

Hopes for youth band - page 11



Commended for courage - page 9



Join a special walk - page 12

Communication network expands as Essex Police joins internet

COME SURFING!



Super snout

Sherlock, pictured with handler Pc Chris Houlding, is the latest recruit to Essex Police planning to save the day with his snout. The bloodhound is one of two dogs to be trained following a Home Office Research Grant given to Pc Malcolm Fish. For full story see page 3.

Photo: Gary Kenton, HQ Photographic

ESSEX Police has joined the world-wide web, recognising the value of the internet as a communication tool.

And the new site, which can be found on www.essex.police.uk, was unveiled by Chief Constable John Burrow at a special launch at headquarters training centre.

Creation of the site took place over a number of months with staff from the Media and Public Relations Department working closely with GMx, The Graphic Mechanics, who sponsored its design.

Response to its simple, clean-cut, but informative pages has proved very positive with e-mail messages being sent from across the world.

The site itself has been introduced as a year long pilot scheme and its initial

By Kim White

aim is to provide an opportunity for the people of Essex, and further afield, to find out more about the force.

It is designed to be easy to use for even the most amateur of 'surfers'.

And the emphasis is to encourage young people to find out more about the police with an entire section, called *Offbeat*, designed specifically for teenagers and younger schoolchildren.

This section includes a photo-story called *The Episode*, produced by pupils of Moulsham High School in Chelmsford, which will cover issues affecting young people such as drink, drugs and bullying.

The first story, called *Alcosobs*, follows the fate of a popular pupil who joins in a drinking binge at a party.

Also featured in the *Offbeat* section is *Kids Plus*, which includes road safety and stranger danger messages, as well as drawings by pupils from Hazelmere County Junior School in Colchester.

contd on page 5.

Essex welcomes new Chief

ESSEX Police Authority has chosen Mr David Stevens, Deputy Chief Constable of Bedfordshire Police, to succeed Essex Chief Constable John Burrow when he retires later this year.

The appointment is subject to approval by the Home Secretary. Mr Stevens will take up his duties on July 1.

Mr Stevens, who is aged 47, began his police career with Surrey Constabulary, where he served for 20 years. Following an early career in uniform and CID he was awarded a Bramshill Scholarship to read Law at the London School of Economics.

In 1987 he was seconded to Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, returning to Surrey in 1989, when he was promoted to superintendent and tasked with the establishment of the Policy Analysis and Corporate Support Unit. In September 1990 he became sub-divisional commander at Guildford.

In September 1992 he was promoted to chief superintendent in the Performance Review Unit, with responsibility for the Force Inspectorate and Quality of Service.

In June 1994 he was appointed Assistant Chief Constable of Bedfordshire, with particular responsibility for operational matters. In January 1996 he was

appointed to the post of Deputy Chief Constable.

A married man with three children, his interests include swimming, walking and cycling.

Mr Stevens said he is looking forward to taking up his new appointment. He said: "The Essex force has an excellent reputation and I am looking forward to building on all the good work that has already been done."

Mr Burrow became Chief Constable of Essex in February 1988. He began his career with the Metropolitan Police in 1958, eventually becoming chief superintendent, divisional commander, in

Central London in 1975.

Two years later he was appointed Assistant Chief Constable in Merseyside Police. In February 1983 he was promoted to Deputy Chief Constable and stayed at Merseyside until his appointment in Essex.

Mr Burrow became vice president of the Association of Chief Police Officers in 1991 and president the following year. This was a time of significant change for the police service with the report of the Sheehy Inquiry, the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice and the Government's White Paper on the Reform of the Police.



● New Chief Constable of Essex, Mr David Stevens.

Awarded the OBE in 1986, he was subsequently made CBE in 1993. Mr Burrow is married with three grown-up children.

Visionary look at road safety

ESSEX Police again took the fight against road crashes onto the county's streets by offering drivers the chance to check their eyesight.

The force teamed up with opticians Dolland and Aitchison in Harlow to raise awareness of the importance of regular eyesight checks.

Motorists took part in the standard 20.5 metre eyesight test, as used in the driving test, before being offered screening by Dolland and Aitchison staff to assess the balance of the eyes, field of vision and night vision.

The initiative, called Operation Clear Vision, has already visited Thurrock and Chelmsford.

Golden years for college

BRAMSHILL, the National Police Training College, celebrates its golden anniversary this year and is laying on a whole host of events to mark the occasion.

Ranging from a Garden Party and Orchestral Concert in June, to a conference in November on managing disasters and civil emergencies, there is something to suit all.

For more information contact the college on 01256 602481 or 01256 602340.



● Supt John Rhymes handing over the cheque to Laura Warren, Chief Executive of the Essex Community Foundation. Photo: Gary Kenton, HQ Photographic.

Albanian trip brings cash home

GOOD causes in Essex are set to benefit from just under £8,000 - the proceeds of trips by Essex Police officers to Albania.

Supt John Rhymes and retired ACC(D) Jim Dickinson, have travelled to Albania four times to assist and advise the country in forming a more democratic policing style.

The trips were overseen by the Council of Europe which pays a fee to the officers involved. These fees, a total of £7,967 have

now been donated to the Essex Community Foundation. The Foundation is an independent fundraising and grant-making charitable trust.

Since its formation in April 1996, it has distributed £120,000 to 47 local voluntary groups with support aimed at projects concerned with people with disabilities, the homeless, the young, the elderly, families and the unemployed.

Loss of loyal colleagues

IT is with deep regret that the branch executive notifies members of the death of Jim Hibbert and Peter Nance.

Jim was well known to all at headquarters where he worked as a communications officer and as Unison branch secretary for many years.

He was a man who believed in people and was always willing to stand up and be counted. A prime example was his self-sacrifice. Despite being seriously ill he and Brenda Bryne, another retired member, drove one of their colleagues to one of the Unison convalescent homes in Yorkshire. Jim was a good colleague and loyal friend.

Peter was the manager of the PNC data input bureau. A gentleman of the old school, he believed in people and service and even at the end of his illness his only concern was for his family.

We send our sincere condolences and both Mrs Hibbert and Mrs Nance want to thank all those who paid their respects at the funerals.

On the branch front, a new disciplinary and capability procedure is envisaged by management. They have made it clear that they have no intention of negotiating these issues, a stance unacceptable to Unison.

Bedfordshire Police staff

are to be balloted for industrial action following a decision to arbitrarily change their contracts so support staff can be directed to work overtime.

A full press release is available to members.

Nationally we are keeping an eye on the Public Service R a d i o Communications Project (PSRCP), which is contracted out under the private finance initiative and is a £2 billion project to upgrade communications.

Gerry Gallagher of the national police sector Committee has said: "This is going to be the biggest PFI in the country and our biggest concern is about redundancies."

Other concerns include staffing levels, work culture, re-skilling and health and safety.

Welcome to Alan Golding and Ian Steele who have been elected to the branch executive. While we have many senior management members it is promising to see them becoming directly involved.

Lastly a warm welcome to former officers returning in support staff posts. Don't forget we aren't just here when you're in trouble, make sure you make the most of your membership.

Unison

by Lee Robson

What to expect on secondment

DUE to numerous enquiries about terms and conditions of secondment to the National Criminal Intelligence Service, I have produced a guide.

Although similar guidance was offered in February, there are a number of material changes. It must, however, be emphasised that these terms are subject to review from time to time and indeed there remain outstanding matters which are being taken up with both the Service Authority and the Home Office.

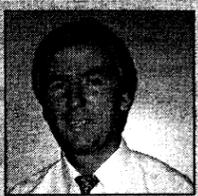
Furthermore, the following guide is not intended to be exhaustive. The staff side of the police negotiating board has been consulted on the terms and conditions and has secured substantial amendments which are intended to best protect the interests of members taking up secondment with NCIS.

Members who are considering a secondment should seek a copy of the letter of appointment they would receive (if they were to accept) as well as a full copy of the conditions of service. They will need to make further inquiries as to:

a) their included place of work and the terms under which any additional travelling and accommodation expenses will be payable (as well as an assurance as to whether or not the tax and national insurance contributions attributable to such an allowance will be met by the Service Authority or have to

Federation Newsline

by Terry Spelman



be borne by the member);

b) where the member's 'usual place of duty' will be situated (with clarification as to when and how that might change, with regard to subsistence claims);

c) the rank the member will enjoy upon secondment (and, if that will be a temporary promotion, the member is specifically asked to read next month's issue);

d) the matters discussed in answer A1, A9, A12 (and next month's issue).

The staff side has raised concerns that there is a need for an amendment to the Police Regulations (as respects the treatment of members who are temporarily promoted during their secondment within NCIS and to ensure that on return to their home force they will continue to receive any housing emolument that they would have enjoyed prior to secondment). Also to the Police Pensions Regulations (to make clear, for the avoidance of doubt, that members on secondment will remain members of the Police Pension Scheme).

There now follows a series of questions and answers

intended to highlight some of the more important issues.

Q1. If I accept the secondment, how long will it be?

A1. The length of secondment should be set out in the letter of appointment but is likely to be three years. It may be extended annually up to a further two years by mutual agreement. It is unlikely to exceed five years. (See section 7 of the conditions)

Q2. If I am offered a secondment but refuse the offer, what will happen?

A2. You will remain a member of your own Home Office Force (or if currently on Central Service, revert to your Home Office Force).

Q3. What will happen at the end of secondment?

A3. You will revert to membership of your Home Office Force (unless your period of secondment ends through you being dismissed, resigning or being medically or otherwise retired). The Service Authority will not be able to give you any guarantee as to the post that you will take up on returning to your Home Office Force. This is a matter

that you must take up with your force before secondment commences if you are concerned about it.

Q4. During secondment, will I remain a member of the Police Pension Scheme?

A4. It is intended that you remain a member. The staff side is seeking amendment to the Police Pension Regulations to make this clear.

Q5. During my secondment, what are discipline arrangements?

A5. NCIS was established under the Police Act 1997. That made provision for separate regulations. However, whilst existing procedures remain unchanged, disciplinary action will be undertaken by your Home Force.

Q6. If I currently have a business interest, should I declare it to NCIS?

A6. Yes. It is necessary for the Director General of the Service Authority to give his approval to you maintaining that business interest even if you have already obtained approval from your own Chief Officer.

Q7. If, during my secondment, I wish to take up a business interest, what should I do?

A7. First raise any proposed business interest with the chief officer of your Home Force. If he/she approves that business interest, then you will still require the consent of the Director General of NCIS.

Q8. During secondment, will I be appraised and what will happen to the appraisal forms?

A8. There is appraisal within NCIS. Copies of completed appraisal forms will be forwarded to your Home Force.

Q9. If I take up secondment what will happen to my annual leave in the current leave year?

A9. Annual leave is carried over from the seconding force (and vice versa). You are advised to agree what annual leave you are carrying over and ensure that NCIS is aware of this, and agree before you commence secondment.

Q10. What are the maternity and paternity rights?

A10. The same as if the Police Regulations applied.

Q11. Are the provisions governing sick leave and sick pay the same?

A11. Broadly speaking. It will be a matter for the Director General to exercise discretion as to whether or not to extend any period of full and half pay. The certification requirements are the same.

