



Minister visits Tendring - P3



Helping to cope with death - P6



Howzat for fun? - Back

Budget cuts 'will not reduce service' - pledge

CHIEF Constable John Burrow has pledged that budget cuts of £5 million, agreed by the Police Authority, will not affect the service provided by Essex Police.

Cuts will include reducing the number of extra officers due to be recruited in 1997/8 from 55 to 28 and a nine per cent reduction in police overtime.

They have been made to keep within the government's £163.6 million spending limit.

Unavoidable increases in spending included an extra £2.1 million in police pension costs.

At February's Police Authority budget meeting, Mr Burrow said: I do not expect the general public of Essex to see any reduction in the operational services provided by the police."

He hoped in some areas of operational policing there would be an improvement in service, in line with the goals of the Essex Policing Plan.

The agreed budget will mean a 15 per cent increase in the police element of the council tax. For Band D properties this figure rises from £54.09 for last year to £62.28 for 1998/9, an increase of 68 pence per month - less than half the cost of a pint of beer.

Basildon partnership approach reaps early rewards

NEW TEAM TO FIGHT CRIME



An arresting experience for local dignitaries

SOUTHEND'S Town Beat Section arrested the local MP and Mayor recently - but it was all in aid of charity.

Cllr Jean Dunn and David Amess, MP for Southend West, were amongst a group of local people who volunteered to be 'arrested' in aid of the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

The suspects were taken to Porters Civic House and given a mobile phone to raise the bail needed for

their release.

Each prisoner had to raise £500 from friends and colleagues before being released back into the community.

It's thought the event will raise over £4,000 to help the RNIB maintain services for visually handicapped children and adults in the Essex area.

● Cllr Dunn is pictured being arrested by Pcs Jan Golding and Denise House.

A NEW approach to tackling crime in Basildon Division is already bearing fruit.

A divisional community safety department was set up in January by Divisional Commander Supt Dennis Sheppard, in response to the Crime and Disorder Bill, due to become law in April next year.

The new department combines the traditional crime prevention activity within the division, with a partnership approach to tackling crime in the community.

Strong links have already been forged with Basildon District Council and several local businesses, resulting in a number of initiatives which are already bearing fruit.

Strategy

Led by Sgt Vic Wallace, the department has a community safety officer in Pc Ray Williams, working closely with his opposite number at the district council, Ken Venables, as well as with the third member of the departmental team, divisional crime prevention officer Pc Colin Mead.

Sgt Wallace is responsible for planning the community safety strategy and studying new legisla-

by Norman Hicks

tion and how it affects Basildon. He is also tasked with ensuring that any community safety partnerships work efficiently and cost-effectively, so far as Basildon police are concerned.

Pc Williams is also the divisional architectural liaison officer, working with local planners to ensure that community safety and crime issues are given consideration when planning new developments.

Pc Mead has the traditional crime prevention role, advising the public and industry, as well as conducting surveys and giving talks to local groups and organisations.

The department's new offices at Basildon Divisional HQ feature a mini-conference room, where regular meetings take place to progress the various multi agency projects already under way and in the pipeline.

Said Pc Williams: "We are getting a lot of people from outside agencies and organisations coming into the police station for these meetings, which is making a big difference to the success of these projects."

● Continued on page 5

Good turnout UNISON at AGM

ESSEX POLICE BRANCH

THE annual meeting of Essex Police Branch of Unison took place with a larger turnout than usual.

A number of issues were discussed and it is clear that staff are becoming increasingly concerned at the way changes are being imposed arbitrarily.

On the equal opportunities front, Unison were consulted regarding the new committee and its future role.

Aspects which Unison are actively pursuing are an end to the second class status of support staff within the service and the introduction of a career development structure for all of us.

We understand that the new ACC(S) is looking into these issues and that is a good sign.

Risk Assessment

On health and safety, the new safety policy was agreed despite Unison concerns, a proposal that trades union safety representatives should sign risk assessment forms was rejected.

We are arranging a compromise whereby we will acknowledge receipt of such documents. All members are reminded that you have trade union

appointed safety representatives. They have legal rights under health and safety legislation and are there for your benefit.

Soon the Police Federation safety representatives will also be receiving trade union recognition so officers will have the same rights.

Bullies

Bullying remains on the agenda. Our initial attempts to introduce a bullying policy have yet to yield results, however we are representing members.

If you are a member and you have reached the stage when you are looking for another job, or cannot face work because of bullying, tell us. Don't live in misery and do not be intimidated. Bullying is not part of the job and is no longer acceptable.

Lastly, a warm welcome to the new Divisional stewards Mark Broad (FIR), Geraldine Berry (Basildon) and Linda Kemet-Muller (Chelmsford). Members in those divisions should address routine inquiries through them.

Lee Robson

Insurance offers for staff

THE Police Mutual Assurance Society (PMAS), the police service's own insurance society, is a £1 billion company.

The Society's assets passed this figure during its 75th anniversary year and has been hailed as "a tremendous achievement" by chief executive Peter Sharpe.

Membership is open to serving and

retired police officers, their spouses and adult children and to members of the police support staff.

Further details are available from PMAS authorised officer for Essex Police Brian Boon on Extension 50805, PMAS direct on 01543 414191, or by contacting Divisional representatives.

Happy 1st birthday



● CLACTON'S

new nick is one year old - a perfect excuse for a party. The picture shows new Divisional Commander Supt Mick Hicks cutting a cake made by the catering staff to mark the occasion.

Photo: Ian Pryke

The CSA: Making a complaint

THE Federation receive many enquiries from officers who are unhappy about the way the Child Support Agency has dealt with their case, as do the Welfare Department, but it appears there are very few people who have heard of the 'Independent Case Examiner for the Child Support Agency'.

I have obtained a number of leaflets giving guidelines on how to complain and if you require one, please contact Lucy Wheddon on extension 54502.

The Independent Case Examiner acts as an impartial referee where people feel they have been badly treated by the Child Support Agency (CSA) and they are still not satisfied after the CSA has responded to their complaints.

The Independent Case Examiner hears both sides of a complaint and, if it is considered justified, makes recommendations about putting matters right.

The Examiner is not part of the Child Support Agency management structure, their recommendations are independent and their services are free.

What the Child Support Agency does

The business of the Child Support Agency is to assess, collect and pay child maintenance, ensuring parents maintain their children where they can afford to do so and that the burden on the general tax payer is kept to a minimum.

Before complaining to the Independent

Case Examiner you must give the Child Support Agency the opportunity to settle your complaint themselves. Most complaints can be sorted out by firstly writing to your Customer Service Manager who works in the CSA office dealing with your case or secondly to the Chief Executive.

Complaints dealt with by the Independent Case Examiner

The Independent Case Examiner looks at complaints about the way the Child Support Agency has handled your case.

For instance, the Independent Case Examiner looks at complaints about excessive delays, mistakes, discourtesy or the way in which the Child Support Agency has exercised discretion on your case.

Time Limits

If you decide to complain, you should do so as soon as possible. The Examiner will not normally look at your complaint if you send it to them more than 6 months after you were sent a reply on behalf of the Chief Executive with which you are still not satisfied.

How to complain to the Independent

Allowance News:

Federation Newslines

by Terry Spelman



Use of the baton

THE recent case of a Federation member referred to in the national press has raised some concerns amongst members about the use of a baton.

Members can be reassured that, whilst the drawing of a baton is a use of force which must be justified, whether it be in the course of effecting an arrest or in other accepted circumstances, such use is justifiable provided:

1. The officer is acting lawfully
2. The officer holds an honest belief that police or others are in danger of imminent attack
3. The drawing of a baton is reasonable in relation to the perceived danger or threat.

Case Examiner

Full details of your complaint should be made in writing. The leaflet available from the Federation Office will advise you on what details they require.

If the Independent Case Examiner decides to look at your complaint, the CSA will be asked to provide a full report on your case, including their view of things. If the Independent Case Examiner cannot look into your complaint you will be told why.

Once the Independent Case Examiner has got all the facts together, they will see if there is any scope for the Agency and you to come to an agreement. If they do not think your complaint can be settled in this way, or you and the CSA are not able to come to an agreement, they will make a formal report

I AM pleased to be able to report that after 18 months of protracted negotiations, the new Policy Guidelines have been agreed.

I thank you for your patience over this period of time with both sides taking extensive legal advice.

We have always said that if the Regulations were changed nationally after negotiations at the Police Negotiating Board, then so be it but the Regulations are the Regulations. They are the only thing we have for our protection and for all of us to adhere to.

Hopefully, all Divisions will now implement the Guidelines and not try and put their own interpretation on any part of the document. I thank Barry Faber in Finance for his assistance in working with me on this and, if the need is there for us to address any Divisions or Departments to explain anything in more detail, we would both be happy to oblige.

about how your complaint should be settled. The findings will be sent in writing.

If your complaint is upheld in whole or in part, they will ask the CSA to apologise. They may also ask the Agency to review its procedures. The Independent Case Examiner may recommend that the Child Support Agency consider paying compensation where you have suffered financial loss because they delayed things, made a mistake or gave you the wrong information.

