

**CRIME DOWN IN SUSSEX – press release 22 January 2009**

Crime is down in Sussex by 9% in the past year.

In terms of burglaries from people's homes, despite a slight upturn in offences in the last year, Sussex remains safer than anywhere else in the South East.

Officers' determination to keep people safe has, this week, led to a persistent burglar being jailed for more than 10 years. He had targeted the elderly and vulnerable, tricking his way into their homes. Operation Inroad is specially designed to target such criminals.

Burglary from people's homes in 2008 was at almost half the level seen in 2003 (down by 49%, or 4,100 offences). Offences in 2008 were 4% higher (150 more victims) than in 2007. In terms of burglary of people's homes, for the 12 months to the end of November 2008, Sussex was the 8th safest police force area in England & Wales.

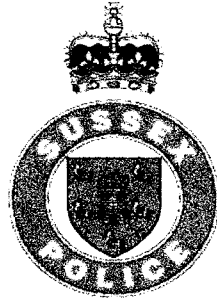
Robbery in Sussex in 2008 was more than a third lower than in 2003 (down by 36%, 540 fewer victims). However offences in 2008 were 4% higher (37 more victims) than in 2007.

Deputy Chief Constable Giles York said: "Cutting crime and catching criminals are key to how we serve Sussex and keep people safe.

"Sussex is a low crime area and we are focusing our efforts on tackling those crimes that matter most to our communities. Robbery and burglary from people's homes are high among these priorities."

Crime figures for Sussex for the third quarter of 2008 compared to the third quarter of 2007:

Auto theft -2.1% (59 fewer offences) 2,746  
Burglary dwelling +3.9% (38 more offences) 1,023  
Criminal damage -9.2% (597 fewer offences) 5,920  
Robbery +13.2% (34 more offences) 292  
Sexual offences +1.3% (5 more offences) 377  
Violence against person -23.6% (600 fewer offences) 5,235  
Most serious violence -9.9% (16 fewer offences) GBH plus 146  
Assault with less serious injury -21% (556 fewer offences) ABH 2,091  
  
Total crime -9.6% (2968 fewer offences) 28,043



Rye  
Neighbourhood Policing Team

**Monthly report for January 2009**

**From PS John Berry:**

January is generally considered to be a quiet time of the year in Rye, following the Christmas festivities and with few visitors to the town during the winter. This has n't been the case for all of us on Rye NPT. We have been preparing for the Local Action Team meeting on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January at the Community Centre.

We are holding the next Brede Valley Priority Setting Panel meeting, for Brede, Westfield and Udimore on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 7pm at the Brede Parish community Hall. While Marsham ward covering Fairlight, Guestling, Three Oaks and Pett is at Three Oaks village hall at 6pm on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February. We will be discussing the results of the recent surveys and looking at how to combat the top three priorities that have been identified.

Broad Oak had its first reports of damage in many months. The phone box by the recreation ground had its glass broken, with some graffiti in the bus shelter. The village has had no reports of damage associated with youth activity for many months. This is the third report of graffiti in the village in recent years and the third that has seen the culprit dealt with through the criminal justice system. We are working on the bus shelter report but the village remains extremely safe with a very low crime rate.

**From NSO PC Andy Hanson:**

I was invited along to the Whitesands Residents meeting in Camber to give a presentation on Operation Radcott, this was the police annual operation at Camber during the summer holidays, this proved very useful to us as and some suggestions will be put into place for next summer, again this highlighted how important the residents feel about the increased police presence in the village during the busy period, This was following a number of calls about youths hanging around the area at night, as a result police have increased the patrolling during the hours of darkness.

Both the holiday parks are still closed for the winter period and there have been no reported break ins to the empty mobile homes, this I believe has

been down to the crime prevention work the site owners and police have carried out prior to the end of season shut down, I am in the process of completing the profile on Camber, this will give us a better understanding of how the village works both in the summer and winter.

Rye Harbour has had no further reports of graffiti this month, I have also been informed by The Rye Harbour Youth Action Forum they now have all the funding in place to be able to buy the Youth Shelter they have been raising money for, I would like to say a big well done for achieving this.

Speeding is still top of our priorities in the area, we have been allocated a number of student officers to assist us on Rother, they have adopted this problem as part of their university based training, they have since been trained up to use and enforce the speed camera we have here at Rye, numerous speed checks have already been carried out by them and us over the Christmas Period and January.

I am currently in the process of setting up the next Eastern Rother Panel meeting, this has been put into place to identify the Policing Priorities in each area, due to the fact we have a number of villages many of these will be different from each other, it has been decided to split the Eastern Rother meetings down into three, there will be one for Rye Harbour and Camber, one for Playden and Iden and the last for Winchelsea and Ickelsham.

I aim to have these meetings all in place for the start of March, details will be published with a time and venue when arranged.

### **From PC Paul Fielder**

January has seen a number of Planned Police operations taking place in Rye, primarily aimed at tackling the sale of alcohol to minors and the possession and supply of drugs, operations SLOE, NONONSENSE and GLENFIDDICH refer. Sussex Police are committed to tackling such issues and rely on information received from members of the public. If you have any information for Sussex Police please contact us on 0845 60 70 999 (999 in an emergency) or alternatively Crime Stoppers on Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.