Q12. What are the provisions governing pay?

A12. If you retain the rank of your Home Force, then you will be paid as if the Police Regulations apply. If temporarily promoted you will be paid the appropriate salary applicable to that rank.

For more questions and answers see the May edition of The Law.

Phone discount

MOBILE phones are still offering lots free plus line rental of £9.21 per month. Ring 0800 006000 quoting 'Police Federation'.

The Police Platinum Members Guide for 1998 should have been distributed by your local Fed reps. If you have missed yours, ring Ednet 54560.

Tax advice

DON'T forget to claim the £55 agreed allowance for uniformed officers under the heading - Fixed Rate Agreed Allowance - on your tax return.

Don't claim for Federation subscriptions allowance. Any problems on self assessment, contact Barry Faber in Finance.

Pension news

INFORMATION has been received that the Actuaries Department has revised the commutation tables used in the Police Pension Scheme.

We are hoping the revised tables will take effect on May 4. These will be to our advantage and further details will be published.

Weekend breaks

WE have received a revised list of hotels for our Weekend Break Scheme.

The Copthorne Group has extended its list of hotels to include Knightsbridge in London and also Paris and Calais.

For further details of these and other hotels contact Marilyn Carr on ext 54555.

Liquor licence withdrawn

HARLOW Police is celebrating the success of its crackdown on sales of alcohol to children.

In a recent case, the staff and owners of Padda's Off-licence appeared at Harlow Magistrates Court, after Harlow Police applied for its liquor licence to be taken away.

The police were concerned that young people under the age of 18 had been buying alcohol on the premises.

The owners were ordered to stop selling alcohol because the current licensees were said to be unfit and improper persons and the premises "have been ill-conducted".

Harlow Police hope its ongoing programme will discourage shopkeepers from breaking the licensing laws.

Bedsit fire - six saved

TWO Chelmsford constables were treated in hospital after braving a smoke-filled building to rescue six people.

Gary Joslin and Phil Pridmore were on patrol in the early hours of the morning when a member of the public flagged them down to inform them of the nearby fire. It was in a building in Baddow Road which housed a number of bedsits.

Without hesitation the two officers went inside and, with visibility at just an arm's length, made their way around the two upper floors searching for sleeping and stranded occupants.

Joined by constables Sara Green and Mick West, they succeeded in rescuing all six residents before the fire brigade arrived on scene.

All of the victims were examined by ambulance crews but declined further treatment. The officers also refused medical attention but, later in the morning, began to suffer the effects of smoke inhalation and went to Broomfield Hospital for treatment.

Pc Phil Pridmore said of the rescue: "We didn't think twice about going into the building but neither of us think it was a particularly brave thing to do. Any member of the public would have done the same."

Guilty plea

A MOTHER-of-three has pleaded guilty to the abduction of newborn Karli Hawthorne from Basildon Hospital in December.

Denise Giddings has been released on conditional bail from Basildon Court until April 17, when she will be sentenced.



● Supt Julian Field collects the new phones from sponsor, Mobile Phone Centre.

Photo: David Higgleton Photography.

Lifeline for victims of violence

MOBILE phones are helping Colchester officers to keep in touch with victims of domestic violence.

The ten phones, donated by Mobile Phone Centre, mean the

police can stay in contact with people who fear for their safety, 24 hours a day.

The phones will also be offered to victims of domestic violence, who are often intimidated into

withdrawing a complaint.

Colchester Borough Council is helping by offering support to victims and monitoring the extension of the scheme in the future.

Smelly-mentary!

THE droopy ears and super snouts of two new recruits to the force attracted national media attention at headquarters.

The 14 week old bloodhound puppies, named Sherlock and Morse, were introduced to the world at a press conference, attended by reporters and photographers from national and local newspapers and three regional television crews.

Pc Malcolm Fish, from Sandon Dog Unit, has been awarded a £11,000 Home Office grant from the Police Research Unit to cover the training of the dogs, their vets' fees and the research costs.

By Emily McGarr

He said: "It's nice to be getting all this publicity, it gets the scheme off to a good start and lets everyone know what's going on."

Bloodhounds are bred to track people but have not been used by any police force in the United Kingdom for 60 years. To bloodhounds, human scent is as individual as DNA and their sense of smell is so good, they can follow a trail even when the target is not touching the ground.

In America, where the dogs are actively used to track suspects, a bloodhound successfully followed the trail of a suspect who made off in an open topped car and tracked a baby who was carried off in a kidnapper's arms.

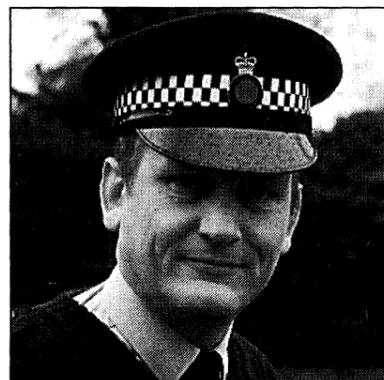
Pc Fish has been researching the possibility of training a dog to follow a specific scent, even in very busy areas. The dogs are introduced to a scent by sniffing an article known to belong to or having been recently handled by the person. The dog then

searches and trails that scent, ignoring all others, and identifies the subject by placing his front paws on their shoulders, and probably slobbering all over them.

Human scent lasts many days so it is possible for the bloodhounds to track 24 hour old trails in urban areas and over one week old on vegetation. Pc Fish said: "They will be used to track suspects making off from burglaries or other crime scenes. They would be especially useful in helping us find missing people."

Morse and Sherlock will live with their handlers, Terry Smith and Chris Houlding, in their family homes. Pc Houlding, who looks after Sherlock, was pleased with the way the dogs responded to the attention, even if they didn't bark for the radio microphones! He said: "I think they enjoyed it, it's all part of their socialisation process." Morse's handler Terry Smith agreed: "I think he coped really well considering all the new people about this morning. It's the first time he's ever seen rain too!"

The bloodhounds start training this month and should be out on the beat



● Pc Malcolm Fish.

with their handlers in October. The research project will last for approximately a year and the grant also covers the training of two German Shepherd dogs, traditionally used for tracking.

The progress of the bloodhounds will be monitored closely to see if they should be sniffing out trouble with other forces. Meanwhile, the four-legged stars are in demand for guest appearances on national television shows and at local charity events.



● Sherlock and Morse with handlers Chris Houlding and Terry Smith.

Photo: Gary Kenton, HQ Photographic.

Offbeat

THE people of Harlow took a TV storyline to their hearts last week. Posters proclaiming the innocence of Coronation Street jailbird Deirdre Barlow were plastered all down River Way, prompting a call to police from someone worried that they could distract drivers.

Perhaps we should scramble the helicopter to fly overhead, reassuring residents over the loudspeaker that it's only a story...

Rayleigh was called upon to help spare the blushes of a cleaner caught between two locked security doors.

The problem was, this damsel in distress had got a bit hot while cleaning and was down to her bra and tracksuit trousers when officers arrived.

During the one-and-a-half hours it took to contact the keyholder, officers protected her honour by standing in front of the doors as people walked past outside.

Finally, one gentleman officer passed his reflective jacket under the door to spare her any further embarrassment.

Key emphasis on partnerships

KEY operational goals outlined in the 1998/99 Essex Policing Plan place an emphasis on working in partnership with other agencies.

The first goal is to deal speedily and effectively with young offenders and to work with other agencies to reduce re-offending. The second is to target and reduce local problems of crime and disorder in partnership with local authorities, other local agencies and the public.

The partnership approach to targeting drug and alcohol-related

crime is covered by the third goal.

Further targets include maintaining, and if possible, increasing the number of detections for violent crime and household burglary, and responding promptly to emergency calls.

While these objectives mainly follow those set by the Home Secretary, Essex Police is also targeting road collisions with the goal of reducing the number of road casualties with other agencies. Another goal set is to provide high visibility policing.

Law letters

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

Thanks for putting up with me

MAY I take this opportunity through the pages of *The Law*, to say a big thank you to everyone who contributed to the presents and cards I received on my early retirement on February 15.

Thanks to everyone who attended Rayleigh Police Station where we all enjoyed a good evening of music, food and drink.

I am not sorry to retire, but I am sure I will miss all the friendship and support I received over the 29 years with Essex Police.

Once, again, a big, big thank you very much for putting up with me.

I am now working at home.

Ex Pc Jim Tarbox
Rayleigh

There's no need to ramble alone

FOLLOWING Tracy Fritschy's *Health Check*, I would like to enlarge on just one sentence: "Time spent exercising and improving your health and well-being, whether training for a marathon or walking the dog, is time well spent".

The majority of the older ones probably think: "I've done enough walking in my time on the beat!" - that was business, this is pleasure.

Essex has a vast network of footpaths over our hills, downs, woodlands and

sea walls and, most importantly, fresh air.

The Ramblers have been working for walkers for over 60 years trying to keep rights of way open for future generations to enjoy.

One of our main aims is for a countryside accessible to everyone, which can be enjoyed safely, and by people of all abilities, whether in solitude or in the company of others.

Many of you would probably like to go

for a walk but cannot do so alone. Why don't you come and join us?

We offer walks of varying distance all over the country.

Details of your local group will be in your local library but those in south east Essex can ring me direct on 01702 525860.

There is a discount offer on subscription until May 31 - Individual £13.60 (Retired £6.80).

Joyce Law, Southend

Will the cat get the crumblies?

I WAS interested to read the article in the last issue of *The Law* about the big cats infesting the countryside - but I have to take issue on one comment.

"It will be more frightened of you than you are of it." Really?

During my service I was bitten by dogs, squirrels, a monkey, parrots and a fox and narrowly escaped being comprehensively dissected by a large angry badger.

I draw the line at oversize cats, and reserve the right to panic, scream and burst into tears if one comes anywhere near me.

There is alleged to be a large cat living in the green area bounded by Braintree by-pass, Chapel Hill and the retail site where we crumblies descend on B&Q on a Wednesday to get our ten per cent off.

If the cat ever learns that a large number of overweight slow-moving targets are in the area on a Wednesday, we'll see who's the more frightened.

On the theory that the cat will attack the easiest target I'll try to walk round behind someone who's bigger and slower than me.

If B&Q would sell something to defend people against angry cats, I'd be first in the queue (preferably at ten per cent off).

I used to take the occasional stroll over that piece of ground whenever my wife could prod me out of my usual comatose state on a Sunday afternoon, but in the interests of retaining the correct number of arms and legs, I've given it up.

People armed with cameras actually tramp across there looking for the animal. I wouldn't wish to be amongst those present if they found it, unless I was armed with something more effective than a camera - preferably a rocket launcher.

If it's more afraid of me than I am of it, it must be sadly lacking in courage!

Thomas Morrison
Braintree

Fighting for fair pension rights for widows

I WRITE regarding the plight of widows of post-retirement marriages within the forces, featured in the *Financial Mail* in March.

I am one of many who remarried in my retirement but have discovered that my new wife will not receive anything from my pension if she outlives me, because only service after

April 6, 1978, counts.

I urge all those with service prior to this date to send their details to Fair Pensions Campaign for Widows, *Financial Mail*, Room 356, 3 Derry Street, London W8 5TS. I think that we should take full advantage of this press campaign.

