

# The Law

including Essex Police Magazine



**Police heroes -  
pages 3, 8 and 9  
Letters -  
pages 4 and 11  
Health tips -  
page 8**

The Newspaper of the Essex Police

December 1996

No 278



● Mr Philip Onions.

## Mr Onions takes up new post

THE new 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 Bramshill in September.

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 has been created following the announcement of Assistant Chief Constable Jim Conlan's impending retirement at the end of March next year. However, there will be no change to the duties of Assistant Chief Constables until April 1.

# 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.

Ellen Collen from MSD, who compiled the

**By Alyson Mountney**

winning application, and Superintendent Graham Dossett also represented the force at the prestigious event.

The awarding of the Charter Mark means Essex Police has shown that it puts the community first. To qualify, the force had to meet nine criteria based on standards, courtesy and helpfulness, information and openness, value for money, consultation and choice.

Many police initiatives, showing how the force is addressing the needs of its varied community, were highlighted in the application.

These included Essex Police Service Delivery Standards, which reflect the value placed on quality of service, and outline priorities for tackling crime, keeping the peace, dealing with traffic accidents, and offering help, advice or assistance.

Innovative schemes which have been introduced into the force also helped to win the award for Essex Police. One example was PC Ted, a sponsored teddy bear which is given to children who have been traumatised by road accidents or other terrifying incidents.

Since the idea was first introduced by PC Gordon Harvey at Kelvedon in 1992, it has spread throughout Britain and as far afield as South Africa.

Community Safety initiatives, such as Truckwatch, and the involvement of Essex Police in the formation of the Essex County Drugs Action Team, were also highlighted in the application.

Projects highlighted by the Charter Mark assessor included a scheme to use money confiscated from drug dealers to finance the fight against drugs, and the force museum, which was described as "splendid".

Out of almost 740 organisations which applied for the award this year, around 500 were visited by an assessor. There are 320 winners altogether.

Essex Police will hold the Charter Mark for three years, and will have to show it is reaching even higher standards to renew it.

Commenting on the award, Mr Burrow said: "It is an award which is to all the officers and staff of Essex Police and the way in which, through their efforts, we have served the community - this is reflected in the Charter Mark being given to Essex Police."



Assistant Chief Constable Jim Dickinson and Ellen Collen of MSD celebrate with Jason Brobson, aged two, and four-year-old Joshua Wilson, not forgetting PC Ted. Photo by Susan Brazzill.

## FEDERATION NOTES . . . FEDERATION NOTES . . .

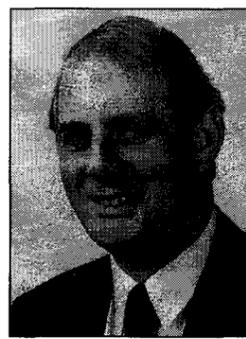
## Monthly subscriptions

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 from

January 1 will therefore be £10.09.

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



● By Brian Pallant

## Pay level 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 uprated by the median of the private sector non-manual pay settlements (total pay).

It follows that pay will next be uprated 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 federated ranks, including the unique conditions relating to 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 seen as an option as this could lead to a serious risk of undermining the integrity of the pay levels check.

## 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 premium would be 4 x 2.37 = £9.48 per month.

## When will cover stop?

Your insurance cover and any benefit being paid will cease automatically upon the earliest of the following:

- your 65th birthday;
- the date you receive either 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;

- application of any discipline procedure;
- alcohol or drug abuse;
- wilful 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 underwritten by certain underwriters at Lloyd's. The scheme has been arranged by Stuart Harvey Insurance Brokers and is administered on behalf of the insurers by CDIS Ltd. If you have any queries concerning Loansure, they should in the first instance be addressed 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 available from J.B.B., Secretary or direct from Stuart Harvey on 01252 844001.

## Mileage allowance tax code

The tax element re mileage allowance for casual users ended with the changes to allowances paid from April 1. One of our members has recently contacted the Inland Revenue to have his tax code changed. Your Joint Branch Board have contacted the Finance Department to have the matter resolved en bloc, however members affected should pay

particular attention to their tax codes.

## Subsistence/refreshment claims

There has been some movement over the past few weeks with discussions between solicitors, however, the matter is still scheduled for oral evidence at the Judicial Review hearing on December 18.

## RUC Benevolent Fund

By Dave Jones

BRIAN Pallant and I had the honour of representing the Essex Police Federation as guests of the Royal Ulster Constabulary Benevolent Fund at their 25th Anniversary Dinner. The address to the guests was given by their Secretary Richard Walker and the following is an extract from that address which goes to show just how much your support is appreciated.

"There is, of course, absolutely nothing to celebrate in the pain and suffering inflicted on the RUC and its families during the last 25 years of barbarity.

There is, however, an opportunity to celebrate the outstanding achievements and friendships of so many in support of RUC officers.

Here tonight are those involved in those achievements and the face of that friendship encompassing everything that is good in the police service, from individual efforts to professional assistance, from the smallest force to the largest, all supporting those that we do our best to represent.

The greatest support manifests itself from within police forces in Great Britain and abroad. From the smallest to the biggest, and all shades in between, the provision of financial assistance, for holidays paid for by subscription or fund raising during our most difficult days has been of great comfort and help to so many.

From the modest beginnings of

when you began to help us to what has been achieved now is an enormous credit to you and your members. It is probably something you may never totally understand, the value of what you have brought to so many since 1971 can never be overstated by us. This dinner is a modest attempt by us to show our heartfelt thanks.

The police service is a family. We in the RUC are proud to be part of that family. We are pleased that representatives of the staff associations from across the United Kingdom could be here tonight. Your valued support at national level, be it through the Federation, Superintendents Association or ACPO cannot be undervalued. It is always a source of pride to us to be welcomed to your conferences and meetings and by that welcome to be reassured of your support.

There is also a group of people here tonight without whom this night would not even have happened. They are those people who had the vision to establish the Fund. With them are committee members from over the years who have helped to turn that vision into a tangible reality. On behalf of the RUC I thank you all."

But we also have to look to the future.

It is never too late to become a subscriber to the R.U.C. Benevolent Fund. Details and an application form can be obtained from the Federation Office through Mrs Irene Black.

## Anna is switched on for safety

TEENAGER Anna Williams will be taking to the road style after winning first prize in a draw organised by Essex Police.

The 15-year-old, from Rayleigh, took part in the competition as part of a road and cycle safety awareness campaign during school half-term.

The prize, a top-of-the-range Raleigh bike, was presented by Ray Smith of the Cycle and Toy Centre, 100 High Street, Chelmsford. Runners-up received gifts of cycle lights provided by Halfords of Rayleigh.

It was at Halfords that the original campaign was launched in conjunction with Rochford District Council.

Youngsters from the area spent time learning about aspects about biking and road safety and were able to have their bikes security stamped.



● Ray Smith presents Anna with her prize bike

## Time running out for award nominations

OFFICERS wishing to reward members of the public for outstanding deeds which have helped maintain law and order have until January 10 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 during early 1997.

Successful nominees are awarded a Gold Medal for highly meritorious deeds, or a Certificate of Commendation.

Recommendations for the award, which should include a completed ACPO nomination form, a comprehensive report and copies of all relevant statements, should be submitted to the General Services Officer at Headquarters by 10 January.

## 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 Rwanda.

Detective Constable Stephen Myall has been on attachment to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda since last year. 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 his 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 as a CID



● Dc Stephen Myall

officer at Colchester Harwich and the Forensic Intelligence Bureau Headquarters. He has spent 18 months on Operational Detachment.

A total of 35 officers and four civilian staff members were presented with their Long Service and Good Conduct Medals and certificates by the Chief Constable, Mr John Burrow, at Headquarters on November 10.

MAY I, on behalf of Terry Spelman, Mick Englefield, Dave Jones, Irene Black, Marilyn Carr and Lucy Wheddon in the Federation Office, wish you all a very happy Christmas and best wishes for a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

## Offbeat

IT SEEMED that Christmas had come early for officers in Billericay who were faced with an apparent immaculate conception.

