



# South Local Policing Area Neighbourhood Newsletter

*Lothian and Borders Police*

*July 2004*

## Ward 45 – Merchiston/Polwarth

**Welcome** to the July issue of our Police Neighbourhood Newsletter for the Merchiston Ward. Our newsletter is compiled on a monthly basis and incorporates up to date local and police issues, which we hope you will find informative.

There was a total of 33 reported crimes in Ward 45 during the month of June 2004.

### **DOMESTIC HOUSEBREAKING**

There were three reports of Theft by Housebreaking during the month of June.

One occurred in Polwarth Crescent during the evening of the 5<sup>th</sup> where entry was gained by forcing open the front door using bodily pressure thereafter entering and stealing a home computer system and a large collection of CD's to the value of £4415.

Another incident took place in the late hours of the 27<sup>th</sup> at Temple Park Crescent where a male made off from within the flat, empty handed, after being disturbed by the occupier. The culprit had gained entry into the premises by climbing scaffoldings at the rear of the building then through an insecure kitchen window. He made good his escape through the insecure front door of the flat.

Lastly an Attempt Housebreaking occurred at Polwarth Place where a culprit had tried to force open the rear kitchen window in an attempt to gain entry to the premises,

however the security of the window held out and access was prevented.

### **BUSINESS HOUSEBREAKING**

There were no reports of break-ins to Business premises for the month but there was one report of a Theft from a guest room at a local Hotel on the 2<sup>nd</sup> where entry was gained by the use of a true key. A CD player and small amount of CD's was stolen within.

### **Auto Crime**

### **THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

A Blue Piaggio Typhoon Moped was stolen from Polwarth Gardens in the early evening of the 16<sup>th</sup>. Police recovered the moped two days later in Duff Street, Edinburgh.

### **THEFT from MOTOR VEHICLES**

This continues to be our main crime problem. There were nine thefts from Motor Vehicles. These took place in Ettrick Road, Merchiston Avenue, Polwarth Terrace, Polwarth Gardens, McNeill Street, Temple Park Crescent, Horne Terrace and Harden Place.

Properties ranging from CD players, mobile phones to Sunglasses, Jackets, briefcase

and a number plate were stolen during these thefts.

We are still making it too tempting for the opportunist thieves by leaving valuable properties in full view within our vehicles, especially during the longer days of our great summer.

In respect of the rising numbers of car crime, we will be continuing with our plain-clothes crime patrol initiative in and around Merchiston/Polwarth area from the evening to the early hours of the morning.

For great advice and hints, which if acted on could reduce your chances of becoming a victim of auto crime, visit the web link.

<http://www.secureyourmotor.gov.uk/>

## **OTHER CRIMES**

**THEFT-** There were nine reports of Theft and Theft shoplifting during this month, these includes the following;

A £300 digital camera and a ladies shoulder bag were stolen during a Theft slip-in at Merchiston Park on the 21<sup>st</sup>. The culprit slipped in through an insecure front door and stole from within. The bag and content was later recovered nearby the following day.

A 12 ft car Trailer was stolen from Montpelier Terrace between 1200hrs on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 1900hrs on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

A 20-year-old male has been charged with the theft from Polwarth Gardens and a 16-year-old male has been reported for theft shoplifting from premises in Bruntsfield Place.

**BICYCLES-** A pedal cycle with the value of £150 was stolen from Bruntsfield Place.

The owner had secured the bike in the early morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and on his return later in the evening he discovered the security had been overcome and the bike missing.

Again the best crime prevention advice I can give is, if possible, to store your cycles within your dwelling or within a shed / garage. Out of sight from prying eyes.

The Community Safety Dep't currently based at the West End Police Station.

**Tele. No. 0131 221 2050** will be able to provide further crime prevention advice on request.

Lastly, keep a record of the model and serial number, as this information is crucial when Police check those outlets where stolen property is often sold.

The following web link offers good impartial advice on cycle security

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/crime/prevention/cyclesecurity.shtml>

## **OTHER ISSUES**

Further to the begging issues, Community Beat Officers will continue to focus their attention on the individuals concerned and the Sector Inspector has reiterated that begging within the immediate environs of bank ATMs **will not be tolerated**.

## **LOGGED INCIDENTS**

During the month there were 128 incidents logged by the police in respect of your ward. Of these only 7 were Graded 1 i.e. 'emergencies'. 43 were Graded 2 i.e. not emergencies but should be responded to within one hour. The remainder were more routine and in the main dealt with by the Community Beat Officers.

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**CRIME STOPPERS - 0800 555 111**