I have recently received the copies

of two working party reports on police widow pensions. The first in 1941 recommended a change to allow pensions for post retirement widows in certain circumstances. The recommendation was not taken up. The second in 1972 proposed that the issue be looked at again after the then DHSS, had concluded its consul-

tations about there being a national requirement for pensions for post-retirement widows.

On April 6, 1978, a pension was granted to the widow of a post-retirement marriage, but only service after this date is reckonable, 37 years after the first recommendation.

Eric Carter, Southend

Canteen was a welcome sight

HOW interesting to read in the last copy of *The Law* a reference to the old force mobile canteen. It certainly brought back memories for me.

I was the very first post-war copper to be transferred from Ongar to the then 'elite' Traffic Division based at headquarters and part of our duty in those days included patrolling perimeter roads of the area of the Essex Show annually.

Another duty was supervising traffic at the various Point to Point race meetings and at both these functions, I can recall the welcome appearance of the force mobile canteen.

If I remember correctly it was, more often than not, driven by the notorious Tom Pinch.

Whilst remembering those good old days, it also comes to mind that policemen were paid weekly and every Wednesday afternoon, with various traffic cars delivering the pay cheques to each division. What a change from present day conditions, but how we enjoyed the comradeship of the force when it was smaller in number.

Keep up your good work, it's pleasant reading for some of us oldies.

F.S Ratcliffe, Harlow

Tremendous tribute to Neville

I WOULD like to express my thanks for the attendance of officers at Neville's funeral.

As a family we were honoured by the tremendous turn out of both serving and retired officers. Neville enjoyed his 30 years in the force, and the comradeship and brotherhood was very important to him, which was why he was pleased to keep his involvement with the Benevolent Fund. It was, in fact, one of his last actions, before he became too ill to get the accounts, for the fund, up to date for the annual audit.

I would especially like to thank the

motorcycle rider, Vice Atkinson for his assistance on the day. Neville would have enjoyed that job himself.

Also, Wendie Rawlings was a great help, keeping in touch, and assisting with the arrangements. It must have been especially difficult for them in Welfare, as they had worked with Neville in the past. It would have pleased him greatly that they helped us.

Thank you again for your assistance.

Pauline Leach and family
Chelmsford

How are the lessons of life learned today?

THIS story is true. Only the police constable's name is fictitious. I wonder how the following situations would have been dealt with today.

In 1933 I was nine years of age and lived in a fairly large village in Kent. Our local bobby was Pc Smart. One day a few of us tied a string between two hedges and as the officer walked down the lane it knocked his helmet off. He just picked it up put it on and went on his way. Later that day as I was on my way home to tea, whack! A pair of leather police gloves boxed my ears. The blow caused me to slip

and I ended up sitting in a very muddy puddle with Pc Smart standing over me. He told me in no uncertain terms what would happen if I, or any of my mates, tried to play tricks on him again. I went home and made the mistake of telling my parents exactly how I had got so muddy. As far as I can remember it was the only time my father, who was a mild mannered man, gave me the slipper and I was sent straight to bed.

Several hours later when the pangs of hunger were at their worst and I thought that I would starve to death before morning my

mother brought me a sandwich, a piece of cake and a glass of milk. She said not a word but the look on her face told me of her displeasure at what I had done.

Several weeks later, after school, three of us decided to go scrumping in a nearby orchard. The wife of the owner scouted at us. We ran and as we scurried through a hole in the hedge we were collared by Pc Smart and the orchard owner.

The officer said: "What's it to be lads. With me to the station to see the sergeant and then home to see your parents, or shall I let this

gentleman (indicating the owner) deal with the matter?" We chose the latter and each in turn bent over and received several whacks on the backside, from a slat from a broken apple crate and, fighting back our tears, went on our way.

Did we tell our parents? You can bet your life we didn't. A few days later, whilst out playing, one of my mates cut his knee on a broken bottle. Binding it with what was, no doubt, a not very clean handkerchief, I was endeavouring to piggy back him home when we encountered Pc Smart and told him what had happened. He said

to me: "You cut off home to your tea lad, I'll take care of him." He lifted my friend onto the saddle of his bicycle and wheeled him home.

Next day in the village, Pc Smart approached me. He said: "You did a very good job yesterday looking after your mate. Well done." He gave me a farthing, which in those days purchased quite a few sweets.

I did not need counselling or a psychiatrist to tell me that I had just learned two very important facts of life. One, do wrong and you can expect to be punished. Two, do right and you could be rewarded.

Jack Faulkner, Southend

Reaching great heights with public order training

PRACTISING for every eventuality is essential for police forces across the country, and Essex is no exception.

Instructors from Public Order Training decided it was time to test for one of the more unusual circumstances they might find during a demonstration.

Protestors are renowned for climbing trees and buildings during demos to get out of reach of the authorities.

Officers using the quadrant at the training centre re-enacted a protest using abseiling equipment to remove an 'environmentalist' from his perch.

Sgt Tim Johnstone said: "The training itself has been developed as a result of national good practice in how to remove protestors. It is still thought that police officers are the best equipped to deal with such people especially in confrontational situations."



Points from the past

Five years ago

THE success of the Essex Police *Sold Secure* initiative against car crime saw the scheme expanded nationwide.

It was announced that Essex Police would become the first police force to issue officers with their own personal radios.

The Essex Police marathon team joined up with *The Bill* actor, Andrew Paul, to run the London marathon.

15 years ago

THE Chief Constable, Robert Bunyard, presented the 1982 Annual Report which showed a ten per cent rise in crime in Essex - taking crime rates to their highest ever level.

20 years ago

IT was announced that Robert Bunyard would be the new Chief Constable, replacing Sir John Nightingale.

25 years ago

A NEW summer hat for uniformed women officers was introduced to be worn from April to September.

Chance of fame

STAR-STRUCK extras are needed to take part in a video drama being made by Essex Police's TV Unit.

A total of 40 people are required to play members of the jury, press and spectators in a courtroom scene. Professional actors will play the lead roles.

The video, which will be used nationally, is being made with the British Transport Police and Kent Police. It is designed to highlight some of the problems caused by cross contamination of evidence.

The scene is due to be shot at the start of May. Extras will be needed for half a day at Brentwood, and should be over 20 years old and dressed smartly. Transport can be provided from headquarters.

Anyone who fancies their 15 minutes of fame should contact Stuart Creasey at the TV Unit on Ednet 56520.

Major boost for High Sheriff's community safety initiative

Scheme reaps cash reward

PRESTIGIOUS Essex community safety awards have received a major financial boost from a Harlow company.

SmithKline Beecham has donated £25,000 to the High Sheriff's Award Scheme, which aims to encourage involvement, reward initiative and spread good practice in promoting community safety.

And because the money has been paid directly into an endowment fund, set up to provide more long term support for the scheme, it is actually worth more in real terms.

By Alyson Mounthey

The fund is administered by the Essex Community Foundation on behalf of the High Sheriff, and is part of the foundation's Challenge Appeal. This means that for every £2 donated, a further £1 is added by a local benefactor.

In addition, SmithKline Beecham has pledged a further £4,000 for the next five years, which will help to guarantee the award scheme's future.

Awards are presented every year to businesses, community and youth groups, schools and individuals who have come up with schemes to create a safer local environment.

Last year's winners included White

Court Primary School in Braintree, where 96 pupils aged from nine to 11 addressed the problem of vandalism, and LTS Rail, which won an award for improving safety and reducing fear of crime for travellers.

Supt Peter Sheldrake, head of community safety, said: "This money, and the other donations we have received, will allow us to ensure the scheme is on a solid financial footing, and hopefully in the future allow us to directly fund community safety and crime prevention initiatives."

"Not only does the award scheme attract applications from existing schemes, it also encourages the setting up of new projects."

He hoped voluntary groups needing financial support for smaller projects, which would not attract the sponsorship often available for larger initia-

tives, would in future be able to benefit from donations made to the award scheme.

Former High Sheriff Mr Robert Erith, who stood down from office earlier this month, said: "The scheme exists to encourage all sections of the community and particularly young people to become more involved with creating a safe environment, free from crime and the fear of crime."

His successor, Mr Robin Newman DL, will present this year's awards at a ceremony at County Hall, Chelmsford, in July.

Applications for this year's awards are still welcome. The closing date is May 31, and further information and an application form can be obtained from the Essex Police community safety department on (01245) 452435.

Surf our site

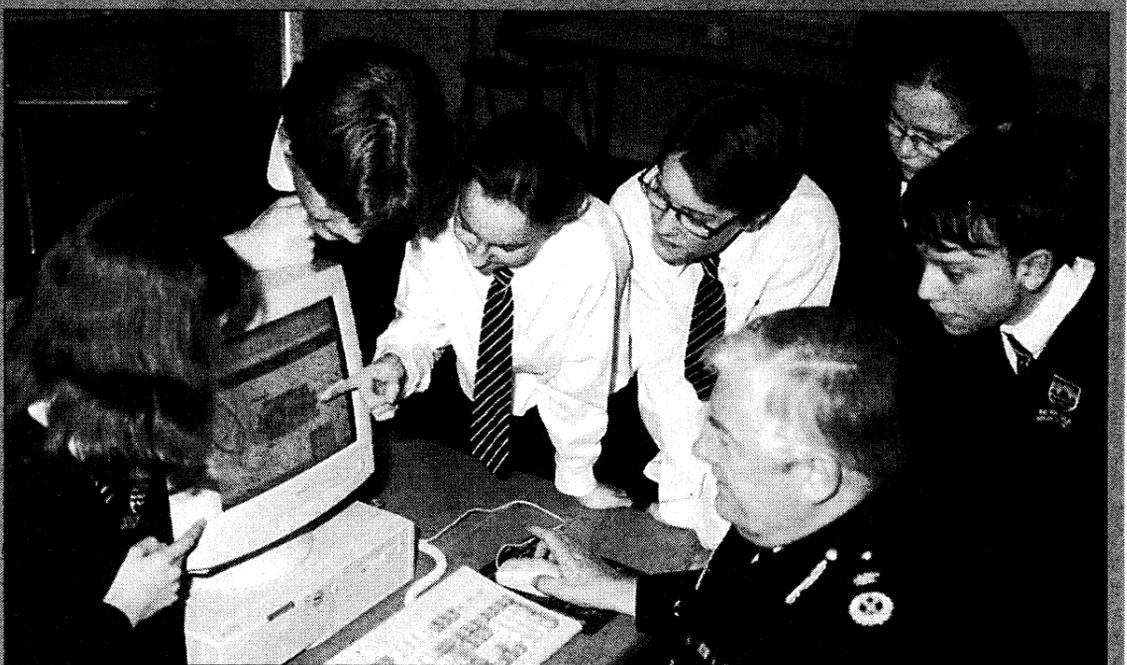
contd from page 1

Full Support gives information about specialist units such as traffic, mounted, marine, dog section and air support, while *Back in Time* covers Essex Police history and the force museum.

Other sections are *About Us*, which covers contacts at local police stations, our service standards and our policing plan. *Community Action* provides information about community partnerships to tackle crime and *News* gives up-to-date information and press releases.

