

The Law



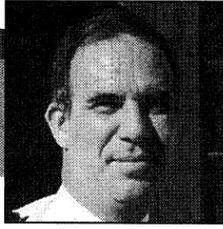
The newspaper of Essex Police

Issue 280 *290*

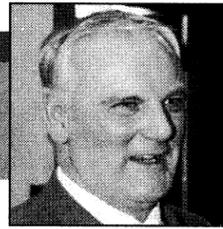
December 1997



New PTI joins the fold - P3



Fight against racism - P6/7



NHW receive top honour - P9

Road chaos in thick fog

CHAOS was caused on the A12 last month as some 'stupid' drivers sped through thick fog causing numerous pile-ups.

The mayhem began at about 9am on a Sunday morning and by the end of a very long day Essex Police had totalled 26 separate multiple road crashes involving 150 vehicles and 48 casualties. Thousands of drivers were caught in traffic jams for hours at a time.

Miraculously there were no fatalities but the Casualty Bureau made a rare appearance to deal with the many concerned relatives and friends.

Damaged

The fire brigade were the first emergency service to declare the situation as a major incident as visibility meant crews only saw crash scenes when they were within 20 yards of arriving. Traffic officers attended from as far afield as Rayleigh, with assistance from Suffolk Police, as resources were stretched to the limit. Four traffic cars were damaged as they tried to fend off crash scenes and warn oncoming drivers.

Despite the chaos, head of Traffic, Superintendent Doug Adams, is generally pleased with the way in which officers and support staff handled the situation.

He said: "We have only received one complaint from a driver caught up in the traffic and it's thanks to the hard work and commitment of everyone involved on the day."

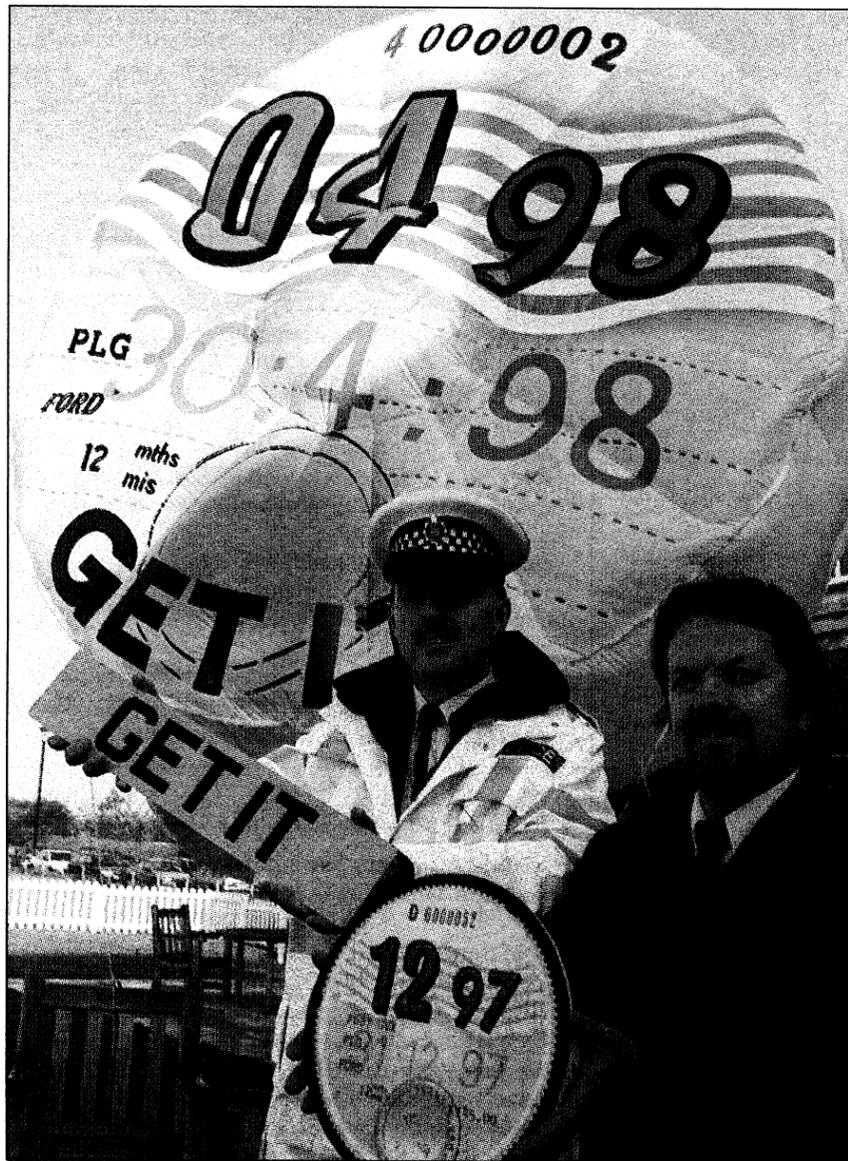
● Meanwhile the first 11 days of roadworks on the A12 saw 866 drivers caught breaking the speed limit.

Speed cameras are in place between Boreham and Hatfield Peveral to monitor the temporary 50mph limit.

All drivers caught on camera now face prosecution.

SEARCH FOR LINKS IN SEX ATTACKS

Blitz on tax dodgers



IN just one hour, ten motorists were caught dodging the vehicle tax laws. For full story turn to page 5. Photo courtesy of Essex Chronicle Series.

AN Essex rape victim has spoken publicly about her ordeal as the county's detectives battle to solve seven serious sex assaults.

By Kim White

But despite extensive case comparisons, senior detectives feel that the attacks are not down to one serial rapist.

The courageous 56-year-old woman was viciously assaulted as she left work in Saffron Walden on firework night, and just days later told a press conference: "you think you have got away with it but you have not".

Her ordeal followed five other attacks in as many months. First there was a 61-year-old woman, raped in her Westcliff home by an intruder on June 26. The following month a teenager was raped in a nightclub in Colchester. August saw the rape of a 21-year-old in Kelvedon and an horrific attack on two teenagers in woods in Rayleigh. A young woman walking her dog in Great Baddow was attacked on October 4. Since the public appeal there has been a further attack on a 22-year-old woman in Weeley.

The cases have had police resources stretched to the limit and has meant the need to make full use of a computer programme adopted by the force just a year ago.

Previously housed only at NCIS in London, Comparative Case Analysis allows officers to search for

similarities in unsolved Essex cases and also compare with national crimes.

Based in the Force Intelligence Bureau, Dc Mark Heard has been tasked with studying all seven sex attacks to rule out any possible links. It also improves liaison with other forces as officers compare details with cases in the county and bordering forces.

But superintendents Brian Storey and Steve Reynolds, heading all seven inquiries, are of the opinion that it isn't just one man responsible for all the attacks. Mr Storey said: "I think we are probably dealing with more than one culprit and although I can't think of an occasion when we had seven unsolved cases at one time, I certainly don't wish to scaremonger."

"Everything is being done to ensure these men are caught at the earliest opportunity. We have not yet established any links but are still working closely with the National Crime Faculty on offender profiles and also using Comparative Case Analysis to ensure that no stone goes unturned."

Although the seven attacks in Essex include five stranger rapes the overall total for the year to date is 10. This is only three incidents more than 1996.

Mr Storey said: "One stranger rape is one too many but the figures show that these types of attacks are fairly rare in Essex."

An eye for road safety

HUNDREDS of drivers took the opportunity to test their eyesight for free in a special operation set up by Essex Police.

Aimed at reducing road accidents, the initiative was run in conjunction with opticians Dollond & Aitchison and has been deemed a success.

Every week nearly 30,000 learners take a driving test which involves having their eyesight checked. However, they are then able to drive for up to 53 years with many unaware of eyesight deterioration.

Throughout two days a free sight check was set up at the Granada Services in Thurrock. As well as the standard check - being able to read a number plate at 20.5 metres, drivers were offered screening by Dollond & Aitchison staff to assess the balance of the eyes, field of vision and night vision.

Over 400 drivers took part during the two days. Only two failed the standard police test but they were not driving on the day. A total of 74 drivers had the additional test by Dollond & Aitchison, 14 of which were found to have eyesight problems.

Sgt Simon Morgan said: "We are encouraged by the results. The drivers who failed the statutory test were unaware that their eyesight had deteriorated."

Dedication to those who lost their lives

CHERISHED memories of officers who died in the line of duty were rekindled during a poignant ceremony at Essex Police Headquarters.

The occasion marked the inauguration of an ornately-crafted Memorial Book, containing a separate page dedicated to each of the 34 officers who lost their lives between 1849 and 1996.

Relatives packed the Assembly Hall and after music by the force band, heard Chief Constable John Burrow speaking of the "family" that is Essex Police.

He added: "It is a day to remember, and to be proud of, those officers who sacrificed their lives in the name of Essex Police."

The Memorial Book, which sits in an oak display cabinet in the foyer at Police Headquarters, was commissioned by the Essex Police Memorial Fund Trustees to complement their earlier provision of the nearby Memorial Stone and carved Roll of Honour.



● Sue Bishop, widow of PC Brian Bishop, who died after being shot by an armed robber in 1984, views the tribute to her husband with her son, David, daughter-in-law Angela and Chief Constable John Burrow. Photo by Mark Frost, HQ Photographic.

Marine unit's royal escort

IT was a historical day for the Marine Section when officers were asked to escort the Royal yacht Britannica on its final journey.

The Vigilant III looked tiny against the huge, majestic 412ft craft, as excited fans with telescopes and binoculars lined Southend Pier to salute the ship.

Sgt Andy Masson, said: "There were vast numbers of pleasure craft out that day hoping to catch a last glimpse. Our job was to provide an escort to ensure the Britannica could navigate its way up the river. It was certainly a one-off for the Marine Section and a very historical occasion."



Next year's pay under negotiation

BRANCHES will soon be consulted on the 1998 pay offer. At present the emphasis will be on a pay claim only, with no terms and conditions issues on the table, so if you are a member and you have an issue you want negotiated let us know.

Negotiations at national level concerning the job evaluation schemes are still pending. UNISON favours the new single status scheme for Local Government (tailored to address the needs of police support staff).

UNISON members employed in Regional Crime Squads and the National Crime Intelligence Service are transferring over to the new national employer on their current conditions.

RCS staff are largely unaffected, but NCIS staff will change to Civil Service terms.

Traffic wardens are subject of a letter to Alun Michael MP, Home Office Minister, with a view to extending their powers, therefore safeguarding personnel against the threat of decriminalisation. The reply is available to all traffic wardens who are members.

The Police Policy Research unit is currently looking in to the extension of powers to various support staff employees, in particular scenes of crime officers, traffic wardens, financial investigation staff and detention officers. UNISON will continue to negotiate these issues.

Recently there has been noticeable difference in the exchange of information with ACPO, the Home Office, HM of Constabulary and UNISON. This is promising and should hopefully improve the standing support staff nationally.

Lastly a warm welcome to our new members. If you have any specific concerns let us know. You now have a voice so feel free to use it.

