THE FINANCIAL Secretary to the Treasury, Michael Jack, has written to a former Essex Police officer telling him he will not have to pay a tax bill on his discounted police house.

The letter, sent via Chelmsford MP Simon Burns, was received by Brian Ladd last week, the decision to scrap the idea could save hundreds of other discount buyers from paying thousands of pounds in tax.

Brian Ladd, now a civilan member of staff, wrote to his local MP Simon Burns for help. It followed a letter from Essex Police telling him the Inland Revenue had been enquiring as to who had bought discounted police houses, and that they may be liable to pay tax on the discount received.

Speaking to The Law, Mr Ladd said: “When I received the response from Michael Jack my reaction was one of considerable relief, not just for me but for all in the same boat.”

Mr Ladd could have been liable for a tax bill of up to £7,000 for a police house he bought in 1985, others could have faced bills up to £14,000.

“I did what any citizen has open to them, to write to their local MP, thankfully Simon Burns came up trumps. The indication I got from the Police Federation was that it would be a long and bloody battle - I have some sympathy for them, it is a slow moving process putting things through solicitors.”

The Essex Police Federation has given a cautious welcome to the letter from the Treasury. Assistant Branch Secretary, Terry Worsfold, said: “We have read the letter with interest and sent a copy to our national office for their information. Initially it looks good but we are not waving the flag yet, it could still be a problem.”

DRINKERS who find themselves locked up in a police cell will soon be given the option of receiving treatment with the facility of a referral system.

In what is believed to be the first scheme of its kind in the country, people suffering from drink problems will be supported by specially trained custody officers and offered help to stop drinking.

In a survey held in 1988 over a six month period, 47% of people arrested after committing criminal activities had been drinking. If people can be helped to ease their problem with alcohol it’s hoped the chances of them re-offending will be reduced.

The scheme which officially starts in November, will be run initially in the Rayleigh and Southend divisions. Already 30 custody officers have been given awareness training to understand what causes a person to drink and how to communicate with them and offer support.

Other agencies involved with the referral system include the South East Essex Health Authority and the Alcohol Advisory and Treatment Services (AATS) based in Southend.

Rayleigh Inspector, Phil Saunders, has been working towards the referral system for several years and believes it could lead to a reduction in crime. “I’m not saying that police officers should be counsellors but there is nothing stopping us from identifying the problem, looking at why someone commits crime, alerting people to this and involving agencies who are skilled in dealing with these problems. We have a responsibility for crime prevention and this could be one option so far unexplored.”

Inspector Saunders first thought of the idea when he found himself working with an alcoholic police officer. “Nobody talked to her about the problem, yet everyone talked behind her back, including me, purely because we didn’t understand her problem.”

Mr Saunders sees alcoholism as an “eternal circle” with people continually re-offending because of being under the influence of drink - he now hopes the referral system will break the cycle.

New custody record register forms have been produced which now include an area asking details of any apparent sign of alcohol involvement and whether a referral has been accepted. At this stage people who would like help will have their details passed to AATS - those who turn down the offer will be given literature containing advice and details of agencies which can help and be encouraged to think about self referral at a later time.

By Ian Deal

INSIDE

100th birthday celebrations - see page 8
Tackling dangerous dogs - see page 5
Praised for policing - see page 3

contd on page 3
The key to holiday happiness

Make sure you are properly covered

Brian Pallant.

For holidays in the ECC and travel agents generally have guides for their own use which may give extra information. As far as the actual journey to and from the resort is concerned, the actual itinerary for the trip will be included in the brochure. The frustration of discovering a long and pre-scheduled wait in an airport perhaps overnight cannot be understated in particular for those travelling with young children. Coach travellers have also had some unpleasant surprises after spending several hours sitting in a "leader" coach to a central meeting point only to cover the same stretch of motorway later in the day.

Disaster

The tour operator must make available all the necessary information to prevent the holiday turning into a disaster because passports and visas are not in order. The requirement however only applies to British Citizens so anybody outside this category will need to take individual advice. Holiday health is another important consideration and brochures should detail any particular health requirement for your destination.

You will also need to see at a glance when you have to part with your hard earned cash to pay for the holiday and should also check that the tour operator is offering you some security. This need not necessarily be in the form of the ABTA and ATOL schemes which have become familiar but a requirement now exists for every package holiday operator to take steps to prevent the loss of the consumer's money or the holidaymakers being left high and dry.

