

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News

Lothian and Borders
POLICE



ISSUE 12 - Aug 2005

'Working in Partnership for a Safer City'

CITY
WIDE

Edinburgh Excels During G8

In early July, I felt a tangible sense of solidarity as the capital pulled together to face a unique challenge. The sceptics had predicted that Edinburgh was incapable of hosting G8 related events and that there would be widespread chaos on our streets. Ultimately though, such forecasts were wide of the mark. Why was this? Firstly, our officers and support staff –and indeed those from elsewhere in the UK- did a tremendous job. Yes, we were happy to welcome those who came here with legitimate concerns but no –and I make no apology for this- we would not stand idly by while others sought to use a legitimate cause to cloak criminal acts. Secondly, the joint working between the police, the city Council, local businesses and innumerable other organisations and individuals was exemplary and undoubtedly eased tensions and allayed fears on all sides. Last and by no means least, I would like to pay tribute you –the residents of the city- who accepted some disruption in your day-to-day lives with characteristic understanding, stoicism and good grace. Without this, our policing role would have been very much harder. I offer you my sincere thanks.

Chief Supt. Allan Shanks, Divisional Commander

TOT
TAL
CUS

At the moment we are having problems in various parts of the town with youths causing havoc driving around on Mini-motorbikes and "Go-peds". It seems that a lot of people are oblivious to the law in relation to these mechanically propelled vehicles or are choosing to ignore it. These items are subject to the following restrictions: When using either of these vehicles you must be - On PRIVATE LAND with the land owners permission OR -If using in a PUBLIC PLACE, be 16 years or over, wear a helmet, have a relevant driving licence and also insurance.

Failure to abide by these laws could result in a young person having points added to a licence or future licence or a disqualification when the test is passed. They could also be fined and the vehicle confiscated.

The police and council are working together to ensure enforcement of the law in this matter and also to work with those selling the vehicles to get them to explain the conditions of driving such a vehicle. They can be very dangerous both for the rider and pedestrians so care should be taken.

I would also like to take the opportunity of reminding you about home security in the summer time. In the warmer weather more people are opening windows for fresh air and unfortunately criminals are taking advantage of this. Do be careful to lock up properly any time you leave your property, if you have window locks please use them, if not consider fitting some. If you are going away on holiday please take some extra measures such as informing family or neighbours. It is ideal if someone can pull curtains for you and check mail is not mounting up. Criminals looking to break into a home are looking for tell tale signs that no-one is at home. If you are not fortunate enough to have anyone to assist with this matter contact the Royal Mail and have them hold all mail until your return. Why not invest in some timer switches to leave on a couple of lamps and perhaps a radio.

LOCAL NEWS

FAIRMILEHEAD WARD 52

The crimes mentioned in this months newsletter reflect incidents that took place during the month of July.

The monthly figures make fairly good reading again with no reports of housebreaking to either domestic or business premises.

Motor vehicles remain an ongoing problem with 5 x thefts from motor vehicles at Buckstone Terrace, Comiston Springs Avenue, Caiystane Gardens , Swanston Drive and Buckstone Crescent however one of these was the theft of a part from the exterior of the car, and the other was the theft from the rear compartment of a van when the sliding door had been left unlocked.

Vandalism reports showed four instances, namely 1 x Pentland Terrace, 2 x Buckstone Terrace and 1 x Pentland View with a person being charged and reported for one of the incidents at Pentland Terrace.

There was also a theft from an apparently insecure garage in Queen Margaret Close. This is of course an easy mistake to make which most of us have been guilty of at one time or another, however it can be a costly one these days given the large amounts of expensive equipment we store in such places namely pedal cycles, golf clubs, tools etc. If you see your neighbours garage door lying open after the kids have come in for the evening then I'm sure they would appreciate a call rather than wake up to find items having been stolen !

I am aware also that there has been a spate of graffiti type vandalism in the King Malcolm, Mounthooley and Frogston Road area where it would appear the same person has " tagged " a number of different signs, items of road furniture etc. I have taken photographs of a number of these and enquiries are continuing.

Other areas of local concern have been reported to me include young children, possibly in the 7-8 years old age group, damaging trees and wire fencing in and around the Buckstone Circle area, and youths congregating and drinking and committing various anti social acts in the East Comiston and Colmestone Gate area. This is being addressed with targeted local patrols and enquiry to trace and report persons where appropriate. Already searching of a local youth in these areas resulted in a person being reported for a drugs offence and a knife offence. However any assistance you can give with specific details be it names, descriptions of persons etc would be most helpful.

Lastly an apology for the failure to deliver last months newsletter, this was a communication error whilst I was on holiday and has been formally rectified. I will include both with this months' letter. If there are any local issues you feel require police involvement or if you have any issues you wish to discuss please do not hesitate to get in touch. My contact details are again set out in the useful numbers section below, with more and more people finding the line of communication easier by e-mail. Furthermore if you wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail rather than hand delivered then let me know and I will gladly add you to the address list. This can save some time and mean you receive the newsletter sooner.

Graham Harvey, Community Beat Officer.

Useful Numbers

PC 3613-A Graham Harvey

Oxgangs Police Station,
270 Oxgangs Road North,
Edinburgh,
EH13 9NB

Tel 0131 441 1518, ext 2319

graham.harvey@lbp.pnn.police.uk
oxgangs.cbo@lbp.pnn.police.uk

Confidential or anonymous information on all types of criminal activity can be passed to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

And Finally....

Those of you who do not move in criminal circles (and that I know applies to the huge majority) are much more likely to be injured in a road crash than as a victim of crime. With that in mind I am pleased to highlight this area, which includes a section of the City Bypass, has had very few road crash related casualties over the recent past and is performing ahead of the Force Operational Goals. The new school term generates extra car journeys and pedestrians but I am determined to maintain our recent good record and will continue directing my officers to target parking and driving offences that increase the risk of injury crashes.
Alan Grant, Sector Inspector

