

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News

Lothian and Borders
POLICE



ISSUE5 January, 2005

'Working in Partnership for a Safer City'

CITY
WATCH

The New Year – Fresh Measures to Tackle City Crime

Many of us traditionally make resolutions at this time of the year, resolutions that for the most part we may later break without detriment to others or ourselves. In my role as policing commander for the City of Edinburgh, I do not have this luxury. You –the city's residents- rightly expect my officers to hit our targets on crime. As 2005 opens, crime solvency in the city balances out at almost 40%, a figure twice that for London or similarly sized Liverpool. Over the next 12 months, I will ensure that our performance on key goals – theft by housebreakings, drugs offences, violent crime and disorder in public places- is maintained. Internal changes aimed at improved local community policing will take place throughout the year. Two new specially funded police teams –Safer Communities Units- and a Youth Action Team will also begin operating. Early models of both types of team already exist in the capital and have a proven track record of success - in one case reducing recorded crime by almost 50%. I will report on progress here in future Newsletters.

Allan Shanks Divisional Commander

HOME
OFFICES

OPERATION ALERT

Operation Alert was formed in March 2004 by Lothian and Borders Police to raise awareness of and investigate all forms of Bogus Caller Activity within the City of Edinburgh. Few would argue that this type of criminal behaviour is repulsive given that the vast majority of victims are older and more vulnerable members of our community. The Home Office Leaflet entitled, "How to Beat the Bogus Caller" gives excellent advice on how to reduce the likelihood of being targeted by these criminals. The assistance of all city Neighbourhood Watches is being urgently sought to distribute this leaflet amongst local communities, especially the elderly.

Please contact PC Andrew Cameron on andrew.cameron@lbp.pnn.police.uk

If you are willing to distribute a small quantity of these leaflets to homes, shops, community centres or any other locations within your area. Please supply your name and address along with the quantity of leaflets required and details of the area in which they will be distributed. The leaflets will then be sent out to you by post or dropped off at your local Police Station for collection.

ARE YOUR CAR KEYS SAFE?

Vehicle keys are often stolen during break-ins. This not only gives thieves a quick get away but also an easy means of transporting **YOUR** property. Before leaving the house or going to bed ask yourself the following six questions:

- Is my house secure? Have I locked the doors and windows?**
- Can my car keys be seen from outside? Are they easy to find?**
- Is my car secure? Have I left anything on open display?**

By taking a few simple precautions you can protect home and reduce the risk of your car being taken for a ride.

Local News

We would like to start this month's issue by wishing everyone a happy and prosperous new year, and with a little luck a crime free one as well.

Crime figures for January are comparable with December, with vandalism again being top of the list (9 reported incidents). Unfortunately there was one house broken into (Frogston Road West) and this happened during the early evening.

Two thefts from motor vehicles (West Caiystane Road and Comiston Road) were reported.

There were 4 other thefts reported in the month, 1 in Biggar Road and the other 3 were from insecure garages at Buckstone Road, Buckstone Dell, and King Malcolm Close. Let's not make things easy for the thief and make sure that garages are locked at night!

Incidents of vandalism were recorded in East Camus Road, Braid Hills Road (3), Pentland Terrace, Pentland Park, Buckstone Loan, Winton Terrace, and Oxfangs Road.

I have been asked to mention a problem which appears to be ongoing in the Frogston area, but I'm sure other parts of the beat experience similar complaints. It's DOG FOULING and most of the culprits appear to be local residents. Whether people can't be bothered to pick it up or they are not in proper control of their dog, it doesn't matter- it's an offence. There are a number of Council Wardens who now have the authority to issue on the spot fines, but let's prevent this by cleaning up after your dog, and keep the area a safe and clean place to live.

Useful Numbers

Your local community beat officers are:

PC Alex Dickson
PC Graham Harvey
PC Brian Lothian

Oxgangs Police Station,
270 Oxgangs Road North,
Edinburgh,
Tel: 0131 441 1518

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

And Finally....

The winter weather has arrived with a vengeance and I would urge every motorist to ensure their vehicle is properly prepared for all journeys. Tyres in good condition and inflated to the correct pressure are crucial to controlling and stopping the vehicle, particularly in adverse road conditions. Allow extra time for your journey and if the road conditions are obviously dangerous then consider whether your journey is really necessary. I am pleased to report our local injury road crash statistics are very good and like me you will want that to continue. Stay safe.
Alan Grant
Sector Inspector

