

The Law

including Essex Police Magazine



Review of 1996 - Centre

Anti-drug laws - P5

Extra Specials - P9

The Newspaper of the Essex Police

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No 279

Over 100 motorists fail the B-test

THERE was a big increase in the number of motorists arrested for exceeding the alcohol limit in Essex during the Christmas and New Year season.

Between December 18 and the morning of January 2, Essex Police asked for breath tests from 4,332 drivers. Of these, 107 (2.5 per cent) were tested positive.

This compares with the 1995/6 festive season figures of 4,526 tests and 83 drivers testing positive - a failure rate of 1.8 per cent.

The figures were released after a 'black December' in Essex, when there were 15 road deaths, almost twice the monthly average.

Disappointing

Supt Des McGarr, head of Essex Police Traffic Division, described the increase as disappointing.

He added: "Statistics can be misleading, but it is a fact that 107 motorists were apprehended for being unfit to drive and that is 107 people who were prepared to run the risk of causing tragedy."

The 107 arrests represent an increase of 29 per cent on the previous festive toll of 83.

The highest failure rate was in the Southend Division, where out of 219 tests administered, 16 (7.3 per cent) were positive. The lowest was in the Stansted Airport Division, where all 15 tests proved negative.

● See page 3 for Harlow Division's pub initiative.

Teenagers help test underage drink laws

ESSEX Police is cracking down on underage drinking with the help of youngsters themselves.

Operation Bagpipe - currently operating in the Tendring and Basildon divisions - involves teenagers aged under 16 making test purchases of alcohol from off licences.

Launched last year, the operation has the support of the Home Office, the local Crown Prosecution

By Alyson Mountney

Service - and the vast majority of licensees. The aim is not to catch out the licensees, but to test the legislation surrounding the sale of alcohol.

When setting up the scheme, Essex Police used Home Office guidelines, originally set out for Trading Standards, for test purchases of cigarettes by the under 16s, and added some more before the project went ahead.

The youngster making the test purchase is fully supported by nearby police and does so with the full permission of his or her parents.

Initial findings have shown that in some areas, a large number of off licences are selling to underage teenagers, dispelling the popular myth that the only way youngsters are obtaining alcohol is by asking older people to buy it for them.

Around 50 test purchases have been made in the Basildon area since the launch of Operation Bagpipe. Shop staff have only refused to sell alcohol to the teenager in six cases so far. Once a licensee is caught, police can consider a number of penalties ranging from a warning to prosecution and loss of licence.

But the scheme is already showing signs of success. Around 50 tests have been carried out in the Harwich, Brightlingsea, Mistley and Clacton police areas since August. In cases where return visits have been made to the off licences, 95 per cent have refused to sell to the teenager.

The operation has also sparked a greater interest among licensees in identity card schemes for young people aged 18 and over to prove their age.

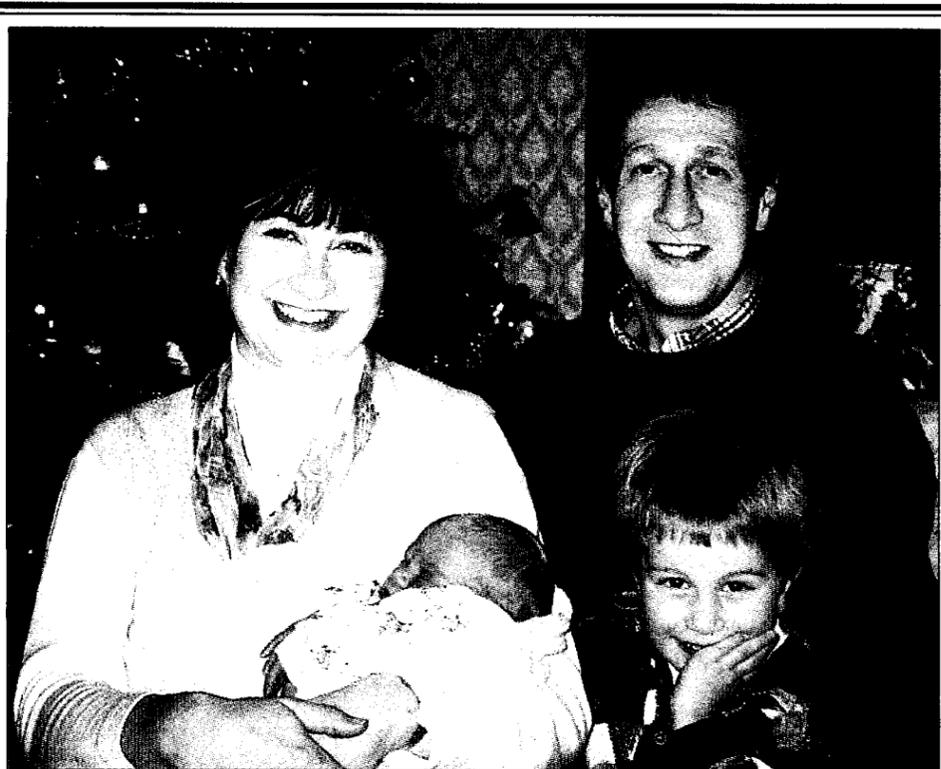
Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) Geoffrey Markham said: "Underage drinking is not a harmless activity. It creates a host of problems for the police, public and the youths involved."

"Drunken youths create public order problems and can be intimidating to the public. When officers respond to incidents where drunken youths are causing a nuisance, it is diverting our resources away from more serious crime."

"In an attempt to crack down on underage drinking, we tried normal observation methods but this was not an effective way of tackling the problem. This way, we get to the heart of the problem in a way which has won the support of the public, who want something done, and the licensees, who want to be seen to be enforcing the law."

A Private Members' Bill which would give police more powers to deal with the problem is currently being pushed through Parliament by Castle Point MP Dr Robert Spink.

If passed, officers would be able to seize alcohol from underage teenagers, or from older people suspected of giving alcohol to youngsters. It would also make it an arrestable offence not to hand the alcohol over to police.



● Proud parents Tony and Kate Sale celebrate the birth of baby Nicholas on Christmas Day.

A perfect present

AN Essex Police couple received an extra special present on Christmas Day - their new baby son.

Little Nicholas Sale, who was due to arrive on December 19, decided to share the most famous birthday of all instead.

Weighing in at a healthy 8lb 10oz, Nicholas is the second son for Inspector Tony Sale, based at Harlow, and his wife Kate, a sergeant based with the EPICS project at Headquarters. Their first son Robert is four.

The couple say although the name Nicholas made it on to their shortlist, it was his seasonal arrival which clinched his festive name.

Key goals continue

POLICING priorities for the county have been proposed at the Essex Police Annual Planning Conference in Wivenhoe. The key operational goals outlined continue to focus on violent crime, burglary, emergency calls, maintaining the peace, high-visibility policing, reducing road casualties and targeting crimes of particular concern to the community.

Subject to Police Authority approval, these goals follow the announcement of the Home Secretary's objectives for 1997/98.

The Wivenhoe Conference also gave chief officers, members of Policy Group,

divisional commanders and departmental heads the chance to take stock of the last 12 months.

Looking ahead, the Chief Constable John Burrow said: "Essex Police will continue to develop, and there will be difficult decisions ahead. But I am committed to ensuring our officers and support staff are equipped with the attributes necessary to live up to our reputation, our Charter Mark, and all our future challenges."

Further details of this year's planning conference were published to all members in the *In Touch* newsletter dated December.

FEDERATION NOTES . . . FEDERATION NOTES . . .

Receipt row resolved

AS reported in the last edition of *The Law*, I can now confirm that the matter regarding receipts has been resolved with the Force and that judicial review proceedings have stopped.

The Force has agreed that for claims under regulation

55 (1) officers do not have to provide supported receipts to be able to claim.

It has also agreed that those claims that have been rejected because the usual method of obtaining a meal was not identified, will also be honoured.

The Force has agreed to consult with the Federation with a view to

reaching an agreement on the terms of any revised guidelines. The Force has also agreed to pay Federation costs incurred in this matter.

Will members please note that those claims that were sent to the Federation office to the Assistant Secretary, Terry Spelman will now be sent forward for processing through Headquarters Finance.



● By Brian Pallant

Debt problems

If you are in a situation where you are unable to service or repay your creditors Federated Credit Limited may be able to help you.

Specialising in finding solutions for police officers in financial difficulty, the company deals with a problem in a number of ways including arrangements for interest to be frozen, reduced payments on secured loans and asking creditors to write off part of a debt.

One example is when one of the company's clients purchased a property with a 95% mortgage. After completing the purchase they took a further secured loan for renovations.

Interest rates went up and both the mortgage and the second charge proved much more expensive than anticipated. To make ends meet the clients used credit cards for housekeeping and day to day expenses.

Finally Federated Credit was asked to help at a time when the total debt was £15,000.

It was arranged for them to pay their mortgage on an interest only basis and the payments on the second charge were reduced.

An Individual Voluntary Agreement was put in place where the debt of £15,000 was repaid over five years.

This allowed the clients to discharge the debts avoiding bankruptcy.

If you would like to know more about Federated Credit Limited, with confidential free advice, contact Freephone 0800 716239.

Services available to members

Staff Preferential Loan scheme

OUR Treasurer Terry Spelman has negotiated with the Co-operative Bank a loan scheme on the same basis as for their staff. Brief details of the scheme are as follows:-

Subscriptions

YOU will remember that the Federation nationally was able to get the Inland Revenue to agree to tax relief on the Federation Subscriptions in 1994.

Last year this was done en bloc and members codes were adjusted to take account of the tax relief.

Our Treasurer, Terry Spelman has been in negotiations with the Tax Office to see if they can deal with it as tax relief through the payroll in a similar way as the pension contributions are dealt with i.e. that the amount of subscriptions are not taxable on a monthly basis.

We are just awaiting confirmation from the Inland Revenue and when this is to hand a message switch will be sent around to all members to update them on the progress.

If successful this will enable tax relief to be deducted from source without members having to declare it on their tax forms.

Equality issues

YOUR Joint Branch Board has set up a new sub-committee to deal with Equal Opportunity issues within the Force. The committee consists of nine members, three from each Branch Board together with the Secretary of the Federation, Brian Pallant.

Federation courses are being provided to train our members to give advice at all stages from grievance procedure through to Industrial Tribunal.

Below is a list of the members of that sub-group for your information. If in doubt contact the secretary on Ext 54502 in the first instance. Remember there are time scales involved if matters are to proceed to Industrial Tribunals. From the next edition of *The Law*, I will be doing articles on Grievance Procedure and giving advice and guidance regarding Industrial Tribunal.

