

Community Beat Officer Report & Neighbourhood Watch Bulletin

June 2005

New Milton and area

In last month's report I prepared you for an increase in reported crime during May, but expressed my hope that the low trend that we have enjoyed would continue – it did. Recorded crime for the New Milton police area for May was 167 incidents, slightly up on last month as would be expected, and compares with 295 for the same month last year – again, a 40+% fall.

'Bogus Caller' Campaign

For the third consecutive CBO Report I am raising this issue, as we are very much in the season of the 'door- to-door' operator. Elderly and vulnerable people are still falling foul of unscrupulous 'tradesmen', 'knockers' and thieves.

Please report to the police any persons seen going door to door canvassing for work, or if you think an elderly person is being taken advantage of. Remember to get any registration numbers where vehicles are involved.

'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 !

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

KNOW your Consumer Rights.

HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO SAY 'NO'.

IF IN DOUBT – KEEP THEM OUT

CALL THE POLICE – DIAL 999.

The 'New Forest Community Safety Partnership 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, New Milton Town Hall / Parish Council Offices, the Health Centres, your Local Beat Officer and Community Safety Officers. 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

Reported incidents of crime for the town centre area during May totalled 45 reports compared with 36 last month. During May 2004 we recorded 79 offences. The crime reports for May would have been significantly lower had it not been for the behaviour of two teenagers who went on a wrecking spree

over a couple of nights early in the month. Although they were arrested and admitted much of the damage caused, that is little comfort to the owners of the properties concerned.

Assaults

I am inclined to mention the incidence of this type of offence, even when it is not an issue, because the perception is that the town centre is often a violent place. Whilst assaults do occur from time to time, the number remains low. During May only 4 assaults were reported. One of these was between family members at their home, another was between children on their way to school, and the remaining two involved young adults, the worse for drink, fighting amongst themselves. Although we cannot be sure, it would appear that the tough line taken by the Police and 'New Milton Pub Watch' is having an impact both in licensed premises and on the street.

Indecent assault

At approximately 0400hrs on the 21/05 a young woman was walking home, having parked her car in lower Spencer Rd, when she was attacked and indecently assaulted. The attacker is described as being aged 20-40 yrs, slim build and tall. He was dressed in black and smelt of 'BO, drink and cigarettes.' The best crime prevention advice if you have to return home late on your own is please park your car in a well lit area and walk in the lit area yourself, have your mobile phone handy ready to dial '999' – if you think you are being followed, or are getting unwanted attention, do not hesitate to call for the police to attend!

This crime is a very rare occurrence in our area and appears to be an isolated incident. Until we locate this offender please do not hesitate to contact us should you see anyone acting suspiciously fitting the above description.

Damage

Nearly one third of this month's total crime for the beat, 13 reports, concerned damage, and six of these incidents occurred over a period of a couple of nights and involved the same two teenagers who were arrested and admitted the offences. Windows had been damaged at several shop premises and 10 windows were broken at the Junior School. The toilet block in Spencer Rd was damaged with pipes and tiles being pulled from the walls.

The only other damage caused that I would bring to public attention is that on two late evenings during the month, the 21st & 31st, cars were damaged whilst left parked and unattended in Station Rd in the vicinity of the Snooker Club

Vehicle Crime

On the night of the 26/05 five vehicles were forcibly entered and property stolen. The locations were well scattered, Mount Ave, Barton Court Rd, Camelia Gardens and York Ave. The common denominator was good quality CD players fitted to the vehicles AND OTHER VALUABLES, WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN REMOVED, HAD BEEN LEFT IN THE CAR.

Remove your valuables and the front plates of your CD players.

Distraction Burglary

Unfortunately we have another example to illustrate the need for all of us to do what we can to make our elderly and vulnerable neighbours aware of the dangers posed by 'Bogus' callers. On the afternoon of the 23/05 in a residential street near to the town centre a 90yr old lady and her daughter were confronted by two men who had entered their home uninvited. The men gave a 'story' that the electricity supply needed to be turned off to avoid an explosion. The men were smartly dressed and plausible, and the women, very concerned that they might be in danger, complied. Whilst one of the men remained talking to the women for approximately 15 minutes, the other made a thorough and untidy search of the house, stealing cash and valuables.

Milford and Barton – PC Del Jones

Burglary

This month has seen two reports of non dwelling burglaries in Barton on Sea. Tools and electrical items have been removed.

