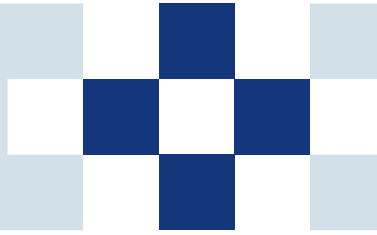


with  
youfor  
you

work with us to create a positive force in your community.



Ch Supt Gill Imery

The New Year brings challenges both new and old. I am sure many of you will be thinking about the creation of a single police force for Scotland and what this means for local communities. The commitment to community policing in Edinburgh shall remain undiminished. Through our Safer Neighbourhood Teams we shall continue to work

with local communities to identify their priorities and act upon them.

Crime figures (compared to this time last year) show an overall reduction in recorded crime by 3%.

Significantly break-ins to homes continue to fall with a reduction of 18%. I attribute this to a visible police presence on the streets, the ongoing work of our housebreaking investigations units and crucial work with our partners to engage with offenders. That said, some categories of violent crime, particularly street robberies, are giving cause for concern and we are carrying out a citywide operation to address this.

As we move into the new year our focus is once again on the prevention of crime within our communities. I know that you will continue to support our efforts and work with us to achieve safer communities.

Best wishes for 2012 to you and your families from all officers and staff within A Division.

#### DON'T FALL FOR THE HONG KONG INHERITANCE SCAM

We would like to draw your attention to a recent spate of letters purporting to be from Hong Leong Bank. The letters claim that the recipients could be entitled to millions of dollars in inheritance, following the death of an individual sharing the same surname as them.

These letters appeal to the commonly held fantasy of a rich distant relative passing away and leaving a fortune in inheritance providing an instant Jet Set lifestyle for the recipient. Unlike many modern online scams, these letters come through the post in an attempt to give them an air of legitimacy.

This is a long established scam, which rears its head from time to time and people from all over the world have fallen for it.

If you receive unsolicited mail like this and the contents seem too good to be true, they probably are. Details of these scams can be found through many sources on the Internet. Members of the public are advised not to respond to these letters and if you have done so already, please do not respond to subsequent requests for money. If you have concerns about potential scams, please don't hesitate to contact your local police station on 0131 311 3131.



## Local Operations and Initiatives

**Vandalisms-** A spate of vandalisms in the Gilmerton area, which occurred at the end of November, has been solved. Local Safer Neighbourhood Team officers traced, interviewed and charged a juvenile with 7 vandalisms. During interview, he named his accomplice who was subsequently interviewed and charged with the same crimes.

**Drugs Find-** Whilst on routine foot patrol in the

Moredun area, Safer Neighbourhood Team officers came across a strong smell of Cannabis. Having identified the source of the smell, a drug warrant was craved and officers located cannabis cultivation within. Assisted by specialist drugs team officers, cannabis plants with a value of £1400 were seized and male charged with drugs offences.

**Racial Abuse -** Whilst walking in the Inch, Safer Neighbourhood Team officers came upon a male racially abusing a local shopkeeper. The officers acted immediately, apprehending the male, who was arrested, charged and held for court. This type of behaviour will not be tolerated and all incidents should be reported the police without fear of reprisals.

**Dog Theft-** Following the theft of a dog from Dinmont Drive, which was subsequently sold and gifted a number of times, officers made extensive enquiries in the mid Lothian area and traced the animal to a Midlothian Cat and Dog home and returned it to its original owner. This has resulted in a male being charged with theft and one very happy dog owner.



**Operation Accessible -** Another round of house searches under warrant took place in our area to target criminals who profit from their criminal activities, this time specifically targeting those responsible for house breaking and associated crimes.

A large amount of intelligence was again gathered and various persons were reported to the Fiscal.

**Operation Duplex -** During the month of December, local Safer Neighbourhood Team officers carried out a festive initiative at Cameron Toll Shopping Centre, targeting shoplifters. A preventative approach was taken, in partnership with the shopping centre security. Foot patrols were carried out throughout the centre, officers speaking to shoppers and staff at the various premises. This proactive policing led to numerous persons being arrested on warrant and a male charged with possession of drugs, and only 2 reported thefts in 3 weeks, persons reported for both. In order to further promote the Prevention message, the local Road Safety Officer, Crime Prevention Officer and Drugs Awareness Officer had a stall within the



centre on specific dates, handing out leaflets and offering advice to the public

**Partnership Working-** Safer Neighbourhood Team officers have continued to meet with staff and residents at our local Young Person Units. By breaking down barriers and highlighting the negative impact of crime and anti social behaviour on the community, officers hope to change attitudes of these youngsters.



