Police pride at quality award

Charter Mark shows that Essex Police is putting the community first

THE awarding of the Charter Mark to Essex Police has been hailed as "a matter of great pride" by the Chief Constable.

Mr John Burrow said the Government hallmark of quality was a personal award to every officer, civilian staff member and special constable in the force.

Assistant Chief Constable (Designate) Jim Dickinson accepted the award on behalf of Essex Police at a ceremony in Westminster on Monday.

Mr Onions says he believes in training senior managers in financial management and empowering them by giving them responsibility for their own budgets.

"Police managers will never have all of the resources that they need to do the job, but at least they can be given the maximum freedom in using the resources that they do have," he added.

"I look forward to becoming an effective member of the chief officers management team and supporting as best as I can the officers and support staff of Essex Police."

Mr Onions will join senior managers at the Annual Planning Conference in Wivenhoe next week, prior to taking up his appointment.

The new post of Director of Finance and Administration for Essex Police takes up his post on December 16.

Mr Philip Onions, an accountant with a Masters degree in Business Administration, is coming to Essex from Northamptonshire Police where he has been Director of Finance and Administration for eight years - the first senior civilian in the force.

Mr Onions grew up in Warwickshire, but is no stranger to Essex - before moving to Northamptonshire he was Deputy Director of Finance and Information for Southend Health Authority.

He stated that he enjoyed working in the police at Northamptonshire, and is pleased to have the opportunity to continue his career in a larger force, and apply some of the learning from the Strategic Command course which he completed at Brize Norton in September.

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"I look forward to becoming an effective member of the chief officers management team and supporting as best as I can the officers and support staff of Essex Police."
**FEDERATION NOTES**

**Monthly subscriptions**

The Joint Central Committee at the statutory meeting on the November 6 agreed to increase subscriptions to the voluntary fund by 8.5% with effect from the January 1. The monthly deduction from salary will therefore be £10.09.

Can I remind members that subscriptions are tax deductible and should be shown when you complete a tax return? Your Branch Board will be drawing the attention of our tax office to the increase.

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**Pay levels checks discontinued**

As a result of an agreement reached at Committee ‘C’ of the Police Negotiating Board on Tuesday, November 19, the pay level checks intended to inform the 1997 pay negotiations have been discontinued with immediate effect.

It has been further agreed that the pay of the federated ranks will continue to be updated by the median of the private sector non-manual pay settlements (total pay). The monthly cost of this cover

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**Good response to loan scheme**

STUART Harvey Insurance Brokers launched a ‘Loansure’ scheme some three months ago for police officers. The take up in the South East forces has been good. Your Joint Branch Board, having been offered the scheme, agreed at its meeting on November 25 to circulate full details.

Who can apply?

You can apply for cover under Loansure if you are:
- a serving police officer under 55 years of age;
- not absent from duty through injury or illness;
- permanently resident in the UK.

How much does it cost?

The monthly cost of this cover is £2.37 per £100 of monthly benefit you select (this includes insurance premium tax at the present rate of 2.5%). Eg for a total monthly benefit of £400, the insurance premium tax at the rate of 2.5% would be £10.00 per month.

When will cover stop?

Your insurance cover and any benefit being paid will cease automatically on any of the following:
- your 65th birthday;
- the date you receive other state retirement benefit or upon your normal (i.e. non-medical) retirement from the police force;
- redemption of your mortgage;
- your death;
- non-payment of premium.

This is a monthly premium scheme and you will have the right to cancel cover at any time, in which case no further premiums will be collected. In the event of the insurers wishing to cancel the insurance or alter the terms of cover, you will receive a minimum of 30 days written notice.

Are there any exclusions?

The cover is wide; the exclusions are:
- any medical or physical condition for which treatment or advice has been sought in the twelve months immediately prior to inception of cover, until completion of a twelve month period without having sought treatment or advice;
- any pre-existing medical condition;
- alcohol or drug abuse;
- willful Self-inflicted bodily injury;
- childbirth, pregnancy, miscarriage, abortion or related complications;
- AIDS related illnesses unless contracted while performing duties as a police officer;
- war and radiation risks.

Redundancy or discipline discharge matters are not covered.

**Customer Service**

Loansure is written under the guidance of certain underwriters at Lloyd’s. The scheme has been arranged by STUART Harvey Insurance Brokers and is administered on behalf of the insurers by CDs Ltd. If you have any queries concerning Loansure, you should in the first instance be addressed to the above and thereafter to STUART Harvey Insurance Brokers.

This represents a summary of the cover. Upon acceptance of your application, you will receive a certificate which provides the full terms and conditions.

**Data Protection Act**

To prevent fraudulent claims insurers share information with each other via a register of claims. A list of participants is available on request.

The information you supply on the claims form, together with the information you have supplied on any application form and any other information relating to the claim may be provided to the register.

Further details and application forms are available from J.B.B., Secretary or direct from Stuart Harvey on 01252 844001.

**RUC Benevolent Fund**

BRIAN Pallant and I had the hono

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**RUC Benevolent Fund**

**By Dave Jones**

when you began to help us to what has been achieved now is an enormou

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**Time running out for award nominations**

OFFICERS wishing to reward members of public for outstanding deeds which have helped maintain law and order have until January 17 to nominate them for a Provincial Police Award.

This year’s award, instituted by the Association of Chief Police Officers to recognise outstanding cases of assistance given to police by the public, will be considered by a selection committee due early 1997.

Successful nominees are awarded a Gold Med for highly meritorious deeds, or a Certificate of Commendation. Recommendations for the award, which also includes a completed ACPO nomination form, a concentrated report and copies of all relevant statements, should be submitted to the General Services Office at Headquarters by 10 January.

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**Long service celebration miles from home**

AN Essex Police detective has been presented with the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal at a special ceremony in the United Kingdom.

Detective Constable Stephen Myall has been on the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda since last January. He is currently the Team Leader of the Investigation Support Unit and is one of only two original members of the Tribunal since its inception.