Lee Robb

More staff changes

A N O T H E R change in the Federation Office - Irene Black, our office manager, leaves us on the December 19 after 26 years' service with the Federation.

No more will you hear the familiar Scottish accent as she assisted and dealt with all sorts of questions.

Federation Newslines

by Terry Spelman



You could not ask for any more dedication from Irene than she gave. We wish her every happiness in her retirement and hope her caravan expeditions don't upset too many other road users!! Take

care Irene, we shall all miss you.

Taking over from Irene is Trish Morley who is no stranger to the Federation as she worked part-time in the office in the post that Lucy Wheddon has now filled. We wish them both well.

Maternity entitlement

SINCE April 1, 1995, at the Chief Constable's discretion police officers on maternity leave have been able to accrue their annual leave entitlement throughout the paid and unpaid maternity leave period.

Therefore, the amount of annual leave which an officer would be entitled to in any year is not reduced by the taking of unpaid maternity leave in that year.

Unpaid maternity leave will count as reckonable service for annual leave purposes to be taken the following financial year, at the discretion of the Chief Constable.

It is the accrual of relevant service in relation to annual leave entitlement that is affected. Please read Policy Guidelines P215/97 for further details.

Competitive loan scheme

THE Co-op Loan Scheme is still very competitive.

If you are interested,

Mobile error

IN the last issue of *The Law*, we omitted a zero on the telephone number given regarding the mobile phones deal.

Apologies for this. The number is 0800 006000.

Even with the omission, you somehow managed to work it out because I'm told the take up has been very good.

please call 0800 591682 quoting the Essex Police Federation.

We continue to look at other companies and I will give you details if we think you can benefit.

May I, on behalf of Dave Jones, Mick Englefield, Irene Black, Trish Morley, Marilyn Carr and Lucy Wheddon in the Federation Office, wish you all a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Subsistence: We are still awaiting legal advice from our solicitors.

Renewal of travel insurance

EVERY existing member should have received a letter by now from Marilyn Carr explaining the changes.

You can still apply to join if you are not in the scheme, which starts from January 1, 1998.

Just ring Marilyn on extension 54555 for an application form. At £17 it's a bargain.

Christmas memorabilia

CHRISTMAS cards are again available from the Federation Office at last year's price of 50 pence each.

They depict the front of police headquarters by reception, with the green and flagpole included. Once more, Marilyn on extension 54555 will sort these out for you.

The same applies for any memorabilia you might require for Christmas presents. We hold all sorts of things which might appeal.

Shortage of Fed diaries

THESE have been sent out to the divisional representatives and, hopefully, you will have seen or been given one.

I apologise for anyone who has not been able to obtain one as we seem to be short on supplies this year.

Offbeat

WITH the festive season fast approaching, you would think the sight of Father Christmas would spread a little cheer. But not in South Ockendon, where a scout troop pulling a Santa trailer just attracted complaints about the noise.

Concern for a missing 18-year-old driver, who had disappeared en route to Chelmsford, turned to relief when she finally turned up. The poor youngster had travelled the whole way around the M25 because she did not know how to get off.

A woman living in the Dengie Hundred was distraught when she came home to find the contents of drawers emptied out all over the floor. Closer inspection revealed the culprit was not a burglar, but a very untidy husband.

All of us could do with an offender as stupid as a Florida bank robber. Following a successful raid, he arrived home only to be confronted by the police. It turned out the note demanding money, which he pushed across the counter, was written on the back of an envelope addressed to him.

Clamping down on bad parking

DRIVERS who cause an obstruction at an Essex Police headquarters car park face the prospect of their vehicle being wheel-clamped or towed away.

This sanction has been approved by the Force Policy Group following problems at the busy car park next to the Training Centre and Sports Pavilion.

Inconsiderate parking has resulted in some employees' cars being blocked in, preventing them from leaving for appointments.

The clamp or tow sanction will be introduced from January 1.

Peter Crook, head of administrative and technical services, said: "We hope we do not have to use these options, but we cannot accept parking which is blatantly inconsiderate. I am appealing to drivers to be sensible and considerate."

"This car park is open to people attending courses at the training centre and other employees on a first come, first served basis."

He added: "It must be made clear that no-one has a right to a parking place at this site. Parking spaces are

set aside in other car parks nearby for authorised users."

Any cars clamped or towed will be released back to the owners when the appropriate authority is given and a fine system will be in place.

Meanwhile the cost of providing an additional 20 parking spaces near EPTC, in St Margaret's Road, Springfield, is being investigated.

Another option which will be considered in future is to reserve 70 of the 146 existing parking spaces for personnel attending courses.

Awaiting response to court closures

ESSEX County Council is awaiting a response from the Lord Chancellor following an appeal against the closure of three magistrates' courts.

Since the appeal was made, the Lord Chancellor has written to members of the magistrates' court committee asking for their views.

Members have replied, and the outcome is awaited. The county council is the only body which can appeal against the closures, which have been widely criticised.

Staff commitment is highlighted in force survey

Equality is taken seriously

RESULTS of the latest Essex Police equal opportunities survey show the force is taking the issue seriously, writes Alyson Mountney.

In all, 54 per cent of officers and support staff - a total of 2,322 - completed the questionnaire which was circulated last year.

The main findings were that 85 per cent of staff now believe Essex Police has a clear equal opportunities policy, with 97 per cent believing there should be

equality of opportunity for everyone who works for the force.

Over 90 per cent of staff believe chief officers, managers and supervisors show a commitment to equal opportunities.

There were also very high levels of satisfaction in working relationships with colleagues, supervisors and line managers, recording over 80 per cent in all cases.

The survey also raised areas where improvement was needed. The staff development section is looking at ways in which this can be achieved.

Despite the overall good working relationships, described as an "excellent outcome," just under 20 per cent of staff, who returned the questionnaire, said they had been

bullied or harassed during the previous year.

And around 40 per cent of respondents felt opportunities in Essex Police are, or may be, limited because of age or gender.

ACC(S) John Broughton said: "I am encouraged by the results of this survey. The fact that over 2,300 people returned the questionnaire shows we in Essex are interested and want to have an influence in this important area."

Although the results were an improvement on the last survey in 1993, he said Essex Police should not be complacent, particularly when some staff felt their opportunities in the force were limited. Unacceptable behaviour, he added: "cannot be

tolerated and we should all challenge it when we witness it."

Mr Broughton added: "A lot is being done and Essex Police will continue to be committed to ensuring we treat every individual with respect and dignity."

"We are reviewing our policies to ensure they meet the ever changing demands and continue to emphasise the need to get the best out of all our staff by providing them with a safe, supportive and caring environment in which to work."

"It is not sufficient just to change policies though, Essex Police needs the help of all its staff and I think this survey shows we have the support of the overwhelming majority."

Enhanced training on the spot

STUDYING and brushing up on work-related skills could become a lot easier for officers and staff working on division thanks to a new scheme aimed at enhancing training within the workplace.

Harlow is the first to pilot the Learning Resource Centre with Colchester to follow suit in January.

Although divisions have some training facilities they are limited and concentrated mainly with in the Training Centre at headquarters.

The new system at Harlow not only provides a room equipped with computers, audio and video, but will also stock a variety of computer-

based training packs, book, videos and tapes, previously unavailable.

Police specific packages will include *Putting The Law Into Practice*, *Operational Patrol Skills*, *Drugs and Driving* and a package relating to burglary. Some are aimed in the main, at new recruits while others provide good refreshers for longer-serving officers.

More generic topics include *Introduction To Assertiveness*, *Making Quick Decisions*, *Interviewing Skills* and *Leading Your Team*. A first aid package will be available as well as courses teaching computer skills and a full range of the Microsoft

software packages used around the force.

There will be a loan system procedure for borrowing books, videos and audio tapes.

Learning Resource Developer, Rose Lewis, said: "There will be resources available for all members of staff - operational and Special Constables - and for all levels including managers. We are not limiting the facilities to one particular group."

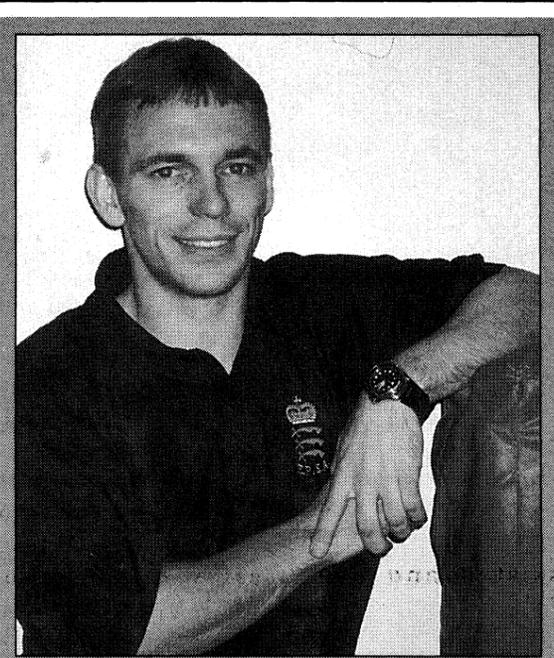
Access to the Learning Resource Centre will be 24 hours each day with a number of keyholders identified.

After six months both

pilots will be evaluated and, if successful, a decision will be made as to how they progress.

Harlow Divisional Commander, Superintendent Peter Durr, said: "I personally think it's going to give an opportunity for everyone to enhance their skills at a time suitable to themselves and to the organisation. I think once everyone realises what it can offer there will be more people wanting to use it."

Officers and staff at Harlow wanting to know more about the Learning Resource Centre should contact Pc Kathryn Childsworth or Pc Tim Oxley.



● New PTI Neil Wilson.

Inquiry into dog death

AN inquiry has been launched into the dog training techniques used by Essex Police following the death of one of its German Shepherds.

Pc Mark Needham's dog, Acer, died during a training exercise at Sandon. A post mortem revealed the cause of death as a haemorrhage caused by an injury to the liver.

The training techniques have now been withdrawn until a full investigation has been carried out.

Inspector off to Albania

AN Essex officer is to be the only UK police representative on an 80-strong team set up to re-establish democratic policing in Albania.

Insp Steve Smith, currently support manager at Stansted Airport Division, says he is looking forward to his six-months secondment to the team.

He said: "I am going to miss my work in Essex, but this is a challenge I cannot afford to turn down."

Steve, 43, from Harlow, said his role in Albania will be similar to his work

at Stansted.

"I will be responsible for recruitment and selection of replacements for European officers currently working in Albania who have ended their period of secondment," he said.

"Stansted Airport has an international flavour about it, especially European. I see my work in Albania as an extension of my existing role, developing European contacts."

Steve is due to take up his new job later this month.

Neil dives into new job

DIVING is the energetic pastime of the new civilian physical training instructor for Essex Police.

Neil Wilson (27) left the army in order to pursue his talent for highboard and springboard diving, and is now the latest headquartering recruit filling the vacancy left by Justin Beacher.