Pc A. Coley; Pc R. Chrystal; Pc S. Kelly; Sgt K. Sale; Sgt A. Gooden; Sgt K. Ward; Insp. L. Chilcott; Insp. A. Wallace; Insp. S. Currell.

1) Members of the Federation may apply for loans with a value of £500 to £15,000 with repayment patterns available up to seven years depending upon the members own particular circumstances.

2) There are no arrangement fees or setting up costs etc.

3) There is no requirement for prospective customers to be current account holders of the Co-operative Bank.

4) The Freephone instant decision telephone service is available seven days a week.

With effect from the January 1, 1997, the range of APR's available is as follows:- 16.5% APR for loans of £500 to £1,999; 14.5% APR for loans of £2,000 to £3,999; 13.9% APR for loans of £4,000 to £6,999; 12.9% APR for loans of 7,000 to £15,000.

Posters and application forms

will be supplied to us early in January together with the Freephone number which will be circulated to all members.

Channels

CHANNELS Golf Complex has offered the Federation reduced membership providing there is a minimum of six members. The terms and conditions offered is a group joining fee of £587.50 instead of the normal individual fee of £881.25.

Then the discounted member pays for seven days £685 per person instead of £760 and for five days £484 per person instead of £536.

Anybody interested in the Channels Golf Membership, please contact either Brian Pallant or Terry Spelman in the Federation Office for further details.

Travel insurance

THE Federation Travel Insurance is proving highly successful and we have nearly 1,000 applications so far sent to the office.

Due to the problems with deductions from salary at County Hall, we have had to deal with the Insurance scheme by means of a one off cheque for £15 which covers members for the whole of the 12 months.

The scheme starts on the January 1, 1997, and I urge any members who are still interested in joining to contact the Federation Office as soon as possible.

The insurance is through Lloyds of London and each member when paying their £15 will receive their own Certificate.

The insurance covers the insured member, the member's spouse or partner and all dependent children under the age of 21 years.

This cover extends to all insured persons whether travelling as a family or independently. That means your children can travel abroad on school trips on their own and be covered under this insurance.

Just to give you a brief summary of what is covered -

● Medical Expenses to £5,000,000.

● Personal Accident to £20,000

● Baggage and Personal Effects to £1,500

● Personal Money to £500

The excess is the first £20 of each claim per person.

The cover is as good, if not better, than you would get from most holiday travel companies in fact the excess is a lot less than most of them.

The scheme is open to police officers, civilians, retired officers, Special Constabulary within Essex Police.

Sale of police houses

WE have had numerous questions in the office regarding changes to the discount scheme for police provided accommodation.

To assist all members in police provided accommodation, we are calling a meeting at 5.30pm on Wednesday, January 22, 1997 at the Assembly Hall, Police Headquarters.

The Police Federation will explain to members fully the work that went into the Housing Review and will answer any questions from the membership. It is hoped that the chief officer responsible for the sale of police houses will also be in attendance when answering any questions.

Caveat Emptor - let the buyer beware

IN December Operation Draper was carried out by traffic officers from Rayleigh and Laindon, the Department of Transport and Essex County Council Trading Standards.

Officers from the three organisations raided a car retail premises in Rayleigh and approximately 80 vehicles were checked for their mechanical condition and roadworthiness.

The car dealership was targeted following 36 complaints to Trading Standards Officers and during the inspection four cars were taken away and examined by the Department of Transport Vehicle Inspectorate.

This resulted in prohibition notices being issued against three of them. The prohibition notice means that remedial work must be carried

out on the vehicle and the notice officially removed before it can be driven or offered for sale.

Trading Standards are now considering action regarding five unroadworthy vehicles being offered for sale at the premises. In addition the Department of Transport is considering action against an MOT Test Centre also in Rayleigh.

Inspector Mervyn Whitney from Rayleigh Traffic Unit who coordinated the operation said "we believe it is in the public interest, when resources allow, to get together with trading standards and other agencies to impress upon the commercial retail market that the rules for offering

vehicles for sale are complied with, especially bearing in mind the amount of money that changes hands on used vehicles."

New look IRIS

IN the latter part of January Information Technology will be ordering 120 new IRIS terminals which will all be Pentium micro computers.

The reason is that some of the older style IRIS terminals, the j100 with two lines of function keys will no longer comply with new Health and Safety legislation.

As an interim measure, many stations have recently had new terminals installed which do comply. These will eventually be used as Holmes terminals which also need to be replaced.

There are no manufacturers who provide this sort of machine unless Essex Police were to have one specially made which would be cost prohibitive.

Micro computers can have a 30 line emulation and have only one line of function keys but are able to run the next version of Command and Control which will be 'Windows' driven.

As the next version of Command and Control will be here well before these new micro computers are ready for replacement this makes good economic sense.

Micro computers will be installed shortly after the FIR 'Go-Live' or in March which ever is sooner.

Traffic warden's lament

Nobody loves a traffic warden
as he pounds his lonely beat.
They'd like to punch him on the nose
and run over both his feet.

He gives the tickets here and there
to motorists who've been silly.
But instead of saying 'Sorry Mate'
they'd like to kick him in the willy.

And through it all he tries to smile
and keep a cool, clear head.
But now and then his feelings show
and he thinks 'Please.....drop dead!'

But vindictiveness is not his style
it could leave him on sticky wickets.
The motorists only have so much cash
while he has LOADS of tickets!

From the Colchester Traffic Wardens

Pub test



● Police in Brentwood took the drink/drive message to the White Hart public house, where customers had the chance to test themselves on the alcometer.

Commended for brave actions

TWO officers who rescued a woman, baby and two children from a hostage situation in Leigh, are to be commended for their brave and professional actions.

The incident took place about a year ago when Sgt David Miller, from Southend, and Pc Michael Taylor, from Leigh, were called to a 'domestic' situation.

Confronted with a drunken aggressive man holding his girlfriend and young children hostage, the suspect also threatened the officers with knives.

While Sgt Miller attempted to negotiate with the man, Pc Taylor climbed a drain pipe onto a small ledge and rescued the hostages.

The man was later arrested by public order equipped officers.

Other officers to be commended at a ceremony on January 9, are Pc Trevor Hazell and Pc Alastair Cuthbertson for bravery and professionalism; Sgt David Wickens for outstanding performance in his work for Information Technology; Pc Keith Brooking for consistently good work; Pc Bernard Tompsett for initiative and commitment; Inspector Kevin Bailey, Sgt Anthony Wright, Pc Malcolm Fester, Pc David Bent, Pc Martin Raine, Pc Nicholas Cohen, Pc Clifford Roomes and Pc David Hawtin for bravery and prompt actions in a hostage situation.

Show songs set to help Tony's cause

A MUSICAL extravaganza evening is to be held at Rayleigh Police Sports and Social Club room on Saturday, February 1, at 7.30pm.

The music will be supplied by the Leigh Orpheus Male Voice Choir, who will be singing an assortment of music from well-known musicals, including *Les Miserables*, *Oliver!* and *Phantom of the Opera*.

All proceeds raised will go towards supporting Chief Insp. Tony Belford's sponsored cycle ride alongside the River Nile in Egypt on March 8, which he is undertaking to support the Mencap charity.

Tickets are £5 each and can be contacted from Pc Beryl Fennell (01268 775533, ext 35129) or Pc Mairhi Mowbray (01268 775533).

Re-launch set for service standards

By Alyson Mountney

THIS month sees the relaunch of Essex Police's Service Delivery Standards, now aimed more at the public as well as officers and staff.

New folders, leaflets and posters will shortly arrive at police stations. Posters and leaflets are also going on display in all libraries in the county.

One of the most noticeable features of the revamped standards is the style. Each of the existing SDS has been rewritten in a more 'user-friendly'

style, cutting through the jargon to create documents which are direct and readable.

This streamlined approach is also shown in the distribution of the new folders. Whereas 1,500 folders were sent out when the standards were first launched, only 560 are being produced this time, but they will be better placed around police stations.

The folder includes a new Service Delivery Standard on dealing with fox hunts. This takes into account the feelings and opinions of hunters and protesters, and emphasises Essex Police's need to act impartially.

The standard outlines the force's intention to allow the hunt to carry out its lawful activity within the law, allow those who wish to protest to

do so within the law, and deal as necessary with those who break the law.

Inspector John Meggison of MSD said: "We have rationalised the distribution of the folders and made them more accessible. We are sending out less folders than before, but they will be in better locations.

"You will no longer find eight copies in one Sergeant's office, for example, but you will find them in the parade room, the custody office, the crime desk and the report writing room as well as in the front office of every police station."

Costs

Costs have been considerably reduced this time round by producing the documents at the HQ Print Shop. The new

folder will form part of the 'family' of folders which will include 'Operational Policy and Guidelines' and the 'General Policy and Guidelines'.

Essex Police's Service Delivery Standards have been highlighted in the HMI report and by the Charter Mark assessors. Now part of the idea behind the revamp is to make the public more aware of what they can expect from the police.

Information from the SDS annual reviews will be made available to the public. In the pipeline are leaflets on some of the standards, for example household burglary, which will be sent to victims of crime with the current letter which goes out within five days of the crime being reported.

As Inspector Meggison added: "There is no point in having standards if you are not going to tell the public about them."

Rural crime partnership

A NEW initiative to reduce crime in the countryside has been launched by a community partnership involving Essex Police.

The Essex Rural Crime Consortium, which includes the High Sheriff, police, farmers and representatives from agricultural industries, has produced 45,000 copies of a 10-point security advisory leaflet for farmers and rural communities.

Offbeat

CHRISTMAS is a time when we all do things we wouldn't normally... and calls to Essex Police certainly reflect this:

We've had a Christmas tree, complete with lights, stolen from a front garden in Harlow and reports of suspicious carol singers across the county - the most suspicious element being their inability to sing.

If it's not Christmas then it's things people do for charity. Here we had a call from a lady in Chelmsford saying a man was by the side of the A131 tipping cans of baked beans and rice pudding over himself. Apparently it was a Children In Need stunt and the man was using the flower seller in the lay-by as an independent witness.

Police in Clacton were called to a report of trespassing youths at a vacant property - the only description being one of them was a blond lad aged about 13. On arrival the youth turned out to be a very attractive, young, female estate agent who was selling the property.

Another mistaken identity was a man in Benfleet who called to say that an unknown person was breaking into his house - turns out it was his son who'd come back unexpectedly from university having had a slight change in appearance!