British ambassador Miss Kaye Oliver presented DC Myall with the medal which marks 22 years of meritorious service, at the British Embassy in Kigali.

DC Myall joined Essex Police in 1973 and has served at Chelmsford, Tiptree, Wickham Bishops and Witham, and is a CID officer at Colchester Harwich and the Essex Intelligence Bureau Headquarters. He also spent 18 months deployment on Operation Trio.

A total of 35 officer and four civilian staff members were present with their Long Service and Good Conduct Med and certificates by Chief Constable Mr J Burton at Headquarter November.

Anna is switched on for safety

TEENAGER Anna Williams will be taking to the ro

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**Good response to loan scheme**

**by Brian Pallant**

It follows that pay will next be updated in accordance with the above index from September 1. The agreement to discontinue the pay levels check was reached following a recognition by both sides that given the complexity and range of the work of the police, it was unlikely that the pay levels check would be completed in time to inform the 1997 pay negotiations as intended. The alternative of severely restricting the time to complete the project was not an option considered to lead to a serious risk of under-mining the integrity of the pay levels check.

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Mrs Black.

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THE number of road accidents in the Essex Police area fell by 5.49% in the 12 months leading up to October 31, and there were 21 fewer road deaths, new figures reveal.

The statistics, which were presented to the Police Authority at a meeting on Monday, show that the total number of accidents during that period was 6,076, compared with 6,249 in the year ending in October 1995 - a decrease of 3.5%.

The total number of casualties was also down by 6.35% - 8,128 compared with 8,679 the previous year, a reduction of 551.

In the year ending 31 October 1996 there were 70 accidents resulting in 73 road deaths, compared with 170 accidents resulting in 94 deaths in the year before.

Traffic flows in the county are on the increase, the public expectation of the road network and the potential for conflict is greater than ever before.

"Demographic trends indicate that in the next few years we will soon see the two highest risk categories of road user increase as we have more elderly drivers and more drivers in the 17 to 25 age group using the roads."

A 5.49% reduction is really a drop in the ocean and little consolation to the 8,128 people who were injured on the roads. We can never ever afford to be complacent."

During 1996, Essex Police conducted two month-long, high profile anti-speeding campaigns. As a result, a total of over 3,700 new speeding tickets were reported or cautioned for exceeding the speed limit.

The force also held its traditional anti-drink-drive campaigns last Christmas and during the summer, and launched its latest seasonal crackdown on drinking and driving on 1 December (see item below).

Bury St Edmunds & Mid Suffolk News

under the limit or under arrest

THE Christmas and New Year campaigns against drink-driving hit the roads of Essex at the weekend (December 1).

The county initiative ties in with the national campaign, which begins on December 18 - a key period for which statistics are produced.

During the same period last year a total of 4,520 drivers were tested with 83 proving positive.

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Research by police heroes

WHEN a teenage girl fell from the fifth floor parapet of a car park, it was only the reflex actions of two police officers which saved the day... and the girl.

The dramatic events took place in Basildon late in the evening on November 23, when someone went into the police station to report a young girl sitting on a ledge on the top floor of Great Oaks multi-storey car park.

Without even stopping to grab their jackets constables Rachael Hornsby and Keith Nicholls ran across the road and began talking to the girl who was balanced on a tiny ridge on the outside of the railings.

After about one-and-a-half hours of negotiations in freezing conditions, the teenager fell from the parapet. With instant reaction Rachael and Keith grabbed the girl’s arms through the railings and hung on to her taking the full weight of the teenager.

They managed to put up an urgent assistance call and within minutes three other officers joined the duo, clinging on to the girl’s clothing as she dangled over 50ft above the ground.

It was at least 10 minutes before fire crews were able to reach them from below and lower the girl to safety. Seeing the job through Rachael and Keith went to the hospital where they stayed with the girl until 3am.

Keith told The Law: "We didn’t really have time to think what we were doing. We were just clinging on to her for dear life and luckily were able to stop her falling."
We can be trusted with guns

Ban will make no difference

I AM surprised that I have seen nothing in The Law about the proposed banning of handguns.

There must be a fair number of police officers who are holders of handguns and who are members of gun clubs.

I'm just interested to know what their views are. How does Essex Police Federation stand? Has there been a survey among our ranks? Is there going to be one - even though it's probably a bit too late?

My son has been a permit holder for 12 years, he has gone to great lengths to make sure his firearms are secure, including alarms and several safe-like cabinets in different locations in his home.

Being a law abiding citizen and very polite, he feels, at this present time he is being punished for something that has nothing to do with him on his sport, and let down by the system. He has progressed in his sport to such a degree that he is well known in national shooting competitions having represented his club many times both in national and international competitions in this country and abroad with considerable expense to himself.

Where is it going to stop - fireworks, school buses, far-right rides. I know I'm exaggerating, but having legally held handguns will make no difference when it comes to people like Michael Ryan or Thomas Hamilton.

Note an article to read is "Targeting?" in the Police Review, June 7 issue, pages 19 and 20.

Police shouldn't go private

WE are worried that the police along with other public sector workers are standing above ordinary citizens by encouraging private medical practice, much of which is done in NHS premises.

There is no doubt that the NHS strategy of the present Government is so designed to encourage private medical treatment.

It is estimated that only 20 per cent of citizens can afford private medical cover and it is said that insurance premiums would soar if it was not for the NHS.

Private medical cover is just a way of jumping the queue for the use of the nation's medical resources. Public paid workers should not be seen to be encouraging the trend.

Eric Naylor

More letters on P11

Send your news and views to The Law, Police Headquarters, P0 Box 2, Chelmsford, CM2 6DA.

Dave Brooks Scenes of Crime

The Law, December 1996
Points from the past

LAST YEAR...

The Law, together with the world’s media, followed the stories of both drugs victim Leah Betts and the triple murder at Rettendon.

