



Change to alcohol testing - P3



Review of the year - P6/7



Life as a custody officer - P8

Major reorganisation aims to provide a better value service

OUR COMMITMENT TO RURAL ESSEX

A NEW approach to rural policing has been proposed in a major reorganisation of Essex Police services.

The Rural Policing Review Team has this week published its report recommending the creation of teams of officers to improve the service offered to rural communities.

By Ruth Collin

The plans are fully supported by Chief Constable, David Stevens who said: "I believe that the proposals are an exciting development and demonstrate my personal commitment to policing rural Essex. The aim is to reduce

crime and disorder, make people feel safer and enable us to deliver best value services."

The Rural Policing Teams are intended to replace the detached beats, which have deteriorated due to unfilled vacancies, and reintroduce the village bobby.

Under the new proposals, each village will have its own identifiable local officer but he or she will now be backed up by the modern, professional support of a policing team and a properly equipped rural

section station.

The proposals affect officers based in Braintree, Chelmsford, Tendring, Colchester, Harlow and Rayleigh divisions.

Each team will work from an equipped police station within their rural area. Some areas will use existing premises, but several new stations have been suggested specifically to support these proposals.

Rural Policing Teams are already operating in some areas of Essex (see page 5).

Experience of the system has shown that the team approach means the officers can move away from solely responding to incidents, to pro-actively tackle specific problems.

These proposals will be presented to the public at open meetings in every rural section throughout January and February. The report will also be circulated widely to interested parties across the county and any comments will be welcomed.

Karen's courage gains recognition

AN officer who fought back against injury and illness has received recognition in the 1998 Essex Chronicle Series/Susie Cornell Achievement over Adversity Awards.

Karen Hearn of Southend division was nominated for the awards which aim to give recognition to special people of all ages who have faced enormous difficulty in their lives with great courage and determination.

Following an assault in 1995 Karen suffered with dizzy spells and peripheral vision in one eye which worsened until she was admitted to Southend Hospital.

She was allowed home for a weekend and suffered what was believed to be a stroke but a scan showed she had multiple sclerosis.

A bad attack left her partially paralysed and suffering from loss of speech.

Despite being measured for a wheelchair Karen was determined that she would walk out of the hospital and after ten weeks she did just that, visiting her colleagues at Leigh police station.



● Chief Constable David Stevens discusses rural policing in the village of Writtle with Pc Kevin Bailey, an officer from the Chelmsford Rural Section. Photo HQ Photographic.

Keeping up with the times

POLICING began in Essex around 1840, in what was a predominantly rural community with only very basic roads and little transport or communications. The police service evolved very gradually and officers worked in isolation covering very small areas with very little help or support from colleagues.

More recently, with extensive communications and vehicles, it has become much more effective for officers to work together in teams from larger police stations offering a more structured, comprehensive service to the community.

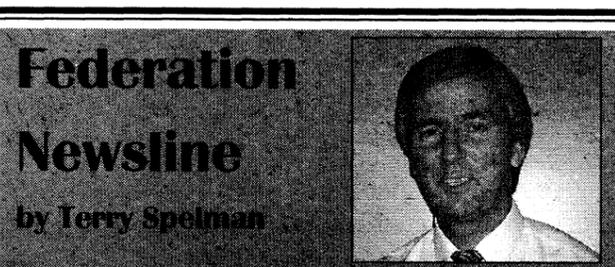
Senior officers in some areas of Essex began to group some beats together in order for officers to support each other. The teams began to work from the local station rather than from domestic houses giving them access to more resources. As the system progressed, supervising sergeants were appointed to oversee these groups of officers. Gradually a team culture was established and the officers, working together and supporting each other's needs, created a formidable police unit working in the countryside.

More difficult decisions ahead

THIS time last year I wrote about the difficult times ahead on the force's £4 million plus deficit.

This coming year would seem to pale this into insignificance with a projected figure of some £9 million plus deficit.

Again, the subject of civilianisation comes to the top of the tree, with approximately 169



posts eventually going. I tire of asking the same questions about how much further can we go.

The HMI says we can go even further. The force says it will have to look again next year. I've asked before whether we are that much overpaid or are our civilian colleagues

that much underpaid? With re-grading and sometimes three people doing the job that one person used to do, I'm not so sure.

I know chief officers have still to make decisions on where exact cuts will be but the only thing I've read in the national press is a quarter page inside article saying

how many Met officers were actually lost since Labour came to power.

We read about how money will have to be pumped into the Health Service to try and bring it up to what it should be.

This has only been caused by the gradual underspending by progressive governments.

Don't let the police force fall into the same trap.

I've said before, we don't struggle loud enough by struggling on still telling the public how good we are with response times, etc. The goodwill can only go so far. The butter can only be spread so thin.

Don't let us disappear into the great Group 5 security firm. Don't let us take one step forward and two steps back.

Tenure postings place on hold

THE existing tenure policy has been frozen following the discovery that there is a case for change.

What have we been saying ever since it was introduced!

All postings that have been promulgated and dates fixed will go ahead.

Future tenure postings due to expire in the next four months will be frozen and placed on hold until further notice.

On January 13, a discussion paper will go before the Human Resources Policy Group.

Some of your pension questions answered

THE area of pensions is extremely complex. In calculating pensions your age and pension are the vital components.

The following are some of the questions frequently asked by members with answers provided:

Q. I can only serve 27 years to age limit. Is my

commutation only 2¼ x average pensionable pay as in your chart?

A. No. Officers leaving the service on age limit or medical discharge are entitled to commute the full ¼ of their pension which is worked out differently.

Q. I joined when I was age 18. Do I have to work to

50 to have my pension paid?

A. Provided you complete 30 years' service you can retire under 50 and receive pension.

Q. What is the 1972 option? In 1972 the pension payable to widows was increased to half from one third.

A. To obtain

retrospective entitlement officers had three options:

(a) increase pension contributions to 25 years' service.

(b) pay nothing and have a reduction in pension at retirement (this relates to the amount of service prior to 1972).

(c) pay a lump sum.

Officers in category (a) or category (c) have no difficulties. Officers in category (b) should be aware of the percentage reduction as it will affect pension calculations. Police Personnel only can advise.

Q. Is it true that seven years are added to the pension of someone being medically discharged?

A. No. This is a commonly held misconception. Enhancements to ill health pensions are linked to service as follows:

(a) 5-10 years' service counts as double

(b) 11-13 years' service

counts as 20 years

(c) 14 years' service onwards - 7/60ths are added.

As 1/60ths are allocated to pension at the rate of 1/60 for each year to 20 years' service and then at 2/60 to 30 years, the danger of this assumption can be clearly seen.

Q. As a constable, I have 23 years' service and am aged 54. Do I get 7/60ths added?

A. No. The enhancement cannot extend beyond compulsory retirement age. In your case 55 years of age. Therefore, only 2/60ths will be added.

Q. Why do women have higher commutation tables?

A. Commuting your pensions is, in effect, giving up pension to receive a lump sum. The figures are actuarially assessed and based on the life expectancy, i.e. how long will you draw pension. It is an accepted assumption that women as a group live longer than men as

a group and will, therefore, draw reduced pension for a longer period. The legality of this was challenged in the European Courts in the Coloroll judgement where the courts upheld the Government's position.

Q. What is an A.V.C.?

A. An Additional Voluntary Contribution can be made to top up pensions. The Federation would specifically encourage officers who cannot complete 30 years to consider an A.V.C.

Free standing A.V.C.'s are available through the Police Mutual Assurance Society and most insurance companies. An in-house scheme is available through Equitable Life Assurance Society.

This is an important financial commitment and care should be taken to seek proper professional advice.

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Police pension regulations commutation table (with effect from May 4, 1998)		
Age next birthday when pension becomes payable	Capital sum for each £100 of pension commuted	
	Men £	Women £
50 and under	1500	1725
51	1500	1725
52	1490	1705
53	1480	1685
54	1465	1660
55	1450	1625
56	1425	1600
57	1390	1575
58	1355	1550
59	1320	1520
60	1300	1500
61	1270	1470
62	1230	1430
63	1190	1400
64	1150	1360
65	1110	1320

Two dismissed following dog cruelty charges

TWO Essex police officers convicted of offences under the Protection of Animals Act have been dismissed from the service.

A third officer has been reprimanded and banned from working with police dogs.

The findings followed internal disciplinary hearings before the Chief Constable.

All three officers were trainers at the Essex Police Dog Section at Sandon and had been under suspension after being found guilty at Chelmsford Magistrates Court last November.

Reprimanded

Sgt Andrew White, who was convicted by the court of seven offences, and PC Kenneth Boorman, found guilty of six offences, were dismissed. PC Stephen Hopkins, who was convicted of one offence, was reprimanded and banned from working with police dogs.

Following their magistrates' court appearances, all three officers gave notice of appeal against conviction. The appeal hearings are due to start at Chelmsford Crown Court on February 23.

