

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News



ISSUE 19 – March 2006

'Working in Partnership for a Safer City'

CITY
WIDE

Last Orders for Rowdy Premises

The link between excessive alcohol consumption and crime has been well documented. Edinburgh has approximately 2000 licensed premises. Most are trouble-free and well run. Unfortunately a small minority are not. Some may breach licensing rules, for example with underage sales. Others simply try and bend the rules, perhaps staying open after their permitted hours. All too often the effects of this behaviour are felt not in the premises themselves, but in the streets outside. It was against this backdrop that we launched our 'Alcohol Disorder Unit' in late 2005. This innovative team of 6 officers focuses exclusively on management and integrity standards within the city centre's pubs, clubs and off-sales shops. In the last 3 months, the Unit has conducted 1170 visits to such premises, reported 36 incidents of unusual activity to the Forces Licensing Dept, and reported 22 criminal cases to the Procurator Fiscal. They have also worked closely with partner agencies -such as the Council and Fire Service- to ensure that licensed premises are as safe as possible for patrons. I am genuinely excited by this development and I will watch what longer-term impact the Unit makes with interest.

Chief Superintendent Allan Shanks, Divisional Commander

HOT
TOPICS

Considering Giving Your Child a Mini Moto?

Mini motos –miniature replicas of motorcycles- are powered by either petrol or electric motors. Whilst these bikes are sold as toys, they can reach speeds of up to 60 mph and accidents involving them have already resulted in serious injury and even death. Mini motos are classified in law as motor vehicles; however they are **not** road legal for technical reasons. They may be used on private land, but only if the landowner (often the local authority) has given direct permission. **They cannot be used on a footpath or cycle routes under any circumstances.**

We have several options open to us when mini motos are being used illegally:

- Prosecution - if found guilty, riders may be fined and have points added to their licence; if the rider is too young to have a licence, the offence will be kept on file and points added when the licence is issued.
- Seizure – once a warning has been issued the bike can be seized and only reclaimed after paying a minimum fee of £105.
- ASBO – illegal or nuisance use of these bikes can be used to provide evidence for Antisocial Behaviour Orders.

Parents are advised to ensure that their children have somewhere safe and legal to use these bikes before they buy them.

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

There were four recorded crimes of vandalisms to motor vehicles whilst parked in Frogston Road West, Margaret Rose Way, Buckstone Gardens, and Caiystane Crescent. There was also a vandalism to a house in Buckstone Lea by means of smashing a window.

Further there was a theft of a pedal cycle from Buckstone Loan East, and a theft from a motor vehicle in Braid Hills Drive, whilst a male youth was assaulted in Braid Hills Road.

At the beginning of the month there was a break-in to a domestic property in Bramdean Rise, with a housebreaking with intent occurring to a dwelling in Comiston View.

On a more positive note the following crimes were amongst the solved category for the month. A 15 year old was caught for numerous road traffic offences whilst driving his mother's car around the area, a male caught for theft motor vehicle and also two drunk drivers were reported accordingly.

On Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th May 2006, a Crime Prevention Weekend is being held at Morrisons store, New Swanston, Hunters Tryst, Edinburgh.

Community Beat Officers from Oxfangs Police Station will be in attendance at the foyer area of the store from 1000 –1600 hours each day. They will be able to postcode bicycles and mobile phones as well as offer crime prevention advice and assist with local queries.

In addition to this, Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service (including fire tender for the kids to view) will also be in attendance (emergencies permitting). They can be found in the car park and will be able to discuss various issues relating to fire prevention such as home safety visits and the installation of free smoke alarms.

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

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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....

March/April traditionally sees an increase in bogus callers. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you to ask for and **take time** to check the identification of anyone wishing to gain entry to your house prior to allowing them access. Should you let anyone in be sure to secure the door to prevent others entering unnoticed. Remain with your 'visitor' at all times. Be alert to distraction tactics such as operating lights or taps in different rooms as it's likely that this will be their opportunity to steal your property. If you're unsure of anyone don't let him or her in! Preferably use tradesmen who have been recommended to you.
Sue Wilson T/Insp

