

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News



ISSUE 51
November 2008

'Work With Us'

Divisional Commanders Message

CITY
WIDE

October marked the first ever Leith 'week of action', a joint partnership initiative which proved incredibly successful. Lothian and Borders Police linked in with the City Council, the Fire and Rescue Service, Neighbourhood Watch groups and local residents. As well as tackling crime at a local level head-on, our officers were able to build links with the local community and develop an ongoing mutually beneficial relationship. The scheme has the potential to be rolled out in other areas as time goes on.

The darker nights have brought their own challenges over the past month. In the run-up to Halloween and Fireworks night, A Division officers worked extremely hard to ensure residents enjoyed these events safely. We focused on targeting seasonal anti social behaviour and imparting vital safety advice.

Lothian and Borders Police have also been supporting a group of local nightclubs with their 'Unight' scheme, which aims to combat crime and anti social behaviour. New statistics released show crime has dropped by a fifth in the year since it was launched. These are encouraging figures and great news for anyone who wants to enjoy Edinburgh's vibrant nightlife.

Chief Superintendent Colin Campbell

Door Step Crime

At any time of year they could arrive on your doorstep, cold callers or bogus callers, call them what you may.

They take on many faces pretending to be from a utility company, charity collector, the 'plumber' working next door, selling over priced goods, using hard selling techniques or overcharging for work, they all want one thing; your money, and will try many ways to get it.

It is important to take some simple precautions so that such people do not take advantage of yourself or others.

- **What do these people look like?** They are plausible people, dressing and talking in such a way to inspire confidence in you to 'trust' them. Do not get taken in.
- **Who is at risk and when?** Many bogus callers will call during the day – times that you would expect trades people and service providers to call. Charity collectors will call at various times.
- **Bogus Callers are always inventing new ways of getting into people's homes to steal valuables or money.** If you do not know or expect a caller, do not let them into your home.
- **What can you do?** Always check who is at your door before you open it. If you have a door chain use it.
- **An expected a caller.** Check they are genuine, they will show you ID and you can contact the company; using the phone book to get the company telephone number to confirm the callers identity.
- **Doorstep workman.** Don't let any casual caller do work on your property, for example roofing, driveway or gardening work.
- **Be aware.** Be careful yourself and lookout for neighbours, if suspicious people are in the area, contact the police.

Local News

Welcome to the latest edition of the Community Newsletter for 52 Beat in the City Of Edinburgh.

In recent weeks there a number of garden huts have needlessly and maliciously been set on fire in and around the Stenhouse Crescent area of the beat. A number of huts have also been broken into and an assortment of tools stolen, many of which have been found discarded at the locations of other crimes. Although enquiries are ongoing into a number of these incidents, I can report that two teenagers who were recently arrested in the locality have confessed to a large numbers of such crimes. A report is currently being prepared for the attention of the Children's Reporter in connection with this.

I have attached a relevant crime prevention leaflet relating to garden crime, which I hope you might find of some use. Additional information can be obtained from our Crime Prevention Officer, PC Bert Wilson, whose number is highlighted below.

Whilst making local enquiry into the matters highlighted above and having spoken to other residents across the beat area it is still evident that a number of issues that affect the community are not, for a variety of reasons, being reported to the police. I cannot emphasise enough the importance of keeping us abreast of ongoing events in order that some consideration can be given an appropriate level of response.

Following several crimes in and around the pedestrian underpasses in Calder Road arrangements have again been made to site temporary CCTV cameras at appropriate locations in the area. These will hopefully assist with the identification of individuals who may be involved in crimes there. You may be interested to know that The Sighthill, Broomhouse and Parkhead Community Council have arranged a public meeting to discuss issues surrounding these underpasses. Senior police officers from Wester Hailes Police Station will be attending the meeting, which is to be held at 7pm on Wednesday 19 November 2008 in Murrayburn Primary School.

The City Of Edinburgh Council has now made a formal planning application to build a new state of the art skate park in Saughton Public Park. This proposal has given rise to much public debate and will no doubts continue to do so. Primarily, as a result of the discussion that has arisen with regard to ongoing problems associated with the park and it's future a group of local residents have decided to investigate the possibility of starting a 'Friends Of The Park Association'. Such groups already exist at a number of other city parks. If anybody would like any further information regarding this proposal please get in touch and I'll pass details onto those involved.

Guy Fawkes night, (November 5th), this year passed off with relatively few problems, Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service apparently reporting one of their quietest in years. As usual there were a number of 'unofficial' bonfires throughout the area but these were relatively small affairs and posed no danger to adjacent buildings etc. An organised bonfire and firework display was held at Sighthill Park and took place under the guidance and supervision of The Community Safety Concierge Service and local police officers.

A letter has recently been by the police from DEYA Limited with notification that their distribution of the Yellow Pages will commence in many of our local postcode areas on 27 November and will last for some 2 or 3 weeks. Delivery agents will be instructed not to leave copies of the book on view from the street, as any left for protracted periods of time may indicate that residents are perhaps on absent or on holiday. It is probably unavoidable, however, that this will occur from time to time. You might want to consider doing the 'neighbourly thing' by uplifting copies delivered to those you know to be away from home.

Useful Numbers

Community Beat Officer – PC Neil Doig
0131-622-2426
neil.doig@lbp.pnn.police.uk

Wester Hailes Police Station
49 Dumbryden Drive
Edinburgh, EH14 2QR
0131-442-2626

Pentlands Policing ‘Neighbourhood Action Unit’
South West Local Neighbourhood Office
Westside Plaza, Edinburgh
0131-527-3842

The City Of Edinburgh Council
South West Environmental Wardens Team
0131-527-3817

Crime Prevention Officer
Wester Hailes Police Station
0131-622-2429

Services For Communities South West Office
0131-527-3800

The City Of Edinburgh CCTV Control
0131-469-3520

Crimestoppers
0800 555 111

And Finally....

As many of you are aware I retire from Lothian and Borders Police at the end of November 2008 having completed thirty years service, the last twenty of which have been spent as a Community Beat Officer working in and around the Broomhouse, Sighthill, Saughton Mains, Stenhouse and Corstorphine areas of the city.

During my service I have experienced many ups and downs, highs and lows and have seen many changes that affect all our lives on a daily basis.

After a considerable amount of thought and having taken advice from family, friends and colleagues I have decided to return to my current role on 1 December under the terms of a scheme specifically designed to retain the services of experienced police officers.

I remain wholeheartedly committed to serving the local community to the best of my ability and to continuing efforts to improve the quality of life that we would all wish for.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents, representative groups, elected members and volunteers whose support has been so important over the years and express my gratitude for the many kind messages I have received over the last few weeks.

