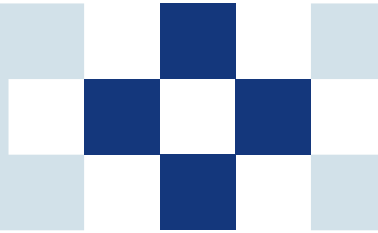


with  
youfor  
you

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



Ch Supt Gill Imery

The New Year brings challenges both new and old. I am sure many of you will be thinking about the creation of a single police force for Scotland and what this means for local communities. The commitment to community policing in Edinburgh shall remain undiminished. Through our Safer Neighbourhood Teams we shall continue to work

with local communities to identify their priorities and act upon them.

Crime figures (compared to this time last year) show an overall reduction in recorded crime by 3%.

Significantly break-ins to homes continue to fall with a reduction of 18%. I attribute this to a visible police presence on the streets, the ongoing work of our housebreaking investigations units and crucial work with our partners to engage with offenders. That said, some categories of violent crime, particularly street robberies, are giving cause for concern and we are carrying out a citywide operation to address this.

As we move into the new year our focus is once again on the prevention of crime within our communities. I know that you will continue to support our efforts and work with us to achieve safer communities.

Best wishes for 2012 to you and your families from all officers and staff within A Division.

#### DON'T FALL FOR THE HONG KONG INHERITANCE SCAM

We would like to draw your attention to a recent spate of letters purporting to be from Hong Leong Bank. The letters claim that the recipients could be entitled to millions of dollars in inheritance, following the death of an individual sharing the same surname as them.

These letters appeal to the commonly held fantasy of a rich distant relative passing away and leaving a fortune in inheritance providing an instant Jet Set lifestyle for the recipient. Unlike many modern online scams, these letters come through the post in an attempt to give them an air of legitimacy.

This is a long established scam, which rears its head from time to time and people from all over the world have fallen for it.

If you receive unsolicited mail like this and the contents seem too good to be true, they probably are. Details of these scams can be found through many sources on the Internet. Members of the public are advised not to respond to these letters and if you have done so already, please do not respond to subsequent requests for money. If you have concerns about potential scams, please don't hesitate to contact your local police station on 0131 311 3131.



## Local Operations and Initiatives

### PERSONAL SAFETY WHEN OUT AND ABOUT

If you are going out, plan your route and transport, know the bus/train times. Use well-lit, busy streets, avoiding quiet, badly lit, pathways or 'cut throughs' and isolated areas. Walk towards on-coming traffic, if a vehicle pulls up, you are

already heading in the opposite direction. Stay alert – using mobile phones or MP3 players may mean you will not hear potential danger. If you think you are being followed, be confident and walk tall heading towards other people, either on the street or a safe place such as a shop or garage. If you feel concerned, phone a friend/family member and tell them where you are and when you will see them or give them a time you will phone again (say in five minutes). Carrying a personal safety alarm means it can be used to shock and disorientate an attacker giving you vital seconds to get away. On a night out if someone has had too much to drink or you think are vulnerable – get them home safely. Keep valuables out of sight not all in your bag, use pockets and keep your keys, mobile, purse/wallet separately, (zip or 'tight pockets are best). Keep one hand free and be able to move easily. If you do put valuables in your bag, keep it shut and where you can see it. Keep a record of all important numbers for your bank/credit cards, phone etc.



### PARK SMART INITIATIVE

Over the course of the last few months there have been recurring reports of dangerous and inconsiderate parking at local schools in the area. This practice is not only dangerous to other road users and pedestrians but also presents a danger to occupiers of the offending vehicles. Local Safer Neighbourhood Team Officers will be running a Park Smart Initiative with help from Junior Road Safety Officers from the local primary schools. These initiatives are run initially with an education day with "tickets" handed out to offenders highlighting the penalty they would receive should enforcement action be taken. After this education period an enforcement day is conducted and this time official tickets are served on offenders.

These initiatives will continue to run across the Forth and Inverleith Wards for as long as problems continue to be reported. Offenders should note that depending on the offence penalties range from a £30 fine to a £60 fine and 3 points on your license.



Vehicles that are found parked and unattended in a dangerous position can be uplifted by police. This will cost owners in excess of £100 to get the vehicle released. Anyone who wishes to report issues of this nature should contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team at Drylaw Police Station.



## Appeal for information

Police are appealing for witnesses following a bag snatch in Groathill Road North that happened about 6pm on Sunday Evening (15 January 2012). A reward of up to £3,000 is also being offered by crime-fighting charity Crimestoppers for information to help solve this crime. The 75-year old widow, is currently recovering in hospital after being violently attacked as she walked home with her shopping in Edinburgh on Sunday 15 January. The attack took place in Groathill Road North, near the junction with Easter Drylaw Avenue. The mugger was pursued by a member of the public who chased him towards the Telford Road area before losing him in Easter Drylaw Drive. The attacker is described as in his early 20s, around 6ft tall and skinny. He was wearing dark clothing and a hat. The reward of up to £3,000 is for information provided to Crimestoppers through their anonymous number 0800 555 111 that leads to an arrest and conviction of the individual/s responsible for this Crime.

### Local Priorities

The priorities from the Inverleith Clean, Green & safe group were set in December. They are, licensed Premises, speeding at new locations in the ward and retail parks/ premises during the festive period. Officers are responding to new locations within the ward at Easter Drylaw, Belford Road and Drylaw Crescent. Parking initiatives will take place with monitoring and preventative steps to reduce problems undertaking. Licensed premises in the area continue to be subject of focus in relation to the off sales of alcohol to ensure compliance with the legislation and reduce the incidents of sales to people under 18. All licensed off sales premises will be revisited to ensure compliance. Retail festive focus, the SNT officers were deployed to provide reassurance patrols at all retail premises and this will be replaced at the next meeting. Any information or feedback from the public is welcomed and can be e-mailed or telephoned to the contact details on this newsletter.

## Launch of Autism Alert Card

Lothian and border Police is to launch a new autism awareness initiative to help address the unique challenges faced by people with autism who are victims of crime and accidents.

The Autism Alert card will help ensure those with the condition are quickly identified by police and emergency services and is endorsed by Lothian and Borders Police and The National Autistic Society (NAS) Scotland and Autism Initiatives Scotland.

The leading autism charities are heralding the card a 'breakthrough', and encouraging all young people and adults with autism to apply. The card is to be rolled out in the region from January 23rd 2012. An estimated 50,000 Scots have autism, with 10,000 thought to live in the Lothian and Borders region.

Featuring the Lothian and Borders Police logo, the card will include details of a personal contact who can lead emergency services through the best ways to support the individual with autism in what can be a highly pressurised experience.

Autism is known as the 'invisible disability', because those with the condition can appear to be outwardly functioning well, while often experiencing severe challenges in communication and social situations. Being a victim of a crime or accident can be a stressful experience for anyone. But for someone with autism it can be particularly disorientating and frightening. People with the condition often have difficulty understanding facial expressions, can be very literal in their understanding of questions and easily misinterpret others' intentions. In an environment of serious crime or medical emergency these types of misunderstandings can have serious consequences.



## 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](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

### Contact your Local SNT

#### Email

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

#### Telephone

0131- 0131 311 4307