

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News



ISSUE 64 –
December 2009

'Work With Us'

Divisional Commanders Message

CITY

. With the festive season now firmly upon us, our winter policing initiatives are now up and running throughout the capital. We have a range of activities going on right across Edinburgh, including a number of extra patrols in the busiest hotspots – from the airport to our outlying shopping centres. We are also hoping to replicate the success of previous years with our city centre policing operation, Astrodome, which encompasses a huge range of partner activities all designed around keeping Edinburgh a safe place to visit, shop, and socialise in.

WIDE

Lothian and Borders Police is committed to making sure you enjoy the festive season safely, and we have a range of safety advice that we are keen to share with you. Your local Community Beat Officer can offer valuable guidance on how to keep yourself, your family, and your property safe, and are easily contactable through the numbers on the back page of this newsletter.

Finally it is with great regret that I announce that I am leaving 'A' Division early in the new year, and I will take over the Safer Communities Division at Force Headquarters. I have thoroughly enjoyed being 'A' Division Commander for the past year or so, it has been both a huge challenge and a privilege. Chief Supt Gillian Imery will take over and I wish her every success for the future.

Chief Superintendent Colin Campbell

Before You Start Drinking, Get Thinking

December is traditionally a time for nights out to celebrate the end of a hard year and many of those attending will drink more alcohol than they would normally.

HOT
TOPICS

Top Tips For A Safe Night Out

1. **Don't drink and drive.** Even small amounts of alcohol adversely affect reaction times. You could be arrested and lose your driving license or worse **you could lose your life or be responsible for the death of someone else.**
2. **Know how you are getting home.** Know where and when the night buses leave or arrange to get picked up from somewhere central and safe. Have a reliable taxi number in your mobile as Private Hire cars are not allowed to pick up passengers who have not pre-booked. Never be tempted to get into a car you have not pre booked as you don't know what you are getting into.
3. **Don't accept drinks from strangers** and never leave your drink unattended - it's easy for someone to put something in it.
4. **Alcohol can make you lose your inhibitions,** make you feel attractive and funny but when you're drunk you are also at your most vulnerable. You could become a target for violence and unwanted attention, so **drink responsibly.**
5. **Look after your property.** Don't leave your bag over the back of your chair and keep wallets and purses close to your body to make it more difficult for thieves. Be alert to sneak thieves in pubs, clubs and restaurant.
6. **Don't get into petty arguments** in the pub or on the street – being drunk often makes people more aggressive than usual and arguments can lead to violence.

Local News

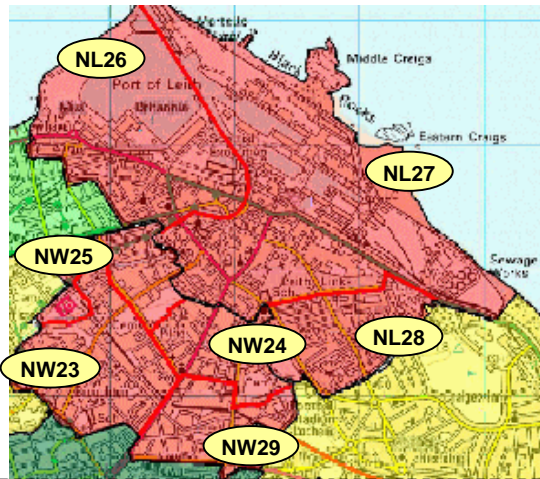
Ward 12 Leith Walk

NW23 Broughton
CBO Simon Daley

NW 24 Lorne
CBO Mark Muir

NW25 Bonnington
CBO Margo Anderson

NW29 Hillside
CBO Kevin Braidwood



Ward 13 – Leith

NL26 Newhaven
CBO John Pennycook

NL27 Harbour & Links
CBO Ian Sim

NL28 Restalrig & Lochend
CBO Lee Jack

NW23 - Broughton Beat

November saw a number of vandalisms to cars in our area. Some of these were undoubtedly mindless damage but others may well have been half hearted attempts to break in to the vehicles.