If you wish you can ask your MP to put complaints you have about the Child Support Agency to the Parliamentary Ombudsman, who is an Officer of the House of Commons, wholly independent of the Government.

Dave Jones, JBB Chairman

Handgun hand-in

PHASE two of the national handgun ban has resulted in 658 weapons being handed in to Essex Police.

The county's 333 certificate holders had until the end of February to make appointments to surrender their small calibre weapons. Between them they surrendered 485 firearms by the deadline.

It is now illegal to hold any weapons outlawed by the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997. Registered firearms dealers are not covered by the ban, but in Essex 113 weapons have been surrendered voluntarily by dealers and a further 60 firearms have been handed in by clubs.

All owners will be compensated by the Home Office for the firearms, ammunition and equipment handed in.

Face to face with fiction

SOME weeks ago a certain Rayleigh Traffic officer was watching his son play a game of ice hockey when he thought he spotted a fellow policeman among the Dads.

They met up again a few weeks later and were in a group of parents when the conversation turned to what they did for a living.

Our hero said: "I'm a policeman and so is he," pointing to his new friend.

"Not me mate - I run a theatre," came the reply.

"Oh," said our hero. "I always thought you were a policeman. I'm sure I've seen you in uniform before."

"You probably did. I was in The Bill for six years!"

Exit our red-faced hero. Who says it's not like real life on the telly?

Offbeat

COLCHESTER officers were called to reports of strange noises behind some houses on Valentines night. On investigation, it was revealed that romance had obviously rubbed off on a pair of hedgehogs who were very noisily mating. However, we have since learnt (thanks to one of our wildlife liaison officers) that when they're being that noisy it means the female is not consenting - so it was in fact hedgehog rape.

From hedgehogs to dogs, who took over a police car - complete with the shifts bacon breakfast - in Tilbury last month. A response car out on patrol had picked up the supply of bacon to take back for the early turn's breakfast.

They were stopped by a member of the public who reported two German Shepherd dogs roaming free in the area. As the officers dealt with the enquiry, the two dogs jumped into the car refusing to leave.

The dogs were very aggressive and it took the officers 45 minutes to remove them from the car. They finally called on the services of a local dog trainer and the shift sergeant who sacrificed his beef sandwich lunch as bait to get them out of the car.

And, we know it's been a warm February, but one driver's explanation following an RTA was just a little far-fetched. Officers in Grays were called to a minor injury road accident where a car had gone into the back of another vehicle. Her excuse? - that the sun was in her eyes...at 9.15pm.

Take to the road . . . in a Skoda



● Car dealer, Albert Busby handing the new Skoda over to Tilbury Insp Glenn Mayes, watched by Pcs Dave Wiggins and Nick Cole. Photo courtesy of Thurrock Gazette.

THE very first Essex Police Skoda took to the streets this month in Thurrock.

The car is the latest addition to the fleet, thanks to a sponsorship deal with a local car dealer. It's thought this is the first time a Skoda has been used by a police force in the country.

The vehicle will be used as a community beat team car in Tilbury. Insp Glenn Mayes said: "We're extremely encouraged by the deal we made with the garage in what is generally considered to be a socially deprived area - I think it really shows

that the community does care about Tilbury and want to improve the area."

The car is just the latest item of equipment gained through sponsorship by Tilbury - so far they've obtained around £25,000 through local deals.

The vehicle is on loan for one year from Fortune Autos in Southend Road. Owner Albert Busby said: "These cars are really reliable and will certainly do the job for the police. Hopefully it will raise awareness of crime issues amongst children and do some good for the community."

Poetry please

HOME Office Minister Alun Michael visited Essex to launch the 1998 Verse Against Vandalism contest.

The crime prevention initiative, which challenges primary schoolchildren in Harwich to write a poem about the effects of vandalism, was launched in 1996 by local police and the town council.

During a visit to Mayflower County Primary School, the minister

watched Pc Colin Hance and Councillor Garry Calver, talk to 200 youngsters about vandalism at morning assembly.

The scheme received an "Essex Against Crime" award in its first and second year. The Chief Constable launched a book of poems compiled from the competition after a local company, Autoprint, volunteered to print them.

Commenting on the con-

cept, Mr Michael welcomed the contribution of the schools to preventing crime, which he said was up to the community and not just the police.

Following the launch the minister was given a tour of the new Clacton Police Station before discussing local policing issues with the Chief Constable, Supt Mick Hicks, and other local dignitaries.



● Chief Constable John Burrow shows Home Officer Minister Alun Michael the building control centre at Clacton Police Station during his visit to Tendring Division.

Crimewatch appeal brings new leads

THE rape of a 15 year old schoolgirl in Harlow has been featured on the BBC TV's Crimewatch UK programme.

Producers filmed a full reconstruction of the events leading up to the attack as the girl walked home from a school Christmas concert on December 11th. The programme led to over a hundred calls being taken by the enquiry team and operators in the studio.

The reconstruction featured an

interview with the victim's father who spoke about his distress at not being able to protect his daughter from such an ordeal.

Delighted

DCI Terry Gardiner, who went to the studio for the broadcast said: "We received a lot of calls from people in the Harlow area and some from further afield. Bearing in mind the incident happened nearly three months ago and has already received tremen-

dous publicity I am absolutely delighted with the response from viewers."

Last month's programme also featured an appeal by Det Supt David Bright and the husband of Tina Thorne who was killed in a hit and run on New Years Day. Mel Thorne, from Basildon, appeared on the programme to make his own personal appeal for the driver of a blue escort to come forward.

Mr Thorne spoke about the importance of being able to tell his sons

exactly what had happened that night.

Det Supt Bright said he was confident the driver knew he had been involved in a collision and that he must have spoken to others about the incident.

The appeal, which included the broadcast of an E-fit of the suspect, led to over 60 calls being taken by officers. Det Supt Bright says there are a number of interesting leads which the investigating team will be following up.

Summons issued

FOUR Essex Police officers are to appear in court for alleged offences under the Protection of Animals Act 1911.

The issue of the summonses follows an internal investigation into the death of Essex Police dog, Acer, who died last November during a training session at Sandon.

Law letters

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

Thanks from the Pilot

THIS is a personal letter to express my thanks and gratitude to yourself and Essex Police Force for the assistance we received during the Stansted hijacking and also the subsequent trial at the Central Criminal Court in London.

The professionalism of Essex Police Force which was shown in the execution of their duties and handling of the incident is of the highest order which resulted in the safe execution of the passengers and crew from the aircraft and the successful prosecution of the perpetrators involved in this hijacking.

Captain Abdul-Hamid
Hidirbi
Pilot, Sudan Airways

800 cups of tea in one night

WHO remembers the police canteen from Southern Rhodesia presented to our force during the Second World War?

I recently had the pleasure of meeting three ladies who were brought up at Police Headquarters in the 1940s. The late Insp Harold Tomalin's daughter (now Mrs Judy

Iliffe of Galleywood) gave me the script of a broadcast about the canteen made in 1944 after a South African man, Hermon Hodge, visited Chelmsford and broadcast his impressions to South African listeners.

After meeting with Supt George Hodges, Hermon Hodge was taken to see what was described as "one of the most useful vehicles the police had ever had at their disposal".

This proved to be the mobile canteen presented by the British South Africa Police of Southern Rhodesia to Essex.

"They love the canteen," Mr Hodge told his listeners. "They talk about it as if it were a pet dog or mascot."

Bombing

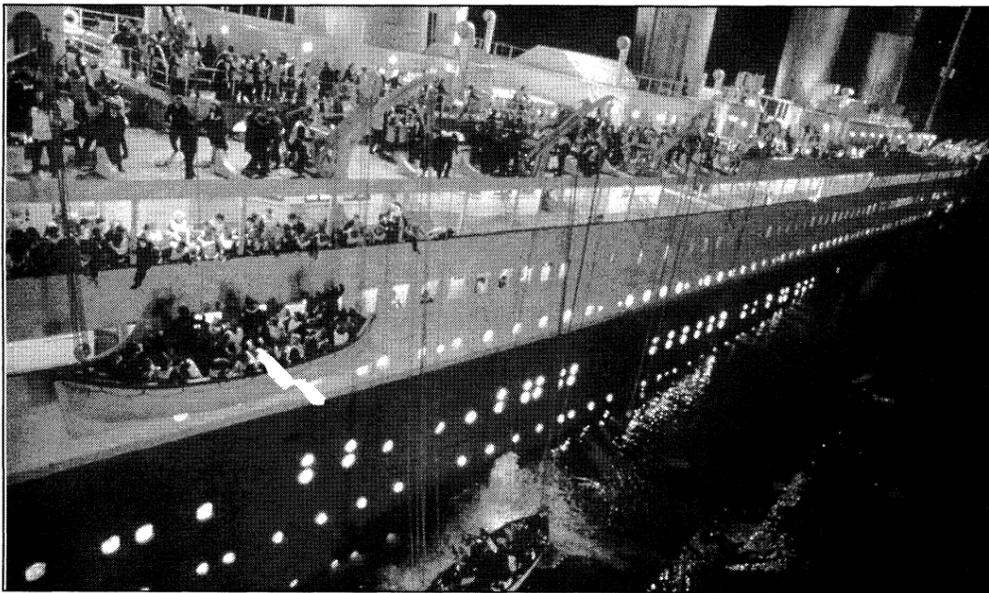
Apparently the mobile canteen was used regularly during the bombing of Chelmsford and Insp Tomalin was proud of the fact that only one cup was stolen during a particularly bad night of bombing, when the canteen served 800 cups of tea.