They were disciplined for being in breach of police regulations as a result of having been convicted by the court.

Insp Graham Curtis, the former senior officer at the dog section, was acquitted by the court in November and will not face internal disciplinary proceedings. He is being transferred to other duties with Essex Police, outside the dog section.

The new senior officer at the dog section is Insp Mick Gurdon, who has moved from Essex Police Community Safety Department and has ten years previous experience as a dog handler.

Offbeat

A THIEF ran past a woman on her bike and as he drew level he snatched a carrier bag from the basket.

Contents of the bag was denture polygrip only, and he didn't even say Thankssss!

A second thief may have been desperate but he certainly wasn't going to take any risks.

Officers found a broken condom machine by the roadside, recovered the money, but all the condoms were missing.

Police, alerted to what appeared to be a landmine on the beach at Westcliff, called the bomb disposal squad. The device in question turned out to be a wheel off a pushchair or pram.

Police technology under review in preparation for the Millennium

STORM heralds a wind of change

999 might be a familiar number to IRIS, but unfortunately it doesn't recognise the figure 2000.

So with the Millennium looming Essex Police is having to replace the 15-year-old incident resource information system with new technology.

The advantage of the new equipment known as STORM (system tasking operational resource management) is that it will be more reliable and cost a third of the old system to maintain.

To be phased in division by division, STORM will go live as a single tier

By Heather Watts

system in Colchester in February, following staff training.

It is planned that implementation will be completed countywide by June.

The command and control functions that are used now will be performed by STORM, but in a different way.

PNC will be available and can be accessed via STORM, and will be introduced slightly in advance of the new command and control system.

A comprehensive format and better search facilities makes the system more flexible than IRIS, and 13

months records may be accessed.

Essex Police are the eighth force to use the BULL system which has been in use for three years.

With less than 400 days until the Millennium, STORM is not the only technology project being tackled by Essex Police.

All police forces in England and Wales have recently been asked to complete a survey for the Association of Chief Police Officers outlining how prepared they are for the big day.

Organisations worldwide could be affected by the 'Millennium timebomb' following the discovery that many computer systems have not been programmed to cope with the year change to '00'.

In Essex alone a computer's misinterpretation of the date could affect facilities such as alarms, traffic lights, utility supplies, street lamps, lifts and even modern in-car systems.

The survey shows that Essex Police has covered all costs incurred as a result of setting up a project, to avoid such consequences, up to and including March 2000.

A well defined test strategy has been put in place and a number of risk assessments have already been conducted.

In addition 80 per cent of companies which provide Essex Police with critical information technology have provided assurances that their goods will be 2000 compliant.

Change in alcohol detection



● Pc David Dutton tests out the new intoximeter on Laura Waterson, from the driving school.

TRAINING will begin this month for over 1500 officers in the use of the new force intoximeter.

Like several other items of equipment the Lion 3000, which has been used successfully for the last 15 years, is not Year 2000 compliant.

Being revoked nationwide it will be replaced in Essex by the Intoximeter EC/IR.

The main difference is the way in which it detects the alcohol. Previously picked up by infra-red technology, the new system

uses fuel cell and is thought to be the most user friendly, and yet cheapest, equipment available.

A total of 20 instruments have been bought, with the first going live in Rayleigh and Basildon divisions on January 27. The roll-out programme will then continue until March 2 with the last instruments being installed in Chelmsford.

Two officers from each division have been nominated to train up their colleagues and training will take no more than two hours per officer.

Resources reviewed for the Year 2000

THE deployment of police resources for the Millennium is the subject of an operational order in Essex.

The aim is to provide an overall strategy and policy to effectively police what is expected to be an exceptional period.

Planning will be ongoing as information about public events is received and collated.

All leave for police officers has been cancelled from 0600 hrs on Friday, December 31, 1999, to 0600 hrs Sunday, January 2, 2000.

Deployment of personnel from 0600 hrs on Saturday, January 1 until 0600 hrs Tuesday, January 4 will, situation permitting, be at local discretion.

Additionally officers need to be available to respond positively to any crisis which may arise with the general return to work on Tuesday, January 4.

Fall in positive breath tests

ESSEX Police saw a reassuring drop in the number of positive breath tests in this year's Christmas drink drive campaign.

In total 13,231 people were tested with 301 testing positive, an average of 2.3 per cent. This compares to last year's average of 3 per cent.

Even more significant was a drop of two per cent for drivers giving positive breath tests at the scenes of accidents. This year's average was 3.9 per cent compared to 5.9 per cent in the previous campaign.

Despite the drop in positive breath tests, a small number of drivers gave very high

Maximum and peak deployment times of personnel have already been identified.

In addition to divisional officers there will be a mobile tactical reserve of officers controlled from headquarters by Divisional Commander for Operations, Supt Ian Cotgrove, capable of providing support to any location in the county.

Technical difficulties may be encountered resulting in the failure of equipment which may have implications for public safety.

The occasion will be celebrated by a large number of people and clearly at many events alcohol will play a significant part.

This, together with usage of public and private transport and the possibility that people will party all night, may place heavy demands on Essex Police.

readings. In total 18 motorists gave readings of over 100 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath with the legal limit being 35.

Acting Chief Insp Tony Rayner, said: "Anyone who drinks and drives is a potential killer, and for every arrest many more people will have evaded detection. Until the number of arrests falls dramatically we will not be winning this war."

"However, I take particular comfort from the significant reduction in both the real number and the percentage of positive tests at crashes."

Invite to our social meetings

ON behalf of the Herts and Essex branch of the Royal Military Police Association, I extend to all of your readers, serving or retired, who have at some time been members of the RMP, a warm welcome to our bi-monthly meetings held in Bishops Stortford.

This branch actively takes part in charitable work and the members enjoy an interesting social life too.

If you are interested contact me at 40 Valley Road, Letchworth, Herts, SG6 4EB, or telephone 01462 620040.

Tom Walker, Secretary
Herts and Essex branch

Anonymity not accepted

MAY I remind readers of *The Law* that I am unable to publish letters sent to the newspaper anonymously.

If you specifically don't want your name published you should still include it in the letter but request that, in print, it is replaced with the words 'name and address supplied'.

This month I received a letter headed 'How Essex Police could save money'. I can only publish this if the writer makes him or herself known to me.

Kim White, Editor

Can you believe it?

PERHAPS I am wrong, but I feel that there is a wealth of information in the minds of the more elderly readers relating to the past which would be of interest to our younger readers.

Some of the happenings remembered would be met today with a 'Victor Meldrew' exclamation of: "I don't believe it."

Can it be believed that just pre war (1939) there were no cars parked in the streets. It was recognised that if you did not have a garage, you did not have a car.

Cars left on the street overnight

resulted in the owner being reported for unnecessary obstruction under the Construction and Use regulations.

Any cars stationary during the hours of darkness had to show obligatory lights. If you as a beat officer had not reported the driver the sergeant would put you on for neglect of duty.

Of course the traffic was minimal in those days.

There was a system of "request cards" which were left under the wipers indicating to the driver the offence and requesting the driver to report to the police station to be dealt with.

Some stations would have prosecution league tables and there was contention as to which counted - the officer putting the request card on the car, or the officer at the station dealing with the driver.

I remember one officer who was castigated for being down in the league arguing that he made it his business to find the driver of the car and get them to

move it. There was no answer to that.

At that time, fixed point beat systems were being worked and many officers were disciplined for failing to work their beat in accordance with instructions. It seemed to me that there was a far greater interest by the sergeants in disciplining the constables than in catching criminals.

This system changed at the outbreak of war with the introduction of the reserve constables, etc, who would not put up with this nonsense.

As a matter of interest constables were required to write all reports of accidents or process in their own time. This system continued well after the war.

I feel sure there will be readers who are able to give far more interesting details of the job years ago, always bearing in mind the adage: "Things aren't like they used to be - they never were, you know."

Archie Rickwood, Southend

Researching the history of the lollipop

I AM trying to write an article about the history of the school crossing patrol officer.

In particular I would like to know:

- when they were founded and by who;
- how the 'lollipop man' first became known;

● information about the uniform would be appreciated, such as who designed the first one and how many changes since;

● who designed the lollipop;

● the hours they work and who is responsible for the uniform and the

lollipop;

● what qualifications are needed;

● where the first one was and how many there were at the start;

● how many there are now;

● the long-term plan, and;

● whether they have always been employed by the police.

Any information which might be relevant can be forwarded to me at 14 Conyer Close, Maldon, Essex CM9 6XN.

Mrs Annette Powell
Maldon

Law letters

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

Charles had a rare compassion

I WAS sorry to read in the December issue of *The Law* of the death of former Chief Supt Charles Harper.

'Charlie' was one of my first sergeants when I joined Essex County Constabulary in the early sixties.

I always found him to be helpful and understanding, qualities not always displayed in abundance towards recruits in this era.

