November 2008

Peebles Sector Newsletter

Lothian and Borders Police

Inspector's Message

As I enter my second month as Temporary Inspector at Peebles, I look forward to the Festive period, both personally and professionally. The switching on of the Peebles Christmas lights took place in the High Street and attracted a large number of people from throughout Tweeddale. This went without a hitch and hopefully retailers benefited from the extended opening hours. You will see extra foot patrols in Peebles during December as always on the approach to Christmas. If you are attending a work Christmas night out in Tweeddale, please plan your journey home **before** you leave the house and remember that local taxi services may be busier than normal. Avoid any temptation to take the car unless you are the designated driver for the evening.

At this time of year we reflect on the job done over the previous twelve months and it is all too easy to measure performance on the basis of statistics alone. Feedback is an important mechanism to ensure that a good quality of service is delivered to our communities and through liaison with Community Councils, partner agencies and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal service, we continue to monitor our performance and identify areas for improvement where appropriate.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Stuart Ruffell recently. Stuart was, amongst other things, a search manager in the Tweed Valley Mountain Rescue Team and since the relocation of the police station to Rosetta Road, he was a regular visitor as one of the team's vehicles is based there. Officers who worked with him operationally remember him as a very knowledgeable and professional member of the team as well as being a gentleman.
He will be sadly missed.

Features

Fatal Road Collision

Festive Initiatives

Court Business

Parking Issues & Traffic Matters

Finally…

Fatal Road Collision

On 25th November a female pedestrian was struck by a southbound vehicle and killed on the A703 near to Mailingsland. Enquiries continue into the cause of the collision but as with any life threatening or fatal accident, it is necessary to close the road for a period of time to facilitate the investigation.
This involves a survey of the crash scene by specialist officers using a theodolite and tesing of the vehicle involved at the location.
It is appreciated that this challenges the local transport infrastructure but is a necessary part of the reporting process and most road users accept the inconvenience caused which can assist in improving safety at crash scenes in the future.

Festive Initiatives

The run up to Christmas and New Year sees police activity focused on preventing crimes, offences and disorder. The Festive Road Safety Enforcement Campaign commences on 8th December until early January and will see local officers and our Road Policing colleagues conducting road checks at all times of the day, including early morning, to drive home the message reinforced by recent cases brought before Peebles Sheriff Court, that drinking and driving will not be tolerated in our communities.
Underage drinking is also being targeted with additional patrols visiting licensed premises and areas favoured by youths drinking alcohol. Attention is given to High School dances and other functions.
The 'Credit Crunch' is being blamed for a national increase in 'cash in transit' thefts and with an increase in consumer spending at this time of year, close attention is paid to cash delivery vehicles carrying out their daily business to ensure their security.

Court Business

Once a case has been reported and evidence given at court, if required, the verdict of the court is not really matter of interest for the police. However, it may be useful to report the result of some of the more significant cases of public interest here. Any information published in this section will already be in the public domain.

During November, 6 individuals appeared at court in relation to speeding offences. Following guilty pleas, all were disqualified from driving for varying lengths of time and received substantial fines.

Two men from Peebles appeared on unrelated charges under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Both received lengthy custodial sentences.

A 17-year-old male pled guilty to a number of charges following a disturbance in the Northgate in November during which he assaulted two police officers. He was fined £535.

Parking Issues & Traffic Matters

November

Fixed Penalties issued: 34
Drivers warned: 88

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.

Crime Figures- November

Tweeddale

Crimes: 46
Solved: 18
(39%)

Borders Region

Crimes: 384
Solved: 224
(58%)

Peebles

On 1st November 2008 a 32-year-old male was reported to the Procurator Fiscal for theft of items from a handbag whilst in a local licensed premises.

On 13th November an insecure van was entered whilst parked in Provost Walker Court and property stolen.

On 15th November a shed at the rear of property in North Place was set on fire and completely destroyed. A 17-year-old female has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 16th and 22nd November a 19-year-old male was charged with various offences, which occurred in a local licensed premises.

On 19th November an 18-year-old male was charged with breach of the peace after an incident at a local school.

On 21st November a 12-year-old youth was charged with assault and breach of the peace on a 14-year-old male.

On 23rd November a guest at a local hotel had various items stolen from her handbag.

During November four Anti-Social Behaviour Fixed Penalty Tickets were issued 1 for vandalism, 1 for Breach of the Peace and 2 for urinating offences.

Road Accidents

There were 4 damage only accidents during November.

Innerleithen

On 4th November a report was received regarding a theft at a local hotel.

On 5th November a 16-year-old female was assaulted in High Street. A 19-year-old female has since been charged with this offence.

Road Accidents

There were no accidents during November.

Walkerburn

On 10th November two fishing rods were stolen from a vehicle roof rack. Enquiries are continuing.

Road Accidents

There were no vehicle accidents in the area during November.

Lamancha, Newlands & Kirkurd

Between 30th October and 3rd November a large caravan was removed from the area of Ladyurd Forest.

Between 27th October and 10th November 3 magnetic double bar orange flashing warning beacons were stolen from a tractor as Blyth Bridge.

Between 7th November and 10th November 1400 litres of heating oil was stolen from a tank at a farm near Lamancha.

Between 28th and 29th November a quad bike was stolen from a house at Lamancha.

Road Accidents

There were no vehicle accidents in the area during November.

Broughton & Upper Tweed

On 27th November a house was broken into and property stolen. This property was the subject of a similar crime in June 2007 and an enquiry team is investigating both incidents.

Road Accidents

There was 1 damage only accident during November.

Manor, Stobo & Lyne

There were no incidents of note occurred during November.

Road Accidents

There were no accidents in the area during November.

West Linton, Romanno Bridge & Carlops

On 2nd November damaged was caused to three greens at West Linton Golf Club.

Road Accidents

There were 2 minor injury accidents occurred during November.

Eddleston

There were no incidents of note during November.

Road Accidents

There was 1 fatal vehicle accident occurred during November, featured on the front page of this newsletter.

Finally...

An incident which occurred in October, which was not previously reported in the newsletter has reached court. Just after midnight on 11th October, two Peebles officers were on patrol on the B7062 near to Traquair when their attention was drawn to a small car with a defective tail light traveling in the opposite direction. The officers attempted to stop the vehicle but the driver accelerated and a pursuit developed.

The vehicle, which had been stolen from Galashiels, was pursued through Peebles and northwards towards Edinburgh. Road Policing Officers assisted in Penicuik and as the driver of the stolen car approached the Gowkley Moss roundabout, he lost control, colliding with a stationary police vehicle and another car, writing off all three and trapping the accused in his vehicle. The Fire and Ambulance Services attended and cut him from the car. A police officer was treated at the scene for a minor head injury.

The 20-year-old male, who was at the time serving a 10-year driving disqualification after previously crashing a stolen car in Edinburgh, was arrested and charged with a number of offences. He was remanded in custody and appeared at Peebles Sheriff Court on 3rd December when he pled guilty. At the time of writing he remains in custody awaiting sentencing.

This incident highlighted how a minor lighting offence can often lead to more serious offences being identified. It is, however, very rare for such an incident to occur in Tweeddale, but all officers have received training and have an awareness of pursuit management techniques.

Peebles Police Staff wish all our readers a safe, happy and prosperous Christmas and New Year.

John Porter
T/Inspector

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Lothian and Borders Police