

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

Here is the Murrayfield sector newsletter covering activity from the 1st April to the 30th. I hope you find it informative as well providing you with a summary of the crime within the area, whilst also mentioning local and policing issues.

In my report this month, we see a total of 27 crimes being reported for the sector, with 11 of these being solved.

HOUSE BREAKINS TO PREMISES

During the month of April, there were no domestic house breakings reported to the Police. However, culprits entered 2 business property within the beat. A male was also charged after being identified for a theft from a business. He was let into the premises by cleaning staff after posing an employee.

I know that the weather is getting better, remember my advice in keeping your premises protected.

Don't discuss holiday plans where strangers might overhear

Cancel milk or paper deliveries

Don't leave curtains closed during the daytime

Use timer switches to light up your home at night

Tidy your garden

Ask relatives or trusted neighbours to visit your home and ask them to collect mail, mow the lawn, put out bins and open and close curtains

Let relatives or trusted neighbours know how long you will be away for and leave details of where you can be contacted in an emergency

If you are not taking your car with you, make sure car keys are hidden

LASTLY

Recently, I have been contacted or approached by residents enquiring about installing a Close Circuit Television on their premises. I would like to take the opportunity to mention a few do's and don'ts regarding this type of equipment.

There are some issues you need to consider if installing any kind of personal CCTV system. Cameras should only be pointed at your own property - you don't want to be accused of spying on other people. The current advice is that you should not be deliberately viewing areas outside your own property's boundary unless it is unavoidable. Human Rights legislation concerning the individual's right to privacy means that passers by might complain about being 'spied' upon by your camera and appoint a Solicitor to effect a Civil Action against you.

Users of small systems or home systems which contain less than 3 cameras, which are not remotely operated i.e. they cannot be moved left/right and zoomed from a controller away from the camera, and the information gathered is passed to no-one but the Police, have no requirement to register with the UK Information Commissioner (Data Protection Act 1998), nor place signs, keep tape records etc although placing signage can assist as a deterrent. Take a look around your local DIY store to see the kind of equipment currently available. When you have decided what it is you want to view, and whether you want to record this, you should carefully consider where you are going to locate the camera. It is important to find a secure, stable fixing point that is out of easy reach of prying hands, but not too high that it is dangerous to install, alter the view or maintain.

PC PRINCE DURANT CBO MURRAYFIELD

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 Prince Durant Ext 2836
prince.durant@lbp.pnn.police.uk

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

