

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News



ISSUE 61–September 2009

'Work With Us'

Divisional Commanders Message

CITY

This month Lothian and Borders Police is launching a major new housebreaking initiative, aimed at educating members of the public on keeping their property safe. An estimated fifty percent of all housebreakings occur in properties where windows and doors have been left unlocked. Simple steps are often all it takes to deter opportunist thieves. Ad trailers will be situated in shopping centre car parks across Edinburgh, and your local Community Beat Officer will have postcards with crime prevention advice available to distribute out. Please contact them for more information.

WIDE

Lothian and Borders Police are committed to engaging with young people in Edinburgh, and a new initiative aims to tackle the issue of underage drinking. Operation Array involves officers bringing underage youths caught drinking alcohol back to Leith police station and asking the parents of the offenders to come along as well. Voluntary organisations and our officers will then engage with both the youngsters and their parents to discuss the consequences of drinking underage and the social problems it can generate. This is an example of the type of preventative work we are undertaking and underpins our Force vision of creating safer communities.

Housebreaking – Don't Become A Victim

HOT TOPICS

Housebreaking has a significant effect on people, making them feel insecure and vulnerable. By taking a few simple steps you can reduce your risk of becoming a victim. Housebreakers mostly attack the most vulnerable point of entry to a house. This means the open window or the unlocked door.

Before leaving your home make sure all the windows and doors are securely locked. Always use both the mortise and cylinder rim locks.

Do not leave tilt & turn or hopper windows slightly open, even if you lock them, as it is much easier to force them open.

Thieves liked CRAVED items, Concealable, Removable, Available, Valuable, Enjoyable and Disposable; i.e. small items of high value such as jewellery, digital cameras, mp3 players, laptops and not forgetting good old cash and credit cards. Think about where you keep these items.

Top Tips:

Don't leave valuables like laptops where they can be viewed through a window. They may tempt a break in.

Valuables left near windows are a smash and grab risk

Be aware of the real risk of someone "fishing" valuables like car keys, purses or handbags through a letterbox or partially open window using for example a long garden cane.

Consider purchasing a safe to keep valuable items in, but make sure the safe is secured to the fabric of the building so it cannot just be carried away.

This works well when used in conjunction with a monitored house alarm.

PRESTONFIELD(SN 36) NEWS LETTER.

For the month of August in the heart of the Prestonfield community, the area of Prestonfield Avenue, Prestonfield Road and the near by area, the crimes reported to the Police were very low. Unfortunately, however, the sector of SN 36 there were 30 crimes reported to the Police, in comparison to only 8 in the month of July. There has been an increase in motor bike and pedal cycle thefts which have usually been stolen nearer to the city centre and the pedal cycles have stolen from the tenements. There have been other crimes that still cause us problems such as ;

THEFTS - 8 thefts were reported at Pollock Halls. In the majority of cases the complainers have provided the thief with the opportunity by leaving windows open.

THEFT SLIP INS – In Priestfield Road a house was entered by an open kitchen door and some electrical goods were stolen.

VANDALISM – About 4 cars have been damaged. 1 of which had a couple of windows smashed whilst parked outside the elderly complainers house in Prestonfield Terrace. Perhaps with summer mornings party revellers have been walking home and indiscriminately used some of their unspent energy on someone else's property...

PLEASE PHONE 999 WHEN YOU HEAR SOMETHING BREAKING.

MOTOR BIKE THEFT CRIME PREVENTION – 6 attempts to steal bikes and 2 stolen. On one occasion the owner of the bike intercepted the criminal and managed to stop him riding away. The culprit who was stopped in the Kings Meadow is described as Male, medium build, 5'9" tall, aged between 18 and 21 years of age, wearing a black hooded top and a black baseball cap. If you cannot hide the bike in a garage then by covering it with a suitable sheet with ties will deter the thieves. If you own a guest house please be mindful of your biker guests and warn them that thieves are active and have them covered up.

PEDAL CYCLE THEFT CRIME PREVENTION – When buying a bike, budget for security. Take out insurance, record and register your bike, the police can give you further information regarding this, take a clear photo of your bike. To guard against the dedicated thief you need a padlock that has resisted attack for 5 minutes.

Once again thank you for taking ownership of your neighbourhood which is keeping the crime rate down.

Useful Numbers

The Community Beat Officers would like to encourage you to contact them direct by tel. or email to discuss your issues. We deal with non-urgent matters and will always endeavour to answer your enquiries in the shortest time.

FIND US AT:

Email : Officers.Name@lbp.pnn.police.uk

Or 0131.662.5022 (Ans.Mach.)

SN38 – Pc 2977A Neill Sinclair –

Sciennes/Grange

SN37 – Pc 4227A Ben Merrick

Southside/Dumbiedykes

SN36 – PC 3615 Alastair Mackenzie

Prestonfield

SN39 – Pc 3773A John Leadbetter

Newington

SM44 – Pc 3100A Michael Brooks

Morningside/Comiston

SM45 – Pc 4650 Sheree Toombs

Morningside/Churchhill

SM46 – Pc 4601 Yockson Bell

Marchmont/Meadows

SM47 – Pc 3521A Alan Hopper

Bruntsfield/Merchiston

And Finally....

First No Cold Calling Zone

Mortonhall estate is to be the first No Cold Calling zone to be established in the South of Edinburgh.

The aim of a No Cold Calling Zones is to reduce bogus callers and doorstep crime by making it clear to potential callers that the residents within these zones do not welcome uninvited doorstep traders.

Signs are being put up in windows and on lampposts to discourage traders away from the 146 homes with in the estate.

Trading Standards will be running the initiative in conjunction with the City of Edinburgh Environmental Wardens and Lothian and Borders Police.

If you would like further details please contact Trading Standards on 0131 529 3030

PC Carlyn Mcghee
South Crime Prevention Officer

