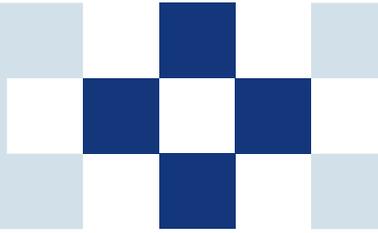


with  
youfor  
you

work with us to create a positive force in your community.



Ch Supt Gill Imery

This month the round of national events has continued with the State Opening of Parliament and Royal Week passing successfully and building on the positive outcome of the Armed Forces' Weekend.

As welcome crowds of visitors enjoy our beautiful city 'A' Division's police officers and staff continue

to work hard to ensure their safety. This is reflected in the performance figures for last month, with the detection rate for serious assault increasing by 3% while the rate for assault and robbery detections also rose by a very encouraging 11%. Close work with licensed premises and the City of Edinburgh Council continues to ensure that the city centre is an increasingly safe place to socialise.

The Division continues to prioritise its focus on protecting local communities too, ensuring that

### Summer "Slip In" Thefts

At this time of year we regularly notice a rise in the number of "Slip In" thefts. These are committed in a number of ways; the most common being when you are in the garden and the thief slips into your house through an insecure doors or windows. Remember, it only takes a second to slip in and steal cash, credit cards, jewellery, laptops, other digital devices or even your car.

If you are in your back garden, make sure that your front door is locked and secured, not just on the Yale lock as these are easy to overcome.

the summer events in no way detract from neighbourhood initiatives and policing. Again, as we strive to prevent and reduce crime in local areas June's crime statistics illustrate some considerable success in this regard, with a 19% increase in detection of housebreakings – and most importantly a 15% drop in the number of recorded break-ins. The committed work by our Safer Neighbourhood Teams and Intelligence Unit (to predict and prevent offences), Housebreaking Units (to catch offenders) and Search and Recovery Team (to recover stolen goods) continues to pay dividends.

The next month will see the city engaged in the customary Festival and Tattoo commitments, with Divisional officers providing support to the public, organisers and our partner agencies throughout. Recent reports in national newspapers have highlighted the unique economic and cultural benefits of these events for Edinburgh and Scotland, and the Division remains committed to ensuring these diverse and rewarding additions to the city's calendar pass in a peaceful, productive and enjoyable fashion.

Similarly if you have a conservatory or patio doors at the rear of your home it is important to secure them to prevent anyone slipping in whilst you're working in your garden. In the rare event that we experience a particularly warm and pleasant summer, do not be tempted to leave your windows open when you're out of the house. Open windows can be an invitation to thieves. Always keep your car keys safe. Modern cars are virtually impossible to steal without the true key so don't leave them lying around in vulnerable areas. Keep your keys with you or secure them in a safe place, not on a key hook or near the front door where they could be "fished" through the letterbox.



## Local Operations and Initiatives

July is the start of the school holidays and sees the start of Operation Century, a joint operation with the City of Edinburgh Council Environmental wardens and the Rangers service aimed at addressing the anticipated anti-social behaviour and rise in youth related calls to the Pentland Hills over the summer months. This operation will involve officers from Ward 2 SNT (Balerno) and Ward 8 (Oxgangs SNT) as the Pentland Hills Park links the two areas. A previous appeal for



information & warning the public about the increase of fake £20 notes resulted in information being received and a local address was searched along with officers from Fife Constabulary which resulted in a quantity of notes being seized. Subsequently, one male has been the subject of a report to the Procurator Fiscal. Operation Carpet (a stolen bicycle initiative) has been running successfully for the last couple of months on the Operational Command Area that encompasses ward 2 and has seen a number of persons reported for their part in thefts and possession of stolen bicycles and parts, however I would urge the public to take measures to prevent their bicycles from being stolen and if they are unlucky, keep full details of their bike incl. serial numbers so that they may be re-united. Ratho attracts a large number of visitors during the summer especially on the sunny days. The towpath is popular with walkers and cyclists and when resources allow, extra Police will patrol the area and interact with the public.

June saw the setting of the new three monthly priorities for the SNT by the Community Safety Sub Committee. These are:-

Anti-social behaviour and vandalism in the Clovenstone area.

Anti-social behaviour & littering in the Pentland Regional Park (that falls in ward 2 – joint priority with ward 8)

Establish a farmwatch scheme to prevent crime and encourage the reporting of suspicious activity.