And if you thought you had a good Christmas then think again... one woman in Hawkwell had to call the police to assist when her boyfriend had put her in handcuffs and then couldn't get them off.

Equal opportunities survey

A SURVEY of views and opinions on Equal Opportunities within the force is being circulated to staff. 4,500 surveys have been distributed and ask for feedback on a range of equal opportunities issues including discrimination and harassment.

This is the second equal opportunities survey carried out within Essex Police; the first was in 1993.

Jan Woodhouse of Employee Services at Headquarters said: "We are interested to see how opinions have changed since our first survey and every member of Essex Police is being given the chance to put their views.

"There have been many developments in terms of equal opportunities over the last few years and we want

to make sure that every member of staff is aware of the organisation's commitment to this important issue as well as finding out what areas we need to work harder at."

All responses will be kept entirely confidential and any breakdown of results will not identify any individual. The results of this latest survey will be published in April.

Sue and Puppsie tackle a prickly problem...

WHEN you're a little hedgehog, the thought of surviving the winter can be enough to send a shiver down your spine.

But luckily, help is at hand from Sue Schwar, Thurrock division's Wildlife Liaison Officer and founder of the Thurrock Wildlife Concern charity.

Sue, who runs the charity from home as a stop gap for sick and injured animals, is currently caring for ten cats, two dogs, 25 hedgehogs, and numerous ferrets and foxes.

Aided

She is often aided and abetted by her dog Puppsie, who seeks out hedgehogs in distress - leading to fame on Sky TV and Channel Four's *The Big Breakfast*.

"I've done animal rescue for years and years. I started Thurrock Wildlife Concern because with all

the new development in Thurrock, there's nowhere for these animals to go," said Sue.

Hedgehogs are more at risk this winter as the long summer led to more being born later in the year. These babies have to weigh at least 600g to survive hibernation, and many will be too small.

The advice to anyone finding a hungry hedgehog is to feed it dog or cat food - never bread and milk.

As for Sue, being a Wildlife Liaison Officer and animal rescuer means she always, literally, ends up taking her work home with her.

Anyone wanting help or advice on any animal, or wanting to make a donation to the charity, can contact Thurrock Wildlife Concern on (01375) 378516.



● Sue Schwar with two of the rescued hedgehogs found by her dog.

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Letters

Music to our ears

On Friday, December 6, together with my wife and two friends, I was present at the "Full House" Christmas Cracker Concert.

This evening was one of great joy, witnessed by the response of the audience. As usual the Essex Police Band gave another polished performance, as did the choirs from the Gilbert School and the Philip Morant School, Colchester, not forgetting the surprise entry of the Scottish Drums and Pipers.

One hears such a great deal in this day and age, about the darker side of youth, but on this evening it was refreshing to listen to the Youth choirs so obviously enjoying themselves helping Colchester Police raise monies for those not so fortunate as ourselves.

Many congratulations to Inspector Bob Finch and Pc Mark Harvey who we understand were mainly responsible for organising this event.

Peter Chilver
(Retired Essex Officer)

Reminisce in rhyme

YOU will no doubt recall the item in *The Law* about the Borough bobbies meeting in the Southend Police Club Bar.

I attended and spent several hours enjoying the company of my old friends and colleagues.

In memory of the occasion, I have written a poem for readers.

1996 the 19th of December,
The Borough bobbies gathered
to remember.
Southend Police Club, the venue,
Old acquaintances to renew.

There was Hugh, Peter Charlie and Pat,
and many more came for a chat.
To reminisce of days gone by,
of comrades patrolling the beat in the sky.

Of days and ways it used to be,
When we kept the peace,
from Shoebury to Leigh.
Remember when we walked the beat,
The 'nick' in Alexandra Street.

Rattling door handles at night,
To ensure the town was locked up tight.
Heroic deeds came to the fore,
Clangers dropped by the score.

How we paraded through
the town, so proud,
The people clapped and cheered aloud.
With white helmets on every head,
Sadly, now white hair worn instead.

We talked of the old days, not forgot,
The mince pies we scoffed the lot.
Of our intrepidity
At the coming of amalgamation.

And I think we all had to agree,
Things are not like they used to be.
That things have advanced
is certainly true,
Since we were Borough bobbies
dressed in blue.

So over a glass or three of beer,
Let's hope we'll meet again next year.
And to the Southend Police Club
Thanks for the use of your friendly pub.

Jack Faulkner
Southend

Where's Mike?

FIRSTLY I read with interest your magazine *The Law*. I cannot understand Phil Pewsey saying that the 1960 CID photo has tonsorial alterations. I thought this meant "shaving part of the head". Or does he mean sartorial alterations!?

Secondly - could anyone trace ex Pc Mike Dray, a diver at HQ about the 1950s. He was my best man in 1959 at Broomfield Parish Church.

R A White.

We've been made scapegoats

I WOULD like to air a few concerns over the future of handguns for target shooters.

Firstly I will state my position as a pistol shooter for over 20 years, having represented my station, county and the British Police Team.

The tragedy at Dunblane reached out to everyone in the country and as the parent of two girls of similar ages to some of the victims I felt a sense of dread at the news. No, I do not know how the families at Dunblane felt because the magnitude of their grief is such that only someone in a similar position can know.

I do, however, know that the ban on handguns has been led by the emotions of those affected and the almost hysterical clamouring of the press and politicians. The ban has not been the result of rational thinking.

Unfortunately, there will always be the Thomas Hamiltons in our society, Hindley and Brady, Fred West, Peter Sutcliffe. Banning the means does not prevent the crime.

Thomas Hamilton and his type are psychologically profiled as 'planners,' in that they can meticulously plan their actions.

If he had not had handguns at his disposal Hamilton would have used another method to achieve his own ends. Banning handguns will not stop another Dunblane.

The weight of political support for the ban has been described as being what the public wanted. Imagine if Hamilton had not killed himself and the public outcry had been for the restoration of the death penalty do you really think that all political parties would have supported the 'public wish?' I think not.

In that scenario the 'public wish' would have been brushed aside as an

'hysterical outburst'. The gun ban is nothing more than vote catching by the politicians and has been rushed through with indecent haste. They would sell their souls for a vote and have no morals when it comes to hanging on to or gaining power.

This year they will sacrifice pistol shooters, next year, who knows. Anglers or archers or even football if that was to be judged in the same way as shooters have been. Don't laugh, we have become subject to lynch mob rule. Those who shouted the loudest were listened to and followed blindly.

The unfortunate thing is that some of those shouting the loudest were talking the most utter nonsense imaginable. Hysteria rules. I believe the shooting lobby remained silent out of shock and

respect for Dunblane and as a result have lost the initiative. What does not seem to have been grasped is the fact that the law exists to have had Hamilton's firearms certificate revoked but for reasons which remain a mystery, the licensing authority in Scotland did not use the law and as a result every lawful pistol shooter in the country is to be punished.

I agree that if the law to protect the public does not exist then make one. In this case the law was not used and it was necessary to find a scapegoat. Us.

Believe me, if I thought that giving up shooting would prevent another disaster then I would not need a law to destroy my guns. I would have done it already.

Dc Blaxland
Basildon

That 'magic word' can make all the difference

WHEN a woman wrote to Harlow Traffic complaining of the attitude of an officer at an accident road block, the officer in question was asked to give his side of the story.

The Duty Report response he submitted will undoubtedly strike a chord with many others.

IT was chaos. It always is. Despite a sign proclaiming 'Police Accident' and another advising 'Police Slow', still they came like migrating lemmings hell bent on strangling the roundabout which was their only known route to that warm refuge that they all so desperately sought.

They wanted to go home. How they longed for the cosy fireside chair in which they could relax away the ache, the sort of ache that only Christmas shopping could bring to ones feet and wallet.

He stood alone against the relentless, increasing mechanical onslaught. He had seen it all before, he knew what to expect. He knew, or at least hoped, that the strategically placed vehicle of

his own kind would scare some of them away with its mesmerising blue lights - still they came!

The rear window opened allowing for a brief moment warmth to tease his frozen features. The faceless voice from within started: 'Want to get to Nazeing'. He responded: 'Sorry, road's blocked'. Lost in his own neighbourhood, the voice continued: 'Don't know any other way. Tell me how to get to Nazeing'.

He knew it would happen. It always did. They had not used the Magic Word! He knew their desperation. He wanted to help them. He coaxed and encouraged them until finally, from deep within their memory, stirred from its slumber came the Magic Word.

'How do I get to Nazeing, please,' said the voice in hesitant tones. Despite the deepening chill, he felt an inner warmth. The Magic Word always did that to him. He gave them his finest, most accurate alternative directions. The voice smiled and beamed a 'thank you', before happily going on his way.

Still they came, and all were treated

as the voice had been. She approached him in the thickening darkness another lost soul, just like the others. She was however, slightly different, in that in her indifference towards the multitude of similar lost and weary travellers, prevented those with knowledge from continuing the exodus from the city. She halted her vehicle with disregard for those behind.

Still they came! The congestion grew. He approached the opening window as if it beckoned to him. She repeated to him the chant, which by now he had heard many times before. Like the others that had gone before her she did not know of the Magic Word.

At such times, the needs of the many swamp and stifle the desire of the one. He, anxious to assist the many, suggested that she reposition her proud and growling chariot.

She drove to the roadside much displeased at being treated so. Anger boiled within her. She knew she would never have been treated thus if He were a She.

He heard it immediately and with the

instructions still reverberating in his ears, he knew what he had to do.

The way ahead was open. The masses were free at last, free at last. He collected his precious equipment close to him. He would need it again, it gave him comfort.

He can't recall, but in the blur of vehicles which conveyed people to their destinations, He thought he saw her as she drove away into the night.

Many were grateful for the directions He had given to them.

Many were embarrassed for not knowing the Magic Word.

One drove off with anger in her head. The many would not write kindly words of the Great One.

The one wrote expressing her displeasure. It was also so. He had seen it before.

Thank you for your tributes to Laurie

I WOULD like to express my sincere thanks to the members of Essex Police and especially the Traffic Division and Driving School for their attendance and salutations at Laurie's funeral service on the November 6, 1996.

I am sorry that I was unable to meet you all and thank you personally.

Vera Yallop

Awarded for services to Police Committee

A DEPUTY Lieutenant of Essex, and a former member of the county Police Committee, has been awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours.

John McCrindle Smith has been honoured for services to the Magistracy and to the Police Committee, on which he served between 1984 and 1987.