As a Lance Corporal, Neil was PTI to one of the army Air Corps regiments, based near Ipswich, for seven years. But regular trips away on exercise meant his diver's training programme was disrupted.

He decided to leave and took a Diploma in Health and Fitness Management as part of his army

resettlement course.

He brings to Essex Police a wealth of experience and hopes to use it to improve police training and fitness.

He said: "It doesn't differ greatly from the army although obviously the training of soldiers tends to be more regular. The first change I'd like to see within the police is more equipment but at the moment I'm just concentrating on settling in and learning the ropes."

In the meantime Neil has just competed in the Winter Masters diving competition taking 3rd place and hopes to take part in the World Masters in Casablanca next year if he can raise the funds.

Law letters

Send your letters to:
The Law, Press Office,
Police Headquarters,
PO Box 2, Chelmsford,
Essex, CM2 6DA.

Pride of the parade

I THOUGHT this photograph may be of interest to readers of *The Law*.

It was taken in 1958 on Remembrance Day in Colchester High Street.

The four police officers leading the parade are constables John Phillips, Peter Buckle, Leslie Bennett and Ronald Woodley. In the background (wearing a helmet) is Leslie Brewer, former Superintendent and behind him William Geddes, former Colchester traffic sergeant, carrying the Mace.

The remaining officers were from the Special Constabulary.

Shirley Carman
Harwich Police



Public backing is vital

I SEE from a recent report carried in a national daily newspaper, that many

police officers regard the Neighbourhood Watch scheme, as a 'complete and utter waste of time'. Some are even hostile to the concept.

These views are, I understand, taken from a Home Office report.

I would agree that for many people this amounts to the mere display of Neighbourhood Watch stickers in the window and, perhaps for some, the advantage of reduced insurance premiums in so far as house and contents are concerned.

As a local co-ordinator of some nine years, I can only speak as I find. The constabulary in our area has gone out of its way to

promote Neighbourhood Watch schemes which must have amounted to a great deal of hours and effort, with, at times, probably little to show for it.

If such endeavour resulted in a general negative aspect nationally, and taking into account the cost-effective factor, it is understandable some officers in the country are hostile to Neighbourhood Watch schemes, when their valuable time and limited resources could be employed in combating crime in situ.

The original concept of the Neighbourhood Watch was, I believe, introduced to bridge the gap (now generally lost) between the local bobby either walking or cycling around the beat.

Times have changed, the

police have had to switch to more sophisticated methods, including car patrols as a rapid response to crime manifesting itself.

It has been said time and again that we have in this country, the finest police force in the world, with which I wholeheartedly agree.

Therefore, with or without the assistance of the Neighbourhood Watch, the backing of the police by the public at large, in the fight against crime, is vital.

In conclusion, and with regard to my own area, response time to emergencies, be it from Burnham, Southminster, Maldon or Chelmsford, these have always been excellent, and a credit to all involved.

Alex Jennings
Burnham-on-Crouch

Protection can be painful

AT last we have been given the added personal protection that we have waited so long for. First our batons and now CS spray.

I would be the first to pat the Federation on the back for fighting our corner in relation to this one.

There is one problem. I must question the methods we have adopted in relation to the CS training. Can someone please explain why we need to walk through a cloud of the stuff? I know it hurts.

I've heard horror stories about nose bleeds, hospital visits, bulging eyes, not to mention runny mascara. One division asks officers to stand in a cloud of gas and recite their name and collar number, whatever next?

I appreciate the need to understand the effects of the spray, which in turn may make us think harder before using it. I don't recall during my baton training hitting each other over the head to see how much that hurt! God forbid should we ever be issued with firearms. Using this current train of thought, will we be expected to shoot each other?

When I have my training next week, I'll do as I am told, but only because my instructor put it so nicely.

De Kerry Tolliday
Southend CID

Do you recognise this scene?



THIS is one of many photographs in the Essex Police Museum which are unidentified. If you can shed some light on the people in this scene let us know.

The only easy way to stop smoking is by reading a book

HAVING been a smoker for 25 years, I thought there was no way I was ever going to be able to give up. So I never bothered trying.

It didn't seem to bother me that I smelt permanently of smoke, had yellow teeth and was short of breath. I used to think nothing of standing outside the new Force Information Room in the pouring rain, huddled under an umbrella,

clinging desperately to those last few puffs.

People would tell me how unhealthy it was, turn their noses up when I lit up, advise me how many people were dying through lung cancer and smoking related diseases etc... but I was OK... smoking wasn't doing me any harm.

Comments like these go right over the heads of smokers. We dig our

heels in, tell people to mind their own business etc.

So when my missus told me about a book her friend had read, that stopped her smoking two years ago, I said the usual... "Yeah, yeah, yeah!"...

She said to me "Shall I buy it for you? - To cut a long story short she bought it for me, and I started to read it. I stopped smoking

immediately - not only that, I never went through any withdrawal symptoms at all, and I can honestly state that I have no need for them.

It is only, when I smell it on other people, when I see them coughing and spluttering as they stand outside the Force Information Room, that I realise what life can be like without cigarettes.

The book? It's called *The Only*

Way To Stop Smoking - Permanently, by Allen Carr.

Do yourselves a favour, read the book. Even if you think you don't want to stop - read it.

Not only will you stop, you will never crave another cigarette and you can still smoke while you read it. What have you got to lose, it's easy.

Pc "Moose" White, FIR

Children help launch award scheme

PRIMARY school children in Braintree helped the High Sheriff of Essex, Mr Robert Erith, launch his award scheme for this year.

The High Sheriff's Award Scheme aims to encourage involvement, reward initiative and spread good practice in promoting community safety.

The launch for the 1997/98 awards took place at White Court County Primary School in Braintree, where

work by pupils on the theme of vandalism won the junior section of last year's awards.

This year's scheme will focus particularly on the positive role of young people, with entries invited from crime prevention groups, youth action groups, local authorities and public agencies, commercial organisations and individuals.

Application forms are available from Jo Charnley from the Essex Police com-

munity safety department, based at headquarters.

Mr Erith, who is also chairman of the Essex Community Safety Forum, said: "There are a number of keen and devoted groups and individuals already involved in crime prevention and community safety in Essex, but it is in everyone's interests to encourage a much wider public involvement in the fight against crime."

Cashing in on unclaimed property

OVER £21,000 is being presented to charities from the proceeds of the Police Property Act Fund.

The fund was set up to deal with money and property recovered as part of criminal charges. Any items which remain unclaimed after 12 months can be sold and the proceeds given to charitable organisations.

This year the Essex Police Authority is making donations to a number of charities, all of which are

concerned with crime prevention, support of victims or the rehabilitation of offenders.

They are: Essex Victim Support Schemes, £9,800; NSPCC, £1,200; Crimestoppers Trust, £600; High Sheriff's Award Scheme, £1,200; Community Service Volunteers, £490; Essex County Scout Council, £1,800; Girl Guides Association, £1,800; Essex Association of Boys Clubs, £1,800; Essex Outward

Bound Association, £1,200; Re-Solv (society for the prevention of solvent and substance abuse) £731; Royal Humane Society, £250 and Essex Friends of the YMCA, £600.

Representatives of most of these organisations will be attending the presentation ceremony. Making the awards will be Chairman of the Essex Police Authority, Cllr Anthony Peel and Chief Constable John Burrow.

Success of surgeon's seminar

DEALING with prisoners and police officers affected by the use of CS Spray was one of the issues discussed during a seminar for Essex police surgeons.

The audience of 20 surgeons asked a number of poignant questions after a short presentation by Sgt Nick Banks, a defensive skills instructor at South Woodham Ferrers.

Consultants

Also at the headquarters seminar, the police surgeons received the welcome news that two psychiatric consultants had been reinstated.

Knightly Seneriratna and Emil Yousif will be available to advise police surgeons dealing with mentally disordered offenders. The duo spoke to the seminar about a number of cases and the help they are able to offer.

The final topic on the agenda related to drunks in custody and a policy introduced in April to ensure police surgeons are called out to any drunk not responding after four hours.

The topic led to lively discussion and a number of recommendations.

The seminar, held in the evenings to avoid surgery success.



● Chief Constable John Burrow.

CHRISTMAS is traditionally the season for peace, a time to reflect and spend time with our families and loved ones.

Those of us who regularly spend the festive season policing the streets of Essex will know that, all too often, the reality is somewhat different.

Nevertheless, Christmas is probably one of the few times a year that the public realises the dedication of police officers, and others involved in the emergency services. But this is work which goes on 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, often with little recognition.

Keeping the peace and ensuring the safety of the community have always been, and always will be, two of the main principles of Essex Police. Indeed, the fact that the Audit Commission recently named Essex as the fifth safest police area in England is something we can all be proud of.

Of course, the community also has a vital role to play. As I have said before, crime is too important a job to be left solely to the police, so it is all the more pleasing to see growing partnerships with local councils and organisations in community safety initiatives.

Neighbourhood Watch also plays an important part, and I was very proud to see volunteers in South Woodham Ferrers were recently named the best Watch in the county.

Honours and awards are the tip of the iceberg as far as hard work and dedication is concerned. I would like to thank all officers and support staff for their contribution during the year to making Essex a safer county.

Best wishes to you, your families, and to those of you who will spend Christmas working. Peace to you all.

A seasonal message of thanks

AS the lady from the Press Office said: "It's that time of year again. Can I have a Christmas message".

So here we are on what is now my second Christmas as Chairman of the Essex Police Authority and almost at the end of another busy year.

I am sure we are all delighted to know that this has been a year when crime in the county has fallen to its lowest level for many years.

We can all be proud of the fact that Essex is among the very safest places in which to live and work.

This is in no small way the result of a great deal of hard work on the part of all those engaged in the wide variety of activities of Essex Police. We cannot, however, do it alone.

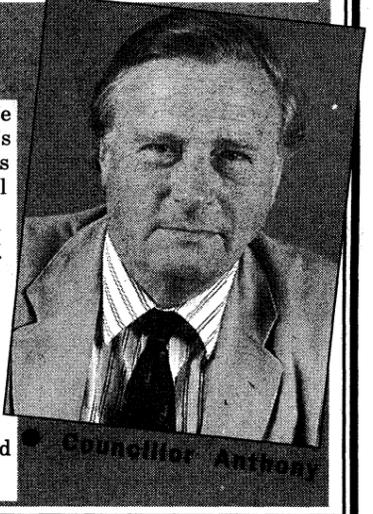
Today the emphasis is very much on partnerships. Partnership with local authorities at all levels and with many other bodies both public and private. It is very evident that in the partnership arena we are a leading Authority and can take pride in this.

Section 6 of the Police Act 1996 places a duty upon the Police Authority to secure the maintenance

of an efficient and effective police force for its area. Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary has confirmed in his recent annual report that Essex has such a Force.

On behalf of the Authority, I would thank each and every one of you for your efforts in enabling the Authority to satisfy its statutory duty.

May I wish all readers a well deserved, very happy Christmas, particularly if you are on duty over the holiday, and a joyful and successful New Year.