For constables answering a call from a "frightened lady in agony" found a 63-year-old-woman who claimed to be pregnant.

However, the woman turned out to be a regular caller who took the opportunity to complain about the quality of her doctor.

● **MAYBE** it's because of the cold weather, but officers have been called to deal with numerous animals which have set up home in the strangest of places.

A squatter squirrel in search of warmth ran into an elderly man's home in Leigh - and wedged itself behind a radiator out of the reach of police.

Meanwhile, a white ferret was quite happy living in a car in Hadleigh, near Rayleigh, and reached a supply of straw and water by crawling into the boot through holes where speakers had been removed.

A feather-brained cat in Tilbury brought home a large crow, which terrified the life out of its owner - a Mrs Bird.

And the strangest place of all... a donkey was found tied to the sign at the front of Pitsea police station.

● **STILL** on the theme of our furry friends, two officers from Basildon were outwitted by a little fox cub which turned out, on closer inspection, to be a Yorkshire Terrier - a cunning disguise.

This brush with wildlife inspired PC Grant to put pen to paper:

**BU01 contained two cops**

**Out and about upon their beat**

**When they came across a fox**

**An interesting little treat**

**With care befitting Essex best**

**They took the little cub**

**To Rayleigh - for its rest**

**And now my friend, here comes the rub**

**Our two quick bobbies on the job**

**Must have jarred their mental cog**

**Because the tiny, cute fox cub...**

**Was in truth a little dog**

**An easy error for them to make**

**And a difficult one to follow**

**But, listener, for goodness sake,**

**THIS ONE WORE A COLLAR!**

● Call them occupational hazards, but police officers often find that embarrassing situations are part of their everyday duties. So spare a thought for: Two officers who climbed through an insecure window while investigating a burglar alarm at business premises in Rochford - only to get stuck inside the building... Or six Hertfordshire CID officers carrying out a search in Basildon - who were reported to police for breaking in by a keen eyed member of the public.

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 6,429 in the year ending in October 1995 - a decrease of 353.

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 90 accidents resulting in 94 deaths the year before.

## Fall in road deaths

Superintendent Des McGarr, head of traffic, welcomed the figures but warned they were not an excuse for drivers to become complacent.

"Whilst I'm pleased with the positive trend, I'm always worried about statistics and what they may conceal," he said.

"Traffic flows in the county are on the increase, the public expectation of the road network increases, 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 more than 20,000 drivers 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 crack-down on drinking and driving on 1 December (see item below).

# Rooftop rescue 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 street.

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."

Rachael added: "It was only afterwards that the shock began to sink in. Our hands were numb with the cold and yet we were somehow able to hang on to her."

Chief Inspector Alan Hurley has personally passed on his "warmest congratulations" to the officers for "an outstanding piece of police work".

The late night drama was, in fact, the second Saturday night running that

**By Kim White**

Rachael had been involved in a life or death situation.

Called to a domestic situation the previous week, Rachael gave mouth to mouth resuscitation to a woman and managed to bring her round. The woman unfortunately died later in hospital.

A man has since been charged with her murder.



● Constables Keith Nicholls and Rachael Hornsby in the car park where they made their heroic rescue. *Photo by Dc Debbie Jarvis.*

## Campaign cuts car crime

VEHICLE theft has dropped by 10 per cent in Thurrock following an initiative known as Operation Cascade.

The campaign also concentrated on damage to vehicles, a figure which fell from 60 to 42 when comparing October's figures to those in August.

Unfortunately, during the same period, thefts from vehicles increased from 102 to 129, but it is felt that some of this increase can be attributed to arrested criminals admitting to previously unsolved crimes.

Detective Chief Inspector Dave Westoby said: "This is an excellent result, a great deal of effort has been put into planning and executing this operation and it is beginning to pay off. We have worked on intelligence from many sources, including the 74 people arrested during the operation and, of course, the people within the community of Thurrock who are always supportive of our operations."

A similar operation is planned for this month, billed as Silent Night.

## Under the limit or under arrest

THE Christmas and New Year campaign 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 4,526 drivers were tested with 83 proving positive.

This result was a significant improvement on previous years, but Essex is still working hard to send the message home.

Launching this year's campaign, Chief Inspector Roger Anderson said: "We are determined to stamp out the menace of the drink driver. These people should ask themselves whether they want to be under the limit or under arrest."

Harlow Division will carry out their own initiative visiting pubs in a traffic car to advise on the perils of drink-driving.

## Positive response to survey

WINNERS of *The Law* survey grand draw were Tilbury constable Alex Vowles and Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Mr George, from Rayne, Braintree. Gift tokens will be with them in time for Christmas.

The editors of *The Law* would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took the trouble to complete and return the surveys - 532 all told.

It was comforting to see that the majority feel *The Law* is already an interesting and informative means of communication for Essex Police. All comments have been taken on board and the statistics are being analysed.

The new look newspaper along with more detailed findings will be with you in due course.

## Trained to use CS spray

ESSEX Police is a step closer to taking CS Spray on board with five officers now accredited trainers.

The Chief Constable, however, wants to make sure the spray has been evaluated to his satisfaction before making a final decision.

A demonstration was held last month and Mr Burrow is currently studying the findings of Touche Deloitte, the consultants appointed by the Home Office for the national trials of which Essex were not a part.

A number of other forces are now using the spray and the Essex Officer Safety Group is unanimous in its support for its introduction.

The group's only concern is over its storage. Covered by Section 5 of the

Firearms Act, with each cannister bearing a serial number, adequate security would be essential and possibly costly.

The cost of supplying the cannisters has already been estimated. To provide 2,011 operational officers with one can and holster, and to dispose of the used cannister, would cost in the region of £28,858.

However, each cannister has a guaranteed shelf life of five years and, during the national trials across 14 forces only 500 cannisters were used.

Federation Chairman Sgt Dave Jones, said: "We understand the Chief Constable's slight reservation but continue to urge that this spray is issued to all operational police officers at the earliest opportunity."

L  
A  
W

# Letters

## No anonymity

PLEASE note that the policy of *The Law* is not to publish letters sent in anonymously. However if any reader wishes his or her name to be withheld, the editors will honour the request using the words 'name and address supplied' in the publication.

This reminder is in the light of two letters received last month from an anonymous author regarding traffic related paperwork.

Kim White  
Editor

## Nobody dared cross Cyril

WHEN I read David Rose's latest article in the November *Law* the name of the 'infamous' Cyril Howland jumped out at me - much as he used to do most days in the front office. No probationer in his right mind would deliberately set out to upset Cyril, but sometimes you couldn't help it.

I was on Romford Market on late turn on Christmas Eve 1959 - cold, blowing a gale and just getting dark. I

knew there were some cars without lights in the side street at the top of the market, but I turned a blind eye, seeing as it was Christmas, and confined my activities to the market itself.

The Chief Inspector, Norman Cressy, decided he wanted some fresh air and met me outside the church. Of course we 'discovered' the unlit cars and he blew up. He was so incensed he had his pipe in his mouth before he remem-

bered he was in public. "I want tickets on all of them," he said and stomped off back to the nick.

I'd just put the last of about 24 T30s out, moaning to myself about all the 22s and statements I'd have to type out, when it hit me that Cyril was in the front office. I crept in for my break, but I couldn't avoid him for ever. He caught me on the stairs and delivered his opinion on probationers who went berserk with T30's that landed up in front of him. "I couldn't help it, Cyril," I protested, "Mr Cressy made me do it." "Oh he did, did he?" growled Cyril, and stalked off to the Chief Inspector's office. However, Norman, nobody's fool, had quietly sloped off home without telling Cyril.

I only saw Cyril move fast once - half-way through a night shift, leaning back in his chair with his feet on the switchboard, he threw a match over his shoulder into the waste bin - which just happened to be full of teleprinter carbon. The ensuing flames and thick smoke had him out of his chair like a cork out of a bottle. After all the fuss died down, the nearest probationer got the blame for not emptying the bin. I think Jack Draper and Bob Degavino were probably the only two who ever dared to wind Cyril up.