We continued our association in later years both being posted to Saffron Walden.

'Charlie' continued to display this human touch and I recall that when visiting his constables at night points on foot patrol beats he would always invite us to spend a few moments sitting in his car to warm up on those particularly bitterly cold nights we experienced before global warming.

During that period this type of compassion was a rare luxury.

I always envied his knowledge of the job and appreciated his sharp wit. He was an officer thoroughly deserving of his promotion and for whom I, and many others, had the greatest respect.

Through the columns of *The Law* could I extend my sympathy to Mrs Harper who can be assured that I too will not forget Charles. It seems a great shame that he could not have had a longer retirement. I feel privileged to have known and served with him.

Ex Pc David Rose
Cambridge

Extra curricular crackdown welcomed

I READ with some satisfaction the changes in the rules with regard to force sport. I have, in the past, represented division and force in various events. I always, however, felt there were those who simply attended to "get out of work".

I wonder if the same rules will be applied to other extra curricular activities?

I refer to band practice and concerts, also choir practice and concerts as surely, these activities are as much a draw on manpower?

Ken Baptist, FIR

A case of mistaken identity

AS I visited a well known nursery on the A127 I parked next to a red car which had three, fairly recent, parallel score marks high up on the nearside front door.

Later, returning to my car I was about to drive away when a man, aged about 60, approached me.

Indicating to the score marks he said: "Look at what you've done to my car. I want your name and insurance details."

I told him he would get neither and that the damage was already there when I parked.

I told him that there was no way that my door could do that kind of damage and that when I open my door any contact with his would be low and not four feet from the ground. Incidentally it would also have damaged my car and there was no red paint on my white door.

However, the man continued to repeat his

allegation saying he had witnessed me do the damage. I noticed a man sitting in a Landrover parked nearby and suggested that I ask him to be a witness.

I started to walk towards the Landrover when the man who accused me said: "I say. I'm terribly sorry. I'm so embarrassed, I don't know what to say. I can't apologise enough, I've just realised this isn't my car."

Before I could think of a suitable reply he almost ran to another red car further along and drove away like a bat out of hell.

Alright, the guy made a mistake regarding his car and I can forgive him for that. What I cannot forgive is the way he stood there and blatantly lied that he had seen me damage what he thought was his car.

Jack Faulkner
Southend



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Colchester consults over community priorities

A JOINT police-council initiative to improve the quality of life in the Colchester area has taken an important step forward.

The partnership between Colchester Division and the borough council has evolved from the Crime and Disorder Act, which seeks co-operation between police and local authorities to combat crime and other anti-social behaviour.

The project team has now completed an audit of offences in the borough and embarked on a consultation process. The findings have been distributed to community organisations and representatives for their views, which will help shape the final strategy.

Colchester police Divisional Commander, Supt Julian Field, said: "The audit has been carried out in an effort to identify priorities for combating crime and we have worked closely with the council and other organisations to gather a large amount of information.

"What we are looking for now is people's views on the findings and the priority areas which have been identified."

The Crime and Disorder Act initiative is being pursued by divisions throughout the Essex Police district.

What do you think of our web site?

AS the Essex Police web site approaches its first anniversary we are seeking people's views and any suggestions they feel may improve it.

You can find it on the Internet under www.essex.police.uk or on the Intranet.

Send your views, by February 8, to Tina Starling, Public Relations Officer, PO Box 2, Police Headquarters, Springfield, Chelmsford, CM2 6DA, email her or phone her on 01245 491491 ext 50770.

Supporting our youth

THE Beat Team at Kelvedon Hatch has found that encouragement, not punishment, has solved a conflict.

The team, in particular Pc Nigel Chambers, encouraged and supported the young people in the village, who had been in conflict with the community, to make representation to the parish council for youth facilities.

A youth club has been provided and Nigel continues to support the young people and the youth worker.

Since the opening of the club incidents involving youths have dropped.



Members of the Abridge Rural Policing team, Beat Supervisor Tim Cox, Sgt Tony Ellis and Pc Paul Gardener, pictured with Les Snellin of Lambourne Community Safety Group, former Parish Council chairman, Colin Stevens and the sponsored beat car.

"ONE person can achieve a lot, but a team can achieve so much more" - that's what Abridge residents think of their Rural Policing Team.

The local team has gone from strength to strength over the last year as a result of a close working relationship with the community and it is hoped that this example will be repeated across the county under the recommendations of the Rural Policing Review Team.

The team consists of a sergeant, a constable and four Special constables. Between them the officers patrol the Epping rural section, including the village of Abridge. Together the team has been able to pro-actively respond to the concerns of the community making a direct impact on the safety of all residents.

When appointed as the beat officer for the area four years ago, Pc Paul Gardener, together with Sgt Tony Ellis, worked closely with local residents to establish their concerns. The parish council circulated a questionnaire to all

residents asking them what they saw as problems in the area. A response rate of 40 per cent gave a clear indication that local concerns centred around burglary, car crime and speeding. The Rural Policing Team in partnership with local groups such as the newly formed Lambourne Community Safety Group have been able to directly address these issues.

The chairman of the Lambourne CSG, Les Snellin said: "I've been amazed by what has been achieved. One of the best results has been the installation of CCTV cameras at the local school. The school had been burgled several times and not only are these cameras a deterrent, but they also offer peace of mind for teachers and parents." The CSG has also raised £1,294.50 to purchase a speed gun for use by the specials in an attempt to cut speed through the village. "If we are able to slow drivers down through here that is going to have a direct impact on every single resident in this village," said Mr Snellin.

Pc Paul Gardener, who used his experience here to work on the Rural Policing Review said: "High

visibility policing has been the key to all these schemes; the CCTV, the speed gun, the local community car, the policing presence together with a local knowledge and understanding."

Beat Supervisor Tim Cox said: "The Specials in the team volunteered for this type of duty and worked here, which is great." None of the Specials actually live in the village, but they are all aware of local concerns. As a result of their dedication, Bs Tim Cox received the Epping Forest District Council Community Policing Award last year.

Local resident and former chairman of the parish council, Colin Stevens, said: "When Pc Paul Gardener took up the post and did not live in the police house there was local concern, however we can now see from the success of this team that it was not necessary for him to live in."

Team work - the best way to look after our rural residents



Beat Supervisor Tim Cox accepts a cheque for £1,294.50 from Les Snellin and Colin Stevens.

Voice your views on intelligence technology

THE demise of EPICS has allowed Essex to take a completely fresh look at what staff really want in an intelligence system.

After much consultation with front line personnel a provisional computer based intelligence package has been developed which is loosely based on the old and much lamented collators card with added extras.

The practical guidelines were:

- It must be quick and easy to use.
- It must efficiently and reliably provide users with useful intelligence.
- It must constitute an integral part of the drive towards intelligence-led policing.

It would be naive to present the service with a finished system that doesn't

match users needs, thus the chassis of the system is currently going out to divisional LIO's for staff to evaluate.

This is purely a consultative process to ensure people get what they want, and as such the programme only contains old data.

However, there is sufficient information to allow personnel to experiment and to play a part in the future development of the system by forwarding any criticism, observations or ideas to the Intelligence Project Team.

Comments should be forwarded to Julian Robinson or Richard Houghton on 51504 or in writing to headquarters Information Technology Department.

Man charged following sex attacks

OPERATION Monarch, launched to catch a serial sex attacker, has led to an arrest.

Following nationwide media coverage, which prompted a huge response from the public, a man was arrested at Heathrow airport in the early hours of December 16.

Richard Baker, aged 34, a part-time disc jockey, of no fixed address has been charged with four counts of rape, five indecent assaults, one attempted rape, nine threats to kill and two counts of ABH.

A joint HOLMES investigation has been set up and the three forces are now working on the inquiry from an incident room in Belgravia.

Is *The Law* still to your liking?

IT is now three months since *The Law* newspaper introduced commercial display advertisements into its pages.

As explained previously, the purpose of the advertisements is to offset production costs and it is hoped that development of the revenue will result in bigger issues of the publication.

The editors of *The Law* hope that the advertisements appearing are of interest and benefit, and we would like to assure you all that no personal details of readers are disclosed to any companies or advertising agencies.

If however, you have a copy of *The Law* posted direct to your home address and no longer wish to receive it, please complete the coupon below and return it to Louise Barnes at the headquarters Press Office.

I no longer wish to receive a copy of *The Law* newspaper. Please remove my details from your database.

Name

Address

Postcode

Complete and return to Louise Barnes, Press Office, Essex Police Headquarters, PO Box 2, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DA.



● Officers and support staff across the county mourned the loss of Pc Bob Foster who collapsed and died at a training course in the north of England in September. Hundreds of members of the force congregated at Chelmsford Cathedral as a mark of respect to the former weapons trainer.



● Birds of a Feather stars Linda Robson and Pauline Quirk help Essex Police in the production of a paedophile education pack in February.

