

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News

Lothian and Borders
POLICE



ISSUE 1 Sept. 2004

'Working in Partnership for a Safer City'

CITY
WIDE

Reporting on Your Local Policing Issues

I am delighted to introduce this first issue of Edinburgh's new policing Newsletter. Policing in the capital has undergone some major changes recently and one of our main aims has been to improve the way we communicate with other agencies, community groups and most importantly you, the city's residents. This Newsletter is a crucial part of that strategy. Wherever you live in the city, each edition will offer you a mix of topical policing issues, crime prevention advice and local news items. I trust you will find this format both interesting and useful.

Allan Shanks, Chief Superintendent

TOP
TALKS

Crimestoppers is a charitable organisation that is based within the Scottish Criminal Record Office in Glasgow. The scheme originated in the USA and is now operated in Canada, Australia and Ireland. Crimestoppers works through a single Nationwide freephone number **0800-555-111** which can be used to give confidential information. This number can be called at any time with information about any crime type. Anonymity is guaranteed and you will not be asked for your name. Calls are not traced or recorded and they will not appear on your phone record. Callers are offered cash rewards if their information leads to an arrest and charge of an offender. In 2003 Crimestoppers, Scotland, received 7,793 actionable calls resulting in 502 arrests and the seizure of drugs and property to the value of £590,066.

A crime trend to be aware of this month involves a number of housebreakings across the city where car keys and subsequently the cars themselves have been among items stolen. It is recommended that you keep your vehicle and house keys in a safe place that is easy for you to access but is not obvious to a potential housebreaker. In addition do not leave house keys in the lock as this can aid the thief in their escape.

If you would like further Crime Prevention advice please contact the West End Community Safety Department on 0131-221-2050/2090.

LOCK
NEWS

MORNINGSIDE SECTOR (WARDS 45, 46, 47 & 51)

I hope this newsletter find you refreshed and batteries re-charged after the summer break. On the crime front there is good news. In the Morningside Sector overall the number of crimes has dropped by 3% when compared to last years figures and at the same time the number of crimes solved has risen by 9%. However, as I'm sure some of you know crime continues to happen and therefore we all must guard against complacency. Keep vigilant ! A more localised breakdown is continued overleaf.

'Brian Nisbet' – Morningside Sector Inspector



Ward 45 - Merchiston / Polwarth

Welcome to the August 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 44 reported crimes in Ward 45 during the month of August 2004.

DOMESTIC HOUSEBREAKING

There was one report of an attempted theft by housebreaking.

This incident occurred at Bruntsfield Avenue when a male forced open a ground floor window by breaking the catch only to be disturbed by the occupier. The male made good his escape.

BUISNESS HOUSEBREAKING

There were no reports of Business Housebreakings this month.

THEFT OF MOTOR CARS

There were three reports of vehicles having been stolen this month. A scooter was stolen from Merchiston Park, a Van was stolen from Polwarth Terrace and a motorcycle was stolen from Thistle Place.

The scooter and Van were later recovered. The motorcycle remains an outstanding stolen vehicle.

THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLES

Again this continues to be our main crime problem. There were ten thefts or attempt thefts from motor Vehicles.

These took place in Forbes Road x 2,

Merchiston Mews, Merchiston Avenue, Polwarth Terrace x 2, Polwarth Place and Ettrick Road x 3.

Properties ranging from binoculars to golf bags and clubs were stolen.

DO NOT leave valuables in open view within your vehicle. It is too tempting for an opportunist thief.

On a brighter note, a male was identified from a finger impression left following a theft from a motor car at Horne Terrace earlier this year. This male has since been charged with this crime and four other thefts from vehicles in the Merchiston area.

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 ten pedal cycles stolen this month. These were from Montpelier Park x 2, Merchiston Park, Chamberlain Road, Blantyre Terrace, Bruntsfield Avenue, St Peters Place, Gilmore Place and Temple Park Crescent.

On most of the occasions the owners had secured the bikes within a stairwell and the security had been overcome and the bikes taken. On a couple of occasions a bike was left

insecure but within a garden or insecure garage.

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

Further to the begging issues, Community Beat Officers will continue to focus their attention on the individuals concerned. The Sector

Inspector has reiterated that begging within the immediate environs of bank ATMs **will not be tolerated**. The good news is that the situation seems to have improved over recent weeks.

LOGGED INCIDENTS

During the month there were 121 incidents logged by the police in respect of your ward. Of these only 9 were Graded 1 i.e. 'emergencies'. 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.

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 Will be hosting a conference to promote Neighbourhood Watches / Associations within the Morningside and Newington Police Sectors.

All NHW Coordinators and known Residents Association contacts within Wards 45 – 51 will be invited to attend this informal evening.

The venue will be James Gillespie High School on Monday 4th October, 2004, between 7.00 – 8.30pm.

Please take this opportunity to meet and speak with the local police officers who work in and for your ward.