David mentioned Eric Fretton. His favourite trick was to bawl at the new recruits in an attempt to make us laugh - then go through us like a dose of salts when we did. We soon learned to keep our faces straight. I met him many times at Romford when I was on the Dog Section, and a whole book could be devoted to his, shall we say, rather unorthodox way of working.

Memories are all very well, but the trouble with all this nostalgia is that it makes us feel old! Come to think of it, we are!

Dave Brooks  
Scenes of Crime

Tom Morrison

## Thank you all

THE family of retired police officer Peter Farrow would like to extend their thanks to all those who attended his recent funeral. In particular the tributes paid to him by DCI Dick Madden in the eulogy he presented.

We would also like to thank DCI Madden and some of his colleagues for all the help and support extended to us at this sad time.

Thank you for all your donations towards the Multiple Sclerosis Charity. We are sure that this will be greatly appreciated by local sufferers of this awful disease.

Joan and Pam Farrow



I WOULD like to say a really big thank you to my friends and colleagues who contributed to the lovely gifts I received on my recent retirement.

I was somewhat overwhelmed at my farewell party and farewell speeches 'went out of the window'.

Now I would like to say goodbye to all the fine civilian staff I have worked with and those colleagues in the police service who made my 31 years of service so pleasurable.

Joan Sage  
Ex -WPS



EVELYN Reid, Rodney, Carol and Gordon wish to thank you all for your letters of condolence, floral tributes at the funeral of Angus Reid.

Also Force Welfare Officer, Bob Coxon, serving police officers and retired police officers who attended the service, held at St Mary's and St Hughes Church, Old Harlow.

In loving memory of Angus (Jock) and his love of children it has, so far, been possible to send £330.70 to The Gurney Fund for Police Orphans.

Evelyn Reid.

# 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 that his firearms are secure, including alarms and several safe-like cabinets in different locations in his home.

Being a law abiding citizen and very pro-police, 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, fairground 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.

Pc Carter  
Colchester

## 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 medicine, 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, PO Box 2, Chelmsford, CM2 6DA.

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

### FIVE 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 1000th Neighbourhood Watch Group in Essex was formed at Canewdon.

- 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.

### TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO...

- The first three surplus police houses were offered for sale, including a four bedroomed detached home for £6,000.
- There was concern over a Local Government Bill which proposed transferring Colchester and Tendring to Suffolk Police.



● Chief Constable John Burrow

# 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, continually keep a close eye on anyone 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 nips any problems in the bud and ensures that any cowboys out there know we are about."

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 T127 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.

## 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 skilful 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.

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 branch 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 more 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 in such 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.



● Police Authority Chairman, Cllr Anthony Peel

On behalf of the Authority, I would thank all of you who work with Essex Police, in any capacity, for all that you have done in the past year and wish you and all readers of *The Law*, together with your families, a joyous Christmas, and a trouble-free one if you are on duty over the holiday. I hope this is followed by a happy and successful year in 1997.

For our part, the Authority look forward in 1997 to the arrival of the second helicopter and joint operations with Cambridgeshire, the opening of a new station at Clacton and the operation of the Force Information Room with yet wider use of EPICS, amongst other things.

## Civilians to train uniformed recruits



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 swot 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 of 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 a personal issue to all operational police officers. This is an important step in the right direction."

## Dennis tests the water

FOLLOWING the launch of his latest expedition, Chelmsford's Chief Inspector Dennis Rensch, 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 reconnaissance trip to South America where he met with senior Peruvian officials and experienced 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 Government is working to attract tourists to the area.

They are working very closely with Dennis and the team to provide them with any assistance 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 further west than any power boat has ever travelled. At night the team had to clear a stretch of jungle before setting up camp - with mosquito nets proving the most valuable piece of kit!

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 begin 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 asking 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 specially designed Christmas 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 Upminster, Collier Row and Romford (1936-42).

I left to join the RAF in January 1942 and was posted to Canada for training as a pilot. On obtaining my wings at Carberry, Manitoba, I was granted my commission and was advised that I had been selected for training as a flying instructor at Vulcan, Alberta.

After an eight week course I was posted to Moose Jaw, Sask, to be part of the staff training would-be pilots on the twin-engine Oxfords. Moose Jaw turned out to be a good station - the town had about 25,000 population - and has held the record for the most flying hours of any of the training schools across Canada.

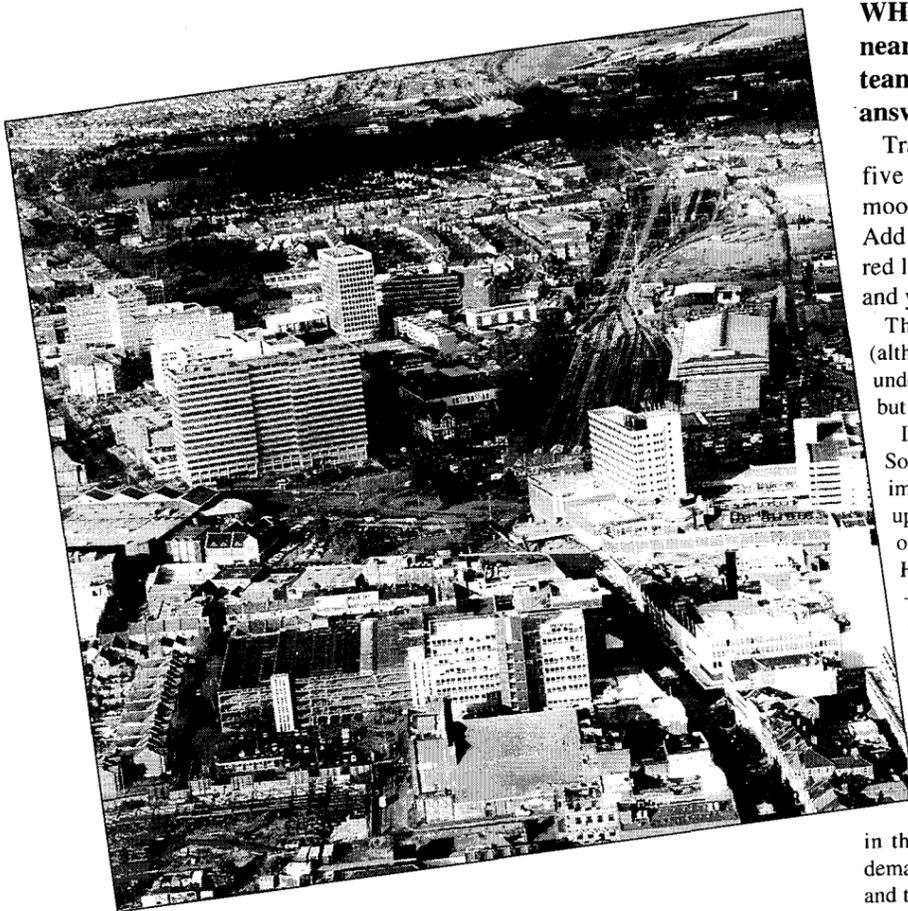
While at Moose Jaw I was selected to take the Standard Beam Approach course at Deseronto, Ontario, as Moose Jaw was designated to have the equipment on which to train pilots.

This was a very good course on which instrument flying was a prime necessity - it certainly makes a fellow feel pretty good when you are under the hood and the instructor allows you to put the aircraft on the deck such as make a landing on instruments alone.

I had not been back in Moose Jaw for long after this when I was posted back to the flying instructors school in Alberta to start training instructors.

No 2 Flying Instructors School at Pearce, Alberta, was a great posting. All the staff there had to be on their toes to ensure that their pupils (instructors to be) would be able to maintain the levels required by the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan.

# It's not size that



## Southend Division might be small but the seaside resort is brimming with activities

WHICH Essex division covers just 16,000 acres but nearly 55,000 incidents last year? Which Division team together with various events and attractions answer is Southend, writes Ruth Collin.

Traditionally a seaside resort, the Division also boasts five railway stations, an airport, two thousand boat moorings and one of the county's premiere theatres. Add a military base, a smattering of demonstrations, a red light area and nearly five hundred licensed premises and you've got a unique policing challenge.