One of the canteen crew rescued a force crest from the rubble of the police houses in Kingston Crescent, destroyed by a bomb in 1940, and this apparently was placed beside the South African crest on the canteen vehicle.

The full text of this interesting broadcast will be placed in the force museum. Can anyone add any other recollections to it?

Maureen Scollan
Ret Insp, Witham

Memories of a lucky escape



● A scene from the current blockbuster film Titanic. Photo: 20th Century Fox Film Co.

WITH the latest renewed interest in the Titanic I am reminded of a story told to me concerning that great ship.

One Sunday afternoon several years ago I was on duty at Corringham Police Station when a young American couple came in.

He asked if we could help him find a house named 'Ashton House', somewhere in Stanford-le-Hope. The only location he could give was that it was somewhere near the railway station.

He then told us this story: Back in 1912 his grandparents and their two children - one of whom was the young man's father - having sold the house and contents, left with what luggage they could carry and caught a train to London en route to Southampton for passage to the United States.

Somewhere between Stanford-le-Hope and Fenchurch Street it was discovered that a favourite teddy bear of one of the children had been left behind.

They had time to spare, so returned to Stanford-le-Hope, collected it and caught the next train to London.

They were, however, delayed getting across London and down to Southampton and when they

did arrive found that the ship - the Titanic - had sailed without them. They eventually did get to America and settled there.

The teddy bear was put in a glass case and treasured by the family.

Bob Penniford was my sergeant that afternoon. He and I studied the street map and electoral roll, but were unable to find the house of that name in any of the streets with houses dating back to the 1900s.

Some months later I discovered from a local historian that the house is situated in Rectory Road.

Tony Rust
Ex Pc 1135, Grays

A fitting punishment?

THE article about the gangland killers, headlined "Gangland Killers Jailed for Life" (February Law) is a profound lie.

The headline should have read: "Gangland Killers Jailed For A Few Years", as that is all it ever is.

Even the murderers of nice people often get just a few years, or the crime is depleted to manslaughter and, in some cases, even accidental death.

At least the victims in the Rettendon case were not the nicest of people.

Murderers are given sentences that would equal old fashioned burglary sentences.

The mail train robbers got 30 years, because they stole Government money.

My view is that all who are convicted of violence should be jailed at no expense to the state. Let friends or charities feed and clothe them if they wish, if not let them starve.

Roy Kimpton
South Benfleet

Insurance savings

I READ in the January edition of *The Law* about the success of the Federation Travel Insurance Scheme.

I have just returned from a visit to New Zealand and I took out insurance through NARPO which cost me £38.95 with full cover. The quote I had received from the airline had been for £80 because I was over 75 years of age - so it's good to see another saving.

L Plummer, Witham

Keep up the good work

I READ with personal interest in *The Law* about the part Driver Advisory Courses are playing in promoting advanced driver instruction to drivers taking the courses.

I was hopeful in 1961, when as County Road Safety Officer, I originated and introduced the courses to all the Road Safety Committees in the county, that one day, in the not too distant future, they would be the fore-runner to personal instruction at advanced driver level.

1961 is a long time ago, but better late than never. In the mean time the courses have given a considerable number of drivers an insight into safe driving thus making a contribution to safety on the roads.

E. N. Fox
Rtd Chief Inspector
Chelmsford

...HAVING been the proud chairman of the Essex Police Band from 1971 to 1977, I was delighted to read of their lottery grant - my hearty congratulations to them.

I not only wish them continued success in the future, but also hope it will enable them to start a youth section - that would be great.

Bob Palmer
Gt Yarmouth

Tax reward?

I WAS reading an article covering the new legislation regarding unlicensed vehicles - Statutory Off Road Notification (SORN) - and on leaving my house I saw a grey Volvo parked outside, displaying an October 1996 tax disc.

Would it not be possible for people to report these vehicles and perhaps receive a minor financial reward of £5 per vehicle?

R A White
Chelmsford

For more of your letters, turn to page 11

Working together for a safer community



● Regular meetings take place at Basildon Police Station, involving community safety officers and other agencies.

●Continued from page 1.

Although the department is only in its early stages of development, former CPO Pc Williams and Mr Venables have worked closely for three years, since the council appointed him as its community safety officer.

Initiatives already established include the Basildon Auto Crime Strategy Group, set up in August last year, involving the police, the council, local businesses and the main Basildon car park operators.

The group has gained agreement from Central Car Parking, which runs the car parks on the LTS rail line to Fenchurch Street, to operate a secured car parks scheme.

Whitbread have a similar scheme for their car parks on the Festival, Leisure Development in Basildon, which includes the David Lloyd Fitness and Leisure Centre, TGI

Fridays, Brewers Fayre and Pizza Hut. The brewery giant is also considering sponsoring other community safety projects in Basildon.

Another car safety scheme set up in Basildon is the Adopt-A-Car-Park Scheme. Commercial Union, one of the town's main employers, has "adopted" the town centre car park used by the majority of its employees, Car Park 13.

Youth

The Crimestoppers' SMART campaign (Stop Motor crime And Ring Today) was launched in Basildon last September, at the Eastgate Centre.

The BONUS scheme in Basildon involves youngsters approaching school-leaving age being offered advice from mentoring adults, in the hope that they will find it easier to get work when they leave.

Supt Sheppard asked if any police officers in the division would be prepared to act as mentors under this scheme in their own time and had an excellent response, with 30 volunteers putting their names forward.

Police volunteers are also being sought for the Essex Experience and Basildon Challenge, a youth camp being planned for September at Screens Park, Roxwell, which will include para-gliding, go-karting, canoeing and other activities.

Pc Williams is on the Basildon Drugs Reference Group, set up as part of Essex County Drugs Action Team's drugs education programme and the department will also be running a Crucial Crew week at Beauchamps School, Wickford in June.

A youth group has been set up, involving the council, police schools

liaison officers, local teachers and members of Basildon Motor Vehicle Group, with the aim of encouraging youngsters to join the fight against vehicle crime.

It has its first meeting this month and, if the first project is a success, will turn its attention to other community safety issues.

Supt Sheppard, commenting on the new department and its impact on crime in Basildon Division, said: "Basildon District Council has been at the forefront in building partnerships to tackle community safety issues for some time.

"It was a natural and necessary development as the number of joint initiatives grew to set up our own department to co-ordinate them.

"The aim is to spread the concept of partnership working to all staff in the police station, so that we are able to take full advantage of the exciting prospects that partnerships can offer in reducing crime."

Welcoming the new development at Basildon, Supt Peter Sheldrake, head of community safety at HQ, commented: "It will be interesting to see how it develops along with the rest of the force, where these different approaches are currently moving ahead at different stages."

Violence in home under spotlight

INCREASING awareness of violence in the home is under the spotlight in north Essex.

by Ruth Collin

The Colchester Inter-Agency Domestic Violence Forum brings together all parties with an interest in this area to offer coordinated support to the problem.

The group has now been running for three years, but are preparing for their second conference to be held next month.

Organisations represented on the Forum include Essex Police, Relate, Women's Aid, VSS, Social Services, the Probation Service, Magistrates and local solicitors.

The group has also recently welcomed two new member organisations, The Samaritans and the Colchester Soroptimists - a network group of professional women.

One of the ideas being looked into is the introduction of an Intervention Programme addressing issues of violence to both sides involved.

The Forum is also working on publicity material encouraging those suffering violence in the home environment to make contact with either statutory or voluntary organisations in order to seek help.

This leaflet is being funded by the Colchester Soroptimists and will give contact advice and numbers.

The leaflet will be displayed in ladies public toilets in offices, pubs, shops and other public places.

Recent figures show that in Colchester Division reports of violence in the home are running at more

than 40 a month - a slight increase on the previous year.

However, Chairperson Insp Jo Dudley of Colchester Police, says they're aware that only a small proportion of the offences of violence in the home are reported to police.

She says: "I'm not saying that Colchester is any different to other towns in the area, but domestic violence is a considerable scourge on society which has in the past been swept under the carpet.

"These problems must be brought out into the open and dealt with if the freedom we so cherish as a society is to prove to be freedom for all."

The group is always looking to welcome any organisation with an interest in domestic violence.

For any more information, please contact Insp Dudley at Colchester Police.