A company director from Brentwood, Mr Smith is a former member of Brentwood District Council and was chairman between 1960 and 1961. He served as a magistrate from 1965 to 1996 and was appointed chairman of the Brentwood branch in January 1978, retiring from the position in 1996.

Mr Smith, aged 70, also served on the Lord Chancellor's South West Essex Advisory Sub Committee on Justices of the Peace for 12 years. He became Deputy Lieutenant of Essex in 1996.



● Father Christmas drops in on the new Force Information Room with a gift of long-awaited computer equipment.

Santa makes a special delivery

THE announcement that the new Essex Police Force Information Room is on course to go operational in March was the ideal Christmas gift for everyone who has waited so long for the good news.

It was such a big event that it even brought Santa Claus to Police Headquarters.

He dropped in on behalf of contractor Marconi to deliver computerised Stratex touch screens which will be used by information roof staff to access radio and telephone facilities.

Sgt Keith Beechener, a member of the FIR project team, said: "This was a milestone. After waiting so long for the go-ahead to be announced we wanted to make a special event of the delivery."

Essex Police's *In Touch* newsletter, distributed last month, contains a detailed briefing on the new Information Room for all personnel.

Meanwhile, anyone with a query is encouraged to contact the project team on extensions 58613/5/6.

Strict new measures imposed by licensing unit

No drugs in clubs

PUTTING a total stop to determined drug dealers may be unrealistic but members of Basildon licensing unit are intent on making their lives difficult with a clampdown on regulations.

The officers have the backing of the management of the Uropa Club (formerly Raquels) which re-opened on December 5 under strict anti-drug measures introduced as a result of the Ecstasy induced death of Leah Betts.

Basildon Police arranged for a set of licensing conditions to be imposed on the club, specifically designed to prevent drugs dealing, drug abuse and further tragedies, before it would be allowed to re-open.

As well as standard conditions, the new ones included:

- safety boxes in which doormen deposit anything seized from clubbers.
- the availability of free drinking water and a paramedic.
- increased security both on the

Report by Ruth Collin

door and inside the club.

- the vetting of promoters and DJ's.

Despite the ability of two Sunday Mirror journalists to infiltrate the club and buy four Ecstasy pills, the measures are in fact working and significantly reduce the availability of drugs in the club.

This newspaper incident may seem frustrating, but the fact is dealers are now extremely wary of the surveillance and sustained police and club efforts to stamp them out.

The journalists themselves said it was difficult to obtain the drugs and the matter is under full investigation.

PC Andy Ford of the Basildon licensing unit says that the management of the club has been more than enthusiastic about the new conditions and is continuing to try its

hardest to make them work and eradicate drugs entirely.

At the time of going to press, the safety boxes have not yet yielded many drugs but a quantity of weapons have been recovered.

Basildon Police anticipate an increase in clubs in the area due to new investments into the leisure industry in the town. PC Ford says that their unit will be insisting on having the new anti-drugs conditions imposed on all new license applications.

This should reduce to a minimum the potential for any future drugs tragedy. Ultimately, the unit would like to see the licensing conditions made a county, if not national, standard.

As far as they are aware, many other police areas insist on similar conditions and many clubs across

the country voluntarily adopt the same good practices.

- A new date has been set for the re-trial of Steven Packman charged with being involved in the supply of ecstasy to Leah Betts.

He'll re-appear on February 24. The second defendant in the case, Stephen Smith, was sentenced before Christmas; he was given a two year conditional discharge.

Preparing for Go-Live

CONSIDERABLE work is being undertaken to prepare for the Go-Live of FIR including the renumbering of all IRIS terminals so that FIR has numbers 10-69 and the rest of the county has 70 to 210.

This will provide the opportunity to install more IRIS terminals during the summer.

In addition there will be a number of software changes which will mean some localised training.

Points from the past

FIVE years ago

THE 'W' was officially dropped from the prefix for women officers of all ranks.

And six months after her disappearance, concerns were growing for the safety of the missing teenager Dinah McNicholl.

TEN years ago

EDNET began to be installed in stations across the county.

And the new civilian uniform was issued.

TWENTY years ago

WOMEN officers were given back the 'W' prefix to ranks having had it dropped just over a year earlier (and see five years ago above!).

And the funeral of Ch/Insp George Manning of Billericay was held. Mr Manning had died on Boxing Day 1976 - due to be his last day of service - in a road accident while responding to a 999 call.

TWENTY-FIVE years ago

ESSEX and Southend Joint Constabulary reached its highest ever number of serving officers when a new batch of recruits tipped the 2,000 mark.

And founder member of the Essex dog section Sergeant Dan Hare was appointed Dogmaster to Hong Kong Police.

Police news video relaunched



● TV Unit Producer Philip Kenchington and FOCUS presented Marc Berners hand over to new RESPONSE presenter Ruth Collin and new TV Unit staff Antonio Ferrara and Stewart Creasey.

WATCH out for the new Essex Police news programme, *RESPONSE*, which hits the screens next month.

The programme, which follows *FOCUS*, continues to be produced in-house by the Essex Police TV Unit.

The new programme takes advantage of the latest broadcast technology; the backdrop is a virtual studio created on computer and superimposed behind the presenter.

This has been a major project for the TV Unit, who've also welcomed two new members of staff; Antonio Ferrara and Stuart Creasey.

Prisoner helps elderly victim of crime

AN Essex pensioner's faith in human nature was restored in the season of goodwill, following the theft of her purse, containing £60, two months previously.

Jessica Thorne, aged 85, had been shopping in a supermarket in Clacton in October last year when the purse was taken. She had planned to buy her two sons Christmas presents with the cash it contained.

The theft was reported in the local newspaper, the Clacton Gazette, where it was read by prisoner Kenny Tokley, a Clacton man, serving his sentence at a Kent prison.

He was so touched by Mrs Thorne's plight that he organised a

collection among fellow inmates and staff at the prison, raising £118, almost double the amount stolen.

DCI Terry Gardiner, of Clacton CID, received the cheque from Mr Tokley, together with a letter for Mrs Thorne, in which he expressed the hope that the money would "brighten up her Christmas" and sending her the season's greetings.

When told the news, a tearful Mrs Thorne, who lives at Great Clacton, said she was delighted.

And DCI Gardiner commented: "It goes to show that there is some good in everybody. It was a very nice gesture for someone whose Christmas might otherwise have been ruined."

JANUARY

PERSONNEL had to sift through nearly 4,000 applications in response to their advertisements for trainee constables. In total, 200 new officers joined the force as a result of the recruitment drive.

One of the youngest applicants was five-year-old Richard Allerton from Heybridge. He seemed so keen to join the police saying: "They help people, put naughty people in prison and drive nice cars". Richard spent a day as guest of honour at Maldon Police Station.

A YEAR OF RECCO



● Graphologist Jacquie Mansfield assisted Rayleigh Police during APRIL in their search for the 'Barling Bomber'. Photo courtesy of *The Evening Echo*.

Ruth Collin looks back at Essex Police in the news in 1996

for the nine months ending December 95 showed crime figures were at their lowest level since May 1990.

Two Essex officers were in training for not just one - but two - marathons. Sgt Simon Williams (Grays) and Pc Stephen Wynn (FSU) - together with Simon's father, David - ran in the Boston Marathon and then six days later tackled the London Marathon.

The trio were raising money for Lupus UK - a Romford based charity researching the rare autoimmune disease.

APRIL

THE responsibility for school crossings was formally passed from Essex Police to the county council. The county's current number of 260 crossing patrols had been manned by Essex Police since the service first began in the 1950s.

A handwriting expert was called in to assist officers hunting for the 'Barling Bomber'. Essex graphologist Jacquie Mansfield provided a profile of the person who has been sending letters deplor-

ing development plans in the village.

And Essex Police's longest serving detective, Superintendent Ivan Dibley, retired from the force.

MAY

A PROPOSAL to share air support resources between Essex Police and the Cambridgeshire Constabulary was given the go ahead. A grant of £1m was given to buy a second helicopter which will be based in Cambridge. Each aircraft will then provide a back-up service to each county.

Pitsea police station began a pilot scheme to man the office with civilian volunteers. Four volunteers were trained to handle front office duties in an attempt to keep officers on the beat and extend opening hours at the station.

An 86-year-old man died less than 24 hours after three burglars conned their way into his home claiming to be from the Gas Board. They stole £3,000 cash from the man. A murder inquiry was launched by Clacton Police.

MARCH

THE Essex County Drugs Action Team was formed to tackle the problem of drugs in the county.

The team, part of the recommendations from the Government White Paper 'Tackling Drugs Together', brings together Essex Police, local councils, health authorities and the prison and probation services.

The 2 Smart 4 Drugs roadshows are a key part of the education programme being carried out by Essex DAT.

Figures released by the Essex Police Authority showed a major drop in recorded crime. The figures released



Acting Inspector Gary Heard demonstrates the proceeds of a successful knives amnesty in FEBRUARY. Photo courtesy of *The Essex Chronicle*.

FEBRUARY

OVER 1,000 knives were handed in across Essex during the month long amnesty, launched following the murder of headteacher Philip Lawrence.

The weapons included ceremonial swords, butterfly knives, knuckle dusters and rifle rounds.

Essex Police collected one of the largest hauls in the country - nationwide around 40,000 weapons were taken off the streets.

Officers were congratulated for their hard work in Operation Max - a three year investigation which led to the convictions of 13 members of a gang.

Led by Jason Vella, the gang operated in south Essex carrying out tortures and violent punishments. Vella was sentenced to 17 years.



● The Marine Unit at Rayleigh took to the water with jet power to tour the county's beaches during JULY. The loaned equipment enabled better policing of the shallow water and moorings. Photo courtesy of *The Daily*

DECEMBER

F ESSEX Police was commended for its services to the community with the award of a Charter Mark.

The police application highlighted many initiatives introduced over the years including Service Delivery Standards, the work of the Community Safety Department and PC Ted - a cuddly toy given to children traumatised by an incident.

Divers, asleep after night shift, turned out from their beds to assist in the tragedy at Belhus Park in Aveley.

A couple attempted to rescue their dog which had fallen through ice on the park's lake. Unfortunately they too became trapped and drowned under the frozen surface.

Personnel received long-awaited news that the new Force Information Room (FIR) was on course to become operational in March 1997.

The announcement followed completion of a number of exhaustive tests on specialist equipment.

NOVEMBER

AN Essex Pc was presented with a Royal Humane Society Award for his brave actions in attempting to rescue a woman from a car in a river.

