

# A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News



ISSUE 67–March 2010

## 'Work With Us'

### Divisional Commanders Message



This month has seen the introduction of Safer Neighbourhood Teams in the South and East of the city, which is further evidence of our strong commitment to community policing. I am determined to build on the current levels of community engagement at a local level by improving our approach to identifying and prioritising issues, and addressing local concerns affecting our communities. I look forward to reporting on the progress of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams and am confident they will continue to uphold the proud traditions of responsive community policing within the city of Edinburgh.

Indeed, the value of meaningful community engagement and the importance of the role played by our Community Police Officers have been demonstrated on a number of occasions in recent weeks. High profile public events, for example the recent attempted march by members of the Scottish Defence League and counter-demonstration by Scotland United Against Facism, and serious operational incidents, such as the shooting at Jock's Lodge, continue to place varying demands on our policing service. I have been impressed and encouraged by the excellent work carried out to prepare for and respond to these demands, always keeping the safety and well being of our communities uppermost in our minds.

Chief Supt Gill Imery, A Division Commander

### **LEGAL HIGH SUPPLY**

Legal Highs are a very hot topic in the national press at the moment. They are substances made from herbs, chemicals and extracts which imitate the effects of some illegal drugs such as LSD and ecstasy but are not controlled by the Misuse of Drugs or Medicines Acts.

Rather than being labelled as recreational drugs, many of these products are badged up as everyday products such as alloy wheel cleaner. The Legal High substance known as Mephedrone is regularly sold as plant food.

Little is known about the long-term effects of these substances due to the short history of human consumption but it should be noted that just because they are sold legally, it does not mean they are safe to use. There is anecdotal evidence available to suggest that use of Legal Highs has had detrimental effects on the health and well being of users.

Parents should be aware that due to recent press coverage and the potential risks involved with ingesting Legal Highs, many shops in Edinburgh that were retailing these substances have stopped selling products containing Mephedrone and other Legal Highs. This has served to increase user hype and some young people have taken to using their parent's or older siblings credit cards for purchasing Legal Highs online where they are more readily available and cheaper.

More information on Legal Highs can be found at:  
[www.crew2000.org.uk](http://www.crew2000.org.uk) and [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

# Local News

Welcome to the March 2010 Police Newsletter for the North Morningside area – the SM45 Beat. This newsletter provides you with a summary of incidents that occurred in your area during February 2010.

It also provides some advice on Bogus Callers

## INCIDENT SUMMARY

During February there were 128 incidents reported to the Police.

A large majority of these incidents were of a minor nature and did not result in Crime reports.

Of these calls only 7 were emergencies that required an immediate response, four of these were false alarm intruder alarms, one was a domestic incident, two were assaults.

## CRIME SUMMARY

In February 2010 21 Crime reports were generated from the above incidents.

Unfortunately Only 6 of these have been solved so far, most of the others are still under investigation.

They are mostly assaults and thefts from The Royal Edinburgh and thefts from charity shops.

## HOUSEBREAKING

Good news there were no Housebreakings within the area in February.

## Assault Robbery

Unfortunately there was an assault robbery at Waitrose on 26/02/2010 whereby a knife was used by a shoplifter in order to get away from the security guard this remains unsolved to date.

## VEHICLE CRIME

February 2010 there were 2 vandalisms to motor vehicles.

One in Newbattle Terrace whereby a wing mirror was ripped off a van between 02/02/2010 at 19.00 hours and 03/02/2010 at 06.30 hours.

And damage to a vehicle with intent to steal at Springvalley occurred between 27/02/2010 at 13.00 hours and 28/02/2010 at 12.00 hours

## Antisocial Behaviour

Once again officers spent most of the back shift weekends chasing youths around the area. We now have a good idea of where the kids are congregating and focussed patrols of these areas will be carried out on the future back shifts.

The main body of the youths has been in St Peters Primary school they have been found there on two out of the three weekends, a large quantity of alcohol was seized, some of the youths involved were only 14 years old.

Your help in this matter is required some of the children seem to be bringing alcohol from home, please make sure it's not coming from your store cupboard!

## **BOGUS CALLERS**

Most callers are probably quite genuine, but some are not. They could be confidence tricksters or thieves. That's why it is important to take precautions when people call at your home.

Thieves won't go to the trouble of breaking in if they can knock and be invited in. So always be on guard when anyone you're not expecting – a man, a woman, a child – either singly, in pairs or in groups, turns up at your door. Men, women or children may use any excuse to gain entry to your home. Young people can sometimes ask to use the toilet, men and women may use the excuse that their car has broken down or they require water for the radiator. If you feel it is necessary to assist, then call a neighbour before allowing them into your home.