Trading Standards Officers are charged with prosecuting offences arising from deficient brochure information and non-compliance with the new standard.

Removal company

A COMPANY called Bishop's Move are at present offering a 10% discount to Federation members.

This company offers a comprehensive service including packing and unpacking, export wrapping crating, valuing and/or storage. For your free quotation telephone Freephone 0800 - 616425.

Weekend breaks

AVAILABLE FROM the Federation office are discount vouchers at a price of £10 each which entitles you to a weekend break at either the Jarvis or Friendly Group of hotels.

The voucher gives you accommodation only in hotels ranging from £38 to £43 for two people for two nights. For information please contact Marilyn Carr on ext 54555.

The Law, August 1995

INSPECTOR Phil Saunders has to be congratulated for his positive stance in tackling the problems caused by drink.

A lot of emphasis these days is put on drugs, but statistics indicate a failure to recognise the seriousness of alcohol abuse and it’s relationship to crime.

People who do drink and break the law often have underlying problems which when the situation is not eased by putting them through the courts only to return to a life of crime to finance their addiction.

The police attitude to such people can be, perhaps understandably, negative. But the training which custody officers are now receiving is beginning to crack the ignorance and stereotyping associated with the local drunk.

Alcohol can be a killer, both mentally and physically, and the current referral system being adopted by Essex Police is surely protection both for the abuser and the rest of the community - only time will tell what impact this will have on reducing crime.

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

Traffic warden Jackie Smith receives the Betts Trophy.

A SOUTHBEND based Traffic Warden has been awarded the trophy for proving more than just dishing out of dozens of parking tickets.

Keen-eyed Jackie Smith, who has been a traffic warden for five years has been responsible for providing useful information which has led to several arrests over the last year.

Jackie said: "I have quite a good memory sometimes recognising faces when I’m on patrol which tally with people who appear on wanted lists. Last year she handed in over a dozen C&L 61 forms, several of which turned up valuable information about local criminals, “love my job, I don’t want to be a police officer but it’s nice when I can help”, she said.

Supt. Joan Eason praised Jackie and said she deserves the award she said, “Jackie, like all our traffic wardens are the eyes and ears of the police and are an added um form presence on our streets. They attend weekly crime meetings and liaise closely with our Local Intelligence Officers, they are very much part of the team.”

Other officers to be awarded trophies this month include: Pte. Neil Green from Canvey Island who bravely rescued a man from the sea last June which gave him the Wilson Trophy.

Inspector Dick Madden and Sergeant Kevin Jacob from Colchester were jointly awarded the Sir Jonathan Peel trophy for their individual contribution to Social Service in the community. And Clacton based officers, Pte. Anthony Adams took the Sir Jonathan Peel trophy for being this year’s highest placed officer in the Sergeants Police Promotion Examination.

V Day commemorated

ESSEX Chief Constable John Burrow is to attend a national ceremony to commemorate VJ Day, marking the end of the war against Japan.

He will be joined by the Chairman of the Police Authority and other officers from Essex Police at the event to be held at Coventry Cathedral on Sunday August 13.
ESSEX Police have won praise from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary for its performance in tackling crime during the past year. A marked fall in the number of crimes recorded, coupled with a detection rate well above the national average amounted to a "most impressive" crime performance.

The annual inspection of Essex Police by Her Majesty's Inspectors took place between March 28 and April 6 this year, and their report was published recently. The inspectors made particular comment on the reduction achieved in the number of house burglaries, and the commitment in Essex to a partnership approach to crime prevention. A 21 per cent decrease in Neighbourhood Watches and the Force's support for CCTV schemes also drew favourable comment.

The inspectors confirmed that, in their professional view, Essex Police continue to remain efficient and effective. Assistant Chief Constable James Dickinson said: "While such comments are pleasing for the members of Essex Police, we recognise that this has been achieved with the partnership and commitment of other agencies and the help of the people of Essex."

Other areas and developments singled out for praise by the inspectors include:

- Traffic priorities and Service Delivery Standards are clearly defined and include the targeting of criminal activity. Performance is closely monitored and especially commendable progress has been made in reducing fatal and serious road accident casualties.
- Much effort has gone into the multi-agency approach to combating drug abuse, particularly in drugs education, together with a structured enforcement policy assisted by an excellent but overworked unit engaged in drug profit confiscation.
- An officer safety strategy, incorporating proactive equipment testing and training, is under development. This and greater access to armed assistance have improved officers' confidence and ability to respond to violent incidents. The major progress in implementing the restructuring of Essex Police during 1994 was recognised and the force was congratulated on the quality of research and thoroughness of planning for the restructuring.

