

# **Community Beat Officer Report & Neighbourhood Watch Bulletin**

## **April 2005**

### **New Milton and area.**

The reported crime figure for March was 156 incidents for the whole area, 31% down on last year, and means that crime for the first quarter of the year is 33% lower than 2004.

### ***New Milton 'Pub Watch' Scheme***

The scheme is now up and running. Initially the scheme is limited to the town centre and its suburbs, and includes the following list of licensed premises: Wellingtons – NM Snooker Club – The Rydal – The Wheatsheaf – Lymington & NM Football Club – The House Martin – The Oak & Yaffle – The Ashley Hotel – NM Rugby Club – The Old Barn - The Plough – The Rising Sun. At the first meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> March the assembled Licensees from these premises decided to ban three people from the outset and send a formal letter of warning to another. At the second meeting on the 30/03 a further two people were banned and another letter of warning sent. These meetings were very positive and send a clear message to would-be trouble makers. In the near future it is anticipated that the scheme will be extended to licensed premises in the out-lying areas with the co-operation of the licensees involved. The 'ring round' part of the scheme has already resulted in the arrest of a man for passing counterfeit currency in two of the town's pubs.

### ***ASBO'S & ABC'S***

In January I reported on four recently acquired ASBO'S (Anti-Social Behaviour Orders), obtained in respect of four local youths. Those orders carried some tough conditions which has curtailed the behaviour of the four directly involved, and of others, who have taken a warning from them. During this last month we have continued to tackle juvenile nuisance by using ABC'S (Acceptable Behaviour Contracts). These contracts are a lesser measure than an ASBO, and only last for six months, but used early in a developing problem, can negate the need for tougher action later. The ABC requires the offending youth to face up to their anti-social behaviour and resolve to discontinue it. They sign a 'contract' which outlines their past behaviour and spells out what is required from them. Each contract comes with specified conditions particular to the behaviour, but the 12 ABC'S recently entered into, all have the common condition of a 9.0pm weekend curfew amongst other requirements. These contracts are not a soft option. Failure to keep to the contract will give further evidence for an application for an ASBO if the need arises.

The success of ASBO and ABC applications are dependant on the evidence gathered in relation to the behaviour of the individuals involved as the conditions imposed reflect that behaviour.

Anti Social Behaviour effects us all, and in particular those who live in the locality where youths congregate. If you witness any Anti Social Behaviour please report it to the Police as the more evidence available, the more successful these applications will be in an attempt to kerb the behaviour of these troublesome youths.

### ***'Bogus Caller' Campaign***

We are re-launching an earlier campaign to maintain public awareness of those callous individuals who prey on the elderly and vulnerable.

'Bogus' callers fall into four main groups:

1. The cold caller or salesperson with the hard sales pitch, not taking

'No' for an answer.

2. The tradesman providing poor quality work at inflated prices.
3. The distraction burglar.
4. Those who use the telephone as a means to deceive.

Remember!

ALWAYS use your door chain

DO NOT let them into your home until you have checked their identity and are happy with it – if in doubt KEEP THEM OUT!

SPEAK to your neighbours and call them for support if you have an unwanted caller at your door.

KNOW your Consumer Rights.

The 'New Forest Community Safety Partnership Initiative', which is a joint enterprise involving the police, NFDC, Neighbourhood Watch and Trading Standards, has put together a free pack of information and advice and useful telephone numbers. The pack is available from the Police Station, Town Hall, Parish Council Offices and Health Centres. In addition, if any group would like a visit from either a police officer or Trading Standards to explain the campaign in more detail, this can be arranged. Contact PC Steve Jennings or PS Dave Tanner on 0845 045 45 45.

## **The Town centre – PC Steve Jennings**

There were only 25 incidents of reported crime in the town centre for the month of March. Although the number of crimes is relatively low, there were a handful which warrant bringing to your attention.

### ***Vehicle crime***

There were four incidents of cars being broken into during the month. They all occurred over the two night period 12/13<sup>th</sup> March. Two cars were forcibly entered in the Rydal PH car park on consecutive nights. One had a window smashed and the other a door lock forced. Cash and a stereo were stolen. The other two were similarly entered whilst parked and unattended overnight at the rear of shop premises.

