

# A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News



ISSUE 62–September 2009

## 'Work With Us'

### Divisional Commanders Message

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.

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.

CITY  
WIDE

### Housebreaking – Don't Become A Victim

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.

HOT  
TOPICS

# 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 roughly covers the area from Malbet estate to Candlemaker Park estate and between Gilmerton and Lasswade Roads.

There were 74 crimes reported in August. These crimes include Road Traffic offences along with crimes against the person and property. To date 41 of these crimes have been solved. Seventeen 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

Two males have been reported for breaking into an insecure property in Guardwell Crescent. A flat in Drum Street was entered when the door was forced with bodily pressure. Property including a safe and a computer were stolen. A garden shed was broken into on East Kilngate. It would appear tools removed from the shed were then used in an effort to force open the rear patio doors. Whenever possible secure items in your shed with bicycle locks or similar. Large items especially bikes and lawn mowers are particularly attractive to thieves.

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

A local male has been reported for breaking into vehicles in Carnbee Crescent and Malbet Wynd. There were several reports of youths riding off road bikes in the Gilmerton Dykes Crescent area. Two males have been reported and one motorbike impounded. An Operation is being planned for later this month specifically targeting off road bikes in the Howden Hall area. The Operation will follow a similar pattern to previous years with officers from the Road Policing Department, Howden Hall Police station and Environmental Wardens patrolling the area.

The community must know who are riding these bikes and where they are being stored. If you have any information to assist in catching the offenders I would urge you to contact the police.

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

Lothian and Borders Police SMS service allows registered deaf and speech impaired people to use their mobile phones to contact the police, by texting the number: 07717 993262. This is not a '999' emergency service.

## What is SMS text messaging?

SMS stands for 'short messaging service'. This is provided by mobile phone networks to allow users to send text messages to each other. Lothian and Borders Police SMS service is only available to deaf or speech-impaired persons who are registered with this service. This service relies on mobile phone networks; therefore text messages cannot be guaranteed to arrive quickly. In an emergency please use another way of contacting the police, such as text phone or type talk.

## How do I use the police SMS service?

Send a text to **07717 99 32 62** and include:

Your name

Where you are

Where the incident is taking place

What is happening (brief details)

## How do I register?

Complete a registration form or contact the Safer Communities Unit on 0131 311 3638.

**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 Simpson Community Safety Officer**

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

### SAFER COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT

0131 311 3638

## And Finally....

The Neighbourhood Action Unit (NAU) returned this month to their co-located base at the South Neighbourhood Office at Captain's Road after a period of renovation. The operational benefits of co-location are undeniable, and the positive impact during the short time since their return has been tangible and significant.

Working together with our partners has resulted in a series of high visibility visits and warnings, and most significantly, in developing and gathering local intelligence. Already the NAU has had a positive effect in resolving a number of neighbour/anti-social behaviour related issues, and significantly, in reinvigorating our youth intervention process. Daily discussions of every youth involved in asb has resulted in a string of visits and referrals, and targeted patrols to "hotspot areas" at key times. A 20% fall in youth calls compared to last year is an indication that we are improving the situation in your area.

The NAU is now sharing information with High Schools about pupils involved in asb outwith the school. This cohesive and interventionist approach is, in my view, the way forward. The NAU are currently preparing planned initiatives with Community and Team officers and our partner agencies for the October schools break and the Fireworks season. Please contact us on the numbers on the left with any comments, views and information you feel can help us make your area safer.

Inspector Alun Williams.