Inspectors commented on the various ambitious projects currently being undertaken by the IT Department, but acknowledged delays that had been experienced due to external reasons. Newly appointed IT manager, Superintendent Ian Brown, said: "There is an enormous commitment from all IT staff to provide an excellent service to customers. We are keeping ahead of the rest of the police forces in the country but acknowledge we have had delays. The first phase of EPICS is due to go live in the Basildon Division later in the year and once fully implemented will be the best quality police computer system in the UK with bang up to date technology."

The report also contained a number of recommendations including, the development of an integrated crime management and crime prevention strategy, the redesigning of the staff appraisal system, and greater emphasis being placed on equal opportunities training - all of which will be appropriately considered.

By Ian Deal

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COOKING UP A TREAT

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"Fifty not out"

A FORMER Clacton sergeant and his wife will be celebrating later this month when they mark their Golden Wedding anniversary.

Eric Chambers and his wife Elsie now live in the west country close to Plymouth, and are very much enjoying life. Eric, who is now a sprightly 80, left the service 25 years ago but still likes to keep in contact with colleagues from his time at Essex Police.

The couple have two married daughters Alison and Lyn who both live in the area.

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"Silly moo"

THE recent hot weather has had its effect on us all, but it's not just human beings who have felt the urge to cool down.

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"Technical term"

OFFICERS were slightly bemused by a description of a man they were given who had been flashing at a woman in the Southend area. The description from the witness read: "He was wearing camouflage trousers and didn't have much of an undergarment!" No doubt he soon took off when he knew the police were on to him.

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"Sisterly love"

A P16-year-old girl lit up the switchboard at Grays when she was spotted pushing a pram beside the A13 at Purfleet. Several concerned motorists rang reporting the girl pushing the pram beside the Southend bound track walking against the traffic. Police raced to the area and eventually found the tot - later it was explained she had rowed with her sister earlier over a Sindy doll and left home. Life goes on!
The Law, August 1995

It takes me back
I JUST had to write to say I do enjoy The Law each month, more so June's as there was a photo of Sir John Nightingale naming a police launch.
I take it back as my husband was one of the first on the Vigilant, and was made sergeant on Vigilant 2. The police wives also had a club called Pronto. Each year we had a dinner-dance and most years Mr Nightingale came. I kept a scrap book of the which I gave to Pc Tarbox's wife.
We all enjoyed the club which was held in Grey's Police Station. I often wonder what they are all doing now.

MRS D. WILTON Watton, Norfolk

A great comfort
ON behalf of my family, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking those serving and retired officers who attended the funeral of my father-in-law, former Detective Constable Run Stripe.
Ron's sudden illness came as a great shock but we were comforted and proud to see so many of his former Southend colleagues present at the funeral.
We were not able to speak to everyone on the day so I would like through The Law to extend the family's appreciation.

DCI STEVE REYNOLDS Southend

Grand send-off
MAY I through your column express my thanks to all friends and colleagues who made my retirement evening a happy and memorable one.
Also for the kindness and generosity of those who contributed towards such a success.

TOM MOORE
Kennington Road, Southend

Cooked up a success
ONCE again it was our pleasure to take part in the annual Fox Day.
As in previous years we sold tea and cakes and I'm pleased to say we raised well over £100.
I would like to say a big thank you to all members of the Mid Essex Branch of IPA, members of the Essex Police Choir and all our friends who so generously donated the cakes and gave so much of their time on the day to make it such a success.

