

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News



ISSUE 68 – April 2010

'Work With Us'

Divisional Commanders Message



Easter is traditionally a time when our policing focus changes slightly to incorporate the school holidays and the challenges they bring. The holidays can signal a rise in certain types of crime, namely vandalisms and anti social behaviour. A Division officers are working hard to combat this by engaging with young people through a variety of means. Lothian and Borders Police, in conjunction with our partners and local groups, are organising a range of diversionary activities across the city to encourage young people to use their holiday to explore new interests. "On The Ball" is a City of Edinburgh Council funded programme at Heart Of Midlothian Football Club, targeting groups of teenagers who have been involved in Antisocial Behaviour and Offending. Our officers have helped to identify appropriate young people to go on the course and provided presentations on personal safety, knife crime and gang culture.

One of our key priorities for the coming financial year will be the idea of crime prevention. While we have always stressed the importance of taking measures to keep yourself and your property safe, the Force has recognised that we must strive to do more. Along with the diversionary activities previously mentioned, A Division officers will focus more closely on education on how to avoid giving criminals an opportunity to strike, as well as listening to the concerns of the local community and taking appropriate action. We will also continue to provide high visibility policing in an effort to deter criminality.

Chief Supt Gill Imery, A Division Commander

CITY
WIDE

Garden Crime

Many of you take measures to protect your home but don't give a thought to your bicycle, lawnmower, hedge trimmer, power tools and other valuable gardening implements lying out in a rickety old shed. Criminals consider this type of crime to be low risk/high return as they don't have to force entry to your home and the goods they can get there are as valuable as anything in your house. The good news is there is a lot you can do to prevent it:

- Any boundary fence/wall at your house should be built in such a way that it is difficult to climb.
- Use a good quality closed shackle padlock on your shed door and the hasp and door hinges should be attached using coach bolts rather than screws to prevent simple removal.
- You should keep valuable items in the house but if they must stay in the shed, chain/lock them up and security mark them.
- Lace a chain through the handles of garden forks, spades, bicycles etc. This will prevent a thief from being able to remove single items. **Remember tools from your shed can be used to force entry to your house.**
- Fit an internal wire mesh grille to protect your shed window.

Finally - Don't let any casual caller do work on your property, for example roofing, tarmac driveways or gardening.

HOT
TOPICS

Welcome to the April edition the April edition of the Fairmilehead community neighbourhood newsletter.

There were 11 crimes/offences recorded in the Fairmilehead area.

Damage to property

There were 4 offences against property: Buckstone Terrace, Buckstone Road and Swan Spring Avenue, 3 were vehicles and 1 a bungalow. In particular one vehicle had a corrosive liquid poured over its bodywork causing a significant amount of damage.

Crimes of dishonesty

There were 3 crimes committed: Buckstone Rise, Braid Road and Pentland Gardens. Two of the crimes related to the owners leaving their property insecure, which is an open invitation for a thief.

Crimes of violence

There were 2 crimes of violence in Oxfangs Road and Pentland Gardens, one in particular is concerning as it appears to have been premeditated, where a person walking along the road has been sprayed with an unknown liquid, which is believed to be water but the effect was shocking.

Regarding the other crime, a person has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Other crimes or offences

There were 2 other offences committed on the city bypass, which resulted in 2 persons being reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

The good news is the recorded crime has reduced from 20 crimes/offences in March to 11 in April.

Please remain vigilant, report any suspicious incidents and do not feel you are wasting our time.

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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www.securedbydesign.com

And Finally....

During April there has been a noticeable increase in the break-in of property whether it be during the day or night. Some simple precautions may prevent you becoming a victim of crime.

Lock all doors and windows prior to leaving for work or going to bed, if you wish to leave a window open for ventilation, think about how a thief would try to enter your property.

For further information just click onto the link provided in useful numbers which will provide you with a wealth of information.

Alternatively, contact your local community beat officer at Oxgangs Police Station and arrange for a crime prevention survey.

Inspector Murray Dykes



CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555 111