

Community Beat Officer Report &

Neighbourhood Watch Bulletin

January 2006

New Milton and area

Annual Report for 2005

You may recall that this time last year we reported, that as a result of action taken in respect of juvenile drinking and anti-social behaviour, we had seen dramatic falls in reported crime during November and December 2004. Well, we maintained the pressure throughout 2005, responding to increases in reports by targeting our patrols. As a result, we have seen reduced levels of reported crime throughout 2005, and this has been despite encouraging the public to report incidents.

During 2005 there were a total of 1961 reports of crime in New Milton and the surrounding area. This amounts to a 35% fall in reported crime from the 3028 reports received in 2004!! The total reported crime for the month of December 2005 was 179 incidents, which compares to 192 reports for December 2004 and 384 reports in December 2003.

With such a dramatic fall in reported crime in 2005 it is unlikely that we will be able to achieve a similar reduction this year. This is already demonstrated by the comparison of the figures for December 2004 with that of 2005, which only show a marginal fall. So, the challenge for 2006 will be to reduce crime still further, and at least, to maintain crime at the low level of 2005.

New Milton Pub Watch

This past year has seen the successful introduction of 'New Milton Pub Watch' (NMPW) which now includes all public houses in the town and out-lying villages, a total of twenty six premises. The members have demonstrated their commitment to the Watch, and a willingness to respond firmly to violence, whether it occurs in licensed premises or on the street. Currently there are twenty-three persons banned from entering NMPW premises, four of these as a result of December incidents, and one of those being banned for five years due to the serious nature of the assault. Despite the recent additions to the 'banned' list, it is felt that the sanctions imposed by the Watch have greatly contributed to the considerable reduction in violent offending in our town centre.

An over-view of the Holiday period

Had it not been for the events of the evening of Friday the 23/12 we would virtually be reporting a trouble free Christmas. However, on that night, not only was there disorder in the Recreation Ground at New Milton, which resulted in six young people being arrested, but there were also two assaults at Ashley pubs, where a further three people were arrested. Despite these incidents December was the quietest we have had in many years.

Police Attendance at Council Meetings

Throughout this year Beat Officers have regularly attended Parish and Town council meetings to give an account to locally elected councillors and members of the public, and to answer questions. It is felt that this has been a very useful point of contact for all concerned and will be something that we will be continuing to support.

Out of the headlines

Much of police time is taken up doing things that don't warrant headlines, preparation for planned actions, and as a result of actions taken. Intelligence gathering, crime prevention and community involvement are all priorities, but priorities that can be pushed aside when the workload is heavy. So, with reported crime being so low there is time for other, less 'headline grabbing', but none the less important, police work which will be going on behind the scenes.

The general public may also be unaware of periodic commitments that can be a considerable drain on our resources, taking officers away from routine police work for hours, and sometimes days, at a time. You may be aware that over the New Year period a woman was reported missing from Barton on Sea. Sadly, the searches and

enquires made over a period of days did not locate her and her family are still anxiously waiting. Occurrences of this nature can involve all available personnel over a period of days, and yet that commitment of resources may go un-noticed by the wider community.

So, if you don't see your local beat officer for a few days, or if patrols seem a little thin on the ground at times, please give us the benefit of the doubt.

'Locks, Lights & Lookout!' Campaign

Even though Christmas is now behind us, the evenings are still dark and the need remains to be alert. Remember to use those 'locks' on your windows and doors and to leave 'lights' on when you are out in the evenings, and, as always, to be on the 'lookout' for anyone who is out of place or behaving suspiciously. Please don't hesitate to call the police concerning situations where your suspicions are aroused. Who knows better than yourself who is out of place in your street! Call us! We want to know! Tel. 0845 045 45 45

The following reports from the Beat Officers are for their respective Beats, and for the month of December:

The Town centre – PC Steve Jennings

There were a total of 47 reported crimes for the Town Centre during December, which compares to 43 reports in 2004.

Juvenile nuisance

The small increase in reported crime in the town centre in December over last year's figure, as shown above, is accounted for by that one night of disorder in the Recreation Ground on Friday the 23/12, when six people were arrested for public order offences. That evening there was considerable noise, and complaints were received. We intervened to move a large gathering of youths away, many of whom had been drinking, and arrests were made. When officers from Lymington arrived further arrests followed until calm was restored.

