

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News

Lothian and Borders
POLICE



ISSUE 62–September 2009

'Work With Us'

Divisional Commanders Message

CITY

This month Lothian and Borders Police is launching a major new housebreaking initiative, aimed at educating members of the public on keeping their property safe. An estimated fifty percent of all housebreakings occur in properties where windows and doors have been left unlocked. Simple steps are often all it takes to deter opportunist thieves. Ad trailers will be situated in shopping centre car parks across Edinburgh, and your local Community Beat Officer will have postcards with crime prevention advice available to distribute out. Please contact them for more information.

WIDE

Lothian and Borders Police are committed to engaging with young people in Edinburgh, and a new initiative aims to tackle the issue of underage drinking. Operation Array involves officers bringing underage youths caught drinking alcohol back to Leith police station and asking the parents of the offenders to come along as well. Voluntary organisations and our officers will then engage with both the youngsters and their parents to discuss the consequences of drinking underage and the social problems it can generate. This is an example of the type of preventative work we are undertaking and underpins our Force vision of creating safer communities.

Housebreaking – Don't Become A Victim

HOT TOPICS

Housebreaking has a significant effect on people, making them feel insecure and vulnerable. By taking a few simple steps you can reduce your risk of becoming a victim. Housebreakers mostly attack the most vulnerable point of entry to a house. This means the open window or the unlocked door.

Before leaving your home make sure all the windows and doors are securely locked. Always use both the mortise and cylinder rim locks.

Do not leave tilt & turn or hopper windows slightly open, even if you lock them, as it is much easier to force them open.

Thieves like CRAVED items, Concealable, Removable, Available, Valuable, Enjoyable and Disposable; i.e. small items of high value such as jewellery, digital cameras, mp3 players, laptops and not forgetting good old cash and credit cards. Think about where you keep these items.

Top Tips:

Don't leave valuables like laptops where they can be viewed through a window. They may tempt a break in.

Valuables left near windows are a smash and grab risk

Be aware of the real risk of someone "fishing" valuables like car keys, purses or handbags through a letterbox or partially open window using for example a long garden cane.

Consider purchasing a safe to keep valuable items in, but make sure the safe is secured to the fabric of the building so it cannot just be carried away.

This works well when used in conjunction with a monitored house alarm.

Welcome to the September issue of the Fairmilehead Community News letter.

As I was on holiday during July/August, the August letter was not issued so I am incorporating both months' figures.

During the months of July and August there were a total of 52 crimes reported of which 27 were solved.

Crimes of Dishonesty

There were 26 crimes reported, the vast majority were attempts to and break-ins to houses, cars, sheds and garages. There were 15 in total of which 6 were solved and person(s) reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

The rest were a variety of crimes of dishonesty.

The locations were Pentlands, Buckstone, Caiystane, Swanston, Winton and Mounthooly.

Criminal Damage

There were only 3 crimes of damage recorded at Buckstone Court, Pentland View Close support Unit and Pentland Drive, the latter being more likely to be an attempt to steal from within the vehicle.

Road Traffic Offences

There were 10 road traffic offences some of which were related to the tragic events on Frogston Road West. All of these offences were solved.

Crimes of Violence

There were 6 crimes of violence committed in the area 3 of which were solved.

Miscellaneous Offences

There were a further 10 crimes and offences carried out in the area

Can I remind everyone to secure their property whether it be, a house, a car, or anything else they own. By taking this simple precaution some of the above crimes/offences might not have occurred.

Useful Numbers

PC 3279A Kenneth Welsh
Community Beat Officer

Oxgangs Police Station
270 Oxgangs Road North
Edinburgh
0131 441 1518

kenneth.welsh@lbp.pnn.police.uk

And Finally....

Over the past few months there have been several thefts & attempted thefts from motor vehicles.

Some of these vehicles have been insecure.

Can I remind all owners to take a few simple steps, which will help prevent such crimes occurring.

Please ensure all vehicles and property is locked and remove all electronic aids (Sat. Navs) etc. This includes the cradles.

By leaving the cradles only invites the opportunist thief to smash your window, bend back your door causing damage and thereafter looking in the glove compartment to find nothing there.

The damage has been DONE.



CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555 111