

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News



ISSUE 62–September 2009

'Work With Us'

Divisional Commanders Message

CITY

This month Lothian and Borders Police is launching a major new housebreaking initiative, aimed at educating members of the public on keeping their property safe. An estimated fifty percent of all housebreakings occur in properties where windows and doors have been left unlocked. Simple steps are often all it takes to deter opportunist thieves. Ad trailers will be situated in shopping centre car parks across Edinburgh, and your local Community Beat Officer will have postcards with crime prevention advice available to distribute out. Please contact them for more information.

WIDE

Lothian and Borders Police are committed to engaging with young people in Edinburgh, and a new initiative aims to tackle the issue of underage drinking. Operation Array involves officers bringing underage youths caught drinking alcohol back to Leith police station and asking the parents of the offenders to come along as well. Voluntary organisations and our officers will then engage with both the youngsters and their parents to discuss the consequences of drinking underage and the social problems it can generate. This is an example of the type of preventative work we are undertaking and underpins our Force vision of creating safer communities.

Housebreaking – Don't Become A Victim

HOT
TOPICS

Housebreaking has a significant effect on people, making them feel insecure and vulnerable. By taking a few simple steps you can reduce your risk of becoming a victim. Housebreakers mostly attack the most vulnerable point of entry to a house. This means the open window or the unlocked door.

Before leaving your home make sure all the windows and doors are securely locked. Always use both the mortise and cylinder rim locks.

Do not leave tilt & turn or hopper windows slightly open, even if you lock them, as it is much easier to force them open.

Thieves liked CRAVED items, Concealable, Removable, Available, Valuable, Enjoyable and Disposable; i.e. small items of high value such as jewellery, digital cameras, mp3 players, laptops and not forgetting good old cash and credit cards. Think about where you keep these items.

Top Tips:

Don't leave valuables like laptops where they can be viewed through a window. They may tempt a break in.

Valuables left near windows are a smash and grab risk

Be aware of the real risk of someone "fishing" valuables like car keys, purses or handbags through a letterbox or partially open window using for example a long garden cane.

Consider purchasing a safe to keep valuable items in, but make sure the safe is secured to the fabric of the building so it cannot just be carried away.

This works well when used in conjunction with a monitored house alarm.

Local News

Dean

During August there were 6 houses broken into in the Dean area, but due to the vigilance of a local resident, reporting a suspicious male seen in a garden, this led to his arrest and he was subsequently charged with all 6 crimes. Parking in the Blinkbonny area remains a major issue for local residents there. I am currently in consultation with traffic management and have made some recommendations that will hopefully alleviate some of the problems. Toward the beginning of the month there was a spate of vehicle vandalisms in the Craigleith Drive area, this behaviour seems to have ceased however, I would ask residents to remain cautious and attentive and report any suspicious persons in the area.

PC John Tod – Dean Community Beat Officer

Craigleith

Vehicles were damaged randomly at varying times and locations in the Craigleith area, there is no obvious pattern and they may be random acts unconnected at this stage. An item seized at one of the incidents has been sent for forensic examination. There have also been youths hanging around Fettes College grounds at night and when being challenged or on seeing police approach they run off. Attention continues to be given to this problem. A recent incident of a dog attacking another dog and also injuring the owner highlights that not all dog owners behave responsibly and the public should always remain vigilant when in walkways and cycle paths. On a more general note there have been daytime break ins in adjoining areas not far from Craigleith so please remain vigilant with regard to home, garage and shed security if at all possible as it is still the holiday season for many people and houses could be targeted that seen unoccupied. We are always available to provide crime prevention advice and surveys.

PC Alan Millar – Craigleith Community Beat Officer

Drylaw

During August 12 youth related calls were received which is less than the July. One attempt break-in was made to premises in Wester Drylaw Drive, which resulted in a 17-year-old male being charged. A house was broken into in Corbiehill Avenue by forcing the ground floor kitchen window. Two thefts from motor vehicles were reported from March Road and Hillpark Grove. Please remember to secure your vehicle when being left unattended. There were three reports of thefts of garden furniture and garden equipment from the Wester Drylaw Place/ Drive area. If you have any information in connection with these crimes please contact Drylaw Police Station or anonymously through Crimestoppers.

PC Frances Campbell – Drylaw Community Beat Officer

Stockbridge

Good arrest – A 22 year old male was arrested and charged with 8 offences, ranging from theft, theft by housebreaking, and being found on premises where he intended to steal. These crimes were carried out during August at various times of the day and night. Locations such as Dean Park Street, Dean Park Crescent, Dean Path, and Comely Bank were targeted. Items stolen ranged from sheet metal from homes under development, power tools and bicycles. This male is also being investigated for other offences committed in and around Stockbridge and Inverleith. Graffiti – I have submitted an application for the installation of temporary CCTV to both Warriston Playing Fields pavilions, and Inverleith Park, due to a rise in youth calls to these areas and a rise in graffiti. This was submitted to City of Edinburgh Council in late July and I await their response after they assess both sites.

PC Greig Stephen – Stockbridge Community Beat Officer

Useful Numbers

Community Beat Officers (CBO's)

Community Beat Officers Inverleith Sector.

Craigeith: 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....

Summer Programme

The Community Beat Officers from Drylaw along with the Neighbourhood Action Unit took part in a very successful Summer Youth Programme along with City of Edinburgh Council, involving events such as a cycle from Glasgow to Edinburgh, 5-a-side football, barbeques, and white water rafting and orienteering. A lot of hard work went into these events, much of it led by youth workers attached to the council. This was a terrific effort by all involved and which was well received by the young people of Stockbridge and Inverleith. This is part of wider programme involving partnership working and the young people in the Inverleith and surrounding areas, which will see a similar mid-term programme during the October break.