**Review of 1998 compiled by
Ruth Collin and Alyson Mountney**

An evening

JANUARY
THE long-awaited Force Information Room became fully operational. The gradual handover of divisional control was completed when Basildon division went on-line. The new police station at Laindon was officially

opened in Durham Road. The station formed a new home for the Laindon beat officers as well as the Prosecutions unit. Two Essex Police staff were awarded the MBE in the New Years' Honours list. Shirley Carman, based at Harwich and Pc John

Mertl, currently on secondment to Humberside Police were both named in the **FEBRUARY**

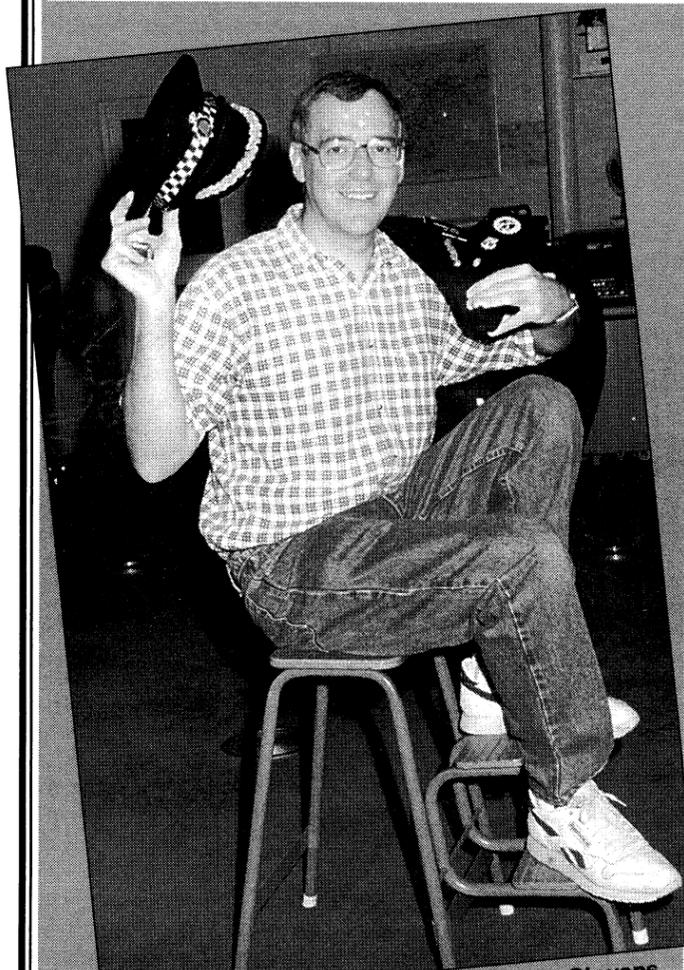
One of the big investigations carried out by Essex Police ended in conviction of Jack Who and Michael Steele in the murder of Pat Tate, 71. Tucker and Craig Rolfe were the result of a drugs investigation which turned sour. *Birds of a Feather* stars Linda Robson and Pauline Quirk, and BBC presenter Jill Dando, were all in the county adding their part to a new paedophile education pack produced and directed by the Essex Police Television Unit with Essex Child Protection Committee.

Essex Police Rugby Club was knocked out of the County Cup having reached the final for the first time.

MARCH
Essex Police found evidence to prove that a cat was living in the county. The remains of two girls found killed were analysed by experts who said the injuries were caused by a cat - possibly a puma.

APRIL
Two new recruits hit headlines - bloodhounds Sherlock and Morse. The dogs began training to track criminals and missing people as part of a Home Office Research Grant.

The force joined a worldwide web setting up its own internet site. The site provides an identification opportunity for the people of Essex and further afield.



● In October Chief Constable David Stevens swapped his uniform for jeans to raise cash for charity.

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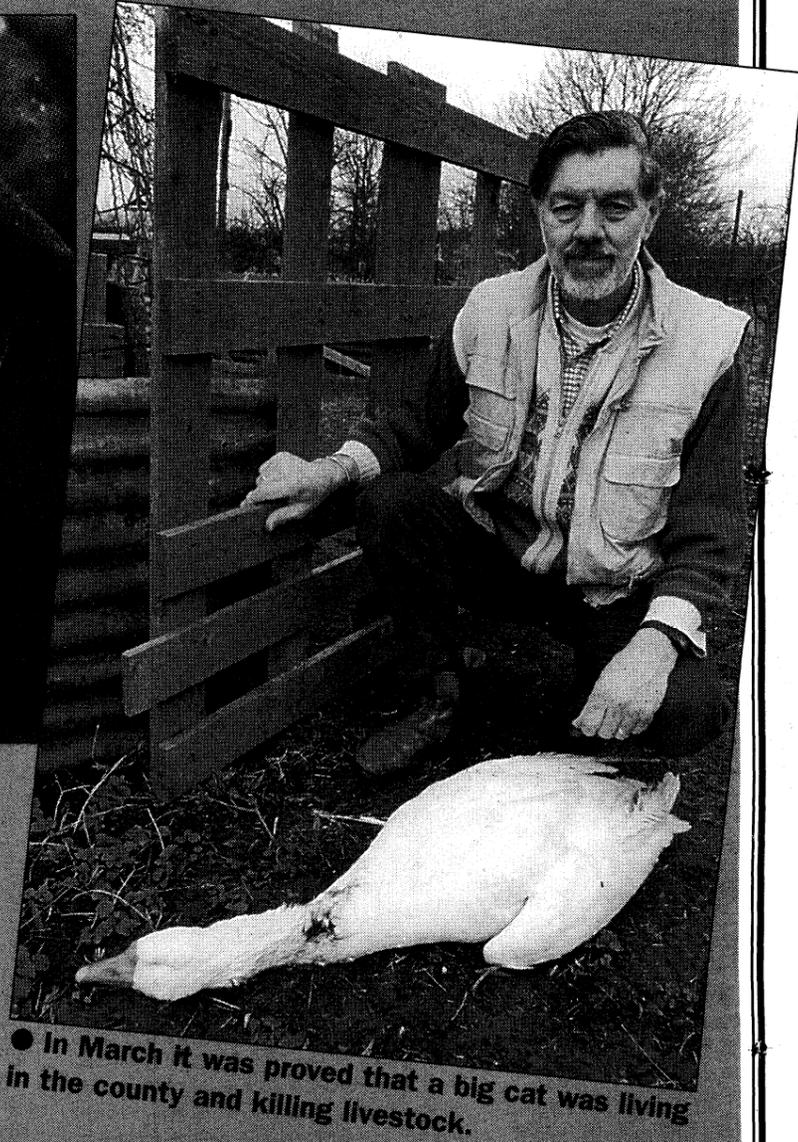
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● April saw two new recruits for Essex Police who became media stars overnight. Sherlock and Morse, two bloodhounds were taken on by the force following a Home Office Research Grant. Pc Malcolm Fish then set about training the duo to sniff out criminals and missing people with the help of handlers Pc Chris Houlding and Pc Terry Smith.



● In March it was proved that a big cat was living in the county and killing livestock.

ntful year

find out more about the force.

Essex Police Air Support Unit took delivery of its first helicopter to be wholly-owned by the force. The new Twin Squirrel helicopter was purchased following grants awarded to the newly formed Cambridgeshire and Essex Air Support Consortium.

MAY

The formation of a new crime division focused on intelligence as the key to crime solving. The reorganisation included the recruitment of a principle analyst and changes to the Force Intelligence Bureau.

The Special Constabulary formerly appointed its very first deputy commandant. George Cook took over the new role, in support of Commandant Alan Hill.

JUNE

John Burrow retired as Chief Constable of Essex Police after a total service of 40 years. Mr Burrow served at the Metropolitan and Merseyside Police before joining Essex as Chief Constable in February 1988.

JULY

The new Chief Constable of Essex Police, David Stevens, took up his duties this month. He joined the force from Bedfordshire Police where he had been Deputy Chief Constable.

The Home Office announced that boundary changes would make Essex Police responsible for policing the whole Epping Forest District Council area by April 2000. The changes would bring places like Chigwell and Waltham

Abbey inside our boundary and extra money would be available to fund the increased responsibility.

AUGUST

Specially designed body armour for women police officers went on trial in Essex. Although their current armour, a cut down version of the male vest, met strict safety standards, it was recognised that it didn't fit women properly and consequently offered less protection.

Essex Police reopened its investigation into the death of Jamie Collins, aged 24, who died following a night out in Southend in 1996. He was found unconscious outside Brocketts nightclub and later died in hospital.

SEPTEMBER

Essex Police and British Transport Police joined forces to launch Operation Catchment, a joint investigation into rapes near railway stations. A 40-year-old Romford man was later charged with three rapes and attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Family, friends and colleagues paid tribute to Pc Bob Foster, who collapsed and died of heart failure during a rifleman's course in Yorkshire.

