



Spring 2020 - No 38

LOOK-OUT

Currie East Neighbourhood Watch

www.cenw.org.uk

Message from the Chair

Andrew Munro

As we pass through these early months of 2020, it may be a sensible time to focus on matters that surround our daily lives and to make some prudent adjustments going into this new decade. Through previous issues of this newsletter we are aware of the increase in crime that surrounds us, be it house breaking, covering home, garage or vehicle and cold calling via the telephone, laptop or mobile all seeking to fleece us one way or another of our hard-earned savings.

Put some time aside and review the safety and security of your belongings. Do you have and use a door chain? Do you have good locks on all of your external doors and is there any single glazing in the doors that may be a risk? Be alert when the doorbell or telephone unexpectedly rings in case the caller is not all that they may seem. Also be aware that if you receive any that just seems too good to be true then the likelihood is that it's fraud.

So, it's time to *spring clean* to reduce the risk of fraud and any nasty surprises in the future.

Police Scotland - 101 (or 999 in an emergency)

Free Neighbourhood Watch Scotland Wheelie Bin Stickers

As agreed at the AGM in October 2019, an element of the funds held should be allocated as part of the wider adoption of the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland branding within the community. Accordingly, as a member of Currie East Neighbourhood Watch, please find enclosed your two adhesive wheelie bin stickers, one for the green recycling bin and one for the grey general waste bin.

Annual Subscriptions

Subscriptions are now due and have been maintained at £ 1 per household. It is hoped that you feel this modest amount offers good value for money in respect of the activities undertaken on your behalf by Currie East Neighbourhood Watch including the regular production and printing of Look-Out Newsletter.

AGM 2020 – Save the Date and Suggestions Invited for Presentations

Currie East Neighbourhood Watch AGM will take place at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 19th October 2020 in the Gibson Craig Hall. If there is any particular topic that you would like presented at the event, please refer to contact details on the last page of this newsletter. Topics that may be of interest could be; Reduction in City of Edinburgh Council Budgets – impact on Community Policing or Crime Prevention – making your house and garage safer

Alerts and Scams

The shocking scale of fraud and cyber crime has been revealed. 40% of all recorded crimes are now made online - making cybercrime more widespread than robberies. No matter how careful you are, it's still easy to get caught out by scammers online. And one place scams can start is in an email, so it's important to know what to look out for.

TV Licence email, scam “TV licence will expire!!! – You must renew it now or additional fees will be applied. We are sorry to let you know that your licence could not be automatically renewed as something went wrong with your direct debit payment. Update your licence quickly at <https://tvlicence.co.uk> to set up a new direct debit.”

Telephone Service Scam Ofcom has advised that if you use BT there is a service called “BT Call Protect”. When you get an “odd “call finish it and when you get back the dialling tone dial “1572”. This allows you to block the last caller and add the number to a junk system so that any further calls from that number do not come to you again! If you do not use BT then ask you telephone provider if they offer a similar call blocking service?

Amazon Prime Subscription Scam Neighbourhood Watch Scotland has advised that members of the public are being targeted with automated calls stating that the recipient has been charged for an Amazon Prime subscription. The callers use this lure as a way to gain access to the recipient's online banking account.

How does it work?

1. The victim receives an automated call stating that they've been charged for an Amazon Prime subscription. They're asked to press 1 to cancel the charge, this connects them directly to the fraudster.
2. A fraudster, posing as an Amazon customer service representative, then tells the victim that the Prime subscription was purchased fraudulently and that they need remote access to the victim's computer in order to fix a security flaw that will prevent it from happening again.
3. The victim is asked to download an application called Team Viewer, which grants the fraudster remote access to the victim's computer.
4. The victim is then asked to log onto their online banking account whilst the criminals are able to monitor everything via Team Viewer.

Other variants of the crime involve fraudsters stating the recipient is due a refund for an unauthorised transaction on their Amazon account.

What to do?

Always question uninvited approaches in case it's a scam. Instead, contact the company directly using a known email or phone number. Have the confidence to refuse unusual requests for personal or financial information. It's easy to feel embarrassed when faced with unexpected or complex conversations but it's okay to stop the discussion if you do not feel in control of it. Never install any software or visit a website as a result of a cold call. Unsolicited requests for remote access to your computer should always raise a red flag. For more information on scams and how to protect yourself go to <https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/>

Repeat Subscription Type Charges some legitimate and some illegal companies seek to include subscription type charges in your bills. The amounts are often small in value so as not to attract scrutiny. On a regular basis review your utility and bank statements and challenge any unfamiliar costs with your provider.

