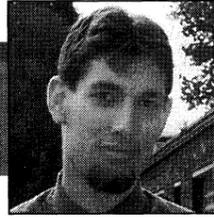




New dog trainer appointed - P5



Annual report summary - P7-10



German trainee visits Essex - P14

Test cases ahead of new regulations prove successful

ON TRACK TO SPEED UP COURT CASES

FAST track court hearings got off to a cracking start when Essex Police decided to test excess alcohol and driving whilst disqualified cases ahead of new Government regulations.

The latest Government scheme the "Narey" system will bring in fast tracking from November 1 for all offences.

by Heather Watts

In the first week eight people were arrested and before a court in less than 72 hours after being charged.

In five of the eight cases the defendants were given substantial fines and a driving disqualification at their first court appearance.

One defendant received six months' imprisonment and five

years' disqualification only five days after committing the offence.

A short sharp shock for offenders, punishment is immediate and there is little chance to commit other offences before being dealt with by the courts.

Drink driving was chosen as it provides clear evidence and was a good opportunity to test the system and train officers who must set things rolling by completing their part of a case file before going off duty.

A shortened version of the case file

has been introduced with sufficient information for an immediate decision to be made by the CPS designated case worker, who will be based in certain police stations, on the disposal of a case.

The file will then be transferred to the first court where all the evidence will be disclosed to enable a quick decision to be made and the majority of cases will be dealt with straight away.

Under country-wide pilot schemes free legal advice has been available for defendants.

The robust approach by magistrates to the new system means that Essex Police commenced fast tracking for theft (shoplifting) this month and plan to deal with assaults in the same way in October.

Head of Criminal Justice Department, Supt Mick Thwaites, said: "We are pleased with the results so far. The pilot scheme has shown a high number of people pleading guilty. We hope that being punished quickly will deter people from re-offending. It is good for the victims to see justice being done so quickly after the offence."

Watch for the signs

EYE-CATCHING signs are springing up in Laindon declaring a new housing development a Neighbourhood Watch area.

As the Langdon Hills residential area of the town expands, Essex Police is struggling to recruit enough co-ordinators to assist in making it a crime free zone.

With little cash in the coffers to help promote the scheme, Ford's local Dunton Engineering centre has sponsored 100 colourful signs. Other donations from 'watches' can then be used to buy alarms and property marking equipment.

Pc Brett Mercer of Laindon Police, said: "By replacing our old equipment with these new eye-catching signs, we hope to trigger some interest among local residents and encourage them to join the scheme."



● Special Constable Jim Walton with local co-ordinator Mike Burchett, Dave Russell, Supt Denis Sheppard, Ron de Lemes and Robert McConnell. Photo: P.B. Photographic

Be prepared for a major Millennium test

A MAJOR test of Essex Police's Millennium readiness will take place at Headquarters on Thursday, October 7.

The electricity supply to all parts of headquarters - including FIR - will be shut down and power will be supplied by generator.

The exercise, geared to test the site's ability to cope with a maximum power cut, will start at 7am and could last as long as eight hours.

Similar tests have been carried out at divisional police stations, with no major problems.

But in a centre as big and diverse as headquarters, there is a risk of power disruption.

Millennium Project Team manager, Insp Tim Stokes said: "This is an essential part of our preparation for the arrival of the Year 2000 and I am hopeful it will go smoothly. However, everyone needs to note the date and remain aware that there can be no guarantee it will be problem-free."

If there is disruption at FIR, the fallback will be to transfer communications to a central control at Essex Police Training Centre and open divisional command rooms.

Millennium update - page 5

A rose for a rose

'VALIANT Heart' is the aptly named new rose dedicated to the memory of constable Nina MacKay, and now available for sale to the public.

The 25-year-old Metropolitan police officer was stabbed to death whilst trying to arrest a mentally disturbed man in London in October 1997.

Nina's story was due to feature in the Channel 4 documentary *Coppers* as we went to press.

The trustee of the rose, himself a retired police officer, said: "If people would just stop and think. Try to imagine what everyday life would be like in this country without the police? Young police officers like Nina deserve credit. Their selflessness in doing their job, even to the ultimate limit of sacrificing their lives, should be acknowledged."

"Purchasing the Valiant Heart rose is a simple way the public can show its appreciation."

All profits from the sale of the rose will aid the Police Benevolent Fund.

The rose is being sold for £7.50 (including p&p) from PO Box 13, Chatteris, PE16 6YD. Cheques should be made payable to Valiant Heart Rose.

Can't cut anymore

I'D like to start this month by thanking the many officers, serving and retired, who have written in over this year thanking us for the help they have received.

This is always difficult to spell out because many officers, quite rightly, do not want other people to know of their problems but it is good to hear that the office, and indeed the Federation reps on divisions, are acting in the way we would expect them to do.

The Police Federation was set up by an Act of Parliament in 1919 following the striking by some 2,000 officers in 1918. These officers were promptly dismissed from their forces, but what it did do was set the wheels in motion for the Desborough Report, which laid the foundation stones of the Police Federation.

We are controlled entirely

by serving police officers and are not affiliated or associated with any bodies outside the police service.

We are completely independent of political parties.

We do not have, or do we desire the power, to call a strike or take any form of industrial action.

There have been many other reviews of the service over the years. The one most officers will remember is The Edmund Davies Inquiry.

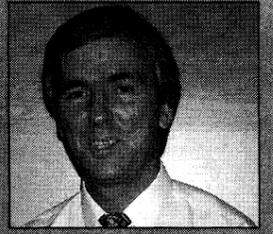
I hope Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, who recently set off on his anti-crime tour of the UK, will remember the inquiry and not seek to hit the police again with more cuts.

I know he is hoping to convince the authorities and police councils to re-double their efforts to make our streets safer.

I cannot see how you can continually squeeze the pockets of Chief Constables and still have no effect on the morale and conditions of our officers.

How can the Government give a 2.6 per cent increase in annual police budgets

Federation Newsline by Terry Spelman



(due in November) with the Association of Police Authorities warning that the figure just to maintain current levels of service should be 4.4 per cent.

More cutbacks will have to be made. You know the cuts divisions were asked to make last year. Where are the cuts going to be made this time?

The only place left will be

recruits - less officers doing more work. Does the wheel have to go around yet again before governments realise you cannot have an all singing, all dancing police force without putting the money into it.

We have been cut to the bone over recent years. Sawing it through and taking it off seems a likely outcome.

Mobile phones

STILL good offers about.

One that is only available until the September 24 is for £89.99 which includes a Motorola C520 phone, 15 months line rental, 15 minutes of calls per month, itemised billing, connection charge, carry case, car charger and hands free kit.

Call 0800 006000, quoting Police Federation.

Weekend breaks

DON'T forget our weekend breaks. Special deals at Jarvis, Moathouse, Copthorne and Friendly Hotel Groups. Call Marilyn Carr on extension 54555 for details.

Support staff pay rise agreed

UNISON has agreed the negotiated pay offer of 3.4 per cent which was recommended by the Branch.

Millennium payments

A NATIONAL PSSC claim for Millennium payments has been rejected and a civilian standby allowance of £19.82 has been announced in line with Government policy and guidance from ACPO.

This is viewed as a matter of serious concern which undermines both the collective bargaining principles and the PSSC agreement.

We have sought guidance from national officers in respect of this issue.

Shift review

CLEARLY it is intended to introduce an 11 hour extended 'flexible' start time shift pattern.

Unison concerns stem from non compliance with the EU Working Time directive, other health and safety legislation, and the anti-discrimination legislation which applies in respect of those who may be unable to change to such a pattern.

Unison has been criticised for delaying the process. Given the statements within our own health and safety and Equal Opportunities policies we are surprised that such issues have been left for us to raise.

Unison by Lee Robson

EU Working Time directive

SOME members have been critical of the perceived lack of action by Unison in respect of working time. We have challenged the non compliance since the EU Working Time directive was

Return to learn

THE Unison return to learn scheme is back for another term and any member interested in returning to education should contact their Steward or the branch office.

Health and safety inspections

MEMBERS are reminded that there are independent Trade Union safety representatives who are empowered to carry out workplace health and safety inspections. If you have a health and safety concern then contact your Steward or the branch office

If you are not a member of Unison and are interested in joining then contact ext 54995.

More and more members of support staff who have said "I thought I would never need a union" took agam-ble and lost. The rate and pace of change is snowballing and only you can make the difference.

The old and worn Trade Union cliché "united we stand divided we fall" is valid in the current economic climate. Unison is your Trade Union so make the most of it.

Eliminating bullying at work

LOCALLY we have an effective policy to eliminate the problem of bullying at work. Three years on we have yet to achieve practical progress but we have had consultation in respect of the proposed stress policy.

An independent national survey carried out for Unison by Staffordshire University discovered that two thirds of

police staff have either experienced or witnessed bullying at work.

Rodney Bickerstaffe, the General Secretary, said: "We want to work with the police to stamp out this workplace bullying. A new culture is needed in Britain's police forces to make sure that people are treated with respect and dignity."



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New fingerprint database brings instant success

WITHIN three weeks of a national fingerprint database being installed into Essex Police 78 matches have been made, including the marks from a four year old major fraud inquiry.

NAFIS, the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System, went live in Essex during the first week of August giving the county's force access to 4.5 million identifications including, for the first time, fingerprints collated by our colleagues in Hertfordshire, Kent and the Met.

And when New Scotland Yard converts the current backlog, by January next year, the total is likely to rise to 5.5 million.

Head of Scientific Support, DCI Tom Harper, is encouraged by the early success. "It's provided us with what we always wanted - a truly national database. In one particular case we had been searching for a match on AFR (Automated Retrieval System) for four years without success. NAFIS found a match first time as it was a Met police record not held on the AFR database."

The areas of Grays and Harlow have seen the biggest increase which was to be predicted due to their close proximity to London.

Said DCI Harper: "We always knew there was a lot of cross border

crime and we are already seeing a large number of hits in terms of Met villains responsible for crimes in Essex."

The current situation enables Essex Police to search the database to confirm the identity of a prisoner. By January, when the last of the backlog is converted, Essex will then become responsible for storing all newly acquired prints on NAFIS. The other good news about NAFIS is the speed in which it is detecting a match.

DCI Harper explained: "We are currently experiencing a response time of about five minutes. We just

hope that as more forces go on to NAFIS the demand doesn't slow the system down. Only time will tell."

In the meantime Essex Police will continue to run AFR alongside NAFIS until the AFR contract comes to an end in 2001.

"We are continuing to get excellent identifications from the AFR system and the additional NAFIS identifications are a real bonus," said DCI Harper.

"Computerised systems are excellent tools to help us identify criminals and must be fully utilised to justify the expense. However, the final identification will still be the responsibility of our 'human experts'."

Training under review

RADICAL changes could be in the pipeline if a review of training procedures reveals that current courses aren't meeting required needs.

One of the first jobs for the new head of the training centre, Supt Dave Murthwaite, is to ensure that the packages presently being delivered, are in line with the overall objectives of Essex Police set out in the long term strategy.

It won't necessarily mean rapid change, changes will only be radical if the review indicates a need.

As well as training packages Supt Murthwaite is also looking at staff development issues. He explained: "I want to look at the role of support managers and staff development at headquarters and see where their responsibilities lie. We need to ensure that work being undertaken by both these groups isn't being duplicated and is meeting the needs of the employees."

Big issues

Across the board there are some big issues on the horizon with the introduction of the Competency Framework, Her Majesty's Inspectorate thematic on training and a Home Office report on training for the future.

Supt Murthwaite said: "At the moment we can't tell whether we are delivering exactly the sort of training that is required. It might be that classroom training is not the right way to train our people, then again the review might show that classroom training is exactly what is required. To be sure we need to push down some traditional barriers and explore the possibilities."

One change already being explored is the use of assessment centres for chief inspector to superintendent promotions. Never used before within Essex the centres are similar to the Ospre training of the lower ranks and test the abilities of officers beyond the interview room.

"We are only dipping our feet into assessment centres at the moment," said Supt Murthwaite. "It's a practical way of seeing how well officers aspire to their job within different environments. It is clear from research that this type of assessment is more effective than interview alone, but how far Essex Police takes it will depend on the result."

At a time when cost-cutting exercises are rife Supt Murthwaite is keen to stress that cost isn't an issue in training, value is.

"We are simply challenging how effective the current situation is. We must always keep best value in mind and if any changes result in financial savings it would be advantageous, but that is certainly not the purpose of the exercise."

Offbeat

Youth teams launched

STOPPING the revolving door of youth crime is the aim behind the county's new Youth Offending Teams.

The teams are to be formed as part of the Crime and Disorder Act and interviews are taking place this month to appoint six officers as the Essex Police representatives.

These officers will work closely with representatives from Essex Social Services, Essex Probation Service, health and education authorities, to tackle youth offending. Under the terms of the Act the teams need to be in place by April 1, 2000.

The purpose of the teams is to stop the spiralling problem of re-offending among young people. In the past attention has

by Ruth Collin

been focused upon young offenders in a bid to stop them re-offending.