Essex Police led a joint investigation with Suffolk after one man was blasted to death with a shotgun, and a man and woman were seriously injured. The man believed responsible, John Piccolo, was found wounded by officers and later died.

OCTOBER

Security manager Paul Bovingdon was jailed for six

years for attempting to blackmail Chelmsford company Britvic, bringing to an end one of the most successful and far spread Essex Police operations in recent years.

Chief Constable David Stevens led hundreds of his staff in a sartorial revolution when he turned up for work wearing jeans. He helped raise more than £500 for Jeans for Genes Day, a campaign led by Great Ormond Street Hospital to help genetic research.

NOVEMBER

Essex Police and social services carried out a joint operation at the Old Convent in Bicknacre, a home for children and vulnerable adults. One man and four women were charged with a number of offences and are due before magistrates in March.

Taxi Watch, believed to be the first in the country, was launched in Uttlesford to promote safe travel for drivers and passengers.

Home Office figures put recorded crime in Essex at its lowest level for eight years.

DECEMBER

Essex Police joined forces with train and bus companies to encourage people to use public transport during its Christmas drink-drive campaign.

Stansted Airport Specials' newest recruit - a teddy bear called Bobby - travelled 1,920 miles on European flights, raising £2,036 for Children In Need.



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Secure parking wins award

OWNERS of the recently opened Festival Leisure Park site in Basildon have been awarded a Secure Parking Award.

This award was initiated by the Association of Chief Police Officers with companies having to display a high quality of management of their car parks and making them physically user friendly.

Before the site opened the developers worked closely with Basildon District Council and Basildon Police to ensure the car parks, with 1,500 spaces, were to a secure standard so that people could enjoy a trouble-free visit.

The car parks are monitored by CCTV and patrolled by security officers.

An estimated 200,000 people a month visit the leisure park which opened six months ago, and in that time there have been only six reports of autocrime.

Southend bring in the 'experts'

A NEW customised patrol vehicle has gone into service with the pro-active Town Beat Section at Southend.

It is a Peugeot Expert diesel van, specially adapted to accommodate five police officers and two prisoners in a secure compartment.

Sgt Tony Wright, of the Town Beat Section, said: "As a high-visibility, pro-active unit, this vehicle meets our needs exactly. It is smaller than a Transit, yet provides the accommodation we require."

Difficult decisions behind closed doors

IT is the reception desk every visitor approaches with reluctance.

The venue in question is the domain of the police station custody officer.

From the moment an arrested person arrives in the austere surroundings of the custody area, a strictly-disciplined procedure begins.

One deviation from it could result in anything from death or illness in the cell to the course of justice being impeded on a legal technicality.

The custody officer is the individual on whom this responsibility rests.

And the meticulous attention to detail is on occasions carried out amid an atmosphere of hubbub, when those in the queue awaiting attention are the likes of drunken brawlers who have spilled from the pub and into the last place they want to end their night out.

At Essex Police, the custody officer role is among the duties of sergeant.

One of them is Mark Merry, who shares the work on a rota basis with his fellow shift sergeants at Colchester.

"You are the decision maker following an arrest," says Sgt Merry. "As soon as someone comes through

Peter Laurie looks at life as a custody officer

the doors of custody you are likely to make half a dozen important decisions."

With Colchester police station's 15 cells and two juvenile detention rooms and more than 5,000 prisoners a year, many of those decisions have to be taken promptly.

The custody officer's responsibility for the reception and treatment of people brought in under arrest sub divides into numerous tasks.

These include hearing the arresting officer's account of the incident and deciding whether there are grounds to detain the prisoner.

If so, their physical and mental state has to be considered and a decision made on a doctor being called in. Another obligation is the detainee's right to a solicitor.

Once in the cells, welfare remains a prime consideration. The custody officer has to ensure that the prisoner receives three meals a day, exercise and makes periodic checks on their well-being.

Then comes monitoring the time spent in detention against the legal limits, deciding whether the prisoner should be charged, and with what, and brought before a court or released on bail.

Most of the procedure is governed by the Police and Criminal Evidence

Act and each step is recorded to ensure there is evidence of full compliance with its rules.

The custody officer is there as an intermediary, ensuring the arresting officer has a case which can be pursued and that the treatment of the arrested person is above reproach.

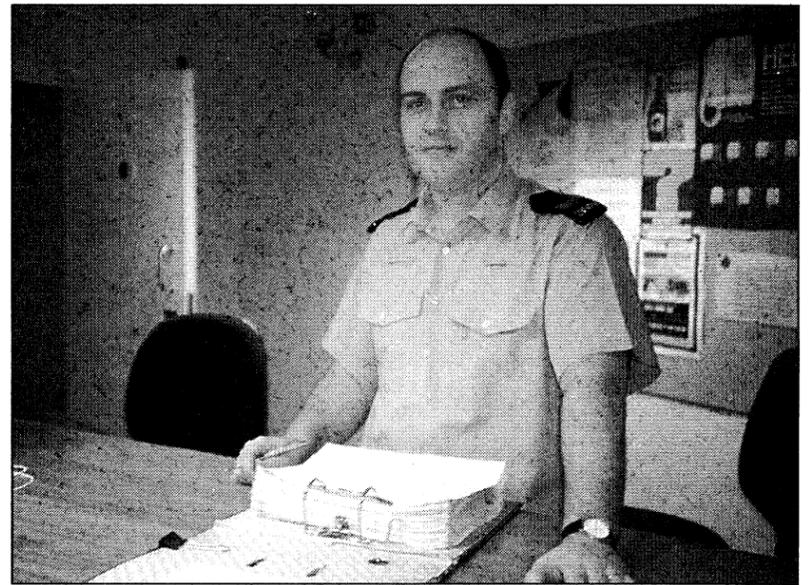
Sgt Merry, who has 16 years' police service, says: "It's not the most rewarding duty in the force. No-one

wants to be brought into custody, so there is not much light relief. But every prisoner who comes in is different and you do sometimes get thanks from colleagues for your help."

"The more professional the arresting officer is, the less risk there is of ending up in the mire."

Negative the work may be, but it is also very necessary.

As one constable put it: "The custody sergeant is an important source of advice and reassurance, particularly for less-experienced officers. What's more, they are good at doing two or three things at once."



● The point of contact in custody . . . Sgt Mark Merry at his post.

A fascinating but gruesome read

"AND may the Lord have mercy on your soul... amen."

These infamous words, part of the traditional death sentence passed in British courts, were heard by thousands of unfortunate criminals from the middle ages right up until the 1960s.

They are also the title of the latest fascinating History Notebook which records, in gruesome detail, over 40 executions at Springfield prison between 1827 and 1914.

The 32nd notebook in the series was written by Andrew Begent, who works in corporate support at headquarters.

Reunite for 30th anniversary

THIS year is 30 years since the dissolution of the Southend Borough Police Force.

Dc Fred Simpkins still recalls with pride marching along Southend High Street to the Civic Centre along with several hundred other officers, and is considering a reunion for all retired and serving officers.

Although some retired officers do not enjoy reunions, it is hoped there will be a really big turn out.

The venue has still to be decided, but will depend on the numbers responding to this appeal. A date under consideration would be early April 1999.

A small sum may be required to cover the cost of a buffet and the hire of an appropriate venue.

If you are interested in coming along and meeting colleagues you may not have seen for many years please write to Dc Fred Simpkins at Leigh Police Station or contact him on 01702 471212 ext 37435.

He decided to put down on paper a subject that has interested him for many years.

He said: "After the research the writing up only took a couple of hours. I recommend anyone to give it a go."

The museum produces four History Notebooks each year and is now looking for volunteers to write future ones.

If you think you could come up with a subject and are interested, contact the new museum curator, Elizabeth Farnhill, to discuss the project on ext. 50771.

If you have difficulty obtaining copies of the History Notebooks, please contact the same number.

Calling all comrades

THE Annual General Meeting of the Comrade's Association will be held in the Chief Constable's lounge, police headquarters, at 11.30am on Monday, February 8, and all members are welcome.

Readers should be reminded that membership of the Association is open not only to retired officers but also serving officers of 10 or more years. Annual subscription is only £1 and the Association would particularly welcome an increase in the number of serving officers.

If you would like further information, please contact David Jones at the federation office, police headquarters, ext 54501.

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Top beat officer bids for national title

NEIGHBOURHOOD beat officer Pc Mark Pearce will be accompanied by Chief Constable David Stevens to a ceremony in London this month to hear whether he has become Neighbourhood Beat Officer of the Year.

This follows his nomination by his commanding officer to represent Colchester, winning through to represent the county at national level.

Joining Essex Police in 1990 he is now Neighbourhood beat officer for St John's, Colchester.

Mark, who will meet Home Secretary Jack Straw at the ceremony said: "It is the first time I have been nominated for the award. I do enjoy working as a neighbourhood beat officer."

Cash not cards

'B' SHIFT at FIR have raised £104 through making donations rather than sending Christmas cards to each other.