Farmwatch is currently in the process of being set up using a similar model used by other Forces and should provide a valuable deterrent to thieves targetting expensive equipment in outlying areas of the ward. Regular vehicle, bicycle and foot patrols are being carried out in the Clovenstone area where there has been success in reducing the number of incidents of anti-social behaviour and vandalism. The local officers, PC's Redden and Robertson, have already made themselves popular with the residents, young and old as they patrol the area. Inroads have been made with City of Edinburgh Council to ensure the security of the old Juniper



Green Primary School and make it less of an attractive place for youths to congregate and reduce the vandalism that was occurring and subsequent decline of the building to "eyesore" status. The anti-violence campaign continues and will see regular visits to licenced premises including off licence premises by uniformed officers and engagement with staff & patrons of the various establishments in the area in order to discourage violence and provide a visible deterrent.



## Appeal for information

Due to the high price being paid for scrap metal (especially copper), there has been a rise in thieves targetting buildings (not only disused buildings) and stealing metal. These have previously included lead from roofs and copper gas piping still connected to the mains. They have also stolen the drain covers and gullies from Cliftonhall area which leaves cyclists and motorists in a dangerous situation.

Any information or reports of suspicious activity should be reported to your local police station. Recently officers attended a call regarding furniture being stolen from a house. It transpired the occupiers were moving but the informant had never spoken to them.

As this is the holiday period for many people, I would urge you to keep an eye on your neighbours property and report anything suspicious. This might even be a good time to introduce yourself to the neighbour you've never spoken to!

## Local Priorities

The new monthly priorities as set by the Community Safety sub committee in June are:-

- Anti-social behaviour and vandalism in the Clovenstone area.
- Anti-social behaviour and littering in the Pentlands Regional Park.
- Establish a Farmwatch scheme to prevent crime and encourage the reporting of suspicious activity.

## Hit the High Note

Police and Council officers in Edinburgh are encouraging considerate busking in the city centre this summer with a new educational campaign. 'Hit the Right Note' provides useful advice to the buskers that come to Edinburgh to perform throughout the Edinburgh festivals and into the Autumn.

Lothian and Borders police, alongside the City of Edinburgh Council, are keen to encourage busking while providing some guidance on how to avoid noise complaints from local residents and business workers, who are often disturbed as a result. The campaign was developed when local residents highlighted the issue at Safer Neighbourhood Team meetings, where local priorities are identified for the police and council to work on.

Officers will be handing out credit card sized guidance cards to performers, and guidance on legal issues around busking will be available on both the police and council websites for anyone to access.

Inspector Dianne Bruce, who oversees the city centre policing team, said "entertainers such as buskers add real value to the atmosphere of Edinburgh City Centre, and are fantastic for furthering Edinburgh's tourism industry.

We know, however, that it can sometimes be a different story for the local residents and business workers who can be disturbed by noise and crowds gathering.

We came up with the idea to provide this guidance so that residents and workers can have a peaceful atmosphere, while still preserving Edinburgh's tradition as a hub for fantastic entertainment."



## A Division

### City of Edinburgh help and advice

Lothian and Borders Police  
Non emergency  
0131 311 3131

Lothian and Borders  
Fire and Rescue Service  
(freephone)  
Fire safety advice:  
0800 169 0320  
enquiries@lbfire.org.uk

Lothian Gay and  
Lesbian Switchboard  
0131 556 4049  
0131 557 0751 (lesbian)

Samaritans  
For emotional advice if you are  
feeling depressed or suicidal:  
0131 221 9999 (Edinburgh)  
08457 90 90 90 (National)

Shakti Women's Aid  
Support and information for  
black minority ethnic women  
experiencing domestic abuse:  
0131 475 2399

Update  
Signposts people with  
disability to a wide range  
of services:  
0131 669 1600

Victim Support  
01896 751 212

Women's Aid  
0131 3158 110

### National freephone helplines

(calls may not be free  
from mobile phones)

Breathing Space  
For emotional advice if  
you are feeling depressed:  
0800 838 587

Childline  
Help for people aged  
18 or under: 0800 11 11

Know the Score  
Free confidential drugs  
information and advice:  
0800 587 587 9

Message Home  
Get a message home for  
free if you have run away:  
0800 700 740

National Debtline  
0808 808 4000

National Domestic  
Violence Helpline  
0808 2000 247

National Missing  
Persons Helpline  
0500 700 700

Runaway Helpline  
0808 800 7070

Scottish Domestic  
Abuse Line  
0800 027 1234

Shelter's Free Housing  
Advice Helpline  
0808 800 4444

Stonewall  
Lesbian, gay and  
bisexual charity:  
08000 50 20 20

Womens Aid  
0808 2000 247

### Crimestoppers

0800 5551111  
www.crimestoppers-uk.org

### Contact your Local SNT

email - [adivsntpentlandhills@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:adivsntpentlandhills@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

Tel - 0131 311 3131 extn 2612