Pc David Jones had worked with officers from Hertfordshire to free the woman at the incident in Sawbridgeworth earlier in the year.

And Colossus - the tallest police horse in the country - put his feet up at the start of his well-earned retirement.

The horse, otherwise known as Buster, served at Southend for five years and is now being cared for at Warren Farm livery stables in Little Baddow.**

OCTOBER

The '2 Smart 4 Drugs' roadshows got underway across the county's schools in a bid to reach thousands of youngsters with the anti-drugs message.

The roadshows, organised by the Essex Drugs Action Team and sponsored by Essex FM, have visited eleven schools already.

The roadshows include latest boy-band 'Code Red' and TV Doctor Dave Bull, together with Essex FM DJs and dancers. A new timetable of roadshows will get underway in the new year.

A significant drop in the number of road deaths recorded in the 12 months leading up to the end of October were recorded.

The total number of road accidents had dropped by 5.49% and the number of road deaths was cut by 21.

And plans to ban all handguns from the home (except small calibre target pistols) were announced in parliament.

High powered guns will be completely outlawed leaving only .22 rimfire guns which will be kept securely in approved clubs. The Home Office suggest that this move will lead to the destruction of at least 160,000 guns.

COGNITION



DCI Win Bernard became a media hero in AUGUST after hours of tense negotiations with the pilot of a hijacked Sudanese aircraft at Stansted. Photo courtesy of Adrian Sheratt, Times Newspapers Limited.

JUNE

A FIREARMS amnesty was held following the Dunblane massacre. Public outcry led to the amnesty which invited holders of both lawful and illegal guns to surrender their weapons. Sixteen children were killed at Dunblane Primary School on March 13. In Essex, a total of 794 firearms were handed in. Laws regarding the ownership of guns have since changed.

Special Constable, Glenn Mitchell, of Colchester was named 'Special of the Year'. Glenn's service as a Special has included being involved with Operation Street Legal in Colchester and the organisation of over 400 Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.

Traffic officer, Pc Rodney Leake was killed in a road accident during a routine patrol in Ulting. Emotional tributes were paid by friends, family and colleagues to the man described as a 'gentle giant'. A special service was held at Chelmsford Cathedral, followed by a private burial in Tiptree.

JULY

THE Marine Unit at Rayleigh took delivery of a piece of jet power to help them patrol the county's coast. Oxford-based E.P. Barrus lent the Unit a Personal Watercraft enabling officers to manoeuvre easily and safely in shallow water and amongst moorings.

Phase One of the new EPICS (Essex Police Integrated Computer System) database went live for the first time in Basildon - giving officers direct access to intelligence and custody records. The trial scheme enabled Local

Intelligence Officers to input their information into the system making it accessible to all.

The 10th annual Fun Day was the biggest success yet with 22,000 people joining in the fun at HQ. The event raised more than £30,000 which has been divided between the Essex Radio hospice appeal and other local charities.

AUGUST

A LATE night call on the evening of the August Bank Holiday put Essex Police's hijack plans into action. The hijacked aircraft landed at Stansted Airport in the early hours of the morning. Eight hours of negotiations later, it was over without any injuries. The Prime Minister and the Home Secretary were the first to praise officers and support staff for their handling of the incident.

Rayleigh Division was in the news again - this time as pedal power hit the streets. The new Pro-Active Cycle Team was launched with six brand new mountain bikes and accessories, courtesy of Halfords in Rayleigh. The patrol was designed to concentrate on burglaries and public nuisance incidents.

Following a £2.5m project which lasted two years the new police station at Harlow was officially opened. The station is almost double the size of the original and includes a new witness room, identification suite, parade rooms and cells.

● Code Red took to the stage in NOVEMBER for the launch of the 2 Smart 4 Drugs roadshows. Photo by Sue Andrews.

SEPTEMBER

CHANGES to search procedures were introduced following the tragedy of the missing Jarvis family. Margaret Jarvis and her two sons were missing for just over a week before being found dead in their car in a locked outbuilding. ACC(O) Geoffrey Markham said "The signal lesson from this tragedy is that unoccupied premises within a search area must be entered and revisited subsequently to ensure they have not been entered after an original search".

One of the county's many CCTV systems was formally commended by the Home Secretary, Michael Howard on a visit to Essex. The town's system, run by the borough council in close liaison with Chelmsford Police, had led to 66 arrests in the first six months.



WITH injuries ranging from pulled muscles to slipped discs, it is estimated that more than half the population will suffer from back pain at some time in their lives.

For some back problems are disabling and agonising, while for others there may be only mild, occasional discomfort.

The back contains the spine, which supports the whole body and is in use 24 hours a day - even when you are asleep.

The spine consists of several small hollow, stacked bones, called vertebrae, divided into five groups: cervical (neck), thoracic (chest), lumbar (lower back), sacrum and coccyx (tail-bone), which in addition to providing support also protect the spinal cord.

Between each vertebrae are a number of flexible "shock absorbers", called intervertebral discs, which help the spine to bend in different directions and which can suffer damage - often referred to as a "slipped disc".

Back pain can be caused in a number of ways. These include: poor posture; lack of exercise; badly designed seating; sagging mattresses; extended periods working in fixed positions; poor workplace design; poor car seat

Health check . . Health check . . Health check . .

design; excess weight; lifting or carrying heavy objects incorrectly; pregnancy.

Kidney infections, osteoporosis or arthritis can also cause back pain or discomfort.

If you suspect your back pain is a sign of something serious, or if it is unusually severe, then consult your GP.

- Try to maintain good posture at all times. Avoid rounding your back and slumping.

Try to avoid hunching your shoulders and tensing your neck when angry or stressed.

Excess bodyweight only adds to spinal stress.

Take regular exercise - walking or swimming are best.

- Make sure your chair correctly supports your body. Avoid over-soft or bucket-shaped seats. Placing a small, firm cushion at the small of the back gives vital support.

A good supportive mattress is essential. It should allow some absorption of the hip and shoulder.

- Housework can put a great strain

THINK BACK!

on backs. Learn to take frequent breaks between chores.

Organise cupboards so that everyday items are easy to reach.

In the bathroom, kneel down to clean the bath and toilet. When

Did you know?

- 60 per cent of adults suffer back pain annually?

- 30 per cent of adults become chronic sufferers?

- only 1 per cent of back pain investigation results in surgery?

- in the last year there were more than 93 million certified days of sickness because of back pain?

- back pain sickness benefits have increased by more than 200 per cent in the last 25 years?

- the number of back injuries continues to rise, although overall accident totals are falling?

- the cost to industry in lost production is more than £5 billion?

making beds always kneel rather than stoop. Try ironing sitting down.

- Clothes which restrict mobility can cause back pain. Tight jeans in particular can cause considerable back stress. High heels are likely to cause poor posture.

Back strains can easily happen when getting in or out of the bath, so consider buying a non-slip mat or grip rail to put inside it.

- At work, to avoid the increasingly common problems of back, neck and wrist pains make sure your chair is at the correct height and take frequent short breaks to move around and stretch your muscles.

- While shopping, carry heavy goods in two bags, splitting the weight between each arm.

The ideal way to carry luggage is in a well-loaded rucksack or in two cases.

- Pregnancy and child care often bring on long-term backache.

The rules are the same as for lifting any item.

For further advice and information contact the Occupational Health Department.

- AS a result of recent directives from the Health and Safety Executive, employers are now required by law to avoid hazardous manual handling operations as much as possible.

LIFTING CODE

1. Prepare for the lift. Check the load's weight and if you think it is too heavy get help. Check route is clear of obstruction.

2. Stand close to the load, feet either side of it. Keep your back straight throughout. Get down to the level of the load by bending your hips and knees.

3. With elbows close to the body grip the load - use the whole hand not just the fingers.

4. Lean forward a little, keeping your back straight and with one smooth movement straighten your hips and knees and lift the object close to your body.

5. To lower the load reverse the action. Bend your hips and knees with a straight back.

- THE National Physiotherapy Service (Essex Police) is a health scheme for all employees.

Family cover starts at £1.80 per week, including up to 32 private physiotherapy treatments for each eligible family member per year.

Drugs education given cash boost

RAYLEIGH Mill Rotary Club has handed over £6,500 to Essex Police to help its campaign to deter young people from drugs misuse.

The money was raised by club members at a charity recital in Rochford, featuring the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra, and was presented at the club's meeting at Rayleigh Mill Hall to Supt Andy Hayman, head of Essex Police Community Safety Department.

President John Pilgrim presented £5,000 to be used for drugs education promotional work in schools. The remaining £1,500 was presented by Immediate Past President John Fairweather and will be used to fund the 1997 Teenex Camp, at which teenagers with communication and influencing skills learn anti-drug information to be relayed to fellow students.

Last summer's camp was attended by 80 young people aged between 14 and 17.

Rotary Club PRO Terry Ibrahim said: "Every year the club president nominates a charity or cause to support through our fund-raising activities. It was John Fairweather's choice to support Essex Police in their efforts to reduce drugs misuse among young people and we were very happy to support him and to be able to hand over so much money."

He added that, following the success of the orchestral recital, another is planned for June 29 next year, also at Rochford, again involving the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra.

Thanking the club for its magnificent contribution, Supt Hayman said the money would provide "a golden opportunity to develop our drugs education work". He also added that the presentation showed what can be achieved through working closely with the community.

Community clean up

POLICE at Witham have been involved in a community project on one of the first GLC overspill estates to be built there in the late 1960s, writes Mick Hall.

Some residents of the Templars Estate regard it as being run down and neglected and so a three-day inter-agency community action plan was launched in November to show residents what help and support is available to help them actively participate in making improvements on the estate.

Braintree District Council's community bus and the Essex Police crime prevention trailer were set up in the grounds of Templars Junior School with various agencies coming together to offer advice and help to the residents on improving the quality of life on the estate.

Agencies taking part were:-

Braintree District Council's housing and environmental health departments; Templars Residents Association; Essex County Council youth service and road safety officers; Victim Support



- Youngsters from Templars School arm themselves with bin bags and spend their lunch hour picking up litter.

Service; Essex Police crime prevention and drugs education; Home Start; Templars School and Elm Hall Junior School.

Skips were placed throughout the estate by the district council's environmental health department, to encourage residents to dump their rubbish and, over the three days, pupils from Templars school gave up their lunchtime play to do a litter pick.

Vast quantities of all types of rub-

bish were collected, much of which was recyclable.

They were rewarded with the presentation of a plaque by Councillor Elwyn Bishop, chair of Braintree council.

