

# A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News

Lothian and Borders  
**POLICE**



ISSUE 16 December, 05



**'Working in Partnership for a Safer City'**



CITY  
WIDE

## Policing the Beat – a Local Success Story

Earlier this year, 58 Community Beat Officers took to Edinburgh's streets. Their remit? To reinforce police and community links across the capital by re-energising the role of the traditional 'beat bobby'. Last week I had the pleasure of hosting a conference attended by these officers. From Portobello to South Queensferry, officers told me what they had achieved. Amongst other things, I learned of a student safety scheme in the city centre and of immensely successful Problem Solving Partnership work in the Leith area. One officer in the west of the city has even managed to obtain thousands of pounds from a charitable source to revamp a children's play area. There are obviously challenges facing these officers. We are continually looking at shift patterns to optimise the 'contact time' they have with their respective communities. We need to guard against their deployment at special events for the same reason. In overall terms though, I was very impressed by the commitment and enthusiasm these officers have clearly shown as they settle into their new role. I know some of you will have felt the benefits already. I look forward to reporting on more local successes. Chief Superintendent Allan Shanks, Divisional Commander

HOT  
TOPICS

## The Pantomime with a Special Message

The fight against Bogus Caller crime remains one of the main priorities of the police in Scotland.

All too often it is the elderly who are most likely to fall victim to the people who commit these crimes.

Our Safer Communities Department has taken the lead role in working with partners to find an innovative and enjoyable way to reach these people. We have now found money to pay for over 700 older people to attend a matinee performance of 'Mother Goose' at the Kings Theatre on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2005. The Chief Constable has been the main contributor with money from the Proceeds of Crime Fund. The Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership, Scottish Power and Scottish Water have also put their hands in their pockets.

The pantomime cast will also highlight Bogus Caller crime advice and Mr Dickson, the Deputy Chief Constable, will address the audience at the end. Audience members will also be provided with 'goody bags' containing personal safety items and useful information.

**Ward 45 – Merchiston / Polwarth**



# Ward 45 - Merchiston / Polwarth



*This is the December edition of your monthly newsletter.*

*There were 53 reported crimes in respect of your ward for the month of November 2005.*



## **DOMESTIC HOUSEBREAKING**

There were two reports of housebreakings in November.

One of these crimes occurred on the 4<sup>th</sup> at Rochester Terrace with the other occurring overnight 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at Hartington Place.

There was a further attempt break in on the 4<sup>th</sup> at Polwarth Gardens.

The good news is that a 37 year old male was seen 'making off' from the scene of the crime at Rochester Terrace on the 4<sup>th</sup> and was subsequently detained and charged with this and an attempt break in at Polwarth Gardens on the same date. This male was detained during the month long housebreaking initiative 'Operation Arris', (as mentioned in last months newsletter). He is a likely suspect for further housebreakings in the area and will be interviewed in due course regarding these crimes.

## **BUSINESS HOUSEBREAKING**

There were NO business housebreakings in November.

## **PRO ACTIVITY**

We have recently increased the number of officers working in plain clothes within our initiative team who will focus on auto crime and house breaking.



## **AUTO CRIME**

There were two reported thefts of motor vehicles in November. The first theft was overnight on 14<sup>th</sup> into 15<sup>th</sup> when a Vauxhall Corsa was stolen from East Castle Road. The other theft was on the 24<sup>th</sup> when a Volkswagen was stolen from West Castle Road. The Vauxhall Corsa has since been recovered but at the time of writing the Volkswagen remained unrecovered.

Overnight between 19<sup>th</sup> into the 20<sup>th</sup> there was a spate of car crime. On each occasion a vehicle was entered by forcing a screwdriver or similar instrument into the door lock, or to just above the door lock, whereby entry was gained to the vehicle and property stolen. These crimes occurred at the following locations- Merchiston Park, Merchiston Avenue, West Castle Road, Bruntsfield Gardens, Forbes Road, Polwarth Grove and Polwarth Terrace. There was also an attempt to steal a vehicle from Merchiston Park.

There is a male suspect for these crimes but he has since been detained at Her Majesty's pleasure - on unrelated crimes, we await to interview him.

On the night in question a male was seen about 0300 hours 'trying' car doors in Merchiston Place. A witness who saw this male DID NOT however call the police!

**PLEASE, PLEASE** call the police if you see anything suspicious. If a call had been received on this night it is possible that the male would have been caught at the time and this would also have limited the number of vehicles broken into.



## OTHER NEWS

A 23 year old male was reported for dangerous cycling on the 7th in Bruntsfield Place.

A 20 year old male was reported for assault in Temple Park Crescent on the 24th

As mentioned earlier, a 37 year old male was reported for housebreaking and attempt housebreaking on the 4<sup>th</sup> at Rochester Terrace and Polwarth Gardens.

It is worth noting that 8 of November's crimes were thefts where property was left insecure and unattended. These thefts could easily have been prevented. Items stolen range from wallets and mobile phones to a bicycle. PLEASE look after your property and help PREVENT CRIME.

## TAGGED INCIDENTS

During the month there were 143 incidents logged by the police in respect of your ward. Of these only 8 were graded 1, i.e. emergencies; 22 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 local Community Beat Officer or patrol officers.

Please continue to ensure that your property is secure. Use ALL locks fitted to your doors and use window locks too.

This is the season of good will but we DO NOT want to make it easy for thieves! The only person you want in your house with a bag of valuables this year is Santa!

*Could I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.*

*Alan Hopper*



## Contact Numbers

### COMMUNITY BEAT OFFICERS:-

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PC Carlyn McGhee – Youth Action Team

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### HOWDENHALL POLICE STATION

0131-666-2222

### COMMUNITY SAFETY DEPARTMENT

0131-221-2050 / 2100

## And Finally....

If you are the proprietor of retail premises or have domestic premises which will be unoccupied over the festive period please ensure you take adequate security measures to protect your property, an alarm, quality locks on doors and windows and security lights will all help to deter a would be theft.

On a similar note, when out Christmas shopping don't leave presents or other valuable possessions within your vehicle in full view of passers by, lock them safely in the car boot and remove them as soon as possible when you return home.