### ***Licensed premises***

You will already have read the update regarding 'Pub Watch' and I believe that it has already begun to have an impact on disorder in the street. During March no reports of disorder were received apart from one assault which occurred in the Kebab Shop.

### ***Damage***

There were only 3 reported incidents of damage in March, but two of them were shop windows. One at Dolphin Leisure on the 03/03 and the other at the Co-op on the 05/03. Both occurred in the early hours between 1 – 3.00am.

### ***Theft***

Of the 8 reports of theft, three involved the thefts of purses and a wallet from people going about their business in the shops. Ladies be particularly aware of your purse when shopping.

### ***Funny money***

On the 28/03 a man was arrested and charged with passing counterfeit money at the Rydal and Wheatsheaf PH's. Whilst it is thought that there is only a limited amount of counterfeit currency that, from time to time, finds its way to our neck of the woods, it would be well to be in the habit of checking your £20 notes in particular, and if in business, to invest in a UV lamp.

## **Milford and Barton – PC Del Jones**

There were 34 reported offences during March.

### ***Damage***

There was a cluster of incidents of damage in the Christchurch Rd area on the night of Friday 11/03, particularly near to the convenience store. Some of the damage was caused when car badges were removed. It has been some years since we had a spate of such damage and had hoped the badge craze would not reappear. If you see youngsters hanging around car parks or parked cars in the evening please be alert to this type of crime.

### ***Vehicle crime***

There were two incidents of theft from cars in Milford during the month, and both occurred during daylight hours. On the 05/03, in the High St car park, a car had a window broken and a handbag was stolen. On the 12/03 in Norris Gardens another car was forcibly entered and a bag of CD's were stolen. Breaking into a car is quickly and easily done, so make sure that you remove all visible valuables.

### ***Burglaries***

There have been four burglaries committed in the Barton on sea area . All appear to have been committed in the evening, and all four premises suffered a forced entry through rear facing windows. Several beach huts were also forcibly entered.

## **New Milton West – PC Colin Stratton and WPC Jodie Bosworth**

This is the last beat report for Colin STRATTON who is moving on to a new challenge at Lymington. He will be replaced by WPC Christina Benfield who takes over from him at the end of April. Colin would like to say 'thank you' to everyone who has assisted him during his time on the beat.

March has been another relatively quiet month. Reported crime fell from 42 last year, to 28 this year.

### ***Davis Field to the North Milton Estate***

During the month of March we have had 8 reported assaults, up 2 on last month, 2 of these were on the footbridge linking Davis Field to the North Milton Estate. In conjunction with a multi agency partnership approach this area will be targeted as a PRIME (Problem Resolution In a Multi agency Environment) initiative.

### ***Acceptable Behaviour Contracts – 'ABC's'***

Four youths aged 16-17yrs have been signed up to contracts, acknowledging their mis-behaviour and accepting restrictions to make sure that they do not re-offend. Conditions of a 9.00pm weekend curfew apply as well as not to be groups of more than three after 7.00pm any evening, and an exclusion from the Davis Field bridge area.

### ***Burglaries***

This month has been quiet on the Industrial Estates, with only 1 reported non dwelling burglary. There were no house burglaries during March.

### ***Damage***

There have been 6 damage reports this month, but no pattern is evident as they are scattered throughout the beat area.

Domestic and neighbour disputes have risen and I would like to remind people that the New Forest Mediation service is available and keen to assist in issues that arise before the Police need to become involved. They can be contacted on 02380 710101.

## **New Milton East – PC Sam BLAKE-WATKINS**

I have now been on the beat for a month and am beginning to find my way around and make myself known. I am slowly making the acquaintance of key people in the area, both those who can assist me, as well as those who are likely to be my regular customers. If you would like to speak to me, please do not hesitate to leave a message for me on 0845 045 45 45

There were 30 reported crimes for the beat in March compared 39 in February and 85 for the same period in 2004

### ***Acceptable Behaviour Contracts – ‘ABC’s’***

As part of our efforts to counter the youth nuisance in the Ashley Recreation Ground area, 4 local youths have been signed up to contracts, acknowledging their mis-behaviour and accepting restrictions on future behaviour. The contracts include a 9.00pm weekend curfew, not to be in groups of more than three after 7.00pm any evening and an exclusion from Ashley Recreation Ground.

