

# A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News

Lothian and Borders  
**POLICE**



ISSUE6 February, 2005

## 'Working in Partnership for a Safer City'

CITY  
WIDE

### Edinburgh Crime: Separating Fact from Fiction

The power of words is a curious thing. Take a walk through the city centre or turn on a local radio station for example, and you will soon be confronted with a news billboard or headline that shrieks 'crime'. Peruse these for a period of time and a hierarchy of topics or themes emerge. Plunder a store of action verbs and nouns –'soar', 'spiralling', 'crackdown' 'upsurge', etc- and you have an easy and eye-catching headline. But does this type of language convey an accurate picture of crime in the city to the average resident or visitor? I am not sure that it does. Not so very long ago, we asked you –the city public- what crimes you would like to see us target. You told us that crimes of violence and housebreakings were amongst your top priorities. The most recent census figures, coupled with up-to-date crime statistics tell us:

- An Edinburgh citizen will only be subject to a crime of violence once in 287 years;
- The average Edinburgh home will be broken into once in every 111 years.

These remarkable figures point to the true extent of crime in the city. If they surprise you, as I suggest they might, then the point is made – Edinburgh is a safe city. Our policing task is to make it even safer. **Chief Superintendent Allan Shanks, Divisional Commander**

HOT  
TOPICS

### Secure Your Car

Following on from last months Hot Topic highlighting vehicle crime there are a number of crime prevention devices you can use to reduce the risk of your car being stolen. It doesn't cost anything to hide your valuables away and to lock your car. This will dramatically reduce the chances of your vehicle being targeted. We recommend you do this every time you leave your car. To reduce the chances of your vehicle being stolen you should consider the opportunities you are giving the thief. Have you locked your vehicle? Are the keys in the ignition? Do you have a steering wheel lock, alarm or an immobiliser? You should also give consideration to where you park – what will the area be like at night? are there many streetlights? There are a number of organisations that provide excellent advice on security devices. The Home Office website provides a wealth of information on all aspects of crime prevention [www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk).

Car alarms should be fitted by a professional. Either ask your car dealer or an installer approved by the Vehicle Systems Installation Board. Approved installers can be found by calling 01708-340911 or by visiting the website [www.vsib.co.uk](http://www.vsib.co.uk)

Locking Wheel Nuts are cheap and easy to fit and can stop your wheels being stolen. Look for products that are approved by Thatcham (the Motor Insurance Repair Centre). Information is available by calling 0870-5502006 or visiting the website [www.thatcham.org](http://www.thatcham.org) or contact Sold Secure on 01327264687 or visit the website at [www.soldsecure.com](http://www.soldsecure.com). If your car is expensive or has sentimental value you could consider an in-car tracking device such as Tracker – 0500-090909, [www.tracker.co.uk](http://www.tracker.co.uk)

If you would like further information on security products please contact the Community Safety Department on 0131-221 2050.

# Local News

We will start of this month's newsletter with the good news that two 16-year-old youths have been charged with 35 crimes involving vehicles in the Edinburgh area and will be reported accordingly. Some of these crimes occurred in the Buckstone area in the month of January.

The disappointing aspect of January was that there were 3 domestic housebreakings, 2 of which were to houses and 1 to a garage. They occurred at Biggar Road, Frogston Avenue, and Buckstone Neuk respectively.

There were 5 thefts that occurred in Frogston Road West (male charged), Margaret Rose Way, Swanston View, Buckstone Avenue, and Buckstone Loan East. There were 6 thefts/attempt thefts of motor vehicles in Buckstone Shaw, Buckstone Gate, Buckstone Green, Colmestone Gate, Braid Road and Buckstone Crescent. There were also 3 thefts from cars at Buckstone Wynd (2), and Buckstone Road,

Vandalisms were reported in Buckstone Hill, Pentland Terrace, Biggar Road, Buckstone Grove, Winton Park, Colmestone Gate, and East Camus Road.

Once again there have been thefts from garages that have been left insecure. Can we please ensure that garages are locked at all times. Your home insurance may not cover you for valuables stolen from unlocked premises.

## Useful Numbers

Your local community beat officers :  
PC 4160A Brian Lothian  
PC 3613A Graham Harvey

Oxgangs Police Station,  
270 Oxgangs Road North,  
Edinburgh,  
Telephone number 0131 441 1518.

They can also be contacted regarding non-urgent matters on the following e-mail address: -  
[oxgangs.cbo@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:oxgangs.cbo@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

## And Finally....

The Oxgangs Sector has in recent weeks been a target for daytime break-ins to both houses and out-buildings whilst the occupiers are not at home.

I would urge householders to ensure all reasonable security measures are taken prior to departing for work, giving particular consideration to lighting if their return will be after dark. In addition it is important that all residents are alert to this activity in their neighbourhood and ANY suspicious person(s)/vehicle is immediately reported to the police.

With your help I am confident those responsible will be caught.

Alan Grant, Sector Inspector.