At this stage the site will not be used for reporting crime and appealing for witnesses. It will, however, be evaluated throughout the year to see how we can further use the technology and develop the site in the future.

The facility to receive comments about the site is now available.



● Students from Moulsham High School go surfing with Chief Constable John Burrow.

Photo: Gary Kenton, HQ Photographic.

It's a family affair

A FAMILY affair has helped clinch a civic award for a Braintree detective.

DS Keith Davies and his wife Sheralie are to be presented with the Chelmsford Borough Council Civic Award for introducing a youth club into their village.

The couple moved to Great Waltham a few years ago and at a village meeting found there was a real need for a youth club in the area.

They set about launching one and although it folded at one point, they stuck to their guns and now have a regular attendance of about 30 youngsters each week.

One of those youngsters is Keith and Sheralie's daughter, Anna, who has just gone off to Italy with other members of the group to perform their amateur dramatic production of *Skung-Pommery*.

The commitment has also been recognised by the Chelmsford Youth Service which has just donated £1,000 of computer equipment to the youth club enabling them to go on the internet and liaise with other clubs.

The award will be presented to Keith and Sheralie by the Mayor of Chelmsford at a special ceremony on May 8.

Don't throw *The Law* away

SPARE copies of *The Law* newspaper are required as aids in presentations to schools and colleges.

Staff from Resource Management often give out copies as they trawl the institutes issuing advice on careers within the force.

Anyone, from headquarters only, who has any spare copies of the newspaper - any issue - are asked to send them to Sue Adkins at Resource Management.

Coping with

trauma

**A special report
by Evelyn Hickey
looks at post
traumatic stress
and depression**

PROVIDING assistance to people involved in traumatic incidents is a task both officers and civilian staff in Essex Police often have to carry out. The incident may have varying degrees of severity or those same people may encounter such trauma in their own lives.

Although training and experience may help in avoiding the worst effects of emotional shock arising after an incident, we are not necessarily immune to feelings and reactions.

But what is a traumatic event?

A traumatic event is something a person experiences which is outside the range of usual human experience and would be notably distressing to almost everyone - anything from a minor incident to a major disaster.

In the early weeks of trauma, emotional reactions can vary.

A person might suffer shock, feeling that the world seems unreal, like a dream. They may feel sadness, especially following a death, or anger at the senselessness of an incident.

Helplessness is another common feeling, as is guilt and numbness and a need to withdraw from contact with others, or the experience of re-living the event through flashbacks and dreams.

As well as emotional strain there may also be physical effects causing someone to worry they are ill when, in fact, their body is simply showing signs of emotional distress.

Common symptoms are:

- Tiredness,
- Racing heart and shaking
- Sickness and diarrhoea
- Difficulty in breathing
- Tightness in the throat and chest
- Headaches, neck and backache

They may also suffer irregular sleep patterns, unable to get to sleep or waking in the early hours of the morning.

What you must remember is that all, some or none of these reactions may be experienced. They may come and go or be present all the time, but the reactions

usually start to diminish after a week or so before fading out altogether.

If, however, the reactions persist beyond four to six weeks, it is important to talk to someone about it.

It is also important to be aware of the longer term effects of trauma.

A loss of interest in usual, everyday activities can be coupled with a loss of confidence with a person worrying about common jobs they used to take in their stride. They may also feel cut off from those who care about them and are normally close to and feelings of irritability and anger may make relationships difficult.

These emotions and feelings are also normal reactions to abnormal events and, although they can become very intense and difficult to cope with, they are reactions experienced by ordinary people coping with extraordinary events.

There are a number of things people can do to help themselves, which may seem like common sense but are often overlooked or ignored.

Talking to someone who cares is the most obvious aid and can help a great deal. Relaxation and recreation can relieve pressure whilst a good diet and a limit on smoking and drinking alcohol and caffeine is also a positive move.

What everyone must remember is:

- It's good to talk
- There is support available
- There are people who understand
- You shouldn't expect the feelings and memories to fade quickly
- Don't bottle up your feelings
- You shouldn't suffer in silence

The welfare and occupational health departments at Essex Police offer a supportive and confidential service which provides counselling and specialist care.

Welfare can be contacted on 01245 452990, Ednet 58601 and occupational health can be contacted on 01245 452929, Ednet 58611.

Officers trained to handle welfare

FOLLOWING considerable research into post shooting procedures, a number of officers have been trained as post incident managers.

It will be their task to implement post incident procedures when a serious incident has occurred which is likely to involve an investigation of the actions of officers. An example of this would be where weapons are fired, although chief officers can ultimately decide which cases require a post incident manager. It will be the responsibility of these man-

agers to ensure the welfare needs of those involved are met and, at the same time, help to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the investigation.

The following officers, of chief inspector rank, are currently qualified as post incident managers: Peter Anderson (Staff Development), Sue Harrison (Southend), Julia Jeapes (Chelmsford), Ian Learmonth (HQ Operations), Kevin Macey (Thurrock), Pat Rice (Clacton), Craig Robertson (Clacton) and Mick Thwaites (Traffic).

Depression affects one in four

HOW much do you actually know about depression?

Depression has been called the 'common cold of psychiatry' because it is, by far, the most frequently encountered mental illness.

Most people suffer low spirits when things keep going wrong, but although they may be temporarily depressed, they recover quickly.

The brief taste of depression is very different from depressive illness which is long-lasting and severe and may need professional help for the sufferer to recover. It is not a sign of weakness - even powerful personalities can experience depression. Winston Churchill called it his 'black dog'.

There are a number of common signs and symptoms which can be placed in two categories - psychological and physical.

Psychological symptoms are:

- Sadness and misery
- Dread, fear and regret
- Guilt and unworthiness

- Poor concentration and memory
- Unrealistic thoughts
- Low energy levels

Physical symptoms are:

- Loss of appetite
- Early morning waking
- Slowed-up body movements
- Constipation
- Loss of self-esteem
- Agitation and restlessness
- Loss of weight

What do you do if you feel that you could be depressed?

The first step is to visit your family doctor, tell them how you feel and that you think it may be depression.

After some questions your doctor may prescribe anti-depressant pills which work by increasing the levels of certain natural brain chemicals which are lowered when you become depressed.

Remember, it is important to keep taking the pills and if you get some mild side effects don't worry, it is very common.

If you aren't feeling any better after two weeks, go back to the doctor and be sure to stay on the tablets as long as your doctor advises (at least four to six months for most people, sometimes longer).

Even when a doctor is involved in the treatment of depression, there are things you can do to help yourself and not bottling things up is the most important. Talk to someone!

Also, get out of doors for some exercise, even if it's just for a long walk. Eat a good balanced diet even if you don't feel like eating, and avoid the temptation to drown your sorrows, alcohol will make the depression worse.

Depression is a common illness which will affect one in four of us at some stage in our lives. But like most illnesses it can be treated successfully.

If you want to talk to someone or would like further information contact the occupational health department.

Making crime count

NEW Home Office rules on recording levels of crime will have an impact on how police officers complete reports.

A policy guideline has been prepared to help officers adjust to the changes, which came in on April 1.

The Home Office says its aim is to give a more accurate picture of crime levels in Britain. Until now in some instances, a string of offences committed by one offender would have been counted as one crime.

The new rules will follow the principle of "one crime per victim" as closely as possible, but will also include offences which have not been counted before, such as assaults on police, possession of weapons, common assault and interference with a motor vehicle.

If police make a significant contribution to an investigation by another agency, for example the Health and Safety Executive, this will also have to

be recorded for the figures.

For police officers, the main change will be an increase in the number of crime reports they have to complete.

Whereas vandalism to six cars parked in a street overnight would previously have been counted by the Home Office as one offence, with one crime report completed by the officer, the new system would count six offences, with six separate crime

reports required from the officer.

John Stanbrook, crime statistics supervisor, said: "For the first year will be looking into ways of preparing figures based on both the new and systems so comparisons can be made."

All offences which now have to be recorded are included in the Police Guidelines issue 9/98. For further advice or guidance, contact the Crime Statistics department on Ednet 50

Major aid at the drop of a hat

It sounds like a problem caused by dampness.

In reality, it is the lubricant which ensures the smooth running of a major incident or operation.

Its name is MILDU - the Major Incident Logistics and Deployment Unit.

Put simply, it is an administrative support unit, drawn from non-operational personnel at police headquarters, to provide back-up when a major incident breaks.

MILDU exists to ensure nothing is overlooked. Confirming that personnel at the scene have adequate communications and can be fed and watered are just two of its tasks.

The unit is geared to click into action - in whole or in part - at any

time as a result of one call to the duty inspector at Force Information Room.

Staff drop whatever they are doing in their day-to-day job and switch to their specific MILDU tasks.

This enables senior operational officers to keep their eyes on the ball, relieving them of the burden of having to think about a mass of support requirements.

The benefits of this have been evident at major Essex operations including the Brightlingsea animal rights demonstrations in 1995, the Stansted hijack in 1996 and the disappearance of a baby from Basildon Hospital last December.

MILDU's commander is Supt Bob Good, whose "day job" is head of the Essex Police Training Centre.

He said: "The benefit of MILDU is

that it takes the pressure of support functions off the incident commander. It is an organisation that slips into gear very quickly with just one call to FIR."

How MILDU works

Under Mr Good, four senior officers are on a stand-by rota as the unit's operational commanders.

They are Supt Peter Sheldrake (Community Safety) Supt Peter Blois (Staff Development) Supt Paul Grover (Criminal Justice) and Chief Insp Steve Currell (Corporate Support).

When MILDU is activated, support is on hand from nine sources within the set-up, covering the following tasks:

Reception/Deployment (Driving

School) - Setting up a secure police rendezvous point at the incident, maintaining a record of personnel involved and providing parking space.

Briefing (Corporate Support) - Providing a briefing point, monitoring progress of the incident and arranging debriefing.

Transport (Vehicle Fleet) - Provision of vehicles, specialist equipment, temporary buildings, drivers and workshop staff.

Logistics (Complaints and Discipline) - Forward planning on manpower needs and securing specialist services not readily available and picking up tasks not allocated to other MILDU units.

Catering/Welfare (Community Safety) - Arranging catering at the scene, ensuring the personnel rota is

adequate and responding to welfare matters.

Communications (IT) - Providing and installing communication links and offering technical support.

LEC Management (EPTC) - Setting up a Local Emergency Centre or Police Main Base Station at the Essex Police Training Centre to operate as gold control.

Casualty/Information Bureau (EPTC) - Provision of a telephone bureau to handle inquiries about casualties or receive information from the public.

Other Support (Contingency Planning) - General administrative role alongside head of MILDU and provision of staff officers to gold commander.

Police take ownership of new aircraft

EIGHT years after the Essex Air Support Unit took to the skies above the county, it has taken delivery of its first wholly-owned helicopter.

The new Aerospatiale AS355 F2 Twin Squirrel helicopter, call-sign G-EPOL, replaces the aircraft formerly hired from Aeromega Helicopters of Stapleford Aerodrome, which was the earlier F1 model with the call-sign G-EXPOL.

