

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News

Lothian and Borders
POLICE



ISSUE 9 May, 2005

'Working in Partnership for a Safer City'

CITY
WIDE

Policing Expectations in a Changing World

Today's police service is open to an unprecedented level of public scrutiny and accountability. My job is essentially to balance a finite budget and workforce on the one hand, with your high expectations of a safe city on the other. I have an obligation to continually look at how we work and see if we can do things more efficiently. 'Operation Capital', the restructuring of city policing that began in 2003, has produced many benefits. Aligning our policing boundaries, for example, has allowed us to pioneer unique partnership initiatives such as our Safer Community Units at Broomhouse and Craigmillar, and our Youth Action Team in Howdenhall. Equally, we recognise that traditional policing in the shape of the well-known and accessible local 'bobby' is something that you value highly. This is why, as of the beginning of this month, we will be taking the bold step of allocating 58 dedicated *Community Beat Officers* to the 58 individual wards that make up the city. These officers will be backed up on a '24/7' basis by the larger bulk of *Community Patrol Officers*, but their primary responsibility will be to work solely with local people on local issues. We have done all we can to protect their time in and I will watch how their role evolves with interest.

Ch Supt Allan Shanks, Divisional Commander

HOT
TOPICS

Community Safety

Last month Lothian and Borders Fire Service launched a **free** home safety check service, which provides home safety advice and where required, the supply and fitting of **free** 10-year smoke detectors.

Since this time some people have received telephone calls offering home safety surveys in relation to the installation of fire detection equipment and home security systems. **These calls are not from the Fire Service.**

The caller attempts to arrange a home visit and is very persistent in this tactic. Due to this hard sell approach the recipients, who are generally older or vulnerable members of society, submit to this badgering and agree to a home survey.

Experience shows that once access has been gained to the home of an older member of the community the hard sell approach will continue until a sale is made.

To arrange **free home safety check** you can call the Fire Service on **0800 169 0320** or if you are in any doubt about a call made to you, feel free to phone Fire Service HQ on **0131 228 2401**.

The Safer Communities Department will be at the Royal Highland Show from the 23rd to the 26th June. We will have a variety of themes such as raising awareness of housebreaking, vehicle crime, wildlife crime, tackling bogus caller activity, as well as having competitions for children. Representatives from various security product manufacturers, all accredited to 'secured by design' standard, will also be available.

Feel free to come along and pick our brains about reducing crime in your area, or simply to pick up a leaflet or two. Here's hoping the weather holds though!

Local News

May I take this opportunity to introduce myself ? My name is Graham Harvey and following further adjustments to the policing structure within Edinburgh I have been appointed as the Community Beat Constable for Fairmilehead. I have been in the police for sixteen years and worked from Oxbgangs Police Station, in various capacities, for the past 12 years. I hope to use my knowledge of the area and experience in the police to work with the community in Fairmilehead and address policing issues all with a view to making this part of Edinburgh an even better and safer place to live and work. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the forthcoming months.

The crimes mentioned in this newsletter reflect incidents that took place during the month of April.

Motor vehicles are valuable possessions and unfortunately they are soft targets for criminals city-wide. Damage to motor vehicles is all too common with a total of five vehicles vandalised in this area - Comiston View, Pentland View, Swanston Avenue, Swan Spring Avenue and Pentland Terrace. In addition there were two thefts from motor vehicles - Buckstone Gardens and Braid Hills Hotel area.

I would urge each of you to ensure no valuables are left in view within your car when you park it, anywhere, especially briefcases and handbags. If your car sound system has special securities features then please make full use of them.

There were 4 instances of break-ins for the month. Two in Buckstone Crescent and one at Buckstone Primary School. After some good work the housebreaking at Frogston Gardens has been solved. Continued vigilance is required especially at this time of year when people call at houses looking for gardening work and other house maintenance tasks. If you are uncomfortable or suspicious of callers to your house then record as much detail as possible and contact the police.

Other crimes reported were vandalism to property in Buckstone Avenue, Buckstone Crescent and Comiston Road and two pedal cycles were stolen, one from Buckstone Crescent and the other from Winton Grove. An increase in stone throwing activities in the Pentland View area has been brought to my attention. In addition to property damage there is a real danger of serious injury and as local youths are probably the culprits I would urge parents to highlight the dangers to their children. The law is not sympathetic when 'accidents' happen as a result of reckless acts.

On a more positive note a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal regarding the possession of drugs in the Buckstone area, and four males were all arrested and reported for being within a building with intent to steal again in the Buckstone Road area. And finally, in response to complaints from residents in Buckstone officers targeted an area resulting in a youth being caught driving a stolen motor scooter without any driving documents.

If you have any issues you wish to discuss please do not hesitate to get in touch. My contact details are reproduced in the useful numbers section below. The contact details are for non-urgent calls only. If a rapid police response is required dial 999 or 0131 441 1518 and explain the nature of the problem to the person who answers. Do not ask for my extension number.

Useful Numbers

PC 3613-A Graham Harvey

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

Tel 0131 441 1518, ext 2319

oxgangs.cbo@lbp.pnn.police.uk

And Finally....

As eluded to by Chief Superintendent Shanks there has been further change to the policing arrangements within Edinburgh, all with a view to providing the best possible service to local communities with the finite resources available. Locally I am pleased to inform you that police officers are now working 24-7 from Oxgangs Police Station and, in addition, the Community Police Officer structure has been reviewed, all of which will enable a better co-ordinated and focussed delivery of local policing. In practical terms we will now be more able to respond to local issues.

Alan Grant, Sector Inspector

