

# A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News

Lothian and Borders  
**POLICE**



ISSUE 7 March. 2005

## 'Working in Partnership for a Safer City'

CITY  
WIDE

### Turning the Volume Down on Noisy Neighbours

Edinburgh is a city renowned for its old tenements and modern flats. 'Stair life' has always been important in the capital. For most this means the opportunity to enjoy good relations with one's neighbours or, at the very least, the chance to live in peace and quiet in one's own home. For some though, the picture is very different. It can mean cheek by jowl living with so-called 'neighbours from hell' - a day-to-day life blighted by loud music, late night DIY, dog barking and so on. This is why I particularly welcome the launch of the Council's new noise teams of Environmental Health Officers. The creation of this unit follows some excellent joint working between the police and Council and breaks new ground in Scotland. Traditionally, noise complaints have fallen to the police to deal with. Now specially trained and equipped non-police staff will be the first point of contact for such calls. This will free up a considerable amount of police time and should allow quicker resolution of noise complaints. The teams have set themselves ambitious targets and –with attendance at over 100 calls in their first 4 days- they promise to be very busy. I wish them success in their new role.

Chief Superintendent Allan Shanks, Divisional Commander

FOR  
HOLDS

### Shaping up for Summer

Many people will take up cycling as method of getting in shape for summer so here's how to secure your bike when out and about.

- Secure your bike using two quality locking mechanisms such as a chain and padlock with a D Lock
- Remove valuable components (lights, saddle etc)
- An expensive bicycle – consider having it security tagged by a recognised company.

And when cycling, remember to give yourself a chance to be seen...wear something bright, lights at night...keep ahead ... wear a helmet.

### Minor Fire Raising – A Simple Solution

Most instances of minor fire-raising are of an opportunistic nature. The damage caused by such incidents are generally minimal but it is clear that there could be more serious consequences. Abandoned or dumped rubbish is the most common material set on fire. Examples include 'wheelie bins, abandoned cars, collections of rubbish and waste materials and un-occupied dwelling houses.

You can assist us by having such materials removed before they become the fire raisers target.

Materials that have been dumped on the street or in open spaces removed by contacting the City of Edinburgh Council Rapid Response Unit on Freephone 0808 100 33 66.

Apparently abandoned vehicles, where it is assessed that there is a likelihood that they will be set on fire will be removed by the Environmental Wardens. Contact them on 529 3030.

## Ward 56 – Gilmerton

# Ward 56 - Gilmerton

**Welcome** to the local section of the neighbourhood newsletter for your ward.

Here is a summary of the crime figures for March 2005. There have been 79 reported crimes within the Ward this month, 20 of which have been solved.

## **CRIMES OF VIOLENCE / PUBLIC DISORDER.**

Within the ward this month there have been 11 incidents of public disorder and violence against members of the public. Seven of these crimes were solved with persons being reported to the procurator fiscal.

There are a number of ways to prevent yourself becoming victim of such attacks.

- Personal attack alarms are available for under £10.00 from shops such as Homebase and B&Q.
- If walking somewhere ask a friend if they will accompany you.
- Try to walk by main roads which are well lit during hours of darkness.
- Self defence lessons are available from leisure centres such as Craiglockhart leisure centre which can be contacted by phone 0131 443 0101.

## **HOUSEBREAKING**

There have been six reports of Housebreaking and attempted Housebreaking within the ward this month. These were in the Gilmerton Dykes and Drum areas. Items such as power tools, bikes and laptop computers were stolen.

Please remain vigilant and look out for any suspicious activity in our ward, and do not hesitate to contact the police.

## **VANDALISM**

There have been twenty one incidents of vandalism recorded this month. A male has been reported to the procurator fiscal for one of these incidents and enquiries continue into the remainder.

## **ROAD TRAFFIC INCIDENTS**

I am pleased to report that there were no recorded incidents involving road traffic matters within our ward this month.

I would still ask, however that you keep an eye out for anyone that you think may be committing a road traffic offence and let us know.

## **THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLES**

There has also been a reduction in the number of thefts of, and break-in's to motor vehicles this month. There were only seven recorded incidents, compared to twelve last month. Two males have been reported for attempt theft of a motor vehicle.

These crimes appear to be opportunist with no discernible crime pattern.

The vehicles that have been targeted this month are again older vehicles (registered from 1990 onwards) such as Fiesta's, Corsa's and Punto's.

Auto-crime officers based at Howdenhall are following several positive lines of enquiry.

We again ask you to keep valuables out of view when you leave your vehicle unattended.

If you own an older vehicle it may be beneficial for you to obtain a steering wheel/disc lock for your car. Often small, in-expensive security steps such as these can deter a car thief from stealing your vehicle.

## YOUR COMMUNITY BEAT OFFICERS

**PC Eric McLeod**

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**PC Shane McKenna (Youth Action Team)**

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## FIRERAISING

There was an incident of fireraising, which occurred at the Old Goods Yard on Gilmerton Station Road, on 27/03/2005 at about 2240hrs.

A large fire was started whereby a number of cars, which were being used for scrap, were set alight.

If you have any information regarding this or any other incidents please contact your local community beat officer or

**CRIMESTOPPERS** anonymously on:  
**0800 555 111**

## Contact Numbers

**PC Andrew Cameron (Community Safety)**

E-Mail: [andrew.cameron@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:andrew.cameron@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

**INSPECTOR Stephen Paul**

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### HOWDENHALL POLICE STATION

Tel No. 0131-666-2222

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### COMMUNITY SAFETY DEPARTMENT

0131-221-2050 / 2100



## And Finally....

Young people playing football in the street is one of the more common complaints received by the Youth Action Team. In an effort to address this the team have acquired the use of the five a side pitch at St John Vianney primary school for a trial period of 10 weeks. During this time young people can come along once a week for an hour and have a kick about free of charge. The sessions have been well attended allowing young people to play safely off the roads and gainfully employed! If the trial period is successful then it is hoped to replicate this elsewhere.

**Come along and give it a go!**