● VICTIMS of all types of violent crime in Colchester Division can now call for help quickly and easily, thanks to the introduction of a new mobile phone initiative.

The local branch of the Mobile Phone Centre has donated ten phones for use by victims to summon help. The firm will provide the phones and connection for 18 months.

It's hoped the new service will enable victims of domestic or racial violence or intimidated witnesses feel they can call on police support at any time.



● Pictured with their commendation certificates - Dcs Beverley Fenning, Anthony Allison and Nigel Weal. Photo: HQ Photographic

Recognised for work in cutting rural crime

THREE detectives whose work led to a fall in rural crime around Colchester have been commended by the Chief Constable.

Dc Nigel Weal, based at Colchester, Dc Anthony Allison, based at Copford, and Dc Beverley Fenning, now based at Braintree, were commended for their persistent and extended inquiries and observations.

Thanks to their

efforts, four people were convicted for burglary, handling stolen goods and other offences, and this had a substantial effect on the crime figures in the rural area of the division.

Also commended were three officers based at Southend division. Pc Andrew Barnes pursued and arrested a violent man who had assaulted and injured him and two other officers. The

man further injured him and another officer coming to his assistance after the arrest.

Pcs Susan Bakewell and Julian Chadband, both of Westcliff, were commended for their astute observation and local knowledge which led to the early arrest of two balaclava-clad men for armed robbery at a local supermarket. Both men were convicted and sentenced to nine years and five years in jail.

Points from the past

IN March last year Specials were celebrating a £300,000 cash boost awarded to the force for the recruitment and training of officers.

The new Force Information Room was formally opened.

Five years ago...

THE first speed cameras hit the streets in Essex targeting fast drivers in Colchester, Clacton and Harwich.

Ten years ago...

THE very first weapons amnesty was held in the county. More than 100 firearms and 500 knives and other weapons were handed in.

Twenty years ago...

THE Essex Police horse, 'Misty', died after 15 years of service with the mounted section in Southend.

Happy in their work

by Ruth Collin

DEALING with the bereaved is the most important part of the job - according to the county's coroner's officers.

Although to many it may not seem the most attractive job in Essex Police, the three officers based at Basildon Hospital covering Basildon and Thurrock divisions, clearly enjoy their work.

So much so, Pc Roy Kebbell has clocked up 20 years in the job, making him the longest serving coroner's officer in the whole country.

Changes

As he prepares for his retirement this month, he says he's seen a great many changes: "It's the simple things that have improved the job, such as the move from the police station to our office here at the hospital and the change from uniform to plain clothes".

The officers are based alongside the main Basildon Hospital building alongside the offices of the births and deaths registrar and the bereavement counsellors.

Their presence on site makes it easier to attend sudden deaths at the hospital and helps them keep a strong working relationship with their medical contacts.

In the office, Pc Kebbell and his colleagues Pcs Phil Stich and Graham Crisp are dealing with a typical case; the sudden and unexpected death of a 35 year old man found in his home just a couple of days ago.

"Our first and most important contact is with his next-of-kin. We need to establish as much background information as possible and we'll also be there to help guide the relatives through the registering of the death, the funeral arrangements and the possible inquest."

The officers then gather together any medical information available and arrange for a post mortem examination to be held.

"On a busy day we may attend up to ten post mortems" says Pc Kebbell, "we don't always need to be there, but people are always looking for answers and it does help us deal with any questions the family may have."

Around ten per cent of the 1,100 deaths dealt with every year by the officers in Basildon are then the subject of an inquest.

Throughout the whole process, the coroner's officers are constantly liaising with all parties involved - families, solicitors, doctors and so on.

In fact, the office is a key contact for doctors to discuss cases and seek advice on the completion of paperwork relating to a death.



● Pc Roy Kebbell - 20 years a Coroner's officer and still enjoying it.

Coroner's officers: Finding answers for bereaved families

The officers regularly speak to courses of junior doctors at the hospital to build strong working relationships.

The team have become such a key part of the hospital's operation, Roy Kebbell says he thinks the staff sometimes forget they're policemen and deal with them as medical experts.

The three officers, who are also on call 24 hours a day to deal with sudden deaths, cover Basildon and Thurrock divisions as well as the Brentwood area.

Budget

They also manage the budget for the section, arranging payment for movement of bodies, pathologist fees, medical photography and extra tests or reports as well as the charge for the police use of the hospital's mortuary facilities.

They admit they deal with some cases which are extremely distressing - not just

the unexpected deaths of young people.

"It can sometimes be as difficult dealing with the death of an elderly person" says Pc Kebbell, "especially if they've a husband or wife and have been married for perhaps 50 or 60 years, the death can still be extremely shocking."

But, he says talking to the relatives, sometimes about very sensitive issues, can be very healing for the bereaved. "They want to talk, and you just have to be frank and open with them at all times."

The officers say they try not to be morbid about the cases they deal with, treating the death and the investigation as a celebration of the person's life.

Pc Graham Crisp, says despite the sadness, he finds the job extremely rewarding: "I enjoy dealing with the relatives. As soon as you start talking to them and helping them you can visibly see a weight lifting from their shoulders."

I BEGAN writing to Salayman Drame, a police officer in Banjul, Gambia following an appeal for pen friends in *The Law*.

Salayman is attached to the Criminal Intelligence and Interpol Department at the Police HQ in Banjul and when my wife and I went on a cruise to West Africa to board the *Black Prince* we arranged to meet him during a stopover at the port.

After meeting us at the dockside Salayman walked with us into the main shopping area before travelling with us to his home in Serrekunda, a small village about 15km (9 miles) from Banjul.

The first part of the journey was on board a 12-seater Toyota minibus which left from the bus station - a dusty square, where none of the buses had numbers or destination boards.

Squeezed

We kept stopping to allow more people to board and eventually had 16 passengers squeezed inside - complete with their baskets of shopping and livestock - while the conductors clung to a rope on the outside!

At Serrekunda we switched to a taxi. As an ex traffic patrol officer I must say that the vehicle was just what you would have liked to see being driven along the A127.

There was no clutch, so starting and stopping was very jerky, no silencer, no handbrake lever, no mirrors, no lining on the doors or roof, no handle on one rear door (secured by a rope) while the other door was operated by pulling on another rope.

Finally, part of the steering wheel had broken off, so to make it complete a piece of car had been secured (!) into the gap with string.

The taxi got us to the house safely and we were introduced to Salayman's wife and daughters.

Coast

The family's home was one of six in a quadrangle around a concrete courtyard, with a palm tree in the centre.

We lunched on a huge plate of rice, topped



POLICING BEAT IN DISE . . .

The locals did pester us, but they were not aggressive and we did not feel threatened.

We were very grateful to be able to buy a beer, the first one did not touch the sides, as we had suffered for a couple of hours after our hot curry lunch.

After half an hour we left for Banjul, via taxi and another bus - this one was empty and quite new and had two wing mirrors!

Interpol

Salayman took us to Police HQ, which was quite a modern building, but sparsely furnished. We went to the Interpol office, which was equipped with the latest computer and communication equipment.

As a traffic man I was interested in the patrol vehicles and radio communications.

The patrol cars are all British Land Rovers fitted with radios. The control room was very basic.

There was a large old control panel with a loudspeaker hanging from the wall.

The microphone was on the table and was of 1950s vintage.

The uniformed officers wear blue trousers, blue shirts and a flat cap. They are not armed and do not carry personal radios.

With having a local escort we were able to see The Gambia in reality. The people seem happy and content, even though they do not have the Western style of living.

The cost of food and goods is low, but there is a limited range and we cannot comment on the food in the hotels or restaurants as we only had a hot curry.

If you are a beach or sun-bathing person, then this area is good, but if you wish to explore on your own I would have second thoughts, unless you seek the assistance of an IPA member.

with the hottest curry imaginable. The temperature was 108 degrees, so we really struggled and, because it was a Muslim household, there was no wine or beer to wash it down.

We suggested to some of the youngsters that we play football and sent them off to find a ball. One boy returned with a partly inflated balloon - they did not know what a football looks like.

On our return to England we bought a cheap football and posted it to them (at a cost of £16.95).

We left the village in another taxi - this one in good condition - and drove to the coast, a distance of five miles, where we visited the beach - miles and miles of flat golden sands, lapped by the blue waters of the Atlantic.

Palm trees were in abundance and at the edge of the sand were large hotels, standing in their own grounds, with every possible amenity - shops, bars, swimming pools, games areas - which were all occupied by white people.

The beach was very clean and patrolled by uniformed and plain clothed police officers, mainly to prevent the locals from pestering the tourists with their goods.



If ever a wonderful Wiz there was . . .

Society's choice packs them in

ABSOLUTELY Wizard! This was the opinion of the 1,000 plus audience, including many children, who saw the Essex Police Musical Society's recent production of the 'Wizard of Oz'.

Lead Shelley Barkway was superb.

She hardly ever left the stage and carried her part charmingly through the entire performance each night.

