

# A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News

Lothian and Borders  
**POLICE**



ISSUE 36 August 2007

**'Working in Partnership for a Safer City'**

CITY  
WIDE

## A FESTIVAL OF FUN

In August, Edinburgh becomes the Festival City with thousand of performers and visitors coming to the city to participate in and enjoy our world renowned cultural and arts events. With five major festivals, Royal Visits, the Tattoo and the start of the football season, to name but a few events taking place this month, the demands on A Division officers will be significant.

In previous years we have demonstrated that we can meet the challenges of this busy period. To ensure the safety of our communities and the smooth running of these events, officers will be deployed in key areas across the city with additional support from council funded teams such as the Safer Community Units and Youth Actions Teams. Through the commitment of our staff and the support of our partners we will strive to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour during this busy period and send our visitors home with a positive image of the city.

**Divisional Commander – Chief Superintendent George Simpson**

FOR  
HOMES

## HOUSEBREAKINGS

Over recent weeks there have been a number of thefts by house breaking at the homes of the predominantly Chinese community. Most of these crimes occurred from late afternoon onwards, whilst the occupiers were out. In several of the crimes; suspicious persons have been seen near to the homes that have been broken into. The perpetrators of these crimes appear to be a small criminal group of males and females.

Please, if you see anyone acting suspiciously near to these homes; or anywhere else; as a priority phone the police giving the best description that you can of the persons or any vehicles involved.

### Some simple advice

By taking a few simple steps we can make it more difficult for the thief and reduce the chances of becoming a victim of crime. Most often the housebreaker will attack the most vulnerable point of entry to a house.

So before leaving your home, even for a short time

- Lock all doors and windows and use all the locks fitted to doors and windows
- If you an alarm system use it – every time you leave the house
- During the hours of darkness consider using timer switches for lights etc.

You should ensure that your home is secure at all times, even when you are at home.

**Ward 02 – Currie, Juniper Green, Hermiston**

# Ward 02 - Currie / Juniper Green / Hermiston

Here is the August newsletter covering activity from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2007.

A quick reminder before we get to the figures and incidents.

Despite changing crime trends, methods of identification and enquiry we continue to rely heavily on information supplied by local people about local issues. Can I just remind everyone that should you have any suspicions or concerns about criminal activity in the area; no matter how trivial you may think it is let me know. All information is dealt with in the strictest confidence and managed through confidential channels. Alternatively you can use the confidential Crimestoppers number 0800 555 111 available 24/7.

## THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE.



On the 30<sup>th</sup> an insecure vehicle was entered in Stewart Gardens and a quantity of fizzy drinks stolen.

## THEFT OLP

Between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 14<sup>th</sup>, 2 caravans were entered and numerous items of property stolen.

## VANDALISM

- Dolphin Road and nearby streets, damage to numerous vehicles.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, Woodhall Avenue, spray painting the letters TNT on van
- 20<sup>th</sup>, Forthview Road, damage to vehicle.
- 20<sup>th</sup> Belmont Road, smashed window.
- 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> extensive damage to premises in Baberton Avenue.
- 7<sup>th</sup>, Riccarton Mains Road, damaging canoe.

## THEFT PEDAL CYCLE

Between the 23<sup>rd</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup> a pedal cycle was stolen from Heriot Watt University.



On the 22<sup>nd</sup> a kids pedal cycle was stolen from the driveway of a premises in Curriehill Castle Drive.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> 2 pedal cycles were stolen from the side of a house in Palmer Road.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> a mobile phone was stolen from a handbag whilst in a Currie Pub.

Between the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 15 a kids pedal cycle was stolen from a garden in Lanark Road.

Between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup>, 3 pedal cycles were stolen from a premises in Belmont Road. One is described as: **CLAUDE BUTLER MAKE, RED, COLOUR IS FADED AND BIKE LOOKS PINK, SHIMANO GEARS, ONE OF WHICH IS SILVER AND ONE RED, BLACK GEL SEAT.**

## CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON

On the 27<sup>th</sup> a male was assaulted by a group of youths while out for a jog.

## THEFT – OTHERS

On the 15<sup>th</sup> a handbag and contents were stolen from a premises in Dalmahoy.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> a car parked near Heriot Watt had its number plate stolen.



## HOUSEBREAKINGS

On the 21<sup>st</sup> a premises in Hermiston were entered and searched. Nothing was stolen.

Between the 17<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> a garden shed in Nether Currie Crescent was entered and a Marin make bicycle stolen.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> there was an attempt to enter a garage premises in Lanark Road West. 2 males aged 13 – 15 were seen. Descriptions were sparse.

## SOLVED CRIMES

On the 28<sup>th</sup> a 15 year old male was charged with shoplifting, vandalism and a breach of the peace.



On the 21<sup>st</sup> a 17 year old male was charged with threats, breach of the peace and carrying a 12" bladed knife.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> a 30 year old male was charged with numerous motoring offences and breach of the peace.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> a 20 year old male was charged with driving offences following an accident.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> a 16 year old male was arrested and charged with a breach of the peace and serious assault in Forthview Crescent.

## **CITIZENS ARREST AND THE DETENTION OF OFFENDERS BY THE PUBLIC**

Following the disruption and problems in and around some area in Currie, I have been asked to confirm the position with what was originally called a 'CITIZENS ARREST' or detaining a suspect until the police arrive. Here is the wording from our Police Information Net for Scotland.

'A private citizen has certain common law powers of arrest but they must be exercised with care as wrongful arrest can result in a claim for damages. The crime must be a serious one and not merely a breach of the peace, and he must be certain that an offence has been committed by, for example, witnessing it or being the victim'

'Reasonable force may be used if the arrested person resists and he must be handed over to the police as soon as possible. '

The main points are:

The crime must be of a serious nature, car crime, assault, theft etc.

The detaining person must be either a first hand witness or the complainer.

Only reasonable force can be used for the detention.

The suspect must be handed over to the police as soon as possible.

## CONTACT NUMBERS

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### **BALERNO POLICE STATION**

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### **COMMUNITY SAFETY DEPARTMENT**

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### **WEST EDINBURGH YOUTH ACTION TEAM**

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## AND FINALLY

### **Film runs out of road as speed cameras go digital**

It was the last refuge of speeding drivers - as the dreaded flash goes off, the fleeting possibility the safety camera had run out of film.

But now Scotland's roads will have their first digital speed cameras which never require a film change and are permanently "live" - beaming images of offending drivers to processing centres 24 hours a day.

The cameras will enable images of vehicles to be beamed back remotely. This eliminates the potential safety hazard to camera staff having to change the film weekly.

It could also mean drivers receiving speeding tickets the day after they are caught, rather than the current average of nine to ten days.

The first camera is expected to be installed at a new site on the A71 near Mid Calder by next month. It will also be West Lothian's first fixed speed camera. A second camera will be deployed at an existing red-light camera site at the junction of Queensferry Road and Drum Brae in Edinburgh.