The Division has an establishment of 320 officers (although it's currently running below strength at 306) to undertake not only the day to day duties every area faces, but also up to eighty other special events a year.

In order to meet the policing needs of the Division, Southend Command Team is constantly looking at ways to improve the service. In a recent study, it was revealed that up to half of Southend's crime happens in one small area of the town. The H11C beat - which incorporates the High Street, Marine Parade, Queensway and the seafront - is the venue for 60% of Southend's violent crime, 42% of its burglary and 49% of auto crime.

To counter this disproportionate level of crime a new Town Beat Section is being trialed. Incorporating the work of the former High Street Unit, the TBS has also taken on responsibility for a wider range of crime across a larger area. Southend's Crime Manager, DCI Steve Reynolds said: "We felt that by taking action in this area we would have a noticeable effect on crime in the Division. In the TBS we're matching resources to demands; extra officers have been bought in to police the area and those officers are concentrating on the hours in which the crime is committed - for example a 7pm - 3am shift".

The Section - which started duties on 1st September - is nearing the end of its trial period. There are three main aims of the section:

- To provide high visibility policing;
- To identify and target particular crimes and criminals;
- To tackle public order and nuisance.

Officers in the section are working closely with business and traders in the High Street and seafront areas. The new CCTV system in the town centre is also having a marked effect on the policing of the beat. A radio link has been established between the stores, the CCTV control room and the TBS officers who are working closely together to clean up the area. Strong working relationships have been developed between officers and shops; Pcs are training shopkeepers to use the radios effectively, store detectives are providing vital information and the section produces a regular newsletter to keep businesses advised of developments.

In the first month, the section dealt with over 110 prisoners for various offences. There was 44% less auto crime than in the previous month, criminal damage was down by a third

## Plea to trace class of June 193

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 up 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, paratrooping and glider towing. Then a few of us who had been instructors were sent to the Glider Pick-Up Unit in Ibslet, Hants, 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 'patrolling the beat' 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 Med, 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 pover-

ty. Thence across India - by Flying Boat - to Calcutta, which has to be seen to be believed.

Within a couple of days we made our way by train and steamer to Comilla, HQ of the Far East Transport Command where my crew and I were picked up by an aircraft from No 31 Squadron, then located at Ramree Island, south of Akyab and our station for the next few weeks.

We would do three sorties one day and have the next one off. The first flight wasn't too bad, a lot of rain, such that anywhere else you'd roll over in bed and say to yourself "no flying today" but there it became normal.

At the end of July 1945 I was asked to take charge of a detachment from the Squadron at Tilda, near Nagpur, in the Central Provinces of India. I had to report to a certain Wing Commander in New Delhi where I learned that our Squadron was slated to lead the attack on Singapore and Bangkok with Paratroopers.

I had just returned to Tilda when we heard of two big bombs dropped on Japan and that it had brought about the end of the war. We could hardly believe it was over after nearly six years of turmoil.

The Canadian crews in our Squadron were posted back to the UK. We went on to Rangoon where the Squadron reformed and then flew to Singapore. Here our duties consisted of ferrying in supplies and bringing

Dutch internees and Japanese officers back

Then we were posted to Batavia as the getting restless. We lost more of our Batavia AFTER the war than we lost on op

There were bombings, shootings and a group of young communists known as whose warcry was Merdeka - freedom - rule, But Batavia had its advantages - no which was the presence of Dutch women seen a white man for about three years.

Before going out to the East, I could wartime marriage had suffered too much have to resign from the Essex Constabulary returned there was some formality to go to clearance to return to Canada as an immigrant fortunate to get the low-down on a quick trip the Atlantic and arrived back in Canada 1946 - exactly four years to the day since there with the RAF.

I went into a Labour Exchange - and as mentioned experience in the police, I was by an RCMP Sergeant, as they were active to make up their wartime shortages.

I turned that down too fast, for very reasons the RCMP started up their own flying I feel sure that with my police experience, command and Transport Command with

# counts

... a population of 167,000 and responded to ... matches of a first division football ... bring over 3 million visitors a year? The

... burglary and assaults were down 17%.

... twenty constables and two sergeants were recruited ... volunteers in the Division and are dedicated to ... ing that section of the town. Shifts and working pat- ... have been developed specifically for the needs of the ... Sergeant Jack Lawmon said "I've been in the job 22 ... and this is just like going back to old-style policing - ... sisted by today's modern technology. We're going out, ... amongst the public, being seen and being assertive". ... ded that it was difficult to measure the psychological ... nces the Section had made - but local people have been ... enting that there has been a significant drop in the num- ... drunks and beggars on the High Street. ... ll analysis of the TBS will take place in the New Year.



Paul Lopez and Pc Jan Golding of Southend's Beat Section.

... could have been back flying again. Oh well, hindsight is a wonderful thing!

Instead, I journeyed on to Moose Jaw. My ladyfriend suggested I stay until after Christmas.

I went looking for a job and was hired for a small oil company as a stock auditor. I went from being a stock auditor to the general manager of a company with some 30-35 staff from January 1946 to September 1949.

Then in September 1968 I was invited to BA head office in Toronto to take over a position of Lubricant Application Adviser - a bit of a comedown from being the big frog in a small puddle in Moose Jaw, but one which paid me better and gave me some real satisfaction.

I retired in 1979 at the maximum retirement age of 65 and came out to British Columbia where I have retained an interest in activity on the water. I have joined a yacht co-op which I represent and am the Secretary of the BC Marine Parks Forever Society.

I can get away for at least one week of cruising the beautiful Gulf and American San Juan Islands each year.

I was back in the UK last year - visiting relatives - my sister Gwyneth, widow of Insp Norm Adams and the offspring of my late sister Rhona and her husband, the late Insp Ron Stanley.

Over many years I've maintained considerable interest in chess, although my thrust in the recent years has swung over to bridge, a fascinating game.

If any of you feel like writing or possibly even coming out here I shall be pleased to see you.

Norm Currell (ex PC 233)

## Passengers put on the case

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 Guardsman from Warrington Barracks.

The Lance Sergeant swapped his role outside Buckingham Palace for a patrol round the airport 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 was to remind travellers to look after their own belongings and therefore reducing the risk of theft or a security alert. AWACS chose the Guardsman for their logo as an easily recognisable and respected point of authority, 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 Ralphs Coaches allowing large window stickers of the BAGS logo to be displayed in the Long Stay Car Park and in the shuttle buses transporting passengers to and from the car park.

Passengers and staff appeared to welcome 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 Guardsman and wear his bearskin as an extra treat for the day.

### Disability forum

**ESSEX 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.**



● Lance Sergeant stands guard at Stansted Airport to help launch the BAGS campaign.

## Last of the bunch

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, was 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, and worked with the South African Police in an advisory and monitoring role during the lead up to, and during, the first democratic elections of 1994.

"Thursday the 1st of April, 1965 was a day of new beginnings, a step into the unknown, for myself and 149 other police officers, all of whom, until midnight, the previous day had been officers of Essex County Constabulary. From this day forward we were all officers of the Metropolitan Force," he said.

"Rumours had been rife in the county, and in particular on Romford Division, for months previous that the "Met Machine" was moving east and all of the Romford Division would be "taken over."

"Now rumour had become reality - the "Met" had arrived 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 one 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 coppers

### Everyone counts

FOR many years, whenever a member of the civilian support staff asked about taking out a PMAS policy, the answer was no. And when a police officers 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 contract of more than 12 months) are joining in.

Initially they are able to take out one endowment based savings plan each year for up to £5 per week, to take out a Top-up Pension Plan, to use the PMAS Mortgage Service.

So the PMAS can now be said to be open to the wider police 'family'. Chief Inspector Brian Mead, the PMAS Force Authorised Officer in Essex Police welcomes the changes and the interest shown.

"Now that civilian support staff are actually employed by the force, with more and more 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 PMAS Authorised Officer or contact the Society direct. Remember, the Police Mutual exists solely for your benefit.

They can be contacted on FREEPOST, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS13 6BR. Tel: 01543 414191.

The Police Mutual Assurance Society Limited is an incorporated friendly society regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.



