

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News

Lothian and Borders
POLICE



ISSUE 7 March, 2005

'Working in Partnership for a Safer City'

CITY
WIDE

Edinburgh Break-ins – Good News from Insurers

In last month's Newsletter, I referred to the gulf between crime as a reality and crime as it might be interpreted from media headlines. Insurance companies are traditionally 'hard-nosed' on such matters. Today I was pleased to note the conclusions of a report by Endsleigh Insurance that revealed Edinburgh to be the **safest city in the United Kingdom** in terms of domestic break-ins. Specifically, residents in the capital are 56% less likely to suffer a housebreaking than the national average. Given the city's growing international profile and its expanding domestic and business populations these findings are nothing short of phenomenal. Policing methods need to evolve to keep pace with crime trends. We need to keep abreast of the way in which criminals work, focusing our efforts on crime prevention and, where a crime has occurred, crime solvency. This report shows that prevention messages do get through to householders. Latest performance figures also show that we are solving a creditable 43% of those that do occur. Taken together, these statistics show that we are making a real difference.

Chief Supt Allan Shanks, Divisional Commander

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Community Safety

At this time of year you will be thinking about the outdoor life – using your pedal cycles, tidying the garden and days out in the car. Unfortunately, opportunist thieves will also start paying attention to all the property that you store in your shed, where you leave your bikes lying around and watching what you leave in your car while you're out and about.

Thieves target unattended vehicles as they are seen as easy pickings. Consider carefully where you park your vehicle. When using your car only take those items which are essential and don't leave anything valuable in the car, **NOT EVEN** in the boot. The design of most cars allows access to the boot through the back seats.

By their design, garden sheds are difficult to secure. Instead, secure those things that you store in your shed. Run reinforced cable through the handles of gardening equipment and padlock either end of this cable to an anchor point. The anchor point should be securely attached to a robust part of the shed. This would prevent the loss of expensive garden equipment or the use of tools for breaking into your or your neighbours' home.

Similarly, securely lock your pedal cycles together to prevent them being removed and ridden off.

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

Local News

This month, there has been some notable successes in the detection of crime with a number of persons having been charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal for a variety of offences including; 1 for Contempt of court, 1 for possession of drugs, 1 for breach of the peace and 1 person charged for a number of road traffic related offences.

Whilst no house has had its security overcome, there has, unfortunately, been 3 break ins to garden sheds in Buckstone Shaw, Buckstone Place & Buckstone Hill. Additionally, there has been a further 2 thefts from gardens in Buckstone Crook, Buckstone Park and the theft of a pedal cycle whilst left unattended outside a house in Galachlawside.

There has also been 2 separate break ins to the Golf Professionals shop, Braid Hills Golf course.

Vandalisms are down on last months figures with 4 reported in the following areas; Buckstone Road, Buckstone Drive, Caiystaine Crescent & Lothianburn.

Vehicle crime continues to cause concern with 5 reported thefts from cars in Biggar Road, Braid Hills Approach, Buckstone Terrace & Buckstone View.

Whilst it would be impossible to prevent all crime from occurring, we can as mentioned in last months news letter take precautions in relation to our own security, ensuring that garages and outhouses etc are locked up and secured at all times and that valuable property is not left lying about whilst unattended. Again, in relation to vehicles, please do not leave items of property lying within that could be seen by persons passing by.

Useful Numbers

Your local community beat officers are

P.C Brian Lothian 4160
P.C Graham Harvey 3613-A
P.C Alex Dickson 5512-A

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

And Finally....

March / April traditionally sees an increase in bogus callers. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you to ask for and **take time** to check the identification of anyone wishing to gain entry to your house prior to allowing them access. Should you let anyone in be sure to close the door behind you to prevent others entering unnoticed and remain with them at all times. Don't be fooled by them asking to check lights, running water etc in other rooms as it's likely that this will be their opportunity to steal your property. If you're unsure of anyone don't let him or her in! Preferably use tradesmen who have been recommended to you.