Overnight on the 19th to the 20th of May a burglary occurred in the Keyhaven area of Milford where a quantity of valuable items were stolen the total was believed to be in excess of £20,000. Two Police Officers who were on a routine patrol in the early hours of the same morning stopped a vehicle on the outskirts of Lymington. Whilst checking the males' details, furniture was located for which the male could not account he was arrested on suspicion of burglary. Police were able to locate the burgled premises and inform the 84 year old female occupant before she was aware that the offence had taken place. The male was charged and remanded in custody awaiting sentence.

Vehicle Crime

Only one vehicle reported broken into this month where electrical and hand tools were stolen. This occurred on the 31st of May, in Barton.

Youth issues

The better weather has resulted in large groups of youth gathering along to cliff top at Milford (Hordle Cliff) at the weekend in the evenings. As a consequence there has been an increase in the number of minor damage reports and litter being left in the area. These youths are often in possession of alcohol most of whom are underage. We have actively targeted these and a quantity of alcohol has been seized. It would appear the most of the youth are coming to the village from Lymington and New Milton although some local youths have been spoken to.

Drugs

Stop checks by Officers on patrol in both Milford and Barton have again yielded small quantities of drugs. Some of which have been as a result of information passed to us from the public. If you have information about any crime you can call Crime stoppers on 0800 555 111.

Beach Huts

There are still a number of reported incidents at beach huts both in Milford and Barton. Unfortunately, we are at the time of year when groups gathering on the beach are setting fires and using the beach huts as firewood. Historically, people have blamed youths for this damage but this is not always the case as other beach groups have recently been spoken to by myself and dealt with for lighting fires.

I am still working hard to get the Beach Hut Watch up and running.

Suspicious / Bogus Callers

Once again this month there have been several incidents of salesman "cold calling" at address in both Barton and Milford. These people offer services to the householder by using hard sell techniques. Householders have been put under a great deal of pressure to accept quotes from these people who then undertake poor quality work at greatly inflated prices. We have received numerous complaints from residents, who have been outraged at the methods used by these firms. In response to these complaints we have stopped and checked a great number of salesmen and workers over the last month as a result a number of people have been arrested. We have been working closely with other official organisations to assist us in dealing with these people such as Trading Standards and the Inland Revenue. In order to get the message across to the residents of Barton (where most of these incidents were taking place), we sent out warning leaflets to every household in the area, these were delivered by hand which was a huge undertaking. In order to achieve this we enlisted the help of the Neighbourhood Watch (including some from other areas), the Special Constabulary, Community Safety Officers and even Mrs PC Jones had her arm twisted into lending a hand. A big thank you to all those who helped it was wonderful to see the residents all working together deal with an issue that affected

the whole community. As a result of their hard work and the pressure applied these people have now moved on.

Mobile Police Office

For those of you say “we never see a Police Officer around here”, well now’s your chance to see one. I will be staffing the Mobile Police Office in both Milford and Barton on the following dates: Monday the 13th of June at 10.00 until 14.00 at Sea Road car park, Milford on Sea - Sunday the 19th of June at 10.00 until 14.00 at Marine Drive as near to the Café as possible. If you wish to pop along and have a chat please feel free.

New Milton West – WPC Chrissie BENFIELD & WPC Jodie Bosworth

Hopefully as locals will have noticed we have had more of a Police presence in the area of Davis Field and the North Milton Estate. This has been a result of our Crime Reduction and Environment Week (C.R.E.W), which covered the period from 23/05/05 – 30/05/05. This was a multi-agency approach to help reduce and deter crime and disorder. As a result, truancy, drugs, motoring offences and other criminal matters were targeted leading to:

- Positive drug searches where a quantity of cannabis was seized.
- Two individuals arrested for drugs.
- Numerous youths stopped and checked for truancy with the assistance from the Educational Welfare Officer – Dionne REEVE.
- Substantial intelligence gained.
- Advice from The Roads Policing Unit was given to the public and motorists outside Arnewood School and surrounding areas with regard to road safety.

Davis Field to the North Milton Estate

One of the main objectives of “C.R.E.W.” is to improve the environment in relation to community safety. Residents will agree, and have already acknowledged, that the work commenced by the Council on Davis Field Bridge has made the area a safer place to walk. Work will continue to replace the existing fencing, bollards and lighting.

ASSAULTS

During the month of May, we have received 11 assault reports, which is a substantial increase on last month. However, 6 of these assaults were between juveniles, and 5 of these were domestic, and the aggressor known to the aggrieved party.

BURGLARIES

This month, we have had 1 dwelling burglary report. This offence was committed by Bogus Callers offering to carry out work at the aggrieved’s home address. As a result of this, a leaflet drop on Bogus Callers was distributed around the area. If you require any further information regarding this, a comprehensive Bogus Callers Information Pack is available at New Milton Police Station.

