

# A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News

Lothian and Borders  
**POLICE**



ISSUE 3 November 2004

## 'Working in Partnership for a Safer City'

### Edinburgh – How Safe is Safe?

CITY  
WIDE

I was slightly concerned to read the following sentence in a recent letter to a local newspaper: *“Random acts of violence are becoming commonplace in the city.”* I am aware that it is a perception held by many but does it tally with the facts? Is the capital as dangerous a place as many media headlines would have us believe? Statistics show that crimes of violence fell sharply last year from 2280 in 2002-3 to 1692 in 2003-4, a drop of some 25%. In terms of the randomness mentioned by the letter writer, current figures show that so-called “stranger-on-stranger” crimes actually account for less than half of all city assaults. On average there are just three per week. When one considers that the population of Edinburgh at the last census was recorded as 430,000, this balances out a ratio of victim per/ head of population as 1:143,000. Most violent crime involves parties who are known to each other, most involve the use of alcohol and most occur in predictable hot spots. Our real challenge is not to make Edinburgh a safe place –it is comparatively safe already - but we need to look at each of these three issues so that we can make it even safer than it is now. **Chief Supt Allan Shanks, Divisional Commander**

### Bus Crime – Safer Travel tips for passengers

Thefts from passengers whilst they are travelling on buses are one of the largest problems that police and bus operators face. Despite the fact that more of these crimes are being solved now than ever before, these following tips will ensure that your property doesn't end up as a police crime statistic!

FOR  
FOCUS

- Keep your valuables safe and out of view
- Use your mobile phone or personal stereo with discretion
- Tuck necklaces and bracelets away out of sight
- Keep your bag and belongings close to you
- If possible, loop any bag handles over your wrist. Alternatively, slip handles over your shoulder and body
- Don't leave your bag on the floor or on the seat beside you
- Don't leave valuables in the luggage rack
- Be aware of your surroundings, who's sitting near you, next to you, or behind you
- Sit on the lower deck, preferably in view of the driver, especially on late night journeys
- If you feel uncomfortable, intimidated or threatened by any other passenger, tell the driver immediately
- When leaving the bus, check to make sure you have all your belongings with you

**PC Martin White Public Transport Liaison Officer**

## Ward 51 – South Morningside

# Ward 51 - South Morningside

**Welcome** to the local section of our Police Neighbourhood Newsletter for South Morningside 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 have been 27 recorded crimes during October. There were no recorded Road Traffic Offences.

10 of these crimes have been solved and the culprits reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

## DOMESTIC HOUSEBREAKING

There were seven reported break-ins to property this month, and one attempt. These offences have occurred ward wide, following no particular pattern. A male has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal in respect of 4 of the break-ins and the attempted break in.

Items stolen vary from personal financial items including cheque card and books. Computer equipment and jewellery.

The unsolved crimes have occurred within common stairs, where the main door has been left ajar. Please do not leave the stair door unlocked, please do not allow entry to callers for other flats. This could help prevent some of these crimes. The flat doors have been kicked open with bodily pressure. If you hear any strange noises from within common stairs, please investigate it could be your neighbour being broken into, and make the police aware.

As the clocks have now gone back an hour, it is darker a lot earlier and therefore the potential for house breakings in the late afternoon greatly increases. Security lights and timers would be beneficial to at least give the impression to the would be thieves that someone is within your property.

The Community Safety Department based at the West End Police Station.  
**Tel. No. 0131 221 2050** will on request conduct

a security survey of your house.

## DAMAGED VEHICLES / VANDALISM

Once again there was 3 cars parked in the Greenbank area that were the subject of mindless vandalism all having their wing mirrors removed. This would appear to happen late at night/earlier hours of the morning. Should you hear any suspicious noises during the night please do not hesitate to contact the police.

## THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLES

The trend of auto crime continues. 4 vehicles were subject to thefts during the month, these appear to have happened overnight with Braid Road and Cluny Drive being targeted. 3 of the vehicles had CD players stolen and 1 had a handbag stolen containing a purse etc.

I will take this opportunity to reiterate the point of removing all valuables from your vehicle. If you are unable to do this, please do not leave them on open display. If you can, please remove the facing to any audio equipment. If you see anyone suspicious hanging about vehicles. Contact the police.



Those of you who have internet access available to them may wish to visit the following web site, which contains some very good advice, and hints, which could reduce our chances of having a vehicle stolen or broken into.

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

## THEFT OF A MOTOR VEHICLE

A green Nissan Bluebird motorcar, registered number F486VSG was stolen from Greenbank Drive in the last 3 weeks. If seen parked on the Ward Please contact us at Howdenhall.

## OTHER CRIMES / ISSUES

**Fraud** - A male has been arrested for a fraud from one of the local banks, Comiston Road after he attempted to open a student bank account using false details. A report containing 3 charges has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

**Shoplifting** - 2 males were apprehended by plain-clothes officers who were working in Morningside Road, after a daring swoop of Champagne from on off-sales premises in Comiston Road. Both males have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

**Drugs** - There were no reported drugs incidents on the ward this month.

**Assault** - There have been 2 separate reports of assaults within one of the local Licensed Premises. This happens very rarely as the staff within are very careful on who is let in and served.

One male has been charged with assault and a breach of the peace for a minor disagreement

with another customer.

The second assault took place on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October while 2 friends were enjoying breakfast. One of them was punched in the face by a complete stranger.

If anyone saw this please contact Howdenhall Police Station. I am however following a positive line of enquiry.

## LOGGED INCIDENTS

During the month there were 86 incidents logged by the police in respect of your ward. Of these one was Graded '1' i.e. 'emergencies'. 26 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 Officers.

## Contact Numbers

### COMMUNITY BEAT OFFICERS:-

**PC James Sinclair**

**E-Mail:** [james.sinclair@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:james.sinclair@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

**PC Elaine Cowan**

**E-Mail:** [elaine.cowan@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:elaine.cowan@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

**INSPECTOR Brian Nisbet**

**E-Mail:** [brian.nisbet@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:brian.nisbet@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

### HOWDENHALL POLICE STATION

0131-666-2222

### COMMUNITY SAFETY DEPARTMENT

0131-221-2050 / 2100

## And Finally....

We are aware of some difficulties in opening the E-Mailed version of the Newsletter. Equally problematic is that part of the format is often distorted by personal computer settings.

By way of trying to resolve this issue we can send out the Newsletter in PDF format. This has the advantage of 'locking' the document settings and maintaining the original format. To view these you need to have Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer. This can be obtained free of charge by logging into Lothian and Border Police Website.

<http://www.lbp.police.uk/freedom-of-information/>