● Constable David Jones.

BRAVE attempts to rescue a woman from a car submerged in a river have led to a special award for Pc David Jones.

The Royal Humane Society award was given to David, along with two Hertfordshire officers, for their efforts during an incident in March in Sawbridgeworth.

The Hertfordshire officers had already entered the water and located the car when Pc Jones arrived at the scene to be told that a woman was still trapped inside. He stripped down to his shirt and trousers and swam 15ft out to the vehicle to assist in the res-

## Awarded for heroic rescue

cue. Although the water temperature was sub zero and the river full of debris, the officers entered the car to find the woman firmly trapped in the wreckage. There was a considerable current but they managed to attach a line to the car and the fire brigade pulled the vehicle clear.

The 23-year-old woman unfortunately died later that morning. Pc Jones expressed his feelings of frustration during the rescue, which he

described as unsuccessful, and the great sadness that hit him on the night when he realised that this was another tragedy for the woman's family. Her sister was one of five young people who died in a horrific crash in Harlow less than two years before. Pc Jones was the first officer on the scene at that incident.

David, currently with Chelmsford Traffic, has served with Essex police for eight years. In this short time he has already received two Chief Constable's commendations and a civic award from Brentwood Borough Council.

# Tribute to the volunteers

TWO Essex Neighbourhood Watch volunteers were presented 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 Ardley, 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.

Proof that Neighbourhood Watch was working was the fact that it is the largest voluntary organisation in Britain and is continuing to grow, he said.

Many of the speakers spoke in glow-

ing terms of the success of Neighbourhood Watch, and how it was set to further develop. By the year 2000, the scheme may well have doubled in size if current trends continue.

Essex Police representatives from the Crime Prevention Department in

Community Safety attended, together with Alan Winner from Brentwood Neighbourhood Watch, Alan Wood (Billericay), Peter West (Black Notley), Geoff Yates (Braintree) and Geoff Ireland (Chelmsford) - the first Essex county co-ordinator.

## Ten point action plan

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 repeat victimisation.
3. To provide Police Service viewpoint on the role of crime prevention in operational policing.
4. To produce a National Directory of contacts and good practice.
5. To provide clear guidance and lead-

ership 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 propose the way ahead.

8. To ask the Home Secretary to develop the Crime Prevention College's role in the training of Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators.

9. To develop a "Community Safety Strategy" which reflects the commitment of key parties to Neighbourhood Watch.

10. To develop a sponsorship strategy for Neighbourhood Watch, together with project plans for mini-conferences and best practice guidelines.



● 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".

Further details are available from Pc Mike Kliskey at ASU, on 01245 451564. 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 ill health are muscle and joint aches; pains in the back, arms, hands and shoulders; skin disorders, particularly of the hands; lung diseases; hearing loss, and stress.

### Protecting your back, muscles and joints

Manual handling is a major cause of back injuries and, contrary to popular belief, they can't all be prevented simply by adopting good handling techniques. Make sure:

- You know the weight and distribution of the load - find out if it is too heavy or awkward for you.
- You follow any instructions that have been made to make the task safe.
- You find out if the surroundings can be changed to make the task less difficult.

### Protecting your hands and arms

People who get pains, swelling or disability in their hands and arms as a

result of work usually have jobs which include rapid, repetitive or unnatural movements.

- Your workstation is properly laid out, so that the equipment and materials are within easy reach.
- When seated, your work surface and chair are at the right height for you and there is nothing to prevent you from sitting comfortably.
- Your work is properly paced and you are able to take breaks.
- The tools and equipment you need for the work are comfortable to use.
- You tell your supervisor about any pain, or contact the Occupational Health Department.

### Protecting your skin

At work, the areas of skin most at risk are on the hands, forearms and the legs above footwear. To help protect your skin:

- Keep workplace and equipment clean and free of contamination to prevent skin exposure.
- Find out about the products you are using and the necessary protection, such as gloves and aprons.
- Wash contaminated skin immediately to reduce the chances of ill effects.
- Rinse and dry your hands thoroughly if your job requires you to

have your hands frequently in water.

- Use purpose made skin cleansers to remove oil and grease. Avoid turps, bleach or white spirit; they will dry the skin and may be absorbed into the body.
- Use a reconditioning hand cream at the end of each shift.
- People whose job keeps them outdoors for a significant part of their time may get more sun on their skin than is wise. Keep covered up - skin can burn easily.

### Protecting your lungs

Short term effects from harmful substances that can be breathed into the body can include coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath. Long term exposure can lead to chronic disablement from diseases like occupational asthma. Make sure:

- Control measures (particularly local exhaust ventilation) are working properly and report any defects to your supervisor.
- You wear the respiratory protection that is provided and take care of it.
- You co-operate with exposure monitoring and health surveillance procedures where they operate.

### Protecting your hearing

Noise can be a problem in many different kinds of jobs. Any danger to hearing

depends on how loud the noise is and how long you are exposed to it. To avoid noise induced hearing loss:

- Use all the noise control equipment provided.
- Tell your supervisor if something needs repairing.
- Do not remove from a machine any equipment supplied for controlling noise.
- Wear ear protectors and look after them properly.

### Stress in your working life

Stress can build up slowly and can be brought about by a variety of causes including pressures at home, work or both. There are no unique symptoms, but stress may be indicated by sleeplessness, loss of appetite, sudden feelings of panic, or irritability with your family or friends.

When people are having problems, pressure can build up and they may suffer stress. If this is prolonged or particularly intense it may eventually lead to mental ill health, heart or circulatory problems, or other diseases. If you think you are suffering stress:

- Try and work out what is causing it.
- If work seems to be part of the problem, possible factors could be inappropriate work demands, particularly not having sufficient personal control or discretion over

your work; lack of support; or poor relationships with colleagues or your supervisors.

- Talk over your 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 anxieties on both sides, and talk over the possible adjustments that might help on a temporary or permanent basis.
- 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.

**What's new in policy guidelines****New cautioning**

A NEW cautioning policy has been introduced and manual style documents distributed to divisions and departments.

Training implications in the form of seminars are to be given to inspectors, custody officers and adjudicators. (Issue 46/96).

Other items of interest from policy guidelines include:

- American Express have taken over from Thomas Cook for arranging travel services for officers authorised to travel for operational reasons. (40/96).

- Revised procedures have been introduced for bomb threat calls and a new computer assessment system introduced for dealing with them. (41/96).

- Under a revised police housing policy, details have been published of how 'core' and 'non-core' properties are identified, who qualifies for buying such accommodation, how the scheme affects new recruits and the revised discount rate purchase scheme. (42/96).

- Police officers who are detained overnight away from home on operational duty or for the purpose of attending court will be paid an allowance. (43/96).

- When motor vehicle index numbers are to be released to the Press, the PNC Bureau at HQ must be notified either before, or as soon as possible after release. This is to prevent any unlawful attempt to access DVLA records. (46/96)

Drivers of vehicles carrying animals for trade or business purposes must be in possession of a transportation certificate. (Issue 46/96).

Further information may be obtained from John E Johnson and Christine Claypole in the Publication Unit, EPTC, HQ (ext 55815/55816).

## Express your views through 'informal' forum

THE forum for staff to raise matters of general interest directly with senior management is the Informal Consultative Committee.

Each division and department is represented on the committee, with some smaller departments grouped together for this purpose.

Its objectives are:-

- to provide management with opinions and staff with information which will lead to a more efficient service
- to provide a regular forum for discussion
- to give employees a wider interest in the service and
- to provide an effective means of reporting back to staff.

The committee of 16, set up six years ago, is not decision-making, but any views expressed by its members are taken into account when decisions are made.

Recent issues debated by the committee have included uniforms for civilian staff; car parking; office accommodation and the fact that jobs advertised in

pink personnel bulletins by outside companies are suitable for civilians as well as police officers planning to leave the service.

Other, more general, areas which can be discussed include: management objectives; organisation; improvements in methods and systems; working conditions; training; welfare and career development opportunities.

Terms and conditions of employment are not included in its remit, as these are covered by the appropriate trade unions and the newly formed PSSC.

