

## **District Commander's Message April 2012 : Chief Inspector Jason Tingley**

I am delighted to report that overall crime has continued to fall on the district, in particular theft, anti social behaviour and criminal damage.

What has struck me most during my first three months as District Commander is the way that dedicated officers and staff take it personally when, as an example, there is a report of a burglary or incidents of anti social behaviour in their town. I have seen at first hand the constant work that has been done to identify offenders and reassure victims of crime.

I am also very happy to confirm the arrival of Inspector Steve Tullett who has stepped into the role of Neighbourhood Inspector for the Lewes District. Steve is an experienced officer and joins us from a neighbourhood policing role in Eastbourne. He replaces Acting Inspector Andy Bennett who has been covering this post since January and during the 90 day period in which Andy was in post our area saw a consistent fall in crime with figures across Lewes district being amongst the best in the force. I would like to thank Andy for his hard work during this time and wish him continued success in his new post with the Operations Team formed in partnership with Wealden District.

The past month has seen a number of arrests for burglary in Plumpton, Seaford and Peacehaven. This type of crime is a complete priority for the District and Division in the coming year and members of the public have played a crucial role in contacting us when they see suspicious behaviour which on these occasions has resulted in positive arrests and the recovery of property.

I am pleased to inform you that two significant arrests have been made in relation to a series of vehicle crime and anti social behaviour suffered in Lewes town. Lewes Teenager, Karl Kidman from Landport in Lewes has pleaded guilty to a number of offences and has been sentenced to a twelve weeks custodial sentence for attempted theft, eight weeks for criminal damage which has been suspended for a year, and a twelve month supervision order with probation and unpaid work. Kidman has also been ordered to pay a sum of compensation. The second offender, also from Lewes, has pleaded not guilty and will attend a crown court hearing in May.

Also in Lewes over the past month my team have made some significant progress in dealing with the high profile issue of graffiti in the town. After identifying key offenders for this spate of vandalism, a joint exercise with the local council was set up and those responsible were tasked to make reparation for the damage they caused through Community Resolution and cleaning the areas where they had caused damage. The council have also painted areas such as the ham lane underpass leading to the Stanley turner ground with anti graffiti paint to deter a reoccurrence of these offences.

Lastly, I am working with the Neighbourhood Policing Team to look at new ways to communicate with the community and would appreciate it if you could contact us with any new ideas that you may have.