However, it is hoped that under the youth offending team plans can be put in place ultimately to identify likely offenders and act before their first crime is committed.

Head of the Community Safety Department's Youth Section, Insp Tina Noble, said: "Two officers will be working with the unitary authorities of Thurrock and Southend and four will be based in the rest of Essex. The Youth Offending Teams will carry out a crime and disorder audit to assess the key problem areas and formulate a youth justice plan

to address these problems. The youth plans will be updated annually."

The teams will be headed by newly appointed managers. Tania Gillett has been recruited to oversee the four teams of the new Essex region with Thurrock and Southend due to appoint in the near future.

The police officers on the teams will primarily be involved in the delivery of reprimands and final warnings. Insp Noble says she believes this will become a key part of Essex Police's role in the Youth Offending Teams. "We know that 70 per cent of youngsters who receive a caution do not re-offend. We hope that using the final warning scheme will help us deal positively with the remaining 30 per cent."

OFFICERS are investigating the disappearance of Alderney, a Womble whose foster mum is an Essex Police employee. It is believed Alderney has been kidnapped by a man impersonating a police officer. A letter has recently been received from Alderney saying she is leaving the country.

If anyone has any information please contact Womble Stoppers on 01245 452751.

Pining for release in Southend recently were a couple and their children locked into the pinshop by the shopkeeper who had closed the premises for the night.

Customer survey

FIVE years after completing a survey of visitors to police stations, Essex Police is conducting a follow-up survey.

The results will enable the force to meet Home Office requirements for a 'customer satisfaction' performance indicator, and to assess our standards of service.

They will be compared with the results of the 1994 survey, to help to identify any changes to visitors' opinions of the police service.

Face-to-face interviews are being conducted outside police stations with a cross section of visitors and exit polls conducted at each of the nine principal police stations in the county - Basildon, Chelmsford, Braintree, Colchester, Tendring, Thurrock, Harlow, Southend and Rayleigh.

Interviews are being conducted between 9am and 9pm over a seven-day week, to give a maximum representative sample, with each of the nine stations aiming for a minimum of 100 interviews.

Questions will include: - reason for visiting a station; opinions of the station entrance and waiting area; satisfaction with specific aspects of the service such as waiting time, staff attitudes and quality of advice given; service expectations and satisfaction with service and improvements.

The survey began last month and is expected to take three months to complete and analyse, with a final report prepared in October.



● Pc Jo Smith liaises with Grant (7) and Kirk (8), two of the younger residents of Brocklesmead in Harlow.

Police impact on Harlow hotspots

A JOINT police and council crime initiative has scored a major success in bringing down crime across Harlow. Now the two organisations are looking at how they can work in partnership to sustain the results.

Key targets were abandoned vehicles, vehicle crime, vandalism and other illegal activities in garage areas. Local hotspots, such as the Brocklesmead estate were targeted, but the whole town benefited.

During the operation in July there was a drop in criminal damage offences from 100 to 65 compared to May, while vehicle crime fell from 152 to 56.

All crimes reported dropped from 541 to 356.

A total of 29 arrests were made, over 40 people were reported for offences and over 300 pieces of intelligence were gathered to help deal with future crimes.

Although the main aim of the operation was to reduce crime, a longer term benefit was to make areas more crime resistant. This has involved reclaiming garages and will continue with work to improve street lighting and cut back hedgerows.

Insp Glynn Evans said: "We can say with certainty that this operation has been a big success and we will be working with the council to develop similar projects for the future."

Law letters

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

Sincere thanks to all

I am writing on behalf of my family to thank your officers for their prompt action and assistance when my husband went missing from home. At all times they were kind, helpful, sympathetic and reassuring.

Praise

You must receive many 'moans' as people are all too ready to complain, but not so eager to praise. But I have nothing but praise for the policemen that dealt with my husband's case, and in the sensitive manner in which they talked to him on his welcome return home.

Please pass our thanks in particular to Pc Winfield who was responsible for my husband's case and the officers of Brentwood and Kelvedon Hatch for their help.

Susan Regan
Brentwood

They were special days

AFTER being demobbed in the 40s, having served in the Royal Marines during the war, I, like many others decided to join the Colchester Town Special Constables.

Our role was to support the local police, mainly patrolling the town. Based at the new police station in Queen's Street and, after inspection and truncheon drill (arm out straight and baton at 12 o'clock) we would go in pairs, to patrol the town centre.

On my first night out I went with the sergeant who was to show me the ropes. We had to stop at all shop doorways and first try the knob. If that was alright he would then say "push hard with your shoulder and try the door, like this". Alas as he did so the door flew open and he fell into the shop. After reasserting himself he said that it was a poor lock.

The sergeant by the way, was a well built man and tall. I was only 5ft 5ins and skinny. The nice man that he was, he made me walk on the path and he would walk in the gut-

ter making us nearly the same height.

On another occasion during daylight, we helped a very elderly lady who was trying to cross the High Street. After proceeding across the road very slowly she looked up and said "thank you son", but alas her knickers had fallen down. Up with our capes while she adjusted her elastic and off we went.

In those days Colchester was on the whole a law abiding town. Perhaps we might arrest a drunk, no more than two, because the cells under the town hall were usually full up with cycles that were lost or stolen.

I served in the Specials for several years, never made a sergeant but I still have my certificate dated November 20, 1953, for basic instruction in Civil Defence, Aspects of Atomic, Chemical and Biological Warfare and High Explosives and Fire Fighting. How well trained we were. Those were the days when I was young, healthy and good looking.

Denzil Green MBE
Colchester

AS a police officer's widow I receive *The Law* and read with interest the case of the exhumed bodies.

In the 1950s I lived in a police house near the cemetery at South Benfleet and remember seeing a tent over a grave and a coffin being taken away from the cemetery. I do not know who was in the coffin or why it was exhumed.

My late husband, along with Det Supt Jack Barkway and other officers, were in the cemetery at the time so I think this could, in fact, have been the first exhumation in Essex Police.

E. J. Sewell, Maldon

Fraud case wasn't the first

I draw your attention to the article in the current edition of *The Law* which read "The case is the first time in living memory that Essex Police has arranged the exhumation of bodies".

This, to my knowledge is incorrect as on June 7, 1956, at 4am, the body of one Reginald Wright was exhumed in the cemetery at South Benfleet. This was, I understood the very first exhumation.

I, being the inspector at South Benfleet, was present together with the then, Ds Ronald Sewell, now deceased, and other persons concerned in the operation.

Walter Southgate, Shoeburyness

Vigilant lends a hand

I wish to formally express my gratitude to the skipper and crew of the police vessel Vigilant III for the assistance they gave me on Saturday, July 24.

My yacht Windjammer (white Jaguar 21) had been plastered with mud by 'aliens' who were not fond of the shiny white hull and deck, whilst on its mooring off The Alexandra Yacht Club (AYC). Vigilante III was quickly on the scene to express

condolences on the state of my vessel. They then let me use their high powered hose to clean the little mud grey blob alongside.

May I suggest the mounting of a Bofors gun in the bow pulpit to take out the 'aliens' as they emerge from the Three Shells Cafe? Thanks once again.

Mr D. A. Coe
Southend

Cut backs - at what price?

IN the present climate of cutbacks and cost savings, a decision was made to civilianize my position in the driving school, so I was obviously keen to apply.

Shortly before the date set for interviews my annual appraisal was returned with comments from my training manager: "another good year, we acknowledge the dedication you have shown to the driving school. Thank you."

The other contender for this position was already a member of support staff but not a police trained instructor.

Following a 40 minute interview I was informed by phone that on this occasion I

was not suitable, and that the position had been offered to the other contender.

As this vacancy was for my position on the school I was then informed that as I had over 30 years' service I could either retire or, if I wished to remain, then I could discuss my future with Career Development. Sorry, but Basildon didn't appeal to me.

I am, to say the least, somewhat bitter and angry that my previous record apparently counts for nothing. Where is 'best value' when the choice is between someone with proven 13 years' experience, and no training cost implications, or spending £8,000 on someone who's driving has not been assessed.

Should he successfully complete the instructor's course with Thames Valley

Driving School, he will have to take time to build up to the more demanding courses, such as response.

I wish him well and hope that he is treated better than I was at the end of his three year, fixed-term contract.

To enhance my feelings I applied to the Metropolitan Police Driving School in contention with six other suitably qualified police officers for the post of a civilian driving instructor. The process took a whole day during which my driving, instructional technique and presentational skills were assessed prior to a formal interview.

Guess what. I got the job.

I am sorry to leave with such bad feelings but if this is man management I think I am better off out.

Bob Farrow
Driving School

Expertise doesn't count either

KEVIN Bailey's letter (*The Law*, August) about loyalty prompted me to write on another soapbox issue - EXPERTISE.

Once upon a time Essex Police Driving School was second to none and revered throughout the UK as well as training many overseas officers to a very high standard.

I was saddened to hear of an incident recently when an Essex school car pulled into a tea stop on a run and was approached by a Cambridgeshire instructor who remarked: "Have you run out of traffic wardens then?" It is a shame that the school is now a laughing stock

when the recently advertised post of driving instructor was given to a traffic warden who had to be trained at a cost of over £5,000 - when there were already fully qualified officers waiting to step into the job, trained, I might add to first class standard.

I have also heard that the newly appointed employee can't teach police procedures to his students, which makes a mockery of it all.

Surely 30 years of expertise and loyalty count for something. Perhaps you were right Kevin!!

Pat O'Keefe, Southend

It's about casualties not cash

I AM not sure of the point R. A. White was trying to make - "Cameras are just about cash" (*The Law*, August), but to put the record straight Camera Enforcement in Essex is solely for casualty reduction.

Essex Police, Essex County Council and Essex Magistrates' Courts Committee have developed a strategy to target areas where there is a proven speed-related injury accident record.

There is firm evidence from data collected at camera sites to prove that reductions in speed also reduce the number and severity of casualties.

It is, true that any driver caught WILL be prosecuted but all our joint publicity is aimed at changing driver behaviour. We do not want to catch anyone therefore drivers who obey the law have nothing to fear.

Finally, if there is a nice little earner - HM Treasury is the only beneficiary.

Brian Ladd, Traffic Management, Headquarters

New policy sounds familiar

I refer to Issue No 309, July of *The Law* and, in particular the article on page 1 "Striking the balance".

There is nothing new in this deployment policy although there may be in the implementation.

In the days of Sir Jonathan Peel, it was, as now, a requirement that an officer would serve wherever required in the Essex Police District. When an officer had served on one station or department for five years a report had to be submitted. This report had to give reasons why the officer should not be moved, rather than why he should remain.

Reports

This was usually followed up by an interview with the divisional commander and/or the head of department following which further reports would be submitted to the Chief Constable, and consequently the officer would be moved or not. I seem to remember the phrase 'exigencies of the service' frequently being used.

I can only assume that this requirement was rescinded or allowed to fall into abeyance.

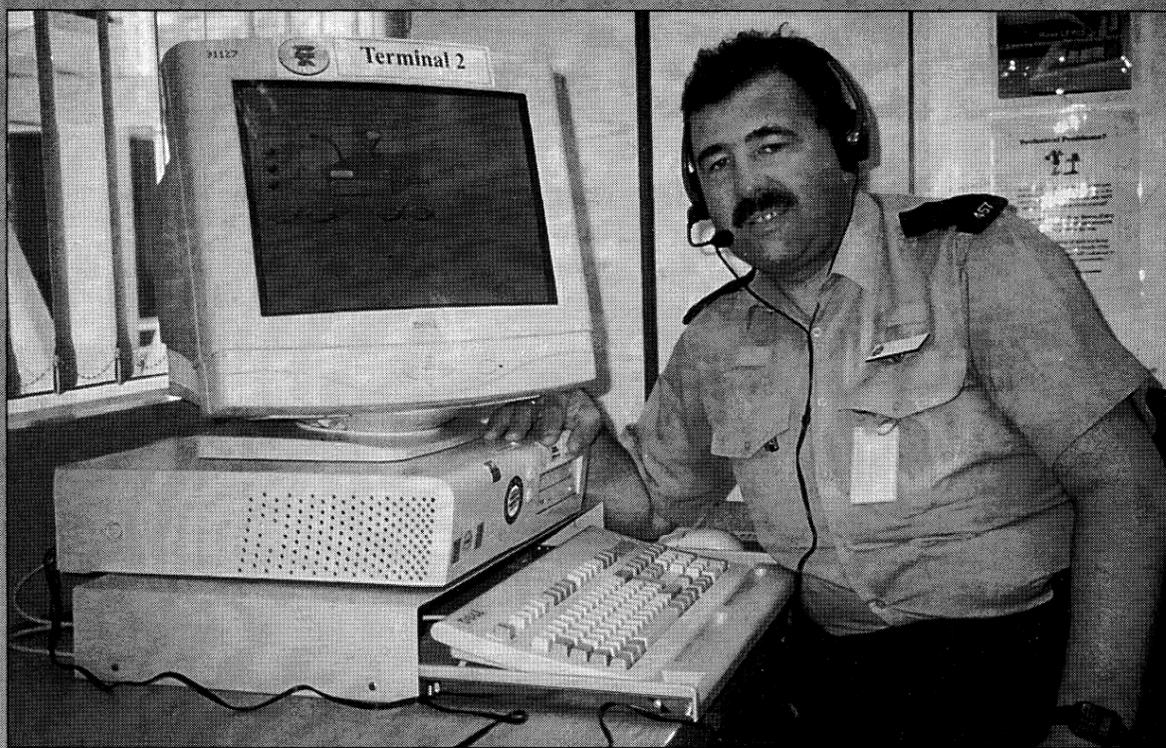
I would also like to comment on the article on page 3 "Action over increase". I am not surprised that there is an increase in calls. This is a logical expectation following the introduction of the new rural policing policy.