The money will go to the Essex FM Cash for Causes appeal.

A special fortnight of police events

HOME Office Minister Paul Boateng visits Rayleigh this week as part of Specials Fortnight, a national campaign to highlight the work of the Special Constabulary.

The MP is meeting Specials from Rayleigh and Southend who have teamed up with bus companies Arriva and Thamesway in a high visibility policing operation.

Until the end of Specials Fortnight on January 22, Specials in uniform are patrolling buses on selected routes, targeting instances of nuisance, non-payment of bus fares, drunkenness and vandalism.

The initiative has been organised by Specials at Rayleigh.

Elsewhere in the county, Specials are taking part in a number of events and operations to promote their role in the community, as well as campaigning for new recruits.

New research unit unveiled

A NEW directorate, The Research Directorate and Statistics Directorate, has been formed to act as a single source of social science research within the Home Office.

Part of the directorate, the Policing and Reducing Crime Unit, will focus on policing and crime reduction research and development and will replace the Police Research Group.

Within this body the Government's aim to reduce crime has resulted in a Reducing Crime Group which will shortly be recruiting staff to deal with an anticipated

Stop and search figures vital to develop relations

Committed to equal treatment

ESSEX Police has welcomed the second set of figures published by the Home Office showing the ethnic appearance of individuals stopped and searched, and arrested, between April 1997 and March 1998.

This is the second year police forces have collated this information, in what is an important area in which to monitor police performance.

Publication of these figures is seen as vital in developing relations with the community.

During the year there were 38,529 arrests in total in Essex. In the majority

of cases - 35,973 - the person arrested was white. There were 984 arrests where the person was black, and 523 cases where they were Asian.

Arrests per 1,000 population numbered 25.28 for white people, 173.45 for black people, and 45.25 for Asian people.

The findings for Essex reflect the national picture, which suggests a disproportionate number of black people are stopped, searched, and arrested.

However, it must be remembered that ethnic minority communities make up a very small proportion of Essex - only 1.9 per cent of people are black - and small numbers will cause a significant percentage change.

Assistant Chief Constable (Crime) John Broughton said: "If officers are

perceived as being discriminatory, public confidence in the police is undermined.

"We cannot afford to be complacent and must challenge any policy or practice which is unfair on areas of the Essex community.

"Essex Police is committed to providing equal treatment to all members of the public. We have recently formed an Equality of Service Management Group to monitor how we are achieving this, and which will consider the Home Office report."

Last year there were five complaints of racial discrimination against police.

Three were withdrawn by the complainant, one was the subject of no further action following advice from the Police Complaints Authority, and the fifth is still under investigation.

Brave actions

BRAVE actions followed a crash on the A127 at Warley in November when a Fiat Bravo rolled over onto its roof trapping the driver.

Officers Spiro, Pallett, Simmons and Littlefield were first on the scene.

The driver of the car was suffering from serious head lacerations, losing a lot of blood and drifting in and out of consciousness.

Although the car was smoking all the officers administered first aid and Pc Simmonds stemmed the flow of blood, which probably saved the man's life.

Professional

A number of other courageous and professional actions have led to Chief Constable's commendations for officers in the force.

Pc Joseph Reynolds, Pitsea, was commended for his actions at the scene of a violent domestic incident when he persuaded a drunken man to drop a large carving knife.

Pc Terence Hobbs, Southend, was commended with Sgt Paul Clark and Pc David Kenningale, both based at Shoeburyness, for their attempts to save the life of a woman who jumped from a multi-storey car park.

Pc Joanne Runagall, Shoeburyness was commended for her courageous action while off duty, when she witnessed a theft by two people who tried to get away in a car. She removed the keys of the vehicle while its engine was running and both suspects made off with Pc Runagall in pursuit despite a physical assault.

Tenacity

Sgt Nicholas Kelly, Southend, was commended for his tenacity and investigative skills during a drugs investigation which resulted in the recovery of a substantial amount of drugs and a man later receiving a sentence of five years imprisonment.

Sc Martin Allan, Westcliff, was commended for attempting to remove the keys from a car which had been blocked by police vehicles. He was punched by the car driver, causing severe bruising to his arms and body, while the car rammed the police vehicles. He persevered and managed to remove the keys from the car. Struggle the driver was arrested.

Dc Stephen Myall, HQ, was commended for his commitment and special ability in the detection of crime whilst seconded to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

Pc Philip Pridmore and Pc Clare De'ath, both based at Shoeburyness, were holding on to a man threatening to commit suicide at a multi-storey car park and eventually persuading him to climb back to safety.

Drugs competition is a winner



● Three young winners are presented with their prizes at Boots the Chemists in Basildon.

BASILDON District Drugs Reference Group and Boots The Chemists recently teamed up to run a competition which helped to get across drug related issues in a fun way.

School's liaison officer Pc Dave Letch promoted the competition throughout schools across the district prompting more than 500 youngsters to enter.

The children had to think hard to solve 20 anagrams and complete a tie breaker

sentence "Young people should know about the dangers of drugs because...."

Manager of Boots, Lee Allen presented prizewinners Carol Wright, Lauren Holgate and Natalie Stevens with their prizes at a special ceremony.

Chairman of the drug reference group, John Robb said "As well as being fun and enjoyable, I hope the youngsters who took part also learned something valuable about the dangers of drugs."

Do you have photos of Bob?

I HAVE been asked by the family of the late Bob Foster, through *The Law* to ask if anyone has any photographs of Bob, which they may have.

His mother wishes to compile an album of his life in the force from his time as a cadet to his death last year.

If you do have any such photos and you are willing to either let me have them or allow me a copy of them, which I will pay for, please contact me at Chelmsford police station.

Sergeant Nick Banks

Market Place

ALGARVE, Portugal. Two bedroom apartment, sleeps six. Swimming pool and bar on the complex. Ideal base for golf. Fifteen minutes walk from sea. £150 per week. Contact Brian Spiers on 01268 558211.

BARJO double dog cage with divider and rear doors, for Citroen ZX Estate. Unused, bargain £225. Contact 01268 288091 or Maureen at Laindon traffic ext 43110.

CALPE, Spain. Apartment sleeps 4. Two bathrooms and toilets, large lounge, kitchen and balcony. Beach 5 mins walk, town location, from £100 per week. Contact Bob Naden (ex Det Insp) on 01255 815140.

CAR HIRE, Spain. Arriving at Alicante airport for your holiday? Pick up your car hire there. Special offers and winter rates. i.e. All types of vehicles only 14000 pesetas a week. (£60). English family business. Contact Alf Henry (Ex Pc) on 01992 522304.

CORNWALL, Polperro. Chalet, sleeps 4/5. All mod cons. On pleasant site with heated indoor and outdoor pools. Club and all facilities included. £75 to £250 per week. Contact Craig Bailey (rtd officer) on 01279 653570 or 01279 832837.

CYPRUS, outskirts Limassol. Fully equipped studio apartment 50 yds from beach, £14 50 per day. Contact Dc Bill Lang on 01279 871056 or ext 20807.

DISNEY World. Air conditioned three bedroom luxury villa, sleeps up to 8. Ideally located 15 mins from Disney World with own private 25 ft pool, £425 per week. Contact Stephen Warwick on 01245 464768.

FOR sale, full set of Blackstones police manuals 1998/99 for OSPRE Sergeants and Inspectors exams, £20. Contact Pc Kevin Rowe on 0797 1471940 or ext 55330.

FOR sale, Toshiba 200 CDS laptop computer. Intel Pentium P100, 40 MB RAM, 1.4 Gig HDD. Spare 810 Mb hard disc with Win 95 installed. Spare 16 MB RAM module. Modem also included with all the leads and software. Logitech mouse with scroll wheel and software. Other software available on request. On site contract valid until February 2000. Whole package £1150. Contact John Mertl on 01245 358603 or 0468 162178.

HIGHLAND holidays. Bed and breakfast and evening meal in the beautiful highlands of Scotland. En-suite, shooting, fishing, walking, skiing, bird watching. Many other pursuits or just relax in the comfort of our Austrian style home set in its own grounds. A 20 per cent discount for all Essex police personnel, past and present. Contact Andrew Nunn (ex Pc) on 01479 841717.

POLZEATH, Cornwall, self-contained static home, five mins walk to sandy beach. Miles of National Trust coastal walks. TV/video, own toilet. Most dates available. (fishing and golf nearby). Contact D.Turner on 01375 846704.

NERJA, Spain. Well equipped, pretty 2 bedroom villa, close to beach, shops and restaurants. Inexpensive. For further details or brochure telephone 0034952533298.

New property manager

A CHARTERED surveyor has secured the managers post in Property Services for Essex Police.

Mr Russell Whitaker, qualified in engineering and construction, has over 20 years experience in construction and has spent the last five years working as the Building and Estates Manager for Middlesex University.

Retirements

Chief Insp Alan Perry, Chelmsford retires on 24 January after nearly 31 years' service.

