

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News



ISSUE 59- July 2009

'Work With Us'

Divisional Commanders Message

The Lothian and Borders Police Annual Report for 2008 – 2009 has been published and I am encouraged by the results, in particular how the hard work of our officers continues to pay off in local communities across the city. With a focus on prevention, local initiatives driven by community officers, such as the Graffiti initiatives, have proved successful, with 1553 fewer vandalism recorded this year compared to last.

As the school holidays approach, our officers are actively engaging with young people across the Division in order to make the summer months a safe and fun period for everyone. Our school link officers in secondary schools are increasingly important in supporting our young people and telling them how to keep themselves and their property safe 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. Our officers are very versatile!

Please remember that if you do have any concerns regarding your local community then your Community Beat Officer will be happy to provide you with assistance.

Colin Campbell, Divisional Commander

CITY
WIDE

USING BUSES & TAXIS SAFELY

There are simple steps you can take to minimise the risk of becoming a victim of crime when travelling by bus and taxi.

When taking the bus...

- Have your ticket or change handy. This ensures your wallet or purse stays out of sight.
- If a bus is quiet, sit downstairs, close to the driver.
- Don't be afraid to approach the driver if you have a problem or feel uneasy.
- Keep your bag fastened and close to you.
- Switch your mobile from ring to vibrate and be discrete when using it.

Remember only 'black hackney' taxi cabs are entitled to pick you up on the street without a pre-arranged booking.

For safety reasons if using a private hire car always:

- Choose a reputable firm and carry their telephone number with you.
- When the taxi arrives, ask the name of the company as well as the person the driver is to collect.
- Never get into a taxi you have not asked for.
- If possible share a taxi with a friend
- Sit in the back and don't give personal information to the driver.

If the driver makes you feel uneasy ask them to stop at a busy public place and let you out.

FOR
TAXIS

Ward 02 - Currie / Juniper Green / Hermiston

Here is the July newsletter covering activity from the 1st to the 30th June 2009.

CRIME SUMMARY

I'm pleased to report that the crimes have levelled off following last months increase. June saw 36 reported crimes of which to date, 10 are solved.



INCIDENT SUMMARY

During the month there were 159 incidents logged by the police in respect of the ward. Of these, 16 were Graded 1, i.e. emergencies, 58

Graded 2 i.e. non-emergencies but should be responded to within one hour. 49 were graded 3, 7 graded 4 and 29 were graded 5 and didn't require police attendance.

VANDALISM

Vandalism continues to be a problem with cars and houses damaged at the following locations:

- Blinkbonny Road
- Pentland View Court
- Newmills Crescent
- Lanark Road
- Muir Wood Road



CRIMES AGAINST PREMISES

During June 2 premises were broken into in our area, These were all to domestic dwellings as follows:

- Lanark Road West x 2 (Domestic)
- Baberton Crescent (Domestic)

Once again please

- **Always** secure your house door using ALL available locks. **NEVER** just on the Yale.
- Report all suspicious activity to Police
- Securely lock all personal possessions including ladders and other items which may serve as aids to the housebreaker.
- Ensure common stair doors are in working order and secured at **ALL** times.
- **Never** let anyone in without confirming their identity.

Simple measures will solve this problem.

CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON

A male was assaulted by a teenage male who was part of a group. The group shouted names at the male who in turn replied with expletives. He was then assaulted. I know its hard but I would urge persons to turn the other cheek when dealing with groups of people especially if there is the possibility they may have been drinking.

THEFT OTHERS

2 thefts occurred in Dolphin Gardens after a handbag and a schoolbag were left unattended. Again please take simple steps to ensure property is not left on display .

Its also been reported that a premises in Pentland View Court was damaged and figurines stolen from its exterior.

AUTOCRIME

Please keep an eye out for an orange off-road trials bike which was stolen from Donkey Lane on the 18th.

CRIMES OF A SEXUAL NATURE

On the 14th a male approached 3 youths and asked them to take photographs of himself in a state of undress.

The male was later seen on the path leading to the train station where he flashed at a member of the public. He is descibed as:

MALE, WHITE, 30 – 40 YEARS, 5'8– 5'10, DARK EYEBROWS, WEARING A RED BASEBALL CAP WITH THE LETTER 'A' ON THE FRONT, A BLUE T-SHIRT AND CARRYING A BLACK DIGITAL CAMERA WITH A ZOOM LENS.

AUTOCRIME – Cont...

In recent months there has been a notable rise in the city in the number of incidents of vehicles being stolen with their true key.

Vehicles registered after 1996 (P registered) have been fitted with immobilisers as standard, making them virtually impossible to steal without the key. A thief wishing to steal a newer car generally has to get his hands on the key. Car keys are often stolen from the workplace, the gym, schools and house parties. Are your car keys safe?

Many criminals wishing to steal cars break into houses with the sole intention of stealing car keys making it easy to steal your car from the driveway or the street outside. Cars have also been known to disappear from petrol stations when drivers leave keys in the ignition when paying for fuel.

You can limit the chances of this happening to you by following this advice:

- If you have a garage, use it to store your vehicle.
- Ensure your home security is up to scratch. Use your locks and alarm system.
- Do not leave your car keys near the door of your house.
- Do not use an obvious key box/rack to store keys.
- Take your car keys to your bedroom with you at night.
- Ensure your spare car key is in a safe, secure place.

Never ever leave your car keys in your ignition or hidden within your car

SOLVED CRIMES

I can report that this months solved crimes include:

- Theft motor vehicle
- Reset
- Breach of the peace x 2
- Minor assault
- Theft
- Shoplifting
- Resting arrest
- &
- Vandalism
- Civic Governemetnet (Scotland) Act

CONTACT NUMBERS

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West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Action Unit

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ANY FINALLY

HEAVY HANDED SECURITY SELLING

It has come to light that a company selling alarm systems has been cold calling at doors offering free alarms system and free installations.

The only catch is that you would be required to sign up to a maintenance contract with extremely high costs for maintenance.

I would urge you not to enter into any agreements of this kind with high maintenance charges as once entered into, they can be very difficult to get out off and can end up costing you thousands of pounds in charges.

Further to this can I ask that if anyone does call at your home with this offer, please make me aware.