Residents in rural areas naturally went to, or telephoned, their village constable, who was an integral part of village life. Now that this is no longer so, they naturally go for a 999 call as, mistakenly or not, they believe it is quicker to do so, apart from the fact that the public have been educated to do so.

Telephoning a number and then being transferred to another, and ending up at a police station which could be up to 20 miles away encourages this belief.

Unless a vigorous publicity campaign is embarked upon then 999 will continue to be used.

A. C. Keeble
Colchester



● Divisional training officer, Pc Steve Daly tests out the new Stansted learning resource centre.

Localised learning

OFFICERS and support staff at Stansted can now study and brush up on new skills in the comfort of their own police station. Pilot schemes of learning resource centres in Harlow and Colchester proved so successful that a roll-out programme is now in place and Stansted is the first station to benefit.

So far divisional training officer, Pc Steve Daly, has only shown staff what the centre can offer and how to use the software, but the feedback has been extremely positive. Officers of several years' service have already come unstuck on some questions in the training packages available.

Said Pc Daly: "It just goes to show that no matter how much experience you think you have you can still learn from the resource centre."

Housing three terminals

the centre already contains packages such as Ospre and advice on everyday policing procedures. But one advantage of the centres is that they can be adapted to suit the needs of individual stations.

Stansted is a prime example, unique in terms of the airport and its international connections. Already there are four basic language packages and consideration is being given to a package on aviation security.

Pc Daly said: "The show of interest has been very encouraging. It is difficult for officers and staff when they only have the option of asking for a course at headquarters, or going to night school. The learning resource centre supplies the incentive to study."

Further details about learning resource centres can be obtained from Rose Lewis at headquarters on ext 56139.

Plans for drug referral scheme

PROPOSALS to introduce a drug referral scheme into Essex Police early in the Year 2000 are under discussion.

Community Safety officers had already begun liaising with other agencies when Home Secretary Jack Straw highlighted the high proportion of crime which is drug-related.

An extra £20 million will be made available for drug referral schemes.

Jack Straw said: "The £20 million which I am pledging today will assist the police service to meet the government's target of doubling the number of schemes this year, and providing coverage for all custody suites by 2002."

Drug arrest referral schemes are designed to put problem drug users in touch with treatment agencies after arrest. Studies of pilot schemes have shown extremely positive results in breaking the vicious circle of drug-related crime.

Invitation to Thanksgiving

PLANS are being made to hold a Service of Thanksgiving for the emergency services.

The event will be at Christ Church, Warley, on Sunday, June 25 next year, beginning at 10.30 in the morning.

Reverend Tony Pugsley has extended an invite to all members of Essex Police, so note the date in your diaries.

Essex Police hopes to receive official stamp of approval

Ready and waiting

A SEARCHING assessment of Essex Police's readiness for the Millennium has proved positive.

The force's planning was put under the microscope during an all-day visit to police headquarters last month by two assessors representing HM Inspector of Constabulary.

With no problems identified by the assessors, it is now hoped the visit will be followed by confirmation that Essex Police has been awarded the top-grade blue status under the Government's Action 2000 progress report on essential services'

Millennium countdown

Millennium preparedness.

The force is currently on amber status, which signifies there is some risk of disruption, but rectification and containment plans are in place.

Blue status certifies that no risk of material disruption has been identified.

Insp Tim Stokes, manager of the Essex Police Millennium Project Team, said: "If we receive the good news that blue status is to follow, it will be a tribute to a

great deal of hard work and attention to detail within the force.

"It is vital, of course, that we remain vigilant and committed to the objective of getting everything right throughout the Millennium period itself."

With this in mind, the programme of switching off electricity and testing police stations' ability to function by generator power is continuing.

Ten tests have taken place

to date, with no major problems emerging.

The remaining five will be as follows: Colchester - September 10; Braintree - September 23; Headquarters - October 7; Witham - October 21; Stansted Airport - November 11.

On the community front, there is still no knowledge of any major public events taking place in Essex to mark the Millennium.

Crime Division will be providing specialist support leading up to and during the Year 2000 holiday period. This will involve an intelligence-led approach to issues including crime and public order.

New dog trainer appointed

ESSEX Police Dog Section has appointed its first civilian trainer.

Paul Francis, 52, served with the Metropolitan Police as a constable for 32 years, was a dog handler for 21 years and spent the last four years as a sergeant, training other dog handlers at the Keston training school.

During his career as a handler, Paul worked with three general purpose dogs, one drugs dog and two explosives dogs.

He said: "While I was at Keston I mainly concentrated on specialities, such as finding human remains, drugs, weapons, explosives, that sort of thing."

"I researched the use of

police dogs for passive person searches, where a dog finds someone with drugs in their possession and sits in front of them, to indicate where the drugs are.

"This was taken up by the prison service, which asked for this research, and has proved an enormous success for them in detecting drugs before they can be taken into prisons" he said.

He is currently training Sammy, a six-month-old springer spaniel, in passive searching techniques.

Since arriving in Essex, Paul said he had found the attitude of governors and handlers to be very positive.

"They are looking for change, looking for new ideas, looking to train for

different disciplines, not just general purpose dogs, or explosives, or drugs," he said.

Married, with two grown-up sons, Paul said he is thoroughly enjoying working with the Sandon-based dog section.

Head of the section, Insp Mick Gurden, said Paul's appointment could be the first of two civilian trainers in Essex.

He said: "We have two civilian posts on our establishment. Currently we are waiting to see how this appointment develops, exploring what qualities are needed, where our training needs lie, and how they can best be met."

Interview gaffs

EVERYONE suffers nerves at job interviews and police officers on promotion are no exception.

Head of Essex Police Training Centre, Dave Murthwaite, was extremely impressed by the standard of recent promotion boards held for constables aspiring to be sergeants, but recalls some of the more humorous 'slips' by some of the successful candidates.

"I will leave every stone unturned" was one candidate's pledge while another was adamant that "we must get the roll balling."

But by far Supt Murthwaite's favourite was the candidate who vowed to concentrate on "the state, wealth and welfare of the prisoner".

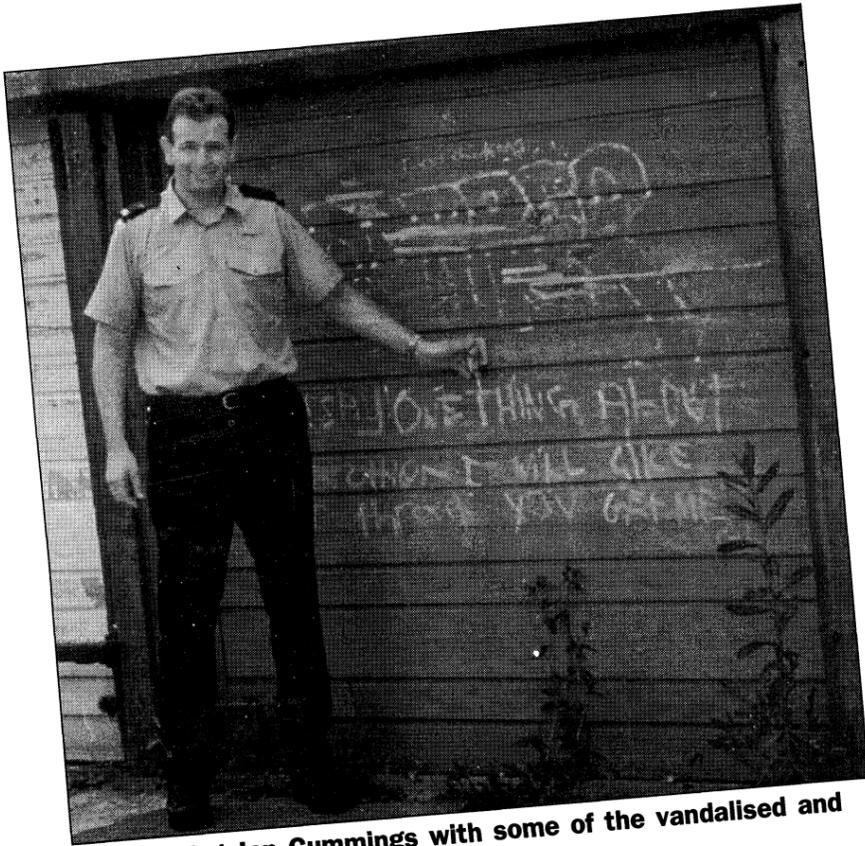
During the last selection panel 23 out of 37 candidates were successful, averaging 10 years' service and an age of 32.



● Paul Francis, with Sammy, at the Essex Police Dog Section, Sandon.

For display advertising in The Law contact Kevin Sheldon at Sentinel Publications on 01782 602510

Facing a few home truths



ABOVE: Sgt Ian Cummings with some of the vandalised and boarded garages.
BELOW RIGHT: A 'rabbit warren' of alleyways between the garages and houses create an ideal escape route for offenders.

CHANGE is in the air on a Leigh housing estate, and for the first time it's involving residents, police and the council in a drive to make life better.

The Counties Estate will be familiar to any officer who has ever patrolled the beat in Leigh.

It does not have the appearance of a trouble-hit area. Many of the 1930s council houses are now privately owned, and it's obvious that a lot of the residents take a pride in their homes and gardens.

But for the majority of residents who have to live with the nuisance caused by, as ever, the minority, and the police who have to deal with it, the reality is different.

Repeated calls to the estate led to Leigh Police launching Operation Oxbridge last January.

A high profile operation, it targeted persistent offenders known to be behind most incidents of nuisance. The operation ran from January 4 to February 12 and involved local officers, traffic officers and traffic wardens.

Every vehicle on the estate was checked. The main complaint by residents - that they didn't see enough police - was addressed by putting more officers on the beat.

In terms of arrests, the aim was to focus on those known to be behind the majority of the estate's problems. Over the six weeks, eight people were arrested, with two of them later disqualified from driving.

In addition to arrests, 30 vehicles were found

to have no tax disc and reports were made to the DVLA. Four parking tickets were issued, and one person was reported for traffic offences. There were 45 stop checks.

In all, 294 man hours were spent on the operation with an additional 32 for covert activity. And recorded crime fell by over a third - 37.5 per cent - while the operation was running.

Despite this success, the police recognised that this level of police activity could not be kept

by Alyson Mountney

up on a permanent basis so the search began to find a long-term solution.

It's early days yet, but the way forward is partnership. Bridges are being built between the police, the local Neighbourhood Watch, the residents' association and the council, to solve an historic problem once and for all.

Leigh inspector, Howard Lavarack, and Sgt Ian Cummings keep in touch with the residents and their concerns by attending local meetings and paying regular visits to the estate.

Areas have been identified as contributing to the problem, particularly two areas of poorly-lit disused or derelict garages, out of sight of the houses, where no-one wants to park.

These are linked to the streets by a network of alleyways which run, like a rabbit warren, behind the houses - an ideal escape route for an offender.

Southend Borough Council's tenant support worker, Tracey Hannington, is now on board and working with the residents to try and improve this area.

Residents have also visited a

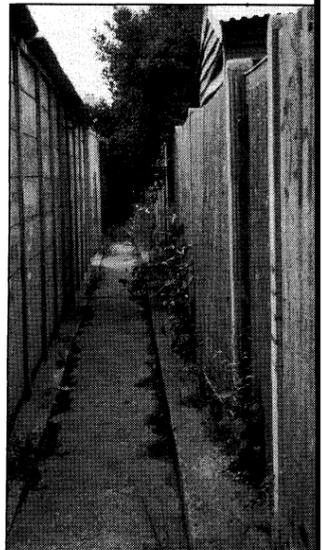
housing estate in Pitsea to see improvements which have been made there. Insp Lavarack says: "We are attending the resident meetings, listening to their complaints, trying to deal with their concerns. Operation Oxbridge isn't dead, although it has been scaled down to a degree because the next stage is consultation with the residents and the council to see where we go from here."

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator Peter King has lived on the estate for 15 years and says Operation Oxbridge made a difference. Residents are now planning to launch a football team for the youngsters, and children's party next year to celebrate the Millennium.

But he adds: "No one body can do it. We have all got to join together and get things up and running."

Jenny Dean, secretary of the residents' association, adds: "I'm starting to happen. I think a lot of the crime on the estate is down to boredom. It's the vandalism with the little ones because they've got nothing to do after school."

Her ultimate aim, she says, is to see a community centre on the estate. Whatever the solution, the Counties Estate's problem there is still a long way to go, but the seeds are already being sown.