Lirene Sergeant Martin Piper overcame his lifelong fear of horses and took to the saddle for charity raising over £4,000.

TEN YEARS AGO...

Kelvedon Sergeant Julian Dawson was appointed as one of the county’s new Wildlife Liaison Officers.

Chelmsford traffic officer Andy Butler was back on duty after coming 75th in the Lombard RAC Rally.

TEN YEARS AGO...

The 100th Neighbourhood Watch Group in Essex was formed at Canelwood.

Supt Mike Benning handed over a cheque for £24,097.23 to Children in Need following a run from John O’Groats to Lands End.

FIVE YEARS AGO...

There was concern over a Local Government Bill which proposed to abolish the Neighbourhood Watch Group in Essex was formed at Canewdon.

There were 350 traffic officers on the roads.

The Department of Transport’s Traffic Department has never been more important. There were 750 Traffic Officers in Essex. Though this is only a small fraction of the total 40,000 in the country, it is enough to make us aware of the importance of traffic control.

Essex Police for their continued support.

IT is said that the older you get the faster time goes by. That certainly seems to be the case when I find that we are already back at Christmas time and that yet another year is coming to an end.

For me, the highlight of the past year was without doubt my election in June as Chairman of the Police Authority. To become head of one of the Essex Police family was indeed an honour and I shall, for so long as I may remain in that post, do my best to justify that election.

On matters of the vital importance, it has been a very active period for Essex Police. The year opened in the aftermath of the high profile Rettendon murders, continued with the launching of a highly successful anti-drugs roadshow and the equally praiseworthy success in defusing the hijack at Stansted Airport in August, and culminated in the award of the Charter Mark for excellence in the delivery of customer service.

Off duty officers were successful both on county teams as members of national teams in several fields, not least in athletics, shooting and swimming in the sporting arena and also as first aiders, whilst many hours were spent raising money for charity at events as the London Marathon, many village fetes and not least our own Fun Day.

For these and many other successful operations, the people of Essex have had good reason to be grateful.

Positive haulage scheme wins national praise

Essex Police has been praised for its positive approach to dealing with HGV operators. And now an officer and a civilian have received commendations for their work over the past year, with other police forces keen to learn the Essex system.

Pc Iain McKinnon, of Brentwood Traffic and Linda Farrell, of Laindon Traffic, continue to keep a close eye on any one applying to be an operator to ensure that unqualified or unscrupulous haulage contractors aren’t let loose on public roads.

In fact, Essex has been responsible for 49 per cent of the total national objections.

The annual report of the Department of Transport’s Traffic Commissioners (Goods) confirmed that Essex Police objected to 24 applications in 1995/96.

It said: “Although formal objections reflect only one aspect of police interest, they have proved to be an invaluable aid in the enforcement battle and I commend the Essex Police for their continued interest and support.

“It has taken only two determined and dedicated individuals to achieve an impact out of all proportion to their numbers.”

Objections

Despite the results Linda, the force HGV Traffic Information Officer, and Iain, a Field Information Officer, stress: “We are not in the number game, trying to get a certain number of objections lodged with the Commissioner. Neither are we looking to persecute people, we’re looking to help them.

“The system simply sets any problems in the bad and ensures that any cowboys out there know we are on the watch.”

One of the problems faced by the Commissioner is that he can get access to court records but only if he knows previous convictions exist. Therefore those with driving convictions could slip through the net if they lie on their application forms.

Linda, however, has found a way to combat this complication with the introduction to Essex Police of the T172 form.

With any court case involving a HGV or PCV, a T172 must go on the file. When the court hearing is complete the form is filled in with the result and sent back to Linda who can then use the information to ensure applicants do not defraud the system.

As well as the new forms the duo have created a Vehicle Defect Ratification for HGVs. It ensures that vehicles found to have minor defects such as a broken light or tachograph have to be fixed within 21 days to avoid prosecution.

Civilian trainers Jan Oliver and Rose Lewis.

TWO civilians have become the first in Essex Police qualified to train probationary police officers.

Historically it has been other police officers who have carried out the training of new recruits, although civilians have played a key part in the development of staff.

But now Jan Oliver and Rose Lewis will take on a lot of the work alongside their uniform colleagues.

Having completed the nationally recognised 12 week course at Harrogate attended by all police trainers they are now putting their tuition into practise and are confident they will be accepted by the probationers.

Rose explained: “Once you are trained to be a trainer there is no reason why you can’t work up on any subject and then deliver it. There’s no reason why they shouldn’t accept us.”

And Supt Peter Durr, of the Training Centre, is just as optimistic: “I have every confidence that they will be a real asset in their new role.

“The practical aspects of policing will still be dealt with by police trainers. The skills within civilian trainers those of knowledge, procedure and dealing with people.”

Essex is the only county force with more than one civilian trainer. In fact early next year Essex will have three.

Investing in vests

The purchase of about 275 extra sets of overt body armour is set to go ahead to provide extra supplies for patrol officers on division.

A number of companies will be submitting tenders for evaluation on December 10 before a final decision at this month’s Policy Group.

The vests, which will be to PSDB standard, will be distributed around the divisions, enabling an officer to use the additional protection whenever he or she wishes.

Federation Chairman, Sgt Dave Jones, said: “The Federation policy on body armour remains personal issue for operational police officers. This is an important step in the right direction.”

Seasons greetings

FOR most people, their lasting memory of Essex Police this year will be the peaceful end to the Stansted hijack.

There is no doubt that the skillful handling of such a difficult operation is a tribute to all the staff and officers involved.

But behind the headlines, it must not be forgotten that for the people involved, this was just part of the job - a job which is done with dedication 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

This is why the awarding of the Charter Mark, the sign of excellence in service to the community, is a tribute to Essex Police.

It recognises the work which goes on behind the scenes to ensure the police meet the needs of the community. This is work which will never make the headlines like the hijack, but forms the backbone of our service to the public.