She was well supported by George Lambeth (Scarecrow), the cowardly and very funny lion (Andrew Shepherd) and Bob Drake (Tinman).

Other memorable performances were given by the wicked witch of the west (Lynda Barkway - not typecast, but right up her street!); how many daughters can legitimately call their mother "an old witch" each night for a week and get away with it?

Also starring as Uncle Henry/The Wizard was Julian Cooper.

This really was a show of 'firsts'. The first leading part for Shelley Barkway, a first for lighting design by David Godbold and a first for Debbie Hart as make up.

Other firsts include Lyndsey Markham as property manager, Jane Bliss as prompt and starring debuts for Julian Cooper, Ann Hill, Stephanie Pritchard, Zara and Zoe Taylor and Stacey, Stefan and Shannon Mallard.

Pianist

Not forgetting our, initially, rehearsal pianist and ultimately show pianist Jim Dougal.

Another hard to beat fact was the appearance on stage of three generations of one family; Doris Fell, her daughter Amanda and her three children.

Costumes and scenery were really colourful and the lighting and sound effects were probably the most dramatic yet seen on the HQ stage.

The shrinking of the witch in

the cauldron was cleverly and effectively worked to the great amusement of the audience.

It was good to welcome back as producer, Clara Smith.

It was a nice changes to see so many serving officers, civilian staff and their families present.

Perhaps the choice of the show was something to do with it.

The Society is, of course, open to any member of the service and their family.

For more details contact Lynda Barkway at HQ Corporate Support.

The next event by the society is the May Music Hall Concert, however there are only a few tickets left.

Why not get your name on the mailing list for 1999? "The Wizard of Oz" was a sell out and very enjoyable too.

John Bray



● The Wicked Witch of the West with some of her co-stars from the EPMS production of the Wizard of Oz.

Focus on health and fitness

TO some people 'fitness' means not being ill, while to others it's a question of how long it takes to complete a marathon. For the elderly it could mean the difference between independence and dependence.

It is important to remember that fitness levels are relative to the individual and

what may be a good level of fitness for one person may not be right for another and therefore appropriate exercise programmes must be designed to suit their specific needs.

Everyone can benefit from leading a more active lifestyle and in doing so increase his or her personal fitness levels. Your overall health benefits will be greater if, in addition to taking up regular exercise, you also monitor your diet and give up smoking.

It is now widely accepted that prevention is better than cure and there is an increasing popularity in the G.P. referral's system. Here doctors work with fitness experts to plan specific programmes of exercise to help deal with heart disease, asthma, stress and many more.

But as well as rehabilitation, exercise can contribute greatly to lessening the risk or even help in the control of many illnesses.

It can:

- Reduce heart disease
- Lower blood pressure levels
- Improve cholesterol levels
- Lessen the risk of Osteoporosis
- Control adult onset of diabetes
- Promote weight loss
- Manage stress

Health Check

- Improve blood circulation
- Improve posture
- Improve sense of well-being

The physical components of fitness fall into two main categories. The first, health related fitness ie those affecting your health and well-being and this what most fitness training programmes are concerned with. The second, skill-related fitness ie the focus of sports training programmes.

Although exercise and diet are vital for taking care of the mechanical aspects of physical health, the health of the mind is just as important. Time spent exercising and improving your health and well-being, whether training for a marathon or walking the dog, is time well spent.

To be truly fit and healthy, exercise that body, feed it good fuel, watch those stress levels, but most important live life to the full and remember 'life is not a spectator sport or a rehearsal'.

The Occupational Health Department would like to thank Tracy Fritschy, SOC Support, HQ, for her very interesting article.

Tracy also holds fitness classes at the headquarters gym on a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. For more information contact her on 52231.

Don't forget No Smoking Day - March 11.

Important change in rules over forensic samples

THE following is an extract from the latest edition of "Clues", the newsletter of Chelmsford Scenes of Crime Unit:

"Until now Scenes of Crime has stored property connected with cases sent for fingerprint treatment, for forensic examination at the FSS Laboratory at Huntingdon or small forensic samples i.e. paint, glass etc recovered from scenes.

Following the introduction of the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 this will no longer be the case.

With the changes in the disclosure rules all property except items which require freezing or refrigerating (i.e. body tissue, body fluids or swabs) will be returned to the Miscellaneous Property Book of the relevant station.

This means that the officer dealing will now be responsible for any samples, or property recovered by SOC officers - ie papers from a stolen motor vehicle, ignition cowlings, paint and glass samples.

It is therefore very important that the Officer In the Case is clearly indicated on any request for SOC attendance.

Any property recovered for SOC examination must be booked up in the MPB.

OICs will be notified of all items recovered by SOC officers and the MPB number on the FP1".

What's new in policy

New guidance on acting-up under PACE

THE three latest editions of Essex Police Policy Guidelines have covered subjects as diverse as the use of make-up artists for ID parades to guidance for staff asked to provide references or testimonials for third parties.

Issue 4/98 includes the following items:-

- Liquor licensing - more than one person may now be named on a Justices' on licence; interim authorities have been introduced as an alternative to protection orders.
- Under PACE, police officers may only perform duties at one rank higher than their substantive rank.
- There is an amended procedure for the use of make-up artists at ID parades (specific examples are given).
- A new crime prevention initiative for dealing with shop theft has been set up, under the title Essex Retail Against Crime.
- The potential dangers of eye damage from the use of laser pens are set out in this edition, which also withdraws any issues of these

devices within the force.

Issue 5/98 sets out:-

- Revised procedure for the claiming of refreshment and subsistence allowances by police officers, support staff and members of the Special Constabulary.

Issue 6/98 details:-

- A new operational procedure manual for telephone bomb threat assessments. All Inspectors should familiarise themselves with its contents.
- Amended guidance to the policy on charging for police services.
- New guidance for any member of staff who is asked to provide a reference or testimonial.
- Clarification of the employment status of police officers appointed to support staff posts, when considering the issue of continuous service.
- Revised guidance on pre-retirement leave for support staff.

Further information may be obtained from John E Johnson in the Publication Unit, EPTC, Headquarters (Ext 55815/6).



● Filming under way for the "999" reconstruction of the life-saving rescue at Aldham, near Colchester.

Charlie's heroism caught on camera

LAST May traffic officer Pc Charlie Panting was part of a life-saving rescue of a 16-year-old boy. Nine months later he went back in time to re-live the ordeal, as part of the BBC's "999 Lifesavers" programme, writes TINA STARLING.

Dressed in a dry suit underneath his uniform, Charlie and members of the Essex Ambulance Service spent the afternoon in a freezing water-filled sump, at Mill Race Nursery in Aldham, near Colchester, to re-enact the rescue.

Actors played the three boys involved in the accident.

Because of the nature of the programme, safety was paramount at the filming location and a specialist machine was used to flip over the car that was put in the water.

To stop everyone from sinking into the deep mud and silt at the bottom of the sump a platform was constructed in the water, although this still did not stop Charlie from leaping into the water as part of the rescue reconstruction.

It took four days of filming to make the 20-minute programme that will be part of a ten week series that starts in the spring.

Helping kids to know the risks

THE Chief Constable has officially launched a pioneering new education pack which aims to protect children from paedophiles.

John Burrow spoke of his own personal hopes for the project at the formal launch of 'Broken Trust, Shared Feelings'; a multi-agency initiative to raise awareness of paedophile behaviour. He said he was encouraged by the work that had already been done to make the prosecution of child abusers less traumatic for the victims, but saw this initiative as a way to stop the abuse from happening in the first place.

The project has been masterminded by the Essex Child Protection Committee and includes a video to help the pack to be used in schools. The video - which is presented by TV stars Jill Dando, Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson - has been produced and directed by the Essex Police Television Unit.

The project also involves Essex Social Services and the county's Education Department and has already won an Enterprise Award from Community Care magazine.

Speaking at the launch, Mr Burrow said: "I am very impressed with the way the issue has been handled in this project. It gives a very balanced approach and does not rob youngsters of their innocence or the enjoyment of their childhood. It shows children that the vast majority of adults can be trusted, but that some may abuse that trust and youngsters should be aware of that".

It's hoped the videos and teaching material will be used in schools across the county to help teach 11 to 14 year olds about paedophile behaviour.

Big cat living wild in Essex - official

by Ruth Collin

IT'S official - we have evidence to show there is a big cat living wild in Essex.

Sightings of a puma-like creature have been cropping up across the county over the last few years, but there has been little concrete evidence to support the reports.

Wildlife liaison officers have been collating reported sightings to see if there are any similarities.

We've received numerous calls over the last few months about the possibility of a large black cat living in the Ongar area.

Last month two geese were killed in North Weald and one of the carcasses was sent off for analysis to an expert.

Sgt Tony Ellis of Ongar said: "One of the geese was taken clean over a four-foot fence; there's no way any dog or domestic cat could do that."

The expert has concluded that claw marks on the body came from a big cat, the size of a puma.

Professional dangerous animal trapper and consultant, Quentin Rose, has now been contacted and he says the animal is likely to be a black leopard; more commonly known as a panther.