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Payrolls move in-house

ALL correspondence relating to payroll and pensions must now be sent to Essex Police Exchequer section at police headquarters as all payroll provision will transfer to Essex Police exchequer section from the beginning of November.

Changes that will affect all staff and police pensioners will be the production of a new style payslip which will include additional information on cumulative deductions.

Reimbursement of expenses and mileage [GC70 (Gold form) claims] will be paid togeth-

er with monthly salary. All payments will be made utilising the Bank Automated Credit system (BAC's).

Those members of staff who presently receive payment for salary, expenses and mileage by cheque will be contacted by Essex Police Exchequer section in the near future to arrange alternative methods of payment.

If you require any information regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact the exchequer section at police headquarters on 01245 491491 extension 50812.

New technology on show

THIS year's three-day International Police and Security Expo held at the G-Mex Centre, Manchester attracted a record number of exhibitors and visitors

including the Home Secretary Jack Straw.

One of the main highlights of the show was the PITO stand which featured new technologies which will

be used for policing in the new Millennium.

Next year the show is moving to the NEC and will be held later in the year from October 10 to 12.

Our Year



A summary of the annual report of Essex Police and the Essex Police Authority for 1998/99



● Police Authority Chairman, Mr Anthony Peel.

First joint report on police service

THE Essex Police Authority and the Chief Constable's annual reports have, for the first time been published in the same volume.

In the report Chairman, Anthony Peel acknowledges the financial constraints on the police service.

He said: "Financially our Government grant for 1999/2000 was significantly lower than we would have wished with the result that we have had to make some difficult decisions in our budget making to ensure that the front line operational policing did not suffer.

Efficient and effective

"We are pleased to note that Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary has confirmed that the Essex Police is efficient and effective and in his report refers to the good working relationship which exists between the force and the authority, and the interest shown by the force members in the work of the force."

Under the Police Authority's Lay Visitors Scheme, particular interest has been shown in discussing conditions in custody areas of police stations with detainees, together with their treatment.

During the 12 months ending December 31, 1998 members of the Police Authority and members of the public, selected from Police and Community Consultative Groups, made 310 visits to the 27 police stations in Essex, visiting over 700 prisoners.

Very few problems were identified but examples of those reported involved graffiti in cells, decoration, heating and ventilation.

Reports, following visits, are monitored by the Chief Constable in liaison with the Clerk and a small group of members of the Police Authority.

For Chief Constable David Stevens' comments on the year see page 8.

Youth crime is a key focus of community partnerships

Sharing the responsibility

"CRIME is too important to be left to the police alone" according to Chief Constable, David Stevens.

As a result, Essex Police has led the way in formulating strong partnership links with the community to tackle crime. The introduction of the Crime and Disorder Act earlier this year has seen the implementation of challenging targets which share responsibility for community safety.

A key area of the Act is the prevention of youth offending. Essex has already made strides in its youth programme through implementation of Youth Offending Teams and the National Drugs Strategy.

Three Youth Offending Teams are being established to cover Southend, Thurrock and 'New' Essex. Each team will include representatives from Essex Police who will work with other agencies to stop the revolving door of crime amongst young people.

Spreading the anti-drugs message to youngsters has continued through the very

popular 2 Smart 4 Drugs Roadshow. In partnership with Essex FM, the event uses music, fun and excitement to tell pupils aged from 10 to 13 the facts about drugs. Independent research into the roadshows concluded that the drugs message is "much more likely to hit home when put across in this way" as children don't feel they are being lectured at. By the end of 1999, over 20,000 young people in the county will have attended the roadshow as part of their schools drugs education programme.

Racial Incident Panels are also up and running in every territorial division to tackle not only the crime itself, but also offer the opportunity, through partnerships with other agencies, to implement real solutions to local problems. Additional support and assistance is to be offered to victims and witnesses of racial crime through the Equality of Service Management Committee which has been established to develop and improve relationships with minority groups.

Divisionally, work with local groups has led to initiatives to target specific problem areas. For example, in Uttlesford, the District Council, taxi firms and Essex Police have joined together to form Taxi Watch, believed to be the first of its kind in the country. As well as promoting safe travel, it's hoped the

scheme will also provide vital information to the police about missing or wanted people.

Enforcement and intelligence work with other agencies has also led to a reduction in auto crime in Basildon. Various youth projects and diversionary schemes have been put in place in the community to direct young people away from auto and other types of crime.

Technical targets met

THE fast approach of the Millennium created a vast workload for the Information Technology staff of Essex Police during 1998/99.

But the challenge to replace old systems and ensure equipment is Year 2000 compliant was met and Essex Police has been given top-grade status for fulfilling its obligations.

Alongside this work the department has continued to work through its development programme of new and upgraded applications which are compliant with the National Strategy for Police Information Systems (NSPIS).

STORM, the new command and control system is now fully implemented along with crime recording and intelligence, the police legal database and products for vehicle procedures and fixed penalties.



● Officers in Colchester work in close partnership with the Royal Military Police.

taking a lead in making Essex safer

Our Year

Fall in complaints

COMPLAINTS made by members of the public against police officers fell by eight per cent during 1998/99.

Of the 435 complaint cases, only eight were deemed serious enough to be referred to the independent Police Complaints Authority. This, once again, was a drop compared with the 11 cases referred in the previous year, nine of which were supervised investigations.

A quarter of complaints were subsequently withdrawn with 25 complaints ultimately substantiated.

Officers appearing before the Chief Constable at a discipline hearing totalled 10, and four of these had previously been convicted of criminal conduct. The hearings resulted in two dismissals, four fines, three reprimands and one caution.

Special recruits drop in number

OVER 200 inquiries were received from people wishing to become Special Constables in Essex during a national recruitment campaign.

Despite the high profile fortnight held in January and the enthusiastic response, the number of Special Constables fell by 13 per cent to 534, compared with the previous year's 590.

A number of Special Constables did, in fact, become regular police officers for Essex (14) while a further 18 joined other police forces.

Demands of full time employment, retirement and illness accounted for the loss of other voluntary officers.

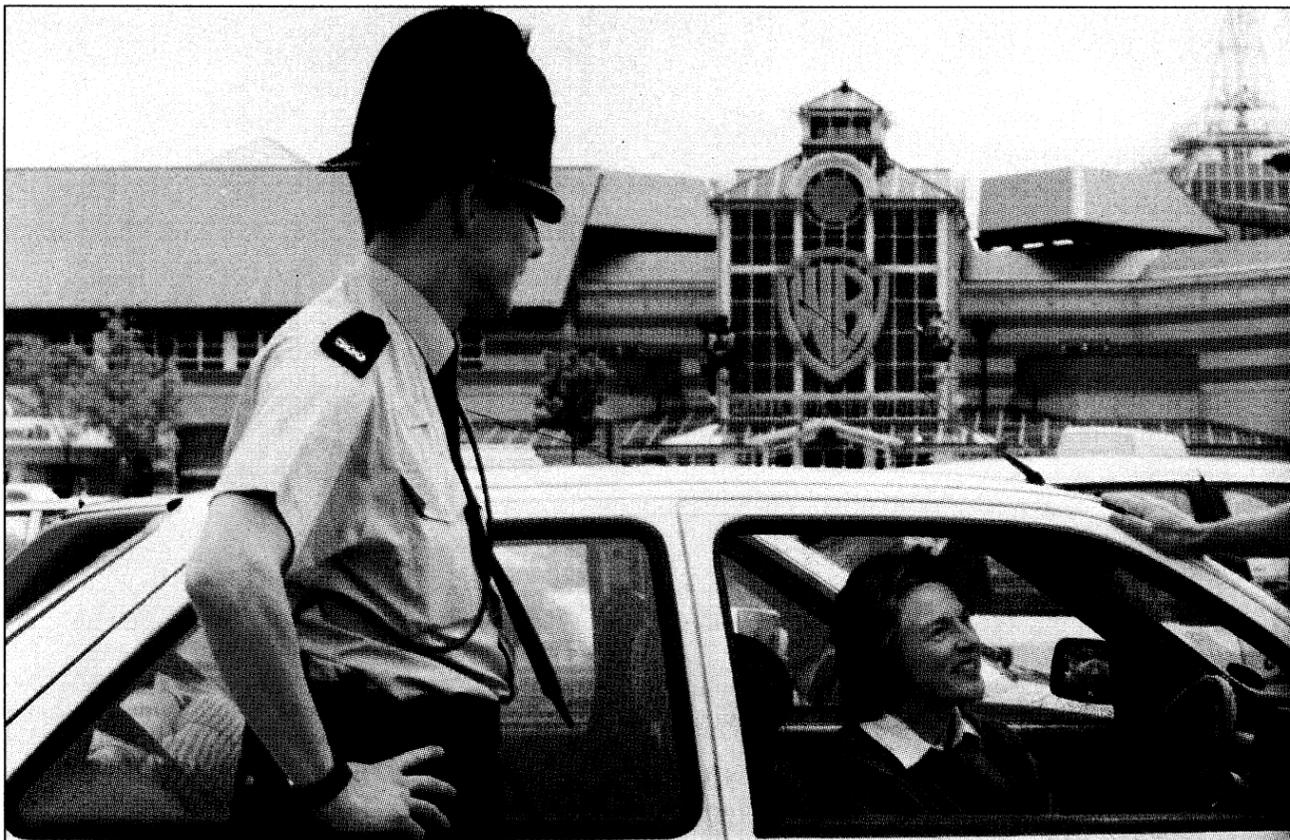
Firearm inquiries

SHOTGUN certificates in the county currently total 21,404 coupled with 3,943 certificates for the possession of other firearms.

Throughout 1998/99 Essex Police Firearms Section processed 1,783 shotgun and 470 firearm inquiries.



● Chief Constable David Stevens.



Low crime trend

BY April 1998, levels of recorded crime were at their lowest since 1990. Last year saw this trend continue.

Crime continued to fall with the total number of offences reducing by one per cent. House burglaries decreased again, this time by 6.2 per cent, and violent crime, which accounts for just seven per cent of all crime, fell slightly by 0.3 per cent.

Official statistics from the Home Office would show a different picture - a rise of nearly ten per cent. But this is because counting rules for recorded crime changed on April 1, 1998, affecting categories such as violent crime, fraud and criminal damage.

The aim behind this is to make crime figures more accurate and consistent. To allow comparisons to be made with previous years, Essex Police has used both counting systems during the year.

The past 12 months has seen a number of major investigations in the county, many involving close work with other forces.

Operation Bald Eagle saw a five-week covert operation with the National Crime Squad, after Chelmsford soft drinks company Britvic received a contamination threat. As a result of the operation, a security manager from the firm's parent company Bass Charrington was jailed for six years.

More joint operations led to the arrest and imprisonment of two serial sex attackers, both with the help of forensic evidence.

Detectives from Essex, Metropolitan and British Transport Police formed a team under the command of Det Supt Lee Weavers for Operation Catchment, which netted railway rapist Anthony Chandler.

Operation Monarch began with the rape of a teenage girl in Southend, and culminated in the jailing of Richard Baker, one of the most prolific sex offenders the south east has ever known. Essex, Sussex and the Metropolitan Police were involved in this inquiry.

The Drugs and Serious Crime Squad launched Operation Neckband, targeting a well-known criminal believed to be in possession of a large quantity of amphetamine sulphate.

Searches led to the recovery of 110 kilos of the drug, with an estimated street value of £4.38 million, and

equipment used to

A major joint took place after a shotgun, and Another man v Suffolk. The susp armed police clos

Last year, Ess partnership with community. As pa divisional comm from 14 district Authorities' to co and disorder issu

Crime and formulated and plans of each strategies are ba initiatives have b

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Impressed by continuing comm

SINCE my appointment in July 1998, I have taken the opportunity to consolidate my knowledge of the force. I have identified the need to make a number of significant changes to ensure that we are fully prepared for the challenges which lie ahead.

My focus has been one of evolution rather than revolution acknowledging the importance of securing the full and lasting commitment of both the public and the staff to the changes. Of particular note are the improvements to policing in rural Essex where our commitment to Community Police Teams of local officers working with the community has received strong public endorsement.

I have made a conscious effort to visit every station and facility around the force as part of

my familiarisation and will continue to do so.

I am impressed with the motivation, professionalism and openness of members of our organisation and the clear commitment to delivering a quality service to the community as a whole.

I am also encouraged by the close professional relationship which is continuing to develop with our partner agencies. This is not only meeting the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act but is also motivated by the clearly perceived advantages of working together to make Essex safer.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the enthusiasm, commitment and vision of my predecessor, John Burrow, who retired after 10 years in Essex, in June 1998.

John left behi

to move forward

I also wish to support which Anthony Peel Police Authority.

Finally I w appreciation for by all staff, po and support sta recorded in thi meeting, and challenge of po building on our the Millennium

Ch

taking a lead in making Essex safer

The year's finance

DURING the financial year 1998/99 the Essex Police Authority's budget strategy was, once again, very much influenced by central Government's financial settlement.

Total gross spending on services during the year totalled £189.842 million, with more than 62 per cent of this sum (£119.126m) accounted for by employee costs - excluding police pensions.

