

# A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News

Lothian and Borders  
**POLICE**



**ISSUE 17 – January  
2006**

## 'Working in Partnership for a Safer City'

CITY  
WIDE

### Youth Disorder - a Christmas Challenge Won

Tackling youth disorder in Edinburgh remains one of my top priorities. Several specially trained and funded police **Youth Action Teams** are now in operation across the city. Traditional street patrolling remains important for these teams, however some have already shown a willingness to try wholly new methods of working. A Christmas initiative in Moredun provides a good example. Officers and library staff here sourced Play Station games from a local business and engaged youths in the area in a 'Christmas Challenge'. This consisted of officers playing computer games against local youths for a few hours, one evening a week. A good rapport was built up, but more importantly the total number of youth calls in what was previously a 'hotspot' area plummeted. For the 29 days prior to the challenge the number of calls there stood at 92. During the 29 days of the challenge, calls fell to just 53. 'Hard' policing will always have a role in Edinburgh, however evidence like this illustrates the value of complementary new ideas and approaches too. I firmly believe in both.

**Chief Supt Allan Shanks. Divisional Commander**

HOT  
TOPICS

### Joining Forces to Fight Fire

Injury and damage caused by fire concerns all the emergency services. Since April 2004, Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service have been running a funded fire prevention initiative. It allows for any house in Edinburgh and elsewhere in the Lothian and Borders area to have a home safety check and, if necessary, have a battery operated smoke alarm installed **free of charge**. These checks are carried out by local Fire fighters and can be arranged by either:

- contacting any one of the 36 local fire stations in this area; or
- calling the free phone number 0800 169 0320

The scheme is Scottish Executive and Council funded and to date a total of 11,500 smoke alarms have been installed throughout the Force area. The idea has proved a great success and service quality checks carried out by the Fire Service have found that 95% of people who received a home visit felt safer afterwards.

For our part, the Division has organised joint initiatives with the Fire Service. These have seen Fire fighters and local police officers calling at houses together, and offering advice on all aspects of fire safety and home security. These visits have also been very well received.

# Local News - Fairmilehead Beat 52

Hello and welcome to the first newsletter of 2006. I hope you all had a good festive season. The issues mentioned in this letter reflect incidents that took place during the month of December.

There were two instances of theft-others, one from Frogston Road West the other ( solved ) from Buckstone Terrace, whilst there was a further attempted theft of a motor vehicle from Pentland Terrace.

There were also three recorded crimes of vandalism to motor vehicles, one to a bus in Comiston Road, with two others to private motor cars in Swanston Avenue and Swanston Terrace.

We recorded one theft from a motor vehicle which occurred in Bramdean Rise, and one theft of a motor vehicle from Marie Curie at Frogston Road West.

Other cases involving persons being reported to the procurator fiscal include 1 x dangerous driving, 2 x drink driving , and 2 x minor assaults.

There were no reports of housebreaking this month to either business or domestic premises.

The following was brought to the attention of a colleague of mine from some of his Neighbourhood Watch members and is worthy of a mention for your consideration. A company has been phoning households offering a service to security mark and catalogue all valuable items within the house. We do not endorse any organisations to carry out this work and I would suggest you give serious consideration before allowing anyone access to this kind of detailed information. Property marking is inexpensive and easy. Anyone who wishes advise on this matter can contact me at the number below.

As always please 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**

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## Useful Numbers

PC 3613-A Graham Harvey

Oxgangs Police Station,  
270 Oxgangs Road North,  
Edinburgh,  
EH13 9NB

Tel 0131 441 1518, ext 2319

[graham.harvey1@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:graham.harvey1@lbp.pnn.police.uk)  
[oxgangs.cbo@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:oxgangs.cbo@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

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

## And Finally....

The theft of car keys by 'slip in' to houses followed by the theft of the car remains a 'modus operandi' that concerns me, yet it could easily be prevented.

The car thief relies on the owner abandoning car keys very close to the entry point to the house and leaving the door insecure. By simply getting into the habit of keeping your car keys in a more secure location you will thwart the thief. In many cases you will probably not even know he has 'looked' for your key. Of course you should also get into the habit of securing the house door even when you are at home!

You do live in a safe, low crime area but thieves can try and use this to their advantage and look for complacency!

Alan Grant, Sector Inspector