Damage

There were 10 reports of damage on the beat in December. In early December a car on a private drive in Whitefield Rd had its tyres slashed and a window broken on two occasions – this incident is believed to be a targeted offence at the owner. The toilet block in Spencer Rd suffered minor smoke damage when youths set fire to paper, and because of this incident, and the suspicion that youths were using the block as a shelter during the evenings, the block is now locked after 7.0pm. On the 18/12 two vehicles parked in Whitefield Rd were damaged by silver spray paint. The remaining 8 incidents were unrelated and scattered around the town.

Assaults

The only recorded assault for the Town Centre was a minor assault on a police officer during the disturbance at the Rec. on the 23/12.

Burglary

During December there was only one burglary and that was in Lymington Rd on the 14/12, when an unoccupied house was entered - the rear patio doors were forced to gain entry. Several non-dwelling burglaries occurred, most notably, on the 7/8 December, a shed in the grounds of New Milton Junior School had its padlock cropped and tools were stolen. A large builders container in Spencer Rd was also forcibly entered on the 5/12 and tools taken.

Milford and Barton – PC Del Jones

Assault

During the month of December nine assaults were reported for my area, all relatively minor and most at Barton. In a change in the recent pattern, only two this month were as a result of domestic disputes, but unfortunately once again, the majority of these assaults were drink fuelled. On the 04/12 a member of staff at the Gun was assaulted together with a customer who came to her aid, and as a result a person has been arrested and bailed pending further enquiries. Another assault occurred at a restaurant, and two more were in the street, with one or both parties in drink. Four of the remaining assaults were between people that knew each other.

Burglary

Seven dwelling burglaries have been reported for the month. I reported last month that a trend was developing, particularly in the Barton area, and as a result we have spent a great deal of time and resources in the area. I am pleased to be able to say that the trend seems, for the time being, to have shown a halt. However, I can not stress

enough the importance of home security and the need to maintain a careful watch for suspicious activity in your area.

Criminal Damage

There were six reports of damage for the month of December. One incident involved a vehicle being scratched in the High Street, Milford on the 11th Dec. Another incident of damage in the High Street has been dealt with by a colleague and persons have been arrested.

Theft

Of the nine reported thefts in December, the most public concern came from the theft of a charity box in Byron Road, Barton. A resident who had decorated their house with Christmas lights to raise money for a local charity had the cash box stolen from outside the house. The box contained about £50 in cash which was due to go to people with disabilities. If you have any information about this or any other crime please call us or you can call crime stoppers on 0800 555 111

Vehicle Crime

Three vehicle related offences were reported, including the theft of a purse from a car in Keyhaven, where the offenders smashed the car window and stole it from the glove box. A bank card from this theft was later used to purchase fuel at the Tesco Store in New Milton.

New Milton West – WPC Chrissie BENFIELD

There were 34 crimes reported during December, which compares with 48 in November.

Drugs

There have been reports of drug abuse in and around the area over the last couple of months. This last month one arrest was made for possession of drugs. If you would like to contact me in confidence I would be very interested in discussing any drug related issues, or any other issues that may affect you.

Assaults

There were only three assaults reported for this Beat in December. In each case the assault occurred within family relationships.

Thefts

The number of theft reports in December fell to 4 from 9 reports in November. It is disappointing to report that somebody removed a charity box from a Christmas light display in a garden in Pleasance Way. If you have any information regarding this incident, please don't hesitate to contact me in confidence. On a positive note, out of the 4 reports taken 2 suspects have been identified and arrested, with ongoing enquiries.

Criminal Damage

Unfortunately there has been an increase in the number of Criminal damage reports taken this month, which totalled 17. This is compared to the 5 reports taken in November. Of the reports taken, 8 relate to damage to motor vehicles. Over half of these vehicles were attacked overnight between the 3rd and the 4th December in Marry at Road and Cabot Way.

There were reports around the 4/12 of windows being smashed in the Avenue Rd and antler Drive areas. It appears that an air weapon was been used. Two reports of abusive graffiti were taken on the 4th and 5th of December in respect of damage caused in Marley Avenue and Hazelwood Avenue.