R.W.S. GIGGINS
IPA Social Secretary

Media manipulation should be stopped!
I WRITE in relation to various media programmes both on television and radio which are based on the police service.
Over the past few years our service has been heavily criticised for an assortment of reasons, but notably for the miscarriages of justice where, for no apparent reason, we, the police, have been singled out while others such as the forensic services and Crown Prosecution have virtually escaped unscathed.
The media at the present time seem to revel in producing programmes portraying our service in a totally different light to what I know is reality.
It appears to be terribly unfortunate in that the advisers of these programmes, whether they be ex-officers or people with little knowledge of current legislation or the practices of the service, manage to formulate programmes totally adverse to the current state of affairs.
I do not have to pinpoint certain programmes, but having watched the last series of Prime Suspect, together with repeats of Inspector Morse, it can be seen quite clearly that the people devising and compiling these programmes are portraying a service that may perhaps exist in a Third World country, but certainly not in this country.
I feel that the time has come where we should say enough is enough and someone within the Police Federation should stand up and indicate the farce these programmes are.
We know how the media can manipulate a service, organisation, even a political party for its own ends and at times it is portrayed in the right light. Unfortunately, the main theme, particularly where CID is concerned, is of people with totally no ethics, intelligence or knowledge of the law, aspects which are accepted by the public, rendering us categorised and tarred with the same brush.
Again I feel a strong representation should be made in an attempt to stop their rogue hand and free licence into undermining the service.

DCI KEN WRIGHT
Southend

In response:
I recently met with Trevor Hermes, Sgt of Vigilant 2. We were not able to speak to everyone on the day so I would like through The Law to extend the family's appreciation.

MICHAEL FECKE

R.

No thought for feelings
I WOULD like to raise a point regarding page 10 of the July issue of The Law.
I refer to the piece concerning the presentation of a long service medal to Steve Rombaut by ACC Geoff Markham.
You imply that Steve was reticent to attend the presentation ceremony to collect the medal because he shunned the limelight.
If this is the case, what right do the ACC Marthams of life have to ride roughshod over an officer's feelings?
Presumably on eligibility for the medal, the individual officer is invited not ordered to the ceremony. If the force wish to make a song and dance of the award, why give officers a medal?

MICHAEL HOLLAND
Westbury Road, Southend
Truncheon won’t now be replaced with side-handled baton
Arnold will be safer

ESSEX police officers are to be issued with new style batons as a safer option to the Side Handled Baton trialed recently in Chelmsford.

The decision to ditch the Side Handled Baton (SHB) was made last week after complications arose relating to training and officer safety.

For the past six months, Essex Police officers have been using what are effectively a longer version of the former baton, known as the Arnold baton. This baton has a handle on the head-end and is used for close-quarters work. Officers explain that the Arnold baton is much easier to control and less likely to get stuck in the body of a suspect. It is also less likely to cause injury to the suspect.

The new batons are a more compact and safer option for officers, as they are designed to be less likely to cause injury to the suspect. They are also easier to hold and control, making them a safer option for officers to use.

The new batons are made of a stronger material and are more durable than the previous batons. They are also easier to clean and maintain, which will help to prolong their lifespan.

The new batons are expected to be rolled out to all Essex Police officers over the next few months. The change has been welcomed by officers, who say that they are much easier to use and safer for all involved.

Contact Dick Bloomfield, 0378 609484 for more information.

GONE are the days of shooting mad dogs through letterboxes. New police batons are being used to control pests.

They are the latest in a long line of innovations aimed at keeping the public safe from dangerous dogs.

The new batons are smaller and lighter than their predecessors and are designed to be used by officers who are trained in dog handling.

“We have been using the new batons for a few months now and they are proving to be very effective,” said Superintendent Andy Drane.

“Dogs can be very unpredictable and it is important that officers have the right tools to control them.

“With the new batons, officers can aim for the dog’s head and use the baton to disorientate it, making it easier to control.

“The batons are also much safer for the officers to use, as they are less likely to cause injury to the dog.”

The new batons are made of a strong material and are designed to be as safe as possible for both officers and dogs.

Contact Dick Bloomfield for more information.

The new batons are made of a stronger material and are designed to be as safe as possible for both officers and dogs.

Contact Dick Bloomfield for more information.

### Advertisement

- **Contact Dick Bloomfield for more information.**
Singers Scott Dickens and Michelle Williamson pose for a picture with a proud PC Burrell.

No business showbox

YOUNG up and coming were the guests at this year's showbox event.

PC Ron Burrell, the officer for the Chelmsford and Maldon business to hunt for young students and a group of young people to show off their skills in the arts.

So confident of their skills they helped two students to perform in My Kind Of People, Barrymore's show.

Scott Dickens, from Ruislip, was an attended Midland Counties vocal group and won the Ruislip Talent Show.