Elm Hall School carried out an environmental study, results of which are still awaited.

One of the first things to come out of the event was an increase of 60 in the membership of the residents' association.

Help beat terrorism

THE public are being asked to assist in the fight against terrorism by reporting anything suspicious on a new terrorism hotline.

Posters have been circulated across Essex giving the freephone number 0800 789 321.

The posters are mainly targeted at landlords, hoteliers and motor traders. They ask for any information with regard to suspicious vehicle sales, tenants of commercial or residential premises and any other information to be forwarded to the hotline.

The posters have already been circulated by the Metropolitan Police in London and have led to calls from the public with crucial information that has produced excellent results.

Recognise the signs and save your child

A SICK child is the dread of every parent but when the illness is an unknown entity the feeling of helplessness is heightened.

Kawasaki Syndrome is such an illness. With its cause still baffling the medical profession and no known cure, Kawasaki Syndrome is every parent's worst nightmare.

And it was a nightmare that became reality for Pc Derek Hill and his wife, when their 14 week-old son contracted the condition. Fortunately a quick-thinking doctor and some speedy preventative medicine averted any serious danger, but Derek is now keen for other officers and support staff to be aware of the syndrome's existence in the hope of avoiding future heartache.

Derek, a Traffic officer at Laindon, told *The Law* how one night his baby son Christopher couldn't sleep, was feverish and basically inconsolable. He had a mauve rash, swollen glands and bright red lips.

Doctors at first said it was a virus but three days on there was no improvement so eventually Derek took Christopher to Basildon Hospital.

He was immediately put into an isolation ward where a doctor diagnosed Kawasaki Syndrome and he was given massive doses of Aspirin and dribble fed with milk.

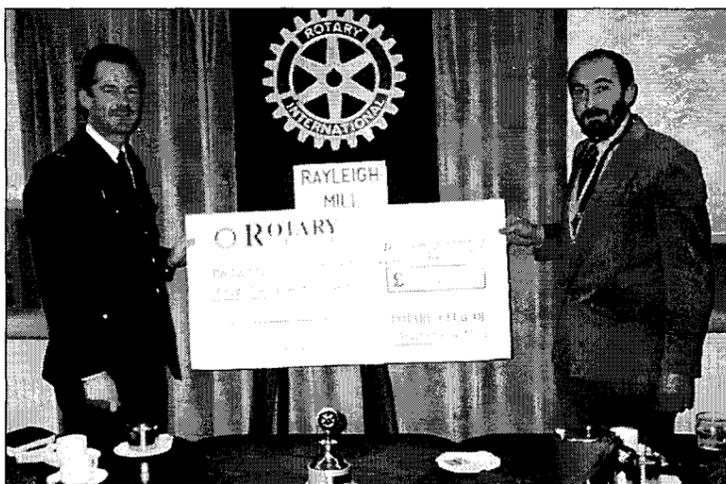
Derek has since discovered that if not treated within 10 days, the illness can prove fatal or leave long lasting effects such as heart damage.

Derek said: "Christopher was really lucky. I've watched a documentary since and seen just how commonly it is misdiagnosed. A lot of GPs don't even know it exists."

"If the staff at Basildon were not on the ball we would not have been any the wiser and things could have been a lot more serious."

Other symptoms to look out for are red eyes, cracked lips, swelling and/or redness of hands and feet, peeling skin, painful joints, loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhoea and jaundice.

There is also a national telephone help line for the Kawasaki Syndrome Support Group on 01203 612178.



● John Fairweather, Immediate Past President of Rayleigh Mill Rotary Club, hands over a cheque to Supt Andy Hayman.

£41,000 BOOST FOR CHARITIES

LOCAL charities were given an extra Christmas present this year to the tune of £41,000.

The money was the proceeds of last year's hugely successful fun day back in July, together with the money raised at the Essex Police Band concert at the Cliffs Pavilion in November.

The principal charities to benefit are the six Essex hospices - as supported by Essex Radio's Hospice Appeal - and the Royal British Legion Fund. Asst Chief Constable Geoffrey Markham carried out the presentation.

Caterer for the presentation was Mrs Janet Johnson, wife of the

retired police mechanic Brian Johnson.

And it was thanks to her generosity that many of London's homeless were fed for Christmas.

It all came about when Janet refused to accept £50 offered to her for doing the presentation's food, asking it be given to charity.

Fun Day organiser Supt David Bright gave the idea some thought and one evening when off duty, he, Rob Gregory, Paul Mulally and Simon Willett, took a transit van full of food into the City.

David told *The Law* how it was a freezing cold evening as they did the rounds of Whitechapel, Liverpool Street and the other regular haunts of

the homeless, chatting to the people, offering them fruit and sandwiches.

He said: "There was one lad in Whitechapel, about 23, a well spoken and educated young man. We offered him sandwiches - we had turkey, ham, even lamb and mint sauce - and he asked if we had any cheese because he was a vegetarian. It was an amazing experience."



Vests for all

ESSEX Police is to buy 400 sets of body armour for use on Divisions.

Worn overtly, the AEGIS waist coat style jacket comes with radio tags, pen pocket, force badge and comfortable protection for the vital organs.

It meets PSDB standards with ballistic resistance to small calibre weapons (Heckler & Koch 9 mm standard ammo at 5yards) and stab resistance to 42 Joules (more than the ability of the average man).

Although it is the Chief Constable's committed intention to move to personal issue when circumstances allow, the new supply of body armour aims to ensure that anyone on duty at any time should have access to adequate protection.

Distribution will be on the basis of a division's geographic rather than personnel size, to ensure ready access in remoter parts of the county.

Patrol

Divisional commanders will be responsible as to how they distribute them locally but the aim is for patrolling officers to wear them at their own discretion on a regular basis rather than have them held on reserve for special operations.

HQ will be evaluating their operational use and would expect them to be worn most between 6pm and 2am by regular patrolling officers who feel they want to wear them.

SPECIALS in Essex have been given a £45,000 boost for new equipment and improved training.

By the end of the month, Essex Police should also know whether it has won further Government funding for extra Specials.

Home Office Minister David Maclean announced an extra £6 million of national funding for specials in August, with Essex in competition with forces all over the country for a share of the money.

If the bid is successful, the extra funds will build on the £150,000 awarded by the Government last year to increase the number of specials, helping Essex Police reach its target of 1,065 Special Constables by 1998.

Equipment

News that the second, non-competitive bid for new equipment and improved training had been successful came from the Home Office on January 6.

The £45,347 allocated to Essex will bring the Special Constabulary up to date and increase its professionalism.

Superintendent Andy Hayman, head of Community Safety, said success in both bids would be a "timely reward" for Essex Police's dedicated Specials.

"Through the increase

AN exciting pilot project which involves local employers in the recruitment and support of Specials is on trial in the county.

Essex Police is one of four forces throughout the country which has been chosen to take part in the initiative, in response to a recommendation contained in a Home Office working group's report on the Special Constabulary.

The first findings of the scheme, which officially began on 1 September, will be discussed this month with the publication of an interim report.

The final report is expected to come out sometime during the second quarter of this year.

by Alyson Mountney

ing our ability to improve their working conditions and their own skills and development. The Special Constabulary performs a vital role within the force."

If the bid for a share of the Home Office's £6 million is successful, it would fund two recruiting staff for a further two years and pay for a full time civilian specials co-ordinator for

two years.

The cash would also enable each division to hold open evenings aimed at prospective special constables, and train three special supervisors per division in interviewing applicants.

Training

It would also fund training and equipment, and an improved appraisal system

so specials can see how they are developing.

The equipment cash will enable special constables to receive the same equipment and defensive skills training as regular officers.

Instead of receiving a rigid baton as standard, they will now get the choice between an extendible baton or a rigid baton.

They will also receive the new rigid Kwik-Cuffs as standard issue.

Currently, not all specials are issued with handcuffs, and those who are receive refurbished old-style rigid handcuffs.

"This money will enable us to give equality of issue to Specials and regular officers," commented Supt Hayman.

Pilot scheme to boost Specials

EMPLOYERS TARGETED TO LIFT PROFILE

Mr Ian Watson, Resource Management Personnel Officer, said Essex Police was targeting employers within the force area and had already received positive soundings from various companies.

Exciting

"It's quite an exciting development which builds upon a lot of hard work that Essex Police has been doing.

"It's essentially to encourage local employers in supporting and also encouraging their staff to be Special Constables," he said.

"We will be taking this

forward by bringing around four to eight major organisations from around Essex to meet the Chief Constable, to have the rationale of the Specials explained to them and to seek their support for it."

In the first instance, the force was aiming to involve major organisations from a diverse range of industries, such as retail and manufacturing, as well as public sector employers, Mr Watson added.

"Initially we would be looking for about 50 people from these organisations to be inducted into the Special Constabulary,"

he said.

Although the obvious advantage was more Specials for Essex, the scheme would also build on the Police's good relationship with the community and in turn, be beneficial to the employers involved, he added.

Profile

"This employee support initiative is only one of many different things we are trying to do to raise the profile and standing of the Specials and to encourage more people to join.

"Although we have these very challenging tar-

gets, I do have to say that we are doing exceptionally well in attracting people into the organisation."

Mr Watson also encouraged Specials and members of police staff to "spread the word" about becoming a Special to their colleagues, family and friends. "It is an ideal source of recruitment," he said.

Resource Management at Headquarters, on ednet 54111, can supply literature and information about becoming a Special to anyone who has friends or colleagues who are interested.

Retirements

ESSEX Police extends its good wishes to the following officers who are retiring:

- Insp Lionel Thomas**, Criminal Justice Dept, 29 years (5.1.97).
- Ch/Insp Brian Mead**, Basildon, 30 years (22.1.97).
- Sgt Simon Jones**, Wickford, 30 years (11.1.97).
- Sgt Christopher Sleep**, EPTC/Rayleigh, 30 years (12.1.97).
- Pc Colin Trim**, Bocking Traffic, 17 years (12.1.97).
- Pc Christopher Farndell**, Colchester, 30 years (31.1.97).
- Pc Alan Tucker**, Southend, 30 years (11.1.97).
- Pc Roy Smith**, South Woodham Ferrers, 26 years (15.1.97).
- Pc John Manners**, EPTC, 30 years (31.1.97).

Tragic death of airport civilian

STATION Office Assistant Dana Alison, based at Stansted, has died at the age of 42.

Dana worked for Essex Police for nine years, firstly at Harlow before moving to Stansted earlier this year.

