

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News



ISSUE 43 – March 2008

'Work With Us'

COMMUNITY BEAT OFFICERS

CITY

In A Division we are committed to working with you to identify and address local issues. Community Beat Officers (CBO's) play a vital role across Edinburgh. An extensive review of the role of these dedicated officers has just been completed. In the coming months I will implement a number of recommendations that will ensure officers are able to provide the best possible service to you.

WIDE

These recommendations include ensuring officers are able to work flexible hours to meet the needs of the communities in which they work. CBO's will work with officers from the Neighbourhood Action Unit to establish 'Street Surgeries' where you can speak directly to Police Officers with local knowledge. Improved communication links will also be established including internet services so that you can contact your CBO more easily.

All CBO's will attend a training day on the 18th March where they will be given information and advice to fulfil their role and provide the best service to you.

Public Transport Liaison Officer – Bus/Car stoning incidents

HOT
TOPICS

Efforts are continuing to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour on public transport; however there has been a recent rise in youths throwing stones and other missiles at passing buses and vehicles throughout Edinburgh.

The Police and bus companies are committed to developing new crime initiatives to detect those youths responsible.

To date the Decoy Bus has been used in areas whereby buses have been stoned. This is a partnership initiative whereby a Route Manager drives the Decoy Bus into problematic areas with plain-clothes officers onboard. An unmarked police vehicle follows the bus with further plain-clothes officers onboard. Should any youths stone the Decoy Bus, the plain-clothes officers in the following vehicle are able to arrest the offenders.

Many of the youths responsible for throwing stones at passing vehicles may be perceive this as a prank, as they don't appreciate the consequences of their actions. These crimes are extremely dangerous to both vehicular/pedestrian traffic. Your community can help with any information relating to these incidents by contacting the police:

- Please consider the use of 999.
- Contact 0131-311-3131 to provide information.
- If you want to remain anonymous phone Crimestoppers 0800555111

Ward 02 - Currie / Juniper Green / Hermiston

Here is the March newsletter covering activity from the 1st to the 29th February 2008.

THEFT – OTHERS

Between the 15th and the 16th a mobile phone was stolen from a house in Thomson Road.

On the 6th a mobile phone was stolen having been left on a desk next to a computer. No suspects were traced.

THEFT MOTOR VEHICLE

OLP's

On the 26th a gas meter box was entered in Kirkgate and the gas meter stolen.

Between the 1st and the 3rd a car was entered in Riccarton Mains Road, nothing was stolen.

HOUSEBREAKINGS

On the 9th – 10th, there was an attempt to enter a house in Baberton Mains Farm. Having attempted to smash a door standard a window was then smashed. Entry wasn't gained on this occasion.



OTHER CRIMES

Between the 1st and the 3rd a sheep was attacked and killed by a straying dog.

THEFT PEDAL CYCLE

Between the 7th and the 12th a pedal cycle was stolen from the rear of a premises in Lanark Road West.

VANDALISM

- 26th – 28th, Corslet Place, smashed window.
- 24th Baberton Avenue, Damage to vehicle.
- 17th – 18th, Lanark Road West, damage to motor vehicle.
- 11th, Nether Currie Road, damage to property
- 9th Pentland View, damage to vehicle.
- 2nd – 5th, Riccarton Mains Road, damage to motor car.
- 5th – 6th, Baberton Avenue, smashed window
- 2nd – 3rd, Baberton Avenue, damage to vehicle.
- 1st – 2nd, Corslet Road, damage to vehicle



CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON

On the 22nd a male was seen acting suspiciously at a house in Riccarton Avenue. It is believed the male was involved in 'Peeping Tom' activity. He is described as: **male, white, 30 – 40 years of age, slim, 5'9, grey / white hair, wearing a dark jacket.**

ABDUCTION

At 02.05hrs on the 3rd February a teenage male was threatened with harm, escorted to the Kirkgate, had grit rubbed in his eyes then thrown down a ruined building. The teenage complainer was only able to escape after rumaging around and using his mobile phone. The suspects for this crime are described as:

1. **male, white, stocky build, 6'2, Edinburgh accent, dark brown short hair wearing a waist length blue jacket**
2. **Male, white, not further described.**

SOLVED CRIMES

On the 29th a female was charged with Breach of the Peace.



A 14 year old male has been charged with being in possession of and dealing in cannabis.

On the 13th a 22 year old male was charged with driving with no insurance.

Still on the 13th a male was charged with burning toxic plastic from copper cable.

On the 23rd a 29 year old male was arrested for Breach of the Peace.

