

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News

Lothian and Borders
POLICE



ISSUE 18 – February
2006

'Working in Partnership for a Safer City'

CITY
WIDE

Edinburgh and the 'Feel-good' Factor

It is sometimes easy to forget how fortunate we are to live in Edinburgh. All too often, lurid media headlines would have us believe the nation's capital is unsafe - a place where crime is endemic, residents live in fear and workers and tourists visit with trepidation. Notwithstanding that recorded crime here actually continues to **fall**, I recognise that this perception is both important and influential. This is why I was delighted to read the findings of a recent poll that affirmed that 92% of all Edinburgh residents are 'satisfied' with where they live. Only 1 person in 25 expressed dissatisfaction. Over 80% do not feel threatened by crime in their neighbourhood. In overall contentment terms, Edinburgh rated in the top five of 36 cities and regions across the UK. These findings do not stand in isolation. Recent surveys have also shown that Edinburgh remains one of the world's top tourist destinations for national and international travellers. I am not trying to suggest that there are no policing or crime concerns in the city. That would clearly be disingenuous. I do think however that we should always seek to challenge negative views of city life with crime statistics and the views of residents themselves.

Chief Supt Allan Shanks, Divisional Commander

Avoid Grief, Don't Tempt a Car Thief

Vehicle crime accounts for significant amount of all recorded offences in Edinburgh. However by following a few simple rules the majority of these incidents are **preventable**. Otherwise, you'll have an unwanted repair bill and rising insurance premiums.

Items on Show

Try not to leave anything on show in your car. Even an old coat can be too much to resist. Most criminals 'smash and grab' first and find out values later

House Keys

Don't leave them in your vehicle. If your vehicle is broken into, it could be your house next.

Stereo

Get a stereo you can remove and remember to always take it with you. Don't just put the face off unit in the glove compartment.

Alarm

If your car has an alarm, remember to use it.

Lock Doors and Close Windows

Remember to lock all the doors and close all the windows when you leave the car.

Parking

If you have a garage, use it and lock it. If you haven't or you're away from home, park where there's plenty of light and life.

Satellite Navigation Systems

Highly sought after by criminals, who look for the 'sucker' mark that is left on the inside of your windscreen by the handset. They may break in on the off chance that you've hidden the goods somewhere in the car. Take your sat nav with you!

HOT
TOPICS

Local News - Fairmilehead Beat 52.

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

You will note the above month which appears to be an error, however I have decided to change things slightly. Due to the time scales involved from the main body of the newsletter becoming available, and then the other parts which require added before I finally do the local news section, it has been the end of the month before you then got to read same. This of course meant that the crimes referred to were over four weeks by the time you got to hear. My intention therefore is to do the newsletter as soon as possible at the start of a new month, giving the stats for the month previous. That being as clear as mud, I shall begin!!!

There were three recorded crimes of vandalism to motor vehicles whilst parked in Buckstone Loan, Swanston View and Riselaw Crescent.

There were two further vandalisms whereby house/garage windows were smashed in Pentland Gardens and Camus Avenue by means of throwing items at same.

There was an attempted theft of a motor vehicle whilst parked in Buckstone Terrace, and a theft of a motor vehicle from Pentland View earlier in the month. The motor vehicle in question was later involved in a vehicular accident, resulting in the 16 year old driver having to be cut from the car by the Fire Service. He will be interviewed and reported accordingly on his release from hospital.

Two vehicles were the subject of break- ins, again whilst parked overnight in Margaret Rose Avenue and Bramdean Rise.

There was a housebreaking with intent to steal in the Braid Mount area between 12/02/06 and 15/02/06, enquiries are continuing with this one.

On a slightly more positive note some of the "solved " items of note included an assault and breach of the peace in the street in Buckstone Crescent, the theft of house keys from Braid Mount View, and the setting up of a fraudulent scheme at the ATM machine of a local bank branch.

I have been asked recently to include advice surrounding "Bogus Callers" which is always a worthy reminder for all of us.

Most callers are probably quite genuine, but some are not. They could be confidence tricksters or thieves. That's why it is important to take precaution when people call at your home.

Thieves won't break in if they can knock and be invited in. Always be on guard when anyone you're not expecting turns up at your door. This may be a man, a woman, a child – either singly, in pairs or in groups. They may use a variety of excuses to gain entry to your home, asking to use the toilet, stories about cars breaking down and needing water for radiators, footballs and Frisbees having landed in the garden, all having been used before.

“Bogus Officials“may be smartly dressed and claim to be from a Council Department (e.g. Social Work or Health Authority) or other organisations e.g. utilities (water, gas or electricity). Their aim is to talk their way into your home to see what they can steal.

“Bogus Workmen“ Never believe a casual or speculative caller at your door. Such bogus workmen, on the pretence of offering to make urgent repairs to a water or building fault or to tarmac your drive, really want to gain access to your home to steal your property. They often operate in pairs where one tries to distract you whilst the other gains free access to your home to search for valuables. Often they will ask for cash in advance and may even offer to drive you to your bank, building society or a nearby cash dispenser to withdraw money to buy materials. Never do this! Once paid they normally disappear.

If you need any building work done, get several quotes from reputable firms. If in doubt talk it through with someone you trust. Remember bogus workmen normally inflate prices for poor quality work.

1. Use a door chain if you have one
2. Ask to see their identity card and check thoroughly
3. If you're unsure ask them to call again later when it is convenient to you
4. Check the story by phoning the organisation (look up the No. yourself don't take it from the card)
5. Don't let them pressure you.
6. If in doubt call a neighbour, friend or Police

As always feel free to contact me directly via e-mail or otherwise with any issue or advice you may require.

PC 3613-A Graham Harvey Community Beat Officer.

Useful Numbers

PC 3613-A Graham Harvey

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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....

As you will have read from the Divisional Commander's comments at the top of this newsletter, Edinburgh continues to be one of the safest cities in the UK, if not the world, in which to live and work. However it is strong communities and policing by consent that is instrumental in achieving this position. Your CBO provides one of many crucial links between the police and the community and vice versa. That officer has a wealth of police experience and significant local knowledge all of which I utilise when identifying local policing priorities. If you have policing issues that concern you then please make your views known to your CBO.

Alan Grant
Sector Inspector

