Drugs seized and 14 arrested in series of raids across county

A series of drug raids across Ceredigion last week resulted in nine people being charged with various drug offences. Another five people were arrested, and quantities of heroin, some unknown white tablets, and cannabis were recovered.

Search warrants issued under the Misuse of Drugs Act were executed on Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 February as part of Operation Harrier, targeting persons who use and supply Class A drugs.

Raided were carried out in Aberystwyth, Tregerfan, Llanerch, and Llanrhianfach.

Detective Inspector Greg Williams, based at Aberystwyth police station, said: "Since the beginning of August 2007, police have been conducting inquiries into the trafficking of Class A drugs, mainly heroin and crack cocaine, into the Aberystwyth area. The investigations using covert methods by plain clothes officers had already resulted in eight people being remanded for alleged conspiracy to supply controlled drugs, and nine others for numerous other alleged supply offences resulting in charge and remand applications, or on bail."

"As is the nature of the job, members of the public will not have seen a uniform presence as our current operations employed plain clothes officers from all areas within Dyfed-Powys force area."

"Operation Harrier includes detectives, members of the drug strategy, and speciality officers regarding drugs offences, but our Neighbourhood Policing Teams are also playing a key part in our strategy."

"Tackling the supply of drugs to Aberystwyth and Ceredigion is one of our priorities, and this is evidenced by our excellent results to date."

"It is also important that we engage with our partner agencies including drug intervention projects which offer support to those who misuse, or are offered by controlled drugs."

"And we would appeal for anyone with information about the supply of drugs to contact us immediately on 0845 300 2000, or through Crimestoppers (0800 555 111)."

Trojan’s method of entry team ensure a swift entry in a flat in Gwel Rheidol.

An impressive pedigree for sniffing out Class A drugs

AFTER two officers of Trojan’s ‘method of entry’ team had secured access to flat 2, Gwel Rheidol Penparcau, not far behind were two important members of the Operation Harrier team: Pte Thos 780 Andy Edwards and his ‘nose’ dog Sam, written Norman Williams.

Dog handler PC Edwards and his English springer Sam are based in Llanelli, and are just part of the team intent on tackling head-on the supply of drugs into Aberystwyth and Ceredigion.

Sam has an impressive pedigree for sniffing out Class A drugs. PC Edwards said: "Sam is almost 11, and I’ve had him for nine years."

"Where dogs trained to sniff out bombs are trained to stand and stare if they locate something, if Sam sniffs drugs he will scratch frantically or bark continuously."

"And apart from drugs seizures worth many thousands of pounds, he has also sniffed out a half tablet of Ecstasy in a handbag!"

Enthusiastic and friendly - in the circumstances in which Sam and I became acquainted, at least - if Sam starts scratching at you, or suddenly takes to barking incessantly, there may just be a reason for it.

Pictured (left) is PC Andy Edwards and (right) is Pte Thos 780 Andy Edwards (left) and Sam waiting whilst PC Andy Beech examines the lock on a shed at Gwel Rheidol.

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