

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News

Lothian and Borders
POLICE



**ISSUE 15- November
2005**

'Working in Partnership for a Safer City'

**CITY
WIDE**

Seizing the Initiative on Bus Safety

This month I would like to pay tribute to the work of one police officer in particular -PC Martin White. In 2003, Martin became Scotland's first dedicated Public Transport Liaison Officer. His remit? To establish the true extent of bus crime and to ensure that bus travel in and around the capital was as safe as possible. Over the last 2 years, his success has been unprecedented. He has fostered excellent working relationships with Edinburgh's two major bus companies. He is well-known to managers and drivers alike and provides a single point of reference for police enquiries. Under his stewardship, an innovative 'Crimestoppers' bus campaign in 2004 saw tip-offs from the public soar by 110%. This year, an identical scheme saw a rise of 130%. Martin also planned and implemented the issue of DNA testing kits to drivers to tackle despicable incidents of staff being spat upon. A number of people have since been traced and charged using this equipment. Over 100 million passenger journeys were made in the last year. This represents an annual increase in bus patronage of 27%. As he leaves his post for pastures new, Martin can congratulate himself on a job well done. I would also wish his successor - PC Kirsty White - all the very best in her new role. **Chief Superintendent Allan Shanks, Divisional Commander**

**HOT
TOPICS**

'Take Control' Remote Reporting Scheme

For a number of reasons, many people are reluctant to report crimes and other incidents directly to the police. Remote reporting, as the name suggests, allows the reporting of such matters to a third party agency. It in turn forwards the report to the police. The particular agency may also offer support and advice to the individual concerned.

The mechanics of the system are fairly simple. The victim is given the option of reporting an incident formally, informally, or even anonymously. The third party agency notes basic details of the incident and faxes or e-mails these to the Force Communications Centre at Bilston. Details are logged here and sent out to local managers within the Criminal Investigation Department. Officers are then allocated to investigate the incident or crime. They are encouraged to maintain clear lines of communication with the third party agency and the victim so that everyone knows how the enquiry is progressing.

Lothian and Borders Police has been operating this system since 2000, with considerable assistance and support from members of the Black and Minority Ethnic Community, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender groups, sex industry workers and homeless persons agencies. Because of its success, the number of remote reporting sites in Edinburgh has risen to 18. Full details of the scheme are included on our website at www.lbp.police.uk/takecontrol. They can also be obtained by calling 0131-311-3909.

Local News

This month's newsletter reflect incidents that took place during the month of October.

The excellent run with regards to housebreaking has been broken, with a break in to part of the business premises at the Water Board at Buckstone Terrace and a domestic dwelling at Swanston Avenue, between the 2nd and 13th of the month. Enquiries are continuing.

Vehicle crime was recorded as 2 x thefts from motor vehicles parked at Camus Avenue and Biggar Road, whilst Malicious Damage to motor vehicles numbered six in total, between Swanston Gardens, Buckstone Shaw, Buckstone Road, Braid Hills Road and Buckstone Rise x 2.

Four theft others were recorded with one being solved, these were mainly opportunist thefts. Items had been left unattended at Hermitage Golf Club, Pavilion Public House, Braid Road and Comiston Road.

Two incidents of violence resulted in 3 reports of minor assault and one of serious assault for the month. One of these incidents was the subject of an Evening News press release at the start of November surrounding an incident within the Fairmile Inn, whilst the other was an assault on a young girl near the shops in Biggar Road. Further enquiries are progressing with these crimes.

Two further incidents of vandalism occurred at Buckstone Howe and Pentland Drive where house windows were smashed.

On a crime prevention note I was asked about the topic of "identity theft" and thought it was worth some space on the newsletter. The emergence of "identity theft" makes the protection of personal information extremely important. Thieves can use even the most mundane of personal details to help them "verify" that they are someone they aren't. One of the most common ways of doing this is by raiding bins.

A recent study revealed that 86% of domestic rubbish contained information helpful to fraudsters. Three quarters of the bins that were checked contains the full name and address of at least one person from the household. 20% contained a bank account number and some form of sort code that could be linked to the name and address of a person from the house.

SO..... don't keep all of your bills, receipts and other personal information in an obvious place, if you can lock them away. If you can't do this try and keep it somewhere out of the way, or separate it out. Consider investing in a shredder.

Identity thieves will also try and dupe you into giving personal information either in person, over the phone or by using official sounding e-mails. Be suspicious of anyone seeking too much information, don't be afraid to challenge them by asking why they need these details. A legitimate enquirer will not mind you asking.

A useful crime prevention source on this and other matters is the BBC website at www.bbc.uk/crime/prevention.

As always if there are any local issues you feel require police involvement, or worthy of mention via the newsletter then please pass me the information.

Graham Harvey Community Beat Officer.

Useful Numbers

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Confidential or anonymous information on all types of criminal activity can be passed to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

And Finally....

Christmas is rapidly approaching again! This is a time of the year when cars are parked laden with valuable and newly purchased goods. I would urge everyone to take basic crime prevention precautions and ensure such property is locked in the boot and out of sight when the vehicle is parked and unattended. Many people also carry more cash on their person at this time of the year and I would ask that everyone remains alert and vigilant when using ATM's. Also ensure wallets and purses are carried securely and certainly not lying loose in bags or sticking out of rear trouser pockets.

Alan Grant, Sector Inspector