Indeed, our involvement in partnerships with other organisations is growing in importance - take the Essex County Drugs Action Team for example. Their 2 Smart 4 Drugs roadshows will have reached 25,000 young people aged between 11 and 13 by the end of the year.

Again, there are partnerships which have a lower profile but are equally important. Our Neighbourhood Watch volunteers, for instance, provide an invaluable service.

To end 1996 with the Charter Mark is an honour. But it is also an incentive for us to aim even higher throughout 1997.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a happy, and peaceful, Christmas. And as 1996 draws to an end, I wish you well for the New Year.

Chief Constable John Burrow

The Law, December 1996
Dennis tests the water

FOLLOWING the launch of his latest expe-
dition, Chelmsford’s Chief Inspector Dennis
Renshaw, has seen for himself the difficulties
facing the team who hope to become the first
ever to cross the Amazon against the flow of
the river.

Dennis has recently returned from a recon-
naissance trip to South America where he met
with senior Peruvian officials and experi-
enced first-hand 500km of the route along the
river.

The expedition has been warmly welcomed
by the authorities in Peru - the northern
Andes is a region currently unchartered and
the Expedition is working to attract tourists
to the area.

They are working very closely with Dennis
and the team to provide them with any assis-
tance they may need in both the planning and
the actual expedition which takes place next
September.

Starting in Lima, the recce team moved
into the jungle region of Peru before taking to
the water. Accompanied by armed police
officers, Dennis and Expedition Co-ordinator
John Anthony (Metropolitan Police) travelled
500km west along the River Amazon in two
days.

This journey alone took them 400km fur-
ther west than any power boat has ever trav-
elled.

Dennis said: “My over-riding impression of
the area is its remoteness. It’s made me
realise how important it is that we have a
comprehensive knowledge of the Amazon area.

The team began detailed training over the
next few months - they’ll be learning jungle,
river and mountain tactics.

Sponsor a fairy light

A 35ft tall tree in Chelmsford will sparkle
with thousands of lights in memory of loved
ones this Christmas.

Farleigh Hospice, in Chelmsford, is ask-
ing people to sponsor lights on the tree, which
will stand in the town centre between 7
December and 6 January. The name of the
person they wish to remember will be
entered into a Book of Remembrance and a
special memorial card will be given to the sponsor
as a keepsake.

Anyone wanting further information
about the Christmas “Light up a Life”
appeal can contact the hospice on (01245)
358130.

I SHALL be pleased to hear from any of my classmates who are still around and any other of my colleagues who served with me at Braintree (1934-36). Hornchurch
Umpinner, Collier Row and Romford (1936-42).

I left to join the RAF in June 1942 and was posted
to Canada for training as a pilot. On obtaining my wings
at Carberry, Manitoba, I was granted my commission
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at Carberry, Manitoba, I was granted my commission

In the fall of 1994 I was posted to an OTU
(Operational Training Unit) at Comox, BC, for Long
Range Transport Training. There we went from training
aircraft to expeditions and on to the DC3 (Dakota), did a lot of long trips out over the Pacific
and of course more instrumental flying on the beam.

On arrival back in the UK in January 1945 we were
greeted by the ‘buzz bombs’ and found ourselves posted
To Transport Close Support which involved supply
dropping, paratroopng and glide towing. Then a few
of us who had been instructors were sent to the Glider
Pick-Up Unit in Bletch, Hares, where we learned to
literally snatch gliders off the deck.

We would take one over to an area where wounded
personnel were waiting to be evacuated and cast the
glider off.

As you’ll appreciate, this was much more exciting than ‘parachuting the ba’ it was in fact, a whole
different world.

But all this training was to come to an end when we
were posted to operations in the Far East. My last day
of embarkation leave was VE Day. Then reported
to Swindon and on our way to the mysterious East via the
Mid-Egypt, Persia (now Iraq) and Karachi.

Three weeks in Karachi to get us acclimatised to the
heat, smells, diets and a whole new way of life with its
vast populations, different religions and extreme povery.

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vast populations, different religions and extreme povery.
A THREE month campaign to remind users of Stansted Airport not to leave their baggage unattended at any time began in July with a visit from a Welsh Guard from Warrington Barracks.

The Lance Sergeant swapped his role outside Buckingham Palace for a patrol round the airport, port terminal and aircraft for the day, giving customers and staff alike a visual reminder to "guard their bags".

The Be Alert - Guard Suitcases campaign is the result of work being done by a very active Crime Prevention panel named AWACS - Airport Working Against Crime - Stansted, who are in partnership with the Stansted Airport Police. The aim of the campaign is to remind travellers to look after their own belongings and therefore reduce the risk of theft of a security alert. AWACS chose the Guardian for their logo as an easily recognisable and respected police identity, which is internationally identifiable.

There is not a major problem with theft of bags from the airport, but the public should be made aware of the possibility and obviously in light of terrorist threat should not leave their bags unattended at any time. Although the Welsh Guard was only on duty for one day, giving local television and newspapers a photo opportunity, posters and cardboard cut-outs of guards were on display in the terminal, advertising the campaign for a week. Also, local airport police officers were on hand to give out stickers and to advise passengers personally throughout the campaign. The campaign continued throughout July, August and September with Ralph Coaches allowing large window stickers of the AWACS logo to be displayed in the Long Stay Car Park and in the showrooms while transporting passengers to and from the car park.

Passengers and staff appeared to support the campaign, even if some of our overseas visitors were a little surprised to see a sight usually reserved for the Royal Mall, with a group of primary schoolchildren completing a school project at the airport allowed to talk to the Guardian and wear his bearskin as an extra treat for the day.

Disability forum

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Disability forum

EXCE Police has joined the Employers Forum on Disability, which provides advice and information about disability issues.

The forum helps its members make contact with specialist resources and allows employers to share good practice.

In joining the organisation, Essex Police is furthering its commitment to equal opportunities for people with disabilities.

Anyone wanting further information should contact the Employee Services Section at Headquarters on ext. 58622.

