

# **Community Beat Officer Report & Neighbourhood Watch Bulletin May 2005**

## **New Milton and area**

You may have heard on the news that Hampshire Constabulary has invested in a new computer 'record management system.' This came on line on the 1<sup>st</sup> April, and when we master it, it will greatly improve our efficiency, and hopefully result in officers having to spend less time in the police station. Until then we are on a steep learning curve, adopting new practices and trying to forget old ones.

Recorded crime for the New Milton police area for April was 147 incidents, which compares with 156 in March, and 277 for the same month last year – a 40+% fall.

## ***Busy May***

Whilst we hope that the reduced level of crime that we have enjoyed in the first quarter of the year continues, it may interest you to know that, with the exception of January, May was our busiest month last year. Since then we have seen consecutive monthly falls in total reported crime. The offences that contributed to last year's high figure were a peak in reported assaults and non-dwelling burglaries, and high figures in reported thefts and public disorder. Having made deep in-roads into these problem areas, we do not expect this May to be a repeat of last year.

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

This campaign to protect the more vulnerable in our community continues. We all know somebody, family, friend or neighbour who could be targeted by thieves and fraudsters. Please encourage any such vulnerable people known to you to be on their guard, and perhaps you could pick up an information pack on their behalf.

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 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, 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.

### ***Lost & found property***

Force policy in respect of the recording of lost and found property has also changed. Although this is still an area in which we wish to offer a service to the public, we have altered the way in which we deal with reports. This may mean, depending on the item and its value, amongst other criteria, that an item 'lost' or 'found' may not be recorded on the new system. Please continue to bring in found property, and report your lost property, and the Station Officer will explain the new system if changes are applicable to your report.

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

The month of April saw recorded crime for the town centre rise to 36 reports from the previous month's low figure of 25.

### ***Assaults***

There were only 4 reported assaults in the town area during April. Two of these assaults were between young men who were known to each other, and in each case arrests were made. One assault took place at the Rail Stn. On the afternoon of the 18/04 when a group of males got out of a car and assaulted another young man. The assault is believed to have been a case of 'mistaken identity' and the offenders remain unknown. The fourth assault was on a police officer during an arrest. Two of those dealt with for assaults were subsequently banned by New Milton Pub Watch as they considered that the assaults were related to licensed premises even though they occurred in the street.

### ***Damage***

Although instances of damage have been few in number during the past month, you may have noticed the broken shop windows in Station Rd. All of the damage arose from one incident on Friday 22/04. Two men were arrested, and an officer assaulted in the process. Charges are being considered by the Crown Prosecution Service.

### ***War Memorial Recreation Ground***

It might be apparent to those who view the Rec. daily that it has largely been returned to its designated use. Those on ASBO'S are excluded from it, and regular checks by police and CSO patrols have brought about this welcome change. One anonymous complaint was received concerning late night Friday/Saturday noise and nuisance, and I have responded to that complaint with checks on the area when I have been able. However, if there is a problem, in the Rec. or anywhere else, it would be appreciated if we could be given the chance to attend at the time.

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

April saw the number of reported incidents for the Milford and Barton Beat area fall to 20 from March's figure of 34.

### ***Bogus/suspicious callers***

There have again been several reports this month of door-to-door callers offering to buy items such as antiques, gold, coins and medals. These people often put pressure on residents to sell items, and often for a less than fair price. If you are unsure about a caller ask for some formal identification that you can verify. If they are genuine they will be happy to provide it. If you are still not happy then give us a call. There have also been some concerns about charity collectors offering to take away

unwanted items of clothing and bric-a-brac. It has been alleged that some of these people have then been reselling the items for their own profit. People can check whether a charity is genuine by contacting the Charity Commission Contact Centre on 0870 333 0123 or by visiting [www.charity-commission.gov.uk](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk).

### ***Burglary***

The number of dwelling burglaries has, thankfully, reduced again following an increase in both foot and mobile patrols in the Barton area. However, there has been an increase in "walk in theft". Insecure doors and windows give the opportunist thief an ideal target. Please secure them when not in use.

### ***Youth issues***

During the weekend that the fair was in town there were an increased number of calls to the Police about nuisance and vandalism in the roads leading up to Fawcett Field. Although we respond to these calls it is important that we are called at the time of the incident. There have been several occasions this month when the phone calls have come in the following day reporting damage.

### ***Drugs***

We have continued to conduct checks on persons and vehicles in the area and as a result several arrests have been made. The sale and use of illegal substances is something which we will continue to target, to make our towns and villages safer places to live.

### ***Beach Huts***

Earlier this month I had the pleasure of attending the Annual General Meeting of the New Forest Beach Hut Owners Association along with the Sector Inspector, John HEATH. There were many interesting issues raised, one of which being the effectiveness of patrols, both by the Police and private security employed by the NFDC. At this meeting I briefly outlined my plans for a 'Beach Hut Watch' in order to improve communication between the Police and Beach Hut Owners, and most importantly, to assist in the reduction of crime and Anti Social behaviour on our beaches.