Doorstep Crime, Bogus Workmen Storm Damage Police Scotland has been made aware of potential bogus workmen in the South East Scotland area. Some of these may be trading lawfully, however please be vigilant about who you allow access to your premises and never pay any money up front. To find approved traders in the area go to www.approvedtrader.scot or www.tradingstandards.uk/consumers

Energy Efficiency and Mobile Aids scams Trading Standards Scotland have identified Energy Efficiency and Mobile Aids as two areas where scammers are active at this time. For further information contact www.tsscot.co.uk/priority-areas/energy-marketing-scams or www.tsscot.co.uk/priority-areas/mobility-aids respectively.



Police Report period to February 2019

Housebreaking Housebreaking with intent, nothing stolen at Bryce Road; housebreaking to garage, pedal bike stolen at Riccarton Avenue – male arrested; housebreaking to garage, 6 bikes stolen at Riccarton Avenue – male arrested; housebreaking with intent, anti-theft fog disrupted persons from stealing anything after gaining entry, Scotmid, Pentland View; housebreaking with intent to garage at Weavers Knowe Crescent; housebreaking (*business*) – premises broken into and keys / laptop stolen at East Hermiston; housebreaking to garage, pedal cycles taken at Riccarton Avenue.

Thefts Theft of pedal cycles on multiple occasions from Heriot Watt University Campus; theft of brake discs from driveway at Riccarton Grove; theft pedal cycle at Kirkgate; theft of laptop from doorstep at Forthview Crescent; attempt theft from motor vehicle at Forthview Crescent; theft of pedal cycle at Easter Currie Place; shoplifting of cigarettes at Co-op Corslet Place; theft from a motor vehicle of number plates at Lanark Road West; shoplifting of items from Scotmid, suspect caught on CCTV. Enquiries ongoing to establish identification; theft of unlocked pedal cycle stolen from garden; theft from motor vehicle, catalytic converter stolen on Lanark Road West; JCB digger stolen on Gowanhill Road (Building site); tools stolen from unlocked van Currievale Park; theft of pedal cycle, chain cut and bike stolen Heriot Watt University.

Police advice - please ensure all items of value are taken out of vehicles or are not left on display.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Vandalism A number of vehicles vandalised, all scratched, on streets including Dolphin Road, Lanark Road West, Stewart Avenue and Stewart Place.

Drugs Vehicle stopped by officers and small amount of drugs found within on Lanark Road West

Assaults Assault within Currie High School

Incidents of Note A dirt bike has been seen on a couple of occasions in the Currie area, please report any sightings to police with detailed descriptions of bike and rider if possible. One person charged with attempting to buy Alcohol for Under 18-year-old and having fake ID, Scotmid.

Road Traffic Matters Careless driving, failed to stop for stationary traffic on Riccarton Mains Road; Fail to stop at school crossing patrol on Riccarton Avenue – Enquiry ongoing

Good News CENW is pleased to advise that PS Kieran Dougal has moved on within Police Scotland and would like to thank him for his support within the community. CENW would like to extend a warm welcome to PS Trish Clark.

Contact Details In an Emergency call 999, in a Non-Emergency call 101 or email

EdinburghPentlandHillsCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Crimestoppers call 0800 555 111.

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/contact-us/>

<https://www.facebook.com/PoliceScotland/>

Police Surgery Community Officers hold a Coffee with a Cop on the 1st Wednesday of each month at the Corner Café, Lanark Road West, at 10.30am. When resources allow, Community Officers also attend Currie Community Council meetings.

Currie Community Council Meetings are second Monday of each month, excluding school holidays, with commencement at 7.30pm at Gibson Craig Halls.

<http://www.curriecommunitycouncil.org.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Currie-Community-Council-162003307167929/>

<https://www.facebook.com/currieeastneighbourhoodwatch/>

<http://www.cenw.org.uk/>

Look-Out is produced by a group of volunteers from Currie East Neighbourhood Watch Committee and is published three times a year, Spring, Autumn and Winter. Look-Out is printed by St Cuthbert's Scottish Episcopal Church, Colinton.

The views expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily represent the views held by the Committee or the membership of Currie East Neighbourhood Watch. Articles for inclusion in the Newsletter are welcomed. Please send contributions via email to either lookout@cenw.org.uk or chair@cenw.org.uk