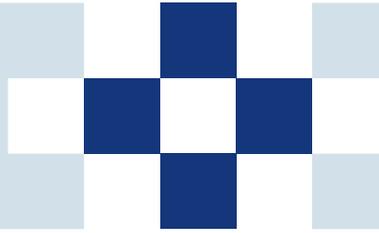


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work with us to create a positive force in your community.



Ch Supt Gill Imery

As we start to enjoy lighter evenings moving towards Spring, I would like to mention some of the many efforts police officers and staff are making to ensure Edinburgh is a safe place to live, work, socialise, and visit.

In my January message, I highlighted the growing issue of robberies tak-

ing place on the streets of the capital. You might have seen some of the positive media coverage of a citywide campaign, Operation Arable, which was launched in February to detect and target the criminals responsible for these crimes, as well as

aiming to prevent further incidents taking place.

Another issue that has been causing concern is that of bogus callers or bogus workmen incidents, where offenders prey on vulnerable, often elderly members of our community. Operation Aristotle has also been recently launched, and co-ordinates our response to these types of crime.

I am pleased to say that both operations have delivered some good early results in terms of arrests, and I would urge you to continue to be vigilant and to call the police immediately if you see anything you think is suspicious in your area. As always, we very much value and depend on your support to protect our community.

Top Tips For A Safe Night Out

As we all know, Edinburgh has a vibrant social scene and instances of violent crime are rare, however we urge you not to be complacent and follow the advice below:

1. Know how you are getting home. Know where and when the night buses leave or arrange to get picked up from somewhere central and safe. Have a reliable taxi number in your mobile as Private Hire cars are not allowed to pick up passengers who have not pre-booked. Never be tempted to get into a car you have not pre booked as you don't know what you are getting into.

2. Don't accept drinks from strangers and never leave your drink unattended -

it's easy for someone to put something in it.

3. Alcohol can make you lose your inhibitions but when you're drunk you are also at your most vulnerable. You could become a target for violence and unwanted attention, so drink responsibly.

4. Look after your property. Don't leave your bag over the back of your chair and keep wallets and purses close to your body to make it more difficult for thieves. Be alert to sneak thieves in pubs, clubs and restaurant.

5. Don't get into petty arguments in the pub or on the street – being drunk often makes people more aggressive than usual and arguments can lead to violence.



Local Operations and Initiatives

Priorities

The toilets at Juniper Green have been painted by CEC and ROAM have attended at locus and delivered appropriate literature and broadcasts on various websites. The area will continue to be monitored.

Patrols continue in the PS55 beat area but with the commencement of the new Wester Hailes Healthy Living Centre in Harvesters Way, there have been a number of youth and vandalism calls there. It is



Officers from ward 2 continued to assist their Gorgie/Sighthill colleagues with Op Cheddar, an operation to reduce and detect crime in the Gorgie/Dalry corridor. During this operation, PC Aitken dealt with an incident of the now highly publicised scam of a person believing they were buying a laptop computer in a case for a fraction of its true value, only to find out they'd bought a case containing a bottle of water. This crime has subsequently been repeated a further 12+ times across the city and re-inforces the saying "if its too good to be true, it probably is!"

This month there was also what Police call a "bogus workman crime" committed in Currie. This is a despicable crime where unscrupulous individuals pretend to be tradesmen and prey on our vulnerable members of society and convince them that work is required on their property. They carry out the work, usually to a very poor standard (if at all) and then charge them an exorbitant amount of money for the privilege, often driving the person to the bank. I would ask all householders to be aware of this crime and to look out for their

anticipated that it will be a magnet for youths who see the building site as an "adventure playground" and the criminal fraternity who will steal plant and materials.

The setting up of a Controlled Cold Calling Zone for Bavelaw Gardens is underway at this time. PC Dee attended the "Policing beyond the playground seminar" at the Scottish Police College which he will cascade the contents of and best practices learned to other officers in the ward(s) to increase their effectiveness and the way they deal with incidents relating to the Schools in the area and pupils that attend them.

PC Robertson has continued her campaign at Juniper Green primary school with regard to parent parking and has recently been assisted by the traffic wardens section who carried out Hand Held radar checks at times when pupils were arriving and leaving the school. The average speed in the 20mph zone was 22mph. I would remind all parents about their speed in the location and where they park when picking up their children, and especially not to obstruct residents driveways.

neighbours. As a result of vigilant neighbours, CID colleagues are pursuing a positive line of enquiry for the perpetrator from the west. Theft of metal is on the increase. This is often stolen from unattended properties by people looking to sell it as scrap. Please be vigilant and secure items so they can't be easily carried away and look out for neighbours properties.





Appeal for information

The new Healthy Living Complex is currently under construction at Harvesters Way. As said earlier, it is/will be a magnet for youths who see it as an adventure playground. Currently there are very deep excavations within the compound and I would urge all parents to warn their children to stay away from this area.

Local Priorities

Priorities for the ward are:-

1. Anti-social behaviour by youths around the Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre, Oxgangs Crescent and Firhill Drive areas.
2. Housebreaking – the whole ward has suffered a sharp rise in housebreakings in the last two months (7 in October, 14 in November) and other thefts. These range from minor thefts from garden huts to considerable amounts of property from houses.
3. Setting up of a “No Cold Calling Control Zone” in areas of ward 8 where it is not already operating in response to the recent Public Perception Survey.

Bogus caller initiative

Police in Edinburgh have launched an initiative to target bogus caller crimes in the Capital. ‘Operation Aristotle’ is intended to help prevent people falling victim to bogus callers, while at the same time targeting offenders who prey on vulnerable members of the community. The six-month initiative will see Lothian and Borders Police work with partner agencies to raise awareness about the dangers posed by bogus callers.

This will include identifying vulnerable residents who could be at risk from such crimes, and providing them with the appropriate information and advice.

At the same time, officers will take action to catch offenders through targeted patrols and road checks, in addition to acting on information received through intelligence.

This enforcement activity, which is already underway, has resulted in the arrest of a 34-year-old man who has been charged in connection with a total of 12 alleged bogus caller crimes that happened in the north of the city.

Detective Chief Inspector Sara Buchanan, who is leading the initiative, said: “Bogus callers deliberately prey on vulnerable members of the community, using a variety of ruses in order to rob people who allow them into their homes in good faith. “Operation Aristotle has been launched to ensure a co-ordinated approach towards dealing with bogus callers, and this will include working with partners in local communities, to educate those who are at risk, of what to do when they receive an unsolicited call at their home.

“At the same time, we want people in local communities to be vigilant, and to call police immediately if they notice any suspicious activity taking place in their street.

“This is particularly important for anyone with elderly or vulnerable neighbours who may be at risk.

“Further information on how to guard against falling victim to bogus callers is available on the Lothian and Borders Police website.”



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 555111
www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Contact your Local SNT

Email

A Div SNT pentlandhills@lbp.pnn.
police.uk

Telephone

0131 311 3131 x2612