She died on December 20 having started receiving treatment for cancer. Known among friends and colleagues as an animal lover, she lived near Hatfield Forest with her two dogs and several cats.

Because of her love of animals, anyone wishing to make a donation in memory of Dana is asked to contribute to Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Market Place

ALGARVE, two bedroom apartment, sleeps six. Fifteen minutes walk from sea with swimming pool in complex. £150 per week, anytime. Contact Brian Spiers, 01268 558211

FOR HIRE, Norfolk Broads motor cruiser, 37 ft, six berths with spacious saloon and aft deck, new furnishings. Ready Spring 97, substantial savings on commercial rates. Contact Neil Evans, 01279 442231.

HIGHLAND HOLIDAYS in Inverness shire. B&B, full or half board in magnificent secluded home with superb food. Shooting, fishing, skiing, walking and wildlife nearby. 20% discount for Essex Police personnel - serving or retired. Contact Andrew Nunn (ex Chelmsford Traffic) 01479 841717.

NORFOLK, Hemsby, holiday chalet. Sleeps 4, close to sandy beach and broads. Site facilities include heated swimming pool. From £55 to £175 per week. Contact 01268 756169.

SMART working shoes. 1 pair Oxfords, 1 pair Alaska boots. Size 13, but 'small', hence availability. As new, £15 each pair. Contact 01206 573134.

SOUTHERN SPAIN, Nerja, 1 villa and 1 apartment to let. Both with double bedrooms and all facilities. Contact Sue or Mike 00 345 253 3298.

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE - ONE WORD PER BOX

Name and Rank

Station Home Tel

Date Signed



● Birthday celebrations for Ella Buse enjoying her 101st birthday to the sounds of the police choir. Photo courtesy of Les Brand.

Birthday bonanza

IT'S been a busy few weeks leading up to Christmas for the Essex Police Choir with a host of concerts across the county. The first was as early as November 30 at St Aidans Church at Leigh.

Along with entertainment from three singing policemen from Sible Hedingham, known as TCP, the event raised almost £1,000 for the Lady McAdden Breast Screening Unit charity.

The choir joined with musicians from the Colchester Sixth Form College Choir and Orchestra at the United Reform Church in Lion Walk, Colchester on December 12 for a Christmas Concert which included Vivaldi's *Gloria* and a selection of well known carols.

The Choir's regular concert at HQ for local pensioners had a very special person in the audience.

Ella Buse, a resident at the Okley sheltered accommodation in Chelmsford (pictured with choir members and Musical Director Norman Eastbrook) was this year enjoying her 101st Christmas.

The choir was again joined by TCP and the afternoon finished off with tea and mince pies for all the guests.

The final performance of the year was the annual Brentwood Citizens Concert on December 22. More than 1,200 local people were entertained at the Brentwood Centre by the Choir together with members of the

junior choir of Shenfield High School and the Essex Dance Theatre.

The concert is sponsored jointly by the Brentwood NatWest Bank and Brentwood Borough Council and is organised by the Harlow Divisional Command Team as a thank you to Brentwood residents for their work in Neighbourhood Watch and other crime prevention matters.

After a short Christmas and New Year break, the next choir concert is at the Christ Church in Braintree on Saturday, January 25.

For any further information about the choir please contact the secretary on HQ X 50011.

An officer and a gentleman

ESSEX POLICE has undergone several changes since Chief Inspector John Soanes first joined the service in 1967, but now he's hanging up his hat for a life of luxury.

Having served for nearly 14 years in the

Royal Navy at Portsmouth, Mr Soanes joined the Essex County Constabulary as a probationer just before the amalgamation into the Essex and Southend-On-Sea Joint Constabulary.

His service has included postings at Saffron Walden, HQ, Southend and Harlow working in uniform, CID, FIB, Complaints and Discipline and most latterly Special Branch.

Ch/Insp Soanes has always had an interest in the intelligence aspects of police work and says his current role in SB has given him tremendous job satisfaction.

Although a lot of his work is highly confidential, his posting has coincided with great changes in SB, not least the security services taking over some anti-terrorism responsibilities from the Metropolitan Police.

Despite leaving the Navy

30 years ago, Naval history is a great hobby which Mr Soanes hopes to continue in his retirement. Having served on the Ton Class minesweepers, he is the national chairman of the Ton Class Association which has 1,000 members across the world.

The association is recording the full history of the 118 minesweepers which were built in the 1950s and 60s. This is just a small part of the naval research Mr Soanes carries out in his spare time. He also undertakes research into individual servicemen recording their postings and service histories.

Mr Soanes will be moving to Devon on his retirement to be closer to one of his daughters and two grandchildren. He said; "I'm just looking forward to taking it easy and continuing my naval research. I've got an idea about putting my research into a book - but I'll be writing at my leisure."



● Ch/Insp John Soanes handing over the reins of Special Branch to Ch/Insp Pete Coltman.

Ken bids farewell

ONE of the longest serving members of Essex Police retires this month after 43 years of service.

Ken Radley, currently General Services Officer at HQ, first joined the service in 1953 as a probationary constable, having spent a few years in the Royal Air Force.

He started his uniformed career in Chelmsford and also served at Ingatestone, Harlow and at HQ CID.

Ken formally retired from the regular force in January 1984 after 30 years and 114 days of service. He then began work as a civilian and retires as General Services Officer just a few weeks before his 65th birthday.

Obituaries

ESSEX Police extends its sympathies to the families of the following retired members who have died:

Ex-Sgt Wilf Howard who served from 1946 to 1974 before spending a further 10 years as a civilian at the Driving School. He died on 26th December 1996 aged 77.

Ex-Sgt Laurence Yallop who served from 1936 to 1966 at Romford, Newport and Headquarters. He died in October, aged 82.

Ex-Inspector Lawrence Faux who served from 1946 to 1972 in the Southend Borough Constabulary. He died on 14 December 1996 aged 72.

Ex-Dc Arthur "Ginger" Lay who served from 1955 to 1985 at Benfleet and Southend. He died on 18 December 1996 aged 63.

Ex-Sgt John Porter who served from 1937 to 1968 in the Southend Borough Constabulary. He died in November aged 80.

Mind Your Own Business

The column of the Ex-Essex Police Business Association

A HAPPY and prosperous New Year to everyone!

They say time flies when you are enjoying yourself. Well, that certainly is the case with the Association.

The last year has seen it expand by 25 per cent and it now has 45 members.

Refreshing the aims of the Association and looking at ourselves to achieve the requirements of the members is a major part of our objectives and this will be reflected in our meetings in the new year with individual members given a slot to present their ideas and experiences for us all to share.

Past experiences related by members are essentially useful and we can look forward to these presentations in anticipation.

Resettlement courses:

WE have received many calls stating that the Association would be of great assistance to those reaching retirement and a slot on the resettlement courses (or pre-retirement courses to some) would be very useful.

We have written to the Training School again on behalf of ourselves and EPIC (Ex-Police Officers in Commerce and Industry), but still await a reply.

New members:

NICE to see that Les Blythe has reverted from the scales of justice to fish scales and is now a mobile fishmonger, trading as Fona Fish.

For those of you that have a "fone", Les can be contacted for large or small deliveries on 01268 743387.

DHQ Noticeboard:

THESE are proving to be quite successful, with a number of inquiries about the Association being made and members being contacted for their services.

Christmas dinner:

FIFTEEN of us attended the Crown Inn at Sandon and engaged in the usual banter, so much associated with our life in the police service.

The informal evening enabled us to catch up on what we were individually doing with our time.

Meeting dates:

THE meetings in 1997 will take place on March 5, June 4, September 3, December 10, at 7.30pm at Sandon Dog Section.

New members and further details contact Dick Bloomfield on 01702 202959 or Bob Craven on 01702 511567.

Cup giant-killer in post-war Essex Police side

LOOKING through my desk I found this photograph which is about 50 years old. It shows the first post-war Essex County Constabulary soccer team taken at St Albans in a match against Herts Constabulary. In the front row on the right is Pc Leslie who played for Colchester United and he was a player in the Walsall team that beat Arsenal in an FA Cup tie before the second world war.

Inspector Carpenter (far left) ran the side. In the back row there is Long, Southgate, Cazwell, myself and a PC who was stationed at Boreham, Chelmsford. The front row is Manning, Draper, Rand and Leslie. The player standing next to Inspector Carpenter played for Harwich and Parkstone.

I also played for the Civil Service Representatives side and for the Royal Navy in the second world war.

The photograph brought back some wonderful memories.

DAS Nicholls (retired 1975)



A Sixties' beat

Ex-Pc Dave Rose recalls his early years on patrol at Saffron Walden

MY posting from the 'Met' area of Romford to the North Essex market town of Saffron Walden could not have been more of a contrast in policing terms.

But I did not raise any objection because, to me this was more like the Essex I grew up in. I felt this gave me a distinct advantage. I had completed my final schooling in Saffron Walden so I knew the town well. My home village of Steeple Bumpstead was only 11 miles to the east.

At that time of day Saffron Walden was DHQ of the Saffron Walden Division and was headed by a Superintendent (Grade 2) as it then was. Just prior to my arrival the then Superintendent, Norman Cressy, had been moved on. I felt this was a pity because I remembered him when he was my Dad's sergeant.

My first visit to the police station at Saffron Walden could not have been more different than my first experience at Romford. At the front counter I was greeted by a very 'effervescent' female telephonist - Millie Birch, who looked at me with some disbelief. I later learned that Saffron Walden had not previously been a posting for younger

officers and I think I may have been the first 'single' officer at Walden. I was not yet 21 so it's comforting to remember that I did once look young.

Suddenly I heard a voice say: "Hello there, I think I knew your father." This put me at ease.

The voice belonged to Pc Bernard 'Tiny' Hunt, who had once served on the detached beat of Gt. Stampford, adjacent to my Dad's beat.

Charming

Berny was one of the most charming senior constables you could ever wish to meet and was rarely seen without a smile. He was a huge man in stature and heart and was always one hundred per cent polite to everyone he came into contact with.

With the greatest of respect and politeness Berny ushered me into the duty sergeant's office where I was greeted by Sgt Reg Viney. His first words to me were, "Come in, welcome to Saffron Walden. I think I knew your Dad, when he was at Hatfield Peverel and I was at Boreham." Once again this put me at ease and I mentally thanked Ch. Insp. Len Fisher at Romford for this

posting.

Sgt. Viney explained that he was having difficulty finding lodgings for me in the town as this was a rather new experience. (Perhaps all the local widows did not like the sound of 'a young from Romford'). It was suggested that I may consider living at home for the time being, with my parents at Steeple Bumpstead.

