

# A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News



ISSUE 65 –January 2010

## 'Work With Us'

### Divisional Commanders Message



A New Year brings with it a new Commander, and I am delighted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. After 18 months in charge of the Safer Communities Department at Headquarters, I am taking over as the Divisional Commander of Edinburgh. During my 23 years with Lothian and Borders Police, I have enjoyed a range of different posts, both in uniform and CID duties, and have previously worked at Howdenhall, St Leonard's, Gayfield, and Leith police stations in the city, as well as postings in Mid, East and West Lothian. I have also been seconded to the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency, based in Strathclyde, for over three years.

I am really looking forward to getting out and about in the city to see for myself the extent of community engagement that is going on every day at a local level.

Community Beat Officers are crucial to achieving our aim of understanding and addressing local issues, and I am keen to push ahead with the emphasis on prevention and problem solving approaches.

As in previous years, Edinburgh has hosted a wide range of events over the festive period, and police officers and staff have worked hard to keep crime levels low and anti-social behaviour to a minimum. The extensive planning for the policing of the Hogmanay celebrations paid off again this year, with the low level of arrests reflecting the good natured atmosphere and friendly relationship between the public and the police.

I look forward to contributing to the policing of this diverse and dynamic city, and maintaining its high attraction as a safe place to live, work and visit.

**Chief Supt Gill Imery, 'A' Division Commander**

CITY  
WIDE

### Theft Of Your Christmas Presents

Favourite items for thieves are gadgets like mobile phones, laptops, MP3 players and satellite navigation systems.

I'm sure many of you were lucky enough to get one of these items for Christmas.

They are most vulnerable when on view in your car so don't leave luggage or valuables on display. Even an old coat or cigarette packet can be a temptation for someone to smash and grab. Car thieves steal first and think about value later. Take valuables with you or lock them in the boot out of sight. Don't be tempted to hide things under the seats or leave them in the glove box.

Thieves are innovative and latest scams include:

- Using a mobile phone with Bluetooth capability to scan your vehicle or home for any items you may have with Bluetooth enabled, then breaking in and helping themselves. So even though you have gone to the trouble to lock your valuables in the boot, they can be detected. **DISABLE YOUR BLUETOOTH BEFORE YOU LEAVE.**
- Satellite Navigation systems are highly sought after and criminals look for the sucker mark that is left on the inside of the windscreen when it is removed, then break in on the off chance that you've hidden the unit in the car. **CLEAN THE TELL TALE MARK AND TAKE YOUR SAT NAV WITH YOU.**

And finally...

- Picture if you will, a snowy or frosty winter morning in January. You leave the house to find your car windows frozen so you open up, turn on the engine and fire up the heater. This may take a while so you retire to the house to finish your cup of coffee. When you return to the car, it's not there!

HOT  
TOPICS

## LOCAL NEWS

**Hello, a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year to all!** And welcome to the first edition of the Newsletter for 2010!

Reported crime was at an all time low in the Watch area with only 15 Crimes reported to Police, with 4 of those being solved. This crime trend has occurred across the West Neighbourhood Area.

### Crimes Against Property/Theft

A house was entered in Hillview Road during daylight hours, by smashing the glass in the conservatory door, and a quantity of Jewellery and foodstuffs to the value of £650 was taken, also the culprits caused £500 worth of damage to the door. In Corstorphine Hill Gardens, whilst a house was having work undertaken, the occupier removed one of the garden gates to allow easier access, and propped it up against the wall. It was subsequently stolen by persons unknown.

### Vehicle Crime

A vehicle parked in Saughtonhall Drive had screws put in its tyres on two separate occasions, and a car on St Johns Road had one of its windows smashed by culprits with a concrete slab.

### Anti-Social Behaviour

Of the 94 calls for Police assistance during the month, 8 were Youth calls regarding snowball complaints. There were no other youth calls were received about youths, which is very encouraging. Whilst reports of crime are low, there are still members of the Community who don't report some crimes, as they feel that 'its only minor' or 'the Police are busy with more important things'. It is essential that all crime is reported, no matter how 'trivial' it may seem, because, as I always say "If we don't know about – we can't deal with it", particularly if it involves forms of anti-social behaviour.

On the subject of Crime, Laptop computers are fast becoming the item of choice for thieves, be it from cars or houses, as these items are easily concealed, transported and easy to sell on. Please don't leave yours on view especially in your car, and if at home, don't leave on the living room table where it can be viewed from the street, if not in use disconnect it and put it away – it only takes a few moments to retrieve it from storage and connect up, where as thieves take even less time to spirit it away!! This is only one of the solutions to keep your laptop safe, but there are some excellent security marking systems on the market, the latest being a product called **SelectaDNA**, which uses microdot technology. More information on this and other security products can be found at a company called **Selectamark Security Systems Plc**. Don't forget – you can also get a **free** Home Security Survey, by contacting myself, or the Crime Prevention Officer (PC Andy Whitley) at Corstorphine Police Station.

PC John Gittens Community Beat Officer

## Useful Numbers

**Corstorphine Police Station:0131 311 3131**

**Inspector Andrew Gilhooley**  
[andrew.gilhooley@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:andrew.gilhooley@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

**Sgt Liz Duthie**  
[elizabeth.duthie@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:elizabeth.duthie@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

**PC John Gittens Ext 2834**  
[john.gittens@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:john.gittens@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

**All Community Beat Officers can be contacted on Extensions 2834/2835/2836**

## And Finally....

At the start of a new year we look to build on some of the positive results from the previous year and strive to make our communities safer.

We do this by working with you, the Local Authority and various other groups to try and provide solutions to some of the problems in the area. We do not have a magic wand to make things better over night but will continue to work towards improvement. Anti Social Behaviour is generally committed by a small minority of young people out with the knowledge of their parents. It must be stressed, the over whelming majority of young people are well behaved, however it is essential parents take responsibility for the conduct of their children.

The West of Edinburgh still remains a safe place to live and has fairly low crime figures. The efforts of the local communities, partners and Police have made a significant contribution to this. I can assure all residents we will continue to work together and try and improve things further.

Inspector Gilhooley Sector Inspector

