

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News



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'Work With Us'

Divisional Commanders Message



This month has seen the introduction of Safer Neighbourhood Teams in the South and East of the city, which is further evidence of our strong commitment to community policing. I am determined to build on the current levels of community engagement at a local level by improving our approach to identifying and prioritising issues, and addressing local concerns affecting our communities. I look forward to reporting on the progress of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams and am confident they will continue to uphold the proud traditions of responsive community policing within the city of Edinburgh.

Indeed, the value of meaningful community engagement and the importance of the role played by our Community Police Officers have been demonstrated on a number of occasions in recent weeks. High profile public events, for example the recent attempted march by members of the Scottish Defence League and counter-demonstration by Scotland United Against Facism, and serious operational incidents, such as the shooting at Jock's Lodge, continue to place varying demands on our policing service. I have been impressed and encouraged by the excellent work carried out to prepare for and respond to these demands, always keeping the safety and well being of our communities uppermost in our minds.

Chief Supt Gill Imery, A Division Commander

CITY
WIDE

LEGAL HIGH SUPPLY

Legal Highs are a very hot topic in the national press at the moment. They are substances made from herbs, chemicals and extracts which imitate the effects of some illegal drugs such as LSD and ecstasy but are not controlled by the Misuse of Drugs or Medicines Acts.

Rather than being labelled as recreational drugs, many of these products are badged up as everyday products such as alloy wheel cleaner. The Legal High substance known as Mephedrone is regularly sold as plant food.

Little is known about the long-term effects of these substances due to the short history of human consumption but it should be noted that just because they are sold legally, it does not mean they are safe to use. There is anecdotal evidence available to suggest that use of Legal Highs has had detrimental effects on the health and well being of users.

Parents should be aware that due to recent press coverage and the potential risks involved with ingesting Legal Highs, many shops in Edinburgh that were retailing these substances have stopped selling products containing Mephedrone and other Legal Highs. This has served to increase user hype and some young people have taken to using their parent's or older siblings credit cards for purchasing Legal Highs online where they are more readily available and cheaper.

More information on Legal Highs can be found at:
www.crew2000.org.uk and www.talktofrank.com

HOT
TOPICS

Local News

The trend of the low number of crimes reported to the Police for the Watch Area continues I am pleased to say, with only 8 this month, one of which was solved. Of the crimes reported they were all of a minor nature with two vehicles being damaged in Saughton Crescent, and a pedal cycle stolen from the back green in Saughtonhall Drive.

Anti-Social Behaviour is also near to zero, of the 57 calls to Police for assistance, only one was of this nature, that being a stone throwing incident in Saughtonhall Avenue.

Bogus Callers

Most people who come to your door will be genuine callers, but it is always best to make sure. Fit a door chain or spy hole so you can check out who the caller is without having to open the door.

Remember: **Stop, Lock, Chain, Check.** Keep your doors and windows locked.

Before opening the door, **Stop.** Are you expecting anyone? Are the back door and windows **Locked** so no one can sneak in? Put the door **Chain** on. Check the caller's identity, ask to see an ID card from the organisation they present. Keep the door Chain on while you look over the ID. **Check** the number on the card matches the number for their company in the phone book or call directory enquiries. Don't call the number on the card, as that too may be a fake. Genuine callers will not mind waiting outside while you contact their company to check if they are genuine. Most utility companies such as gas, water and electricity now operate a password scheme. Contact your suppliers and set up a unique password with each of them that you will remember. When a representative calls, they will give you your unique password. This means that you can be sure that the people at the door are who they say they are. If in doubt don't let them in, ask them to make an appointment to come back at another time.

Older people may feel more vulnerable to some crimes, but they are actually less likely to become victims. However a few simple steps can help increase your safety even further:

Don't keep large amounts of cash at home – use a bank account instead.

Ask your council for advice – many have security schemes that are aimed at older or more vulnerable people.

Always follow the advice on Bogus Callers above.

For more information, phone Age Concern information line free on **0800 00 99 66** or visit **www.ageconcern.org.uk**

PC John Gittens Community Beat Officer

Useful Numbers

Corstorphine Police Station:0131 311 3131

Inspector Andrew Gilhooley
andrew.gilhooley@lbp.pnn.police.uk

Sgt Liz Duthie
elizabeth.duthie@lbp.pnn.police.uk

PC John Gittens **Ext 2834**
john.gittens@lbp.pnn.police.uk

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

And Finally....

Spring is fast approaching and experience has shown us that March is a very popular month for garden sheds being broken into. I'm sure DIY stores and Garden Centres are doing a roaring trade and the sales of garden equipment are soaring.

Understandably, most people spend considerable time and expense securing their home but tend to forget about the shed. Stop for a few minutes and list the amount of tools, electrical equipment and bicycles that are stored there, you will be amazed not only at the amount but also the overall value.

Why not spend that bit extra on a good quality closed shackle padlock, fit coach bolts to the hinge and hasp plate or burr the screw heads to prevent them from being removed. Also consider securing your cycles and equipment either to each other or to a fixed coach bolt in the shed. You can also purchase a battery operated garden shed alarm from the Community Officers at Corstorphine Police Station.

Inspector Gilhooley
Sector Inspector