● Councillor Anthony.

Switched on to beat burglars

By Ruth Collin

PRE-CHRISTMAS burglaries are the subject of a major crime prevention operation launched this month in Chelmsford.

Dark evenings are a prime time for burglars who target unlit houses. *Operation Twilight* is a partnership between Chelmsford police officers, Chelmsford Borough Council and local Neighbourhood Watch groups.

Watch groups that during the winter more burglaries are committed as criminals target unlit properties under the cover of darkness. For example,

countywide 783 burglaries were reported in December 1996 compared to 527 in June 1997.

Crime prevention officers say leaving a light on or fitting a timer switch could greatly reduce your risk of being burgled as a lit premises appears occupied.

Ten thousand leaflets and 1,500 posters have been produced to help spread the message. Between 4pm and 7pm police officers and specials will be patrolling residential areas looking for unlit premises. They will put a leaflet through the door offering crime

prevention advice.

The education part of the operation will continue with the co-operation of Chelmsford Borough Council. Their exhibition vehicle will visit High Street and shopping areas repeating the 'get switched on' message.

In addition, officers will be monitoring closely any areas which emerge as having a particularly high level of reported burglaries and providing high profile policing in those areas.

The operation is the first part of an ongoing project to cut burglaries in the Chelmsford Division. There are plans to focus on bogus callers and house alarms in the New Year.

Points from the past

IN December last year Essex Police was awarded the Charter Mark for putting the community first. The first civilian chief officer, Mr Phillip Onions, was appointed as Director of Finance and Administration.

FIVE YEARS AGO

Three men were sentenced to a total of 65 years for their part in the kidnapping of the family of a Tesco's manager in Colchester. Fun Day proceeds of over £20,000 were presented to charity.

TEN YEARS AGO

The Traffic Investigation Unit was formed to assist Traffic Division in the investigation of road crashes.

15 YEARS AGO

Valerie Smith became the first female officer to pass the Diving Unit course.

20 YEARS AGO

Colchester Pc Robert Martindill died in a road crash while he was off duty.

Snookered by need for offices

DEMAND for office space at police headquarters means the snooker and table tennis areas in the main building are to close.

Work will start in January to convert the area to offices as part of a building programme which will create 50 new work stations at HQ. The developments will also see the old Information Room converted to offices.

Estates manager Cliff Collings said: "Removing the snooker and table tennis areas is regrettable, but the Police Authority is faced with painful decisions with regard to meeting organisational needs."

Although the area is to close there are alternative facilities on the

headquarters site, such as the training centre and the sports pavilion and these are usually available during normal office hours.

Secretary of Headquarters Sports and Social Club Christene Evans said: "We are disappointed to lose the space we have enjoyed, but we will be storing the snooker table and hope it will be possible to re-site it at a later date."

Glaziers help crime hit charity

A COMMUNITY centre blighted by vandals has had its windows replaced free of charge by a glazing company.

Local beat officer Pc Andrew Meyer found the Ingrave Community Centre in Brentwood had its windows broken.

Mr Trevor Templeman-Lane, sales manager for Able Glaze, said: "Although we are a nationwide glazing company we are delighted to help out."

The current project involves relocating 120 staff. The Force Intelligence Bureau and Financial Investigations Unit will move to the old Information Room, while the snooker and table tennis areas will provide accommodation for staff from Crime Statistics, Media and PR and EPICS assurers.

Some staff will be moving out of temporary buildings, reducing hiring costs.

Ten tax dodgers caught in one hour

TEN drivers were caught displaying out-of-date tax discs in the first hour of a two week blitz.

The campaign is a joint initiative between Essex Police and the Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency and is running in conjunction with a countywide Driver Behaviour programme aimed at reducing the number of road deaths and casualties.

A press launch last month marked a two-week period encouraging motorists to check vehicles.

As part of the second phase, a fortnight of

intensified enforcement, officers held a stop-check on the A130 at its junction with the A12. During the first hour 10 drivers were found to be tax dodgers and a further 10 drivers were given warnings over other motoring offences such as defective tyres.

The motorists found not displaying a current tax disc will be reported for prosecution and faced a fine of up to £1,000. Fines for heavy goods vehicles could be up to £25,000.

Chief Inspector Mick Thwaites said: "We support the actions of the DVLA. Without a

doubt road tax evasion often leads to other offences such as driving without insurance or MOTs. These are clearly more serious in terms of accident liability and the knock-on effect to the innocent victims of road crashes."

In the past casualty figures for this time of year have tended to be higher than average. Each traffic unit within Essex is carrying out its own pro-active initiative aimed at driver behaviour. Tailgating, reckless overtakes and abuse of the white line system are some of the actions being targeted.



● A member of the Central Ticket Office deals with the vast amounts of tickets that pass through the office.

Just the ticket for dealing with motorists

ANYONE caught speeding or parking illegally in Essex will soon find themselves under scrutiny from the Central Ticket Office at Rayleigh, writes Norman Hicks.

The office handles an average 9,000 endorsable and 18,000 non-endorsable fixed penalty tickets each quarter, but the workload can double during initiatives such as the summer speeding campaigns.

Office manager Jan Barker said: "It is always nice to have advance warning of these campaigns, as it would help us to gear up for them."

Jan has ten members of staff at the Rayleigh office, responsible for recording and processing the thousands of fixed penalty tickets which are issued by police officers and traffic wardens each year, or which are generated automatically via the camera enforcement unit, also based at Rayleigh.

"We work closely with camera enforcement and we also have a direct link with Southend court, via a computer system," said Jan.

Motorists receiving a non endorsable ticket have 28 days in which to pay the statutory penalty of £20, after which it passes to fine registration at the court and increases in price to £30.

For endorsable tickets the timescale is the same, but drivers must also produce their

licence to any police station.

Failure to do so means that their case will be referred to the magistrates' court. Producing your licence but failing to pay the penalty will also result in court action.

Once an unpaid ticket has passed to fine registration, if the money is still not forthcoming, collection is passed to bailiffs and the cost rises again, currently to £59.30 for non endorsable offences.

"Our biggest problem is with disabled drivers who seem to think they can park wherever they like, although of course there are restrictions on where they can and cannot park," said Jan.

Once a ticket is issued the only way it can be overturned is by a written appeal.

An adjudicating officer has the power to waive the fixed penalty if the grounds for appeal are acceptable.

Jan explained: "The file goes to the issuing officer for his or her comments and is then passed via their section sergeant or traffic warden controller to the operations manager for a final decision."

With all the money generated by fixed penalty tickets going directly to the Treasury, such appeals will normally be allowed only on cast iron grounds.

So, motorists beware. If you are caught breaking the law it is going to cost you!

Testimony to service

SERVICE Level Agreements are to be produced by all support divisions and departments at Essex Police.

Five agreements - written testimony to the internal service which can be provided to colleagues - have been produced under a pilot scheme which began in October 1996.

These cover Operations Division, CID Operations, Crime Support, the Information Technology Department and Traffic Division's armed response vehicles.

Policy Group has agreed that expansion of the process to all support divisions and departments will run to a timetable determined between chief officers and their personnel.

Tackling racial violence and abus



● Interactive drama was used to drive home the message at the recent Racial Incidents Forum conference. Photo by of Derek Winger, HQ Photographic.

ON the face of it, 134 incidents in a year would not appear to present too serious a problem for Essex Police.

But when this represents the number of racially motivated incidents, there is good reason to get serious.

As a county, Essex has adopted a partnership approach to tackle what is, in effect, a problem for the whole community. Agencies such as housing authorities, education and social services, as well as the police, all have a role to play in tackling the consequences of racial crime and harassment.

At 134, the number of reported incidents classed as racially motivated fell by 20 per cent. The majority of offences tend to be racist abuse or criminal damage. Although this may be seen as the minor end of the crime scale, they are often extremely distressing for the victim.

Trends identified

An inspector on every division of Essex Police acts as racial incident liaison officer, mainly liaising with the officer in the case to ensure there is uniformity in the way incidents are dealt with, and keeping a record of all racial incidents.

Each liaison officer also sits on the local Racial Incident Panel, made up of members from different agencies, which discuss issues to make sure everyone adopts a similar approach to racial incidents.

All agencies, and the Racial Equality Council, are represented on the Racial Incident County Forum, which responds to trends identified by the panels and helps to develop working practices and communication.

Inspector Trevor Chaplin, of Shoebury Police Station, is the racial incident liaison officer for Southend division, which had one of the highest number of racial incidents - around 40 - in the year up to March 31.

One of his roles is to identify any trends - and he says the only trend he had been able to identify in two years as liaison officer is that, in Southend, there is none. Most incidents tend to be verbal abuse. But there are very few repeat offences.

"The majority of incidents are white against black," says Inspector Chaplin. "We have a small ethnic community, but with a wide range of different groups. Most people forget the fact that we have an Irish community, and they sometimes come to us having been treated in a racist way. We also have a large Jewish community in Southend."

"I have had a German man complain of racial harassment where his landlady tried to evict him basically because he was German. It's anything of a racial nature, not just colour, but most of our complaints are from the black and Asian communities."

The high influx of visitors into Southend presents a challenge to everyday policing, but also has an effect on the number of racial incidents. Many victims and offenders are visitors to the town.

The work of the local Racial Incident Panel, which also covers Rayleigh division, means agencies are able to step in if needed. Victim Support is often involved, as is the local housing authority.

One example of this multi-agency approach is an incident where an Asian family accepted a council

house. In the two hour period between them visiting the property and taking the keys, and returning with a relative to show him the house, slogans were daubed over it.

A woman neighbour was subsequently arrested and given one year's probation for criminal damage and racial harassment. At the same time, Southend Borough Council was preparing a notice of eviction, although she voluntarily handed in her keys and moved into private accommodation before she was evicted.

"The family had been so traumatised by the whole experience they refused to move in anyway. But the council was still determined to go ahead with the eviction order as they didn't want the woman neighbour as one of their tenants because of the racial nature of the harassment that she caused," says Inspector Chaplin.

It is hoped that this positive approach will encourage victims to have confidence in the police, and the justice system. Inspector Chaplin says under-reporting of racial incidents is a national problem. Many people are frightened of retribution, but the effects of harassment on their quality of life can be devastating.

"It affects them really at every end of the scale. You have people who report it who feel it's water off a duck's back to them, they don't care but they think it ought to be reported so it can be dealt with or so that we know it's going on. But they're not particularly worried."

"Other families have been absolutely petrified of leaving the house, just because of neighbour abuse, or people on the street having a go at them. That's why it's important to have this liaison with Victim Support."

"I have had families who have been receiving abuse from people, and we know who they are, but they are so frightened they have refused to put pen to paper. They'll phone us up to say they've had racist abuse but they won't make a statement. Without that statement, we can't do anything. It's frustrating when you could do something."

One example of this is a serious incident where a man, annoyed at the noise coming from a local community centre one Saturday afternoon during a wedding reception, argued with some of the guests and shouted abuse, some of it racist.