THE last remaining former Essex County Constabulary officer who transferred to the Metropolitan Police in 1965 retires next month after 40 years in the service.

Detective Superintendent Ken Andrews, currently based at 3 Area (North East) Headquarters in Edmonton, is one of 140 officers who decided to join the newly formed Metropolitan Force.

Mr Andrews, who was serving as DC 408 at Romford when the "changeover" happened, has since served all over the East End and Central London and at New Scotland Yard in operational roles.

He was awarded the Queen's Police Medal in 1992, and was a founder member of the Metropolitan Police's Intelligence and Surveillance Unit. He has also travelled to the United States and worked with the FBI in apprehending a suspect.

Mr Andrews was proud of it, saying that it was the "Met Machine" it was moving east and we were part of it. The unsettling days of wonder and decision making were a thing of the past. It was time to learn new ways and, as always, "get on with the job."

"As a county police officer they learnt to be pedantic and thorough. Detailed statements were taken for all crimes that were reported and you could always rely on the accuracy of good records going back for some ten years. After 14 days a detailed Crime Report was submitted. Not so for the "Met" - no statements unless you were going to court, a few lines in the crime book were considered adequate and as for records, in many instances, it was a case of "if you can locate the officer who dealt with the case - well, he might remember!"

"In summary, one could say that if you wanted a job done well then you would give it to the County man. If you wanted the same job done quickly then you would give it to the Met man."

"In my experience, the County man never did lose his identity as being an "Essex officer" - and I was glad because I was always proud of it."

Mr Andrews will retire on 26 January next year, and says he is not looking forward to retirement. "I would much rather continue to be a police officer - it has been a good career, I have, at this time, no specific plans. I shall keep my options open - but I could be responsive to a "good offer", he added.
Minding your copper coppers

Everyone counts

FOR many years, whenever a member of the civilian support staff asked about taking out a PMAS policy, they were put off. However, when a police officer asked whether his or her adult children could join the Society, again the answer had to be no.

But since the decision to admit support staff and adult children in mid-1996 they have been joining in ever increasing numbers. Police officers have long known that the Police Mutual represents one of the great benefits of being an officer, and now the civilian colleagues (on a par for more than 12 months) are joining in.

Initially they are able to take out one endorsement based savings plan each year for up to £5 per week, to take out a Top-up Pension Plan, to use the Pension Monitoring Service (PMS). So the PMAS can now be said to be open to the wider police 'family'.

On special request, the PMAS Force Authorised Officer in Essex Police welcomes the changes and says: 'Now that civilian support staff are actually employed by the force, with many of them building a career within the police service, it is logical for them to be able to join the PMAS.'

If you want to get into the habit of taking out a new PMAS Endowment Savings Plan each year, or if you are interested in a Top-up Pension Plan or the Mortgage Service, then speak to your local Authorised Officer or contact the Society directly. Remember, the Police Mutual exists solely for your benefit.

They can be contacted on FREEPOST, Lichfield, Staffs WS13 8BR. Tel: 01543 414141.

Police Mutual Assurance Society Limited is an independent and wholly owned subsidiary of the Personal Investment Authority.

TWO Essex Neighbourhood Watch volunteers have been awarded with certificates for excellent work at the organisation’s third national conference in Birmingham.

Reg Smith from Harlow, who is also a special constable, and Mike Atley, from Black Notley, Neighbourhood Watch near Braintree, were honoured by Home Secretary Michael Howard, who presented the General Accident NHW medals and certificates.

The event entitled “Connecting the Present with the Future”, was attended by 800 invited delegates drawn from the 157,000 schemes across Britain. In a keynote speech, Mr Howard paid tribute to volunteers and said Britain was at the cutting edge and recognised as a world leader in crime prevention.

Chief Inspector Brian Mead, who presented the General Accident NHW medals and certificates, said: “Everyone counts –> "protecting your hands and arms"

Protecting your hands

1. You should wash your hands thoroughly after handling any item with a rough surface.
2. Use a reconditioning hand cream at the end of each shift.
3. People whose job keeps them outdoors for a significant part of their time at work, get more sun on their skin than is wise. Keep covered up – skin can burn easily.
4. Protecting your skin – short term effects from harmful substances that can be breathed into the body, include nosebleeds, coughing, sneezing and shortness of breath. Long term exposure can lead to chronic disabling problems like silicosis, lung damage or occupational asthma. Make sure:
   - Wear protective clothing (particularly local exhaust ventilation) are working properly and report any defects immediately if needed.
   - If your work exposes you to any hazards, wear protective clothing that is provided and take care of it.
   - You wear the respiratory protection that is provided and take care of it.
   - If work seems to be part of the problem, possible factors could be inappropriate work practices, personal hygiene, social factors, or breathing problems. If you think you are suffering from:
     - Try and work out what is causing it.
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A plan to create a comprehensive strategy for Neighbourhood Watch was revealed at the national conference. The 10 points are:

1. To provide a national strategy for police involvement in Neighbourhood Watch which promotes a clearer understanding of what Police and Neighbourhood Watch should expect from each other.
2. To develop a project which will demonstrate the potential for Neighbourhood Watch to help the police to combat victimisation.
3. To provide Police Service view-point on the role of crime prevention in operational training.
4. To produce a National Directory of contacts and good practice.
5. To provide clear guidance and leadership which encourages the formation of Local Neighbourhood Associations.
6. To resolve data protection issues which hinder effective communication between police and Neighbourhood Watch.
7. To provide an overview of current Neighbourhood Watch training and procedures.
8. To ask the Home Secretary to develop the Crime Prevention College’s role in the training of Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators.
9. To provide a national strategy for Neighbourhood Watch, together with project plans for conferences and best practice guidelines.
10. To provide Police Service view-point on the role of crime prevention in operational training.

Community Safety Strategy which reflects the commitment of key parties to Neighbourhood Watch.

