

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

## **Sept 2005**

### **New Milton and area**

Reported crime for the whole of the New Milton Police area during August totalled 152 reports. That compares with 264 reports for the same month last year – a fall in excess of 40%. Although it is very encouraging to see that the level of reported crime continues to remain at a low level, we are not complacent or resting on our laurels. We seek to maintain the momentum by continuing with initiatives that have delivered success, such as 'Pub Watch' and 'Safer Streets – more on that below - and also by exploring new ideas that might impact on existing and developing crime trends.

### ***Operation 'Safer Streets'***

If you read last month's report you will be familiar with 'Safer Streets', but in a nut shell, it is a Force wide campaign designed to tackle anti-social behaviour during the school holidays by targeting patrols to problem areas. However, we are continuing the campaign even though the schools have gone back, due to a resurgence of juvenile nuisance fuelled by alcohol. Although this resurgence has not yet shown itself in reported crime figures, it was noticeable on the street during early September, particularly at the weekends, that youths were gathering in public areas of New Milton town and Ashley, and were consuming alcohol. This was reminiscent of the last quarter of last year when we cracked down on juvenile access to alcohol, both seizing it from them and restricting their access to it. Over the first two weekends of September, officers seized in excess of 100 cans of beer and around a dozen bottles of spirit of one sort or another from youths congregating in New Milton and Ashley Recreation Grounds.

### ***Seizure of Alcohol***

The seizing of alcohol is a contentious issue, particularly for those from whom it is taken. We do explain our powers to act in this way, but the legal basis is still not widely known or understood. The 'Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997' authorises officers to seize alcohol from persons under 18yrs in circumstances where the officer has reason to suspect that they have been drinking, are, or are likely to drink – alcohol can also be seized from persons over 18yrs if they are accompanied by persons younger who the officer suspects have been drinking or are likely to drink. Seized alcohol, contrary to popular belief, is not one of the perks of the job, but rather is disposed of appropriately – small quantities are often tipped away before those from whom it is seized and larger quantities recovered to the police station for later disposal.

### ***New Milton Pub Watch***

At the Watch meeting earlier this month three more persons were banned from all Watch premises for a period of one year. This followed trouble outside Wellingtons on the weekend of the 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Sept. A total of 16 persons are now on the 'banned' list. I believe that the sanctions that the Watch have at their disposal make a valuable contribution to crime reduction in New Milton.

### ***ASBO's/ABC's***

You will be aware from previous reports that we currently have 4 young men on Anti-social Behaviour Orders and a further 11 on Acceptable Behaviour Contracts. As stated above, we regularly check on the individuals concerned to make sure that they are abiding by their conditions, i.e. curfews, exclusion zones and association. Breaches of the ASBO's have, and are, going through the courts. Of the ABC's, 2 have finished before running the full six months because of the subject's good behaviour – on the other hand, several have had their conditions extended because of breaches of the contracts and may well develop into ASBO's. There is no doubt, despite the breaches, that these measures have

resulted in quieter neighbourhoods and lower crime and nuisance. Your police and CSO's will be continuing to enforce the conditions of these orders and contracts.

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

Reported incidents of crime for the town centre area during August totalled 25 and compares with 40 in August last year. Crime is still occurring, and however low it gets, for those who are the victims of crime the consequences remain the same.

### ***Juvenile nuisance***

Reported crime does not suggest a rise in juvenile nuisance, but as stated earlier in this report, there has been a marked increase in recent weeks of youths gathering and drinking alcohol on the Rec. Consequently I have given extra attention to that area, both to seize alcohol and to move noisy groups away during the late evening.

### ***Assaults***

Only one assault was reported in the town centre during August and that occurred at the Rydal PH on the 10/08. An arrest was made.

