

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News

Lothian
and Borders
Police



ISSUE 60– August 2009

'Work With Us'

Divisional Commanders Message

CITY
WIDE

With the busy summer season now in full swing, I am encouraged by the dedication our officers continually demonstrate in keeping communities safe whilst also working hard to police the many events and festivals taking place across the city. Our Community Beat, Neighbourhood Actions Units and Response Officers provide a vital role throughout this period, by ensuring that local issues remain at the fore whilst much attention is directed at the city centre. That said Edinburgh city centre is a dynamic and fun place in August, and all us in A Division are committed to making sure everyone who works, lives, and visits Edinburgh can do so safely.

The influx of visitors to the city does create a very different policing environment, however we have partnership operations in place in order to make sure we target the areas that may have additional needs. Operation Assure involves City of Edinburgh Council, British Transport Police, NSL Services group and Essential Edinburgh working with our officers to minimise anti social behaviour in the city centre. Joint agency patrols are being carried out in areas where there may be alcohol-related disorder and anti social behaviour. There are also patrols of buses and trains, as well as checks of licensed premises in the city centres.

Chief Superintendent Colin Campbell

Bogus Caller Crime

HOT
TOPICS

Over the past three years August has been the peak month for 'Bogus Caller' crime in the Edinburgh area.

'**Bogus Callers**' are the people who turn up on the doorstep unannounced - with good excuses such as 'just happen to be working in the area' 'you have some loose slates!' 'I need to check your water/electricity' ...to commit theft by distracting you.

Lothian and Borders Police 'A' Division and other partner agencies are working hard to reduce this type of crime occurring, but they need your assistance.

What should you do when you have a caller to your property?

Firstly when in your home, make sure your front and back doors are locked. Some callers will take an opportunity to distract you at the front door, whilst their colleague attempts to gain access to the rear.

Ask who it is, BEFORE opening the door. If possible use your door viewer or window to see who is calling. Check they are genuine. Insist on seeing identification and confirm the caller's identity. If necessary contact the company to check, getting the telephone number from the phone book, not from the identification produced. If the visit is unexpected and you are unsure or don't want to speak to the caller, don't open the door.

Local News

SN37 BEAT – SOUTHSIDE , COMMUNITY BEAT OFFICER PC 4227A BEN MERRICK

CRIMES BETWEEN 01/07/09 – 31/07/09

VANDALISM AND MALICIOUS MISCHIEF

Very good news in that two of our Neighbourhood Action Unit colleagues, who were seconded to a youth vandalism initiative this month, have solved over 50 instances of vandalism in and around Dumbiedykes and the Pleasance since January, reporting over a dozen individuals to the Reporter to the Children's Panel. Of the seven acts of malicious mischief in and around the Southside in July, we have solved three and have suspects to trace for one more.

HOUSEBREAKINGS

There were eight housebreakings, seven domestic and two from businesses, with suspects identified, arrested and charged for two domestic housebreakings at East Parkside, New Arthur Place, and of the rest we have suspects to be traced for incidents at Buccleuch Street, while investigation is continuing into break ins at West Nicolson Street, Lutton Place and Viewcraig Street.

AUTOCRIME

No cars were stolen, but cars were broken into in George Square Lane and East Adam Street, while another male has been identified for a theft of a handbag from the rear of a parked car at Lutton Place on the 16th of July.

PEDAL CYCLES

The number is significantly down from last month, with seven thefts. The trend is now away from George Square and the University, to the streets around Nicolson Street and Clerk Street. We currently have no-one detected for these thefts, and efforts are in hand to initiate some work to capture those responsible.

Three houses were raided in the Southside, simultaneously, and significant quantities of cash and heroin were seized and four males charged with being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs. Good observational skills and quick thinking by another Community Beat Officer walking through the Southside meant two other males carrying pre prepared deals of herbal cannabis were captured on South Clerk Street . Operation Autoclave kept extra officers showing a high profile uniform presence on the Southside throughout July with Operation Artisan the same during the festival period.

Nicolson Square continues to be utmost in our minds, and we ask you to keep contacting ourselves and City of Edinburgh Council with your concerns.

Useful Numbers

Community Beat Officer: -
PC 4227 A Ben Merrick
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Community Inspector: -
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Community Sergeant –
PS 3737 Deborah Wicksted
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Member of Parliament

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Cameron Rose (Con) 0131 529 4078

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And Finally....

Festival season in Edinburgh and the City seems busier than ever. At St Leonards we continue to deal with a myriad of issues.

Nicholson and Bristo Squares are very much on our radar and here we are utilising an approach called the 4 'E's: Encouragement, Education, Engineering and Enforcement. By working closely with the City of Edinburgh Council, University of Edinburgh, Streetwork, the Salvation Army and other agencies in targeting the root causes of this anti-social behaviour to provide longer term solutions to this area.

Moreover, we have extra officers deployed in the Morningside, Bruntsfield and Meadows areas during the festival – to meet all the challenges these events provide.

Finally, a recent spate of house break-ins in the Morningside and Grange area have seen a number of arrests and the recovery of stolen property, and so far this year we have solved over 53% of all crime reported to us – an excellent achievement.

Inspector Richard Horan