### **New Milton West – WPC Chrissie BENFIELD & WPC Jodie Bosworth**

A fond farewell to PC Colin STRATTON, good luck at Lymington – local residents will hopefully still see something of him, as he will continue to patrol the wider area. A big "Hello" to WPC Chrissie BENFIELD, who replaces Colin and who is already settling into her beat.

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

The problems of youths riding their motorbikes on the footbridge linking Davis Field to the North Milton Estate have been targeted this month and as a result youths have been reported, charged and S.59 Police Reform Act Warnings issued (which means that if they continue with this course of action, then their bikes will be seized). A big 'thank you' to the Community Safety Officers covering New Milton for their assistance in providing the evidence for these offences.

### ***Assaults***

Over the month of April we have received 6 assault reports, which was 2 down from last month, 3 of which were between children and two of which were domestics.

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

This month, 1 youth has been put forward for the consideration of an ABC, however, we continually look for any persons causing Anti-Social Behaviour and look to you, the members of public to report these incidents.

## ***Burglaries***

This month we have received reports of 3 dwelling burglaries, which is of a concern following only 1 report last month. Two of these reports were in the Marryat Road area. Any information regarding stolen goods would be gratefully received.

## ***Damage.***

There have been 5 damage reports this month well scattered throughout the beat. In each case youths are suspects, and enquiries are still ongoing.

We have also been receiving increasing information regarding drugs in the local area and would appreciate any further details that you can provide. Contact either Crime stoppers anonymously or Hampshire Constabulary – both numbers are shown at the end of this report.

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

There were 29 reported crimes for the beat in April, the same as for March, and that compares with 81 for the same period in 2004

## ***Ashley Rec. Ground***

The youth problems at the Rec. are still subject to periodic checks by patrols and we are monitoring the effectiveness of the Acceptable Behaviour Contracts entered into by a number of local youths. Please continue reporting any mis-behaviour you witness, preferably at the time.

## ***Assaults***

There were only 4 assaults during April. Two of these were domestic, family, incidents and a third was between children. The remaining incident took place on the 02/04 in Osborne Rd, and was between two drunken males who knew each other. The good news is that there is little violence on our streets.

## ***Burglary***

There were no reported burglaries as such during April, although there was one 'attempt' on a property in Ashley Rd sometime after the 29/04. In that incident a garden spade, which had been left out by the occupier, was used to try and force entry to the house. Don't help the burglar by leaving out tools he can use. I would reiterate last month's advice; If you are going away please let your neighbour know to keep an eye on your property. 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***

Three vehicles were the subject of crime on the patch during April. A car in Dinham Rd in the first week of the month was forcibly entered and items stolen from its boot. In Park Close on the 05/04 a blue 'J' Reg. Ford Fiesta was stolen overnight and has still not been located The third incident occurred in Park Rd where a number plate was removed.

## ***Indecency***

On the 27/04 at approximately 4.45pm, an incident occurred in Manor Rd that is of concern. A man, whilst sat in a car, exposed himself to a 16 yr old girl as she passed by. The car is described as a 'P' Reg. 'Jeep' type vehicle.

## **Hordle Beat - including Sway, Everton and Bashley – PC Dave WOOLFREY**

I started my duties on the beat at the beginning of May. I was very surprised at the size of the patch for which I am responsible and am still finding my way around it with map in hand. It will take a while to get to know the area and to make contact with key people so I would ask for your understanding on

that. If however, you would like to speak with me on an issue, or just to make contact, then please do not hesitate to leave a message for me on the '0845' number and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

I am taking over the beat when reported crime is relatively low. In April there were 29 reported crimes compared with 26 in March. Despite the low number of reports, there are causes for concern, particularly in respect of the Sway youth nuisance problem, which it appears is still an issue to be tackled. This is evidenced by the number of damage reports coming from the village. Also, there has been a worrying increase in non-dwelling burglaries.

### ***Damage***

There were 8 reports of Damage during April. Of these, 5 occurred in Sway, and 4 of these were related to the Cricket ground and the Pavilion. Throughout the month, on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> the pavilion was subject of damage, and on the 30<sup>th</sup> a car was driven onto the green. This is certainly connected to the youth nuisance that Sway has been subjected to in past months. We need the public to report sightings of youths on or near the pavilion, particularly in the evenings, and any names of those involved would be appreciated.

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

Although we have not had any house burglaries on the beat, there have been 6 burglaries of out buildings, sheds, greenhouses and barns. On the 21<sup>st</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> two separate premises in Hordle Lane had power tools/mowers stolen from greenhouses. A garden shed in St. Johns Rd, Bashley was entered sometime between the 3 -18/04 and power tools taken. Also, a large agricultural mower and tractor box was stolen from a barn in Arnewood Bridge Rd on the 29/04. Make sure that your outbuildings are as secure as you can make them, and report any suspicions you might have about people you see in your area.

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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**