On the whole Rye has had a relatively quiet month, but Sussex Police are still receiving reports of minor criminal damage. I am convinced that the best way to tackle this sort of crime is by adopting a partnership approach, working with local residents through the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Crime in Rye remains relatively low, and despite what some might say, Rye is not a 'soft touch' for criminals. However Rye is not without its problems and has recently suffered from low level crimes such as criminal damage and antisocial behaviour. In order to deal with these crimes effectively the Police need information, help and the support of the local community. With your support I would like to re-introduce a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Rye, the main aims of which will be,

To prevent crime

To assist the Police in detecting crime

To reduce the fear of crime

To improve Police – community liaison

With your help I am confident that we can realise these aims and give other people the confidence to say no to crime, that we are not having it in Rye and that we don't want it here. If anyone would like any further information about

the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme or is interested in becoming a co-ordinator please contact me by e-mail to [paul.a.fielder@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:paul.a.fielder@sussex.pnn.police.uk) by phone on 0845 60 70 999 extension 66310 or by leaving your name and contact details for my attention at Rye Police station.

Please note that this will not require a big commitment and members may benefit from possible discounts on household contents insurance.

The Rye LAT meeting which took place on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009 was well attended by various local organisations and throughout the day local residents dropped in to speak with representatives from the Council, Rye College, Safer Rother Partnership and various security firms to name but a few. Preliminary results of the recent public fear of crime survey were also release and discussed in a public meeting towards the end of the afternoon. The day was a great success, with those that attended making use of free services such as cycle marking, as well as receiving free personal attack alarms, home security devices and crime prevention packs.

Another quiet month for Guestling & Three Oaks, of note was a burglary on the 21<sup>st</sup> January at Guestling Hall, two males were immediately arrested and three premises linked to them were subsequently searched, enquiries are continuing. Having recently attended the Guestling & Three Oaks parish council meeting where speeding vehicles were raised as a top priority I will be working hard to try and combat this problem. I understand that the funding has been agreed for a Speed Indication Device (SID) and that one is expected imminently.

The crime rate of Fairlight remains consistently low. There was only one crime reported to Sussex Police throughout the whole of January whereby eggs were thrown at an address in Lower Waite's Lane. This caused minor damage to the property, PCSO Eldridge's enquiries are continuing.

I note that a poster was displayed locally following some sheep being mauled and killed in a local field. Although the poster and its contents did not constitute any criminal offences, Sussex Police were contacted as it was distressing local residents. Acting on local concerns PCSO Eldridge spoke with the landowner who re-addressed the sign.

Again the crime rate of Pett remains very low with only two reports of criminal damage having been received to Sussex Police over January.

### **Marsham Priority Setting Panel**

This meeting has been arranged for the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2009 18:00 – 20:00 at the Three Oaks village hall. I will be attending to answer questions and updating as the interim results of the recent public fear of crime survey.

### **From Traffic Warden Robin Warner**

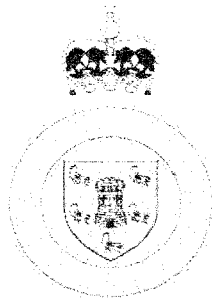
In response to Op Radcott in Camber, last year, we supported the village with multiple parking tickets issued to those parked illegally. These can result in court action At 1400hrs on Saturday 10 May 2008 PCSO. Holden and Rye's Traffic Warden were on duty in Lydd Road and New Lydd Road, Camber. PCSO. Holden issued 13 fixed penalty tickets and the Traffic Warden issued 15 fixed penalty tickets to vehicles that were causing an Unnecessary Obstruction by parking on the pavements. One of the drivers contested the ticket, and opted to go to court. On Monday 26 January 2009, the driver was found guilty of causing an Unnecessary Obstruction by parking on the pavement and fined a total of £95. Those who park illegally in the town and surrounding area will be targeted and receive the full penalty of law.

**From PCSO's Ruth Brunton and Neil Holden:**

### **Rye Town**

The high street has lost Woolworths which is a great loss we have seen this month a very large load travelling through the town earlier this month which ended up at Rye Harbour . Two people were arrested after a reported shoplifting from Tillingham Stores and convicted. Eight reports of noisy youths have been rung in and officers have dealt with each situation . One report of a scratched damage car in Tillingham Green. Op Marble is visible police officers walking the town dealing with any issues that arise.

Rye Bay young peoples services will be holding a meeting on 03.02.2009 at rye Children's Centre, Grove Road, Rye at 3.30pm. It was lovely to be able to see some of the staff and young children from Rye Children's Centre on 29.01.2009 as they looked round a police car and a police bike and made lots of noise turning the sirens on and watching the blue flashing lights.



