

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News



ISSUE 70 – July 2010

'Work With Us'

Divisional Commanders Message

CITY
WIDE



As the school holidays approach, Lothian and Borders Police are actively engaging with young people across the Division in order to make the summer months a safe and fun period. We have school link officers in secondary schools across the city, and they have been vital in educating our young people about how to keep themselves and their property secure this summer. Our officers also provide inputs, along with our partners at the City of Edinburgh Council, in various diversionary activities for local children, including everything from horse riding in the Pentlands to sailing at South Queensferry.

We have a number of high profile events happening throughout the summer and planning is well underway for all of them. The International Arts Festivals and Tattoo are just a couple of the fantastic events that really bring the city to life, and we are committed to making sure everyone who visits them can do so safely and enjoyably.

Chief Supt Gill Imery, A Division Commander

SUMMER SAFETY

HOT
TOPICS

Now that the holiday season is upon us, it is natural for people to relax and enjoy the warm weather. During the summer months, the population of Edinburgh swells with tourists from all over the world who come to enjoy our scenery, architecture and International Arts Festivals. Unfortunately the summer also presents additional opportunities for criminals keen to exploit people who have momentarily lowered their guard.

By considering the following advice you will make it difficult for these criminals to operate. This advice is equally relevant when you are abroad holiday.

- Be careful when leaving windows and doors insecure even when you're at home. Thieves can take this opportunity to slip in and help themselves to your valuables.
- Bogus callers can take advantage of the summer weather to ply their trade round the doors. Always engage reputable companies for building and gardening works. Service providers will rarely call without making an appointment. Always check caller's identification and IF IN DOUBT, KEEP THEM OUT!
- Before you leave the house, ask yourself "Do I need my Laptop, MP3 player, camera and £500 cash with me?" If you don't leave them at home.
- Keep hold of your valuables. Don't leave your jacket, bag, laptop, phone, camera or wallet unattended even for a few seconds. That's all it takes for thieves to help themselves.
- Beware of pickpockets. Don't keep your wallet or purse in your bag. Carry cash in a pocket close to your body. It's less likely to be stolen from there.

Remember; we live in a safe city but don't tempt fate. Stay alert but above all enjoy the summer and take advantage of the host of attractions available in Edinburgh.

LOCAL NEWS

The number of crimes reported to Police has fallen dramatically this month down from last months total of 32 to only 14.

Again, Housebreaking and theft of Pedal Cycles appear to be top of the list this month. A house in Belgrave Road was entered through a hopper window, and Cash and Credit Cards were taken. A patio window was smashed in Barony Terrace but no entry was gained, and an attempt was made to force a patio window in Pearce Avenue, but again no entry was gained. Two major thefts occurred – one in Saughtonhall Drive where the culprits entered through an insecure rear door and stole Jewellery to the value of over £5000, and a house in Kaimes Road was entered by forcing a cloakroom window, and along with cash and credit cards, car keys and the vehicle were taken.

There have been a spate of break-ins to garden sheds across the west of the city, but in our area only one such crime was reported – a shed in Glendevon Gardens was entered by forcing the door, and **four** Mountain Bikes were taken. The only other cycles that were taken were one in Old Kirk Road, where thieves cut through the padlock and chain, and one from Caroline Terrace where the cycle had been left insecure in a front garden. Of the spate of Garden shed break-ins several youths have been identified for these crimes and will be the subject of a report to the Procurator Fiscal.

Changes Afoot

You will have read on the front page of March's Newsletter the Chief Superintendent's message, where she mentions the Safer Neighbourhood Teams in the South and East of the City. As of the 20th September this year, the Safer Neighbourhood Teams are coming to the West of Edinburgh.

This will mean an amalgamation of the current Neighbourhood Action Unit, Community Beat Officers, and Officers from elsewhere, who will make up three teams which are to be 'Council Ward' based. The Almond Ward Team will be based at South Queensferry Police Station, the Drumbrae/Gyle Ward Team will be based at Corstorphine Police Station, and the Corstorphine/Murrayfield Ward team will be based at Chesser House on Gorgie Road. As of this date each of the Teams will have a Sergeant and Seven Officers, who will be attending those calls that affect 'the quality of life' of the residents in the areas they will patrol. (Calls such as Anti-Social Behaviour, Community issues) and although there will be no specific Community Beat Officer for the areas, I intend to remain a point of contact for my 'old area', and attend the meetings etc as before.

As well as the changes mentioned, the Newsletter is also to have a make-over, the format of which is currently under discussion, and I envisage that next months Newsletter may possibly be the last in it's present format, however I will keep you all informed.

PC 4283A 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....

Doorstep Crime has seen an increase across the City, and particularly in the 'Bogus 'Workmen' type of incident. Most callers at your door will be genuine, and reputable companies do not use 'cold calling' techniques. Bear in mind that **all** utility company employees will have an ID card in their possession, make sure you check it carefully before you allow them into your house, and if you are unsure – call the company using the telephone book to check the validity of the employee. The "Water Board" no longer exists, this phrase is an obsolete one used only by bogus callers, in an attempt to gain entry on the pretence of "checking the water pipes" and whilst you are distracted a second person then enters the premises and steals your valuables.

Remember: Lock, Stop, Chain, Check !

Lock - doors front and back, at all times
Stop – Are you expecting anyone?
Chain – If you have a chain, use it
Check – Ask for ID and check it thoroughly

Andy Gilhooley
Sector Inspector