The new aircraft has been supplied and fitted out by Aeromega, which has also been awarded the contract to supply pilots and maintenance for both the Essex and Cambridgeshire Police helicopters.

The latest purchase follows the formation last year of the Cambridgeshire and Essex Air Support Consortium, which received Home Office awards of £1.5 million towards the acquisition of helicopters for both forces.

The new Essex helicopter has been fitted with all the latest technology, including thermal imaging camera, microwave downlink, electronic rolling map displays, sophisticated communications systems and Tracker - for tracing stolen vehicles - as well as a medical evacuation capability.

It is painted in the nationally agreed distinctive colour scheme of a dark blue body and bright yellow cabin roof and will become a familiar sight in the county.

Major benefits

The Essex Police Air Support Unit was set up in July 1990, since when it has become one of the leading police aviation units in the country. In the 2 months to the end of February it was deployed on more than 1,602 incidents, assisting in 99 arrests.

This included searching for 216 missing people, with a further 167 searches for vehicles and property. The number of man hours saved by airborne searches is one of the major benefits the helicopter provides.

The Essex helicopter was also deployed for 94 vehicle pursuits, enabling suspicious vehicles to be followed safely and on a further 50 occasions it helped to search for suspects who had fled from a vehicle.

Aerial photographs provide vital information for ground police operations and the unit completed 99 such assignments during the year. It was also deployed to 503 burglaries and robberies and 315 night-time incidents, where its powerful searchlight provided invaluable assistance.

The new Essex helicopter will continue to operate from its base at Boreham, near Chelmsford, from where it has operated since the Air Support Unit was set up.

It will also continue the close working relationship with Cambridgeshire ASU. The launch last year of the consortium has enabled air support to be provided in both counties seven days a week, with Sunday cover being shared between the two forces.

Speaking of the Air Support Unit's latest acquisition, Chief Constable John Burrow said: "Purchasing our own helicopter will result in substantial saving in the long term. The consortium provides the opportunity to significantly improve police air support in the region."



● Pilot, Captain Rob Mitchell with constables Alan Addison and Dell Brander pictured with the new look police helicopter bought by the Cambridgeshire and Essex Air Support Consortium.

Photo: Derek Winger, HQ Photographic.

Counsel on a casual basis

IF you are a qualified fitness instructor, able to work in a classroom environment or have counselling skills, you may be able to earn some money on a casual basis.

Wickford Attendance Centre is a Home Office run establishment for offenders who receive orders in court to attend. The average age is about 14 years.

The job could earn you £16.66 per hour based on sessions of two hours with each session split into an hour in the gym and an hour in the classroom.

If you are interested the work could help towards a CV, or enhance skills and abilities for future posts.

For more information you should contact Mrs. S Mackey, Officer in Charge - Wickford Attendance Centre, c/o Laindon Police Station, Durham Road, Laindon, SS15 6PM. Tel: 01268 410101 ext 44930.

Manager's post

TRUCKWORLD is looking for an experienced night duty manager to work on its West Thurrock site, a position which might suit a retired police officer.

The site comprises a 63 room hotel and large lorry park operating 24 hours.

The successful candidate will take charge of all aspects with specific responsibilities including staff management and customer liaison. Active problem solving and responsibility for the integrity of site security are other tasks with a friendly, outgoing disposition needed.

No specific qualifications are required but applicants should have a good standard of numeracy and literacy and be aged 35 plus.

Benefits include three weeks holiday, a subsidised restaurant and the option of living-in.

Anyone interested should contact Richard Fenner, General Manager, Bridge Hotel, Truckworld, Oliver Road, West Thurrock, Essex RM20 3ED. Tel: 01708 860040.

Crime at seven year low

RECORDED crime in Essex during 1997 fell by a thumping 10.5 per cent to reach its lowest level for seven years.

This encouraging news came with the Home Office's annual national report on notifiable offences.

The total number of notifiable offences in Essex was 90,158, which is 10,600 fewer than recorded in 1996. The 10.5 per cent decline achieved in Essex compared with a national average fall of 8.8 per cent among the 43 police forces in England and Wales.

Crime in Essex decreased in every category with the exception of sexual offences, which rose by 16 per cent.

However, the 740 sexual offences represented less than one per cent of total crime in the county and of the 137 rapes against women, only six were classified as having been committed by a stranger.

The biggest Essex decreases were in vehicle crime (down 16 per cent) and burglary (down 14 per cent).

Det Supt Lee Weavers, commander of Essex Police Crime Division, said: "The marked decrease in offences is heartening news for the people of Essex. There are many contributory factors, including good police-community relations, partnerships in districts and initiatives such as CCTV."

"The Crime and Disorder Bill, which is proceeding through Parliament, offers scope for new community safety initiatives between police and councils an consideration."

Degree success

RETIRED officer David Matthams has obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Sciences, Environment and Education through the Open University.

David, who retired from Braintree as a sergeant in 1995, has since worked as a trainer of prisoner custody officers for Group 4 and Reliance and is currently a civilian trainer at Ryton DTC.

You've been shopped - what a picture!



Sgt Tony Wright, of the Town Beat Unit, looks through the albums with Graham Bailey and Nigel Burn of Tesco.
Photo: Alan Jaggars, HQ Photographic.

SOUTHEND Police has launched its new family album - but no-one will want their photo in this book.

The album contains photographs of a handful of known, prolific shoplifters which has been distributed to retailers in the town.

The initiative is part of the Essex Against Retail Crime Scheme, based on sharing information to identify people who persistently steal from shops, or who are known for credit card fraud.

The aim is to create a more focused response from both the police and retailers, helping to detect and deter the professional thief.

Southend Police presented albums of known shoplifters to five shops, the centre which monitors the town's CCTV system, and the security unit at the Victoria Plaza shopping centre, in a launch at the civic centre.

Sgt Tony Wright of Southend's Town

Beat Unit said: "The album is not for public display and will remain police property."

"The reason for publishing the picture has to be relevant, and will mainly involve those convicted of shoplifting or credit card fraud within the last three years. Forewarned is forearmed."

Divisional commander Supt Mick Benning added: "This is another example of Southend Borough Council, Essex Police and local traders working in partnership to reduce crime in Southend."

"We want the professional and persistent criminals to know that they are likely to be recognised if they target the town. Instead of the public having a fear of crime, we want criminals to have the fear that they will be caught if they decide to commit crime."

The scheme is also running in Colchester, with plans in the pipeline in other divisions.

Scheme to cut fear of crime

ESSEX Police has introduced a strategy designed to lower the chances of a crime victim becoming a target again.

The new strategy to combat repeat victimisation follows a successful pilot scheme in Colchester division. Its aim is to make effective use of resources in both preventing and detecting crime, and help reduce the fear of crime.

The definition of a "repeat victim" applies not only to a person - but also a place or a premises - which suffers from more than one criminal incident in any 12 month period.

Evidence nationally shows that focusing on repeat victims can make a significant impact on crime levels, and improve the quality of service given to those affected. Countrywide, repeat victimisation accounts for about ten per cent of reported crime.

The Essex strategy is based on a three-grade response scheme developed during a national pilot project in Huddersfield. In the first nine months

By Alyson Mountney

there domestic burglary fell by 24 per cent and other burglaries were cut by five per cent.

Ian Slingsby, crime prevention officer for Colchester, said the pilot scheme there saw a reduction in the number of repeat victims and identified those victims who perhaps needed a more detailed response from the police.

The first level of response is designed for first-time victims and, for burglaries, is similar to the response outlined in the existing Service Delivery Standard.

If a person, premises, or location is targeted again, the level of response is heightened and other agencies, such as local authorities, may become involved. The strategy requires the attending officer to record any previous incidents in the last 12 months.

Inspector Mick Gurden, force crime prevention officer, said the strategy was not designed to work in isolation but was a "tool in the armoury" of tackling crime.

"You need three things to have a crime: an offender, a victim and a place. We've always concentrated on the offender for detections, etc, but now we're looking at how we can influence

the victim and also the location where the crime happens," he said.

"Ultimately, if this method and others are successful, working in partnership, you will be attacking the causes of crime rather than the effects of crime, as in the case of dealing with offenders."

Insp Gurden added: "If you find you have a problem in a specific area, you can start to focus it down and plan your policing accordingly. A good example is a multi-storey car park. It may be the case that crime can be narrowed down to happening on one floor, or in a few bays."

Solutions to some problems could involve changing the environment - perhaps by installing a light or CCTV camera or cutting down a hedge - which is where the partnership approach comes in.

An important part of the strategy is to reassure victims and to back this up with advice on crime prevention, as well as increased patrols in the area. National research has shown burglary victims are most vulnerable to a second burglary in the seven days after the first offence.

The strategy covers all kinds of burglary, not just household, and crimes of a particular local nature, such as car crime, nuisance, and criminal damage.

Hot air

THE editors of *The Law* thought readers might enjoy the 'amazing' scientific breakthrough which appeared in the April edition of the Chelmsford scenes of crime newsletter. It read:

"The science of DNA has been progressing in leaps and bounds. First DNA was performed on blood, hairs and cigarette ends. The latest advance in the field of DNA, is the discovery of DNA material in breath.

It has been discovered by Dr Lirpaloo of the European Academy of Forensic Science that it is possible to remove DNA material from glass panes that had been breathed on, the donor does not even need to have been in contact with the pane.

This advance is particularly useful as quite often a burglar will look in the window of its intended target and, in doing so, breathe on the window. The procedure for removal of breath is quite simple. A piece of tissue paper is placed over the pane, a hairdryer is used to warm the tissue causing the transference of the DNA material from the pane to the tissue.

The tissue is then sealed in a polythene bag with adhesive tape and signature seal. It is necessary to take a control sample of air, to do so a hairdryer is used to warm the air that is captured in the polythene bag and sealed as before.

The only difference in procedure is when it is discovered that the suspect has been eating garlic or cheese and onion crisps or raw onion. In these cases due to the volatile nature of the substance of the breath sample, it needs to be sealed in a nylon bag."

Thankfully the officers of Essex Police are far too intelligent to be fooled by such hot air and carrying copious supplies of tissues and a hairdryer - or are they?

Good news for young delivery staff

PAPERBOYS and girls across Essex can feel safer doing their job thanks to a new 'survival kit'.

Essex Police has joined forces with Newsquest, a newspaper group which owns publications across the county including the Evening Echo in the south, and the Evening Gazette in the north.

Youngsters collecting cash are always targets for thieves and research in Essex has shown there is a "persistent but low level problem."

To reduce the number of incidents, deter criminals and allow the youngsters to feel safer, a pack has been produced which includes a personal attack alarm.

Initially all paperboys and girls in the Basildon, Billericay and Wickford areas, who work within the Newsquest group will be given a pack.

Presented in a striking, colourful pack, the kit also includes advice sheets and a pocket-sized description card, designed to make it quick and easy for youngsters to report anything suspicious.

Other companies have also given their support with Halford's enclosing discount vouchers for safety equipment, such as bike lights and helmets, and Barclay's Bank offering £1 to each paperboy or girl opening up a saver account with their hard earned wages.

Pc Vic Wallis from Basildon's

Community Safety Department, said: "It's not the sort of problem which could be solved by flooding the area with police officers so we sat down and discussed the options and an inter-agency approach seemed the best way forward. We contacted Newsquest and they have been tremendous."