Winner of this year's Midland Counties Talent Show, Michelle Williamson, from Westcliff, was one of the many performers to grace the showbox stage.
A
n all time record attendance of 20,000 at this year’s Essex Police Fun Day left organisers David Bright and Dick Madden reeling with exhaustion and delight.

To date the money raised for the nominated charities totals nearly £40,000, a real testament to the hard work and enthusiasm of those involved.

Said David Bright: “I especially want to praise the civilian support which was tremendous.

“We had visitors from as far afield as Kent, Herts and Suffolk, which just goes to prove that Fun Day is a quality event and a great inexpensive day out.”

Once again the weather turned up trumps with temperatures well into the 80s. Visitors cooled down with ice creams and drinks as they enjoyed a real variety of entertainment such as the Glass Police Band, Pilgrims’ Dog Display Team, the Tigers Free Fall Parachute Display Team.

The Essex FM Roadshow with DJ Robbie Dee was a great hit with the younger visitors. Live groups, giveaways and competitions kept the audience rocking.

There was also a huge turnout from the military including a display by the USA Airforce and a roadshow by the Royal Marines.

David Bright added: “It like to think of it primarily as a really family Fun Day with the emphasis on the family. The public who support us not only get our deepest thanks but they can also be assured that their support is a two way thing.

“Who knows, in the future they may need help from some of the charities they helped. We can certainly all be grateful for a very successful and enjoyable day.”

Photos by Les Brand, Nina Stratford and Ian Ellison
A guide through the mortgage maze

IS buying a house more trouble than it's worth? The bewildering array of mortgages on offer from building societies, banks and insurance companies only seems to add to the problem, so the new House Purchase Guide from the Police Mutual is particularly welcome.

It is designed to "get you into your new home without leading you up the garden path".

The House Purchase Guide is just one part of the new mortgage service provided by the PMAS. The PMAS will help evaluate and discuss officer's plans, and advise on which of their panel of lenders can provide the best mortgage.

Exclusive arrangements with leading building societies have been negotiated for Police Mutual members.

The PMAS will also provide the security and protection of the most appropriate insurance policy to cover the mortgage.

Mark Charnock, New Business Manager, said: "The Police Mutual Society is committed to the best service and the best deals for its members. The Society's Mortgage Service provides support for the whole of an officer's house purchase career, whether as a first-time buyer, looking for a retirement home, or anywhere in between."

If you are moving house, or would like a copy of the House Purchase Guide, then contact the PMAS direct.

The Police Mutual Society, an incorporated friendly society regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.

When a dream becomes reality

ISN'T it everyone's dream to turn a hobby into a business, to earn a living doing what you really enjoy?

Retired sergeant Tony Armstrong is half way to achieving that dream. The 56-year-old, who used to be deputy editor of this newspaper, began to take his hobby more seriously during a long period of illness which rendered him unable to work.

Then in June his daughter phoned to say a friend had seen his work and invited him to display it.

Tony explained: "At the time I only had eight pieces available and needed 24. Suffice to say I spent a month burning the candle at both ends."

The exhibition closed at the end of July but Tony has already received some commissions including the possibility of painting a portrait in France.

He said: "It's not often an artist of my standing gets the opportunity to exhibit, especially in London. I would like to become a professional artist so I will continue adapting my work and experimenting with new ideas in the hope that I can achieve this."

In the meantime Tony will continue his work with the Social Services teaching art to people with learning difficulties.
Help to retrieve drug money

WITHIN a complex organisation such as Essex Police it’s difficult to know the workings of every department.

But there are resources available which are often overlooked, and which could benefit both officers and the force.

One such department is Drug Trafficking and Financial Investigation based at headquarters.

With the help of investigating officers, money and assets can be seized from criminals and some of this could be forfeited back into the force.

Dawn Johnson, admin officer in the department, is a prime example of how this can work. Her post is to be financed through this scheme.

The benefits are a result of changes in the Drug Trafficking Offences, Act of 1986. The Government had become fed up with drug dealers serving sentences and then being set free to enjoy the profits they made.

Dr Mark Hughes explained: “If we’ve located the fund we can appeal to the High Court to have the assets frozen. This restraining order can be made on virtually anything including property abroad.”

“For this to work, however, we rely totally on the individual divisions to give us early notification and forward us a completed financial questionnaire.”

The questionnaire asks for arrest information, along with personal details of the suspect. This will include income, property owned, bank accounts and monthly outgoings.

