

# A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News

Lothian and Borders  
**POLICE**



ISSUE 2 October. 2004

## 'Working in Partnership for a Safer City'

CITY  
WIDE

### Communication and Crime...The Way Forward

I would like to touch on two topics this month. Firstly, a brief note about the Newsletter itself. We have already had some favourable feedback regarding its format and content. I have also been made aware though that some local groups would like more information than was given last month. I know that in some parts of the capital contact between officers and city residents has previously been infrequent and sporadic, whilst in others it has been consistently good. The Newsletter aims to get the balance right here. By its very nature the document is short - it is designed to be easily read and E-mailed. This does not mean however that we are trying to be too strict about the type of material we use. The 'Local News' section is capable of being expanded or reduced to cover events in your area and I would encourage all readers to feed back their views on the Newsletter to the local officers shown overleaf. Secondly, crime figures released today show that overall recorded crime is down again and September's crime clear-up rate is up to 44.5%. The fact that we are solving almost 1 in every 2 crimes in a city like this is truly excellent and stands favourable comparison anywhere in the country. I look forward to reporting on future developments.

*Allan Shanks, Divisional Commander, City of Edinburgh*

### REMEMBER REMEMBER...



This month the Community Safety Topic really is hot, 2,000 degrees centigrade in fact. This is the temperature a simple sparkler reaches, over 15 times the boiling point of water. With this in mind we would like to take the opportunity to remind you of a few simple precautions to take whether attending an organised Bonfire or doing it yourself on November the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Each year the Emergency Services attend numerous incidents as a result of people not handling fireworks properly. Legislation has been brought in to impose tighter controls on persons permitted to use fireworks and in an effort to reduce the number of incidents involving fireworks. Persons under the age of 18 years are not permitted to purchase or possess fireworks in a public place. Fireworks should not be set off in a public place, i.e. anywhere other than a back garden. It is illegal to sell fireworks individually. The sales of specific types of fireworks are also covered by the legislation with Air bombs and mini-rockets being banned from public sale this year.

We want you to enjoy Bonfire night and urge you to use fireworks safely. Please read the instructions provided on your fireworks before use.

If you require further information on bonfire and firework safety please contact Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade Community Safety Department on 6597254. If you require Crime Prevention Advice please contact the Community Safety Department on 2212050/2090

HOT  
TOPICS

## Ward 45 – Merchiston / Polwarth

# Ward 45 - Merchiston / Polwarth

**Welcome** to the October 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 were a total of 51 reported crimes in Ward 45 during the month of September 2004.

## **DOMESTIC HOUSEBREAKING**

There was one report of a theft by housebreaking.

This incident occurred overnight on 23<sup>rd</sup> / 24<sup>th</sup> in Polwarth Gardens where the front door was forced using a screwdriver or similar. The culprit(s) made good their escape with a quantity of audio visual equipment.

There was also a report of an attempt house breaking at Mardale Crescent where the person has tried to gain entry via the rear sliding patio door. This attempt was unsuccessful.

## **BUSINESS HOUSEBREAKING**

There was one report this month. This was to premises in Merchiston Avenue where entry was gained by removing lower door panel. Fortunately nothing was stolen.

However, there was another incident where local youths gained entry to a secure area of premises in Polwarth Terrace and stole items of property. Officers detained one youth at the time and enquiries are on-going to trace the others involved.

## **THEFT OF MOTOR CARS**

There were four reports of vehicles having been stolen this month which is one more than last month. A Motor Cycle was stolen from McNeill Street and was later recovered. Also a Ford Fiesta was stolen from Rochester Terrace. The

culprits were found within this vehicle and were subsequently arrested and charged. There were two further thefts Merchiston Crescent and Montpelier Park which so far have not been recovered.

There were also a number of thefts from motor vehicles. These occurred in Merchiston Park, Montpelier Park, Viewforth and Bruntsfield Place. Properties ranging from car seats to mobile phones and cash were stolen.

**DO NOT** leave valuables in open view within your vehicle. It is too tempting for an opportunist thief. These crimes would not occur if items were not left in view.

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 six reports of Theft and Theft shoplifting during this month. These crimes include theft of items from public places. Again the majority of these thefts are when items are left unattended. When out and about always keep an eye on your valuables/bags. You never know who you are sitting or standing beside. It only takes seconds to commit a theft so be vigilant.

**BICYCLES**—This continues to be a major problem in the Merchiston area. There were five pedal cycles stolen this month. These were from Montpelier Park, Merchiston Avenue, Polwarth Gardens, Bruntsfield Gardens and Viewforth. This is five less than last month. We would like to reassure members of the public that we are doing our utmost to identify the culprits for these crimes and would like to remind you that any information leading to the apprehension of these culprits is appreciated.

On most of the occasions the owners had secured the bikes within a stairwell and the

security had been overcome and the bikes stolen.

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

The Community Safety Department are currently based at the West End Police Station. **Tel. No. 0131 221 2050** they will provide further crime prevention advice on request.

Keep a record of the model and serial number of your bicycle 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

**Drugs** – A 23 year old male was arrested in Merchiston Place for being concerned in the supply of illegal drugs.

**Parking / Obstruction** - Despite the attention of the police and a number of vehicles being towed away, many residents continue with the habit of 'double parking' against other cars or the wheelie bins. Be advised that that the Sector Inspector has instructed that action is to be taken to curb this on-going practice.



**Detections Update** – We are pleased to advise that three different males have been arrested during the month in connection with nine previously reported housebreakings in the Ward area. Good work by our Divisional Crime Unit

## LOGGED INCIDENTS

During the month there were 63 incidents logged by the police in respect of your ward. Of these only 5 were Graded 1 i.e. 'emergencies'. 21 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 locals Community Beat Officers.

## Contact Numbers

### COMMUNITY BEAT OFFICERS:-

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**INSPECTOR Brian Nisbet**

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**HOWDENHALL POLICE STATION**

0131-666-2222

**COMMUNITY SAFETY DEPARTMENT**

0131-221-2050 / 2100



## And Finally....

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators/Associations who attended at the forum held in James Gillespie High School on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2004.

This was an excellent opportunity for you to meet and speak with your local community beat officers and was an extremely successful evening.

If you reside in an area not covered by a Neighbourhood Watch and are interested in starting one up please contact your local beat officer for information on how to do so.

