

# A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News

Lothian and Borders  
**POLICE**



ISSUE 29 – January 2007

**'Working in Partnership for a Safer City'**

## Divisional Commander's Message

CITY  
WATCH

Speaking to you in my first Divisional Newsletter, I am pleased to announce that at the end of December 2006, recorded crime across the Capital was 5% lower than at the same time last year. Detection rates also improved with a 6% increase in the number of crimes being solved citywide. Improved performance can be attributed to many factors, not least the fact that the police, the City of Edinburgh Council and many private and voluntary agencies across the Capital are now working closely together to improve safety.

Work is progressing towards 1st April 2007, when existing police beats will be realigned to match proposed changes to Council wards. I am confident that the change will further strengthen partnership working by allowing us to better coordinate our resources and so improve the implementation of crime reduction and community safety measures.

**Chief Superintendent George Simpson, Divisional Commander**

## Lothian & Borders Police are now Podcasting!

FOR  
POLICE

Podcasting emerged in 2004 and offers a way to provide information in the form of video and audio files. These files can be downloaded and played free of charge on any personal computer or portable MP3-playing device and provide an additional communication channel for the public to access police information.

Podcasts on the **Festive Drink Driving Campaign**, **Crimestoppers** and **Personal Safety** are now available on the Lothian and Borders Police Website at [www.lbp.police.ukT](http://www.lbp.police.ukT).

We hope you find this service useful and informative.

REMEMBER,

If you see a crime being committed contact us on 999 in an emergency when urgent police assistance is required or on telephone 0131 311 3131 to report a crime.

If you have information regarding crime or criminal activity, you can call the independent charity **CRIMESTOPPERS** anonymously on 0800 555111.

# Local News

## Ward 6: Davidsons Mains

Hello again and I hope you all enjoyed a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year period.

I am pleased to be able to tell you that the year ended on a positive note with a solvency rate for December being 86% within the Ward area.

However, there were once again four reported break-ins to houses in the Ward 6 area during December. Two occurred within the Corbiehill area with a further two being reported within the Drylaw Crescent area. One of these incidents has been solved and a report submitted. Officers continue to work in an effort to identify persons responsible for the others. Encouragingly, the solvency rate for this type of crime in the Ward area is currently at 70% for the year to date. Even so, the most important aspect is to reduce this type of crime and I would be pleased to offer any advice regarding home security. Please also report any suspicious activity in your area to the police.

Efforts being taken to reduce the anti-social issue of Vandalism was the big success story in December, with a solvency rate of 70% being recorded. This was achieved with a combination of plain-clothes patrols and extra attention being given to the area by my colleagues in the Safer Communities Department.

On the down side, break-ins to motor vehicles continue to be a problem. Please always remember the usual advice and remove your valuables when leaving your vehicle, even if only for a short time. There was a useful article in last month's newsletter that gives further information on this topic.

As always I can be contacted on the usual numbers listed below.

*PC STEVE HOOLEY*

## Ward 7: Muirhouse/Pennywell Salvesen/Drylaw/Telford

I hope everyone had a hugely enjoyable Christmas holiday and would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone the very best for the New Year.

Unfortunately, it is very rare that criminals rest on their laurels at this time of year and there have been a number of housebreakings within the area during the month of December. The Wester Drylaw area was particularly affected and there were a total of eight houses broken into during the month. Our Crime Patrol officers were able to identify two local youths who were responsible and they have been arrested and charged with these crimes, and are currently remanded in Prison awaiting trial.

Vehicle Crime in the area in recent months has been relatively quiet, there were, however, four motor vehicles broken into during December. The locations of these were fairly random but the one thing they all had in common was that the vehicle owners had left items in open view within their vehicles. It may be stating the obvious but I would urge you all to avoid leaving any property on open view within your motor vehicles.

There continues to be problems with groups of youths causing annoyance, this tends to be more of an issue during the weekend. Areas currently suffering are Wester Drylaw Place and Linear Park in Muirhouse. Both the Youth Action Team and the Safer Communities Unit, in conjunction with myself, are seeing to address this problem. It continues to be a concern that these youngsters are consuming large amounts of alcohol and I would urge any parent to make sure that they know what their children are up to of an evening.

As always if you have anything you wish to discuss/report please do not hesitate to get in touch.

*PC IAIN MATTHEWS*

### **Ward 9: West Pilton/Granton Mill/Royston/Crewe**

I hope you all had a good Christmas and a happy New Year - although it was decidedly wet and windy at the time!

The occurrence of reported Vandalism played a big part in last month's figures making up 32 of the crimes reported. Although a drop of 22% on last month reported vandalisms, there was a rise in persons reported to 7 (21%). This issue is one of the most serious factors in adversely affecting the quality of life experienced by local residents. I am currently working closely with the Safer Communities Unit and the Council's anti-social behaviour team to address this issue. Please report any incidents of this type so that we can accurately focus our attention on affected areas.

December saw a rise in the number of houses broken into with 4 reports being taken. Two of these break-ins were in Granton Mill March, the other two in the Royston Mains area. I would like to remind you of the 'Homesafe' Initiative that can provide residents with increased home security at no cost to them. Please contact me if you would like any information regarding this very worthwhile scheme.

Continued attendance at Community Groups in Ward 9, particularly the West Pilton and Granton Mill areas, has resulted in a good rapport being established with the local residents and businesses there. This coming year will see the further development of the Forth Quarter on West Granton Road, which will no doubt have an effect on the local population. I look forward to being involved in resident's groups and Neighbourhood Watches in this new area when the time comes.

