

LOOK-OUT

Currie East Neighbourhood Watch

www.cenw.org.uk

Chairman's Corner

Bob Kerr

Welcome to the September edition of Lookout.

At our last Committee Meeting in June we welcomed PC James Dee, who gave us a briefing on the format of the new Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) which was set up last year by the Police to deal with local issues.

We are always looking for some fresh faces to join us on the Committee. It is not an onerous or time consuming activity as it really only requires a few hours a year of your time. If you are interested then please contact me or come to our AGM to find out more. I look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the AGM, which will be my last meeting as Chairman. All residents are cordially invited, and refreshments will be provided.

AGM

Monday 24th October 2011

7:30pm (entry from 7:15pm)

Gibson Craig Halls

guest speaker - PC James Dee

CENW website

We regularly remind members about our website, and believe many of you have visited it over the course of the past few years. However, only a small number of our members have actually registered on it to receive updates. This is a shame as it is the only way we have to alert members in a timely manner of criminal activity going on in the area, for example.

If you have access to the internet and have not already registered, we would encourage you to do so. It is a free service and the only piece of information we require is an email address to send alerts to. Your email address will only be used for this purpose and will not be shared with any third parties.

To register, visit the website: **www.cenw.org.uk** and click on the ***Register*** option in the menu on the left.

Telephone/ Mailing Preference Service

Do you regularly receive unwanted marketing phone calls? If so, you may wish to register with the ***Telephone Preference Service*** (TPS). It is the official central opt-out register on which you can record your preference not to receive unsolicited sales or marketing calls. It is a legal requirement that all organisations (including charities, voluntary organisations and political parties) do not make such calls to numbers registered on the TPS unless they have your consent to do so. It is a free service and you can register on their website:

www.tpsonline.org.uk

Along similar lines is the ***Mailing Preference Service*** (MPS), intended you prevent you receiving unwanted marketing mail at your address:

www.mpsonline.org.uk

Note that registering with the MPS will not prevent mail addressed to “the occupier” or hand delivered marketing material.

Vehicle Security Etching & Marking

Many cars are stolen in the UK and never recovered. Car thieves will often change registration plates and alter or obliterate the Vehicle Identification Number and other identifying marks on the bodywork and in the engine compartment. This makes it hard to identify the car if it is recovered by the police.

One method you can use to help alleviate this is to write the registration number with a UV marker on various parts of the vehicle, such as interior fittings, dashboard and wheels. There are also more sophisticated variants of this on the market such as *SmartWater* and *MightyDot*, based on a uniquely identifiable chemical mixture being applied to your vehicle.

More effective as a deterrent is glass etching. This involves etching the vehicle's registration or a serial number onto every window, and often on each light cluster. This means that if a thief wants to change the car's identity they must change all of the glass and lights, as well as the registration plates and VIN marks - a costly exercise.

Good doorstep habits

- When you are in your house, keep your doors locked. That way you are in control of who enters.
- When answering the door, think about whether you're expecting someone or not. If you can, look through a peephole or window first.
- If the caller is unexpected or unknown, use a doorchain or doorbar if you have one which will restrict how much your door can open.
- Treat strangers with caution, especially if they want to come into your home, or encourage you to leave it.
- Ask for identification and check its validity by calling the organisation the person claims to be from – use a number you have looked up yourself, not one that is on the identification.
- If the caller will not leave and you are concerned, call the police.

Police/SNT update

The Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) was set up in September 2010 to deal with local and low level community based issues such as vandalism and neighbour disputes. Our local officer is PC James Dee, who covers Currie, Hermiston and Heriot Watt University. Other members of the team cover Juniper Green and Balerno. The objective is to engage with the community, rebuild links with the public and get out of the car. Bicycles may be provided in the future to allow the officers cover the area more effectively.

The SNT has also established a Pub Watch Scheme which appears to be working well.

Currie generally has a low crime rate. However, issues currently include:

- counterfeit currency
- youth disorder, although this appears to have reduced in the last few months
- risk of fires from youths camping in the hills. The SNT along with Park Rangers and farmers have formed a Farm Watch to encourage safe and responsible use of the countryside.

The main advice from the SNT is that everyone should keep their eyes and ears open and report anything suspicious to the police.

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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Chairman – Bob Kerr - Tel: 449 2359. Email: chair@cenw.org.uk

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