

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News

Lothian and Borders
POLICE



ISSUE 17 JANUARY 06

'Working in Partnership for a Safer City'

Youth Disorder - a Christmas Challenge Won

Tackling youth disorder in Edinburgh remains one of my top priorities. Several specially trained and funded police **Youth Action Teams** are now in operation across the city. Traditional street patrolling remains important for these teams, however some have already shown a willingness to try wholly new methods of working. A Christmas initiative in Moredun provides a good example. Officers and library staff here sourced Play Station games from a local business and engaged youths in the area in a 'Christmas Challenge'. This consisted of officers playing computer games against local youths for a few hours, one evening a week. A good rapport was built up, but more importantly the total number of youth calls in what was previously a 'hotspot' area plummeted. For the 29 days prior to the challenge the number of calls there stood at 92. During the 29 days of the challenge, calls fell to just 53. 'Hard' policing will always have a role in Edinburgh, however evidence like this illustrates the value of complementary new ideas and approaches too. I firmly believe in both.

Chief Supt Allan Shanks, Divisional Commander

CITY
WIDE

Joining Forces to Fight Fire

Injury and damage caused by fire concerns all the emergency services. Since April 2004, Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service have been running a funded fire prevention initiative. It allows for any house in Edinburgh and elsewhere in the Lothian and Borders area to have a home safety check and, if necessary, have a battery operated smoke alarm installed **free of charge**. These checks are carried out by local Fire fighters and can be arranged by either:

- contacting any one of the 36 local fire stations in this area; or
- calling the free phone number 0800 169 0320

The scheme is Scottish Executive and Council funded and to date a total of 11,500 smoke alarms have been installed throughout the Force area. The idea has proved a great success and service quality checks carried out by the Fire Service have found that 95% of people who received a home visit felt safer afterwards.

For our part, the Division has organised joint initiatives with the Fire Service. These have seen Fire fighters and local police officers calling at houses together, and offering advice on all aspects of fire safety and home security. These visits have also been very well received.

FOR
HOMES

Ward 55 – Moredun

Ward 55 - Moredun

Welcome to the local section of the Neighbourhood

Newsletter for your ward.

In December 2005, there were 48 crimes / offences recorded within our area.

HOUSEBREAKING

Over December we received no reports of Housebreaking from within our sector, which given the array of Christmas presents which would have been available to Housebreakers is great news. Hopefully this trend will continue into the new year and beyond.

AUTOCRIME

We have recorded four incidents of Autocrime this month with the emphasis being on older vehicles stolen or broken into from various locations within the sector. Again the favoured mode of entry was by means of smashing windows or bending the doors back. Enquires are ongoing and it is hoped that the persons responsible will be brought to book at a later date.

DRUGS

As a direct result of information supplied by members of our community to Howdenhall officers and by phone to Crime stoppers. Officers from Howdenhall and the Divisional Drug Unit targeted a number of premises from within our area. This resulted in warrants being craved for properties in the Moredun Park Gardens, Moredun Park View, Marytree and Castleview houses. During these searches substantial amounts of Cannabis, Cocaine and Heroin were found along with drugs paraphernalia. The persons concerned have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal and hopefully this will send a loud and clear message to their associates that the community will not tolerate their criminal behaviour.

YOUTH ISSUES

As you are no doubt aware many of the problems we suffer from within the area are either directly or indirectly youth related. Whether it is youth annoyance calls or incidents of vandalism and in many of these occasions there is a link to underage drinking.

It is recognised that drinking too much alcohol on a regular basis increases the risk of damaging health i.e. liver damage, mouth and throat cancer, and raised blood pressure. However, many are not aware that binge drinking is a particular risk for young people as alcohol may have more of an effect on them, compared to older drinkers.

The 1998 Scottish Health Survey found that at the age of eight, 12% of boys and 6% of girls said they had had an alcoholic drink. This figure increases to 67% and 68% for boys and girls at age 15 respectively. Young people's drinking is increasing. In the latest survey 23% of 13-year-olds and 46% of 15-year-olds reported that they had drunk alcohol in the previous week.

Given these concerns and the implications for the community as a whole, we endeavour wherever possible to take action against premises supplying alcohol to local youths or who are failing to take the necessary precautions when selling alcohol. Recently officers attached to the Youth Action Team made a concerted effort to clamp down on these problems, with the result that a number of youths were warned and alcohol confiscated. It is hoped these actions will deter youths from further incidents of under age drinking in the future.

YOUR COMMUNITY BEAT OFFICERS

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POINTS OF NOTE

One particular incident I dealt with personally this month, was an attack on a local shop assistant who had been assaulted by a group of school pupils from Liberton High School during their lunch period. The reason it is of particular note was that the shop assistant had been threatened during the assault with a telescopic metal baton. Fortunately on this occasion the baton was not used and only presented in a threatening manner. However it concerns me that youths appear to feel it is acceptable to carry such dangerous weapons within our community.

As a result of this complaint a local youth was later arrested and reported accordingly. The weapon involved was also recovered nearby .

Contact Numbers

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And Finally....

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

A meeting for Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators will take place at Gracemount High School on Wednesday 22nd February at 7pm. There will be an opportunity to discuss local policing issues with Inspector Stephen Paul and the local community officers and receive crime prevention advice from our Safer Community experts. Come along and bring a friend if you are interested in starting up a Watch of your own