Unfortunately out of the 17 reports only 2 suspects have been identified and arrested. If you have any information that may progress any of these enquiries please contact either my self or the 0845 enquiry number listed below.

Burglary

There were 4 non-dwelling burglary reports in December. Three of these reports relate to both William's and Wick Industrial Estate. The Williams Industrial estate was targeted on the 28/12/05 where entry was gained and the contents of the safe were taken. The suspects are still unknown.

Two suspects have been located and arrested for the burglary at the Wick Industrial Estate.

New Milton East – PC Sam BLAKE-WATKINS

There were 34 reported crimes for the Beat in December, which compares to 28 for the same period in 2004.

Criminal Damage

Police received 6 reports of damage in December. These crimes were random in location, ranging from a ground floor window being smashed in Summertrees, to 3 vehicles being scratched in Manor Road, and another in Ashley Common Road. In Caird Avenue, the top course of bricks was knocked off a wall, and finally, a vehicle door handle was broken off in Lower Ashley Road. If you witness it, please report any suspicious or rowdy behaviour that might result in similar damage.

Burglary

There were four reported burglaries during December. In Manor Road an old empty handbag, which had been left in the front porch of a house to be taken to a charity shop, was stolen when the porch window was smashed to get at it. In Shaves Lane an unsuccessful attempt was made to gain access to a conservatory. In Ashley Common Road a householder just popped out to the garage, and while he was there, someone entered into the house and stole items. Finally, in Manor Road, some cash went missing from a house. Please continue to be vigilant, lock doors, windows and leave lights on when appropriate to deter, and hopefully stop, burglars.

Assaults

There were five reported assaults during December. Three of these occurred on the evening of the 23/12 and were pub related assaults. The remaining two were between people that were known to each other. .

HORDLE & SWAY – incorporating: EVERTON, BASHLEY, TIPTOE and HINTON - PC Dave WOOLFREY

December's reported crime fell back again after the rise we saw in November. The total number of reports for December was 23, this compares to 41 in November and 28 in Dec 2004.

Overall, since taking over this beat in April of last year, I believe that we have seen a significant reduction in crime in the Hordle and Sway areas. This directly reflects the trend witnessed in the rest of the Sector. December 2004 saw a massive reduction in reported crimes and yet we have none the less seen an improvement on that figure this year. In partnership with other agencies, and with the co-operation of the public, we will do all that we can to maintain this low crime trend throughout 2006, making our community a safer place to live.

Assault

Of the three assaults reported in December, two arose from an incident outside the Youth Centre in Sway. Two local youths were assaulted by a male who is currently on bail pending further enquiries.

Dwelling Burglary

December saw two burglaries, fortunately both unsuccessful. A farmhouse in Sway had its back door forced, but it is believed the intruder was scared off by the owner's dogs. An attempt was also made on a property in Blenheim Crescent at Hordle, where damage was caused but no entry gained.

Non Dwelling Burglary

A total of six burglaries of this type were reported this month. Two properties were targeted in Vaggs Lane at Hordle, where a garage and outbuildings were entered and power tools taken. A garage in Hinton was also broken into and £5000 worth of mixed power tools were stolen. A business in Arnewood Bridge Road was entered forcibly but nothing was taken. A storage barn on Bashley Road, Bashley was forced and machinery taken. Please take extra precautions if you own isolated outbuildings or business premises. We are always interested in hearing about people's suspicions concerning the behaviour of others. If you see people or vehicles, particularly in the evenings, in places that you think they should not be, give us a call and if you can, note a registration number.

Theft

There were six reported thefts during December. Council work material was stolen from the site of a cycle path under construction in Everton Road, Everton, and a house on Sway Road had a wood burning stove stolen from its grounds.

Vehicle Crime

Vehicles were broken into at Marley Mount, Sway, and the Longslade Bottom and Broadley forest car parks. Two cars, one in Hordle's Larch Close and the other in the car park of The Three Bells were targeted. Yet again, in most of these incidents, these crimes were committed due to the owners leaving valuables in the vehicles. It is apparent that many people do not realise that they are being watched while hiding bags etc in their cars.

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.

**If you have information about any crime you can call 'Crimestoppers'
0800 555 111**