He said: "There are a lot of such animals living wild in Britain. I know of confirmed sightings of 27 leopards, 32 pumas, ten lynx and a number of smaller cats."

The advice from experts is that the public should not be afraid to walk in the countryside.

The chances of seeing the creature are still relatively slim; but if you do see it do not approach it as it will be more frightened of you than you are of it.

Panthers generally only attack if cornered or surprised, so residents are advised to supervise young children who may approach the animal. The main advice is not to run or scream if you do sight the creature.

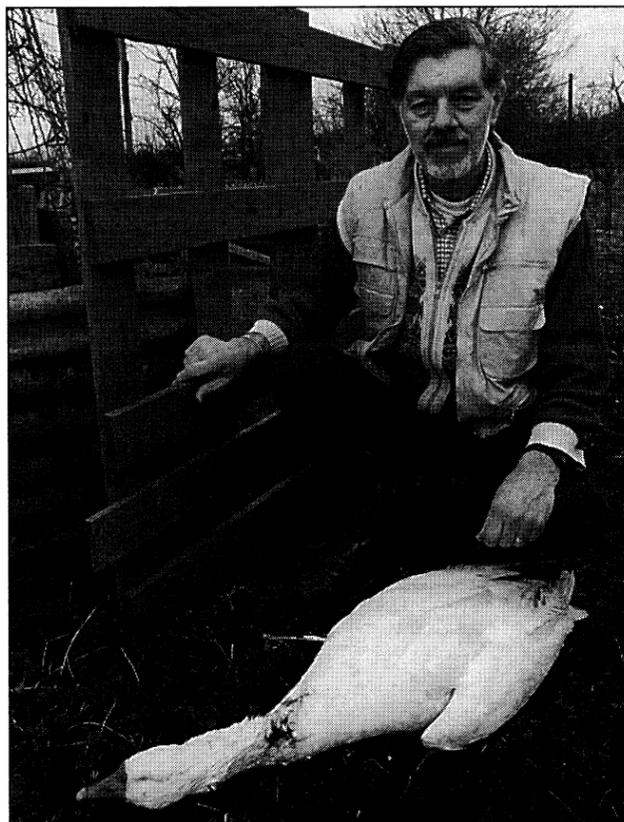
But Sgt Tony Ellis of Ongar says he's concerned that someone might try and kill the animal: "We've been told that the chances of it attacking anyone are very, very remote. But if shot, it may well become aggravated and likely to attack."

The creature has been seen by one Essex Police officer, Pc Paul Richards, who spotted it while out on patrol in Matching Tye near Harlow.

The animal was crossing the road and looked directly at him before disappearing into a ditch along some open fields.

It's thought this is likely to be the same animal as they can travel up to 40 miles in a night. It's also believed this latest confirmation is linked to the sightings in Brentwood last month.

We've been advised that there is little point hunting for the animal as it is likely to have adapted extremely well to its new habitat and represents little danger to the public.



● Michael Thurgood, of North Weald, with one of his geese, which it is believed was killed by a puma.

Photo: West Essex Gazette

All in good voice

FIFTY members of Essex Police Choir, together with colleagues from the Police Music Society, gathered for a music workshop conducted by Betty Rowe.

In addition to the normal range of breathing exercises and, of course, singing various items of music, we also ended up lying on the floor with our legs resting on chairs to assist us in reaching the higher notes by correct use of the diaphragm!

Everybody agreed that we all benefit from the workshops and they are certain to be an annual event.

Morning coffee and an excellent ploughman's lunch, with a soup starter and dessert and coffee were provided by our wonderful Friends

of the Choir. Thank you all.

After our workshop and rehearsals we hope to be in good voice for our first concert of the season, which is on Saturday, March 28, at Bell Vue Baptist Church, Southend-on-Sea.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and further details, together with ticket prices, can be obtained by contacting Mrs Jeanette Pool, on 01702 337485.

In May we move just along the coast to Leigh-on-Sea, where on the 16th we pay a repeat visit to St Aidan's Church, for a concert in aid of Lady McAdden's BUST appeal. Again, details of ticket prices can be obtained from Mrs Norma Heigho, on 01702 522360.

Bill Fancourt

Video guide to interview methods

INTELLIGENCE or information gathering is the key to modern policing - and persistent offenders are the most likely people to know what's going on in their local crime scene.

But moving from a PACE interview about a specific allegation, to having a chat with a suspect about what he or she knows about crime in general can be a difficult step for police officers to take.

Now Hertfordshire Constabulary has produced a practical guide to intelligence questioning in the form of "A Question of Intelligence", a 20-minute training video which uses real life scenarios to illustrate how officers can cross that divide.

Scenario

Presented by Andrew Mackintosh - better known as Ds Greig from ITV's "The Bill" - it is the result of a joint project by Force Intelligence Bureau, the Video Unit and Corporate Communication, with scenario scripts being written by experienced detectives.

Produced by Big Wig Productions, copies of the video are available, costing £25 plus VAT and packaging, via DI Carl Brown, at Hertfordshire Constabulary on 01707 354200.

I.P.A.

Mid Essex Branch

THE turnout for the 1998 annual meeting, held on Friday, February 13, was a little disappointing, with the committee members almost outnumbering the rest of the audience!

However, with the support of our stalwart wives, an enjoyable evening was had by all who turned up to hear the chairman, secretary, social secretary and treasurer review the events organised last year.

Frank Joslin proposed - and the meeting agreed - that for 1998 a small social sub-committee should be formed which would carry out all the planning for the year's social events.

If you didn't manage to get to the AGM, why not come along to the games evening, which will be held in the upstairs bar of the Social Club on Friday, March 13.

There won't be any energetic games, so don't be put off if your running days are behind you.

We have invited members from South East and North East branches, so why not come along?

The annual IPA church service at the Tower of London is being held this year on Sunday, July 19 and will also include a boat trip on the Thames with a buffet meal.

The cost of the day will be in the region of £10 a head.

Frank Joslin has arranged a coach and, although places are going well, we still have a few seats left. If you are interested in coming along, please contact Frank on 01245 602872.

I know Christmas is still a long way off, but why not make a note in your diaries about the IPA Christmas meal, which will take place in the sports and Social Club on Friday, December 11.

FIRSTLY, may I thank everyone who sent me get well wishes and have telephoned following my hic-up just before Christmas. I am pleased to report steady progress back to full health which I trust will continue.

Pension Increase

The pension increase for 1998 which will be reflected in the April pension is 3.6% for those who have been retired for a full year. Those who have been retired for shorter periods will be adjusted accordingly.

Dinner Dance

I am pleased to report a favourable response for

Colchester farewell to senior officers

COLCHESTER staff say farewell this month to two senior officers. DCI Roy Dennis and Chief Inspector David Hull are both retiring after clocking up more than 65 years service between them.

Ch Insp Hull joined the force, firstly as a cadet, in 1962. His 35 year career has mainly been based in the north of the county with postings in Chelmsford, Witham, Maldon, HQ and Colchester.

He says he'll miss the job enormously: "I have particularly enjoyed working in Maldon, where I live, because I see the community side of policing as very important. I will also particularly remember my time as Deputy Force Crime Prevention Officer - another part of police work which I think is very important". He says he hopes to spend his retirement catching up on all those things he's never

Names in the news

had time to do!

Another officer who has spent most of his career in north Essex, DCI Roy Dennis also retires this month. DCI Dennis joined Essex Police in 1966 and has spent all but 2 years in CID. His time as a detective has seen him participate in many murder inquiries and he also played a part in the Silcott enquiry and the Bannerman case. DCI Dennis is looking forward to becoming a grandfather this spring and plans to spend his retirement visiting his son in Spain and his daughter in Australia.

Also leaving the Command Team at Rayleigh is Support Manager, Ch Insp Tony Belford. He retires after 30 years of service.

Three officers are retiring on

medical grounds; Pc Philip Roe of Clacton after nearly 27 years service; Pc Roy Nairn of Traffic Division with 26 years of service and Pc David Ashenden leaves Chelmsford after 19 years of service.

Transfers

SENIOR officer transfers in the county include changes in the Command Team at Harlow where Supt Peter Durr becomes Operations Manager, Ch Insp David Hicks becomes Support Manager and Ch Insp Ian Learmonth leaves the division to take up the post of Operations Manager at Operations Division at HQ.

Elsewhere, DCI Peter Hamilton has moved from

Complaints and Discipline to Crime Support and Ch Insp Roy Fenning leaves Fraud Squad to take over as Crime Manager in Colchester.

Obits

RETIRED Pc Neville Leach who left the force in 1990 has died, aged 57. He served from 1960 in Chelmsford Division and also spent five years as Force Welfare Officer at HQ. He leaves a widow, Pauline.

Ex-Pc William Smith who retired in 1962 has died at the age of 83. Mr Smith served at Chelmsford, Maldon, Grays, Pitsea and Brentwood.