### **Bogus Officials**

May be smartly dressed and claim to be from a Council Department, Health Authority or other organisation e.g. utilities. Their aim is to talk their way into your home to see what they can steal.

### **Bogus Dealers**

May offer to buy your antiques, furniture or jewellery, at what seems to be a good price. Chances are that they are trying to trick you into selling something for a lot less than it is worth. Never sell to a doorstep dealer.

### **Bogus Workmen**

Never believe a casual or speculative caller at your door. Such Bogus Workmen, on the pretence of offering to make urgent repairs to a water or building fault or to tarmac your drive, really want to gain access to your home to steal your property. They often operate in pairs where one tries to distract you whilst the other gains free access to your home to search for valuables.

Often they will ask for cash in advance and may even offer to drive you to your bank, building society or a nearby cash dispenser to withdraw money to buy materials. Never do this. Once paid they could simply disappear.

### **Bogus Uniform Callers**

Do not not assume that all uniformed callers are genuine. Look at their clothing. Some official callers will have a uniform bearing the organisation's name or symbol. If possible, check to see if any vehicle they are using also carries the Company's logo.

If you don't know the caller, ask to see their identity card. Check carefully, and keep the chain on as you do so. Genuine callers won't mind if you close the door while you do this. If they do not allow you to inspect their identification card thoroughly – do not let them into the house.

### **IF IN DOUBT KEEP THEM OUT AND CONTACT THE POLICE**

Remember, it would be helpful to the police if you could provide good descriptions of any persons and vehicle, including make, colour and registration number, where possible.

### **The Law**

You do not need to allow any one into your home.

Only the POLICE and FIRE BRIGADE can FORCE or DEMAND entry to your house – but ONLY in exceptional circumstances. Utilities companies MUST have the POLICE with them to demand or force entry to your home, but only for reasons of safety.

### **The Facts**

Most callers to your home will be genuine. UTILITIES COMPANIES will happily arrange to call on you when it is CONVENIENT FOR YOU. They may even use an agreed password. ALWAYS CHECK IDENTIFICATION BADGES BEFORE ALLOWING ANYONE INTO YOUR HOME.

If in doubt, phone the company BUT NEVER USE THE TELEPHONE NUMBER GIVEN BY THE CALLER.

### **EMAIL NEWSLETTER**

If you would like to receive an email copy of the Police Community And Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter then please contact PC Clucas on [denise.clucas@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:denise.clucas@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

## Useful Numbers

PC 5767 PC Denise Clucas – SNT  
E-mail: [denise.clucas@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:denise.clucas@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

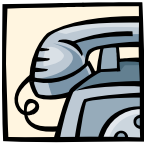
**ST LEONARDS COMMUNITY SERGEANT:**  
Sergeant Peter Houston  
E-Mail: [peter.houston@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:peter.houston@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

**ST LEONARDS STATION INSPECTOR:**  
Inspector Ian Moffat  
Email: [ian.moffat@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ian.moffat@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

**ST LEONARDS POLICE STATION**  
0131-662 5794

**FORCE COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE:**  
(For reporting non-emergency crimes or other disorder)  
0131 311 3131

**COMMUNITY SAFETY DEPARTMENT**  
0131 221 2050 / 2100  
**CRIMESTOPPERS (confidential)**  
0800 555 111.



How to contact police to report incidents:  
URGENT: 999  
Non- Urgent calls/general enquires:  
0131 311 3131 or [www.lbp.police.uk](http://www.lbp.police.uk) or  
email: [enquires@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:enquires@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

## And Finally....

March has been a very busy and productive month for the St Leonards Safer Neighbourhood Team officers in the Southside and Newington area.

The increased coverage provided by the new teams resources has been of great benefit with a more visible police presence. Both our partners and the public have commented favorably on this.

We have had several successful initiatives over the last month with police operations to combat vehicle theft and criminals using Peffermill Road running alongside joint agency operations to increase community safety by enforcing the bus gate at Prestonfield Avenue.

Looking ahead future initiatives include the Three Squares initiative where we will be working with our partners and the community to tackle anti social behaviour in Bristo, Nicolson and St Patricks Squares. Starting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March our high visibility police operation commences to deal with the increase in mainly youth related anti social behavior in the school Easter holidays. This has been run in tandem with increased visits to local secondary schools prior to the holidays.

Ian Moffat, Inspector St Leonards Sector.