Ten point action plan

- ESSEX from the air is featured in two books being sold via the Essex Police Air Support Unit for charity.
- Ideal Christmas presents, Spy In The Sky and The Beauty of Flight, both by Edward Clack, are being sold at £4.95 each and are described as “a photographic adventure over Essex from the air is featured in two books being sold via the Essex Police Air Support Unit for charity. Further details are available from Pc Mike Kliskey at ASU, on 01245 431564. Cheques payable to The Air Support Unit.

Tips for sensible safety in the workplace

EVERYONE has a legal duty to uphold certain standards of health, safety and welfare.

The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 is designed to make work healthier and safer than ever before and together we can help make the difference between a safe work environment and a hazardous one.

How can you help yourself?

The most common forms of work-related illness are musculo-skeletal disorders, any danger to personal control or discretion over your work; lack of support; or poor relationships with colleagues or your supervisors.

Talk over any problems with someone you trust.

Try to identify ways of getting rid of or reducing some of the causes.

If they seem work-related discuss them with your boss.

Reduce tension by finding out what helps you to relax and make time to do that every day.

Changes in your health

These can range from the normal signs of aging, like deteriorating eyesight, to the after effects of serious illness or accident. Whatever the change you may need to make adjustments at work.

Discuss your needs with your supervisor; this can reduce anxiety on both sides, and talk over the possible adjustments that might be made.

Contact the Occupational Health Department for help and advice.

Negative attitudes and bad habits set the stage for accidents. You can help reduce threats to your safety and health by avoiding them. Health and Safety is important, so let’s all help make a difference.

For further advice and information contact the Occupational Health Department or the Safety Adviser.
Victims of crime have their say

The latest in a regular series of surveys are being sent to victims of crime across the county to assess their thoughts on the service provided by Essex Police. This is the third set of surveys sent out by Management Support Department Headquarters to obtain useful feedback and meet the requirements of the Audit Commission's Performance Indicators. Questionnaires have been sent to victims of violent crime and domestic burglary and ask for opinions on police, perceived attitudes of officers and overall service.

Drivers of vehicles carrying animals for trade or business purposes must be in possession of a transportation certificate. (Issue 4696).

Quizzed for charity

Off duty Pc foils till snatch

PROBATIONER Jane Gladding was looking forward to her first week of leave - but ended up chasing two thieves who snatched the tickets from an Ipswich service station.

Jane, based at Harwich Police Station, was filling up petrol at the A140 Road station when she noticed two youths acting suspiciously, one, inside the shop and the other outside.

As she watched, the youth inside the shop grabbed the counter and ran off with the bag. As the pair ran off, Jane gave chase, following them to the corner where they spilt up.

"I chased the one with the cash box up a side street around some flats. There was no one around. He dropped the cash box and, as he was bending over to pick it up, I cuffed him, hit him with my knee, turned him over, and grabbed the cash box.

"I must have looked quite ferocious because he took one look at me and ran off. I picked up the cash box and called the police.

"Jane, who joined Essex Police at the end of April, was enjoying her first week of leave when she was suddenly called into action.

"She added: "I was looking forward to a break and I ended up back in a police station!"

Smoke out burglars

An Essex security company is promoting an innovative device which is designed to literally smoke out burglars.

The Smokecloak, supported by Essex Police’s Community Safety department, fills a room with harmless smoke in seconds, making it impossible to steal.

Former Essex Police sergeant Nigel Harbour, who runs The Goals Security Plc, based in Southend, is promoting the device in the county.
I.P.A.

A tasty evening out

During mid October a few members, wives and friends assembled at the HQs. Sports and Social Club for a wine tasting evening with cheese and biscuits.

Each member brought along a bottle of wine and all members of identity were restored from the bottles. The bottles were numbered, then we had to taste the wine, give its country of origin, type of wine, name and year. Not many answers were correct as the wines were from different European countries and also Australia. There were some even homemade wines.

It was a laugh and something different, everyone enjoyed the evening.

On Friday 15th November at the Sports and Social Club we had a good gathering of members, wives and friends to listen to a talk by Inspector Mike Walker from the Chelmsford Hillsports and Social Club and all mod cons, on £70 per week.

Contact Craig Bailey on 01245 256545, Constable Paul Taylor on 01245 256437, or at Ellesmere Port Police Station on 01245 610315.

CHESHIRE Constabulary Hillsports and Hikers: they are downing the g.galet again with their popular Frostbite race.

This year, there are over 400 entries with their popular Frostbite race. There were even some home made wines. The course is hard and strenuous but the prizes are worth it. There are about 8 vacancies left.

The next I.P.A. function is on Friday 13th December at the Sports and Social Club and all mod cons, on £70 per week.

Fred Dyson

Take up a frosty challenge

BELLING electric hot plate with grill, suitable for bedsit, new condition, £100. Bodby's, Basingstoke.

CORNWALL Polystyrene chair, sleeps 4/5, all mod cons, on pleasant site with heated indoor and outdoor pools. Club and all facilities included, £70 to £230 per week. Contact Craig Bailey on 01279 653570 or 01279 832837.

ELECTRIC riser, recliner, top quality bargain at £495. Cotswold Gardens, Solarglo, fast rings, guaranteed as new, half price, £50. Contact Mr S Sanders on 01244 361982.

COUNTRY Electric hot plate, grill, suitable for bedsit, new condition, £100. Bodby's, Basingstoke.

SOUTHEND on the spot

SENIOR police officers in Southend will be put “on the spot” at the next Police and Community Consultative Group meeting in the town. For the first time, the audience – which includes both invited guests and the public – will be able to take part directly in the meeting. Essex FM DJ Peter Stewart will be amongst the audience with a microphone taking questions for the panel.

The meeting offers an open invitation to all Southend residents to come and put their questions and views to the officers. Essex Police would particularly welcome young people to come along and have their say.

Southend’s Divisional Commander Superintendent Mike Renning, Superintendent Paul Stanley, Detective Chief Inspector Steve Reynolds and Chief Inspector SU Harrison will be attending.