Because of the range of people serving on the committee, several issues can be resolved or explained at its quarterly meetings.

Elections are due in the new year and the next meeting is scheduled to take place on January 8, 1997.

So, if you have any issues you would like aired by this group, then contact your representative:

**Braintree**, Gwyneth Brown (Braintree Admin, Ext 63517); **Basildon**, James Webster (Laindon, 01268 410101); **Chelmsford**, Jean

Steele (Chelmsford Admin, Ext 60500);

**Tendring**, Shirley Carman (Harwich Admin, Ext 19110); **Colchester**, Reg Burling (Colchester driver, Ext 10320); **Thurrock**, Lynn Plunkett (Thurrock, Ext 73188); **Harlow**, Ronald Moses (Harlow, Ext 20165); **Southend**, June Lambert (Southend Admin, Ext 30501); **Rayleigh**, Sandra Cotton (Rayleigh Traffic Management, Ext 36920); **Stansted**, Julie Newby (Stansted Airport, Ext 22841); **Crime Support/Crime Ops**, Rosie Durr (Disclosure Unit, Ext 52963); **FIR/Operations**, Maxine Nightingale (Information Room, Ext 53320); **Personnel/Command**, Amanda Drane (HQ Civilian Personnel, Ext 54034); **Admin Support**, Sue Spratley (HQ Stats/Info, Ext 50911); **Training**, Joy Galliers (EPTC, Ext 56120); **Traffic Division Admin**, Kerri Francis (Kingston House, Ext 58322).

IT, MSD, Media and Public Relations and Community Safety are not currently represented.

For further information about the committee contact Maynard Cartledge, personnel services manager, on 54004.



● After the music extravaganza, Chief Constable John Burrow escorts three women to their coach, clutching the prizes he won on the tombola.

## Music to their ears

THE hefty sum of £16,000 is music to the ears of the Essex Police Band. It's roughly the sum they raised at their Musical Extravaganza at the Cliffs Pavilion in Westcliff.

A near capacity audience of 1,400 music lovers lapped up the sounds of the Regimental Band of Her Majesty's Coldstream Guards, under the direction of Music Master Major David Marshall as well as the familiar police band directed by Bandmaster Graham Sheldon.

Special guest for the evening was David Watkins, better known as the star of *Oliver* - the West End musical.

Superintendent David Bright said: "It really was a good evening and there's been a whole host of letters thanking us. The only downpoint was that, because of the current climate, the evening was subject to such high security, but it didn't seem to perturb the guests."

# 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 at Headquarters to obtain useful feedback and meet the requirements of the Audit Commission/ACPO Performance Indicators. Questionnaires have been sent to victims of violent crime and domestic burglary and ask for opinions on police response, perceived attitudes of officers and overall service.

Previous surveys - circulated in October 95 and March 96 - have already been analysed and show some interesting findings. One key point raised by victims is the need to be kept informed about the investigation with both victims of violent crime and burglary saying they would appreciate regular contact with the officers dealing. The second survey has already

shown an improvement in this area; nearly 80% of victims of violent crime say they did receive progress reports.

The surveys address any perceptions victims may have about the attitude of officers. Victims were asked if the officer who first visited them was helpful, polite, interested, reassuring and sensitive. Encouragingly, victims of violent crime have shown an improvement in their perception of attitudes over the last two surveys; there's been a noticeable rise in the number of

respondents saying officers were interested and reassuring. However, some victims of domestic burglary say they feel officers could be more helpful in keeping them updated with regard to their burglary.

Overall, the second survey showed an increase in satisfaction with police performance; but a call for more visible policing is common.

The survey reports have been circulated to Divisional Commanders and Corporate Support. Assistant

Chief Constable (Designate) Jim Dickinson said "Surveys help us gain an understanding of the perceptions that victims have with regard to how we provide our service. It is important for each of us to remember that crime of violence and domestic burglary in particular can be very upsetting for the victim and their family. Showing them that we care and want to support them is essential to the style of policing to which we are committed. We must take note of any concerns expressed."

## Quizzed for charity

Officers and staff at Colchester Police Station dug deep into their pockets to help the BBC's Children in Need.

A quiz, organised by Inspector Clive Butler, was hotly contested and resulted in victory for the team led by PC Chris Roper of Stanway Traffic Unit. It raised £1,002.70.

Not to be outdone, Headquarters also pitched in to Children in Need with their own quiz night, raising about £1,200.

Eventual winners, for the second year running, were the team of Supt Geoff Emsden and Pc Steve Cheeseman and guests.

## Have a wild night out



THE Wild West is coming to Riverside in Chelmsford, thanks to Coroner's Officer Derek Sewell and Louise Lambert.

So if you want to learn how to do the Red Neck Shuffle or the Houston Slide, keep Mondays between 7pm and 8pm free.

The latest craze in fun and fitness is Line Dancing.

At a cost of £3 per session you can take part.

Wear what you like - stetsons and cowboy boots are completely optional.

## 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 see to steal.

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

## 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 takings from an Ipswich service station.

Jane, based at Harwich Police Station, was filling up with petrol at the Burrell 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 leaned over the counter and grabbed the cash box. As the pair ran off, Jane gave chase, following them to the top of the road where they split 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 up the money, I came up behind him and hit him with my knee, which pushed him over.

"I must have looked quite fierce 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!"

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 means of identity were removed from the bottles. The bottles were numbered, then we had to taste the wine, give its country of origin, type of wine and year. Not many answers were correct as the wines were from different European countries and also Australia. There were even some home made wines.

It was a laugh and something different, everyone present 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 Helicopter Air Support Unit. He spoke of many incidents involving the helicopter and we were shown two very interesting videos of the work carried out by the helicopter. It was a very informative talk, this was shown by the number of questions put to him by those present.

The next I.P.A function is on Friday 13th December at the Sports and Social Club to a sit down Christmas Dinner with music and dancing. The number is limited to 60 places, there are about 8 vacancies left. The price is £12 per head, anyone interested please contact Frank Joslin on Chelmsford 602872.

Fred Dyson

**Take up a frosty challenge**

CHESHIRE Constabulary Hillsports and Hikers are throwing down the gauntlet again with their popular Frostbite challenge.

The two day trek over 50 miles promises stunning scenery, good food, pleasant pubs, semi-comfortable accommodation - and blisters and bulls!

This year's event will run on 8 and 9

February. Teams of two compete against each other to finish the course in the fastest possible time. Participants - or victims - will be transported to the start and from the finish.

Anyone interested should contact Sergeant 160 Paul Thompson on (01244) 571361, or at Ellesmere Port Police Station on (01244) 613015.

**Market Place . . . Market Place . . .**

**BELLING** electric hot plate with grill, suitable for bedsit, new condition, £30. Bodyby exercise cycle as new, £45. Contact 01245 256545.

**COOKER.** Creda Solarglo, fast rings, guaranteed as new, half-price, £350. G-Plan teak double wardrobe, integral dressing table, lighting strip, vgc, £80 ono. Contact Mr S Rogers on 01245 361988.

**CORNWALL** - Polperro. Chalet, 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 chair. Top quality bargain at £495. Cot over £1,300 and still under warranty. Contact Insp Mike Carter at HQ Driving School or on 01245 259437.

**FORD** Escort 1.6, 'J' reg, immaculate condition, 27,000 miles, metallic blue, full service history, full MOT, £4,550. Contact Nik on 01245 491491 ext 50821.

**FOR SALE,** baby equipment and toys. Britax Clubclass car seat, £40, Mamas & Papas highchair, £20, inflatable ring with leg support for swimming,

£5, Fisher Price baby gym, £8, Fisher Price activity table, £12, inflatable 'Noddy' car, £5. All items spotlessly clean and vgc. Contact Insp Nick Hale on 01245 491491, Ednet 51007.

**FOR SALE.** Computer modeñ, Hayes Accura 144+ Fax144 external model, all leads and comms software, £65. Contact Peter Brown on Ednet 22307 or 01371 873878.

