

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News



ISSUE 42 – FEB 2008

'Working in Partnership for a Safer City'

WORK WITH US

CITY
WIDE

On the 11th January 2008 the Safer Community Units and Youth Action Teams were joined together to form **Neighbourhood Action Units**. This followed a detailed review of the work of the teams by Lothian and Borders Police and the City of Edinburgh Council.

In order to provide the best service to you the Neighbourhood Action Units will be based in 6 Neighbourhood Areas across Edinburgh and will be on duty 7 days a week. They will work with you to identify the people and problems that are affecting the quality of life in your community. They will work with you in the communities to tackle these problems and make Edinburgh an even safer city to live in and visit.

Your Neighbourhood Action Unit will carry out daily patrols and will be responsible for dealing with ongoing local issues. You can contact them directly for advice and information. If you require more urgent assistance you should continue to call the Force Communication Centre on 01313113131 or 999 in an emergency.

HOT
FOCUS

During the month of January thieves targeted the handbags of elderly women shopping within supermarkets.

In many of these cases the victims had left their handbags unattended in the shopping trolley whilst they were selecting goods to buy.

In four of these cases no suspect was seen however in a further three instances the victims were distracted by the suspect only to discover the theft when attempting to pay for goods. The description given is of a white male, 17-18 years who spoke with 'east European' accent.

We will be working closely with the main supermarkets to encourage store staff to be more active in preventing such crimes.

We take this opportunity to remind shoppers to be vigilant and make sure your handbag is properly closed, do not leave it unattended and be aware of strangers distracting your attention.

In one instance a stolen bank card was successfully used to take money from an ATM. Please remember not to write the PIN number for your bank cards down and when obtaining money or paying for goods do not let others see you enter your PIN.

Local News

Here are the crime statistics for the month of February for the Fairmilehead area:

There were a total of 17 crimes/offences committed in the area during the month.

A pedal cycle was stolen between 07:45 – 08:00 hrs, 14th from outside the newsagent in Buckstone Terrace, after it was left by the owner.

A van was forcibly entered overnight 14th –15th whilst it was parked and secured in Comiston Spring Avenue and power tools stolen.

A van in Buckstone Road was forced open overnight 15th – 16th and an attempt was made to steal the stereo radio from within.

An attempt was made between 12th – 17th to force entry to The Fairmilehead Home Guard Club, Camus Avenue by removing the outside skin of bricks from above the main door, entry was not gained.

A bungalow was broken into during the day 19th in Pentland Crescent by smashing 2 panes of glass in the rear kitchen door, unlocking entering, searching and stealing from within. Property stolen was a laptop, iPod and 2 passports. A neighbour returning home saw 2 males leaving the driveway about 16:45 hrs.

A car was broken into overnight 25th –26th in Buckstone Crescent by smashing the front offside window and opening door nothing apparently stolen or attempt made to steal the vehicle.

There were 3 malicious mischiefs to vehicles which occurred overnight 13th to 14th in Pentland Drive and about 04:10 hrs a witness saw a male kicking the wing mirror of one of the vehicles. It is strongly suspected he is responsible for the other damage.

A vandalism occurred over night 17th – 18th in Buckstone Terrace were a 'Tag' was sprayed on the door and other parts of the Terrace.

Finally, 7 of these crimes were solved and reports submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Recorded crime to date is 156 compared to last year which was 235. This is a reduction of 34%.

If you wish to contact me with regards to any issues raised, advice or any other matters please do not hesitate to contact myself at the address below.

Pc 3279A Kenneth Welsh

Useful Numbers

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Community Beat Officer

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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.

Sector Inspector

Margaret Lyle