The meeting starts a 7.30pm on Thursday 5th December at the Council Chamber, Southend Civic Centre.

Drugs role continues as Dave retires

Nearly 32 years as a police officer Dave Perry has found a role he finds very rewarding - the organisation and running of Teenage Drug Prevention Summer Camps for youngsters, a role he intends to continue when he retires shortly.

One letter from a grateful parent really said it all. “Not only is my son happier, more caring and more helpful as a result of his positive attitude, but he has made great improvements in overcoming his dyslexia. This makes our life easier and is a great boost to the well-being of the whole family. Our sincere thanks to you and your team and may your project flourish.”

And Dave, from Eastwood, already has another camp planned for the registered charity in Easter.

With a career which began in 1963 as a cadet serving in Chelmsford, Dave served six years in Grays, moving on to the Marine Section at Tilbury, then Special Branch, before as a uniform sergeant at Brentwood.

A period at the Training Centre was followed by a promotion and a shift back to Grays as an inspector. It was in 1990 Dave was appointed the drugs Prevention and Education Coordinator for Essex Police - not an easy title to fit on a door!

This post Dave describes as a “green field site” but making contact with education and health authorities meant that when the Government White Paper - Tackling Drugs Together came out in 1995 the infrastructure was already in place to set up the Drugs Reference Groups and the Drugs Action Team.

Over the last six years Dave has helped develop strategies which have seen the education of youngsters about the dangers of drugs move forward in leaps and bounds. There are, however, other exciting initiatives in the pipeline, including the Basildon Community Safety Partnership, but he feels it is time to move on and let someone with new ideas develop the role and add a new dimension to the projects.

One of the greatest advancements he feels is the targeting of parents. Previously parents were not prepared to talk to their children about drugs. Now the reluctance to learn has been replaced with an acceptance and the children are happy to talk. Dave says that the death of Leah Betts has highlighted to parents that ordinary kids take drugs and now there is more willingness for parents to listen. Dave says the message should start even at primary school level.

Dave undertook a two year release course to obtain a Certificate in Education and with these skills he takes the message to young people that they must learn to “respect themselves, to realise what a magnificent machine their body is and learn how to look after it properly”. He also teaches the importance of self esteem and putting value in young people “so they will value themselves”.

Dave has clearly proved his own value to Essex Police, recognised in the New Year’s Honours list last year when he received the Queen’s Police Medal for his work.

So what are Dave’s plans following his retirement? Apart from continuing with the Teenage camps which involves both his wife Elaine and family, he hopes to undertake consultancy work in the drugs education field. He also plans to give more time to St John Ambulance where he is the County Staff Officer.

Essex Police Choir invites you to

A Concert for Christmas Sunday, December 15 at 3pm in the Assembly Hall, Police Headquarters

Tickets from choir members or 01245 452211

Dave Perry
Memories of the good old days

As the saying is I am well past my sell by date and now we don’t see a policeman on the street these days as all crime seems to be committed at night, so I would like to tell you a couple of stories of the 1920’s.

My wife died a year ago and I got taken out shopping twice a week by Crossroads Care. The lady who takes care of my daughter from our forces here so I pass on your paper to her.

My family had a husband’s business with town and country round so we knew a lot of farmers when I first got a gun of my own.

The local police were always on the beat, in those days they knew our parents and we knew them. We had a PC Bell who would always shout to us “It’s cow (cable) today young Cowell” and walk on. When he had gone a good distance he would shout “It’s raining boys” Bill then a few days later he would pop out of a doorway, or narrow lane, grab us by the scruff of the neck and drag us all the way to the market square, it was all fun really.

Summer school holidays were spent fishing in a rowing boat, you had to dig them when the tide was out and visitors didn’t have to knock for it so we dug for them and got a few coppers for it.

Another police story was when my cousins came over on holiday. We were going shooting and got up at 5.30 am to have a cup of tea and snack, as we crossed the square the local PC said “you are a bit early young Cowell”, I looked up at the clock, it was 5.57 am.

The law in those days made it legal to carry a gun before 8am. He said “where are going” I said “Crosby Farm in Brude (4 miles) Mr Skinner’s place”. He said “you have a long way to go, so on your way and good luck. I joined the R.A.F in 1939 and in December 1944 was sent to St Albans South Wales for training one day. We had to attend the cinema for a VIP’s visit. There was three rows in from the staircase, the VIP pushed his way to me, shook my hand saying “If you’re not at the top of your game you’re not in the game”. He was a Lord but I don’t think he knew where the Isle of Man was.

L.D. Cowell

Eastwood

Great comfort to my family

I was very interested in your article in your last issue by Dave Rose who recalled his life as a young Constable in Essex.

My family association with the Essex Constabulary dates back to 1968, when I joined the force and was stationed at Southend before it even thought of becoming a borough. I did not come on to the force in 1920 by which time we lived at Kelvedon where my father was the detached heat constable. We then moved to Plipgh Corner, Romford, and ultimately to Nazeing where my father retired in 1939 as a sergeant.

In the same month I started my personal association with the force by becoming a Junior Civilian Clerk at Romford Police Station. Junior Civilian Clerks were the forerunners of the Cadet Scheme and performed office boy duties with the object of joining the force properly when they reached the required age of 2.

My impression of the old Romford Police Station is quite different to that as inferred by Dave Rose’s article of the Singlemen’s Quarters when they were occupied by young officers some of whom went on to become very senior officers in the post war force. The Division was commanded by the very senior officers in the post war force. The Division was commanded by the Assistant Chief Constable, Captain Wilding from Grays, the very best, and Peter the trophy for best over 13 yards.

I was not sure whether you improved so that come the Course. This performance meant that you do that time on the drill of the top six on the course there would be a Royal Marine and a very smart soldier and that is how you are giving your orders. Even the tough guys of the Special Constable Drill Sergeant cracked and at the conclusion of the parade he halted us and told us what Mr. Shenstone found hilarious incidents during which he used to that sort of thing.