Although the scheme is being piloted in the Basildon district the intention is to expand it to all the areas in Essex covered by Newsquest as quickly as possible.

Pc Wallis said: "A lot of thought and work has gone into the pack and we really feel it will heighten the awareness of personal safety."

Help needed

A CLUB for stroke sufferers is calling for new volunteers.

The Southend Stroke Club meets on two Mondays in every month and gives those who have suffered a stroke the chance to join in various social activities.

Many of the members rely on the club to pick them up and take them home again but a severe lack of volunteer drivers is threatening the service.

Anyone who can drive a transit type vehicle and can spare two evenings a month should contact Alan Watkins on 01702 474482.

Officers in car park rescue

PC Martin Pasmore came to the rescue for the second time in four months when it was feared a man was about to jump from the tenth level of the Great Oaks car park at Basildon.

He and Pc Tony Calmey ran from the nearby police station to find a distressed man in his mid-20s had climbed over the safety railings and was teetering on the edge of the building.

Efforts to talk him down were unsuccessful and when it appeared the man was about to jump, the two officers grabbed him and handcuffed him by an arm and a leg to the railings.

A section of the railings was removed with the man still attached, so that he could be taken away from the edge. He was uncuffed and taken to hospital under the Mental Health Act.

Acting shift Inspector Perry Funnell said: "These officers did an excellent job. Their quick-thinking and initiative probably saved the man's life."

Pc Pasmore was awarded a Commendation for his part in the incident last November.

As another man prepared to jump from the same car park, Pc Pasmore grabbed him and held on until he and fellow officers could pull him to safety.

Report calls for agencies to work together

Reducing risk of youth crime

An ACPO working group, chaired by ACC(D) Charles Clark, has called for a "holistic" approach to tackling youth crime.

The working group, set up by the ACPO Crime Committee, made its recommendations in a recently launched report, entitled *Reducing Anti-Social and Criminal Behaviour Amongst Young People*.

The scope and size of the consequences of youth crime are outlined in the report. An estimated 14 million crimes a year are committed by young people under the age of 21, with seven million of these by children under 18.

The report calls for all agencies to

By Alyson Mountney

harness their expertise and work more closely together, with the aim of reducing the risk of offending before it happens, changing offending behaviour when it happens, with effective and targeted enforcement for those who continue to offend.

At the launch of the report, Mr Clark said: "The police service has a long history of working with young people in the community in an attempt to reduce the risk of them becoming offenders."

"However, it is becoming increasingly evident that the work of agencies is not being co-ordinated to the necessary extent to ensure that the maximum benefits are achieved and that the focus remains within the criminal justice system after offending takes place and is not placing sufficient emphasis on the pre-offending state.

"This report reviews the opportunities to improve that collaboration and, in some cases, to ensure that others do recognise more overtly their responsibility in reducing the level of offending by young people.

Constructive

"We are not seeking to absolve the responsibility of the police but we are seeking, in a constructive way, to encourage other agencies in partnership to improve the performance of all of us."

Tony Butler, Chief Constable of Gloucestershire and ACPO spokesman on juvenile crime, added: "There is a growing body of evidence that points to the cost benefits of seeking to reduce the potential for causal factors pushing young people into offending behaviour."

"Unfortunately, the opportunities to divert a young person from a criminal career once they have been processed by the criminal justice system is far more difficult than preventing their offending in the first place."

Also representing Essex on the working party were DS Ian Carter, who acted as researcher and analyst, and Supt Andy Hayman.

What's new in policy

NEW national drink/drive evidence forms must now be used with effect from March 31, and are part of the MG file system. This is just one of a number of new items appearing in policy guidelines and can be found in issue 7/98.

Also in this issue is a reminder to staff that their privately owned vehicles must be registered to the address where they are living and that applications to have their index numbers 'blocked' by DVLA and PNC must be made to the Director of Intelligence.

The new rest day rota or the period from April 1999 to March 2000 can be found in this issue.

In issue 8/98 there is news of beat changes in Chelmsford, Thurrock and Harlow, how to check people required to register under the 1997 Sex Offenders Act, amended information on bank holiday and leave entitlements for part-time and job-share support staff, and an increase of allowances for police officers.

Changes to the rules on how to 'count' recorded crime is a subject covered in issue 9/98 and can also be found in detail in an article on page 6.

Also covered in this issue is the repeat victimisation strategy. This subject is also covered in more depth in an article on page 8 of this edition of *The Law*.

Man's suicide bid foiled

TWO Harlow officers saved a man attempting to commit suicide last month. The man, aged 18, a psychiatric patient on day release from Princess Alexandra Hospital, was staying with a friend in the town.

The friend went out briefly and returned to find herself locked out. She was concerned about her friend's welfare and dialled 999.

A/Insp Andy Kenny and Sgt John Butcher went to the address and forced entry by kicking in the front door within 10 minutes of the call coming in.

They found the man hanging from the stair rail and quickly removed the ligature. The man was semi-conscious and rushed to hospital.

Award winner

A PRESTIGIOUS award has been won by the National Police Training College in Bramshill.

The college beat over 140 entries to win the Internal Training Project of the Year Award.

The winning package was based on VODS - Vehicle On-Line Descriptive Search - which provides crime investigation and intelligence gathering facilities based around various features of vehicles held on the Police National Computer.

Beyond the call of duty



● Dc Paul Maleary is congratulated by his wife Jo following his commendation.

Photo: Essex County Newspapers.

SEVEN officers have been commended by the Chief Constable for actions which include saving people from death or serious harm.

Dc Paul Maleary, of Witham, was commended for the courage and tenacity he displayed on July 14 last year, in pursuing and arresting a person suspected of being involved in an armed robbery and believed to be in possession of a firearm.

Also commended for his part in this incident was SO Derek Hopkins, who will be featured in next month's *Special Edition* supplement in *The Law*. As a result, two men have been charged with robbery and are awaiting trial at Crown Court.

Pc Robin Coltman of Clacton was commended for diligence and keen observation while off duty. This led directly to the arrest of a known paedophile who had just abducted a juvenile, and the arrest prevented the juvenile from serious harm.

As a result, the

defendant was sentenced to two and a half years' imprisonment for indecent assault at Chelmsford Crown Court in October last year.

Pc Alan Chapman and Pc Clifford Boon, both from Harlow Traffic, were commended for rescuing two men from a fire which they came across while on patrol in November last year. They entered the smoke-filled upstairs flat and found the occupants in a dazed and confused state.

Insp Janice Harrison and Pc Diana Taylor, from Chelmsford, were commended for their professional and caring actions when a man was threatening to throw himself off a multi-storey car park in the town.

Knowing the man would only talk to women officers, they persuaded him to come down after careful and deliberate conversation. He was taken to the psychiatric wing at Broomfield Hospital for treatment and later released.

I.P.A.

TWENTY members and friends gathered in the bar at the Sports Club on March 13 to join in the first games evening we have held at this location.

Under the watchful eye of Derek Thomas, our compere for the evening, we started by trying to find the answers to a Dingbats quiz paper.

The evening continued with other "minimum physical effort" games including making a paper aeroplane (won of course by Dick Giggins with a flight of almost 30 feet), and a limerick competition (won by Molly Giggins!).

Although we did obtain a copy of the winning entry it was decided not to include it here to avoid possible legal action.

Thanks to those who came along to support what turned out to be a very enjoyable evening.

The Social Affairs sub-committee had their first meeting recently and made a number of proposals for meetings and trips for the rest of the year.

Although not all the dates have been agreed, the plans include a day trip to Sandringham to include dinner on the way home, a barge trip from Maldon and another visit to Romford dog track.

The visit to Sandringham will be on Wednesday August 12. More details about costs next month, but if you are interested please let Frank Joslin know.

Friday July 10 will see us back in the Sports Club for an evening with a French flavour with samples of French wine and cheese to be tasted.

We hope to have a speaker to give us a short talk about the city of Rheims and the area around it to prepare the ground for those members who are making the trip to Champagne country at the end of July.

Bill Fancourt
Mid Essex Branch

Changes ahead for Braintree division

IT'S all change at Essex Police's largest division. Supt Ian Brown has moved from Braintree to become head of planning and development for corporate support at headquarters.

His successor as divisional commander is Supt Peter Sheldrake, who until now has been head of community safety.

Chief Insp Pat Rice, formerly support manager of Tendring, has been promoted to superintendent and is the new head of community safety.

The new head of scientific support is DCI Tom Harper, who has been promoted from inspector.

Names in the news

Retirements

Retiring this month is Insp John Stonehouse of Braintree division. He leaves on April 19 and has served for over 30 years with Essex Police.

Three officers with more than 90 years' service between them also retire this month. Pc Brian Cousins of Southend division leaves on April 10. He is followed by Pc Raymond Cole of Stansted Airport, who also served as a BTP officer for six years, on April 21. Retiring on April 30 is PC Leslie Jennings of Stanway Traffic.

Pc Melvyn Gypps, who was based in the Force Information Room, retired at the end of March after 30 years' service.

Three officers also retire on medical grounds this month. Pc Julie Hayter

of Southend division leaves after 14 years with Essex Police. Pc Richard Gardner of Operations division, whose 26 years' service includes seven years with the Metropolitan Police, retires on April 19.

Sgt Gary White, based with the Force Information Room, retires on April 15 after 22 years' service.

Obituaries

Retired Pc Peter Caffyn has died at the age of 64. Mr Caffyn served from 1963 to 1985 at Colchester and leaves a widow, Betty.

A former officer who served from 1958 to 1984 at Southend and Rayleigh has died at the age of 65. Retired Pc John Coleman leaves a widow, Betty, and four children.

Retired Sgt William Smith has died

at the age of 83. He served from 1937 to 1962 at Chelmsford, Maldon, Grays, Pitsea and Brentwood.

Mrs Bronwyn Sheffield has died at the age of 46. She had worked since October 1996 as a part time clerical assistant and was due to retire on April 5. Previously, she worked in the PNC bureau between 1991 and 1993.

Mrs Sally Griffiths, who had worked in the data protection office at headquarters for the last seven years, has died at the age of 36. She leaves a husband, Mark, and a seven-month-old daughter.

Retired traffic warden Mr Ray Brown, who lived in Tiptree, has died aged 81. He was one of the first traffic wardens and was based at Chelmsford before he retired 16 years ago.

Mr Sidney Underwood, who retired in 1990, has died aged 72. He worked for technical services at Harlow Police Station for ten years as a driver and labourer.

Narpo notes

THE Annual General Meeting of the Chelmsford branch will be held at Police Headquarters in the Conference Room at 11am on May 9.

Light refreshments will be available from 10.30am. May I please ask as many members as possible to make the effort to come along, it is an important meeting and we do need support from the membership if the branch is to continue.

1998/99 will probably be my final year as secretary and unless we find someone who is willing to take over,

the branch may have to be wound up.

This would be a great pity as we have just reached our 50th anniversary. So if there is anyone out there who might consider the job do come to the meeting and speak up.

