

Community Beat Officer Report & Neighbourhood Watch Bulletin

MAY 2006

New Milton and area

The Sector South police area, which includes Lymington and New Milton, has a new commander. Inspector Julie FRY has taken over from Stuart MURRAY who has left to take up a position at Eastleigh.

Crime during April was low, in-keeping with the trend of the first quarter of the year. Few assaults or burglaries were reported, and the figures for the other core crimes were at April 2005 levels. For those who may not have read previous CBO reports, reported crime in 2005 fell by over 30% and we have set ourselves the target of at least maintaining that low level.

Cold-calling exclusion zone

You may be aware that some concerns have been expressed in the media concerning the Barton on Sea No Cold-Calling Zone. There may well be issues that will need to be addressed if the zone is to be extended beyond the trial, such as door-to-door callers who are not selling or canvassing for business i.e. charities. These issues will be given consideration and the scheme adapted accordingly. However, the existence of the zone has already resulted in crime reduction when a 'cold-caller' was reported to the police and found to be a well known and professional burglar.

Counterfeit currency

Information has been received that counterfeit Euros are being sold in the area. It is suspected that there is also a risk that there may be counterfeit Bank of England currency coming from the same source also. Businesses should be on their guard when giving change for £20 notes.

New Milton is a safe place, but ...

... common sense must prevail. Anybody who has to walk the streets in the late evening or early hours of the morning should choose their route to avoid dark and isolated places. Keep to the well lit streets, and ladies, as an extra precaution always have your mobile phone in your hand ready to dial 999 should you feel intimidated, and don't hesitate to call if you are in any way concerned.

The Town centre – PC Steve Jennings

Overall, April was a very quiet month in the town centre, with recorded crime on a par with the low figure achieved in April 2005. Incidence of damage and public disorder for the whole month were in single figures. There were no burglaries, and only three assaults were reported.

Arson

As if to illustrate my warning last month, a commercial waste bin was set on fire late one evening in April at the back of business premises in Station Rd. On this occasion damage was limited to the bin itself. A lesser incident occurred in Fir Ave when a plastic sack was hung in a tree and set alight. Clearly somebody likes to play with matches. If you should see anybody in suspicious circumstances after dark – with or without matches – please give us a call. I would also repeat the warning not to leave large amounts of combustible waste next to commercial premises.

Recreation ground

As we move into the spring, and then early summer, we always expect to see an increase in activity in the Rec. during the late evenings. However, with April weather being unseasonably dry and mild, the problems arising from activity in this area have arrived early. Throughout the latter part of April we received an increasing number of calls. The majority voiced complaint concerning excess noise, but there were also reports of suspected drug misuse. The Rec. will continue to be the main gathering point for youths, and the focus of complaint as we head into the summer, but we will equally be focusing upon it ourselves, responding to calls received and giving it the attention of passing patrols. With the building of housing near to the skate park, misbehaviour is more likely to be

observed in the future and that may help to deter it. However, I fear that new residents in this area will also increase the number of noise complaints that we receive, and about which we can often do very little.

Spencer Rd toilets

The toilet block was again subjected to damage on three separate occasions in early April. On all occasions the doors to the toilets were forced open causing damage to the door jams and locking mechanisms. Although the regular checking of the block by myself and patrols did not prevent this damage occurring, on the third occasion when damage was caused a number of youths were checked. Some of these people were not local to New Milton. One who was, was arrested on suspicion of causing damage and admitted his involvement. The other reports of misuse seem to have stopped. I certainly have seen no evidence on my visits of drug misuse or sexual activity, and there has been no damage caused since the 07/04.

Robbery

One of the few serious crimes reported during April in the town centre, was an instance of an attempted robbery. The incident occurred in the vicinity of Whitefield Rd at its junction with Station Rd. An elderly man out walking his dog just after 6.0pm on the 23/04 was challenged by two youths aged approximately 16yrs. They demanded money from him and when he did not give them any they kicked his dog.

Milford and Barton – PC Del Jones

Burglary

Although there has only been one reported burglary for the month of April. That is one too many. Between the 29th of March and the 1st of April offenders gained entry to a property in Barton Court Ave. Once inside several valuable items were stolen. The size of the stolen items would indicate that the offenders came to the address in a vehicle possibly as small as a van.

Damage

Overnight on the 4th of April a vehicle was damaged in Farm Lane North, Barton. The offenders removed a wing mirror leaving the wiring exposed. Two vehicles parked on the Shorefield Holiday Park were severely scratched overnight on the 16th of April. There have been several similar occurrences at the same location over the past few months. Between 30th of April and the 3rd of May, a brick was thrown at a property in Highlands Road smashing a double glazed window.

Vehicle Crime

On the late afternoon of the 21st of April a vehicle parked in Milford village was entered and searched. Fortunately, nothing was stolen but a substantial amount of damage was caused. Please remember that thieves do operate in our area and will take advantage of the smallest of opportunities. Don't make it easy for them, remove all items of property from view, or better still, remove them from your vehicle all together.

General Matters

The better weather has seen an increase in the number of door to door salespeople knocking on our doors offering goods and services. Some are genuine traders but others seek to exploit vulnerable residents. If in doubt do not answer the door and contact the Police.