DAMAGE

There have been 10 damage reports received this month, which is an increase of 5 since last month. Many occurred over the weekend of Friday 6th May – Sunday 8th May. The main area of concern was along Gore Road, with the majority of suspects being juveniles.

New Milton East – PC Sam BLAKE-WATKINS

There were 24 reported crimes for the beat in May and that compares with 84 for the same period in 2004.

Ashley Rec. Ground

During the last month there were very few calls to the police regarding the Rec. Police and Community Safety Officers regularly patrol and check the area. We are continually monitoring the local youths who have 'Acceptable Behaviour Contracts', which are proving successful. This is good news for local Residents. Please continue to report any bad-behaviour you witness, preferably at the time so that we can deal with it promptly and robustly.

Assaults

There were only 2 reported assaults during May. The first occurred in Ashley Road when a male was knocked off his bike and assaulted, the offenders may be linked to the aggrieved. The second occurred in Thornham Road and was between 'friends.'

Burglary

One burglary was reported during May. The offender was a family member. Please continue to be vigilant. I would reiterate my ongoing advice; if you are going away please let the Police know, and perhaps a neighbour. Also, if it is possible, 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

Four vehicles were the subject of crime on the beat during May. Two cars in Lower Ashley Road had items stolen. The first had its stereo stolen with no forced entry, and the other had a wing mirror stolen and damage caused to bonnet. Number plates were removed from a vehicle in Akeshill Close, and finally, a mobile phone and hat have been removed from the inside of a car in Osbourne Road car park. Please remove items of value from cars when leaving them unattended.

Indecency

On the 27/05 at approximately 2.10pm, in Manor Rd a 16year old female was approached by an unknown male who put his arms around her in an inappropriate manner. The offender is described as being in his early 20's and having short blonde hair with a fringe. He also had a cut on the left side of his bottom lip. He was wearing a light blue top with a darker blue motif on it. This is the second incident over the last two months. Please report any information regarding the identity of the offender or unusual behaviour seen in public to the Police.

Criminal Damage

There were 4 reports of damage in May. The first involved a bike which was thrown at a green-house in Frampton Close. A stone was thrown at a large lounge window in Mendip Close and a wall in Woodland Way, located next to a public path, was knocked down over a two day period. Finally, a window was smashed in a multi-occupancy residency in Lower Ashley Road; the offender was arrested for this and another matter and is now in prison.

HORDLE & SWAY – including EVERTON, BASHLEY, TIPTOE and HINTON. - PC Dave WOOLFREY

In total there were 38 reported crimes in May compared to 29 in April. Unfortunately, there are still a number of crime patterns which persist, particularly in the Sway and Hordle, these being the concerns of criminal damage and shed breaks. For these reasons, Sway and Hordle remain a priority for increased policing.

Non-dwelling burglaries

Hordle Primary School was targeted and entry gained via a window while the school was closed. Three sheds in Marks Lane Bashley, Oakenbrow, Sway and Wootton Road, Tiptoe were forced and electrical gardening equipment stolen. A garage in Tiptoe Road was broken into twice this month. We must

stress the importance to keep your sheds and garages well secured and you may even wish to invest in an alarm for your out buildings and sheds.

The changing facility at the Chapel Lane football ground in Sway has been damaged and the toilet smashed beyond repair.

Damage

Sway Cricket Pavilion continues to be targeted by vandals. To combat this, we have increased our police patrols in the area and also receive regular patrols from the Community Support Officers who offer tremendous support and an extra uniform presence. We urge anyone to report any damage or nuisance to us.

Two bicycles were also damaged at Hinton Railway Station.

Vehicle Crime

Five cars were targeted on separate occasions in the Wilverley Plain car parks, with bags and personal belongings being taken. We cannot stress enough the importance of leaving your vehicles secure and taking all personal belongings out.

Two vehicles were also broken into in Westbeams Road, Sway and also a vehicle has been subjected to damage in nearby Church Lane, Sway.

Theft

On the 07/05 in the early afternoon a cash box was stolen from nurseries in Hordle Lane, when two men, described as being aged approx 16yrs and 35yrs, entered the premises it is believed from a footpath that leads to Sky End Lane. They escaped with £400 takings. Everton Nurseries were also the victim of theft, when overnight of the 05/05, £500 worth of plants were removed from the site, some of which were recovered the following day having been dumped in Everton Rd.

Police Mobile Office

I will be manning the Mobile Office on Thursday 16 June. In the morning I will park up outside the shops in Stopples Lane, Hordle. During the afternoon, I will around the main shops in Station Road, Sway. Please feel free to pop in to discuss any concerns or just for a chat.

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

'Crimestoppers' – 0800 555 111