

# Community Beat officer Report and Neighbourhood Watch Bulletin November 2004

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

As the nights have drawn in and the weather has become a little wetter and cooler, so we have seen the expected fall in the total amount of crime. In addition, in line with last month's report, October crime is well down on last year's figure, with 15% fewer reports. That doesn't mean that we have not been busy, but rather, have been able to concentrate our attention. In fact, the numbers of persons arrested in 'Sector South' (Lymington & New Milton) in October totalled 87, which was 10 more persons than the previous month.

During the latter part of October, New Milton officers have been targeting juvenile alcohol abuse. Over two weekends, 147 cans/bottles of beer and 5 bottles of spirits, were seized from young people in New Milton. In addition, several arrests were made for the theft of alcohol by juveniles, and two adults have been reported for summons in respect of buying alcohol for people under age.

The Mayor, who has demonstrated his concern over this issue, and who has been supportive of police initiatives to deal with it, has accompanied patrols to see at first hand the degree of the problem. Following the action already taken, we now intend to address the supply of alcohol. To this end, the police, in partnership with the Mayor and the Town Council, and with the co-operation of the Managers and staff of the town's Off-Licences, will be meeting to discuss ways in which we can best reduce juvenile access to alcoholic drink.

Finally, remember that with the darker nights, and in the run up to Christmas, we may well see an increase in home burglaries. 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.

## ***The Town centre – PC2291 Steve Jennings***

Crime in the town centre directly reflects the wider picture, with October's reported crime significantly down on last year's figure, and 20% down on last month. The action taken against juvenile drinking has, and will have, an impact on crime on this beat.

## **Assaults**

There is a general view that there are a lot of assaults occurring in New Milton during the evenings and I know that this has raised concerns amongst our older residents. Whilst of course there are assaults, they more often than not, either involve youths who have been drinking, fighting amongst themselves, or arise out of some form of relationship. During October there were only a total of 7 assaults reported and all fell into these categories.

## **Office and shop Burglaries**

During October we had a further 5 burglaries of shop and office premises: two were at the same premises separated by one week and another was an 'attempt' burglary where the exterior alarm was tampered with but entry not gained. Whilst there is clear evidence that the offender is prepared to force entry, even forcing bars apart, there is still the problem of staff and occupiers not securing and locking doors and windows properly, and leaving cash in the tills – if a burglar finds cash on the first visit he will come back again! With the darker evenings, this type of crime is likely to increase.

## **Cash Machine Crime**

There has only been one more reported case this month, but we all need to continue to take care when using the machines and to report to bank staff, or to the police, if anything appears unusual. *It is good practice to get into the habit of covering your own hand when punching in the pin numbers.*

## **Milford and Barton – PC3075 Del Jones**

### **Youth issues**

There have been several reports this month of youths gathering in large numbers in Becton Mead, Barton on Sea and in Hurst Rd, Milford on Sea. I have been speaking to these youths who have accepted that their numbers may appear intimidating and have indicated that they will not gather in such large numbers in future.

### **Drugs**

This month we have received a number of calls that youths gathering in various locations have been believed to be using illegal substances. We have actively targeted these areas and a number of searches have been conducted using powers under the 'Misuse of Drugs Act' and, as a result, a quantity of drugs has been seized.

### **Burglary**

The recent change in the weather and the darker evenings seem to have brought with them the opportunist burglar. This month several chalets at Shorefield Holiday Park have been targeted. There has also been a spate of incidents where items, left on display near to open windows and insecure doors, have been taken. On the 'up' side, as a result of forensic testing, a male has been identified, arrested and charged with a burglary in Everton. A related burglary in Milford was detected in the same way.

### **Damage**

There have been a number of reports of damage in Everton, both to vehicle and plants.

### **Beach Huts**

No reported problems this month with the exception of damage caused by the severe weather. Patrols are still ongoing in this area with the assistance of the Special Constabulary.

### **Vehicle Crime**

Several vehicles were damaged at Camden Hurst, Milford on Sea, on the 28/10 by persons attempting to siphon fuel. As a result of information from members of the public two people were detained within ten minutes of the offences being committed. Similar damage reports were received from Everton.

### **General Traffic Matters**

An increase in high-visibility patrols outside the schools at the beginning and end of the day has resulted in slower speeds of passing vehicles, and a decrease in illegal parking.

There are still a number of vehicles parking illegally in Milford Village centre, Marine Drive and on other roads nearby. Other vehicles, though legally parked, may be causing inconvenience. Whilst I can deal with infringement of traffic legislation other situations are sometimes best dealt with by way of a quiet word with your neighbour to resolve a niggling problem.

