

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News

Lothian and Borders
POLICE



ISSUE 11 - July 2005

'Working in Partnership for a Safer City'

CITY
WIDE

Communication – Have we Got it Right?

This Newsletter has been running in its current form for almost a year. When we first launched it our aims were:

- to present a standardised, concise, easily read and visually attractive document capable of either 'hard copy' or E-mail circulation;
- to offer a mix of topical citywide and local news, as well as crime prevention advice and points of contact or electronic links to other community safety agencies; and
- to free up front-line officers' time by giving them a 'ready-made' news document that nonetheless remained flexible to local need.

We will only have achieved most of these aims if you, the reader, find the Newsletter useful. We will shortly be reviewing its format, structure and content and I am now looking for your feedback. For example, is the balance between the three parts right? Could the format be improved on? Views can be E-mailed to lyndsay.hanlon@lbp.pnn.police.uk or neil.mackay@lbp.pnn.police.uk or passed by telephone on 0131-662-5085.

Chief Supt Allan Shanks, Divisional Commander

HOT
TOPICS

The Heat Is On!

Houses in the UK are not traditionally equipped with air-conditioners and even in Edinburgh temperatures can soar. It is tempting to leave the doors and windows ajar to let the breeze in but a cool breeze may not be the only thing you invite into your house. Unwelcome guests - bogus callers, opportunistic and sneak-in thieves could enter your property gaining entry through an open door or window.

To reduce the chances of becoming a victim:-

- Check gates and fences, as an open or unlocked gate or even a broken fence can be seen as a temptation to a potential thief.
- Make sure that you always keep the windows and doors fully locked particularly in an unoccupied room, especially when out in the garden.
- Keep desirable items out of view and out of reach to passers-by on the street.
- Consider putting gravel on areas by your windows. The noise produced when stepping on gravel could alert the homeowners that someone is approaching the property.
- Never leave the windows and doors unlocked when you are out.
- Balmy summer nights are not conducive to sleep. However windows should be left on the catch if they have to be kept open during the night. Otherwise, it is best to keep them locked securely. And switch the burglar alarm on before you go to bed.

Even during the summer months, it is wise to be alert. This will save you from being hot and bothered later.

Local News

The crimes mentioned in this letter reflect incidents that took place during the month of June.

Motor vehicles remain the biggest problem this month with five vehicles broken into and items stolen from within. These thefts took place at Buckstone Crescent, Buckstone Row, Buckstone Loan East and two in Caiystane Gardens between the same times overnight. One vehicle and contents was stolen from Swanston Place again overnight between the 17th and 18th June.

I am a pleased to report that there were no reports of domestic housebreaking during the month with only one to the business premises of the relatively new clubhouse of the Hermitage Golf Club in Braid Hills Drive during the early hours of 26th June. Two other thefts in the area took place at Queen Margaret Close where an insecure garage was entered and a theft from a washing line from Buckstone Bank.

Two incidents of vandalism, one at Galachlawside and one to Global Video at Buckstone Terrace complete the monthly figures which are an improvement on the previous months.

We currently have an auto squad running covering the Pentlands area including Area 52 whose specific role is in relation to vehicle associated crime. These officers have had a high degree of success so far and enquiries are continuing with other crimes in the area.

Now that G8 duties are behind us I am going on my summer annual leave for two weeks or so, but do not hesitate to get in touch with the station should you require any advice etc.

Useful Numbers

PC 3613-A Graham Harvey

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

Tel 0131 441 1518, ext 2324

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....

Now that G8 is past I am delighted we can now concentrate all our local policing effort to ensure this part of Edinburgh remains one of the safest and best parts of the city in which to reside. I know there are quality of life issues that continue to impact on many within our community and I am acutely aware that along with our partners, particularly the City of Edinburgh Council, we have a significant role to play in this regard.

I would urge anybody who is the victim of anti-social behaviour and not yet brought it to the attention of the police to contact your Community Beat Officer.

Alan Grant, Sector Inspector