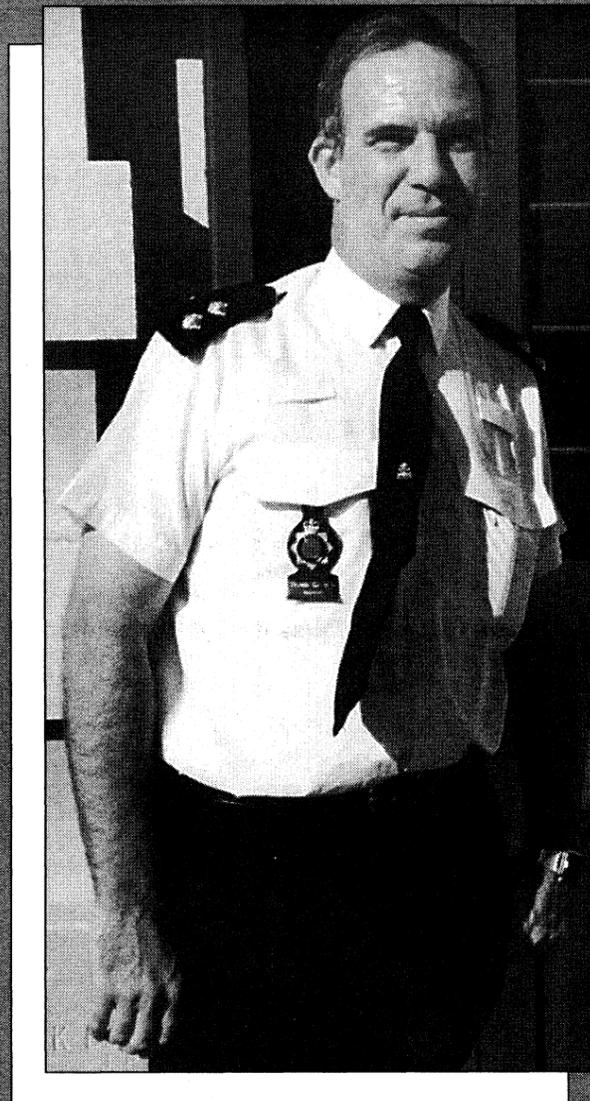
He returned 30 minutes later and poured petrol around the entrance to the centre. He was arrested, but could only be prosecuted for a public order offence because nobody would give a statement.

Harassment

The way to deal with this fear, says Inspector Chaplin, is to emphasise the fact that repeat offences rarely happen in Southend. Often a warning for the offender can be enough to stop abuse or harassment.

"We have had some success in that once people have realised that we are there to help them and that we are taking it seriously, particularly when we have involved people like Victim Support and the Racial Equality Council, then they will help us."

The number of racial incidents in Southend has risen from 18 in 1994 to around 40 last year. This is not seen as an increase in the number of



● Inspector Trevor Chaplin.

Feature by Alyson Mountney

actual incidents, but in the number of incidents which people are now prepared to report.

The positive approach to dealing with racially motivated incidents appears to be paying off. In the latest annual review of the Service Delivery Standard for dealing with victims of harassment, a survey of victims showed Essex Police's overall performance had increased for the third year running, with 85% of those who completed the questionnaire satisfied, or more than satisfied, with the attitude of officers.

But there is a lot of work which is still to be done. The Racial Incident County Forum held a successful one-day conference in Basildon last week to raise awareness about the multi-agency work which is being done in Essex.

And as Inspector Chaplin adds: "Now we've got that liaison, we are trying to publicise ourselves within the community, and show that these agencies are here to help the communities. Some incidents go on for years and never get reported. It's trying to get across to the communities that we are there to deal with it."

"Families have been absolutely petrified of leaving the house, just because of neighbour abuse or people on the street having a go at them"

Units merge to solve beat problems

LEIGH and Westcliff policing sections have merged to become a single unit with the staff from both combined to form a Shift Team and a Beat Team.

Four shifts of 11 constables and a sergeant form the Shift Team based at Leigh and provide 24 hour cover across both areas.

The Beat Team of 18 constables and three sergeants base themselves at Westcliff. Their role is to provide high visibility, community-based and intelligence-led policing, specifically targeting nuisance, disorder and local crime problems.

A weekly operational tasking plan will deploy officers to problem areas while three team members will be specifically responsible for community liaison. There will also be two schools liaison officers responsible for ensuring continuous input into all schools.

The merger will be subject to an evaluation after six months.

Specials visit Danish colleagues

THE Essex specials who took a trip to say 'Goddag' (hello) to our Danish counterparts in Esbjerg have deemed the visit a great success.

Special constables Martin O'Toole, Keith Wall, Anna Jenkins, Trevor Laurie, Mark Jones and Sue Bryett, from Harwich, along with Ron Calvert, from Northants, were greeted in Esbjerg by Politiasistent (sergeant) Gregers Gukdager.

Over coffee and danish pastries they gleaned some interesting information.

With a population of 90,000, Esbjerg is policed by 110 uniformed officers and 30 CID. The dog units are only operational during the evenings and at night.

Youth crime doesn't seem prevalent but drug-related crime is high profile.

Other, not so similar, aspects of the force are at recruitment level. Recruits must be 21 or over and have some civil occupational experience. Retirement is after 34 years or up to the age of 63.

Training and the probationary period lasts three years and only after that time do become a fully-fledged officer with a warrant card.

All officers are trained in the use and deployment of handguns and submachine guns and CS spray in both canister and gun format.

The rest of the visit to Denmark included a trip to the well-stocked armoury, a guesthouse looked after by retired officers and a meet with the Chief Constable and the Chief Superintendent.

The trip was both educational and entertaining. It's just unfortunate that Brian Leslie, who arranged the visit was unable to attend.

Rescue bids win highest honour

OFFICERS and a motorist have been honoured by the Chief Constable for their part in rescuing victims from blazing cars in two road accidents.

High commendations were awarded to constables Paul Inkley, Paul Brebner and Mark Fradgley at the Police Authority meeting. Motorist Mr Ted Hammond was pre-

sented with an award for a meritorious act by a member of the public.

Mr Hammond and Pc Inkley, who was off duty at the time, rescued an unconscious 12-year-old boy from the back seat of a burning car shortly before the petrol tank exploded, engulfing the entire vehicle in flames.

The boy suffered serious burns in the accident, which happened on the A12 at Boreham on February 11. He requires ongoing medical treatment for his injuries.

Mr Hammond, who had been behind one of the cars as it went out of control, used his hazard lights to warn other drivers. He then helped the driver of one of the cars and the nine-year-old front seat passenger out of the vehicle before returning with Pc Inkley to save the back seat passenger.

Both men were also presented with certificates from the Society for the Protection of Life from Fire.

Constables Brebner and

Fradgley were honoured for dragging a driver from a burning car following a road death in London Road, Kelvedon.

The officers came across the car, which had crashed into the A12 bridge support, as they were on patrol. One passenger had already been thrown clear and was lying on the other side of the road.

Despite the risk of explosion, they pulled the trapped driver from the wreckage, but were beaten back by the flames as they tried to release the passengers.



THREE officers, who made repeated attempts to rescue a man trapped inside a blazing fourth floor flat in Grays, in April, have been commended by Chief Constable John Burrow.

Constables Terence Randall and David Jones,

based at Grays, and Pc Anthony Spong, from South Ockendon, were met by a fierce fire when the flat door was opened, and were at one point completely enveloped in smoke and heat.

They got to safety and helped evacuate other

residents. The trapped man eventually escaped by jumping from the window.

Pictured are the three officers having been presented with their certificates.

Photo by Alan Jagger, HQ Photographic.

ESSEX constable William Burns has been awarded a commendation by the British Transport Police.

He received the honour from BT Police Assistant Chief Constable Christopher Hulley for helping to rescue a man, who had suffered 85 per cent burns, from the roof of a train at Southend's Victoria Station.

The man had climbed onto the top of the train and come into contact with overhead electrified wires. Pc Burns helped to bring the man down from the roof, despite the danger of residual current remaining in the wires. Sadly, the victim died in hospital the next day.

Three officers who disarmed and arrested a knifeman who had already stabbed two doormen in a crowded pub have been commended.

Constables Stephen Tyrell and David Bent, and Sergeant Andrew Goodwin, were presented with certificates by Chief Constable John Burrow.

Dc Mark Bedding, of Epping, was commended for his initiative, determination and professionalism during a long investigation into thefts of high powered motorcycles, totalling over £130,000, from the Essex and Metropolitan police districts.

Three men were sentenced to substantial terms of imprisonment as a result of his perseverance.

Mr Norman Hicks from the headquarters Press Office received a commendation for his professionalism and outstanding commitment to promoting community safety initiatives particularly the work of the Essex Drugs Action Team.

Promoting a fit and happy workforce

OCCUPATIONAL Health looks at the relationship between work and employees health.

Its aim is to prevent illness or injury through the work that an individual performs and to ensure that the working process is not affected by the individual's health.

And the objective is a happy, fit and healthy workforce in appropriate employment.

Within Essex Police occupational health practitioners are either doctors or nurses.

Most nurses gain a further qualification in the specialist field of occupational health nursing, either a certificate, diploma or degree course.

Health Check

Essex Police employ two full-time permanent nurses and one part-time temporary nurse, who all use the title Occupational Health Advisers.

The Occupational Health Department Advisers are members of the UKCC which has a strict code of professional conduct regarding confidentiality. Members must ensure that all information provided by employees about their health is treated in the strictest confidence.

All health records maintained by the

Occupational Health Department are subject to the same rigorous standards.

The Department's major responsibilities include:-

- health monitoring pre-placement and during employment
- health education
- counselling
- rehabilitation back to work after illness/injury
- accident prevention
- environmental monitoring eg noise and environmental surveys
- workstation assessments.

If you have a health problem or are worried about a colleague we would like to hear from you, extension 58611.

Sheila puts her best foot forward to help needy children

PITSEA traffic warden, Sheila Hicks, stepped out for charity and raised £187.80 for Children In Need.

Sheila was sponsored by local shops and colleagues as she took part in a BBC Essex feature *Walk Of Life* which pits two people against each other over five days to see who walks the furthest in the course of their job.

Christmas drink drive campaign launched

ESSEX Police has launched its annual Christmas campaign against drink driving by urging partygoers who intend to drive home not to drink at all.

Chief Inspector Mick Thwaites, traffic division operations manager, said: "The current campaign to reduce the legal limit of alcohol from 80 to 50 milligrams per 100 millilitres of blood is supported by the Association of Chief Police Officers, but the only way to ensure that you are entirely safe to drive is not to drink at all."

During the campaign, any driver involved in a road accident, or stopped for an offence, or suspected of drink driving, will be breath-tested.

What's new in policy

Chief outlines aims of rural review

UNTIL it is known what Millennium events will be taking place in the county operational officers and staff are not being granted annual leave.

The ruling, which applies to December 31, 1999 and January 1, 2000, can be found in Issue 53/97 of Policy Guidelines.

