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**ESKBANK & NEWBATTLE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**POLICE REPORT 03/12/2020**

Incidents of note

12/09/20 – Kings Park, a picnic bench was found to have been damaged by fire & was still smouldering in daylight.

02/10/20 – Lord Ancrum’s woods, a group of between 12-15 youths gathered in the woodland playing music were located by the Midlothian Community Action Team. They were found to be in possession of a quantity of unopened alcohol which was disposed of in their presence & the group then dispersed by the team.

11/10/20-21/10/20 –Newbattle Road, the garage of the property was entered by means unknown (appeared secure/no damage) & two e- bikes valued at £4000 in total were stolen.

25/10/20 – Newbattle Abbey Crescent, a call to police regarding approximately 20 youths in the woodland drinking alcohol was attended & the wooded areas searched – no trace.

09/11/20 – Bonnyrigg Road, between 08/11/20-09/11/20 the shed within the garden of a property was broken into with the shed lock broken & thereafter the theft of a “CUBE” mountain bike (value appx £2000 ) from within.

13/11/20 – Waverly Road, between 12/11/20-13/11/20 a motor vehicle parked at this locus was stolen overnight. No signs of forced entry at the property & the owner certain that the keys for the vehicle were within the dwelling.

The vehicle was recovered during the afternoon of the 13<sup>th</sup> in Gorebridge.

17/11/2020 – Eskview Villas, a property was forcibly entered overnight but nothing apparently stolen. Entry was gained by the culprits breaking a brass lock on a sash & case window .Some areas of the property appeared to have been searched with items moved etc & it suspected the culprits may have been disturbed by the occupants.

17/11/2020 – Eskbank Road, a property was forcibly entered overnight & the occupiers two motor vehicles were stolen along with two purses. The M.O. was identical to the dwelling in Eskview villas where the culprits forced open a sash & case window to gain entry.

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30/11/2020 – Waverley Road, a garage at a property at this locus was broken into with the culprits caught on cctv (1926hrs) climbing a wall into the garden, then forcing a lock on the garage door.

On entering the garage the thieves have stolen two mountain bikes then made off.

Clearly the dark nights have proven good cover for 'ne'r do wells' & residents should ensure that their property & curtilage is as secure as possible.

The theft of high value bicycles has increased drastically across the UK & police regularly find that a £5000 mountain bike has been protected by a £5 lock.

Obvious deterrents work well & the installation of intruder alarms, security lighting & cctv go a long way in preventing theft – however these measures *must* be *maintained* & *operational* to afford any protection.

Scenes of crime officers & officers from the Criminal Investigation Unit are currently investigating and making enquiry into the spate of thefts in the area & it is clear to see the similarity in M.O. with these thefts & others across the division.

General Crime prevention advice along with domestic/commercial Crime prevention survey's can be provided – Free by speaking with your local Community police officer in person or by contacting your local Community policing team [DalkeithCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:DalkeithCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk) 01316545524 or 101

**Remember in an emergency ALWAYS dial 999**

**Information regarding crime can be passed to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 anonymously**

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