

August
2008

Peebles Sector Newsletter



Inspector's Message

August in most peoples book is the height of summer. Unfortunately across much of the country, and certainly in Tweeddale, we experienced one of the wettest Augusts on record. The rainfall created a number of problems, with the water table high, the rivers and the reservoirs full, the water had no where to go other than to flood fields and roads.

Scottish Borders Council 'Summer Control' assisted greatly in dealing with requests for help and when I experienced severe flooding on the A703 north of Eddleston with almost a foot of water on the road, a speedy response from SBC resulted in a mechanical digger creating trenches for the water to run into the Eddleston Water. During this flooding we also had to rescue an elderly couple from their car and were greatly assisted by the Fire Service.

I hope that the next few months bring more 'normal' weather and that we experience a mild winter but with cooperation between the various agencies I am confident we can successfully deal with the vagaries of the Scottish weather.

With inter agency working in mind I recently attended a joint training exercise with the Fire Service held on the River Tweed at Yair. The exercise was designed to integrate our response to incidents on the river and that might involve rescues from the river. Also invited were members of the Borders Underwater Search Team, volunteers who assist the police, when required, with searches of riverbanks.

This is yet another example of bringing together all the available resources to ensure the safety of the public in the Scottish Borders.

Speeding



A recent review of Road Policing crew deployment has resulted in two crews providing a visible presence to primarily tackle instances of inappropriate driving and excessive speed. One crew in particular has been targeting speeding drivers on the A702 on the 'Dolphinton straight'. This has resulted in 10 drivers being detected in excess of 100mph, the highest speed recorded being 122mph. There were several other offenders detected above 90mph. Inspector Richard Latto, Head of Road Policing for the Borders, said, "Excessive speed continues to be a challenge for

Roads Policing Officers and unfortunately is nearly always a contributory factor in serious and fatal road traffic collisions. Drivers who continue to drive whilst in excess of recognised speed limits will be proactively targeted through the latest available technology and will invariably lose their licences"

Until the end of October Police motorcyclists will continue to patrol the road network within Peebleshire in an effort to educate and positively influence motorcyclists. 2008 has seen a significant drop in the number of motorcycle related fatalities and part of this welcome news relates to the proactive work carried out by Road Policing officers at weekends over the summer period.

Alcohol Test Purchasing

Following the introduction of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 legislation was enacted to allow for the use of young persons to test purchase alcohol at licensed premises.

The participation of young people in these operations forms a valuable part of the Police strategy to deal under aged drinking, alcohol abuse and anti-social behaviour.

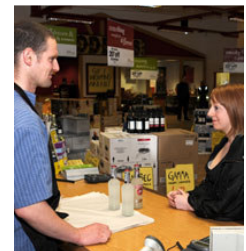
Beginning in West Lothian the programme has been gradually rolled out across the Force area.

On the 6th August such an operation was conducted in Peebles. A young person shadowed by the Police Team visited 5 licensed premises.

As a result, 4 premises passed with one failure. In accordance with the legislation a report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal and the premises revisited within 14 days. I am happy to report that the premises concerned passed on the second attempt.

I personally visited the premises and spoke to owners, management and staff and thanked them for their cooperation and for adhering to the law thereby preventing alcohol falling into the wrong hands.

I anticipate that further operations will be held in the future.



Features

Speeding

Alcohol Test

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Free Internet Access?

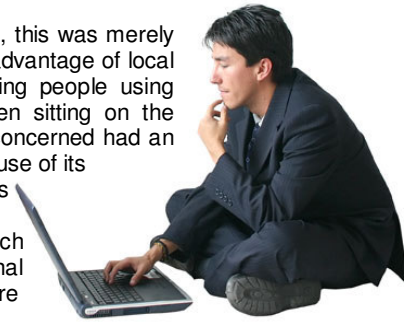
Parking Issues &

Traffic Matters

Sector Roundup

Free Internet Access?

The June 2007 Newsletter highlighted the problem of 'wifi' theft. At the time, this was merely the suspicion of local officers that a small number of individuals were taking advantage of local residents' insecure wireless networks. This was the result of officers finding people using laptops in vehicles parked close to houses. This month a male was seen sitting on the pavement outside a shop in Peebles using a laptop late at night. The shop concerned had an insecure network and it is strongly suspected that this male was enjoying free use of its broadband connection. Whilst the misuse of an unmetered broadband supply is not a widely reported 'crime', the potential exists for someone to use your connection to download illegal material or carry out fraudulent transactions which may leave you with some awkward questions to answer in the event of a criminal enquiry. Incidentally, the shop concerned in the above incident was made aware and has now secured its wireless access point.



Parking Issues & Traffic Matters



As reported last month, figures for July were unavailable. The warden was on annual leave and, resulting in only 5 fixed penalty tickets and 23 warnings being issued. This month saw 42 tickets and 58 warnings issued.

New parking restrictions

Single yellow lines have been painted on the east side of Rosetta Road between Kingsland Square and George Street, preventing vehicles waiting as indicated (right).



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

Between 27th July and 2nd August two stained glass windows were smashed at a local church. A 14 year old male has been reported for this.

Between 8th August and 11th August property was stolen from business premises at South Park.

Between 1st August and 14th August an attempt was made to enter business premises at South Park in the process £400 of damage was caused.

Between 21st August and 22nd August tools and materials were stolen from a building site at Kingsmeadows Road.

On 23rd August a 48 year old male was arrested for a breach of the peace after causing a disturbance in a local bar.

Road Accidents

There was 1 minor injury accident during August.

Crime Figures- August

Tweeddale

Crimes: 30
Solved: 14
(47%)

Borders Region

Crimes: 338
Solved: 193
(57%)

Innerleithen

On 9th August a 40 year old male was issued with an ASBO Fixed Penalty Ticket for a Breach of the Peace.

On 13th August a 15 year old male was charged with vandalism, breach of the peace and carrying an offensive weapon.

On 18th August a BMX bike was stolen from a garden in Ballantyne Street.

Between 29th August and 30th August two vehicles parked on garage premises in Traquair Road were vandalised and attempts made to steal them.

Road Accidents

There was 1 minor injury accident and 1 damage only accident during August.

Walkerburn

On 11th August a secure garden shed was broken into and two bikes stolen.

Between 7th August and 15th August a work shop was broken into in Caberston Road and tools to the value of £3000 stolen.

Road Accidents

There were no vehicle accidents in the area during August.

Lamancha, Newlands & Kirkurd

There were no incidents of note occurred during August.

Road Accidents

There were no vehicle accidents in the area during August..

Broughton & Upper Tweed

There were no incidents of note occurred during August.

Road Accidents

There were 2 minor injury accident occurred during August.

Manor, Stobo & Lyne

Between 8th August and 11th August a quantity of lead was stolen from the church at Lyne.

Road Accidents

There were no vehicle accidents in the area during August

West Linton, Romanno Bridge & Carlops

Between 8th June and 4th August 50 sheep were stolen from a farm near Leadburn.

Road Accidents

There was 1 minor injury accident occurred during August.

Eddleston

There were no incidents of note occurred during August.

Road Accidents

There were no vehicle accidents in the area during August.

Stewart Sandilands
Inspector

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