Police grant of £78.591 million represented the largest single source of the Police Authority's income, with non-domestic rates (£29.434m), revenue support grant (£20.870m), council tax (£34.676m) and other sources (£26.271) accounting for the remainder.

Capital spending of £4.315 million was approved for a programme of new schemes due to start during the year, with payments of £449,000 earmarked for projects

started in earlier years.

These figures were revised during the year, with total payments finally approved of £5.192 million, comprising £2.380 million for schemes started in earlier years and £2.812 million for schemes started in 1998/99.

Projects completed during the year included improvements at Brentwood, Billericay and Clacton Police Stations and works at police headquarters and Essex Police Training Centre.

In addition, as part of the consortium with Cambridgeshire Constabulary, a helicopter was purchased (handed over in April 1998), funded by Home Office grant and borrowing approval, with a cost of £958,000.

In addition new and replacement vehicles accounted for £266,000.

Investment was also made in new IT developments, with a number of systems completed by the end of the year, including a vehicle procedures and fixed penalty system, a replacement firearms licensing system and a national legal database.

Measuring performance

- The number of letters of appreciation and external commendations received per 100 officers was 53.9 during 1998/99.
- Essex Police is committed to answering routine telephone calls from the public within 20 seconds. This target was met on 76.8 per cent of occasions.
- Of all the case files sent to the CPS 4.7 per cent failed to reach requisite standard at first submission.
- The number of people arrested or reported for notifiable offences was 1,119 per 100 officers and of those 55.5 per cent were prosecuted.
- The percentage of reported racial incidents which were subject to further investigation was 70.7 per cent.
- The percentage of victims satisfied with police service during the initial response to violent crime was 83.3 per cent.
- There are 7.8 Neighbourhood Watch Schemes per 1000 households.

Car thefts down

THEFTS of motor vehicles fell by 1.5 per cent in 1998/99, but thefts from vehicles increased by 2 per cent.

Rise in road casualties

THE number of people killed or injured on Essex roads rose by 0.5 per cent to 8,650.

However, while the number of slight injuries increased, the number of serious casualties fell by 12.4 per cent to 1,102.

Road deaths totalled 83.

More news on the roads

THE number of breath tests carried out on motorists totalled 29,042 with 4.1 per cent providing positive samples or refusing to take the test.

There were 6,450 road accidents in which someone was either killed or injured and in 3.3 per cent of these accidents at least one driver tested positive for excess alcohol.

Out of all the victims of road accidents surveyed throughout the year, 89.8 per cent declared their satisfaction with the service they received from Essex Police.



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ABOVE LEFT:
Officers at
Lakeside shopping
centre in Thurrock
talk to a visiting
motorist.

ABOVE:
The Underwater
Search Unit, now
part of the Marine
Unit, continues to
play a varied role
for Essex Police.

RIGHT:
Special Constables
take to their
pushbikes in
Braintree Division
as a crucial asset
to community
policing.



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Our Year

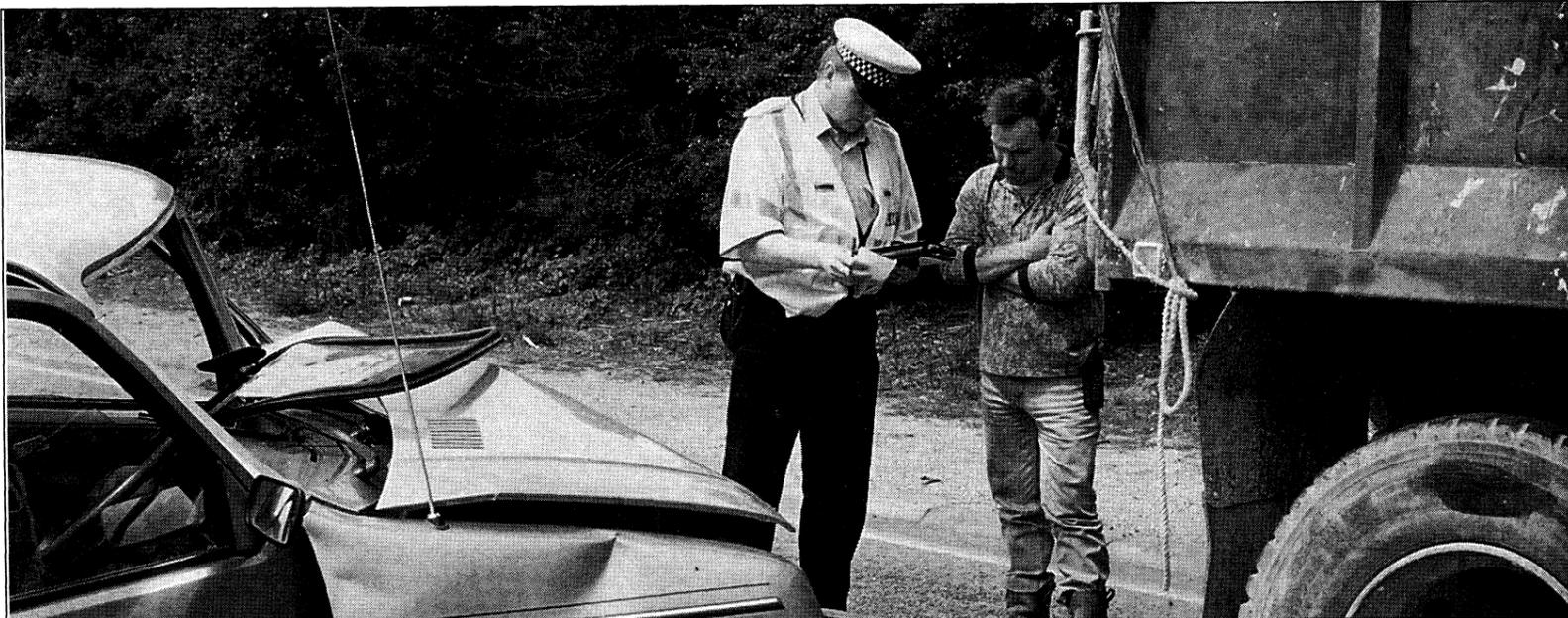
Transportation

THERE was a significant review of the fleet of 700 police vehicles which cover approximately 18 million miles during any one year.

Operational commanders now have greater choice control and more responsibility for the resources that they use.

As well as leading to more appropriate vehicles for the tasks in hand, it has led to significant financial savings for the force.

It means the newly restructured Transport Services Department is meeting the demands of the 'best value' ethos.



Building projects

SAFFRON Walden police station was made more accessible to disabled people in an ongoing programme by estates management.

Other large scale projects included the installation of the camera enforcement unit at Billericay and the refit of offices at Brentwood for the Drugs and Serious Crime Squad.

Rural review leads to significant change

FOLLOWING an extensive review of policing the rural areas of Essex, more than 1,000 members of the public attended 26 meetings across the county to hear the new proposals.

Over the years the police service to the rural communities had deteriorated due to unfilled vacancies and the location of detached beat police houses not meeting policing requirements.

New community policing teams were introduced in April 1999 to work with the community to reduce crime and disorder.

The teams have a nominated officer for each rural area and they are backed up by the modern, professional support of a policing team and a properly equipped rural section station.

Reducing nuisance

Police across the county have been undertaking various initiatives to reduce disorder and nuisance, which have resulted in a reduction in the numbers of people being reported for these offences. Residents from estates with these problems are working together with police and other agencies to try and design out some of the long term problems.

In November 1998 four officers of the Essex Police Dog Section at Sandon were in court to

answer allegations of cruelty to animal following the death of police dog Acer.

One officer was acquitted, two officers were convicted and received prison sentences, one reduced on appeal to 28 days, suspended for 12 months. Both officers were dismissed from the service and another officer was sentenced to 200 hours community service.

HM Inspector of Constabulary made recommendations about the future running of the dog section, all of which have since been adopted.

The new inspector in the section has been liaising closely with the RSPCA and working to restore public confidence in this valuable section of Essex Police.

During the year the dog section attended 16,481 incidents, making 1,357 arrests; they found 86 missing people and recovered drug with a street value of £1.5 million.

Emergency calls

DURING 1998 the Force Information Room (FIR) handled a total of 923,853 telephone calls, including 193,152 '999' calls. This was a 27 per cent increase on the previous year. The average answering time for all 999 calls was 9.1 seconds.

During the fire strike from May to July 1998 FIR doubled as the Essex Fire and Rescue Service control and successfully co-ordinated all incidents and the deployment of the Army 'Green Goddesses'.

Awarded for bravery and dedication

A POLICE woman who arrested an armed man who had just stabbed his wife, was awarded the Wilson Trophy for the most meritorious act of 1998/99.

Pc Lorna Henderson was presented with her award at a special ceremony with the Chief Constable and Lord Lieutenant of Essex.

Among other recipients of a trophy was police dog Jasper, posthumously,

following his death in pursuit of a criminal. The Jasper Cup was presented to dog handler Pc Steven Johnson.

Two officers received High Commendations and 114 Commendations were awarded. Long service and good conduct medals were awarded to 109 officers and seven support staff received certificates.

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taking a lead in making Essex safer

Colin is expanding

KNOWN to many Chelmsford Neighbourhood Watch members as Colin the community off-line intelligence newsgatherer computer system is a technological aid to combat crime.

The email system was first used in Kent as a method of communication between police and Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators.

Essex co-ordinators liked the system and trialed it using the host computer in Canterbury.

Software was purchased for the Chelmsford Division and Neighbourhood Watch trained their co-ordinators to use the system.

There is a host computer and satellite at the police station where all crime incidents are recorded on a daily basis.

Co-ordinators dial into the system and download onto their own computer allowing co-ordinators to send and receive messages between themselves and police.

Trading Standards will shortly join the system alongside crime prevention officers, Chelmsford Borough Council, and Parkwatch.

Lost a coat?

A BLACK Next ladies raincoat, size 12, with a brooch attached, was left by an officer at Chelmsford Crown Court.

If it is your coat contact Wendy at the court on extension 61727.

Special strategy for volunteer officers

THE importance of the Special Constabulary in policing Essex is recognised in a new force strategy.

The strategy, which is nearing completion, is being produced by ACC(O) Joe Edwards.

It sets out the roles, priorities and deployment principles for Specials, describing them as "an integral and important part of Essex Police."

The strategy contains the assurance: "Essex Police will maintain a fully-integrated, trained and equipped Special Constabulary,

appropriately managed and funded, in order to help make Essex safer."

Recruitment, training, development and deployment of Specials will be properly planned, implemented and maintained.

Their priorities are given as:

- Assisting with the attainment of divisional policing plans.
- Assisting in dealing with emergencies.
- Fostering the support and trust of communities.

The document also includes a

driving policy for Specials. This empowers them to drive police cars, but not on response or routine patrol duties.

Conditions for driving include the Special having at least two years' service, being recommended by their divisional commander and having undergone competence assessment by the Essex Police Driving School and any necessary training.

Inclusion of a policy on evaluation of service will be the final step in completing the strategy.

Share your bright ideas

YOUR ideas to reduce costs or improve service are wanted by Essex Police.

The Force Suggestion Scheme has been relaunched by corporate support to try and find ways to make the service more efficient. The scheme first began in 1992 and has to date received around 1,500 suggestions and awarded several thousand pounds to staff.

Suggestions received have included amendments to forms and changes to uniform. Many ideas have already come into action including the issue of long-shank keys for the easier removal of handcuffs, simplification to procedures for taking fingerprints from deceased, and saving money by posting Neighbourhood Watch correspondence in plastic bags instead of envelopes. Several ideas have also resulted in local initiatives being developed on a divisional basis.

In addition, many ideas which may not be fully accepted do, however, lead to a re-assessment of the current procedure and associated changes are introduced.

Malcolm Taylor of Corporate Support said: "All the ideas received raise issues which could help those on the front line of policing. We are sure there are a lot more good ideas and examples of good practice out there which could benefit everyone in Essex Police."

If anyone has an idea that will lead to best value or best practice being introduced they should send details to the Project Support Office, Corporate Support, HQ.

It is also an opportunity for divisions to share ideas they've had with other areas of Essex Police.

Man survives thanks to officer's bone marrow

Help save a life

by Heather Watts

kept secret although they may correspond with each other via the trust welfare officer who makes sure identities are not revealed.

After this period has elapsed the matched pair may meet and Alexander Koller invited Stephen to his home town of Regensburg.

It was nearly three years after the transplant that Stephen and Alexander came face to face at Munich Airport.

Stephen said "I felt that I had known him a long time. We got on very well together and had similar tastes."

Their jobs, however, are totally different as Alexander works with computers for car manufacturers BMW.

A tour of the works was included in the visit along with a seven hour tour of Regensburg.

Alexander who had been ill for many

years with myeloid leukaemia prior to the bone marrow donation was still raring to go after the tour, but Stephen was exhausted.

A party was held in Stephen's honour before he returned home and during his visit he met all Alexander's family.