Once the assets have been frozen and the defendant conviction, of a drug trafficking offence (supply or production of), the court will ask the judge to consider the assets.

The Act’s amendment also allows such action up to six years after conviction.

De Hughes: “Obviously the clever ones will make sure there are no assets which can be traced to them, but there are a lot of fools around. It’s just like fingerprints, a lot of criminals still don’t bother with gloves.”

“Most officers are under the misapprehension that we are only interested in the big drug dealers. It’s actually amazing how much is demanded from criminals who most think would be classed as small-time.”

“We are interested in the day to day drug dealers that police come across all the time. We know the questionnaire is additional paperwork, but it is essential.”

Also in this department is Colin Radley who deals with the destruction of chemicals for all the chemists in Essex.

Mentioned, herein or any controlled drugs are dealt with in this way.

Colin also monitors the county’s addicts registration and liaises with the Home Office.

Said Colleague: “My crucial role is procurer monitoring, liaising with all the chemical companies and glassware manufacturers and suppliers.

The idea is that the companies notify me of any suspicious purchases of chemicals and equipment which could be used to produce and supply drugs.”

De Hughes, De Martin Cook, Colin Radley and Dawn Johnson can be contacted on 01245 491491 ext 5232 and 5231.

Donors needed

ARE you aged between 18 and 40, in excellent health and want to do your bit to help others? Then why not consider the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust?

Occupational Health Sister Caroline Anness attempted to round up some donors once before, but the short notice and location of blood tests made the situation difficult.

If, however, you are interested you should register your details with Centrelink at the Police Training Centre’s Occupational Health Department. Once she has assessed the list she will make arrangements.

Other criteria for participating is a weight of no less than eight stone, permanent residency in the UK and not already registered as a bone marrow donor with the National Blood Transfusion Service.

Unfortunately anyone who has in the past or currently suffers from the following medical conditions can not apply: asthma, cancer, diabetes, Hepatitis B or C, HIV exposure, liver Cirrhosis, obesity, rheumatoid heart attack, Chronic Leukaemia, Rheumatic fever, Schizophrenia, Sickle Cell Anaemia or Thalassemia.

From Essex to Hong Kong

EXPERTISE in the subject of video interviewing child witnesses, led an Essex Police officer to visit Hong Kong recently.

HQ Detective Inspector, Dick Madden spent four weeks at the Royal Hong Kong Training Centre educating officers in readiness for new legislation due to come into force in October. The legislation will allow children who have been sexually or physically abused to give their evidence via a video recording and from the safety of their own homes.

A similar system has been in use for several years in the UK and Insp Madden was heavily involved in the training for its introduction nationwide whilst on attachment to the Home Office.

Dick Madden shows the message he sent to the people of Hong Kong. Working together - trusting each other for the welfare of the child.

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All change in Personnel

Kira Penney and Sharon Rockwood both started recently in two of the four newly created personnel sections.

The sections are Employees Resource, Management, Strategic Development Services and Personnel Services.

Kira Penney (ext. 586260) joins as the Employee Services Manager and has responsibility for staff support sections such as Occupational Health, Health, Welfare and Safety, and Employee Relations which encompasses Equal Opportunities.

Kira said: ‘My responsibility is to integrate all the services to provide effective and appropriate support to all staff both in the police and civilians. I am always happy to meet people or speak on the phone.’

Having once been a police officer Kira is no stranger to the complex world of the police service though her last port of call was with the NHS at Addenbrooks Hospital, Cambridge.

Sharon Rockwood (ext. 541111) is the manager of the Resource Department and worked previously as a consultant in human resources, specialising in taking organisations through change.

Sharon has also spent a large part of her career working in personnel sections in the private and public sectors.

As Resource Manager Sharon has responsibilities for police recruitment, planning, and reviewing the efficiency of resources.

‘It’s a fascinating place to work and I’ve enjoyed working in the community and as a Neighbourhood Beat Officer, I’ve been my own boss. But seeing another generation growing up and having children made me realise it’s time to retire,’ she said.

He admits he thought it odd he was not posted to another station but as he was quite happy at Witham he never mentioned the matter.

Dave Jeppson considers himself lucky to have spent all his time based at Witham Police station.

