

**October
2008**

Peebles Sector Newsletter



Inspector's Message



First of all can I take the opportunity to introduce myself; I'm John Porter and have been a shift sergeant based at Peebles for the past year and now find myself sitting in Stewart Sandilands seat.

As you may or not be aware Stewart has been temporary promoted to Chief Inspector at Hawick as has Superintendent David Gardner who is now the temporary Divisional Commander.

I am fortunate enough to both work and live in the Peebles area and I look forward to the challenges I will face in my new post and the relationships I will build within the local community.

As the Festive Period approaches a number of local and national initiatives are planned, which again will focus on making the Scottish Borders a safer place to live and work.

Features

All Change...

Serious Assault

Winter Road Safety

'Ringing the Changes'

*Parking Issues &
Traffic Matters*

All Change...

In addition to the above, there are other staff moves. PC Bill Hunter replaces Nicola Craig as the Tweeddale Locality Integration Officer. Bill is a well 'kent face round Peebles and has spent much of his 25 years' service in the area. On his second day in the job he met his grandson whilst visiting a local primary school! PC Craig returns to a shift, remaining at Peebles as a response officer.



PC Bill Hunter

We also welcome PC Daniel Rowlands who transfers to us from his previous posting in Edinburgh. He lives in the Borders, like most officers working in 'G' Division and is looking forward to his new beat, which at 360 square miles, is considerably larger than his previous one.

Looking ahead we have two officers engaging in mutual five-week exchanges with city officers which will give both a valuable insight into a different style of policing from which they will ultimately benefit.

Serious Assault

Normally, this would be reported in the 'Sector Roundup' section of this newsletter. However, the incident concerned was the subject of widespread reporting in the media and was the source of much speculation in Peebles.

On Saturday 11th October, a group of males and a female were involved in an argument in the Northgate. A 52-year old local man intervened and was viciously assaulted by the males. This resulted in the gentleman sustaining a broken jaw after being punched and kicked about the head and body, which required hospital treatment.

Police enquiries resulted in the four local males being traced and charged with offences relating to this incident and they will appear at court early in November.

It must be stressed that although this was an unprovoked attack, it was an isolated incident and relatively rare and Peeblesshire should still be regarded as being a safe place to live, work and visit.

Winter Road Safety

Once again, severe weather has provided motorists with challenging driving conditions. High winds have brought trees down over country roads and heavy rain has tested the ability of gullies and drains to remove water from the carriageway. This can lead to drivers being confronted by large puddles on dark open roads. It is a timely reminder to drivers to check essentials such as tyre tread depth and condition, windscreen wipers blades are clean and not torn and vehicle lights are all operational. Although not compulsory in the UK, a high visibility vest or jacket is a useful item to carry in the car in case of a breakdown or accident, particularly on fast rural roads.

Officers carrying out road checks will stop vehicles and deal with any defects found in the appropriate manner.



'Ringing the Changes'



On Friday 17th October, a male entered a post office in Peebles and carried out a deception known as 'Ringing the Changes'. This involves the culprit asking staff to change a large quantity of banknotes into different denominations and deliberately confusing staff in the process, resulting in a higher value of cash being 'exchanged'. A short time later a male fitting the same description carried out a similar crime at the post office in Clovenfords. Enquiries into both of these incidents are continuing, but businesses handling cash should exercise caution when this type of request is made.

Parking Issues & Traffic Matters



A good example of how the thoughtlessness of one driver can affect many others was seen recently when a car was found parked on the double yellow lines outside the Post Office in the Eastgate, Peebles. This car prevented buses pulling into the bus stop and consequently a traffic jam ensued, resulting in a tailback to the Tweeddale roundabout and beyond.

This was totally unnecessary and the issuing of a fixed penalty ticket to the offending driver was some compensation to those inconvenienced. Sadly, this occurs on a daily basis, often at the hands of drivers making use of the cash machine there.

October
Fixed Penalties issued: 42
Drivers warned: 78

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 3rd and 7th October damaged was caused to a sign in Neidpath Road.

On 5th October a 20-year-old male was arrested for drink driving.

On 5th October a 17-year-old female was charged with assaulting a 16-year-old female.

Between 8th and 9th October damage was caused to one of the exterior huts at Peebles High School.

Between 10th October and 11th October 3 windows were smashed at Peebles High School.

On 11th October officers pursued a vehicle from Peebles to Penicuik – the vehicle had been stolen in Galashiels, the driver was disqualified and had no insurance.

On 11th October officers attended a house in Kingsland Square regarding loud music. The occupier was warned and turned the music down only to put it back up when the officers left. The music system was thereafter seized and the occupier charged.

**Crime Figures-
 October**

Tweeddale

Crimes: 379
Solved: 232
(61%)

Borders Region

Crimes: 30
Solved: 13
(43%)

On 17th October a van and motor bike were damaged whilst parked in Damcroft.

On 17th October a Ford Transit van was broken in and an attempt made to steal it.

On 19th October a 19-year-old male was charged with Breach of the Peace.

On 19th October a Vauxhall Antara car was stolen from outside a house in The Meadows.

On 26th October as part of the Winter Road Safety Campaign a 21-year-old female was charged with no driving licence or insurance. The vehicle was seized by police.

On 26th October an 18-year-old male was issued with a Fixed Penalty Ticket for urinating in a shop doorway.

Road Accidents

There was 1 minor injury accident during October.

Innerleithen

On 6th October an 18 year old you was charged with assault, offensive weapon and breach of the peace.

On 8th October a 45-year-old local male was charged with drugs offences.

On 12th October a 17-year-old male was charged with breach of the peace.

Road Accidents

There were no accidents during October.

Walkerburn

There were no incidents of note during October.

Road Accidents

There were no vehicle accidents in the area during October.

Lamancha, Newlands & Kirkurd

There were no incidents of note during October.

Road Accidents

There were no vehicle accidents in the area during October.

Broughton & Upper Tweed

Between 13th October and 14th October a quantity of red diesel and a petrol generator were stolen from Forestry land near Tweedsmuir. Damage was also caused to a digger.

Road Accidents

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

Manor, Stobo & Lyne

There were no incidents of note occurred during October.

Road Accidents

There were no accidents in the area during October.

West Linton, Romanno Bridge & Carlops

On 21st October officers recovered a Vauxhall Corsa, which had been stolen from Edinburgh.

Road Accidents

There no accidents occurred during October.

Eddleston

There were no incidents of note during October.

Road Accidents

There were no vehicle accidents in the area during October.

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