Chelmsford's Pc John Atherton retired at the beginning of January after nearly 30 years.

Insp Martin Reed, Dunmow retires at the end of the month after over 34 years' service.

Names in the news

Chief Insp Stephen Nessling, Braintree, also retires at the end of the month after over 30 years.

Also retiring after more than 30 years are Westcliff Pc Allan Evans and Pc Peter Mills, HQ.

Pc Robert Higgs, Harlow, will be retiring at the end of the month after over 31 years' service.

Ill health has forced the retirement of Pc Peter Savory, Basildon, after 23 years' service.

Following 19 years' service ill health means that Pc Alan Millard of Harlow will retire at the end of the month.

Pc Michael Macauley, HQ, has served over 27 years, retiring on medical grounds.

Sgt Gordon Muir, Grays

will also retire this month on medical grounds after nearly 27 years' service.

Pc Rosemary Palmer, Clacton also retires on grounds of ill health after over 27 years' service.

Obituaries

Retired constable Stanley Webb has died, aged 81. He served at Chelmsford, Grays and HQ before his retirement in 1962. He leaves a widow Betty.

Pensioner Joseph (Jock) Ruickbie died on December 16, aged 83. He served more than 30 years as a mounted police officer, half of them with his beloved horse George.

Retired Pc Clive Burchfield, aged 64 died on

December 17. He served at Hornchurch, Rainham and Clacton before his retirement in 1987. He leaves a widow Shirley.

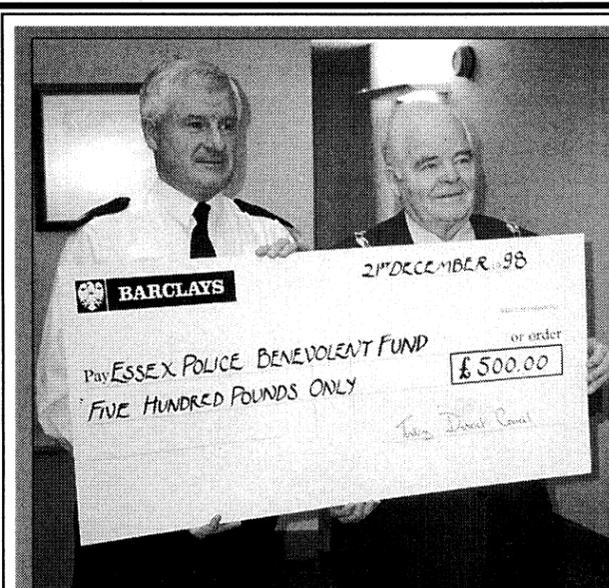
Also remembered is Leo Kestell, warrants officer at Southend, who died on the December 28. His career began with the City of London Police before serving with Essex Police at Southend retiring in 1992. He leaves a widow Angela.

Can you beat this?

THE three detective constables and their sergeant in TSU have all been on the same shift for the last ten years.

The longest serving member of the team, Jim Panting has been on the unit for 12 years. They are due to be disbanded in the future due to civilianisation.

Can you beat that?



● Supt Mick Hicks collects the £500 from Chairman of Tendring District Council, Lionel Randall.

Rewarded for a trouble-free show

IN recognition of the part played by Essex Police in ensuring a trouble-free Clacton Air Show this year, Tendring District Council has presented a cheque for £500 to the Essex Police Benevolent Fund.

The two-day show pulls in thousands of visitors each year and is almost entirely on publically owned land.

Up to 30 officers each day were deployed, including regulars, specials, traffic wardens and specialist units such as diving and marine sections.

Divisional Commander, Supt Mick Hicks, said: "We, as much as the council, have an interest in the prosperity of the town. This is a big event, which publicises Clacton and we are only too happy to work in partnership with the council."

Chief Inspector Craig Robertson, operations manager for Tendring division, added: "It is a good exercise for the staff. It tests our command and control at a public event. Also we have encouraged Tendring District Council to look at their role, which has led to them opening their own major incident room and participating in silver control with the emergency services."

Lionel Randall, the chairman of TDC, said it was a pleasure to be able to thank Essex Police for its support of the air show.

"It brought 50,000 people into Clacton and is not something we would be able to do without the help of your officers," he told Supt Hicks.

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE - ONE WORD PER BOX

Name and rank

Station Home Tel.....

Date Signed

Send to The Editor, The Law, Press Office,
Essex Police Headquarters.

IPA

WE hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and we would like to wish all members and friends a very Happy New Year.

Some 40 members and friends saw in the New Year at Westone Hotel near Northampton. It was generally agreed that the friendliness, food and hospitality at the hotel made it one of the best New Year celebrations that we have held.

The weather was extremely kind to us and we managed to include excursions in Northampton, Stratford-Upon-Avon and Bedford into the trip although many of the gentlemen were thankful that many of the shops were

closed!

Thanks again to Dick and Molly Giggins for their efforts in putting the package together.

Earlier in December 40 members and friends enjoyed a very pleasant Christmas dinner and dance at the Sports and Social Club.

Although the music provided was excellent most members seemed to enjoy just sitting and talking over old times. Thanks to Frank and Terri Joslin for their efforts in arranging the details.

Just another reminder about our plans to get the social calendar off to a good start with a visit to the New Times Inn Restaurant in Tiptree on Friday, February 12. We haven't been there for a couple of years but it was always a very popular start to the year so if you would like

to join us for the first event of 1999 please give either myself, Frank Joslin or Dick Giggins a call.

Please note that we have had to move the date of the branch AGM from Friday, March 12 to Thursday, March 11 because of difficulties in getting the bar open on the Friday night.

We hope that you will be able to come along and support the committee at this meeting which will be held at the HQ Sports and Social Club.

We need to know your thoughts on the way ahead for the branch, so come along armed with ideas and views, no matter how controversial. It's your branch after all.

Frank Joslin has arranged another long weekend break into Europe in July 1999. This time the venue is the

Eiffel Mountain area of Germany which is just across the Belgian border.

We will be staying in the quaint old town of Monschau at the Hotel Carat for four nights bed and breakfast.

Departure date from Chelmsford is Thursday, July 15 with return on Monday, July 19. We will be using the same coach firm (Lodges) that gave us such good service on the trip last year to Rheims and as our driver will be Trevor we look forward to being shown some of the lovely towns in the area. The total cost of the holiday is £155. Response from members has been very good but there are still a few places left on the coach so if you would like to join us please give Frank a call on 01245 602872.

Bill Fancourt,
Mid Essex IPA.

Torch run to aid special olympics

IF you want to get off the treadmill then this is not for you.

Police officers and fire officers are being invited by the U.K. Law Enforcement Torch Run to help raise funds to send a team to the World Special Olympic Games which will be held in Raleigh, North Carolina, USA, during the summer.

The Games are for children aged at least eight and adults with a mental handicap or learning difficulty.

It is anticipated that teams will contact a local gymnasium to arrange use of their facilities for a 24 hour relay run on treadmills to take place on Friday 26 and Saturday 27 March 1999.

Money would be raised by sponsorship or donations.

If anyone is interested in taking part please contact George Hawk on 01527 585561 or Jane Moule at West Mercia Police headquarters on 01905 723000.

Rafting feat will help charity

IF YOU are thirsting for adventure then the Women's Royal Voluntary service may have the answer.

They are currently looking for people to take part in whitewater rafting.

All you have to do to take part is get an eight person team together and raise £600 sponsorship.

From this amount the WRVS takes a minimum donation of £320 and every extra pound raised over the minimum will go directly to them.

The WRVS is a registered charity which provides care and support where it is most needed in hospitals, communities and at times of emergency.

If you would like any further information please contact Linda McClelland, Community Fundraising Manager for the WRVS on 0171 837 1132.

For a free information pack please contact 01235 442925.

Football fixtures

JANUARY fixtures to note are Wednesday 13 at home for the veterans against Cambridgeshire for the National Cup with a 1.30 pm kick off.

Saturday 16 - first team at home to Runwell and second team away to Upminster. Kick off 2pm.

Wednesday 20 - second team at home to Hertfordshire Police. Kick off 1.30pm.

Saturday 23 - first team at home to Herongate and second team away to Ecko First Data. Kick off 2pm.

Saturday 30 - first and second teams play Hatfield Peveral, first away, seconds at home. Kick off 2pm.

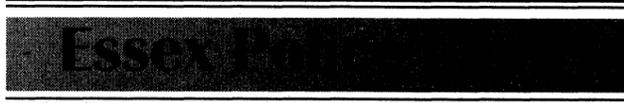
Choir marks anniversary with special events

AS predicted in last month's Law, december was the busiest month of the year for the choir with three concerts within the space of six days.

The two concerts in aid of charity at the Moot Hall, Colchester, and Plume School, Maldon raised almost £2,000 in total for the Headway charity at St Clare's Hospice.