With Christmas approaching I can imagine a few of you will be receiving new Sat-Navs in your stockings. Can I please ask that you apply common sense and remove them from your vehicles when they're not in use!

Be safe over the festive period! Simon

PC Simon Daley

NW24 - Lorne Beat

During November there were a total of 227 calls made to the police, resulting in 67 crimes. A total of 7 housebreakings were committed, 4 of which were committed in Buchanan Street. A 32 year-old male was arrested for a break in to a flat in Lochend Road. 9 vehicles were broken into in the Halmyre St, Leith Walk, Sloan St, St Clair Ave, Buchanan St area. 5 pedal cycles were stolen, all from common stairs. 8 assaults were reported to Police resulting in 3 persons being arrested. There was a particularly nasty robbery committed in the Springfield area where a knife was brandished at the 34-year-old complainer, who had her bag stolen. A positive line of enquiry is being followed regarding this. I am currently on an initiative which will run for 3 weeks in an attempt to tackle the ever present issue of vandalism.

Lastly, may I remind you that as Christmas approaches thieves have shopping lists too. The only difference is that is that they do not want to pay for their gifts. Keep all presents out of sight.

PC Mark Muir

Local News



NW25 – Bonnington Beat

The month of November saw a housebreaking in Trafalgar Lane whereby the front door was forced and entry gained. The common stair door was insecure due to a previous vandalism reported earlier in the year. I would impress upon residents that it is important to make certain that the common stair doors are well maintained and kept secure. They are the first line of defence against thieves. If you find it difficult reaching agreement with neighbours e.g. someone refused to pay remember you can always contact the Council's Property Conservation team on 0131 529 4902. They can organise a repair or installation and will bill all owners on an equal shares basis.

There were 2 business housebreakings, one in Bonnington Primary School and the other in West Bowling Green Street.

There were 4 break-ins to cars across the beat.

There were 10 vandalisms and a male has been reported of one of these crimes.

As regards disorder this month a female has been reported for 2 minor assaults. A male was arrested for theft shoplifting, making threats and racial remarks. 2 males were reported for Breach of the Peace.

A male was reported for possession of heroin and cocaine in Anderson Place.

Finally a male was arrested for dangerous driving and failing to provide a breath test in Ferry Road.

We are entering the Festive Season and I would like to take the chance to say Merry Christmas to all residents on my beat.

PC Margo Anderson

NW 29 – Hillside Beat

. November has seen a slight dip in the number of recorded housebreakings ,with six being recorded . Two of these have been solved and the Housebreaking Team are following a positive line of enquiry regarding others.

There have been three theft motor vehicles and two attempt motor vehicles.

Vandalism solvency still remains low , however two officers have been tasked to investigate these crimes with a view to identifying the perpetrators.

I am glad to report that there have been no theft pedal cycles this month .

A male has been traced in the Albert Street area after reports of late night fireworks. He has been warned and the rest of his fireworks were confiscated by police

PC Kevin Braidwood

Local News



NL26 – Newhaven Beat

There were 78 reported crimes for the Newhaven Beat in November with 41% (32 crimes) recorded as solved. What is pleasing to note is that there are 14% less crimes over the year to date than the same period last year.

Portland Gardens, Prince Regent Street and Lindsay Road were subject to housebreakings. Especially at this time of year when our homes are full of Christmas gifts please take extra care not to make your home an easy target for thieves. Ensure you lock your doors and windows when you are out. Do not leave gifts and other valuables visible from outside, this will reduce temptation to the opportunist thief.

Finally as the party season has already started and may I take this opportunity to advise everyone to use taxis or buses when going out, and do not forget the lasting effects of alcohol, it could still affect a driver the following day.

PC John Pennycook

NL27 – Harbour & Links Beat

With Bonfire night at the start of last month we spent the preceding days advising schools and other community groups on firework safety and the relevant legislation. Thankfully, apart from a few irresponsible persons under the influence of alcohol using fireworks in Leith Links, very few offences took place on this issue and the additional Policing patrols on duty for the 5th, reported that the only serious injury was to a Mr Guy Fawkes.

