

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News

Lothian and Borders
POLICE



ISSUE14 - Oct 2005

'Working in Partnership for a Safer City'

CITY
WIDE

Edinburgh: Soaring Popularity and Lower Crime

A poll just published in a leading broadsheet has revealed Edinburgh to be 'best city' in the UK for British travellers. This particular survey closely follows a previous international survey that put the capital in the top 5 of the most talked cities in the world. History, the Festival and the Hogmanay celebrations are obvious draws, but I like to think we in the police have our part to play in assuring Edinburgh's success. Recent reports elsewhere in the country have raised the spectre of rising crime but our mid-year performance statistics show that crimes of violence have actually fallen by 15%. Compared to the same period last year sexual crimes have also dropped by a staggering 25%, with almost 2 out of every 3 being solved. Total recorded crime is down by 2%. In the current international climate, tourists have become increasingly discerning individuals. As most visitors scour the internet and check their guidebooks, personal safety is high on their checklist. In this respect, Edinburgh has little to fear and much to recommend it.

Chief Supt. Allan Shanks, Divisional Commander

HOT
TOPICS

The Autumn Thief - Don't Make Your Home a Target

"The nights are fair drawin' in" as they say and people may not get from home from work until after dark. Houses in darkness look unoccupied and attract thieves, so to deter them, we would urge you to think like a thief.

- Fit timer switches to lights both up and down stairs, never just leave the hall light on – who spends their evening in the hallway? Make your house appears occupied. But don't just leave it at that.
- Make sure your doors and locks are sturdy and well-fitted.
- If you live in a stair, make sure the stair doors are locked and secured too; otherwise this puts every home in the stair at risk. Don't let anyone in if they are not visiting you. You wouldn't let them into your house, why let them into your stair?
- All ground floor windows should be kept locked and secured with key operated locks – but keep the keys out of sight and reach. Thieves don't like smashing glass, it draws attention to them and they have to clear away the shards before climbing through.

Next time you walk down your street at night, guess which house is occupied or not – think like a thief to deter a thief.

LOCAL NEWS

FAIRMILEHEAD WARD 52

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

The monthly figures make fairly good reading again with no reports of housebreaking to either domestic or business premises. Is it a coincidence that Fairmilehead has one of the highest number of neighbourhood watch areas and such low figures for housebreaking? I will let you decide!!!

Theft from motor vehicles remain an ongoing problem with 3 x thefts at Buckstone Wood, Buckstone Terrace outside the Tusitala restaurant, and Braid Hills Road, all committed on different dates. There was also an attempt on a vehicle in Buckstone Court involving persons bending back the door frame, however no access was gained.

Theft-other offences for the month totalled three such crimes, Swanston Gardens, Braid Farm Road, and a theft of milk from the overnight delivery at Buckstone Primary School. Again these crimes are thought to be unlinked and opportunist.

Vandalism to motor vehicle reports showed an unfortunate increase this month with ten crimes recorded. One of these occurred in Caiystane Crescent between the 18th and 19th, a further two on Braid Hills Road overnight between 14th and 15th, whilst the remaining seven all took place in a series of crimes with five being in Buckstone Terrace and two in Pentland View. The evidence suggests a group of persons, possibly around 0230 hours in the morning into the 3rd. Obviously this form of crime causes a great deal of anxiety, annoyance and distress to the victims not to mention the large financial implications. As a direct means of tackling and combating such crimes we have a newly set up unit covering the whole of the Pentlands Area. This unit are called the " Youth Action Team " YAT for short, and comprise of six officers who deal specifically with youth hot spots, anti-social behaviour, local problem areas etc. The scheme is a partially funded by the Council and has been started in Pentlands after a successful pilot scheme in South area, and they have already been having an impact with a large number of youths being charged with a variety of offences including, carrying of knives, possession of drugs, assaults, breach of the peace to name but a few!

The next few weeks historically sees an increase in general anti-social and unruly behaviour with both Halloween and "Bonfire Season". We have a number of plans in place involving dedicated extra patrols in and around the Buckstone area on 31st Oct and 1st Nov in particular to combat the increasingly common trend of "egg throwing" and the like. Furthermore if any of you become aware of bonfires being assembled in unsuitable areas then please let me know, as we will liaise with the council and have them removed if appropriate.

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. Similarly I have been attending at some Watch meetings recently, and would be happy to attend any further meetings you may wish to invite me to.

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....

Public support is fundamental to successful and effective policing. Through involvement in NHW, community groups and other means many residents have clearly demonstrated their support for the police and the community in which they live.

Please be assured this support is not taken for granted and I am very grateful for it.

Many of you will be aware of the Special Constable role within the police and through this the direct assistance that can be given to local policing. If this is a role that may interest you then please speak with your CBO for more information or contact me at Oxgangs Police Station.

Alan Grant
Sector Inspector

