-packed show will appear in next month's edition of *The Law*.

A new wardrobe for Essex Police

ESSEX POLICE will be changing its wardrobe this year with all regular officers and traffic wardens measuring up for the Force's new-style uniform.

The new design has been tailored to give officers of both sexes much more flexibility of movement and to give suspects fewer opportunities to grab hold of items such as epaulettes.

Purchasing Manager, Ian

Steele said the main bulk of the supplies are scheduled for delivery in March this year and it is proposed they will be issued to officers during April and May.

The uniforms will be given out on a personal basis to ensure staff receive the

best service and correct fit.

It's believed it will take nearly three years to completely change over to the new style and it is likely the old style uniform will not be declared obsolete until April 1995.

The Force's uniform is now bought in bulk for a group of Forces in the region therefore benefiting in cost from economies of scale.

by Jenny Grinter

SCHOOLCHILDREN in the Basildon area are about to find out first-hand how to deal with real-life dangers.

Next month 800 ten and eleven-year-olds will become the first in Essex to take part in the "Crucial Crew" scheme, which will teach them vital messages about personal safety and crime prevention.

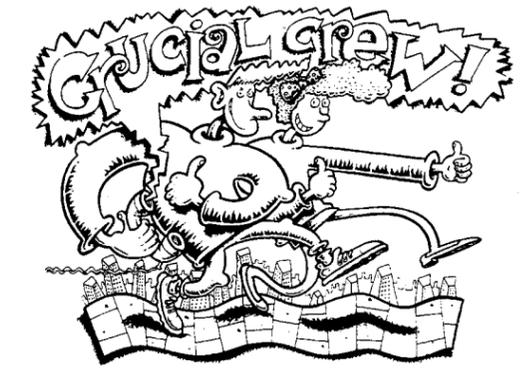
They will act out a number of realistic scenarios involving fire, a road accident, stranger danger, and juvenile crimes such as theft and criminal damage.

IMAGINATIVE

The imaginative scheme, which has been organised by Basildon Community Safety Group, will run for two weeks at the town's Fryerns School.

Crime Prevention Officer, Pc Ray Williams, who has helped pioneer the scheme, said, "Instead of standing in a classroom telling the kids what to do, we're going to let them live it. They will act out real life situations in order to find the answers."

"That's the way they will take notice, and remember



what to do if the need arises."

Realism will be enhanced by a telephone exchange set up on the site, enabling the children to call for help. But they can expect to encounter another real-life problem, vandalised phone boxes.

The Rev Robert Springett, Chairman of the steering group, said, "Basildon Crucial Crew has generated enormous enthusiasm from a large number of agencies."

And the schools are so enthusiastic that the scheme was over-subscribed within days of details being sent out.

Martin Sadler, headmaster of Kingswood Junior School and a key partici-

pant in the steering group, said, "Crucial Crew will help build up confidence between our children and the public services at a time when that confidence is sorely needed."

By the end of the two-week period 800 Basildon children should have learnt vital lessons which could, one day, save a life or prevent a crime.

Each youngster will receive a T-Shirt and Certificate when they complete the Crucial Crew challenges. In addition to helping to run the scenarios, Essex Police have helped the scheme with transport, catering and printing.

Senior Essex Police Officers will be among the visitors to Crucial Crew, which could soon be run in other parts of the county.

A beat down under

TWO ESSEX officers are jetting off to Australia to learn how our antipodean cousins tackle crime down under.

Detective Inspector Ray Burman, 41, stationed at Grays and Inspector Peter Sheldrake, based at HQ are the first Essex officers to swap jobs with their Australian opposites.

Det Insp Burman said he is hoping to learn about Australian crime-solving

techniques during his two month tour of duty.

"I will be studying the management structure, together with how major crimes involving drugs and murder are investigated," he said. "The trip will certainly be a refreshing look at Police work and should

be of great benefit to Essex Police as a whole."

But Det Insp Burman is making sure he will get to see some of the sights during the visit so his spare time will be spent in the saddle of a racing bike exploring the bush and beaches.

On their return, both officers will present reports of their visit to the Chief Constable.

Jo plans a head start against crime

CLASSROOM crime-fighter Johanna Charnley will be addressing a very unusual 'assembly' in the spring — more than 100 head-teachers from all over Essex keen to learn how their pupils can help beat crime.

Pioneering Johanna joined the Force last summer as the county's first School Liaison Officer, and she will be breaking more new ground with the Head Teachers Conference, planned for April 23 at Leez Priory, Great Leighs.

It will be the first time all secondary heads in the county have been called together to discuss crime and Johanna hopes the conference will sow the seeds for Youth Crime Prevention Panels to be set up in many Essex Schools.

Since her appointment, she has been busy visiting young people county-wide and she says the response to the panels, or Youth Action Groups as pupils prefer to call them, has been tremendous.

"What is interesting is that when you talk to the pupils about what issues they want to tackle, the answers are often very different to what teachers perceive as the main problems," she explained.

by Paul Dunt

Already around 15 Action Groups have been set up, or are in the process of forming and pupils have taken on a whole range of problems ranging from insecure school lockers and stealing to anti-litter campaigns.

At one school, pupils took part in a mock trial held at Billericay Magistrates Court. Johanna's husband, a lawyer, acted as defence solicitor and a local magistrate also took part to make it realistic.

AGGRAVATED

A 14 year old pupil faced the court on mock charges relating to an aggravated theft which had ended up with a man suffering multiple injuries after being struck by a car. Another pupil played the defendant's distressed mother, while others acted as witnesses.

Eventually the unfortunate pupil found himself in the cells at Billericay Police Station! "It went really well," said Johanna.

"Not only did the young people learn about the working of a court, but they also saw the effect crime can have on all those involved, such as their families."

"Overall the response to the Youth Action Groups has been fantastic. Heads and Deputy Heads are so keen because not only are they learning about crime, but the topics covered can act as cross-curricular projects.

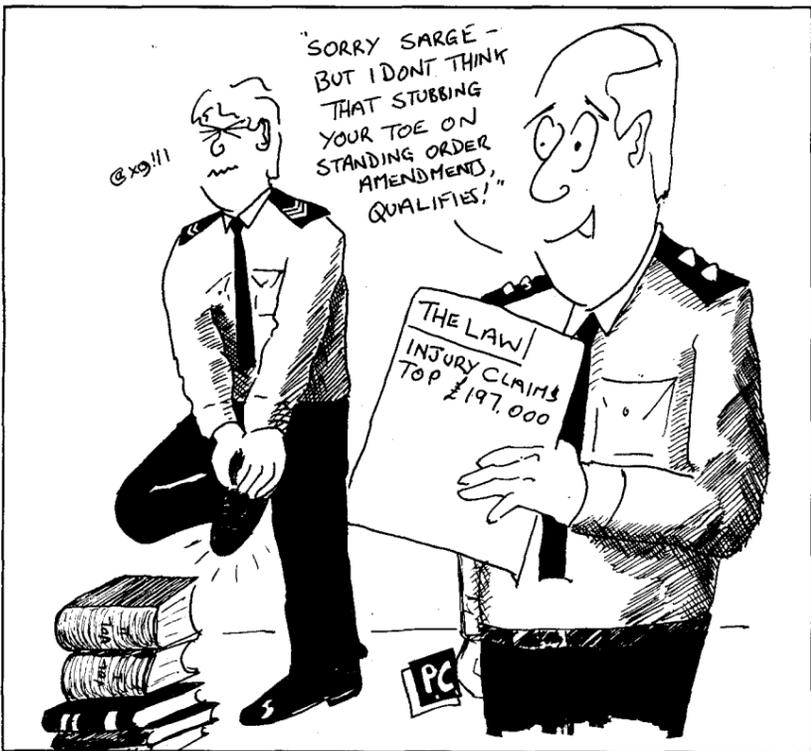
Speakers at the conference will include the Chief Constable, John Burrow, Drugs Liaison Officer, Inspector Dave Perry and Martin Fee, Principal Officer, curriculum and development.

But delegates at the conference are not in for long boring speeches and flickering overhead projectors. Johanna has put together a programme geared to keeping them alert and listening while providing a lively platform for debate.

One of the highlights will be performances by the Geese Theatre Co, a touring group working in prisons, young offender institutions and probation centres.

During the day they will be presenting scenarios demonstrating the problems of bullying, shoplifting and drug mis-use.

Johanna Charnley can be contacted at HQ Crime Prevention.



Have you ever faced a gun?

WITH reference to Mr A Jennings's letter in the January edition of *The Law*.

We are told time and time again that if a burglar should happen to get into our property and we catch them and attack them for being on our property we are liable to be prosecuted for causing bodily harm, whether it is GBH or ABH.

So, as in the letter, if this person was well-built and did get off the floor to help the Chief Superintendent (very brave man) and in doing so injured the man with the gun, he would probably be up on charges because the gunman (if caught) might prosecute

him for assault.

Also Mr Jennings, have you ever been on the wrong end of a gun? Probably not. Well I am sorry but I have, and I am quite big, and I would not have got off the floor to help.

Falklands

I am sorry to say it, but I am not a coward, I am just not daft. After service in Northern Ireland and the Falklands I have decided to keep my head down.

I also believe bringing vigilantes onto the streets

would make things worse and crime would just keep on rising.

Vigilantes

I think the Police should be issued with the American-type batons so they can protect themselves as well as you, me and every other civilian.

We have already got one army on the streets, so please let's not have another one thinking they are just as good. The only thing a vigilante is a paid or un-paid thug.

Mr K Page
Neighbourhood Watch
Co-ordinator
Harlow.

Good Reading

I WRITE regarding the book *The Borough Men*. I have found it most interesting. Every photo, every name and almost every number brought back happy memories of old comrades.

I am 76 years old now, have been retired for 24 years, am fit and well and hope to continue to draw my pension for another twenty years at least.

It was good to know Fred Feather and others of my time are still alive and well and it is nice to know some still remember and enquire about me.

I often think of some of them too, if any of them would like to write to me I promise to answer every letter. I have just received a card from Jack Ladds which I will be answering today.

My congratulations to Terry Rands and my best wishes for a long life and happiness to all my old comrades who are still alive.

Curly Clayton (ex Sergeant)
27 Currong Flats,
Braddon,
ACT (Australian Capital Territory)
2601
Australia.

