

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.

LOCALNEWS

Hello again, I'm pleased to be able to start this month's article with good news. During June the crime solvency rates for the sector were high. Police Officers from Corstorphine remain committed to serving the local community during challenging times for the entire City of Edinburgh.

In June, there was a non-specific spread of crime across the area, which was mostly minor in nature. Unfortunately, there were a number of break-ins to business premises and 3 to domestic dwellings. Please report any suspicious activity to Police.

Bogus caller crimes are particularly unpleasant incidents as they usually target the more vulnerable residents in our community. Commonly, this takes the form of people pretending to work for a utilities company and gaining access to a victim's house. The victim is then distracted whilst the culprit steals from another room. This occurred on at least one occasion during June. Please can I ask you to always check and verify the identities of callers to your doors. If in doubt, do not let them in. Also, keep an eye on neighbours, especially older persons, to lessen the risk of them falling prey to this type of crime.

There are still instances of thefts from vehicles taking place across the area. Please remember to remove all items of value from your vehicle before securing it and tell your neighbours if you see they have left anything visible.

As I have mentioned in the past, vandalism remains a key focus for Murrayfield Policing activity and is a volume crime, which affects many people in the community, and has a financial implication in terms of insurance claims and premiums. As mentioned above, I am aware of the number of incidents of this type, which have been reported to us and again I urge the Community to participate in efforts to curb this crime type. Can I re-emphasize this appeal and ask you to contact us in all circumstances where suspicious activity is seen so that both action can be taken and a clearer picture of true 'hot spots' can be identified.

Sometimes I speak to local residents who have told me that they had seen something but didn't want to bother the police. I would like to tell all readers that we need your ears and eyes on the street to let us know what is going on, and if you see something you think is suspicious, as usual, please don't hesitate to contact the Police either by '999' if urgent, or **0131 311 3131**.

Please feel free to contact me at Corstorphine Police station on 0131-311 3131 or prince.Durant@lbp.pnn.police.uk if you need any help or advice.

PC Prince Durant Murrayfield CBO.

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....

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

