

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News

Lothian and Borders
POLICE



ISSUE 66 –February 2010

'Work With Us'

Divisional Commanders Message

This month sees 'A' Division preparing to implement increased community policing efforts in the South and East of the city.

As you will be aware, there are currently Community Beat Officers dedicated to particular beats within the city. In line with our increased focus on community engagement, Safer Neighbourhood Teams will be formed on the 1st March at Howdenhall, St Leonard's, Portobello, and Craigmillar police stations. These teams will combine the existing Community Beat officers, Neighbourhood Action Unit officers and officers funded by the Scottish Government to form a team dedicated to serving each Ward area in partnership with officers from the City of Edinburgh Council. Our officers will be spending even more time out in the community, gathering local concerns and setting local priorities based on both information from the public and various outstanding community issues. Safer

Neighbourhood Teams and Community Safety teams will deal with these as a priority over an agreed period of time. An important aspect of this work is reporting back successes to communities and we will do that through a variety of different means, including the community newsletter. Our evolution of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams is a long term process that is designed to empower communities to make changes to their local areas and improve quality of life.

While the initial stages of the project will only be in the South and East of the city, we aim to roll the Safer Neighbourhood Teams out across the city in the coming months.

Chief Supt Gill Imery, A Division Commander

**CITY
WIDE**



**HOT
TOPICS**

Housebreaking – Don't Become A Victim

Before leaving your home make sure all windows are properly secured and importantly any window locks fitted are used. Good window locks prevent the window from being opened and would require the housebreaker to remove all glass before they would consider climbing through for fear of cutting themselves. Almost every housebreaker is a repeat offender whose DNA is held by the Police and the tiniest blood trace left behind will lead us directly to them. As a result most will not consider climbing through a broken window. Ensure that you don't leave the window lock key where it can be easily reached by the housebreaker or they will simply reach the key through the broken window and use it to open the window frame to gain access.

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

Top Tips:

Don't leave valuables like a laptop or a purse 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 window using for example a long garden cane.

Don't leave keys in locks.

By taking these simple steps you can greatly reduce your risk of having your house broken into

Welcome to the February issue of the Fairmilehead news letter which contains the crimes reported for both January and February.

There were a total of 17 crimes reported for both months which is a reduction on the same period last year

Crimes of Dishonesty

There were 5 crimes of dishonesty, 3 vehicles broken into at Mortonhall Golf Course car park, and 1 each at Margaret Rose Drive and Mounthooly Loan.

Please remove all property from view as this only encourages theft.

There was an attempt made to break-in to a property in Buckstone Crescent but the security taken at the property prevented entry.

A disused property on Biggar Road had internal fixings removed.

Criminal Damage to Property

There were 8 crimes recorded at various locations within the area, Biggar Road, Swanston Avenue and the rest occurred in various locations in Buckstone.

With regards to criminal damage, these are the type of crimes which are very difficult to identify culprit/s without your help. If you witness anything suspicious please phone.

Other Crimes or Offences

There were 4 other offences committed in the area: 2 Communication Act offences and 2 Road Traffic Offences which resulted in a person being reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

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

PC 3279A Kenneth Welsh
Community Beat Officer

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270 Oxgangs Road North
Edinburgh
0131 441 1518

kenneth.welsh@lbp.pnn.police.uk

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.

Inspector Dykes



CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555 111