Respects at sea for Don Harmer

MY BELOVED husband died on Boxing Day and his funeral took place on Monday, January 4.

I shall never forget the kindness, help and respect he received from the Essex Police Force. Since Don had retired fifteen years before, I did not expect it.

Wendy, the welfare assistant was here within two days to advise me; and on the day of the funeral, cones were put outside the house and church before we were up. Traffic wardens and police were directing traffic and several came to the funeral.

Last Monday, January 18, Don's ashes were scattered on the River Blackwater beyond the power station. The Police launch was waiting when we arrived along with the East Mersea Lifeboat, fishing boats and some of Don's friends.

When the service was over, out of a clear blue sunny sky, appeared the Police helicopter. It circled three times and then hovered in a vertical position over our boat.

If funeral and ashes scattering services can ever be wonderful, they certainly were. The police on both occasions were so compassionate and respectful and I will never forget how they helped us through two awful days.

The flowers sent by the officers are still in the porch of my own St Mary's Church.

Thank you all most sincerely.

Audrey Harmer
Fambridge Rd, Maldon.

(See also pages 6/7 and 9)

LAW Letters

The pioneering days of Betty Harcourt

THANK YOU for noting my fathers (ex-PC 285), P J McNally's new address in the Phillipines. He will be pleased to receive *The Law* on a regular basis now he is so far away from Britain and his old 'beats'.

He came here in 1920 from Co. Sligo with my grandfather, a sergeant in the Garda. This was a period when many close colleagues were being murdered amidst the 'troubles'.

The Police Force was very important to him and I was nightly regaled with his stories of both petty criminals - and more ghoulish experiences, accrued through 25 years with the Essex Constabulary.

Somewhat less sensational, and more restrained were my mother's WPC Betty Harcourt's reminiscences.

She started her career during the last war as a WAPC. I still have the little blue badge topped by a red crown. Eventually, she joined the regular Force - and I believe she was one of the first (if not the first) woman constables in the Southend Borough Constabulary.

I enclose two photographs, one of which shows her 'passing out' class. It is signed by those pictured, new constables



Betty Harcourt (centre) in her early days in the Force.

from all over the country.

The second picture, of three WPCs shows her in the middle. If the ladies either side read this please contact me!

Retiring on marriage in 1951, my mother looked forward to motherhood - being nearly 37. When my two brothers and myself were very young, she contracted multiple sclerosis in its most debilitating form.

This proved to be the decisive factor in my father's retirement from Harlow in 1963. The disease rapidly robbed her of coherent speech, understandably causing such an articulate woman immense distress.

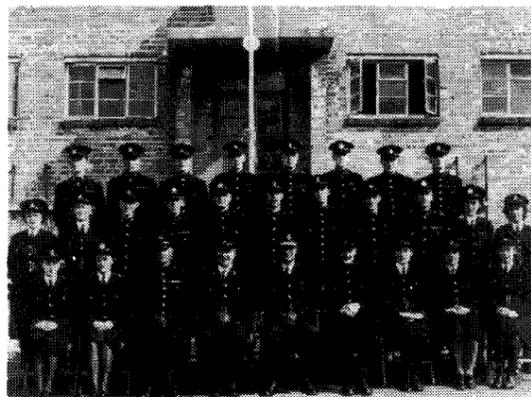
She died in 1980, having become completely paralysed - a woman we didn't really get

the chance to know. I would love to correspond with any of her old colleagues and friends who may be out there and perhaps learn more about her.

It must have been both daunting and exciting to be in the force in those early post-

war years, when opportunities for women in fulfilling careers really began to gain ground.

Mary Mills
28 Birkin Close
Tiptree
Essex



'Passing out' class - Betty Harcourt is sitting on the front row extreme right.

A Fond Farewell

I SHOULD very much like to take this opportunity of thanking all of my colleagues and friends at Police Headquarters and throughout the Division for all their kind wishes and lovely gifts on the occasion of my retirement at Christmas.

I should also like to say a big thank you to Mr Conlan for his delightful 'farewell' speech; and to the Police Photographers for recording the event for me - these are mementos I can always treasure.

My grateful thanks also go to Bob Needham for the presentation of an Essex Police plaque from the Federation; and also to George and Jane Allen for the beautiful Egyptian hand-painting presented to me at my leaving party.

Whilst I shall, of course, enjoy my new found freedom; it goes without saying that I shall miss all my colleagues at Police Headquarters but I should like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your friendship and support over the years and also to wish each and every one of you a very prosperous 1993.

With fondest regards to one and all.

Brenda Byrne
Springfield
Chelmsford

NO TIME FOR KID GLOVES

John Major said on TV: "We'll nail the thugs, new laws are on the way, we are too tolerant of crime".

The Government can pass all the laws it wants but if Judges and Magistrates will not enforce them there will be no change. The sentences passed at some courts are a joke a sick joke it's time the kid gloves came off.

Judges and Magistrates are the servants of the people, we

say to them "In God's name serve".

Mr P.W. Laidlaw
Neighbourhood Watch
Co-ordinator
Carters Close
Clacton

A Happy Birthday

'Happy 50th Birthday' for 21 February to John Johnson from all in Orders & Legislation.

Cop Capers

DESPITE the in-roads Police have made in tackling car crime it seems the problem still persists. Yet it appears thieves tactics are beginning to change, as are their expectations...

Forever throwing bubbles

Crooks who stole a car in Stokesley, North Yorks, made a clean getaway from pursuing police officers by throwing bars of soap at their police car for example.

But another slippery customer who grabbed a Land Rover Discovery was so disgusted when he found the stolen vehicle had a broken fan belt he told the owner: "Have it back — it's knackered."

Police later found the car abandoned. Businessman David Hickes, from Leeds, who had phoned up the thief on his car phone to trace it, said: "What a cheek! It's lucky I hadn't fixed the fan belt."

But speeding too is a problem and one where Police solutions can throw up some strange results, as happened near Bridgewater Somerset, recently.

Even though officers warned drivers where a speed trap was positioned on the M5 1,739 motorists were still caught in three months.

Slim chance

Yet there is some good news out there be it a little slim on the ground recently, which is an apt introduction to the 18 officers and staff of Coleshill Police station, Warwicks.

They will all be sizing up to the future by embarking on a four-month slim for charity.

Nice I-Dere

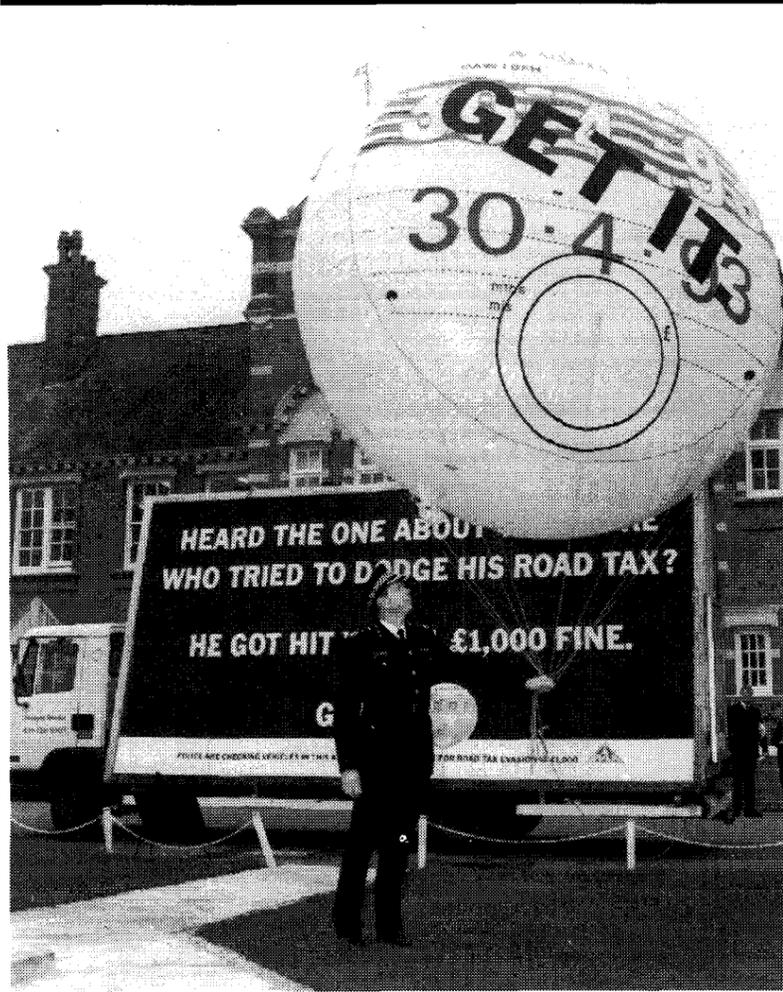
But the final word this month goes to caring officers in Dereham, Norfolk, who are sending old uniforms to Bosnia to keep refugees warm.

It's an excellent idea, but one wonders how UN Peace-Keeping Forces will react when they stumble upon groups of British Bobbies wandering through Sarajevo.

Pant Valley farmers join forces to tackle modern day pest

Keeping in touch with Farmwatch

Blitz nets 7,000 dodgers



DEPUTY Chief Constable Peter Simpson helps to get the message across at the launch of the vehicle excise licence campaign.

AN ESSEX Police blitz on tax disc dodgers has snared 7,000 motorists in just two weeks.

A high-profile month-long campaign was launched on February 2, and halfway through the period Essex officers had reported 7,000 vehicle owners for prosecution. Car owners could face a maximum fine of £1,000.

Despite a widespread publicity drive, including radio and newspaper advertising, it appears Essex drivers were slow to respond to the warnings.

Traffic Chief Inspector Brian Ladd said, "It's clear the Force has shown

a heavy commitment to its campaign. The results speak for themselves, they are tremendous. The DVLA is delighted."

Unpaid

Before the campaign was launched, it was estimated there were some 33,000 unlicensed vehicles on Essex roads, amounting to £3.3 million of unpaid road tax.

During a similar campaign in 1990, some £350,000 in lost revenue was clawed back.

The current campaign, launched at Police HQ by

Deputy Chief Constable Peter Simpson and Mr Tony Daniel from the DVLA, aimed primarily to encourage drivers to tax their vehicles.

But it was stressed at the launch that a period of rigid enforcement would follow.