Mr Peter Nance, who until recently worked as office manager in the PNC bureau has died after a long illness. Mr Nance, who was 62, lived in Great Baddow.

Mr Frank Oliver who worked as a civilian from 1978 to 1989 has died at the age of 73. Mr Oliver, who was 73 leaves a widow, Rita.

Degrees

TWO officers have been awarded degrees by the Open University. Insp Chris Macintosh of Chelmsford is now a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Psychology and DI Graeme Bull of HQ has been awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Studies.

Narpo notes

the function on 15 May 1998. The Chief Constable and Mrs Burrow, Cllr and Mrs Peel, Mr and Mrs Simpson and Miss Sandford (NEC Member NARPO) will be our guests for the evening.

For those of you have already made reservations, thank you. Your seats have been

reserved and as far as possible seating requests will be met. There will not be any issue of tickets, so once your payments have been made just come along and enjoy the evening.

Annual Subscriptions 1998

Our Treasurer, Fred Dyson, informs me that subscription payments are still coming in. If you have already paid, many thanks, it does make our jobs much easier. If you have still to send your subs off may I please ask you to do it soon so that we can get our finances in order.

Doug Rampling

Market Place

ABBEY Lincoln 1983 two-berth caravan, ready for use. Electrics, awning, cooker, fridge, toilet, two full gas bottles, battery. £1500. 01255 428127.

CALIFORNIA cliffs holiday park, Haven site near Yarmouth. Six berth holiday static caravan for hire £150 per week Mar-Nov all in. Jodie 01992 574244.

CATALYTIC caravan gas fire, free standing or fixed. New and unused, ideal for touring. £45. 01375 846704 eves and weekends.

CHALET hire, 2 bedrooms sleeps 6. Lounge with TV, kitchen with microwave, shower/bathroom, electric metre. Quiet site in New

Quay, West Wales. Bar and swimming pool on site. Disability friendly. £150 per week, available Jun-Sep 98. Contact Maureen May 01222 615251 or Julie ext 35615.

CHELMSFORD, Broomfield, 3 bed detached house, large unoverlooked south facing garden. Quiet location, double glazed, ensuite, utility room. Excellent order, fully carpeted, no chain. 01245 443910.

CORNWALL, Polperro, Chalet sleeps 4/5. All mod cons on pleasant site with heated indoor and outdoor pools, club and all facilities included. £70 to £245 per week, vacancies in July and August. Craig Bailey 01279 653570 or 01279 832837.

ELECTRIC guitar, red rockwood fender stratocaster copy. Ex cond, plus practice amp. As new £95. Neil Davidson ext 70830.

FULL set Wilson golf clubs, also 1,3,5 and 7 metal Mizuno woods with bag and putter. All in good condition. 01621 783012.

GOLF clubs, set of irons,

three to sandwedge. Good condition also includes one, metal wood, hardly used in ex condition. Andy, 01268 417258 or 01378 854698.

HEAD skis, 2 metres long, size 11. Rear entry Nordica ski boots with ski bag and poles. Contact Paul Hooks ext 21921 or 01376 510499.

HIGHLAND holidays. B&B and evening meal in the beautiful highlands of Scotland. En-suite, shooting, fishing, walking, skiing, bird watching, many other pursuits or just relax in the comfort of our Austrian style home in it's own grounds. 20% discount for Essex Police. Andrew Nunn 01479 841717.

HOUSE for sale. One bed starter home in north Springfield, Chelmsford. Double bedroom, galleried lounge and kitchen, partially enclosed garden and two parking spaces. No chain - vacant possession. £44,500. Contact Pc Goodwin ext 69281.

HOUSE share. Professional man to share two bed house in Colchester. All facilities, close to amenities. £260 pcm inclusive. Contact Graham Perks on 63436 or 01206 503946.

KNITMASTER double bed (ribber) knitting machine. VGC, includes table, wool winder, punch cards. Full instruction manuals plus quantity of wool. £275. 01375 846704 eves and weekends.

MAZDA MX5 M-reg, 1995, british racing green, 1800cc, low mileage. Full main dealer service history, excellent condition. Genuine reason for sale before August, £12,400. Pc Sinclair, ext 36918.

MGF 1.8(i)vc 1997, BRG, 11000 miles. Excellent condition. CD multi-changer, extended warranty £18,500 ono. Sgt Cook ext 52370 or 0802 213038.

MONDEO 1.8LX. L reg, immaculate. New tyres/exhaust, 6 months MOT/tax £5395. Barry Taylor 01621 816597.

POLZEATH, Cornwall static holiday home with all mod cons. Six berth, self contained within 5 mins walk to sandy beach. Ring for bookings, most dates available. Derek Turner 01375 846704.

ROCK N ROLL from Buddy Holly to Beatles, 50s, 60s live music. Retirements, weddings, any function. Fee donated to your elected charity. Rock on! Contact Bill Roberts on ext 35816 or 01206 826927.

SIERRA 4x4 2.8i ghia estate. F-reg, PAS, ABS, electric windows, sunroof. SH £2,750 ono. Contact E Sullivan 01245 440018.

SPRITE Muskateer EK caravan. Purchased new 1992, includes awning (used 3 times), spare wheel, battery and charger, toilet and sundries. £5,000. Bryan 01702 520275.

SUZUKI SJ410 convertible jeep. White, C-reg, years MOT. New seats, stereo, very good condition. High mileage, hence low price £995 ono. Contact Kim on 50620 or 01245 472689.

WEDDING dress, size 10, oyster pink hand embroidered silk. One careful owner, worn once. Paid £1,000 will accept £300 ono. 01245 400259.

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE - ONE WORD PER BOX

Name and Rank

Station Home Tel

Date Signed

Sport and Leisure

Meeting over rule changes

THERE will be an extraordinary general meeting of the Essex Police Sports Association on Friday, March 20, starting at 2.30pm.

The meeting will take place in the Sports Pavilion, at Police HQ and has been called to enable voting to take place on a proposed rule change.

It follows an earlier decision by Policy Group to agree to the appointment of a part-time member of staff to take on the role of Secretary to the Association.

Voting at the EGM will be on a proposed amendment to Rule 25, to read: "Voting will take place to elect (a) Officers of the Club, with the exception of the Secretary, who will be a paid employee of Essex Police".

The new part-time post has been advertised, with a closing date of March 6 (Personnel Bulletin 79/98 refers).

Coach outings

HQ Sports and Social Club have two events planned for this spring.

A coach will be leaving EPTC to see a performance of 'Saturday Night Fever - the Musical' at the London Palladium on May 14th. Tickets cost £30, including coach and theatre.

There's also a trip planned to see the Royal Tournament at Earls Court on July 31st. Cost £12 again includes entrance and coach.

FIR staff gifts

STAFF at Force Information Room have again raised money for good causes by organising collections instead of sending each other Christmas cards.

'B' Shift raised £118 for the Essex Radio Helping Hands Trust and 'A' Shift collected £52 for the British Heart Foundation.

Cheque this out!

A CHEQUE for £500 has been handed over to Essex Volleyball Association by Chief Constable John Burrow, the profit from the tenth police volleyball competition, hosted by the Essex force last year.

The competition took place at Five Lakes Golf and Country Club, Tolleshunt Knights, near Tiptree in October.

Mr Burrow handed over the cheque to EVA president Tony Pennock and vice-president Paul Bohanon at a presentation at Essex Police Training Centre last month.

It is believed that Essex is the only host force to have made a profit - from raffles and other fundraising activities throughout the event - in its ten-year history.

The money will be used to help promote volleyball among youngsters.



● Chief Constable John Burrow hands over the cheque to Essex Volleyball Association President Tony Pennock and Vice-President Paul Bohanon.

The 'Big Dangle' needs you!

DAREDEVIL teams and individuals with a love of heights are being challenged to participate in the 100ft Big Dangle abseil at Cater House, Chelmsford, to raise vital funds for the Imperial Cancer Research Fund (ICRF).

The challenge, dubbed the Chelmsford Big Dangle, takes place on Saturday, April 4, between 9-5pm.

It is hoped the event will raise more than £10,000 for the Fund. All participants will be set a minimum target of £75 sponsorship, with prizes being offered for those topping £100.

The event is open to all those over the age of 14 years. To find out more or an information pack, phone Justin Cawthorne or Lisa Randall on 01865 716655.

Take the plunge

DIVE into an adventure.

Are you a qualified scuba diver?

Have you had previous training? Join Southend Sub-Aqua Club. We are an active diving club with a growing membership.

We have equipment for training purposes, so even if you have not tried it before, give us a ring and come along for a go.

If you like we'll teach you and you will earn qualifications recognised anywhere in the world.

Membership costs are minimal, so there are no excuses.

Ring Andy Barnes or Brian Cook at Southend CID on 01702 431212, extn 30437.

Climb to help children's aid charity

CHILDREN'S Aid Direct are appealing for police officers to take part in their latest challenge event.

They're looking for teams to climb the South Glen Shiel and the Mamores ridges of Scotland in 24 hours - that's 11 peaks, all over 3,000 feet.