Stephen said: "The people that I met said I had been courageous to donate my bone marrow. I don't see it like that. Donating bone marrow caused me a minor discomfort. Alexander suffered a great deal and I have played a small part in giving him the opportunity of life."

The Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust need more donors, particularly men, as 75 per cent of would-be donors are women.

You must be aged between 18 and 40 and be in good health.

Stephen has some information packs about donating bone marrow and would be happy to talk to anyone about being a bone marrow donor on extension 60807 or The Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust can be contacted on 0990 111 533.

SCENES of Crime officer Stephen Armson-Smith was apprehensive on his journey to Germany last month, not only because he was meeting the recipient of his bone marrow, but because he had never flown before.

Stephen had been on the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust donors list for a number of years before a letter came out of the blue telling him he was a match for a person needing his bone marrow.

All he was told about that person is that it was a German man, about the same age as himself, who was married with a young daughter.

For two years following the donation the donor and recipients identities are



and

The old ...

THE 20th 999 Fayre held at Thurrock Technical College, Grays, last month attracted four to five thousand visitors and both the car park and overflow were filled to capacity.

Members of the cast from television series The Bill, including actor Bill Murray who plays Ds Don Beech, opened the fayre which offered a full programme of arena events.

Over £5,000 was raised for the three benevolent funds and local charities.

... the new

Although rain was predicted on the day of the fayre a window in the otherwise wet weekend provided everyone with a wonderful sunny day.

First police musical extravaganza

THE British Police Symphony Orchestra is hosting the first ever Festival of Police Music at the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham on Saturday, May 6, 2000.

The festival will bring together bands, choirs, pipe bands and the British Police Symphony Orchestra under one roof, intending to raise the roof.

To date about 1,000 police officers, civilian support staff and close family members have agreed to travel from all parts of the UK to take part in this unique event.

It promises to be night to remember as together with special effects lighting there will be an enormous ending with indoor fireworks.

At the moment tickets are available through the BPSO office and special rates apply to members of the constabularies who make advance bookings.

Tickets are priced at £10.50 - £16.50 (special rates apply to advance bookings).

Order forms are available from the British Police Symphony Orchestra on 01270 884347 or write to BPSO, Woodbine House, 148 Crewe Road, Alsager, Cheshire ST7 2JA or email onalexbpso@aol.com.

Cycle-free pavements

Pedal cyclists have been ordered off the pavements in a campaign to make Canvey Island a safer place.

The initiative follows concern about accident figures. Between February and the end of July there were 15 accidents involving pedal cyclists in Canvey. Seven of these were in July.

Cyclists who ride along the pavement are breaking the law and are subject to a fixed penalty fine of £20.

Sgt Simon Werrett said: "Although we are able to use the fine as a deterrent, the campaign also educates cyclists by persuasion about the danger they pose to pedestrians and themselves by riding on the pavement."



Policing impresses law students

A GROUP of law students from Chicago were visiting the county last month, to look at the work of Essex Police.

The trip was organised through Insp Peter French at Brentwood who had met up with law students through his Churchill Fellowship trip

to the United States. The students, from the College of DuPage, visited Headquarters as part of the visit. Insp French says they were particularly impressed with FIR, the Driving School and the strong community links formed by officers in Brentwood.

Officer saves man from suicide bid

SUPPORT staff, as well as officers both serving and retired, received certificates of commendation recently from Chief Constable David Stevens for their actions and professionalism.

Pc Stuart Gill, Brentwood Traffic, was commended for his professionalism, quick thinking and dedication to duty when he removed an unconscious man from a locked vehicle during a suicide attempt.

Pc Gill saw the car parked with the engine running with a hosepipe into the cabin. The doors were deadlocked from inside. He smashed the window and dragged the man out of the car. He eventually regained consciousness.

SOA Andrew Rose and custody attendant Sheila Ward, Colchester, were commended for their prompt actions in February when a young man, who had been arrested for being drunk and disorderly, collapsed and stopped breathing. They commenced CPR and mouth to mouth resuscitation, placing the youth in the recovery position until the ambulance arrived. He later made a full recovery.

Dc Carl Oldfield, South Woodham, and Dc Alison Finch, Chelmsford, were commended for the professional and sensitive way they supported a young woman who had been attacked and indecently assaulted in her home by two men. The support and care she received from the two officers enabled her to give evidence against the defendants, which resulted

in both men being convicted at Chelmsford Crown Court.

Pc Nina Mead, Canvey Island, was commended for her professionalism and dedication to duty displayed whilst off-duty when she administered CPR to a collapsed man in February outside a pub in Leigh-on-Sea. The man had stopped breathing and she and a member of the public commenced CPR and mouth to mouth resuscitation. The man later made a full recovery.

Pc Michael Spink, former Pc Michael St. Ledger and Pc Paul Rogers were commended for the calm and professional manner in which they dealt with a particularly tragic and distressing collision near Stansted Airport in January 1998 in which a mother and her daughter died but a younger child survived.

An ode to special walkers

So memorable was this year's Special's Walk that Deputy Commandant George Cook decided to share events with readers of *The Law* using rhyme.

It's '99 the walk's begun,
Oh joy, what jolly good fun.
But then disaster struck,
On Toot Hill Dave got stuck.
A four wheel drive with load,
Soon pulled that van back to the road.

At Langley's Park lunch came to pass,
Jim, Tom and Phil sat on the grass.
Food and drink were laid out too,
When out of nowhere came the moo.
Men in the middle, heifers round the edge,
Their nerve snapped and they ran for the hedge.

Terling Ford at the end of the day,
Oh God, the leader's lost two men on the way.
Whistles ignored, they were lost in the wood,
Everyone-ignored them as only they should.
Two townies, of course, at last found a road,
And the van picked them up with the rest of the load.

An inquiry was held right there on the spot,
Consensus said he should really be shot.
No gun was at hand so that was that,
George was told to eat the Commandants hat.

Young Salmon then took up the onerous task,
His face set in a stony mask.
With encouraging chorus from the Mistley crew,
You cock this up and we'll shoot you too.

Past Mistley the motley crew all went,
To regain the leadership, George hell bent.
Led from the front with his long long staff,

And followed the narrow foreshore path.
Its twists and turns followed to a 'T',
Ye Gods it's been covered by the sea.
A diversion across the fields seems sense,
Until they came to that blooming fence.

They struggled and most got over,
Many hands helped Sue into the clover.
Poor Ian really got stuck,
To the chorus of "hard flaming luck".

Harwich in sight, of joy, oh joy,
To the smiling face of Geoffrey Roy.
When he heard of the Langley affair,
Comments and teasing he did not spare.

Regarding the Command Team's rise and fall,
His comments forever etched on the lighthouse wall.

George Cook

Reply to Ramsey research

WITH reference to Jenny Chapman requesting information about incidents affecting Ramsey.

I was stationed in the Information Room at the time of the Castle public house siege.

I was on the PNC consoles monitoring channel one, when CID units radioed up and called for urgent assistance.

This caused me to alert Colin Reid (now the warrants officer at Chelmsford), who was my shift sergeant.

He listened into my incident and assisted in arranging other units, whilst I continued controlling and monitoring channel one.

Gunpoint

The text of the CID officer's message was that Paul Howe had taken hostage a man at gunpoint, having made off from police.

They were in Swiss Avenue, having chased him up Park Avenue.

The man was forced at gunpoint to drive his car - I believe it was an Austin 1100.

The car was pursued from a safe distance and the firearm unit was alerted.

The car went along Swiss Avenue, Broomfield Road, Rectory Lane, Victoria Road, to Springfield Road where the driver was forced to fill the car up with petrol at the Oasis Garage, Springfield.

The vehicle continued on at gunpoint up the A12 pursued by a plain vehicle.

The radios were run on channel one with no other air traffic permitted.

The vehicle continued to Ramsey where eventually the youth Paul Howe secured himself into the public house.

After a length of time Paul Howe came out of the pub having, I believe, released the other hostages.

He refused to put the gun down that he was carrying, was warned to put the gun down, and was eventually shot and fatally wounded.

This incident was one of the main events in my Information Room experience, and to be the first person to receive such a report of urgency from your colleagues is quite a responsibility.

I was also one of the last officers to work in the very first Information Room, where the controllers were responsible for channels one or two.

He or she would be responsible for logging by hand everything vehicles reported or were told.

This entailed controlling at any one time, cars from South Woodham Ferrers to the Herts Suffolk, or Met borders.

If you were south controller this would entail anything south of the Rettendon Turnpike, which took in Southend to Upminster on the Met border.

My life as a police officer has been varied, and incidents like Paul Howe have at times made it interesting.

One doesn't know what will happen next.

Pc Colin Reynolds
Chelmsford

New chief in probation

ESSEX Probation Service has appointed Liz Hill as Chief Probation Officer for Essex.

Liz started work as a probation officer in Northumbria and was promoted to Senior Probation Officer in 1986.

Following a short spell with Middlesex, Liz joined the Inner London Probation Service where she was responsible for the Public Interest Case Assessment Project, eventually becoming lead trainer preparing all staff for the introduction of the Criminal Justice Act 1991.

Assigned to the new post of Crown Courts Assistant Chief Probation Officer meant responsibility for creating an Inner London Crown Courts Department.

A three year secondment as an inspector with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation followed before returning to the Inner London Probation Service.

Listening to the youth

PROBLEMS with large groups of youths hanging around Halstead town centre led to the local police instigating a youth scheme.

The Halstead Youth Initiative, which is also supported by Braintree District Council, Halstead Town Council, Essex Youth Service, Education, volunteers and youth representatives, has over the last two years worked towards improving facilities for young people in Halstead and the surrounding areas.

Although there was a youth centre, questionnaires asking young people what they wanted led to the youth centre opening more and providing much more up to date facilities and activities.

A youth fair was held last year with local clubs and groups having stalls and providing demonstrations to show young people what was available for them.

A Battle of the Bands held in a local hall with local youth bands proved very successful.

For the second year running a two day Youth Fest took place in Halstead with events ranging from Thai boxing to motorised skateboarding culminating in bands and DJs in the park.

Insp Tony Sale said: "The youth initiative group have recently received charity status which means we can raise funds and apply for lottery money for our work towards providing recreational and other leisure activities for young people aged 11 to 25 living in the local area."

Join in the Millennium spirit and you could be off to India

It could be you!

A TRIP of a lifetime could be on the cards for a member of Essex Police if they take part in the Essex Millennium Festival 2000.

Set up to help improve conditions in developing countries and generate more community spirit within the county, the fund-raising project is being fully supported by the force.

The Essex Millennium Festival 2000 comprises three areas - youth, the environment and assisting developing countries.

The youth and environment projects are concentrated within the county and schemes which benefit the wider community will be awarded grants. Essex Police staff across all divisions are being encouraged to support this cause by either assisting in fund-raising or by

organising an event to help the community. Such projects could include a tree planting initiative, a sports training day for youngsters or realise a dream - perhaps a day at the police station!

Overseas, Essex Millennium Festival 2000 is supporting a project which aims to help families in poor countries to lift themselves out of the cycle of disease and poverty. Statistics show that in the developing nations 80 per cent of deaths are due to water-related diseases and these deaths include 25,000 children every day.

The Stepping Stones Project has identified an areas of Southern India called Tamil Nadu where poor health standards and polluted water are causing unnecessary suffering and death.

The project is already supported by Rotary Clubs in the county who've

funded the installation of 30 borewells and associated clean water supplies in the area. In addition, the Project is also working on improving health education and providing equipment for schools.

To provide a borehole to offer clean water for 500 people costs £1,000.

In recognition of the efforts made by police personnel, the force has agreed to fully fund a visit to India for the person who has made the greatest contribution to the cause.

The member of staff nominated will work in India as part of the project for between seven and 10 days in February.

If you can organise a fund-raising event in your division, or if you already have an event and would like to contribute all or part of the proceeds to this project, please contact Tina Starling, Public Relations Officer, at headquarters on 50770.

Team effort proves very rewarding

AMIDST the urban sprawl in the south of the county is a large rural area policed by the Rayleigh rural beat team.

The area is flanked by the River Crouch to the north with Southend to the south and includes Foulness Island.

Although rural policing may be seen as a soft option some of the officers on the Rayleigh rural team are young officers with only a few years in the job and they are finding rural policing challenging and rewarding.

Many of the communities in the area are self contained and good intelligence from residents was often passed to their local bobby.

This has not changed but it means that problems highlighted can be targeted quickly with team effort.

The public need to have confidence knowing that they have a local officer, but one that can call on, and help, others when needed.

The solution to a problem in one area may be the solution to problems elsewhere.

Officers are very happy with this new style of policing which is much more flexible including a flexibility of hours worked if required.

All the officers start from Rochford where their sergeant Bill Horsman knows what is going on in everyone's area and can pull it all together giving a greater continuity.

Wardens are no police alternative

ACPO has been looking at the issues surrounding the introduction of neighbourhood warden schemes and whilst accepting that at a local level they can have a significant part to play in the community, in helping local agencies work together to improve the quality of life, they must not become an alternative to the police.