This is final notification of the dinner dance on May 15. If there is anyone still wishing to come along who has not booked, please do so within the next two weeks as I must start to finalise arrangements for seating.

Doug Rampling

October, £150 per week. Contact SOA Price on 01992 574244.

CLASSIC wooden cruiser aft cockpit, 30ft x 9.6ft, four berths in two cabins, toilet, shower, gallery including fridge, cooker, c/heating, water filter, lying near Wroxham, £8,000 ovno. Contact Sally Hart, on 01245 491491 Ednet 52568.

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 pw. Vacancies July and August. Contact Craig Bailey on 01279 653570 or 01279 832837.

HABITAT coffee table, black ash, measures 4ft by 2.5ft by 18ins high, vgc, £25. Contact Pc Tyrrell, on 01245 491491, ext 53075.

HALFORD luggage box and rack to fit cars over 1300cc. Condition very good, cost new £155, will accept £75 ono. Contact Mr R Green on 01245 491491 ext 53851.

HIGHLANDS holidays, B&B and eve meal in the

A grand effort for charity



SUFFERERS of Multiple Sclerosis in Braintree, have benefited from the Christmas antics of the town's detectives.

Each year officers from Braintree CID donate the proceeds of their Yuletide dinner/dance to a local cause. The money is raised through a raffle and auction.

A cheque for £1,000 has this year boosted the funds of the MS Society.

RIGHT: Dc Paul Maleary and Ds Keith Davies present a cheque for £1,000 to John Metson and Vivien Riches.

Market Place

ALGARVE Two bedroom apartment, sleeps six. Fifteen minutes walk from sea. Swimming pool on complex, £150 pw. Contact Brian Spiers on 01268 558211.

German? Tuition at all levels. Contact Denise on 01245 260497.

CALIFORNIA Cliffs holiday park, haven site near Yarmouth, six berth holiday caravan for hire, April to

October, £150 per week. Contact SOA Price on 01992 574244.

CLASSIC wooden cruiser aft cockpit, 30ft x 9.6ft, four berths in two cabins, toilet, shower, gallery including fridge, cooker, c/heating, water filter, lying near Wroxham, £8,000 ovno. Contact Sally Hart, on 01245 491491 Ednet 52568.

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HIGHLANDS holidays, B&B and eve meal in the

beautiful Highlands of Scotland. En-suite, shooting, fishing, walking, skiing, bird watching or just relax in Austrian style home set in its own grounds. 20% discount for past and present Essex Police personnel. Contact Andrew Nunn on 01479 841717.

HOUSESHARE 4 bed detached farmhouse in Little Burstead. All facilities, beautiful rural location, £330 per month. Contact Pc Wardley on Ednet 70144 or 0961 810265.

MGB-GT 1973, chrome bumper, tax exempt, good condition, MG owners club, valuation £3,500 accept £3,000 ono. Emigration forces sale. Contact Greg on 01702 332903 or ext 33188.

MGB-GT 1974 acconite (purple), 55,000 miles, chrome bumper. o/drive full sunroof was restored 14 months ago, superb condition, £3,750. Contact Pete Robdrup on 01255 431331.

NORFOLK broads motor cruiser for hire, sleeps six. Two showers/toilets, well equipped. Substantial sav-

ings on commercial rates, over 100 miles of safe navigation. Contact Neil Evans on 01279 642231.

SPAIN Calpe. Two bedrooms, balcony, two bathrooms, and wcs, 3 minutes walk to beach. Full equipped kitchen, washing machine, fridge etc. TV with satellite reception. From £100 per week. Contact Mr Naden on 01255 815140.

FRANK Thomas motorcycle jacket, black leather, size 42, unworn, cost £140, take £70. Contact Mick Franklin on 01621 773663.

ORIGINAL Burroughs and Watts Steel Vacuum snooker/billiard table, oak with gold finish. Original 'Welsh' slate from manufacture and decorated tapering legs. Also included, original oak chalk/roller score board. Extremely good condition - such a table if available new could cost £8,000+. HQ Sports and Social Club, having unfortunately lost the table's 'home', will reluctantly accept sensible offers. Contact Chris on Ednet 50661 or 01245 452289.

SOUTHERN Spain. Villa and apartment to let for summer holidays, still time available in May, June, July and August. For further details or brochure phone Sue or Mike on 00345 253 3298.

TENT for sale. Litchfield Challenger Five XL, easy to put up, lots of room, £110 ono. Contact Pc Bradford at Rayleigh on 01702 316627.

TOYOTA Carina E, Kudos, 'M' reg, 1600cc, 16 valve, lean burn engine, silver/blue metallic, 18,000 miles, blue velour interior, electric sunroof and windows, remote central locking and mirrors, radio/cassette, one owner, immaculate condition inside and out. Full main dealer service history available, £7,850. Contact M. Rainey on 01268 726687.

TWO bedrooms to rent in a four bedroom town house in Billericay. Non smokers, two professionals living there, £50 per week. Call Wendy on 01277 810461.

TWO seater settee, two chairs, beige/pink, vgc, £200. Contact Sally Hart on 01268 456292.

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE - ONE WORD PER BOX

Name and Rank

Station Home Tel

Date Signed

Sport and Leisure

Choir news

OVER 40 members of the choir and friends visited the Great Western Shopping experience at Swindon in February.

The complex has been built on the site of the former GWR locomotive works and many of the original buildings have been modified to house modern shops.

The first concert of the season saw the choir entertaining an audience of over 100 members and friends of the Bellvue Baptist Church in Southend.

The concert was to raise money towards the cost of the recently completed Community Centre next to the church.

The choir's performance was complemented by Hadyn Oakey, who played three pieces on the French horn, accompanied by Barbara Abderson on the piano. The evening raised over £450.

We had an unexpected visitor at a recent rehearsal when Chief Insp Pamela Cheung, from the Hong Kong Police Choir, called in.

Pamela, who was staying with Doris Warwick, one of our sopranos, was last in Essex in 1995 to take part in the International Police Music Festival with 30 other members of the Royal Hong Kong Police Choir.

She said her reunion with friends in the Essex Police Choir was the highlight of her holiday and she presented us with the badges of every rank of officer in the Royal Hong Kong Police, embroidered in silver on a navy blue background.

On May 16 we will be returning to St Aidan's Church at Leigh-on-Sea for a concert in aid of the Lady McAdden's BUST appeal. Details of tickets can be obtained from Mrs Norma Heigho on 01702 522360.

June 6 will see us at Langham Church where we will be helping to raise funds for Langham Ward at Colchester General Hospital. June 14 will see us at St Mary Magdalen Church, Thornington for the Church Festival Weekend.

Facing the first final of the season

A LENGTHY team talk before the semi-final of football's Southern Counties Cup seemed to do the trick for the Essex Police firsts as they walked away with a 2-0 victory over the Mets.

They now face their first final of the season when they take on Devon and Cornwall on April 17.

The first half of the Met challenge was evenly contested and the Essex defence showed they were more than a match for the opposition.

However, the best chances to score also fell to Essex who failed to seize the day and halftime was a no point scoreline and everything to play for.

During the second half Essex increased their pressure on their London colleagues and Kevin Adams was able to take control of the ball to go around the 'keeper and score.

Not satisfied with a 1-0 win

Essex didn't relent culminating in a well deserved goal by Captain Paul Keaney.

Essex ran out comfortable winners with the chance of a cup in sight.

Manager Martin Oakley said: "We're looking forward to the final. Having, very suddenly, left the National Cup which we did so well in last year, this is the next biggest cup competition we could enter. Devon and Cornwall appear to have a very strong side and actually beat Herts in their semi-final, the team which knocked us out of the nationals.

"What was good to see when we played the Mets was the attitude of the players. The improvement in their performance and their communication was noticeable with everyone giving 100 per cent. If they could only put that attitude towards every game we could win a lot more."



● As Darren Pike tries to break free a Met defender slides in for a tackle.

Give me five!

ESSEX came home winners of the five main events in the No5 regional badminton championships held in Bedfordshire.

Victory in the mixed doubles meant Essex retained The City of London Cup. Julie Gowen (Shoebury) and Carl Chinnery (Southend), who won last year, took the finals against Surrey 15 - 5, 15 - 2.

The Tony Armfield Cup also stayed in the force thanks to the men's doubles combination of

Carl Chinnery and Richard Edwards (Colchester) who beat Hampshire with a convincing 15-1, 15-3. Carl won this title last year with Nick Treadway.

Hannah Lewis (HQ) won the ladies singles playing Kent in the finals and winning The Brighton Police Cup with a tally of 11 - 6, 11 - 3. Hannah won this title in 1996, but as she was unable to play last year, we lost it to Kent, so it was great to have her back in the team and for her to bring the trophy back to Essex.

The ladies doubles were won by Julie Gowen and Hannah Lewis. This clinched the Portsmouth City Police Cup in great style with scores of 15 -

4, 15 - 11 against the Surrey pair.

The men's singles title is rewarded by The Hampshire Constabulary Cup, which has never been won by Essex. But this year it was taken by Carl Chinnery playing Thames Valley in the finals and winning 15 - 5, 15 - 3. The draw saw Carl meet last year's winner, Richard Lancashire, in the semis which he won 15 - 4, 15 - 4.

The veteran mixed doubles were won by the Surrey pair who unfortunately proved too strong for Leslie Rosenwold (Sandon Dogs) and Bernie Dawson (Southminster) who took the runners-up trophy. Nevertheless they played a very hard fought final against the holders, Paul Chisnall

and Sue Toms, who have won it most years.

The veteran men's was won by Kent with the Essex pair Bernie Dawson and Alex Draycott (Maldon) in 3rd place.

The score-lines don't give an impression of hard fought games but they were, particularly the men's doubles with the semi-finals going to three games.

Julie, Hannah, Carl and Richard will now play in the National Badminton Tournament in Lancashire on April 21 and we wish them the best of luck. With Carl already playing in the PAA International team, there is a good chance of some silverware.

Strike up the band

AN Essex Police Youth Band could soon be blowing its own trumpet after the discovery of about 20 potential new recruits.

In the February edition of The Law it was revealed that lottery money amounting to about £67,000 had been granted to the, already established, band to help them introduce a youth section.

It was no easy task with many other organisations in the county trying to set up similar projects and too few keen musicians to go around.

But a music workshop held at Moulsham High School, in Chelmsford, has helped Essex Police cross the first hurdle. About 20 youngsters who attended have shown an interest in forming a youth band and the first rehearsal on Wednesday, April 22 will put

their enthusiasm to the test.

Their eagerness certainly shone through on the day of the workshop with some youngsters arriving at the school half an hour early.

Pc Peter Butterworth who ran the workshop, along with band member and music teacher, Deborah Milton, said: "The youngsters made tremendous progress throughout the day and worked extremely hard."

The group were split into small ensembles to practise various pieces. They then came back together as a group with a grand finale - performing what they had learned in a concert for the parents who came to collect them.

