

**September
2008**

Peebles Sector Newsletter



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Finally...

Inspector's Message

In a number of previous newsletters I have commented on the on-going work done in relation to under-age drinking and the test purchasing operations that are presently being conducted.

This month has seen a number of calls made to the police about large groups of youths, predominantly girls, drinking in the Tweed Green area of Peebles and local officers are dealing with this. Of concern is where these youngsters are getting the alcohol?

One of the strongest indications to date that the Police and off licences are working together successfully to reduce the supply of alcohol to youngsters has been the two occasions this month that staff at off licences have contacted the police to report their concerns that legitimate purchases of alcohol were being passed on to under aged persons. On both occasions the persons purchasing the drink have been traced and reported and the drink has been confiscated from the youngsters before any further damage could be done.

I sometimes feel like a broken record but the truth is that the police cannot solve every problem on their own and it is only with the cooperation of parents, guardians business's and teachers that we can prevent youngsters getting their hands on alcohol at an age when they are legally not allowed and physically and mentally not capable of handling.

As we approach Christmas (yes it is that time) the temptation for youngsters will increase but so do the dangers and we need to be vigilant and continue with the level of cooperation already established.



Housebreakings

Sadly, and despite increased patrols in affected areas, housebreakings are continuing to occur in Tweeddale at both business premises and domestic dwelling houses.

In the early hours of 5th September, two men were disturbed breaking into the Post Office in West Linton and they made off with a quantity of money and other valuables. This may be linked to similar crimes in our Force area and adjacent areas, suggesting that traveling criminals continue to consider Tweeddale a lucrative place to carry out their 'business'. CID officers are continuing enquiries into this and other housebreakings.

Overnight on 10th September, the premises of Millers, South Park, Peebles, were the subject of an attempt to break in. The following day a 40-year-old local man was arrested and subsequently charged with this offence. Similar attempts have been made on other premises at nearby industrial units.

Roadchecks are being carried out at key locations to deter and detect criminal activity.



Fuel Theft



This month we have had a significant rise in reported theft of diesel. The price of retail pump fuel has affected us all and this may be a factor. On 15th September, police officers found a vehicle in suspicious circumstances at Edston Quarry. The occupants were suspected of being involved in the theft of fuel and were arrested. Their vehicle was found to be running on 'red' diesel and was impounded. On this occasion these individuals were arrested before they had the opportunity to commit crime in our area and it was clear

that they had sufficient storage capacity to steal thousands of litres of diesel.

Following their release from custody at court the next day, they arrived at Peebles Police Station in a different vehicle to speak to officers. This vehicle was found to be running on red diesel and was also impounded.

Further fuel thefts have occurred throughout Peeblesshire and include such methods as drilling a hole in a vehicle fuel tank and draining the contents into a separate container. This is predominantly red diesel and local officers are routinely carrying out fuel testing to identify the illegal use of this fuel on roads in the area.

A Day at Court...

Serious Road Traffic offences are dealt with in a robust manner by courts in the Scottish Borders and this is illustrated by sentences passed when the court sat on 24th September.

A 37-year-old local man was jailed for 4 months after being found to be three times the legal alcohol limit following a crash in Broughton on 3rd August. A 29-year old man from Edinburgh was imprisoned for 11 weeks after being found to be twice the limit on 29th June. Both these men had previous drink-driving convictions.



Sheriff John Horsburgh QC also sentenced a 47 year-old Penicuik man after he was detected riding a motorcycle at 122 mph on the A701 between Blyth Bridge and Leadburn. He was fined £1800 and banned from the road for three years.

Parking Issues & Traffic Matters



September 2008
 Fixed Penalties issued: 60
 Drivers warned: 110

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 9th September damage was caused to the roof of the bike shed at Kingsland Primary School. Enquiries are continuing to identify the culprits.

Also on the 9th a 17-year-old female was reported for assault.

Between 11th and 12th September attempts were made to break into three properties at South Park Industrial Estate. Officers are following a positive line of enquiry.

On 14th September a mountain bike valued at £2500 was stolen from the rear of a car whilst parked in Dalatho Crescent.

On 15th September two males from Lanarkshire were detained for court after being found in suspicious circumstances at a local quarry.

On 18th September a purse and contents were stolen from a local hotel.

Also on the 18th a 17-year-old Selkirk male was detained for possession of an offensive weapon, assault and breach of the peace.

**Crime Figures-
 September**

Tweeddale
 Crimes: 39
 Solved: 18
 (46%)

Borders Region
 Crimes: 402
 Solved: 247
 (61%)

On 19th September two 18-year-old males were charged after moving a motor vehicle.

During September there were 3 ASBO Fixed Penalty Tickets issued – 2 for Breach of the Peace and 1 for urinating in public.

Road Accidents

There was 1 damage only accident during September.

Innerleithen

Between 12th and 13th September a tent was stolen from Glentress.

On 27th September a 26 year old Glasgow male was detained after an incident in High Street.

Road Accidents

There were 4 damage only accidents during September.

Walkerburn

On 3rd September a flat bed trailer was stolen from Glenbenna.

Road Accidents

There were no vehicle accidents in the area during September.

Lamancha, Newlands & Kirkurd

On 29th September a quantity of money was stolen from Newlands School. A positive line of enquiry is being followed.

Road Accidents

There were no vehicle accidents in the area during September.

Broughton & Upper Tweed

Between 17th and 18th September a quantity of red diesel was stolen from Glenbreck Forest.

Road Accidents

There were 2 minor injury and 1 damage only accidents occurred during September.

Manor, Stobo & Lyne

There were no incidents of note occurred during September.

Road Accidents

There was 1 serious injury accident in the area during September.

West Linton, Romanno Bridge & Carlops

On 5th September the Post Office was broken into and a quantity of property stolen.

On 16th September two houses were broken into one at West Linton and one at Carlops. Jewellery was stolen from both properties.

Road Accidents

There was 1 damage only accident occurred during September.

Eddleston

On 9th September a house was broken into and a quantity of jewellery stolen.

On 18th September a 46-year-old male was found to have an illegal pesticide in his vehicle. Further enquiry will be carried out regarding this.

Road Accidents

There were no vehicle accidents in the area during September.

Finally...

Towards the end of the month, officers were on patrol in the early hours of the morning when the police vehicle was forced to brake sharply in a residential street in Peebles to avoid what appeared to be a form of wildlife on the road.

The officers left the vehicle as the animal appeared stunned. They found a domestic pet rabbit, which appeared to be rather lost having escaped from its home. 'Flopsy' was reunited with its owner later that day.



Stewart Sandilands
Inspector

Web: www.lbp.police.uk **Email:** peebles@lbp.pnn.police.uk


**Lothian
and Borders
Police**