

LOOK-OUT

Currie East Neighbourhood Watch

www.cenw.org.uk

Chairman's Corner

Bob Kerr

Welcome to the Spring Look-Out.

Since I last put pen to paper we've had all that Mother Nature could throw at us in terms of weather. This caused many problems, not least that the December issue of Look-Out could not be distributed until January.

It was very heart-warming to witness how people got together to clear snow and ensure that the less able amongst our neighbours were catered for in respect of shopping essentials. I live in hope that the neighbourliness will show through in a few more volunteers for the committee (see page 3).

A thought that crossed my mind whilst out and about in the area is that it would be a good idea if we all ensured that our neighbours' bins were moved back into their property. This has a dual motive: it clears the pavements after the cleansing operatives have been round to empty the bins, and it makes it less conspicuous that a property is unoccupied to any passing strangers. The same thing applies to the red and blue recycling boxes, which can sometimes be blown about the street on windy days.

Helpful gestures like this can contribute to making our neighbourhood a more pleasant place to live.

Your free UV marker pen

With this issue of Lookout you should have received a free ultraviolet security marker pen (if not then please contact your distributor). You can use this to mark your valuables with your postcode and house number in some inconspicuous place, as recommended by the Police. This helps them to identify owners of stolen property that may be recovered.

If your property is stolen then there is a greater chance of getting it back if you have marked it in this way, so we would urge you to make use of the pen. The pen also incorporates an ultraviolet light, which can be activated by pressing the button on the side of the lid. This will allow you to view what you written.

Another way of improving your chances of getting stolen property back is to register it with ***Immobilise*** – the UK National Property Register:

www.immobilise.com

Immobilise is the world's largest free register of possession ownership details. It can be used by members of the public and businesses to register their valued possessions, which are then viewable on the Police national property database. This online checking service is used by all UK Police forces to trace owners of lost and stolen property. In addition Immobilise is checked daily by a huge range of recovery agencies and lost property offices.

As a direct result of Immobilise there are over 250 cases a week where property is returned or information collected that assists the Police in investigating criminal activity involving stolen goods.

We would urge you to take this opportunity to record the details of all your valuable items now and register them in Immobilise, as well as marking them with your ultraviolet security marker pen. Note that Immobilise is a secure website and your listed item details can only be accessed by authorised parties such as the Police.

New Committee Members wanted

Bob Kerr

As we enter a new year of Watch activity, we have to say farewell to a number of the original members of the Committee who have decided to step down, and thank them for their support.

The Watch Constitution states that we can have up to 24 members and we have been very fortunate to have had a relatively full complement until now. With the loss of 6 members in the last year we now have a need to recruit some new faces to bring some fresh ideas to the table.

When you consider that the Watch area covers 1300 households, I am sure there are a number of people who would be willing to commit a few hours per year to putting something back into the local community.

We would welcome anyone who would like to become involved in the Neighbourhood Watch, or who have ideas they would like to share with us, to join the Committee. Please contact Bob Kerr, chairman, by email (chair@cenw.org.uk) or phone (449 2359) to find out more.

Curriehill School site

It will be some time before development occurs on this site. An initial bid would have seen the school sold for around £6m but that fell through. The second round saw thirteen submissions, the £4m bid from Macdonald Estates proving the most attractive. But naming a developer does not mean the site has been sold – only that the development process has started.

It is sad to see such a prominent local building deteriorating before our eyes. A building that is not maintained will lose value – bad news for the City who still owns it and is responsible for its upkeep. Unattended sites also encourage criminal activities. Walking around the building reveals extensive vandalism.

Crimestoppers number

Please note that the Crimestoppers number on the calendars distributed with the last Look-Out had a printing error. The correct number is:

0800 555 111

Smoke Alarms

Do you have one or more smoke alarms? How often do you test the alarms? Two questions which can save lives. Working smoke alarms can give sufficient warning to allow you time to vacate a property safely. These are inexpensive to purchase, and what is the cost of a life?

You can arrange a free Home Safety Visit with Lothian & Borders Fire and Rescue Service by calling 0800 169 0320. Firefighters will come to your home and give you vital fire safety advice including how to make an escape plan that is relevant to your own premises. They will supply and fit free smoke detectors, complete with ten-year batteries, if you need them.

Subscriptions

It's that time of year again when we ask all our members for the subscription for the year. Again the amount is £1.00 per household. If your distributor has requested this from you, thank you for your continued support. For those who have not seen their distributor, why not just 'tap their door' and hand in the sub?

Information Packs, Wheelie-bin stickers and Lamppost signs are the visible presence of where your subscriptions are being spent. Hopefully you take comfort from the Watch being here and £1.00 is a small price to pay.

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