

**July
2008**

Peebles Sector Newsletter



**Forthcoming
Inspector's Surgery**

**Innerleithen Police
Station
Friday 29th August 2008
1200-1300hrs**

**West Linton Police
Station
Mon 18th August 2008
1500-1600hrs**

Features

Housebreakings

Scrap Metal Thefts

*Contacting Peebles
Police Station*

*Parking Issues &
Traffic Matters*

Sector Roundup

Finally...

Inspector's Message

The 24th July was the second anniversary of the opening of the new Police Station in Rosetta Road, Peebles and the end to the Police presence in Port Brae. There were concerns at the time that the move would reduce the Police presence in the town centre and lead to an increase in crime there. These concerns were held not just by the public but by police officers as well. Two years on I think that the fears have been allayed. There has been no increase in town centre crime, in fact it has fallen, and every effort has been made to ensure a visible presence in the High Street particularly with foot patrols. In addition we have seen an increase in the numbers of people calling at the new police station, no doubt as a result of the available parking facilities and the much improved public reception area.

At the time the new Police Station opened I made it clear that visitors were welcome and I repeat that invitation, Peebles Police welcomes visitors and if any individuals or groups wish to visit our facility please contact us and we can arrange a suitable date and time.

Finally, while on the subject of anniversaries, a year ago the terrorist incident at Glasgow Airport took us all by surprise and made it clear to us that Scotland is not exempt from the repercussions of international terrorism. The number of conflicts going on all over the world can and does impact on us locally and there is a need to remain vigilant. I again remind you that the public can play its part by alerting the police to any unusual or suspicious activity.

Housebreakings

Following the series of housebreakings that occurred in May for which a male from Edinburgh was reported, a number of similar crimes have continued to occur in the Peebles Sector. Some of these have been solved and local juveniles have been reported for these, while others are the subject of ongoing enquiries, but believed to have been committed by older, more professional, traveling criminals. Officers have employed a number of policing methods in an attempt to disrupt criminal activity and prevent these crimes occurring.



On 11th May, officers responded to a sighting of suspicious males in the West Linton area and disturbed three males who were subsequently arrested and charged with attempt-housebreaking at West Linton Golf Club and other offences.

A road check was implemented on 28th July on the A702, to target traveling criminals and one particular vehicle was stopped and searched, resulting in Class 'A' drugs being recovered as well as a significant quantity of cash, which was seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. The occupants of the vehicle were reported in relation to offences discovered.

Further disruptive police activity is planned in addition to investigative work in respect of crimes already reported.

Scrap Metal Thefts

A rise in scrap metal prices is believed to be behind a number of thefts of items from farms and outlying properties. It is known that not all such thefts have been officially reported to police and some crimes go undiscovered for months until farmers require to use a specific piece of equipment that they discover its disappearance.



Perhaps of greater concern is the theft of manhole covers from the Peeblesshire area. Four drain covers were stolen from Walkerburn during July.

Aside from the financial loss to Scottish Borders Council who required to replace them, the removal of these items placed road users at great risk. Members of the public who see anyone other than SBC or Utility Company staff interfering with manhole covers are encouraged to contact the police.

Contacting Peebles Police Station

Between 0700-2300 hours Monday-Friday, the public counter at the police station is staffed by one of two Station Assistants. Their remit is to deal with members of the public who contact the station by phone or personally at the counter. When the Station Assistant is busy, or not on duty, incoming telephone calls are diverted to the Force Communication Centre at Bilston, who have direct contact with Peebles Sector officers. Similarly, personal callers at the station can contact the FCC by means of the free telephone on the wall at the front door when the station is closed.

The station telephone number is 01721-720637 and you can email us at peebles@lbp.pnn.police.uk



Parking Issues & Traffic Matters

At the time of writing, Scottish Borders Council contractors are implementing engineering solutions in support of the 'Safer Routes to School' initiative. Additionally, there are still roadworks in Kingsmeadows Road and Edinburgh Road, controlled by temporary traffic lights. These are enforceable as more than one driver who chose to disregard them have found to their cost.

Figures for parking tickets and warnings issued in the month of July are not available at the time of writing, due to the traffic warden being on annual leave. To prevent delay of publication, this edition of the newsletter has been released without this information, which will be included retrospectively in next month's copy.