Also in Policy Guidelines is a procedure for officially recording and distributing force policies and procedures (Issue 50/97) and more details on the new style warrant and identity cards (Issue 51/97).

In Issue 52/97:

Officers are reminded that it is in breach of PACE to use make-up artists for participants of identification parades.

Advice to staff that vehicles being recovered for evidential purposes should be roadworthy and mechanically safe before being driven.

The amount of annual leave a police officer would be entitled to in a year is not reduced by taking unpaid maternity leave.

Brief details of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997 and the Fireworks (Safety) Regulations 1997.

In Issue 53/97:

New guidelines relating to the breaking of the master tape seal of tape recorded interviews, particularly in respect of civil cases.

Police Federation subscriptions for Federated ranks have increased to £10.61 per month.

For more information on any policy guideline contact John E Johnson or Christine Claypole in the Publication Unit on ext 55815 or 55816.

THE Chief Constable has written to every newspaper editor in Essex to outline the aims of the rural review.

His letter was prompted by recent stories in the press which have focused on fears among rural communities that this will mean a loss of police cover.

Although no decisions have been made as the review is not yet complete, the principle of having a recognisable local police officer serving a

local community will be maintained.

In his letter, Mr Burrow says the intention is to further reduce crime and ensure safer communities.

He outlines the factors behind the review, saying the present siting of police houses is historical and means that in the 1990s, some small villages have a resident constable while villages which have developed considerably do not.

Financial constraints, he says, do

not allow for a police officer in every village.

Another factor is the former Government's decision to axe the payment of housing allowance or free accommodation for police officers.

As many officers have to pay rent in police houses, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find officers prepared to live in them when they would rather pay a mortgage and buy their own home.

The Chief Constable ends his letter by saying the concerns of the rural communities, and those who represent them, are well known.

He adds: "Before any decisions are made, divisional commanders will present proposals to me for consideration, following which a report will be taken to the Police Authority and full consultation will be undertaken with the rural community."

Staggered by award

By Kim White

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators in South Woodham Ferrers have been voted the county's best in a national competition.

And whilst Barry Smith, who heads the local scheme says he is "staggered" by the announcement, he modestly claims the award is a tribute to all of the schemes across Essex and not just South Woodham Ferrers.

The annual General Accident National Neighbourhood Watch Awards aim to search out and reward those ordinary people who have taken the safety and security of their community into their own hands.

The Essex award was presented at a commendation ceremony last week.

The South Woodham Scheme was established six years ago and now boasts 58 groups covering over 800 households.

Barry Smith, a former fireman, said: "What we try to do is get away from the busy-body, curtain-twitching impression of 'watchers', and that means going beyond security to community safety."

First aid courses with St John's Ambulance, and talks on fire safety, are just two ways the schemes achieves its successful image. In addition, a volunteer works in the local police station collating and circulating crime information, a regular newsletter is published, the group has its own internet site - South Woodham Community On-Line - and it has a network of faxes circulating vital safety messages to seven schools.

Barry is also among a number of co-ordinators ready, at the drop of a hat, to warn the community of a pending flood.

All of the hard work was rewarded during a special presentation at the last Essex Police commendations ceremony on November 28.

Barry Smith, said of the award: "I'm staggered. It's very gratifying to know that a national association acknowledges the work that goes in to a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme."

Superintendent Andy Hayman, who heads Chelmsford Division including South Woodham Ferrers, said: "This is a testament to the hard work and commitment shown by Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators. The South Woodham Ferrers group has been innovative and creative in the way it seeks to encourage the community to work together."



● The brains behind the winning scheme are Barry Smith and Michael Rands seen here with South Woodham Ferrers sergeant Nick Banks.

Challenged to Act Now

SIX challenges have been set for Neighbourhood Watch Schemes across Essex. The 1998 agenda - Act Now - was revealed at the national association's annual conference.

'A' stands for Associations - a target for countywide associations for each police force across the UK.

'Communications' looks for a hi-tech information network based on groups setting up office in local police stations.

'Training' looks to all co-ordinators to participate in a training programme, while liaisons with community safety organisations in the area is the key to Working with 'New partners'.

'Opportunities' encourages more involvement of young people, elderly and ethnic minorities in initiatives and the challenge ends with some forward planning known as 'Week'. All groups are asked to organise events and initia-

tives for the 1998 National Neighbourhood Watch Week scheduled for June 20 to 27.

Police forces are also being asked to play a more active role in NHW.

Essex representatives at the national conference were Inspector Mick Gurden, Sergeant Steve Nuttall, and Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators Linda Goble, Geoff Ireland, Bill Wilson and Richard Bulls.

Team-building can be tough

A HOUSE in the Yorkshire Dales, without mains water or sewage, was the salubrious location for a team building weekend for Braintree Specials.

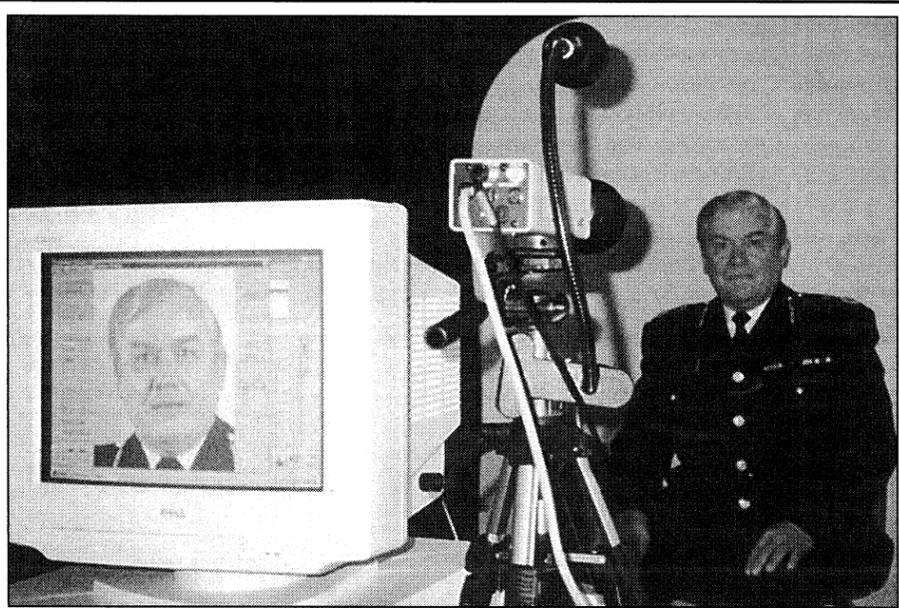
Approximately one mile from the nearest side road, the small group spent the first morning walking part of the 'Dales Way' before cutting across part of the famous Three Peaks Route. There followed a trek across open moorland using a compass bearing, and then a climb of Ingleborough's 'broadwalk' and 'escarpment'.

Divisional Officer John Salmon, said: "It was a gruelling path but after a lengthy lunch to regain our breath we took the standard walk back to the farm having covered a distance of about 18 miles."

Needless to say the not so luxurious bunks beds became very enticing and even the next morning's task of emptying the contents of the chemical toilet was carried out without fuss.

Before returning home there was another smaller but strenuous waterfalls walk of about four-and-a-half miles.

It is hoped there will be a return trip in 1998. Anyone interested should contact Do John Salmon at Braintree Police Station or Section Officer Hopkins at Witham.



ID camera is doing the rounds

● Posing for the camera, Mr Burrow claims his new warrant card.

Chief Constable John Burrow was issued with his new warrant card last month as Essex Police introduced its new up-to-date system.

And now the digital camera is working its way around division in a programme anticipated to last about

three months.

Protected from both copying and scanning, and with a braille strip on the back to verify identities to blind people, the new cards will be issued to all police officers with similar cards distributed to support staff.

Divisional admin managers have details of the photographic programme. Anyone who misses the divisional session should contact their admin managers or photographic at Headquarters to make alternative arrangements.

I.P.A.

Mid Essex Branch

A SMALL group of members and friends enjoyed their visit to the Essex Police Museum on Friday, November 14.

They were shown around by the Curator Fred Feather and thanks were given to him for arranging the evening and making a special journey.

OUR December meeting, on Friday 5, will be centred on the Sports and Social club and will be a repeat of the very successful Christmas meal that we held for the first time last year.

Cost is £13 per head. Music will be provided for after dinner dancing so book now as places are limited. Please contact Frank Joslin on 01245 602872 to book.

THE musical entertainment for New Year's Eve in Brighton has now been confirmed and we will have a professional DJ who will play our kind of music.

Members who have expressed an earlier interest in joining the trip will be contacted in the next week or so. Cost of the whole weekend is £140 and includes coach travel from Chelmsford on New Year's Eve, lunch at the hotel on arrival, gala New Year's Eve Dinner with music, breakfast and dinner on New Year's Day and breakfast on January 2.

We have asked Ian and Sheila to try and find somewhere open to travel to on New Years Day afternoon. If you are interested call Bill Fancourt on 01245 225569.

FOR 1998 we are hoping to have a talk and presentation on vegetarian food on Friday, January 16.

For those sceptics like me who think that most veggie food looks and tastes like a cross between cardboard and wood chippings I am told you will be very pleasantly surprised.

IN February, on Friday 13, we have our AGM. This is your opportunity to tell us what, if anything, we have been doing right (or wrong), and let us know what events you would like us to try to arrange for the future.

We will try to arrange something of general interest for the rest of the evening.

FOR March, and again it's Friday 13, we are arranging a get-together at the Sports and Social Club at HQ with our neighbours from North East and South East Essex.

The plan is to have a friendly games evening with a mixture of quiz type papers, cards, dominoes etc. The bar will be open.

Bill Fancourt

South East Essex

ON November 4 a wine tasting was held at The Pipe of Port wine bar in Southend where a number of members had a very enjoyable evening. The wines were tasted with full explanations from the proprietor of the wine bar and this was followed by a very nice meal.

This was so successful that it was intended to repeat the event in February of next year and any member who would like to come along if they would kindly let either myself or any member of the committee know we will supply you with further details.

You will see from the article above that Mid-Essex IPA have challenged North Essex

and South East Essex to a competition games evening and we are looking for members to take part. Please let us know in time to arrange a team.

I would also remind members it is AGM time again and that the South East Essex AGM will be held in the bar at Southend Police Station at 8pm on February 16.

We are planning a visit to the Tower of London for the Ceremony of the Keys early in the New Year. Any members interested in this visit please let one of the Committee know.

Gordon E Oakley

Scenes of crime head retires

Names in the news

DCI Trevor Crosby, of headquarters CID crime support, will see in the New Year by retiring from Essex Police. The head of Scenes of Crime retires on December 31 after more than 30 years' service.

Four inspectors with over 120 years' service between them also retire this month.

Weapons trainer, Insp Peter Brown, based at the training centre is joined by Insp Bob Finch of Colchester. Insp Nigel Robinson, of Braintree, retires on December 21 and Insp Alan Jipps of Clacton retires after serving over 33 years.

Rochford Insp Philip Baxter retired from the force at the end of November following 30 years' service.