**LADIES** Rayleigh Camaro mountain bike, 12 speed with 'D' lock plus bell image helmet. All new unwanted present worth over £200, accept £120. Contact Sgt Ted Travers on 01268 757898.

**MIJAS** - Costa Del Sol. Two bedroom villa sleeps four. Garden with barbecue, swimming pools on site, panoramic views, £130 to £250 per week. Contact A. Rowlands on 01277 658031.

**SPAIN** - Costa Del Sol. One bedroom apartment, fully furnished, Sky TV, video, sea, mountain views, large swimming pool, fully inclusive rental fee of £120 per week. Contact Pc Ken Bambury on 01245 491212, Ednet 60108.

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE - ONE WORD PER BOX


Name and Rank .....  
 Station ..... Home Tel .....  
 Date ..... Signed .....

**Lazy days in store for Les**

**INFORMATION** Room Communications Officer Les Jenkins has recently retired after 21 years service.

Les will be 65 on January 27 and was previously employed as a technical clerk in Tottenham before taking up his current post.

When he joined Essex Police computers were not in use and chinagraph pencils were used on a perspex sheet to mark out the location of police vehicles. This sheet was then placed over a large

projector onto a wall.

Only police officers were allowed to take the incoming 999 calls and everything was logged using longhand.

Les feels the job has become less demanding with the introduction of technology.

Retirement for Les will be more time travelling with his wife, who he first met at a VJ party when they were children. He also hopes to have time to take up photography.

**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 among 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 Benning, Superintendent Paul Stanley, Detective Chief Inspector Steve Reynolds and Chief Inspector Su Harrison will be attending.

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

**Drugs role continues as Dave retires**

AFTER nearly 32 years as a police officer Dave Perry has found a role he finds very rewarding - the organisation and running of Teenex drug prevention Summer Camps for youngsters, a role he intends to continue when he retires shortly.

One letter from a grateful parent reads: "Not only is our 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, then as a uniformed sergeant at Benfleet.

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 Co-ordinator 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, he feels, 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 consider that drugs were a problem to their children - they would not believe a child of theirs would take drugs. Now the reluctance to learn has been replaced with an acceptance that it could happen to them. Dave says that the death of Leah Betts highlighted to youngsters and 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 day 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 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 Teenex 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 involved in training and personal development.



● Dave Perry

**Essex Police Choir invites you to**

**A Concert for Christmas**

**Sunday, December 15**

**at 3pm**

**in the Assembly Hall, Police Headquarters**

**Admission by ticket - Retiring collection**

**Tickets from choir members**

**or 01245 452211**

## Great comfort to my family

WE would like to pass on our sincere thanks to former Chief Supt John Graves, Essex Police and former borough police, who attended my husband Jack's funeral in Southend on November 12.

It gave my family and myself much comfort to see so many old faces and I'm sure Jack was looking down with pride at the honour being paid to him by so many of his old colleagues both in the Force and the Grenadiers.

He was proud to have served in both

services and I'm sure did his duty in both.

Jack had a long and painful illness which he bore with great courage. Now he is at peace we who are left have many happy memories.

Thank you for the lovely flowers. I am sorry I did not speak to you all but as you know Jack had his wish and we were "singing in the rain".

Thank you all once again.

Clarice Porter and family  
Eastwood

# Nostalgia trip

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

My family association with the Essex Constabulary dates back to 1908 when my late father joined the force and was stationed at Southend before it even thought of becoming a borough. I did not come on the scene until 1920 by which time we lived at Kelvedon where my father was the detached beat constable. We then moved on to Plough Corner, Romford, and ultimately to Hornchurch where my father retired in 1936 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 proper when they reached the required age of 21.

My impression of the old Romford Police Station is not quite the grim picture inferred by Dave Rose's article. It was in the days of 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 redoubtable Superintendent Orlando Knights ably assisted by

Inspector Alf Pilbury and Inspector Freddie Windsor with Detective Inspector 'Kruschen' Baker in charge of CID. The Divisional Administrative Staff at this time consisted of the Station Sergeant Walter S Pope (later Chief Superintendent), Pc Jim Haylock, Pc Bill Molyneux and yours truly.

This happy time was rudely interrupted by the outbreak of World War II when recruiting for the regular force was stopped and only war Reserves and Special Constables were taken on. This meant that my future was altered before I could get in the Force, so for the next six years I soldiered on.

I attended Police Headquarters, Chelmsford, in March 1946 where I was welcomed back by the Chief Constable, Captain F.R.J. Peel and the Assistant Chief Constable, Mr John Crockford.

After four weeks leave at home I travelled to Eynsham Hall to join 79 other budding police officers who had also just been discharged from one or other of the branches of the Armed Forces.

Probably due to the fact that we were all straight from the Forces we did not find Eynsham all that daunting. There was strict discipline but we were all used to that sort of thing. In fact we had some quite hilarious incidents during drill parades.

The Drill Sergeant at that time was one sergeant

Bill Coppock of the Bedfordshire Constabulary. Bill was an ex Royal Marine and a very smart chap, very tough and very loud.

During our sojourn at Eynsham it was announced that at the conclusion of our course there would be a ceremonial Parade and the Baton of Honour for the Best All Round Recruit would be presented. As you can imagine, this announcement caused much extra drill. We tended to become a bit of a shambles when it came to drill movements performed on the march, mainly because the orders were being given on the 'wrong' foot for some of our number.

This state of affairs exasperated Bill Coppock more than somewhat and after one particular bad shambles he halted us and told us exactly what he thought of our performance in his own colorful language and accent. He was then astonished to hear a burst of laughter from the rear rank. He immediately confronted the laughter maker, a large cheerful character from Suffolk called Shenstone. On inquiring what Mr. Shenstone found so funny he was even more astonished to be told: "Well, Sergeant, it is not our fault. If the orders are given on the wrong foot then there is bound to be shambles. You see, we were all either soldiers, sailors or airmen so we know what we were but

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 get taken out shopping twice a week by Crossroads Care. The lady who takes me has a daughter in the Force here so I pass on your paper to her.

My family had a baker's business with town and country rounds so I

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 me "It's cowl (cold) today young Cowell" and walk on. When he had gone a good distance we would shout "ring the bell Mr Bell" 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 in 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 the knack 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 a 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 6am. He said "where are going"? I said: "Crosby Farm in Brude (4 miles) Mr Skimmer'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 194 was sent to St Alhan South Wales for

training one day. We had to attend the cinema for a VIPs visit. I was three rows in from the staircase, the VIP pushes his way to me, shook my hand saying "where do you come from my man?" I said: "the Isle of Man, Sir". He was a Lord but I don't think he knew where the Isle of Man was.

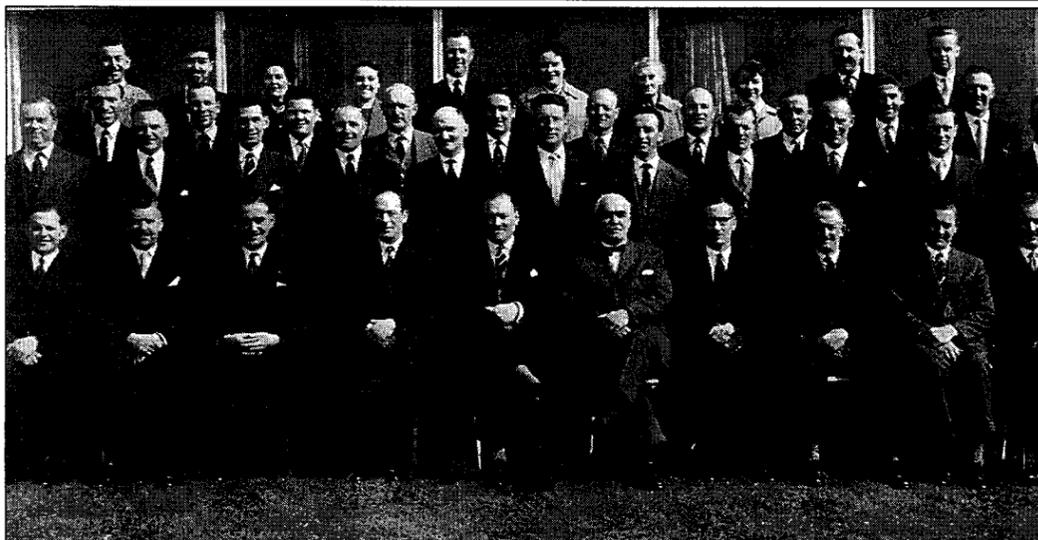
L.D. Cowell

you were a Royal Marine which means that you do not know whether you were meant to be a sailor or soldier and that is how you are giving your orders". Even the tough exterior of the redoubtable Drill Sergeant cracked and he joined in the laughter which this explanation caused.

