

Camera shy

Newsletter of the Hertfordshire CCTV Partnership



February 2009



Baldock The enhancement of the town centre is nearing completion as our feature photograph shows. This issue features two recent incidents that occurred in Baldock Town Centre.



Man Arrested Following An Affray



Camera operators noted the presence of an agitated male using a mobile phone near the junction of Whitehorse Street and High Street, Baldock one evening. The man, still appearing very agitated then went on to pick a fight with a group of males nearby who were about to get into a vehicle. The man then continued to walk up High Street when the police, alerted by the CCTV control room, arrived and the man took flight, but he was caught and arrested for causing an affray.

In a second incident, some weeks later, two men were seen loitering in Church Street in the early hours of the morning. They approached a man delivering newspapers from

a van and began to intimidate him with violence until he was able to escape in his vehicle. The men remained in the location and soon found another person to intimidate before he too managed to escape in a car that stopped for him. The men joined with another group of men and women before eventually dispersing in vehicles from the scene. On this occasion the police did not attend until the group had dispersed and no arrests resulted from these incidents.

Public Safety

The stories reported in this newsletter are not exclusively about crime, nor should we feel that our town centres are not safe places to be. Every day there are many incidents where the control room staff contribute to public safety and well being, whether it is ensuring that an elderly person who takes a fall is not left unassisted, or some other aspect of public safety.

Road Safety

Following the previous theme, our next story relates to a female driver observed exiting a Stevenage car park at night without lights. The vehicle was being driven unusually slowly which often indicates the possibility that a driver has been drinking and that a check is required. The police stopped and checked the vehicle and the driver, who was ok. They allowed her on her way, all the safer now for having the vehicle lights on. The fact is, that vehicles driven without lights at night put the driver at risk as well as the general public. Simple incidents like this do not make headlines, but still safeguard public safety.



Questions or ideas? E-mail: CameraShy@SQ4.org.uk



Assault and robbery

A man was arrested following an assault on a youth at Hitchin hill (Left). Controllers saw the youth being marched down the hill to a car by a man who punched the youth in the face, drawing blood.

The images were patched through to the police who sent a unit out to the youth. The number plate of the car had been recorded and the offender was traced and arrested.

CCTV stats are available to download from the following web page:

<http://www.stevenage.gov.uk/townandcommunity/cctv/>

Just good friends?

Two males were seen near Marymead shops in Stevenage, having an argument that erupted into violence as one was punched and knocked to the ground. The images were patched through to the police who arrived on the scene to find the two men embracing each other, apparently having made up after the argument. After the officers left the first male punched the second one once again. The officers returned to have another word with the men, who then walked off together. This time however, they retreat to well out of sight of the cameras.



Dope

(Or how not to roll a joint). In a Biggleswade car park, controllers noticed two men in a car, as the driver began rolling a joint. When both men began smoking the dope, the pictures were patched through to the Bedfordshire police. The police arrived on the scene and arrested the driver after finding a quantity of drugs in the vehicle.



Newsletter Dates

The editions of Camera shy contain information about incident occurring mainly during the month of issue. February is a short month and so you will receive this issue

a little later than normal. The upcoming March issue will be published normally in the last week of the month.

Vehicle Crime

Controllers saw a male using his elbow on car windows to try to break into vehicles parked in a Stevenage car park. Controllers patched the images to the police who were quickly on the scene and arrested the man.