Mr John Newing, ACPO President and Chief Constable for Derbyshire explained: "That is why we have drawn up a set of eight fundamental principals to provide a framework for their operation. Neighbourhood wardens should not for example have powers beyond those of an ordinary citizen, they should be accountable to local authorities and be properly regulated.

"Their funding should come from identifiable sources and not involve any reduction in police budgets. It is also very important that their uniform, including their uniform, should be distinct from that of the police."



● Pc Jim English with the children from Chernobyl.

Chernobyl children visit Essex

THIRTEEN children from the Chernobyl area of Belarus visited Essex Police Dog Section at Sandon, near Chelmsford.

They were accompanied by their Essex host families and members of the Witham branch of the Chernobyl Children's Project, the national charity which regularly brings groups of youngsters over to this country for respite holidays, following the nuclear power station explosion which devastated their home region.

The nine to 13-year-olds were given demonstrations of police dog training, visited the kennels and met many of the animals currently in training at Sandon.

Keith Plaister, the charity's local co-ordinator, said: "We raise a lot of

money ourselves, but that is incidental to our main purpose, which is to provide restorative holidays.

"By bringing them over here, giving them fresh air and fresh food, it helps to boost their immune systems, which have been severely contaminated by the air where they live in Belarus."

The children spent a month in Essex before returning home.

They were welcomed to Sandon by Insp Mick Gurden, head of the dog section. He said: "Being involved with dogs can be very therapeutic and we hope that by spending a couple of hours here, these children can forget their problems at home and take back with them some happy memories of their time here."

Police save pig's bacon

TWO Brentwood police officers attended a telephone kiosk in Doddinghurst Road after a reported sighting of a pink pig.

The officers, concerned that a snout was trapped inside after squealing to the police, arrived to find the pig had decamped.

When he was eventually found the pig had to be wrestled to the ground with the help of two passing workmen.

Named Smoky in a rasher moment, the pig spent two days in the kennels at Brentwood police station before going wee wee all the way to an animal refuge in Colchester.

IPA

Rayleigh commander retires

ALTHOUGH our summer activities focused on our German evening in June and trip to Monschau in July, which proved to be an outstanding success thanks to the efforts of Terri and Frank Joslin and Trevor from Lodge Coaches, our foreign trip on October 1, is much nearer home.

We will cross to Calais by shuttle where we will have a meal, visit the new museum called La Coupole which has been set up in the site of a former underground V2 launching pad, and will round the day off with a visit to shoppers paradise - Cite de Europe.

Cost of the trip for the travel only will be around £14 per head depending on the number travelling.

There are still a few places left so if you'd like to join us please call Frank Joslin.

The other event of the year for which we still have vacancies is our annual Christmas Dinner and Dance.

It is being held this year on Friday, December 3 (please note the changed date) at the Sports and Social Club (HQ).

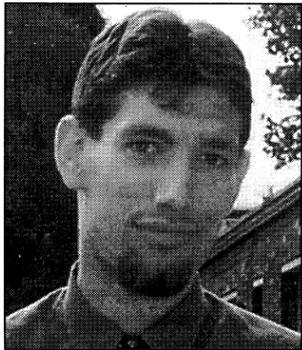
It will be the same caterers and disco as last year to get you in the mood for dancing off those pre-Christmas calories. To book for any of the above events please call Frank Joslin on 01245 602872.

Bill Fancourt
Mid Essex Branch

Retired sergeant turns to licensing

A RETIRED Metropolitan police officer has turned his focus to the licensing trade in Harlow. Simon Fisher joined as licensing officer in August after 32 years' police service, retiring as a sergeant.

He has previous experience as a licensing officer but with slightly different procedures in Essex he has a fair bit to learn before tackling any local licensing problems.



● Stefan Baltes

German guest

STEFAN Baltes, who is training to become a police officer with the Cologne Police Department, has recently spent four weeks working with Southend divisional officers.

After two years training, mostly spent in the classroom, a German police officer can volunteer to spend a month with another European Community force.

Twenty-two-year old Stefan has also spent time out with patrol officers and a month with CID in his native Germany.

It will be another year before Stefan becomes a fully qualified officer.

His family have previous links with Essex Police as his father worked with Essex officers in Albania.

RAYLEIGH Divisional Commander Paul Stanley retires this month with over 33 years' service.

Also serving at Rayleigh, Insp Raymond Andrews, Child Protection, retired at the end of July after serving nearly 32 years. And after serving nearly 30 years coroners officer Alan Longhurst retires.

DI Dave Frampton, Southend, Stanway Traffic sergeant Robert Bourne and Wickford constable, David Letch retired at the end of August all having served 30 years.

Names in the news

Southend constable Lawrence Parker retires this month after over 32 years' service.

Driving school duo constables Lloyd Brown and Robert Farrow retired in August, both of them having served over 31 years.

Following 30 year's service scenes of crime detective sergeant Terence Lunn, Basildon, retires.

Sgt John Woollard, Pitsea, retired in August and

constable David Vigors, Harwich, retires this month, both of them have served nearly 27 years.

Ill health has forced the retirement of Pc Stephen Hopkins, Chelmsford, after serving nearly 18 years and constable Sharon Hurley, Leigh, after serving over 11 years.

Forced to retire on medical grounds are constable Jane Joynes, Basildon, and Pc Justin Baker, Stansted

Airport. Both officers have served six years.

Retired DCI Rod Ellis died on August 2, aged 53. Formerly serving at Grays, Witham, Regional Crime Squad and Southend, he retired in 1993 after nearly 30 years' service.

A man who was well known to many police officers, Mr Bill Richardson died on August 1, aged 71. Bill ran a shoe shop in Victoria Road, Romford, where many police officers from the Romford division of Essex County Constabulary used to buy their boots.

Peter - the unsung hero

I WRITE with reference to the death of retired DCI Peter Croxford who was a hero and whose life, if put in print, would have been a best selling novel.

I would like to relay to those who did not have the pleasure of knowing him some snippets of his life.

Born in August 1922 in the East End of London, Peter and his family soon moved to Southend-on-Sea, an area he always considered to be his home. Leaving school with few formal qualifications, he joined the Merchant Navy and, as he was underage at the time, a little white lie was required.

At the outbreak of war he was just 18 years of age and was a seaman on MV Sussex homeward bound to Liverpool from Australia. Some 300 miles off the coast of Ireland, the Sussex, carrying a cargo valued at £4 million which included cordite, was attacked by a German aircraft. It took two direct hits with one bomb going straight down one of the funnels.

Seaman Croxford, on duty in the crow's nest, was blown from his perch

falling 50ft to the deck below. Although struck by enemy machine-gun fire, wounded and badly burned by the subsequent explosions, he took up a position on the ship's anti-aircraft gun. This entailed pulling the dead bodies of his colleagues aside whilst the enemy continued to attack the vessel.

Alone and in pain, Peter continued to fire at the aircraft scoring a direct hit.

For his brave and courageous actions in January 1941, Peter was awarded the British Empire Medal by King George VI for his meritorious service in the face of intense enemy attack. He was also awarded the Lloyds medal for bravery at sea, one of only 530 medals awarded for exceptional gallantry.

In 1942, Peter joined the Royal Airforce where he flew Tiger Moths, Oxfords and Dakotas in the UK and South Africa. On discharge in 1948 he moved to Australia with his wife and baby son, Graham, where he became a sheep farmer returning to England in 1953 where he re-joined the RAF and now took to flying Meteor Jets.

After the birth of his second son Ian in 1954, Peter joined Southend-on-Sea Borough Constabulary, despite being over the age limit.

He remained a police officer for the next 28 years and his record of achievement was outstanding to say the least.

Peter was, without question, a superb detective, one who was respected not only by his colleagues, but by members of the legal profession and many of the criminals he brought before the court.

He was a natural leader, full of compassion and one who always had respect for others.

In June 1977, Peter was commended by Her Majesty the Queen for his brave conduct during an incident in which a man had discharged a shotgun numerous times at members of the public.

There is much more that could be said of Peter Croxford and the contents of this letter are the condensed version of the life and police career of a fine man.

Det Supt David Bright

Market Place

5 STAR Florida villa. Solar-heated, private pool and sunbed overlooking lake and woodland. Theme parks and attractions nearby. Villa is beautifully furnished with

air-con, four bedrooms, sleeps 10. Special offers on last available weeks. Contact 01621 850957 or 0802 475265.

BEAUTIFUL ornamental

cockatiel or large budgie cage. Gold bars, brown case and stand, very good condition, £20. Contact Wendy, Crime Support, Southend on 01702 431212 ext 30620.

CARAVAN. Bailey Pageant, 4 berth, new awning with emersion shower, fridge, oven, hob, 12/24, h/c water. Lots of extras, plus security devices, £4,500 ono. Contact 01799 541994.

DENBY green wheat dinnerware, various items from this collectable service for sale from £6 to £25 per piece. Contact Colin Elder on 01268 477072.

EARL'S Colne. Flat to let, unfurnished, one bedroom, modern, self-contained, own parking, £300 per month. Ring Dave Pink on ext 51683 or 01787 479391.

FLORIDA near Disneyworld. New luxurious air-conditioned 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom villa with private heated pool. Sleeps up to 10. Located on private estate, 11 minutes from Disneyworld and major attractions. About 150 yards from new golf course. Clubhouse, communal pool and soccer pitch facilities. Other villas for sale or rent. Contact 0191 385 6549 or 01670 713489.

FLORIDA. New 4 bedroom holiday home on private estate, Extended screened pool and deck, air-con, 2 bathrooms, sleeps 10. 15 minutes from Disney and other attractions. Nearest golf, one mile.

Available from December. Contact Dave Yarwood on 01928 735609.

FORD Mondeo, Verona 1800cc, 1998, 'S' reg, alloy wheels, a/c metallic juice green, 11,000 miles, immaculate condition, £9,500. Contact Steve on ext 22110 or 0411 147194.

FOR sale. ZZR 1100 (D4), dark green, vgc, derestricted, K&N filter, 6,000 miles, fsh, alarmed plus assecories, £4,850 ono. Contact Kieran on 01245 223616 or ext 61240.

GOOD homes wanted for cats and kittens. Ring Miss S. Parsonson on 01206 864284.

HALESWORTH, Suffolk. Two bedroom victorian cottage lovingly restored, close to town centre but near coast, Broads and lovely countryside. Weekly or weekend hire at reasonable rates. Contact Pc Taylor on 01245 324651.

HIGHLAND Holidays. Set in the wilds of the Highlands, bed and breakfast on a daily or weekly basis, in the comfort of an Austrian style home set in woods in Duthil.

Alternatively a 4 bedroom bungalow in the forest, sleeps 8 comfortably, open fire and privacy. A 20% discount for police personnel past and present. Call Andy Nunn on 01479 841717.

HOLIDAY bungalow. Bempton nr Bidlington, East Yorkshire heritage coast. Privately situated. Sleeps 4. Maintained and equipped to

high standard. Dc Pat Oxley on 01964 527531.

HOLIDAY home for rent in Orlando. New luxury detached villa, private heated pool, free floodlit tennis courts, volleyball/basketball courts and communal pool. 12 minutes to Disney. Contact Sharon on 0191 4547555 ext 61245 or 0191 4132542.

KAWASAKI ZZR1100, 1995, 'M' reg, immaculate condition, new Bridgestone tyres, braided brake hoses, yearis MoT, tax, recent full service, £4,200 ono. Graham ext 63302, or 01799 500646.

LEARN to play piano by ear. No boring scales to learn. For info call Jason on ext 52523 or 01245 604236. Very cheap rates.

PINE Lodge Hotel, Newquay, Cornwall. Ideal location for town centre and beaches. All bedrooms en-suite with tea-making facilities and colour televisions. Refurbished for 1999 season. Large car park, heated outdoor pool. Contact Roger Wheeler for brochure and tariff on 01637 850891.

PORCH awning NR Aquarius Luxe, lightweight poles, acrylic canvas, suit 7ft 6ins high caravan, less than one year old, £200. Contact 01245 491212 ext 60530.

RENAULT Safrane Executive, 'M' reg, average miles, leather trim, air-con, auto, electric windows, sunroof, cruise control, immaculate condition, long MoT and tax, £5,800 ono. Contact

01268 757628.

SEATON, Devon. Detached Canadian cedarwood chalet on small select park. Heated and fully equipped, two bedrooms. Full details on request. Contact 01404 891188.

SEABRAY fish tank, vgc, 4ft by 1ft 1inch, on unit with two cupboards and shelves, teak effect cabinet with mirrored back, £50 ono. Contact 01268 473517.

TO LET. Florida - 10 minutes from Disney World. 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom luxury villa pool. Sleeps 8 to 10. Situated on quiet Lindfields Development close to major attractions and golf courses. Private rental. Owned by serving officer. Prices from £325 per week. Price reductions on late availability. For colour brochure and price list for 1999 and 2000 ring Steve or Lyn Parry on 01446 411961.

TOYOTA Carina E 'M' reg, 1600cc, silver blue metallic, 23,000 miles, blue velour interior, electric sunroof and windows, central locking, radio/cassette, one careful owner, full service record, immaculate condition, £5,500. Contact Mary on 01268 726687.