Formalities over Sgt Viney was showing me out when I was confronted by a very smart and jovial figure in 'civvies'. "Hello there" he said, "I'm Les Skyring (P.c.) How's your Dad?" This was now becoming rather embarrassing. Les went on: "I met your Dad when I was sent up here from Grays Division for Essex Show duty the year it was held off Chestnut Avenue (Audley End)."

(In those days the Essex Show had a different venue every year).

"He looked after me and I've never forgotten it. He seemed to know everyone." I was now feeling a bit overwhelmed by all of this and was increasingly feeling as though I would have a lot to live up to. I had not realised that Dad was so well known.

My first day of duty at Saffron Walden came. Ken Ferguson was the P.c. given the task of introducing me to policing in 'real Essex'. Ken had been a cadet with the 'Met' police, so we had plenty to discuss.

Obviously at this time policing at my level was very much a foot patrol function as it had been at Romford. There were two area patrol cars based at Saffron Walden which I learned were seldom on the road together.

Gleaming

The two gleaming black Austin A60s were kept in pristine condition by 'civvy' chauffeur Bert Morgan.

I remember seeing Bert cleaning these cars when I used to go past the police station on the school bus. I was always most impressed with their appearance. Town policing saw very little of the area car. Although the driver was from Saffron Walden he would pick up observers from around the division, Stansted Dunmow and rural stations.

Observers' duties were worked out in advance and published on a typed list. This made me remember

that sometimes my Dad used to be picked up by the area car from Braintree. Mostly he seemed to get the 2 am to 6 am slot which at that time was counted as duty for the previous day. I remember him not thinking much to this but it was marginally better than 5 am to 8 am cycle patrol which most likely was the alternative.

The only other vehicle at Saffron Walden at this time was a black Hillman Minx which was the sergeant's car.

All policing other than the one double crewed area car was performed on foot, cycle or 'Noddy' bikes (lightweight motorcycles).

Communication with patrolling beat officers was the same as it had been in Romford i.e. by making 'points'. Ten minute duration visits to pre-determined telephone kiosks on the hour or half hour in some cases so that any messages could be passed or supervising officers could visit. These visits had to be logged in pocket books and signed by the supervisor.

I was introduced to the station Inspector, Len Shadbolt, another Romford 'old boy', who turned out to be a wonderful Guvnor. He was a real gentleman and a father figure to his 'rookies' as he always called me.

To be continued

Letters

From page 4

Medical insurance comments wrong

I WAS surprised to read Eric Naylor's letter (Law, December) regarding private medical treatment for police officers.

Obviously, Mr Naylor has not looked into the facts behind medical insurance before putting pen to paper, especially his comment that "private medical insurance is a way of jumping the queue for the use of the nation's medical resources."

I have been on private medical insurance since I was 17. In 1992 I fell ill at work and was admitted to hospital where, after being held for two days, I was released and advised that there was nothing wrong with me.

However, as a result of private medical care, I saw a private consultant, a result of which led to surgery and eight weeks off work.

As I was treated at a private hospital - also used by the NHS - at a cost to Bupa and not to the NHS, to which I also contribute, I cannot see how I am using up the nation's medical resources when I am prepared to pay extra, at no cost to the taxpayer.

A little thought for the day: people spend on average more on insuring their motor car in a year than it would cost to be covered by private medical insurance.

Pc J Haslip,
Laindon Traffic Unit

Cracker

THE 1996 Christmas Cracker campaign in Colchester was the sixth annual campaign to target mainly shoplifting and public order offences in the town.

The campaign, which includes uniformed and covert officers, started on December 10 and in the first week alone officers arrested one young girl on suspicion of a spate of thefts from shops in the town centre.

What's new in policy guidelines?

POLICE powers to cross check fingerprints and DNA samples against existing records have been widened.

Details are contained in Issue 49/96 of policy guidelines, which also includes advice to investigating and custody officers about commercial companies providing addresses suitable for service of summonses under Section 25 PACE, in respect of the Foreign Driver Assistance Scheme.

Other items of interest from policy guidelines include:

- Provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and its implications on Essex Police. The appendix provides guidance for managers. (50/96).
- Details of the Charter Mark Award to Essex Police. (51/96).
- Revised provisions for the production of HM Prison

Service inmates into police custody. (52/96).

- Details of new provisions for recording computerised personnel information on all members of staff including the Special Constabulary. New emergency call-out procedures for Essex Social Services. (53/96).
- Essex Police statement on Dignity at Work outlines policy in respect of harass-

ment and bullying in the workplace and the action to be taken. (54/96).

- Practical advice for police surgeons and custody officers in respect of intimate searches for Class A drugs. Whistle blowing - 'Warning' notice to chief officers - minor amendments to current policy. Personal issue of a new guide to replace the existing

"Investigative Interviewing - Interviewers' Rule Book" and "A Guide To Interviewing" which were issued in 1992. (55/96).

- Revised intruder alarm policy, including new IRIS classification codes, effective from January 1, 1997. (56/96).
- Further information may be obtained from John E Johnson and Christine Claypole in the Publication Unit, EPTC, HQ (ext 55815/55816).

Football round-up

SOME sideline support wouldn't go amiss when the Essex Police Football squad take on Bedfordshire in the regional final of the Southern Counties Cup on Tuesday, January 28.

Kick-off is 2pm on the Headquarters sports field.

The fixture comes after a 2-0 defeat at home to Kent just before Christmas.

Prior to the Beds game, the team travel south on January 14 to take on Sussex.

In fact, the season continues on a mainly successful note, particularly for the first team.

A 2-0 win against local rivals Broomfield at the end of November was followed by a tough match against Arlesford Colne Rangers in the Intermediate Cup which unfortunately resulted in a 4-3 loss.

A return match to Takeley gave them a 2-1 away win, with bad weather conditions putting paid to their latest match against Ongar Town.

The reserves have brought some mixed scores with a loss against Takeley in round two of the League cup. After a hard game the final result was 2-1.

In their battle at the bottom of the table they took on Mountnessing winning 2-0 lifting them out from the league dungeons.

In round 4 of the Essex Junior Cup they found Kirby United a little too strong losing 0-1 but the following week had a stroke of luck against Hatfield Peverel, calling on the services of first team players Darren Pike and Kevin Adams and clinching a 2-1 win.

Both goals were netted by Pike.

Mick braves the elements to clinch the cup

GALE force winds and freezing rain faced the 66 male and 23 female competitors as they were sent on their way in the Croker Cup cross country race at the University of Essex.

Mick Bond (Colchester), now a veteran, headed the field from the start, winning by a comfortable margin to retain the Essex title.

The battle for runners-up spot saw another veteran, Chris Turner (Stansted) hold off the younger Paul Phillips (Braintree), with Don English (Colchester) having to settle for 4th place.

The women's race saw another veteran, Moira Ainsley, retain her title doing enough to keep ahead of a determined

Paula Bradley.

The all-important team positions once again reflected Southend's commitment to the Croker Cup as they finished ahead of Colchester, with Harlow 3rd.

● SEVENTY men and 20 women competed in the first SEPAA league race of the cross country season at Lordswood, Southampton, in deepest Hampshire.

The Essex Police A team finished 6th, behind Sussex, Hants, Kent, Thames Valley and Surrey.

The B team came second behind winners Kent.

The Essex Ladies had only one representative, the indefatigable Liz Stephens, who finished 18th in her competition.

The Essex men's placings were:-

2. Mick Bond (31.07); 21. Paul McFayden (34.18); 34. Ian Jennings (35.41); 46. Chris Mathlin (38.01); 50. Paul Purkiss (38.25); 53. Andy Down (39.07); 54. Gary Matthews (39.18); 61. Ian Rayner (41.17); 62. Roy Kebell

(42.15); 63. Graham Hurrell (42.18).

Other Essex finishers were Laurie Rampling (65th) and Steve King (69th).

Essex were again well represented in the men's competition at the SEPAA cross country event at Maidstone, Kent, although sadly we had no women competitors.

The event was won by Rob McHarg, of Thames Valley. Chris Turner, now enjoying veteran status, was first home for Essex in 16th place.

The Essex A team finished 7th and the B team 3rd in their respective competitions. The winners were again Sussex and Kent.

The Essex placings were:-

16. Chris Turner (34.33); 19. Paul McFayden (34.54); 39. Paul Purkiss (37.49); 47. Chris Mathlin (39.03); 50. Brian Murnaghan (39.21); 52. Barry Daymond (39.36); 59. Gary Matthews (40.14); 60. Ian Rayner (40.15); 66. Roy Kebell (41.36); 71. Laurie Rampling (42.45).

Other Essex finishers were Graham Hurrell (72nd) and Andy Eves (74th).

THE first race of 1997 in the SEPAA Cross Country League will be hosted by Essex Police at Gloucester Park, Basildon, on Thursday, January 9, starting at 2.30pm.



IF you've ever wanted to try your hand at sailing, then this could be the weekend break for you.

Dick Houghton from the Training Centre is offering individuals or groups of up to seven people an introductory sailing weekend aboard a 35 foot sailing yacht. The trip is the chance to sample a laid-back easy sailing weekend in the yacht based at the Solent.

Dick says this is a chance to try your hand aboard a substantial sailing boat taking in the spectacular scenery that the south coast has to offer. A typical schedule would start early Friday evening followed by an introduction to the layout of the yacht including safety aspects.

An evening meal and an early night provide the means to an early departure for a day sail to a south coast port where you can shop or entertain yourself on board before a good nights sleep and a leisurely sail back to the home port.

The three-day package is available starting July 18, July 25 or August 29. For further details contact Dick Houghton on ext 56114 or 0468 938451.

Messing about on the water

Join the indoor cricket squad

THE Gentlemen of Essex CID Cricket Club resumes nets at the indoor school, Essex County Cricket Club, Chelmsford, on Tuesday, January 7, from 2pm to 4pm and, thereafter, every Tuesday afternoon.

All police officers, civilian staff and specials, whether retired, a beginner or just interested in learning about the game are invited to attend and will be made welcome.

For further information contact: Insp R E Miller, Braintree (01376 551312).

Essex Police Football Club Annual Dinner Dance

Friday, May 16, 1997

7.30pm 'til late

Headquarters Sports Pavilion

Four course meal and live entertainment

Approx £20 per head

(£5 deposit per head will secure a place)

Enquiries to Ds Cliff Haines, Basildon CID

Next Issue
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