



THE HISTON SECTOR NEWSLETTER

August 2002

VILLAGE UPDATES

Longstanton Beat

The villages of Longstanton, Over, Fen Drayton and Swavesey now have a new Community Beat Manager, since PC Steve Mumford departed for the Metropolitan Police. PC Alison Jones has been a police officer for 14 years, and is no stranger to the area, having served all her service on Southern Division. Alison said "I am looking forward to getting to know local residents and developing my links with the community. Over the coming months, I am hoping to introduce myself to all the parish councils within my beat".

Histon & Impington Beat

Girton's Neighbourhood Watch event went ahead as planned on Saturday 20th July. Community Beat Manager for the village, PC Tim Wade was present to meet local residents together with Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and representatives from the Area Crime Prevention Panel. This was a very worthwhile, and successful, exercise. Village Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator John Crosse, who organised the event, said "We very much hope that this event has generated more local interest in the scheme".

Bar Hill Beat

Community Beat Manager PC Kevin Misik will be holding another Police Surgery on Thursday 8th August between the hours of 1pm and 3pm in the Bar Hill Parish Clerk's office.

Do not hesitate to come along and meet him if there are any community concerns or issues that you would like to discuss with him. PC Misik intends to hold these police surgeries in the village on a regular basis, and hopes that if anyone has a problem they will come along.

Bar Hill Beat cont/d...

Following a drugs raid in April at a dwelling in Elsworth, it can be confirmed that one person has been charged under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

Milton Beat

Damage to motor vehicles is a current cause for concern in Milton along with youths causing problems at the Milton Country Park. Please contact PC Shulver at Histon Police Station if you have any information regarding these offences.

In last month's newsletter, it was reported to you that Waterbeach Primary School had taken part in a poster competition on the subject of burglary. An update to this is that the winning entry is to be used by our Community Safety Unit to distribute to parish councils and Tesco stores.

Fen Ditton have also been working on posters with a similar theme – again this was an excellent effort and PC Shulver was very impressed with the standard of work produced. The posters will be displayed in the village post office.

Burwell Beat

The mobile police station will be present at Quy Country Fair over the August bank holiday period. Members of the Community Safety Unit will be present together with Community Contact Officer Julie Gilbert. Swaffham Prior Neighbourhood Watch are holding their next meeting on Wednesday 11th September in the village hall. Community Beat Manager PC Mark Hurry will be present and David Broughton from Trading Standards will be on hand to advise and answer any queries. If you are not a member of the scheme but might be interested in joining, please come along.

HELPING US TO HELP YOU!

When calling in to the police with information, it would assist us if you begin by explaining to the operator what information you have, or what your query is. The operator will then decide on the most appropriate department or person to put you through to. This is generally more appropriate than asking to be connected to one particular person – if you do, you may find that person is absent on annual leave, or in a meeting etc.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary receives a great many 999 calls where the caller is silent. Very often, these calls originate from mobile telephones where the keypad has been accidentally activated while the telephone is in a bag, pocket etc. You may think that this could be avoided by locking your telephone keypad. However, on some mobile phones, the number 9 key remains active even if the keypad is locked. The same applies to the numbers 112 which might also activate an emergency telephone call. Please help us by taking care not to inadvertently dial the emergency services whilst carrying your mobile telephone.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR CHILDREN ARE?

With the long school holidays coming up, we'd like to appeal to you to make sure that you know where your children are and what they are doing whilst out with their friends. Children can often be unaware of the dangers of playing in unsuitable areas. Much safer for them to use facilities such as skateboard parks, football pitches etc where the proper facilities are provided.

CRIME PREVENTION TIP OF THE MONTH!

Mopeds and motorbikes are particularly vulnerable to theft. Reduce the risk of your motorcycle being stolen by:-

- Locking it to a solid immovable object with a heavy duty lock.
- Where possible store it in a locked shed or garage.
- If you have to leave it outside, cover it with a tarpaulin or something similar.
- If your motorcycle has a handlebar lock, use it.

For more information on any of the items in this newsletter, call Julie Gilbert at Histon Police Station on 01223 823730. If you have an e-mail address, please let us know, and it can be sent to you via this method.

MONTHLY CRIMES

The figures below relate to reported crimes for Histon Sector for the period 1st – 31st July 2002. The figures shown in brackets relate to the number of crimes reported last month.

Dwelling Burglary	15 (13)
Non-dwelling Burglary	43 (42)
Criminal Damage	56 (82)
Theft of Motor Vehicle	16 (12)
Theft from Motor Vehicle	47 (39)
Theft of Cycle	11 (8)

SOUTHERN DIVISION DETECTION RATES

For the Period^{SR} to 31st July 2002

Category	Target Detection Rate	Actual Detection Rate
Household Burglary	24.7%	27.8%
Violent Crime	78%	55.1%
Vehicle Crime	8.2%	3.1%

LOST OR FOUND A DOG?

If you have lost or found a dog, you should in the first instance, contact your local council. Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, your local council is legally responsible for taking in stray dogs (although you may find that your local authority only provides these services during normal office hours). It must provide suitable kennelling for any dogs seized by its officers or brought in by anyone else, and dogs must be kept for a minimum of seven days if not claimed by their owner. Local councils can charge any costs to owners of stray dogs plus £25.

If you find a stray dog, it may be taken to a permanently staffed police station nearest to where it was found ie Huntingdon or Parkside. Police officers are not obliged to collect stray dogs.

Dog owners have a responsibility under the law to prevent their dogs from straying and causing injury or damage. They are also legally required to ensure their dog wears a collar and tag with the name and address of the owner when not on private property.

Many healthy stray dogs come from caring homes