‘It’s a smashing place to work and live. I’ve enjoyed working in the community and as a Neighbourhood Beat Officer, I’ve been my own boss. But seeing another generation growing up and having children made me realise it’s time to retire,’ he said.

Dave joined Essex Police in 1965 after a spell with the army and has covered one of the three Witham NBO beats for the last 15 years. ‘The force has changed over the years but the technology; I remember getting my first personal radio, they are the best thing that ever happened. Before that, all we had was a whistle and a truncheon,’ he said.

Now Dave is looking forward to retiring and spending more time doing what he loves best, gardening. He is responsible for the magnificent display of hanging baskets in the Witham Police Station, which last year won an award, and will still pop by most days to check they are in order.

Kira said: ‘I am looking forward to the challenge at a time of change for the organisation and being able to influence change. I hope the Resource Management Section will be seen as having a professional approach to personnel matters, providing a quality service and using personnel resources in a more efficient and effective way.’

Maynard Cartledge (ext. 54004), heads Personnel Services and Superintendent Denis Sheppard (ext. 54010), continues as Staff Development Manager. John Rhymes remains Head of Personnel.

All explanation of the new Personnel Department structure will be featured in a future edition of The Law.

Green-fingered officers retire

A NEIGHBOURHOOD Beat officer who has been based at the same station for 20 years has retired this month, but will still visit regularly.

PC Dave Jeppson considers himself lucky to have spent all his time based at Witham Police station.

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Tourists triumph

We made it!

THE Essex Police veterans’ cricket section set off on their mini tour of West Midlands playing the Oak in Ash Cricket Club and WMVCC. At Sutton Coldfield our hosts lost the toss. We elected to field first, on what can only be described as a ‘spouting wicket’. With excellent bowling spells from Dave Stock and Alan Golding, the hosts were never going to find it easy. With a little luck and a few ‘waft’ decisions, they managed what appeared to be a fairly respectable total of 166. However, when we batted, we had the fortune of one or two dropped catches, and try hard as the opposition did, the Essex pair of Richard Argles (84) and John Stonehouse (76) were just a little too good for them on the day.

The Sunday saw some glorious sunshine, a huge crowd at Brierley Hill (the Sunday League match across the road) and some Balti or Hindu type background music from a local family. We lost the toss on this occasion and West Midlands opted to bat first. Dave Stock was almost unplayable, whilst everyone else were just a little too good for them on the day.

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THE Maurice Brazier Memorial Games

AT THURROCK
HARRIERS STADIUM
GRAY'S TUESDAY AUGUST 15 COMMENCES 1PM

FORCE ATHLETICS

10 mile cycle

The PAA National Cycle Championship races were held in Birmingham on June 17. A team representing Essex won the event, the team consisting of Mike Klsyke, Graham Snellin and Michael St Leger.

Athletics

The PAA National Athletics Championships were held in Birmingham on July 19 with successes for Essex as follows: Samantha Hart, 100 metres (1); 200 metres (2); 400 metres (2); Susan Harries, long jump (1); John Hartley, 400 metres (1). Wrestling

The PAA National Wrestling Championships will be held at Police Headquarters, Basildon, on November 11. Men are open to all serving male and female officers and civilians who are members of the Force Sports Association.

Family ties

ESSEX police bowlers were out in force during June and July in a variety of matches and competitions. The singles championship took place at the Macclesfield Bowl Club, Chelmsford. The event turned into a family affair with John Taplin against his sister-in-law, Gilly. Alan won this match and played steadily in the final round to reach the final where he came up against his brother Brian. One of the disappointments of the first round was the pairing of two pre-event favourites, John Anderson and John Stewart. In a long hard fought match, John Stewart emerged the victor.

Unfortunately, last year’s title holders, Brian and Alan Taplin were unable to defend their title, owing to Alan’s illness.

Brian entered the competition, this time partnered by his wife Gail. There were drawn against the pre-event favourites, Wally Wheddell and John Anderson. The match finished with a win by the former, despite the chance to hold two titles this year.

The other half of the draw saw Tony Davie and Dave Howard in the final. Wally found himself being forced to fire at every chance. By eight ends the lead was 10-4 and the favourites finally conceded after 15 ends when Dave and Tony had reached an unassailable 18-8 lead.

We all wish Brian Taplin, Dave Howard and Tony Davie good fortune in the regional finals, to be held early August in Hertfordshire.

