

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News

Lothian and Borders
POLICE



ISSUE 20 – April 2006

'Working in Partnership for a Safer City'

“Sharing Information, Valuing Diversity & Working in Partnership for a Safer City”

**CITY
WIDE**

The *City of Edinburgh Policing Plan 2006/07* has now been published, to help us tackle competing policing priorities during the next 12 months in terms of national security, the protection of vulnerable members of our communities, the policing of a multitude of events and the reduction of crime and disorder. The Plan emphasises that the sharing of information remains key to providing the highest quality of service and so we will continue to proactively engage with our partners and the diverse communities across the City to ensure that police officers are working where they are most needed.

An electronic copy of the Plan will accompany this month's e-mailed newsletter.

Chief Superintendent Allan Shanks, Divisional Commander

Nipping Garden Crime in the Bud

**TOP
TIPS**

Spring is upon us and many of you will be dusting down the lawnmower and garden tools in the hope of producing an award-winning garden. Unfortunately, at this time of year, break-ins to garden sheds and thefts from gardens become more common. Many people store bicycles, power tools and expensive gardening equipment in sheds, making them an attractive target for criminals. These criminals consider this type of crime to be low risk, as there is no need to force entry to your home. However, there is much that can be done to outsmart garden thieves.

- Use a good quality closed shackle padlock on your shed door - the hasp should be attached using coach bolts rather than screws
- You should keep valuable items in the house - if they must stay in the shed, chain and lock them up
- Loop a bike lock through the handles of garden forks, spades, etc. - these items can be used as tools to force entry to your home
- Security mark your bicycles, lawnmowers, toolboxes and garden furniture by engraving, painting or utilising a security marker pen
- Fit an internal wire mesh grille to protect your shed window
- Install security lighting to illuminate your garden.
- Fit a shed alarm - they can be purchased for a few pounds from DIY retailers

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

It has been a busy month in the area with a rise in recorded crimes in a number of categories.

There were 9 break ins to motor vehicles. Pentland Crescent x 2 overnight between 22/04/06 and 23/04/06, Biggar Road, Comiston Springs Avenue, Buckstone Avenue, Braid Hills Road, Braid Farm Road x 2, and the afternoon on 10/04/06 at Mortonhall Golf Club. Most of these were by smashing windows and stealing items that were visible from within.

There were four recorded vandalisms to motor vehicles including Oxfangs Road, Buckstone Loan where 6 or 7 youths were seen running away, and at Buckstone Circle. A further report from Braid Hills Road is worthy of mention. It would appear that someone has been placing a form of home made device with nails protruding through a piece of plastic, this item has been placed, facing upwards, within puddles and pot-holes etc in the small car park and lay-by along Braid Hills Drive, the effect of course is that vehicles drive in and subsequently puncture their tyres on the device (the potential consequences could be worse of course!). This recent report followed on from an earlier similar incident. The first victim was the night shift police patrol vehicle!

There were 5 x vandalisms to other property which involved smashing windows by throwing stones at same. Pentland Terrace x 2 around 09/04/06, Buckstone Drive, Mounthooly Loan and the solicitor's front window in Buckstone Terrace late evening on 03/04/06.

There was a theft of a motor vehicle from Buckstone Loan East with the vehicle concerned being recovered later nearby, and a theft of alcohol from Threshers at Buckstone Terrace involving a number of youths running in, lifting goods from display and making off without paying.

On a more positive note there were 4 x vandalisms to motor vehicles in Pentland View area where door mirrors were broken off. Two local youths have been traced and are being reported for these offences. A further assault in Buckstone Circle on a youth has been solved, another driver in our area with no authority or documents has been traced and reported whilst a youth was traced and charged with reset in relation to a previous theft of alcohol from Threshers at Buckstone Terrace. Finally there were a number of thefts of milk from doorsteps in the Braid Farm Road area in the early hours of the morning. Steps have been taken to alter delivery times etc, however be aware of this current trend.

As always feel free to contact me directly via e-mail or otherwise with any issue or advice you require, or if you are able to assist with any of the crimes mentioned.

PC 3613-A 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....

On examination of crime files I continue to be disappointed by the large number of 'avoidable' crimes. There is little doubt many of these crime are wholly opportunist. The situations are varied but include property simply left unattended, valuables in full view within a vehicle and poor security of premises where doors/windows are insecure.

I urge everyone to take responsibility for their property, think crime prevention, and ensure life is not made easy for the thief.

Alan Grant
Sector Inspector