## Appeal for information

Housebreaking - There has been a noticeable spike in the number of housebreakings that have occurred over the past month, within the Alnwickhill / Liberton Brae area. Many instances involve persons gaining access to properties that have been left unlocked. Police would encourage all home owners to ensure they lock up properly at night time and take appropriate security measures. Should you require any information or advice, or want a dedicated crime prevention survey, please contact PC Carol Menzies at Howdenhall Police Station.

If you have any information, which you think might be of use regarding this type of crime or indeed any other, you can contact the Police as per the details on the final page. Alternatively, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111. Crimestoppers is an independent charity, your call is free, and your anonymity is guaranteed.

### Local Priorities

Current Priorities - Dedicated high visibility foot patrols within the Gracemount and Priesthill area have continued throughout December and into January. This has led to a reduction in youth calls and complaints from the building site security. During December there were no instances of anti social behaviour or fire raising within Burdiehouse Valley Park. Safer Neighbourhood Team officers have specifically targeted areas using intelligence they gathered from the fireworks initiative to nullify the issue.

Priority Setting - We focus on the matters that you tell us are important, so please tell us your concerns – your view matters. We will be reporting to the Police Priority Setting Group in February and want to ensure your voice and your opinions are heard. If you have any community issues that you would like the Police to tackle, contact us at Howdenhall Police Station using the contact details below.

## Launch of Autism Alert Card

Lothian and border Police is to launch a new autism awareness initiative to help address the unique challenges faced by people with autism who are victims of crime and accidents.

The Autism Alert card will help ensure those with the condition are quickly identified by police and emergency services and is endorsed by Lothian and Borders Police and The National Autistic Society (NAS) Scotland and Autism Initiatives Scotland.

The leading autism charities are heralding the card a 'breakthrough', and encouraging all young people and adults with autism to apply. The card is to be rolled out in the region from January 23rd 2012. An estimated 50,000 Scots have autism, with 10,000 thought to live in the Lothian and Borders region.

Featuring the Lothian and Borders Police logo, the card will include details of a personal contact who can lead emergency services through the best ways to support the individual with autism in what can be a highly pressurised experience.

Autism is known as the 'invisible disability', because those with the condition can appear to be outwardly functioning well, while often experiencing severe challenges in communication and social situations. Being a victim of a crime or accident can be a stressful experience for anyone. But for someone with autism it can be particularly disorientating and frightening. People with the condition often have difficulty understanding facial expressions, can be very literal in their understanding of questions and easily misinterpret others' intentions. In an environment of serious crime or medical emergency these types of misunderstandings can have serious consequences.



## A Division

### City of Edinburgh help and advice

Lothian and Borders Police  
Non emergency  
0131 311 3131

Lothian and Borders  
Fire and Rescue Service  
(freephone)  
Fire safety advice:  
0800 169 0320  
enquiries@lbfire.org.uk

Lothian Gay and  
Lesbian Switchboard  
0131 556 4049  
0131 557 0751 (lesbian)

Samaritans  
For emotional advice if you are  
feeling depressed or suicidal:  
0131 221 9999 (Edinburgh)  
08457 90 90 90 (National)

Shakti Women's Aid  
Support and information for  
black minority ethnic women  
experiencing domestic abuse:  
0131 475 2399

Update  
Signposts people with  
disability to a wide range  
of services:  
0131 669 1600

Victim Support  
01896 751 212

Women's Aid  
0131 3158 110

### National freephone helplines

(calls may not be free  
from mobile phones)

Breathing Space  
For emotional advice if  
you are feeling depressed:  
0800 838 587

Childline  
Help for people aged  
18 or under: 0800 11 11

Know the Score  
Free confidential drugs  
information and advice:  
0800 587 587 9

Message Home  
Get a message home for  
free if you have run away:  
0800 700 740

National Debtline  
0808 808 4000

National Domestic  
Violence Helpline  
0808 2000 247

National Missing  
Persons Helpline  
0500 700 700

Runaway Helpline  
0808 800 7070

Scottish Domestic  
Abuse Line  
0800 027 1234

Shelter's Free Housing  
Advice Helpline  
0808 800 4444

Stonewall  
Lesbian, gay and  
bisexual charity:  
08000 50 20 20

Womens Aid  
0808 2000 247

### Crimestoppers

0800 555111  
www.crimestoppers-uk.org

### Contact your Local SNT

#### Email

ADivSNTLibertonGilmerton@  
lbp.pnn.police.uk

Tel No: 0131 658 5243

www - from Lothian & Borders  
Police web page as follows:

[http://fccmsint/information/  
your\\_community/docs/city/  
Liberton\\_Gilmerton\\_SNT.pdf](http://fccmsint/information/your_community/docs/city/Liberton_Gilmerton_SNT.pdf)