Mr Simpson said, "We have found that many people who fail to get their vehicle taxed do so because it is unroadworthy or because they have no insurance." He hoped many unroadworthy vehicles would be taken off the roads as a result of the campaign.

by Jenny Grinter

FARMERS in the Braintree district are joining forces to target a modern-day pest which threatens their livelihood — the criminal.

Following the success of Neighbourhood Watch, Wethersfield beat officer Pc Richard Buckland has teamed up with the farming community to launch Farmwatch.

With the motto, "Farmwatch means keeping in touch", the scheme aims to build up a communication network between the farmers themselves, and between them and the police.

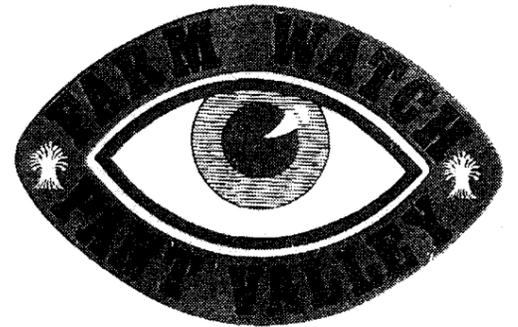
LAUNCHED

The Pant Valley Farmwatch, the first in the Braintree area, was launched on February 23. It covers the Finchingfield, Wethersfield, Shalford, Cornish Hall End, Great Saling and Great Bardfield areas.

More than 40 farms were represented at the initial meeting back in December, when the scheme was first mooted.

Farmer Robert Bucknell of Onchars Farm, Great Saling, explained, "It's no good saying the police ought to sort it out. Crime is a community problem and everybody has to take it on."

Braintree Crime Prevention Officer Pc Geoff Butler said



"Farmers no longer have the regular contact with each other that they had through going up to auctions and markets in the days when staffing levels were much higher.

"It is now a far more insular existence, and they are often not aware of current crime trends. The aim of Farmwatch is to create a shared awareness of the problems, rather than operating in isolation. Farmwatch means operating as a community."

Farmers are vulnerable to crimes such as arson attacks on barns and haystacks, thefts of farm vehicles and machinery, particularly of the popular four-wheel drive all-terrain vehicles, thefts of office equipment, as well as country crimes such as poaching, fly tipping and hare coursing.

Mr Bucknell said, "There has been a terrific rise in rural crime. Once you could leave machinery outside and buildings unlocked with no fear of things going missing.

"Now we're having to think like people in an urban environment as crime moves out into the country."

The Farmwatch communi-

cation network means farmers can be made aware of suspicious characters or activities in the area, and of any criminals operating.

The scheme is being co-ordinated by Mr Richard Legge, Braintree branch manager of Ernest Doe and Sons, agricultural suppliers, assisted by four area co-ordinators.

Each farmer received an introductory pack including incident report cards, suspect forms, and crime prevention advice. Each also received a farmwatch sign to display prominently.

HORSEWATCH

In the Saffron Walden sub-division police and horse owners have teamed up to launch a Horsewatch scheme.

Although the scheme was being formed before the recent spate of attacks on horses in the South of England, this worrying problem is being covered.

The scheme gives advice on security of livestock, stables, saddlery and tack, and has aroused considerable interest in an area with a high number of horse owners.

600-strong squad to tackle major crime

THE voluntary amalgamation of Number 5, 6 and 9 Regional Crime Squads takes effect from 1 April, forming the new South East Regional Crime Squad.

The Squad will comprise 600 police and civil staff members serving the new region, which stretches from the Wash in the east to the Solent in the south

and encompasses 13 constituent Forces: Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, City of London, Essex Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Metropolitan, Norfolk, Suffolk, Surrey, Sussex and Thames Valley.

For operational purposes the South East Regional Crime Squad will be managed in four areas, each by a Detective Superintendent — two covering the North of the region and two covering the South.

There will be twenty branch office locations with a Detective Chief Inspector supervising at least two operational teams. Each team will ultimately consist of a Detective Inspector, four Detective Sergeants and twelve Detective Constables.

Co-ordinator of the South East Regional Crime Squad, Commander Roy Penrose, and senior staff including two Assistant Co-ordinators and Two Superintendents, are based at the new regional headquarters in central London.

New project looks at shift systems

A PROJECT has been set up to look into shift systems for the Force, aimed at finding the most beneficial system for both the shift worker and Essex Police.

The "Shift System Project" is expected to last for five months and has three full-time members of staff, who would welcome comments from members of the Force.

There has been much talk about the present 24-hour shift system and alternatives currently available.

Over a number of years, stations throughout the Force have tried differing shift sys-

tems, like the continental shift system run at Witham and the system that ran for some time at Southend.

The Force is treating the issue as one of importance, and is making a determined effort to resolve it.

The project, which started on January 11, will give maximum consideration to the welfare of the shift worker, balanced with the needs of the

organisation.

The project team of Sgt Mark Schofield, Sgt John Bowman and Moira Green will research the requirements of shift workers, both police and civilian, and examine the needs of operational sub-divisions.

Results

The results from existing systems and past trials, including those in other forces, will be considered.

After five months it is expected that the requirements

FORCE HISTORY SPECIAL: COURAGE, FI

The night swept across



Manning the boats in Jaywick.

Forty years on one officer remembers '53

The river wall's gone

Evacuate Coryton!

IT IS nearly forty years since the Great Tide Tragedy hit the East Coast of Essex and other Counties.

On the 31st January, 1953, I was then stationed at Corringham with Constable 355 Jack Attridge.

I had been about to complete my tour of duty at 2am on Sunday, 1st February, 1953, when the Orsett Sub-Divisional Inspector rushed into the Police Office, then in Giffords Cross Road, obviously agitated and said:

"The river wall has gone. Evacuate Coryton. Get Attridge out," before rushing out and disappearing in the car.

For the first and only time in my service at Corringham, I pressed the alarm bell that rang into Jack's adjoining house.

Within two minutes Jack opened the connecting door between his house and the

By William Mead

office, truncheon in hand.

Mrs Attridge was close behind him with a poker in her hand. I repeated my instructions and Jack replied, "Right. I'll get my gum boots".

Minutes later we mounted our trusty pedal cycles and set forth across the Manorway to the village of Coryton and its population of nearly 300 souls.

TANKER

The Manorway being on high ground, was reasonably dry and passable, but the surrounding marsh was, when the moon emerged, a sheet of water on both sides as far as the eye could see.

Upon reaching the Haven Hotel and a telephone, Jack telephoned a progress report to Grays Div. Hqtrs. and I contacted the Fire Brigade with a view to having the sirens at

Coryton sounded to alert the population. My request was denied.

The Shell Oil Company's duty driver - he bused home late night Tanker Crews returning to their base, volunteered to take me into Coryton Village.

Jack was within days of retiring so I suggested he should remain at the Hotel, now surrounded with rising water.

The Shell Bus driver drove me in his vehicle through the water which was now seeping into it.

With him blowing his horn, me blowing my whistle and flashing my torch at the windows of the various dwellings, we eventually reached a spot near the home of the manager of Cory Bros. Mr Freeman, opposite the

Coryton Club.

When our overtaxed engine failed we floated sideways towards The Fleet, a stretch of water always several feet deep but now the road at its side was six feet deep and still rising.

The driver abandoned his bus and made for the Club building.

EVACUEES

For the first and only time in my life did I, wearing full uniform including cape and over coat, attempt to swim towards the same building.

Successfully reaching it I found a number of evacuees, including the security guards from the site that Lummas Ltd. were constructing for the Mobil Oil Co.

Ex-Southend Constable Sam Higgins was one and we spent the remainder of the night/morning there until Sergeant Gowers from Stanford-le-Hope managed to get through in a Green Line Diesel Bus, in which my cycle and I were evacuated to Corringham.

RESCUE

Two days later I was asked to evacuate Mrs Freeman from her house where for some weeks she had lain with a fractured pelvis and encased in plaster from her ankles to her neck.

A normally large lady, and the prospect of carrying her through the remaining four or five feet of flood water did not appeal to me.

By this time of course I had many helpers to hand, the Army had come in with their large amphibious vehicles and mustering a number of assistants, including the village blacksmith Cyril Charman, three ambulance men and several soldiers, we set out on our rescue mission.

Wading to her front door, I was most relieved to hear her say that the house had withstood the initial surge and no way was she prepared to vacate.

When disaster struck quickly found their feet. The biggest opera seen.

Forty years on the forgotten.

Extracts from the now held in the Force. How the Force gave way.

over the Quay and running into the surrounding streets. High tide wasn't for another two hours twenty minutes.

There was only one way to warn the local residents — by knocking on doors. At Bathside, Ps King continued warning people until the wall broke and he was driven out by the flood water.

An attempt was made to contact the Police car with public address equipment, but it was unobtainable as the crew had gone to help with repairs at the Wireless Transmitting Station at Great Bromley which had been put out of action by high winds.

Meanwhile the area HQ at Clacton had received reports of minor flooding at Walton and Brightlingsea. At 11.15pm the Clacton Superintendent set off with his Chief Inspector to get to Harwich, but they ran into flood water and the Chief Inspector went on alone.

What would unfold over the next few hours and days would be one of the biggest emergencies the Force has ever faced. Officers and staff would be pushed to the limits, using communications and equipment a world apart from the high-tech Force of today.

FLOOD

There would be acts of exceptional courage, moments of fear and tears too. It would be something none of them would ever forget.

Harwich Inspector Wood, Ps King and Pc Hazeldon were probably the first officers to see what was happening.

Though only 10.30pm, the sea was already coming



Army DUK

available land on the Den peninsula swamped tides 6'6" above predicted high water.

DUTCH

There was two or three feet of flooding in Southend, but further along the north bank of the Thames lay Canvey Island. Dutch engineers had reclaimed the island hundreds of years before but now the sea walls were being stretched to the limit to stop the swelling tide taking the land back.