### ***Assaults***

There were 6 assaults during the month, the same as for February. Four of these were of a minor nature, but the remaining two do give cause for concern. Both occurred after 10.30pm when individual men were walking home. In each case the men were the victims of an unprovoked assault. The first, which took place in Manor Rd on Thursday 10/03, involved a group of young men who punched and kicked the victim, one of them cutting him on the face using a ‘craft’ type knife. The second incident occurred in Ashley Common Rd around mid-night on Sunday 27/03 when the victim was attacked from behind and punched. Any information about either of these assaults will be most welcome.

### ***Burglary***

There were only 2 reported burglaries during March. One of these involved unoccupied premises, and both were forcibly accessed from the rear. If you are going away from home, please let the police know, and perhaps a neighbour. Also, if it is possible to restrict access to the rear of your house by fencing and gates that can be locked, this could go a long way to deter most burglars.

### ***Vehicle crime***

Two vehicles were the subject of crime, both incidents occurred on the night of Saturday 12/03. In one off of Ashley Rd a car was forcibly entered by removal of the door lock and a CD player stolen. The second incident occurred in Franklin Rd where a ‘whacker plate’ and wheel barrow were taken from the back of an open truck.

### ***Public disorder***

The total absence of reported trouble in the street is worth commenting on. The 8 reports received all related to disputes between people known to each other, and were mostly of a domestic nature.

## **Hordle Beat - including Sway, Everton and Bashley**

This beat has been without its Beat Officer due to sickness for some months. This will shortly be remedied with the arrival of PC Dave Woolfrey from Lymington. The beat has been the subject of additional directed patrols in the absence of a Beat Officer. This has particularly been in response to the continuing youth problems in Sway, although things were a little quieter during March. Of the 26 crimes reported this month, 10 occurred in Hordle, 5 in Sway and 1 in Bashley. The remaining 10 incidents occurred in the rural area between.

### ***Acceptable Behaviour Contracts – ‘ABC’s’***

There have been no specific reports of disorder relating to the youth of Sway, although clearly the reported damage is the work of this element. Patrolling officers have targeted gatherings of youths in the village and details taken of those up to no good. Since last month's report 5 local youths have become subject of ABC's. They have been confronted with evidence of their mis-behaviour in the presence of their parents and have agreed to abide by a specified list of requirements to counter it. These include a 9.0pm weekend curfew, not to be in groups of more than three after 7.00pm any evening and an exclusion from the Youth Centre and Church areas in Sway, and for two of them, exclusion from Hordle Recreation Ground. Their failure to abide by the agreement will be used as evidence in any future ASBO application.

### ***Vehicle Crime***

Only one vehicle forcibly entered this month. This incident occurred overnight on the 14/03 at Hordle Church. Once again, property had been left in the car, a router, and a window was broken to steal it.

### ***Damage***

Although there were only 5 reported cases of damage during March, they are worth mentioning. Three relate to the ongoing youth problem in Sway. A car parked at the Forest Heath Hotel had its window broken by stone throwing youths on the evening of the 14/03, who were believed to have then got onto a New Milton bound train. The village church suffered damage to the vestry roof, guttering, and the Lych-gate notice board, between the 08-15/03. Damage was also caused to fencing in Station Rd. Bashley figured in the statistics this month with a double glazed window broken after midnight on the 26/03 at a property in Bashley Common Rd.

### ***Burglaries***

Three burglaries were reported, two of these were 'attempts', and the actual burglary and one of the attempts, were committed at the same property in Silver Street, possibly over a period of several days from the 02/03. In that burglary two shotguns were amongst the property stolen. The second attempted burglary occurred in Sway Rd at Tiptoe between the 08-14/03. Once again, access to the rear of each property was a factor.

### ***Non-dwelling burglaries***

Overnight on 15/03 an attempt was made to steal two agricultural machines from a shed at Downton. The following night a forced entry was made to the estate agents offices in Station Rd at Sway and a lap top computer was stolen. On the night of the 22/03 a strimmer was taken from a shed in Vaggs Lane.

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**If you would like to make any comment regarding the content of the Bulletin, or you have information that would enable us to target our patrols to address your local problem, your input would be welcomed. You can leave a message for either PS Dave TANNER or PC Steve JENNINGS on 0845 045 4545**

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**'Crimestoppers' – 0800 555 111**