The remainder of the month was just as busy as ever, with 594 reported incidents and 213 crimes recorded. These figures give local officers almost 100 new incidents to deal with every 5 days for my beat alone, during which time they're also conducting enquiries into previous matters and dealing with incidents on the other six beats in the Leith area.

Despite these commitments, good progress and results are still being achieved in relation to the specific issues on NL27 beat, such as antisocial behaviour, street prostitution and vandalism. In November we continued our efforts on these issues, with several more persons reported

Meantime, please continue to contact me if you have concerns or information on any Policing matters and let me wish everyone on my beat a very safe Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

PC Ian Sim

Local News



NL28 – Restalrig & Lochend Beat

Hello and welcome to the November newsletter for NL28 beat. There were 199 calls made to the police during the month, this equates to around 6 calls per day. There were 10 reported vandalisms during the month 3 of which have been solved. We have a new vandalism team operating at the moment. They started last week and are having a great deal of success. There were no reported housebreakings with only one attempted housebreaking reported. There were 4 calls from members of the public regarding prostitutes operating in the NL28 area and 2 incidents where police officers have charged individuals with prostitution related crimes. It has been a good month in relation to youth calls, with a very small number being reported. We have been paying particular attention to the youth problem at Hermitage Park Primary School, with officers visiting the school at night. This has been very successful and there were no calls in relation to youths there over the month. In the long term we are supporting a plan put forward by Alison Cantley, one of the Community Safety Officers at CEC to introduce youth workers at the playground to help in engagement with the youths and provide diversionary routes for them. This has been supported by the residents and the school. I would like to thank Jim Scanlon and the Leith Links Community Council with their help in applying for funding for this venture. Lastly I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

PC Lee Jack

Ocean Terminal

The Ocean Terminal has become extremely busy with Christmas shoppers especially at the weekends. The Christmas decorations are now a prominent feature within and the Christmas tree has been erected with a built in Santa's Grotto, which has attracted large crowds.

The Police and Security Staff have continued to carry out pro active crime reducing measures which have had an affect on the crime rates overall and will be a further challenge during December when the customer numbers rises considerably.

The Terminal affords a really pleasant shopping atmosphere not forgetting the Restaurants and the Cinema, which further attracts large crowds. Please ensure if you are making use of the car parks to secure your car and don't leave any valuables in sight. Either lock them in the boot or take them with you.

PC Mike Emblem

BE AWARE OF BOGUS CALLERS

Historically, distraction thefts increase during the winter months. Please be mindful that 'cold callers' to your house may not be what they seem. We ask all members of the community to keep a watchful eye on the elderly and vulnerable neighbours who may fall victim to these individuals. If you see someone acting suspiciously loitering around, contact Lothian and Borders Police or perhaps challenge someone you do not recognise calling at an elderly neighbour's house. The most common method used by a bogus caller is when they claim to be a water board official. Other methods include posing as builders, charity workers, police officers and neighbourhood watch volunteers.

Those most at risk are also reminded to remember the golden rule:

If in doubt, keep them out.

These simple steps will help reduce the possibility of being targeted by bogus callers.

- Before opening your door, check who is there and put the chain on
- If they are strangers, be sure to ask 'Who are you?' 'What do you want?'
- Always ask to see their identity card. Keep the chain on the door and check it carefully.
- Take a note of the company, name and telephone number. If in doubt, phone the company and check. Genuine staff from utility companies won't mind waiting or will call back later
- Don't let any casual caller do work on your property, for example, roofing, driveway or gardening work
- The golden rule is 'if in doubt, keep them out'. If you are at all concerned, call the police immediately

Useful Numbers



Know the Score

(Information and advice on drugs)

0800 587 5879

CLARENCE

(Street light faults etc)

0800 232323

clarence@edinburgh.gov.uk

Victim Support Helpline

0845 603 9213

Leith Police Station

0131-554-9350

The Scottish Helpline for

Older Persons

0845 125 9732

Edinburgh Community

Mediation Service

Tel: 0131 557 2101

CRIME STOPPERS

0800 555 111