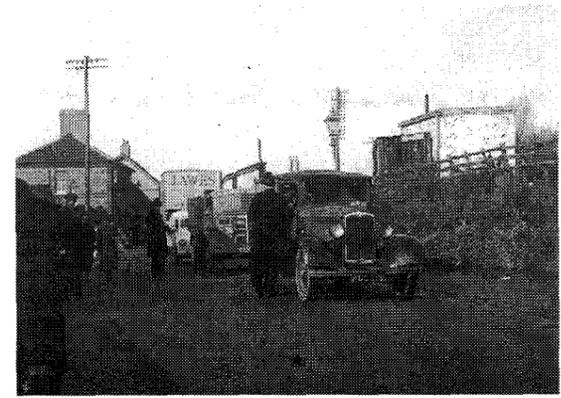
At 1am the Canvey Island Sergeant met his night-duty officer at a point on the sea wall where the water was only one foot below the top. High tide was two hours away. Efforts were made to warn residents but by 3am two-thirds of the Island was under water.

In many places across the county road and telephones were out of action while in the seriously flooded areas lights and power had failed. Communication was only possible by messenger, impeded by water, darkness and unseen obstructions.

As daylight broke on Sunday morning and the For



No Land-Rover Discoveries available for officers in '53!



Officers take anti-looting precautions on Canvey.

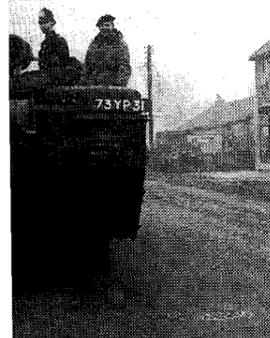
ARS AND TEARS IN THE FLOODS OF 1953

It tragedy Loss Essex

Essex in 1953, officers
ives in charge of one of
s the county has ever

efforts have not been

ts made at the time,
e Museum, help reveal
d the night the walls



take the strain.

began to realise the enormity of the task it faced, all officers on flood duty were placed on a 12-hour duty basis. Police officers from Hertfordshire were drafted to Clacton while Metropolitan officers assisted at Tilbury.

Some parts of Harwich were under 12 feet of water and the Police Station, although suffering a flooded basement, also served as a home for the Fire Brigade for a few days, complete with the appliances which could be rescued from the flooded Fire Station.

AIR-RAID

Many organisations rallied to support the Police, who were in overall charge of the operation, and it was agreed to treat the area exactly as though it had

suffered a severe air-raid, with emergency feeding and rest centres.

Special Branch and Immigration officers, unable to work at the Port, documented the homeless at the rest centres.

Each day, the task of evacuating marooned people and the grim search for bodies went on. The last body was recovered on February 3rd, making a total of eight people to be drowned at Harwich.

In all 861 properties were flooded and well over 1,000 people were rescued by boats and accommodated in rest centres.

At Jaywick, a tidal wave broke through at St Osyth and attacked Jaywick from the side and rear. Many of the flimsily-built bungalows there were intended only for summer-time use, but there were 700 full time residents and here 35 people drowned.

Officers entered one bungalow to search for missing people and found a man and wife drowned in bed still covered by the water. They were lying side by side as though asleep and did not appear to have been disturbed. The bedding was in no way disarranged.

As rescue work continued the next day reports written by officers at the time describe gales as being so strong that experienced oarsmen rowing against the wind made as little progress as 10 to 15 yards in 20 minutes.

SAFETY

As in many areas, the disaster zone was sealed off during the emergency with only members of the essential services allowed to enter.

The Duty Inspector at Clacton, on hearing of flooding of a few inches on the Brooklands estate went with two Pc's in a patrol car to investigate and found the

situation worsening rapidly.

On finding an old couple in a bungalow they took them out and waded through 2ft of water back to the patrol car. But before reaching it they spotted a 7ft wave of water approaching. The officers rushed the couple to the car and got under way but within seconds the wave hit them and almost completely covered the bonnet.

When the water subsided they all scrambled out with the old couple carried on the backs of the Pc's. The next wave came almost up to their necks, but they all managed to escape to safety on higher ground.

There were many acts of bravery that night. With communications down, young Pc Don Harmer volunteered to try and get a message from Jaywick through to Clacton by scrambling along the sea wall to a telephone booth at Butlins Holiday Camp.

ATTACHE

He made the perilous journey in darkness, a bitter gale and with rough seas coming over the sea wall. He covered most of the 400 yards crawling on his hands and knees. On achieving his aim, he returned by the same method.

In another instance at Clacton, one elderly lady rescued by police would not leave her bungalow until she had possession of a small attache case hidden in the upholstery of a large armchair. It was later found to contain £1,400!

Later into the incident fire engines from all the Southern Counties pumped an estimated 7 million gallons of water from the area back into the sea.

At Foulness, Wallasea Island and Great Wakering people took to the upper floors of their homes where many were marooned for several days. In



A Sergeant co-ordinates disaster operations at Jaywick.

some places the water was 11ft deep and at Great Wakering six people, including two children, lost their lives.

But it was Canvey Island that suffered the greatest tragedy with 60 people, mostly the old, infirm and children, drowning. As telephone communications had broken down, a police radio car, which was used at first as the sole means of communication with the mainland.

Some of the main problems facing the police on Sunday morning included the mass evacuation of the Island's 12,000 inhabitants, the vast influx of vehicles containing morbid sightseers, and those anxious to help, and the difficulty of getting away the rescued and the dead. Nearly every bus in Southend was pressed into evacuation service.

SOAKED

In Tilbury 90 per cent of the town was flooded up to a depth of 5 feet but only one person, an elderly lady, drowned. Oil refineries were flooded and tons of produce and materials were destroyed.

But police resources were not only under pressure from

dealing with the floods. Measures had to be taken to prevent the looting of unoccupied buildings and many abnormal loads. DUKWS and heavy equipment had to be escorted over roads only meant for horse-traffic.

V.I.P.'s including the Queen, Queen Mother and many members of the Cabinet also had to be escorted and guarded. Specials also did sterling work, in many cases allowing regular officers to be released for flood duties.

In a summary of his officers' response to the Great Floods of '53, one Superintendent concluded:

"Everybody worked under shocking conditions for prolonged hours often absolutely soaked through and sometimes owing to the prevailing conditions they



The search for survivors goes on in Jaywick.

worked until exhausted."

"In some cases officers who were on the point of collapse through sheer physical

exhaustion had to be literally ordered off duty by myself personally before they would leave the scene."



The emergency services worked flat out to tackle the floods.

Could it have happened all over again?

MEMORIES of 1953 came flooding back last weekend when Essex was put on danger alert.

As news came through of serious flooding in Norfolk, the county prepared itself for the worst.

Gale-force winds combined with high tides produced the greatest threat to the Essex coast for several years at lunchtime on February 21.

Essex Police opened up its command room, with ACC (Operations) Geoff Markham at the helm, and the county and district councils opened their emergency planning offices.

The Strood at Mersea was impassable more than 90 minutes before high tide, and two coastal houses at Lee

over Sands near St Osyth were evacuated as they were surrounded by three feet of water.

The sea wall was breached at Well House Hill on Mersea Island, the Hythe at Colchester was flooded, and the tide was perilously close to coming over at Harwich.

But just when the county's sea defences, considerably improved since 1953, looked set to lose the battle, the tide turned and the danger passed.

In the 40 years since the disaster of '53, a complex system has evolved to ensure those in low lying areas are forewarned of the danger of floods.

In the end, the near miss provided a good test for Essex Police's contingency plans.

Basildon Police give quality service, but public wants more information — Survey

Tell me more, tell me more!

Could you be a holiday guide?

FANCY a holiday in Sorrento, Normandy or Orlando this summer and want to provide a valuable service to the community at the same time?

Then put down those travel brochures and get in touch with the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association which is in desperate need of sighted guides on many activities it has planned for this year, especially on foreign holidays.

Sadly, the Guide Dogs Adventure Group has stopped taking bookings for visually impaired people because they are simply not enough sighted guides to balance the numbers.

Friends

"For the sighted guides, it can sometimes be tiring — you are there to work, and your specially low priced holiday reflects that — but it can be enormous fun, making new friends and trying out new activities," said Sandra Francis of the GDBA.

If you'd like a 'holiday of a lifetime' contact Sandra or Tricia Trotman at Guide Dogs head office, Hillfields, Burghfield, Reading, RG7 3YG or telephone (0734) 835555.

Alternatively Federation Chairman Bob Needham, who is also chairman of his local branch of Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, can put you in touch.

Absent Comrades

THE weather on Monday 8th February was abysmal, but so was the turn out for the Annual General Meeting of Essex Police Comrades Association.

Faced with just Doug Rampling from NARPO and a colleague from the office, Secretary Bob Needham was obliged to try again with the AGM.

He said, "Dealing with accounts that handle nearly £3,000 of annual income is a serious business."

"This cannot simply be left to a couple of folks to oversee. We must try harder next time."

Members are requested to note that the rescheduled meeting will be held at 11.30am on Monday 8th March at Stable Lodge (Federation Offices). Any enquiries to Bob Needham HQ2799.

FLYING HIGH ABOVE ESSEX



DO YOU recognise this view? The photo, taken by the Air Support Unit, shows Grays Police Station in the centre. It also shows the quality of aerial photography available to officers, perhaps for planning or evidential purposes.

Look out for more aerial shots in "The Law". We hope to run another of our "Guess Where it is?" competitions soon.

Views If you think the helicopter can help you, contact the Air Support Unit direct on (0245) 451564, (Fax (0245) 451547).

A FAR-REACHING survey exploring Basildon Police's relationship with the public has revealed people are generally satisfied with the service provided, although they want more information from the Force about how their 'cases' are progressing.

The survey, which covered Basildon, Laindon and Pitsea, was carried out over a three month period and tackled four main areas of police contact with the public — road accidents, burglaries, enquiries at the front offices of police stations and incidents logged onto the police computer — IRIS.

Victims

The overall response rate to the survey was 42.75 per cent although the response from those surveyed at accidents rose to 60.16 per cent and 45.54 per cent of burglary victims returned their survey forms.

Basildon Inspector, Aline Warner, said it had discovered that generally, Basildon residents were satisfied with the service provided with few expressing dissatisfaction.

"There were two main

by Paul Dunt

areas where people expressed dissatisfaction and these are being looked at to see how they can be improved," explained Inspector Warner.

Performance

"All of the forms show the public want more information about pursuing their insurance claims — after a burglary or road accident — or information about the progress of their 'case'" she said.

But Inspector Warner admits this informational role is not one to which officers readily warn.

"Officers often prefer the image of being a criminal catcher, which as been reinforced over past years by the performance indicators applied nationally. The time spent on follow-up calls to victims takes officers away from 'proactive policing'" she said.

