

# A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News



ISSUE 59–July 2009

## 'Work With Us'

CITY  
WIDE

### Divisional Commanders Message

The Lothian and Borders Police Annual Report for 2008 – 2009 has been published and I am encouraged by the results, in particular how the hard work of our officers continues to pay off in local communities across the city. With a focus on prevention, local initiatives driven by community officers, such as the Graffiti initiatives, have proved successful, with 1553 fewer vandalism recorded this year compared to last.

As the school holidays approach, our officers are actively engaging with young people across the Division in order to make the summer months a safe and fun period for everyone. Our school link officers in secondary schools are increasingly important in supporting our young people and telling them how to keep themselves and their property safe this summer. Our officers also provide inputs, along with our partners at the City of Edinburgh Council, in various diversionary activities for local children, including everything from horse riding in the Pentlands to sailing at South Queensferry. Our officers are very versatile!

Please remember that if you do have any concerns regarding your local community then your Community Beat Officer will be happy to provide you with assistance.

**Colin Campbell, Divisional Commander**

### USING BUSES & TAXIS SAFELY

There are simple steps you can take to minimise the risk of becoming a victim of crime when travelling by bus and taxi.

When taking the bus...

- Have your ticket or change handy. This ensures your wallet or purse stays out of sight.
- If a bus is quiet, sit downstairs, close to the driver.
- Don't be afraid to approach the driver if you have a problem or feel uneasy.
- Keep your bag fastened and close to you.
- Switch your mobile from ring to vibrate and be discrete when using it.

Remember only 'black hackney' taxi cabs are entitled to pick you up on the street without a pre-arranged booking.

For safety reasons if using a private hire car always:

- Choose a reputable firm and carry their telephone number with you.
- When the taxi arrives, ask the name of the company as well as the person the driver is to collect.
- Never get into a taxi you have not asked for.
- If possible share a taxi with a friend
- Sit in the back and don't give personal information to the driver.
- If the driver makes you feel uneasy ask them to stop at a busy public place and let you out

# Ward 42 – Gilmerton

**Welcome** to this monthly newsletter which is designed to give you an idea of local policing issues relevant to your area. It is compiled by PC Eric McLeod your local Community Beat Officer stationed at Howden Hall Police Station. The Gilmerton beat covers the area from Malbet estate to Candlemaker Park estate and between Gilmerton and Lasswade Roads.

There were 53 crimes reported in June. These crimes include Road Traffic offences along with crimes against the person and property. To date twenty two of these crimes have been solved. Eleven of the crimes related to malicious damage to property including motor vehicles. As culprits are rarely seen committing this offence it is a particularly difficult crime to solve.

## CRIME

Having enjoyed a two-month period of no reported break ins to property there were seven recorded break ins this month. Four garden sheds including three in Drum Avenue were broken into and property including children's bikes and golf clubs were taken. Elderly residents owned some of the sheds. If you have elderly neighbours or relatives it's worth checking on them and ensuring their sheds and homes are secure. I will gladly call and carry out home visits to discuss home security.

A local male has been reported for several thefts from properties when he entered insecure homes and stole items including cash and computer games.

**FREE ADVICE ON HOME SECURITY AND PERSONAL SAFETY CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE COMMUNITY SAFETY DEPARTMENT.**

There were no reports of vehicles being stolen in June however a car in Moredun Dykes Road had its registration plates stolen.

Three vehicles were impounded after drivers were caught using the vehicles without insurance and for other Road Traffic offences.

A pink girls mountain bike was stolen in Carnbee Avenue after it had been left unattended.

If you have any information regarding these crimes or crime in general contact the police or CRIMESTOPPERS on

**0800 555 111**

All calls are treated in confidence.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Two thousand pounds worth of diesel was stolen from a company in Gilmerton Road. Similar crimes were reported in the Summer of 2008.

Two females were reported for an incident in Gilmerton Dykes Street when they stole cash from a taxi and ran off.

## PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL RESEARCH

How would you like organisations such as Lothian and Borders Police to communicate with you before, during and after an emergency?

To have your say in a national research project supported by the Scottish Government, please click on the link below and complete the ten-question survey. The survey takes just a few minutes to complete and your answers will be anonymous.

Please answer each question as thoroughly and accurately as you can. Your response will help to improve communications with the public before, during and after emergencies affecting Scotland.

[Emergency Communication Survey](#)

**ITS YOUR COMMUNITY, HELP US TO KEEP IT SAFE BY PASSING US INFORMATION.**

# Ward 42 – Gilmerton

## Useful Numbers

**PC Eric McLeod**

**E-Mail:** [eric.mcleod@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:eric.mcleod@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

**PC Carlyn McGhee Community Safety Officer**

**E-Mail:** [carlyn.mcghee@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:carlyn.mcghee@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

**INSPECTOR Alun Williams**

**E-Mail:** [alun.williams@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:alun.williams@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

### HOWDENHALL POLICE STATION

Tel No. 0131-666-2222

Fax No. 0131 672 1787

### COMMUNITY SAFETY DEPARTMENT

0131-221-2050 / 2100

## And Finally....

Ensuring a highly visible policing presence in the Howdenhall sector at key times is particularly important for reasons of reassurance and deterrence, and will remain my priority as the light nights continue. I am pleased to report that there has been a significant fall in all recorded crime for the area of 12%, compared to the same period last year. Much of this is due to the efforts of officers from all the teams, not least the Neighbourhood Action Unit and Community Officers, in being seen in their communities, gathering intelligence, and targeting their activities towards crime prevention.

Nonetheless, I would highlight a recent trend of a rise in crimes of dishonesty, and in particular thefts from vehicles, and theft of pedal cycles. In these regards, I would encourage residents to secure their property appropriately and report any suspicious activity, either directly to us on the numbers on the left or to Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Alun Williams  
Sector Inspector  
Howdenhall Police Station