WASHING machine, German made, vgc, good working order, £30. Glass topped oblong coffee table, £10. Top quality mahogany tv/video cabinet, £100. Contact Clive on 07931 307676.

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.

Evening of culture

BALLET fans are being given the chance to see the English National Ballet perform *Coppelia*, an enchanting story of an eccentric Dr Coppelius who brings his beautiful doll to life.

Organised by Southend Police Club, the trip would normally cost £27 including coach, but will be reduced by 10 or 20 per cent depending on the level of interest.

Fifty seats have been reserved at the London Coliseum until October, so decisions and deposits are required as soon as possible, but the trip has been arranged for Friday, January 14.

Names and deposits should be given to Mike Robertson at Southend Police station.

On the piste

BASILDON'S latest Alpine Ski Trip (BLAST) is to St Michael Im Langau, Austria February 12 to 19, 2000.

It is an excellent ski area for both beginners and intermediates and there is a large area for experts.

The trip which costs £606 per person is arranged through Equity Total Ski and the price includes half board hotel, ski hire, lift pass, lessons, flights from Gatwick and insurance.

Anyone wishing to book or requiring more details please contact Sgt Paul Smith at Wickford on extension 47125 or 01702 610149.

Sports diaries

ONCE again the Force Sports Association has produced a quantity of diaries, commencing on August 1, to incorporate a winter sporting programme.

These diaries contain a great deal of useful information, including the current rules of the association and Croker Cup, rules regarding time off for sport and the rest day rota for 1999/2000.

They are free of charge to EPSA members.

The Force Sports Secretary is distributing sufficient to divisional secretaries to allow each committee member and sporting section captain one copy each.

The reminder will be retained at the Sports shop and will be available on a first come first served basis.

Past pulling power!

LAST month's edition of *The Law*, which detailed the success of the Essex Police tug-of-war team, prompted a response from retired officers who could remember the successes of an earlier team.

From 1956 to 1958 the force retained the title of PA champions.

The photograph below, submitted by our correspondent Des Biggs, shows the 1955 team. Back row (l to r): Mills, Hammond, Insp

Payne, Biggs, Skillin. Centre: Robertson, Breeding, Brooks, White, Brooks, Arrowsmith. Front row: Cracknel (coach), ACC G. Sutton, Chief Constable Peel (captain), Supt Hodges and Edwards.



The golden years

HAVING read the good news in the last edition of *The Law* about the recent success at tug-of-war by the force team, I thought it was time to dig out the old typewriter and add some more information.

In 1955, 56 and 57 the Essex Police tug-of-war team won the PAA Championships at Oxford, Liverpool and Eastbourne. They also competed in the AAA Championships at White City.

I expect this event occurred before the present team were born so I have submitted a photograph of the 1955 team which stayed roughly the same from the next two years.

The youngest must be well in his 70s by now, and except for a few of us, competing at that big sports ground in the sky.

Des Biggs
Chelmsford

Not the first to succeed

I REFER to the latest copy of *The Law* regarding the force tug-of-war team, and wish them every success.

However, I must bring to your attention that they are not the first team to represent Essex Police.

The force had a very successful tug of war team who were police champions, representing Essex Police at the Police Athletics Association meetings from 1955 to 1957.

In addition, several divisions had their own teams which competed against many of the local firms.

The force team was made up from these divisions and headquarters.

Unfortunately some of the team have passed away, but I am sure that the members who are with us will be surprised that the excellent results achieved by the force team has not been kept in the records of the force sports club.

Ex Sgt John Smith
Clacton

Wally would be shouting even now

I MUST ask you to put the record straight regarding your article on the recent success of the force tug-of-war team.

Essex Police has been represented at the National Police Athletic Championships many times before.

Essex Police were PA Champions at Liverpool in

1956, Oxford in 1957, and Brighton in 1958. In 1959 we lost the title to the RUC at Billingham.

We competed in the British Games at the White City.

Almost every weekend members would compete in divisional teams at local fetes and competition. Our main opponents were Ford Motor Company, Barber Brothers

from Totham, Beckton Gas Works and 'K' Division of the Mets.

If the late Sgt Wally Hammond were able to read this you would hear him shouting.

I wish the new team every success.

Ray Skillin
Colchester

Celebrating 10 choral years

OUR biggest event of the autumn season is our 10th anniversary concert at Christchurch in New London Road, Chelmsford, on October 9.

The concert starts at 7pm and will also feature the Essex Police Band, the Essex Police Musical Society, our friends from the Hertfordshire Constabulary Choir and the group from the Bedfordshire Police - Folk Lore.

It looks like being an evening absolutely packed with talent and with a variety that should provide entertainment for every taste.

Tickets for the concert are £6 each and can be obtained by contacting our box office numbers, 01245 494811 or 01621 817697.

As well as the October concert we have arranged a full programme of concerts in churches and village halls around the county.

Our first performance will be at St Margaret's Church in Stanford-le-Hope on Saturday, September 25.

Tickets cost £3 and they can be obtained, together with more

information about the concert from Mr Geoff Tullett on 01375 672025.

On October 30 we are back in south Essex with a performance at St Peter's Church, Prittlewell. Details of this concert can be obtained by calling the Church Warden, Mr Jones on 01702 333520.

Although we don't have any concerts booked for November you will be most welcome at our annual Christmas Fayre at St Luke's Church, Tiptree, on November 13.

The fayre, which starts at 9am, is organised by the Friends of the Essex Police Choir. Proceeds will help us purchase new music, uniforms and transport to concerts.

On December 10 we will be supporting the Headway Charity with a concert at the Moot Hall, Colchester, starting at 7.30pm. We will be joined again by St Helena's School.

More details and ticket prices can be obtained by calling the Headway House Day Centre Appeal on 01206 547616.

● THE result of the August lottery is as follows: £1500 T. Davies, Harlow; £1000 Chief Insp Newman, HQ; £500 Pc Menzies, EPTC; £300 Ds Argles, Chelmsford; £200 J. Goldsmith, Rayleigh; £100 Ds J. Kreyling, Rochford.

Consolation prizes of £50 go to: J. Daniels, Braintree; Pc Frakes, Burnham Marine; Dc Bettis, Chelmsford; Pc Dunn, Rayleigh; Insp Heard, Chelmsford; T. Search, Leigh; Pc Howells, Rayleigh Traffic; Supt Cotgrove, HQ; A. Ball, Colchester.

Essex Police Choir

join with the

Essex Police Band

the

Essex Police Musical Society

&

Bedfordshire Police - Folklore

in a

10th anniversary concert

on

Saturday, October 9, 1999

Christchurch
London Road, Chelmsford

Tickets - £6

Booking office

Tel: 01245 494811 or 01621 817697

*Sport
and Leisure*

Sad demise of police bowls team

THE Essex Police Bowls section has probably played its final match as a team outside of the police service.

The demise of time off for force sport has brought about the collapse of the sport as a team event, with the exception of PAA competitions.

It is a shame as the section brought together serving and retired officers along with support staff and the general public in friendly, competitive sport.

The final match was held at Southend and suffered the full effect of the new regulations. Only one serving officer was available to play

and he was joined by three support staff, seven retired officers and 13 'ringers' supplied by the local club. On a good note we won.

On the domestic front, the force singles and pairs championships were held in Dunmow in July. The singles was poorly attended but still allowed some fine sport. At the semi-final stage, John Anderson (Harlow) played Alan Rees (Colchester) in a close run match.

Controversial

Alan started off the better of the two and ran into a 12-9 lead by the 14th end. John pulled back to trail just 15-13 by the 16th when there was a controversial moment. The umpire indicated that the scoreboard was wrong. He told the players it should be 14-13 and not 15.

A wrong score is unusual in bowls but, even more so this time as Alan had suffered the same fate in the previous round when a similar occurrence took place.

This time, however, Alan did not recover. John scored a maximum four shots on the very next end and pulled away to win 21-18.

In the other semi-final Ray Howard (Steeple Bumpstead) met Chris Clancey (Rayleigh). It was a tight match for the first 14 ends until Ray pulled clear from 13-12 to run out the victor and set up a repeat of the 1998 final.

As in the previous year, Ray got the Anderson blight and was soundly beaten 21-8, unable to match the superb draw play of the champion.

The pairs final was contested by three teams due to the pairing of Brian Taplin (HQ) and Ray Howard having to withdraw at the last

minute because of injury.

Alan Rees and Gary Jay (Colchester) received a bye into the final leaving the favourites and current champions, John Anderson and John Stewart (HQ) to contest a semi-final with Chris Clancey and Dave Fox (Billericay).

Superb

The match turned out to be harder than expected for the two Johns and, following some superb bowling by the underdogs, the champs only just got through 22-20.

The final went the way of form, albeit another tight match and in the end the trophy was engraved with the same two names as the past few years.

The winners of the singles and pairs moved on to the regional finals in Kent. All complained of a heavy

green which hindered skilful bowling.

In the singles John Anderson went out in the second round and suffered a similar fate with his partner John Stewart in the pairs. Beating Hampshire in the first round, in what was described as the best match of the tournament the Essex pair went down by seven shots to Thames Valley in the next round.

Other regional competitions brought no luck with the Essex four having their chances scuppered by Surrey. In the triples, Essex, the holders, were drawn against Hampshire and were no match for the strong south coast outfit. The other rink fared no better also going down to Hampshire.

Revenge was gained by Hampshire and we now have to look to next year's regional competitions.

Lucky for some

Gentleman of Essex CID

**v
May and Baker**

THIS match proved to be a 'lucky' Friday the 13th for the Detectives with good bowling and fielding restricting the home team to 199 all out.

Bowles, who at 75 was looking to carry his bat, played aggressively to an Evans delivery and was spectacularly caught one-handed by Adams diving to his right at deep mid-on.

Bloxham's superb 98 not out, using most shots in the book, ensured the Gentlemen reached the total with seven wickets to spare.

Gentleman of Essex CID

**v
The Rural Household CC**

ON the day the Queen Mother celebrated her 99th birthday the CID were cricketing in the field at Windsor.

Some good bowling from Bloxham (3-43) and some excellent fielding kept the Household total down to 187. The Detectives, however, were not able to respond and a batting collapse resulted in the Royal Bodyguards winning by 100 runs.

Gentleman of Essex CID

**v
Royston Veterans**

CID were soon in trouble having lost three wickets with less than 30 on the scoreboard. Croot was joined at the crease by Miller and together put on 75 runs with the former reaching his half-century before being run out.

The police reached an unenviable 129 before the tea interval. Payne, 3-28 off 11 overs, was the main contributor. However, Royston went on to reach the total with two wickets to spare and one over remaining.

An iron will

AN Essex policeman has taken part in one of the most gruelling sporting events in the country. Insp Mark Harman of Bocking Traffic Unit participated in this year's Longest Day Triathlon held in Wolverhampton. The event took place last month and is the only full Ironman distance triathlon to be held in England.

A field of over 200 competitors took part having to swim, bike and run 140 miles within 15-and-a-half hours.

The race began at 6am with a refreshing 2.5 mile swim through Gailey reservoir. This section had to be completed within two hours and some competitors went no further. Mark finished after an hour-and-a-half.

The cycle course took in 112 miles of the A5 and A41 north of Wolverhampton and strong winds made it a difficult stage. Most of the long ride was spent eating and

drinking enough to fuel the rest of the race and trying to avoid punctures.

Mark arrived at the Aldersey athletics stadium less than nine hours after the start of the race. "And I still had to run a marathon!" he said.

The final 26.2 mile stage was a run along a disused railway track.

Mark finished with a time of 13 hours and 43 minutes. "I was as tired as I have ever been in my life", he said. "I knew I wasn't going to trouble the leaders, but I was delighted to have achieved my goal of finishing this 'Ironman' race well within the cut off time." The 15-and-a-half hours completion time was over at 9.30pm, but racers continued to finish the course well into the night.

● Insp Mark Harman looked remarkably refreshed after more than 13 hours completing an Ironman triathlon.



● Insp Mark Harman was helped from the water after a gruelling two-and-a-half mile swim in the freezing waters of Gailey reservoir in Wolverhampton. He followed this feat with a nine mile bike ride and a marathon run.

Constable scores a promotion

BILLERICAY Town Ladies football team won the Russell Cup last season, beating West Ham 2-1 and have been promoted to the Greater London Premiership with the help of centre mid-field player, Pc Jo Taylor.

Fitting in football with her shift pattern at Basildon meant the Billericay side was an ideal choice for Jo.

Her love of playing football began at the Plume School, Maldon and continued with five-a-side games at Chelmsford College.

After joining Essex Police in 1996 Jo played for the Basildon police ladies five-a-side team.

Billericay Town Ladies train 1930 hours on Wednesdays at the Billericay Town Football Club.

If you are interested in joining the team then Jo can be contacted at Laindon police station.

World rank secured

CONGRATULATIONS to Pc Paul Anderson who recently represented the Great Britain canoe team in the final two races of the 1999 World Ranking series, held in Switzerland, coming 8th in both races and securing his world ranking of 13th.

Paul is now ranked 2nd national in his class.

This month he travels to Eire where he will defend his title in the Liffey Descent.



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