

# A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News



ISSUE 23 – July 2006

## 'Working in Partnership for a Safer City'

### Introduction of New Drinking Bye-Law in the City of Edinburgh

CITY  
WIDE

Following recent consultation it has recently been agreed by the Scottish Executive that a bye-law will be introduced in Edinburgh prohibiting drinking in public places. This additional power is welcomed by the police as an additional tool in dealing with anti-social behaviour caused by drinking.

The bye-law has been developed to allow the café-culture and the relaxed use of open spaces within Edinburgh, such as a glass of wine with a picnic in the Meadows or a drink at a pavement café, to continue.

A Protocol is being developed between the City of Edinburgh Council and Lothian and Borders Police on how and when the new bye-law will be used, targeting areas where drinking in public has caused anti-social behaviour.

**Chief Superintendent Allan Shanks, Divisional Commander**

### Holiday time - Steal away for a while

Most housebreakings happen when a flat or house is unoccupied. By following these tips you can make your home more secure whilst you are away.

#### BEFORE YOU GO

- Avoid discussing holiday plans where strangers may hear details of your absence from your home.
- Cancel any milk or paper deliveries.
- Make the house look lived in – don't leave curtains closed in the daytime, this will make the house look empty.
- Use timer switches to turn lights on when it becomes dark.
- Tidy the garden
- Ask relatives or trusted neighbours to visit the house, ask them to collect the mail, mow the lawn, open and close curtains.
- Let them know how long you will be away, and if you can, give them details where they can contact you in an emergency.
- Consider leaving important documents and valuable items with relatives, or fit a safe, securely fixed to the fabric of the building.
- If you are not taking your car with you do the same with the car keys.

Finally, make sure that you have locked all the outside doors and windows, if you have an intruder alarm; make sure it is set.

*You can find more detailed crime prevention advice at [www.crimereduction.gov.uk](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk)*

HOLIDAYS

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The issues mentioned in this newsletter reflect incidents that took place, to date, during the month of July. It is being circulated slightly earlier than normal as I am going on my summer annual leave period for two weeks or so.

A good month to date with crimes well down on the previous two months figures. It has been mentioned that this may have something to do with the traditional Edinburgh Trades Fortnight holidays, although past years figures and stats do not always show this to be the case !!!.

There was a theft of number plates from a motor car in Buckstone Row, and the theft of a pedal cycle from Caiystane Crescent.

The premises of the Hermitage Golf Club at Braid Hills suffered a housebreaking with intent to steal, whilst there was vandalism in the form of graffiti at Colmestone Gate, a broken door mirror from a vehicle in Pentland Terrace, and garden lights were removed and smashed from a house in Swan Spring Avenue.

There was a further course of vandalism which occurred within the premises of the Water Board at Buckstone Terrace during the evening or late night between 14/7/06 and 15/7/06 last weekend. This involved numerous vehicles being damaged in various ways with the value of damage being thousands of pounds,

Other areas have been having some seasonal break ins to garden sheds and my experiences have shown me that often there is very little security but a lot of valuable items stored inside. Consider fixing extra hasps and padlocks, use bolts not just screws, which can be removed. Doors can be reinforced using thicker timber or metal strips. Furthermore a simple battery powered shed alarm can be obtained for between £5 and £10. If storing bikes or lawnmowers, try chaining them together to make it difficult to be moved/stolen.

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

PC 3613-A Graham Harvey

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

Tel 0131 441 1518, ext 2324

[graham.harvey@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:graham.harvey@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....

Holiday time is almost upon us and I would urge those of you who are leaving your home unoccupied to earnestly consider the advice in the 'Hot Topics' section of this letter.

Criminals undoubtedly search for properties where it is obvious the occupier is on holiday. This not only minimises the risk of them being disturbed but also provides a time window to dispose of their ill-gotten gains before the crime is discovered!

Among other things Neighbourhood watch is designed to promote good neighbourly behaviour. The holiday season is an ideal time to show this by keeping an eye on each others property while we are away.

T/PI Wilson.

