

LOOK-OUT

Currie East Neighbourhood Watch

Annual General Meeting

27th October, 2008

The first Annual General Meeting of Currie East Neighbourhood Watch was held in the Gibson-Craig Hall on the 27th October and 35 members of the Watch attended, with apologies received from 13 members. Tim Shepherd, Chairman, welcomed those present.

The Police Report was presented by P.C. Mike Smith and covered topics such as Bogus Workmen, Christmas Crime, Anti-social behaviour and Elderly People being harassed by children. Through a question and answer session it was advised to the meeting that the Police are doing what they can when incidents are reported, but crime in the area is considered to be low level crime.

Tim then presented his report which covered Crime Statistics, work involved with the Lookout, re-establishment of links with the Primary Schools and Watch Signs. Future developments were also dealt with by Tim and covered a Residence Pack along with Communication to the Watch area.

Brian Latto, Treasurer, provided the financial report. While the Watch did have funds, a careful eye would be required to ensure expenditure did not exceed income.

The Election of the Committee and Office Bearers then followed and the Meeting then closed.

The full Minutes of the AGM are available on the Website.

Balerno Police Station 449-5991

CENW Website - www.cenw.org.uk

Chairman's Corner***Tim Shepherd***

Perhaps it's a sign of old age or the result of partaking in an enjoyable activity but my first year as Chairman of CENW has flown by and it's hard to imagine that I am now in my second and last year of office. The AGM of the Watch was held on 27 October and a résumé of proceedings can be found on the front page of this edition. You will note that I will be working with your committee to progress the following:

Signs: we have purchased 400 more wheelie bin stickers which will mean that we now have full coverage. If you have received one with this Lookout please attach it to your wheelie bin. If you require additional stickers please contact me (449 3454) and I will get one to you.

As I reported in the last Lookout, the City of Edinburgh Council had agreed to replace the street signs that went missing when lampposts were replaced. I am pleased to report that our persistence has paid off and we have now had these signs replaced. We will be looking at how to refurbish, replace and improve on street signage throughout the Watch area.

I have noted that other neighbourhood watches develop a welcome pack for new homeowners to the watch area. The committee will be investigating if it would be worthwhile producing something similar for CENW which will both promote the watch and welcome new residents.

If you have internet access you may register (free) on our website (www.cenw.org.uk) whereupon an e-mail will be sent with relevant watch information. If you haven't already done so I would urge you to consider doing this as it does provide a valuable communication channel. This is primarily to pass on electronic copies of this magazine and any alerts from the Police but can also be used to pass on any other Watch-related information to members.

The committee will also be investigating whether there is a requirement for additional communication networks to be developed within the watch.

Police Tips for Winter Driving

- Ensure your tyres are inflated to the correct pressure (for good grip).
- Ensure your windows are clear all round before driving away.
- Ensure windscreen fluid is topped up and at winter strength mixture.
- If travelling a distance, carry a blanket and hot drink in a flask.
- Ensure that your mobile phone is fully charged and has enough credit.

Winter Security***Andrew Craigie***

With winter upon us, take a few minutes to review the security around your house and garden. Darkness provides welcome cover for burglars, so one of the most effective things you can do is install motion-operated security lighting, especially in less visible areas such as at the back of your house. This can draw attention to unwanted visitors and deter casual thieves. However, be considerate to your neighbours by siting it appropriately (pointing downwards into your garden) and keeping the "on-time" short. If at the front of the house then adjust the sensor so it doesn't turn on every time someone walks past on the pavement. If you already have security lighting then check it is still working properly.

Leave an inside light on, using timers and low-energy bulbs, to make your house appear occupied if you are out in the evening. Don't leave an outside light on as this makes it obvious there's nobody in - you might as well put a sign above your door saying the house is empty. Remember, the aim is to make it look like someone is there, not to draw attention to your absence.

Door Step Crime***Lothian & Borders Police***

Bogus or cold callers may arrive on your door step at any time of year. They may pretend to be anyone but they all want one thing – your money.

It is important to take some simple precautions to avoid being conned:

- They are plausible people. Do not be taken in.
- Many will call at times when you would expect such people to call.
- They are always inventing new ways of getting into homes to steal. If you don't know or expect them, don't let them into your home.
- If you have a door chain - use it!
- If you are expecting a caller, check that they are genuine. They will show you some ID and you can contact the company, using the phone book to find the number and not using a number supplied by the caller.
- Don't let any casual caller do work on your property, for example roofing, driveway or gardening work.

Be aware. Be careful yourself and look out for neighbours. If suspicious people are in your area, contact the police.

The above article from the L & B Police is particularly relevant to us at this time. It seems that an elderly gentleman in our area recently contracted with a caller to have his drive re-laid. The job was done....badly!! Do not let the same thing happen to you.

Police Report - September/October 2008

Theft:

- 06/09 Lanark Road West – Rucksack stolen from house, found nearby.
 17/09 Corslet Place – Deodorants stolen from shop.
 19/09 Teenager had her mobile phone stolen.
 16/10 Bryce Road – Flowers stolen from outside shop.

Vandalism:

- 24/09 Muir Wood Road – Window cracked.

House-breaking:

- 1-7/10 Thomson Road – Through insecure window, many items stolen.
 12/10 Muir Wood Road – Climbed into window, disturbed and left.
 12/10 Bryce Road – House entered and items stolen.
 12/10 Weavers Knowe Crescent – House entered, alcohol stolen.
 16/10 Bryce Road – house entered, nothing stolen.

A 19 year old male has been charged with the theft of a motor vehicle from Lanark Road West. He entered the house through an insecure window, stole the car keys and took the car.

Look-out

Articles for inclusion in the Newsletter are welcomed. Copy for the next issue should be sent, as soon as possible, to the Editor at 31 Nether Currie Road, EH14 5HX, (Tel 449-5566) or by e-mail to:

lookout@cenw.org.uk

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The views expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily represent the views held by the Editor or the Currie East Neighbourhood Watch scheme.



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