Cases highlight fight against drugs

Ceredigion Police's senior detective has highlighted three cases, including the recovery of £135,000 worth of cannabis to illustrate his officers' determination in the on-going fight against drug dealers.

The first case started in December 2007, when officers conducted a search operation at Frongoch, Cross Inn, New Quay. The location of the suspected cannabis growing operation was at the end of a number of large outbuildings.

Officers found that one of the outbuildings contained a large professionally-equipped growing room, stocked with over 300 cannabis plants, at varying degrees of maturity.

Detective Inspector Greg Williams, said: "The plants were supported by sophisticated growing equipment and an elaborate irrigation system. Officers also discovered a dangerous diversion to the premises mains electricity supply, routed from the national grid power-line.

"Specialist crime investigations from Dyfed Powys Police assisted in the gathering of evidence, before officers dismantled the illegal cannabis growing operation."

James Andrew Impye, aged 27 from Hereford, was charged with being the 'ginner' and was released at the scene. Other officers travelled to his home village of Derwen-fawr, Herefordshire, where his father, 55-year-old Brian Ralph Impye was arrested.

DI Williams said: "This house and business premises were searched, with officers seizing several items that were prove valuable evidence in the subsequent investigation. Over the next 12 months the investigation progressed to a point were police charged the father and son on three counts, namely: being concerned in the production of cannabis, possession with intent to supply cannabis, and unlawful abstraction of electricity at the premises.

"Following a four day trial at Swansea Crown Court, which started on 1 June 2009, both Impyes were convicted on all counts. They were granted bail by the court, while pre-sentence reports were prepared. They now face further court hearing under the Proceeds of Crime Act, following a financial investigation by specialist detectives from Dyfed Powys Police Financial Crime Team.

The total street value recovered at the premises amounted to approximately £135,000, with an estimated potential street value being estimated at £260,000."

On 23 May 2009, 32-year-old Cytus Hope Waring, of 15 Beorgrhyti, Corris, Aberystwyth, was jailed for two years after being convicted of supplying heroin to an associate in Aberystwyth in January 2008.

The conviction stemmed from Operation Harrier, carried out by detectives targeting heroin supply in Aberystwyth during 2007 and 2008. Waring was convicted while serving a community order for possessing cocaine in Aberystwyth on 11 January 2009 and whilst on bail for the heroin offence.

On 28 May 2009 Ceredigion Police charged a 25-year-old man with three counts of possession with intent to supply controlled drugs in Aberystwyth. The man is accused of possessing 531 Ecstasy tablets, 28 g of ganja, and two millilitres of LSD in liquid form. The drugs are said to have an estimated street value in excess of £1,000.

The man was bailed to appear before Aberystwyth magistrates on 17 June.

11 arrests during campaign

Ceredigion played a full and productive part in a busy National Drugs Week, with a number of operations to tackle, and reduce, drug related crime.

The week was part of the national Tackling Drugs Week, which ran between 8 - 12 June, and the campaign was also aimed at reassuring people in Ceredigion and highlighting the significant efforts that are being made to keep communities safe from drugs misuse.

There were 11 arrests made across Ceredigion during week of drug-related crime during the week-long campaign. Two people were charged with drug-related offences, 10 cannabis warnings were given, one person was cautioned, and one juvenile was given a reprimand.

Detective Inspector Greg Williams said: "One person was also charged with being in possession of cocaine. And there are currently five persons on police bail for Class A drug offences pending further investigation by the Dyfed Powys Police and Forensic Science Service. Sixteen search warrants were executed under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 in Ceredigion during the week. Of these, 24 warrants were in the north of the county, with six warrants executed in south Ceredigion."

Over £52,000 seized

PROCEEDS of Crime 'cash seizures' from drug suppliers in Ceredigion over the last 10 months amounted to £52,603.64

And £55,809 of the total seized by Ceredigion police division has been awarded to the treasury/policer by the courts.

Detective Inspector Greg Williams, of Ceredigion police division said: "National Drugs Week was an opportunity for police in Ceredigion to engage with its partner agencies and the communities of Ceredigion to tackle the misuse of controlled drugs within its towns and villages.

"Members of the public are urged to contact their police with any information about the use and supply of drugs in Ceredigion, either directly on 101 or anonymously if preferred, Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

And a total of 47 stop searches were also carried out across Ceredigion during the week. There was also a significant seizure of drugs within Ceredigion, 71.67 grams of cannabis, with an estimated street value of £750, was seized with the detection of 15 crimes. And approximately 30 grams of heroin was seized - approximate street value £2,500.

Traces of cocaine were also recovered at one address where one warrant had been executed. A routine operation implemented during the week in the Lampeter area saw 226 cars being checked. The operation resulted in numerous vehicles being stopped and drivers spoken to by attending officers."

The sophisticated irrigation system set up in the farm outbuildings by the Impyes.