

A Division

Community and Neighbourhood Watch News

Lothian and Borders
POLICE



ISSUE10 June, 2005

'Working in Partnership for a Safer City'

CITY
WIDE

G8 - Protest, Passion and Public Safety

Few Edinburgh residents can have escaped the volume of information, speculation and rumour surrounding this year's G8 protest events in the capital. Lothian and Borders Police and the City of Edinburgh Council recognise that people hold strong and passionate views about the issues of Third World debt, poverty and world hunger. To this end, a dedicated police team has been working closely with the Council and the organisers of the various events to allow these perfectly legitimate voices to be heard. Public safety is of course paramount and policing such a large programme of events will inevitably require an extraordinary commitment on our part. All of my officers have had their days off cancelled so that we can keep this disruption to a minimum. Some will be working at specific events whilst others will be working long hours at their usual stations to ensure that normal policing standards across the city are maintained. Within sensible expectations, my aim is very much 'Business as usual'. Up-to-date information on can be obtained on a dedicated enquiry line 0131 200 2343 or by visiting www.lbp.police.uk/g8 or www.edinburgh.gov.uk/g8summit

Chief Supt. Allan Shanks, Divisional Commander

HOT
TOPICS

Everyone needs a holiday some time. And however much we like our homes, there is nothing like a change of scenery. But we all want to come home and find everything as we left it. Almost half of all break-ins happen when a flat or house is empty.

Before you go

- Make your home look like someone is living in it. Don't close your curtains in daytime this shows the house is empty. Use automatic timer-switches to turn your lights on.
- Cancel any milk or newspaper deliveries.
- Avoid discussing holiday plans where strangers may hear details of your absence.
- Cut the lawn before you go and trim back any plants.
- Uncollected mail is a sign that you are away.
- Consider leaving important documents and valuable items with other family members or a bank. Or use a safe.
- Do not put your home address on your luggage when you are travelling to your holiday destination.
- Consider moving any pedal cycles into the house.
- Make sure all outside doors and windows are locked, and your burglar alarm is set.

Help from your neighbours

It's a good idea to get help from your neighbours. You could ask them to collect post, sweep up leaves, mow the lawn, open and close curtains, and so on. Anything to make the place look lived in.

Let your neighbour know when you will be away and, if you can, give them details so that they can contact you, or someone who can act on your behalf, in an emergency.

Local News

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

Motor vehicles have again been a target this month with five vehicles broken into and items stolen from within. These thefts took place in Caiystane Gardens x 2, Swanston Drive x 2 and outside Mortonhall Golf Club. Two vehicles have been stolen from Buckstone Lea, and Pentland Crescent, whilst another two vehicles were subject to vandalism at Buckstone Terrace and Comiston View.

Whilst there is not an awful lot you can do to protect your car from indiscriminate vandalism when it is left parked unattended on the street, there are simple steps you can take to reduce your chances of being a victim of theft. Do not leave any valuables within the vehicle, or make it obvious there is nothing of value in the vehicle by purposefully emptying glove boxes etc and leaving them open to view.

Another crime becoming more and more common is the theft slip in to insecure dwelling houses and then the stealing of the car keys. It is probably fair to say that most of us would have the car keys in similar places, i.e. on a hook or small table just inside the front or back door, or coat pocket hung up in the hall or bottom of the stairs. With just a little thought this crime could be more easily prevented.

There were 2 instances of break ins to domestic properties, one at Buckstone Road and one at Fairmile Avenue where enquiries are continuing. Another in the area has been solved with persons charged accordingly.

Other crimes reported were vandalism in Buckstone Terrace and Riselaw Place and two other thefts.

Some other solved offences of note this month include a public indecency in Swanston, one arrest for disqualified driving, two arrests of drunk drivers and numerous other road traffic offences.

If you have any issues you wish to discuss please do not hesitate to get in touch. My contact details for non-urgent calls are reproduced in the useful numbers section below.

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....

As has already been mentioned there will be exceptional demands on the police over the next month but I remain confident we will continue to provide a local policing service at an acceptable level.

Holiday time is almost upon us and I would urge those of you who are leaving your home unoccupied to earnestly consider the advice in the 'Hot Topics' section of this letter.

Criminals undoubtedly search for properties where it is obvious the occupier is on holiday. This not only minimises the risk of them being disturbed but also provides a time window to dispose of their ill-gotten gains before the crime is discovered! Alan Grant, Inspector