On the 19th a 25 year old female was charged with shoplifting at a local shop.

On the evening of the 2nd a 23 year old male was arrested and charged with resisting arrest and police obstruction.

BOILER ROOM SCAMS

Further to other various frauds, which have come to our attention another has come to our attention via a local resident. Conmen pretending to be stockbrokers use high-pressure sales techniques to convince victims to part with their cash for worthless shares in a "boiler room" scheme.

The culprits, who usually work in teams based in anonymous office buildings, telephone potential clients, promising amazing profits. But the shares, sold at an inflated price in firms specialising in energy, new technology, medical advances and emerging markets, actually have little or no value.

Some investors in the Lothian's have lost up to £5000 each to the fraudsters, who have begun targeting the region in recent months.

The scam originated in the United States and Canada and was depicted in the film Boiler Room.

Although all the Lothian victims said they spoke to people with British accents, the multi-million-pound scam is operated worldwide by different international groups.

Lothian and Borders Police are working with other forces and the Financial Services Authority (FSA) in a bid to trace the swindlers.

Investors are duped into buying worthless or near worthless stock. The 'brokers' appear credible and have a clear idea of how real stockbrokers operate. They are skilful negotiators.

Their sales pitch is carefully worked out and well delivered, with high-pressure tactics often used. They might say this is 'your last chance to get in on the ground floor' or 'there's only hours left. There might also be bait. A small purchase with them might turn a quick profit and that reels you in to part with a larger amount which then disappears

The investors sometimes receive share certificates through the post and often only realise their shares are worthless when they try to sell them.

"The FSA has found that two types of people are usually targeted, one is the inexperienced investor and the other is middle-aged with investment experience.

They may make a copy of his investment history, which is a matter of public record, then use it to gain his trust with their knowledge, as well as the fact they specially 'chose' him for this deal."

These boiler rooms may send out literature with skyscrapers on the front cover to pretend it's their HQ.

In reality, it will probably not be clear which country they are based in and the cash is often transferred across the globe making them very difficult to track down."."

Police and FSA officials warn the public to research any caller's firm to ensure they are legitimate and not take sales pitches at face value. Anyone concerned can contact the FSA on 0845-606 1234.

THEFTS IN THE RATHO AREA.

In recent months the village of Ratho has been targeted by thieves who have been intent in breaking into garden sheds and stealing property stored within, especially pedal cycles. Can I alert you to this problem and advise you to take precautions and measures to prevent and deter further thefts.

If you have a garden gate lock it.

Use a good quality closed shackle lock on the shed door. Secure your shed window internally with a metal grille.

Fit coach bolts to hinge and hasp plates on your shed or burr the existing screw heads to prevent them being removed.

Install security lighting to illuminate your garden.

Padlock and chain valuable items, (especially pedal cycles) within your shed.

Coach Bolt



These are bolted on the inside of the shed and cannot be unscrewed from the outside or easily forced off.

Motion



Detecting

Shed

Alarm

A battery operated Shed Alarm can provide good security. If activated they emit a loud alarm that will draw attention and deter any thieves. These can be purchased from any hardware store or from Safer Communities Department.

Plastic Coated Metal Cable & Anchor Point

Run a plastic coated metal cable or sturdy chain through the handles of garden equipment, bicycles, tools and ladders. Padlock the hooped ends of this cable to a securely fitted anchor point firmly secured to the structure of the garage or shed – either to the brick work, or part of the wooden frame. If the shed's frame is also weak, but it has a concrete floor/foundations or has concrete slabs, fix the anchor point there. . At the very least, run the cable through all the garden equipment, bikes, etc and padlock it so that it is all attached and cannot be easily removed. Cable too short?? Use more than one!!

CONTACT NUMBERS

PC Mike Smith - E-Mail: adivcbooxgangs-balerno@lbp.pnn.police.uk (shared mailbox)

Sergeant Chris Kowalski

E-Mail – chris.kowalski@lbp.pnn.police.uk

Balerno Police Station - 0131- 449 5991

Inspector Margaret Lyle

E-Mail: Margaret.lyle@lbp.pnn.police.uk

Community Safety Department- 0131 622 2429
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West Edinburgh Youth Action Team

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0131 442 2626

SOMEONE SPECIAL TO TURN TO



Someone
SPECIAL
to turn to

**Special
Constabulary**

Perhaps you have considered becoming a Special before but never got round to finding out more?

We are looking to recruit more people to join our team of 150 Specials.

Interested?

Courses are soon to be run. If you are interested please go to the website and click on the link on the homepage.

www.lbn.police.uk