### ***Damage***

There were only a handful of reports of damage during August but the few that there were, were costly. On two nights in August (5<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>), windows were broken at shop premises in the town. The damage occurred late in the evening and nobody was seen. Similarly, a boundary wall in Lymington Rd was pushed over – the wall had only recently been re-built after a previous incident. These incidents of damage are hard to police and detect. They occur late at night when the streets are relatively quiet and deserted. Should you hear a rowdy group, or the sound of damage being caused, please give us a call and not take it for granted that somebody else will report it.

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

### ***Burglary***

Unfortunately this month I have to report that four burglaries occurred in houses on my beat, three of the four occurring in Milford village. Overnight on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August a property was broken into in Deans Court, where the offender forced open a ground floor window in order to gain access. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of August a male was disturbed inside a property in the High Street, Milford. He made his excuses to the occupier and left. Despite an extensive search of the area by Police he was not located. On the evening of the 28<sup>th</sup> of August another property in the High Street, Milford was entered and items of jewellery stolen. Finally, between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of August a property in Lymington Road was entered and property stolen. In addition to the above, prowlers have been reported in several areas including Richmond Court in Milford, where burglaries occurred earlier this year.

If you have any information about this or any other crime please call us or you can call crime stoppers on 0800 555 111

### ***Criminal Damage***

There have been nine reports of damage this month. The times and locations of most of these reports would indicate that damage was caused just after closing time at local public houses. There are no specific areas concerned and no trends appear to be developing at this time.

### ***Beach Huts***

The good weather and lighter evenings have seen more activity on the beaches and coastal paths on my beat. It is good to see so many of you out enjoying the sunshine. Unfortunately, others have sought to spoil our pleasure and 19 beach huts have been broken into. The majority of these were on Barton beach, where 13 were broken into overnight on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August. From the method used by the offenders to gain entry, there would have been a considerable amount of noise and yet there were

no calls made to the Police. Most of the damage caused to huts on Hordle Cliff was to provide wood for bonfires and barbeques. The NFDC have to provide advance permission for any person to have a fire on the beach. As part of 'Safer Streets' patrols have been monitoring the beach area and checking those with fires to see what they are burning. If you see such a fire there is a good chance that the fuel is coming from nearby beach huts. Please call us to report them 0845 045 4545. I, along with the Beach Hut Owners Association, have sent out details of the New Beach Hut Watch Scheme to all local owners with a view to starting the scheme in the next few months. Anyone who would like more information can contact me at New Milton Police Station.

### ***Milford Carnival***

This year saw a change in the style of the evening entertainment, with no beer tent and no live music on the green after the carnival. Following the procession the green cleared very quickly. My colleagues and I were then free to deal with any incidents that arose. I am pleased to be able to report that there were no serious incidents or disturbances. No arrests were made, although 11 seizures were made of alcohol from those underage. Four persons were searched under Drugs legislation, and 1 person was warned for an offence under the Public Order Act for swearing at a Police Officer during the carnival procession. Only one crime was reported on the evening of the carnival and that can not be directly linked to the event. All in all a very enjoyable carnival this year which was very well attended.

### ***Other Matters***

In the little spare time I have, I am researching the Policing history of both the Barton and Milford areas. If anyone has any photos, documents, old uniforms or any other useful information please contact me at New Milton Police Station.

### **New Milton West – WPC Chrissie BENFIELD**

As of the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2005, PC. Jodie BOSBORTH left New Milton to take on a new challenge in Southampton. We would like to say a fond farewell and wish her the best of luck. On a personal note Jodie would like to thank all the local residents for their support and co-operation over the last five years.

### ***Davis Field and North Milton Estate***

The summer break has been reasonably quiet with a total of 33 reported incidents. The Davis Filed Bridge situation remains a success, with no reported incidents of anti- social behaviour or damage. I would still ask that you continue to make contact with New Milton Police station in confidence if there are issues that are going un-reported.

### ***Assaults***

There has been no change in the number of reported assaults for the last two months. In August a total of five assaults were reported, in each instance the aggressor was known to the aggrieved, and four out of the five occurred in the home.