Rye  
Town Council

## **Monthly report for February 2009**

### **From PS John Berry:**

February has seen a period of consolidation with the Rye NPT making plans and preparations for the forthcoming season and the next round of Priority Panel Meetings. Becky Unicombe and Sharon Eldridge assisted with the "What a Load of Scallops" race, the first of many events that the Rye NPT will be assisting with this year.

The LAT open day and meeting went well, I believe it would be worth repeating such an event for the town on an annual basis, one for us to consider for next year. NPT officers will be at the Rye Town Meeting on 1st April at the Community Centre in Conduit Hill once again. We will have a stand there and will be able to offer advice and guidance with regards to crime and nuisance issues.

As PC Fielder mentions below, Op Bathford has proved successful and issues that the operation was intended to combat are currently under investigation with I hope several charges will be forthcoming. Watch this space.

The Brede Valley priority panel meeting was held on 25<sup>th</sup> of February. The priorities for this area have been identified as speeding traffic, fear of burglary and criminal damage. Marsham had its meeting on 27<sup>th</sup>, with the priorities identified as fear of burglary, speeding traffic and criminal damage. You can see how we are responding to your concerns by visiting the Sussex Police web site and looking at your local officer's web pages.

Rye NPT have been supporting Battle for the last couple of months by supplying officers for high visibility patrols in their area as a result of Battle suffering from a series of burglaries. I believe Operation Watchful is now drawing to a close and Rye officers will be returning to their own areas.

### **From PC Paul Fielder**

Another relatively quiet month for Rye has seen only a handful of crimes reported to Sussex Police.

During the heavy snow several reports of criminal damage were received whereby windows had been smashed by snowballs. Although reports of damage in the town do seem to be reducing I note that there have also been a few reports of criminal damage to motor vehicles.

In early February a male was stopped in Budgens car park in possession of approximately £300 worth of fake £10 notes. The male was arrested at the scene, the currency seized and enquiries are continuing. In light of this incident I would encourage local businesses to be aware and routinely check payments that they receive.

At the Rye Local Action Team (LAT) open meeting, held on the 31<sup>st</sup> January a key priority for the local community was identify from the results of the recent fear of crime survey. Top of this list was the fear of burglary.

### Operation Bathford

This is an ongoing operation undertaken by the Rye Neighbourhood Policing Team, its aim, to reduce burglary and criminal damage in Rye. As a direct result of feedback from the community, commencing in early February the operation has seen extra Policing resources put into Rye with officers conducting overt and covert patrols. To date the operation has seen three arrests, the recovery of a stolen moped, twenty two stops/searches and three people directed to leave Rye under section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006.

On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February at approximately midday police received a call from a vigilant member of the public stating that they thought a burglary had just taken place in Butchers Lane, Three Oaks. The member of the public noted down the car registration number that the potential burglars had driven off in.

Police managed to trace the vehicle and a search was carried out. Officers from across Rother and Kent Police were employed in looking for the vehicle. The car and occupants were found in Kent and two people were arrested. Items matching those that had been taken from the house in Three Oaks were found on board the car. Good work most certainly on the behalf of Police and the member of the public who thought not only to call Police but to take the registration number also. Enquiries are continuing.

This clearly demonstrates what good results can be achieved as result of the local community working with Sussex Police, and members of the public giving us good, current information:

### Operation Crackdown

Speeding has been identified as a Policing priority across the Rye area. Operation Crackdown, described as a unique web/phone based initiative and likened to a 'Mobile Neighbourhood Watch Scheme' is aimed at improving road safety and reducing casualties. Several days of action resulting from Operation Crackdown have been conducted locally in addition to existing road safety checks conducted by Rye Neighbourhood Policing Team. To report a vehicle driving anti-socially or for more information please visit

[www.sussex.police.uk](http://www.sussex.police.uk)

If you have information relating to any of the matters mentioned in this report or any other matter then please contact Sussex Police on 0845 60 70 999

(999 in an emergency) or alternatively Crime Stoppers on Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.

**From PCSO's Ruth Brunton and Neil Holden:**

**Rye Town**

Rye has had a busy month, we have seen a lot of snow which has caused some problems and then we have had the floods in the area and finally we saw a little sun which brought to the town some visitors.

**Operation Marble:-**

This is carried out on Friday and Saturday evenings, a number of police officers carrying out high visibility foot patrols in the town dealing with any problems that occur.

Members of the public from Rye town have reported to Sussex Police the following offences:-

**Car crime:-**

Eagle Road, the bonnet of a car was damaged.

**Anti social behaviour:-**

Cinque Ports Street, where snow balls were being thrown.

Skidders Roundabout, High Street:- abusive youths.

**Burglary OTD:-**

Strand Quay, Country Collectables had a window smashed, nothing taken.

Hilders Cliff, window smashed and 3 green glass bottles taken.

Football Club, nothing taken

Extensive Speed checks have been carried out in the following areas around

Rye,

Rye Hill

Cadborough Cliff

New Road, with section 59 warnings being given.

Barriers went down this month in the Rope Walk area and caused a few problems for a couple of hours as Deadmans Lane had to be closed.

Foot Patrols have again been plentiful with many issues being dealt with swiftly.