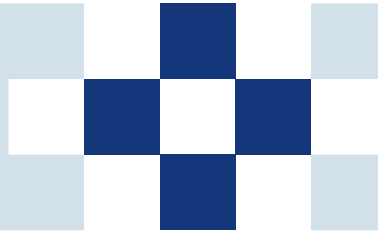


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work with us to create a positive force in your community.



Ch Supt Gill Imery

With the advent of the Festive period we find ourselves facing the annual challenges represented by Christmas and New Year, and my teams remain dedicated to ensuring residents and visitors to Edinburgh stay safe and secure while enjoying the attractions and entertainment on offer. In the city centre, Operation Astrodome has started. This initiative pitches officers

alongside partner agencies in a preventative approach. High visibility foot, bicycle and plain clothed patrols will ensure that staff are on hand to deal with any issue as, or hopefully before, it arises.

Crime figures for the last month (compared to this time last year) show an overall reduction in recorded crime by 5%.

Significantly, there has been a 15% drop in house-

breakings. The detective work of our House-breaking Investigation Units (to report offenders) and the preventive work of the Integrated Offender Management officers (to positively influence offenders) are combining well. During the last month we have seen substantial media coverage in regards to Operations Opulent. 'Opulent' targeted the ill-gotten gains of local criminals across the Force area. The impact was felt keenly by those involved in organised crime, with results amounting to £468,000 in cash recovered, £6.4m of assets identified for seizure and 44 arrests. A further £21,000 worth of drugs were seized, highlighting the close relationship between organised criminals and drugs dealers. Information on proceeds of crime can still be passed confidentially to Crimestoppers. Our investigations into the dividends of crime will continue regardless.

From everyone in 'A' Division, may we wish you a Merry Christmas and safe and happy 2012.

STAY SAFE THIS FESTIVE SEASON

The festive season is here and many of us will be enjoying extra socialising and taking the opportunity to drink more alcohol than we would normally. As we all know, alcohol can reduce inhibitions, which can sometimes lead to trouble.

If you follow this simple advice, your chances of putting yourself in danger can be greatly reduced.

- Parties might start early. Pace yourself with alcohol or you may miss the party before it begins.
- Stick to your drink. Mixing can get you drunk more quickly.

- Leave valuables at home. Only take what you need.
- Don't accept drinks from someone you've just met. If you do, at least watch it poured.
- Don't leave your drink un-attended.
- Look after your friends.
- Plan how you're getting home.

These are just some of the very basics but if you would like more information, please visit www.suzylamplugh.org. This site provides personal safety advice for people of all ages and situations.



Local Operations and Initiatives

Over the Summer and Autumn months the residents in Cramond voiced concerns in relation to the anti social behaviour shown by cyclists using the designated cycle route in particular at Cramond Brig Toll and Brae Park Road. Unfortunately there is no footpath or designated



cycle path which has lead to complaints from residents with regard to cyclist speeding by showing total disregard for the safety of pedestrians which has led to a number of confrontations.

As a result of this, Local Officers patrolled this area on a more frequent basis in an effort to bring local concerns to the attention of the cyclists. Earlier this month a joint agency meeting was held to develop a long term strategy in relation to the problem. Representatives from CEC, Spokes and Dalmeny Estate were in attendance as well as local residents, Councillors MacKenzie and Work , a number of good suggestions were raised which the CEC will now consider. The CEC will also conduct a survey and establish the ownership of land to ascertain if any speed calming measures can be put in place. Officers will continue to patrol the area to ensure public safety,

On Thursday 1st December 2011 local officers ensured that Santa got on his sleigh and had a safe trip from The Loan into the High Street, South Queensferry as he lead a procession of local school children to the council offices.

Officers remained present while the Christmas Lights were switched on and local children sang Christmas Carols.

Following a fireworks display the crowd dispersed quickly. There was only one minor issue when a young boy lost his mum, however they were soon reunited.

The following evening local officers assisted at the Davidson Mains Christmas Lights Ceremony where the choir from the Royal High School entertained the assembled crowd. This event passed without incident.

An officer also assisted at the Newbridge Residents Childrens Christmas Party in the guise of Santa.





