

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News

Lothian and Borders
POLICE



ISSUE 24 – August 2006

'Working in Partnership for a Safer City'

Performance Update 2006-07

CITY

Set in the context of a particularly demanding start to the year, I am pleased to report that four months into the current 12-month recording period, documented levels of crime across Edinburgh are down 2% on the same period last year. In addition, the number of crimes being solved has risen by a creditable 5%. Purposeful efforts to target domestic housebreakings have resulted in a 9% fall across the Capital.

WIDE

The busy summer period is now well underway with the start of the football season and the City alive with tourists and Festival visitors. At this time, the management of competing priorities in respect of events and the protection of communities is a significant challenge; however, efforts will be supported by the well timed establishment of the final Council funded police teams – police officers working in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council across the city centre to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour.

Chief Superintendent Allan Shanks, Divisional Commander

Return to School - Personal Safety

Whether your children are returning to or starting a new school after the summer holidays, the following personal safety guidance should be considered

TOP-
HOLDS

- Always choose a safe route to travel to and from school. Try to walk with friends and use an established route with street lighting and shops and houses along the way
- When using public transport - respect other passengers and choose to sit close to the driver if you feel unsafe
- Look after your personal items and mark property with your name and postcode
- Do not misuse your mobile phone - schools have strict rules concerning use and misuse could result in criminal charges
- Use the Internet safely - never give out your personal details and do not misuse email to hurt or harass others
- Do not bully and do not be bullied - treat others, as you would wish to be treated
- Remember that most schools have CCTV for your protection and safety
- Talk to a teacher if you have any concerns

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

Recent Intelligence shows that a male and female are engaged in mail order fraud and are targeting households in the Pentlands area. Their method is to obtain householders details, probably from the phone book, and order goods from Littlewoods mail order catalogue giving the name, address and telephone number of the unsuspecting resident. Once the order is made delivery normally takes place within 24 hours. The suspects then contact the recipient the following day and pretend that they have a similar name and reside at a similar address and state that they believe that their parcel has been delivered to their home in error. They thereafter make an arrangement to call at the house and uplift the parcel. The fraud only comes to light when the unsuspecting resident receives an invoice for payment for the goods.

Should you receive any unsolicited parcels it is requested that you contact Balerno Police Station where Sergeant Catlin is investigating the matter.

There were six incidents of vandalism recorded, namely a stone thrown at a conservatory window in Buckstone Hill, 2 x vehicles damaged in Buckstone Road, and 2 x vehicles parked in the same driveway in Oxfangs Road. An item of garden furniture was also broken in Swanston Terrace.

There were five thefts from motor vehicles. Firstly during the day on 28/08/06 in Comiston Springs Avenue where a window was smashed in order to reach in and steal a handbag lying in full view. 3 x thefts overnight on the 18th – 19th, two in Swanston Gardens with another in Swanston Avenue whilst A vehicle in Buckstone Road had its spare wheel stolen.

A lock up garage in Braid Hills Road was entered overnight between 24th and 25th, attempts were made to steal property within which was unsuccessful, however it is suspected that persons may have observed the property being placed in the garage earlier in the day, and returned later with the specific intention of stealing that item.

A further distraction type theft was recorded at Buckstone Road, whilst two motor vehicles were stolen between the 13th and 14th in Frogston Avenue. Both these vehicles were later recovered nearby!

A slip in theft in Pentland Drive and a number of vandalisms to bus stops in Pentland Terrace have been solved this month with further enquiry ongoing re others.

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....

The unusually 'hot' summer weather has been welcomed by many but it also provides increased opportunities for thieves.

Valuable property that is normally kept in secure storage is left around the garden and driveways often overnight. More concerning is the number of ground floor windows left ajar overnight for ventilation.

Whilst understanding and having experienced the discomfort of warm nights, windows left wide open overnight, particularly on the ground floor, is an invitation that a housebreaker can't resist.

Please do not drop your guard, maintain your security and avoid becoming a victim.

Alan Grant
Sector Inspector

