

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News



ISSUE 68 – May 2010

'Work With Us'

Divisional Commanders Message

CITY
WIDE



This month saw the conclusion of Operation Micron, the investigation into the murder of Martin Barclay. Lothian and Borders Police are delighted at the verdict, which saw Caroline Igoe, convicted of his murder, and her brother, Paul Igoe, convicted of related offences. This case has had a huge impact on the local community in the Inch, where the murder took place, and I hope that these convictions will go some way to restoring the sense of spirit and cohesion within the area. I would like to echo the thanks that the senior investigating officer, Superintendent Lesley Boal, passed to the local community. Throughout the investigation they showed great tolerance and provided invaluable assistance and support, and we are grateful for their patience as we carried out our inquiries. Thankfully incidents of this nature remain rare in Edinburgh, which remains a very safe city.

Our officers are continuing to investigate cannabis cultivations in the city, and in the past few months we have uncovered a number in Edinburgh. I would encourage anyone who witnesses any suspicious behaviour or activity to contact us immediately. We recently held a series of conferences called 'Weed Them Out' which were aimed at educating letting agencies and members of the community in how to spot a potential cannabis cultivation. These were very successful, and we hope to undertake a similar exercise in the future. Meanwhile Lothian and Borders Police are dedicated to tackling drug dealing and supply and will continue to deal robustly with offenders.

Chief Supt Gill Imery, A Division Commander

A Budding Time for Crime

HOT
TOPICS

Spring has arrived and with it the 'traditional' visits from the Bogus Worker fraternity so be prepared.

- **'Cold Callers'/Bogus Workmen** turn up on the doorstep unannounced - with good excuses such as 'just happen to be working the area' 'you have some loose slates!' Don't let any casual caller do any work on your property; be that gardening; roofing or laying/repairing your drive. Most reputable companies do not operate in this manner. Thank them and inform them that your tradesman will look at it.
- **What do Bogus Workmen look like?** They are usually very plausible people dressed for the part.
- **Who is at risk from them and when?** They tend to prey on the more vulnerable in society and will usually call through the day.
- **What can you do?** Be prepared. Are you expecting someone to call? Check the person on the doorstep is genuine; most service providers carry identification, use the phone book to get the telephone number to contact the company to confirm. Best of all only deal with callers by appointment.
- Don't keep large sums of money in your home.
- Keep front and back doors locked even if you are just in the garden.
- **Be a good neighbour** – keep an eye on vulnerable neighbours If suspicious persons are in the area - phone the police – give a good description of them and most importantly the registration number, make/model, and colour of any vehicle involved.

Local News

There were 17 reported crimes in the Watch area, of which 4 were solved. Most were of a fairly minor nature but those which are of note are:

There was an Attempt Theft Motor Vehicle from outside a house in Hillview Terrace. The culprits bent back the driver's door, and attempted to hot wire the vehicle but were unsuccessful. An attempt was made to enter a house in Old Kirk Road, when the householder retired to bed, she had opened a side window, but in the early hours became aware of someone at the window, who made off when being disturbed. And finally a garden wall was vandalised by 'spray painting'. Thankfully this sort of crime is not prevalent in the Watch area, however if you see anyone committing this sort of act, please phone us immediately, in order that the culprits can be dealt with robustly.

CANNABIS CULTIVATION

You will have read and heard a great deal in the Media about how Lothian and Borders Police have been very active in dealing with these cultivations, normally found in everyday houses that have been rented by the culprits. A number of cannabis cultivations have been discovered in the Corstorphine area over the last few months, and on the 27th of April, a Letting Agent went to inspect a property in **Kaimes Avenue** after the renter had vacated, and discovered the remnants of a cultivation! Police enquiries are continuing, however these cultivations are becoming more common and landlords and members of the community should be aware of the signs to look out for:

1. These cultivations require huge amounts of electricity to run (approx £30 000 a year) and the supply is often bypassed at the meter to access free electricity. This is extremely dangerous, is a fire hazard and is ultimately paid for by honest customers.
2. Such properties are often kept in darkness with curtains closed or windows boarded up, massive amounts of plant pots, fertilizer, gardening and electrical equipment are also required to grow these cultivations, and because of this the Organised Crime Groups behind the set up often employ 'gardeners' who are responsible for maintaining the crop, and thus will access the property at all sorts of different times.
3. The plants require ventilation and large holes are made in the walls and ceilings to allow this, thus causing considerable damage to the property.
4. Increasingly the types of properties favoured are secluded residential properties, primarily as they tend not to be overlooked, or as in the case of Kaimes Road, with it being in a quiet area, any movement can be carried out without arousing too much suspicion.
5. If considering letting out your property – please use a reputable Letting Agent – who is responsible for visiting the premises on a regular basis, to ensure good upkeep of the property. Some of the cultivation finds have been in premises that have been let privately, at 'over the odds' rent, which make them ideal 'greenhouses'.

Please be vigilant whilst out and about, and if you have any suspicions then please contact your local station or alternatively phone Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Don't worry if you think it may be a false alarm, we would rather check it out!!

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
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PC John Gittens Ext 2834
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All Community Beat Officers can be contacted on Extensions 2834/2835/2836

And Finally....

A new road safety campaign aimed at getting all drivers and passengers to wear their seatbelts every time they get in any vehicle is being rolled out across Lothian and Borders. The 'Have You Clicked?' campaign is a joint initiative from the Scottish Government, Road Safety Scotland and the Association of Chief Police Officers Scotland (ACPOS). It is estimated that **1 in 3** people who are killed in vehicles were not wearing seatbelts, and **half** of those people could have been saved, had they worn a seatbelt.

Here are a few facts to remember next time you settle in a car:

- ❑ Seatbelt usage reduces the risk of fatal injury by about 50%, and they are described as 'the single most effective feature in the car to fulfil that role'
- ❑ All other safety features in cars, such as airbags, are only designed to work when the occupant is wearing a seatbelt
- ❑ In a crash at 30mph, if you are unrestrained, your body will hit anything in front of you, including another passenger or driver, with a force between 30 and 60 times your own body weight

Travel safely - wear a seatbelt on every journey, should it be local or long distance.

Andy Gilhooley
Sector Inspector