Sgt Martin Hayhurst,

currently based at Rayleigh, retires after exactly 30 years' service. He is followed by Sgt Ian Smith, of the training centre, who retires after 30 years.

Sgt William Marr, who was based at Basildon, and Sgt John Swann, of Harwich, both retired at the end of November.

Pc Jeffrey Hughes, of the driving school, also retired after nearly 33 years' service.

MOVES

SUPT Mick Hicks, previously based with Corporate Support at headquarters, has

taken over as the new divisional commander at Tendring following the retirement of Superintendent Jim Kynnersley.

Superintendent Jim Noakes has moved from HQ Crime Support to Corporate Support.

OBITUARIES

THE funeral of retired Pc Albert Snell, of St Osyth, took place at St Osyth Church. Mr Snell, who served from 1939 to 1964 at Brentwood, Rayleigh, Thorpe, Clacton and St Osyth, died on October 26 at

the age of 80. He leaves a widow, Peggy.

Retired Sergeant Eric Ewen has died at the age of 91. Mr Ewen, who served from 1927 to 1957 in the Southend on Sea Borough Force, leaves a widow, Alice Miriam. His funeral was held at Southend Crematorium.

Edith Slade, who was a principal officer in the finance department at headquarters from 1981 to 1994, died on November 22. Her funeral was held at Chelmsford Crematorium.

Eric Noakes, who had been employed as a caretaker and handyman at Southend police station since April 1994, has died at the age of 56.

Life after retirement

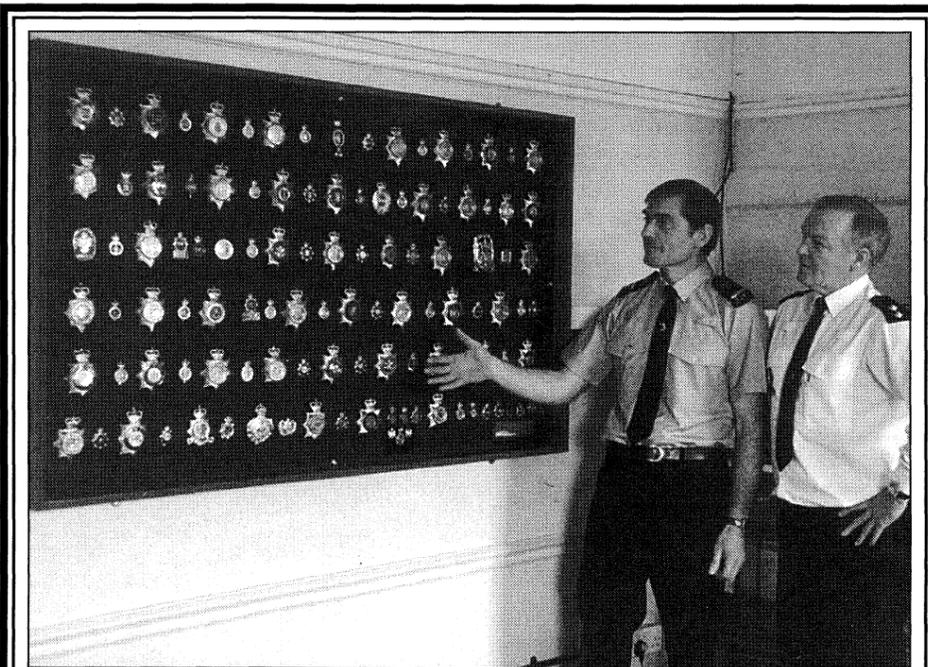
WHILE some welcome the prospect of a break from the stress and routine of work in the police force, others see it as an opportunity to change the direction of their lives.

For those who choose a working 'retirement' the British Transport Police Federation has produced a book entitled *How To Find Your Next Job*.

Many have discovered that re-entering the job market can be difficult. Not having had to look for a job, prepare a curriculum vitae or go for an interview is just the start. Add to that today's hi-tech workplace and the experience can be quite daunting.

The book, written by Inspector Andy Ball, is a complete guide to the job market, covering everything from where to look for job offers, making applications and interview technique.

It is available for just £2.99, including postage and packing, from 134 Thurlow Park Road, West Dulwich, London SE21 8HN. Cheques should be made payable to the British Transport Police Federation.



A feather in Keith's cap

A UNIQUE collection of all 43 police force helmet and cap badges is finally complete after a year long project and a lot of hard work by Harwich Beat Supervisor Keith Wall.

The display also includes a few extra badges such as Guernsey, Garda Siochana, Royal Parks and various Dock police.

Throughout the year most forces

gave the badges willingly and Keith spoke personally to a couple of obliging chief constables.

The collection has taken pride of place in the recreation room at Harwich Police Station.

Beat Supervisor Keith Wall is pictured officially handing over his collection to Harwich Inspector Peter Hudson.

ACOUSTIC guitar as new, hardly played, full size, suit beginner, £35. Ideal Christmas gift. Contact N. Davidson on 01375 391212, ext 70830.

BEAUTIFUL Florida home in quiet location for rent. Four bedrooms, sleeps 10, own heated pool and only 15 minutes from Orlando attractions. Ring 01621 850957.

CHAIR. Electric recliner lazy-boy, beige, nine months use, cost £1,100 new, £400. Contact Shirley Carman on 01255 241312 ext 19110 or 01255 507500.

FOR SALE. Psion 3c, 2 meg, palmtop, several months warranty left, £199. Contact Ch Insp Steve Currell on 01245 491491, ext 51012.

FOUR, 5.5 J wheels - VW Jetta Golf, vgc. Free to whoever can collect (Southend area). Contact Ch Insp Steve Currell on 01245 491491 ext 51012.

GOLF clubs, irons SW to 3, DCI (Blacks) stiff shaft hardly used, cost £600 accept £350. T2 taylor made driver, bubble shaft, brand new. Cost £369, accept £269. Three wood, bubble shaft, hardly used. Cost £260 accept £150. Contact Brad Gentry on 01403 731440.

HAMMOND cadet organ keyboard, rexime black casing, portable with chrome stand plus leads. Serviced October 1996, vgc. Bargain £120 ono. Contact Fred Fulcher on 01277 656647.

KAWASAKI ZXR400L2 1992, burgundy, new Michelin, Goodridges, Baglux, Datatag, superb condition, £3,600. Contact Pc Tab Hunter on 01621 892037.

LUXURY one-bedroom Spanish pueblo style house overlooking Mijas golf course and Fuengirola. Malaga airport half hour drive; beach

two miles. Recently refurbished. South facing terraces. Three pools with children's paddling facilities on site. For two people £150 p/w, 3-4 people £200 p/w. Contact DI Gary Glassfield on 01245 328262 or 75115.

ROVER 114 Cabriolet, 'N' reg, 1995, platinum silver, 23,000 miles, alarm/immobiliser, alloys, driver's airbag, tax until April 1998, excellent condition, £8,000. Contact Nikki on 01245 491481 ext 54222.

SAILING "Hood" "Tuff Luff" twin foil for yacht up to 32ft. Brand new, boxed £145. Also near new spinnaker and autohelm. Contact Pc Batchelor on 01621 773663.

WANTED. Greenhouse heater for use in garage must work but condition not important and cheap please. Contact Pc Snellin on 01799 500646.

Market Place

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE - ONE WORD PER BOX

Name and Rank

Station Home Tel

Date Signed

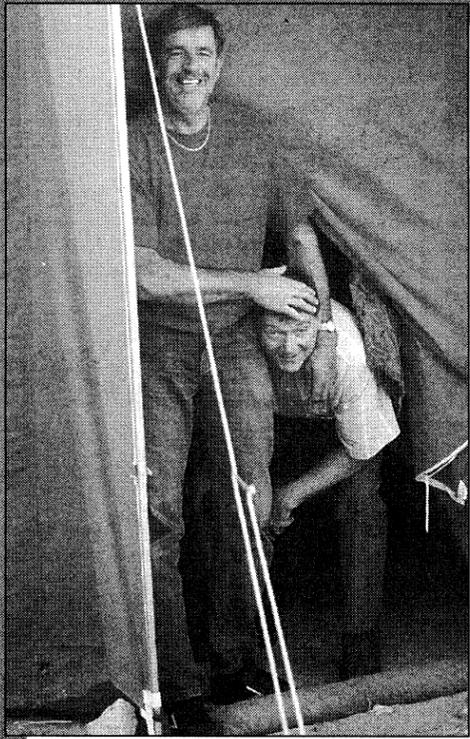
Investigation work for former police officers

A CHESHIRE based company is looking for retired Essex police officers to help carry out investigations on their behalf.

UNIQUIN is an investigations and justice support service and will pay fees for private investigations, accident investigations and work as law agents.

If you are interested you should contact 01606 852812 or fax 01606 851551 for more information.

Helping the exiles in a barren land



● David Bright and Jim Dickinson on their first day in the desert.

IMAGINE almost the entire population of the divisional areas of Rayleigh and Southend being forced to leave their homes and most of their belongings to seek shelter in one of the most unforgiving environments on earth.

This happened to 200,000 people from Western Sahara in 1976, forced into exile when their country, formerly a Spanish colony, was invaded by Morocco.

Since then, the Saharawans have lived in tented cities on desert land given to them by the Algerians, around Tindouf. Many died during the trek across the desert. A strong willed people forgotten by all but a few in the Western world, they only want the land that is rightfully theirs.

Despite the extreme hardship of the desert, the Saharawans have managed to establish an admirable education system. They have built several hospitals and schools, and have successfully used a complex irrigation system to grow crops in the barren desert.

But they still face many problems, particularly regard-

ing health. Sanitation is basic and diets poor, and the Saharawans need support from the Western world.

With this history in mind, retired ACC(D) Jim Dickinson and Superintendent David Bright, and their wives Doreen and Rita, joined the latest aid convoy to be organised by the Saharawan Aid Trust.

A registered charity promoted by the Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, the trust has been running convoys to the Saharawans for over 12 years.

Two elderly Land Rovers, donated by the Army at Shoeburyness, were resprayed white with the trust's rainbow markings by members of Essex Police Vehicle Services at headquarters. They also prepared the vehicles for the trek across Europe and the desert.

More than £20,000 worth of goods and equipment were donated to the Essex contingent, and due to lack of space many were transferred to other vehicles in the convoy.

Supplies included medical equipment, clothes, toiletries, paint, tyres, and groceries. Items for the children includ-

ed educational materials, sports equipment including football strips and footballs, soft toys, games, video cassettes and sweets.

The convoy of 29 vehicles, including two from the American-based Friendship Force, set off from the House of Lords on November 1, and travelled through France and Spain before taking the ferry to Algeria.

For the final leg of the journey, the four-day trek across the desert, the Trust volunteers were flown on ahead to Tindouf by a military Hercules transporter aircraft, as the Algerian authorities could not guarantee their safety.

But the revised travel arrangements meant the aid workers were able to spend seven days with a host family in one of the tented cities. Each tent had a carpeted floor and served as a socialising and sleeping area for the guests and family - sometimes as many as nine members at night. Separate toilet and kitchen facilities were contained in a sandstone compound in front of the tent.