Appeal for information

Lothian and Borders Police are appealing for witnesses after a handbag was snatched at 1900 hours on 14th December 2011 at the Square, Kirkliston. A 75-year-old woman was on the steps of the Thomas Chalmers Parish Church Centre when a man pulled at her handbag, causing her to fall to the ground. The man then made off towards the cemetery and a member of the public assisted the victim and contacted police who later recovered the bag on Bowling Green Road. Enquiries are now ongoing to trace the suspect and anyone who can help identify him is asked to come forward. The man is described as white, in his teens, wearing dark clothes and a hat. The elderly victim was not injured, but she was understandably shaken. Anyone with any information can contact Lothian and Borders Police on 0131 311 3131.

Local Priorities

The Almond Safety Forum held a meeting at the Roseberry Halls South Queensferry. The current priorities listed below were discussed along with new suggestions.

- Anti Social Behaviour around Tesco Cramond Road South and the Davidson Mains areas.
- Road Safety issues at Cramond Primary School

New Priorities:

- Public Houses in Davidson Mains and problems relating to their operation
- Problems with cyclists in Brae Park Road
- Silverknowes and the issues with anti social behaviour in relation to youths walking through the estate.

After discussion it was decided to dispense with the priority in relation to Cramond Primary School as progress was being made with this issue and work was still ongoing. It was decided that the Anti Social Behaviour in Tesco and Davidson Mains area should remain a priority.

Operation Accessible

An operation targeting alleged housebreakers in Edinburgh has resulted in 37 people being arrested.

The three days of enforcement activity, during which officers from Lothian and Borders Police carried out a series of early morning raids at addresses across the Capital, were a culmination of seven months of work during which officers from Lothian and Borders Police recovered £200,000 worth of stolen property, and £3000 worth of drugs.

Chief Superintendent Gill Imery, A Division (City of Edinburgh) Commander, said: "Operation Accessible has delivered a major blow against alleged housebreakers and other criminals whose activities cause so much misery in our local communities.

"Over three days our officers targeted suspected serial offenders, and sent a strong message that Lothian and Borders Police will take decisive action to protect our communities from harm.

"The Force is committed to bringing criminals to justice and preventing crime from taking place, and the public of Edinburgh should be reassured that we will use all resources at our disposal to do just that.

"We want the public to play their part by helping us identify criminals in their community in order that we can take the kind of action seen under Operation Accessible – rest assured any information received will be acted on, and treated in the strictest confidence."



A Division

City of Edinburgh help and advice

Lothian and Borders Police
Non emergency
0131 311 3131

Lothian and Borders
Fire and Rescue Service
(freephone)
Fire safety advice:
0800 169 0320
enquiries@lbfire.org.uk

Lothian Gay and
Lesbian Switchboard
0131 556 4049
0131 557 0751 (lesbian)

Samaritans
For emotional advice if you are
feeling depressed or suicidal:
0131 221 9999 (Edinburgh)
08457 90 90 90 (National)

Shakti Women's Aid
Support and information for
black minority ethnic women
experiencing domestic abuse:
0131 475 2399

Update
Signposts people with
disability to a wide range
of services:
0131 669 1600

Victim Support
01896 751 212

Women's Aid
0131 3158 110

National freephone helplines

(calls may not be free
from mobile phones)

Breathing Space
For emotional advice if
you are feeling depressed:
0800 838 587

Childline
Help for people aged
18 or under: 0800 11 11

Know the Score
Free confidential drugs
information and advice:
0800 587 587 9

Message Home
Get a message home for
free if you have run away:
0800 700 740

National Debtline
0808 808 4000

National Domestic
Violence Helpline
0808 2000 247

National Missing
Persons Helpline
0500 700 700

Runaway Helpline
0808 800 7070

Scottish Domestic
Abuse Line
0800 027 1234

Shelter's Free Housing
Advice Helpline
0808 800 4444

Stonewall
Lesbian, gay and
bisexual charity:
08000 50 20 20

Womens Aid
0808 2000 247

Crimestoppers

0800 555111
www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Contact your Local SNT

Email

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

Telephone

0131 311 3131