

# ***LOOK-OUT***

## **Currie East Neighbourhood Watch**

*www.cenw.org.uk*

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### *Chairman's Corner*

*Bob Kerr*

It seems like only yesterday that I started on the cheerful note that Summer Time was here and the daffodils were showing their heads. Now here we are, clocks back, darker nights and the cold weather!

In September I attended the Association of Scottish Neighbourhood Watches (AoSNW) AGM. This proved very instructive and interesting, and the Committee will be discussing some of the initiatives resulting from the meeting. Copies of the AoSNW Newsletter can be accessed via the link on our own website: [www.cenw.org.uk](http://www.cenw.org.uk)

Our own AGM was held in October and was attended by around 30 members, down on previous years. Perhaps we can engage more interest next year. A number of topics were discussed, and actions for the Committee were agreed. The evening ended with some light refreshments and a general chat among the attendees.

With the advent of the darker nights we have produced a Winter Security advice note. These are simple reminders but it is the simple things that tend to get forgotten.

The Community Police presence has been reorganised. We now have a Safe Neighbourhood Team, based at Balerno. Our Officer is Constable James Dee.

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## *Winter security*

It is never too late to look over the security of your home. Members are asked to bear the following crime reduction advice in mind:

- Never hide door keys

Hiding the door keys somewhere 'secret' for another person is risky, with the least obvious places being the first places intruders will check. Leaving your car keys in a porch or near the front door is also not recommended, as car theft through burglary is on the increase - burglars are known to use a pole to hook keys through your letterbox.

- Make your home look occupied at all times

Automatic timers for your lights and leaving the radio on can help keep intruders out - burglars are less likely to try their luck if they think someone is home.

- Keep valuables out of sight - house and car

Make sure your valuables are not within view of passers by, particularly if you live in a busy street, to avoid tempting opportunistic burglars. Even the packaging for expensive goods can give burglars a guide to what is in your home, particularly at this time of year with Christmas approaching. So it is a good idea to keep them out of sight.

- Avoid letting your garden get overgrown

Burglars like to be well hidden when breaking in, and tall trees, overgrown shrubs and high fences can make it easier for them to get into your home unnoticed.

- Lock your doors and windows

Two out of ten burglaries are through an open door or window.

- Protect garages and sheds

Locking your garages and sheds is important, not only to stop thieves stealing the contents, but also because they may contain tools an intruder

could use to aid a break-in. For added security, a battery-operated alarm can be fitted to a garage or shed.

- Lights can offer protection

An outdoor sensor light can help deter intruders as it makes it obvious whenever someone approaches your property.

- Mark your goods

Using a security marker pen to write your postcode and house number on your valuable items will make them harder for burglars to sell, and help police get your stolen property back to you if they recover it.

- Be a good neighbour

Be aware of what's going on in your street or neighbourhood and report any suspicious behaviour. If you are aware a neighbour is away and you see anything left lying around, such as Yellow Pages (currently being distributed), parcels, newspapers or the proverbial milk bottles please consider taking appropriate action to keep the items out of sight until the neighbour returns.

### ***Keep your doors locked***

There was an article in the press recently about a sexual assault of a householder within her own home, where the assailant gained access through the unlocked front door. The attacker had tried the doors of several other houses in the street before gaining access to the property.

Although this sort of attack is rare, burglaries through unlocked doors are common. Don't assume because you are in the house that nobody will try the door. Burglars can be in and out in just a few minutes without you even noticing.

Please remember to keep your doors locked at all times, even when you are in the house.

## ***Overtured Wheelie Bins***

We have received reports that there has been spate of garden waste wheelie bins being overturned, usually overnight. This anti-social behaviour causes concern to elderly residents and inconvenience of righting and refilling the bin.

One way to combat this is to put out your bin the morning it is due to be collected and not to leave it out overnight. Where this policy falls down is when the Council do not collect the bin on the appointed day. The instruction from the Council in these circumstances is to leave the wheelie bin out until it is collected.

The CENW committee have highlighted this issue to our local Councillors and have asked them to ensure that refuse collections in the Watch area are completed on the scheduled day.

## ***Changes at Balerno police station***

Our local Police Officer Mike Smith has moved on to another beat, and we wish him all the best. There are now four officers covering Balerno, Currie, Juniper Green & Hermiston. They are: Steven Aitken, James Dee, Martin Redden & Steven Skirving.

Look-Out is produced by a group of volunteers from the CENW Committee.

Articles for inclusion in the Newsletter are welcomed. Please send contributions via email to ***lookout@cenw.org.uk*** or contact the chairman (details below).

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Look-out is published three times a year by Currie East Neighbourhood Watch.  
Printed by St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church, Colinton.

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