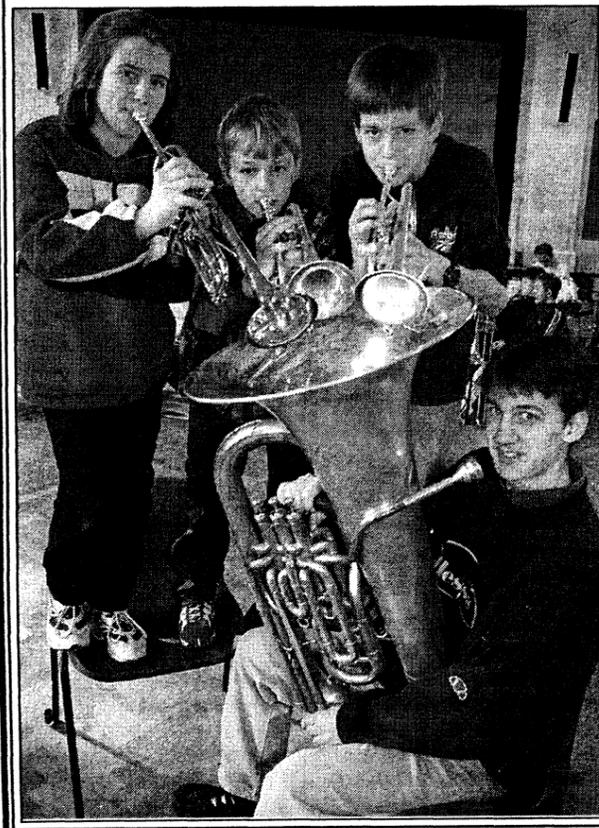
Peter explained: "We still have a long way to go and have by no means given up looking for new recruits but

the workshop has filled us with great hopes for the future. It was fulfilling to see so many attend and the feedback has been excellent."

If you know anyone who may be interested in joining the youth section, they are welcome to attend the first rehearsal at 6pm on Wednesday, April 22, or leave a message on the bands answerphone on 01245 452327. Alternatively they can write to band secretary Bill Brightmore at police headquarters.

There are no formal requirements but candidates should be under 19 and will be asked to participate in a short audition.

● NEW RECRUITS: Pictured left to right are Lucy Moulder, Peter Langly, Benjamin Plum and James Harvey.



Silver success for Neil

HEADQUARTERS PT instructor Neil Wilson won a silver medal in the 1998 British Masters Diving Championships.

Neil represented the Police in the contest, held at the Ponds Forge International Sports Centre in Sheffield last month.

The medal was for the one metre springboard competition.

Neil also came fourth in the three-metre springboard event, and fifth in the highboard.

He is looking forward to representing Essex Police in the Police Championships at Wigan in April.

*Sport
and Leisure*

Ladies lift shield

THE women's hockey squad are rounding off the season with some magnificent performances, proving that enthusiasm can make up for lack of experience.

In the semi-final of the PAA plate competition, the team took on Nottinghamshire Police on the astroturf at Chelmer Park. When the half-time whistle blew and Essex were 2-1 down there was clearly a need for a pick-me-up. A positive team talk did the trick with the squad turning the tables on their northern colleagues to notch up a 5-3 victory, taking them into their first final in the PAA

competition. Team captain Kay Blackman said: "To turn the result around round so dramatically and clinch the victory was outstanding. There were some excellent individual performances by Sarah Banfield and Deborah Campbell but the win was the result of a great team effort with everyone working very hard.

But the winning didn't stop there. The final of the PAA tournament saw Essex Police ladies lift the shield after beating Northants Police 3-1 in a very exciting game at Southgate Hockey Club.

The whole team played with so much spirit and enthusiasm that they were never going to lose this game and every tackle was made with sheer determination.

Kay Blackman collected the shield from Sir Hugh Annersley with pride for Essex Police while Debbie Campbell won the Player of the Tournament award.

The squad's first year in the Essex Women's Hockey Association League has also shown they are a team to be reckoned with. Out of 16 matches they won 10, drew 2 and only lost four leaving them in just third place in the Division Five.

They only lost out on promotion through a loss in the final match.

In the national tournament at Sheffield, the

ladies won the Sheffield Shield, having been runners up last year. In the Basildon 7's tournament, the ladies also won this cup for the first time, beating Chelmsford, the holders.

Meanwhile, captain Kay Blackman is still looking for players to take part in the Northumbria Seven competition in Newcastle on April 23 and 24. Anyone interested should let her know at Clacton where she is now working as a sergeant.

Anyone interested in playing hockey for Essex Police should contact Supt Bob Ward on Ednet 54126 at headquarters, or why not go along to their annual "do" at headquarters Sports and Social Club on May 1.

Everyone is welcome regardless of sporting allegiances. With a live band, buffet and only £6 per ticket, it promises to be (as usual) a fun evening. Tickets are available from Vic Murphy at Brentwood D shift or on 01245 495148.

Mixed season for the men

THIS year we entered two men's sides in the Adnams Saturday League as well as the Summer League, playing mid-week games.

Midweek, we maintained our Division One position finishing fourth.

Our performance in the Saturday League was mixed. The 1st team's meteoric rise through the leagues came to a halt mainly due to a struggle to field a full side.

However, all credit to the side, they stuck at it and ended comfortably clear on points.

The 2nd team had a much more fruitful season, only just losing out on a promotion place.

But this first season in the league has brought on some of the younger players, Martyn Webb and Tom Weavers looking very good prospects for the future, and has seen the re-emergence of some older players. Jim Collyer and John Lucas have put paid to the suggestion that there is an age limit on playing hockey.

The atmosphere and camaraderie in

the 2nds has been nothing short of brilliant with good humour and lots of laughter. In the PAA KO Cup, the men started off well, getting a bye in the first round and then demolishing Avon and Somerset 6-3.

A draw away to the Met Police saw us 1-0 up for 60 minutes until our keeper was struck in the face with a stick. We lost 1-4.

We also played in the national tournaments at Sheffield and Edinburgh. At Sheffield, having reached the final last year, we started as one of the favourites but were not as successful. However, we were still one of the hardest teams to beat.

At Edinburgh, this year the team came away with the Fair Play Trophy, which was just reward for some excellent games.

During the year we also played mixed hockey games on Sundays, and played at Cleveland, Portsmouth and Basildon in other tournaments.

Bob Ward, Club Secretary

Michael's mid air madness

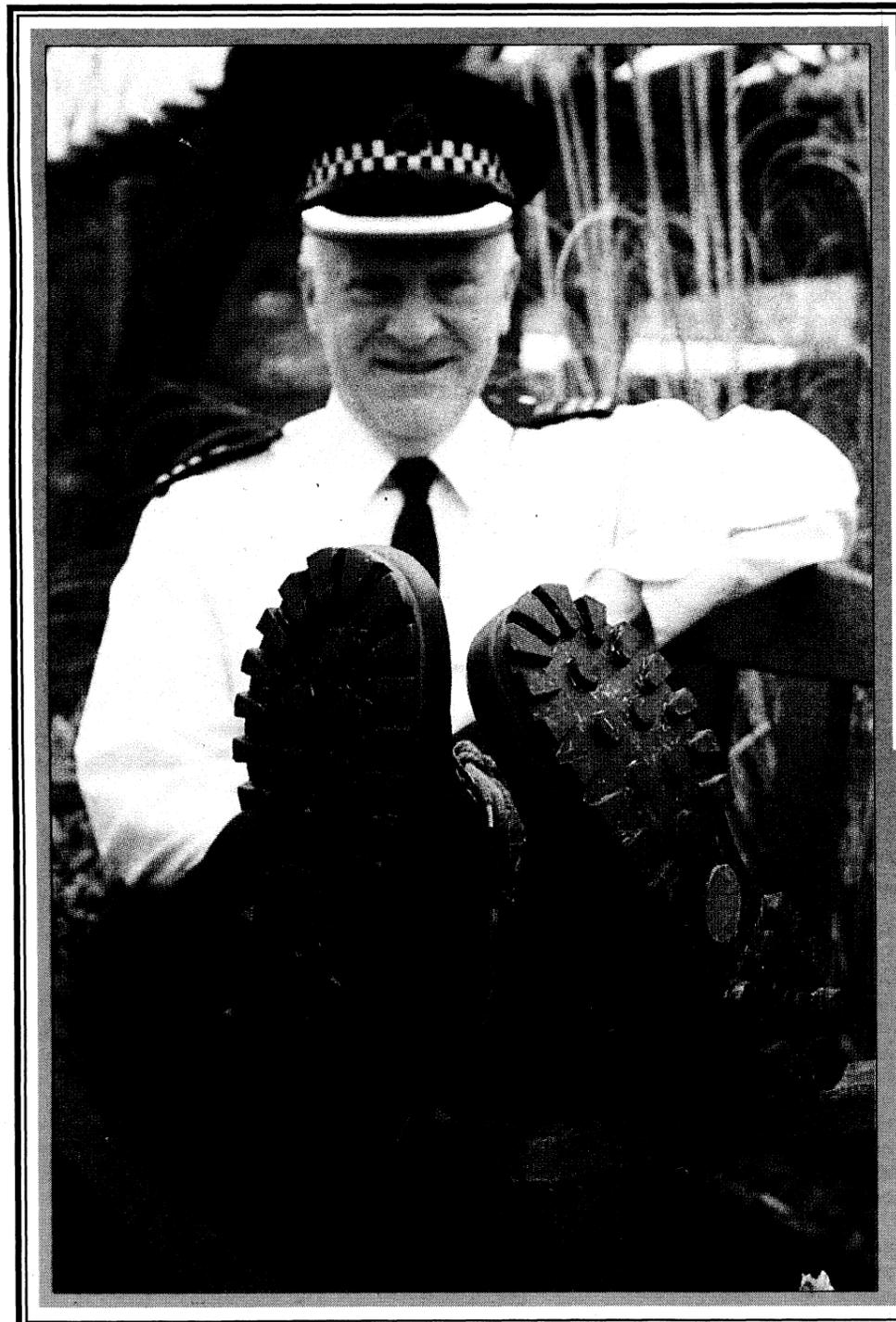
TRAFFIC officer Michael Spinks is planning to do a dare-devil sky-dive in May and is looking for sponsors.

The idea came about after the mother of a friend fell ill with cancer and had to have a series of treatments at the Cambridge Hospital.

Michael, based at Newport Traffic, decided to help raise cash for the

radiotherapy department at the hospital by carrying out this hair-raising feat.

Barclay's Bank has already agreed to match every pound he raises with another pound so whether or not you know Michael please dig deep for this worthy cause. Every little will help. Michael can be contacted at Newport Traffic on 01799 540310, Ednet 65125.



Best foot forward

THESE boots were made for walking! Deputy Specials Commandant George Cook is getting ready for the fourth annual sponsored walk along the Essex Way, organised by the Essex Special Constabulary.

This year the 83-mile trek from Epping to Harwich will be in aid of the Essex Air Ambulance Appeal. "We believe it's essential. The walk is one voluntary organisation helping another

charity serving all the community," said Mr Cook.

The walk will be held from May 15 to 20, with volunteers welcome to take part. "We would like a lot more people to join us, even if it's only for a day," Mr Cook added.

Anyone who wants to sponsor the Specials, or take part in the walk, should contact Mr Cook via Sue Youngs at headquarters personnel.

● Deputy Specials Commandant George Cook needs all the rest he can get before he treks 83 miles across Essex for charity.



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