

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News

Lothian and Borders
POLICE



**ISSUE 16 December
2005**

'Working in Partnership for a Safer City'

CITY
WATCH

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

TO
HOLD
US

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 14th 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 46 – North Morningside / Grange

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Welcome to the December issue of the Police Neighbourhood Newsletter.

Mike Smith
PC 4219A

BRACE YOURSELF FOR THE XMAS SPAM SURGE

PC users are being told to stay alert in the run up to Christmas, as research shows cyber-crime is increasing and getting 'smarter'.

Crimes committed over the internet or through email have rocketed in recent years, with spammers and code writers constantly coming up with new ways to breach IT security. Despite efforts to clamp down on cyber-fraudsters, the cost of breaches continues to rise, with UK businesses directly in the line of fire.

In addition, separate research by a security group, revealed the extent of scams targeting email and internet users. It claims spammers are relying on 'social engineering', a process by which people are persuaded to part with their money. Analysis of 19,000 emails revealed scams involving expensive watches, phoney bank accounts and online auctioneers.

Security organisations forecast a steep rise in scams during the run-up to Christmas and are urging bosses and their staff to be vigilant.

VANDALISM

6 crimes of this type this month. These consisted of ;

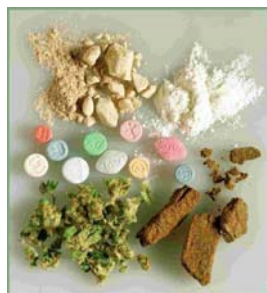
- 5/6TH Nov at Springvalley Terrace where the rear window of a motor vehicle was smashed
- 15/11 – where a vehicle had its bonnet scratched
- 14/16 Nov Greenhill Park – a vehicle had its window smashed.
- 30 Nov – Springvalley Gardens – vehicle had its boot damaged.
- 15/16th Nov – a premises in Morningside Road had its window smashed.
- 28 Nov – a premises had its outside wall vandalised.

THEFT PEDAL CYCLE

Again only one bike stolen, this month. It was stolen from Morningside Road on the 24/25 whilst secured to railing by a lock.



DRUGS



On the 21st a 28-year-old male was found in possession of cannabis resin.

THEFT MOTOR VEHICLE

One vehicle stolen this month from Hope Terrace on the 10/12. The vehicle concerned was a silver Vauxhall vehicle.

CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON

There were 5 minor assaults this month that were all reported by staff from staff at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. Persons have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for these crimes.

THEFT - OTHERS

- 7th a theft of pipes occurred from the building site Cannan Lane.
- 22nd – 23rd a theft of money took place from Morningside Park.
- 19th - A theft took place from a rucksack that was being worn by the complainer. A wallet and contents were stolen.
- On the 13th a theft took place from Pitsligo Road where a mobile phone was grabbed from the complainers hand. The description for the person responsible is: **MALE, WHITE, 15 YEARS, SHORT FAIR BLONDE HAIR, WEARING A BLUE AND WHITE TOP.**
- On the 11th a theft took place from a dwelling in Oswald Road. A 35-year-old male was later arrested and charged with this offence.
- Again on the 11th a theft took place in Morningside Road. Property was stolen from a coat pocket whilst it was left unattended.

THEFT OLP – MOTOR CAR

28th – a vehicle was broken into at the rear of Iceland car park in Morningside Road. A pair of glasses and CD player were stolen.

On the 19th – 20th in Greenhill Park a vehicle had its door forced open and entry gained to the car. CD player, clothing and toys were stolen from the car. On the 15th at the same locus another car was entered and a CD player and personal documents stolen.

HOUSEBREAKINGS - DOMESTIC

GOOD NEWS - - No domestic HB's reported last month.

HOUSEBREAKINGS – BUSINESS

1 reported incident this month. This occurred at a premises in Morningside Road. Entry was gained by removing the front door glass pane entering and stealing alcohol from within.

ATTEMPT HOUSEBREAKING

No crimes this month.

ROAD TRAFFIC OFFENCES.

On the 20th November 2005 a male was arrested after driving a vehicle whilst above the drink driving limit. A report has been submitted.

Another person was reported for driving without insurance or a driving licence.

WHAT COCKTAIL ARE YOU DRINKING?

At this time of year many people are inclined to lower their guard when mixing with company whether at an office party or in a social or business gathering. Staff are the most important asset any company has and it may be prudent to remind them to take care and make sure they know what's in their Christmas tippie.

- Never leave your drinks unattended at anytime. If you leave your drink, you might not be able to see if anything has been put in it.
- Watch your drinks being poured and if you are drinking from a bottle, keeping your thumb over the top is a good idea too.
- Be aware of who and what is going on around you. If your drink tastes strange or looks different – leave it alone!
- Consider very carefully whether you should leave the premises with someone you have just met.
- Drug Assisted Assault does not just happen to women: men can be targeted too. Also remember that this type of assault is not limited to strangers
 - it can be committed by someone you know.
- Make a pact with your friends to look after each other!
 - If you feel unusually drunk after a drink or two, seek help from either your friend or the pub/club management

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YOUTH ACTION TEAM

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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.