"One way to remedy this is by regular use of quality of service surveys as performance indicators, and then selling the idea to officers who would then respond better to their changing role."

The use of "Victim of Crime" leaflets has been reinforced to all officers, and Basildon is shortly to

experiment with an "Information Card" for victims of Road Traffic Accidents.

The survey also found 26.2 per cent of visitors to the front office of Police stations wanted more privacy and, although this response would not justify major alterations on three stations, moves are being made to improve the situation.

"There is always the facility for more privacy, especially at Basildon, where a dedicated witness room is right next to the front office," said Inspector Warner. A notice is being made to advertise this facility to the public.

A total of 734 people received questionnaires over the survey period, which ran from May to July 1992.

Accident

Other results to come from the survey included the fact that 4.2 per cent of respondents involved in a road accident were dissatisfied with the time taken for officers to attend their incident. Interestingly, 4.21 per cent of respondents said that following the accident they now have a poor opinion of the police.

The survey found that of people involved in incidents which were logged on the Force's computer, 81.5 per cent had a good impression of the Police.

Knock-out punch from the sporting President

by Paul Dunt

BIG-HEARTED Harlow Chief Inspector, Mike Jackson, made a guest appearance on the TV show "This is Your Life" this month, as presenter Michael Aspel hosted a surprise party for boxer and media star, Frank Bruno.

Big Frank won praise on the show from Chief Inspector Jackson, who thanked him for all the work he has done for children with special needs through his involvement

with the President's Sporting Club, a charity the Chief Inspector founded.

The British heavyweight is president of the club, which was set up 12 years ago, and just before Christmas Frank was among a host of stars who gathered at Harlow Sports Centre to bring a sparkle to 500 disabled children for their annual Christmas bash.

As well as a festive meal, the children also had the chance to meet other celebrities such as The Gladiators, Trevor Brooking and Steve Davis as well as personalities from TV's Byker Grove and Grange Hill.

Over the years, the President's Sporting Club has raised over £130,000 which has gone to special schools across Essex and East Herts and organisations such as Riding for the Disabled and the National Handicapped

Skiers Association.

Chief Inspector Jackson said although he is seen as the 'figurehead' for the charity, the fund-raising effort would not be possible without the tremendous support given by officers from the North West Division over the year.

Further support will be coming for the charity in April when a team of Harlow officers, including Ds John Parkinson, Dc Liz Boothman,

Dc Steve Lee, Dc Paul Baker and Pc Hours will be running in the London Marathon to raise money for the club.

Chief Inspector Jackson also featured recently in Frank Bruno's autobiography "Eye of the Tiger". In Frank's last chapter "By Royal Command" the fun-loving boxer notes his involvement with the President's Sporting Club.

He ends his book by writing that when there are caring people such as Chief Inspector Jackson around it fills him with hope and optimism for the future.

OBITUARIES

ESSEX Police extends its sympathies to the families of the following officers:

Ex Pc Henry Goddard, 31.12.92, aged 83 yrs, who retired in 1965.

Ex Ps Peter Coombes, 17.01.93, aged 58 yrs, who retired in 1977.

Mrs J. Bayes, 12.01.93, P/T Cleaner, Basildon, serving member of staff.



HE'S ONLY A PUPPY BUT I'M SURE HE'LL SOON LOOK UP TO YOU.



RETIREMENTS

THE Force extends its good wishes to the following officers and civilians who are retiring.

- Supt Paul D. Tedder, 28.02.93, HQ IT, 27 yrs 196 days.
- Pc Anthony J. Beaumont, 28.02.93, Personnel/Dvg Sch, 29 yrs 242 days.
- Supt John D. Deal, 28.02.93, HQ Personnel, 30 yrs 245 days.
- Pc Terence R. Kelly, 09.03.93, South/Wickford, 25 yrs 149 days.
- Pc Brian F. Templeman, 12.03.93, N.E./Frinton, 26 yrs 95 days.
- Pc Peter R. Rouse, 13.03.93, S.E./Southend, 30 yrs.
- Pc Christopher J. Morgan, 14.03.93, Support/Traffic, 30 yrs 1 day.
- Ps Rodney W. Booth, 15.03.93, Central/Halstead, 30 yrs 58 days.
- Insp David Burrell, 28.03.93, Support/Info Room HQ, 28 yrs 319 days.
- Pc Lionel M. Lee, 04.04.93, S.W./Grays Crime Prevention, 25 yrs 238 days.
- Insp Brian C. Targrass, 09.05.93, HQ CID/Chelmsford, 31 yrs 152 days.
- Mr J. Woolnough, 17.01.93, HQ CID, Mr Veh Investigator, 7 yrs.
- Mr A. Weathersbee, 24.01.93, Asst Caretaker, Rayleigh, 11 yrs.

WINGS OF MERCY

IT SEEMS there's still a touch of humanity about Essex Police despite the stresses of modern-day policing. Either that or we're all going quackers!

So when police were told of a farmyard duck whose beak and neck were caught in a piece of plastic — the carelessly discarded debris which had held a four-pack of beers — their first thought was not of orange sauce.

The duck had been in distress for several days and unable to feed, it was starving to death. Initially police were asked to supply a sharpshooter from Firearms to end the creature's misery.

But when ACC Geoff Markham was alerted to the duck's dilemma, he gave the order to try to save the bird.

An embarrassed officer from the Diving Unit tentatively rang Mr Markham, unsure if the message he had received was a wind-up. It was not.

The divers and firearms officer travelled to Netteswell Pond in Harlow equipped for a rescue, or a tragic ending. The highly trained officers managed to shoo the frightened bird out of the water to a waiting RSPCA officer.

And the white duck, freed from its bondage, was happily reinstated on the pond.

Meanwhile, on their return to HQ, the same officers were immediately put on standby as news broke of the Lufthansa hijacking. As the plane flew through British airspace, and they were briefed in preparation for the —albeit unlikely— possibility of a landing at Stansted, the serious atmosphere was punctuated by a whispered "Quack Quack" from the back!

Write now for a 'Harty' meal

by Jenny Grinter

THERE'S still time to enter *The Law's* Healthy Choice Recipe competition with the chance to win a £50 meal for two at a top Essex restaurant near you.

The aim of the competition is to come up with healthy eating recipes, with dishes which are simple and inexpensive to prepare, and prove that a healthy diet doesn't mean living on lettuce leaves.

All you have to do is create an original healthy recipe for a starter, main course, or dessert (or all three if you like) and send it to The Editors, *The Law*, Press Office, PO Box 2, Police Headquarters, Springfield, Chelmsford, CM2 6DA.

The closing date for entries is Monday March 15th, so get writing.

We've already had some great entries with mouth-watering names like Cottage Bake and Bean

'There is still a lot of work to do to make our roads safer'

Road deaths fall — but campaign goes on

A Maritime farewell for Don



Audrey Harmer on board Tiger II scatters Don's ashes at one of his favourite spots on the Blackwater

FRIENDS, family and colleagues of Don Harmer took to sea last month to bade the former Chief Inspector a final farewell at one of the spots he loved most — afloat on the River Blackwater.

Don, who retired from the Force in 1977 owned a 33ft Aquabell fishing boat named "Second Chance" which he used for charter parties and he became well-known on the river for his wit and dry sense of humour.

Banter

He was close friends with George Pennington, the skipper of another fishing boat — Tiger II — and it is understood the banter between the two of them on the marine radio was often a source of amusement.

Don also represented the Bradwell Charter Boats at Maldon District Council and other official bodies, but sadly he died on Boxing Day and his ashes were scattered on the Blackwater on January 18.

Present at the ceremony was the Tiger II, which was escorted by the Police launch — Alert III and several other local fishing boats and vessels including the East Mersea lifeboat.

Don's widow, Audrey scattered Don's ashes onto the water from the deck of Tiger II, after a short address from a priest. Other members of Don's family and his friend, George, were also aboard.

Flypast

When the service was over the police helicopter appeared out of a clear blue sky, circled three times and then hovered in a vertical position over the Tiger II.

The flypast was a fitting tribute to Don who was involved in the organisation of the early trials of an army helicopter for the Force.

"If funeral and ashes scattering services can ever be wonderful they certainly were," said Mrs Harmer. "The Police on both occasions were so compassionate and respectful and I will never forget how they helped us through two awful days."

Don joined the Force in 1951, aged 20 and served all over the county beginning at Clacton and serving at Romford, Rayleigh, South Ockendon, Aveley, Colchester, Maldon and Chelmsford. He was awarded the Queen's commendation in 1953 and was also presented with

the Police Long Service and good Conduct Medal.

See also letters page 4.

TUCK IN FOR MEDICS MISSION

A GLAMOROUS celebrity dinner dance at the Hilton International Hotel, Stansted Airport, is being organised for Saturday, February 27th to mark the return of the Tour de Force team.

Tour de Force is the record attempt by three Essex policemen to visit every regional ambulance HQ in mainland Britain to raise funds for MEDICS, the local flying doctor service.

FRONTERA

Keeping strictly to the speed limits and taking it in turns to drive, the policemen are planning to visit all 18 ambulance HQ's, as far afield as Southampton and Edinburgh, in less than 48 hours, returning to Essex in time for the dance.

The policemen are using a computer system for the best possible route, and Vauxhall is lending a Frontera 4WD for the 1,500 mile round trip. In the build up to the event the policemen, who are from Harlow, Stansted and Saffron Walden police stations, have been seeking donations and sponsorships from local firms.

EUROPEAN

The Tour de Force dance at the Hilton will have a live band, a celebrity auction and a raffle.

So far raffle items include a mountain bike and two Air UK return tickets to any of their European destinations, but additional raffle prizes are still needed.

Tickets for the dance, which includes a three course meal, cost £22.50 and are available from Steve Pike at Stansted Village police station.

THE NUMBER of people killed on Essex roads fell by nearly 18 per cent in 1992, but both Essex Police and the County Council have warned the news gives no grounds for complacency.

In 92, 83 people died in road accidents in the county, compared with 101 in 1991 and 143 in 1990.

The number of people injured in road accidents also fell from 8,444 in 1991 to 7,923 in 1992 — a drop of more than six per cent. But serious injuries were up last year, from 1,088 in 1991 to 1,119 in 1992.