## **New Milton West – PC2954 Colin Stratton**

Reported crime is down by 29% over last month, with 39 reported incidents and no specific trend or pattern.

### **North Milton Estate**

Drug misuse continues to feature highly in conversation with residents and we are making a dent into the drug problem on the estate. A number of arrests have and are being made and more prosecutions are pend-

ing. We still need more information as to who is active in the area. Don't forget, if you don't want to pass information to us directly, you can do so anonymously through 'Crimestoppers'.

There has continued to be a steady increase in the number of untaxed vehicles on the estate and the owners are being targeted.

Evidence is still being collated for Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO'S) in respect of a number of youths on the estate, and since this process started these youths, aware that they were being looked at, have quietened down considerably.

### **Vehicle crime**

There has been a continued rise in reported cases of both theft from motor cars and damage to motor cars. Offenders have targeted vehicles within which valuable items have been left on display. Entry is gained either by breaking a window and reaching in, or, in one case, by forcing an entire door away from the bodywork. Please ensure that all of your valuables are safely locked away out of sight when you are away from your cars.

### **Industrial Estates**

There has been a drop in the number of incidents on the Queensway Ind. Est. Regular patrols by shift and beat officers are still being undertaken to counter crime in the area. These incidents occur during the night, with no specific pattern. We are working with the NFDC to have the fencing fixed around the estate, holes in which are used by the offenders as escape routes.

### ***New Milton East – PC1229 Ray Gait***

#### **Public order**

There were only 3 reported incidents of public disorder this month and these were all related to domestic situations. Having said that, we still have a problem with youngsters gathering in the recreational areas of the beat, and in particular, the grounds of Ashley Junior School, where there has been evidence of drinking. Broken bottles and other debris have been left strewn around the playground. The Headmaster is very concerned. In the past he has not minded people using the school grounds out of hours for legitimate activities. However, due to the mindless few, he has decided, along with the beat officer, that anyone caught within the school grounds without good legitimate reason will be dealt with. PLEASE NOTE THAT IT IS A SPECIFIC OFFENCE TO BE CAUSING A NUISANCE ON EDUCATION PREMISES. To date several youths have been ejected and reported for offences. There are also Anti Social Behaviour problems with groups of youths who congregate in Ashley Recreation Ground. We are taking a strong stance in this area which will continue.

#### **Anti-social use of vehicles**

The problem of anti-social use of motor cycles/scooters seems to have abated and there have been no further complaints since my last report.

#### **Burglary**

Since I last reported to you there has been only 1 house burglary reported and no other burglaries reported at all. This compares to 1 house burglary and 4 other non-house burglaries last month. We must not be complacent. The clocks have gone back and the evenings are darker, and historically we see an increase in burglaries at this time.

#### **Criminal Damage**

There have been only 7 reported incidents of damage this month which is a slight improvement on last month. Of these, 2 were of damage to vehicles and 2 others were of a domestic nature. The other 3 were broken windows.

## ***Hordle and Sway – PC922 Dick Beszant***

### **Public disorder**

Last month I was able to report a dramatic drop in crime for September in respect of my beat. It is a different story this month with a large increase in public disorder related offences, including assaults and damage. However, the figures need to be interpreted to keep matters in perspective. During the whole month there were 6 assaults and 7 incidents of damage as well as 8 incidents of disorder. Four of the assaults were domestic, that is, within relationships, another was at a party, and the last was on a police officer during an arrest. Five of the seven incidents of damage occurred in Sway and were probably related to a party there that got out of hand. As for the reports of disorder, three offences came out of the same incident at Hinton and two of the others also probably emanated from the disorderly party at Sway. So, when the crime figures are small, one or two incidents can make it seem on paper as if things are getting out of hand – they are not.

### **Vehicle crime**

Although there have only been two vehicle related crimes, one at Tiptoe and the other at Bashley, both were similar to crimes committed in the New Milton West area. In both incidents it was the contents of the cars that prompted the crime.

### **Burglaries**

Although we only had one house burglary in October we had five non-dwelling burglaries, a similar number to September on this beat. In October it was the outbuildings of detached properties that were targeted during the hours of darkness. On the 23/10 two properties at Broadmead, Sway were hit and saddles and tack were taken from one, and two disc-cutters from the other. On the 24/10 a quad bike was stolen from Vaggs Lane. From Woodcock Lane on the 27/10 a lawn mower was stolen, the key to the outbuilding being found by the offender 'hidden' nearby.

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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**