Teams of seven walkers will cover 10,000 feet of ascent and over 25 miles of rugged mountain terrain, while raising funds for Children's Aid Direct.

The Scottish Ridges Challenge will take place 25/26 July and is open to serving officers and non-police staff.

Target

There is no entry fee - all they ask is that teams set a target to raise £4,000 in sponsorship; there will be a prize for the team who collects the greatest amount.

Children's Aid Direct is an international aid organisation working with children affected by conflict, poverty or disaster.

If you're interested in getting a team together, please contact Gill Woodhead, Fundraising & Sponsorship Coordinator on 0118 958 4000.

Letters

From page 4

Thanks for support

JILL Cooper and family would like to thank friends and colleagues for the support they gave them during Peter's illness. Also for their messages of sympathy, floral tributes and donations to Farleigh Hospice where Peter was looked after so well.

Thank you to all members of Essex Police, both serving and retired who attended Peter's Thanksgiving Service on January 23rd at Elim Christian Centre.

Peter would have been very proud of the Traffic Motor Cycle escort by Pc Bob Hunter on his final journey to the Lawns Cemetery at Great Baddow, Chelmsford.

Jill Cooper, Springfield, Chelmsford

A lovely 'bash'

MAY I, through your publication, express my sincere thanks to all involved in and to those who honoured me with their presence at my retirement "bash" at the Harlow bar on Friday, February 6.

It was quite something to see so many colleagues (friends!), some of whom had already retired but who came back to see me off.

The evening was one I shall long remember, it being memorable and very enjoyable - albeit tinged with a slight degree of sadness - after all, thirty years in "the family" is a long time.

Someone had clearly done some very astute homework because the gifts so kindly presented were exactly right.

Every time I look into the garden or check the time I shall be reminded of happy times spent with exceptional people.

It was privilege to work alongside such a team.

Roy Perrett (Ex-Ps), Ongar.

Thankyou to Keith

ON January 31 Beat Supervisor Keith Wall retired from the Special Constabulary after 21 years of service at Harwich Police Station.

I would like to extend my thanks to Keith on behalf of Harwich Police and the local community for his wonderful commitment to the service over those years.

We will miss his contribution to the policing of Harwich.

The good news is that Keith will retain his links with Harwich by continuing his work researching the history of Harwich Police Station. You will recall that he recently featured in The Law when he finally completed a collection of British Police Force badges, which is displayed proudly at the station.

Keith would very much like to hear from any ex-Harwich officers who can provide him with photographs and/or any other information to assist him.

He would be keen to have the names of officers who were serving with any person who cares to write to him. Please send your material to Keith at Harwich Police Station.

Insp Peter Hudson, Harwich.

Sport
and Leisure

Essex in Southern Counties semi-final but out of two more

Mixed fortunes in soccer cups

by Kim White

Runners tested by tough Horsham course

DESPITE the unseasonable sunshine, the slippery slopes of Horsham were as tough as ever, as Sussex hosted the final cross country league fixture of the season.

Paula Bradley produced the best performance by an Essex lady for many years as she once again led the women's team to second on the day, but too late to earn themselves medals, finishing fourth for the season.

Twenty-four hours earlier Mick Bond had been racing in Derbyshire, helping the British Police to victory over the RAF and Fire Service teams, yet still found the energy to finish fourth at Horsham, to ensure that he not only retained the veterans' championship, but also took overall runner-up spot.

Disappointingly the majority of the usual A team failed to show, which ended any - albeit slim - chance the B team had of snatching winners' trophies.

With only two scorers, the vastly improved performance of Steve King counted for little as the BEEs slipped back to third overall.

Results: Men - 1 S Morley (Sussex); Essex placings - 4 M Bond (V40), 31 C Quay, 45 S King, 47 B Maugahan, 56 P Bryan (V40), 67 R Kebbell (V50), 68 G Hurrell, 70 L Rampling, 72 A Eves.

Women - 1 S Bradbury (Hants). Essex placings - 5 P Bradley, 11 L Bradley, 12 C Hallett, 13 J Chapple.

The SEPAA cross country championships take place at Sparrows Den, Hayes, Kent on Thursday, March 12, when Essex has a good chance of being in the medals, provided there is a good turn out.

Transport leaves EPTC at 11am.

AFTER a notably slow start to the season Essex Police Football Squad finally showed some of the spirit which took them to last year's national cup final, when they took on their Wiltshire counterparts.

Although no longer in this year's national cup, having

been knocked out in the second round, they secured a 3-0 win over Wiltshire which puts them into the semi-finals of the Southern Counties Cup.

And this victory came just two days after a 5-0 defeat of Ecko Data in the league.

But to reach the final there are still improvements to be made. Although the match started fairly evenly, Essex made a number of silly errors, many of which could have been avoided with a little more communication.

The break for Essex came at 29 minutes when the Wiltshire keeper

failed to hold on to a shot by Justin Beacher and Danny Weston netted it on the rebound.

Unfortunately the goal did nothing to boost the game and the Essex pace remained slow and muddled with the team in need of a stern half-time talk.

Pace

Within the first few minutes of the second half, Essex had a good shot on goal resulting in a corner. The corner produced another near miss as the keeper tipped it over the bar. Despite the game now running in Essex's

favour, and a few short energetic bursts, the pace of the match remained sluggish.

Ten minutes later a short sprint into the box by Graham Perks saw him cross the ball into the corner of the net.

Now 2-0 down Wiltshire upped the pressure on Essex, but a consolation goal wasn't to be and Essex had not completed their scoreline.

With ten minutes left in the match a powerful shot by Matt Schneider just outside the box was tipped over the bar for a corner. The well-crossed corner, taken by Schneider, was touched on by Joel Henderson and Joe Wrigley was able to put it into the back of the net with a looping header over the keeper.

At 3-0 Essex were home and dry and into the semi-final of the cup.

They now face another home game against either Suffolk or a Metropolitan Police side.

Unfortunately the squad were unable to keep up their winning streak with a disastrous loss against Danbury Trafford in the quarter-finals of the Bill Spurgeon Cup.

The Valentine's Day match saw a number of players out injured and player-manager Martin Oakley taking to the field to make up numbers.

One player, clearly suffering a groin strain, had no option but to play 90 minutes or leave the side short. Essex battled hard but were 0 down just before half-time.

In the second half the goals just kept going in, but all in the wrong net. The final score 5-0.

The reserves travelled Northampton to take on their police colleagues in the first leg of the Southern Midlands Police League Cup. A goal from Mick Allen secured a victory.

The return leg saw the Essex side go down 5-2 (5-3 on aggregate).

Orienteering

THE PAA Orienteering championships take place in Cumbria Monday, April 27.

Any member of the Essex Police Sports Association, police officers or sports staff who would like to represent Essex Police at this event should contact either Pcs David Birkett (Chelmsford police station ext 60320) or the Force Sports Secretary (ext 58888).

Well done!

PC Michael Bond (Copford) was selected to represent the PAA at the RAF and Fire Service at a country in Derbyshire last month. PTI Neil Wilson has been chosen to represent the British Police at various events during the year. Well done to both officers.

Howzat for fun?



CHILDREN stumped for something to do are being bowled over at cricket coaching sessions at an after-school club in Laindon.

Schools Liaison Officer Pc Dave Letch - a senior cricket coach - has swapped his blue uniform for whites to run a five-week course at the club with colleague Pc Max Bacon. The club, which meets at the Nicholas School, was also joined by Essex County Cricketer and first team all-rounder Danny Law for their very first meeting.

The coaching sessions are being run in association with the cricket development department at Essex County Cricket Club with up to 30 under-11s taking part.

Pc Letch, who is also assisted by his daughter Helen, an Essex schools girls' player, said: "The aim is to give the children an interest, to show them that there are other things to do than hang around on the streets where they might end up getting into trouble."

Graham Jelley, cricket development officer for Essex County Cricket Club, said: "It's a very worthwhile exercise and one we are pleased to support".

● Pictured (left to right): Pc Max Bacon, Essex cricketer Danny Law, Darren Whitbread, 14, and Pc David Letch.

Dates set for annual golfing contest

THE English Police Golf Association championships take place in Warwickshire in August.

The competition at The Warwickshire Golf Course, Leek Wootton, near Warwick, is open to any serving police officer with a playing handicap at time of entry of 10 or better. A handicap certificate will be required to accompany entry forms.

Practice day for competitors is Monday, August 10, followed in the evening by the annual meeting and a buffet provided by sponsors Bull Information Systems, to be held at Warwickshire Constabulary HQ.

The championship competition (36 holes) takes place on Tuesday, August 11, followed by the presentation dinner at The Warwickshire.

The total cost of this package is £75. Players should obtain an entry form from the force Golf Secretary. Closing date for entries is May 31.

Cheques should be made payable to "1998 EPGA Championships" and forwarded to Phil Halford, English Police Golf Association, Warwick Police Station, Priory Road, Warwick, CV34 4NA, tel 01926 415622.

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