SPEEDING

"Although I am encouraged that deaths have fallen I am concerned by the increase in serious injuries," said Chief Inspector Brian Ladd from HQ Traffic Management.

He stressed the need for drivers to take responsibility for helping to reduce the numbers of accidents still further in 1993 and made it clear the Force would be keeping up its campaign to stop speeding.

"While the Police and

County Council continue to work in partnership there is a responsibility on all members of the public to adhere to speed limits and adjust their speed according to the conditions," he added.

DECREASE

The accident figures were released at a joint press conference held by the Force and the County Council. Both organisations are working together closely to cut the figures still further.

Mike Selfe, Essex County Council's County Surveyor, said: "This is the third year running that we have seen a decrease in the number of casualties, before which there was a steady increase in accidents and injuries."

"The decrease, which began in 1989, coincides with the publication of our first Road Safety Plan which identified specific problems which Essex Police and the Highways Department have

worked together to tackle."

"We have now agreed our second Road Safety Plan which sets out the areas of concern we will be tackling in the next two years. If the reduction in the numbers of casualties continues we will meet the Government's target of reducing the number of casualties by a third by the year 2000."

"We know there is still a lot of work to do to make our roads safer for everyone," Mr Selfe added.

YOUNG

One of the major areas of concern officers will be looking at this year is the number of casualties aged 17 to 25.

Six young drivers were killed last year, compared with 11 the year before, but the number of seriously injured casualties went up by 17 per cent from 122 in '91 to 143 last year.

Add to that the number of slight injuries last year — 1,048 — and figures show that on average three young drivers or passengers are injured in road accidents in Essex every day.

A new record — by the Police

SHOPLIFTERS in Basildon are being offered a free record by the Police if they are caught stealing from local shops.

But the freebie has nothing to do with the legendary pop group — although there is a sting — it will be a criminal record, courtesy of local officers.

Over the next few weeks eye-catching posters will be going up all over the town advertising the 'Special Offer' and making an important crime prevention message in a light-hearted way.

The 'Free Record' poster campaign follows the success of a previous Basildon poster offering shoplifters a 'Free Ride in a Police Car', which proved so popular several re-runs were produced to meet demand.

The design and wording of this latest poster was done by Basildon Crime Prevention Officer, Ray Williams. Local schoolchildren were asked to 'judge' a range of suggestions for posters and Ray's idea got the nod.

Around 400 colour posters will be printed and they are aimed at catching the attention of children to prevent them stealing from local shops, explained Ray.

"The reaction so far has been good — youngsters from one school who saw our last poster said the comical approach had made them think about the issue whereas normally they wouldn't have."

SPECIAL OFFER



WIN A FREE RECORD



ANYONE CAUGHT NICKING FROM OUR LOCAL SHOPS WILL RECEIVE A CRIMINAL RECORD BASILDON POLICE

Officers hope this new poster will have a spin-off on crime.



I.P.A. NEWS

MID-ESSEX BRANCH
by Fred Dyson

Social secretary needs your support

ON FRIDAY evening 22nd January the A.G.M. was held at Police HQ. Out of a possible 160 members, 21 old faithfuls attended with their wives.

Our guest for the evening was Ray Hansen, Chairman of No. 10 Region, accompanied by his wife Carol.

During the evening wine was served, and a raffle was also held.

There was a change in the election of committee members, whereby our social Secretary Dick Giggins asked to stand down after 8 years in office.

Ray Hansen congratulated him on the service he had given to the Branch and the Region. This was endorsed by all those present.

Elected in his place was Bill Fancourt. With our support I am sure he will make a success of functions arranged during the year.

The other change was our Vice Chairman Brian Palmer who has stood down. Elected in his place was Martin Garwood. Brian will still be active on the committee offering assistance to our Treasurer John Bray.

The remainder of the committee were re-elected and I sincerely hope we can continue to serve the Branch and keep it alive despite the non-active members.

After the meeting closed our guest speaker was Ch. Insp. Dennis Rensch who spoke on his experience of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa. The way he explained his climb and conditions sounded very exciting.

Annual Dinner

The annual dinner was one of Bill Fancourt's first events for 1993, which again was held at the New Times Inn, Tiptree.

Although the numbers were down from last year, 53 members, wives and friends sat down to a three course meal. The food was excellent and plentiful. Our Chairman Roger Richardson gave a vote of thanks to all present in supporting the function, including our guests the chairman of S.E. Branch Gordon Oakley and his wife Joan, and the Chairperson of the Northern (Colchester) Branch 'Joe' Dudley.

I would like to thank Bill and his wife Pat for their hard work in organising this dinner.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 17th March: Regional A.G.M. 8pm Police HQ

Friday 19th March: Visit to the GX Super Bowl, Chelmsford, where 6 lanes have been booked - £6.75 per

head.

Friday 16th April: Visit to St. Martins Theatre, London, to see the "Mouse Trap".

Friday 6th May: Return visit to GX Super Bowl for Championship games with S.E. Essex and "K" Division.

Saturday 26th June: A planned visit to Dover, Kent. This will include a visit to Dover Castle and "The White Cliffs Experience", a history of the cliffs since Roman Times. We plan to round the day off with a meal at "The Bull" Peneden Heath.

Sunday 11th July: Essex Police Fun Day - A tent we hope with tea and cakes. Washer uppers will be in demand. All for charity.

Friday 30th July: A day visit to Cambridge by coach followed by a picnic on the racecourse at Newmarket where we will be able to watch the evening races. This will be followed by a musical evening.

Friday/Sat/Sun 13th-15th August: We are planning a weekend visit to the Ironbridge area around Wolverhampton. The whole area abounds with Country Life museums, parks and other amenities. Hotel to be arranged with the cost about £105 per person.

Friday 10th September: A visit to Tolly Cobbalds Brewery at Ipswich.

Friday 8th October: Evening at home watching a video and slides of the Canadian visit by the Essex Police Choir.

Fri/Sat/Sun 29th-31st October: By coach a weekend visit to see the Blackpool illuminations and other local places of interest. Leave on Friday morning and see the lights on the Friday evening. On the Saturday a tour of the Lake District. Cost approx. £110 per person.

November: At present free

Friday 10th December: Our Christmas get together. In the next publication of the "Newsletter" there will be a tear-off-slip for members to indicate their interest in the forthcoming events.

By George!

ONE of the founder members of the Essex Police branch of NALGO has been honoured for his long service to the Association.

Dedicated George Allen, who retired from HQ photographic department 16 months ago, joined the National and Local Government Officers Association in 1954.

He is an honorary life member of NALGO's Eastern District Council, and was formerly a member of the Association's National Police Advisory Panel.

Honoured

Last month George was honoured at a special dinner at the Bonnington Hotel in Southampton Row, London. He was presented with the NALGO Service Award, in recognition of long and meritorious service, by the National President Ralph Gayton.

Only one such award is made each year in each district. NALGO's Eastern district takes in Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs, Beds, Northants and Essex, and has nearly 53,000 members.

George was a member of Essex County Branch until he helped set up the



CONGRATULATIONS: George Allen (right) receives his NALGO Service Award from national president Ralph Gayton, who is also president of Eastern District.

police branch in 1975.

Secretary

He spent several years as branch secretary, as well as serving on the publicity and executive committees of the District Council.

Since his retirement from police HQ, George has been enjoying life to the full with trips to Portugal, the South of France, Egypt and Canada.

IPA NEWS

SOUTH EAST ESSEX BRANCH

THE SUCCESS of the evening meal at The Willow Tree can be judged by the fact that it was a 7.30pm for 8pm start and finished at 1.30am.

The restaurant owner had visitors that evening, both serving Met. Officers, they joined us after the meal, hence the late finish.

At the A.G.M. the Committee were all re-elected and the provisional programme was approved.

The dates for your diary are:-

MARCH 13TH Coach Tour of London. Departure about 10am Cost £6. Pick up points will be arranged. Bookings to Gordon Oakley 0268 734692.

APRIL 23RD Quiz Night. Grays Police Station 4 persons per team £1 per team entry. 8pm start. Teams to Steve Hunt at C.I.D. Grays.

MAY 7TH Regional Ten Pin Bowling Competition. To be held at Chelmsford Bowling Alley. Please give details of your team to Derek Gibbons at Southend (0702) 420460, please book before 9th April to give time to book the lanes.

More to come during the year. Watch this space for details. Our events are not confined to South East Essex Members. All I.P.A. Members with their husband/wife and guests are welcome to join us. All members will be particularly welcome at the Region A.G.M. at Headquarters on 17th March.

NARPO NOTES by Doug Rampling

SHEEHY

I THINK everyone by now will be aware of the current enquiry into Police Responsibilities and Rewards known as The Sheehy Enquiry.

The N.E.C. of NARPO has submitted a paper to the enquiry for consideration in respect of (1) The historical background to the Police Pension Scheme and the arguments for its retention. (2) The need to maintain a properly constituted Police Service

with a recognised pay structure. (3) The concern felt for the welfare of the public, particularly senior citizens and (4) Pledging support for the current Police Service and serving officers' Staff Associations.

BOOKWORK

Roy Egleton (Ex Kent Constabulary) is researching a book on the Police Role during World War II. Anyone with any humorous or poignant anecdotes or factual comments is invited to contact the author

direct at 10, Cranborne Avenue, Maidstone, ME15 7EB.

COMRADES ASSOCIATION

The A.G.M. scheduled for Monday 8th February had to be abandoned due to insufficient numbers, however, it has been decided to hold the usual functions as follows: Spring Buffet Saturday 8th May, 1993. Annual Luncheon: Friday 15th October, 1993.

CHELMSFORD BRANCH A.G.M.

THIS will be held on Saturday 24th April, in the main dining room at Police Headquarters. Coffee and biscuits 10am and meeting to commence at 10.30am. Please make an effort to come along.

FOUND PROPERTY

Someone lost a Parker Papermate pen at the Pre-Christmas Get Together, if the owner likes to contact me, I have it.

... MARKET PLACE ... MARKET PLACE ...

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE - ONE WORD PER BOX

Name and Rank

Station Home Tel

Date Signed

FIVE BEDROOMED cottage for sale - Maldon town centre, overlooking estuary. Fitted kitchen, lounge, morning room, breakfast room, utility room, large bathroom, shower room, 1/3rd acre, £145,000. Mrs Stack 0621-854946.