### ***Theft***

There have been three reported thefts this month. One of which was a theft of a vehicle and the other a theft of a pedal cycle. Both of these occurred over night but there is no trend as far as location. There have been two reported incidents of theft from motor vehicles, on each occasion the drivers lock was punched out, nothing of value was taken. Both incidents have occurred in the Chatsworth Park area. If you have any information that would assist Police in progressing these enquiries please contact PC 3948 BENFIELD in confidence at new Milton police Station.

### ***Burglary***

There has been one report of burglary this month. A commercial premises off stem Lane was targeted over night and sheets of aluminium were removed.

### ***Criminal Damage***

There have been a total of six criminal damage reports, half of them have been related to youth's and juvenile nuisance. There has been no real pattern to the targeted areas. The reservoir that is located in the grounds of Double H Nurseries, between the Old Barn and Fawcett Field's has been subjected to a number of attacks involving pollution, through littering as well as causing extensive damage to the surrounding fences and lining. The total damage caused is in excess of £5,000. The area is very secluded and it is thought that this damage has occurred over a period of time, as apposed to one isolated incident. If you have any information or knowledge that may assist us in catching those responsible, I urge you to contact New Milton Police Station on 0845 045 45 45 and speak with PC 3948 BENFIELD.

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

There were 21 reported crimes for the Beat in August and that compares with 43 for the same period in 2004, continuing the downward trend of crime.

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

During last month Police received a few calls regarding the Rec. and the Rugby club. There were a couple of reports of some public disorder due to functions held at the Rugby club and also as a result of a large group of young people on the Recreation ground there. The behaviour was drink related and a meeting will be taking place with the Rugby Club regarding the calls received. Ashley Rec. is one of those areas that patrols have targeted under the 'Safer Streets' campaign and a considerable amount of alcohol has been seized from youngsters there.

### ***Assaults***

Four assaults were reported during August. The persons involved were known to each other.

### ***Criminal Damage***

There were 4 reports of damage during August. At Summertrees Court a window was smashed, one person was detained and charged with criminal damage. A fence was damaged in Molyneaux Road, also some plants were up rooted in Brecon Close. Finally, a fire was started in an empty bungalow in Lower Ashley Road, causing minor damage.

### ***Vehicle Crime***

Only one report this month; a car was broken into in Franklin Road and a stereo and CDs stolen. Please remember to remove items of value when leaving your car unattended.

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

This month I have seen the total number of crimes significantly reduced to 14, which compares to 31 for the same period last year.

### ***Burglary***

There was only one burglary reported, which, despite being secure and alarmed, was to a shed in Sway. A hedge trimmer and chainsaw were taken.

### ***Damage***

There were two incidents of criminal damage during August, both in Sway. A fence in Silver Street was reported damaged by brick. A youth put his fist through the glass in the Church front door in Church Lane, Sway. The youth was traced and dealt with by police. He admitted being drunk at the time.

### ***Vehicle Crime***

At Hinton Admiral Railway Station, a vehicle was damaged, British Transport Police are investigating. An insecure van in Wootton Road at Tiptoe was entered and a wallet stolen. A laptop computer was taken after a car was broken into on a driveway in Hordle during one night.

On another night, a CD/radio was taken during the night from a car in Acacia Rd, Hordle. A vehicle was also broken into in the Yew Tree Bottom car park during the day. In Everton, a male was disturbed searching the rear of a van, while the owner was working nearby.

### ***Theft***

There is just one theft report, being a bicycle taken from outside the Nurses Cottage, Sway. The cycle was chained, but unfortunately not to anything static.

### ***Traffic***

I have received ongoing concerns from residents regarding speeding motorists through the villages. This has been more prominent in Hordle. The problem is being addressed by targeted speed enforcement checks by local officers to combat the effect this has on the communities.

---

**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**