Mr and Mrs Dickinson had packed a china chamber pot in

case of emergencies en route, and had no intention of taking it back with them. So Mr Bright presented it to his host family - who used it to serve up soup that evening.

Following the arrival of the convoy, the aid workers helped paint a wall at the hospital and a secondary school. They also watched a football between two school teams dressed in the donated football strips, played mainly in bare feet on the stony ground.

The convoy members flew home on November 15, leaving their vehicles and supplies behind to help the Saharawans.

Mr Dickinson said he admired the way in which the Saharawans had adapted to their environment and were seeking to develop their community.

"The support the convoy provided through the generosity of so many other people seemed so limited when considered against all the problems they face, however what is most important of all to them is to appreciate that people from other nations do care and are prepared to help," he added.

Carols for Christmas

WITH the Christmas season fast approaching the choir has been dusting off the Carol books and polishing up the sleigh bells in preparation for the two charity concerts that are planned for December.

The first, starting at 7.30pm on Friday, December 12, is in aid of the 'Headway' charity and will be held at the Moot Hall in Colchester.

The second, will again start at 7.30pm on Tuesday, December 16 and is being held at the URC Church in Maldon in aid of St Clare's Day Hospice, Heybridge.

Tickets for the concerts can be obtained from Ann Brown on 01245 269869.

The Friends of the Choir, who support us in all our activities and have raised large sums of money to allow us to purchase staging and other items have arranged the following fund-raising activities for 1998.

January 31 - Visit to the Museum of the Theatre in Covent Garden. Cost in the region of £10 per person.

March 1 - Coach trip to the GWR Retail outlet at Swindon. For the male members who rapidly succumb to 'shopping fatigue' the railway museum is only five minutes walk away.

Two quiz nights have been arranged at the Sports and Social Club, both are on Fridays, the first is on April 3 and the second October 2.

For more details on any FOC event or to make a booking please contact John Eady on 01245 223095.

Charity cash for questions

THE annual headquarters Sports and Social Club quiz night raised the grand sum of £1,637.85 for Children in Need.

Local stores supporting the event included Comet, Dixons and Woolworths.

An auction of Dipsy, the Teletubby, raised a

staggering £140.

In Colchester there was similar quiz night success with £1,010.85 boosting the charity coffers.

Quizmasters for the evening were Clive Butler, Keith Beechner and Chris Farnell.

Celebrate with the FSU

THE Force Support Unit is planning a celebration to mark the section's 25th anniversary.

The silver anniversary will be marked by a disco and buffet on April 25 in the Function Room of the Sports and Social Club at HQ. All past and present FSU members and partners are invited to celebrate this special anniversary.

The cost is £10 per head and Sgt Steve Cast is looking for bookings and cheques (made payable to FSU Welfare Fund) by 15 January 1998. As in previous years, the anniversary will also be marked by the production of a commemorative glass goblet - please also indicate if you would be interested in buying one so the best price can be reached. Write to Sgt Steve Cast, FSU, Headquarters.

Fell at the second hurdle

IT was a sad day for the Essex Police Football Squad when they took on their counterparts from Hertfordshire.

Having made history last season by reaching the final of the Police National Cup, the team fell at the second hurdle losing 1-0.

Lady luck certainly wasn't on their side as missed chances ran in to double figures. In just the first few minutes a fingertip save by the Herts goalkeeper knocked the ball against the bar. One against the post, two goal line clearances, and another against the bar in the final minute just about summed up the match.

Despite their lack of luck, there is some work to be done out on the field and a little more communication wouldn't go amiss as Essex never looked as if they were going to dominate the game.

Running season gets underway

SOUTHAMPTON was the venue for the first meeting of the new running season.

The twisting course through dense woodland was made worse by heavy rain, but resulted in some excellent performances from both old and new runners particularly Paul McFadyen, Russ Welch and Dave Brooks. But it was the trio of Essex ladies who displayed medal winning potential, finishing third team overall.

The running club has fixtures arranged against Thames Valley Police on 10 December, Herts on the 14 January 1998 and Sussex on 21 March 1998.

Runners are reminded that Essex Police is affiliated to the East Anglian League which holds a series of mid-week runs for service and shift workers. No time off or transport is provided for these meetings, but all Essex Police members are welcome. Meetings will be held at RAF Honington on 17 December, Bury St Edmunds on 14 January 1998 and at Waterbeach, Cambs on 28 January 1998. The meetings start at 1430. For more information contact Mick Bond.

Hockey training sessions

THE Essex Police Hockey Club has started holding regular weekly training sessions to improve their performance this season.

The meetings are held every Wednesday at Headquarters and it's hoped the club may also occasionally book at classrooms to cover the theory of the game.

All members are encouraged to attend as many sessions as possible.



Present their

Annual Christmas Concerts

Marconi Club, Beehive Lane, Chelmsford

Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd December 1997

7:30 PM

Tickets: £3:00



Essex squad looks to make rugby history

Swim and save team turn international

FOR the first time, the Essex Police swimming team and lifesaving team pooled resources for an international competition in the Channel Islands.

The contest, hosted by Guernsey Police, consisted of staged lifesaving incidents on land and water, swim and tow rope throwing relays, and competition swimming.

Essex were placed third overall in the lifesaving event and were judged joint 1st in the land based lifesaving. Well done to the two Sergeants from Colchester, Paddy O'Toole and Dave Salmon.

In the swimming, the talent of Pc Courtney Cowell from Colchester once again shone through. He took 1st place in the men's 50m butterfly, 50m backstroke and 100m butterfly, breaking two event records for the butterfly and backstroke in the process.

Pc Sarah Pike of Halstead also took medal honours with one 2nd place, and three 3rd places in her events.

Sgt O'Toole, a newcomer to police swimming competitions, took 2nd place honours in the ladies' 50m breaststroke and managed 4th in the ladies' 50m backstroke.

Pc Linzy Jones of Southend took 4th in the 50m butterfly. Pc Chris Mathlin, of Pitsea, took 4th in the 100m and 200m freestyle events. Pc Brendon Cox of Colchester took 6th in the men's 50m backstroke.

Any swimmers who fancy joining the Essex Police team should turn out for the Croker Cup Gala, in Basildon, where they may be picked for the team. Selection is open to both police and support staff.

RUGBY history is on the cards for Essex Police if its squad can beat Hertfordshire colleagues later this month.

It's only the third time they have reached the regional finals of the PAA Cup and if they win they

By Kim White

will make it into the last 16, never yet achieved.

Tough competition has already been fought to reach the current state of play.

The first round saw a 30-8 victory over Sussex with a good team performance.

In the semi-finals Essex took on Kent and faced a number of county players as well as a member of the British Police squad.

But 11-9 was the final scoreline with the only try from Dave Gibbs and Keith Harman kicking the points.

Team manager Pc Rube Zagger, said: "If we play as well as we did against Kent I've got no doubt at all we can beat Hertfordshire and

make it to the last 16."

Anyone wishing to support the Essex team at Welwyn Garden City can hitch a lift on the coach leaving Police Headquarters at 11.30am on Wednesday, December 10.

Bookings should be made via Pc Zagger at Chelmsford Traffic.

He is also on the lookout for new players interesting in joining the squad.

Mick's first across the line

SIX miles across waterlogged meadows, streams and daunting hills was no deterrent for runner Mick Bond.

Taking on officers from the fire brigade and prison service, he was the first veteran home for the National PAA team in Bristol.

With wins in both the veteran and the open race, the police team finished 10th overall.

Register for swimming gala

ANYONE wanting information on the Croker Cup Swimming gala in Basildon on January 18 should contact Pc Chris Mathlin on ext 42135 or 42127 or 01268 584212. Competitors need to be at Gloucester Park swimming pool by 6pm.

A marathon feat

IN the triathlon calendar the London International is the equivalent to the city's marathon attracting over 4,000 competitors. So a 4th placing in the team event was a result to be proud of.

Sergeant Pete Bryan, Inspector Mark Harman, and constables Chris Mathlin and Paul McFadyen all endured a 1500m swim in the Canary Wharf docks, a 26 mile cycle ride against a "horrendous headwind" (three laps of Docklands) and a six mile run.

The result, however, is not the only one of note from the season's competitions.

Individual praise is due to Pc Laurie Rampling who is now the over 50s veteran British Police champion following a 3rd placing in the British Duathlon in North Yorkshire. Meanwhile Chris Mathlin finished in the top 20 in the Guernsey British Police Triathlon.



● Pete Bryan in the London International Triathlon.

Hooking in a win

THE Essex Police Sea Anglers have done it again! Last month two teams travelled to Pakefield in Norfolk to compete in the PAA Beach Championships. On the day there were strong winds and rain - alright for the fish but not so for the fishermen.

All four of the team weighed in. They were Clive Skingley (Marine Section), Russ Cole (Clacton), Chris Gibson (Colchester) and Bob Sandford (Southend). Russ Cole was the individual runner up with eight codling. The team went on to win the RUC Cup.

Since 1990, Essex Police have held three PAA team titles, two individuals and one runner-up.

The Angling Croker Cup competition was also held last month at Bradwell Marina. Seven boats set off holding 51 anglers. The fishing was consistent with catches of cod, whiting, dab and pouting.

Top individual was Bob Sandford (Southend) with 116 points. Runner up was new boy Pc Wollard from Basildon with 80 points - a good result for his first Croker Cup competition.

The team results were 1) Basildon, 2) Southend, 3) Rayleigh, 4) Chelmsford, 5) Colchester, 6) Braintree, 7) Harlow, 8) Tendring, 9) HQ.

Essex took to the table and brought back European medals

THE 1997 European Police table tennis championships were held in Stadskanaal, Holland last month with teams attending from many EC countries making this the highest standard that the event had ever seen.

The French and German sides were considered favourites for team and individual honours as they included players who had represent-

ed their country at international level. However, Great Britain fielded a strong team including two Essex players, National Champion Julie Askem (Southend) and Chris Jacob (HQ).

Julie had recently changed her style and her bat blade and struggled losing in the second round of the ladies contest. However, with her team partner Kim Mudge (Met

Police) they beat the German number one seeds in the semi-final and only just lost in the final to a pair of French internationals.

Chris had the best tournament that any Essex Police officer has ever managed when he paired up with Chris Budden (Met Police) in the veterans contest to come third. He was also part of the round-robin team which was undefeated to win

the Veterans Team Gold Medal. To cap a great week he excelled in the Veterans Singles winning his group and beating the German number one in the quarter final despite losing the first leg.

Chris then won the semi-final against team mate Chris Budden who is ranked number 40 in the country. The final was an all-England affair with Chris playing

the England Table Tennis Association number 21, Ian Johns.

It was a close match, but Chris made a decisive break in the third and final leg to take the title for the second time.

So, to add to the national titles in Ladies Singles and Mixed Doubles, Chris and Julie can now claim a double European Champion and a silver and bronze medal.