Groups of youths have begun to gather at various locations around the beat, particularly in the recreation ground and in Long Meadow. Last year residents put up with weeks of problems before notifying the Police. Although I am aware of most of these locations and will check them as often as possible, please feel free to contact me if you have concerns about a potential problem area. I can be contacted at New Milton Police Station on 0845 045 4545.

I have arranged for the Mobile Office to visit both Milford and Barton in the summer months where I will be available for crime prevention advice, information on local issues, or just a chat. I will be advertising dates and locations in the press shortly.

New Milton West – PC Chrissie BENFIELD & PC Kirsten TROMAN

During the month of April we have received a number of reports concerning vehicle related nuisance in the area of Davis Field, Brownsea Close and the Gore Road industrial Estate. The main problem appears to be min-motor bikes and mopeds using the footbridge as a cut through. We would be very interested in speaking with anyone

who witnesses this behaviour and could provide us with any further details, such as number plates or names of individuals. All information given will remain completely confidential.

Criminal Damage

During this month a total of 6 criminal damage reports were taken compared to the 17 reports last month. The majority of the reports relate to damaged fences and windows. One incident involved damage to a motor vehicle where the offender was located and arrested.

Assaults

Police recorded 6 assault reports this month in the New Milton West area. The majority of these reports related to juvenile assaults. Six suspects have been identified and arrested. On each of the six occasions, the aggrieved and aggressor were known to each other.

Theft

In April only one theft report was taken compared to the 4 in March. On the 21/04/06 a 'Mongoose Elite' pedal cycle was left padlocked outside of Churchill Court, Davis field. The aggrieved went off for a short period of time and upon their return the pedal cycle had gone. So far no witnesses have come forward and the pedal cycle still remains outstanding. The cycle, valued at £300 is white in colour with orange markings. If you have any information that may assist us to progress this investigation please don't hesitate to contact either myself or PC.Troman in confidence at New Milton Police Station.

Burglary

We received 5 burglary reports in April. Two of these were dwelling burglaries. The burglaries are not area specific, with no one area targeted. Youths involved in one burglary have been identified, arrested and charged with the relevant offences. On the night of the 13/04/06 NF 'Motor Factors' were targeted on Queensway Industrial Estate. The office door was forced and entry was gained. Despite the alarm being activated the thieves left with tools to the value of £400. If you have any information that may progress this enquiry then please contact either Crime Stoppers or New Milton Police Station in confidence.

New Milton East – PC Sam BLAKE-WATKINS

Vehicle crime

During April there were four reports of thefts from motor vehicles. Two of these were in Woodvale Gardens in the late evening of the 17/04 when the offender was probably disturbed. These two incidents taken together with similar reports from Hordle demonstrate that somebody is prowling around after dark. If you see anybody behaving suspiciously please report it.

Damage

There were three instances of damage to vehicles on the patch during April. Two of these, apparently random, attacks resulted in considerable damage. On the evening of the 01/04 a car in Manor Rd had two tyres deliberately punctured, and on the 05/04 in Pennywell Gardens another car was vandalised and had its wing mirrors knocked off and wipers bent.

On the 03/04 children were seen within the grounds of Ashley Junior School and upon the roof. Subsequently it was discovered that roof tiles had been broken. If at any time you see children on the premises out of school time please call us.

Assaults

Although there were seven reported assaults in April in the Ashley area, three involved children, and an adult, all in local authority care. Two more were arguments between 'friends', and the remaining two were between children in the street.

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

Vehicle crime

The seasonal problem of walkers in the forest leaving valuables in their cars is with us once again. On the late afternoon of the 02/04 at Wilverley Car Park, two cars were forcibly entered – a handbag was stolen from one of them, and damage caused to another in an attempt to gain access to the boot where valuables had been placed.

Throughout the month of April there have been a number of cars entered in both Sway and Hordle. On the night of the 31/03 a car in Brighton Rd was forcibly entered and tools taken from it. During the evening of the 10/04 a car in Durnstow had a window broken and a lap-top computer was taken from the back seat. In Hordle on the night of the 15/04 two cars parked in the street had windows broken. Neither of these cars had valuables left in them but both had bags that held the promise of something!

Assault

Only three assaults were reported for the area in April, and two of those were relatively minor. One was an instance of school bullying and the other was an argument between ‘friends.’ The third was between youths known to each other at Sway Rail Station on the 23/04 and resulted in one being arrested and charged.

Non-dwelling burglaries

Over the period of the 19-23/04 there were three high value burglaries in the South Sway area, and a fourth at the East Close Hotel at Hinton. In the sway area two tack rooms were forced open, one in Coombe Lane and the other at Broadmead with a large amount of tack being taken. The stolen tack was valued at a total of £4,000 approximately. In the same area, entry was forced to a shed in Silver St where a mower and power tools were stolen. At the East Close another shed was forcibly entered and a high value lawn mower stolen on the night of the 19/04. The machine, a ‘Hayter 48 Professional’, valued at £800 would have needed a van or a trailer to remove it. By definition sheds and tack rooms are often isolated and vulnerable. In all of the above cases the buildings were padlocked but this did not prevent entry being gained. I know that there has to be a compromise between security and access, but the tougher you make it to get in, the less likely it is that your tack room or shed that will be targeted. Any information on this matter would be gratefully received.

Theft

Although there were only four reported thefts for the area in April, two of them should serve as warnings to the ladies when out for the evening. There were two reports of handbags being stolen whilst the owners were in licensed premises. Be on your guard and don’t leave your valuables unattended.

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**