There have been no major problems within Ward 9 during December, but we mustn't become complacent. If you have any issues that you feel I might be able to help with then please do get in touch with me at the numbers listed or call in at one of the Police Clinics at either the Prentice Centre or the West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre.

*PC PAUL FIGURES*

### **Ward 10: Granton/Wardieburn**

With Christmas over for another year it's back to business for us all. I am sure this year will build on what was achieved last year and I can work closely with you all in our Neighbourhood Watch endeavours; sharing information, ideas and tackling crime together.

There were four crimes of housebreaking reported in the Ward area during last month. A property in Granton Crescent was broken into when the common stair security was breached and the flat door forced open, however nothing was taken. Another property in Granton Road was also affected when the door was forced by bodily pressure but no entry was gained. In Granton Medway another flat door was forced overnight and a DVD Player and Play Station were stolen. The security of a stair door in Boswall Parkway was overcome and an instrument used to strike the flat door but no entry was gained. Like my colleague Paul Figures I would reiterate the importance of the 'Homesafe' Initiative. Please contact me for further details and a referral.

There were three incidents of vehicle thefts when vehicles were stolen from Wardieburn Terrace, Boswall Parkway and East Pilton Farm Rigg. All cars were stolen by unknown means. Please be extra vigilant in light of this using steering locks and other devices whenever possible.

Vandalism is a crime that really affects people whether they suffer damage to their homes and vehicles, or are disrupted in their workplace. Sadly, there were 27 reported vandalisms in the Ward area over the month of December ranging from broken windows, to vehicles being damaged. If you have any information about vandalisms and those responsible pass it on to myself or consider using the Crimestoppers number if you wish to remain anonymous.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like any information or advice using any of the contact details detailed below.

*PC TONY LAWRENCE*

## *Local News - Extra*

### **DRYLAW YOUTH ACTION TEAM WINS YOUTH FRIENDLY SERVICE AWARD**



Drylaw Youth Action Team with their award: (from left) Lewis Hughes, Amelia Geddes and David Cuthbert

Drylaw Youth Action Team rounded off a positive and successful year when they were awarded the Youth Friendly Service Award for 2006 at the annual Young Edinburgh Awards ceremony in December. The team were nominated by the North Edinburgh Youth Forum, through the Pilton Partnership, in recognition of the important work carried out between a variety of agencies in the local area to foster closer links between the police and young people.

A particular highlight of the year was the team's involvement in the Greater Pilton Summer Programme that saw officers participate in a variety of activities with local young people such as mountain biking at Glentress Forest, sailing and a climbing course at Ratho Adventure Centre. Officers also accompanied young people and youth workers on a number of residential trips to other parts of Scotland.

The coming year also promises to be a busy and rewarding time for the team. Officers are looking forward to being involved in the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers North Edinburgh Greenspace Initiative that will see young people re-develop land at three local youth and community centres. The year will also have a sporting theme with the team taking part in the innovative Monday Night Football Super League, held at Ainslie Park Leisure Centre, a Play Station Football League at Muirhouse Library and the continuing Proceeds of Crime funded Twilight Basketball project.

Positive engagement between the police, young people and local youth agencies has significantly enhanced the life of the wider community in the Drylaw area. The Youth Action Team are committed to developing and strengthening this work in 2007.

## Useful Numbers

All Community Beat Officers can be contacted at Drylaw Police Station on 0131 343 3171

They can also be contacted by e-mail on the following addresses:

### **PC STEVE HOOLEY**

e-mail: [A Div CBO ND06@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:A Div CBO ND06@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

### **PC IAIN MATTHEWS**

e-mail: [A Div CBO ND07@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:A Div CBO ND07@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

### **PC PAUL FIGURES**

e-mail: [A Div CBO ND09@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:A Div CBO ND09@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

### **PC TONY LAWRENCE**

e-mail: [A Div CBO ND10@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:A Div CBO ND10@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

### **Safer Communities Unit & Youth Action Team**

8 West Pilton Gardens, Edinburgh

0131 343 3171

[SaferCommunities.Drylaw@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:SaferCommunities.Drylaw@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

[YATDrylaw@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:YATDrylaw@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

### **Community Concierge Office**

0131 552 8282.

### **Drylaw Sector Inspector**

Euan Smith

0131 343 3171

[euansmith@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:euansmith@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

### **CRIMESTOPPERS**

0800 555 111

## And Finally....

2007 has now crept up on us after, what I would consider, a very quick and busy 2006. As commented by Chief Superintendent Simpson, this year brings changes to the policing areas and the increased opportunity afforded to Lothian and Borders Police Service to engage further and more closely with our partners in an effort to combat anti-social and criminal behaviour.

Those from Drylaw Police Station will continue into the new year with the same commitment to prevent crime and identify and report those committing crime. Again, to ensure this commitment is realised, it is vital that we can rely on the cooperation and assistance of the communities we serve. A great deal of the success achieved in 2006 was due to the information and willingness provided by members of the public and for that we are hugely grateful.

One of our main aims for 2007 is to take positive steps towards the reduction in anti-social behaviour experienced within the Drylaw Policing Sector. A main contributor to this unacceptable menace on society is the statistically high volume crime of vandalism. To combat this crime, and those at its source, I ask that you, as a community, refuse to accept vandalism as an every day aspect of life and provide us with information leading to the identification of perpetrators. This should go a long way to reducing the incidents of vandalism and show that it is not acceptable in this community.

Euan Smith

Drylaw Sector Inspector

