

LOOK-OUT

Currie East Neighbourhood Watch

www.cenw.org.uk

Message from the Chair

Margaret Michie

As your new Chair I welcome you to the December issue of Lookout.

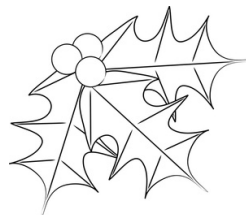
During the year 19 new neighbours have moved into our area and all should have received a personal visit and a Welcome Pack.

If you think it is too good to be true then it probably is.

In September I attended the AGM of the Association of Scottish Neighbourhood Watches where we heard from Dougie McClounie from the Scottish Crime and Drugs Enforcement Agency who spoke about how serious organised crime can infiltrate any community. We were encouraged to be aware that goods for sale at car boot sales, on the internet or even from a work colleague which are much cheaper than expected could possibly be counterfeit and the proceeds could be funding serious organised crime.

I for one hope that we do not have the same amount of snow as last year but if we do then let's all look out for one another and show the same neighbourliness as was witnessed last year.

I wish you all a safe and peaceful Christmas.



An Appeal

This edition, along with all editions of Lookout, is put through your door by our Distributors. These volunteers are a vital link between the committee and our members.

We are currently in a position where our group of Distributors is diminishing as some step down or move away. More distributors are urgently required to assist in this essential task. Are you able to distribute a handful of Lookouts within your street three times a year, and collect the members' subscriptions once a year?

If you can assist then please contact us (see contact details on the last page of this Lookout). Your help will be much appreciated.

AGM

Our AGM took place on 24th October and 30 members attended (a slight increase on last year's AGM). Two guest speakers provided informative talks.

Lisa Toon from the Association of Scottish Neighbourhood Watches (AoSNW) took the meeting through a history of the organisation and gave an insight to the direction that this body will encompass in the future. This includes building partnerships with other organisations such as Crimestoppers. The Committee has a number of ideas for future initiatives as a result.

James Dee, our local community Police officer, gave information on the Safer Neighbourhood Team and its impact and role locally with his main message being to keep your eyes and ears open and advise the police of any matter requiring their attention. If nothing is reported then they will not be aware of any issues.

Other business which took place included the finances of the Watch, updating of the Constitution, election of Committee members and Office Bearers.

Be Prepared for Winter

Last winter saw heartening examples of good teamwork/spirit as neighbours joined together in clearing paths and roads to allow residents to get out and about, and making trips to the shops for elderly neighbours. It would be fantastic for this goodwill to be repeated as we head into another winter.

The council have made plans to be more prepared this winter. However, as we experienced last winter they have to prioritise and may not get to your street as soon as you would wish. It's easier to clear recently fallen snow than hard packed snow & ice, so when it does come why not get together with your neighbours, join the snow clearing effort and get fit for the New Year?

Note that there is no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice from pavements and even the paths leading to the front doors of less able neighbours. Go to the ***Ready for Winter*** pages on **www.readyscotland.org** for the Scottish Government's advice on clearing snow and ice and preparing for winter.

Winter Security

With Christmas approaching, don't encourage opportunist burglars. Some common-sense precautions will help to avoid unnecessary distress over the festive period:

- Don't leave parcels visible in the car or under the tree.
- Don't leave boxes from expensive new gifts out overnight for the refuse collection.
- Use a timer light to make the house look occupied when away
- Take extra care of your purse or wallet when in a busy place
- Check that your outdoor security lighting is still working
- Advise your neighbours if you are going to be away for a while

It might also be a good idea to take this opportunity to check that your smoke alarm battery is in good condition.

Telephone Scam – Cheaper energy bills

Be aware that scammers are calling residents claiming to be from an energy utility, offering a device which allows you to save on your energy bills. The device they describe doesn't actually exist, and the aim of the call is to obtain your bank account details. Never give out any personal details to anyone who calls you without being absolutely sure of who they are. If in doubt, call the organisation using a number from the telephone directory.

Committee Meeting

It is proposed that the first Committee Meeting in 2012 will be on 5th March at 7:30pm in the Currie Kirk meeting house. Watch members are always welcome to attend any committee meetings. Confirmation of the date will be advised on our website and in the "What's On" section of the Currie & Balerno News.

What is your view?

If you have any comments about the Watch or Lookout, please let us hear from you. Either attend a committee meeting or contact us at any time - see below for contact details. We would welcome your input on any relevant matter.

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 Chair (details below).

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

Chair – Margaret Michie - Tel: 449 6587. 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.