Needless to say from that time on the drill improved so that come the Ceremonial Passing Out Parade in August 1946 all was perfect. The best of it all was that 75 of the original 80 completed the Course. Twelve of these were from Essex and it was an Essex officer who won the Baton of Honour.

In fact, Essex provided 4 of the top six on the Course. This performance caused great satisfaction to Captain Peel as the First Course at Eynsham had resulted in the Baton of Honour being won by an officer from Southend Borough Police, our 'hated' rivals as they were then.

## Historical piece rescued from the bin



YOUR readers may be thinking that I have been through my photograph album again with this picture having regard to the item in last month's *The Law*. Not so.

The large original is of the Southend Borough CID in May 1960 and when working at Southend HQ at the time of amalgamation I recovered it from a

waste paper basket destined to be pulped together with a lot of other Southend Borough material.

Careful examination of the picture will show two officers have had tonsorial alterations with a ball point pen and these marks cannot be eradicated. Despite this it is of historic interest especially to those depicted.

Whilst writing I would like to support Eric Carter in publicity for

the widows' post retirement pensions problem.

This matter has been in the hands of NARPO and the problem also affects other public service workers. Despite all their efforts nothing has come to fruition and it seems that with the present economic climate will not do so for some time.

Phil Pewsey  
Southend

## LAW SPORT . . . LAW SPORT

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 Canons Brook, Harlow, with an impressive field of 47 players. Dave Austin won the morning medal round with an excellent score of 71, with Alan Bennett coming second with the same score, but on countback he was edged out of top spot. In the afternoon stableford round, the 'old boys' kept up the pressure with Peter Baxter winning with 41 points. Alan Bennett did it again in the afternoon coming second with 40 points amid the usual cries of

## An excellent end to the season

'bandit'. Well, not for long can he wear his bandoleer and sombrero as he will have his handicap cut for next year!!

At the end of September, Nigel Ginn 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 players went to the Channel Islands for the Annual Guernsey Police Open Championship. Our team was Ps Martin Hayhurst (Rochford), Dc Graham Anslow (Rayleigh CPU), DI Laurie Austin (HQ CPU), and Ds Peter English (Brentwood). Essex players have never previously won here, but the unusually calm conditions obviously suited our players on this very difficult course at the Royal Guernsey Golf Club at L'Ancrese Bay. This is a traditional links course, with lots of

heather, gorse, sand and uneven fairways right alongside the English Channel. The team all played exceptionally well with the top honours going to Graham Anslow, who won the individual trophy with a fin under par score of 69. Overall, Peter English was third with 71, Martin Hayhurst fifth with 72, and Laurie Austin seventh with 73. These were all nett scored off handicap) Laurie also won the trophy for best score for under 12 handicap, and Peter the trophy for best over 13 handicap. Laurie also picked up a

nearest pin prize on the difficult 18th hole. With these excellence scores, we won the team Trophy as well, which was the best 3 scores to count. We had 214, which was 13 strokes better than the second team, Guernsey, the hosts.

1997 will be an important year with Essex Police hosting the European Police Championships in June, and the National Finals of the British Police Team Championships in September, and we wish our 1997 Captain, Dc Ian Wilding from Grays, the very best. New members are always welcome, so contact Pc Nick Padmore at Epping for details. Happy golfing for 1997.

Nick Padmore

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

**A poor start but what a finish!**

**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 scythe like tackle. 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 not 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 tidalwave 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 routine 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 Cryne 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 untapped sources of skill out there and you would like to start playing for the force get in touch.

Geordie Tyson

**Essex 2, Crane 5  
(Mens)**

Essex didn't do quite so well up against Crane. But to give them their due they were pitching 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.

**Football squad on a winning streak  
The tide has turned**

**Essex 2, Takeley 1  
Essex Intermediate League**

IN this bottom of the table clash, the scoreline was, unfortunately, no reflection of Essex Police skill. In fact, Takeley can take credit for a better class of football in the majority of the game with the Essex defence probably the only saving grace.

The first goal came less than 10 minutes into the match with a strike by Darren Pike.

Takeley fought back with some aggressive play but Essex defence was tight and Takeley's finishing was in need of some work. A powerful shot from a free kick at 30 minutes went wide while another, six minutes later, hit the post - the closest Takeley came in the first half to equalising.

Some accurate passing by Essex was negated by a number of late tackles and silly errors, including a booking of Paul Keaney whose defending was a touch over zealous at times.

A pep talk at half-time brought back a more determined Essex side with a stronger performance up front.

Goalkeeper Nathan Munson also had his work cut out in the second half and did well to save a corner cross at 63 minutes.

With the ball still in the Essex half there was a disputed call over handball which led to a throw in for Takeley followed by a good cross. Clearance by Clive Day led to another corner snatched from the air by Munson.

Back in possession and with greater control of the game Craig Bolton increased the scoreline following a Kevin Adams cross. The final was 2-0.

Manager Martin Oakley admits to a poor show in the first half but hopes it has turned the tide.

He said: "We rode our luck in the first half and somehow managed to sneak in a goal. It took us a good 50 minutes to get organised and work out the opposition. It was only in the last third of the game that they took total control and went on to score another goal.

"We were very strong at the back with some great

**By Kim White**

goalkeeping by Nathan Munson. The team have in fact gone on to win twice in the League since Takeley without conceding a goal, and this was after losing the first five games of the season, so hopefully the team have taken a turn."

**Wiltshire 1, Essex 4  
Southern Counties Cup 2nd round**

DANNY Fallows was the man of the moment when Essex travelled west to Wiltshire. Three near post crosses by Fallows culminated in three goals. Goalscorers were Richard Woodhouse, Clive Day, Phil O'Connell and

Darren Pike achieving probably the best result for Essex away from home.

**Wiltshire's consolation came from a dubious penalty.  
Nortel 0, Essex 3  
Essex Intermediate League**

A REASSURING result for Essex who were defeated 1-0 by Nortel at home earlier the season. The team played exceptionally well and have received some good support from assistance managers John Rhymes and Doug Adams.

**FIXTURES:** Next on the agenda is Kent in the second round of the National PAA. This is a home game on Tuesday, December 10, 2pm kick-off. Some sideline support would be more than welcome.



● Essex Police took on Takeley in a bottom of the table League clash. The scoreline may have finished in their favour but Takeley appeared the stronger side.

**One point defeat**

FIVE officers from the squash 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 strings.

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 Essex players were in need of a few new sets of legs.

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 Foster, Adrian Bunting, Dave Murray, Malcolm Johnson and Alex Vowles.

If anyone is interested in representing the force at squash, contact Adrian Bunting at Laindon Traffic.

**Dive in to  
some new  
courses**

THE first meeting of the Essex Police Diving Club has been held and a great deal decided.

Open Water Courses will be starting, hopefully before Christmas, at a cost of about £200, dependant on how many take the course. Any readers wanting to undertake a basic course should contact Mike Hall. There will be other courses running for more qualified divers, the details of which will be found in future editions of The Law.

A couple of try dive evenings are also scheduled in the near future. The first will be on Tuesday, December 10 at the Meadgate School swimming pool, Chelmsford at 8pm. Space is limited so contact Mike Hall or Keith Gurney at Headquarters Central Detective Unit.

All Essex Police staff are welcome to join the club and any further information can be obtained from Headquarters based Mike or Kathy on Ednet 50822.

Next Issue  
**JANUARY**  
Copy deadline: 20.12.96  
Printed: 7.1.97