Hollington Bros

MEMBERS of the sports association are now able to enter thousand of 10 per cent at Hollington Brothers Factory, 73 Church Street, Coggeshall. At the factory they have suits by leading English and European makers, blazers, trousers, silk ties and shoes by Loake.

To take advantage of this offer you need a compliment slip from Chris Jacob.

Choice discount

MEMBERS of the sports association are now able to get a 10 per cent discount at all Choice Discount Stores. At their shops they sell surplus mail order items and have shops at Basildon, Grays, Hadleigh and Wickford.

THE MAURICE BRAZIER MEMORIAL GAMES

19

95

CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE LAW, AUGUST 1995 11
**Coroner wrestles with local stage stars**

CHELMSFORD thespians will be put through their paces when P.C. Derek Sewell gets them into training for their latest production, *Trafford Tonic*.

The coroner's officer who teaches aerobics and is a former wrestler was the ideal candidate for the cast of Chelmsford Theatre Workshops.

The whole of *Trafford Tonic*, a light-hearted musical, takes place in a wrestling ring used as a metaphor for the battle of the sexes.

Derek will be helping the six cast members to get fit and teaching them the wrestling moves required. Derek will be assisted by former English lightweight champion Bob Collins and Braintree's Neil Evans (a former TV Tag Partner to Big Daddy).

**Essential**

It is essential that the cast are fit and able to perform the complex wrestling moves safely in order to keep the action moving.

Louise Weissel, who takes the lead role, will have to learn the majority and Derek and his colleagues say they will make no exceptions for females.

He said: 'They must learn to take the body slams and arm locks as well as the men.'

The show runs from Tuesday, August 22 to Saturday 26 with the first round starting at 7.30pm.

So if anyone wants to see the results of Derek's hard work they should go along to Chelmsford Theatre Workshops' Old Court Theatre in Springfield Road, opposite the prison.

Tickets are £3.50 and can be booked by ringing 01268 532212, ext 40425.

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**LAW SPORT...LAW SPORT...LAW SPORT...LAW SPORT**

**Are you up to taking the ultimate challenge?**

**Essex goes down in 'slateman' history**

COLLIDING with a car during a practice session didn't stop athlete Mike Kliskey defending his title in the Slateman Triathlon, even though he spent three days in and out of hospital.

And Mike may not have completed his hat-trick but came an honourable third, just 1 min 40 secs behind the second placed entrant.

But then Essex always seem to leave their mark at these events. In fact fellow competitor Paul Southern, a former Essex officer, is to go down in Cumbrian history.

The event, the third of its kind takes in 1,000 metre swim in Ullswater, a 38 mile cycle through the Kirkstone Pass and a 12 mile run including Helvellyn.

Having scaled his glass dry as the other cycled enviously by, Paul mounted his trusty two-wheeler to meander down the outside.

Feeling much better he then decided he could make it after all and re-joined the race.

Section Secretary Sgt Peter Bryan, said: "Paul will most certainly go down in Slateman folklore as the competitor who stopped to a pint but still managed to complete in six hours. Especially as he had already broken the course record in the swim with a time of 13 minutes."

The Slateman is open to police officers and certain guests, and the other two entrants for Essex were Paul's wife Angie Scothern, of Brentwood CSB, and Sgt Dave Birkett, from Billericay.

This year saw the biggest entry with over 80 officers and Angie managed to take second place for the ladies. The event was won overall by an officer from Derbyshire.

By for the toughest event, in which you also need to have navigational skills, the team were lucky enough to enjoy the perfect conditions of a cool, dry day with comfortable water temperatures.

The section now looks forward to other competitions including the Police National Triathlon in Guernsey, on August 13, with an Olympic distance. As Peter pointed out: "The event which is driving Mike Slateman mad because it's the only one he hasn't won."

Later in the year Mike again defends his title in the Duoathlon. News and results of these events will be published in *The Law*.

**An invitation to take up arms**

**Football tour kicks off in October**

A FOOTBALL tour to the Isle of Wight has been organised and places need to be booked as soon as possible.

The tour, from October 3 to 5, hopes to take in at least two games against the local opposition on the island.

Costing £50, the tour party will be provided coach, accommodation in a reputable hotel, breakfast and evening meal.

A non-refundable deposit of £30 is required to secure a place and all enquiries should go to Ds Cliff Haines at Basildon Police on 01268 532212, ext 40425.

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