

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News



ISSUE 69 – June 2010

'Work With Us'

Divisional Commanders Message



CITY
WIDE

World Cup fever is almost upon us, and Lothian and Borders Police are prepared for a busy few weeks throughout the competition. Supporters are likely to descend onto the Capital's pubs and clubs to watch the matches and enjoy the good natured atmosphere in the city centre. We have a strict plan in place to make sure our licensed premises are supported throughout the period, and will be conducting regular checks and patrols to ensure the city remains a safe place to visit, live, and work in. We are heavily involved in the Scottish Government's National

Violence Prevention Plan, and a key aspect of this is ensuring that people who are out socialising do so safely and without causing disruption.

Officers from our Safer Communities department have organised a 'mini World Cup' with children from the Royal High School in the city. Fifth year pupils, as well of some of our fitter police officers, will be representing the various nations taking part and holding a series of matches. The winning team will receive a handsome cup kindly donated by the West Edinburgh Community Safety Panel. These events are excellent ways for our officers to take part in diversionary activities and engage with young people in an informal environment and best of luck to all involved!

Chief Supt Gill Imery, A Division Commander

Summer "Slip In" Thefts

HOT
TOPICS

At this time of year we regularly notice a rise in the number of "Slip In" thefts. These are committed in a number of ways; the most common being when you are in the garden and the thief slips into your house through an insecure door or window and steals your valuables. Similarly if it's a nice day and you leave windows or doors insecure whilst you go about your business inside the house you are leaving your property open to criminals.

Remember, it only takes a second to slip in and steal cash, credit cards, jewellery, digital camera, MP3 player, laptop or even your car.

If you are in your back garden, make sure that your front door is locked and secured, not just on the Yale lock as these are easy to overcome. Similarly if you have a conservatory or patio doors at the rear of your home it is important to secure them to prevent anyone slipping in whilst you're working in your garden. In the rare event that we experience a particularly warm and pleasant summer, do not be tempted to leave your windows open when you're out of the house. Open windows can be an invitation to thieves and **always** remember to keep your car keys safe. Modern cars are virtually impossible to steal without the true key so don't leave them lying around in vulnerable areas. Keep your keys with you or secure them in a safe place, not on a key hook or near the front door.

Local News

There were 32 Crimes reported during the month of May, with 7 of those being solved.

Unfortunately, a lot of the crimes mentioned were directed at Dwelling Houses or Motor Vehicles, with break-ins to both. First the Dwelling houses – Five were targeted during the month with varied methods of entry, Templeland Road – access was gained through an insecure window, and various items were taken including the two household vehicles. Saughtonhall Avenue – access gained through a rear hopper window, various electrical items and the household vehicle. Corstorphine Bank Drive – insecure window, nothing major taken, other than the TV Control! Baird Drive – access through insecure door, but the culprits were disturbed and left their loot behind. They have been subsequently identified and are subject of a report to the Procurator Fiscal. And finally an attempt was made to force a window in Hillview Terrace but no entry was gained.

A total of 9 Motor vehicles were also targeted across the area, the main method of entry being smashing one of the vehicle windows, and stealing items from within. Sadly, and **despite** my best security advice, there were 5 Sat Navs, 3 I-Pods, a set of golf clubs worth **£2000**, and two car radios stolen. I cannot reiterate enough about leaving valuables within vehicles, either in plain sight or in the boot – if you leave it - prepare to lose it! Also, the cars that were taken were by true key, again by possibly being left in plain sight, and affording the criminal easy pickings, as modern day cars cannot be taken without the proper keys. Re-iterating the message in 'Hot Topics' - **put them away out of sight** – I am aware that some people that I gave this advice to have said “but what if they come into the bedroom to search?” I think you will find that the majority of thieves want to get into the property and out again quickly without being disturbed, and the more time they have to spend looking for things like car keys, the more likely they will be caught.

The most concerning theft that occurred during the month was up on Corstorphine Hill, where thieves cut and removed 30m of armoured ground cable, which ran between two Communications towers on the hill, the cable was cut during daylight hours, the time being 10:30 am on Tuesday 4th May 2010. I would first ask anyone who may have been walking their dog or just out for a stroll around that time to cast their minds back and if anything comes to mind please do not hesitate to get back to me on the numbers below. I would further ask that all walkers remain vigilant whilst on the 'Hill' and report anything suspicious to the Police.

On a happier note, I am pleased to tell you about an event I attended on the 4th of June – it was entitled 'Dream-night' and was held at Edinburgh Zoo. The Zoo was closed early, and then opened up to specially invited guests – who in my eyes were very special indeed. They were children from across Scotland who are suffering from various ailments – some of them terminal, and other disadvantaged children, who along with their parents/carers (in total some 1500) had a great time, feeding animals, and taking part in 'funfair' type activities. The greatest joy for me was the smiles on the children's faces as they left, full of excitement, and I would like to express my thanks to all the Staff at the Zoo who made the evening such a great success.

PC John Gittens Community Beat Officer

Useful Numbers

Corstorphine Police Station:0131 311 3131

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

And Finally....

Summer would appear to be with us (at last!), and with that, it brings the round of Summer Fairs and Gala Days, which usually are well attended by the general public and are policed by the Community Beat and Neighbourhood Action Unit Officers. These Officers are present to not only ensure that there is no trouble or potential for trouble, but more so to ensure that you all have a safe and enjoyable time. Among the latest events they have Policed are Gala days at Drumbrae, Clermiston, Kirkliston, which were well attended, and passed without incident, although the weather could have been kinder.

Perhaps the biggest challenge and the most well attended was the Corstorphine Fair, which, combined with the excellent weather and the multitude of attractions on display, it attracted well over 6000 people, and, all credit to those who attended, there was not a single incident (apart from the lost children!) that my Officers had to deal with. I hope that you continue to have a great Summer, and the weather continues to improve.

Andy Gilhooley
Sector Inspector

