

# A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News



ISSUE 71 – July 2010

## 'Work With Us'

### Divisional Commanders Message



As the school holidays approach, Lothian and Borders Police are actively engaging with young people across the Division in order to make the summer months a safe and fun period. We have school link officers in secondary schools across the city, and they have been vital in educating our young people about how to keep themselves and their property secure this summer. Our officers also provide inputs, along with our partners at the City of Edinburgh Council, in various diversionary activities for local children, including everything from horse riding in the Pentlands to sailing at South Queensferry.

We have a number of high profile events happening throughout the summer and planning is well underway for all of them. The International Arts Festivals and Tattoo are just a couple of the fantastic events that really bring the city to life, and we are committed to making sure everyone who visits them can do so safely and enjoyably.

**Chief Supt Gill Imery, A Division Commander**

CITY  
WIDE

### SUMMER SAFETY

Now that the holiday season is upon us, it is natural for people to relax and enjoy the warm weather. During the summer months, the population of Edinburgh swells with tourists from all over the world who come to enjoy our scenery, architecture and International Arts Festivals. Unfortunately the summer also presents additional opportunities for criminals keen to exploit people who have momentarily lowered their guard.

By considering the following advice you will make it difficult for these criminals to operate. This advice is equally relevant when you are abroad holiday.

- Be careful when leaving windows and doors insecure even when you're at home. Thieves can take this opportunity to slip in and help themselves to your valuables.
- Bogus callers can take advantage of the summer weather to ply their trade round the doors. Always engage reputable companies for building and gardening works. Service providers will rarely call without making an appointment. Always check caller's identification and IF IN DOUBT, KEEP THEM OUT!
- Before you leave the house, ask yourself "Do I need my Laptop, MP3 player, camera and £500 cash with me?" If you don't leave them at home.
- Keep hold of your valuables. Don't leave your jacket, bag, laptop, phone, camera or wallet unattended even for a few seconds. That's all it takes for thieves to help themselves.
- Beware of pickpockets. Don't keep your wallet or purse in your bag. Carry cash in a pocket close to your body. It's less likely to be stolen from there.

Remember; we live in a safe city but don't tempt fate. Stay alert but above all enjoy the summer and take advantage of the host of attractions available in Edinburgh.

HOT  
TOPICS

Welcome to the July edition of the Fairmilehead Neighbourhood newsletter.

There was a total of 17 crimes and offences recorded for the area:

## **Crimes of Dishonesty**

There were 6 thefts which occurred in the Swanston, Buckstone, Winton, Margaret Rose areas and Lothianburn Golf course. There was property stolen in 5 of the cases.

Unfortunately some of thefts were a result of property being left insecure.

A break-in occurred at a local church but nothing was stolen.

Finally, an attempted fraud occurred where the victim thought he had obtained a legitimate occupation but the company was false and it would appear they were looking to launder cash through his account. The victim very quickly identified the scam and contacted the police.

## **Damage to Property**

There were 5 instances of damage to property through out the area. 3 houses had windows smashed by persons unknown throwing stones, all in Buckstone.

A car was set on fire in the Pentland area by person/s unknown placing an unknown lit object through a window onto the car seat.

A green was damaged at Mortonhall golf course.

## **Crimes of violence**

3 assaults occurred in the area and 3 people have been reported.

## **Other crimes or Offences**

There was 1 other offence committed in the area where a person has been reported for dangerous driving on the City Bypass.

Can I ask everyone if they see anything suspicious, to contact the police.

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

Confidential or anonymous information on all types of criminal activity can be passed to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Victim Support Helpline  
0845 603 9213

The Scottish Helpline for Older Persons  
0845 125 9732

Know the Score (Information and advice on drugs)  
0800 587 5879

For matters relating to roads, refuse and vegetation overgrowing the pavements contact the council on 0131 200 2000

**PC 3279A Kenneth Welsh**  
**Community Beat Officer**

**Oxgangs Police Station**  
**270 Oxgangs Road North**  
**Edinburgh**  
**0131 441 1518**



## And Finally....

The summer weather has arrived and welcomed by many but it also provides increased opportunities for thieves.

Valuable property that is normally kept in secure storage is left around the garden and driveways often overnight. More concerning is the number of ground floor windows left ajar overnight for ventilation.

Whilst understanding and having experienced the discomfort of warm nights, windows left wide open overnight, particularly on the ground floor, is an invitation that a housebreaker can't resist.

Please do not drop your guard, maintain your security and avoid becoming a victim.

PI Murray Dykes

Oxgangs

**CRIMESTOPPERS** 0800 555 111