Sector Roundup

This section of the report details *some* or all of the incidents, which have occurred in each area. There will be occasions, particularly in the smaller areas, where individuals could be identified by the nature of the incident or other information. As the court will most likely not have dealt these with by the time this is published, these incidents may not be included.

Peebles

On 7th July 2008 a 12-year-old male was cautioned and charged with theft shoplifting.

Between 11th and 12th July a child's mountain bike was stolen from an insecure garden shed in George Street.

On 13th July 2008 a 37-year-old male was issued with an Anti-Social Behaviour Fixed Penalty Ticket for Breach of the Peace within Peebles town centre.

On 13th July 2008 a theft shoplifting occurred within a local supermarket where the male suspect threatened staff with violence. Enquiries are continuing to detain this male.

On 14th July 2008 a quantity of eggs and milk were stolen from outside a local coffee shop.

On 25th July 2008 a report was received of damage having been caused to an outdoor pursuits unit at Shieldgreen, Soonhope, Peebles.

On 27th July 2008 a 42-year-old female was issued with an Anti-Social Behaviour Fixed Penalty Ticket for a Breach of the Peace during a stay at a local caravan park.

Road Accidents

There were 2 minor injury accidents during July.

Crime Figures- July

Tweeddale

Crimes: 50
Solved: 21
(42%)

Borders Region

Crimes: 479
Solved: 266
(56%)

Innerleithen

Between 4th and 5th July a house in George Street was entered and a small amount of money stolen.

On 24th July 2008 a 22-year-old female was charged with assaulting a 15-year-old female within the town.

Between 25th and 29th July 2008 a quantity of electrical cable was stolen from Scottish Water Pumping Station.

Road Accidents

There was 1 serious injury accident and 2 damage only accidents during July.

Walkerburn

On 10th July 2008 a house near Holylee was entered and jewellery, a camera and laptop were stolen.

Road Accidents

There were no vehicle accidents in the area during July.

Broughton & Upper Tweed

Between 25th and 27th July 2008 an oil tank and contents was stolen from the Crook Inn.

Road Accidents

There was 1 minor injury accident and 2 damage only accidents during July.

Manor, Stobo & Lyne

There was 1 minor injury accident during July.

West Linton, Romanno Bridge & Carlops

Between 1st and 2nd July 2008 damage was caused to a Land Rover motor car whilst parked in Croft Road.

On 6th July 2008 a large quantity of cash and other items were stolen from a local shop.

On 7th July 2008 a house was entered at Romanno Bridge and jewellery, mobile phones, and a camera stolen.

Between 10th and 11th July 2008 an attempt was made to enter West Linton Golf Club.

On 11th July 2008 a report of three males acting suspiciously was received and officers attended and detained one and recovered a stolen vehicle.

On 14th July 2008 a house near Blyth Bridge was broken into and also vandalised. Three teenage males have been interviewed and reported regarding this.

On 21st July 2008 an attempt was made to enter a house in West Linton fortunately the alarm was activated and the suspects made off.

On 28th July 2008 whilst conducting an operation regarding the recent housebreakings a vehicle was stopped and a large quantity of cash recovered.

Between 29th and 31st July 2008 a quantity of stones from a dismantled drystone dyke were stolen from a house outside West Linton.

Road Accidents

There were no vehicle accidents in the area during July.

Lamancha, Newlands & Kirkurd

Between 27th June and 8th July 2008 windows and a mirror was smashed at Newlands Primary School.

On 21st July 2008 a house at Newlands was entered and a quantity of jewellery stolen.

Road Accidents

There were no vehicle accidents in the area during July.

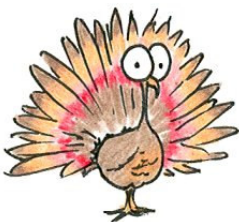
Eddleston

On 23rd July 2008 a washing machine was stolen from outside a house. A vehicle was seen near the locus and enquiries subsequently resulted in a male being detained and reported for this theft.

Road Accidents

There were no vehicle accidents in the area during July.

Finally...



Officers at Peebles regularly respond to calls regarding farm animals on public roadways, which can cause unexpected danger to drivers faced with animals in their path when they least expect it. In July there were ten calls regarding sheep and lambs on the road, four regarding cows and unusually, a call regarding 20 turkeys running around a street in the middle of Peebles. Thankfully, they made their way home without the need for police intervention...

Stewart Sandilands
Inspector