In both of these concerts we had the pleasure of performing with local school choirs.

Our third concert was held in the Assembly Hall at police headquarters for Chelmsford's senior citizens and like the other two was



performed to a full house. As well as being entertained to music the senior citizens were treated to tea and mince pies in the interval by the Friends of the Essex Police Choir.

1999 will see the choir celebrating its 10th anniversary and we are trying to make it a very special year. We already have nine confirmed concerts in Essex and in addition we are planning to make a return visit to the Paris suburb of Croissy-sur-Seine to sing with the local Croissy choir.

Our first concert in Essex in 1999 will also be our first visit to Takeley where, on Saturday, March 13, we will be singing at Takeley Church with the concert starting at 7pm.

Over the Easter period the choir will be giving two performances of 'Olivet to Calvary'. The first will be on Palm Sunday, March 28 at Witham and the second on Good Friday, April 2 at Coggeshall. Later in April, on the 17, the choir will be giving a concert at St Peter's Church at Hutton.

Our planned trip to France is over the May Day weekend where we will travel out on Friday, April 30. The two joint concerts with the Croissy choir as well as spending some time sightseeing in Paris and Croissy. The choir will travel back to Essex on the Monday.

On the following weekend the choir will be hosting a

visit from the Royal Ulster Constabulary Ladies Choir. Two concerts have been arranged on Friday, May 7 at St Luke's Church in Tiptree and on Saturday, May 8 at Christ Church in Chelmsford.

Details of ticket prices and how to obtain them will be included in our February article.

In response to requests for information about our future concerts from our 'fans' who don't receive *The Law* we are planning to compile a quarterly newsletter which will be sent out to anyone requesting it. If you know of anyone who would like to be on our mailing list please ask them to give Jenny Young, on 01245 452111, or Norman Eastbrook, on 01245 452581, a ring at headquarters.

Bill Fancourt

Volunteers for children's camp

VOLUNTEERS are being sought for a very worthy cause.

The Burned Children's Club is a fund raising charity which provides a camp in August where children who have suffered a burn injury can go to meet others in the same situation.

The camp is for children aged between eight and 18 taking 40 children and 20 volunteers to Cambridgeshire.

Activities include canoeing, riding, abseiling, windsurfing and arts and crafts.

Volunteers are there to support and encourage the children to continue in life knowing that their hopes and dreams are the same as other children.

If you are interested in helping please contact Pat Wade on 01268 559728.

A three course deal for golf enthusiasts

THE Essex Police Sports Association has secured one of the best golf deals ever for its members.

This is with Clubhouse plc at its three courses in Essex, namely Benton Hall, Witham, Stapleford Abbots and Three Rivers, Maldon.

An associate membership will provide five day access to any of these clubs, (Monday to Friday) at a privileged £10 green fee, bookable up to seven days in advance.

Cost £75 per year.

For full associate membership you have to nominate which of the three clubs you want as your home club.

You will have seven day access (Monday to Friday) plus Saturday and Sunday outside of member only times, bookable up to seven days in advance.

You will be able to have Clubhouse card benefits at all the other Clubhouse golf courses in England and Europe and handicap facilities will be available.

Cost £300 per year, membership strictly limited.

Anyone who is interested in either of these memberships please contact Chris Jacob on 01702 200033 for further details.

Christmas in New York

NEW York, New York, so good we're going again.

Christmas shopping in New York has proved to be so successful that two trips have been arranged for 1999.

First departure is Thursday, December 9 and the second is Thursday, December 16.

The special price for bookings made by January 20 is £447.

This includes return flights on a scheduled airline, coach transfers, three nights accommodation in the Hotel Pennsylvania with welcome buffet.

Taxes are included but not insurance.

Anyone interested please contact John Stonehouse on ext 58888.

A royal event

The 1999 Royal Tournament will celebrate 120 years in what will be its final run at Earls Court from July 20 to August 2.

All three services are taking part in the show. The box office is open now and can be contacted on 0171 244 0244.



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Are you a bowling bobby?

A GROUP of Billericay police officers are pinning their hopes on a bowlathon to help a severely disabled teenager.

An appeal has been launched to raise £4,000 towards a transit-style van to take 14-year-old Simon Larn, from Basildon, to his special needs school in Walthamstow.

Pc Kevin Hopton is organising a marathon ten-pin bowling session to be held on February 20 to boost funds.

He has drafted in Mike Long, of Billericay, to help the money-raising effort. The pair successfully raised £1,000 for St Luke's Hospice several years ago.

Anyone who wants to enter a bowling team or donate a raffle prize should contact Pc Hopton at Billericay Police Station on (01277) 631212.

Archery lessons

IF you want to add another string to your bow then you may be interested in joining a newly formed archery section.

It is open to officers and support staff and their families. Fee paying lessons are available.

For further details please contact Dc Andy Bird on ext 52188.

Narrow defeat

IT was a spirited effort by Essex Police second men's hockey team against Brentwood in the Premier Holidays League.

A good contest with end to end play and Brentwood managing one goal.

Essex were unable to score from their numerous attacks and were narrowly defeated.

Man of the match was Tom Weaver.



● Pc Alan Barley gets bogged down as he attempts to wade his way through the 400-yard course of the annual Maldon Mud Race. Photo: Peter Davies.

Officer mucks in to raise cash

A MAD minority braved the cold December chill to join in the Maldon Mud Race, supported by thousands of spectators, and an Essex constable was among them.

Traditionally taking place across the river, flood water forced officials to relocate the 400-yard course alongside the town's promenade.

Among the competitors was the 'raving' Pc Alan Barley, Events secretary, Michael Ballard explained: Once the whole thing starts, there's no end of pandemonium and shenanigans. The entrants get absolutely caked in mud and although the leader can usually skip ahead the rest of them fall all over each other."

But it's all in a good cause. Although there's no charge for admission, a charity collection is made and competitors are sponsored for their hard work. This year several hundred pounds were raised and will go towards the King George Fund for sailors, the Maldon division of the St John Ambulance, St Clare's Hospice and the Essex Ambulance Appeal.

Get jogging in memory of Bob

ARE you fit enough for the BF Trogg?

An organised run/walk across the Derbyshire countryside is being organised in memory of the late Bob Foster.

The event will be held between July 20 and 22. Organised under the guidelines of the MLC, it will be run in teams of at least three people for safety reasons.

There will be trophy for the fastest team.

The transport, camp site and pub have been booked for which there will be a small fee. Any money left over will be donated to mountain rescue teams.

Places will be limited due to transport.

If you wish to take part please contact Sgt Nick Banks at Chelmsford police station for an application and a copy of the rules on 01245 491212.

Paddling up the ranks

CHELMSFORD Traffic officer Paul Anderson is hoping to be on top of the World following the Canoeing World Cup 1999 in New Zealand in February.

After recent selection events in Scotland, Paul has been chosen for the Great Britain National Canoe Team.

Ranked 18th after last year's World Cup Paul has had an excellent season finishing fourth in the national rankings, gaining elite status.

New faces mark winning combination

ESSEX scored another excellent result in the third Police League race at Stevenage with the B team coming 2nd followed by the A team in third place.

Making the result even more pleasing was the sight of some new faces in the team.

Mick Bond (3rd) was followed home by Paul Anderson (14th), Russ Welch (18th), Rick Matthews (23rd), Chris Turner (24th) and a determined Chris Mathlin (29th).

Roy Kebbell finished 37th ahead of a less than fully fit Brian Maughan (50th), close behind was Dave Rout (52nd), Andy Eves (56th) and Laurie Rampling (57th).

Unfortunately the only female Essex runners were Lucy and Paula Bradley. Despite placings of 14th and 15th it means that Essex lose any hope of league medals.

The next fixture will be vital, not only to the season but it will be the last chance to impress before the PAA National Championships in March.

Sport news in brief

WELL done to Pc Chris Jacob, Hockley, Dc John Stewart, HQ, and Pc John Anderson, Harlow Traffic, all of whom have been selected to play in the National PAA table tennis championships against the fire service.

RAYLEIGH won the recent Croker Cup sea angling event with Southend 2nd and Basildon 3rd. After ten events Southend is top of the table with 91 points. Joint second are Braintree and Colchester with 59 points. These are followed by Headquarters, Chelmsford, Harlow, Basildon, Grays and Tendring.

THE sports secretary is looking for volunteers to run the Rugby 7s and Ladies 5 a

side football.

Anyone interested should contact John Stonehouse on 01245 491491 ext 58888.

SHUT but batting on. The sports and leisure shop will close after Sunday, January 17 but the sports secretary will continue to sell high demand items as a membership facility, available from the secretary's office.

THE 1999 Croker Cup swimming gala will be held at Gloucester Park pool, Basildon on Saturday, January 23.

Warm up will be at 5pm for a 5.30pm start.

Anyone interested in the event please contact Pc Chris Mathlin on 01268 561312, ext 47135 or John Stonehouse on ext 58888.



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