



Winter 2020 – No 40

# ***LOOK-OUT***

**Currie East Neighbourhood Watch**

*[www.cenw.org.uk](http://www.cenw.org.uk)*

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## *Message from the Chair*

*Andrew Munro*

As the year 2020 draws to a close we may reflect on what a dramatic year it has been. A year when time would appear to have stood still, with little to differentiate between the days of the week. For some of our more elderly residents who have limited opportunity to venture over the front door or are shielding little has changed as everyday still feels like a Sunday.

It is heartening to see so many acts of kindness as businesses and residents have sought to provide support to those in our community less able to deal with the restrictions on our freedom that Covid-19 has imposed.

According to media reports an example of such acts of kindness is the emerging trend of people leaving a bouquet of flowers in public places with a note “Hello stranger, these flowers are for you, enjoy them as you deserve it” to be picked up by a passing stranger. In the spirit of festive goodwill would you be up to the challenge? With so many houses changing hands in almost all of the streets in Currie, as a gesture of festive goodwill to neighbours, old and new, whether it be next door, a number of doors along or on the opposite side of the street why not drop in a festive greeting card just to say “hello” and for someone who stays on their own say it with flowers. Well, why wouldn’t you?

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**Police Scotland - 101 (or 999 in an emergency)**

## ***AGM Report - Items of note.***

- All matters published under AGM agenda in the last issue of Look-Out, Autumn 2020 – No 39, were approved.
- There were no ‘matters arising’ from the minutes of the 2019 AGM
- There were no ‘Any Other Business’ matters raised at the meeting

## ***Scam Alert***

## ***Neighbourhood Watch Scotland***

In addition to more traditional doorstep scams reported during the summer months, with rogue traders offering to carry out home maintenance, gardening work or services such as gutter cleaning or pressure washing, fraudsters have adapted to the changing circumstances of the lockdown.

Since lockdown began in March, Scottish consumers have reported scammers cold calling households and posing as; Red Cross or NHS workers to collect donations for fake Covid-19 charities; as local council staff and offered to buy groceries for self-isolating or shielding individuals, taking their money but failing to return; offering cleaning services in order to disinfect driveways, properties and even doorbells of the virus.

Recommended action to avoid the financial and emotional impact of scams.

**Scam Share**  
Signposts  
www.tsscot.co.uk

# Doorstep Scams

<b>Close the Door</b>	<b>on uninvited callers.</b> Don't feel obliged to answer the door to a cold caller - it is your home and you should not let anyone in unless you feel comfortable.
<b>Take Time</b>	<b>to think before making a decision.</b> Rogue traders may try to pressure you by saying that they have special deals which are only available today. Don't let an uninvited trader start work straight away.
<b>Research</b>	<b>Get at least 3 quotes from trusted companies</b> before having any work done in or around your property. Rogue traders go to great lengths to appear legitimate - check at least 3 review sites to make sure you are getting genuine feedback. Find traders who have been vetted by Trading Standards through a local approved trader scheme.
<b>Verify</b>	<b>that the person is genuine and take a note of the company's details.</b> ID cards can be faked - close the door and, rather than phoning the number on the trader's ID card, look up the company's number on their official website or in an official phone directory to check their identity. Legitimate traders will be happy to wait while you perform these checks.
<b>Report</b>	<b>any suspicious behaviour to Police Scotland on 101, or 999 in an emergency.</b> Sign up to the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland Alert system to receive timely alerts about local crime prevention and safety issues from partners such as Police Scotland.

Trading Standards Scotland

Police Scotland advice is that it is not always easy to spot a rogue trader or bogus caller, so we are asking the public to take some simple, but effective action to stop them becoming a victim. Anyone can be fooled as these people are professional con artists.

People should also look out for family members and neighbours who may be vulnerable and may be seen as an easy target for rogue traders. Share this advice with friends and relatives – and encourage them to phone a trusted person, or the police, if they are in any doubt about someone who has turned up unannounced.

### ***Police Report - Changes to Community Policing***

City of Edinburgh Council provided funding for two dedicated police officers to undertake a number of functions and roles within Currie and the South West of Scotland area. Those functions included attendance at Community Council meetings, interaction with local residence through ‘Cop in a Shop’ as well as the provision of crime incident reports as published in your regular Look-Out newsletter. As part of a budget review earlier this year the Council decided to withdraw the funding of community policing in favour of other Council priorities. Police Scotland has advised that going forward, any attendance at meetings and production of incident reports will depend on workload and operational commitments at the time. Whilst there is no crime incident report in this issue of Look-Out, we will regularly ask Police Scotland for such information so as to keep you informed in the future of matters in the Watch area.

### ***Incidents of Note:***

**Anti-Social Behaviour:** a number of residents in the area have reported incidents of “egging”, the throwing of eggs at windows and or doors of property. Whilst the incidents appear to be random, such acts of vandalism can cause unnecessary alarm and worry to any vulnerable person in the community.

**Doorstep Crime:** Police Scotland have been going round households in the area following reports of bogus workmen offering overpriced work to trim or remove trees. Please note that there are a number of bona fide companies in Currie and surrounding area who can undertake this type of work hassle free.



### ***Interlinked Alarm System – Delayed until February 2022***

You may have recently seen television and newspaper advertising and possibly received a leaflet through your door, covering the legal requirement for all homeowners and landlords in Scotland to install an interlinked fire, smoke and carbon monoxide alarm system. The advertising and leaflet stated that the work must be completed by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021. The legislation was introduced following the Grenfell Tower tragedy. However, following consultation with a number of organisations, implementation of the legislation has been delayed until February 2022.

You may be aware that Scottish Fire and Rescue Service currently provide a free home fire safety visit which can include the fitting of smoke alarms free of charge. In response to an enquiry from the Watch Committee, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has advised that the Service will not provide installation of the new integrated alarm systems.

Should there be enough interest shown by CENW members as to what obligations are involved under the new legislation, a special presentation could be organised for the 2021 AGM in October 2021.



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

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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](mailto:lookout@cenw.org.uk) or [chair@cenw.org.uk](mailto:chair@cenw.org.uk)