FRENCH cottage to let, sleeps up to six. Comfortable and fully equipped. in tiny hamlet, amid lovely countryside in wine producing area. Easy access to Palaces and Chateaux of Loire Valley. John New (Northants Police) 0604 703206/703208 7am-9pm or 0604 33144.

DATSUN Sunny for sale, beige, 4 door saloon, 1200cc engine, MOT until December 1993, very clean

and reliable, £595. Leslie Bramhill 0268 756474 or Ednet 3219.

ACE VICEROY for sale (1987) 5/6 berth, water heater, oven, fridge, shower, many extras. isabella Statesman awning, storage paid until May. Good condition £4,250. Pc Clancey, Billericay Police Station.

CORNWALL, Polperro. Chalet sleeps 4/5. Heated indoor and outdoor pools. Club, all facilities, £55-£195 pw. Craig Bailey- 0279 653570 or 0279 757601.

DEVON COAST, Artists paradise. Non-smoking guest house. Known for good breakfasts. B&B and evening dinner, vegetarians catered for. Also large cara-

van for hire. Clive Ferrie, Sea Vale, Station Road, Woolacombe, N Devon, EX34 7AW. Tel 0271 870540.

TWO eight berth caravans to let, situated at Dinas Cross Country Park, near Fishguard, Pembrokeshire. Fully fitted with kitchen, lounge, shower WC and colour TV. Clubhouse, restaurant, outdoor heated swimming pool available, close to beach. Norman Wilkinson, 2 St Johns Road, Manselton, Swansea, SA5 8PP. Tel work 0792 456999 Ext 52233 or home 0792 642487.

NORTH CORNWALL, modern fully equipped static home, colour TV, fridge,

shower/wc, completely self-contained, 5 mins from sea and sandy beach. D Turner (Rtd) 0375 846704.

DRUM KIT for sale, Maxwin 5 piece plus hi hat, seat, stands and 'Paiste' cymbals, good condition, £250 ovno. Pc Caulfield, Castle Hedingham 0787 477537.

CINE TO VIDEO. Transfer your favourite cine films onto video cassette. your choice of music added. Kevin Bristow 90245) 328730.

POLICE REVIEW. Bound copies for the years 1943, 1944, 1950, 1961, 1967, 1969, 1970 and 1977. Free to anyone interested. Gordon Oakley (0268) 734692.

LAW SPORT ... LAW

One Mo' time for Essex hat-trick

CHRIS HELPS HQ TO VICTORY



HEADQUARTERS won the Croker Cup Table Tennis competition for the first time when they beat Central Division (Chelmsford) in the final, held recently at Police HQ.

It was Force Sports Secretary Chris Jacob, who recently moved to HQ, who led the team to victory with three wins. Inspector Tony Newell won two games as HQ won the final by 6 games to 3.

In a close competition, the results went largely to form until Tony Newell secured HQ's victory by beating Peter Layzell.

HQ captain Wayne Campbell-Harvey, who was unable to play through injury, is pictured receiving the Quick Cup from Supt Ian Cotgrove.

Pictured, from left, are Ian Hockley (HQ), Chris Jacob, Wayne Campbell-Harvey, Peter Layzell, Supt Cotgrove, Peter Simms (CD), and Clive Harding (CD).

ESSEX Police were chasing a hat-trick of victories at the Number 5 Region Indoor Games championships held at Southend this month.

The winners of the Force's Table Tennis, Darts, Snooker and Billiards competitions went forward to compete against seven other forces for the Portsmouth Shield, won by Essex for the past two years.

The competition was taking place on February 21, as *The Law* went to press.

Table Tennis

The Essex Police Table Tennis championships were held at HQ on February 1, and

by Peter Layzell

produced no real surprises although there were some close matches.

The veterans event was dominated by the Force's national champion Chris Jacob (HQ), who beat Peter Layzell comfortably in the final.

The doubles featured an exciting semi-final between Tony Bull and Gavin Price (Clacton) and Clive Harding and Peter Layzell (Burnham), which was eventually won by the Central Division duo 21-19 in the third leg.

It was a close shave as the Clacton duo staged a stirring fight back after being 19-11 down at one stage.

Peter and Clive could not repeat the magic in the final where they lost to Chris Jacob and Dave Birkett (Billericay).

The handicap event had Dave Birkett giving Gavin Price a start of four, and this proved enough for Gavin to take the match.

The ladies singles was won by Jo Dudley (Colchester). In the mens singles the expected final of Jacob and Birkett materialised and, once again, Dave proved that he is able to cope with the Chris Jacob game that demolishes the other players. Dave went on to win his 12th mens singles title.

Dave Birkett, Chris Jacob, Jo Dudley, Peter Layzell and Sarah Wadforth (Braintree) went on to represent Essex in the No 5 Region PAA championships.

Darts

IN THE Force Darts championships, held on February 10, Southend's Mo Chaplin was in her best form, taking three titles.

She beat Sue Jenkins of Harwich to take the ladies singles title, and took the ladies doubles with partner Sue Woolard, beating Sue Jenkins and Hazel Neale (Rayleigh).

In the mixed doubles, Mo partnered Julian Chadband (Westcliff) as they beat Paul Bates and Sue Woolard.

Chadband and Bates were paired together in the mens doubles, beating Ian Collins (Rayleigh) and Alan Barrett (Colchester) in the final. The men's singles was won by Bill Burns (Southend) who beat Bates in the final.

The winners went on to represent Essex in the No 5 Region championships.

■ LATE NEWS: For details of how Essex got on in the No 5 Region championship - See page 12



THE 1993 golf season is fast approaching, and the 'Police of Essex Golf Society' (PEGS) will again be active.

The 'society' exists to represent the Force in this particular sport and established members have already been circulated.

New members, provided they are members of the sports club are welcome to join, and anyone wishing to do so should contact one of the officers shown below.

This year the usual mixture of fixtures, meetings and representative competitions are on the 'menu'. In addition PEGS has been invited to return to France, where they last toured in 1991.

This will be between 7-11 June and the details are being finalised as 'The Law' goes to press, but PEGS members will be circulated in order to establish numbers wishing to go.

'PEGS' contact numbers: Peter Moyes (Secretary x5201), Steve Bardwell (Asst. Sec x5951), Nick Padmore (Captain x5722 - Epping 'D' shift).

Police Triathlon

THE "Lakeland Slateman Triathlon" will be staged at Glenridding, Cumbria on July 3.

The event is hosted by the Lancashire Constabulary and will be open to serving police officers. The event will comprise of the following:

Swim - 1 mile in Ullswater Lake,

Cycle - 40 miles via Keswick, Ambleside and Kirkstone Pass,

Run - 14 miles via Fairfield, Helvellyn and Raise.

The organiser would like to attract all standards of competitors. Respectable finishing times will vary between five and eight hours.

For further details and entry forms send s.a.e. to:

Pc 785 Broadbent, County Police Office, Carnforth, Lancs. LA5 9DQ. Tel: 0524 - 732624.

FORCE SPORTS ASSOCIATION

FORCE LOTTERY

£1500 Cons Philip Watson, Colchester C.S.B.; £700 DCons Dominic Graham, Stansted Airport; £300 DCons Errol Greene, Harlow; £200 Mr Alan Golding, Force Accountant, Headquarters; £100 Sgt John Swann, Driving School, Headquarters.

The following will receive £50 consolation prizes: Sgt Edmund Travers, Basildon; Cons Kenneth Delgado, Chelmsford; Cons Ivor Dallinger, South Woodham Ferrers; Cons Timothy Atkins, Newport Traffic; Mr Frederick Rogers, Basildon; Cons Andrew Goodwin, F.S.U. Headquarters; DCons Trevor Neesome, S.B. Harwich; Mary Beavon, Information Room, Headquarters; T.W. Rosemary Gettings, Colchester; DSgt Patrick Cannon, S.B. Harwich; Cons Joanne Bundock, South Ockendon; Cons Douglas Barton, Southend.

SNOOKER AND BILLIARDS

THE Force Snooker and Billiards championships were held on Tuesday 9th February, and the following officers have been selected to represent the Force at the No 5 Region P.A.A. championships to be held on Sunday 21st February at Southend Police Station: Snooker, James Cousen,

Westcliff: Billiards, Rodney Booth, Halstead.

ATHLETICS

Susan Harries, Westcliff, has been selected to represent Wales at an International Athletics meeting in Glasgow, on Friday 19th February.

CROSS COUNTRY

THE Croker Cup Cross Country scheduled for Sunday 21st February has had to be cancelled due to operational commitments. The new date will be Sunday 7th March at Danbury Youth Camp, Well Lane, Danbury, starting at 1100hrs. Any queries regarding the event to Roy Kebbell at Billericay Police Station.

BRITISH POLICE CHESS

THE British Police Open Individual Chess championships will be held on Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th May in Hull, Humberside.

The competition is open to serving police officers and retired police officers.

It will comprise a five round Swiss competition (Grading prizes included). The time control will be 35 moves in 1 hour with both clocks being put back 15 minutes on Black's 35th and the game being completed in the remaining time.

Any queries regarding the event to Cons Barry Cundill, Humberside Police Headquarters (0482 220107).

CROKER CUP WALK

THE 1993 Croker Cup walk was held at Colchester on Sunday 17th January with the following result:

Mens 15 Kilometre: 1st Denis Sheppard, Brentwood; 2nd Barry Ansell, Southend.

Veterans 15 Kilometre: 1st Andrew Down, Southend; 2nd Lance Williams, Colchester.

Ladies 3.75 Kilometre: 1st Gillian Marr, Southend; 2nd Caroline Loader, Colchester.

Overall Result: 1st South East (1246 Pts), 6 Croker Cup points; 2nd North East (487 Pts), 4; 3rd Central (378 Pts), 2; 4th South West (50 Pts), 1; 5th North West (17 Pts), 1. South and Headquarters did not enter teams.

ESSEX COUNTY CRICKET CLUB TICKETS

THE Force Sports Association has purchased 2 Executive Suite tickets (which allow you to take one guest each) and four members tickets for all Essex first eleven home fixtures with the exception of the National Westminster Trophy matches and the later rounds of the Benson and Hedges Cup.

These tickets will be available in pairs to members, i.e. there will be two members tickets and two Executive tickets per match.

Any member wishing to have the Executive tickets, must abide by the Executive rules.

