

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News



ISSUE 67 –March 2010

'Work With Us'

Divisional Commanders Message



CITY
WIDE

This month has seen the introduction of Safer Neighbourhood Teams in the South and East of the city, which is further evidence of our strong commitment to community policing. I am determined to build on the current levels of community engagement at a local level by improving our approach to identifying and prioritising issues, and addressing local concerns affecting our communities. I look forward to reporting on the progress of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams and am confident they will continue to uphold the proud traditions of responsive community policing within the city of Edinburgh.

Indeed, the value of meaningful community engagement and the importance of the role played by our Community Police Officers have been demonstrated on a number of occasions in recent weeks. High profile public events, for example the recent attempted march by members of the Scottish Defence League and counter-demonstration by Scotland United Against Facism, and serious operational incidents, such as the shooting at Jock's Lodge, continue to place varying demands on our policing service. I have been impressed and encouraged by the excellent work carried out to prepare for and respond to these demands, always keeping the safety and well being of our communities uppermost in our minds.

Chief Supt Gill Imery, A Division Commander

LEGAL HIGH SUPPLY

HOT
TOPICS

Legal Highs are a very hot topic in the national press at the moment. They are substances made from herbs, chemicals and extracts which imitate the effects of some illegal drugs such as LSD and ecstasy but are not controlled by the Misuse of Drugs or Medicines Acts.

Rather than being labelled as recreational drugs, many of these products are badged up as everyday products such as alloy wheel cleaner. The Legal High substance known as Mephedrone is regularly sold as plant food.

Little is known about the long-term effects of these substances due to the short history of human consumption but it should be noted that just because they are sold legally, it does not mean they are safe to use. There is anecdotal evidence available to suggest that use of Legal Highs has had detrimental effects on the health and well being of users.

Parents should be aware that due to recent press coverage and the potential risks involved with ingesting Legal Highs, many shops in Edinburgh that were retailing these substances have stopped selling products containing Mephedrone and other Legal Highs. This has served to increase user hype and some young people have taken to using their parent's or older siblings credit cards for purchasing Legal Highs online where they are more readily available and cheaper.

More information on Legal Highs can be found at:
www.crew2000.org.uk and www.talktofrank.com

Dean

Comely Bank and Learmonth areas have had their share of theft from cars, house break-ins and theft from homes where they have been left unlocked. I encourage all residents not to leave any valuable items in view, whether it is in your car or in your home and make sure doors and windows are locked, even if you are just in the garden. Two males and a female were arrested and charged with a quantity of these crimes and investigations continue into those remaining. There was a report of a bogus care worker at Buckingham Terrace, and due to the vigilance of the informant a potentially high value theft was avoided. We will be monitoring this but please be mindful of allowing workers access until you have confirmed they are genuine.

PC John Tod – Dean Community Beat Officer

Craigleith

There have been problems with youths suspected of vandalising garages in the Orchard Brae area and enquires are ongoing to trace those responsible with increased patrols in the area as a result. There was an unsuccessful attempt at breaking into a house in Orchard Road where the rear study upper sliding sash window was smashed but due to internal stoppers three inches up the frame the window couldn't be lifted open any further and entry was not gained, no one was seen. A great example of how some minor security steps can make all the difference. A male was arrested for breaking into a house in Orchard Brae after he had been seen by officers attempting to force the rear window. In response to recent break-ins in the surrounding area myself and my colleague carried out foot patrols in the walkways near to Blink bonny Avenue when we saw a male and female within a back garden overlooking the path acting suspiciously. The female remained at the scene and the male ran off on being challenged by myself and was arrested nearby a short time later after a search with the help of the dog handler revealed him hiding in a garden in possession of tools. Both were held pending court.

PC Alan Millar – Craigleith Community Beat Officer

Stockbridge

There has been a slight rise in youth calls in the area and complaints of minor vandalism and anti-social drinking. Youths have been congregating and drinking in secluded spots outwith public view. If you do see groups of youths who you suspect are underage drinking, or causing anti-social behaviour, please report this to the police so we can take action. A 33-year-old female was arrested within Edinburgh Academy during parents evening, where she was there with the intention of stealing. After appearing at court, she was bailed. She targets insecure homes and offices, so please be vigilant and do not leave doors lying open, or unattended property in full view. Good result – staff at Moo Café on Brandon Terrace were subjected to an armed robbery, where two males presented a knife to them and stole money and a laptop. Two males, aged 17 and 18, have been traced and charged with this. Many thanks to Café Moo, and the neighbouring businesses who assisted greatly our enquiries to trace those responsible.

PC Greig Stephen – Stockbridge Community Beat Officer

Drylaw

A vehicle was stolen from a driveway in Carfrae Park after the owner had dropped the key, the vehicle was subsequently recovered and a local youth charged with this crime. The ATM at Drylaw Post Office was damaged by youths with a metal pole and enquiries are continuing into this. There were 4 - break-ins to houses and 1- attempt and a Silver Sarrison bicycle with 'Blackeye' written on the front wheel was stolen from outside RS McColls in Ferry Road. If you can provide any information on any of the above please contact us or Crimestoppers.

PC Frances Campbell – Drylaw Community Beat Officer

Useful Numbers

Community Beat Officers (CBO's)

Community Beat Officers Inverleith Sector.

Craigeleith: PC Alan Millar
alan.millar@lbp.pnn.police.uk

Dean: PC John Tod
john.tod@lbp.pnn.police.uk

Stockbridge: PC Greig Stephen
greig.stephen@lbp.pnn.police.uk

Drylaw: PC Frances Campbell
frances.campbell@lbp.pnn.police.uk

Officer in Charge of Inverleith Sector
Inspector Ian Davis
ian.davis@lbp.pnn.police.uk

Police Telephone Numbers

Force Communication Centre
(All City Police Stations)

0131 311 3131

Crimestoppers:

0800 555 111

Environmental Wardens:

0131 469 5328

or email **env.wardens@edinburgh.gov.uk**

And Finally....

There is a theme running through the local reports this month and with the lighter nights and better weather it is likely that many of you will be taking to the garden. It is imperative that you ensure that doors and windows are secured and that you make it difficult for the opportunist thief. DO NOT leave valuables in clear sight and I know I have banged this drum before, but please make sure that any Sat-Nav, mobile phones, etc and any related accessories are removed from vehicles. It is unbelievable how fast a vehicle can be entered and bags, rucksacks, etc whipped in the blink of an eye, some more brazen opportunity thieves do search glove boxes and under seats for electronic devices which are easy to hide and dispose of.

Our Community Beat Officers can offer domestic crime prevention surveys and general crime prevention advice and if any of you are interested contact Drylaw Police Station or your local CBO (listed on the left).

Ian Davis
Inspector - Inverleith Sector