We had our Autumn Meeting on the night, so I would like to tell you a parents and we knew them. We had to dig them when the tide was out a good distance we would shout Another police story was when my cousin called from Suffolk called a Large cheerful character who attended my husband Jack’s funeral is at peace we who are left have many happy memories of stories of the 1920’s. A Pc Bell who would always shout to us “It’s cow (cable) today young Cowell” and walk on. When he had gone a good distance he would shout “It’s raining boys” Bill then a few days later he would pop out of a doorway, or narrow lane, grab us by the scruff of the neck and drag us all the way to the market square, it was all fun really.

Thank you for the lovely flowers. I am sorry I did not answer you all as you know Jack had his wish and we were “singing in the rain”.

Thank you once again. Clarice Porter and family

AS the 1996 Golfing season comes to an end the Police and Essex Golf Society has gone from strength to strength.

We had our Autumn Meeting on Monday 23rd September at Bassett Wood Golf Club, we had 47 players. Dave Austin won the day with a very good score of 71, with Alan Eastwood obtaining an excellent score of 71, with Alan Bennett coming second with the same score. Dave Wilding (the old boys) kept up the pressure with Peter Baxter winning with 41. Alan Bennett did it again in the following week scoring with 40 points amid the usual cries of ‘bandit’. Well, not for long can he wear his battledress as he will have his handicap cut for next year.

At the end of September, Nigel Glenn won through to the National Final of the ‘999 Classic Emergency Services’ competition which was held at the prestigious Forest of Arden course in the Midlands. He played well in the morning round, coming in second, but was unable to sustain his form in the afternoon, although he still finished well up in the top ten.

Then to climax this year, Essex playeed on the Channel Islands for the Annual Guernsey Police Open Championship. Our team was Ps Martin Padmore, Graham Ainslow, Glynne (Rayleigh) Culp, DI Laurie Austin (RQ Culp), and Dr Peter Bower (Oxford). Essex had never previously won here, but the usual cold northern weather obviously suited our players on this very difficult course at the Royal Guernsey Golf Club at L’Anseaux Bay. This is a traditional links course, with lots of very senior officers in the post war force. The Division was commanded by the very senior officers in the post war force. The Division was commanded by the Assistant Chief Constable, Captain Wilding from Grays, the very best, and Peter the trophy for best over 13 yards.

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Eastwood

LAW SPORT LAW SPORT LAW SPORT LAW SPORT LAW SPORT

An excellent end to the season

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heather, gorse, sand and uneven fairways right alongside the English Channel. The team all played exceptionally well with the top honours going to the English Police (the European Police Championships in June, and the National Finals of the British Police Team Championships in September, and we wish our 1997 Captain, De Jan Cowell, and our whole team good fortune. New members are always welcome, so please give Mark Dwyer a ring for details. Happy golfing for 1997.

Nick Padmore
Football squad on a winning streak
The tide has turned

Essex Police 5, Avon & Somerset 2
National PAA

The strongest men's hockey side ever fielded by Essex took on Avon and Somerset in the fourth round of the National PAA competition. Played at Chelmer Park in Chelmsford on a bitterly cold day, I suspect that Avon and Somerset were regretting travelling so far to such a bleak reception. Expectations, however, exceeded achievements for the first 15 minutes and Avon and Somerset scored two goals to put Essex in trouble very early. At this point it looked like a miracle would be required to win the game but we settled for a penalty flick when a purposeful run by Matt Brooking was ended with a scything obstruction. Mark Shaw screamed the ball into the top left corner of the goal and we were back in the game and it was at this point that a transformation took place.

I am sure if the abuse from the sideline, or the encouragement of Mark's goal was the catalyst but suddenly a hockey side was born. Flowing play, one touch passing, and some delightful stick skills from the forwards soon reaped another goal to level the game by half time. An inspired half time talk and an energy drink and the trend continued into the second half. Within minutes it was 3-2 to Essex. A tide of attacks from Essex kept Avon and Somerset pinned into their 25 yard area and a superb individual goal from Mark Potter made it 4-2.

The onslaught continued and for the last 10 minutes Avon and Somerset were doing a damage limitation exercise. The value of practice was illustrated before the match ended when a previously rehearsed short corner saw Matt Brooking punch a hole in the backboard with one of the best goals I have seen scored from a short corner.

A fantastic result when you consider that Avon and Somerset were the runners-up in the competition two years ago and knocked us out in the zone final last year. The win means that Essex have now reached the zone finals of the competition for three years running and my thanks go to everyone, especially those that turned up and gave moral support (and abuse). Special hugs and kisses go to Kate Crye for the lovely food and a big cheer from the men's team to the ladies' team for reaching the quarter finals of their competition.

If there are any other un/types of skills out there and you would like to start playing for the force get in touch.

Geordie Tyson
Essex 2, Crabane 5
(Mens)

Essex didn't do quite so well up against Crabane. But to give them their due they were picking nine players against 11.

Essex 2, West Mercia 0
(Ladies nationals)

The ladies did well to beat West Mercia in the National PAA taking them into the quarter finals. They will now take on either Norfolk or Merseyside.

One point defeat

Five officers from the squad team travelled to Sussex to represent Essex at the Region 5 team squash weekend. Eight forces were represented and the standard throughout each team was very high. The competition consisted of each team playing each other at all five standard games.

Each game fortunately consisted of only the best of three sets and not the normal five. Some sides had been able to take more than a five man team and this proved to be an advantage as towards the end of the second day the Matt Brooking punch a hole in the backboard with one of the best goals I have seen scored from a short corner.

At the end of the tournament Essex were runners-up for the second year running, losing by just one point to Kent. Out of 33 matches only seven were lost. Congratulations to Jason Fisk, Adrian Bunting, Dave Murray, Malcolm Johnson and Alex Yowles. If anyone is interested in representing the force at squash, contact Adrian Bunting at Laindon Traffic.