The main ones are: The minimum dress shall be "smart casual". Jacket and tie for men is preferable but please note jeans, shorts (for men) and T-shirts are not permitted. (This is the attire for those wishing to use the members tickets!!!).

Members are permitted to sign in one guest upon payment of the appropriate charge.

A draw will be made at the beginning of the season to allocate these tickets, similar to the Ipswich Town Football Tickets and this list will be published to all interested persons.

A supplementary charge of £2.50 will be made on the Executive tickets and £1 on a pair of members tickets. Any persons interested in being included in the draw must submit their names in writing (telephone messages will not be accepted), to the Force Sports Secretary, at Police Headquarters, before Friday 26th March 1993.

Please indicate whether you want to be in the Executive draw or Members draw.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: SECTION SECRETARIES

THE following were elected as section secretaries for 1993:

Athletics - DCons Laurie Rampling (Grays); **Angling (Fly)** - Cons Anthony Lewis (Black Notley); **Angling (Freshwater)** - Cons Robert Hunter (Chelmsford Traffic); **Angling (Sea)** - Cons Clive Skingley (Rayleigh Marine).

Badminton - Cons Mick Thorp (Rochford); **Basketball** - Cons Nicholas Daws (FSU, HQ); **Bowls** - Cons John

Stewart (Stansted Airport); **Boxing** - DInsp Robert Miller (Dunmow).

Clay Pigeon Shooting - Cons Richard Grimes (Laindon Traffic); **Cricket** - Sgt Richard Argles (Basildon); **Cricket Veterans** - Insp Martin Reed (Dunmow); **Cross Country/Running** - Cons Roy Kebbell (Billericay); **Cycling** - Cons Gary Matthews (FSU HQ).

Football - Ch Insp Keith Bevell (HQ); **Golf** - DCons Peter Moyes (Tilbury Port); **Hockey Men** - Supt Robert Ward (Chelmsford); **Hockey Ladies** - Cons Kay Blackman (FSU HQ).

Indoor Games - Sgt Peter Layzell (Burnham on Crouch); **Judo** - Tiaho Jutso - Cons Robert Foster (FSU HQ); **Netball** - Cons Suzanna Payton (Harlow); **Pistol Shooting** - Insp David Perry (HQ); **Rugby** - Cons

Michael Hall (FSU HQ).

Ski-ing - Cons Robert Hunter (Chelmsford Traffic); **Swimming** - Cons Philip Whitehead (FSU HQ); **Sailing** - DCons Richard Houghton (Southend); **Squash** - Sgt Nigel Cook (Westcliff on Sea).

Tennis - Sgt Stuart Bowman (HQ); **Ten Pin Bowling** - Cons Andrew Skillen (Stanway Traffic); **Walking** - Insp John McCabe (Clacton).

FORCE SPORTS ASSOCIATION ... FORCE SPORTS ASSOCIATION ...

**Force
sport
A.G.M.**

Hat-trick for Essex

CHAMPION AT FIRST TRI!



MIKE KLISKEY with his Tri-Sport trophies. Picture courtesy of the Essex Chronicle.

CHAMPION sportsman Mike Kliskey won the Epping Tri-Sport duathlon at his first attempt, beating some 60 competitors to the title.

The event involves a 14-mile cycle ride sandwiched by two three-mile runs over a tough course at Toot Hill, near Ongar.

Pc Kliskey, a member of the Force's Air Support Unit, won two of the four races in the series to take the overall championship trophy.

The event helped him shape up for the National Police Triathlon in September, where his goal is to go one better than last year and win the title. The gruelling Triathlon event involves swimming, cycling and running.

Pc Kliskey will also be competing for the Force cycling team, which hopes to retain its National Police 25-mile title in the summer.

Essex Police claimed a hat trick of victories in the Portsmouth Shield competition, when they comprehensively won the No. 5 Region indoor games held at Southend on February 21.

Essex were clear winners with 62 points, from runners-up Kent who

LATE NEWS EXTRA

scored 41 points and third-placed City of London with 12 points.

Three years ago Essex had never won the Portsmouth Shield, the trophy awarded to the Regional Indoor Games champions, but the Force's strength in Darts and Table Tennis again proved decisive this year.

The competition saw entrants from all of the region's forces except Surrey, although the number of competitors was disappointing.

The Billiards competition saw defending champion Howard Chandler (Kent) retain his title with a win over Mansell Jones (Beds).

The Snooker competition featured a great display of potting by Neil Broughton (Beds) in beating local entrant Jim Cousins (Essex).

The Darts could have

been retitled the Mo Chaplin (Essex) show when Mo won every event that she could enter.

She started with the Ladies Singles win over Wendy Harmer (City), then the mixed doubles with Jules Chadband (Essex) over Terry Burns and Jill Smith (City), and capped it with the Ladies Doubles when she teamed with Sue Woolard (Essex) to beat Jill Smith and Wendy Harmer (City) in fine style with a checkout of 113.

The Table Tennis had a disappointing entry for lady players which meant Jo Dudley and Hazel Neale (Essex) had a walkover win in the ladies doubles.

Debbie Washer and

Keith Lythgoe (Kent) won the mixed doubles over Jo Dudley and Clive Harding (Essex), and Debbie beat Jo in their ladies final.

Chris Jacob (Essex) the defending national veterans champion won his event, but he was stretched by Roland Stanbridge (Herts).

Chris Jacob and Dave Birkett (Essex) beat Keith Lythgoe and Roger White (Kent) in a good mens doubles final, and then the best match of the day saw Dave Birkett (Essex) win a top spin duel with Keith Lythgoe (Kent).

Congratulations to all the winners who will carry the No. 5 PAA banner into the National Championships at Birmingham in April.

● For details of the Essex Police championships, see page 11.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Force Sports Association was held on January 12.

The management committee for 1993 was elected as follows:

Chairman: Mr Geoffrey Markham, A.C.C. (0).

Secretary: Cons Chris Jacob, Headquarters (Ednet 2718)

Treasurer: Sgt Richard Soward, Southend (Ednet 6202).

Divisional

Representatives:

South: Cons Roy Kebbell, Billericay.

Central: Sgt Peter Layzell, Burnham on Crouch.

North East: Cons John Bolinbroke, Colchester.

South West: DCons Laurence Rampling, Grays.

Headquarters: Mrs Linda Hart, Admin, Headquarters.

North West: Cons Patrick Hanson, Harlow.

South East: Insp Barry Ansell, Southend.

Court out by shower

THANKS TO MARATHON BOYS

FROM Wynne and Lorraine Walters:

Wynne and Lorraine Walters would like to thank the Essex Police Mar-

athon Team for raising a sum in excess of £4,000 for their son Matthew who suffers from Cerebral Palsy.

The monies have been used to send the Walters family to the world famous Peto Institute in Hungary for special therapy for Matthew.

Further treatment was obtained from the special Cardiff Summer School run by the visiting Hungarians.

Lorraine continues to carry out a similar programme which Matthew enjoys at home.

Special thanks to Laurie Rampling of Grays, Ray Burman of Basildon and Alan Barley of Chelmsford for their magnificent fund raising efforts, but not forgetting the whole team, their families, friends and all other sponsors.



LAURIE Rampling (right) hands over the final cheque to Wynne and Lorraine Walters, to help their son Matthew.

This year the Essex Police Marathon Men are hoping to raise even more money to help the Essex Cancer Unit at Southend Hospital.

by Mick Thorp

THIS year's Badminton Championships were held at the Littlehampton Squash & Badminton Club, West Sussex.

They were ably hosted by Sussex Police. The competing forces were Hampshire, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Thames Valley and ourselves.

The venue consisted of three badminton courts, and four squash courts together with a bar. We were well looked after.

Unfortunately because of illness and an accident our team had to be changed at the last minute, so we weren't able to put in our strongest team.

However we did well with two runners up trophies and a third place, Andrea being runner up in the Ladies Singles.

Doug took a runners-up place in the plate event of the mens singles, and Andrea and Alex managed third place in the mixed doubles.

This was after we had to get Alex out of the shower as he was under the impression he had already played his last game.

It was worth it though, it was the best and hardest fought game of the day.

Our veterans were out-classed by strong opposition and failed to get a place owing to the very high standard of players.

A good time was had by all and we came away from Littlehampton feeling we had had a good game.

Hopefully, next year, we can put in stronger team and take Essex to the nationals.

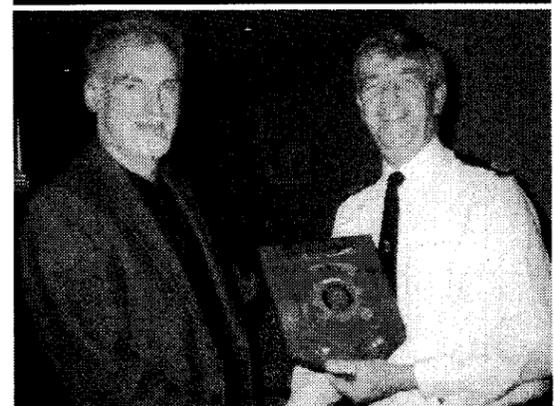
So, all you league players out there, lets put Essex Police on the Badminton map.

Contact Mick Thorp at Rochford Police Station, Ednet 6378.

Perhaps I can arrange some friendly matches with other forces in the future.

Our next match is at Gillingham in the Kent Cup. This will be in March at a date to be fixed.

VETERAN WINS AWARD



ACC Geoff Markham presents Lance Williams with his award.

VETERAN Sportsman Lance Williams from Colchester has won the Force Sports Association's annual award.

Despite having completed 30 years in the job, Lance is still showing a clean pair of heels to some of the youngsters in Force and PAA Cross Country events.

A successful race walker, he has also competed for the Force in snooker, billiards, cricket and pistol shooting over the years.

He will cap what is probably his last year in the Force by running with the Essex Police team in April's London Marathon.

Sgt Williams, who is approaching 50, is also an enthusiastic sportsman outside the Police. He is a member of the Colchester Joggers, and takes part in trail racing events of up to 80 miles in a day.

He said, "I think the award is really for 30 years of Force sport. I'm not brilliant at any, but I turn up for most things and just enjoy participating."

"I enjoy trying to beat the youngsters, that's the good thing, finishing in front of them!"

Sgt Williams received his award from Force Sports Association chairman, ACC Geoff Markham.

THE LAW

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